

BOARD OF SELECTMEN NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF SUDBURY

2019 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

By Vice-Chair Dan Carty

As citizens of the United States of America, we do not live in a democracy. Rather we live in a Republic, or representative democracy. We don't decide most matters of national importance; rather our power is limited to voting in and out of office those that make the decisions for us. In Sudbury, our local government is different. Shortly after being incorporated in 1639, Sudbury's forefathers established here the Town Meeting form of government, or direct democracy, perhaps the purest form of democracy in existence. WE get to approve budgets, WE get to determine policy, and WE get to be heard on any and all matters. Town Meeting has seen it all; for example notes from the October 21, 1765 Sudbury Town Meeting read, as quoted from the 1972 Sudbury Town Report, "We think it proper in this present critical conjunction of affairs to give you the following instruction, that you promote and readily join in such humble



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

May 6, 2019

LSRHS Auditorium | 7:30 PM

petition to our most gracious King and Parliament of Great Britain and other such decent measures as may have a tendency to obtain a repeal or suspension of the Stamp Act and heavy burdens imposed on the American British Colonies thereby ." Those words helped fuel the American Revolution. Mark your calendars for Monday May 6 as Sudbury will continue this time tested and honored tradition.

This year, we do not anticipate the call for a major revolution, and at the time of this writing

no citizen petitions have yet been brought forward, but there will be many interesting articles on your Warrant nonetheless. In addition to our 'normal business' of approving

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budgets, we expect our Town Manager to bring forward a revised and less expensive proposal for the rehabilitation of the Fairbank Community Center. Our DPW staff have been hard at work and discovered that, because we are a Housing Choice community, we are eligible for a \$500,000 State Revolving Fund loan with the ultra-low interest rate of 1.5% to study the feasibility of a sewer system in Sudbury. There has been public interest shown for the Town to purchase Camp Sewataro, and since, as of now, we have neither a purchase price nor a feasibility study (in progress) in order to meet the seller's timeline, there will be a placeholder article on the Warrant. At our December 2018 Special Town Meeting, an article regarding the designation of the Quarry

North property as a 40R Smart Growth Overlay District was postponed and will be bought back during this meeting. If approved, the article could mean an additional \$500,000 of funding for Sudbury from the Commonwealth.

In an effort to address our ongoing challenge of maintaining and replacing our capital infrastructure, a number of proposals will be made. First a change to the Capital Planning Bylaw will suggest that projects from all proponents, rather than just those from the Town Manager and the schools, be subject to review. We will ask that our existing Rolling Stock Stabilization Fund be repurposed to a less limiting Capital Maintenance and Projects fund, and that it be seeded with \$250,000 from

Free Cash, essentially marking the beginning of a savings account for future capital needs. Requests of \$130,000 for a new GMC dump truck, \$125,000 for the design for the replacement of a failing culvert on Concord Road, and \$570,000 for a pumper truck for the Fire Department will be put forth. While these capital requests may not sound exciting, they are all being handled inside of the levy – which means they have been budgeted for and will not come along with associated tax hike requests. That's exciting to me!

I look forward to being part of pure democracy in action on May 6th. I hope to see you there.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR - 2018: MORE THAN THREE DECADES OF EXEMPLARY PUBLIC SERVICE TO SUDBURY

By Selectman Janie Dretler

In December, the Town of Sudbury honored Officer Michael Lucas as Employee of the Year. Lucas was joined by his family as well as his fellow police officers. This honor is granted to a town employee who is committed to delivering outstanding public service. Employees are nominated for the award by other Town employees and the

final award is selected by the Town Manager from the nominations.

"Officer Lucas is a well-liked and respected member of the Police Department who arrives at work day after day with a smile and positive attitude." said Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues, Town Manager.

Officer Lucas, affectionately known as "Hightower" or "Big Mike", has served with the Sudbury Police Department for almost 34 years, since 1985. He attended Curtis Middle School and is a '78 LSRHS graduate. The Lucas family has lived in Sudbury since 1973.

I sat down with Officer Lucas after his Monday shift. He has a

warm smile and a comforting presence. Lucas joined the Police Department at the age of 24 after attending Boston State College and the University of Massachusetts Boston. He enjoys working with people and helping those in need. His goal as a young recruit and still today is to make a difference, and he feels fortunate to be able to work with a great group of people. When Lucas joined the Sudbury Police Department in the mid 80's, many of his peers were Vietnam veterans. Today, according to Lucas, a number of his colleagues chose law enforcement as a second career.

Lucas also served as Firearms Instructor with the Department, providing skills and knowledge that enabled officers to further improve upon their level of training. He enjoys trap and skeet shooting as well as hunting for deer and black bear.

