



## TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

October 11, 2022

Good evening:

The Town has hired a new Building Commissioner, David Gardner. Mr. Gardner has extensive experience in the field and is currently the President of the Building Officials of Western Massachusetts, an organization of active and retired building code officials, state building inspectors and building industry associates. He previously sat on the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals in his hometown. I think he will be a great addition to our quality group of Department Heads. He was introduced to all of his colleagues at the Department Head meeting on October 5, 2022.

Interviews of candidates for the newly created position of Police Lieutenant occurred on September 26, 2022. After an evaluation and discussions with the candidates, Sgt. Steven Manning was promoted to the new position. Details of contract terms are underway, an effective date is not yet determined.

The Eastern Hampden County Veterans Board has continued to solicit applications and interview interested parties for the vacant Veterans Service Officer position. The most recent candidate, Christopher Lizotte, was interviewed on October 6, 2022 and was offered the position subject to successful contract negotiations with the District. Rep. Brian Ashe and Robin Frechette also attended this meeting which was conducted via zoom. The regular monthly meeting of the Board took place this morning.

Rep. Ashe's office is also involved in assisting the COA in its efforts to obtain State funding for a new van. Maintenance costs for the three older vehicles (2011, 2013 and 2019 models) have increased substantially over the last year.

The Town's property values have been certified by the Commonwealth. The auditors have completed their annual on-site examination of the Town's financial operations. Their report will inform and facilitate the Town's ability to complete the required annual submissions to the Dept. of Revenue. More detail on this subject is available from the Finance Director in his report.

A design kick-off meeting with Berkshire Design Group, Inc. regarding Heritage Park took place on October 3, 2022. The project scope, schematic plan and anticipated permitting needs and schedule were discussed. To date, the wetland delineation is complete and the survey field work is 95% complete. The Town's application for Parc grant funding to assist in financing of Heritage Park redevelopment will be resubmitted next year after the initial design phase is completed.

Negotiations continue with the Town's Fire Department Union. Labor intensive review of proposals and responses consumed several days in advance of the Sept. 27, 2022 session. The next meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, October 12, 2022.

In furtherance of the Town's High School building project, a public presentation to the Community occurred on Thursday, September 21, 2022 at 6 p.m. at the Senior Center. This presentation explained the options being considered by the School Building Committee for preferred design and encouraged active participation from the audience both in the form of questions and by their perusal of poster boards describing each option. The public was invited to weigh in on their likes and dislikes by posting a note on the respective boards situated around the auditorium.

The Health Department conducted drive through flu vaccine clinics on October 4 at the Senior Center from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on October 5 at the Fire Department from 1-6 p.m. Over 240 vaccinations were administered. The Fire Department also sponsored a "stuff the truck" event on Saturday, October 8, 2022 to benefit the food pantry at the COA.

Electric vehicle charging stations have been approved for funding by DEP. Three units will be installed by the spring of 2023. Details regarding cost and time limitation procedures will be finalized soon.

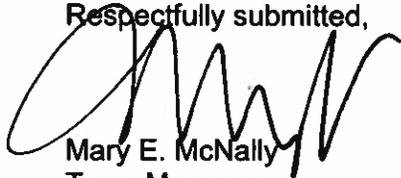
I received notification that our grant application to FEMA for funding assistance in the preparation of the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan Update project has been approved in the amount of \$20,000. This project is expected to take 36 months to complete.

The next meeting of the Westcomm Board of Directors and its subcommittees is scheduled for October 14, 2022.

The first Oktoberfest at Brown Farm is scheduled for Saturday, October 15, 2022 from 12-5 pm. This event will feature the Town owned Brown Farm property. Please join in the activity (food, fun, games) sponsored by the Town's Recreation Department.

Information on the status of these and other projects was shared by and between the Department Heads at the above referenced meeting on October 5, 2022. They continue, as a group and individually, to support the initiatives of the Town and the School District by providing professional and courteous service to the residents of East Longmeadow.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary E. McNally  
Town Manager