

Town Manager Report


Town of Lunenburg- February 15, 2022





Contact Information

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Announcement on Existing Vacancies

The following is a list of current vacancies on the following committees:

- Architectural Preservation District Commission (2 vacancies, one citizen at large and one representative from Historical Commission)
- Council on Aging (1 vacancy)
- Economic Development Committee (1 person recommended by the Open Space Committee and 1 ex-officio member that is business owner)
- Green Communities Committee (1 regular member vacancy and 2 Associate vacancies)
- Housing Authority (1 vacancy that would be jointly appointed by the Select Board and Housing Authority until the ATE)
- Parks Commission (1 vacancy that would be jointly appointed by the Select Board and Parks Commission until the ATE)
- Stormwater Task Force (2 vacant positions for citizens at large)
- Zoning Board of Appeals (1 Associate vacancy)

Interested persons can find application forms on the Town Website and completed forms can be sent to the Select Board's Office. Anyone that has any questions on volunteer opportunities can contact the Select Board's Office at (978) 582-4130 x 144.

Current Employment Opportunities with the Town

The following is a list of current employment opportunities with the Town:

- Digital Services Staff Librarian (Part Time Benefitted)
- Assistant to the Sewer Business Manager (Part Time Benefitted)
- Minutes Clerk (Part Time Non Benefitted)
- Principal Assessor (Full Time Benefitted)
- Trash and Recycling Coordinator (Part Time Non-Benefitted)
- Van Driver (Part Time Non-Benefitted)
- Videographers (Part Time Non-Benefitted)

More information on each position can be found on the job postings, which are located on the town website.

Streetlight Purchase Update:

Elizabeth Lydon at Mead, Talerman & Costa received a response from Unitil's counsel regarding a breakdown of Unitil's justification for the increase in costs since the previous estimate to purchase the streetlights. She has responded back asking about costs identified as storm related, late charges, and pole replacements on whether it included the entire light fixture/bracket. I have forwarded this information on to the Green Communities Committee and will provide updates as I receive them.

Electricity and Natural Gas

Our energy broker, Tradition Energy, will be soliciting bids for the Town for electricity and natural gas as our current contracts are expiring on November 30, 2022. Our broker believes we are better off to go out to bid this spring, instead of waiting until summer or fall due to volatility in the market in the near term. Our current electricity rates for town/school properties is \$.09425 kWh and our natural gas rates for town/school properties is \$5.19/DTH (dekatherm). Our electricity costs will not exceed \$.112 kWh for the remainder of FY23 as we can opt into the municipal aggregation rate. Bids are expected to be received in March.

Meadow Woods Trailer Park

As agreed by the Select Board the Town has agreed to rescind the receivership for Meadow Woods and has entered into a payment agreement with Meadow Woods MHP LLC. The payment agreement stipulates an initial payment of \$400,000 as a down payment to be applied as a partial payment to the delinquent sewer usage bill and on the other previous years old tax title receivables. Each year thereafter on or before the anniversary date of this agreement Meadow Woods will pay down \$100,000 against delinquent taxes until the delinquent tax amount is paid off, while keeping current with their current tax bills. The \$400,000 payment was provided to the Tax Collector today upon execution of this agreement.

We are pleased that we were able to get to this outcome with Meadow Woods and address their delinquent taxes in an expeditious manner.

Extension of Open Meetings Allowing Remote Participation and Town Meeting Quorum Requirement

On Saturday, Governor Baker signed a supplemental budget which included a few changes: extending remote participation in open meetings (to July 15, 2022); reinstituting the ability of a select board to reduce the town meeting quorum requirement; and reinstating the remote option for representative town meetings (which does not apply to Lunenburg).

COVID-19 Update

The weekly update from the Board of Health on the total number of new cases reported as of February 5th was 71 and the positivity rate was 8.73%.

Meetings, Events and Other Announcements

- There will be a Tax Lien Auction on March 17th at 10 a.m.
- The Town Caucus will be March 17th at 6:30 pm at the MS/HS Auditorium. The elected positions that will be up for nomination at the Town Caucus and on the ATE Ballot are up on the town website under News and Announcements.
- The warrant to submit articles for the Annual Town Meeting is open for submission of articles until Monday, March 21, 2022 at 4 p.m.
- I will be visiting the English Community Service Learning and Civics Class this Thursday to discuss needs in the community.
- I am attending the Personnel Committee and Conservation Commission meeting tomorrow night and the Finance Committee meeting on Thursday night.