# **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

Board of Selectmen's Report

Executive Assistant's Report

Reports from Town Officers, Boards, Committees and Commissions

Board of Health

Fort Meadow Commission

Lake Boon Commission

Town Clerk's Summary of Licenses Issued in 2021

#### **BOARD OF SELECT BOARD - ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

The Select Board are the Chief Elected Officials of the Town of Hudson. As the senior elected officials, the Select Board are the primary policy makers for the town. They serve as appointing authority for the Executive Assistant and most non-elected committee positions. They must also approve all employee appointments. The Select Board are also the statutory licensing authority for the town, as well as being charged with executing most contracts for the town.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

The Annual May Town Election had Michael D. Burks, Sr. and Shawn Sadowski winning their bid for election. Select Board member Joseph Durant, who had served as on the Board since winning his seat in 1981 did not run for reelection. John Parent, another Select Board member, also stepped aside after 6 years on the Board. Following the vote, the Board undertook its yearly reorganization by electing its officers; Scott Duplisea elected as Chairman, Michael D. Burks, Sr. as Vice-Chairman, and James Quinn as Clerk.

#### APPOINTMENTS AND PERSONNEL

In 2021, the Board approved appointments of several members of the community to serve on Town Boards and Committees. We thank not only our past Board members all for their years of service to the Town of Hudson, but also those recently appointed for their anticipated contributions as we all work toward our common goal of improving our community.

On May 7<sup>th</sup> Thomas Moses, the Town's Executive Assistant retired after serving in this capacity for almost 8 years. Mr. Moses began his 30-year career in public service in Cambridge, serving in various administrative roles for five different municipalities. We wish him a happy and healthy retirement and thank him for all his years in Hudson.

With all that said, the Board welcomed the Town's new Executive Assistant Thomas Gregory in June. We wish him luck in the coming years and have full faith in his abilities to fulfill the duties of Executive Assistant.

#### **LICENSING**

As the licensing authority for restaurants, alcohol establishments, automobile dealers, and other commercial activities, the Select Board are regularly busy with licensing matters. The Board issued approximately 180 licenses in 2021.

At the end of 2021 the Town was granted an additional all alcohol retail license. This came about due to the increase in the population reflected in the most recent federal census. The Board will work toward selecting an applicant and issuing this valuable license in the first half of 2022.

#### **CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS**

In 2021, the Board was pleased to sign numerous contracts throughout the year for the rehabilitation, repair and/or replacement of town streets, buildings and equipment. The Town's Chapter 90 apportionment for Fiscal Year 2022 is \$577,900. Chapter 90 funds are State monies allocated for roadway projects such as resurfacing and related work.

In mid-May the Town signed contracts with Mass Broken Stone for the milling and overlay of miscellaneous roads in Town which totaled \$936,766.00. Another notable contract was for a contract with TIGG, LLC for Granular Activated Carbon Vessels for the PFAS Treatment System in the amount of \$1,250,213.00.

The Board was pleased to approve at Memorandum of Agreement with IAFF Local 1713 for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

#### TOWN MEETING ACTIONS

The May Annual Town Meeting, which was held in the High School parking lot, had voters approving the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars be taken form available funds for roadway resurfacing for Fiscal 2022. Also approved was an article to borrow and appropriate Five Million Dollars for Water System Improvements. Taxpayers also approved an overall FY22 budget of approximately \$83.6 million.

#### **FISCAL ISSUES**

At its annual tax classification hearing in December 2021, the Select Board voted to set the minimum residential factor available for FY22 at .8782, resulting in tax rates of \$15.86 per \$1,000 Residential and \$31.60 per \$1,000 for Commercial and Industrial properties. They also approved an excess levy capacity of \$1,103,400.00.

#### **HUDSON BOARD OF SELECT BOARD**

Scott R. Duplisea, Charman

Quinn, Cle.

Michael D. Burks, Sr., Vice Chairman

Fred P. Lucy

Shawn Sadowski

#### **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

The beginning of 2021 was largely dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The introduction of vaccines to the general public in the early spring coincided with the second wave receding and the arrival of warm weather. Municipal operations in Hudson continued, as they had in 2020, with all of the pandemic safety precautions in place, including remote meetings for all public bodies. The Annual Town Meeting was held outside on May 1<sup>st</sup> in the High School parking lot. And, while some restrictions were lifted in the summer of 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic remained a serious public health issue that the Town would need to respond to for the remainder of the year.

2021 was a year of transition in the Executive Assistant's office as Mr. Moses retired in May after serving Hudson for over seven years. When I arrived in June, the office was being ably managed by Fernanda Santos who served as the Interim Executive Assistant during the transition.

#### American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

One of the positive outcomes of the pandemic was the passage in 2021 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This important federal legislation allocated significant funds to state and local governments to provide not only financial assistance to respond to the pandemic, but also an opportunity to make significant investments in water and sewer infrastructure. Hudson's share of the ARPA allocation was nearly \$6 million to be spent over the next five years. The final ARPA rule issued by the U.S. Treasury significantly broadened the definition of eligible activities under ARPA to include general government services, with certain limited exclusions.

After coordinating with department heads in the summer and early fall, I presented to the Select Board a recommendation to encumber an initial portion of the Town's ARPA allocation for specific projects. The Board authorized ARPA funds to support the regional public health services district, to replace the culvert at Main and Houghton Streets, and to acquire a new fire pumper, along with other investments. In the fall and winter, listening sessions were conducted to engage the public on how these federal funds might be put to use in Hudson.

#### Finances

The fiscal year that ended on June 30<sup>th</sup> finished strongly which is especially encouraging given the significant unknowns at play when the FY2021 budget was being developed. Motor vehicle excise revenue came in at 8.6% above estimate, and the strong meals and room excise revenue provide good evidence to show a strengthening local economy. Marijuana revenue clearly shows that the adult-use commercial marijuana marketplace continues to thrive in Massachusetts. The FY2021 Free Cash figure is expected to be certified at over \$5 million which will be the highest certified Free Cash amount in at least the last decade.

#### Water and Sewer Capital Improvements

Significant water and sewer capital projects were initiated in 2021. On the water side, a permanent PFAS filtration system was accepted into the State's Revolving Fund (SRF) program this year which will replace the temporary PFAS filtration system and operate for many years to come. The project consists of six (6) granular activated carbon (GAC) vessels in a stand-alone pre-engineered steel building located at the Chestnut Street Water Filtration Plant. The project represents a \$5.6 million investment in Hudson's water system. The financing includes a 0% interest rate and 6.6% principal forgiveness over a 20-year term. An additional funding source includes a \$200,000 grant the Town received earlier in the year from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

On the sewer side, the \$15 million Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 2 Upgrades also went out to bid in 2021. This project was also accepted into the SRF program with favorable financing terms. Supplemental ARPA funds were dedicated to this project which was impacted by COVID-related price increases in materials. Water and sewer rates are planned to increase to fund the anticipated debt service costs for both of these capital projects.

