



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: John C. Curran, Town Manager

CC: Cathy O'Dea, Clancy Main

SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report, December 21st, 2020

DATE: December 18th, 2020

Howe School

The Conservation Commission has approved the Howe School Project. This included alterations within the 25 foot buffer zone with improvements to wetlands. It also includes the addition being built on existing paved property. The project is scheduled to go before the Historic District Commission on January 9th. The Bid documents are expected to be ready for January 6th.

Pinehurst Fire Station

The Foundation is nearly complete and ready for steel to be erected. There was a delay to this project because of a Covid-19 outbreak.

Testing Center

The Town employee testing center tested 417 people. There were six positive cases. Four were in the School Department and the other two were Town Employees. There is another testing center for senior at the Housing Authority scheduled for Tuesday.

Community Forum – Mixed Use Development

The Smart Growth Committee held a virtual community forum to discuss mixed use development in the Town of Billerica. The focus was on the two overlay districts on Boston Road; the Town Center to Tufts Lane and the Concord River intersection to Chelmsford Road. There approximately twenty participants, including myself. There was significant positive contribution by the participants. The Planning Department will compile all of these comments as part of their process.

Contact Tracing (COVID-19)

I have reassigned some employees temporarily to assist with contact tracing due to the significant increase in positive cases – two employees from the Library, two employees from the COA and two employees from Recreation. Each of these employees has been trained on the Department of Public Health's Maven System

The Town will supplement CARES Act funding to assist in paying overtime for contact tracing for both school and town employees.

Economic Development Prospects

I met with the potential buyer of 221 Boston Road. They are looking to move a Landscape design company into the building. It could bring 30 new employees to Billerica. Some significant investments would be made. I directed them to the right Town Official to assist them.

290 Concord Road is looking to file a plan for site plan review that would include last mile delivery and a Life Science GMP Manufacturing facility. This would bring a substantial boost to an area that has large vacancy in office space.

Library Boiler

Complete failure of the boiler in the library is imminent. We had taken steps to try to avoid replacing it in the winter. However at this juncture it would not be wise to wait until the spring. Bob Saleese has ordered the components needed to replace the boiler. It is expected that we will need to close the Library for five to seven days to do the replacement project. It looks like this will take place in January 4th to the 11th.

Community Food Pantry

A pre permitting meeting was held with the Community Food Pantry Project Team on December 8th. This meeting was a bout the permanent site they are looking to build on the First Congregational Church site.

Christmas Rolling Parade

Several groups in town have come together to start a rolling Christmas Parade which will be held on December 19th at 1:00PM along a predetermined parade route.

Holiday favorite characters will participate in a spectacular experience all around town.

There will be four drop sites collecting donations for three local charities: The Billerica Community Pantry, The Rotary Club, and Community Caregivers. They are looking for non-perishable food, new with tags gloves, pajamas (for all ages) and socks. The drop sites are marked on the interactive parade map as yellow stars. Don't forget to dress up in your best holiday outfit - creativity is key! The parade will kick off and finish at St. Mary's Parish in Pinehurst. Our interactive parade route map can be found by visiting this link: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit..>

Masonic Lodge

This office will be working to put a CPC application together to do some more detailed assessment of the Masonic Lodge specifically in regard to structural, code and accessibility issues. We cannot proceed with improvements to the building until we understand the scope and the order and correlation these issues may have with each other. Woodard and Curran, a town consultant, is assisting with this process. In the meantime we are proceeding with some electrical upgrades to accommodate the food pantry.

Capital Facility Study Meeting

All of the information for this Committee has been forwarded to the Town Clerk so that she can call a meeting. It is expected to come together in January.

Director of Community Development and Planning

This position will be posted soon, the posting is being put together based on the changes that were recommended.

Naming of Canoe Launches

These naming requests should go through the Conservation Commission as they are the custodians of these Town Properties.

Professional Recognitions

Animal Control

Chief Rosa received an e-mail from Chief Fisher from Carlisle Police Department commending ACO Christine Gualtieri for her assistance to that community. ACO Gualtieri responded to a sick and wild animal call where a fox was in close proximity to a residence and the residents were unable to enter their home. ACO Gualtieri was able to trap the animal and remove it without injury to the animal or persons present. Chief Fisher wrote me to express his appreciation for ACO Gualtieri's assistance.

Mental Health Call

Lt. Sean Coffey informed the Chief of an incident that happened at the end of September where he was present as the Officer In Charge, the incident involved a mental health call at a group home here in town, On arrival Officers and Paramedics were faced with an emotionally distraught female who had climbed out a 2nd floor window and placed herself in a dangerous situation. **Paramedic Leigh Shircliff** spent more than an hour counseling the woman before gaining her confidence and having her voluntarily comply with her requests. After the patience and perseverance of Medic Shircliff this person safely and voluntarily got into the ambulance and was transported to the hospital by Shircliff and her partner **Mike Noel**. While Paramedic Shircliff was working with the patient **Sgt. Magnan, Officer Dixon and Guanci** placed themselves in a position to help shield the patient from danger. Without the patient and careful efforts of all involved **especially Paramedic Shircliff** this call could have ended differently.

Canine Officer

Officer Rocco Magliozi has only been a canine handler for a relatively short time. Officer Magliozi has excelled at this vocation. In the last several months Officer Magliozi has assisted the Billerica Police Department and other agencies in locating crucial evidence in several serious crimes. Due to the ongoing litigation of these incidents they cannot be named specifically. However, it can be said that these items would not have been found if not for his tenacity and skill as a search specialist.

