

BOARD OF SELECTMEN NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF SUDBURY

REFLECTIONS ON MY TIME AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD

By Pat Brown, Vice-Chair

I've been honored to serve on the Sudbury Board of Selectmen (soon to become Select Board!) since 2014. There's been a lot of change over that time. Here's my quick retrospective on the past six years:

Challenges

Civility—or rather, the lack thereof—was a big theme the first year I was on the Board. Starting with an explosive election of chair at my very first meeting, the year continued with numerous other contentious meetings and online altercations. By the end of the year, the Sudbury Clergy Association requested that town residents and officials engage with the Harvard Negotiation and Mediation Clinical Program to address our civic discord. The Harvard Listening Project report, released in spring of 2015, led to the Board's engaging Jon Wortman to help us better

communicate with one another.

The Board received numerous Open Meeting Law (OML) complaints in the fall of 2014, many of which led to determinations against the town by the Attorney General's Office. In addition to the required online training, in-person training on the OML was given by Town Counsel in April of 2015 to all town elected and appointed officials.

Vocational Education

The Town carefully studied a request from the Minuteman Vocational Regional High School District to re-open the Regional Agreement to facilitate funding construction of a new school building. By 2016, Town Meeting approved Sudbury's withdrawal from the Minuteman Regional District as of July 2017 under the newly



Vice-Chair Pat Brown will step down as member of the Board of Selectmen upon the conclusion of Annual Town Meeting this September.

Contents

Pat Brown's Reflections	1
Brandale Randolph Interview ..	3
EEE Update.....	5
Sudbury Park & Recreation	7
Eversource Project Update	9

revised Regional Agreement. Sudbury's vocational students continue to attend Minuteman and other vocational schools as out of district students.

Rail Trail

2014 Annual Town Meeting approved \$250,000 for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) 25% design, and the Board selected contractor VHB to undertake this project.

Proposals for a greenway in 2014 were defeated. The BFRT project was delayed by litigation in 2015, and further complicated by the destruction of the Pantry Brook trestle in 2016, but it was ultimately supported by more than \$1.1 million of additional design funds (\$150,000 in CPA funds from Article 42, ATM 2016; \$330,000 in free cash from Article 14, ATM 2017; \$650,000 in free cash from Article 7, STM October 2017) and is scheduled for construction in 2022. Efforts to extend the project into the CSX-owned portion of the railroad corridor constitute a separate effort currently underway.

Development and Construction Projects

The town developed a vision for re-development of the Raytheon property (now Meadow Walk) on Route 20 since the announcement in 2014 of their intent to close.

Additionally, in September of 2015, the Sudbury Station development filed a proposal for a 250-unit development in Town Center under the state's 40B affordable housing legislation. And in March of 2016, the town was confronted with the Eversource High Voltage Transmission project along the MBTA east-west rail right of way, and mobilized in opposition.

Remember when the new Police Station was opened in December of 2015? When the Town Center project was begun in 2015, and blessedly culminated by the summer of 2016? The years of analysis leading up to the first Fairbank proposal (Indefinitely Postponed rather than presented by the Fairbank Task Force in 2016), the second Fairbank proposal (presented but defeated at Town Meeting and at the polls in 2018) and now the new proposal? Purchasing Johnson Farm, Broadacres, and Sewataro? The unprecedented turnout at the December 2018 Special Town Meeting to decide on the "Melone Land Swap," effectively moving the Sudbury Station development to the former Melone gravel pit and securing the land in Town Center for the town?

Changes

There has been significant turnover of Sudbury Town staff during my time in office. In my six years on the Board, I have worked with 3 Town Counsels, 3 Town Managers (and one Interim Town Manager, twice!), 3 Finance Directors, 3 Town Planners, 3 Park and Recreation Directors, 2 DPW Directors, 2 Combined Facilities Directors, 2 Fire Chiefs, 2 Town Clerks, 2 Conservation Coordinators and 2 Building Inspectors. It seems change has been the only constant. While we miss those who have retired and moved on to other opportunities, we have an excellent team in place, working hard to innovate for Sudbury's present and future.

