

## TOWN OF SUDBURY

*Board of Selectmen*

[www.sudbury.ma.us](http://www.sudbury.ma.us)

278 Old Sudbury Road  
Sudbury, MA 01776-1843

978-639-3381

Fax: 978-443-0756

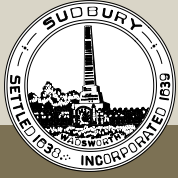
[selectmen@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:selectmen@sudbury.ma.us)

### **Sudbury Board of Selectmen Statement on Racial Justice**

We, the Sudbury Select Board, mourn the killing of George Floyd and numerous others who fell victim to excessive force and brutality, after centuries of ongoing injustice. We staunchly uphold the American values of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all our citizens. We share the anger and sadness of those who are standing up to say enough is enough and agree that the time has come for meaningful change.

As elected leaders we recognize our responsibility to understand racial inequality in Sudbury and help foster any needed change. It is our desire for Sudbury to be a place where all individuals can live happily, free of fear, and with equal access to opportunities, regardless of race. Better understanding and action in our own community can contribute to greater systemic change at a regional, state, and national level. In upcoming days and weeks, we will engage in conversation with leaders and citizens to comprehend the current state of racial equality in Sudbury. Then importantly, we will seek to identify concrete actions that can be taken to address any areas of concern and opportunity. We look forward to the conversation and ensuing steps to advance racial equality and justice in Sudbury. We also request that our Governor and Legislators pursue a similar path to understanding and change.

*Voted June 9, 2020 by Sudbury Board of Selectmen: Chairman Daniel E. Carty, Vice-Chair Patricia A. Brown, Selectman Janie W. Dretler, Selectman Jennifer S. Roberts and Selectman William J. Schineller.*



# BOARD OF SELECTMEN NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF SUDBURY

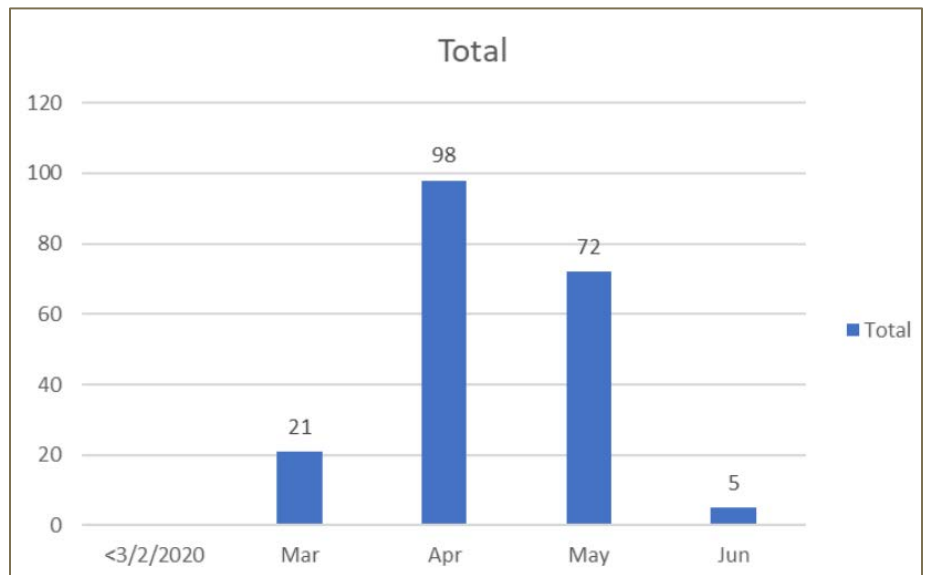
## CORONAVIRUS: RESPONDING TO THE PANDEMIC IN SUDBURY

By Bill Schineller, Member

The global Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020 will be remembered as a unique time in world and Sudbury history. Society grappled with early unknowns around how COVID-19 was transmitted, limited availability of testing to identify asymptomatic carriers, concerns about our health system’s capacity to handle a large influx of patients, and the lack of a cure or vaccine.

The Select Board has played a role in Sudbury’s response to COVID-19, taking its cues from our outstanding Health Department and Board of Health. At the March 3, 2020 Select Board meeting, Health Director Bill Murphy provided an update on Coronavirus during an agenda item originally planned for EEE. Since then, each Select Board meeting has had COVID at the top of the agenda.

