



Manchester-by-the Sea

Board of Selectmen

## Community Update October 2020

### Change is in the Air

The air is cooling and the seasons are changing yet again in Manchester-by-the-sea. Residents are folding up their beach chairs, dusting off the sand and seeking the comforts of home. Autumn is also the perfect time to take a stroll through Manchester's vibrant down town and support our local businesses.

### COVID-19 Update

The Board of Health is encouraging residents to continue practicing proper COVID-19 safety protocols as the cold and flu season is also now upon us. Please remember to wash your hands, wear a face covering, maintain a 6ft. distance from others and get your flu vaccine.

The Town is still asking the community to continue following the guidelines set forth by the State and Town so that we can keep numbers low, protect our most vulnerable and avoid a spike of positive case numbers.

### Manchester Fall Beach Update

MBTS Beaches will continue to be open to *residents only* through October 15th. Manchester Parks and Recreation and the Manchester Police Department will continue to staff the beach at varying times such as weekends and warm days. A beach sticker is required to park and walk-on passes should be visible during this time.

October 15th through April 14th dogs will also be allowed to accompany residents on their trips to the beach.

### Town Hall Transitions to Zoom for Virtual Meetings

The Town transitioned to the Zoom platform on October 1st to hold all virtual Board and Committee meetings. Residents are welcome to participate and attend. Please visit the Town Calendar on the website at [manchester.ma.us](http://manchester.ma.us) to find log-in information.

### Limited Commercial District Update

The Town, working with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council is studying the potential for creating a mixed use neighborhood in the Limited Commercial District on upper School Street north of Route 128. The first phase of the planning is focused on identifying what types of uses should be supported in this area, what density and style is desirable, how various uses could work together within the neighborhood and how the new neighborhood could support and interact with the greater community. The visioning process includes landowner interviews, focus group meetings with downtown businesses and representatives of boards and committees as well as a public forum and survey.

The second phase of the Feasibility Study will engage the community and its land use boards to create zoning regulations and design guidelines to support the type of neighborhood desired. By working together throughout the study process, community members have the opportunity to help create a blueprint for a new neighborhood. At the Annual Town Meeting in spring of 2021 residents will be asked to vote on neighborhood district boundaries, zoning regulations and design guidelines.

For more information on the 40R Smart Growth Feasibility Study, see the Town's web Page or contact Sue Brown, Town Planner at [browns@manchester.ma.us](mailto:browns@manchester.ma.us).

### Affordable Housing Update

The Manchester Affordable Housing Trust (MAHT) and Manchester Housing Authority (MHA) are working with a Consultant Team to identify and assess potential redevelopment options for MHA properties at The Plains, Newport Park and Loading Place Road as well as the current DPW site on Pleasant Street. Preliminary options support both improving existing units and developing new units to help meet demand for senior and family housing. Please watch for opportunities to provide guidance and feedback on this important study, including an upcoming survey and joint MAHT and MHA meetings. For more information contact Town Planner, Sue Brown at [browns@manchester.ma.us](mailto:browns@manchester.ma.us)

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# 2020 Election Update

The 2020 Presidential Election is on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Polls will be open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Manchester Essex Regional High School. Proper COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place. Voter registration deadline is Saturday, October 24th.

## Early Voting Times at Town Hall

Saturday, October 17, 2020	12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Saturday, October 24, 2020	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 18, 2020	12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Sunday, October 25, 2020	12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Monday, October 19, 2020	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Monday, October 26, 2020	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 20, 2020	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday, October 27, 2020	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 21, 2020	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Wednesday, October 28, 2020	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 22, 2020	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Thursday, October 29, 2020	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

## Vote by Mail

Complete a vote by mail application (if you didn't already complete one), deliver to the Town Clerk, vote when your ballot arrives, return your ballot. To ensure timely delivery of your ballot, it is recommended that you submit your application for a November ballot no later than October 20. Applications received after October 28 cannot be accepted.

## From the Assessor's Office

The Assessor's Office is working on our Preliminary Certification, from the Department of Revenue, for our FY2021 Revaluation. When we have Preliminary Certification we will be notifying taxpayers to review their new assessments on our website. We would like taxpayers to review the information we have on their property and let us know if any information is incorrect. We could then make adjustment before the final certification and the bills are issued, at the end of the year. We will allow 1 to 2 weeks for review.

Anyone that received a 2BE-1 form from the Harbormaster is asked to sign and return to the Assessor's Office or the Harbormaster, as soon as possible. They were supposed to be received by the Assessor's by August 1, 2020. The bills will be issued in October 2020.

FY2021 Actual Real and Personal property third quarter bills will be issued by the end of the year. They will show the new assessments and tax rate. Taxpayers will then have until February 1, 2021 to file for an abatement.

## Parks & Recreation Update



Did you hear the buzz? The popular **Hornets After School Program** is returning in November 2020 to Memorial School. Visit [mbsrec.com](http://mbsrec.com) to preregister and reserve a spot today! This program is open to MBTS students in grades K-5 and provides a fun, safe environment for kids to connect with friends, get homework done and participate in fun activities.

Manchester Parks & Recreation also offers a variety of other activities for kids, teens and adults too! New updates are added to the website frequently.

## MBTS 375<sup>th</sup> Committee Update



A reminder that previously planned 375th events are not being allowed to take place due to the Covid-19 restrictions, we are looking to 2021 to offer them as long as State guidelines can be met. Keep an eye out for information!

Holiday Gift Ideas! There are a limited number of MBTS 375<sup>th</sup> commemorative puzzles and mugs remaining. Puzzles can be purchased at Town Hall, Trask House and the Library. Mugs are available at 4 Beach, Laughing Gull, and Allie's Beach Street Café.

## Manchester-by-the-Sea Dates to Remember

- October 12, 2020 - Columbus Day, Town Hall Closed
- October 12, 2020 - Trash Delayed by 1 Day
- October 17, 2020 - Early Voting Begins at Town Hall
- October 24, 2020 - Last Day to Register to Vote
- November 2, 2020 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Property Taxes Due
- November 3, 2020 - Election Day at MERHS
- November 11, 2020 - Veterans Day, Town Hall Closed
- November 26, 2020 - Thanksgiving Day, Town Hall Closed
- December 7, 2020 - Preliminary FY2022 Town Budget Presentation, Joint Meeting with Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee

Compiled by Tiffany Marletta - Communications Coordinator