



Town of
Longmeadow, Massachusetts
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TO: Chairman Lachiusa and Members of the Select Board
FROM: Lyn N. Simmons, Town Manager
DATE: February 16, 2021
SUBJECT: Town Manager Report

Parking Area

The Department of Conservation and Recreation has approved the bituminous parking area on Conservation land at the intersection of Birnie Rd and West Rd where the DCR holds a conservation restriction. We are participating in the Federal Lands Access Program to improve the access to the federally owned Silvio Conte Fish and Wildlife Refuge located adjacent to town Conservation Land. A Notice of Intent has been filed to repave Pondside Rd. where it intersects with Barkhaul Rd. where the entrance to the refuge is located and continuing northward and turning left on Birnie Rd. and terminating with a new bituminous parking area providing space for ten parking spaces. The intent is to provide access to the refuge from the north. The parking area would be on land for which DCR has a CR on that property. The area for the parking location will be minimal in size.

Pet Waste Stations

A requirement of the MS4 permit was the installation of pet waste stations at our public parks or areas where dogs recreate. We purchased 5 receptacles and 3 are being installed at Bliss and Laurel Parks, 1 at Turner Park and 1 at the trail on Bark Haul Road and Pondside. DPW will empty the receptacles during normal trash collection routes.

Tina Lane Landfill

The final permit with MassDEP was filed by Tighe & Bond to close out the landfill capping project.

Police Department

The Longmeadow Police Department has sworn in a new Police Officer Jonah Vaclavicek. Officer Vaclavicek was hired in 2019 and worked as a full-time Reserve Officer through a waiver. He then attended the 61st Recruit Officer Class of the Western Mass Police Academy which began September 8, 2020. His training was 22 weeks long and he graduated on February 5, 2021. Officer Vaclavicek began working Monday February 8, 2021 on the midnight shift. Because he has already completed his Field Training while working on the waiver, acclimation training will not be necessary. Officer Vaclavicek received the "Staff Award" which the Academy Staff presents to the recruit who "Demonstrated overall excellence and always put forth the maximum effort".

WestCOMM

The closing on the Salter College property was delayed while we were awaiting a Title V certificate, which was received late last week. The closing will be rescheduled. An RFQ has gone out to hire a consultant for phase 1 design for the renovations. There is discussion with Southwick and Ware about joining which wouldn't happen until the new facility is up and running. Revisions to the District Agreement are being done and the Board of Directors will be voting on the changes at an upcoming meeting, it will then need to go to each community's Select Board/Town Council/City Council for a vote. Most changes are to clean it up to reflect current practice.

Longmeadow Street from Enfield line to Converse Street

Engineering work on the Longmeadow Street project from the Enfield line to Converse Street is still moving along with what was left in the remaining budget (we were slowed due to COVID). The engineering firm is recommending that we break the project into 2 phases. Right now the estimate for construction is \$16 million. The MPO receives \$20 million for our entire region so it would be very unlikely that Longmeadow would receive \$16 million in TIP funding toward this project which is why the recommendation has been made to approach it in two phases.

Zoom

I have received reports of boards and committees being subjected to zoombombing with a very serious incident occurring at the last Coalition for Racial Justice meeting. Moving forward Select Board meetings will utilize the webinar format to control participation. Other boards and committees will be provided additional instruction on conducting Zoom meetings with stricter participation controls in place. The incident that occurred at the Coalition for Racial Justice meeting is being investigated by the Longmeadow Police Department with assistance from the IT department.