



Town of Sudbury
Town Manager Newsletter
February 2013

Message from the Town Manager

Greetings!

Let me start off my recognizing and thanking our great Department of Public Works staff, who worked extraordinarily long hours over a three day blizzard period to keep up with the heavy snow that came down beginning February 7. I have pasted a picture here of one of the emails of appreciation they received. There were many questions and frustrations for staff and residents alike, facing the challenge of how to deal with 28 inches of snow. Just a few facts for you – the Town has 23 active DPW employees, but a town of 26 miles and 156 miles of road ways has more than 23 plowing routes, so we supplement our employees with contractors. But smaller vehicles and their plows, both those owned by the Town and contractors, just couldn't handle the amount of snow that came down so rapidly in this storm. The same is true of clearing walkways – when there is this much snow, it takes longer and different equipment to remove the snow. As you might guess, the snow and ice budget is now depleted for the year, which means that we will ask the Finance Committee to begin authorizing transfers from the Town's reserve fund for future storms, including the one forecast for this weekend. I would be remiss if I did not also recognize the Sudbury Police and Fire Department personnel for their efforts during the storm. This was yet another example of the great pattern of teamwork among our Town departments.



On Thursday, February 14th, the outdated traffic lights in Town Center failed once again at about 3:00 p.m., and began working in the night time settings. With traffic backed up in all directions, it became necessary for police officers to direct traffic flow until 7:30 p.m. On Friday, Chief Glavin again put officers there during rush hour to monitor the situation. This is very dangerous for the officers – this is a bad intersection to try to direct traffic. The Fire Department's lights were used to illuminate the officers and electronic sign boards used to warn drivers. The maintenance company was able to make limited repairs and the lights began working midday on Friday but the company has warned us again that these lights, which date back to the 50s, are the oldest of their type in the state and we will continue to have trouble getting parts or trained repairmen to maintain them. The Board of Selectmen has submitted an article for Town Meeting in May, requesting approval of a project to improve this intersection, including replacement of these traffic lights. Much appreciation to Chief Glavin and the department for handling a difficult situation so well.

For us in Town government, February is the month when budgets are presented to the Finance Committee. There are many entities that develop budgets: the Town government, of course, but also Sudbury Public Schools, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, Minuteman Vocational Technical Regional High School, the Capital Improvement Committee and the Community Preservation Committee. Additionally, budgets are prepared for the Town's three Enterprise Funds, and a Debt Service Budget is

developed. All these budgets can be found on-line – the Town’s budget proposal in on the Town’s website, and the various school systems post information on theirs.

This is also the month where the Selectmen and staff begin to organize the many articles that have been submitted for consideration at the Annual Town Meeting in May. The Selectmen accepted 43 articles, and referred those involving zoning to the Planning Board. Over the next month, they will be determining the order of the articles at Town Meeting, taking position on the articles, and developing additional materials to explain the articles. They will also be hosting meetings to bring forward more information on the various proposals in the articles.

Sincerely, *Maureen G. Valente, Town Manager*

From the Selectmen’s office – Notes on Selectmen’s Meetings

The Selectmen met on Tuesday, February 12. They dealt with typical issues such as accepting grants, voting approval for events and programs already underway, such as the Regional Housing Services Office and the Senior Tax Work-off Program. They heard a request from resident Bryan Semple to implement the proposed “State of the Town” public forum which had been approved as a non-binding resolution at the 2011 Annual Town Meeting, and agreed to have information on Lincoln’s forum developed for their later consideration. They also considered two site plan decisions. First they opened a site plan hearing for the solar photo-voltaic array on six acres of the town Landfill. After hearing a description of the project and addressing questions, the Board voted to direct staff to develop an affirmative decision for the project. And they voted to approve and sign a Site Plan Modification Decision for Methods Machine, located on Union Avenue. They also conducted a hearing for purposes of approving licenses for a new restaurant which will be opening soon in Sudbury, named No. 29 Sudbury. The owners and manager of this restaurant described for the Board their plan to open this Italian restaurant later this year on Hudson Road as part of the Hudson Town Square (the former “Village Green”).

The longest part of the evening was devoted to hearing the report of the Fairbank Community Center Study Task Force, which was created in November “*to provide a preliminary assessment of the capacity of the existing building to meet the current and future program and office needs and goals of the Park and Recreation Department, including the Teen Center and the Atkinson Pool, and the Council on Aging, but should also address meeting the current needs of the Sudbury Public Schools Administration as they are current tenants in the building and require office space until another location is available to them. The ultimate final product of the Task Force shall be to advise the Board of Selectmen as to the best options for dealing with the failing roof on the non-Pool section of the Fairbank Community Center. All suggestions and recommendations for space needs and potential financing plans shall be considered for planning purposes only and will need more detailed study and discussion in the future*”. The report, which can be found on the Town’s web site, recommended that a Feasibility Study should be undertaken to further address the structural options for the Building, at an estimated cost of \$65,000, and grants should be pursued to provide this funding. Additionally, an article has been submitted to Town Meeting in case Town funds are also needed to allow the study to go forward. In the meantime modest funds (\$50,000 to \$75,000) will be requested at Town Meeting to allow the Facilities Director to make what repairs he can on the leaking roof. The Board took the report under advisement.

