



## TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

November 10, 2022

Good evening:

I am happy to announce that a swearing in ceremony will be held on November 15, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. to recognize the appointment of the Town's first Police Lieutenant, Steven Manning. Lt. Manning was appointed on October 17, 2022 and will assume major responsibilities in the administration and management of the Police Department.

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, declined the position. Presently, this position remains very difficult to fill and there are no applicants awaiting interview. In addition to the Veterans dinner going on tonight, there will be a Veterans ceremony and parade tomorrow morning beginning at 10 a.m. at the VFW Hall.

Preparation of the Town's annual reports to the Dept. of Revenue is underway. Further detail on this subject is available from the Finance Director in his report.

The Town is moving forward with our MGM grant funded project regarding online permitting. The Building Department is able to use the templates with which Commissioner Gardner is familiar, avoiding the need to use grant funds to design these forms. The savings will allow us to implement Health Dept. permits/forms in the near future. Ryan Quimby is overseeing this project as well as the pending broadband feasibility study. There is a request for funding of that study before you tonight.

Additional design meetings with Berkshire Design Group, Inc. regarding Heritage Park have occurred to address the site plan for placement of additional soccer fields and location of the proposed Community Center. The project scope, schematic plan and anticipated permitting needs and schedule are subjects of continuing discussion. We look forward to the Town's eligibility for Parc grant funding to assist in financing of Heritage Park redevelopment next year after the initial design phase is completed.

In other DPW news, the sidewalk project on Parker St. terminating at Bent Tree (4500 ft.) is complete. The Town has been notified of a revision to the lead and copper rule which will require the Town's Water Department to investigate the lines running to individual properties based on the dates that certain materials were used, estimated number is 2,718. Once done, the Town will have to budget for replacing all service lines that have suspect materials. This is an unfunded EPA and Mass DEP mandate.

Negotiations continue with the Town's Fire Department Union. We met on October 12 and November 8, 2022 to review progress and continue discussions.

The Human Resources Department planned and scheduled its annual Benefits Fair at the COA on October 27, 2022 through the efforts of Megan Emrick. It was attended by many retirees seeking information from various providers. Successful management of this event was due in large part to the efforts of Deborah House, Tammy Spencer, Erin Koebler and Tom Christensen as all staff in the Human Resources Department were unavailable to attend due to illness. I mention this fact to acknowledge their contributions and thank them for the teamwork they demonstrated to make sure this event took place as scheduled and the retirees and vendors were not disappointed.

Tom Christensen has drafted a proposed bylaw for the creation of a Commission on Disability. He will also be responsible for oversight of the Heritage Park redevelopment project and be involved as a member of the School Building Committee. Additionally, he has undertaken the responsibility of approvals of

requisitions from all Departments and has assisted in the above-mentioned labor negotiations.

I received a Notice to Proceed with our Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. The performance period for the project began in October and expenses will be reimbursed from the grant in the amount of \$20,000. This project is expected to take 36 months to complete. Chief Morrissette is leading this effort.

The Westcomm Board of Directors and its subcommittees met on October 14, 2022 and November 4, 2022, continuing to discuss improvements to operations, staffing and progress on the new site. The Project Manager recommends the creation of a building committee, composed of a Board member, Finance, Operations and IT subcommittee members.

The first Oktoberfest at Brown Farm on Saturday, October 15, 2022 was hugely successful. It was a perfect weather day and approximately 500 residents enjoyed the various activities sponsored by the Town's Recreation Department. The positive response has inspired the Recreation Department and Commission to think of ways to plan more activities for this site.

In other Rec. Dept. event news, a dual swim meet is scheduled for November 19, 2022 at 8 a.m. at the High School. According to the Director, these events are difficult to manage in the type of four lane pool currently in use at the school.

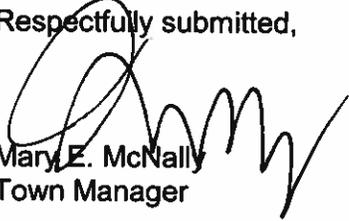
The COA has several upcoming events. Tonight's Veterans Dinner, a Thanksgiving lunch on Nov. 17; Veterans coffee hours on the first and third Thursdays of each month; a toy drive in cooperation with the Library on December 3; a new podcast with Elcat entitled "Stories from the View", hosted and produced by Pleasant View volunteers; UNICO dinner on Dec. 9; continuing Dementia Friendly Education series (hosted at the Library on Nov. 21) and assistance for seniors with Fuel Assistance and Open Enrollment questions. The Center bustles with activity on any given day and continues to provide a dedicated and friendly environment for all.

You may also have noted the collaboration of the Library staff with the COA. Several of the upcoming events are joint efforts, namely the Giving Tree (Nov. 14 through Dec. 5) and the "Ask a Librarian" events at COA today and again on December 8, 2022 from 10:30 to noon.

In furtherance of providing information to the community about the Town's High School building project, a Community Forum is scheduled for November 16, 2022 at the High School at 6 p.m. at the Senior Center. Please attend this forum to learn about this major development for the Town if your schedules allow.

Town Hall will be closed tomorrow, Veterans Day, Nov. 11 as well as Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25 for the observance of Thanksgiving. Please enjoy these observances.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Mary E. McNally  
Town Manager