#### Centennial Beach

The finishing touches to a stunning renovation of Centennial Beach were completed just in time for the arrival of warm weather in June. The project was funded from a \$250,000 Free Cash appropriation and a \$1.5M borrowing authorization with debt service to be paid from future Community Preservation Act revenue. The new beach features improved ADA compliance and accessibility to the facility as well as improved drainage and erosion controls and a new bath house. The Recreation Department notes that that facility was used this summer by many more families with younger children and there was an increase in visits by older patrons.

#### Downtown

In December we received notification that Hudson had been declared the winner of this year's "America's Main Streets" contest, sponsored by Independent We Stand, a national organization that promotes locally owned businesses. The recognition attests to the collaborative work among the Town, the Business Improvement District, the business owners, and residents, all committed to making our downtown the destination that it has become.

Throughout 2021, strategic discussions on the acquisition and redevelopment of the Armory continued to take place. The Hudson Cultural Alliance (HCA) met multiple times with the Select Board to keep the community apprised of the project's status. The HCA also provided funds to the Town in the fall so that the pre-acquisition due diligence work on the parcel could be initiated by the Town in January. The project continues to receive strong support from Senator Jamie Eldridge and Representative Kate Hogan.

#### **Labor Negotiations**

A successor agreement between the Town and the Firefighters Local 1713 I.A.F.F. was negotiated in the summer and ratified in the fall in time for funding at the Special Town Meeting in November. All of the other bargaining units have contracts expiring next June. Also of note, the dispatchers separated out from the AFSCME clerical unit this year and have formed their own bargaining unit.

In closing, I am grateful for the confidence that the Select Board has placed in me to serve as their Executive Assistant. I am encouraged by the direction and support that I have received from the Select Board, and I look forward to serving for many more years. A special thanks to Fernanda Santos and Teresa Vickery for helping me during the transition and for their support each day.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Gregory
Executive Assistant

## TOWN OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

| <b>BOARD / COMMITTEE</b> | ELECTED  | TERM EXPIRES |
|--------------------------|--|--------------|
|                          |  |              |
| SELECT BOARD             | Scott R. Duplisea, Ch.                         | 05/2023      |
|                          | Fred P. Lucy, II                               | 05/2022      |
|                          | James David Quinn                              | 05/2022      |
|                          | Michael D Burks, Sr.                           | 05/2024      |
|                          | Shawn S. Sadowski                              | 05/2024      |
| MODERATOR                | Richard Harrity                                | 05/2022      |
| SCHOOL COMMITTEE         | Michele Tousignant Dufour, Ch.                 | 05/2023      |
|                          | Steven Smith                                   | 05/2022      |
|                          | Adam Tracy                                     | 05/2023      |
|                          | Mark Jose Terra-Salomao                        | 05/2024      |
|                          | Ilan Levin                                     | 05/2022      |
|                          | Christopher P. Yates                           | 05/2024      |
|                          | Molly MacKenzie                                | 05/2024      |
| TRUSTEE BENEVOLENT FUNDS | Barbara Gustafason                             | 05/2024      |
|                          | Diane Buchanan, Ch.                            | 05/2023      |
|                          | AnneMarie Lourens                              | 05/2022      |
| HUDSON HOUSING AUTHORITY | Bryan Johannes,Ch.                             | 05/2024      |
|                          | Sarah Cressy                                   | 05/2023      |
|                          | Stephen Domenicucci                            | 5/2026       |
| Tenant Appointed Member  | Cynthia Janeiro-Ehlke                          | 5/2022       |
| State Appointed Member   | Anne Marie Lourens<br>(Resigned Sept. 13, 2021 | 05/2020      |
| MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD    | Jeffrey Supernor                               | 05/2024      |
|                          | Justin Provencher                              | 05/2023      |
|                          | John B. Monteiro, Ch.                          | 05/2022      |
| Manager                  | Brian Choquette                                |              |

| BOARD / COMMITTEE                                     | ELECTED                                 | TERM EXPIRES       |
|---|---|--------------------|
| PARK COMMISSION                                       | Robert Bowen,Ch.                        | 05/2022            |
|   | Michael Chaves Sr.,                     | 05/2023            |
|   | Jay Roan                                | 05/2024            |
|   |   |                    |
| BOARD OF HEALTH                                       | Christie Vaillancourt                   | 05/2023            |
|   | Jay Murphy                              | 05/2022            |
|   | (Resigned October 23, 2021)             |                    |
|   | Michael A. Delfino,Ch.                  | 05/2024            |
|   | Cassia Monteiro                         | 05/2022            |
|   | (Appt'd October 18, 2021)               |                    |
| LIBRARY TRUSTEES                                      | Maryalice McCormack,Ch.                 | 05/2022            |
|   | Thomas Desmond                          | 05/2023            |
|   | Christopher Capobianco                  | 05/2024            |
| PLANNING BOARD  | Robert D'Amelio,Ch.                     | 05/2024            |
|   | Rodney Frias                            | 05/2024            |
|   | Dirk Underwood                          | 05/2022            |
|   | David Daigneault                        | 05/2023            |
|   | Darryl Filippi                          | 05/2022            |
|   |   | 0.5/0.050          |
| CEMETERY COMMISSON                                    | Christine DiMare                        | 05/2022            |
|   | Nelson Luz Santos, Ch                   | 05/2023            |
|   | Gary Collins                            | 05/2024            |
| CONSTABLES  | George McGee                            | 05/2022            |
|   | (Deceased January 2021)                 |                    |
|   | Steven Dana Bruce                       | 05/2022            |
|   | Michael Peckham<br>Michael D. Schreiner | 05/2023<br>05/2024 |
|   | Michael D. Schreiner                    | 05/2024            |
| BOARD OF ASSESSORS                                    | Joanne McIntyre                         | 05/2024            |
|   | Christine A Griffin,Ch.                 | 05/2022            |
|   | Brian G Bowen                           | 05/2023            |
| VOCATIONAL REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMMITTEE MEMBER | William J. Charbonneau, Jr              | 05/2023            |

