

Town of Hanover



Monthly Update

February 2020

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Information Requests

For information requests and help with notifications, please send an email to communications@hanover-ma.gov.

Upcoming Events

www.hanover-ma.gov/calendar

State of the Town Breakfast – The Town of Hanover and the [Hanover Chamber of Commerce](#) will once again team up to provide citizens, businesses, and elected officials an update on the affairs of the Community at the Annual State of the Town Breakfast, to be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 7:30 AM in the First Floor Hearing Room of Hanover Town Hall.

Rabies Clinic – Town of Hanover Board of Health and Town Clerks Office with Roberts Animal Hospital has scheduled the Rabies Clinic on March 21, 2020: Cats 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM, Dogs 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM at Town Hall in the back of the building in the garage.

Presidential Primary – Tuesday, March 3, 2020. Voting will take place at Hanover High School, 287 Cedar Street.

Upcoming Public Meeting Schedule – [Town Calendar](#)

Special Town Meeting – Monday, May 4, 2020, 7:00 PM, Hanover High School, 287 Cedar Street.

Annual Town Meeting – Monday, May 4, 2020, 7:30 PM, Hanover High School, 287 Cedar Street.

Town Manager's Office and Board of Selectmen

www.hanover-ma.gov/board-of-selectmen

Coronavirus Preparedness – Town staff began preparing a local emergency response plan for in late January and will continue to ramp up our efforts. Please follow us on [social media and on our website](#) for the latest news and updates.

Fiscal Year 2021 Budget – The Town Manager presented his FY2021 budget to the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee on February 4th. All budget materials are available on our [Finance Department Budget Information page](#).

Senior Tax Work-Off Policy – Staff has been working with the Board of Selectmen on adopting a policy to give more structure to the Senior Tax Work-Off Program. The program and the policy are aimed at promoting the town's ability to utilize the skills and knowledge of our seniors in support of enhanced municipal government operations and to provide seniors with acute and/or persistent financial needs the opportunity to have their property taxes abated to further achieve the communities desire of keeping housing affordable for the senior population. Review a draft of the [Review a draft of the policy](#).

Traffic Calming, Traffic Safety, and Pedestrian Infrastructure Augmentation Policy – In response to the Planning Board's review of the Hanover Crossing project (2019) and the emphasis placed on the Walnut Hill neighborhood, the Board of Selectmen adopts this policy to provide general guidance to staff, residents, business owners, the Planning Board, Advisory Committee, Town Meeting voters, and other stakeholders clarifying (i) the types of improvements the town will support (ii) types of improvements the town will not support (iii) the decision-making mechanism, process, and timeline (iv) general guidance on funding. [Review a draft of the policy](#).

Procurement Policy – The Finance Director (and Chief Procurement Officer) is working with the Board of Selectmen to update the town's [procurement policy](#).

Ambulance Billing, Collections, and Rate Setting Policy – On February 4th the Board of Selectmen amended its current [policy](#) to ensure that ambulance rates charged by the Town of Hanover are reviewed annually.

Walnut Hill Traffic Safety Pilot Project – The Board of Selectmen are currently reviewing a recommendation from the Traffic Safety Committee to try a two (2) week pilot project which would close the Walnut Hill neighborhood at the Rte. 53/Woodland Drive intersection. [More information on this concept](#).

Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrants – Updated drafts of the 2020 Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrants can be reviewed [2020 Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrants](#).

Transfer Station Rules and Regulations – The proposed FY2021 operating budget includes proposals to eliminate the acceptance of construction and debris (C&D) materials and provide for enhanced security and stricter enforcement. This conversation will continue over the next few Board of Selectmen meetings. [Current rules and regulations](#).

Sylvester and Salmond Properties – The Board of Selectmen will begin more in-depth discussions of these two properties starting at their March 2nd meeting. Discussions will continue over the course of a number of meetings.

Emergency Dispatching – Currently the Town Manager, Fire and Police Chiefs, and Finance Director are working with The Collins Center (UMASS-Boston) on a review of our emergency dispatching service and options for how this service might be delivered in the future.

