

# Town of Hanover

## Monthly Update

July 2020

Joe Colangelo  
Town Manager  
[joseph.colangelo@hanover-ma.gov](mailto:joseph.colangelo@hanover-ma.gov)  
(w) 781.826.5000, ext. 1084  
(m) 339.214.5303  
Hanover Town Hall  
550 Hanover Street  
Hanover, MA 02339



## Communications, Updates, and Notifications

<http://www.hanover-ma.gov/communications>

### Subscribe to Town Updates and Notifications

The Town of Hanover encourages its citizens and residents to engage and participate in government. Visit <https://www.hanover-ma.gov/subscribe> to receive news, meeting updates, and alerts from Town departments. All departments, boards, and committees are available to join. You may also unsubscribe at any time.

### Follow us on Social Media

The Town of Hanover communicates with residents and the public through various social media channels. Explore our social media accounts to stay up-to-date and receive the latest news and alerts from our Town departments. Visit <http://hanover-ma.gov/followus> to view our town and school channels.

### Information Requests

For information requests and help with notifications, please send an email to [communications@hanover-ma.gov](mailto:communications@hanover-ma.gov).

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## COVID-19 Updates

[www.hanover-ma.gov/covid-19](http://www.hanover-ma.gov/covid-19)

On February 1, 2020, the first Massachusetts case of 2019 novel coronavirus was confirmed. On February 11, 2020 the World Health Organization announced an official name for the disease that is causing the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak, COVID-19. COVID-19 is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation. Updates, news and announcements, statistics, and all coronavirus-related information may be found on our [COVID-19 Information and Updates](#) page.

As of July 31, 2020, there were 74 confirmed cases in Hanover with 74 recoveries.

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## Upcoming Events

[www.hanover-ma.gov/calendar](http://www.hanover-ma.gov/calendar)

View upcoming events on the [Town of Hanover Calendar](#).

- [Upcoming Public Meeting Schedule](#)
- [John Curtis Free Library Events Calendar](#)
- Hanover High School Graduation – Graduation will be held at Hanover High School on July 31, 2020, starting at 7:00 PM. Ways to watch the broadcast
- [Netflix Original Movie Premiere of The Sleepover](#) – The Sleepover, a Netflix original movie, will premier in late August! When two siblings discover their seemingly normal mom is a former thief in witness protection who has been forced to pull one last job, they team up to rescue her over the course of an action-packed night. The movie

features talent from Hanover and includes scenes that were filmed at Hanover High School. The Sleepover is set to be released on August 21, 2020. [Watch the movie trailer \(Instagram\)](#).

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## Town Manager's Office and Board of Selectmen

[www.hanover-ma.gov/selectmen](http://www.hanover-ma.gov/selectmen)

**Board of Selectmen Reorganizational Meeting** – David Delaney was voted in as Chairman for the year; Rhonda Nyman was voted in as Vice-Chairman for the year.

**Fire Station Planning Study Committee** – Purpose of the committee as established by the Board of Selectman 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. [Learn more about the committee](#) and review past meeting minutes for updates.

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## Community Development and Municipal Inspections (CDMI)

[www.hanover-ma.gov/cdmi](http://www.hanover-ma.gov/cdmi)

**Community Preservation** – The [Community Preservation Committee](#) met on July 21, 2020 and reorganized; they voted William Scarpelli as Chairman and James Coulter as Vice-Chairman. Steve Louko was voted as the Committee's liaison to the Affordable Housing Trust.

The Committee met with Bob Murray, Facilities Manager/Town Engineer to review CPA funded projects.

- [Tennis Court Project](#) (2019 Annual Town Meeting Article 21) The CPC approved an updated project application and scope of work allowing the tennis courts to be rehabilitated using asphalt rather than post-tension concrete.
- **Restoration of Town Hall** (2017 Annual Town Meeting Article 51) Mr. Murray reported the project included shingles for the newer section of Town Hall; he will follow up with the architect. The Committee inquired on having shutters installed on the side of the building which faces the parking lot.
- Repair foundation wall **Stetson House Barn** (2016 Annual Town Meeting Article 45) Mr. Murray noted it had been reported the wall was bulging upon further investigation the wall is fine. Mr. Murray noted there is a need to have some grading done to direct water away from the building.
- **Climate control measures Stetson House** (2013 Annual Town Meeting Article 34) Mr. Murray explained the insulation, HVAC system, and climate controls noting Historic New England has to approve the project because of the historic status of the building.

