



# BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S NEWSLETTER

Fall 2019

*Greetings from all of us on the Board of Selectmen. Here's what's happening in your town government ...*

## FIRST SELECTMAN'S MESSAGE

We hope you all have enjoyed your summer and taken advantage of the many outdoor activities available in our beautiful town and area. The Board of Selectmen thought this would be a good opportunity to update you on the state of Lyme and the upcoming projects that you may notice.

**Finances:** First, and hopefully most directly impacting you, was the passage of this year's town budget (beginning July 1, 2019). This was completed without the need for an aggregate property tax increase. It's always heartening to maintain control over property taxes, and this makes two of the last three years that a tax increase has not been necessary.

On top of this, the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2019, was an extremely good year for Lyme financially. The town's bank accounts grew \$750,000 above the budget expectation. This was accomplished without a reduction in any of the projects planned to maintain our streets and infrastructure. The favorable result was due to a combination of increased incomes from the collection of taxes owed from previous years and changes made to the town investment accounts that generate significantly more interest than before. Expenses were also well managed, and our costs came in well below budget appropriations thanks to the focus of all our employees.

Also passed at the May Town Meeting was the creation of a savings fund for Affordable Housing intended to help young volunteers be able to buy a home in Lyme and stay. This fund can accept tax-free donations from residents along with contributions from the town. We hope you will consider making donations to this fund, if possible, and together we can increase the housing stock available in Lyme for our invaluable volunteers. To make a donation, send a check payable to "Affordable Housing Fund" to Board of Selectmen,

Town Hall, 480 Hamburg Road, Lyme, CT 06371.

**Town Improvement Projects:** During the upcoming months you will notice a few projects to improve Lyme or reduce our operating expenses. Work to replace the recycling building at the Hamburg Road complex has begun. This new building will be slightly larger than the old one and will allow us to install a compactor, allowing true single-stream recycling in Lyme. Residents will not have to segregate paper from cardboard from bottles, cans and plastic. Compacted loads cost far less to transport and we anticipate saving approximately \$25,000 each year moving our recyclables to the processing plants. Much more information will be available on our web page ([townlyme.org](http://townlyme.org)) and social media as we get closer to opening the new facility.

Joshuatown Road will have three new catch basins installed to take away the standing water in the section near the bridge that forms deep puddles each rain-storm. Please bear with the construction while these are installed.

We will be chip sealing (equivalent to paving) three roads this fall – Grassy Hill, Gungy and Old Grassy Hill. This application protects our roads from deterioration and is needed every 6-10 years. We will be systematically covering all roads in town over the upcoming years. Again, please be patient during the application days and use caution while traveling over the loose stone.

The town is also beginning the design and permitting process to replace two of our bridges over the next five years – Birch Mill and Macintosh Road bridges. These will be large projects and we are working to receive reimbursement of 50% or 80% of the cost of these replacements from state and federal local bridge programs.

The State Department of Transportation has again delayed the paving of Hamburg Road for a year or more. In the meantime, they will be addressing the catch basin and guiderails in preparation for the new paving. Again, please use caution while they complete their work.

**Elections:** This November we will again see the town's municipal elections, held every two years, where you choose your town leaders. We hope to see many more of you vote this year as participation has historically been light. This is one of the primary ways you can participate in your town's governance and weigh in on how your town is run.

As always, the Board of Selectmen are available to answer any questions you may have about our town or to listen to your comments and suggestions.

-Steven Mattson

## LYME AT A GLANCE

### Population:

- 2,354 residents

### Financial:

- Annual budget - \$11 million
- School percentage of annual budget - 60%
- State aid - \$300,000

### Town Government:

- 11 full-time employees
- 12 part-time employees
- 147 volunteer members of boards and commissions
- Many, many volunteers of the fire department & ambulance service

### Town Properties:

- 1,700 properties in town - 1,160 with homes
- 14 town-owned cemeteries
- 13 town-owned bridges
- 40.5 miles of non-state roads



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**TAKE IT TO THE TRANSFER STATION**

These items cannot be recycled or disposed of as household trash, and must be taken to the Lyme Transfer Station at 110 Brush Hill Road. The transfer station is open Mondays, Thursdays & Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Items in **bold** involve a disposal fee.

- Antifreeze (see attendant)
- Appliances
- Batteries (see attendant)
- **Box springs & mattresses**
- **Brush**
- **Bulky waste** (construction & demolition material, carpeting, plastic toys, wooden shelving)

- **Carpeting**
- Consumer electronics
- Cords & cables (including chargers)
- **Furniture**
- Lawn mowers (drained of oil & gas)
- **Propane tanks** (1-lb to 20-lb)
- **Refrigerators & freezers** (doors removed)
- **Tires**
- Waste oil (see attendant)

For more information, go to [www.townlyme.org/landfill-recycling-and-trash](http://www.townlyme.org/landfill-recycling-and-trash)

**RETURN ADDRESS:**

Board of Selectmen  
Lyme Town Hall  
480 Hamburg Road  
Lyme, CT 06371  
860-434-7733

**Board of Selectmen:**

Steven Mattson, *First Selectman*  
Parker Lord, *Second Selectman*  
John Kiker, *Third Selectman*

**Connect with Us Online**

Town Website: [www.townlyme.org](http://www.townlyme.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/townoflymect](http://www.facebook.com/townoflymect)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/townoflymect](http://www.instagram.com/townoflymect)

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