Traffic Safety Committee

www.hanover-ma.gov/traffic-safety-committee

First Quarter 2020 Meeting – The [Traffic Safety Committee](#) met on February 4th. The meeting focused on (i) the pilot project for the [Walnut Hill](#) neighborhood (ii) the Neighborhood Traffic Calming, Traffic Safety, and Pedestrian Infrastructure Augmentation [Policy](#) (iii) [Route 139 Corridor Study](#). The next Traffic Safety Committee meeting will be the first Tuesday in May.

Community Development and Municipal Inspections (CDMI)

www.hanover-ma.gov/community-development-municipal-inspections

Board of Health

Coronavirus – Information on website and COVID-19 news monitored daily included conference calls and webinars and have communicated with other departments; school, town manager, fire and police.

Dog Daycare Facilities – Dog Daycare facilities with Animal Control and working on a new kennel application with ACC.

Rabies Clinic – Town of Hanover Board of Health and Town Clerks Office with Roberts Animal Hospital has scheduled the Rabies Clinic on March 21, 2020: Cats 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM, Dogs 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM at Town Hall in the back of the building in the garage.

Bodyworks Regulations – Public Hearing for Bodyworks regulations on 3/9/20, Town Hall, 2nd Floor

Tobacco Regulations – Hanover Tobacco Regulations signed for approval and Inspections started within the town. Inspections for each town

February 2020 Board of Health Statistics –

- Incoming Phone Calls: 150
- Food Inspections: 14
- Housing complaints: 2
- Septic Systems - Percolation test: 6
 - 48 Oldfield Drive
 - 92 Cedar wood Road
 - 1236 Hanover Street
 - 11 Samoset Drive
 - 512 King Street
 - 965 Washington Street
- New Septic Plans for review at meeting 3/9/20: 3
 - 110 Industrial Way – Carlos Ferriara, PE
 - 11 Samoset Drive – Grady Consulting, L.L.C.
 - 79 Myrtle Street – McGlone Enterprises
- Not resubmitted Septic Plan: 1969 Washington Street

- New Septic Plans installation: 4
 - 1456 Hanover Street – S-19-71, Final 2/14/20
 - 150 Main Street – S-19-65, Final 2/25/20
 - 374 Circuit Street – S-20-2, 1st inspection
 - 49 Russell Road – S-19-78, 1st inspection
- Medical
 - 38 Seasonal Flu cases this past week
 - 8 Maven Cases
 - 4AB deliverables completed and submitted for emergency preparedness

Buildings Commissioner and Inspectional Services

1775 Washington Street Hanover Crossing – All demo permit information has been received and the permit is set to be released early next week. [Additional information.](#)

2053 Washington Street Merchant Row – Currently 12 certificates of occupancy issued. Two new restaurants currently under construction. Alba unit 100 approx. 8000 sq. ft. and Flanders field also approx. 8000 sq. ft. Both expecting to open late spring early summer. [Additional information.](#)

548 Washington Street - Yale Appliance – Project is complete with exception of the elevator. The shop is open and running on a temp Certificate of Occupancy.

1095 Washington Street – New Bank is complete and is up and running open for business. [Additional information.](#)

175 Winter Street – The Building Dept. has conducted 7 inspections since the fire on 1/24/2020. I have issued Unsafe Structure orders on the fire remains and a free standing firewall that an engineer has deemed unsafe. The order forbids any and all occupancy of surrounding structures within 40 ft. of the firewall.

283 Columbia Road – Prevites is under way. The concrete footings have been poured and the foundation wall sections are soon to follow. [Additional information.](#)

1835 Washington Street Chick-fil-A – The project is very close to completion. The inside finishes are complete and they are waiting on issues with Columbia Gas and National Grid. Top coat in the parking area is scheduled for late March and expected opening is early April. [Additional information.](#)

Statistics for February 2020 –

- The Building Department has issued 45 permits to date and completed 95 inspections.
- Plumbing and Gas has issued 47 permits to date and completed 60 inspections.
- Electrical has issued 27 permits to date and completed 33 inspections.
- Mechanical has issued 3 permits to date and completed 3 inspections.
- The office has handled 300 phone calls and 147 people at the counter.
- Weights and Measures performed 7 inspections.

