



BOARD OF SELECTMEN NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF SUDBURY

COMPLETE STREETS FUNDING PROGRAM: SEEKING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

By Selectman Janie Dretler

The Town of Sudbury is exploring opportunities for additional infrastructure funding through the Complete Streets Funding Program. The Complete Streets Funding Program, launched by the Baker-Polito Administration on February 1, 2016, has awarded more than \$38M in construction funding. Complete Streets projects that can be addressed through the program include filling bicycle and pedestrian network gaps, improving transit access, installing street lighting, improving safety of crosswalks and intersections, and building new shared use paths. A "Complete Street" is one that provides safe and accessible options for all travel modes and for all people.

Program Reward ([for municipalities that meet the eligibility requirements](#)):

1. Technical Assistance – up to \$50,000 for analysis in support of a Complete Streets Prioritization Plan (funding is not available for



Sudbury recently qualified to receive state funding for projects that make our roadways safer and more accessible.

assistance in developing a Complete Streets Policy)
2. Construction Funding – up to \$400,000 (Project design is not an eligible expense. Chapter 90 monies can be used to support design.)

The Sudbury Board of Selectmen, at its [March 12, 2019](#) meeting, voted to authorize the Town Manager's endorsement of a Letter of Intent to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to become a Complete Streets

municipality within one year. Former Town Manager Rodrigues stated Complete

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Streets projects ensure accommodations for pedestrian, cyclist, and vehicle safety. The Letter of Intent was submitted to MassDOT on April 8, 2019. As a result, Sudbury received a technical assistance award for \$35,935.69 in late May 2019.

Adam Duchesneau, Director of Planning & Community Development, presented the Tier 1 Complete Streets Policy to the Board of Selectmen at its [September 24, 2019](#) meeting. The Complete Streets Policy was drafted by the Complete Streets Advisory Group which includes staff from the Department of Public Works, the Planning & Community Development Department, Police Chief, Fire Chief, and a member of the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen voted to approve

and adopt the Tier 1 Complete Streets Policy, and to authorize submission of the policy to MassDOT for approval pursuant to the Complete Streets Program.

The Complete Streets Advisory Group's next steps include working with BETA Group, the consultant, to create a Tier 2 Prioritization Plan for potential projects in Sudbury. The Town recently utilized FlashVote to survey residents to help the Advisory Group and consultant develop the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan with projects that may be eligible for program funding. Results of the FlashVote survey can be found at <https://bit.ly/2BD9gUc>. The Prioritization Plan will then be submitted for approval to MassDOT. The Prioritization Plan may include several small

projects and/or larger projects.

Once the Tier 1 Policy and Tier 2 Prioritization Plan are completed and approved by MassDOT, Sudbury will apply for Tier 3 – Project Construction Funding for several of the project listed in the Plan. Please stay tuned for more information.

To learn more about the Complete Streets Funding Program and to view what other communities have received in funding, go to the [Massachusetts Complete Streets Funding Portal](#) at <https://masscompletestreets.com/Home/participationreport>.

Thank you to Adam Duchesneau, Director of Planning & Community Development, for his contributions to this article.

Complete Streets Stats

Program Participation to date

- 234 municipalities have registered for the program
- 204 municipalities have approved Complete Streets Policies
- 170 have approved Prioritization Plans

Grants Awarded as of August 23, 2019

- 124 Tier 3 Construction awards (\$38M) have been issued to municipalities and over 80% of applicants have been funded.
- 167 Tier 2 Technical Assistance Grants (\$6M) have been issued allowing communities to prioritize Complete Streets investments.



TOWN MANAGER SEARCH

By Chairman Dan Carty

In July, we on the Board of Selectmen were notified that Town Manager Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues was resigning her post to take a similar job in North Andover. Melissa was well liked and respected by both our Board and the public in general, but seeing how hiring a Town Manager is one of the more important tasks the Selectmen have, and how competitive the market is for a quality Town Manager, we quickly took action to find her replacement. Shortly after receiving her notice our Board discussed our strategy to move forward, including asking Assistant Town Manager Maryanne Bilodeau to fill the role on an interim basis as well as putting out an RFP to hire a search firm to find us our next Town Manager. We also agreed that while we certainly were not going to cut corners, we were going to move swiftly to fill the seat. Working together with Maryanne and Melissa, we began putting the pieces in place, and at our July 24th meeting, we announced that we had put out an RFP to find the right search firm.

