



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: John C. Curran, Town Manager

CC: Susan Aker, Cathy O'Dea

SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report, January 27, 2020

DATE: January 23, 2020

MDI Grant Update

As previously reported the Town received a grant in April from DHCD for their Massachusetts Downtown Initiatives (MDI) program. This grant provides Technical Assistance to help communities solve issues in the downtown. The Town's submission dealt with downtown mobility, and – rather than reinventing the wheel – would use a state chosen engineering consultant (Stantec) to analyze the previous work. Stantec will be presenting their findings to the Board at a future meeting in March.

LED Streetlight Update:

The Town has received an updated financial analysis for the LED Streetlight project. The Town bonded \$1,000,000 dollars the project. The initial estimate to retrofit the lights during the exploratory phases was totaled at \$822,026. Currently Tanko Lighting is estimating the cost at \$673,021. The only outstanding item left to be bid is the installer contract. A conservative estimate was used as a plug number, but we won't have final cost until the bids are back on June 30th. Currently install is scheduled to begin on February 27th and will be completed at the end of May. At that time the second phase of adding additional streetlights will begin. Due to MAPC grant timing constraints we won't be able to do retrofit and the new ones simultaneously. Tanko lighting has already helped us order the additional lights we will need for the second phase and any expected replacements. The full financial analysis is attached.

Howe School:

PRA Architects has started the feasibility study for the Howe School. Last week they began the process of the historic investigation, hazmat & geotech test, as well as a structural analysis of the building. It was found that the water table is higher than expected and could eliminate any possibility of using the basement. It was also found that the building is structurally in good shape. They are currently working with the Town and BATV to design a layout for the building. This design will also include a public space. They will be presenting in front of the CPC in February and the Historical Commission sometime in March.

PHR:

The Town will be conducting stakeholder meetings on 1/23. These meetings will include softball, football, soccer, and lacrosse. The Town and the consultant are looking for feedback on the designs and

usage thoughts. I will have an update for you at the meeting on how the stakeholder meetings turned out.

Pinehurst Fire Station:

The Town will be holding a neighborhood meeting regarding the New Pinehurst Fire Station. The meeting will take place on Thursday, January 30th at 7:00 PM in the Auditorium. Winter Street will be presenting the new fire station and an update on the temporary station. A code red will go out to the Pinehurst area on Tuesday to remind residents along with additional digital updates. This office has also contacted the local newspapers to advertise the meeting.

Spill at Salem and Gray Street Professional Recognition

The Fire Department and DPW responded to the spill at Salem and Gray their performance as usual was highly professional and prevented major contamination, threats to public safety, and impact to wildlife. Please find the attached emails from Capt. Matthew Battcock regarding the action of Michah Trudeau and Keith Titus who helped the Billerica Fire Department stop the spill. Without their help the scene could have been much worse and more difficult to manage.

Chief,

I just want to inform you of the actions of two bystanders yesterday at the fuel oil spill at Salem Road and Gray Street. The two men witnessed the accident and were on scene when I arrived. I ran down the street to outrun the flow of oil and dam it up but had no shovel. The men said they were landscapers, had shovels, and would help. With minimal instruction they began making a dam out of earth and stopped the flow of oil heading down the road. I went to another area of the incident and they stayed and continued to help Engine 4 firefighters make a dam across the entire roadway. It is my professional opinion that if these men didn't get involved when they did, the incident would have been larger, more difficult to manage, and the environmental impact would have been more significant. I think a letter of appreciation may be in order.

Capt. Matthew Battcock

Also, please see the email from Kristel Bennet regarding the action of the Billerica Fire Department at the spill.

Good Morning Chief Cole,

I wanted to reach out and thank you for your staff's professional response to the oil spill at the intersection of Salem and Gray Street yesterday (01/16/2020). I responded to this spill to assess potential human health risks and when I arrived I observed that the 13,000 gallons of heating oil spilled from the oil truck had been properly contained. While onsite, I met with Ken Sanderson, of the Department of Environmental Protection's Northeast Regional Office Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup, who reported to me that he has responded to thousands of these emergency response spills and he was amazed at Billerica's first responders reaction and containment of the spill. He said that the Billerica Fire Department was one of the best first responders that he has seen respond to this type of emergency in a rural area. Their quick reaction and proper containment on the spill has prevented lots of damage to land, sensitive wetlands, wells, and infrastructure. Thank you for your quick professional response in containing the oil spill to protect the community and to a job well done!

Sincerely,

Kristel

Gas Station Air Pumps

This office and the Building Department are in the process of conducting compliance checks regarding the Free Air by-law. A few checks still need to be done as well as follow ups of non-complaint business. I will have more details at the February 3rd meeting.

Steve Wetzel FOIA Request

This office met with Steve Wetzel regarding his FOIA request. This office is working on his request. The Town has agreed to post a blind driveway sign at the end of his property, a traffic mirror on Dudley Road, and plant three four inch linden trees where the trees were taken down. The Town will also post increased traffic enforcement signs, and post where appropriate on scenic roads any tree that is slated for removal. The Town will also adhere to proper posting for tree removal in the future.

Field Permit Fee's

The Recreation Department is conducting a meeting with the appropriate youth organizations to inform them of the fee rollout schedule starting in September. The fees are not intended to recoup the cost associated with field maintenance, but rather in this initial phase the Town is interested in tracking field usage. Accordingly a nominal fee of \$3.00 per hour will be instituted in FY2021.