# TOWN OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

| BOARD / COMMITTEE                  | APPOINTED  | TERM EXPIRES |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| FINANCE COMMITTEE                  | Robert Clark, Chair  | 6/30/2022    |
|                                    | Jillian Jagling  | 6/30/2022    |
|                                    | Claudinor Salomao  | 6/30/2023    |
|                                    | Guy Beaudette  | 6/30/2023    |
|                                    | Andrew Massa   | 6/30/2023    |
|                                    | Shawn Sadowski   | 6/30/2021    |
|                                    | (Resigned 5/10/21)   |              |
|                                    | Judy Congdon   | 6/30/2024    |
|                                    | Steven Sharek  | 6/30/2024    |
|                                    | Sam Calandra   | 6/30/2024    |
|                                    | Andrew Horvitz   | 6/30/2022    |
|                                    | (Resigned 10/24/2021)  |              |
| EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT                | Thomas Moses   | 6/30/2021    |
|                                    | (Retired May 2021)   |              |
|                                    | Thomas Gregory   | 6/30/2024    |
| DIRECTOR MUNICIPAL FINANCE         | Patricia Fay   | Indefinite   |
| TOWN ACCOUNTANT                    | Patricia Fay   | 1/25/2022    |
| ACTING TREASURER/COLLECTOR         | William Weagle   |              |
| TOWN CLERK<br>ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK | Joan M. Wordell<br>Dawn K. Jacobs<br>(Retired July 10, 2021)<br>Jeffrey M. Malachowski | 02/02/2023   |
| TOWN COUNSEL                       | Aldo A. Cipriano   | Indefinite   |
| DIRECTOR OF PLANNING               | Kristina Johnson   | Indefinite   |
| & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT            |  |              |
| ASST. DIRECTOR OF PLANNING         | Pamela Helinek   |              |
| & COMMUNITY                        | rameia neimek  |              |
| DEVELOPMENT/CONSERVATION AGENT     |  |              |
| ASST. PLANNER                      | Amanda Molina Dumas  |              |

| BOARD / COMMITTEE  | APPOINTED  | TERM EXPIRES  |
|--|--|---|
| FIRE CHIEF   | Bryan Johannes   | Indefinite  |
| DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF  | Stephen Carviveau  |   |
| POLICE CHIEF   | Richard DiPersio   | Indefinite  |
| DIRECTOR PUBLIC WORKS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR   | Eric Ryder<br>Maged Kamel  | Indefinite<br>Indefinite  |
| DIRECTOR RECREATION ASSISTANT DIRECTOR   | Steven Santos<br>Daniel Hannon   | Indefinite<br>Indefinite  |
| VETERANS AGENT   | Brian Stearns  | Indefinite  |
| DIRECTOR LICENSES BUILDING COMMISSIONER DEPUTY BLDG COMM PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR  PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR DEPUTY PLUMING/GAS INSPECTOR WIRING INSPECTOR DEPUTY WIRING INSPECTOR SEALER WEIGHTS & MEAURES | Jeffrey R. Wood Jeffrey R. Wood Dennis Monteiro Jack Lampinen (Retired August 23, 2021) Lawrence Joyce Rich Melo Dennis Monteiro John Cain Joseph Mulvey | Indefinite |
| BOARD OF APPEALS   | Darja Nevits,Ch Pamela Cooper Jill Schafer Jason Mauro Matthew Russell   | 12/31/2024<br>12/31/2022<br>12/31/2024<br>12/31/2022<br>12/31/2023  |
| Associate Members  | Ronald Sorgman Justin O'Neill (Resigned 11/1/2021)   | 12/31/2023<br>12/31/2022  |

| BOARD OF REGISTRARS | Gladys A. Beaudette, Ch | 3/31/2022 |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
|                     | David Baran             | 3/31/2024 |
|                     | Peter Feil              | 3/31/2023 |
|                     | Joan M. Wordell, Clerk  |           |

| BOARD / COMMITTEE       | APPOINTED                | TERM EXPIRES |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| CONSERVATION COMMISSION |                          |              |
|                         | Brandon Parker           | 12/31/2023   |
|                         | James Martin             | 12/31/2022   |
|                         | Debra Edelstein          | 12/31/2022   |
|                         | Paul Osborne             | 12/31/2023   |
|                         | Emilie Wilder,Ch         | 12/31/2021   |
|                         | Heid Graf                | 12/31/2021   |
|                         | Brooke Warrington        | 12/31/2023   |
| Associate Members       | Jacob Millette           | 12/31/2023   |
| CULTURAL COUNCIL        | Stephanie Plourde-Simard | 12/31/2023   |
|                         | Dorothy Bagley           | 12/31/2021   |
|                         | Patricia Luoto           | 12/31/2023   |
|                         | Peter Fiske              | 12/31/2021   |
|                         | Donna Specian            | 12/31/2021   |
|                         | Cheryl Lombardo          | 12/31/2023   |
|                         | Ellen Kisslinger         | 12/31/2023   |
|                         | Debra Papa               | 12/31/2023   |
|                         | Doris Monteiro           | 12/31/2023   |
|                         | Lindsay Kelkres          | 12/31/2023   |
|                         |                          |              |
| COUNCIL ON AGING        | Nina Smith               | 12/31/2023   |
|                         | Diane Durand             | 12/31/2023   |
|                         | Edward Silveira          | 12/31/2021   |
|                         | Melissa Esteves          | 12/31/2022   |
| · 9                     | Anthony Monteiro         | 12/31/2023   |
|                         | Charles Corley           | 12/31/2022   |
|                         | Patricia Desmond         | 12/31/2021   |
|                         | John J. Gill             | 12/31/2022   |
|                         | Janet Saluk              | 12/31/2021   |
| ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT    | Thomas P. Davis          | 12/31/2023   |
| COMMISSION              | Sarah B. Cressy          | 12/31/2024   |
|                         | Hugh R. Gardner          | 12/31/2024   |

| (Resigned December 7, 2021) |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Christopher Tibbals         | 12/31/2021 |
| Thomas Ricci                | 12/31/2025 |
| William J. Sullivan         | 12/31/2022 |
| Sara Foster                 | 12/31/2025 |
| Charles Randall             | 12/31/2024 |

| BOARD / COMMITTEE                                   | APPOINTED  | TERM EXPIRES   |
|---|--|--|
| EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY                         | Bryan Johannes   |  |
| FORT MEADOW COMMISSION                              | Gary Pelletier   | 12/31/2022   |
| HISTORICAL COMMISSION                               | Peter Breton Mark Terra-Salomao Dandrick Gelin Michael Volk Vacancy Paul Shultz Albert Morel Jr. | 12/31/2022<br>12/31/2021<br>12/31/2021<br>12/31/2021<br>12/31/2021<br>12/31/2022<br>12/31/2022 |
|   | Robert Sorgman   | 12/31/2023   |
| SILAS FELTON HUDSON<br>HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION | Maria Markonidis Paul Osborne James David Quinn Arthur P. Redding Ronald Sorgman                 | 12/31/2021<br>12/31/2021<br>12/31/2022<br>12/31/2022<br>12/31/2023                             |
| FINANCE AUTHORITY                                   | George E. McGee<br>(Deceased 1/21/2021)  | 12/31/2021   |
| INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS                                | Jennifer Condon  | 3/31/2021  |
| LAKE BOONE COMMISSION                               | Conray H. Wharff, Jr.  | 12/31/2022   |
| METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL MEMBER           | Kristina Johnson   | 9/15/2023  |
| METROWEST REGIONAL TRANSIT                          | Kristina Johnson   | 9/15/2023  |

