



2021 Manchester-by-the-Sea Town Report



CONGRATULATIONS MERSD HORNETS!



Manchester Essex Regional High School
Class of 2021

Respectfully submitted,
Steven C. Carhart, Chair

facilities, the Committee worked to establish short term solutions involving some combination of free-standing temporary facilities and participation by downtown institutions. Working from Committee recommendations to the BOS, a temporary facility was installed adjacent to the water treatment plant. More substantial plans are in the works for the future. We also took an inventory of potential outdoor dining locations, consistent with owner support and relevant ordinances. We also assessed downtown parking needs and possible means of maximizing street parking for visitors rather than employees, laying the groundwork for participating in a more formal survey in 2022. Much of this work was done in close collaboration with the Rapid Recovery Program facilitated by Town Planner Sue Brown.

Looking to the longer term, the Committee continued to work toward extension of the original Downtown Improvement Project renovation of sidewalks, curbs, and street lights throughout the downtown area, combined with such other improvements as can be imagined in the course of planning. The large volume of relief funding for infrastructure projects appropriated at various levels of government encourages us to believe that financing this project can be accomplished. The initial work this year was to lay the groundwork for a planning grant which will allow us to detail the scope and cost of this project, engage with the downtown community regarding the plan, and present a fully developed proposal to gain funding.

Although the DIP has no direct interest in the development plans for the Limited Commercial District, the group monitored developments in the proposed 40B and 40R programs with interest, primarily from the perspective of ensuring that these developments would be complementary to the capabilities and interests of downtown stakeholders. One practical means of achieving these objectives which was discussed was the proposal for a shuttle service connecting downtown with key points in the LCD.

In June the Committee accepted the retirement of Ben Rossi, a longtime member whose enormous contributions made possible much of what DIP has accomplished. We also welcomed Marlene Dolan as his worthy replacement.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Manchester Fire Department continued to carry out its mission of protecting lives and property from fire, hazards, and responding to medical emergencies throughout the year, as once again COVID concerns and precautions were the order of the day, and as infection rates continued to rise. This was accomplished as reimbursement funds and support programs were utilized, but then ended, and were not reinstated. Yet, the Fire Department continued to maintain expected shift staffing levels and provide the quality customer service that residents and visitors alike have come to expect.

After graduating from the Massachusetts Full Time Fire Academy Recruit Class in June, and completing a year-long in-house probationary training program, Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Jenckes is now a permanent member of the Fire Department and the firefighter's union. Brian serves in the floater position, covering shift vacancies due to vacation and sick leave. As such, he has had the opportunity to work with all four duty groups and all members of the department, giving him a great overall working knowledge and operational perspective. He has been a welcomed addition to our department.

New equipment, funded through a FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grant and Massachusetts Fire Safety Equipment Grants this year, included: a new Stryker PowerLift system and stretcher for Ambulance 1 (an "auto-load" stretcher assist system, which greatly reduces the risk of back injuries while loading and unloading patients); *I Am Responding* software (which provides notification to on and off duty personnel via texts and email to cell phones, as well as providing basic emergency call information, location, and GIS mapping); new individual thermal imaging cameras to equip the entire on-duty shift (allowing firefighters to "see" heat signatures in darkness and through smoke); and a new Truckman roof saw for the ladder truck (specifically designed to assist in roof and wall ventilation, and welcomed tool for RIT functions at fires). These tools are welcomed additions to our equipment cache and will help to enhance our day-to-day rescue, EMS, and firefighting capabilities. New solid bore nozzles were purchased to

upgrade our firefighting capabilities and be able to flow water at a higher GPM (gallons per minute) while reducing back pressure and friction loss. New personal protective gear in the form of new state-of-the-art firefighting turnout coats and pants (in black, replacing the current tan colored sets) are on order for all full-time members of the department and should arrive soon. Plans are in place to purchase new high-angle rescue gear (ropes, harnesses, helmets, webbing, etc. for technical rescues) and firefighter personal bailout/escape ropes (so firefighters can self-extricate from upper floors of a fire building in an emergency/mayday situation).

With respect to training, we have continued to utilize our on-line computerized Fire & EMS training program covering both Fire & EMS training, which assists in providing the continuing education classes needed for our EMT and Paramedic refreshers, as well as tracking overall fire training that is scored as part of the fire department's ISO requirements. In-person call firefighter training was held once each month as the schedule allowed. Chief Clear along with Firefighter/Paramedic Happel and Cavender (all former SWAT medics), participated and led classes in an active shooter training program, sponsored and attended by members of the Manchester and Essex Police Departments, and then later with the Essex Fire Department. Manchester Fire Department will be participating in the same in-house training as well. The primary Fire and EMS training centered around performing immediate life saving measures to stop significant bleeding and the prompt and expedient rescue and evacuation of victims.

Firefighter/Paramedic Jon Happel, Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Soucy, and Call Firefighter/EMT Phil Cicala were recognized and awarded a commendation by the Manchester Police Department for their quick response and emergency medical care of a resident who had a serious medical crisis. These fire department members had responded back from home and were providing station coverage, as the Manchester Fire Department Ambulance was out of town transporting a prior patient to Beverly Hospital. Along with members of the police department, they stabilized the patient until the arrival of a mutual aid ambulance from Northeast Ambulance Service.

A robust number of inspections and plans reviews were conducted throughout the year, and a large variety of permits were issued. The increase in new building projects, combined with the state-mandated smoke and carbon monoxide detector inspections prior to the sale or transfer of a residential property kept personnel busy out in the field on a daily basis. The fire department was intimately involved in the completion and final inspection of the new Memorial Elementary School, as well as in on-going discussions surrounding the new 40B project and proposed new blasting regulations.

Total Responses/Call for service in 2021 = 1424
Fires - 11 (*buildings, cooking, chimney, dumpster, brush, vehicle*)

EMS Calls - 630 (*motor vehicle accident, medical alert, elevator rescue, medical emergency*)

Hazardous Condition – 53 (*carbon monoxide, gas leak, chemical spill, power line down*)

Service Call - 146 (*lift assist, lockout, smoke removal, tank removal, mutual aid coverage*)

Good Intent - 64 (*smoke scare, steam mistaken as smoke, cancelled enroute*)

False Alarm - 195 (*smoke/CO detector activation, fire alarm, fire alarm system malfunction*)

Inspections - 423 (*smoke/CO detector, plans review, fire alarm/sprinkler systems, permits*)

HARBOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HAC) ANNUAL REPORT

The Harbor Advisory Committee and the Harbormaster (HM) met virtually for all meetings in 2021.

Ongoing Projects

Tucks Point - The work on the new pilings and ramp installation will begin late March - early April with drilling for the pilings to start the procedure to wrap up by Memorial Day - weather permitting. The Harbormaster has received grants from the Seaport Economic Council and the CPC to cover the cost of the project.

Morss Pier - The HM is working on permitting and grants for additional floats at the head of the harbor to connect to the Morss