



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

January 10, 2023

Good evening:

Refurbishing of the Vietnam Monument is complete, thanks in large part to Bruce Moore. Please stop by and take a look at the new stone, it is quite impressive.

The Eastern Hampden County Veterans Board hired a new Veterans Service Officer as of January 3, 2023. He is Gerard Rathe, an East Longmeadow resident, who will soon re-establish office hours and be in position to serve the Veterans in our community on a regular basis within a week or so.

Tom Christensen and I (with the participation of Steve Lonergan) have interviewed candidates for the position of Municipal Finance Director. We have chosen our new Director, Kim Collins, who will begin her employment on February 1, 2023. We also spent significant time over two days in December, interviewing candidates for the position of Deputy Fire Chief. After a rigorous, fire-scenario based process as well as in person oral interviews, the position was offered to current Fire Captain Christopher Beecher. He has accepted and contract negotiations are underway.

Planning Director Bailey Mitchell has an update tonight on the Town's fuel efficient vehicle policy which is another necessary component to achieve Green Community status. Catherine Ratte, a Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) staff member, is also present to answer any questions you may have. Bailey continues to work on completing the Town's Energy Reduction Plan which is the last of the criteria required to qualify for Green Committee designation.

Additional negotiation sessions continue with the Town's Fire Department Union. The next meeting will be on January 24, 2023. The Fire and Police Departments have received their annual \$1000 grants for equipment or professional development purposes from Bay Path University.

The COA enrolled 619 new members in 2022 and is working to promote education regarding dementia issues and support for patients and their caregivers. Our COA Director, Erin Koebler, is the Chair of the Commission on Disability and a notice requesting applicants for the commission is about to be published.

Meetings of the School Building Committee continue on a regular basis, including January 5, 2023. Please attend these meetings in person or online to learn about this major development for the Town if your schedules allow.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary E. McNally
Town Manager