

BOARD OF SELECTMEN NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF SUDBURY

SUDBURY'S NEW BOARD OF SELECTMEN

By Chairman Dan Carty

Our 2019 Annual Town Meeting was held on Monday, May 6th and Tuesday, May 7th. Upon its conclusion, our Board lost its two longest-serving members, Chairman Bob Haarde and Len Simon. Bob served for nine years and Len six, and we will certainly miss them and their combined years of experience. The same evening, we welcomed two new members, Jennifer Roberts and Bill Schineller. Jennifer and Bill were the winners of the March 25th Town Election and were sworn into office at the conclusion of Town Meeting. Both bring experience, enthusiasm, and fresh perspective to our Board.

Jennifer comes with strong experience in business, finance, marketing, and strategic planning. A graduate of Bowdoin College with a BA in Government and Legal Studies and an MBA from UNC-Chapel Hill, Jennifer is the Director of Marketing for a regional Financial Planning and Investment Management



Selectman Jennifer Roberts

firm. Jennifer has been active in multiple areas in town, including serving on our Master Plan Steering Committee as co-Vice Chair, as a member of the Sudbury United Methodist Church Social Justice Committee, as Sponsorship Coordinator of the Sudbury Family Network, and as a participant in the Oppose Sudbury Station citizen action group. Jennifer has also volunteered for the American Red Cross, the Maine Volunteer Lawyer's Project, and served as a Marketing Assistant at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland. An avid runner, Jennifer and her



Selectman Bill Schineller

husband have three sons enrolled in the Sudbury Public Schools.

Bill's background is in Engineering Management, and he has worked in the field for over 20 years. His undergraduate work was done at Boston University and he

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holds a Master’s Degree in Operations Research from Stanford University. Bill has volunteered with both the Boy Scouts and their Venture Crew, was a longtime local soccer coach, spent many years working on the Lincoln-Sudbury Relay for Life, and is a passionate Waypoint Adventure volunteer, assisting youth and adults with disabilities. Most recently Bill volunteered as Government Lead for Protect Sudbury, collaborating with residents, our Town Manager, members of the Board of Selectmen, the

Conservation Commission, Sudbury Valley Trustees, and our State and Federal elected officials. Bill and his wife have seen their two daughters go through the Sudbury Public Schools and graduate from Lincoln-Sudbury. In his spare time, Bill competes in curling out of the Broomstones Curling Club in Wayland.

It has been my honor and privilege to get to know Jennifer and Bill over the past couple of years, and I look forward to working with them on the Board of Selectmen.

Both are passionate about Sudbury’s historic and rural character, its excellent schools, and ensuring that its government best serve all residents. While they have big shoes to fill with the departure of Bob and Len, I am confident that their congenial and collaborative personalities will enable us to achieve our goals. Welcome aboard Jennifer and Bill!

SUDBURY MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS

By Selectman Janie Dretler

In the spring of 2018, Sudbury received a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Planning Grant Award for \$33,000 from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The MVP program provides support for Sudbury to plan for and implement actions for climate change resiliency.

Recently, on May 14, the Town of Sudbury and Horsley Witten Group hosted an MVP Workshop at the Fairbank Community Center gymnasium. Over 50 invited attendees participated in the workshop including Town officials, Town staff, area



Impacts of climate events as seen in Sudbury over recent years.

nonprofit staff, and business owners. Horsley Witten

consultants presented an overview of science and data

resources including recent climate related events, anticipated climate changes and a summary of recent/existing planning efforts in Sudbury.

Workshop attendees participated in a large group exercise as well as small group exercises to develop and prioritize a list of hazards affecting Sudbury. The various groups identified vulnerabilities and strengths, where they are located and who is responsible for possible mitigation. The groups then worked together to prioritize potential community actions to make Sudbury more resilient to climate change.

Next steps include a **Planning for Resiliency Listening Session and Public Workshop on May 30th** at the **Sudbury Grange Hall (326 Concord Road/Meeting Room)** from **7-9pm**. Residents are invited to attend and will be able to hear the findings developed from the MVP process. Once Sudbury has successfully developed a plan, the Town will be designated as an MVP program community and will be eligible for future MVP Action Grants.

Also, at the May 30th session, attendees will receive an update on what the Town has done to implement the 2010 Hazard

Mitigation Plan (HMP), as well as the process for updating the HMP and developing new hazard mitigation initiatives for the next five years.

