



# TOWN OF HULL NEWSLETTER

TOWN HALL'S OFFICIAL VOICE

## WELCOME TO THE NEW OFFICIAL TOWN OF HULL NEWSLETTER



Welcome to Volume 1, Issue 1, of the Town of Hull's Official Newsletter!

We know you get your day-to-day news from a variety of sources so this newsletter will not be a place for breaking news. But it will be a place to get updates and insights from the Town on any number of pending matters in as timely a fashion as possible. You'll find one or two "lead" stories in each newsletter, like the two below on the generational change in town leadership and the beginning of the annual town budget process. You will also see other articles and sidebars on more general matters of interest to town residents including recaps and looks-ahead. Several of our neighboring communities on the South Shore have had success and a great response with their official newsletters for the same purposes. For now, the newsletter will be produced and emailed bimonthly.

*If you're reading this second-hand and want to be added to the mailing list, [sign up here](#) or scan the QR codes you'll find posted in Town Hall and other sites across town.*

## A GENERATIONAL CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP



Hull Town Hall



Town Manager Jennifer Constable



Select Board Member Jason McCann



Select Board Member Brian McCarthy



Select Board Member Jerry Taverna



HRA Member Adrienne Paquin



HRA Member Daniel Kenan

Every government, whether town, county, state, or federal, experiences generational change and Hull is no exception to this rule.

Over the past few years, the Town has seen generational shifts most noticeably in the position of the Town Manager, the Select Board, and the Redevelopment Authority. Jennifer Constable succeeded Phil Lemnios last year after 26 years in combined tenures. The longest serving member of the current Select Board, Greg Grey, was first elected in 2021, and three of the members were elected just last year as were two of the four elected members of the HRA were just elected last year. Bear in mind the Select Board recently had members with decades of combined experience. So, by any definition of generational change, including the one this article is using – belonging to a specific stage of development – the Town of Hull has is experiencing a dramatic one.

A generational change in town leadership almost always comes with a different approach to that of the previous generation of leadership. That does not mean change occurs overnight, and it does not mean everything that is, is swept aside.

**What changes might we expect to see?**

Last Year’s Town Meeting authorized the position of Assistant Town Manager, thus bringing Hull in line with municipal management best practices being adopted across the region and the Commonwealth. Although on the map, Hull is one of the smallest towns in Massachusetts, its population of over 10,000, places it right in the middle of the state’s 351 municipalities. Our population density is already four times that of the Commonwealth and being a seaside community, our population swells to almost double in the summer months.

With a combined tenure of under four years, the Select Board has the freshest start of any in recent memory. The Board is planning to review its own policies and procedures that were last updated in 2011, as it tackles issues in 2024 that will impact not just the look but the commercial viability of the Town for years to come.

The HRA is charged in statute with “creating a sense of place in our community through development that provides tax revenue, open space recreation, job growth, improved business environment, event venues, and parking for Nantasket Beach within an effective and efficient traffic pattern for Hull citizens and visitors.” Now in possession of years of studies and data, and a new round of input from town residents the HRA appears poised to deliver a long-awaited plan for its main property located on both the ocean and bay sides of Nantasket Avenue just north of the state’s Department of Conservation & Recreation’s (DCR) controlled Nantasket Beach Reservation.



HRA Property

Outreach across and among Town offices and officials is key to efficiency and progress, especially if those officials and offices are independently elected.

Before being appointed as Town Manager, Jen Constable served on the Select Board with current members, Greg Grey and Irwin Nesoff. Because Hull is a small town, she also worked with some of the newer members – Jason McCann, Brian McCarthy, and Jerry Taverna, either on other town boards or at Town Meeting.

Adrienne Paquin and Daniel Kernan, the two newly elected HRA members, balance the experience and tenures of Dennis Zaia and Bartley Kelly. Bart has served on the HRA since 1992.

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## WRAPPING UP 2023

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### HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Nantasket Avenue and other parts of the Town were newly and nicely decorated for the Holidays thanks to a true community effort involving the Hull Light Board, Hull Municipal Light Plant, Hull Nantasket Chamber of Commerce and its members who sponsored the holiday season's Wreaths and Lamppost Project. A special shout out to HMLP's Anne Finley who initiated and coordinated this project!

Meanwhile at Mariner's Park, the Lobster Trap Tree, initiated by Justin Goodwin and built by the Mahoney Family, perfectly captured Hull's maritime essence for the Holidays. One admirer spoke for the whole Town when she said, "it's safe to say that the lighting projects were contagious this season!"



