PRESIDENT LETTERIE

STATE OF THE TOWN

JANUARY 31, 2023

TO THE RESIDENTS OF OUR GREAT TOWN, THE WINTHROP TOWN CHARTER GIVES THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT THE OBLIGATION, AS WELL AS THE GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE TOWN YEARLY IN AN EFFORT TO CLEARLY DEFINE OUR GOALS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR AND TO REFLECT ON THE PAST 12 MONTHS. NO SUCH ADDRESS COULD BEGIN WITHOUT FIRST OFFERING MY SINCERE THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO ALL OUR DEPARTMENT HEADS AND THEIR STAFFS AS WELL AS OUR APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMITTEES. WITHOUT THEM OUR TOWN COULD NOT FUNCTION. THEY PROVIDE US COMFORT AND SAFETY, THEY EDUCATE OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN, THEY KEEP OUR TOWN CLEAN AND INVITING, THEY PROVIDE US WITH ATTRACTIVE AND WELCOMING PARKS AND RECREATION SPACES. THEY MAINTAIN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE AND STREETSCAPES. IN SHORT THEY FACILTATE IN PROVIDING US A COMMUNITY WHICH I AM EXTREMELY PROUD, APPRECIATIVE, AND HONOROED TO CALL HOME.

CALENDAR 2022 WAS, I THINK, REMARKABLE IN MANY WAYS. ON THE TOP OF THAT LIST, I BELIEVE, IS THE ADDITION OF OUR TOWN MANAGER, TONY MARINO. TONY HAS ALL THE ATTRIBUTES THAT I INVISIONED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PROCESS. HE IS INCREDIBLY HARD WORKING, KNOWLEGABLE, A GREAT COMMUNICATOR, ALWAYS AVAILABLE, A BLUE COLLAR, ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES,

WILLING TO NOT JUST DELEGATE, BUT REALLY GET INVOLVED TYPE MANAGER. TONY HIT THE GROUND RUNNING AND HASN'T STOPPED YET. WE HAVE HAD A GREAT PARTNERSHIP IN LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR SOME MUCH ANTICIPATED PROJECTS THAT I HOPE THE TOWN WILL GET THEIR CHANCE TO WEIGH IN ON IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. TONY HAS BEEN ABLE TO FILL MULTIOLE POSITIONS THAT WERE VERY MUCH NEEDED, INCLUDING AN ASSESOR, A TREASURER, AND VERY RECENTLY, A CFO. TONY IS WORKING ALONGSIDE OUR TOWN PLANNER, RACHEL KELLY, AND THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SECURE MANY GRANTS WHICH WE WILL BE SEEING THE BENIFITS OF IN THE NEAR FUITURE. TONY HAS BEEN THE PERFECT FIT FOR WINTHROP AND IN TURN I BELIEVE THAT WINTHROP IS THE PERFECT FIT FOR TONY. AND SPEAKING OF PERFECT FITS I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A MINUTE TO THANK OUR TOWN CLERK AND COUNCIL CLERK, DENISE QUIST FOR THE INCREDIBLE WORK SHE DOES IN SO MANY AREAS, FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE, TO ELECTIONS, TO ASSISTING VARIOUS COMMITTEES, AND OF COURSE MAKING OUR COUNCILORS LIVES AND ABSOLUTELY MINE MUCH MORE HARMONIOUS. I KNOW I WOULD BE LOST WITHOUT HER.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022 WOULD INCLUDE, THE COMPLETION OF THE NEW TENNIS COURTS ACROSS FROM THE MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL, OUR ABILITY TO LEVERAGE REMAINING FUNDS FROM THE MSBA PROJECT TO SUPPLEMENT AND BOLSTER MUCH NEW TECHNOLOGY IN THE MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL, THE LONG AWAITED COMPLETION OF THE CBD PROJECT. THE BENIFITS OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PIECE OF THAT PROJECT ARE REQUIRED NOT ONLY FOR THE BENIFIT OF THE CURRENT NEIGHBORHOOD, BUT EVEN MORE SO FOR ANY POTENTIAL PRUDENT DEVELOPMENT THAT MAY OCCUR IN THAT AREA.. THE STREETSCAPE PORTION OF THE PROJECT, TO ME, IS SOMETHING THAT WILL BE MORE

CLEARLY SEEN WITH MATURITY OF THE PLANTINGS AND PROMISED CONTINUED MAINTENANCE. THE EB NEWTON CLOCK TOWER RESTORATION IS SUCH A VSUAL ENHANCEMENT TO OUR TOWN, REALLY A FOCAL POINT. FORMER COUNCILOR RICH FERRINO DESERVES MUCH OF THE CREDIT TO BEGIN THIS PROJECT

AND AMMENDMENTS AND INCREASED FUNDING FROM THE COUNCIL ENABLED US TO GO FURTHER AND MORE DETAILED THAN WAS ANTICIPATED. I HAD MENTIONED EARLIER ABOUT THE ADDITION OF THE NEW CFO, AND I WOULD LIKE TO ALSO MENTION THAT WITH THE BLESSING OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND THE COUNCIL, WE ARE CONSOLIDATING THAT POSITION TO INCLUDE THE TITLE OF SCHOOL FINANCE DIRECTOR. THIS WILL, AS THE CHARTER WAS DESIGNED TO DO, BRING THE SCHOOLS AND THE TOWN INTO AN EVEN MORE COHESIVE RELATIONSHIP. THROUGHOUT 2022 THE SUPERITENDENT, HER LEADERSHIP TEAM AND ENTIRE STAFF DID AN UNIMAGINABLE JOB IN USHERING IN A POST COVID EDUCATION EXPERIENCE THAT WE CAN ALL BE EXTREMELY PROUD OF.