Please contact Beth Suedmeyer, Sudbury's Environmental Planner at 978-639-3363 or suedmeyerb@sudbury.ma.us with any questions. For more information about the MVP program, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/municipal-vulnerability-preparedness-mvp-program>.

THANK YOU: CONSERVATION COORDINATOR DEBBIE DINEEN

By Vice-Chair Pat Brown

Debbie Dineen joined the Sudbury Conservation Office as a part-time administrator in 1983. When in 1984, Sudbury Town Meeting created the position of Conservation Coordinator to assist the Conservation Commission by monitoring work under the newly revised Wetlands Protection Act, drafting permits, recommending enforcement actions, acting as liaison to other town boards, and handling office work, Debbie signed on. With a few minor breaks, she's been our Conservation Coordinator ever since. Sudbury has changed a



Conservation Coordinator Debbie Dineen will retire this June.

lot during her thirty-five years of service.

Debbie will be retiring on June 3. She will take a wealth of

expertise, experience, and historical knowledge with her.

Debbie came to Sudbury in the mid-seventies from Fairfield, Connecticut, where she grew

up. At first, she hated it: Sudbury was far from family and far from the shore. But then she discovered the people. “Sudbury people were truly welcoming. My neighborhood was a community where we all knew each other, and our kids would play together outside.” Sudbury was a place to make a home, not just a stop for a few years.

She also discovered the woods. Debbie’s been leading trail walks on various town properties for years. She is always surprised when she asks how many people have ever gone on a walk before and not a single hand goes up. For her, the woods are magic. I asked what her favorite area is, and she said, “Nobscot. Tippling Rock. The Boy Scout Reservation. They’re all together; you can’t really separate them. The woods are a place to go for escape and rejuvenation. Did you know there are waterfalls in Sudbury? We really have everything—you

just have to go out and experience it.”

Wetlands protection has always been a priority for Sudbury’s Conservation Office. As Debbie explained, “The state Wetlands Protection Act is the least common denominator, helping to preserve wetlands to protect against storm damage and flooding. In Sudbury, we also depend on groundwater wells for our drinking water. For us, wetlands provide additional and more important free services by filtering out surface pollutants from our water supply. If we don’t defend our wetlands vigorously, then we will end up needing sewer and septic treatment plants to replace the functions the wetlands provide for free.”

It is critical for the Conservation Coordinator to know and apply both state and local law to protect our wetlands. Debbie identified a thorough knowledge of statute, bylaw and regulation as the most

important qualification for her position.

It’s not just protecting the water supply, though. Characteristically, Debbie observed, “Our wetlands also provide recreational opportunities. More people should get out on the river in a kayak!”

After her retirement, Debbie will move to Maine to be near her son and granddaughter. As she prepares to leave, Debbie has been working hard going through old files and tidying things up, to provide context for thirty-five years of determinations for whoever follows her. I also appreciate how much “ahead of the curve” our local wetlands bylaws are as new, more stringent federal and state requirements emerge. I want to thank Debbie for her many years of service, and I will leave you with her advice to me: “Go out! Enjoy it!”

FAIRBANK COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT UPDATE

By Selectman Jennifer Roberts

Town officials and committees continue to work towards a solution to improve and renovate the Fairbank Community Center. Currently, the site is home to Park and

Recreation, the Senior Center, Atkinson Pool, and Sudbury Public School Administrative Offices (SPS). Additionally, it operates as an election voting place, emergency shelter,

location of various Town summer camps and Early Childhood programs, including Terrific Two’s, which serves many families with young children. Issues with the aging

building are ongoing, including leaking roof portions, failing climate control, dated and worn interior, and insufficient programming space.

The three user groups of the existing facility face both similar and unique challenges there. Representatives of the Senior Center assert that limited space is a significant weakness. Currently, Sudbury is experiencing an increase in its senior population (~20% of population), and this figure is expected to grow. State guidelines are that senior centers should have ~5 sq feet per senior whereas the current site has 1.25 sq feet. The center also has inadequate storage capacity.

One of the main concerns about Fairbank for Park and Recreation are the locker rooms due to their deteriorating condition as well as lack of accessibility and family locker room sections. More programming space (and the right kind of space) is also believed to be necessary, as well as viewing areas for the Atkinson Pool.

The Sudbury Public Schools Administration is housed in the oldest segment of the Fairbank Center, a wing from the original 1958 elementary



Multiple user groups will benefit from Fairbank Center improvements.

school. In particular, this section shows significant wear and tear including roof leaking.