Starting March 17, Select Board meetings have been conducted virtually, using Zoom



Confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Sudbury from March 2, 2020 through June 29, 2020. Find details at [sudbury.ma.us/coronavirus](http://sudbury.ma.us/coronavirus).

videoconferencing software. On March 18, 2020 the Town declared a State of Emergency, allowing the town to deficit spend if necessary, to protect the public. The Health Department took on additional staff to investigate each COVID-19 case in Sudbury, and has coordinated with the Mass Department of Public Health (Mass DPH) on guidelines to contain the spread. Our Health Director participates in the Governor’s calls with Mass DPH,

and our Town website provides trusted information on COVID-19 and a detailed timeline of updates at [sudbury.ma.us/coronavirus/](http://sudbury.ma.us/coronavirus/)

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Specific decisions on access to public facilities including schools, the Goodnow library, Fairbank Community Center, town offices, fields, courts, and playgrounds were arrived at collectively by the Town Manager, Health Department, and the schools. Business closures followed state guidelines.

On April 28, the Board voted to schedule Annual Town Meeting for September 15, giving more time for the effects of the pandemic on revenues to be understood, and for the FY2021 Town Manager’s budget to be revisited. This was done with the understanding that the FY2021 Budget will not be decided before the July 1 start of the new fiscal year, meaning, per Town Counsel, that the Town

will operate after June 30 on a monthly budget based on 1/12 of last year’s approved FY2020 budget.

On Tuesday, May 5, 2020, the Board of Selectmen voted to hold the Annual Town Election on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Originally scheduled for Monday, March 30, the Election was postponed after the Board of Selectmen voted to request emergency legislation, seeking authorization to delay and reschedule the Annual Town Election, as a safety measure responsive to COVID-19. In consultation with the Town Clerk and Health Director, the Town encourages VOTE BY MAIL as a precautionary measure. The Board approved the Warrant, reducing in-person voting hours on June 23 from 12pm to 8pm.

In mid-May, it was learned that Sudbury is eligible for \$1,730,468 through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act’s Coronavirus Relief Fund for states and municipalities. Funds may be used for necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19, but may not be used to substitute for lost revenue.

As Massachusetts begins to re-open according to Governor Baker’s phased plan, the Select Board will remain involved in matters such as approving local restaurant applications for temporary outdoor seating. The Town and the Board have continued to conduct business throughout the pandemic, and will continue to consult regularly with the Health Department.

## Comprehensive COVID-19 Resource Guide

Published March 26, 2020 | Social Worker | Updated June 30, 2020

Please click on the blue hyperlink text for more information.

**211:** One stop for information and resources related to COVID-19, basic needs, financial needs, housing, mental health and more. Call 2-1-1. Multiple languages.

**Ways to support Sudbury Residents:** Donation and volunteer opportunities.

### Tips to Stay Informed:

- Check websites of organizations/businesses frequently for changes or information.
- Stay up-to-date about local schools, faith communities, the Senior Center, and other local organizations who may be providing your community with support or assistance as needs change.
- Due to organizations being flooded with callers and or emails at this time, it is recommended that you visit websites for information prior to emailing or calling. Contact organizations directly with specific questions if needed.
- The new messaging tool called "AlertsMA" will allow residents to subscribe to real-time notifications by texting the keyword COVIDMA to 888-777. (Para Espanol, texto COVIDMAESP a 888-777.) After signing up, state and public health officials can send short messages and

### COVID-19 RESOURCES ON:

- Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault
- Employment
- Food & Basic Needs
- Financial Help
- Health, Medical
- Housing
- Immigrants & Refugees
- Mental Health, Emotional Support
- Report Abuse, Neglect
- Support for Parents, Caregivers
- Self-Care
- Seniors
- Substance Use Coping Support
- Veterans
- Volunteer & Donation Opportunities
- And more

COVID-19 Resource Guide: <https://sudbury.ma.us/socialworker/?p=1581>

## UPDATE ON THE FAIRBANK COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT

By Jennifer Roberts, Member

The Select Board would like to continue to update citizens about the progression of the Fairbank Community Center (“Fairbank”) project. This Spring the plan to bring the new Fairbank proposal to Sudbury citizens was put on hold along with the Annual Town Meeting due to COVID-19. The Town Meeting is now scheduled for September, and the project is slated to be on the warrant. The Fairbank Town Forum, originally planned for March 28th, will also be rescheduled for a date prior to the Town Meeting. This Forum will serve as an opportunity for the project leads to present the proposal and answer questions from the public.

The Fairbank Community Center is home to Sudbury’s Senior Center, Park and Recreation Department, and Sudbury Public Schools Administrative offices. Below is a listing of some of the valuable services these groups offer the community.

