



Hubbardston
Massachusetts

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

OCTOBER 16, 2023

Over the past few weeks, our team has been laser-focused on planning for the future in a financially responsible way. I sent **budget materials** to all departments and committees, even ones that don't usually get funding. We wanted everyone to feel included in the process and know their voices were heard. You never know where a great suggestion might come from! Materials are due 11/1/2023.

The **Structural Deficit Working Group** met and broke the issues down into smaller, more manageable pieces that different members could work on. This will help us make steady progress, and explore ways to bring in new sources of revenue. Financial sustainability is key as our needs change over time.

I have been collaborating with the **Planning Board** to **align priorities** for the next few years. By knowing what we are looking to accomplish, it will be easier to find assistance and move towards those goals.

We have been diligently preparing for the upcoming special town meeting on October 26th. I have been meeting with various committees and stakeholders to ensure we have all the necessary information and materials ready.

I had a productive meeting this week with **Anne Gobi, the Director of Rural Affairs**, to discuss issues that disproportionately affect our region, such as rural school funding and the PILOT formula. We brainstormed potential legislative and regulatory changes that could provide more equitable support for rural communities. As we face common challenges, it is important that we work together at both the local and state level.

I am pleased to share that our **new ambulance** has arrived and is ready for service. This 2022 Demers ambulance on a Ford F450 chassis replaces the previous A2 truck, which was 18 years old. We were able to purchase this essential new vehicle thanks to funding from two key sources - the majority coming from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), with the balance appropriated at the recent town meeting.

We are grateful for the ARPA funds and town meeting approval that made this important acquisition possible. Keeping our fleet updated is crucial for maintaining readiness and response capabilities. This new A2 ambulance helps ensure we are well-equipped to serve the needs of our community

It has been another productive few weeks here in Town Hall thanks to the continued collaboration and engagement of our dedicated staff, board members, volunteers, and residents. As we look ahead, I am energized by our town's spirit of partnership and possibility. By working together, we can continue building towards the future. Thank you all for your commitment to our shared success.



Public Works Update

Over the past few weeks, our public works crews were busy with various road maintenance and repair projects around town. We welded the chute on the Oshkosh, added material to back new pavement edges on several roads, graded forest roads, mowed several areas, rebuilt a truck bed screen, patched potholes, repaired drainage infrastructure, treated and rolled gravel roads, moved signs, and addressed downed trees. Key tasks included rebuilding the Sterling truck bed screen, rolling Mt. Jefferson Rd after grading, hot patching roads around town, resetting a storm basin cover on Route 68, finishing repairs on the Sterling bed screen, and responding to a tree down on Ragged Hill Rd Friday afternoon. Our crews continue to work hard maintaining and improving roads around town.



Journey Within Yoga & Wellness, owned by Danielle McDonald Bourbeau, RYT, recently opened its doors at 48 Gardner Road, in Hubbardston. The studio offers a variety of health and wellness services including yoga, meditation, Tai Chi, grief counseling, and massage therapy.

To celebrate the grand opening, Select Board Chair Jeff Williams, and members Katie Young and Peter Walker attended a ribbon cutting ceremony along with Representative Donald Berthiaume, Town Administrator Nathan Boudreau, EDC Chair Whitney Friberg, and representatives from the North Central Chamber of Commerce. They congratulated Bourbeau and wished her success with the new business.

Journey Within provides an inviting space for community members to practice self-care through movement, breathing, and mindfulness. Bourbeau designed the studio's classes and services to help clients reduce stress, build resilience, and find inner peace.

Those interested in learning more about Journey Within's offerings can visit their website at journeyinyoga.com. The studio also has an active Facebook page that shares updates, class schedules, and wellness tips.





Huge thanks to the Hubbardston Fire Department for inviting me to observe their Fire Prevention Week demonstrations at Hubbardston Center School. The firefighters put on an excellent presentation for the students, teaching them valuable fire safety tips in a fun, interactive, and engaging way.

The kids were clearly having a blast as they learned to "stop, drop, and roll", all about fire apparatus and gear, how to check doors for heat before exiting a burning building, and more.



Events like these are so important for getting vital fire safety information to our youth. The Hubbardston firefighters did a phenomenal job keeping the kids entertained while instilling crucial knowledge that could potentially save lives. As Town Administrator, I was proud to observe the great community outreach demonstrated by our dedicated fire department.

Thank you to the entire Hubbardston Fire Department for putting on such an impactful Fire Prevention Week for our students. The department's commitment to educating residents of all ages on fire safety is admirable and helps make Hubbardston a safer place to live.

Grants: Hubbardston, MA has been awarded \$76,500 in grants from Massachusetts for projects to increase government efficiency. A \$36,500 grant will fund a review of systems and workflows to identify opportunities for technology improvements. A \$40,000 grant will create a professional development program for municipal staff to retain and prepare talented employees. The town is grateful for the funding which will support modernization, resilience, and employee development priorities.

A Citizens Guide detailing the warrant articles proposed for the October 26, 2023 Hubbardston Special Town Meeting is now available!

A public hearing will be held on October 16th at 6:30PM in a hybrid format both virtually and in the Slade Building, for those who have questions or want to voice concerns ahead of the meeting.

Additionally, Town Administrator Nathan Boudreau and Town Clerk Candace Livingston will be recording a special "Hubbardston Headlines" video to review the warrant articles and meeting process. This should be released next week.

Please direct any questions you may have to admin@hubbardstonma.us or tclerk@hubbardstonma.us.

We hope this information is helpful as you prepare for the Special Town Meeting on October 26th.

**CITIZENS
GUIDE TO
SPECIAL
TOWN MEETING**

October 26, 2023
Hubbardston Center School
7:00 PM

Have Feedback?

Please contact the Town of Hubbardston via phone at 978-928-1400 or email us at admin@hubbardstonma.us with questions, comments or suggestions regarding the information in this report. Additionally, you may review the Town's other Reports on the Town website.



HUBBARDSTON ANNUAL HALLOWEEN BLOCK PARTY

When: October 31, 2023 5PM-8PM

Where: Police Station Parking Lot, 7 Main St.

Sponsors: Bill, Donna, and Patrick Shea of The Raptured Duck, Rietta Ranch Flea Market

Come on out for a fun filled evening of Trick or Treat. There will be a DJ playing music, Free Hotdogs, and the Hubbardston Lions Club will also have their trailer in the lot with other refreshments. Our good friends Bill and Patrick Shea will be there with their DeLorean Time Machine, pictured below! Come get your photo taken holding a movie prop!



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TOWN OFFICES SPIRIT WEEK 2023 10/30 - 11/2

MONDAY
CRAZY
HAT DAY

TUESDAY
HALLOWEEN

WEDNESDAY
FARMER DAY

THURSDAY
TYE DYE DAY



STAY CONNECTED



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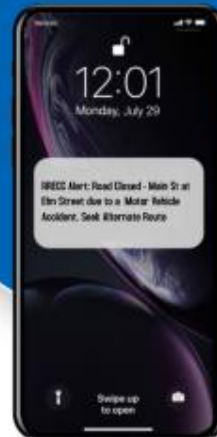
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Seconds Matter in an emergency
Protect your loved ones by signing
up for Rutland Regional Alerts to
receive important community and
weather alerts.



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