

# HAMPDEN MASSACHUSETTS



## TOWN HOUSE

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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August 27, 2019

Sean R. Cronin  
Senior Deputy Commissioner of Local Services  
Division of Local Services  
PO Box 9569  
Boston MA 02114

Dear Mr. Cronin:

In April of 2018 the Town of Hampden adopted the Transportation/Public Works Best Practices to ensure Citizen Safety in our small town. The Town was awarded \$25,000 in grant money to help fund the design and layout of a sidewalk system, linking our Senior Housing to the Senior Center. This will allow residents the freedom to walk a well-traveled road safely and independently from one location to the next. In addition, the sidewalk project will benefit many others in the community like those who make exercise a part of their day. A possible extension might go to our local nursing home, expanding exercise options and socialization for everyone. We are fortunate to have a thriving Senior Center, staffed by caring, qualified people, dedicated to serving residents of all ages in our town. The funds received through the Community Grant Program allowed the town to hire a consultant to start the planning process for sidewalk construction. We would also like to review a possible roundabout that could help at a heavily trafficked intersection in town. With a combination of Community Compact Grant funds and additional funds from recent subdivision developments, we can create a walkway that many of our residents can benefit from and enjoy.

In addition, the Town received funds for Information Technology Best Practices to improve Citizen Engagement by refreshing our website to promote user friendliness and intuitive navigation. We had the pleasure of working with Amelia Percentie at the Office of Municipal and School Technology who steered us to a choice of vendors. We chose Virtual Towns and Schools, now known as CivicPlus. Amelia was a great resource and helped us with CivicPlus to revamp our website. We were shown different style types, various options to choose from for the homepage, and most importantly, how to make the site easy to navigate for our residents. We are still in the process of making the most of the site; allowing us to offer more information to our community members and their feedback has helped with that process.

We appreciate the assistance we received to move these projects in the right direction. Thank you for helping the Town of Hampden improve the quality of life for our residents.

Sincerely,

John D. Flynn, Chairman

/pbc