## AUTHORITY

| VETERANS GRAVES OFFICER      | James Cabral       | 12/31/2021   |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
|                              |                    |              |
| COMMUNITY PRESERVATION       | Peter Breton       | 12/31/2021   |
| COMMITTEE                    | George Luoto       | 12/31/2023   |
|                              | Steven Domenicucci | 12/31/2023   |
|                              | Robert D'Amelio    | 12/31/2021   |
|                              | Brandon Parker     | 12/31/2021   |
|                              | Michael Chaves     | 12/31/2022   |
|                              | Joseph Durant      | 12/31/2022   |
|                              | Linda Ghiloni      | 12/31/2023   |
|                              | John Parent,Ch     | 12/31/2021   |
| BOARD / COMMITTEE            | APPOINTED          | TERM EXPIRES |
| MUNICIPAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING | Kevin L. Santos    | 12/31/2021   |
| TRUST FUND                   | James Quinn        | 12/31/2021   |
|                              | John Parent        | 12/31/2021   |
|                              | Robin Frank        | 12/31/2022   |
|                              | Darryl Filippi     | 12/31/2022   |
|                              | Jory Tsai          | 12/31/2022   |
|                              | Ian Mazmanian      | 12/31/2022   |
|                              |                    |              |
| BOARD / COMMITTEE            | APPOINTED          | TERM EXPIRES |
| CENTENNIAL BEACH PROJECT     | Steven Santos      |              |
| BUILDING COMMITTEE           | Eric Ryder         |              |
|                              | Michael Chaves     |              |

#### **Board of Health / Health Department**

The Board of Health strives to promote the health of our residents through prevention and control of disease and injury. The department is overseen by a three-member elected board, providing policy direction to our staff. After serving on the Hudson Board of Health for the past 9 years, Mr. Jay Murphy retired from the Board in 2021. We would like to thank him for his years of devotion to the health of Hudson. Ms. Cassia Monteiro, who is an Epidemiologist, was appointed to the Board to serve until the May 2022 election.

The Hudson Board of Health is managed by our Director of Public and Community Health, Kelli M. Calo. In 2021, she was assisted by Marcia Blakely (Administrative Assistant), Eduardo St. Louis (Sanitarian), Lauren Antonelli-Zullo (Substance Abuse Prevention Program Coordinator), Kali Coughlan (Mass in Motion Program Coordinator), Michelle Andrade (Public Health Nurse), Alexandria O'Hare (Community Social Worker), Julie Zieff (Substance Abuse Prevention Program Assistant), Kate Killion (Public Health Intern), Deanna Wu (Shared Services Coordinator), Jessica Twardowski (Regional Public Health Nurse), and William Murphy (Regional Public Health Inspector).

In 2021, the department structured our various programs into three main areas: Environmental Health, Community Health, and Emergency Preparedness Planning and Response.

#### **Environmental Health Programs**

We continued our work in various environmental health programs in 2021, including:

- Onsite Waste Water Disposal Systems (septic systems/Title 5)
- Food Protection Program (food inspections)
- Housing (landlord/tenant, bedbugs)
- Body Art (tattooing and body piercing)
- Tanning (indoor tanning beds)
- Swimming Pools (public & semi-public)
- Recreational Water Safety (lakes and ponds, beaches, blue-green algae)
- Keeping of Animals (backyard chicken coops, etc.)
- Body Works (massage parlors, etc.)
- Hazardous Wastes (household hazardous waste collection events)
- Medical Wastes (including medical sharps)
- Solid Waste (trash and recycling)
  - o Transfer Station
  - Curbside Pick Up
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (lead paint)
- Beaver Control
- Mosquito Control (EEE, West Nile Virus)
- Tick-borne Illnesses (Lyme disease)
- Recreational Camps for Children
- Asbestos Control
- Lead Determination
- Private Drinking Water Safety (private drinking wells)
- Nuisance Complaints (odor and air quality, vermin, noise, trash)

B-P Trucking, Inc. took over operation of the transfer station in June of 1999, and has continued to provide efficient and sanitary operation of the facility. The approval of a new transfer station occurred in 2021 and

construction is anticipated to begin in 2022. Fees approved by the Board for trash disposal at the facility are available for review at our office or on the Town's website.

In 2021, the Hudson Board of Health continued to work towards the new town-wide curbside pick-up program. While the program was set to begin in summer of 2020, the program was put on hold due to the unprecedented challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to shift all staff resources to address it. During 2021, we were able to finalize the details of the program and the program will begin in May, 2022. The program is based off of a six-month long study in 2019 that the Recycling Sustainability Committee (RSC) conducted which recommend a launch of a weekly, town-wide pickup program that would be entirely voluntary, and paid by users of the service.

Our Sanitarian, Eduardo St. Louis, conducts public health inspections under the provisions of the state sanitary and environmental codes, aiding residents in health-related fields. Inspections conducted include but are not limited to food establishments, public and semi-public swimming pools, recreational camps, housing and human habitation, septic systems, perc tests, soil evaluations, dumpsters, tanning establishments, body art establishments and general complaints.

The Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP) continued to provide mosquito control for us in 2021.

#### **Community Health Programs**

We started or continued to work on various community health programs in 2021, including:

- MetroWest Shared Public Health Services
- Substance Use Prevention (MassCALL3)
- MetroWest Moves (Mass in Motion)
- COVID-19 Pandemic Response
- Public Health Nursing
- Community Social Worker Services
- Dementia Friendly Community
- Community Health Needs Assessment
- Farmers' Market
- Tobacco Control

#### **MetroWest Shared Public Health Services**

Local public health in Massachusetts has struggled to keep up with the changing demands of community health, and the pandemic exposed many of these staffing and resource challenges. As we adapt and rebuild from the pandemic, the Hudson Health Department is committed to providing excellent programming and services. One way to achieve this is by participating in cross-jurisdictional sharing of public health staff and services as a way to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our local public health system.

With the assistance of generous funding secured from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and the MetroWest Health Foundation (MWHF), Hudson now serves as the lead community in a new regional public health district of eight (8) communities in the MetroWest area, named the MetroWest Shared Public Health Services. We received two Massachusetts DPH awards through competitive processes, totaling to \$600,000 in annual funding. One award was the Public Health Excellence (PHE) grant, which offers \$300,000 annually through June 30, 2024. The second award was the Local Health Support for COVID-19 Case Investigation and Contact Tracing grant, which offers \$300,000 annually through June 30, 2023. The group was also awarded an additional \$361,000 from the MetroWest Health Foundation: \$111,000 of these funds will go towards hiring two full-time staff, and \$250,000 will go towards COVID mitigation activities, such as vaccine clinics and purchasing high-quality face masks and test kits for the region.

