

Municipal Corner – Informational Meeting and Proposed Capital Projects

As a reminder, the Town of Stowe will be returning to an in person Annual Meeting this year! The Annual Meeting will be held at starting at 8am on March 7th at the Stowe High School Auditorium. Town Meeting will immediately follow the Stowe School District Annual Meeting which begins at 8:00am Australian ballot voting will be held from 7am to 7pm on March 7th at the Stowe High School gymnasium to elect Town officers.

The Stowe Selectboard will be holding an informational meeting on the article being put forth to the voters. This is your chance to ask questions and get a better understanding of what is being proposed. The informational meeting is Monday, February 27th, starting at 5:30pm at the Akeley Building Memorial Room (67 Main Street) and can be attended virtually by getting the link off the town website.

The Stowe Annual Report is now available. This report has detailed budget information, reports from each municipal department and much more. Hard copies of the Town Report are available at the Town Offices, Stowe Library and at various locations around Town. You can also pick up a copy at the Annual Meeting. It can also be viewed electronically on the Town of Stowe's homepage at www.townofstovevt.org.

Article 1 on the Town Meeting Warning pertains to voter consideration of a 1% local sales tax to support the General Fund which the Selectboard universally supports. Article 2 pertains to the proposed General Fund operating budget. Both of these topics have been covered in previous municipal corner articles that can be found on the town's homepage (www.townofstovevt.org) along with other associated information. Article 3 pertains to proposed capital projects. A list of the proposed capital projects is as follows:

Stowe Town Plan Community Engagement (\$35,000): Under state statute, municipal plans are required to be updated every eight years. The Stowe Town Plan will expire in November 2026. The purpose of this capital project is to hire a consultant to facilitate the community engagement process. The planning and engagement process will involve identifying community goals and values, evaluating options and establishing priorities and developing a plan for moving forward together as a community. The consultant will ensure community stakeholders are involved in the project and solicit their input.

Bear Proof Trash & Recycling Containers (\$60,000): To purchase and install seventeen bear-proof waste and recycling receptacles at various park facilities to help prevent them from being an attractive nuisance to bears and help *keep them wild*.

Public Safety Communications System Enhancement (\$175,000): The purpose is to enhance the Town's emergency services and public works radio communications systems by connecting multiple radio transmitter sites to each other, not only increasing radio coverage but creating a backend network for the radio transmitters. This network will be expandible, allowing radio transmitters and receivers to be placed in areas of weak coverage anywhere in Stowe.

Townwide Web Platform Consolidation (\$25,000): Consolidate all Town websites into one website to be hosted at STOWEVT.GOV to have a consistent, unified web presence. In the process, a unified content management system will be identified. This will allow updates to the website to be done in a timely manner by having multiple employees able to update the website rather than be dependent on one employee within a particular department.

Town Clock Rehabilitation (\$95,000): The clock in the Stowe Community Church is owned and maintained by the Town of Stowe. The electronic mechanisms have proven to be unreliable and replacement parts are no longer available. The projects' purpose is to discontinue the electric mechanisms, then re-condition and re-install the original mechanical clock.

Stormwater Catch Basin & Line (\$120,000): The purpose of this project is to install a new storm drainage outlet separating Mountain Road drainage system from private, hydraulically-deficient storm sewer systems downgradient on properties of Doc Ponds and West Branch Apartments. The project will be constructed concurrently with a Sewer capital Project to install a new sewer main in the same trench to save on mobilization and construction costs.

Streambank Stabilization Rec Path Bridge 1 (\$125,000): This project involves stabilization of streambank erosion upstream of the north abutment of Rec Path Bridge #1. It will involve temporary access across the North Branch River from Rec Path parking area to access the construction zone.