As we entered August, we made Maryanne's Interim Town Manager title official at our August 6th meeting and by our next meeting, August 20th, which also happened

to be our last one with Melissa, we discussed the interview questions we would ask our prospective search firms. Continuing our swift pace, we interviewed search firms at our next meeting, September 10, and a week later coming with glowing recommendations, and having recently filled Town Manager/Administrator roles in Weston, Wayland, Boxborough, and Natick among others, we decided to move forward with Community Paradigm Associates. Community Paradigm presented to us at our October 1st meeting their plan to move forward and an accompanying timeline. Core to their success is the concept of active engagement of community stakeholders and together we determined that a three-pronged approach would work best for us.

First, we scheduled community discussion sessions to provide residents the opportunity to share their thoughts on the qualifications and characteristics they believe Sudbury's next Town Manager should possess. These sessions were held on Thursday, October 17th from 2:00PM – 3:00PM and again 6:30PM to 7:30PM that same evening at Sudbury Town Hall, Lower level. In addition, Community Paradigm representatives were available at Town Hall between 3:00PM and



Assistant Town Manager
Maryanne Bilodeau is Sudbury's
Interim Town Manager.

5:00PM that same day for residents interested in stopping by to share their thoughts outside of the community discussions. Residents are also encouraged to send comments via email to: citizeninput@communityparadigm.com with "Sudbury TM" in the Subject line. Second, over the next few weeks, Community Paradigm will meet with Town Department Heads and Selectmen to understand issues facing the Town and specific attributes that should be sought in our next Town Manager. And third, we are in the process of forming a Screening Committee consisting of one member each from the Planning Board, Finance Committee, Sudbury Public School Committee, L-S School Committee, Chamber of Commerce, Council on Aging,

Historical Commission, and Sudbury Housing Trust. Community Paradigm will recruit candidates and present approximately 8 to 10 to the Screening Committee. The mission of the Screening Committee is to review and interview candidates then narrow the field to be presented to the

Board of Selectmen down to three or four.

The task at hand again is one of the most important things we as Selectmen do, but we are moving quickly. We hope to have this field identified and narrowed by December of this year and a

finalist identified by year end. For questions or more information on the Town Manager search process, please contact the Sudbury Selectmen’s Office at 978-639-3381 or email us at selectmenoffice@sudbury.ma.us.

EEE AND SUDBURY

By Selectman Jennifer Roberts

During the past couple months, Sudbury found itself facing the difficult challenges presented by the Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus. Our community was added to the list of many others in Massachusetts with a high or critical risk for the infection. A young child in Sudbury contracted the virus leading to an outpouring of concern and support from within Sudbury and beyond. Sudbury officials quickly took action to prevent further transmission of the virus while seeking to understand what the future might hold.

EEE is a rare but dangerous mosquito-borne infection without a broad-scale treatment or vaccine. It typically occurs in cycles with two to three-year outbreaks occurring every decade or so. Often found in Southeastern



The Health Department has set up EEE prevention stations with informational brochures and repellent towelettes around town.

Massachusetts, the virus has become more wide-spread this year. As of October 2nd, 35 Massachusetts communities were at critical risk (including Sudbury), 53 at high risk, and 121 at moderate risk. There have been 12 cases in humans

and nine confirmed cases in animals in the state¹.

To combat EEE, state agencies undertook multiple rounds of aerial spraying in high-risk communities. Sudbury itself was sprayed over the course of several weeks in September.

¹ Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Press Release “State officials

announced 8th EEE horse case in Massachusetts,” October 2, 2019.