Over the years, laws such as those for drunk driving and domestic violence have evolved to help police officers do their jobs. When asked how much technology has changed his work, Officer Lucas replied, "Tenfold!" Although it can be challenging at times to learn, he says it makes his job much easier to locate individuals of interest. According to Officer Lucas, one of the most challenging aspects of the job for a police officer is



Officer Lucas accepting the Town of Sudbury Employee of the Year Award for 2018.

having to switch between routine duties such as motor vehicle violations to reacting quickly to new, intense or sometimes dangerous situations. The accessibility of NARCAN and medical bags in police vehicles aids in the ability of an officer, as a first responder, to provide medical aid to a person in a potentially life-threatening situation. In 2018, Officer Lucas responded to a suicidal individual and was able to locate them under difficult circumstances. "Had it not been for his diligence, the party may not have been discovered in time to provide the requisite medical treatment to ensure the subject's recovery," said Chief Nix.

Officer Lucas prides himself on being approachable and friendly. He is there to help in good times as well as bad. Looking back, he points to his

strong family values, his parents' marriage of 62 years and his commitment to doing the right thing. In his spare time, Lucas enjoys spending time at his second home in Maine and taking long rides with friends on his Harley-Davidson.

Chief Nix, who has known Officer Lucas for his entire career, described Lucas as one of the "most even keeled employees, capable of maintaining his composure through the toughest of times". Nix noted his positive attitude and uplifting impact on fellow employees. "He has always shown respect and dignity to residents as well as fellow employees who have a great deal of respect for him," stated Police Chief Nix.

Thank you, Officer Michael Lucas, for your dedication and service to Sudbury.

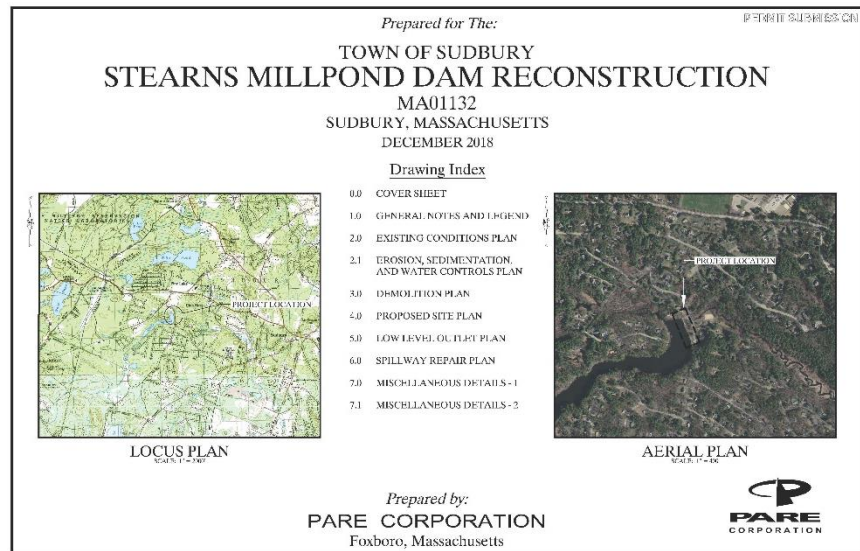
PROJECT UPDATES – STEARNS MILLPOND DAM AND THE DPW FUEL ISLAND

By Selectman Pat Brown

Last spring Sudbury Town Meeting and the voters approved funding for two major projects: the Fuel Island at the DPW facility and the Stearns Millpond Dam. I asked Dan Nason, Sudbury's Director of the Department of Public Works (DPW), how the projects were progressing and he brought me up to date.

Fuel Island

As you recall, the existing fuel island at the DPW facility uses underground tanks installed in 1992, which are nearing end of life. The project is to replace these tanks with above-ground tanks and a modern fuel management system. Since a fuel island is not easily moved, there has been extensive consultation between DPW and the Conservation Commission to be sure that the location chosen for the fuel island will protect the environment and allow the maximum flexibility in developing the DPW facility in the future. Now that this location has been determined, the town must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI, an application for a permit to do the proposed construction in accordance with state and local environmental law) to the Conservation Commission,



probably in early March. A public hearing then follows. The project must also go before the Planning Board in March for a stormwater permit, and potentially for site plan review. Again, a public hearing follows. DPW Director Nason anticipates having permits secured by early May, bid requests out in early June, and opening bids in early July. Ideally, some of the permitting would go more quickly and the schedule accelerated.

Summary: We expect construction of the fuel island will be completed in February 2020.

Stearns Millpond Dam

Again, you will recall that the Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety issued a formal Notice of

Noncompliance for the Stearns Millpond Dam in December of 2017. Following voter approval of funding for the dam project last spring, the town hired an engineering consultant to create the design documents for this project. We received these documents in December of 2018. The next step is filing the NOI before the Sudbury Conservation Commission on January 28, 2019. Upon completion of the NOI, the town will incorporate any required changes into the final design. We will then submit that design to the Office of Dam Safety for approval, as required by MGL Chapter 253 Section 45A. The commissioner then has sixty days to approve or deny the design. Once the design has been approved, we can order the

gate—which is expected to require a six-month lead time. Slightly off-topic, we do not expect to close Dutton Road to through traffic during the dam construction. The project for the Dutton Road Bridge, which will

require road closure, is designed and scheduled independently.

completion between September and December of 2019.