Nantasket Avenue



Mariner's Park

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### A BIG YEAR FOR HULL SOCCER



Hull High School Girls Soccer Team 2023, Photo by Jen Duran

The Hull High School Girls Soccer Team caught fire in the fall and lit up the sports pages from the Patriot Ledger to the Boston Globe!

The Lady Pirates made it all the way to the Final Four in the MIAA playoffs coming just one game short of playing for the state championship. It was the furthest a Hull High Girls Soccer Team has ever gone in the postseason. Under the direction of Coach Stew Bell and the leadership of Captains Sara Duran and Veronica Fleming, and fellow seniors Ava Russo, Maeve White, Madison Constable and Kallen Creed, the team finished the 2023 season with a remarkable 16-3-2 record!



Hull High School Boys Soccer Team, Photo by Jennifer Rudkin Whelan

Across the field, the boys squad made it to the MIAA postseason for the second year in a row under Coach Tom Coughlin. The boys made it to the sweet sixteen and are already looking forward to building off that success in 2024.

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## HULL POLICE HONORS



In December, HPD Sgt. Ed Minelli (above between Chief John Dunn and Deputy Chief Neil Reilly) completed the Command Training Series: First Line Supervisor Course, offered by the Roger Williams University Justice System Training and Research Institute, in partnership with the New England Association of Chiefs of Police.

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## LOOKING AT THE YEAR AHEAD

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## BUDGET AND TOWN MEETING

### **Chapter 8. AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SELECTMEN, TOWN MANAGER, OPEN TOWN MEETING FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE TOWN OF HULL.**

**Be it enacted, etc., as follows:**

**SECTION 4. A. The town manager shall be the chief administrative officer of the town and shall be responsible to the board of selectmen for the effective management of all town affairs placed in the manager's charge by this act, the board of selectmen, by by-law, or vote of town meeting, and for the implementation of town policies placed in the manager's charge by the board of selectmen.**

**B. The town manager shall be the chief financial officer of the town, and shall be responsible for the design and preparation of the annual budget, filing grant applications, and controlling budget expenditures, including approval of the warrants for the payment of town funds prepared by the town accountant in accordance with the provisions of section fifty-six of chapter forty-one of the General Laws. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing the town manager shall have the following specific budgetary powers:**

**1. The town manager shall submit to the board of selectmen a written proposed budget for town government for the ensuing fiscal year, including the budget as proposed by the school department. budget shall detail all estimated revenue from all sources, and all proposed expenditures, including debt service for the previous, current, and ensuing years. It shall include proposed expenditures for both current operations and capital projects during the ensuing year, detailed by agency, department, committee, purpose, and position, together with proposed financing methods; and the proposed budget shall include estimated revenues and free cash available at the close of the fiscal year, including estimated balances in special accounts. The town may, by by-law, establish additional financial information and reports to be provided by the town manager.**

*From Chapter 8 of The Acts and Resolves of 1989*

The Charter for the Town of Hull is based in Chapter 8 of Acts and Resolves of 1989, which was signed into law by Governor Michael Dukakis on March 21st of that year.

Municipal budgeting follows a standard process used across government. Hull's budget planning began again in earnest in December starting with setting the amount of revenue the Town will have to use including amounts from known and anticipated tax collections and expected state-local aid. Concurrently, the Town determines its debts that must be met including insurance, pensions, and capital outlays. After the Town's general government (departmental), and the school department's operational needs, a proposed budget begins its process of approval via the Select Board and Town Meeting.

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## ***NANTASKET BEACH BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT***

Work to establish the Nantasket Beach Business Improvement District (BID) to improve the town's Surfside area along the DCR portion of Nantasket Beach by attracting more shoppers, diners, customers, and businesses to the area is another project expected to dominate commercial discussion in 2024.



*The Nantasket Beach Business Improvement District*

A BID is a special assessment district in which property owners vote to initiate, manage, and finance supplemental services or enhancements beyond those provided by local government.

The Town's goal is to have the BID adopted early in the year. The next steps are: getting the approval of 60% of property owners who represent 51% of the assessed value in the District, refining the budget and presenting it to the Select Board for approval and adoption; finalizing an operational Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town and the new BID, and approval of a Partnership Agreement with the Commonwealth's Department of Conservation and Recreation that the town already has in hand.

Stay tuned. There will be much more about the BID in future Newsletters.