State agencies also worked with municipal public health departments to share the message that prevention is critical. Citizens throughout the Commonwealth have been encouraged to apply insect repellent, wear long-sleeves and pants, and to avoid activities during peak mosquito hours from dusk to dawn.

Sudbury officials aggressively took their own actions to protect citizens against EEE. An ongoing effort that has proven beneficial is the town's participation in the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project (EMMCP) that monitors and treats mosquito activity within Sudbury. This partnership led to truck-spraying that occurred throughout town and around the periphery of schools. Sports and other activities were terminated before dusk, and school recesses were temporarily moved indoors.

On September 17, Sudbury Board of Health Director Bill

Murphy and Selectwomen Roberts and Dretler (Board of Health liaisons) proactively attended an update at the MetroWest Medical Center in Framingham with key state officials on the EEE-threat. We had the opportunity to learn more about EEE and the state's efforts to curb it; additionally, we expressed our questions and concerns for the present and future.

The Board of Selectmen, with the support of the Board of Health Chair, have sent a communication to a variety of state officials, including Governor Baker, our legislators, and the Commissioner of Public Health. In this letter, we emphasize the need to research the future trajectory of EEE and the impact it will have on communities such as ours. We ask how the state will support municipalities both logistically and financially in their own efforts. Lastly, we request that resources be directed towards seeking a treatment or even a vaccine for

the dangerous virus. The letter can be read at <https://wp.me/a5uhbS-1cs>.

With cooler temperatures, mosquito populations will decline; however, it is advised that citizens remain vigilant with recommended protective measures throughout the Fall months. As EEE tends to occur in cycles, 2020 may bring similar challenges.

The Board of Selectmen are grateful to Town employees for their efforts during this period. In particular, we would like to highlight the dedicated work of Health Director Bill Murphy and his team. We will continue to support town departments who help protect Sudbury citizens now and moving forward.

For further questions on EEE in our community, you can reach out to the Sudbury Health Department at health@sudbury.ma.us.

