

Town Administrator's Report

April 8, 2025

Municipal Aggregation Plan

As you know, the Town has signed a contract with Dynegy to supply energy to Dunstable residents for 18 months starting in June. The Coming-Soon Postcard is being mailed today, Tuesday, April 8, and directs the public to the website for more information which is now live. As part of the public outreach efforts, the Town is required to host 2 public information sessions which we are currently coordinating with Peregrine Energy, our consultants.

FY26 Operating Budget

As a reminder, on April 16, 7 PM at the high school, the Town is hosting a community budget forum with the Town of Groton and Groton Dunstable Regional School District.

Cell Tower – Water Tank

T-Mobile has filed with the Planning Board to site their telecommunications equipment on the Town Water Tank. Under the Town Bylaw, they require a Special Permit.

MCO Associates Affordable Housing Project

MCO Associates has informed the Town that they intend to file with the ZBA this month, aiming for the week of April 14. Once they file, we will then request Technical Assistance from MassHousing to assist with managing the process.

Larter Field

Over the last few weeks, the Parks and Recreation Commissions have been dealing with significant sinkholes that developed at Larter Field. The Highway Department was extremely helpful with stabilizing the field, filling the sinkholes, and making it safe. I've been working with the Parks and Recreation Commission to solicit proposals to develop a long-term solution to this problem. As you know, during construction of the tennis courts, a large stump dump was found, which is likely the cause of the problem throughout the site. We've received several proposals now; next step is to develop a path forward and potentially draft a request for CPA funds.

Town Hall Chimney Repairs

The Town secured \$20,000 of CPA funds to make repairs to the faux chimney at Town Hall. We have brought on an architect, Gienapp Associates, the same firm being used for the Union Building work, to assist in developing specifications and a plan for the project. They were on site last week and have begun the work. I expect we will need to go back for a supplemental CPA appropriation to complete the repair work.

Police Station Windows and Doors Replacement

The contractor for this project has been selected and we are now waiting for the windows to arrive. They expect to have them in mid-April and, once received, they don't think the job will take longer than a week.

Library Repairs - Window Trim, Soffit, Fascia, and Gutter Replacement

This project was designed by Emerald Design Build and has been bid. Bids are due on April 10. We have received a lot of interest in the project; we'll see if this interest translates into competitive bids.

Union Building Restoration

Filed sub bids were due on April 1 and General Contractor bids are due on April 10. We have also finalized the grant contract with MassDevelopment to support the interior design of the building. The Union Building Rehabilitation Committee is meeting next on April 16 to review proposals and make a recommendation to the Select Board.

Treasurer/Collector regional position

We have interviewed several candidates for the position of Treasurer/Collector. The process is ongoing. I'll be sure to keep you updated as we progress.

Best Triangle Parcels

The Affordable Housing Committee and Affordable Housing Trust Board of Trustees jointly held a meeting a few weeks ago to discuss the Best Triangle parcels. As a result, they recommended reaching out to Habitat for Humanity to discuss the site and to determine if they'd have any interest in the parcels. Leah coordinated a meeting with the Board Chair which went very well. We have some follow-up to do with Habitat but very preliminarily, they expressed interest in working with the Town.

Block Party – Save the Date

Sue is leading the effort to organize the Block Party Event at Town Hall. The event will include food, drink, entertainment, games, arts, crafts, etc. It's planned for Friday evening on June 20 from 5:30-8:30 PM on the grounds of Town Hall.

Tennis/Pickleball Courts

Parks and Recreation has planned a grand opening celebration of the tennis and pickleball courts this month, Saturday, April 12 at 10 AM.

Greater Lowell Health Alliance Mini-Grant

The Town has received a \$3,000 grant from GLHA to support the Dunstable Senior Wellness Initiative. The initiative aims to enhance the health and well-being of older adults in Dunstable by providing accessible group exercise programs and increasing access to healthy, locally sourced foods. In collaboration with the Greater Lowell YMCA and local farms, this initiative will offer seniors structured fitness activities, fresh produce, and educational resources, including healthy recipes and cooking demonstrations, to help them incorporate nutritious foods into their daily meals.

New Carpets at Town Hall

The installation of new carpets at Town Hall is complete and they look great. Thanks to our insurer, MIIA, for assisting with this project.

Regional Transportation Grant - \$42,000

As you may recall, the Town was pursuing the installation of EV Chargers at Town Hall through a regional transportation grant we received. We were working with the Town of Pepperell on this project. The project was bid twice without receiving viable proposals for both Towns to implement. Unfortunately, we decided to abandon the project and, since then, the grant funds have been unused. Rather than EV Chargers, we are now planning to utilize these funds to purchase a plug-in hybrid vehicle for Patriot Regional Emergency Communications Center. This is in keeping with the regional nature of the grant, and also the ARPA legislation that was the source of these funds. I am currently working to finalize changing the grant contract to allow for the purchase.

Woodward's Mill Dam

We applied for a grant through the Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Program Grants and Funds to fund the design for the improvements needed at the Woodward's Mill Dam. I have also submitted a smaller grant request to the Community Preservation Committee to complete the repairs to the void at the top of the dam under Pleasant Street.