There has been a complete turnover on the Board as well. Long time Selectman Larry O'Brien did not run for re-election in 2015; we had a hotly contested election for two open seats that saw Susan Iuliano and Chuck Woodard join the Board. In 2017, Dan Carty was elected to fill the post vacated by Chuck Woodard; in 2018, Dan Carty and Janie Dretler were elected; in 2019 new members Jennifer Roberts and Bill Schineller stepped up to fill the openings when Selectmen Haarde and Simon stepped down. Finally, in 2020 Charlie Russo defeated

me to win election to the Select Board.

What am I proudest of? I'm not sure whether it's the Melone land swap, which preserved our historic town center from high density development, or the resulting effect of achieving the "10%" affordable housing stock required by MGL Chapter 40B—effectively removing the ability of developers to bypass local zoning and other concerns whenever they announce plans to build affordable housing. As a result, when we build new

affordable housing, we will do it within the regulations governing everyone else. In addition, the town's continuing stalwart opposition to the Eversource proposal in cooperation with the Protect Sudbury organization is an inspiring instance of community commitment and spirit.

Where could we improve? The efforts to formulate strong financial policies were stymied by a requirement to hear from DLS (Division of Local Services), which effectively delayed

efforts by over a year. And, sadly, we have yet to achieve the goal of the 2014 Listening Project, which is to improve civility.

My time on the Board has been, as they say, quite a ride. It's definitely been an education, and an opportunity to meet and to work with some incredible people both past and present, staff and volunteer. Thank you all for the honor and privilege of serving during these exciting years.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON RACE AND SAFETY

My interview with Brandale Randolph

By Dan Carty, Chairman

As a white, middle-aged, middle-class male living in suburbia, to say that the killing of George Floyd and the subsequent actions nationally and locally have opened my eyes and highlighted my ignorance and blind spots, is a gross understatement. In an effort to educate myself, I participated as a panelist in Sudbury's recent "Community Conversation on Race and Safety," a forum that truly impacted me as members of our own Sudbury community told their stories and shared their experiences. Since the forum, I have discussed what next steps we as a community should take with Town Manager Henry Hayes, and under his leadership I am



Brandale Randolph moderated Sudbury's Community Conversation on Race and Safety in June 2020.

confident we will continue to move forward. Personally, I wanted to further my discussion with Brandale Randolph, the gentleman who moderated our forum alongside L-SRHS alum Jada Edwards. I could spend this entire article talking about his extremely impressive background; instead I would encourage you to look up his work, starting perhaps with his 2014 TEDx Talk

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6ZWKSbeD9w>).

Thanks for meeting with me today. I've got to tell you, I think you and (Community Conversation co-moderator) Jada knocked it out of the park. For me, it was very enlightening and very educational. And I really think that it's had that impact on a lot of people. Was that the first time you've done a forum like that? I've done them in the past - I've usually sat between communities that were in sort of a dispute with the city, so to speak. Take for example a community that is involved in too many shootings and gang violence but is a city that wants to do something. So imagine on one side you have a mayor, police chief, etc. On the other side, you've got people from the community talking and then there's me in the middle. My role is often to be quiet, let them speak, so you get to the honest dialogue. But that was the first time that I've done it without community feedback. Without actual people

from the community hearing it, having their questions addressed by these people that are sitting on stage.

You mean a non-live

environment? Yes, which was very interesting because I didn't get a chance to watch it while it happened and to see any feedback from the town or the people, how they responded to it. And I'm still curious about how they responded to some of the things said. But I'm also curious about how the town responds. I've had another sit-down meeting with (Police Chief) Scott Nix, who is awesome by the way, we're talking about how police can bridge this gap with their community. And I definitely think that he's on the right path with that. I definitely think that the forum works if everyone gets the chance to speak and be brutally honest about their feelings, emotions and experiences, but without their brutal honesty, there's no need to have it. And that's why I appreciate a lot of the participants. They were able to be brutally honest about it.