The Board of Selectmen continues to meet in Executive Session before regular meetings so that they can discuss the status of collective bargaining efforts with the Town’s unions. The Board approved a new

agreement with the Engineering Union in Executive Session and then publicly ratified it later in the open meeting. This new Memorandum of Agreement can be found on the Town's website, on the Human Resources page. Bargaining continues with the public safety dispatchers, the DPW laborers, and the firefighters union.

Board of Health

The Board of Health has drafted revised Rules and Regulations for Stables and Keeping of Animals in the Town of Sudbury. A public hearing was held February 12th to receive comments from residents. The proposed regulations were developed with input from the Sudbury Agricultural Commission. A copy of the draft regulations is available on the Town website under Health Department documents.

Submitted by: Bob Leupold/Health Director

Department of Public Works

Sudbury received 28" of snow during the blizzard of 2013 and the DPW had a lot to clean up. There were 32 private contractors in addition to the DPW equipment for a total of 64 pieces of equipment fighting the storm. From Friday until Sunday, 42 man hours were spent fighting the storm. By having the Governor require all non-essential personnel off the roads until 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, it made snow operations smoother and safer.

The majority of walkways around the schools were completed by that Monday afternoon, and the remaining walkways were completed by Thursday.

Breakdowns and the inability of the smaller trucks to push back snow resulted in narrow but passable side streets. These too were widened by the end of the week.

The DPW employees and the contractors should be commended for their efforts during the storm.

*Submitted by: Bill Place
DPW Director*

Facilities

The Energy Committee received a \$12,500 grant from the State's Department of Energy Services for Owners Technical Assistance for our Energy Services Contracting Project.

Owner's Agents are independent third parties who aid municipalities, regional school districts, or water/wastewater districts in the negotiations, development and management of energy projects, or who perform studies to support the development of projects. The Committee is presenting an energy project this may that is anticipated to save approximately \$40,000 per year in energy costs. This technical assistance will insure projects estimated savings are accurate, and will assist the Committee at Town meeting

*Submitted by: Jim Kelly
Facilities Director
978-443-2209*

Finance Department

The budget season for fiscal year 2014, for the Town, Sudbury Public Schools and Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School is well underway. A consolidated preliminary budget was issued as of January 31, 2013 and may be found on the Town's website. Finance Director Terkelsen also performing in her role as Sudbury's Budget Director continues working closely with cost center management, other staff and the Finance Committee throughout the budget cycle.

Public budget hearings with FinCom are scheduled to take place throughout the month of February. At the conclusion of these hearings the Finance Committee will conduct deliberations and vote on their recommendations for one (or more) budget levels for the coming fiscal year. The Committee's recommendations for FY2014 will be issued in the financial section of the 2013 Town Warrant. However, it should be noted that the budget process will extend up to and through the Annual Town Meeting in May 2013. Key revenue and expenditure drivers can and often will change frequently over the next several weeks. As such, residents are encouraged to stay tuned to upcoming Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee meetings for further details and any updates to the 2014 budget.

Submitted by: Andrea Terkelsen/Finance Director

Public Safety

Fire Department

In the early morning hours of Thursday, January 24, 2013, the Sudbury Fire Department received a call for a car through the ice on Willis Lake. Responding companies transported one patient to the hospital with minor injuries. Because of the extreme temperatures and conditions, we deployed personnel in ice rescue suits and stood by with our ice rescue sled to assist the towing company hired to extricate the vehicle from the water.

The Sudbury Fire Department received a call for a house fire at 303 Boston Post Road at 1:28 a.m. on January 28, 2013. Arriving Engine and Ladder Companies found a fire in the wall adjacent to the center style chimney. Residents had been using the fireplace during the evening and early morning hours. A subsequent investigation found loose and cracked mortar in the chimney.

Responding firefighters did a good job of containing the fire to the area of origin. Because of the quick response and minimal damage, electricity and heat was restored to the home later that same morning. There were no injuries to residents or responding firefighters. Apparatus from Wayland and Framingham assisted Sudbury at the fire scene. Maynard, Marlboro, and Concord covered the three Sudbury Fire Stations during the incident.

With the recent tropical storms, hurricanes, and large snow events, the Fire Department was ready for the snow storm of February 8-9, 2013. In addition to hiring extra personnel, planning included coordinating with the Town Manager's Office, the Police Department, the Department of Public Works, NStar, and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. I stayed in close touch with all these entities and was relieved that the cold temperatures produced dry snow that did not cause falling trees and power line damage. Speaking with my NStar liaison during the storm, I learned there were only a handful of isolated incidents of residential power loss here in Sudbury. We did respond to an increased number of carbon monoxide detector activations, some being caused by drifting snow blocking heating system ventilation pipes. Residents are reminded to be aware of these concerns and clear snow from these areas, including dryer vent outlets for natural gas dryers.

Compared to the devastation experienced by many Massachusetts coastal cities and towns, Sudbury weathered the storm relatively unscathed. I am thankful there were no serious storm-related incidents or injuries to residents, Town employees, or public safety responders.

