

TA Report 2.15.13

STORM REPORT- NEMO dumped 24" of snow but the power never went out. The bulk of the snow fell in about a one hour period around midnight Friday into Saturday morning. Thanks to the non-stop, around the clock efforts of our highway crews our roads were all open before the statewide driving ban was lifted on Saturday. I want to extend our gratitude to them for their fine work. They were short on equipment but the results were excellent.

WIREDWEST UPDATE Thanks to those who have responded to my request for pole counters. If you are interested in verifying pole counts please let me know this week. We will begin work in March. Thank you-

If you are new in town and have not expressed your interest in town wide fiber to the home please go to **wiredwest.net** and fill out the survey card on line. The surveys are also available at town hall, the library and the Athletic Club.

EDUCATIONAL AND FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS' REPORTS are available on line at <http://www.RegionalSchoolPlanning.info>

Regionalization Analysts, Malcolm Reid and Marc Abrahams presented their findings on Educational and Financial Impacts of the four towns forming either a new pre-K-6 Region or a pre-K-12 Region in a public session last Saturday, 2/2/13. Copies of the report are available at the library and town hall. I encourage you to review the materials and **come to a town wide forum to be held Wednesday, February 27, at the elementary school, at 6:30pm.** If you have any questions please call and ask your questions.

The committee is working through a long list of questions and will have them available online as soon as possible. Also copies of the questions and answers will be available at the forum on 2/27/13.

At this point what we are trying to determine is whether there is enough potential in the concept of regionalizing preK-6 or preK-12 to pursue further. The details of governance, the particulars of a regional agreement, legal obligations, will the towns continue to own their buildings or lease to the region, etc. would be explored over the next six months. Those issues all need to be resolved prior to taking the question of regionalization to all four towns for a vote. That would not happen until the fall. At this point we can only outline the possibilities as we understand them. We will do our best to report on the research we have done to date on the issues and listen to your concerns, hopes and fears. The consultants' reports are a good starting point for thinking about what it would mean to extend the regionalization we currently are a part of.

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE met on February 7. They took in requests from four departments. The fire department is requesting funds for a new set of tires for Engine 2. The Capitol Planning Committee seconded the Finance Committee's request of Chief Tibbetts to start writing new fire truck specifications in preparation of for replacement of his aging fire truck, Engine 1. The library is requesting \$25,000 for the Library Capitol Building Fund. The Building Committee is requesting funds for repair to the elementary school gym roof in conjunction with a grant. The cost to the town is yet to be determined. And the highway department is requesting a new front end loader for \$141,500.

CPC HEARING

Thursday, 2/14/13, the Community Preservation Commission held a hearing to get input on this year's projects. Funds are being requested by the Historical Commission and Building Committee to restore the Hearse House at the town cemetery. A rough estimate for the project is about \$20,000.

POT LUCK LUNCHEON, MARCH 5, noon at the town hall, downstairs. If you are interested in joining the luncheon organized by the Council on Aging please contact Marilyn Tibbetts at 259-1976, by Monday, March 4, at the latest. Please let her know what you are bringing to ensure a nice mix of items.

MED RIDE PROGRAM starts up in March, 2013. If you need a ride to a medical appointment and are 55 and older and need a ride, no wheelchairs or walkers can be accommodated. To get more information on the Med Ride Program call **259-2123**. You will need to give at least a 2 week lead time at this point. If you are interested in volunteering to drive please call **259-2123** and leave your name and number. Linda Scott or David Dann will call you back.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Water Resources Committee is looking for a new member to represent the Conservation Commission on the Water Resources Committee. If you are interested please contact the Conservation Commission, 259-3792.

Becky Torres, Shutesbury Town Administrator, townadmin@shutesbury.org 259-1214