### Senior Center

Life-long learning programs, social activities, fitness sessions, meal delivery, financial, legal and health counselling services, transportation.



The sign at the Fairbank Community Center entrance.

### Park and Recreation

Youth summer and school vacation camps, half-day Wednesday after-school programming, early childhood programs, sports/arts/science sessions, and Atkinson pool for individuals and swim/dive teams.

### Sudbury Public Schools

Superintendent Office, Finance, Technology, Student Services, Business Office, Human Resources.

In addition to housing the three core user groups, Fairbank also serves as a community voting center and Sudbury’s main disaster shelter facility.

Currently, the Fairbank building is deteriorating and in need of continuous repairs and maintenance. The aging roof is prone to leaks and resulting water damage, and the boiler system has constant challenges. The energy management system is lacking in its temperature control, leading to inefficient and increased energy consumption. Much of the building’s interior is old and worn dating back to the original 1958 building. Space is inadequate and inefficient for the Senior Center and Park and Recreation, restricting the volume and variety of programs that can be offered to the public. The Sudbury Public School wing is aging and suboptimal with small,



disconnected offices and insufficient meeting space.

The final proposed Community Center building is a result of over a year of hard work by the Fairbank Working Group comprised of members of the three primary user groups as well as the Select Board and other Town staff. Highlights of the new building include additional space for desired programming, a more effective and efficient layout, increased space sharing opportunities between user groups, improved

energy efficiency, and expanded shelter capabilities.

An improved multi-generational community center can enhance the quality of life for Sudbury citizens. It can serve as an affordable and convenient location for individuals to learn, socialize, exercise, and receive other valuable services. Sudbury's older citizens, families, and schools will benefit from a better facility that properly meets the needs for all.

On December 17, 2019, the Select Board voted unanimously to include the Fairbank project article on the Town Meeting warrant which would raise appropriate funding (\$28,832,000). If approved (2/3 vote required), the funds would be for the design, permitting, and construction of the new Community Center. The project would then proceed to a vote at a subsequent Town election.



CONSENSUS SOLUTION OVERHEAD

Fairbank Community Center Proposal Rendering

## TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES

By Dan Carty, Chair

Back last summer I wrote in this forum about Transportation and the Sudbury Transportation Committee. I talked about how the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA) had launched a shuttle down Route 20 to connect Sudbury to the Riverside T station and how we had also been granted \$80,000 Community Compact Best Practices grant to implement the "Making the Connections" initiative. The Transportation Committee has dubbed this initiative "Go Sudbury!" and has worked with Uber to help make it so qualified individuals will be able to call for a subsidized ride within and outside of Sudbury to fill the gaps when other on-demand options, public vans, and shuttles are not running, don't connect to other lines, or don't go where riders need to go. Sadly the MWRTA has paused the Route 20 shuttle due to low ridership brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. We continue though to work with Uber and hope to launch our Go Sudbury! pilot soon.

One new initiative that people might be interested in is directly related to COVID-19 and transportation. Recently the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) announced a grant opportunity whereas they would provide emergency funding for state and municipal

agencies to help meet the transportation and delivery needs of vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 emergency. This grant is being funded through a portion the MassDevelopment Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Fund (TIEF) collected from calendar years 2017, 2018, and 2019. The purpose of the fund is to provide financial assistance to small businesses operating in the taxicab, livery, or hackney industries to encourage the adoption of new technologies and advanced service, safety and operational capabilities and support workforce development. This emergency grant program is designed to achieve this goal while focusing on emergency funding to assist vulnerable populations with transportation services that will help them to physically distance, remain in their homes, access housing or shelter if they need to do so, obtain critical supplies such as food or medicine, or access jobs for essential workers. Our committee has partnered with nearby taxi companies that are compliant with Center for Disease Control guidance to provide sedan and wheelchair accessible vehicle rides to older residents, veterans, those financially vulnerable, and persons with disabilities. We have asked for

\$23,260 and hope to hear back from MAPC soon.

While I enjoy my role on the Board of Selectmen I particularly appreciate working with the Transportation committee and want to extend my gratitude to each of them. I am continually impressed with their dedication to Sudbury and its people like them that make this a great town. Our members are mix of Town staff and various committee members, including Sandy Lasky from the Council on Aging, Alice Sapienza our Livable Sudbury Ambassador, Planning Director Adam Duchesneau, DPW Director Dan Nason, Senior Center Director Deb Galloway, and Doug Frey from the Commission on Disability. We also have an advisory group that includes Police Chief Scott Nix, Charlie Dunn from the Chamber of Commerce, Town Social Worker Bethany Hadvab, Beth Suedmeyer from our Planning Department, Ellen Joachim from the LS School Committee, Lisa Kouchakdjian from the SPS School committee, State Representative Carmine Gentile, and our "unofficial members" Kay Bell and Linda Faust. Thank you all!

