

THE Hardwick Gazette

INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1889

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Wednesday, October 7, 2020

Volume 131 Number 40

Select Board Discusses Traffic Safety after Another Pedestrian Struck by Vehicle

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Select Board meeting on October 1 began almost 24 hours after the second vehicle-pedestrian accident to take place in Hardwick in nine months. The board heard from resident John Race, who witnessed the collision that left two pedestrians seriously injured Wednesday.

"We need some type of control through the village because there's too many people have gotten hurt in this past year," Race said. "[Drivers] don't want to slow down, they don't want to stop for nobody, somebody needs to do something."

Last July, a pedestrian-vehicle collision in front of the Hardwick Village Restaurant also resulted in serious injury.

Select board Chair Eric Remick said the Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Task force had discussed the situation but "I don't think it's something we're going to solve overnight." He said the problem is "structural" in nature and traffic safety enforcement is only part of the problem.

Board member Ceilidh Galloway-Kane said the board should make an effort to inform residents that the town task force has made recommendations.

The board appointed Michael Havenson to the Planning Commission, leaving two commission seats - one two-year seat and one



photo by Doug McClure

Shortly after 7 p.m. on September 30, a vehicle police say was driven by Hardwick resident Justin Perry struck two pedestrians in front of the Village Laundramat in Hardwick. Witnesses at the scene said that both pedestrians were in the crosswalk at the time. According to initial reports from a Copley Hospital spokesperson, the pedestrians were listed in stable condition and were not expected to need advanced treatment.

three-year seat – unfilled. Havenson expressed his desire for Hardwick to "become a more pedestrian-friendly community."

Layoffs in towns represented by Hardwick's insurance carrier could potentially affect the town's insurance costs, Town Manager Sean

Fielder reported. Hardwick has not laid off any workers due to the pandemic, he said.

The board has yet to decide the fate of the now closed "swinging bridge" after a general conditions report prepared by DeWolfe

See **TRAFFIC**, 2



photo by Vanessa Fournier

Frank Ryan (center) helps Jackson Parizo (right) reach for an apple as family members (from left) Zach Knowles, Kristina White and Skyler Knowles watch. They picked apples at Burr's Apple Orchard in Cabot Sept. 16.

Implementing Pedestrian, Safety Task Force Recommendations is Work in Progress

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – It has been two months since the Pedestrian and Safety Task Force made a series of recommendations to the Hardwick Select Board on August 6. On September 30, a serious accident took place in town involving two pedestrians and a vehicle.

While confirmation of the driver's speed for the September 30 accident has not been released, Hardwick Police Chief Aaron Cochran stated on multiple occasions the town's police force is "spread thin" and cannot patrol the village for speeding without court-supportable evidence, which would require placing a speed sign on South Main Street.

The task force in August recommended installing

"flashing crosswalk signs" at the crosswalk connecting the Clip Joint and the Laundry, and the Co-op/Swinging Bridge location. Town Manager Shaun Fielder said at the October 1 meeting that the signs had been ordered.

The task force also recommended repainting the crosswalks a high-visibility color, which will not take place until Spring 2021, at the earliest.

A third recommendation was to eliminate a parking space on each side of each end of the crosswalks with a required "20-foot buffer zone." The task force also recommended "a concrete planter or other impediment for the space preceding

See **RECOMMENDATIONS**, 3