

Notes from the last week of January. We're heading into February...but before we get there, here are a few notes for the week.

A reminder that tomorrow, Tuesday January 28th, we're doing a zoom session here at Harper at 1:00 with Jamie Caplan Consulting, they were assigned to work with Williamstown by the Massachusetts Emergency Management people. They're appearing on a screen near you talk about hazard mitigation. We're not talking about household problems, rather issues with a larger community impact such as floods, fires and other freakish opportunities for disaster. They'll be looking for feedback from community members regarding concerns around working around these crisis situations and being prepared just in case. You might think or try to convince yourself that those events are remote or rare here. Tell that to a survivor of the Spruces flooding or the folks like me who could smell burning forest from my front yard when we had a fire in the woods on Pine Cobble Mountain a couple years ago. It's always helpful to have a plan don'tcha think? We have also decided to keep it simple and offer pizza for lunch first...at 12:30.

Here's the link if you want to watch it from the comfort of your living room couch.

Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81602198653?pwd=a5CblglTbeAG5bMD41b7McDYAjVwdY.1>.

Speaking of hazard mitigation, you've likely heard that they're finding cases of bird flu in Massachusetts, some as close as Amherst. Here are some words of wisdom from an alphabet group of agencies MassWildlife, DPH, MDAR...

Report observations of sick or deceased birds. If 5 or more birds are found at a single location using this simple form at mass.gov/reportbirds.

Report sick or dead poultry or other domestic birds by calling MDAR's Division of Animal Health at (617) 626-1795.

Avoid handling any sick or dead birds or other animals. Report sightings as indicated above or call the local Animal Control Officer.

Keep pets away from wildlife. (Cats are highly susceptible to HPAI and may die from an infection.) Cat owners in affected areas should keep their pets indoors to prevent them from being exposed to infected wildlife. Well, you should keep your cats indoors anyway and this cat parent knows that everyone knows this, right?

Tax appointments update- We are still in a holding pattern. Perhaps the first week of February we will be able to schedule and provide folks with the required tax packets.