



# Manchester-by-the-Sea Town Report 2020



longer term infrastructure improvements.

In June the Committee accepted the retirement of Chris Shea, a longtime member whose enormous contributions made possible much of what DIP has accomplished. We also welcomed Gordon Brewster as his worthy replacement.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steven C. Carhart, Chair

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Manchester Fire Department continued to carry out its mission of protecting lives and property from fire, hazards, and medical emergencies throughout this year of COVID. Led by Interim Fire Chief Al Beardsley, the department weathered the initial COVID storm early in the year; increasing daytime staffing by one; purchasing and distributing the necessary PPE of gloves, gowns, masks; supplying hand sanitizer; purchasing and utilizing special disinfecting machines for the ambulance, fire apparatus, and firehouse; and keeping a stockpile of these items on-hand to deal with the surges. There were intermittent periods of quarantines and testing for some firefighters due to exposures and suspected exposures. A heavy reliance was placed on state and federal monies to reimburse the town and the department for the unexpected equipment and staffing costs caused by combatting the pandemic.

In June, Jason Cleary was hired as the new full-time fire chief, having retired from a 23-year full-time career in fire service in New Hampshire and with over 38 years in public safety service (to include Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement). He last served as the Assistant Fire Chief at the Durham, NH Fire Department. He was welcomed to town with a COVID-compliant and socially distanced swearing-in ceremony in July on the front apron of the fire station. This year saw Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Porcaro leave the department to join Gloucester Fire, after faithfully serving here in Manchester for two years. After completing a department-run selection process, a new Firefighter/Paramedic, Brian Jenckes, from Auburn, NH was hired to replace him. Brian will be starting here on January 11th, with some on-the-job training in the firehouse before attending the 10-week Massachusetts Fire Academy Recruit Class in Stow beginning in April, with graduation set for June. Brian has

worked as a call firefighter for the Farmington, NH Fire Department and most recently was working full-time as a supervisor for Trinity Ambulance in Haverhill.

New equipment and apparatus funded through warrant articles and grants this year included: a new 14' Zodiac inflatable boat (which replaced a very old, tired, and leaky one!); a 2021 Ford F-350 extended cab pickup/utility/forestry vehicle (replacing a well-worn 2000 Ford F250); body armor and ballistic helmet protection; and all new fire hose for our primary front-line response engine. Other new items included: small, individual thermal imaging cameras for the shift officers; new hi-visibility duty jackets for all personnel; forestry shirts, helmets, and gloves; new ladder safety belts; and an Akron portable master stream nozzle/appliance for the Ladder truck.

The usual in-person Fire & EMS training this year came to an abrupt halt in the spring as COVID restrictions severely inhibited the ability for members to train together or attend in-person classes. In the fall, we, as a department, instituted an on-line program covering both Fire & EMS training, including the continuing education classes needed for our EMT and Paramedic refreshers as well as tracking toward ISO requirements. Also, we have been able to resume call firefighter training on the first Tuesday night of each month, following proper precautions and social distancing. Lt. Tim Crosbie was able to create several virtual "ZOOM" training classes as part of the bi-annual CPR and EMT refresher training for fire and police personnel.

In terms of individual employee accomplishments, FF/P William Kenyon received Pro-Board Certification as a Fire Instructor I, through classes held online and at the New Hampshire Fire Academy in Concord, NH. Lt. Andrew Herendeen completed several specialized hazardous materials training sessions throughout the year (as he is a member of the regional hazmat team) and was made the truck manager for Massachusetts Department of Fire Services District # 6, Hazmat vehicle TOMs 61, currently housed in Danvers. Capt. Tod Biggar continued to attend specialized training for his role as part of the Northeast Massachusetts Technical Rescue Team (handles rope, confined space, trench, water, tower, and structural collapse rescues).

Chief Cleary submitted his application and paperwork to obtain his Massachusetts Fire Chief Credentialing Certification. Chaplain David Forsythe completed an on-line training course on “Disasters of Uncertainty” through the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation.

Inspections and plans reviews were ongoing throughout the year. The fire department has been intimately involved in the phased construction and design of the new Memorial Elementary School, as well as in the planning and discussions surrounding the new proposed 40B project. Due to the robust real estate market, the required 26F smoke and carbon monoxide detector inspections for homes coming on the market were almost a daily occurrence – sometimes several per day. Another challenge particular to this year, as dictated by the pandemic, was the need for code-compliant tents and portable heating devices to allow for the operation of outdoor dining and meeting areas, both commercial and residential alike. A shortage of on-shelf units, combined with a limited number of permissible heating units and the challenges of temporary electrical services led to many hours of code and product research, meetings, and discussions to ultimately assure the safety of both patrons and proprietors in the end.

Fire Department Chaplain David Forsythe serves on three Critical Incident Stress Management Teams: The Metro-Boston CISM Team, The Greater Boston Law Enforcement CISM Team, and The North Shore Law Enforcement CISM Team. Through the International Critical Stress Foundation, he received training to provide Continuing Education for the teams on *Pandemics, Bioterrorism, Radiation, Pollution, and Other “Disasters of Uncertainty:” a Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Perspective*. Chaplain Forsythe was deployed this year to conduct/participate in 23 Critical Incident Stress Debriefings for Fire Service Personnel and Law Enforcement Officers. Department duties also included participation in the swearing in ceremony for Chief Jason Cleary and officiating at the nineteenth “9-11 Ceremony of Remembrance” hosted by the Fire Department.

At the end of 2020 we bid farewell to Tom Kehoe, as he retired from his role as Assistant Emergency Management Director. Tom was

always willing to lend a helping hand, using his vast knowledge of the town and its citizenry. He was always quick to provide weather alert bulletins and keep everyone informed of impending storms. He was also instrumental in spearheading the annual Santa parade through town. His enthusiasm and wit will be missed!

**Total Responses/Call for service in 2020 = 1332**

**Fires -12** (*buildings, cooking, chimney, dumpster, brush, vehicle*)

**EMS Calls - 455** (*motor vehicle accident, medical alert, elevator rescue, medical emergency*)

**Hazardous Condition - 67** (*carbon monoxide, gas leak, chemical spill, power line down*)

**Service Call - 195** (*lift assist, lockout, smoke removal, tank removal, mutual aid coverage*)

**Good Intent - 71** (*smoke scare, steam mistaken as smoke, cancelled enroute*)

**False Alarm - 165** (*smoke/CO detector activation, fire alarm, fire alarm system malfunction*)

**Inspections - 367** (*smoke/CO detector, plans review, fire alarm/sprinkler systems, permits*)

## **HARBOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HAC) ANNUAL REPORT**

For most of 2020 the Harbor Advisory Committee (HAC) and the Harbormaster (HM) met virtually as is the new norm - the committee did meet over the summer to discuss many ongoing projects in the harbor.

### **Projects**

**Tuck’s Point** - Early in the spring the HM and the Board of Selectmen (BOS) shut down the Tucks Point ramp to the docks due to structural issues. The Harbor Department rigged a temporary outhaul to allow vessel owners to access their dinghies.

The town engaged waterfront engineering firm FOTH to do the engineering and permitting of a new ramp and revised docking at the facility. Several permits, including the Army Corps of Engineers permit will be issued shortly. In addition the HM submitted grant applications to the Seaport Economic Council and CPC to assist in covering the cost of this project.

**Morss Pier** - The HM is currently looking at permitting and grants for additional floats at the head of the harbor for the fishermen and commercial boats.

**Bow & Stern Moorings** - During the year the HM instituted Fore and Aft moorings for