



Tower Farm Road Traffic Study

Tighe & Bond has completed their evaluation for a potential heavy commercial vehicle exclusion (HCVE) and has the following comments for the Town. Tower Farm Road is generally wide, but has a winding alignment that presents challenges for thorough truck traffic. However, the existing truck percentages are well below MassDOT's established threshold for a heavy commercial vehicle exclusion and as a result a formal request is unlikely to be granted. MassDOT has an established threshold of 5%, the evaluation found that truck traffic percentages on Tower Farm are around 1%. I have attached the full study in the packet.

Town Hall Hours

The trial period for Town Hall hours concludes on October 31st. This office sat down with Union representatives to seek feedback and received overwhelming approval from staff across departments. The Town will be continuing the trial period until February 28th, at said time a permanent Town Manager will be in place and should be able to make a decision regarding Town Halls operating hours.

DPW Facility

The Town will be holding a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Department of Public Works (DPW) on Saturday, October 19th at 10:00 AM. The new DPW is located at 250 Treble Cove Road, adjacent to the Water Treatment Plant. Parking for the event will be limited, so please park at the Water Treatment Facility and walk to the groundbreaking ceremony.

Narcan

Through a grant the Town has received Narcan, which is now available to the public in the Tax Collector's Office, Town Clerk, Permit Alley and the Town Manager's Office, as well as the Billerica Library and Council on Aging.

North Billerica Train Station

The Town has been working closely with the MBTA and Representative Lombardo on the condition of the station. The MBTA has committed to repairing the issues and has made significant progress. The possibility of the Town having a lease for the inside of the building has been brought up. Internally the Town has talked about having it be a Police Substation, training room and or meeting room. I am interested to hear the thoughts of the Board.

Safe Routes for School Study

Internally the Town has met a few times on how to handle this issue. Unfortunately, to apply for a State Safe Routes for School Grant, the Town needs to be a member of the program for six months. Currently only the Kennedy School is enrolled in the program. I have spoken with Dr. Clery about enrolling the rest of the Schools.

Since the Town is not eligible for grant funding, I have looked at other ways to complete the request of the Board. I spoke with a traffic engineer at Tighe and Bond. They suggested the first step would be an initial assessment of all the schools and how people arrive and depart. This mainly would be a visual study to gather information and to identify any problems. Preliminary recommendations could be made.

Once a problem is identified, a more in-depth study would be recommended that may include traffic counts.

The engineering department is also in the process of overlaying their sidewalk map with the walking radius to identify any gaps.

Tax Rate

Paul and I have both completed our tax recap sheets. The two of us will be sitting down this week to reconcile any differences that we have. I expect to have a preliminary tax increase for the Board the second meeting in October and be able to formally set the tax rate in November.

Mass Save Community Partnership

I was approached by Chelmsford Town Manager Paul Cohen to co-sign onto their Mass Save Community First Partnership Proposal. This partnership was recommended by the State. Chelmsford is apparently very active in this space and they recommended a neighbor who is not. This grant would award a fully funded energy advocate full-time between the two communities. This person would be based out of Chelmsford, but would be available to Billerica residents. This would allow the community to better take advantage of Mass Save benefits. If we were to not sign on, Chelmsford would only end up with a part-time employee.

Talbot Mills Dam

The Notice of Intent has been filed with Conservation and is scheduled for October 28th.