



**TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW**

Town Manager's Report

October 26, 2021

Good evening:

I have submitted the application of Rebecca Torcia to serve on the Board of Health. Her application was previously forwarded to you for review on or about October 20, 2021. Ms. Torcia is a nurse by professional training and has taught at Putnam High School for 15 years in the medical information/trade occupations field. She indicated a willingness to serve on the Board in order to help the community through the very difficult public health issues which we currently face.

The Eastern Hampden County Veterans District met again on October 21, 2021 in a continuing effort to reorganize in compliance with statutory administrative requirements governing Districts. Unfortunately, we have yet to receive written notification of a waiver for our non-compliance for FY 22. However, as a result of a recent conference with the Veterans Secretary, a new letter has been drafted and sent which we trust will resolve the remaining issues regarding certification of our VSO. Despite these continuing delays, the DPW is working to construct a new office space in the COA building to house the Veterans Officer.

Negotiations continue with the Police Union. I continue to meet with Chief Williams and Steve Lonergan to work on proposals to settle this contract.

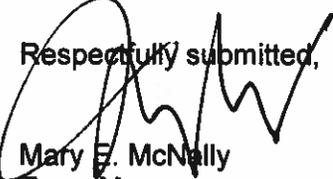
The Master Plan Implementation Open House events took place on October 21, 2021 in two sessions (one afternoon, one evening). Representatives from many of the Town Departments were present to answer questions. Several community organizations had representatives as well, including Lions Club, Norcross House, Medical Reserve Corps and individuals to provide information and discuss ballot initiative procedures. Attendance was not as significant as hoped for, but several interested citizens attended and we are pleased with the success of this event as a first step toward community involvement.

I have attached information for your preliminary review pertaining to acquisition and installation of Electric Vehicle charging stations in Town. Specific inquiries can be addressed at a future meeting if desired by DPW and Joe Robinson, the Energy Source (vendor) representative with whom discussions have occurred. Grant funding for most of the initial cost is described in the attachment.

Our Planning Director, Bethany Yeo, has been nominated by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to receive the Rising/Emerging Planner Award given by the Massachusetts chapter of the American Planning Association. I authored a letter supporting this nomination and have attached it (with the request) for your information. Bethany has obviously earned the respect of her professional colleagues and the Town is quite fortunate to have her as one of its very talented and dedicated Department Heads.

The Town has been notified by Mass Development that a local business is seeking to participate in the recently approved PACE program for solar project financing. We are pleased that this opportunity is now available here.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Mary E. McNally  
Town Manager