



A Message from your Town Administrator

May 2019

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019

6:00 p.m. – Special

7:00 p.m. Annual

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

Dighton relies heavily upon volunteers to assist on various boards and committees. If you're interested in working with the Town in this manner, fill out a Volunteer Form on our website. There are vacancies on the Dighton Trails Committee, Open Space Committee and more!



Dighton this month was forever changed by the tragic passing of Ryan Hazel. It was a devastating, horrible accident that has impacted the Town greatly and I extend my deepest and sincerest condolences to the Hazel family and all of Ryan's many friends. From all accounts, Ryan was an incredibly kind, good natured and special person. I regret not ever being able to meet him. He is the kind of person I hope to be – thoughtful, caring, and hard working – and in his memory I will aim to excel in all of those attributes. I hope we all remember him and his kindness as we attempt to carry on after this awful tragedy. The Town of Dighton remains here, steadfastly, to support the family and be here to help them in any way we can.

*Through our deep sadness, I was able to see that
"something special" that Dighton has.*

Through our deep sadness, however, I was able to see that "something special" that Dighton has: the community. The community banded together to wear green. Both Dighton Rehoboth and Bristol Plymouth took part. Town employees joined in solidarity as well. The community stepped up to offer the Hazel family anything they needed, to help do anything to somehow shoulder the burden of their insurmountable grief. I was also able to see the efforts of our first responders, their caring for one another and their willingness to help each other no matter the cost. It was as if Ryan took hold of all of us, encouraging us to be better, to think of and care for others, and to guide us through his loss. In this way, Ryan has left an indelible mark on all who had the pleasure of knowing him, and on all who stood as witness to his loss.

TOWN UPDATES

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, JUNE 3, 2019

The Town will once again assemble together on Monday, June 3, 2019 to set the Fiscal Year 2020 budget and to discuss various items, including by law amendments and spending articles. The Warrant has been posted. Included for spending requests are to outfit each Police Cruiser with Alice Kits, purchase a new police cruiser, expend funds on a sewer expansion study, which would carry sewer services down Route 138, and to purchase a six-wheel dump truck. The Finance Committee recommended to defer to the Fall Town Meeting for many of the other spending articles. I hope to see you there!

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight EZ Access Doors, a local company that has recently offered to donate services to the Town, saving about \$5,000. We truly appreciate this kind gesture and are happy to work with such a reputable company. We thank you for your assistance as we make finishing touches to the Police Station.

MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PLANNING GRANT

The Town has received \$22,000 in state funds to establish a plan identifying the Town's environmental vulnerabilities (think flooding) and prioritize ways to safeguard the Town in the event of drastic or catastrophic storms.

FIRE UNION NEGOTIATIONS ALMOST COMPLETE

The Fire Union and I met over the course of this spring to negotiate a new agreement as the current one is set to expire on June 30, 2019. I am very pleased to report that we are slated to have a new agreement settled and fully negotiated prior to the expiration of the current one and we do not expect any retroactive payments necessary. It was a pleasure to work with the members of our Fire Department and I am happy to have had such colloquial and open dialogue during the course of work.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board of Selectmen is considering installing a crosswalk on Main Street from the parking lot across from Lane Field to the Field. A public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Interested parties are invited to attend.

Passports (renewal and new applications) are no longer processed at Town Hall. If you need a passport application, please call the library and make an appointment with the staff. Photos for the passports can still be taken at Town Hall – no appointment necessary.

We need your help! We have various committees with vacancies, including the Dighton Trails Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals, Historical Commission, Land Use Committee, By Law Review Committee, and the Open Space Committee. If interested in serving, fill out a volunteer information form or email boardofselectmen@townofdighton.com. We look forward to working with you!

THE BIG CHEESE

May's Big Cheese Award was bestowed upon the Board of Health, particularly Health Agent Todd Pilling and Office Manager Rosalind Grassie. These two employees worked tirelessly to establish not one, not two, not three, but FOUR procurements simultaneously: Curbside Trash Pickup and Removal, Household Hazardous Waste Day, Engineering Services for Transfer Station monitoring, and pay as you throw trash bags. One procurement, with its many rules, is time consuming enough. But to roll out four at one time is an impressive feat, considering they still have plenty of departmental work to do. I'd like to thank and recognize them for holding taxdollars in particular esteem and trying to save them in any way we can. Trash services is quite an expensive endeavor, but obviously necessary. It is easy to get caught up in long-term agreements with escalator clauses that tend to creep up the cost incrementally until it is exorbitant. The Town has been fortunate and remains so to continue its services with Borges Trucking, a company from many accounts provides the absolute best customer service. This department is also working to lower disposal costs by rolling out new programs in partnership with the state, including the textile recycling program already underway and a new Recycling IQ program. Thank you to the members of the Board of Health for working to spend taxdollars wisely and to explore new innovative ideas to help manage costs.



IMPORTANT DATES

May 31, June 1, and 2 – Annual Cow Chip Festival!

June 3 – Annual Town Meeting, DRHS Auditorium 6:00 p.m. (Special) and 7:00 p.m. (Annual)

June 5, 12, 26 – Selectmen's Meetings