



BOARD OF SELECTMEN NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF SUDBURY

LANDHAM ROAD INTERSECTION

By Selectman Dan Carty

The Town of Sudbury has been advocating for safety improvements to the Landham Road intersection. Anyone that has driven through would likely pretty quickly recognize it as unsafe, but on December 21, I attended the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting on behalf of the Town and reported to them some un-fun facts which I will also share here:

- Over a recent 10 year period, there were 170 accidents at this intersection, including a fatality in 2011.
- The crash rate is nearly double that of the typical intersection in our district - 1.11 per million vehicles vs. 0.6 per million.

One of the most frequent questions I hear from Sudbury citizens is "Why can't we just fix it?" Unfortunately, it's not as simple as the Town asking the Commonwealth for money and getting a "yes" or "no."



The intersection of Landham Road and Route 20.

Projects like these are subject to review and approval by the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), a process explained on the MPO website

<http://www.ctps.org/tip>:

"Each year, approximately 150 transportation infrastructure projects, collectively costing more than one billion dollars, are submitted as candidates to receive funding through the Boston Region MPO's rolling, five-year capital investment program, the Transportation

Improvement Program (TIP). The types of projects that are

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eligible for TIP funding include intersection improvements, Complete Streets redesigns, bicycle and pedestrian connections, highway reconstruction, transit maintenance, and transit expansion. Typically, approximately \$95 million is available in any given year for such projects. Each year, the MPO gathers project ideas, evaluates and prioritizes the candidate projects, and then selects which projects will receive the region’s share of federal and state roadway funding.”

The rolling five year windows are used for transportation planning across a big-picture view of the region, with everything from intersections and bike paths to train stations and bridges taken into consideration. Sudbury has worked with the MPO as well as the

Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to advance this project, which includes a traffic light, accessible sidewalks, and a widening of the road to include turning lanes. In October of 2015, MassDOT completed the 25% design phase of the project, while the [75/100% Design](#) was completed in fall of 2017. On December 6, 2017, we heard from Ali Kleyman, the TIP Manager, that the project would be included in the "top-tier" list – those projects that the MPO has evaluated and which have not yet been funded. She also reported that MassDOT had indicated the project could be ready for construction by federal fiscal year 2019. While significant efforts were made to get Landham Road into the 2018-2022 TIP last year, it is queuing up for the 2019-2023 grouping.

As Town leaders, we certainly want this project to happen closer to 2019 than 2023 and are advocating accordingly, but comments from the public to the MPO also really matter. They could be the difference in advancing us past another project and hopefully help make Sudbury safer by getting this project constructed sooner. Borrowing wording from another advocacy group in our region, we need to continue to make support of the Landham Road intersection overwhelming, and make our elected and appointed officials’ job easier to ensure that the Landham Road project stays on course and that it doesn’t get pushed to the back of the transportation project line. Submit comments to the MPO online via

<http://bostonmpo.org/contact>

Select the “Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)” category from the drop down menu, and reference “Route 20 and Landham Road Intersection Project #607249” in the Subject line. Please email

BOsadmin@sudbury.ma.us to

let us know you submitted comments.

[Special thanks to Meagen Donoghue and Beth Suedmeyer, Sudbury PCD.]

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HIGHWAY DIVISION
 PLAN AND PROFILE OF
ROUTE 20 (BOSTON POST ROAD) AT LANDHAM ROAD
 IN THE TOWN OF
SUDBURY
 MIDDLESEX COUNTY
 FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO.

