**TA Update 09.04.19**

**Committees**

 The Open Space Committee requested that the additional parking area at the South River Meadow that was created by the Highway Department be seeded.

 The Open Space Committee reports that the stone memorial (Hatch) bench has gone out for engraving to Nagus and Taylor two weeks ago. They are looking for a targeted completion date so a dedication date can be planned.

 The Highway Facility Committee has reviewed the plans for the Highway storage barn and approved and advertised an invitation for bids for the engineering and construction of the facility. The bids are scheduled to be opened September 18.

 **Departments**

 The Highway Department clerk is resigning, to work at a local business. She was extraordinarily good with resident communication and will be greatly missed. I am working with the Highway Superintendent to fill the position.

 I received a note from a resident concerned about bears, specifically, the fact that feeding them can make them unafraid of people and therefore potentially dangerous (and liable to be shot if involved with people publicly). I have forwarded her concern to the Animal Control Officer for his response. One option the resident mentioned was creating a petition for a Town Meeting warrant article prohibiting the feeding of bears.

 I followed up with the Open Space Committee’s concern about stiltgrass and the Highway Department’s mowing. The Highway Supervisor says the mower is not adjustable and may sometimes cut at ground level. He suggested that the Open Space Committee hire a landscaper to manage stiltgrass in these situations. On another Highway/Open Space Committee note, the Highway Superintendent questions seeding the parking area (as it meant to be for parking). I have not yet received the Conservation Commission’s Order of Conditions.

 Also, regarding the Highway Department, I am working with the Superintendent to create a policy for Town departments and committees that would like to request assistance.

 I have scheduled the Town Academy sessions for Thursdays in October and November and went over the plan at a Department heads meeting. I have the Select Board introduction down for the first meeting, on October 3 (along with a general introduction and my own position). I encourage all Select Board members to attend all the sessions, but this one especially.

 The team updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan had its last full meeting. Various data is being gathered by staff. I will consult with the FRCOG in advance of a final, public meeting, and the FRCOG can then revise the plan as necessary before submitting our final plan.

 I brought in a MIIA/All One Health presenter for a harassment awareness program on Thursday, which was well-received by the 19 staff attendees. I plan to reach out to call staff with a similar program on a Wednesday training evening.