**TA Update 2.10.20**

**Committees**

Pat Lynch is quite concerned that there be some kind of newsletter from the Town to replace the Visitor, noting that not everyone in Town uses a computer or would go online to see The Visitor, and that she needs to get the Council on Aging schedule out to as many people as possible. I’ve asked her to come in next week to talk with you about it. I know Louise Beckett and Kathy Llamas are also interested, and I have reached out to them as well, trying to pull everyone together for a joint effort for compilation, editing, and production. Perhaps this could eventually be a committee.

I forwarded the first call to the new Cemetery Commission today, an offer to replace one of the headstones of a family member that is apparently in very poor condition.

**Departments**

The Highway maintenance building is set to go out to bid Wednesday. As you heard earlier from Walter, the final decision on the winning bid is expected March 31. Also, the Highway shed has been given a temporary occupancy permit, with the understanding that the electrical and emergency exit signs and lighting. I have forwarded the certificate of occupancy to MIIA so that it will be fully insured counted. I am also in the process of making sure that the Highway Maintenance building is insured while it is being constructed.

**Other**

The Department of Revenue has posted an extensive series of excellent, concise videos on municipal finance, each about five or ten minutes long. Please let me know if you’d like the link.

As you know, the Town’s application for community aggregation has finally been approved by the Department of Public Utilities. We can now look forward to reviewing the results of the survey to inform our choices going forward.

As you may know, the State House of representatives just passed a bill giving the Cannabis Control Commission final say over host community agreements, presumably due to a large number of HCAs that included consideration of factors other than the direct effects of having the operation in the municipality. This bill could affect the ability of cities and towns to negotiate HCAs that reflect local circumstances, though, and is opposed by the MMA and many of those in STAM. I sent a personal note to Sen. Hinds about this and would be happy to draft a letter for the Board if desired.

Residents will be pleased to hear both that the Mass. Department of Public Health believes that at this moment risk of transmission of the news-making coronavirus in Massachusetts is very low, and that our local and regional health agencies are staying well informed.