

Winchester Weekly

Report from Winchester Town Manager, Lisa Wong

Winchester's Spring Cleaning



5,000 daffodils have been planted behind Town Hall with the assistance of the Department of Public Works and volunteer groups like the Winchester Garden Club. There are signs of Spring everywhere! Check out the daffodils planted around Mahoney's as well. www.winchestergardenclub.org

COVID NEWS

Vaccines: COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A will be on Thursday, May 13th at 7pm, contact winchestercoalition@gmail.com to register for the Zoom meeting. Join infectious nurse Shawna Paro, BSN, RN from Lahey Winchester, who will answer your questions.

The state will reopen some sectors to Phase 4, Step 2 effective May 10th (including road races) and put plans in place for further reopening on May 29th (bars, outdoor festivals) & August 1st (nighclubs indoor water parks).

Winchester will align with the state's new face covering order that begins today, which requires wearing a mask outdoors *when social distance (6ft) cannot be maintained*. The BOH will meet on Wed to discuss other mandates.

Next Testing Clinic: May 6th from 3:30-5:30pm. Registration required at winchester.us/testing

SELECT BOARD

The next meetings will be May 3rd prior to the second session of Town Meeting. Click on the Government Calendar at winchester.us.

ABERJONA CLEANUP

Saturday, May 1st, 9:00 am-Noon: Join the Jenks Center Intergenerational Leadership Team and Conservation Commission. Email Questions to: evreeland@winchester.us

DRIVE UP

Wednesday, May 4th between 10:00 am-Noon @ Jenks parking lot: pick-up a seasonal flower and pastry. No registration required however supply is limited to the first 100 participants.

Fact: 50 years ago (1971) The Winchester Star cost 15 cents!*

UPDATES

House Budget passes: Representative Mike Day was able to obtain \$100,000 for improvements at Winter Pond in the busy week of budget debate. The Town originally requested \$150,000. The work will be for engineering and implementation of water quality measures at Winter Pond. . The Pond is considered a Great Pond of Massachusetts and is an important recreational and wildlife habitat to the town. The lake is considered impaired for nutrient/eutrophication biological indicators according to MassDEP's 303d list. Winchester and the Friends of Winter Pond are concerned about sedimentation and the impact of the phosphorus load on the long-term health of the pond. The pond sees nuisance growth of aquatic plants, algal blooms, and during drought the pond essentially goes dry. The Town had previously hired VHB in December 2020 to develop a detailed approach for evaluating the pond and developing recommendations for improvements. The budget heads to the Senate and the Town will have a better idea on its funding requests in another month or so.

Roadwork: The Department of Public Works released its Fiscal Year 2022 priority list for \$700k in road resurfacing projects, \$50k for sealing cracks in roadways (South Highland Ave, Swanton Street, Forest Street and Church Street), and \$200k for sidewalk repairs including curbing. Most of the sidewalk work will be for portions of the sidewalk rather than an entire road length, enabling the town to target more areas that need work. The full list will be reviewed for input by the Select Board and the Capital Planning Committee. Funding is a combination of Chapter 90 funds from the state (usually around \$500k) and from the town's Capital Fund.

Grant: The Winchester Fire Department received a Firefighter Equipment Grant for \$14,400 from the MA Department of Fire Services for a Washer/Extractor unit. The grant is for the current fiscal year. The extractor is a great tool for efficiently cleaning and eliminating toxins from turnout gear. We are replacing a 20 year old unit that is no longer acceptable for the new gear. New turnout gear for Firefighters was approved at Town Meeting last year.

***Thanks to Ellen Knight at Winchester Archives Department for digging up these fun facts. We will be providing more facts in our upcoming newsletters looking back at 50 years ago!**