Summary: We expect to issue bids for the dam in April, with construction to begin in June or July of 2019 and last three to five months. This would put

Thank you again for your support!

NEW DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

By Selectman Pat Brown

Sudbury has a new Executive Director of Planning and Community Development! Adam Duchesneau will join our team in February.

Since May of 2014, Adam has worked as Town Planner for the Town of Boxborough. As part of that responsibility, he oversaw the implementation and evolution of the Boxborough Master Plan—experience that we will find helpful as we update our Master Plan in Sudbury. His expertise in planning—particularly land use planning and zoning—and his experience in guiding the public planning process will be great assets for our community.

Adam's prior experience includes serving as Assistant Planning Director for the City of Melrose, Planner for the City of Somerville, and working at Concord Square Planning &



Adam Duchesneau,
Executive Director of
Planning and
Community
Development

Development in Boston. He has received a Masters degree in Regional Planning from Cornell University, and is certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

Adam is active in regional planning as well. He is currently

serving as the chair of the Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC), our subregion within the larger Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

Welcome, Adam, and we look forward to working with you

UPDATE ON MELONE AND QUARRY NORTH DEVELOPMENT

By Selectman Len Simon

Since December Town Meeting, the Town has continued its efforts on the Quarry North project. The Town is working on finalizing the land disposition agreement with the developer, which will include all the terms negotiated in the development agreement term sheet as well as legal requirements that a resident may typically see in a purchase and sale agreement. That agreement will need to be approved by the Board of Selectmen prior to any transfer of the property. The agreement will be voted on at a Board of Selectmen meeting.

The Board of Selectmen has also begun to discuss what the future will hold for the Town Center property, which the Town will receive as part of the land deal. The Board of Selectmen will be meeting with Town Staff, including the new Director of Planning, to conduct a visioning session for the site. The visioning session will allow the Board to explore all the options available for protecting our historic town center, while remaining aware of future town needs as well as the wishes of our residents. This visioning session will be a



public meeting, and will be televised as well.

Earlier this month, the Water District declared 3.2 acres of land at Melone to be surplus and voted to exercise their authority to dispose of the land with the assistance of an attorney.

The Town has not yet heard from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development on whether our application for the 40R designation has been approved, but we do anticipate that we will soon. The Town had applied to the state to allow for the Melone site to be zoned under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40R. This would allow

the Town to create a smart growth overlay district on the Melone site. Under Chapter 40R, communities that adopt special zoning districts allowing as-of-right higher density residential development are provided financial rewards. If the 40R is approved by the state, the Town will need to vote on the Smart Growth Overlay District at May Town Meeting. The project could go forward without this zoning, however, the Town would not receive the financial incentives.

Information on the project can be found at <https://sudbury.ma.us/melone>.

PARK & RECREATION PROJECTS UPDATE

By Chairman Bob Haarde

Since Town Meeting last May, the teams at Park & Recreation and DPW have worked collaboratively to begin two large capital projects: the turf at Cutting Field and two of the tennis courts at Featherland Park. The turf at Cutting Field has been completed and will begin to see more play this spring. In planning for the future, the Park and Recreation Commission worked with the Town Manager to begin preparing for the next time that Cutting Field will need a turf replacement, and have committed to saving \$20,000 a year for the future capital need. We will continue to look for other funding sources to increase this fund and for future turf replacements.

The first two Featherland tennis courts were funded by the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) funds. The courts are completed, look great and have already been put to use. Park & Recreation is returning to the CPC at May Town Meeting for funding the other two courts and the sports court to finish the project. The final project will include four



Cutting Field

tennis courts, as well as basketball nets and pickle ball.

The Park & Recreation staff is also working with the Town Manager on a new Fairbank Community Center project for Annual Town Meeting this spring. In October, the Town defeated an article for design of a future Fairbank Community Center with an estimated total cost of \$32,000,000. Town staff has mobilized to try to downsize the project and bring a new more limited project to Town Meeting. The new design will be introduced to town committees and the public in March. The project has become even more important as the building has continued

to deteriorate, causing major boiler issues this winter that required the building to be evacuated twice. We have also been working on a project where the fields at Davis field could be leveled and made more appropriate for athletic competitions.

The Park & Recreation Commission has also been working on a capital plan, and trying to prioritize the projects they plan to tackle over the next few years. They have also recently appointed a member to the Master Plan Steering Committee, and have been working collaboratively with staff on updating the Town's Open Space Plan.



Come to the Livable Sudbury Report Presentation!

Tuesday, February 12, 6:30 PM
at the Goodnow Library
21 Concord Road, Sudbury

Light refreshments will be served.

Jan Mutchler, Director, UMass Boston Gerontology Institute will present a report on the Livable Sudbury community needs assessment, conducted in 2017-18 by UMass Boston Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging, Gerontology Institute, part of the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, in conjunction with the Sudbury Council on Aging/Senior Center and Town Manager Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues.

The presentation will be recorded by Sudbury TV and available on their website at a later date. The written report will be available on the Town website.

Questions, please call Debra Galloway, Director, Sudbury Senior Center, at 978-443-3055.