## BRUCE FREEMAN RAIL TRAIL – A JEWEL FOR SUDBURY, A REGIONAL ASSET FOR ALL

By Janie Dretler, Member

The past few months have been challenging for our community, country, and the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Civil unrest underscoring racial injustices have only deepened the level of despair. I truly believe we will get through this together, sadly, not without great loss and only with intense work.

One of the ways my family and I have been coping with all the uncertainty and isolation is by enjoying the abundant open spaces in Sudbury and in our adjacent communities. A favorite recreational location of ours is the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT), located in our neighboring communities to the north. It offers opportunities for safe, accessible biking, walking, and rollerblading. I often come across Sudbury residents and families enjoying the rail trail just across the town line in Concord.

The question I hear most often from residents is, “When will the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail be built in Sudbury?” Beth Suedmeyer, Sudbury’s Environmental Planner, provides a status update on the project below. In

addition, I reached out to other BFRT towns, Concord, Acton, Westford, and Chelmsford, to learn about the impacts of having the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail in their communities. I appreciate their responses which I have also included below.

### **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Design Process Update - 25% Design Final Coordination with MassDOT**

The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) Phase 2D, associated with a 4.4-mile rail bed from the Concord town line to Station Road, a ¼ mile north of Route 20 in Sudbury, project is nearing the [Massachusetts Department of Transportation \(MassDOT\) 25% Design Public Hearing \(DPH\)](#) stage scheduled for July 16, 2020. The Town and MassDOT have been working closely to resolve outstanding comments received by MassDOT after their review of the 25% design submitted by the Town and its consultants in November 2019. The Town received comments from MassDOT at the end of March, and the rail trail design consultants, VHB and Jacobs,

submitted their response to MassDOT in April. A comment resolution meeting with MassDOT was held on May 6th and primarily focused on questions for VHB about the path design, intersection designs, and landscaping. Review of the boardwalk design proposed south of Hudson Road continues. Likewise, additional comment resolution meetings will be held to discuss traffic safety and intersection details for several rail trail and roadway intersections.

The MassDOT DPH on July 16 is a significant milestone in the project development process, during which MassDOT and the design consultants present the project to the community and seek public comment. MassDOT has adopted DPH meeting procedures under the Covid-19 response guidelines. Accordingly, the DPH will involve a virtual process with a pre-recorded presentation available online and via SudburyTV. Public comments will be submitted to MassDOT in writing while the pre-recorded presentation is available. The presentation will be broadly

publicized and will allow for sufficient promotion and public comment.

MassDOT is requesting the last ½-mile of the Concord section, from Powder Mill Road to the Sudbury town line, which was designed as part of Phase 2C, but not yet constructed, be included in the construction project for Phase 2D in Sudbury. Sudbury is coordinating with the Town of Concord and MassDOT to ensure smooth integration of this section of trail into design and construction documents.

**Boston MPO Construction Funding Approved for BFRT in 2022**

On May 28, 2020 the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) voted to endorse the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Federal Fiscal Years 2021-2025 which includes Sudbury’s BFRT Phase 2D project, allocating \$13.4M in state and federal funds for Federal Fiscal Year 2022, to construct the rail trail from the Concord border south to Station Road. The project construction funding allocation was first approved by the MPO in 2017 and is updated annually. This year the construction cost estimate for the project increased from \$9.3 million to \$13.4 million largely due to updated construction

cost estimates for the bridge and boardwalk designs.

