



Town of Sudbury Town Manager Newsletter

June, 2013

Message from the Town Manager

The Warrant for the Special Town Election has been signed by the Board of Selectmen and will be mailed to all residents very soon. As a reminder, this election, held on the same date of the State election to elect a new Senator to represent Massachusetts, will ask voters to choose two new Selectmen – one for a two-year term and one for a three-year term – and vote on two ballot questions. Question one asks voters if they approve exempting the bonds for engineering and professional services for the final design for a new Police Station; the second if voters will approve an additional \$700,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of constructing traffic improvements to the Town Center. Much has been written about and discussed for both projects, and both were approved at the May Town Meeting. There are five candidates for the seats on the Board of Selectmen. I hope everyone turns out to vote – these are important choices for Sudbury voters to make.

The Town received great news this week. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT) has agreed to take on a project for addressing the Landham Road/Route 20 intersection, including finalizing design decisions and construction. This means several things. First, it means that DOT is no longer opposed to making improvements to this intersection and will work to plan and implement safety improvements at the intersection. Second it means that such improvements will be paid out of state funds – potentially saving significant dollars for Sudbury taxpayers. My thanks to Jody Kablack, Director of Planning and Community Development and Bill Place, DPW Director, for their persistent efforts to keep this project on the forefront with DOT/Mass Highway officials. Often it takes significant time and resources to align all the decision makers to get a project to move forward and in this case staff and the Board of Selectmen and the letter writing of many residents made that difference. We will keep residents informed of the progress of the project and opportunities to be involved in the public input aspects as they occur.

Sincerely, *Maureen G. Valente, Town Manager*

From the Selectmen's office

The Selectmen met on June 4, 2013 with a fairly brief agenda. They appointed Fred Taylor, Sudbury resident, to a vacant position with the Historic Districts Commission. The HDC is a Town Committee whose charge is to preserve and protect buildings, places and other areas of historic or architectural significance. There are four historic districts in the Town and they are subject to restrictions and controls under Chapter 40 of the Acts of 1963 administered by the Historic Districts Commission. Please see the Town's website for more information about this committee.

The Board voted to approve a number of contracts, recognition of achievements, fund raising events, resignations from committees and special occasion requests. They approved a Fair Housing Choice report required by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in order to continue receiving grants from the HOME consortium. The Board also voted to continue participating in the HOME consortium.

The Board received and discussed a report prepared by the Town Manager on the status of Town Counsel services in eight peer Towns to Sudbury. The report had five data points – who is the Town Counsel, how many years the Town Counsel had served, the hourly rate of pay for Town Counsel services, the annual budget for Town Counsel services, and if there was a requirement that the Town Counsel appointment be regularly bid out or regularly re-visited. The eight towns which provided data were Acton, Bedford, Concord, Lexington, Lincoln, Southborough, Wayland and Weston. Of these towns, six use a firm specializing in municipal legal matters, while two appoint an individual attorney to serve as Town Counsel. All of the Towns had continued with the same Town Counsel for at least 10 years, with five of the eight using the same firm for over 15 years. One Town (Acton) reported using the same Town Counsel for over 30 years. Hourly rates ranged from \$130 up to \$295, depending on the firm and the area of services involved. And none of the Towns required the Board of Selectmen to make a change or re-visit the appointment at specific intervals of time. The Board has begun looking into future plans for Town Counsel services and indicated this information was helpful to them.

As previously noted, the Board signed the Special Town Election Warrant for the June 25, 2013 Special election, to be mailed to all Sudbury residents.

Finance Department

I am pleased to announce that Sudbury has been awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The award is given in recognition of our FY12 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) statement which is available on the Town's website.

With gratitude to many staff members particularly those in the Finance Division whose job it is to record as well as report financial information for a \$95M government entity, I wish to acknowledge also receiving the GFOA's Award of Financial Reporting Achievement (AFRA). This certificate of achievement is presented to those government units whose annual financial reports are judged to adhere to program standards and represents the highest award in government reporting.