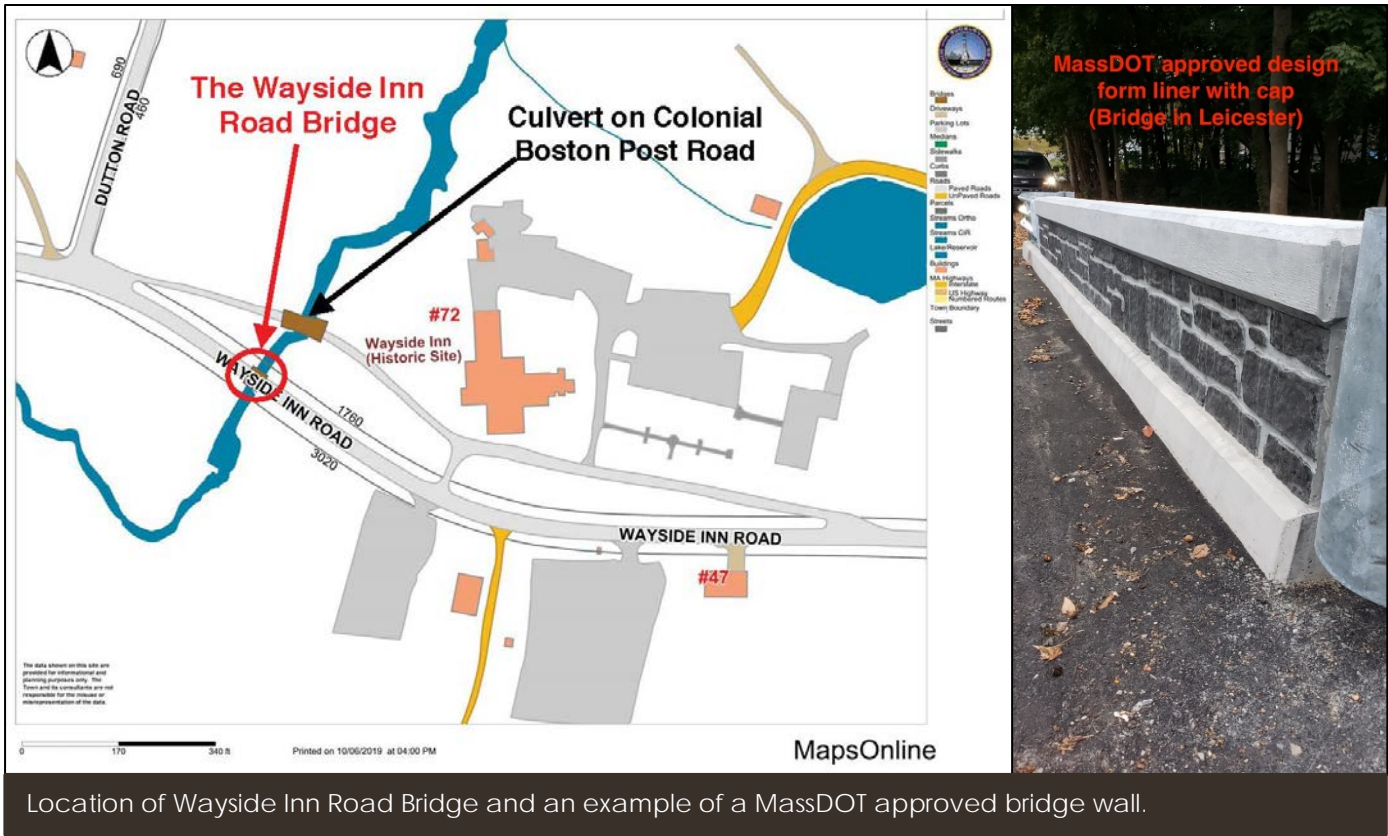
UPDATE ON THE WAYSIDE INN ROAD BRIDGE

By Vice-Chairman Pat Brown

The Wayside Inn Road Bridge, originally built in the 1890's, was last reconstructed in 2003. (The accompanying map shows which bridge we're talking

about.) Traffic crosses Hop Brook on Wayside Inn Road using the Wayside Inn Road Bridge. The culvert further north carrying the gravel cart path is

part of the actual historic Boston Post Road. The Wayside Inn Road Bridge is not a colonial structure but resides within the Wayside Inn Historic District.



Last July 4, a car hit the parapet wall on the north side of Wayside Inn Road Bridge, destroying the wall. Sudbury Department of Public Works (DPW) placed temporary jersey barriers along the edge of the bridge as a safety measure. The design of any bridge ten feet or longer and the associated guard rails must be approved by MassDOT (MGL Chapter 85 Section 35). This applies to either immediate “emergency” replacement of the bridge, or the construction of a temporary bridge to keep the road open during the multi-year design/approval/construction process for replacing the bridge using standard procurement.

Closing the bridge would require public safety (police cruisers customarily on Route 20 or fire equipment at the route 20 Fire Station) to travel either to Marlborough or up Peakham and down Dutton to reach neighborhoods north of Wayside Inn Road in the southwest corner of Sudbury, adding to emergency response time. This is a public safety concern.

Last summer DPW proposed moving forward quickly with a MassDOT off-the-shelf pre-approved design, like that in the above photo, in the expectation of reallocating available funds to proceed with

emergency reconstruction to be completed before the end of construction season this fall. The exceedingly rough estimate for this was several hundreds of thousands of dollars. A custom design to address esthetic concerns about the bridge requires (1) a temporary (at least two years) solution more robust than jersey barriers to meet MassDOT requirements and (2) a final solution, for which Town Meeting 2020 would be presented with a request for design funding; Town Meeting 2021 would be presented with a request for construction funding. We estimate that construction

would actually commence in the fall of 2021 or spring of 2022.

The Wayside Inn Road Bridge is a structure within the Wayside Inn Historic District, which is under the jurisdiction of the Sudbury Historic Districts Commission (SHDC). The SHDC was established by special act of the legislature—Chapter 40 of the Acts of 1963. The SHDC opened a hearing on August 1 to consider whether to issue a “certificate of appropriateness”

permitting one of the pre-approved MassDOT designs to replace the damaged bridge superstructure. This hearing was continued to August 8 and again to August 29. On August 29, the commission did not grant the certificate of appropriateness on a vote of 0 in favor to 5 opposed. This requires the multi-year planning and construction process.