Was there anything about the

forum that surprised you? I need to give Henry and his team credit - I didn't know, particularly the police chief and the schools, how they would respond to the questions. But I also didn't know they would be so prepared to answer these questions. And I appreciate that

preparedness, giving them the questions in advance and allowing them to go back, like for instance, (Police Chief) Scott to say yes, this is how we screen for white supremacists or the school superintendents saying we have this data, this is how we interpret the data, and this is what we're going to do with it. I think that was really interesting and really awesome because I think that, if we were to do it again, having some of our officials prepared to answer some of the detailed questions does make the conversation more valuable. I think that was something that I'd never seen. But I also appreciate the that there were no questions where anyone from the town came back and said "I'm not going to answer that." I appreciate that they didn't shy away from any of those questions, and I really think that was great. I think that's one of the unique things about it, because you can get a situation where people from the town don't want to be held accountable for some of the bad things going on or they push you off and blame someone else. So they'll avoid the question or they'll shift blame. I thought that was really a great statement about Sudbury and I think that's one of the unique things you guys can hang your hats on and say you've elected really good people to do some really good work.

I think our conversation could have gone on for a couple of days but we only had a couple of hours. We talked a little bit about housing but not as much time as some of the other topics.

In terms of housing, what the idea has to be is how the new buildings and apartments and the expansions are marketed to people. When someone says 40B, people think increased traffic and other problems. It's not the same response you get when you say we're going to build a new housing community of freestanding, multi-million dollar houses in a gated community or we're going to build luxury condos. It's this perception that you're bringing in a bunch of poor people who drive cars back and forth. Developers have to be mindful of how they present to a town like Sudbury, because I see it in Framingham all the time. If they talk about building a monstrosity,

a three hundred unit complex, it may not go over if you call it affordable housing. It may not go over if you tag it with 40B. But if they say, well, we're going to have some units that are going to be affordable, it just seems to go over very well. But the idea that you're bringing in low income housing is still based on some old bias, rhetoric and stereotypes that come in and plague those things.

Based on what you heard, what could we do better? Really address the issues going on with the students from the METCO program, those unique needs and challenges. I hope that something resonated to a point where they are going to institute some changes in the structure of how it all works...I think that Sudbury's on a road to something great. And I think that if Sudbury figures out how to deal with the METCO program in particular, it could set

a model for everybody else, and I think that's where the focus should be. I think, as a town, Sudbury should focus on how do we incorporate METCO into our daily lives within our community as a way of showing it how it should be. I think that's something that you guys can do. I think it's something that's doable.

I very much appreciate your time and I wish you the best of luck with your business and all your future endeavors. I'm happy to call you friend now, and hopefully this isn't the last time we speak. Yes, right! Thank you.

The Community Conversation on Race and Safety aired on SudburyTV on Thursday, June 25. To learn more and watch the program, please visit <https://sudbury.ma.us/conversation>.

EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS (EEE) IN 2020

By Jennifer Roberts, Member

While COVID-19 has dominated recent news as a significant public health threat, public health workers have also been carefully watching the signs for an outbreak of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), a dangerous mosquito-borne illness. EEE is a rare but serious infection without a broad-scale treatment or vaccine. It typically occurs in cycles with

two to three-year outbreaks occurring approximately every decade; 2019 was considered the start of a new cycle.

Although the virus is typically found in Southeastern MA, it was more widespread in 2019 when there were 12 cases of the virus resulting in 6 fatalities. Nationally, the CDC confirmed 38 cases and 15 fatalities, with

nearly a third of the cases occurring in Massachusetts. In Sudbury, a young child acquired the virus leading to an outpouring of support for her well-being and recovery. I (and I know many others) continue to hold the child and family in my thoughts and wish for continued progress.

It is yet to be known how extensive the EEE threat will be this year. Two humans have tested positive for the virus in Plymouth and Hampden counties. It has been found in 64 tested mosquito samples.