Through these funding streams, we are engaging in a shared public health services initiative with seven (7) other municipalities: Ashland, Framingham, Hopkinton, Maynard, Milford, Millis, and Natick. This shared service arrangement will implement programs to fill current gaps in statutorily mandated core public health services in environmental health and public health nursing, and, in coordination with two (2) newly-hired epidemiologists, will develop intervention strategies to improve overall health outcomes in the region and address health inequities. In addition, shared service collaborations strengthen existing core public health services by pooling resources, increasing staff capacity, attract more funding, and provide improved public health programming and outcomes.

As the lead municipality, Hudson is tasked with managing all aspects of grant implementation, including, but not limited to, hiring staff, and managing grant finances and deliverables. These awards allowed us to expand our staff to include the following positions:

- One full-time Shared Services Coordinator
- Two full-time Epidemiologists
- One full-time Public Health Nurse
- One part-time Health Inspector
- Two part-time Public Health Nurses
- One full-time Community Health Worker
- One full-time Health Communications Specialist

The PHE grant also has staff credentials built into its deliverables. Our efforts in hiring include hiring staff who meet or exceed these criteria, and supporting staff in their continued education to fulfil these criteria. This results in an adequately-trained workforce who will serve the MetroWest region, and who will contribute to the delivery of quality public health services.

#### **Substance Use Prevention**

In April of 2021, the MA Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) and the Department of Public Health (DPH) announced that the Town of Hudson was one of 31 youth substance use prevention programs in the Commonwealth that would receive a MassCALL3 grant. MassCALL3, which stands for the Massachusetts Collaborative for Action Leadership and Learning (3rd iteration), is an 8-year award under the Substance Misuse Prevention Grant Program. The grant is meant to support local substance use prevention efforts in communities across MA that fit under one of three overarching goals: Community engagement and capacity building; Comprehensive strategy implementation; Innovation and promising practices implementation. Hudson falls under what is called "Part B," the comprehensive strategy implementation goal, as we have a well-established regional collaborative with a strong track record in substance use prevention. Hudson leads the regional group, called the Central MetroWest Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative, which consists of Ashland, Hudson, Marlborough, Natick, Northborough, Southborough and Westborough. Framingham was a part of our collaborative in the past, but received their own MassCALL3 grant to focus on their large community; however, under MassCALL3, we welcomed Marlborough and Westborough into the group. The grant began in FY'22 (July 1, 2021) and will continue through FY'29. Hudson and the regional collaborative's focus will be on substances of first use among youth, which includes alcohol, nicotine, and cannabis. This is an expansion from our previous substance use prevention grant that solely focused on underage drinking.

Lauren Antonelli continues as the Youth Substance Use Prevention Program Coordinator under the Hudson Health Department. With funding from the MassCALL3 grant, Lauren was joined by Julie Zieff, the new Program Assistant, who started in October 2021. Both Lauren and Julie are Hudson residents and parents. Together, Lauren and Julie will lead the regional group of prevention specialists and their community-based prevention coalitions through a 5-step strategic planning process that starts first with assessment, followed by capacity building, planning, implementation, and evaluation. Sustainability and cultural competence are guiding principles of the process, and there will be a strong focus on racial justice and health equity at every step. The assessment process has begun in Hudson and the surrounding municipalities, which involves a review of the existing data on adolescent health, as well as, collecting new data via focus groups and key informant interviews. The data will drive our planning process to determine

prevention strategies that are evidence-based, responsive to the needs of the community, and culturally relevant. Strategies and programming will begin to be implemented in 2022.

Locally in Hudson, the Health Department continues to coordinate the Hudson Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (YSAP), which reconvened for some in-person meetings in 2021. The coalition consists of Hudson residents, parents, representatives from various Hudson businesses, the local media, and more. YSAP continues to work with the Hudson Public School system, Hudson Recreation, and various other youth-serving organizations to address substance use among Hudson youth. While YSAP was unable to host a Dodgeball Tournament fundraiser again in 2021 due to COVID, plans are underway for a 2022 tournament.

In addition to our youth substance use prevention work, the Hudson Health Department continues to serve on the Post Overdose Support Team (POST) alongside Hudson Police, Fire, and JRI. POST offers recovery resources and Narcan following an overdose to the person experiencing substance use challenges, as well as, their family and friends. Unfortunately, we saw an increase in overdoses in Hudson in 2021, but thankfully none were fatal, which we are proud to contribute, in part, to our efforts around educating and distributing Narcan to the community.

Lastly, to complement our substance use prevention work, we have partnered with the National Empowerment Center's *Emotional CPR* program and the National Council for Mental Wellbeing's *Mental Health First Aid* program to bring mental health trainings to the Hudson community. In 2021, we received grants from the MetroWest Health Foundation and the Emerson Hospital Community Benefit Grant Program to support this effort, and we successfully hosted 4 workshops for community members, as well as, a training for the entire Hudson Fire Department. We plan to host more of these trainings in 2022 in our continued effort to strengthen our community's overall emotional resilience, to better support community members experiencing mental health challenges, and to decrease the stigma around mental health; all which is more important now than ever before amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Mass in Motion

Serving as the lead community, we coordinated the MetroWest Moves program with our partner communities (Framingham, Marlborough, and Northborough). MetroWest Moves is part of a Mass in Motion (MiM) program funded by Massachusetts Department of Public Health. In the first half of 2021, we partnered with the Hudson Recreation Department and Hudson DPW to install eight additional benches along the Assabet River Rail Trail stretch in Hudson, with the generous donations from community members, organizations and businesses. We also partnered with the Hudson and Northborough Libraries to purchase youth and adult snowshoes and trekking poles to add to their library of things to encourage residents to get outdoors and be active.

The other major project our Mass in Motion Coordinator has led is the creation of the MetroWest Food Collaborative, which launched in October after a nine-month planning process. The newly formed MetroWest Food Collaborative is composed of over 40 community members, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, farmers and funders throughout the MetroWest region. The mission is to actively join with the community to strengthen the local food system by advocating for policies and programs that support equitable access to nourishing, affordable, and culturally appropriate food. We have a Steering Committee as well as three (3) working groups: Healthy Food Access, Equity and Justice, and Community Engagement that are working towards the goals set forth during the planning process.

