



MEMORANDUM

TO: Select Board

FROM: John C. Curran, Town Manager

CC: Clancy Main, Assistant Town Manager
Robert Maynard, Director of Administrative Services

SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report, April 8, 2024

DATE: April 1, 2024

Professional Recognition

Over the last twenty years the Board of Health has been served by Joanne White. Joanne will be retiring this month after working with the Town for over two decades. She is an invaluable member of the team, and her loss will be felt by the staff and residents. We are very appreciative of all the hard work Joanne has given the Town over the years. The Town will be presenting her with a proclamation and a chair in accordance with the Select Board Policy regarding retirees.

Emergency Relief Money

During the February 26th Select Board meeting this office reported that the Town would be receiving \$165,000 of relief money from the State for damage caused by the August floods. As you know, Billerica was the only municipality in Middlesex County to receive any relief money from the State for these flood events. The \$165,000 was a portion of the \$15 million appropriation, there is still \$5 million available that the State hasn't reported on but will be later this Spring. The second round of funding will bring this commitment over \$240,000 towards culvert design and evaluation.

The board requested the Town look at ways to spend this money which would impact as many of the residents affected by the floods as possible. Upon review, I recommend the Board pull Article 17 from the Spring 2024 Warrant and use this relief money to fund the design and evaluation of the repair or replacement of Town Culverts.

Boston Road North

Roadwork continues along the Boston Road project. Boston Road North was paved with a skim coat the other week improving driving conditions. A full-depth reclamation of Boston Road South up to Good Street is taking place this week. The Northern section of the road will be done after this section is completed. The Town has started its work on the water line and will be continuing over the next couple of weeks.

11 Concord Road

The Masonic Hall was ready on March 29th for the Food Pantry to begin moving back in. They will not start operating from the Masonic for a couple of weeks but have started moving their products into the building. There are some punch list items, like interior doors, but these items will be

finished by the middle of April and have no impact on the pantry's operations. The 3-phase power will not be available until June, but the temp power will be available in the building until permanent power is provided. The Food Pantry's vendor installed the walk-in cooler and freezer last week. The Community Food Pantry anticipates there first distribution to be May 13th.

Teladyne Corp.

Erika Jerram met with the principals of the Teledyne Corp at their business. They recently acquired Flir Systems and currently employ 240 Research and Development and Advanced Manufacturing positions. They are adding 70 employees at their location at Esquire Road. The Planning and Community Development Director continues to meet with major businesses in Town.

Talbot Mills Dam

This office submitted a comment letter similar to the one submitted last time on the board's behalf to ensure that the Town's concerns are heard, the Select Board was copied on this letter. A progress meeting has been set up between the Town and the project proponents for a discussion on the status of removal.

Nuvera Fuel Cells

On March 28th, Nuvera Fuel Cells hosted Governor Maura Healy and Congress-woman Lori Trahan to celebrate a \$30 Million grant they received from the Department of Energy (DOE) from the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill. Erika Jerram submitted a letter of recommendation on behalf of the Town for this grant.

The DOE selected Nuvera for its commitment to move away from fossil fuels and leadership in climate tech

innovation. Attendees, including many Nuvera employees, were given a tour of the Billerica facility as well as a demonstration of the newest manufacturing technology and a hydrogen cell in action charging a car. We are pleased this cutting-edge company continues to make Billerica its home and look forward to watching them change the way we think of energy.



Yankee Doodle Bike Path

The Town received the estimates for the easement costs with relation to the Yankee Doodle Bike Path. The Town had been anxious this cost would come in high but fortunately that is not the case, and the total cost is approximately \$1.5 million. This is just the cost of the easements; this figure does not include construction or engineering services. The Town received close to \$500,000 from the CPC to go towards the cost of easements. This CPC appropriation allows the Town to bond the difference for easements and engineering services which appears to be \$1.5 Million. Article 19 of the Spring 2024 warrant will have to be amended to reflect this cost adjustment before the printing of the Final Warrant.

Calabrese Stadium Bleachers

The Bleachers have been condemned since they were conveyed to the Town. They will be removed during April school vacation.

Town Hall Service Hours Assessment

This office is meeting with Juliet Schor on April 17th, an economist and sociologist at Boston College. Schor's research focuses on work, consumption, and climate change. Schor's most recent project is researching trials of companies who are implementing four-day workweeks. Only six of the surrounding 26 Towns do not have reduced hours on Friday and expanded hours during the week.

Riverdale, Raveen and Marshbrook

Several dead and damaged trees were serviced by the Parks and Trees Department at the request of Select Board Member Rosa.

Vietnam Veterans Park

The parking lot used by Billerica Youth Soccer was regraded and striped to help with parking at their events. There should not be any flooding in the lot itself moving forward.

Lowell Street Brook

Mosquito Control will be dredging the brook along Lowell Street next week.