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## ***CONSTRUCTION UPDATES***

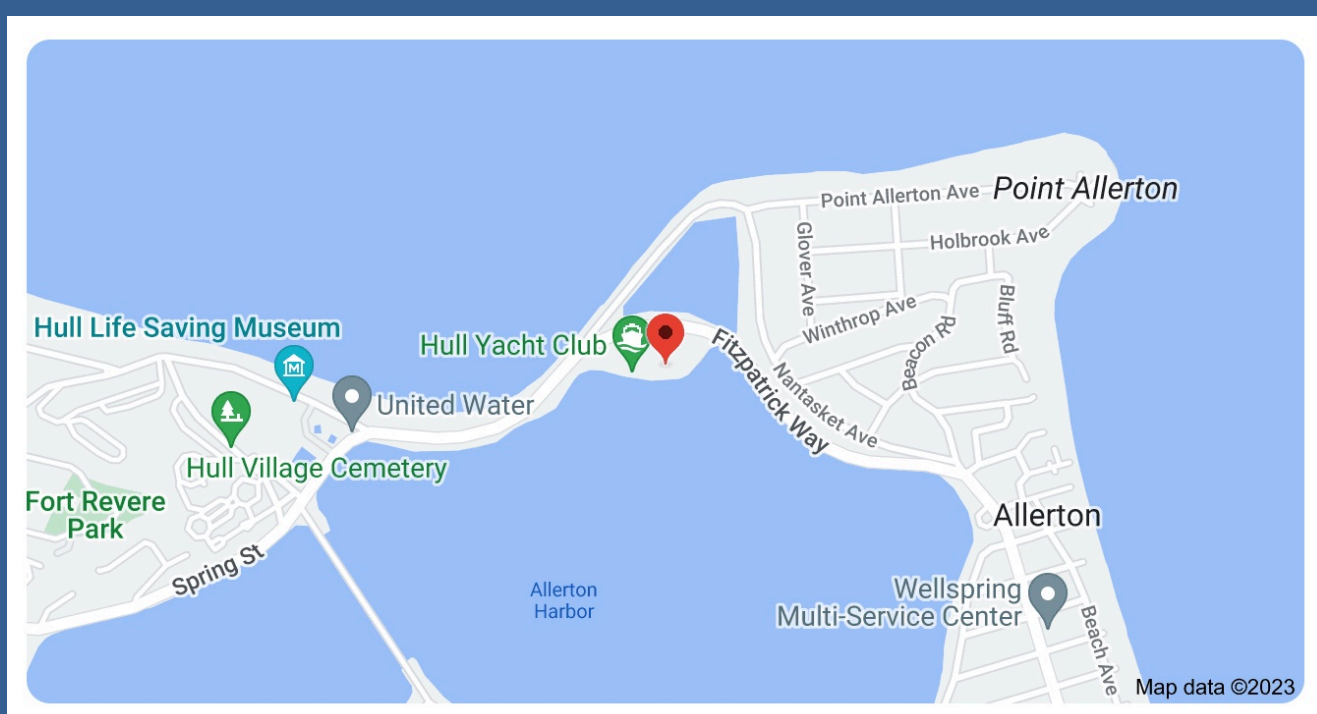
### **Atlantic Avenue**

The long-awaited end is in sight for the Atlantic Avenue Reconstruction Project as it is expected to be completed this spring.

This project involved reconstructing all 1.3 miles of Atlantic Avenue from Nantasket Avenue to the Cohasset Town Line and will result in much-improved pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle safety, and drainage along Atlantic Avenue.

### Fitzpatrick Way

Meanwhile, across town, the Fitzpatrick Way Seawall Project is proposed to go out to bid this winter. The Select Board will hear a presentation on January 17th. The project is expected to be completed in the spring and will involve the reconstruction of the existing roadway, construction of a new concrete seawall with all required excavation, backfill, finishing, and paving, the length of Fitzpatrick Way from Nantasket Avenue to Point Allerton Avenue. A community meeting with a detailed presentation of the project is being planned.



Fitzpatrick Way runs between Nantasket and Point Allerton Avenues

## AROUND TOWN

### Meet Michelle LeBlanc

Next time you are in Town Hall, stop by the Town Manager’s office and introduce yourself to Michelle LeBlanc, the office’s new Executive Assistant. She starts her new position on January 16th. Michelle is a graduate of La Salle University. She lives on the South Shore, and comes to Hull from serving in a similar position in Weston. Welcome Michelle!



### Looking for something new to fill your winter days and evenings?

Young and old, two of the best resources for Town residents are the Council on Aging’s Senior Center and the Hull Park & Recreation Department. In addition to their official pages on the Town of Hull’s website, both the [COA](http://town.hull.ma.us/council-aging) (town.hull.ma.us/council-aging) and [Park & Rec](http://hullma.myrec.com) (hullma.myrec.com) where you can find information on their many on-going activities, don’t forget to visit the [COA](#) and [Park & Rec](#) Facebook pages for the most up-to-date information.



COA's Anne Scully Senior Center



Kenberma Playground



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*Park & Rec's Kenberma Playground*