The Committee discussed the upcoming CPA application deadline and set closing date for accepting applications until October 30, 2020.

**Conservation** – The Conservation Commission is involved with many ongoing projects including the Cumberland Farms Gas Station, Hanover Crossing, the former National Fireworks Site, and Prevites. [View all open projects under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission.](#)

**COVID-19 General Response** – The Board of Health along with the health office, emergency response teams, and communications office have been diligently working to keep Hanover safe by continuing to promote social guidance within the community by using social media, website postings, signage in public places and flyers in public areas. Information and updates may be found at [hanover-ma.gov/covid-19](https://hanover-ma.gov/covid-19).

**EEE Virus** – EEE is a rare but serious and potentially fatal disease that can affect people of all ages. EEE is generally spread to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. There were 12 human cases of EEE in Massachusetts in 2019 with six deaths. There were also nine cases in domestic animals. As of July 20th, samples of EEE were detected in Plymouth County in the Town of Carver. Samples were originally found at the beginning of July in the community of Orange in Franklin County. Information and news about EEE in Hanover may be found on the [Town Health Office website](#).

**West Nile Virus** – The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced earlier this month that West Nile virus (WNV) was detected in mosquitoes in Massachusetts for the first time this year. The presence of WNV was confirmed by the Massachusetts State Public Health Laboratory in two mosquito samples collected on July 7th in the town of Belmont in Middlesex County. No human or animal cases of WNV have been detected so far this year in any other city or town. For additional information about West Nile Virus, please visit our website at [hanover-ma.gov/mosquitos](https://hanover-ma.gov/mosquitos).

**Ticks** – Ticks are tiny bugs most likely found in shady, damp, brushy, wooded, or grassy areas (especially in tall grass), including your own backyard. Different kinds of ticks feed on the blood of mammals (including people, dogs, cats, deer, and mice), birds, or reptiles (snakes and turtles, for example). In Massachusetts, certain kinds of ticks can bite you and spread diseases like Lyme disease, babesiosis, anaplasmosis, tularemia, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Borrelia miyamotoi, and Powassan virus. Ticks do not fly or jump. They attach to animals or people that come into direct contact with them. Deer ticks and dog ticks are found throughout Massachusetts; Lone Star ticks are also found in some places in Massachusetts. One of the most important things you can do is check yourself for ticks once a day. Favorite places ticks like to go on your body include areas between the toes, back of the knees, groin, armpits, and neck, along the hairline, and behind the ears. Remember to check your children and pets, too. Remove any attached ticks as soon as possible. You can learn more about ticks by going to our mosquitos and ticks resource page at [hanover-ma.gov/ticks](https://hanover-ma.gov/ticks).

**1236 Hanover Street** – The applicant is requesting a Special Permit & Site Plan Review for the proposed construction of a two story structure for an office/warehouse and an accompanying contractor's yard. The Board continued the Hearing to August 3, 2020.

**579/637 Washington Street** – Special Permit & Site Plan Review for a proposed zipline and parking expansion with associated site grading and storm water management for Starland Holdings LLC. The Board agreed to continue the Hearing until August 24, 2020.

**Village Planned United Development (VPUD)** – The Planning Board discussed the moratorium on Zoning Bylaw 6.11.00 as voted by the 2020 Town Meeting. The Board discussed hiring a consultant to review land use off of Rte. 53; the retail space ratio to residences for new development and inclusionary zoning.

## Community Services

[www.hanover-ma.gov/community-services](http://www.hanover-ma.gov/community-services)

**Council on Aging** – The COA is still assisting residents with applications for health, food, financial, and housing assistance. GATRA vans are still in service. Virtual Programming is taking off starting with exercise and now moving on to educational workshops and discussions. These programs would be impossible to provide without the assistance of Hanover Community Television. MOW has continued without issue and we have also provided special meals to many residents. The last being in collaboration with the YMCA. We continue to do wellness check-ins by telephone, with the assistance of the MIH Nurses.

**Building Reopening Plans** – Currently the state has placed COA's opening in Phase 4. We are not sure when phase 4 begins. If we open before phase 4, it will be after we are provided with the Guidelines from the governor, DPH, and MCOA. There will be intense cleaning protocols, waivers, restrictions, etc. Until we receive guidance, we will continue to provide virtual programming. The office remains to be staffed as it has throughout the pandemic.

