



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: John C. Curran, Town Manager

CC: Cathy O'Dea, Clancy Main

SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report, January 11, 2021

DATE: January 8, 2021

Howe School

The Historic District Commission approved the project in their January 6th meeting. A cleaning service is scheduled to clean the building on January 13th. The appeal period for the Cons Com order of conditions has not expired yet. The Town will also be removing old artifacts from the building that were placed inside when the Museum was storing items there.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

The Paramedics have been vaccinated and the Police Fire and Dispatch employees will be vaccinated next week at the Regional Vaccination Center for First Responders. It consists of Chelmsford, Billerica, Tewksbury, Westford and Tyngsborough. The Town is exploring the possibility of starting a vaccination center for Phase II which begins in February. We have secured the necessary supplies and have notified the State that we would like to be placed on list. We most likely would not be eligible until Phase 2, Phase II includes:

Tier 1: People with 2 or more underlying conditions, people over 75.

Tier 2 Other workers

Including: early education, K-12, transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, restaurant and cafe workers; employees across the food, beverages, agriculture, consumer goods, retail, and foodservice sectors; meatpackers; sanitation, public works and public health workers, vaccine development workers, food pantry workers, Uber/Lyft/ride share services/pharmacy delivery drivers (under transit/transportation workers), workers in the passenger ground transportation industry (e.g. paratransit for people with disabilities, food delivery, non-urgent medical transport; convenience store workers (under grocery workers); water and wastewater utility staff, adults 65 and older and Individuals with one co-morbid condition

Pinehurst Fire Station

This project is progressing as expected.

Testing Center

The Town is exploring a testing center in the last week of January. This would include an effort to test Town employees prior to bringing them back to work.

MassDOT Shared Winter Streets and Spaces Grant

The Billerica pedestrian safety project will be funded at \$79,600 under Chapter 90. This funding will be used to place five pedestrian crossing beacons in different parts of Town with the greatest need.

Capital Needs Assessment Committee

The first meeting of the committee will be called for Jan 21st at 7:00PM over Zoom. All members of the committee have been notified to be sworn in by the Town Clerk prior to that.

CPC

This office has submitted two applications to the CPC. The first application was in regards to the Masonic Temple. After buying the property and conducting a more thorough inspection it was found to have other issues besides just structural. Electrical, HVAC, ADA, and Hazmat issues have also been identified. The Town will be asking for \$200,000 to conduct a full building assessment to understand what it needs done to bring it back to life. The remaining funds will go towards starting any work that was identified as part of the study.

This office has also submitted an amended version of the original Katie Durand Memorial Park application. In the original application they received two quotes for the work and split the difference and applied for \$75,000. After engaging BETA to design and estimate the construction portion the actual cost is closer to \$150,000. In an effort to keep the project moving along the Town asked for 100,000. This will allow for a seamless transition between Phase 1 of the Project and starting to explore Phase 2 of the Project. Phase 2 will include a canoe and kayak dock.

In addition the Recreation Department has submitted PHR in the same form that it was last Spring.

Food Pantry / Masonic

The Masons have completely vacated the building. They were very cooperative and helpful at removing everything that we did not need. This office has also facilitated the move of the Food Pantry into the building. They are planning to run their first distribution out of the building on the evening of January 18th. The Town has issued a check for the retainer that was held back until they vacated the building.

Water Main Break (Professional Recognition)

The Town received a letter of thanks from Richard Rose thanking the Water Department Crew that worked into the wee hours of the morning to repair a damaged pipe. He commented, "It was frigid that night and it did not look like easy work. I just want that crew to know that such effort and professionalism are both recognized and appreciated by the community."

Library Boiler

This project is nearly complete. The oil burner is providing heat to the building.

Director of Community Development and Planning

This position is open until filled with preference given to those that apply before January 29th.