

Town Manager Report


Town of Lunenburg- May 18, 2021





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Announcement on Existing Vacancies:

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

- Architectural Preservation District Commission (1 vacancy)
- Board of Assessors (2 vacancies-joint appointments between BOA and BOS until next ATE)
- Bylaw Review Committee (2 vacancies)
- Commissioner of Trust Funds (2 vacancies-joint appointment between CTF and BOS until next ATE)
- Economic Development Committee (1 person recommended by the Open Space Committee, 1 citizen at large, and 1 ex-officio member that is business owner)
- Historical Commission (1 vacancy)
- TCP Building Design Committee (1 vacancy appointed by the Select Board and Town Moderator for member at large)
- Senior Work Off Program Committee (1 vacancy)
- Zoning Board of Appeals (1 Associate vacancy)

The following are positions whose terms are expiring on June 30th:

- Agricultural Commission (1 position)
- Architectural Preservation District Commission (1 position)
- Conservation Commission (2 positions)

- Council on Aging (3 positions)
- Finance Committee (2 positions)
- Historical Commission (1 position)
- Public Access Cable Committee (3 positions)
- Town Constables
- Town Clockwinders
- Zoning Board of Appeals (2 positions)

Interested persons can find application forms on the Town Website and completed forms can be sent to the Select Board's Office.

Municipal Aggregation-Electricity Supply:

Colonial Power, which is our municipal aggregation energy consultant, received two responses to the Request For Proposals for electricity prices for the Town's Community Choice Power Supply program. Our three year contract under this program with Constellation expires on October 31st (current rate of \$0.10998). As of November 1, 2021 the electricity supply agreement will be with First Point for a rate of \$0.11210 for 36 months. Residents and businesses can opt in and out of the program at any time.

Currently the basic service rate with Unitil is \$0.09554 until December, when their winter rates go into effect. Residents that want to switch out of the Muni Agg program to the basic service rate offered by Unitil can do so and switch back to the Muni Agg program when the rate is less than the winter rates under Unitil.

Invitation for Bids:

- The Assistant Town Manager is issuing an Invitation for Bids for the ADA Work at the North Cemetery parking lot this week. In December we were awarded \$32,000 from the MA Office on Disability and there is a capital article for \$20,000 for this work as well.
- The Public Safety Carport Project will be advertised next week with filed sub-bids due June 15th and general contractor bids due June 22nd. Due to rising construction costs, we anticipate that bids will come in higher than our original estimate.

Senate Releases FY22 State Budget Proposal:

On May 11th the Senate Ways and Means Committee released their FY 2022 State Budget Proposal. Overall the impact of the Senate's figures on local aid compared to the Governor's budget proposal that we used at the Annual Town Meeting for the FY22 Local Aid figure, was an additional \$7,118. The Senate's proposal included an additional \$2,621 in estimated receipts and \$4,497 less in assessments/charges.

Complete Streets Construction:

The Contractor for the Complete Streets Construction project is scheduled to begin work on the project on Monday, May 24th.

Update on Debris Found on Woodruff Property (104 Fairview Road):

On May 13th I received the Environmental Site Assessment report from the environmental consultant we hired to perform a field reconnaissance survey to determine the extent of the debris, any potential solid waste materials, and identify/quantify those materials. The assessment also contains a professional opinion on the likely ongoing environmental impact of the illegal dumping documented, recommendations for any subsequent environmental monitoring/assessment activities, and materials removal/site restoration work, as well as a preliminary cost estimate for conducting clean-up and stabilization of the site.

The primary materials deposition area is approximately 40 feet in width and 100 feet in length with a minor volume of scattered items up to 60 feet beyond the primary area. The site is situated on an approximate 2:1 horizontal to vertical wooded slope abutting the easterly bank of the Catacoonamug Brook. By appearance of materials exposed, the dumping likely occurred in the mid-1950's to early 1970's. It is estimated that approximately 150-200 cubic yards of solid waste materials are located at the site, with a majority being metals such as appliances, boiler, boiler components, storage cabinet, ductwork, pipe, sheet metal, fencing, and various containers. An estimated 15-20 cubic yards of asphalt shingles are located at the top of the slope. No clearly identifiable asbestos was observed and it appears that solid wastes were not dumped in the brook itself or its bordering vegetated wetlands. Three dwellings within the service area of the municipal water system, would appear to be located within 500 feet of the dumping site. The current stable condition of the site and the duration since the materials deposition occurred would indicate negligible adverse impact expected from the dumping area on residents in the immediate area. The Consultant did not issue any recommendations for follow-up surface water or groundwater testing or decomposition gas monitoring based on the current site conditions.

If the Town did pursue removal of the dump site materials, they would need to be handled as solid wastes, likely requiring placement in a container, truck or trailer for off site transport to a permitted local transfer station or landfill. Since current solid waste regulations ban landfilling of metals, white goods and whole tires, these items may be directly delivered to vendors providing those recycling services.

Access to the site is constrained by tree cover and the steep topography and would be by way of the cart roads along the field edges from Fairview Road. This will limit the time of the year that trucks could access the site. Due to the tree cover and slope, an approach that would minimize tree cutting and undermining the bank to the brook would need to be planned. An excavator with a boom with a bucket or chain and lift would be the recommended approach to remove the materials from the basin and a front end loader would be required to put solid waste materials in roll-off box or dump truck. All work would require work within the 100 foot buffer zone and require the approval of the Conservation Commission. The consultant estimates that the cost of removal would range between \$72,000 and \$84,000. This would require a town meeting appropriation.

I have also been in touch with the Conservation Administrator and the Conservation Commission Chairman and understand that the Commission visited the site this past weekend and will be discussing at an upcoming meeting.

Meetings, Events and Other Announcements:

- The last Spring 2021 Yard Waste Day is Saturday 22nd from 8 am to 4 pm. Additional information can be found on the DPW page on the website.
- Reminder that the Pleasant Street bridge over Pearl Brook will be closed starting June 1st.

- Lunenburg Farmers Market on the Ritter Lawn will be Sundays starting June 13th until October 10th 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. except on Sunday, July 4th.

