

Town Manager Report


Town of Lunenburg-June 4, 2019





Contact Information

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Arts Festival

When

Saturday, June 8th, 10am-3pm

Where

Memorial Drive Lunenburg, MA

Cruise Night

When

Wednesday, June 12th, 4-8pm

Where

Memorial Drive Lunenburg, MA

More information

Rain Date of Monday, June 3rd at 5 p.m.

Route 13 (Electric Ave) and Route 2 A (Mass Ave) Intersection

As a follow-up to a request by the Board to address the dangerous intersection at Electric Ave and Route 2A, the Police Chief sent a letter on May 24th to MassDOT requesting a review to see if left turn arrows can be provided. Montachusett Regional Planning Commission is able to assist with the crash data study.

Update on 925 Mass Ave:

At our last meeting a resident had brought up 925 Mass Ave and that the Town should focus on doing something about this property. I have periodically updated the Board about this property and that I have been working with town staff and various agencies since 2017 to see how we can clean-up this property without the liability of clean-up costs of this old gas station. I have worked with Town Counsel, met with Montachusett Regional Planning Commission about possible Brownfield funds and with MassDevelopment. In order to perform the required Phase I and Phase II environmental assessment for this property, the Town needed to gain a right-of-entry that would be granted during the process of a tax taking. Our Tax Attorney filed a title report with Land Court in February and his office was recently notified that a Motion to Amend the Petition for Tax Taking had to be filed because the original petition had "registered at" instead of "recorded at". The title report identifies all parties with legal interests in the subject property that would be wiped out if the Town were to foreclose on the property. This is an ongoing, complicated project and I will continue to update the Board as it progresses.

Walkability and Parking Study through MRPC:

The public meeting on the walkability and parking study was held on Saturday, June 1st at 1 p.m. Montachusett Regional Planning Principal Planner Sheri Bean facilitated the meeting and sought input on the positive and negative aspects of affeting pedestrian travel, ways to increase safety and accessibility for pedestrians and looked at parking. Approximately 25 people attended the meeting, which I see as a success, and Sheri received lots of great input that will be included in her final report. I understand there was interest in another downtown area walk, as well as one in Whalom. I spoke with Sheri today and she indicated she didn't think there was enough in the budget for her to attend another public audit but if the Town performed this it could be included in her final report which will also include recommendations and possible funding sources for projects.

Anyone interested in submitting written comments on the Main Street and Whalom Park areas are welcome to submit those to email those to myself or Sheri Bean at sbean@mrpc.org. I will inquire again if Sheri would be able to do a walking audit of the Whalom area.

Summer Street Road Reconstruction Project

As a follow-up to a question that was asked at the last Selectmen's meeting about whether the completion date has changed, I contacted MassDOT and the official completion date for the Summer Street project has not changed from the original date of May of 2020. MassDOT anticipates that most of the work will be done in the time-frame of November/December and expect that the Contractor will do the finish landscaping and punch-list items in the Spring of 2020.

Education and Enforcement Coordinator Grant

Due to the short time-frame to make any necessary changes to their Waste Hauler Regulations and the due date of June 12th for the MassDEP Education and Enforcement Coordinator Grant, the Board of Health has decided to not rush to make any changes and review their regulations between now and next year's grant application.

Electric and Gas Contracts

At the last Selectmen's meeting I reported on our electricity and gas rate changes that were secured through our energy broker that go into effect on December 1, 2019. A question was asked about what the current rates were: our current electric supply rate is \$.08818/kWh and it is changing to \$.09425/kWh on December 1, 2019 and the gas supply rate is currently \$5.774 and will change to \$5.19 on December 1, 2019. The projected effect on the FY20 budget is approximately \$300 more than the current year. Of course this is based on current electricity and natural gas usage and we have just completed a number of energy efficiency projects that will result in energy savings.

Update on Community Solar Projects through Nexamp

As a result of the public information sessions about Nexamp's community solar program that offers residents discounted electricity from community solar projects in Lunenburg and Fitchburg, more than 250 residents are enrolled in the community solar program. This program is currently full and there is a waiting list in the event residents that are currently enrolled decide to opt out of the program. I have been working with Nexamp on enrolling all the applicable town, sewer and school accounts that are able to receive net metering credits and the timing of receiving these discounts will be the same as the community solar program that residents have signed up for. The exact date that credits will be seen on bills will depend on individual billing cycles. Nexamp informed me yesterday that the timing of the discounted electricity for residents and the town accounts will be in the January - March 2020 time-frame.

Earmark for Eagle House

As I reported at the last Selectmen's meeting, I was contacted by the Department of Housing and Community Development about an earmark in the FY19 State budget that was evidently included but we were just made aware that we received it and it needs to be spent by June 30th. I spoke with DHCD

again yesterday and due to the wording of the earmark that "not less than \$25,000 shall be expended on the Lunenburg Eagle House Senior Community Center" does not link it to a specific project at the Eagle House, we are able to submit expenditures dating back to July 28, 20018 until June 30, 2019 up to \$25,000 for reimbursement. I have asked the Finance Director and DPW Administrative Assistant to provide me with a list and copies of invoices in order to submit all the required documentation to the state in order to receive this reimbursement. Unfortunately, due to the timing of when we were notified, there was insufficient time to put a specifications and put out to bid and complete the work by June 30th. The good news is that we will be able to submit for reimbursement for FY19 Eagle House expenditures and this will positively affect our free cash that will be certified in the fall.

Update on 2016 NPDES MS4 General Permit and Request for Proposals for FY20 Stormwater Engineering Services:

- Approval of 2016 NPDES MS4 General Permit: I received notification today from the Environmental Protection Agency that the Notice of Intent for coverage under the Small MS4 General Permit that we filed this year was reviewed and our 2016 NPDES MS4 General Permit approved through June 30, 2022. This grants the Town the authorization to discharge stormwater from our Small Separate Storm Sewer Systems in accordance with the applicable terms and conditions of the MS4 General Permit.
- I put together a Request for Proposals for MS4 engineering services to comply with Year 2 and possibly Year 3 and 4 of the permit requirements (FY20, FY21, FY22). Proposals are due by June 13th and the Stormwater Task Force, the Land Use Director and myself will evaluate the proposals thereafter.

Meetings:

- I have a Dispatch Negotiation Session tomorrow at 1 pm in Devens.
- I will be attending the Green Communities Meeting tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.
- I will be at a Small Town Administrators Meeting in Princeton this Thursday.
- There will be a staff training on Tuesday, June 11th at 9 a.m. at the Library put on by the Alzheimer's Association as part of our path to becoming a Dementia Friendly Community.