Conservation Commission

Off King Street - Fireworks Site Project – Work continues at this site to find and remove munitions and other related materials from wetland areas and associated buffer zones. As the cleanup continues, it was necessary this month for several items to detonated in place for safety reasons. All items found are stored in appropriate containers for removal from the site to licensed disposal facilities. The Notice of Intent based on the most recent MA DEP approved Scope of Work within the waterbodies is still pending.

1775 Washington Street - Hanover Crossing Project – Site inspections continue as the Mall prepares for the demolition of the Wal-Mart building. This phased project has commenced with the placement of safety fence around the current work area, erosion and sedimentation control materials- 18" thick staked mulch tube to protect the adjacent wetlands and Third Herring Brook, and all stormwater basins have been fitted with approved storm drain sediment filter bags. The Conservation Agent's 2/28/20 site inspection found that adequate protection of resource areas is in place and the site is prepared for the demolition project which is scheduled for Monday, March 2nd.

1775 Washington Street - Peterson Pond Dam Removal Project – This project has not commenced as of yet.

637 Washington Street - Starland – An application for approval of wetland boundaries, an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD), has been filed for this site. The public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4 at 6:45 in the second floor hearing room at Town Hall. The Commission will review the plans for accuracy of wetland boundaries, locations, and types only. No construction has been proposed with this application. By determining the boundaries and types of resource areas on site, the associated *no-disturbance* and *no-structure* setbacks can be determined, as well as associated buffer zones.

1969 Washington Street - Cumberland Farms – The Conservation Agent's recent site inspection found that only minor cleanup and brush cutting has taken place at this site thus far. As the Order of Conditions has been issued and recorded at the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds for this project, work may commence at any time.

Rails to Trails Project – The Conservation Agent and Community Development and Municipal Inspections (CDMI) Director announced that the Rails to Trails Project Feasibility Study proposal has been accepted from a local engineering firm and that a meeting is pending the first week in March for contract signatures. A meeting between representatives of the above firm, Conservation, Open Space, and Rails to Trail Project committee members will be planned for mid-March to start the process.

MS4 Application/Permit – As per recommendations rising out of working with the MS4, the Conservation Agent and Building Inspectors are coordinating stormwater inspections for all ongoing projects. As such, combined site inspections have taken place, as well as interdepartmental discussions and meetings. Coordination and cooperation between departments has always been and will continue to be an essential function within CDMI. Detailed information about the MS4 process is available at: <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/npdes/stormwater/Municipal-Separate-Storm-Sewer-System-MS4-Main-Page.cfm>.

Commercial Site Review – The Conservation Agent and Health Agent continue their efforts to inspect commercial sites in town for site maintenance and cleanup. Food waste, windblown debris from over packed disposal containers, un-fenced or damaged trash container areas, and similar, often is deposited in protected wetland areas, can harm wildlife, and can cause stormwater basins to become clogged. All issues found at sites thus far have been addressed with appropriate cleanup in a timely manner.

Community Services

www.hanover-ma.gov/community-services

Council on Aging

Council on Aging Advisory Board – The [Advisory Board](#) proposed updated bylaws governing their activities for voter consideration at the 2020 Annual Town Meeting.

Monthly Newsletter – [March 2020 Newsletter](#)

Hanover Community Television

Staff Award – Nicole Schiarizzi, [HCTV](#) Creative Programming Coordinator, won her second award at the Mass Access annual Meeting: Mass Creator Award - Innovation

Veterans Agent

Recertification – Recertification for Hanover's Chapter 115 recipients completed to include the adoption of two new recipients

"Gold Star Parents" – [Veterans](#) article added to the 2020 Town Meeting Warrant addressing Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22H Property Tax Exemption for "Gold Star Parents".

