

Town Manager Report


Town of Lunenburg-August 20, 2019





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Public Announcement from Casella:

Casella notified us this afternoon that their truck has broke down and a few streets were not picked up for trash today. The following streets will be picked up tomorrow (Wednesday, August 21st):

- One side of Electric Avenue
- Hollis Road
- Whalom Road and all roads connecting
- Richards Way Road
- Tilman Avenue
- White Street and all roads connecting

Announcement on Existing Vacancies:

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

- Agricultural Commission (1 regular member and 3 alternate vacancies)
- Americans with Disabilities Act Commission (1 vacancy)
- Architectural Preservation District Commission (1 design professional; craftsperson or building contractor familiar with historic renovation)

- Finance Committee (1 position appointed by the Finance Committee Appointing Committee)
- Housing Authority (1 elected position that will be a joint appointment with remaining Housing Authority members and Selectmen)
- Planning Board (1 elected position that will be a joint appointment with the remaining Planning Board members and Selectmen)
- Sewer Commission (2 elected positions that will be a joint appointment with the remaining Sewer Commission members and Selectmen)
- Zoning Board of Appeals (1 regular member and 2 Associate vacancies)

Talent bank forms can be obtained on the Town Website and forwarded to the Board of Selectmen's Office.

THES, Primary School, and TC Passios Water Sampling Results:

Recently the School had sampling for lead and copper performed and some water taps at the Turkey Hill Elementary, Primary School, and TC Passios building had copper and lead levels above the MA Action Level for copper and lead in drinking water at schools and early education and child care facilities. The School Superintendent sent me the notices that went home to all the families of children in each building, as well as the summer extended day families for the TC Passios building, and which are posted on the School District website. This week a letter to all the families of students registered for the fall extended day program will be sent out as well. The school administration is working with the Lunenburg Water District and Mass DEP. Due to a concerned resident that reached out to the Board and myself about questions on whether this was a problem with the town water, I reached out to the Water District Superintendent Fran McNamara to inquire about their procedures for testing for copper and lead. The Water Superintendent responded that the Water District does copper and lead sampling from sites approved by MassDEP. Originally the Water District sampled 40 samples around Town yearly. Due to very good results, the District was put on reduced sampling, which is 20 samples taken every 3 years. If a round of sampling showed a failure, MassDEP would require sampling to be taken yearly again.

The Water Superintendent went on to say that the Water District's water does not contain any copper and lead. The lead found in the School's water sampling came from the plumbing within the structure. There are no lead service lines in Lunenburg and connections from the water main to residences does not use lead soldering to make the connections. Lead is used specifically within homes that have copper tubing. Copper tubing is common in most homes, but less now with most plumbers using plastic tubing. Lines that have not been flushed and the water has sat in the plumbing for 6 hours or more, may see elevated levels.

The Water District injects Sodium Hydroxide into the water that raises the pH of the water. A pH of 7.0 is neutral. Over the many years of sampling for copper and lead, the Water District has determined that Lunenburg should have a pH in the water system in the area of 7.3. When the Water District does their monthly bacteria testing, they also do tests for pH and chlorine levels. They are very confident that the pH levels throughout the water system are at a level adequate to limit the leaching of copper and lead from household plumbing. They do recommend that even with passing the sampling requirements that residents should flush the water until it's cold before using it for drinking or cooking.

MassDEP Recycling IQ Kit Grant Update (TM Goal #2):

We are currently advertising for four grant funded positions that will be doing the curbside checks on recycling and tracking the data. The positions were advertised in the Ledger, are on the town website, Indeed.com, and the Town Facebook page. Please pass along the posting to anyone you know that is interested.

Engineering Services for Year 2 of the MS4 Permit:

The Stormwater Task Force Committee, DPW Director, Land Use Director and I met with the engineering firm, CEI, on Thursday, August 15th to review all the associated tasks that need to be accomplished during Year 2 and the timeframe that each task will be accomplished. CEI is currently reviewing the contract and we should be able to finalize it by next week.

Live Streaming Meetings through YouTube:

As a follow-up to an action item at the last Selectmen's meeting, I reached out to the Cable Manager that the live streaming feed was not able to be accessed. The Cable Manager responded at that time it was a server related issue regarding updating a code and that it had been fixed. However, the Cable Manager contacted me yesterday that because there is music behind our bulletin, she has received a notice that the stream has been suspended for policy violations (i.e. the music is copyrighted and will not air while the music is playing). She will try to find a work around for the issue to get the meetings up and running again through the live streaming.

Update on Intersection of Route 13 and Route 2A:

Chief Marino reported that Montachusett Regional Planning Commission has submitted the required Accident Study to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. Chief Marino spoke with Barry Lorion at MassDOT and MassDOT will be performing a traffic count at that location once school traffic begins in September and will be doing a site visit in early October to discuss the right lane turn issue and the left lane protection pulling out of Electric Avenue when turning left. MassDOT did relay that they will act in the best interest of the Town but ultimately the decision about any improvements to this intersection is up to MassDOT.

Improvements to Leominster Shirley Road at the corner of Reservoir Road:

The Police Chief and DPW Director have been working with PJ Keatings on making improvements to Leominster Shirley Road at the corner of Reservoir Road. PJ Keatings has offered to do all the work on this corner to improve the line of sight and the Town will pay for the police details. Work had begun but had to be stopped until a better traffic plan and detour can be configured as the road is very narrow with limited line of sight.

ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (TM Goal #3):

Montachusett Regional Planning Commission has begun site visits to facilities to begin the self-evaluation process for ADA compliance as part of District Local Technical Assistance funding.

Attendance at Meetings, Other Announcements:

- I will be attending a Police Union Negotiation Meeting on August 21st.
- I will be attending the Personnel Committee Meeting on Tuesday, August 27th.