75%/100% SUBMITTAL

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DESIGN DESIGNATION

DESIGN SPEED	ADP (ADP)	ADP (ADP)	ADP (ADP)	ADP (ADP)
35 MPH	25.000	25.000	25.000	25.000
40 MPH	25.000	25.000	25.000	25.000
45 MPH	25.000	25.000	25.000	25.000
50 MPH	25.000	25.000	25.000	25.000
55 MPH	25.000	25.000	25.000	25.000
60 MPH	25.000	25.000	25.000	25.000
65 MPH	25.000	25.000	25.000	25.000
70 MPH	25.000	25.000	25.000	25.000
75 MPH	25.000	25.000	25.000	25.000
80 MPH	25.000	25.000	25.000	25.000
85 MPH	25.000	25.000	25.000	25.000
90 MPH	25.000	25.000	25.000	25.000
95 MPH	25.000	25.000	25.000	25.000
100 MPH	25.000	25.000	25.000	25.000

GPI Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.
 100 Middlesex Street, Suite 200, Sudbury, MA 01970
 Tel: 508-548-1100 Fax: 508-548-1101
 www.gpi-engineers.com

MassDOT Highway Division
 100 State Street, Boston, MA 02109
 Tel: 617-222-3300 Fax: 617-222-3301
 www.mass.gov

APPROVED: _____ DATE: _____
 APPROVED: _____ DATE: _____

SUDBURY TOWN FORUM ON MARIJUANA

Saturday, March 3, 2018, 10AM at LSRHS Auditorium

By Vice-Chairman Len Simon

This year the Town Forum, presented by the Board of Selectmen, will focus on a single topic; the new Massachusetts marijuana law. The new marijuana law is the most far-reaching piece of legislation in 25 years. It will affect virtually all residents, and will have a direct impact on public health and public safety.

Because Sudbury voted (narrowly) against the legalization of recreational marijuana question on the 2016 statewide ballot, it will be up to Town Meeting on May 7 to determine if the commercial cultivation and sale of marijuana should be allowed in Sudbury.

There are two objectives of the Town Forum on marijuana. First, to provide residents with accurate, factual information to enable them to make an informed decision on how to vote at Town Meeting. Second, to serve as a factual foundation for parent-child conversations, as well as student-to-student conversations about marijuana.

There is a great deal of misinformation circulating about marijuana, particularly among our youth. The Town Forum is intended to inform, educate, and clarify through a panel of experts in several disciplines, and a

question and answer session. The panel will consist of: Kevin P. Hill, MD, MHS, Director of Addiction Psychiatry, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and author of [Marijuana: The Unbiased Truth about the World's Most Popular Weed](#), Barbara Saint Andre, Town Counsel, and Scott Nix, Chief of Police.

This is a sampling of the questions and issues to be addressed at the Town Forum:

- What is the legal age to buy and use marijuana?
- Does marijuana use lead to use of other drugs?
 - Does marijuana affect a person's ability to drive or concentrate in school?
 - What are the effects of marijuana on the brain?
 - Is marijuana addictive?
- What happens when marijuana is taken with alcohol?
 - How long does the effect of marijuana last?
 - Does the effect last the same no matter how it is taken, that is, smoked, eaten, or vaped?
- Is it hard to stop smoking pot?



- Is marijuana today like the marijuana of 40 years ago?
- Does the frequency of use make any difference?
- Can you grow it, buy it, or sell it? What are the rules?

All residents are encouraged to attend and participate in the question and answer sessions after each speaker. Students are encouraged to attend.

There is no charge. Open seating at the LSRHS auditorium.

Email questions in advance to: townforum@sudbury.ma.us

If you watch from home, you may also email questions during the forum to:

townforum@sudbury.ma.us.

Please put "Town Forum 2018" in the subject line of your email and include your name and address for the public record.

Watch the forum live on Comcast Channel 8, Verizon Channel 31, or on-line at <http://tinyurl.com/sudburytvlivestream>

PROMISES TO KEEP: THE OPEB UPDATE

By Selectman Pat Brown

Among Sudbury's major obligations are the retirement benefits promised to past and current employees—both pension and Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB).