**Comments from other Bruce**

**Freeman Rail Trail Communities:**

*“As a resident in Concord, the trail has been a most welcome addition to Concord’s outdoor recreation and nature facilities – I love it.”*

- Michael Lawson, Chair, Select Board, Town of Concord

*“Given the feedback that I have received, the community has finally embraced the rail trail – people of all different ages are using the path as a place that brings folks together – they appreciate the quiet of the trail through some beautiful natural areas, they are grateful to be away from vehicular traffic, and they are using it as a place to build and share community.”*

- Marcia Rasmussen, ASLA, Director of Planning & Land Management, Town of Concord

*“My experience with the BFRT dates back to the 1980s when I was Properties Director for the Town of Acton, through a number of years when after retirement I served (and continue to serve) on the CPC, and into my present role as Selectman. At CPC we look at BFRT to be the signature project for the CPA, and uniformly credit our long time Town Planner for his dedication and*

*tenacity in bringing this project to fruition. I recently walked a portion of the BFRT with a friend. The trail was spotlessly clean and users were safely distanced. I stopped to chat with life-long friends, who own Bursaw Gas & Oil and are direct commercial neighbors to the trail. They are avid supporters of the trail and take advantage of it for lunchtime walks. Other commercial neighbors, such as Donelan’s, Dunkin’, Powers Gallery, and Pedal Power have provided formal and informal access points to the trail, and it would be interesting to try to figure out, after the pandemic, how substantial the positive economic impact of the trail is on those businesses.*

*I must credit our Planning Department for their long-term vision for the critical need for parking and access points. Every time a site plan came for approval, they looked at how the site would eventually interact with the BFRT and worked with the applicants to secure access points and parking areas. As a result, there are multiple parking and access points along the trail in Acton and none get overloaded. This also allows users to pick the length of their journeys.*

*In my time on CPC and BOS, I am not aware of any complaints about the trail and the trail*



users. I have done the entire trail several times, in segments, from Acton to Lowell, and have had nothing but positive feelings about it. I have used rail trails on Prince Edward Island, Lake Tahoe, and Cape Cod, and have never seen any problems, and I think BFRT is equally a credit to the community."

- Dean A. Charter, Clerk,  
Board of Selectmen,  
Town of Acton

"The BFRT has been a very welcome addition to our Town and is in constant use. We look forward to the construction of the Route 2 overpass to connect the trail [in Acton] with Concord. I was on the CPC last decade and Town Meeting overwhelmingly supported Acton's required share of the engineering and design costs. Our retiring Town Planner has earned high recognition for his work with abutters and others in making Acton's portion of the trail a reality."

- Jon Benson, Board of  
Selectmen, Town of  
Acton

"To date, we have only experienced positives, in my opinion. There were nervous neighbors in the beginning, but I am not aware of any issues that neighbors have experienced. We originally tried, but failed, to get rail trail parking lots approved, so we do not have parking lots for the trail. We have had no crimes committed since it opened. We maintain it through our Recreation Department, but maintenance has been minimal."

- Jodi Ross, Town Manager,  
Town of Westford

"Chelmsford has had a very favorable experience with the BFRT over the past decade (our portion of the trail opened in 2009). In fact, the rail trail is named after the late Chelmsford resident and State Representative, Bruce Freeman.

Change is always difficult because of its uncertain outcome. During the planning and permitting process, there was significant opposition from residents who directly abutted the rail trail. They were concerned about

crime, trespassing, and other negative effects. Another initial concern was parking. Some residents were concerned that cars would be parked along neighborhood roadways that are crossed by the rail trail. This problem was addressed by providing adequate designated parking areas along the rail trail route. Those concerns have all gone away and the BFRT is now seen as a positive amenity. The rail trail is heavily used by pedestrians and bicyclists, provides safe passageway to our town center, Heart pond, open spaces, and serves as a link to other communities."

- Paul E. Cohen, Town  
Manager, Town of  
Chelmsford

## BFRT DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

JULY 16, 2020

<https://sudbury.ma.us/pcd/?p=2498>

Public Hearing Comments Accepted through July 30, 2020.

