
FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Wendy Mackstutis – First Selectman
DATE: November 28, 2022

Hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving with family and friends. We hosted a family party of 12 and did the annual deep-fried turkey, with the usual sides and desserts. It was a beautiful day with no wind to worry about, as we have in years past. Sarge enjoyed working the table. It was a great day.

Simsbury Celebrates

Thank you to everyone that contributed to this year's event. It was a big success, with Hopmeadow turned into one big celebration of our community. Special thanks to the Simsbury Celebrates Committee who work hard to bring everyone together. Also, a big thank-you from the Tara Donohue Willerup, Committee Chair for all the donations that make this event possible.

Latimer Lane Referendum

The referendum for Latimer Lane School increase will be held on Saturday, January 7th at Town Hall. Please note this is a new location. On the referendum will be another item – to approve the use and acceptance of grants to complete the Firetown Sidewalk project, the North End Sidewalk project (Hopmeadow near Big Y) and the Bloomfield to Tariffville bike bath. Both items are funded and do not require additional taxpayer dollars. Please plan on voting.

Cannabis

The BOS held a public hearing on November 28th. Thank you to all who came out to share your views. The Zoning Commission has a continuation of their Public Hearing on 12/5. They have a proposal to allow for one retail cannabis dispensary in a designated area along Rt. 44. You can find this information in the upcoming agenda. <https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/zoning-commission/agenda/12052022-zoning-commission-agenda>

Our board will be working with the Zoning Commission and town staff to gather facts and plan next steps. We will keep you informed and always welcome additional feedback either by email, or by coming to Public Audience, which is held before every Board of Selectmen meeting. Our next meeting is 12/12, which is the last one for 2022.

Bicycles on Sidewalks

Upcoming Public Hearing on December 12th, 6:00PM, Town Hall.

There are proposed amendments to the Bicycle Ordinance (Chapter 67) that was presented to our board by our internal traffic authority made up of the Chief of PD, Deputy Chief of PD, Town Engineer, Deputy Town Engineer, Planning Director, and Town Manager. This was done at our BOS meeting on 11/12/2022 to allow bicycles to ride on sidewalks. https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif1216/f/agendas/11-14-22_0.pdf

It is important that we hear from the public on this and encourage all those who wish to speak up to join us on the 12th.

ADU Opt Out

The Board of Selectmen voted to approve the ADU Opt Out at our last meeting on November 12. The Zoning Board has made good progress in aligning our Accessory Dwelling Unit regulations to be more expansive, in response to the changes at the state level but felt it important to maintain some local control.

Simsbury PD Stuff-a-Cruise

Our Police Department will be collecting new, unwrapped toys on 12/15 and 12/16 from 3-7 PM at Tractor Supply, with special guest Clifton joining them.

CT Whale

The first Simsbury game of the CT Whale Women's Professional Hockey team will be 7:00 PM, December 9th at the ISCC. Please come out and cheer on our new team!

Wendy

Wendy Mackstutis, First Selectman
Town of Simsbury

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Maria E. Capriola – Town Manager
DATE: November 28, 2022

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

We are monitoring the state's municipal COVID alert system and are currently at "red" status for the period ending on November 27th. This status indicates that we have more than 15 COVID cases per 100,000 residents. We are at 36 COVID cases per 100,000 residents in the last seven days. Over the most recent week, we had a total of 9 cases. We also had a positivity rate of 4.91%, a decrease from the prior period's rate of 5.7%. As a reminder, this data does not include positive test results from at-home test kits.

At this time, there are no counties in Connecticut considered to be "high" according to the CDC Community Levels categorization. In Hartford County, community levels are "medium." The CDC recommends that if you are at high risk for severe illness, talking to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and taking other precautions. People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask. If you are experiencing symptoms, it is important to get tested. For additional information on measuring Community Transmission Community Levels, please click on this link

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>

The Farmington Valley Health District is now booking COVID-19 vaccine appointments for individuals ages 18 and older. You can schedule online @ <https://www.fvhd.org/vaccination> or by phone at 860-352-2333 (calls received 8 AM to 4 PM Monday through Friday). Bring insurance information and proof of prior vaccination (if applicable) to your appointment, located at 95 River Road Suite A, Canton, CT 06019.

Data from the state ending November 22nd reports that 23,048 Simsbury residents have received at least their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, or 90.76% of the population, while 84.71% of our residents are now fully vaccinated. Additionally, 57.76% of the population have received an additional booster dose. Further vaccination data for Simsbury by age group:

Age Groups	Received 1st Dose	Fully Vaccinated	Received Booster
0 - 4	34.46%	24.60%	N/A
5 - 11	72.06%	68.18%	16.23%
12 - 17	91.05%	86.30%	49.17%
18 - 24	100%	100%	65.68%
25 - 44	100%	97.99%	64.38%
45 - 64	88.12%	84.55%	66.06%
65+	100%	100%	97.63%

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS

Upcoming meetings regarding the potential referendum on Latimer Lane renovation and grants for various sidewalk and multi-use trail infrastructure projects:

- Board of Finance meeting, Tuesday, November 29th at 5:30pm, Tariffville Room, Simsbury Public Library, 725 Hopmeadow Street.
- Board of Selectmen meeting, Wednesday, November 30th at 5:00pm, Virtual meeting format only.

DEPARTMENT NEWS & NOTES

Library:

- Beginning with FY 21/22, the Town began an on-going capital investment in our technology, including the public computer terminals at the Library. We are pleased to announce that as a result of that initiative, the public PC workstations on the upper level of the Library have been replaced with newer computers.
- The Library will open at 1:30pm on Thursday, December 8th in order for Library staff to engage in professional development.

Planning: The Town of Simsbury Planning Commission wants to hear from residents, business owners, and other stakeholders as it begins the work of updating the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). The POCD is the policy document for guiding land use decisions in the community. It sets goals, objectives, and implementation priorities for the physical, economic, and environmental future of the community. The survey is available on the Town website or accessible via the following link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Simsbury_Plan.

This process is a five-year review of the POCD which was adopted in 2017. The Planning Commission acts as the lead agency with the help of Planning Department Staff. The Commission selected the author of the 2017 POCD, Planimetrics, of Simsbury CT, to facilitate the update process. During this yearlong project, other community outreach is planned, including stakeholder meetings, public forums, and workshops. Paper copies of the survey are available at the Planning Department in Town Hall, at 933 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury CT 06070 and can be returned to this same address. The survey is open until January 1, 2023.

Public Works: Jonathan Carnevale began work today as a Truck Driver in the Highway Division of Public Works. Jon brings previous municipal experience from the Town of East Hartford Parks Department plus years of tractor trailer driving and snow plowing experience to the department. We are excited to have Jon join our team. Congratulations Jon!