The temporary solution will require single lane traffic, with

traffic signals, only while the construction of this temporary repair is being performed. Once the construction of the temporary repair is complete, two-way traffic will be reinstated. Then DPW must prepare one or more articles for Town Meeting requesting design funds this spring. The town will have the opportunity to discuss what historical, esthetic, financial and functional aspects we want in the new bridge.

FALL AT SEWATARO

By Selectman Bill Schineller

This October, the Town takes ownership of the 44 acre Sewataro property and donated camp assets. Residents of all ages can soon enjoy the property for outdoor leisure activities including tennis, basketball, picnicking, games, walking, jogging, biking, catch-and-release fishing, and cross-country skiing. This exciting new phase for the 60 year old camp follows the retirement of its former owners, the Taylors, affirmative Town Meeting and ballot votes last Spring to acquire the land, a competitive RFP process for a camp operator and property manager, and award of a three year management contract to Scott Brody. Under the agreement, Brody’s new Camp Sewataro, LLC will insure and

maintain the property year-round at no cost to the Town, and operate the revenue-generating day camp in the summer. The Town will receive a base \$120K annual payment, plus a net revenue share, totaling an estimated \$345K per year. (The estimate assumes historical Sewataro financials; to date, the new operator has retained Sewataro’s staff and reports strong 2020 camper enrollments. Capital improvements if deemed necessary by the Town could impact net revenue.) Pending Town approval, Sewataro will offer 50 discounted camper slots per two-week session to financially eligible Sudbury residents.



Kristen Drummey is Sewataro’s Community Liaison.

Mr. Brody took the opportunity to address the BOS on September 10 on the topic of public access, stating “I do not want anyone whose property taxes are going up because of this to feel like they are not getting incredible value.” An essential part of the

arrangement, he said, is the appointment of one of Sewataro's staff members to be community-facing, working with the public school system, Parks & Recreation Department, the Council on Aging, and any other community group, to be good program partners and figure out how Sewataro can serve them.

Open House

On Saturday, November 16 from 1PM-3PM, Sewataro will be hosting an Open House. Residents are invited to stop by to take a tour, play some basketball or tennis, or drop a line in the fishing pond! Remember to bring your own balls, rackets and poles, and please note that pets are not permitted on the property.

Community Liaison

Introducing Sewataro's first Community Liaison: Sudbury resident Kristen Drummey. Kristen received her PhD in Sociology from Boston College in 2007 (her dissertation: the Impact of Intergenerational Community Engagement on Educational Outcomes), has been a Sewataro counselor for several years, and has worked for Parks and Recreation. Kristen is actively arranging event and program-based community access. "I'm reaching out now



One of the ponds on the Sewataro property.

to groups like the Council on Aging "not to tell them what we will do for them, but to work with them to develop programs they want at Sewataro," she told me.

Sewataro is available for supervised programming starting this Fall. Soon, after the new operator adds signage, and makes the property safe and secure for public access, residents will be able to explore and enjoy for themselves. The handicapped accessible "Longhouse" Pavilion (capacity 600) will be available for larger gatherings.

During the school year, the Sewataro property will be open from dawn until dusk. From June 1 to August 31 (camp season), hours are 6pm-dusk on

weekdays, and 9am to dusk weekends and holidays, with public access to the front part of the parcel, including the large fields, the "Grassy Bowl" picnic areas, and the fishing and boating pond.

Kristen is excited to facilitate community programming. Already planned are a free "Ageless Grace Brain Health Fitness" series this spring, a Spring Kickoff Event, and a July 3rd celebration with music and entertainment for all ages, plus food trucks. For your programming needs, seniors, schools, Adult Ed, Parks & Rec, clubs, teams, playgroups, and other community organizations are encouraged to email kristen@sewataro.com.