



Upton Selectmen's Newsletter

April 13, 2016

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Board of Selectmen Actions

Financial –ClearGov

In February 2014, the Board adopted a strategic leadership plan that outlined themes that would encourage a culture of continuous improvement and excellence. An objective from the financial theme was to increase transparency and evaluate performance against meaningful metrics. For most citizens, taxes are one of their top expenses, yet few people actually understand where this money goes. Perhaps this is because it has been traditionally hard to understand the municipal financial reports that most governments make available. You have to be fluent in the language of cash flow statements, balance sheets and more to really understand how your tax dollars are appropriated and spent. The Selectmen have the goal of helping average citizens better understand how their tax dollars are spent and how their local government is performing. Our vision is that through better understanding, citizens will want to get more involved in their local government. We believe transparency is the foundation of efficient and effective government.

Project Updates

The Community Choice Aggregation Plan: The purpose of this Plan is to represent consumer interests in competitive markets for electricity. It seeks to aggregate consumers in the Town to negotiate rates for power supply. It brings together the buying power of about 7,500 consumers. Eligible consumers have the opportunity to decline service provided through the Plan and to choose any competitive supplier they wish. The Town of Upton's Aggregation Plan is available for public review and comment from Monday, April 4, 2016, at 9 a.m. through Friday, April 22, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. Viewing and comments can be done in two ways, contact the Town Clerk for details.

Government Business

Town Government has just recently updated its website. The layout has changed, formatting changed, and additional tabs have been added. Two new tabs are the Opioid Impact and the Financial—ClearGov.

Financial—Clear Gov transforms complex and confusing municipal financial reports into easy to understand infographics that benchmark Upton's performance against similar towns.

Opioid Impact is a resource center for individuals and families dealing with substance abuse. The page explains the actions the Town has taken to help our constituents deal with the ordeal of opiate abuse and provides contact information.

Recognition

Our community is at the cusp of the local election season. The Board wants to thank all the elected officials, appointed officials, and anyone else that participates in our local government. Without these individuals, Town government and its associated services would not be possible. It is essential that individuals from the community volunteer, run for office, and work collaboratively to insure that our government creates positive outcomes and impact. Volunteerism and selfless service is the heart of our community. The Board encourages everyone to get involved and participate. There is room at the table for everyone.

Thank you in advance for volunteering.



Trolley car stopped at Upton Center

Trolleys traveled a 2.73 mile loop through Upton from 1902 to 1919, connecting with Grafton & Upton passenger trains at the end of Brooks Street and at Williams Street.

History