Submitted by: Andrea Terkelson, Finance Director

Department of Public Works

This week we have started our Paving Management Program with the resurfacing of the following streets: Sunset Path, Thunder Road, Mark Lane and Ward Road. To be followed by, Eddy Street, Russet Lane, Kay Street, Brookdale Road, Brookdale Lane, Wagonwheel Road and Blackmer Road.

Centerline and gutter line striping was to have been completed by now, however, the weather has delayed the work until later this month.

Crosswalk painting has begun as one can visualize along Concord Road south of the Town Center. We are working on Old Framingham Road, Peakham Road, and Hudson Road walkways.

The house at 15 Hudson Road was removed and we are currently placing fill and loam on the site for future use. Finally, a drainage system is being installed from North Road to Haynes Road.

Submitted by: I. William Place, Director of Public Works

Public Safety

Fire Department

The Sudbury Fire Department received a call for a house fire at 306 Lincoln Road on Friday, May 3rd, at 1:10 p.m. Arriving companies found a fire pushing up the left front corner of the home that was extending to the second floor and roof areas. Sudbury Fire personnel extended hose lines into the first and second floors and accessed the interior walls to enable extinguishment. Due to a quick and efficient response, the fire was brought under control quickly and damage was limited to the area of origin. Wayland, Concord, and Framingham provided coverage for Sudbury's three stations during the incident. There were no injuries.

I am pleased to announce the receipt of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). The primary goal of these grants is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and emergency medical service organizations. Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, training, and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.

The Sudbury Fire Department will receive \$192,168.00 from FEMA and will use the funds to replace all of our Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. These are the air tanks and masks firefighters use to enter a burning building or to operate in other areas immediately dangerous to life and health. Assistant Fire Chief John Whalen was instrumental in the successful procurement of these funds. John began the process by attending grant writing classes held by FEMA that helped identify strategies and technical requirements for a successful grant application. After spending a tremendous amount of time on the script of the grant to insure accuracy and adherence to FEMA specifications, he guided the application through their process and continually monitored its status.

FEMA announced the award to Sudbury on May 3, 2013. We hope to complete the required bidding process and purchase the new breathing apparatus later this year. The Department applauds Assistant Chief Whalen's efforts to replace these vital pieces of safety equipment.

Submitted by: Bill Miles, Fire Chief

Police Department

Detective Stephanie Howe was promoted to Sergeant on 5-13-2013. She is the first female supervisor within the Sudbury Police Department. Sergeant Howe joined the department in September 2004 having been employed with several other police departments in various capacities. She was selected for the Detective Bureau in May 2008, serving admirably for five years until her appointment as Sergeant. As well, Officer Kerriann Fagerquist welcomed her second child, Katelyn Sophia, on May 23rd. Both Officer Fagerquist and her daughter are healthy and doing well. In regards to the entire department, I am proud of their continued professional, positive service for the community given a number of trying circumstances over the last several months.

Submitted by: Lt. Scott Nix, Acting Police Chief

Planning and Community Development

Restoration of the property at 15 Hudson Road continues, as the DPW Department has removed the old house and has filled the property. The current plans for this property are to loam and seed it, creating a park, until a permanent use is determined by the Town.

At the June 4th Selectmen's meeting, the Town Manager announced the MA Dept. of Transportation decision to proceed with the design and construction of intersection improvements at Landham Road and Route 20. The Town has been promoting improvement of this intersection for many years, and has completed a corridor study and preliminary design of a traffic signal with developer mitigation funds from nearby developments. The Town and our consultant, VHB, have been meeting with MA DOT to discuss problems with the intersection in hopes of receiving approval to alter the intersection, which is controlled by the state. Their recent decision to take control of the project will involve design of project alternatives, including public comments, before a final design is completed. All costs from this point on will be paid by the state.

