

*Frankling
2022*



CONGRATULATIONS MERSD HORNETS!



Manchester Essex Regional High School
Class of 2022



Manchester Essex Varsity Baseball
Division 4 State Champions!

durability, appearance, safety, and accessibility for all users. In the coming year we anticipate presenting these plans to the public for their reactions and input. Additionally, we look forward to working with the Town Planner in forthcoming efforts to improve signage, aesthetics, seasonal public events, and amenities such as public rest rooms.

We learned late in 2022 of two forthcoming efforts where we anticipate contributing to the Town's efforts to address emerging issues. One major study related to sea level rise, flooding, and other vulnerability preparation was just beginning, and we look forward to contributing a perspective from our downtown as this issue is addressed. A second new issue on the horizon is the State requirement that towns on MBTA designate a zoning area near their stations with specified zoning characteristics allowing for certain density characteristics. The Committee stands ready to assist the Town as requested in addressing this issue.

The customary midyear renewal of the Committee saw the retirement of Carley Cook. We are all grateful for her service to our downtown. She was succeeded by Jim Brown, who also assumed the role of Secretary. All other members requested reappointments, which were granted.

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 responding to medical emergencies throughout the year. COVID concerns and responses have ebbed and flowed, but are still topics in the forefront. As always, we remain vigilant and on the front lines of this crisis, as well as dealing with the annual flu and usual EMS calls for service.

This year we saw two senior members of the department leave us. Captain Tod Biggar retired from the department with 39 years of dedicated service. During his tenure here, he rose up through the ranks, beginning as a call firefighter in 1987. He managed the fire prevention program, overseeing the permitting and inspection process, as well as conducting the plans reviews. He was a member of the Essex County Technical rescue team as well. We also felt the loss of Lieutenant Andrew Herendeen,

an 11-year veteran of the department. Andrew was also a fire prevention officer, but also managed our SCBA units, researched, ordered, and tracked our turnout gear, and maintained hazardous materials response equipment, among other things. Andrew also served on the state hazardous materials team. He left us for a firefighter position with the Danvers Fire Department. We wish them both well in their new paths and thank them for their service here!

As a result of their departure, combined with the authorization by the BOS and town meeting vote to add an additional firefighter, we hired three new experienced paramedics to fill the gaps. Josiah Peters, Steven Dube, and Jamie Dermody were brought on board, all from private EMS services in very busy 911 systems and areas. Unfortunately, Jamie left after two months to pursue other interests, and we are now in the process of hiring to fill his slot.

Similarly, with two officer positions open, a competitive promotional process was undertaken to find their replacements. FF/P Bob Cavender and FF/P Jon Happel scored at the top of the list and were subsequently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Bob is the officer on Group 2, while Jon is the officer on Group 4. We look forward to their leadership moving forward.

We also are moving forward without the call force, which was disbanded at the end of the last fiscal year, due to dwindling enrollment and participation. The once robust force of 26 members in its heyday, had trickled down over the years to only five members remaining – Rick Curran, Dylan Wolniewicz, Joe Sanfilippo, Phil Cicala, and Nick Myers. These folks are to be recognized and honored for their years of service to the department and the town. Unfortunately, with their family and full-time work constraints, and their need to keep up their training and certifications, this model was no longer a mutually desirable, effective, or efficient way to meet the demands on the fire department for service.

We were once again awarded a Massachusetts DFS Fire Safety Equipment Grant this year. This will fund the purchase of a new Thermal Imaging Camera and a portable, battery powered positive pressure ventilation fan. In addition, we were awarded a FEMA

Assistance to Firefighter Grant for the design and installation of a code-compliant smoke detection, CO detection, and fire alarm system for our fire station. Given that our building is occupied 24/7, 365, this will assure that our members living at the station are finally as well protected as our citizens in their respective homes.

With respect to training, this year we established a new fire training coordinator position, that mirrors our long-standing EMS coordinators position, held and administrated by Lt./Paramedic Tim Crosbie. FF/P Bill Kenyon was selected for this role. His responsibility is to research, establish, schedule, and conduct fire and rescue related training for all the members of the department. This will help to bring in some new programs and equipment, and will help the crews remain proficient with our daily “bread-and-butter” firefighting operations as well. He is also working with the new probationary firefighters and their training manual as well.

We continued to perform a large number of inspections (smoke and CO detectors, places of assembly, occupancy) and plans reviews throughout the year, and a multitude of permits of all varieties were issued – propane tanks, temporary heating, blasting, oil burner installation, open burning, and the like. New building continues to occur throughout town, to include new single-family residences, garage and pool additions, home expansion projects, and a myriad of smaller projects.

This year, after a long and arduous two-year search, Chief Cleary, with the help of his friends and acquaintances in the antique fire apparatus collecting arena, was able to track down the 1929 Maxim pumper that used to belong to this department. It was located in Montreal, Canada, in the possession of a fellow Montreal firefighter, who had purchased it from a collector in Connecticut several years ago! The truck was for sale, and a deal was made to purchase the rig and bring it home. With the help of Bob Booth and Russ Brown and the executive board of the Manchester Historical Society, donations were collected and the purchase money is now in hand, with the society willing to be the “parent” for the rig. The Community Preservation Committee has also looked favorably upon allocating funds for the restoration of the truck once it arrives,

hopefully sometime in 2023. Former Fire Chief Bruce MacDonald is excited to see it return, as he fondly remembers that truck and the day it left town! However, due to the truck’s current owner having experienced some catastrophic medical issues, the process is currently on hold – but know that the truck is still promised to Manchester. Stay tuned for more details.

As always, we are standing by to serve you!

Total Responses/Calls for service in 2022 = 1425

Fires - 18 (*buildings, cooking, chimney, dumpster, brush, vehicle*)

EMS Calls - 528 (*motor vehicle accident, medical alert, elevator rescue, medical emergency*)

Hazardous Condition – 52 (*carbon monoxide, gas leak, chemical spill, power line down*)

Service Call - 150 (*lift assist, lockout, smoke removal, tank removal, mutual aid coverage*)

Good Intent - 81 (*smoke scare, steam mistaken as smoke, cancelled enroute*)

False Alarm - 239 (*smoke/CO detector activation, fire alarm, fire alarm system malfunction*)

Inspections - 350 (*smoke/CO detector, plans review, fire alarm/sprinkler systems, permits*)

HARBOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HAC) ANNUAL REPORT

The Harbor Advisory Committee and the Harbormaster met virtually for all 2022 meetings.

PROJECTS

Tucks Point: Work was completed on schedule by Memorial Day for new pilings and new dock configurations. The Harbormaster received a Seaport Economic Council grant and CPC funds to cover the cost of the project-including a handicapped approved ramp leading from the Rotunda to the docks.

Morse Pier: The permitting and engineering for additional piers at the head of the Harbor is ongoing. The Harbormaster has applied for grants to cover a major portion of the costs. Hoping to have the numbers ready for Town Meeting.

Dredging: Still on schedule for 2025 in area E and the Channel. Additional Stakeholders