



## TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW

Town Manager's Report

September 24, 2024

Good evening:

I want to start by thanking the East Longmeadow Fire Department for hosting another beautiful ceremony on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Once again the ceremony was well attended and provided a glowing tribute to all the lives lost on that fateful day. Furthermore, it always makes me appreciate all the men and women who continually risk their lives every day, so that others may be safe. Thank you to all in attendance, those whose words carried the spirit of the evening and the resounding reminder, that we must never forget.

Attached please find project reports for the weeks of September 3<sup>rd</sup> and September 9<sup>th</sup> for the construction of the new high school. The contractor is still on schedule and the area where the new school will sit is almost prepared for its footings, which will take shape in mid to late October.

Chief Williams has procured the radar speed signs with the Mass Gaming Community Mitigation Funds that we secured this summer. DPW is presently holding them and they will be installed later this fall. DPW has received the Tighe & Bond feasibility contract for sidewalk improvements on Westwood Avenue and Maple Street. These streets are identified in the Town's 2021 Sidewalk Master Plan for proposed sidewalks and will help infill gaps in the sidewalk network, creating safer and more pedestrian-friendly routes to get around sections of the Town and, of course, to the new High School.

Later this month we will begin work on a Digital Equity Planning Grant that we secured through the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative. Bill Scully from Kimley-Horn will serve as our consultant and work with a team of staff to help identify local digital equity target populations and resources that we can leverage to address the needs of these populations. This should prove to be valuable preparatory work that will support the Town's transition to a fiber network.

A couple of CPC project updates: The front portion of the barn at Brown Farm has been removed. Thanks to the DPW and their contractor, MJ McKernan Enterprises of Foxborough. They showed up last Wednesday and were out of there by Friday. A contract was signed with Berkshire Design Group for the feasibility study for sports field at the property on Chestnut Street. We have a kick-off meeting scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss the project timeline.

I had a joint meeting with WestMass Development and the MassDEP to discuss the property at 70 Maple Street. We discussed our plans and what DEP expects from the Town, as well as many funding opportunities available to us in order to clean up the site.

Upcoming Events: Coffee with the Town Manager – October 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:30am at the COA  
Rotary Club's Celebrate EL– October 12th 11am-4pm at Center Field  
Oktoberfest – October 19th 12pm-4pm at Brown Farm  
Center Town District – October 21<sup>st</sup> 6pm – 8pm at COA

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas D. Christensen  
Town Manager