

MUNICIPAL MONTHLY

JANUARY 2021



17 Acton employees attended a zoom public speaking workshop sponsored by WLG (Women Leading Government) held on December 10.

COVID-19 INFORMATION CENTER

ACTON TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE

DIAL
978-929-6600

HOTLINE HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday-Thursday: 8:00 AM-5:00 PM
Friday: 8:00 AM-2:30 PM

TOWN HALL AND HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING HOURS OF OPERATION

ALL TOWN BUILDINGS ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Sunday: Closed
Monday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday: 8:00 AM - 7:30 PM
Wednesday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Thursday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Saturday: Closed
Town Offices Closed January 1 and January 18

CURBSIDE APPOINTMENTS NOW AVAILABLE

Citizens can call or email to make an appointment:

FINANCE

Assessor's: 978-929-6621, assessor@actonma.gov

Collector's: 978-929-6622, collector@actonma.gov

LAND USE

Building: 978-929-6633, building@actonma.gov

Conservation: 978-929-6634, nr@actonma.gov

Health Dept.: 978-929-6632, health@actonma.gov

Planning: 978-929-6631, planning@actonma.gov

Recreation: 978-929-6640, recreation@actonma.gov

TOWN OF ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

Happy New Year!

After a long and challenging 2020, on behalf of Town staff, I wish the best for you and your family as we begin this new year.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have provided a substantial amount of information to the public with respect to COVID-19. The COVID-19 Information Center, which can be accessed by visiting actonma.gov/COVID19, provides resources from federal and state agencies as well as Town departments. A data dashboard has also been created with current case numbers updated once per day. Most recently, we've provided information from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, which details the vaccination strategy for the Commonwealth. As cases continue to rise in Acton and across the Commonwealth, we urge residents to continue following all public health protocols to protect themselves and others.

The Board of Selectmen at their December 14th meeting voted unanimously to provide additional financial relief for the Acton business community. We certainly have all felt the impacts of the pandemic, however, the restaurant industry has experienced significant hardships with respect to its operations. Recognizing this fact, the Board has approved a 25% fee reduction for local establishments with liquor licenses for 2021. We are extremely thankful for the perseverance of Acton's local restaurants and will continue to work to provide additional ways to provide support for the community. I would like to thank Town Manager's office Executive Assistant Lisa Tomyl for her efforts on this initiative.

Also at the December 14th meeting, Public Works Director Corey York and I presented an update on capital projects to the Board of Selectmen. Throughout the year, excellent progress has been made on various capital projects for town buildings, most recently including accessibility improvements and the installation of a new public restroom for Room 204, the Town Hall meeting space. The foundation and radiant heating system for the North Acton Fire Station have been installed, and work continues to progress very well. We also continue to plan for the future, highlighted by recent public forums and surveys for the Asa Parlin House, a Public Works facility feasibility study, and improvements to roadways and sidewalks as part of our Complete Streets initiative. All capital projects, beginning in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget, will be a component of a 10-year capital plan. This plan is being developed as a result of a \$25,000 Community Compact Program grant, which we have partnered with the UMass Boston Collins Center to develop.

CONNECT WITH US!

Join our online community and stay in the know with exclusive news and updates on:

@ActonMAGov



Sign up for Town notifications, emergency alerts and general alerts - subscribe, unsubscribe or manage your subscriptions:

<https://www.actonma.gov/subscribe>

ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Acton Memorial Library is closed to the public until further notice. Library staff are actively working on our plans to phase in our in-person services. Our highest priority is the health and safety of our library patrons and library staff. We will be following public health guidelines and working closely with other town departments, our library network, and neighboring libraries to determine when it will be safe to begin certain in-person services.

The library is open for curbside pickup only. Stay up-to-date with announcements and library info by following us on Facebook, Instagram (@ActonLibrary), Twitter (@ActonMemLibrary), or by going to www.actonmemoriallibrary.org.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

There are a variety of online classes being offered starting in 2021 including a Remote Learning Center. Easy online registration and information for all program offerings can be found by visiting actonrec.com. We have a fantastic classes for all ages, most being offered virtually from arts and crafts to Zumba!

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

WINTER MAINTENANCE

Please remember that our crews have to travel on snow covered, slippery untreated roads to get here at any hour of the day or night. Please be patient as the crews will be out as soon as possible to begin the snow & ice operations.

FIRE HYDRANTS

Fire hydrants are under the control of the Acton Water District. The Water District asks residents with hydrants in front of or near their property to please clear the snow away from the area so that in an emergency the hydrant will be accessible. Questions regarding snow removal near hydrants should be directed to the Acton Water District at (978) 263-9107.

SAND AND SALT

A mixture of sand and salt is available to residents (no contractors) at the designated area located at the Highway Division, 14 Forest Road. Please use caution while entering and exiting as vehicles and equipment are prevalent. Please bring your own shovel and container.

More information is available in the Winter Maintenance publication that can be found on the Town of Acton website or by clicking [here](#).

COUNCIL ON AGING

The Acton Senior Center/Council on Aging continues to offer programs virtually and as drive-through events. There are lectures, classes and groups accessible via Zoom and ActonTV. COA staff can be reached by telephone at (978) 929-6652 or by email: seniorcenter@actonma.gov.

If you would like to receive a weekly or monthly phone call from staff or volunteers just to touch base or chat, please give us a call.

Minuteman Senior Services offers weekday carry-out meals as well as Meals on Wheels delivery. The COA distributes Open Table meals by request and offers special drive-through meals.

For seniors age 60+ who would like more information on the SMOC Fuel Assistance program (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program), contact COA Senior Services Coordinator Beverly Hutchings at 978-929-6652 or email bhutchings@actonma.gov.

For more details on Council on Aging programs and services, please view our current newsletter at www.actoncoa.com. Through our website, you can also sign up for special notifications or to receive the newsletter electronically. Be sure to like us on Facebook, @actoncoa, to keep up with the latest COA news!