"Blue Water Navy" – Implementation of new "Blue Water Navy" legislation, signed into law on January 1, 2020, has resulted in numerous submissions and re-submissions of "Agent Orange" claims for Hanover Naval Veterans

VFW Scholarships – Checks processed for the town's VFW college scholarship recipients

Visiting Nurses

Hearth Month – [Nurses](#) celebrated Heart Month by visiting housing sites and providing a workshop that is also added to their monthly clinics

Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation Committee – Performed a field inventory and provided the [Parks and Recreation Division](#) and DPW with a power point with pictures and questions in regard to field maintenance and potential updates to fields and signage etc.

Spring Fest – The Community Services Department (of which Parks & Recreation is a division) is working on a Spring Fest planned for April 25, 2020.

Summer Programming - [Registration](#) is open.

MOU with HYAA – The Field Permit meeting was held on February 13th. The [Parks and Recreation Committee](#) will continue to review the current agreement between the Town and HYAA which expires on March 31, 2020.

Department of Public Works

www.hanover-ma.gov/dpw

Build the Boards – We are hoping to complete the large roller hockey rink during the month of June (2020). In order to complete this project, voters will need to approve the updated language for this project at the Annual Town Meeting this May. To keep this project moving DPW will be adjusting the fence and rebuilding the access road within the next four to six weeks. [Additional information](#).

Hanover High School Tennis Courts – Due to cost, the project will be advertised as asphalt courts rather than concrete. Originally scheduled to begin construction right after the spring tennis season. The School Department has requested a minor delay to accommodate their summer program. Plans and specifications are ready and will be bid with a contract start date of approximately August 1st with work expected to take approximately six weeks. [Follow this project](#).

Water Disinfection Byproducts – All construction work is completed including the installation of new chemical feed equipment, safety equipment, and controls at all three treatment plants. Startup testing including calibration, chemical feed adjustment, and control adjustments have been underway for approximately six weeks to ensure reliable operations and proper water chemistry. Reliability issues of the chlorine (bleach) feed systems at Beal and Broadway where water pressures are high have resulted in changes to pumps which have delayed startup, but all of the equipment is now in and we are progressing towards final sign-off and approval by Massachusetts DEP. [Follow this project](#).

Cedar School Security Entrance – The [project](#) went out to bid and the bids came back with the low bidder approximately \$100,000 less than the second low bidder. The low bidder has since indicated they had an arithmetic error and would be unable to honor their bid. The second low bid is approximately \$100,000 over the allotted funds.

Broadway and Elm Street Intersection – Proposals for design services have been sent out to three firms. We are awaiting proposals and expect to award a design contract in the next six to eight weeks. Elm Street is scheduled for an overlay this summer. The intersection improvements are not likely to take place until the summer of 2021 at the earliest due to scheduling and finances. [Additional information](#).

Finance Department

www.hanover-ma.gov/finance

Director of Finance/Treasurer Collector's Office

Special and Annual Town Meeting (2020) – Preparations for the [May Annual and Special Town Meetings](#), and the [Fiscal Year 2021 Budget](#), are progressing after the presentation of the Town Manager's proposed FY2021 Budget at a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee on February 3. The Advisory Committee's meetings with Departments to review their FY2021 Operating Budgets are proceeding as listed below. As of this writing 47 articles have been drafted for the Annual Town Meeting warrant, and 8 for the Special Town Meeting warrant.

Fiscal Year 2020 Quarter 3 Real Estate Taxes – These were due February 3, and the Office was as usual very busy providing customer service to residents paying their taxes in person, online, or by mail. An increasing number of taxpayers are choosing to pay their taxes via automatic payment online, a “set it and forget it” system linked to the taxpayer’s bank account.

Monthly Budget Reports – [Fiscal Year 2020 Monthly Reports](#).

Town Accountant’s Office

Fiscal Year 2019 Audit – The Town Accountant, in conjunction with the Director of Finance/Treasurer Collector, Assessing, and Payroll & Benefits Offices, has been working with the Town’s audit firm to complete the Fiscal Year 2019 audit.

Assessing Office

New Growth – The Director of Assessing and Assessing Technician are in the field now inspecting New Growth in the Town to ensure all residential and commercial real estate is taxed at its full and fair value in Fiscal Year 2021.

Real Estate Tax Exemptions – Fiscal Year 2020 real estate tax exemption applications from senior citizens, disabled veterans, and blind residents are due April 1st.

