



## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Board of Selectmen

**FROM:** John C. Curran, Town Manager

**CC:** Susan Aker, Cathy O'Dea

**SUBJECT:** Town Manager's Report, May 19, 2017

**DATE:** May 22, 2017

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### **Neighborhood Meetings**

Neighborhood meetings have been scheduled for:

Town Hall	June 12 <sup>th</sup>	7:00PM (Financial Theme)
Ditson	June 13 <sup>th</sup>	7:00PM (tentative)
Hajjar	June 14 <sup>th</sup>	7:00PM (tentative)
Dutile	June 15 <sup>th</sup>	7:00PM (tentative)
COA	June 19 <sup>th</sup>	11:00AM (tentative)

In preparation for the meetings a department head meeting will be held in advance to go over requests from last year to ensure that they were addressed to the extent they could be. These meetings will be publicized through Facebook, Twitter and Next Door. A press Release will be distributed to the Lowell Sun and the Minuteman.

### **Ditson School Status**

The Ditson School has been broken into and vandalized four times in the last month— most likely by kids. It is prohibitively expensive to insure an abandoned building. MIIA will no longer carry this building on our policy. Please be advised that the building is not insured and if it burns down the Town will bear the full expense of the removal which could exceed one million dollars with hazardous materials. This office is still of the opinion and continue to advise you that delaying a decision on this property based on the results of the fire station assessment is not a valid reason to delay action.

### **MassWorks Project**

This project is on schedule. Most of the sidewalks have been poured and the street lights are in place. I walked the project this week it appears to be moving along very well. The poles are expected to be removed in the fall.

## Spring Town Meeting Update

All of the financial articles were approved in Town Meeting. However, article 25 did meet with some resistance after it passed. The Billerica Watchers Group organized an effort to overturn article 25 through a special election. Several attempts were made to meet with the group to address their concerns but all attempts were rebuffed. The Town's new Social Media person, Clancy Main, put an informational You Tube video together to help educate residents on the safety of the water meter RF technology. It received 2,100 hits on Twitter and 4,500 hits on Facebook. It was viewed over 568 times on You Tube. This activity was enough to allay concerns about health risks from this product.

## Purple Heart Community Update

This office met with Alicia Reddin and Ed Tierney about rolling out the Purple Heart Signs. These will be posted at the same locations as the entering Billerica Signs and will be unveiled during the Veterans Day Celebration in the fall.

## Aggregate Energy Timeline Status

We are preparing for the public hearing process.

- ⇒ DOER Consultation                      March 22 (complete)
- ⇒ File w/ the DPU                          Mid-April
- ⇒ DPU Public Hearing                      May/June

- a. Prior to Public Hearing, DPU will ask Town to publish Notice of Public Hearing in newspapers, at Town Hall and on Town's website. Colonial will handle placement and cost of ads and will coordinate with Town on posting.
- b. Following Public Hearing, DPU will issue Discovery which is follow up questions on the Aggregation Plan. Colonial will prepare answers and coordinate responses back to the DPU via our attorney.

- ⇒ DPU Issues Order                      Late August/Early September
- ⇒ Bidding Process                          September
- ⇒ Sign Contract w/ Supplier              September
- ⇒ Public Outreach (30 days)              October
- ⇒ Opt-Out Period (30 days)                October
- ⇒ Power Flows                                November