

Update from the Stockton Springs Select Board - March 2017

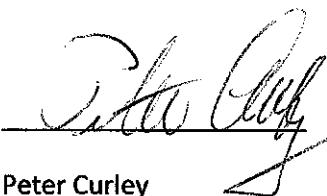
Are we all ready for spring to push us ahead? Your Select Board hasn't slowed down since November, and we spent a great deal more time in search of our new Town Manager than anticipated. Interim Town Manager Loren Cole displayed great dedication during this extended period and made some significant contributions of his own, for which we all remain appreciative. So at long last, we are proud and excited to introduce Courtney O'Donnell as our choice for Stockton Springs Town Manager; she has been with us since mid-February and hit the ground running. Her education and experience are obvious assets, as well as her enthusiasm and excellent work ethic. If you have not yet had the pleasure of meeting her, we encourage you to stop by the town office and introduce yourself!

We continue to work on our policies and ordinances; since November, our Personnel Policy underwent more changes, as well as our Employee Insurance Policy and Surplus Materials Policy. We have completed our new Parking Ordinance and updated our Vehicle Weight Ordinance. In fact, we have procured donations of groundwork and gravel for a new parking lot adjacent to the Town Office. We will be proposing some small but significant changes to the Site Plan Review Ordinance at Town Meeting, scheduled for June 17th, that will enable its use for new and existing businesses in our 'downtown' area. We will post any required Public Hearings in advance.

The Public Hearing to approve funds for a new Feasibility Study in regard to public wastewater treatment will be held immediately preceding Town Meeting. As mentioned in our last Update, the engineering firm is taking a very different approach than taken ten years ago; we believe it would be a very important development for our town. Our existing Comprehensive Plan, dictated by town residents, supports it and the results of this Public Hearing and Warrant Article vote will help us with the Plan Update. Please keep in mind that formal input is what is taken into account here, so we urge you to attend.

Lastly, the time has come again to evaluate our membership in RSU 20. At this point, we have met with our RSU and with RSU 25 in hopes of clarifying our options. One way or another, we honestly hope to reduce the taxpayer cost of education for our Town; please rest assured that we are doing our very best in regard to this important matter.

As a reminder, Select Board meetings are held every Thursday at 9 a.m. at the Town Office, as well as the first Thursday evening of every month at 6 p.m. The public is welcome to attend and provide input at designated times during these meetings. Agendas are posted at least 24 hours in advance and any schedule changes or extra meetings are reported on our website at www.stocktonsprings.org. These Select Board Updates are also available for perusal on our website. Budget meetings for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year will begin at the end of this month. We hope to see you soon!



Peter Curley



Lesley M. Cosmano



Sara L. Skolfield