



# Town of Wenham

Selectmen / Town Administrator

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Board of Selectmen  
**FROM:** Peter Lombardi, Town Administrator  
**RE:** Town Administrator's Report  
**DATE:** January 8, 2019

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### **Personnel**

Our Library Director, Jan Dempsey, will be retiring in late March after 14 years of service leading the only regional library in the Commonwealth. The Library Board of Trustees plans to appoint a Screening Committee at their meeting later this week and expects to post the position by the end of next week. Applications will be due in mid-February and we hope to have the position filled on a permanent basis sometime in late April or early May.

With Nancy Day retiring later this month, we recently hired Lewis Parsons as the new Head of Technical Services. Lewis comes to Hamilton-Wenham after 5 years as the Technology Coordinator & Librarian at the Sawyer Free Library in Gloucester.

### **Grants**

The Town was recently awarded \$4,954 in grant funding for Student and Senior Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Department of Fire Services. This annual funding allows our Fire Department to continue their outreach and education efforts with these important groups.

### **Longfellow Road Repair Project**

The special act for this project that was supported by Town Meeting last spring was approved by the legislature and signed by Governor Baker late last month. The residents of Longfellow Road and South Street have been notified, and we are working with Weston & Sampson on next steps and an overall project timeline.

### **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness**

Following up on the \$25k grant that the Town was awarded for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) to update its Hazard Mitigation Plan and develop an MVP Action Plan to increase our resilience to the hazards of extreme weather, we are convening a day-long workshop tomorrow that will bring together community stakeholders to identify and prioritize steps to reduce risk across our community. The goal of this project is for the Town to identify its strengths and vulnerabilities, determine which community features are at risk, and develop a list of priority actions to address these concerns. This is the first outreach session in a multi-step process that will culminate in a public forum to discuss preliminary findings and agree on important projects to address in the coming years.