**Parks and Recreation** – The team has been focusing on getting the low risk sports started, in collaboration with HYAA and other Baseball and Softball Leagues that use the School and Town Fields. The team has also started to provide virtual programming for children and their families. [See website for more information.](#)

**Food Truck Thursdays** – Food Truck Tuesdays at Forge Pond Park have been a success and we will possibly be adding Thursday nights as well.

**Veterans Services** – The [VSO](#) has recently completed the re certification of 23 Chapter 115 recipients. He continues to do phone check-ins with Veterans as well as transportation and food deliveries. He has also started data collection and research on the [Veteran Memoir Project](#) approved at the 2015 Annual Town Meeting.

**Community Television** – Town Meeting voted to appropriate \$475,000 from the PEG Access and Cable Receipts Reserved fund to continue operations and programming for the fiscal year 2021. Hanover Community Television continues to host and broadcast virtual meetings and shows as part of daily programming. HCTV successfully broadcast the [Town of Hanover 2020 Annual Town Meeting](#), held on June 27, 2020 and will be live streaming Hanover High School's Graduation on July 31, 2020.

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## Finance

[www.hanover-ma.gov/finance](http://www.hanover-ma.gov/finance)

**Fiscal Year 2019 Audit** – The [Town of Hanover's Fiscal Year 2019 Audit Report](#) from the town's independent auditor Melanson is complete. The Town's Affordable Housing Trust Fund Fiscal Year 2019 independent audit report has also been completed. For the first time in many years our auditors have not made any recommendations for improvements to the Town's financial administration.

**Voting** – The Primary Election is September 1<sup>st</sup>. People can do early voting in person or by mail. As well as in person voting on the day of the election. Early voting by mail applications need to be in by August 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. If you chose to vote by mail it is highly recommended that the application is sent in as soon as possible. Early voting in person will occur during hours that are still to be set by the Town Clerk. However the early voting in person will begin on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and will end

on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Voting in person on election day is 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The General Election will occur on November 3<sup>rd</sup> which will include early voting as well. Stay tuned for more information as the day gets nearer. For more information visit the [Town Clerk's portion of the website](#).

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## Fire and Emergency Management

[www.hanover-ma.gov/fire](http://www.hanover-ma.gov/fire)

**Mobile Integrated Health** – The [MIH program](#) has been very successful for our residents in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has evolved since its inception in mid-April from a program designed for seniors only to becoming available to residents of any age. A resident experiencing viral symptoms can call our dispatch center at 781-826-2335, and request an in-home visit. One of our MIH paramedics will come out, do an assessment, including vital signs, and consult with our on-call doctor at South Shore Hospital to determine the need for a Covid-19 test. If a test is ordered, a throat swab is done right there in the patient's home, and brought directly to South Shore Hospital's Lab. A Hanover Registered Nurse will then follow up the next day with the resident. A Nurse Call Center is staffed daily from 9am -1 pm for any COVID-19 questions (781-312-6167). We've visited 92 residents in the last 3 months, 15 in the last 30 days. We continue to seek ways to improve the program and best serve our residents during this Public Health crisis. In a recent meeting with Mobile Integrated Health representatives from the Massachusetts Department of Health, they expressed their excitement for our program and their desire to see it develop as we enter into the second half of the year. Any input or suggestions can be sent to [fred.freeman@hanover-ma.gov](mailto:fred.freeman@hanover-ma.gov). Watch our [MIH overview video](#).

**Columbia Road Structure Fire** – On July 8, 2020, at 2:07 am, the Hanover Fire Department received a call reporting smoke in the area of Columbia Road and Rockland Street with a possible outside fire in the rear of a commercial occupancy. Engine 7, Tower 1, and Ambulance 3 responded to investigate. While enroute, Hanover Police Officers arrived and reported a possible outside equipment fire at 183 Columbia Road with smoke in the building. Box 42 was transmitted and a full 1<sup>st</sup> Alarm Assignment was dispatched. First arriving crews found thick black smoke coming from the front of an 85 x 50 two story commercial office building with heavy fire conditions in the rear. Firefighters were unable to make an interior attack and were forced to initiate a defensive and exterior operation as heavy fire rapidly traveled throughout the structure.

