

TOWN OF KINGSTON

Memorandum

Office of the
Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator

TO: The Honorable Board of Selectmen
FR: James H. Thomas, Town Administrator
DT: November 3, 2011
RE: Town Administrator's Report to the Board of Selectmen – November 8, 2011

Town Administrator's First Week

Much of the week has been devoted to getting acclimated in the office. I met with several Department Heads; Police Chief Rebello, Fire Chief Heath; Town Accountant Joan Paquette, Streets Trees and Parks Superintendent Paul Basler, and Town Planner Thomas Bott. Over the next week or so, I will meet with the others and will be touring the Town with Paul Basler.

Budget Review

As you know, Departmental Budgets were to be submitted by November 3rd to the Town Administrator. Over the next few weeks, I will be undergoing the review process and meeting with the major Department Heads in order to prepare a Budget presentation to the Board of Selectmen.

Powder House

I am pleased to report that the Town will be taking ownership of the historic Powder House, located on property owned by Ken and Denise Brack. It is my understanding that it has been a project in the works for quite a long time. Mr. Basler and Mr. Armstrong met at the site to formulate a plan for the move. It will be temporarily located at either the Faunce School or the Maple Street Fire Station so that the building can be stored for the winter and to allow for some preliminary structural renovations. On a future Agenda, the Board will be requested to approve a permanent location for the structure to be sited. Town Meeting approved the funding, under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, for the project through the Community Preservation Fund. Our office will be working with Library Director Sia Stewart to bring this project to fruition.

Maple Avenue School – Hazardous Materials Report

The report of the assessment of Maple Avenue School for potentially hazardous materials was received this week. Due to the extremely high presence of lead paint, inside and outside the building, it has been posted with "Caution" signs so noting the presence of lead paint. As you know, there is a pending request by the Habitat for Humanity to enter the building with an Architect to assess the suitability for rehabilitation for affordable housing. I believe the Board needs to side with extreme caution due to the findings in the report. Persons entering the building should be required to take personal protective measures due to the hazardous airborne lead paint.