



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: John C. Curran, Town Manager

CC: Cathy O'Dea, Clancy Main

SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report, November 2, 2020

DATE: October 29, 2020

Vining / Ditson – Demo and Break In

This office had their kickoff meeting regarding the Demo of the Vining and Ditson Schools. The Ditson School currently is on schedule to be demoed in April / May. The current plan for this site is to leave it clean and ready for future use. The Town also plans to leave the basketball court and playground alone and stay accessible during the project. Currently there are no plans to knock any trees down on the site either. The memorial out front will be moved to a temporary / permanent home and the time capsule will be dug up and saved. The rest of the area will be demolished and turned to grass. With gas, water, sewer lines being capped at the street for any future uses.

The Vining School has many of the same goals including leaving a clean site, no plans to cut any tree, and to save any memorials out front. The Town will also leave the baseball fields intact during demo. We are also looking into the possibility of moving one of the still useable playgrounds closer to the ball fields. Some parking considerations are also being looked at for the baseball games at the Vining.

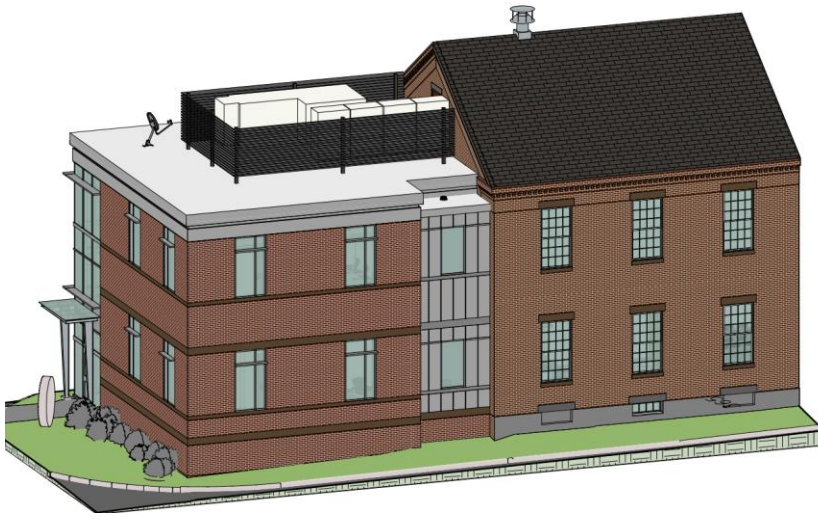
The Vining School was also broken into over the weekend. The area broken into has since been boarded up. The cameras out back were functioning and did catch multiple suspects on video.

Fire Station –

The Billerica Fire Station is continuing to move forward. They have been issued a foundation permit and the Town expects the building permit to quickly follow. The building is completely down and as of writing this report the abatement has been completed. Demo of the old foundation will begin on 10/30 and prep work for the new foundation will begin on 11/2.

Howe School -

The Howe School project is moving forward smoothly. Currently they are moving through the Conservation Commission process and will begin their application to the HDC shortly. For the HDC, The Town is required to show them the materials they will be using. The architect plans on leaving materials at Town Hall for anybody to come take a look at. Also a small design change has been proposed. It is attached for the Board to take a look at. The project will go out to bid early in the year and construction should start sometime in the early spring.



Zoom / OML Training

Zoom / OML Training was completed last week by over 40+ members of Boards and Committees in Town. It was very well received and a number of questions were asked and answered by Town Counsel. The recording and PowerPoint has been posted on the town website. The Town plans to offer this type of training on an annual basis. <https://www.town.billerica.ma.us/895/Zoom-Training-Session>.

Goals

This office is in the process of codifying and formalizing the goals from last meeting and the initial goal setting exercises. Expect an agenda item at a future meeting.

Masonic Hall –

This office spoke with the Mason Hall. They intend to take up until March to move out. This is unfortunate due to the fact that the food pantry would like to move into that space early to begin distribution. I will continue to work to see if they will reconsider their decision. I have attached multiple pictures to show that this is above and beyond something that the DPW could do.