At Fall 2018 Town Meeting, an article to fund a \$1.9MM redesign project for an estimated \$33MM center failed to pass. The center proposed included space for Park and Recreation and the Senior Center, but did not provide a solution for Sudbury Public Schools.

Town Manager Rodrigues has expressed on multiple occasions concerns about the state of the Fairbank facility, including public safety hazards. After hearing public reaction and feedback post Fall Town meeting, Rodrigues reconvened a working group to assess the options for a new plan. The group includes the Town Manager and

representatives from Council on Aging, Park and Recreation, SPS, and Board of Selectmen. With the goal of creating a space for all three main user groups, the representatives have first been tasked with determining square footage needs. Additionally, members of Council on Aging and Board of Selectmen have visited numerous community centers in other Massachusetts towns for basis of comparison and to gather insights.

The new working group hopes to develop a solution that can meet the needs of all the user groups at Fairbank that serve the community. Their goal is to bring a new plan before the Town at Fall 2019 Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen appreciates the Town's patience and support on this important initiative.

THANK YOU: BUILDING INSPECTOR MARK HERWECK

By Vice-Chair Pat Brown

Mark Herweck will be retiring on July 5th after almost thirteen years in the Building Department in Sudbury. He is currently our Building Inspector and Zoning Enforcement Agent.

I visited Mark in his office at the DPW building and asked what the Building Department does.

“Safety is job one,” he stated. The task of the Building Department is to review plans, issue permits, and perform inspections. There are other important considerations such as zoning compliance or energy use and sustainability, but the primary job of the building inspector is to ensure safety. This involves a lot of on-site inspections and consultations with builders to be sure both that the construction conforms to the accepted plans and that the construction conforms to all the applicable building codes.

Mark joined the Sudbury Building Department in August of 2006 as Assistant Building Inspector, after working in construction and home improvement with his own firm for nearly twenty years and part-time as a subcontracted inspector for subsidized



residential housing units. He then became a Local Inspector in 2005 and then a Certified Building Official (CBO) in 2008, and took over as Sudbury’s Building Commissioner in 2011 until present.

I had no idea what becoming a Certified Building Official means, but this is an internationally recognized professional designation conferred by the International Code Council after an intensive examination and maintained by continuing education. “Building Commissioner” is a designation in Massachusetts law specifying its own set of qualifications.

When I asked him the best part of his job, Mark replied without hesitation, “The volunteers!” He finds Sudbury’s volunteer boards generally easy to work with, very diligent and very helpful. He enjoys working with them and greatly appreciates their thoughtful and thorough review of proposals.

There is also a lot of cooperation between the Building Department and other parts of town government. “There’s not one department we don’t work with,” Mark said, including the Zoning Board, the Assessors, Board of Health, Conservation, Design Review Board, Historical Commission, Planning Board, Fire Department and Police Department.

The Building Department—and Mark—has been busy over the past few years permitting and inspecting new development, particularly the Avalon Bay development on the former Raytheon site on Route 20. Amounts vary as different projects come forward, but the Building Department permit fees consistently constitute a

large part of Sudbury’s non-tax revenues.

Mark wants to spend some time just unwinding and has some plans for travel. He also wants to volunteer in the community, perhaps at an animal shelter.

Mark has been working with our Assistant Building Inspector,

Andrew Lewis, who will be taking over as Building Inspector in July, to make this a smooth transition.

I have always found Mark to be very approachable, responsive, patient (!) and helpful in response to my many questions. Good luck, Mark, and thank you for all your service.

CAMP SEWATARO PROPERTY ACQUISITION UPDATE

By Selectman Bill Schineller

Camp Sewataro is a 44-acre property located at 1 Liberty Ledge in Sudbury. The property is used as a summer day camp, with numerous active and passive recreational activities, including swimming, tennis, basketball and kayaking.

Sewataro has been on the Town’s radar for over a decade, as described in the Fall 2018 Board of Selectmen Newsletter. Conversations between its owners, the Taylor family, and the Town warmed up in late 2017, but for most of 2018, Sewataro took a seat on the back burner, as the Town negotiated two unrelated land deals: voters approved the \$5.5M Broadacres acquisition in October, and the Sudbury Station - Quarry North land swap in December.



Aerial view of the Camp Sewataro property.