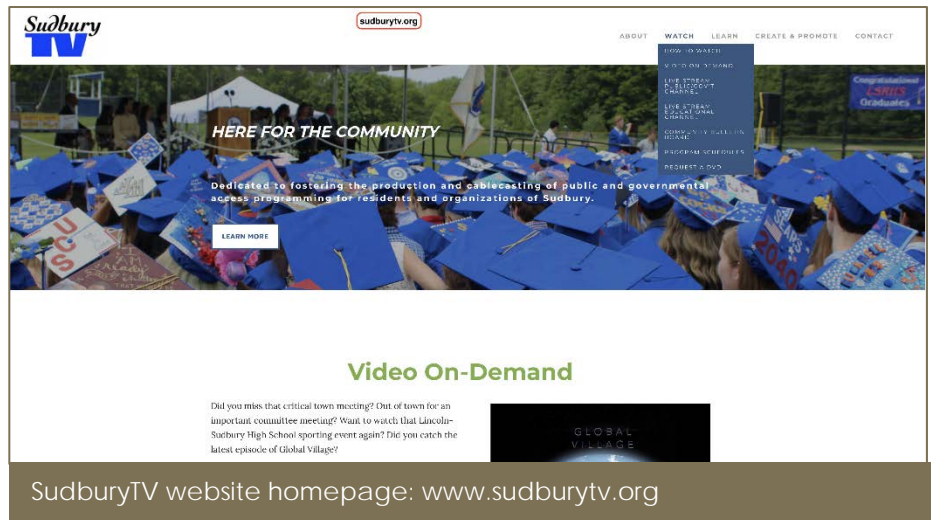
## SUDBURYTV

By Pat Brown, Vice-Chair

Sudbury TV is the town's go-to agency for recording and publicizing public meetings. If you're following town government, you know how necessary they are to providing access to the meetings of town government. Executive Director Lynn Puorro met with me on Zoom to talk about who SudburyTV is, what they do, and how things have changed for them post-COVID.

As Lynn told me, "Back in March, just before the 'two-week' shutdown, we moved all of our portable production equipment out of the school. The broadcast infrastructure remains in the studio at the high school where we continue to use it remotely. However, having physical access to the cameras and microphones allows us to produce new footage for events like the Memorial Day Service and Municipal Minute."

The ability for SudburyTV to operate remotely from the Lincoln-Sudbury studio relies upon technology upgrades they completed in 2016. The SudburyTV network connecting town facilities was upgraded to



all-digital using readily available parts, which both increased the reliability of the network and the quality of the broadcast. Staff can work from home during the COVID emergency using this technology.

The official name for SudburyTV is Sudbury Access Corporation (SAC). As part of the cable franchise agreement the Town receives a fee from service providers Verizon and Comcast (this is the "PEG Grant Fee" on your cable bill) which is turned over to SudburyTV to pay for their operations and capital costs. Each October SudburyTV presents its financial and operating reports to the Select Board, as required under its contract with the town. They are not funded in the town's budget. Jeff Winston, who has

been the town's Cable Advisor since the SudburyTV nonprofit was formed in 2008 and was on the town's cable committee for twenty years prior to that, continues as the official contact within town government for the cable access television services provided by SudburyTV.

What is PEG programming? PEG stands for Public, Educational, Government.

"Public" means not only that the content is available to the public, but also that the public can generate the programming. Sudbury TV holds adult education workshops at their studio at Lincoln-Sudbury High School to train aspiring producers, showing how to use the SudburyTV equipment

under their supervision to produce broadcast-quality videos. The only requirement is that the video must be available to show on the broadcast channels. SudburyTV also trains individual volunteers in a variety of capacities to help with SudburyTV productions. Additionally, as a summer offering through Sudbury Parks & Recreation SudburyTV holds a summer camp production workshop for middle school students.

“Educational” programming is both training interested students in how to produce video—both Curtis and LS have TV clubs—and covering and airing school events like performances and sports. SudburyTV is looking for volunteers to do play-by-play

announcing so they can cover more LS games.

“Government” programming covers a myriad of town meetings: Town Meeting, but also Select Board meetings and other boards and committees as well. Recently, SudburyTV has joined with the new Town Manager and town staff to produce Municipal Minutes, allowing us to meet our new Town Manager and to see how town departments cope with the challenges of COVID.

Recorded broadcasts of all types are available as video on demand. Check out the salutes to the LS Grads of 2020 from Sudbury Town Officials—a tribute to our seniors from town government produced by SudburyTV.

Over the years Lynn has seen the collaborative relationship between SudburyTV and town staff, including the Senior Center, Select Board office, and Planning Department, grow and strengthen. This cooperation promotes better service. Because of the longstanding understanding and communication between the town and SudburyTV—not to mention the expertise and dedication the SudburyTV staff provide--they can deliver better service to all of us.

SudburyTV is an incredible asset for the town. I encourage you to visit the SudburyTV website at [sudburytv.org](http://sudburytv.org), and to check out all the offerings available to you there.

## VIRTUAL COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

# RACE AND SAFETY

**WATCH:**  
**[SUDBURYTV.ORG](http://SUDBURYTV.ORG)**

**LEARN MORE:**  
**[SUDBURY.MA.US/CONVERSATION](http://SUDBURY.MA.US/CONVERSATION)**

MODERATED  
BY



**Brandale Randolph**  
Founder 1854 Cycling Co.  
Co-Founder Project Poverty



**Jada Edwards**  
L-SRHS  
Class of 2020

