

Town Administrator's Report

June 3, 2025

Union Building Restoration

As a reminder, the construction on the Union Building is set to begin this month – no earlier than June 18. Our architects, Gienapp Architects, and Pappas Industries held a pre-construction meeting on-site last month, and Pappas has since submitted the Statement of Values for the project and is currently being reviewed by Gienapp. Along with the exterior work, I'm preparing to get started on developing a Request for Qualifications for the interior design of the building. As you might recall, the Town received a \$50,000 Underutilized Properties Grant to help fund the interior design along with the \$150,000 from the School District.

PFAS Claim Payments

As a result of the Town's involvement in the PFAS Class Action Lawsuits against PFAS manufacturers, we received our first payment of approximately \$66,000. In the letter included with the payment, Napoli Shkolnik states that this is 20% of our total gross award. If this is the case, our total award from 3M should be approximately \$330,147.80. By the end of the summer, they expect us to receive another payment, this time representing approximately 50% of the total award or \$165,073.90. Following that, the Town will receive several disbursements over time for the balance of the funds. They anticipate the Town receiving similar payments before the end of the year from DuPont, BASF, and Tyco.

MCO Associates Affordable Housing Project

MCO Associates first hearing is scheduled for Thursday, June 5 at 7 PM with the Zoning Board of Appeals. MassHousing has approved our technical assistance grant which will assist the ZBA in its review and consideration of the MCO comprehensive permit application.

FY26 Budget

As you know, the Town's FY26 Operating Budget is balanced due to the override being approved. The GDRSD and the Town of Groton continue to work to adjust their respective budgets. The Town of Groton has scheduled a Special Town Meeting on Monday, June 23 to approve an adjusted FY26 budget. At that point, the Town of Dunstable will better understand its obligation to the School District and have a clearer picture of the amount the Town will need to raise to ensure a balanced budget.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Second Public Meeting

The Town is hosting a second public forum to update the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The public forum will be held remotely on Zoom on Wednesday, June 25 from 6 PM to 7 PM. This interactive event will give residents an opportunity to learn about the OSRP planning process, review draft goals for open space and recreation, and provide feedback on future priorities. The forum is open to all. Participants should register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/QGEHAolzSzGK2JzTgYW3g>.

New Treasurer/Collector

As a reminder, the new Treasurer/Collector, Theresa O'Leary's first day is Thursday, June 5. She will be starting in Dunstable in the morning and then will go to Pepperell in the afternoon. If you have the time, swing by and say hello!

Streetlights

As you know, several years ago the Town converted its streetlights to LED. It was brought to my attention soon after I started here that there were a handful of streetlights that still needed to be converted. Over the last couple of weeks, I've worked with Ron Mikol, to identify those streetlights and have had initial conversations with Groton Electric to assist with the project. I've sent Groton Electric information, and they are going to provide me with a cost estimate to execute the project. I will keep you updated.

Grant Applications

The Town has many grant applications submitted and awaiting decisions at the state level. For your information, the Town has submitted applications for the following grant programs:

- Culvert Replacement Project (Joint Grass Brook)
- MassTrails (Town Center Trail Loop)
- Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Program Grants (Woodward's Mill Dam)
- T-Mobile Hometown Grant Program (Outdoor Classroom and Shade Structures at Swallow Playground)
- Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant (comprehensive culvert and drainage inventory study)

In addition, the Town is now working with NMCOG to submit a One Stop for Growth/HousingWorks grant application to fund the design of pedestrian improvements along Route 113 from the MUD District/Post Office to Town Center. In addition, we are planning to submit an ADA Grant Application for the creation of an ADA Transition Plan.

I can't guarantee we'll get any of them but we are being aggressive with seeking out all grant opportunities available to the Town.

Select Board Newsletter

I hope to pull together a first draft of the newsletter for early next week with the hope of getting it out to everyone before the end of the month.

Municipal Citizens Academy

As you recall, the Town hosted a Citizens Academy last year and we plan to offer the same program this year. Like last year, minimum enrollment for the program to run will be 10 participants and I expect it to run in September/October.

Block Party at Town Hall

Block Party planning and preparation is going well. The event is planned on Friday, June 20 from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. The lineup so far is food from Dinner Made Simple and Lalos Mexican Food Truck, and Tully Farm Ice Cream. Adult beverages will be available from Nashoba Club Pizza and Taproom (no pizza), and we have a variety of music, arts, and entertainment lined up.

Farmer's Market

We are working on gauging the interest of local farmers to participate in a one-time farmers market event at Town Hall. Sue is spearheading this effort. We'll keep you informed and updated if any progress is made and there's sufficient interest in moving the event forward. If you have any concerns, please let me know.

Proposed Stop Sign Locations

The Police Chief has shared proposed stop sign locations with me which I anticipate including on the Select Board's next meeting agenda. We'll get you information on this in advance and we'll be available to discuss at your convenience.

Designations

As you know, I recently achieved the designation of Municipal Certified Public Purchasing Official from the Inspector General's Office. In addition, I was just notified by the Governor's Council and Secretary of State's Office that my application to become a Notary Public has been approved. I now need to get sworn in and, following my swearing-in, the Town will be able to provide more consistent Notary services to the public.