In late December, 2018, Sewataro was put on the front burner, when the Town learned that the property would be sold outright via a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process, with responses due in March, 2019. The owners had decided that 2019 would be their last summer owning and

operating the camp. Mark Taylor would be retiring.

On January 8, 2019, the Board of Selectmen publicly discussed a purchase and lease approach for Camp Sewataro and requested a professional appraisal of the property. During the confidential bid period, the

Town obtained the appraisal (dated February 20), and other information from the seller under a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA). As the Town determined a fair offer, the Parks and Recreation Commission voted 4-1 on March 18 not to support the acquisition at that time. On Tuesday, March 26 the Board of Selectmen submitted a competitive, confidential bid by the RFP deadline.

On Thursday, April 18 the Board of Selectmen entered into a letter of intent with the owners to purchase the land for \$11.3M, contingent on voter approval. The Camp's business and personal property would be donated to the Town as part of the transaction. At the time, the Town's press release stated that the future use of the Camp Sewataro property by the Town has not been determined, but the town is interested in the opportunities this land presents, including opportunities that provide offsetting revenue.

Residents would have six weeks to decide whether to approve the acquisition at a Special Town Election, scheduled for June 4. Our Town Manager, committees, boards, and energized residents have sought out answers to questions around cost, value, revenue potential, and the Town's plans for maintaining the property, operating a camp, and making it affordable and accessible to all residents. The Town and the seller have publicly engaged with residents to inform and help clarify a short-term plan and long-term possibilities.

Prior to Town Meeting, at the April 30 Board of Selectmen meeting, held in the L-S Auditorium, Town Manager Melissa Rodrigues presented her feasibility analysis, followed by extended questions and answers with the public. The purchase price was the assessed value of the property. The acquisition was put in the context of past land acquisitions. She recommended a plan of a

short-term lease for a camp operator for 2020. Her presentation and updates are available on the town website at <https://sudbury.ma.us/sewataro>

On May 7, Town Meeting voted by 2/3 majority in favor of the acquisition, gaining another month to get informed before the election. On May 14, the BoS publicly supported the Town Manager's recommendation to release a Request for Proposals in order to secure a camp operator for the Summer of 2020. The operator of Camp Everwood in Sharon, MA was identified as an interested RFP respondent.

Other information opportunities scheduled by the Town include Town Manager (May 21) and Board of Selectmen Office Hours (May 19, 29), an Open House and Property Walk (May 25), and a Public Forum (May 28).

The Selectmen encourage voter participation at the June 4 election to determine the future of Sewataro!

SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION

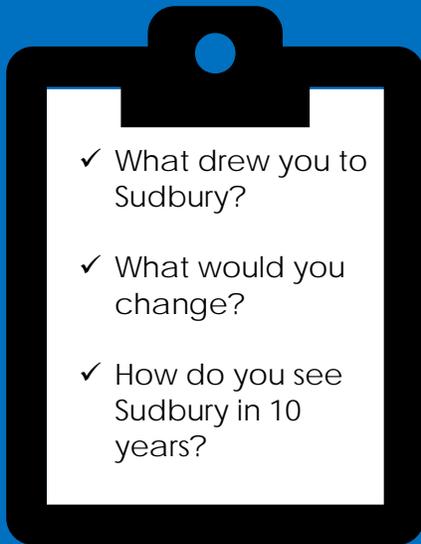
TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2019

7AM – 8PM

FAIRBANK COMMUNITY CENTER Precincts 1, 1A, 2 and 5

TOWN HALL Precincts 3 and 4

LEARN MORE: <https://wp.me/p5uh7Z-AN>



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**Thursday
May 30, 2019
7 – 9 PM**

Sudbury Grange Hall
Meeting Room
326 Concord Road
Sudbury, MA

MAY 30, 2019

Planning for Resiliency

Listening Session and Public Workshop

Listening Session -

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP)

The Town is currently working with community stakeholders to identify and prioritize steps to reduce risks and improve resilience to projected climate change impacts across the community. Please join us (7 – 8 PM) to hear the findings developed from the MVP process.

Public Workshop – Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Town is currently updating the 2010 Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan is important because it helps the Town remain eligible to receive funding for projects that reduce the risk of injury or damage to property from future natural hazard events such as flooding and hurricanes. Please join us (8 – 9 PM) to understand what the Town has accomplished since the 2010 Plan and what we should be working on for the next five years.



Questions?

Contact Beth Suedmeyer
Environmental Planner

978-639-3363

suedmeyerb@sudbury.ma.us