



TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM

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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

June 15, 2015

Town Administrator's reports are available on-line at <http://www.ashburnham-ma.gov>

TOWN COMMITTEES

Currently there are openings on the following (1) Conservation Commission, (1) Council on Aging Board, (2) Historical Commission. These are listed on the Town's website under Volunteer Opportunities.

ROADS

Several residents on Russell Hill have asked that the Board review the traffic flow on Russell Hill. They believe that the large trucks that use that road as a cut through will lead to premature failure of the road's structure. They would like the Board to restrict the traffic on that road to exclude large trucks. With the resurfacing now being scheduled it's a good time to make the transition.

The BOS can vote to make regulations on roads under their jurisdiction. However, there is an approval process for implementation through Mass DOT.

G.L. c. 40, § 22 states "Except as otherwise provided in [G.L. c.90, § 18]... a town may make ordinances or bylaws, or ... the selectmen ... may make rules and orders, for the regulation of carriages and vehicles used therein..." including prohibitions on the use of ways by vehicles. (emphasis supplied)

However, before taking effect, such regulations must be certified by Mass DOT as being "consistent with the public interests." G.L. c. 85, §2 provides for DOT approval of the form of signs required under c. 90, §18, and specifically provides for DOT approval of "any sign excluding heavy commercial vehicles." Below is a link to the Mass DOT publication on signs. The publication includes (at pages 11-12) the criteria that Mass DOT applies in deciding whether to approve a heavy-vehicle exclusion, and in the Appendix, there is a model municipal regulation, including the prohibition on heavy vehicles at page 45 (Section 7-20). Note that there are some categorical exclusions from a ban, such as for public service vehicles (i.e., utilities).

<http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Portals/8/docs/traffic/MassMUTCD20120409.pdf>

CONTRACTS

I have scheduled the first meeting for the DPW union negotiations on June 15th. We have tentative agreement with Police union for the Board to review and sign if acceptable.

BRIGGS SCHOOL

At the MSBA Board meeting on June 3rd, they voted to accept the final audit for the Briggs project. Pauymetn was received by School District on Friday our reimbursement should be on its way.

DPW

Steve Nims, Leo Collette, Mary Calandrella, and I met with the DEP on June 3rd. It was a good meeting and they are sending out a revised order based on information that was given to them.

Steve Nims, Leo Collette, Dave Berger, and I met with Mayor Mark Hawke and DPW Superintendent Dane Arnold from the City of Gardner about the new Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties regarding our sewer system. The meeting went well and they will be sending out a rough draft to be reviewed.

Asphalt bids were opened on the 11th and the DPW Supt. is recommending the FY 16 bids be awarded as follows:

Bituminous Concrete in Place	\$64.22	MA Broken Stone
Reclaiming	\$1.89 per sq yard	Murray Paving
Milling	\$2.06 per sq yard	Lazaro Paving

RECREATION

Recreation is looking to install a walking track around the parameter of Sweeney Playground. Due to its location there has to be a filing of a Notice of Intent application (Wetlands and Waterways) with the DEP. I am requesting that the Board authorize the Town Administrator to process the necessary paperwork.

WATER PROJECT

The temporary borrowing comes up on July 10, 2015. We are working with USDA for the final borrowing, but because the paperwork will not be ready until Aug 3rd I am asking the Board to authorize the rollover of the loan until August 30th. Once the paperwork is complete the Board can come in and sign.