Additionally, the mobile food pantry program that started in early 2020 and is a partnership between the Hudson Health Department, the Hudson Housing Authority (HHA) and Open Table food pantry still serves 35-40 HHA residents and an additional 60 community members, most of whom speak Portuguese. The program is now being coordinated by our Social Worker with the help of 10-15 dedicated volunteers from the Hudson community. Due to the high need, a second monthly delivery was added, in December, for the community members who participate.

In support of keeping Hudson an age-friendly community, a survey was conducted in partnership with the Hudson Senior Center to assess residents' opinions on how to ensure it continues to be age-friendly and areas for improvement. We are using these results from the nearly 300 respondents to put together an age-friendly coalition and begin identifying which areas of improvement we can work on moving forward in 2022.

#### **COVID-19 Pandemic Response**

2021 was another challenging year experienced across the country and within the Hudson Health Department. We spent this year adapting our COVID-19 response according to lessons learned in 2020, as well as new national and State policies.

We continued various COVID-19 related programs throughout 2021. Our first major effort was our contact tracing program for Hudson residents and businesses. Our department staff continued to engage with confirmed COVID-19 cases and their close contacts. These public health nurses/contact tracers maintained prompt and consistent communication with Hudson residents throughout significant peaks in virus spread.

We also continued to provide Hudson residents with evidence-based COVID-19 education, with a particular focus on encouraging COVID-19 vaccination. The first pillar of our education strategy included direct responses to resident inquiries. When community members contacted us directly through phone, email, or social media, we provided real-time education or directed them toward relevant resources. The COVID-19 section of our website was kept up-to-date with the latest case counts, State guidelines, and other COVID-19-related information. Additionally, we assisted local organizations, such as grocery stores and housing authorities, in providing COVID-19-related educational materials and signage to residents and patrons. Lastly, we published informational and supportive social media content several times per week on our Facebook page. This stream of communication provided residents with trustworthy information regarding COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots, emerging variants, faces masks, and quarantine and isolation guidelines. In 2021, we reached nearly 640,000 Facebook users, with most individual posts reaching between 1,000 and 7,000 users.

Lastly, the Health Department brought over 10 vaccination clinics to eligible residents. These clinics provided vaccines and booster shots to residents.

As we exit a challenging 2021, we are hopeful that our continued efforts will bring Hudson to a healthier future. We look forward to a time when we may all look back on the COVID-19 pandemic as important history rather than a current reality.

#### Public Health Nursing

In 2021, the Health Department hired Hudson's first ever full-time public health nurse, Michelle Andrade. Public health nursing is a critical part of local public health, as they provide a linkage between epidemiological data and clinical understanding of health and illness as it is experienced in peoples' lives. While most nurses care for one patient at a time, public health nurses care for entire populations. By working with whole communities, public health nurses are able to educate people about health issues, improve community health and safety, and increase access to care.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, our public health nurse largely worked on COVID-19 contact tracing and case investigation. However, the work outside of COVID-19 did not come to a halt and our public health nurse carried additional responsibilities including, but not limited to:

- Providing health teaching to individuals and families
- Receiving and making referrals
- Hosting and coordinating immunization clinics
- Working in health promotion/prevention programs in the community
- Conducting home visits
- Performing case management

- Facilitating and assisting vulnerable individuals' access to services and basic life needs
- Investigating disease and other health threats
- Advocating for improved increased health care availability and access
- Participating in community organizing activities

In 2021, we investigated these communicable diseases:

| Disease                              | Number of Cases |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Babesiosis                           | 2               |
| Campylobacteriosis                   | 6               |
| Cryptosporidiosis                    | 1               |
| Cyclosporiasis                       | 2               |
| Giardiasis                           | 1               |
| Group A streptococcus                | 1               |
| Group B streptococcus                | 3               |
| Hepatitis A                          | 1               |
| Hepatitis C                          | 7               |
| Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis      | 6               |
| Influenza                            | 132             |
| Legionellosis                        | 3               |
| Listeriosis                          | 1               |
| Meningococcal Disease                | 1               |
| Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc.) | 2932            |
| Powassan Virus Infection             | 1               |
| Salmonellosis                        | 5               |
| Shiga toxin producing organism       | 1               |
| Streptococcus pneumoniae             | 1               |
| Tuberculosis                         | 28              |

#### **Community Social Worker Services**

In 2021, the Hudson Health Department also received funding to hire a full-time community social worker. Alexandria O'Hare, a previous Hudson resident, was hired in 2021 to spearhead this role as Hudson's first-ever social worker. The role of the community social worker is to provide comprehensive professional social work services to assist Hudson residents with social, emotional, and economic needs, with specific attention to Hudson's most vulnerable populations. Our social worker provided many services in 2021, including but not limited to:

- Conducted referrals to services related to: mental health, substance use, medical, parenting, housing, finances, basic needs, etc.
- Provided information on area resources and services for the elderly, individuals with disabilities,
   children and families, low-income individuals, and those with a variety of other specialized needs
- Connected residents with community supports to help complete applications for services such as: food stamps, social security disability, fuel assistance, DMH (Department of Mental Health), Mass Health, etc.
- Provided community education
- Collaborated with community groups to address community needs and concerns, and to strengthen community connections

Mental health referrals provided by the social worker include an intake which identifies the best services for the individual based on their current need. Mental illness/disorder is a term used to describe a large umbrella of conditions that may affect mood, thinking and behaviors. Common examples are depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, eating disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, and addiction. Living with mental illness can make normal, everyday life hard in nearly every aspect of life. With mental disabilities having

no bias, they are found in all ages, races, genders, regardless of incomes or socioeconomic status. Our social worker makes referrals to therapists, psychiatrists, Department of Mental Health, respite, and/or hospital level of care. Until the individual is assigned to a mental health clinician, our social worker provides clinical consultation. Currently, we are in a mental health crisis and the waitlist could be between 8-12 weeks. The majority of the referrals made in 2021 by our community social worker have been made due to this crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Massachusetts, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) are combined into one program called MassHealth. Hudson has a large low-income population that is eligible for MassHealth, but do not know where to start or how to apply. In fact, in 2018, Hudson experienced increased rates of those who are without health insurance at 4.1%, compared to the state (3.0%) and the MetroWest region (2.7%). Our community social worker was able to work with many individuals, families, and people with disabilities in 2021 one-on-one to identify eligibility and receive the appropriate documentation to qualify for MassHealth benefits. If an individual/family was not eligible for MassHealth, our social worker identified other affordable health insurance.

In 2021, the Hudson Health Department became a referring agency for the Fresh Start Furniture Bank. The social worker has been able to make referrals for individuals in need of items from furniture and linens to kitchenware and lighting items. This program has largely been utilized by residents under 55 years old. Other assistance for applications that the social worker has been able to assist with is housing, food services, and financial assistance. This includes assistance with South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC), affordable housing, section 8 housing, fuel assistance, and food assistance, among others. Food assistance can consist of referrals to the Hudson Mobile Food Pantry, the Hudson Food Pantry, and free/reduced lunches through the school.