Pensions and OPEB are separate obligations. Pensions are monetary benefits similar to salary for an active employee. OPEB is primarily retiree health insurance. This discussion addresses OPEB, not pensions.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) establishes accounting standards for governmental entities. GASB believes OPEB are a form of deferred compensation whose cost should be recognized while the employee actually renders services rather than when the benefits are paid, many years later. Ideally, under the GASB standard, the entire postemployment liability is recognized by the time an active participant begins to receive benefits.

Over the years, Sudbury has accrued an Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability for OPEB—that is, we haven't set aside enough to pay the promised benefits.

In 2015, Town Meeting appropriated the \$4.5 million remaining in the town's Health Care Claims Trust Fund after town and school employees

were enrolled in the state's Group Insurance Commission (GIC) program and added it to the liability trust fund. The Town and SPS also began to set aside additional money annually to fund the trust.



The GASB standard of fully funding OPEB benefits on an actuarial basis would require us to fund the "Annual Required Contribution" (ARC). The ARC is the normal cost (what we must put aside to fund the OPEB benefits earned this year) plus a provision for amortizing the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL) over a 30-year period. The AAL is the excess of Actuarial Accrued Liability over the Actuarial value of current assets.

"On an actuarial basis" requires some explanation. Actuarial assumptions — estimating market returns, inflation rate, future health coverage costs and so on — as are used to predict the number of today's dollars required to pay the promised benefits. How

much money would we need in trust today to meet our obligations as they come due? Each assumption reflects today's best estimate for that particular assumption, but there are a lot of them and they change. We re-evaluate every two years when an updated actuarial report comes in, and the target does move.

As of June 30, 2017, the Town (including SPS) had \$5.9 million in assets and an AAL of \$57.9 million. The actuarially determined ARC required to fund this liability is \$2,420,858. For FY18 the Town appropriated \$1,165,151 for the payment of current OPEB obligations and set aside \$471,036 for future obligations, making a total OPEB contribution of \$1,636,187 and leaving a gap of \$784,671.

The Town Manager has proposed increasing the OPEB contribution by roughly \$70,000 annually to close the gap over an 11-year period beginning in FY19. Starting in FY29 Sudbury could then stop annually increasing the trust fund contribution and "level fund" the OPEB trust.

(L-S High School has its own OPEB liability distinct from this.)

Financial predictions covering decades are iffy at best—but we need to keep saving. We have promises to keep.

SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE AND STRUCTURAL OPTIONS

By Selectman Susan Iuliano

The exploration of opportunities to enhance the K-12 educational experience for our students is a high priority for the Board of Selectmen (BOS). Successful efforts to enhance the coordination among our school districts will require collaboration between the towns of Lincoln and Sudbury and among the three school districts. The Selectmen have established the School District Administrative and Structural Options Subcommittee, comprised of Selectmen Dan Carty and Susan Iuliano, to reach out to stakeholders and to facilitate the beginning of a structured and long-term conversation about how to best support our schools.

The Subcommittee has met with representatives from the Lincoln Board of Selectmen, the Lincoln-Sudbury RHS School Committee, and the Sudbury Public Schools School Committee. The Sudbury BOS has formally requested that the Sudbury Subcommittee attend a Lincoln BOS meeting to discuss these issues. The Subcommittee also plans to meet with the L-S and SPS School Committees. The

Sudbury Public Schools



meeting with the L-S School Committee is March 13; the meeting with the SPS School Committee is on a date to be determined.

The Sudbury BOS proposes that the two towns jointly establish a committee to consider a wide range of opportunities, which may include better supports for coordination across the districts, shared services or positions across the districts, changes in district administrative structures, or changes in district governance structures. A careful and informed analysis of other options could help our schools to:

- Enhance the education of all students through better alignment of curriculum and instructional practices.

- Improve special education services including programming, planning, and budgeting.
- Better facilitate successful student transitions for all students across all grade levels.
- Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of school district operations supporting students, families, and staff.
- Provide a better informed and cohesive budget process rooted in recommendations by educators and school committee members.
- Assist both towns in planning and prioritizing capital projects for the school districts.

