

Board of Selectmen Sidelines

October 28, 2020

Submitted by Josh White

First, I would like to start our Selectman Sidelines by thanking Bill Lombardi for heading up our newsletter. When communication came up as an agenda item, I was not sure where or how it would manifest itself in our daily routine. I have been pleasantly surprised.

Secondly, I would like to respond to the negativity that has befallen our humble town. Passionate people with particular views are an important part of our community. When those views turn into propaganda through media outlets and attacks on social media, it delegitimizes your stance and creates unnecessary confrontations. These things have no place in our town. Facts and cordial debate should be how we come to a consensus, not negativity.

Thirdly I would like to let everyone know that there is a SB meeting on the 10th of November regarding roads. This is a workshop, so there will be no in person comments, but we are encouraging people to email questions regarding the roads to the Town Manager or a SB member.

Submitted by Martha Johnston-Nash

This newsletter is coming to you with the hope that we as selectmen can ensure a better-informed citizenry. When Bill and I were elected earlier this year, I felt it was by large a vote to be more open about what the Board and the Town are doing. You want to know what is behind the motions and votes? First, you are always invited to attend our meeting (right now via Zoom); most of us will give explanations why we are voting a particular way. And second, look forward to receiving this communication twice a month. We hope it will give you further insight into how things happen in your local government. Any questions or comments can be directed to each of us individually; made in writing via the Town Manager; or given live at the Board of Selectmen meetings under "Public Comment".

Fuller's Sideline

To my fellow citizens fall is here and before we know it snowplows will be running. Of course, first we have the task of voting next week and I am sure I speak for many of us when I say I am happy to be done with the political ads and signs. I am also very much looking forward to trying to work beyond the divides that come as part of every election cycle. In Union, our own sidewalk debate has stirred heavy emotions on both sides of the issue. While I can only try and understand the points of view and concerns from both sides, I want everyone to remember that this is a community and a small one at that. Some less than desirable behavior has come from people passionate on the issue over the past several months and while we may not all be the best of friends; we do share a lot in common with each other and it brings us all down when we personally attack each other. I think everyone should weigh what they see as the potential pros and cons of the sidewalk and vote however they want. But most importantly we should remember that after it is all said and done, we are still going to be neighbors and are still going to see each other at the store and around town. Let us try to keep the discussion above the mud flinging and personal attacks and focus on the pros and cons of the project. And let us make sure

to get these signs cleaned up in a timely fashion after voting day, I think we would all enjoy the fall colors better without them.

On a happier note, the Board of Selectmen has decided to form a broadband committee to look into options for expanding high speed internet options in town. If you have some time and some interest in serving on the committee your participation is very much appreciated. Please stop by the town office to fill out a committee form or if you have any questions please reach out to the town office or to my email on the town website. I would also point out that we have a local food ordinance committee currently working on a potential new ordinance that would love some local feedback.

Thanks
Adam Fuller

Submitted by Bill Lombardi

Solar Proposal - The Town received a letter from conEdison, Clean Energy Business regarding a proposed 44-acre project located East & West of Appleton Road and North of Heald Highway. Rather amazing to have a 14 Million Dollar proposal in Union. The Planning Board met this past Thursday to discuss a Solar Ordinance. More info to be forthcoming.

Road Workshop - Tuesday, November 10 at 6:30 p.m. The Board of Selectmen will have a physical meeting. The public will be able to listen in via Zoom. Covid restrictions prevail. The Board of Selectmen requests that you email any issues, concerns, suggestions, regarding roads to us before the meeting. We, very much, request your input. The objective of the workshop is to develop a more responsive data-based plan for road improvements and maintenance.

Please note that a letter from the Department of Transportation dated October 27th states that the following road pavement will be put out to bid for completion in 2021:
Union – Common Road, Beginning at Heald Highway and Extending Southeast 1.15 Miles to South Union Road. Includes paved shoulders.

There will not be a Board of Selectmen meeting on November 3rd.

Your Vote is your Voice. Make sure your voice is heard!