Real Estate Tax Abatements – Real estate tax abatement applications were due February 3rd and are being evaluated now by the Assessing Office and the Board of Assessors.

Payroll and Benefits Office

Activities – The workload of the Payroll and Benefits Office has increased significantly due to the federal Affordable Care Act. One aspect of this is the issuance of 1095-C IRS Forms to all Town and School employees, which was completed in mid-February.

Board of Registrars of Voters

Upcoming Elections Information – The last day to submit signatures to be a candidate on the ballot for open positions at the Annual Town Election is March 20. The last day to register to vote to participate at the May 4 Annual Town Meeting and May 9 Annual Town Election is April 14.

Town Clerk’s Office

Voting – The Massachusetts Presidential Primary Election is March 3, with early voting occurring February 24-28 during Town Hall hours.

Advisory Committee

Review of Fiscal Year 2021 Budget – The [Advisory Committee](#) is reviewing the proposed FY2021 budget on the following schedule:

- February 12: Fire and Police
- February 26: Department of Public Works part 1
- March 4: Department of Public Works part 2
- March 11: CDMI, Community Services, Finance, Library, and Town Manager's Office
- March 18: Schools including Town-Wide Information Technology

Hanover Fire Department

www.hanover-ma.gov/fire

Sequoia Lane Structure Fire - At approximately 5:10 pm on January 22, 2020, the Hanover Fire Department received a call reporting a structure fire at 67 Sequoia Lane. Box 42 was struck and a 1st Alarm Assignment was dispatched. First arriving firefighters found a single family residential building with heavy fire showing from an attached two car garage. A 2nd Alarm Assignment was requested by Chief Blanchard bringing mutual aid assistance from Hanson, Rockland, Norwell and Marshfield Fire Departments to the scene along with resources from the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services. Crews were able to contain the fire to the attached garage with smoke damage occurring throughout the structure. Extensive overhaul was required to ensure the fire was extinguished completely.

A resident was transported to a local hospital after suffering burns and possible smoke inhalation.

The Pembroke Fire Department provided station coverage during the incident. The Hanover Police Department and the Hanover Department of Public Works as well as the Department of Municipal Inspections assisted fire crews on the scene.

Winter Street Structure Fire - On January 24, 2020 at 1:29 pm, the Hanover Fire Department received a call reporting a structure fire at 175 Winter Street. A 1st Alarm Assignment was dispatched. First arriving crews found heavy smoke and fire coming from the left side of a 100' x 120' one story wooden warehouse. The fire had already ignited several outside propane tanks that were stored up against the structure. Initial hose streams were directed onto the propane tanks to keep them from exploding. The fire was progressing rapidly through the structure and firefighters focused on protecting additional propane tanks and nearby structures. Several small explosions occurred inside the building during the fire. Five Alarms were necessary to bring the fire under control.

Mutual Aid assistance from Rockland, Hanson, Norwell, Pembroke, Abington, Whitman, Halifax, East Bridgewater, Kingston, Scituate, Brockton, Hingham, Marshfield and Plympton responded to the scene. Rehab units from the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, Providence Canteen, American Red Cross and Salvation Army supported incident operations. The Hanover Police and Public Works Departments also assisted on scene. The Hanover Emergency Communications Center coordinated incident communications and requests for mutual aid as well as several other incidents that occurred during the fire.

The Massachusetts Department of Fire Services District Hazardous Materials Response Team was requested to the scene to provide air monitoring at the fire scene and in the neighborhoods that surrounded the area. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection had a representative on scene to assess the impact of water runoff to the area. After the fire was brought under control Pilgrim Propane responded a team to the scene to assist firefighters with a leaking propane tank.

No Firefighters were injured during the incident.

Bradford Road Structure Fire - At approximately 10:45 pm on February 3, 2020, the Hanover Fire Department received several 911 calls reporting a structure fire at 22 Bradford Road. Box 42 was struck and a 1st Alarm Assignment was dispatched. First arriving firefighters found heavy fire showing from the kitchen and an exterior three season porch of a single family residential building. A Working Fire Assignment was requested bringing mutual aid assistance from Hanson to the scene.