- Enhance the recruitment and retention of robust district leadership.

We in Sudbury are very proud of our schools, which provide an excellent education to our students. Nonetheless, especially in a challenging time for all municipalities, we feel

compelled to find creative and forward-thinking ways to improve these services. We also recognize that the interests of the towns of Lincoln and Sudbury may not always be aligned. But, we cannot advance our joint interests in supporting all students, especially at our shared high school, without an open and

straightforward analysis and discussion about how we collectively balance the various goals we have for our schools. The Sudbury Selectmen will continue to press forward with this initiative to bring our districts together in support of our students.

UPDATE ON THE FAIRBANK COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT

By Selectman Pat Brown

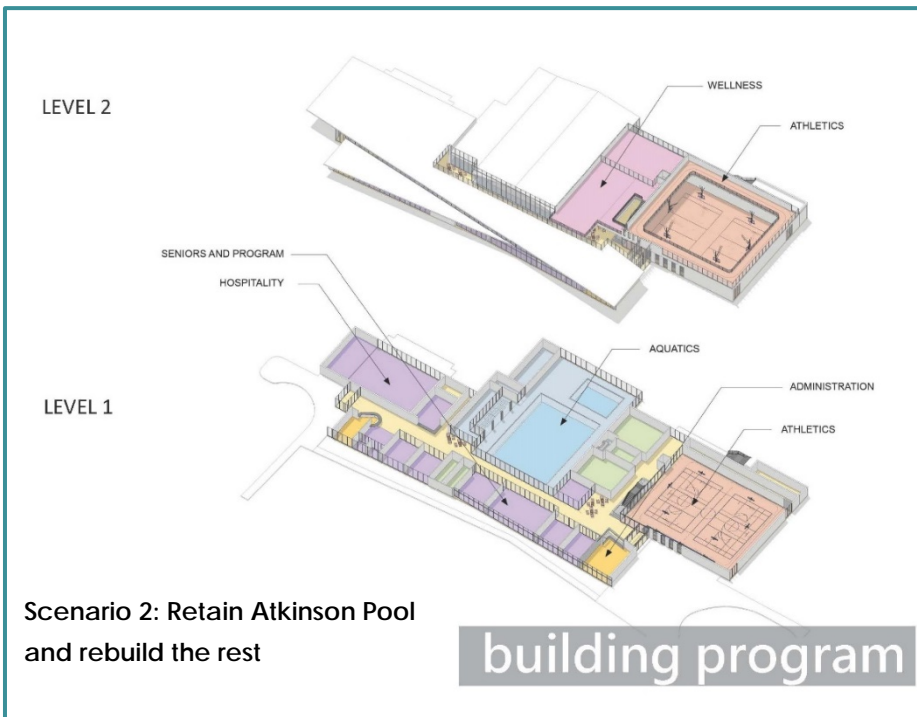
The previous update on the Fairbank Community Center project closed with the request that you fill out the survey to help define what Sudbury wants for a Community Center. We received 489

for the senior survey over a period of twenty-three days. Thanks to everyone who took the time to weigh in!

After receiving the survey data, PROs Consulting presented their analysis of the

Fairbank Task Force on December 6. These three scenarios are 1) to retain as much as possible of the existing building 2) to retain only the Atkinson Pool and 3) to build an entirely new building. In each case, the community center would occupy approximately 62,000 square feet. The scenarios do not include space for Sudbury Public Schools administration. Capital costs—including contingency costs and the costs associated with municipal construction—run from \$24,454,000 to \$26,651,000 for scenario 1; \$27,858,000 to \$30,055,000 for scenario 2; and \$33,632,000 to \$35,829,000 for scenario 3.