Three alarms were necessary to bring the fire under control. Mutual aid assistance from Rockland, Norwell, Pembroke, Hanson, Hingham, Abington, Whitman, Marshfield, Duxbury and South Shore Hospital EMS responded to the incident scene. Support units from the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services and the Providence Canteen also responded to the incident. The Hanover Police and Public Works Departments also assisted on scene. The Hanover Emergency Communications Center coordinated incident communications and requests for mutual aid.

Officials from the Hanover Building Department determined that the remaining structure was unsafe and had to be taken down in the interest of public safety.

The fire remains under investigation by the Hanover Fire and Police Joint Fire Investigation Unit along with the Massachusetts State Police Fire Investigators assigned to the State Fire Marshal's Office.

One firefighter who sustained minor injuries during the incident was evaluated and treated on-scene.

## John Curtis Free Library

[www.hanover-ma.gov/library](http://www.hanover-ma.gov/library)

**Reopening Plans** – The [John Curtis Free Library](#) launched a Curbside Hold Pickup program on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Patrons are very excited to have library services back in operation! Haven't used it yet? Here's how: Navigate to [OCLN.org](http://OCLN.org), and place an item on hold using your Library card. When it arrives, you will receive a notification (either email or phone, depending on your record). Once you receive notification, you can pick up your item(s) right inside the main doors off the parking lot between the hours of 2-4 pm, Monday through Friday. If those hours don't work for you, please leave a message at 781-826-2972 and either request a specific time – or request DELIVERY! That's right – we can DELIVER your item(s) right to your door! The Library also began offering virtual programming, offering a series called "Book Alikes." Email [halib@ocln.org](mailto:halib@ocln.org) with a title or author that you enjoy, and let us help you find your next great read!

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## Police

[www.hanover-ma.gov/police](http://www.hanover-ma.gov/police)

**Firearm Permits** – The Hanover Police Department will begin processing NEW LTC/FID applications the week of July 6, 2020. Please email [firearms@hanover-ma.gov](mailto:firearms@hanover-ma.gov) to schedule an appointment. All NEW LTC/FID appointments will be scheduled via email. When an applicant arrives at HPD they will call dispatch at 781-826-3131 to say they have arrived for their scheduled LTC/FID appointment. An officer will meet the applicant in the parking lot where the applicant will provide their application as well as proof of licensing fee payment. The applicant will be escorted to the garage bay area where there will be a temperature check and a PPE check prior to entering the station. If all is satisfactory the applicant will be escorted to the booking area where fingerprinting will be conducted. After the fingerprinting process the applicant will immediately return to their vehicle. If you have already been in contact with us about your NEW LTC/FID application we will be contacting you by email. Please make sure to provide your email address on your application.

We encourage all RENEWAL applicants to please mail/drop off your applications and proof of payment.

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## Public Works

[www.hanover-ma.gov/dpw](http://www.hanover-ma.gov/dpw)

**Transfer Station** – The Board of Selectmen have commenced discussions on the current (recently adopted) Transfer Station Policy ([see Policy #11-1](#)) – focusing mainly on whether to allow for the disposal of construction and demolition (C&D) debris in the future. It's anticipated the Board will have rigorous discussions on this matter in order to find a way to make it work (better than it was in the past) and charge a fee adequate to meet the full cost of the program.

## School Department

[www.hanoverschools.org](http://www.hanoverschools.org)

**School Committee Update on Mascot Issue** – The district has sent out a survey to the school community and residents at large to allow them to weigh in on the issue of our mascot. We have received many thoughtful responses. We are holding a virtual meeting on [July 29th at 6:00 pm](#) to allow interested individuals to share their thoughts on the subject matter with the committee. During our meeting on August 5th the school committee will take a vote on the issue. [View the mascot information page for updates.](#)

**School Reopening Plans** – The plans are still evolving as we are waiting on definitive guidance from the state. We are planning for three scenarios - full in school learning, a hybrid model of remote and in school, and full remote learning. We have re-entry committees formed at each school which are made up of staff, parents, and administrators. We also have district wide committees that will look at the broader issues regarding opening of schools. We sent a survey to all parents in order to gauge their comfort level with sending their students back to school. This information will help guide our decisions as we get closer to the opening day. [View additional school reopening updates.](#)