Crews made an aggressive attack on the fire and were able to contain it to the kitchen, preventing spread to the remainder of the structure. The house sustained significant smoke damage. Extensive overhaul was required to ensure the fire was extinguished completely.

The Norwell Fire Department provided station coverage during the incident. The Hanover Police Department and the Hanover Department of Public Works as well as the Department of Municipal Inspections assisted fire crews on the scene. Hanover Emergency Communications Center staff fielded multiple calls and communications during the incident.

No injuries were reported.

Statistics for February 2020 – In the month of January, the Hanover Fire Department fielded 292 calls. 70.9% of all calls in the Town of Hanover were reached within six minutes or less.

Fire Station Planning Study Committee

www.hanover-ma.gov/fire-station-planning-study-committee

Fire Station Planning Study Committee – The [Fire Station Planning Study Committee](http://www.hanover-ma.gov/fire-station-planning-study-committee) kicked-off on February 4, 2020. Their mission is to evaluate options for the Hanover Fire Department's needs for space, geographically consistent response times, operational efficiency, and cost containment (debt and operational), as they relate to the concept of a new fire department sub-station. The study committee is expected to provide objective analysis (pros and cons, and other considerations) on reasonably probable options; the study committee does not have the burden of making a recommendation.

John Curtis Free Library

www.hanover-ma.gov/library

February 2020 Activities – Boston Bruins/Cradles to Crayons PJ drive to benefit DCF. Ongoing through March 15, 2020. Please donate a new pair of PJs, newborn through Adult sizes. The Children's Room hosted 27 programs, including Storytimes, Spanic Club, Science Club, Chess Club, and special events during school vacation, including Read to Spider and Trouble (therapy dogs), Playful Engineers, Tuned Up, and Craft Time - along with a special visit from Gaston, from Massasoit University's production of *Beauty and the Beast*. Adult programming included the first session of a new series entitled Financial Tools 101, which will take place the first Tuesday of every month along with Mystery and Cookbook Club meetings. Our Gallery feature the oil paintings of Thomas Hoffman - there will be a reception for the artist on Saturday, February 29 from 12:00 to 2:00 pm. Our Library Director, Virginia Johnson, will be presenting at the National Public Library Association Conference on Friday, February 28, in Nashville, Tennessee. Her presentation is entitled: They Don't Outgrow It: Lifelong Service to Patrons on the Autism Spectrum.

School Department

www.hanoverschools.org

Literacy Coffee Talk Sessions - The first of four Coffee Talk Sessions focusing on reading and literacy took place on Wednesday, February 26th at Center School. This session was focused on the Science of Reading and the parents that attended had great questions. It was presented by Anastasia Frank, one of our district Reading Specialists, and was also professionally recorded so it can be shared out with the community. The next three sessions taking place in March and April will also be recorded and shared.

Drama Festival - Hanover High School was host to eight local High Schools, including our very own HHS Drama group, for this years' High School Theater Festival on Saturday, February 29th, which is the first round of the annual competition. The HHS Drama group will be performing scenes from The Scheme of the Driftless Shifter. A public performance of their selection was held ahead of their festival performance on Thursday, February 27th

Fun Run - Both Cedar and Center Elementary Schools held their annual HPTA Boosterthon beginning the week of February 24th. The Fundraiser will be capped off with their Annual Fun Run, which this year, has a Wild West Theme. This is always a fun event for students and teachers and raises a great deal of money for all of our schools.

HMS Band at Statehouse - On February 5th, the 7th and 8th grade band from Hanover Middle School took a trip into the Statehouse and were able to not only perform, but also got a tour and saw their state government in action. It was a great opportunity for our middle school students.

Winter Sports - Many of our winter sports teams did exceptionally well this season. Girls and Boys Basketball, as well as Girls and Boys Hockey all made it to the playoffs. Our Girls basketball team made it to the #1 seed in their division, but ultimately got knocked out in overtime by Norwood. They played a fantastic game and gave it everything they had. The Boys Hockey has their first playoff game Friday night, 2/28 against North Quincy.