With collaboration with the Hudson Senior Center, our social worker has set up therapeutic groups and a program navigator program. One of the programs held at the Hudson Senior Center is the Holiday Blues Support Group. The program was a success and a Winter Blues Support Group is being planned for February, 2022 for our senior population. There has been a growing need of socialization and an environment where seniors will be able to speak about mental health challenges. We, in conjunction with the Hudson Senior Center, began the process of developing a patient navigator program to assist with transportation to medical appointments and an advocate for our residents that have trouble with managing appointments independently.

#### **Additional Community Health Programs**

In 2021, the Health Department alongside the Conservation Agent and the Assabet Valley Chamber of Commerce, managed the fifth year of the Hudson Farmer's Market in the front of Town Hall in downtown Hudson from June to September. The market had great success and offered a variety of products from vendors, including but not limited to: fresh fruits and vegetables, honey, meat, poultry, and bread goods. Challenges in the planning resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic, but those were overcome and the market went very well including the addition of winter markets. We look forward to adding a few early spring markets in 2022.

In 2021, the Hudson Board of Health participated in the MetroWest Tobacco Control District (MWTCD). Funded by the Massachusetts Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program (MTCP) and comprised of 13 municipalities in the MetroWest area, the program provides tobacco control services to Boards of Health including retail education and compliance checks. Olivia Dufour, the Program Manager, was appointed by the Hudson Board of Health to complete the inspections necessary in Hudson.

In 2021, the Hudson Board of Health permitted 20 retail tobacco establishments. All of these retailers were inspected and achieved compliance with State and local tobacco regulations. All retailers were also subject to compliance checks, structured and supervised inspections where a youth under the age of 21 attempts to purchase a tobacco product. Hudson had a sales rate of 10%, 2 out of 20 stores sold without checking ID. These resulted in \$1,000 fines to the businesses who failed the check per Massachusetts Tobacco Sales Regulations.

#### **Emergency Preparedness Planning and Response**

We continue to spend many hours working with other town departments, surrounding communities, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) to prepare and update our Public Health Emergency Plan. Hudson is part of the MDPH Emergency Preparedness Planning Region 4A. The Region comprises 33 towns and cities in the Boston MetroWest area. The coalition was formed in 2003 to facilitate sharing of resources and development of local and regional plans for public health emergency response. Hudson served as the Chair of the coalition in 2011.

Our department participated, along with many other town departments, in the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) spearheaded by the Hudson Fire Department. The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was formed to develop an emergency response plan, conduct annual reviews of the plan, and provide information of hazardous material usage in the community to the residents of Hudson.

The Hudson Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is active. Our MRC unit, which was organized in 2006, is a part of the Massachusetts Region 4A MRC. Our regional MRC is the nation's largest MRC with over five thousand volunteers. The MRC is made up of volunteers who assist in preparing for and responding to public health emergencies. We have successfully recruited more than one hundred volunteers to join our local chapter. In 2021, with the help of our MRC and other volunteers, we were able to provide a seasonal influenza vaccination clinic at the High School.

Since 2009, Hudson has Mutual Aid Agreements with Stow, Maynard, Northborough and Southborough to share resources in the event of public health emergencies.

We want to take this opportunity to thank other town boards and staff that have continued to provide assistance in the implementation of our responsibilities.

The Board's meetings are as posted on the Town Website, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. As always, public participation of these meetings is welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Delfino, Chair Christie Vaillancourt, RN, BSN, NCSN, Vice Chair Cassia Monteiro, Clerk

# Fort Meadow Commission 2021 Annual Update

#### General:

The 2021 Fort Meadow public boating season was delayed approximately a month and started late May while the lake took additional time to fill – this was a result of the very dry winter and spring. In coordination with the Marlborough and Hudson Conservation Commissions, in the fall of 2020 the lake was dropped approximately 4ft to help control the invasive weeds and clams. This low lake height also provides an opportunity for lake residents to do any approved rock wall or shoreline repairs. Draining typically starts late October or early November and takes approximately 2-3 weeks to drop. The dam is then closed around March 1st depending on the thickness and presence of ice and takes approximately 4 weeks to fill.

During the summer, a Hudson Fort Meadow Commission Agent was added to the Team. As a new Hudson Fort Meadow Lake reside, Juan Pablo (JP) Onate had shown an interest in keeping the lake safe and approached me about joining. JP has been a fabulous add to the Commission as he is energetic, takes safety to heart and is tri-lingual (English, Portuguese and Spanish) – which we will be leveraging extensively.

Interest in boating on the lake continues to grow – the summer of 2021 was easily the busiest that I can recall. We believe the increase in boating traffic is a direct result of Covid as it's a sport you can do with close family and friends and limits your exposure to large numbers of people.

As in past years, the Fort Meadow Commission continued to support and encourage the use of the slalom course in the center of the large basin. This slalom course continued to receive positive interest and almost daily use with little to no boater inconvenience.

The Commission in conjunction with the Marlborough DPW continued to maintain and make improvements to the Gene Hixon Public Boat Launch. Additional buoys and anchors were ordered to replace the older, failing ones. Currently, the Commission maintains 15 buoys around the lake to mark off hazards like shallow areas and rocks – most of these were purchased 15+ years ago and the tie down rings are rusting out. The yearly spring installation and fall removal of the buoys on the lake is a major undertaking and marks the beginning and end to the boating season. With our limited funds, the Commission plans on buying some additional buoys and dock supplies to replace the worn or aged equipment.

In addition to the buoy replacements, Ft Meadow Commission funding was used for patrolling the Lake, weed treatment and operation of the Gene Hixson Boat Launch and public dock.

#### Safety:

Safety remains the number one priority for the Fort Meadow Lake Commission.

2021, although extremely busy, was a very good year for the Fort Meadow boating community – thankfully, no major issues were encountered or reported.

As mentioned, boating traffic has increased dramatically in 2021 – especially on good weather weekends and Holidays. As mentioned in prior annual reports and Commission Meetings, there is a true safety concern resulting from the added boating traffic, along with no formal Massachusetts boater training or licensing requirements. To accommodate, the Fort Meadow Commission in conjunction with the Environmental Police, have stepped up patrols during busy periods, but inexperienced boaters and jet ski operators remain a challenge to the overall safety of the lake.

#### Lake Health:

As mentioned above, the lake was dropped 4ft November 1<sup>st</sup>, at the recommendation of the Marlborough/Hudson Conservation Commissions to help keep invasive weeds and clams in check.