There is an incident that occurred on November 11th, 2020. Officer Magliozi responded to the City of Beverly in his capacity as a Search Specialist with NEMLEC. Beverly Police had requested a response for a missing person. This person had been missing for well over eight hours. A search had been conducted throughout the day by several other agencies which include an aerial search that did not locate this person. Officer Magliozi was able to locate this subject within 20 minutes of beginning his search. The Beverly Police noted that this subject was "within an hour of death".

Lieutenant Herring Stated, "I have heard people comment that "Rocco has had a lot of luck" in his canine work. "Luck" has no bearing in Rocco's success. I continue to hear rave reviews from the training staff at the Connecticut State Police K9 Training troop. They hold him in high esteem and admire his quick study and thirst for knowledge. I cannot commend Officer Magliozi enough on his work, attitude and study. It is always a pleasure to work, train and learn from him."

COVID 19 Update

The Town continues to move in the wrong direction along with the rest of the State. Most striking is the significant jump in the Town's test positivity rate from 5.52% to 7.88%. It should also be noted that there was one COVID Related death of a 60 year old individual last week



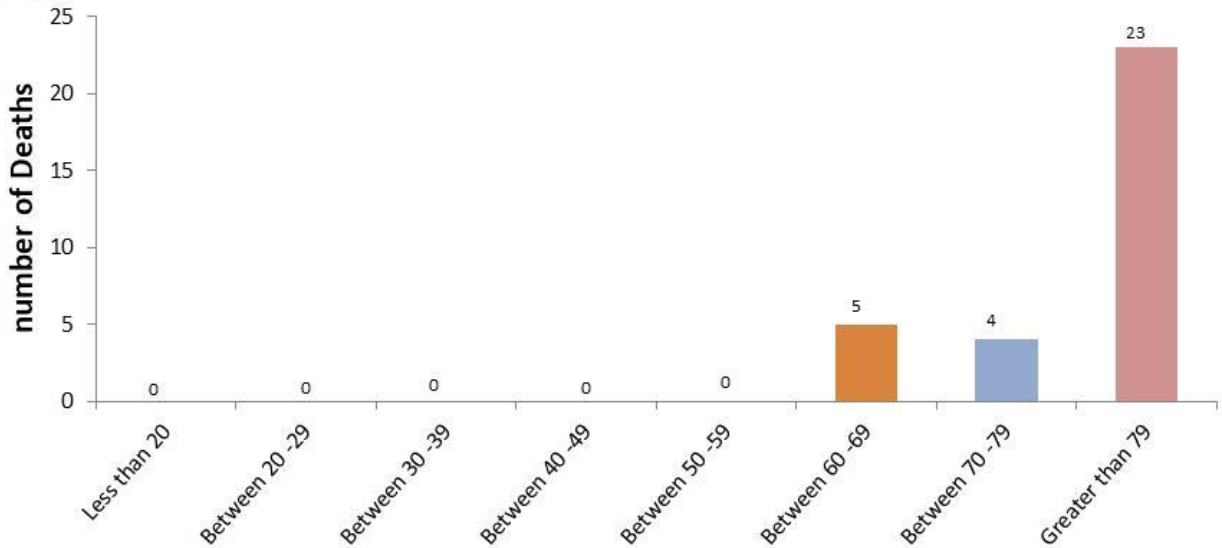
Long Term Care Facilities	113
Middlesex House of Corrections	59
Health Care Workers	105
Apartment Complexes	144
Deaths	32
Active Cases	262
Recovered Cases	1351
Total Cases to Date	1645
Cases per 100,000	47.45
Seven Day Case Average	13.14
Number of Cases last 14 days	262
Positivity Rate	7.88
Billerica Status	[REDACTED]

Friday, December 18, 2020

Source: Billerica Board of Health



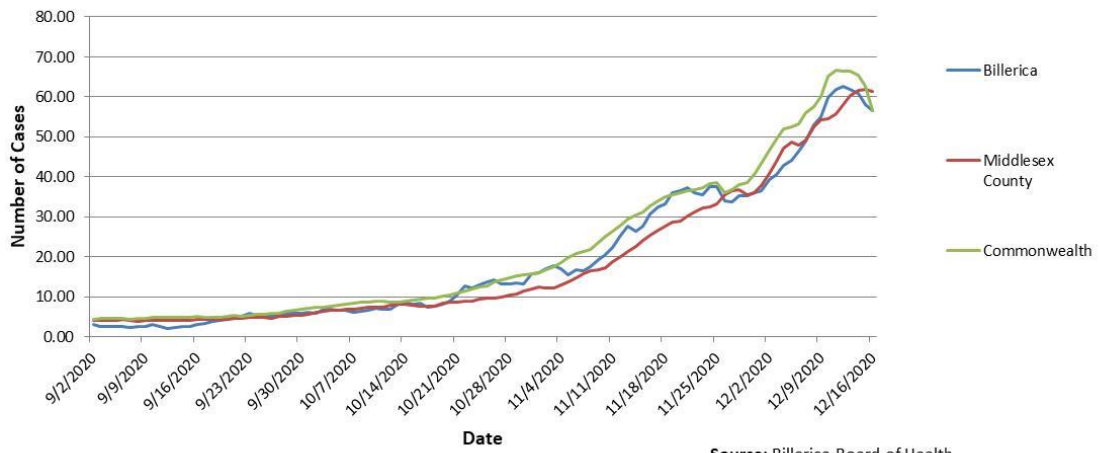
Town of Billerica COVID-19 Deaths by Age



Age

Source: Billerica Board of Health

Billerica vs. County and Commonwealth Average Cases per 100,000 people over 7 days



Source: Billerica Board of Health