



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: John C. Curran, Town Manager

CC: Susan Aker, Cathy O'Dea

SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report, February 25, 2019

DATE: February 22, 2019

8 Carter Ave

The DPW Engineering Division, in collaboration with other town departments including Conservation, Board of Health and Building, submitted a wetlands application - Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) to demolish and remove the existing house and shed at 8 Carter Avenue. The Conservation Commission discussed the proposed work during the public meeting held on February 13th. Pursuant to the MA Wetlands Protection Act and Billerica Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Commission issued a "Negative Determination with Special Conditions" allowing the demolition work to proceed as outlined in the wetlands application and as conditioned by the permit. Construction work is anticipated to occur in early March.

Health Insurance Meeting

This office met with Cook and Company to talk about our health insurance rates for current and retired employees. For our active employees, we're not looking at any significant plan design changes this year. Health Insurance rates will show a moderate increase for our active employees. We're looking at a 2% bump. Our retiree plans would be looking at a little bit more of an increase this year – 4%. These increases reflect experience.

Sidewalk Management Plan

This Office and the Engineering Department met with BETA to review the scope for development of a Sidewalk Management Plan. They recommended as a first step the Town needs to perform Self-Evaluations of their current facilities relative to the accessibility requirements of the ADA. Town is then required to develop a Transition Plan – to address deficiencies identified in the Self-Evaluation. BETA's scope will include performing a Self-Evaluation, perform an inventory and assessment of sidewalks & curb ramps, and develop a Transition Plan.

Complete Streets

This Office and the Engineering Department met with BETA to review the Complete Streets Tier 2 Prioritization Plan. Under the Complete Streets Program, projects listed in the Town's Prioritization Plan may be eligible for up to \$400,000 in funding in any year (depending upon number of applications

and available funds). BETA is updating the project list based upon feedback received, and we anticipate submitting it to MassDOT for approval this spring.

Economic Development

- EMD Serono has announced a ~\$70M expansion of their facility at 45 Middlesex Turnpike. They have already received their special permit from the Planning Board. This 145,000 square foot expansion will lead to the direct hiring of 50 employees and position the campus for further phased development of the site.
- ClearMotion – who received incentives to entice them to leave Woburn – has occupied their facility at 805 Middlesex Turnpike. In addition to the 190+ jobs that they brought to Billerica, the company received \$115M in venture capital financing in January which is a strong indication for the long-range viability of their products.
- In addition, there is a Lexington-based life science company that is close to (or may have already signed) a lease at 900 Middlesex Turnpike. This is a full lease of the 89,000 square foot facility.

Zoning Workshop

The Town will be holding a PUD Zoning Workshop on Wednesday, March 6th at 7PM in the Town Hall Auditorium. Linked below are the presentations from the Planning Board meeting.

<https://www.town.billerica.ma.us/172/Planning-Board>

Water Meters

13,437 meters have been installed (94% complete) -- 884 remain to be installed. The remaining meters are due to no access, bad plumbing, refusal of new meter, rescheduling problems, seasonal customers, and new home owners. We are continuing to work on these issues and have a target date of June 1 to complete. The completion work is being done using town staff.

Adult Use Marijuana Establishment

This office has been contacted by three potential Adult Use Marijuana establishments who have agreements on properties in the overlay zone. The Town has created a “RFP like” process, that includes criteria, timeline, and guidelines on how it would work. I plan to have an item on the Boards next agenda to further discuss this matter, but wanted to make you aware of the news before you heard it elsewhere.