A weed survey was completed in early June and a subsequent treatment was applied to those active areas of invasive weeds by Solitude – our contracted vendor. A follow up survey in August showed a different species of invasive plant had taken hold in several areas of the lake and will require additional treatment with a different set of herbicides that will be more expensive. As a result, I anticipate a slight increase in the next budget request to accommodate. Although Marlborough coordinates the weed treatment contracts, Hudson contributes (15%) to funding the weed surveys/treatments.

#### **Summary:**

A schedule of the 2021 FMC meetings and agendas will be available at Hudson Town Hall and on the Hudson & Marlborough Town websites.

The Commission would like to thank the Fort Meadow residents and boaters for all of their suggestions, hard work and commitment to assuring that we had an enjoyable and safe 2021 season.

If you would like further information, you may contact the Fort Meadow Commission through Hudson Town Hall, Marlborough City Hall or you can email me at the address below.

#### Gary R Pelletier@Raytheon.com

Best Regards,
Gary Pelletier
Hudson Fort Meadow Lake Commissioner

JP Onate Hudson Fort Meadow Lake Agent

#### LAKE BOON COMMISSION

The Lake Boon Commission (LBC) was enacted by the Massachusetts legislature as Chapter 712 of the Acts of 1941, with a charter of regulating the use of the waters of Lake Boon. It is an unpaid Commission comprised of three members: two appointed by the Stow Select Board and one by the Hudson Select Board. The LBC generally holds publicly posted meetings about eight times per year or as otherwise needed. Throughout 2021, the LBC continued hosting its Public Meetings via Zoom as part of Covid 19 precautions.

For 2021 the LBC was comprised of: Kris Krablin (Commissioner/Chairperson, Stow), Dan Barstow (Commissioner/Clerk, Stow) and Conray Wharff (Commissioner, Hudson). The LBC acknowledges the invaluable volunteer work of David Gray (Stow) in responsibilities related to drawdown activities and community communications, and Red Aylward (Stow) for coordinating weed treatment. 2021 also brought the retirement of Lee Heron as the Stow Police Safety Officer on the lake. The LBC and lake community are very thankful for Lee's many years of dedicated service in that critical role and as a past LBC commissioner.

Healthy Lake Boon Initiative (HLBI): 2021 was the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of our 2-year \$154k MA Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) grant, a collaborative initiative with the Lake Boon Association, Stow & Hudson Conservation Commissions. The project successfully engaged local residents as "Citizen Scientists" to collect a variety of measurements and observations for an integrated picture of the health of the lake, and worked with the selected consultants (Caldwell and Brown) to interpret the data which is resulting in recommendations for future action to help improve and maintain the health of the lake. Dan Barstow represented the LBC on the HLBI Steering Committee.

Safety & Patrolling: 2021 was another year without any significant safety issues. Enforcement of boating rules and regulations are the responsibility of sworn police officers. These functions are performed by the Stow Police and the Environmental Police, with Stow Police patrolling the lake on a regular basis throughout the boating season. NOTE: All calls concerning Lake Boon safety and/or law violations must be made directly to Stow Police at 978-897-4545 or by calling 911. It is the responsibility of all persons using the lake to know and abide by the MA State boating rules/regulations, and the Lake Boon ByLaws & Rules (which can be found on the LBC section of the Stow Town website). Failure to do so can result in citations and fines.

Weed Treatment & Drawdown: Lake Boon has for many years been host to non-native invasive weeds, exacerbated by increased nutrient loading. The primary way to address this problem is through a comprehensive lake management program. Key features are steps to reduce nutrients reaching the lake, and aquatic vegetation management. The latter involves the annual licensed application of state-approved herbicides in accordance with state permits and Orders of Conditions (OOC) from the Conservation Commissions of Stow and Hudson. Total Lake Management through education, non-native invasive weed treatment, and lake drawdown continued to be a focus in 2021 with additional data collected via the HLBI. "Solitude Lake Management" completed the third year of services on our 3-year Herbicide Treatment Program contract, with targeted treatments of Basins 2 & 3 with the diquat herbicide on June 2, focused on curlyleaf pondweed and variable watermilfoil. The lake drawdown program, which lowers the level of the lake during the winter to help purge nutrients from the lake and kill peripheral vegetation by exposing it to deeper freezing, also continued in 2021 with the Spring refill being completed by April 1, and the Fall drawdown level reached prior to Dec 1.

Water Quality: This year we continued to experience algae blooms in the lake (including some with cyanobacterial blooms) with higher frequency in the fall after the lake de-stratified from the cooler weather.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Krablin, Commissioner/Chairperson, Stow Dan Barstow, Commissioner/Clerk, Stow Conray Wharff, Commissioner, Hudson

## 2021 TOWN CLERK'S SUMMARY OF LICENSES AND FEES

| SELECT BOARD LICENSES                           | \$58,935.00 |
|---|-------------|
| CERTIFIED COPIES VITAL STATISTICS               | \$22,600.00 |
| MISCELLANEOUS COPIES                            | \$626.70    |
| MARRIAGE INTENTIONS 133                         | \$3,325.00  |
| BUSINESS CERTIFICATES                           | \$6,190.00  |
| POLE LOCATIONS @ 10                             | \$10.00     |
| ZONING BOOKLETS, STREET BOOKS, ETC              | \$135.00    |
| RAFFLE PERMITS 7 @ \$10                         | \$70.00     |
| STORAGE OF FLAMMABLES RENEWALS 32 @ \$40        | \$1,280.00  |
| BOARD FILING FEES                               | \$5,134.00  |
| DOG LIC FINES                                   | \$7,375.00  |
| PREPAID RABIES SHOTS (Canceled due to COVID 19) | \$0.00      |
| NON-CRIMINAL COMPLAINT FINES                    | \$1,025.00  |
| NOTARY FEES                                     | \$125.00    |
|   |             |

#### **DOG LICENSES**

\$106,830.70

**TOTAL** 

| 272 - Male/Female @ \$15         | \$4,080.00  |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1936 - Neutered/Spayed @ \$10    | \$19,360.00 |
| 0 - Kennels @ \$35               | \$0.00      |
| 5- Kennels @ \$60 (2 fee waived) | \$300.00    |
| 1- Kennel @ \$75 ( 1 fee waived) | \$75.00     |
| 1- Transfers @ \$1               | \$1.00      |
|                                  |             |

TOTAL \$23,816.00

4 fee waived MGL Ch 272 §98A 1 fee waived Non-Profit Charitable Kennel MGL Ch 140 §137A 175 fee waived MGL 140 § 139

## VITAL STATISTICS SUMMARY

| BIRTHS RECORDED IN HUDSON    | 210 |
|------------------------------|-----|
| DEATHS RECORDED IN HUDSON    | 186 |
| MARRIAGES RECORDED IN HUDSON | 120 |

2020 FEDERAL CENSUS FOR TOWN OF HUDSON – 20,092