

Town Administrator's Report

May 6, 2025

Union Building Restoration and Library Repairs

We have fully executed contracts for both of these projects. Gienapp Architects have been notified about the Union Building contract, and we are in process of scheduling a pre-construction meeting with A.T.E. Painting, the contractor for the library project.

PFAS Mitigation Project Update

As you know, we recently received a communication from Apex, the Engineering firm overseeing the PFAS Mitigation Project explaining the project and the issues we are encountering relative to the "plume" and potential connections to the new system.

The PFAS plume has grown up Groton Street toward Route 113, on the other side of Kemp Street, and, in Groton on Raddin Road, Hawtree Way, and Reedy Meadow Road. While there are plans to bring the water main up Groton Street as part of Phase 2, the other streets identified were not part of the project.

Apex has provided analysis and estimates for potential infrastructure improvements along with the cost of installing and maintaining POET systems on each property affected. Their analysis is a worst-case scenario, however, it does a good job at outlining the problem and potential capital and reoccurring costs for the Towns of Dunstable and Groton. It also includes an updated map with PFAS-impacted properties identified. The LSP is now analyzing the PFAS testing data to better determine the source of the contamination and the responsibilities of both Towns to mitigate it.

Groton Dunstable Regional School Agreement

The Groton Town Manager and Dunstable Town Administrator Budget Working Group has held several meetings regarding the Regional School Agreement to review and consider potential changes to the document. We have been working with consultants from the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools to help guide these discussions and analyze potential changes. This review process will now be continued by the School Committee to determine how best to move forward.

MCO Associates Affordable Housing Project

MCO Associates has filed with the Zoning Board of Appeals. We are now waiting for the ZBA to schedule their first meeting on the project. I have now formally submitted a technical assistance request to MassHousing and they have responded notifying me that they can not complete their full review of the application until we have our first ZBA meeting scheduled. Once the ZBA schedules their first meeting I will share the information with MassHousing so that they can complete the review and consideration of our application.

Annual Town Meeting Virtual Resident Briefing

On Thursday, May 1, the Town hosted a virtual resident briefing on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. About 20-25 people attended and, overall, I thought it went well and was a productive way to have dialogue about the warrant in advance of Annual Town Meeting.

FY26 Budget

The Town has 2 Kitchen Conversations scheduled – one on Friday, May 2 and the other on Thursday, May 8 to discuss the budget and engage with residents.

EOEEA Planning Assistance Grant

The Town recently received notice from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs that it has been awarded a \$20,000 Planning Assistance Grant to complete the update to our Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Open Space and Recreation Plan

The state, through the Division on Conservation Services, recently announced that it is allowing communities to extend their Open Space and Recreation Plans from 7 to 10 years if they submit an updated and extended Action Plan from 7 to 10 years. The Town submitted and was granted an extension which allows the Town to avoid an expired OSRP.

Senator Kennedy – School Capital Request

Senator Kennedy has requested that the Town submit capital requests for the Swallow Union Elementary School up to \$150,000. He believes there is a possibility of securing funding for a project of this size through the supplemental budget. Working with the School District, we requested repairs to the elevator and air handling units for the gym.

Dunstable Community Power – Public Meetings

As a reminder, the Town is hosting 2 upcoming public meetings about the new Dunstable Community Power – one on Monday, May 5 at 6 PM and the other on Wednesday, May 7 at 11:30 AM.

Floodplain Bylaw Public Hearing

The Planning Board is holding their public hearing on the Floodplain Bylaw Update on Monday, May 5 at 6:30 PM.

Greater Lowell Health Alliance Mini Grant

As you know, the Town has received a \$3,000 grant from GLHA to support the Dunstable Senior Wellness Initiative. This last week, the Town has contracted with the Greater Lowell YMCA to provide two new exercise classes free of charge for senior residents – Mondays from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM is Barre Fusion and Tuesdays from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM is Zumba Gold! We have also partnered with Tully Farms to have a once-a-month Farmers Market at the Library during the Senior Lunches. Their first visit to the library was last week where they brought milk, eggs, breads for participants to take home.

EOEEA Technical Assistance – Emergency Action Plan for Woodward’s Mill Dam

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has created a new program to provide a series of technical assistance products to owners of regulated dams. The Town was recently awarded a technical assistance grant through this program to prepare an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for Woodward’s Mill Dam. In brief, an EAP will create a written, formal document that outlines procedures to follow in the event of a potential or actual dam failure or other emergency conditions that could threaten downstream life, property, or infrastructure.