The Community Housing Department has recently completed an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, report which is meant to insure that Sudbury is fully aware of the existence, nature, extent and causes of any and all fair housing problems, including the resources available to solve them and discernible actions that the Town can pursue to mitigate or remove any impediments. This report has been reviewed by the Planning Board, the Sudbury Housing Trust, and the Sudbury Housing Authority, and was recently endorsed by the Board of Selectmen. The report is a requirement to obtaining federal funds for affordable housing, and is available on the Town's website.

The Planning Board reorganized in May with the change in board membership following the March 2013 election. Chairman is Michael Hunter, Vice-Chair is Craig Lizotte and Clerk is Chris Morely. The Board welcomes new member Peter Abair. The vacant Associate Member position is open – all interested residents are invited to submit an application which may be found on the town's website.

Walkway construction continues on Peakham Road and Old Framingham Road. These two new walkway segments will be completed in the summer. Planning for the Dudley Road walkway has begun. The project at the intersection of Landham Road and Route 20 proposed by B'Nai B'rith Housing (the Coolidge at Sudbury) is expected to break ground this summer, adding 64 units of age-restricted affordable housing to the Town's inventory.

Submitted by: Jody Kablack, Director Planning and Community Development

Senior Center

The Senior Center continues to thrive with participation in the Lifelong learning classes, arts programs, informational talks and fitness classes. Please see our monthly newsletter or call the Senior Center at 978-443-3055 for more information about any of our programs.

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

The Sudbury Senior Center, Sudbury Council on Aging and the Friends' of Sudbury Seniors celebrated volunteerism in Sudbury by inviting over two hundred Senior Center volunteers to a special luncheon on May 1st in the Fairbank Gym. Mary's Catering provided stuffed chicken breast, and Rick Scalse entertained on the piano. Senior Center programs such as FISH Volunteer Medical Transportation, friendly visitors, Fix-it program, and many others could not happen without the valued assistance of these volunteers!

If you would like to join us as a volunteer, either occasionally or on a regular basis, please call our Volunteer Coordinator, Ed Gottmann at 978-443-3055.

Council on Aging

The Sudbury Council on Aging and the Senior Center Director participated in an annual Planning Meeting on Saturday, May 11th. Areas of focus in the coming year include: outreach, community center planning, intergenerational programming, senior tax relief, senior housing and Senior Center Float for the 4th of July. The COA Planning Meeting report is expected to be ready in August.

A Special Event

Actress Judith Kalaora mesmerized the audience with her one-woman show “A Revolution of Her Own” on Thursday, May 9th. Ms. Kalaora portrayed Mrs. Deborah Samson Gannett’s arduous upbringing and eighteen months of active combat service during the Revolutionary War. She received rave reviews!

Lifelong Learning

If you’ve always wanted to take a *Music Appreciation* class, now is your chance! Instructor Sivan Etedgee will offer 4 classes this summer. You can take one or all four classes. This class will meet on July 11 and 25, as well as August 8 and 22.

The “Experiencing Hubble: Understanding the Greatest Images of the Universe” DVD series was so popular in March that we are having a reprise showing in July. Look for this fascinating DVD series from the Teaching Company on Monday mornings beginning on July 15th.

The Senior Center also continues with “The World was Never the Same: Great Events that Changed History” DVD series on Wednesdays starting June 19th. For information and registration for any of these programs, please call the Senior Center at 978-443-3055 for more information.

Tick Talk

Sudbury Board of Health Nurse Phyllis Schilp will tell you all you need to know about Ticks on Tuesday, June 25th at 11:00 AM. No charge.

Recreation

During the summer months, we show a variety of movies every week. For June, we have scheduled: *Act of Valor* on Friday, June 14 at 12:30 PM; *Lincoln* on Thursday, June 20 with pizza at noon, movie at 12:30 PM. Call to order pizza and reserve your spot. We are also showing *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* on Friday, June 21st.

Join our Cribbage or Bridge groups on Tuesdays. Cribbage begins at 9:00 AM; Bridge at 12:30 PM. Crafters group meets on Thursdays at 9:45 AM.

Submitted by: Debra Galloway, Council on Aging Director