



Hubbardston  
Massachusetts

# TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

I'm happy to provide this latest update on happenings around Town Hall and initiatives underway. As always, if you have any questions or need more details, please let me know.

I'm continuing work on the **five-year budget forecast**, implementing new components to help project further based on historical data and key performance indicators we've established. Building year-to-year continuity is crucial, so I'm focused on linking each budget document into a cohesive long-term financial plan.

Capital requests were submitted to the **Capital Improvement Planning Committee** last week, and I look forward to reviewing priorities in depth at our upcoming meeting in early December.

On the project front, the **DPW roof replacement** is entering its final phases and is on track for completion this week. We are also accepting sealed bids for the **Hubbardston Center School boiler replacement project** until December 21st. Upgrading the school's heating system will provide more reliable and energy efficient operations.

Last week I attended the **Massachusetts Municipal Managers Association conference** in Worcester. The sessions were informative, particularly the one on promoting civility at public meetings. Equally valuable was connecting with colleagues across the state and sharing best practices. I'm energized with new techniques to try here in Hubbardston.

We've invited residents to a **Rural Priorities Roundtable** on November 27 with Anne Gobi, Director of Rural Affairs. This event will allow residents to share perspectives to help inform decisions tailored specifically to rural needs. Community input is critical as we plan for the future.

I'm also excited to launch "**Coffee and Community Conversations**," a monthly informal coffee chat series at the Stars and Stripes Diner. Beginning next week, I'll be there on the last Tuesday morning of each month through April. These casual conversations allow me to hear residents' concerns, answer questions, and gather feedback. I welcome every opportunity to actively engage with the community.

Earlier this month, we held a staff meeting to align on budgets, upcoming holidays, financial policies and more. Keeping staff focused on key initiatives helps us provide the highest quality service.

Please let me know if there are any other topics you'd like included in future updates. I appreciate the chance to keep you informed on town affairs. Wishing you all a wonderful Thanksgiving!

**DPW Update**

Over the last few weeks, the DPW has been busy preparing for winter and conducting regular maintenance activities. We have cleaned up leaves in the cemeteries, continued brush mowing on Simonds Hill Rd. and Twin Hill Rd., and patched potholes on several roads. We brought snow removal equipment up to the Slade building and installed plows on all vehicles. Some specific maintenance tasks included blowing out washouts on Twin Hill Rd., fixing a dirt section on Adams Rd., removing AC units from town offices, and rustproofing trucks. We also held a snow and ice training refresher class for the whole crew. As winter weather arrived, we treated the roads for slippery conditions during a snow squall. In addition to winter prep, we have been inspecting equipment, making sand/salt mix, replacing truck parts, washing trucks, and diagnosing any mechanical issues. e.

**Veterans Services**

Lauren Wright, Hubbardston's Veteran Service Officer, attended the unveiling of the new HERO Act, the largest veteran's legislation passed in Massachusetts in 20 years. Governor Maura Healey, Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, and Secretary of Veterans' Services Jon Santiago announced the act in Braintree on November 9, 2023. The HERO Act proposes 17 initiatives to increase benefits, promote inclusivity, and modernize services for Massachusetts veterans. Key provisions include increasing cash bonuses for disabled veterans and Gold



Star families, expanding healthcare and prosthetic coverage, creating tax breaks for veteran-owned businesses, establishing a woman veteran coordinator position, requiring public colleges to have veteran resource centers, and updating definitions to be more inclusive. "I was honored to attend the unveiling of this groundbreaking legislation and hear directly from our state leaders about their commitments to supporting veterans of all backgrounds," said Wright. "The HERO Act will make meaningful improvements to veterans' lives by increasing access to benefits, healthcare, housing, education and employment. I look forward to helping Hubbardston veterans take full advantage of the new opportunities this act will provide." Wright thanked the legislative delegation for their leadership on behalf of Massachusetts veterans. Hubbardston veterans needing assistance connecting to state and federal benefits can contact Wright.

**Rural Affairs Roundtable**

You are invited to a community-wide conversation on Monday, November 27 at 6PM to discuss rural priorities and opportunities facing Hubbardston, hosted by Director of Rural Affairs Anne Gobi. This is your chance to share your perspective and inform policies on topics like supporting local farms/food, jobs, infrastructure, healthcare access, schools, sustainability, recreation, and funding. The event will be at 7 Main Street with virtual options - RSVP to admin@hubbardstonma.us to share your priorities. Director Gobi's presence is a vital chance for Hubbardston's interests to be strongly represented in rural affairs, so please help spread the word about this important community discussion.

**RURAL PRIORITIES ROUNDTABLE**

When: November 27, 2023 6:00PM  
 Where: 7 Main Street, Hubbardston MA  
 RSVP: admin@hubbardstonma.us  
 Virtual Attendance Available

Join Director of Rural Affairs Anne Gobi and Hubbardston community members for a discussion on rural priorities important to Hubbardston.



The holiday season is arriving in Hubbardston with exciting upcoming events like the Light Fight display contest throughout December, the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 26th, the Old Fashion Country Christmas Fair at the Senior Center on December 2nd, Brunch with Santa on December 3rd, and Santa visiting the Fire Department on December 10th. Mark your calendars for the chance to enjoy festive lights, music, food, crafts, contests, guest appearances by Santa, and more. These events spread holiday magic and cheer throughout the community. Visit [www.hubbardstonma.us](http://www.hubbardstonma.us) for full details on the Light Fight, Tree Lighting, Christmas Fair, Brunch with Santa, and Santa at the Fire Department. Don't miss out on celebrating the most wonderful time of the year in Hubbardston!