I had the opportunity to discuss EEE with Sudbury's Health Director, Bill Murphy, and Brian Farless of The East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project. Together they informed me about efforts of the state and Sudbury to help minimize an outbreak.

Actions by the State

After last years' experience, the state has increased the number of locations and frequency of testing to monitor EEE activity. It has been regularly providing information to public health officials to share with their local communities. In 2019, as EEE numbers increased throughout Massachusetts, the state conducted adulticide aerial spraying via airplanes, including in Sudbury. This type of aerial spraying has not been done in our region this summer to date.

Actions in Sudbury

In Sudbury, our Health Department, in partnership with the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project, takes a science-based approach to mosquito control, targeting them both in early and mid-life

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
EEE PREVENTION

Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) is a rare but serious disease caused by a virus that is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. Here's how to protect yourself and your family:

APPLY INSECT REPELLENT WHEN OUTDOORS
Use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient (DEET, permethrin, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus) according to the instructions on the product label.

AVOID PEAK MOSQUITO HOURS
The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities.

WEAR LONG-SLEEVES, LONG PANTS AND SOCKS WHEN OUTDOORS

MOSQUITO-PROOF YOUR HOME
Drain standing water and install or repair screens on windows.

Department of Public Health
600 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111
www.mass.gov/dph

cycle. In May, the Control Project conducted its annual Spring larvicide spraying via helicopter. As is routine, they have also carried out truck-side adulticide spraying twice this summer in various neighborhoods throughout Sudbury. In addition to spraying, mosquitos are monitored via traps throughout town where they are captured and tested for various diseases. The Health

Department has been putting out regular updates on the spraying efforts as well as informational pieces for the public.

What Can You Do

Health Director Bill Murphy emphasizes that citizens should stay as informed as possible on developments concerning EEE. The Health Department regularly makes posts to its

webpage with helpful data and up-to-date resources. He describes key precautionary measures as The Big Three: Applying insect repellent with DEET, wearing clothing that maximizes coverage, and spending minimal time outside before dawn and after dusk. Additionally, it is considered beneficial to avoid standing water on your property where possible.

COVID-19 and EEE

Health Director Bill Murphy recognizes that spending more time outside due to COVID-19 (both for recreation and safer socializing) can seem in

contradiction with protecting against EEE. However, he says, "I want people to go outside and enjoy themselves, but be smart. It is important for public health and well-being." He added that he also supports Sudbury schools seeking to maximize outdoor learning but that insect repellent would need to be included in classroom safety protocols. Like health officials throughout Massachusetts, Murphy will follow EEE developments closely to understand if additional safety measures need to be taken as the summer and fall progress.

The Board of Selectmen thank the Sudbury Health Department, Sudbury Board of Health, and East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project for their ongoing efforts to protect Sudbury citizens against EEE. For further questions on EEE in our community, you can reach out to the Sudbury Health Department at health@sudbury.ma.us or check out their webpage at: <https://sudbury.ma.us/health/>.

SUDBURY PARK AND RECREATION

Stewarding the place where Sudbury comes together to work, play and learn

By Janie Dretler, Member

Mission: *The Park and Recreation Department provides affordable recreation programs and facilities for all Sudbury residents. The Department offers aquatics, toddler programs, summer camps, after school programs, teen center, fitness and general programming for all ages.*

 Sudbury Summer Camp	 Adult Fitness	 Teen Center
 Preschool Pals	 Wild Wednesdays	 Athletic Programs
 Terrific Twos	 School vacation programs	 Arts, Music and Drama

A sampling of the programs offered by Sudbury Park & Recreation.

The Fairbank Community Center has been a valuable community resource since opening its doors in 1983. The Center is the home to Park and Recreation, Atkinson Pool, the

Senior Center, and the Sudbury Public Schools Administrative Offices. It is also the site for the Town's emergency shelter, an election voting location, and

home to many of the Town's summer camps. The Park and Recreation (P&R) space is located in the former 1950s Fairbank Elementary

School building, which includes the pool (built in 1987), pool lobby, two non-adjacent program rooms, toddler room and toddler gym, and the small (former elementary sized school) gym.