*Respectfully submitted by
Bill Miles, Fire Chief*

Park and Recreation

The competitive swim season is winding down at the Atkinson Pool and swim lessons and triathlon training programs are heating up.

The Park and Recreation Department is getting ready for camp registration – starting February 13th. We are looking forward to the summer season and all the activity that occurs at the Fairbank Center.

The Recreation Commission is eager to have our CPC proposal approved at Town Meeting so we can get going on renovating the L-S High School softball field. We can begin to design Davis for new field development and Featherland to reconstruct some of the fields to better suit our field needs. It is an exciting time in Park and Recreation, and we feel the outcome of our efforts will result in greater recreational activities for all the residents of Sudbury.

The Sudbury Senior Center

The Senior Center continues to thrive with participation in the Lifelong learning classes, arts programs, informational talks and fitness classes. Many thanks to Bob Diefenbacher for his excellent talk and slide show about his trip to Antarctica. There were about 65 people here to see it and everyone really enjoyed it! Please see our monthly newsletter or call the Senior Center at (978) 443-3055 for more information about any of our programs.

Lifelong Learning

Dr. Lawrence Lowenthal begins a new installment of “Significant Speeches of the 20th Century” in February on Monday mornings at 10:30 AM. Two new DVD series begin in February: “The World Was Never the Same: Events that Changed History” and “Experiencing Hubble: Understanding the Greatest Images of the Universe”. Looking ahead to March, Stephen Collins returns to share his knowledge of Shakespeare on Tuesday mornings, while Richard Travers returns with more Opera on Friday afternoons.

Recreation

Join our Cribbage or Bridge groups on Tuesdays. Cribbage begins at 9:00 AM; Bridge at 12:30 PM. There are also classic movies on Fridays at 12:30 PM.

Music

We are pleased to have Jeffrey Moore return this year! He will be playing “Cole Porter” on Wednesday, February 20.

Arts Classes

Our Drawing Perspectives class just finished and a new class: Figure Drawing with Susan Funk will begin on March 6. Our ongoing Watercolors classes continue with instructor Cynthia Durost. On Thursday mornings our Thursday Crafters meet to discuss, propose and work on craft projects.

Monthly Health Talks

Our new Monthly Health Talks continue with “Wise Up on Medications” on March 5. These talks are presented by our Sudbury Board of Health Nurse Phyllis Schilp. Phyllis, who is a Public Health Nurse from Parmenter Community Health, shared the latest information on Women and Hearth Health on Tuesday, February 12.

Legal Update

Local Elder Law Attorney Denise Yurkofsky will share the latest update on legal changes that effect estate planning on Thursday, February 28.

Information and Referral

Anne Manning, our Information and Referral Specialist, continues to assist seniors and their family members with questions and concerns relating to home care, mental health, caregiving, housing and more.

Senior Tax Exemption

The Sudbury Council on Aging, the nine member committee, that oversees the policies, planning and programming of the Senior Center, noted that the new Senior Property Tax Exemption was passed at the last election. This exemption will assist those seniors who have lower income and pay higher than 10% of income toward property tax in town. The Sudbury Assessors Office expects to have guidelines and an application process available in late spring.

Submitted by: Deb Galloway/Senior Center

Town Clerk

2013 Elections and Voter Registration

A number of elections have been scheduled for the first half of 2013. The Town Clerk’s office will offer extended hours (9am-8pm) on the last days to register to vote in time for each election as well as Town Meeting. The office will be open till 8pm to accommodate dog licensing on April 1 & 2, and residents are encouraged to take advantage of the extended hours for voter registration.

2013 SCHEDULED TOWN MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS:

Annual Town Election: Monday, March 25

Special State Primary Election: Tuesday, April 30

Annual Town Meeting: Monday, May 6

Special State Election: Tuesday, June 25

2013 Town Clerk’s Office OPEN UNTIL 8PM:

Voter Registration: Tuesday, March 5

Dog Licensing: Monday, April 1 & Tuesday, April 2

Voter Registration: Tuesday, April 10

Voter Registration: Tuesday, April 16

Voter Registration: Wednesday, June 5

Dog Licensing

The dog licensing period extends from January 1 through April 2, 2013. The licensing fee is \$15 if the dog is neutered or spayed and \$20 for a dog that is not neutered/spayed. Licensing may be done in person at the Town Clerk’s office, 322 Concord Road, or by mail. When licensing by mail, please include the required evidence indicating up-to-date rabies vaccination and documentation indicating that the animal has been spayed or neutered, if the dog is being licensed in Sudbury for the first time or has recently been

altered. Dog owners are encouraged to license their dogs early to avoid the late penalty fee of \$25 that they will be required to pay for each unlicensed dog, in addition to the regular licensing fee, beginning April 3, 2013.

The Town Clerk's office will be open till 8pm on Monday, April 1 and Tuesday, April 2 for dog licensing. Residents may also take advantage of the extended hours if they need to register to vote or require other Town Clerk services. After-hours dog licensing will also be possible till 8pm on Tuesday, March 5.

Submitted by: Town Clerk