**The Hubbardston town offices will be closed for the following holidays:**

Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 23 with offices closing at 12PM on 11/22; Christmas Day on Monday, December 25; and New Year's Day on Monday, January 1. Please note these observed town office closures for holidays and early dismissals in November and December of 2023 as well as January of 2024. For any town business or questions during the holiday periods, please contact department heads in advance to arrange availability. The town wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

**Thank You Election Staff**

As another election day comes to pass, the Select Board and Town Administrator on behalf of the Town of Hubbardston, would like to extend sincere gratitude to our town clerk, Candace Livingston, and our dedicated election staff and poll workers. Organizing and running an election requires tremendous effort and commitment. Candace and her team exemplify professionalism and public service through their tireless work to empower our Hubbardston community to make their voices heard by voting. From preparing ballots to recruiting poll workers to overseeing results, they ensure our democratic process runs smoothly.

Despite the long hours and pressures of Election Day, they remain focused on their critical role in our free and fair elections. Thank you, Candace and team, for your expertise, enthusiasm, and vital contributions to Hubbardston elections.



# Have Feedback?

Please contact the Town of Hubbardston via phone at 978-928-1400 or email us at [admin@hubbardstonma.us](mailto: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**  
Massachusetts



**COFFEE & COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS**

HUBBARDSTON HOT TOPICS OVER A CUP-OF-JOE

STARTS  
11/28/23  
8:30AM

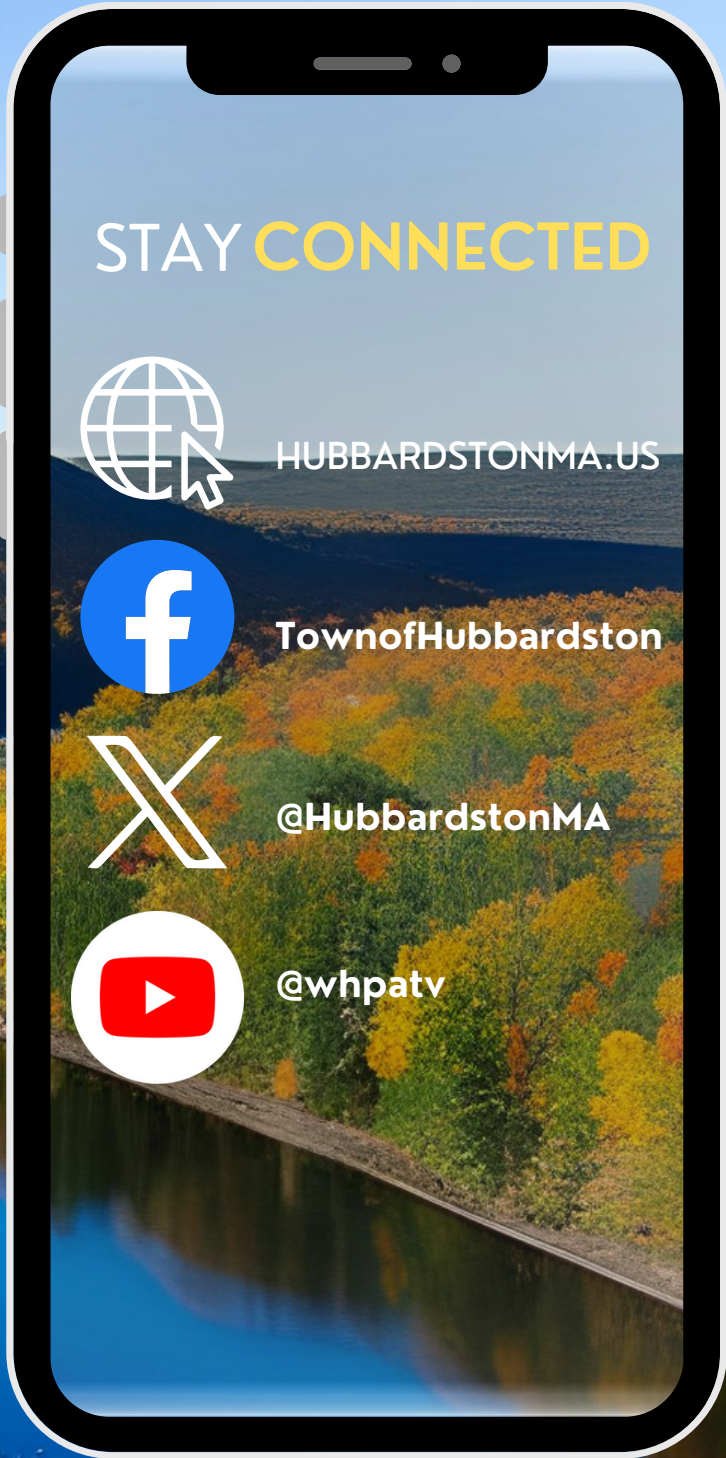
JOIN THE HUBBARDSTON TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND OTHER TOWN GUESTS FOR COFFEE, CONVERSATION, AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION ON THE LAST TUESDAY OF NOVEMBER - APRIL, 8:30-9:30AM!

**STARS AND STRIPES DINER**  
32 MAIN ST, HUBBARDSTON, MA 01452


**QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? IDEAS? MEET?**




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