The P&R Department through its various programs serves as the hub of activity for youth, families, senior citizens, civic organizations, and more. P&R helps to develop a culture of physical wellbeing, mental health, and education.

Meet the Park & Recreation Staff

In December, Dennis Mannone Jr. joined the Town of Sudbury as Director of Park, Recreation and Aquatics. Dennis also served as Sudbury's Recreation Director from 2002-2008. His prior experience and expertise have helped the Park and Recreation Department (P&R) through uniquely challenging times these past few months due to COVID-19. Despite the cancellation of our wonderful

summer camp programs this summer, Dennis and his staff rallied to create a multi-week mini-camp experience for the Sudbury's children (ages 7-11). The P&R also created a swim lesson program so that children could continue to learn to swim – a critical life skill.

Working alongside Dennis, are:

- Pat Haberstroh, *Office Coordinator*
- Lynne Ziffer, *Aquatic Coordinator*
- Kaitlin Gevry, *Aquatic Program Coordinator*
- Crispin Gilbert, *Head Lifeguard*
- Christine Sturniola, *Rec. Program Coordinator*
- Tricia Sardagnola, *Youth/Teen Coordinator*
- Heather Radenberg, *Preschool Coordinator*

Programming

The Park and Recreation Department is currently offering Pop Up programs for 7-9 year olds into early September and is excited to offer many fall programs from fitness, archery, toddler program, swim lessons and much more. The

information will be coming out late August with sign ups in early September. Current offerings can be found at <https://sudburyrec.com/info/default.aspx>. Once you create your Park and Recreation account, an email will be sent to you with program information and updates.

Like or follow Sudbury Recreation on Facebook ([@SudburyParkRec](https://www.facebook.com/SudburyParkRec)).

We hope you take advantage of the wonderful programs offered by Sudbury's Park and Recreation Department!

Links

- [Rebuilding the Fairbank Community Center](#)
- [Park and Recreation Usage Information](#)
- [Facilities Issues with existing Fairbank Community Center Building](#)
- [Fairbank Community Center – Existing Conditions](#)

Town of Sudbury ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

SAT, SEPT 12, 2020 | 9AM | LSRHS

2020 Annual Town Meeting has been rescheduled to Saturday, September 12, 2020. The Meeting will be held **outdoors** at Lincoln-Sudbury Reg. High School athletic fields as a COVID-19 precautionary measure.

Learn more at:
sudbury.ma.us/townmeeting

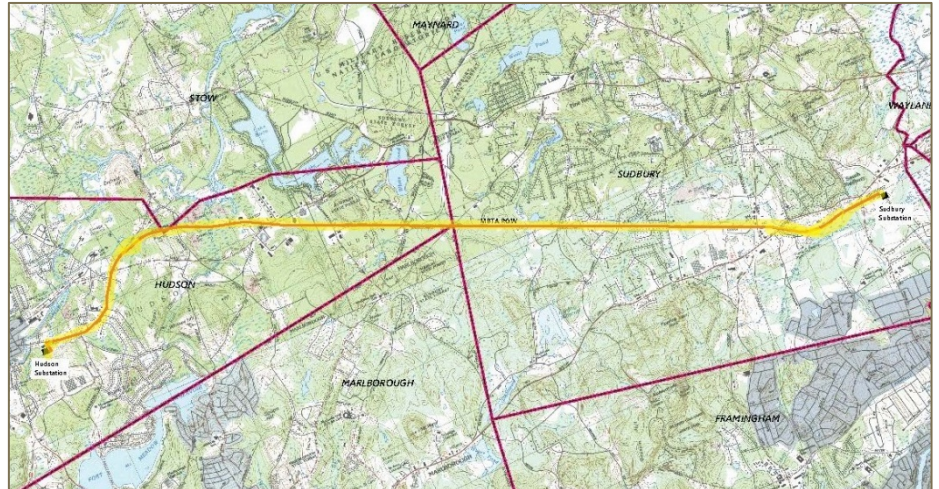
EVERSOURCE TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT UPDATE

