



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

May 14, 2024

Good evening:

Kim and I have been meeting with the Financial Oversight Committee once a week since our last meeting to go through the FY25 budget. The meetings have been very productive and beneficial. It is a truly collaborative effort and the conversations have been helpful, not only for this year, but will help shape the construction of the budget and its presentation for future years.

Ryan Quimby and I have been meeting with the team at Westfield Gas & Electric's Whip City Fiber as they complete their field work and finalize the design. They are currently performing QA/QC on all data collected and we expect a finished product by the end of the month.

The Center Town District Steering Committee held another public event on May 8th to garner interest and solicit public comment for the creation of the Center Town District. The event was held at Graham Central Station and was well attended. The Steering Committee's next public engagement will be on May 20th at the COA and will have more of a workshop feel, with residents providing ideas and input. In order for this process to be a success, we need the voices of our residents to be heard, so please come and join in on the conversation.

I am pleased to announce the newest member of our team, Rob Watchilla. He has been hired as the new Planning Director for the Town of East Longmeadow. Rob comes to us from the Town of Amherst where he was a Town Planner. He has a wealth of knowledge in his field and we are very much looking forward for him to show how much he has to offer. Rob's first day is May 20th so stop by Town Hall and welcome him when you can.

The new High School project remains on schedule as we move through Design Development. The MSBA has reviewed that submittal and comments have been addressed. Additionally, we cleared two more hurdles in the process as the Notice of Intent was approved by the Conservation Commission on April 24th and Site Plan Approval was granted by the Planning Board on May 7th. As such, there are no immediate changes to the current schedule and enabling work is set to begin shortly after the last day of school, June 14th.

The East Longmeadow Public Library is working to develop a new, 5-year Strategic Plan. This plan will set the mission, vision and future goals for ELPL. By pinpointing community needs and foreseeing trends, the plan aids in formulating a comprehensive, forward-looking strategy in the face of evolving roles, service models, funding, technological changes, publishing and demographic shifts. Thanks to our wonderful library staff and our Director, Katie McGonigle, for continuing to provide a welcoming space for our patrons at the Library.

The COA kicked off its 3-year rolling strategic plan by sharing this year's goals with the community through an interactive trivia game on April 24th. The plan is the result of input from community members, Board members, Town employees and volunteers. On the same day we received our new ADA van as a result of an FY24 state budget earmark and supplemental funding from the Town. Legislators will be at the COA on May 20th for a photo and check presentation. Please join if you are able.

I am pleased to announce that the Town of East Longmeadow has been awarded \$292,725 for various projects from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission's Community Mitigation Fund. The fund was set up to help surrounding communities with any and all impacts brought about by the MGM Casino. The money will be spent on projects in Planning, Public Safety, Public Works and IT. Thank you to Rebecca who ushered the application process and Chief Morrissette, Chief Williams, Ryan Quimby, Bruce Fenney and Erin Koebler who's input and ideas made this process a success!

Upcoming Events: Center Town District Steering Committee on May 20th at the COA, 6pm
American Legion Memorial Day Ceremony on May 27th at ELHS, 11am
Coffee with the Town Manager on June 5th at the COA, 10:30am
Community Preservation Workshop on June 5th at the COA, 6pm

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas D. Christensen
Town Manager