IN MOST OTHER CITIES AND TOWNS THE COMPLETION OF A 29 UNIT APARTMENT BUILDING WOULD NOT BE MAJOR NEWS, HOWEVER IN A 1.6 MILE, DENSELY POPULATED WINTHROP IT IS A CHALLENGE, BUT WITH HELPFUL AND THOUGHTFUL FEEDBACK FROM NEIGHBORS, AND A VERY GOOD WORKING AND COLLABRATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TOWN AND DEVELOPER, THE SOMMERSET PROJECT CAME TO COMPLETION. IT HAS BEEN AN INCREDIBLE UPGRADE OVER WHAT WAS AT THE SITE, AND I BELIEVE THAT MOST WOULD AGREE THAT HAS BEEN QUITE AN ENHANCEMENT TO OUR TOWN..

IN 2022 WE WERE ABLE TO DO PAVEMENT RESTORATION TO ALMOST 4 MILES OF ROADS WITHIN OUR TOWN. WE HAVE ROUGHLY 45 MILES OF OF ROADS IN

WINTHROP SO THAT IS ALSOT 10 % OF OUR ROADS, WHICH IS FAR AND AWAY THE MOST WE HAVE DONE IN A CALANDER YEAR.

IN 2023 I WILL COMMITT THAT ALONG WITH THE THE HELP FROM THE TOWN MANAGER THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK AT PUBLIC WAYS THROUGHOUT THE TOWN, MAKING THEM SAFE, SECURE AND MAINTAINED FOR OUR RESIDENTS..

THE COUNCIL ALONG WITH THE TOWN MANAGER AND OUR TOWN PLANNER, RACHEL KELLY, ARE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO QUALIFY FOR THE GREEN COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM WHICH WOULD MAKE US ELIGIBLE FOR UP TO 250,OOO A YEAR IN FUNDING. WE ARE ALSO FACILITATING WITH OUR PLANNER ON GRANTS TOTALLING ABOUT $1,000,000 WHICH WILL HELP WITH TRANSPORTATION, ZONING, ENVIROMENT, ECONOMIC DELEVOPMENT, AND INFRASTRUCE AMONG OTHER ITEMS.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE PRUDENT FINANCIAL DECISIONS WHICH WILL PUT OUR TOWN IN A BETTER POSITION IN UPCOMING YEARS.

WE HAVE, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS, HAVE ALL BUT ONE UNION WITHIN THE TOWN, AT THE MOMENT, UNDER CONTARCUAL AGREEMENTS THROUGH 2025.

I AM HOPING THAT THE COUNCIL WILL COMMITT TO ADRESSING A FLAG POLICY WHICH WILL ENABLE US TO SECURE A THREE POLE SYSTEM AT THE EB NEWTON SITE ENABLING US TO HONOR ALL THAT IS IMPORTANT TO THIS TOWN..

I WILL COMMITT TO NOT ONLY CONTINUING TO PLANT MORE TREES TO PROMOTE A BETTER CANOPY FOR OUR CHILDRENS FUTURE BUT TO INITIATE A MAINTANENNCE PROGRAM WHICH WILL SERVE MANY OPEN SPACES IN TOWN.

A YEAR AGO I SAID THE FOLLOWING…

“THE DECISIONS THAT THIS COUNCIL WILL BE CRAFTING WILL BE BORN OF A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF WORK, MUCH DEBATE AND UNDOUBTABLY SOME COMPROMISE, BUT ULTIMATELY, I AM CONFIDENT, THESE OUTCOMES WILL MAKE THIS GREAT TOWN EVEN BETTER.”

I KNOW THAT IS WHAT WE HAVE DONE AND WILL VERY SOON SEE THE FRUITS OF OUR LABOR.

I COMMITT WITH THE SUPPORT OF THIS COUNCIL TO BRING BEFORE THE VOTERS THIS NOVEMBER AN EXTREMELY WELL THOUGHT OUT, LONG OVERDUE PLAN, TO BUILD A NEW FIRE STATION, WHICH WOULD BE THE FIRST IN OUR COMMUNITY SINCE THE LATE 1800’S.

I ALSO COMMITT TO HAVE A MUCH CLEARER AND ARTICULATE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL SITE, WHICH YOU WILL HEAR MORE ABOUT IN THE COMING MONTHS.

THERE ARE MANY THINGS I HAVE LEARNED IN MY ALMOST 18 YEARS ON THE COUNCIL, AMONG THEM IS THAT EXPERIENCE IS TRULY AN EXTREMELY VALUABLE TOOL, AND TO DEFINE THE WORD QUICKLY, IN MUNICIPAL TERMS IS MUCH DEFFERENT THAN IN OUR DAY TO DAY LIFES. HOWEVER I HOPE AND BELIEVE THAT THIS COUNCIL IS READY TO MOVE FORWARD, WORK TOGETHER, AGREE TO DISAGREE AT TIMES BUT ALWAYS TO AGREE TO PUT THIS TRULY SPECIAL TOWN FIRST. THE WILL AND DETERMINATION ALONG WITH THE STATE OF OUR TOWN IS VERY STRONG.

THANK YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS THE TOWN OF WINTHROP!