By Bill Schineller, Member

Eversource continues to advance plans to construct a new 9-mile high voltage transmission line from their Sudbury substation (behind Buddy Dog) to Hudson. Its path is primarily along the inactive railroad right-of-way owned by the MBTA which bisects or abuts historic districts, businesses, neighborhoods, water resources, and conservation areas including the Town's Hop Brook Marsh. Shade trees currently along the path would be removed and kept permanently clear to facilitate the construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line. The 115kV transmission line would be co-located in the same corridor on which the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) already has a lease with the MBTA to otherwise develop the Massachusetts Central Rail Trail with a tree canopy.

The Town continues litigation in opposition of the project on multiple fronts, including two appeals before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court:

TOWN OF SUDBURY vs. MBTA & EVERSOURCE (SJC-12738) is appealing a Land Court judgment and alleges that the



Highlighted in yellow is the Eversource Sudbury to Hudson Transmission Line Project path, as proposed by Eversource.

MBTA violated Massachusetts prior public use doctrine, which precludes land taken for a particular public use to be diverted to an inconsistent public use without plain and explicit authorizing legislation. Oral arguments before the SJC were held on October 1, 2019. On April 29, 2020 the SJC waived its 130 day rule, giving itself more time to issue a decision.

TOWN OF SUDBURY v. ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD is appealing the December 18, 2019 decision by the EFSB to approve the Eversource project. In July, 2020 a joint motion was entered to consolidate the Town of Sudbury's appeal (SJ-2020-0026) with Protect Sudbury's appeal (SJ-2020-0029). The Town's

appeal alleges the EFSB committed errors of law, that the EFSB's decision to approve the project is unwarranted by facts on the record, and that the Siting Board "erroneously determined that subject to its required conditions, the Project is necessary for the purpose alleged, and will serve the public convenience, and is consistent with the public interest." Oral arguments have not yet been scheduled.

The project arose from a 2008 Greater Boston Reliability Study, at a time when peak summer demand was increasing. Since that time, conditions have changed and solar and efficiency measures have caused peak demand to decrease in the region.

FAIRBANK COMMUNITY CENTER VIRTUAL TOWN FORUM

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EMERGENCY
SHELTER

SENIOR CENTER

VOTING LOCATION



ATKINSON POOL

PRESCHOOL
PROGRAM

PARK & RECREATION

SUMMER CAMPS

FUTURE OF FAIRBANK TOWN FORUM

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

7 PM

Broadcast LIVE on SudburyTV

A new proposal for the Fairbank Community Center will be presented at Town Meeting. This forum is an opportunity to learn more about the issues facing the building as well as the proposed plan for its future.

ZOOM MEETING

Join On-line

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82560021627>

Join by Phone

978-639-3366 or 470-250-9358

MeetingID

825 6002 1627

PANELISTS

Henry L. Hayes, Jr., Town Manager

Jennifer Roberts, Board of Selectmen

William Barletta, Facilities Director

ICON Architecture

Ned Collier AIA, LEED AP, Principal,

Mark McKeivitz, LEED AP, Designer

Finance Dept., Fire Dept., Senior Center, Park & Rec, School Dept. representatives



ASK A QUESTION

Presentation will be followed by Q&A

To submit questions in advance, please visit

sudbury.ma.us/townforum/questions

or email townforum@sudbury.ma.us

by Mon., Aug 24 @ 5PM.

BROADCAST

Watch LIVE or ON-DEMAND

Comcast: Channel 8

Verizon: Channel 31

Web: <https://www.sudburytv.org/>

Learn more at

[HTTPS://SUDBURY.MA.US/TOWNFORUM](https://SUDBURY.MA.US/TOWNFORUM)