The Task Force is concerned not only with the building itself, and the capital cost to construct it, but also with the operating costs of an expanded facility. We recognize that the Senior



responses for the community-wide survey and 218 responses

surveys and three possible building scenarios to the

Center provides community services for the senior population free of charge, while the Atkinson Pool and other programs offered in the facility do charge users. In order to understand not just the operating costs but also the compensating revenues we could expect to receive—the “cost recovery”, as it is called—the consultant asked the Task Force to select one scenario to do a deep dive analysis on programming that facility. The Task Force unanimously selected Scenario 2.

On February 1, PROs presented their findings on the Fairbank Community Center. The [final report](#)—incorporating

comments by town staff—is available here: <https://sudbury.ma.us/fairbankstudy/?p=466>

The Fairbank Task Force met on February 15 to review the final report, which they received just two days earlier. The Task Force is working toward a presentation for design funds at Annual Town Meeting in May. We’re looking for the community vision for the Fairbank Community Center. Are we—is Sudbury—prepared to design a community center that will address the foreseeable needs of the community for the next fifty years and center our civic life, or is this an unrealistic aspiration right now? The Fairbank Task Force is

convinced that this scenario will meet the needs of our community for generations, but now we need—again—to hear from you.

Look for more information in “bite-sized chunks” (more bite-sized than the 140 page report!) about the proposed facility and the problems with the current center that it addresses. Consider the cost and the value of this proposal both to you and to the community. Bring your questions and comments to the [Task Force](#) (fairbankreport@sudbury.ma.us) as we prepare for Town Meeting and Election.

Let us hear your thoughts. See you at Town Meeting.

2018 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

By Chairman Bob Haarde

This year it looks like we will have about the usual number of articles for town meeting, around 45, which normally works out to be about two or three good nights of work by our Town Congress, better known as 2018 Annual Town Meeting. Many people think the name does not do it justice. This is more than a meeting. This is an opportunity for every Sudbury Senator to come out and sponsor, support, debate and enact legislation for our town. Who is



a Sudbury Senator? You are. Well if you are reading this, you likely are. All registered voters

in Sudbury are empowered legislators for the Town of Sudbury. You are all Sudbury

Senators. Your power enables you to draft, submit and sponsor legislation before our town. Any voter in town can create their own article by drafting your town legislation idea, gathering the appropriate number of signatures and submitting to the Selectmen's Office before the deadline to have it placed on the Town Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting - or Sudbury's Annual Session of Congress.

This year, in addition to our budget, capital, stabilization and enterprise fund items which are necessary to fund our services throughout the year we have a number of interesting articles. We have articles to continue to fund our ongoing litigation against Eversource and Sudbury Station. The means-tested Senior Tax Exemption article is

on the warrant for review again. The Selectmen are asking to amend our bylaw regarding Fall Town Meeting to provide more flexibility in scheduling. There is an article proposing to amend the dangerous dog nuisance bylaw. We have capital articles for our rolling stock, DPW equipment, underground fuel storage, Stearns Mill Pond Dam, playground improvement, school fire alarms and school phone systems. We also have articles for the turf field at Cutting and a design for the Fairbank Center. We have articles concerning the acquisition of Broadacres Farm on Morse Road and the disposition of the Melone property on Route 117.

The Lease for the Loring Parsonage is on the Town Warrant this year. A number of

articles funded by the Community Preservation Fund are on the warrant again this year. These including playground updates, pond invasive weed removal, another article concerning the acquisition of Broadacres Farm, the Regional Housing Services Office, the Sudbury Housing Trust and the reversion of funds originally allocated for the purchase of the CSX railroad.

This year we have several articles submitted by residents of Sudbury (Sudbury Senators) including a deed restriction release, a Welcoming Town petition and an article on transparency in political donations.

Looks like another fun and productive year for us at Sudbury's Town Meeting. I hope to see you all there!

BABYSITTING AT TOWN MEETING



MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018
7PM - 11PM
GYM 3, LSRHS GYM

Park & Recreation staff will provide a variety of enriching activities for the kids so parents can attend the first night of Town Meeting.

Register by April 30, 2018: <http://bit.ly/2ENQgX0>