

MANAGER'S REPORT
July 9, 2020

Marketing Plan – I am pleased to note that Rich Rotella has been working with Design Lab on the marketing plan that was approved a number of months ago. They have been in Bucksport for the past two days getting tours and interviewing people. Thanks to Rich for his organization of this!

Bucksport Area Service Network – We had our second virtual meeting of the Bucksport Area Service Network today (July 9th). It was productive and resulted in connections for the possibility of telehealth specialist appointments through the health center, updates on the Senior Center re-opening and the meal delivery program, information from Public Health Nursing, updates on local covid testing availability at the Health Center and more. The point of the group is to keep the lines of communication open and operational between a diverse group of entities and after two meetings – I think it is working.

Senior Center – The Senior Center is working through a gradual re-opening for activities that can be done and still incorporate social distancing, face coverings, etc. The meal delivery at no cost program will continue through the end of July, after which the meal program will still continue, but the \$6 fee will be charged. People should be aware that there are vouchers for meals for those who are unable to pay even after the free meals program ends.

Expired Tax Liens – I sent out letters to 14 property owners a week ago in regard to the foreclosed status of their properties. One person has already come in and cleared up taxes on their three lots. Of the remaining 13, 4 of these properties are non-owner-occupied and 3 are land-only. I am in hopes to get all owner-occupied ones into repayment but if unsuccessful in getting a response from non-owner-occupied and land only parcels in a reasonable time frame – I will be bringing those to you for sale consideration.

Marina Crew – I would like to thank Rich Rotella, Mike Ormsby and Bill Gray for helping a fawn get back to land after being chased into the river by a fox. We truly have a crew that goes above and beyond!

2020 Tax Lien Payments – I would like to recognize the efforts of taxpayers who had a lien placed for unpaid 2020 property taxes. As of July 9th, 33% of the total amount of tax dollars put to lien on June 30th had been collected, which reflects payments in full by 28% of properties liened - 53 tax payers - and \$73,157.25 collected of the \$223,020.94 due.

Census Reminder – I know I sound like a broken record but it is really important that as many Bucksport residents as possible complete the 2020 Census. So much has changed since the mill closed in 2015 and this is the best way for us to 'know' –in other than anecdotal ways – how many people live in Bucksport and what our age breakdowns are now. Not only is this valuable for the allocation of State and Federal

programs – it is also necessary information as it plans for the future of the community. Anecdotally it feels like we are growing, and we look at statistics like increased students in our schools and a very active real estate market – but the Census is one way to really know where we stand. It can be completed online, over the phone, by submitting the form sent out earlier this year, or by a visit from a census worker. If you need information about how to participate – please call me at the town office at 469-7368.

20-21 Tax Bills – These should be going in the mail next week. The first half is due by August 31st to avoid interest, and the second half is due by March 31, 2021.