

Town Manager Report


Town of Lunenburg- April 5, 2022





Contact Information

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Announcement on Existing Vacancies

The following is a list of current vacancies on the following committees:

- Architectural Preservation District Commission (2 vacancies, one citizen at large and one representative from Historical Commission)
- Economic Development Committee (1 person recommended by the Open Space Committee)
- Green Communities Committee (1 regular member vacancy and 2 Associate vacancies)
- Historical Commission (2 vacancies)

Interested persons can find application forms on the Town Website and completed forms can be sent to the Select Board's Office. Anyone that has any questions on volunteer opportunities can contact the Select Board's Office at (978) 582-4130 x 144.

Current Employment Opportunities with the Town

The following is a list of current employment opportunities with the Town:

- Conservation Administrator (Full Time Benefitted)
- Digital Services Staff Librarian (Part Time Benefitted)
- Heavy Equipment Operator (Full Time Benefitted)
- Seasonal Lifeguards (Non Benefitted)

- Trash and Recycling Coordinator (Part Time Non-Benefitted)
- Van Driver (Part Time Non-Benefitted)
- Videographers (Part Time Non-Benefitted)

More information on each position can be found on the job postings, which are located on the town website.

Department Head Updates

- Police: The civilian traffic unit position description and rate was approved by the Personnel Committee. The Police Chief is working towards the development of a co-response team for Mental Health calls for service. Patrol Officers would partner with a mental health clinician when responding to individuals who are in crisis due to mental health or substance abuse issues. Mental health calls are on the rise. Three reserve officers have completed the bridge academy that certifies them to the level of a FT officer.
- Fire: The Fire Chief met with the State recently about the plan to get their paramedic licensure through the State. July 1st is the target date.
- Library: The Director reported that it looks like the Digital Services position will be hired shortly. The Director has been working on a Library Services and Technology Grant for a STEM/Sustainability program. The annual book sale will be the first week of June and the Library is currently accepting donations.
- Land Use: The Stone Farm property has been sold and divided into 3 parcels. The new owner is looking to open a marijuana social consumption business there. The Economic Development Committee will be sending out a survey shortly. Powell will be tearing down their old garage and rebuilding a 12,000 square foot garage that will require a water line expansion.
- IT: Suzor IT is holding cyber security trainings for staff on two dates.
- Public Access: PACC is looking to replace their remote switcher. Currently getting a new lighting truss system that is not attached to the building. One of the Cable Manager's projects is working with an ACE student on shooting video. Getting ready to advertise for the Production Technician position.
- Treasurer/Collector: Motor Vehicle commitment #1 is complete. Getting ready for auditors who will be coming in June. Reported results of the Tax Title Auction.
- Town Clerk: The 2020 Census has been finalized. The state redistricting has created new precincts that will be labeled B1 and C1. The Annual Town Election will just be precincts A through D but the State Primaries/Elections will include B1 and C1, which means that a separate voting area will need to be set up in the TC Passios Cafeteria space. The people affected have been notified by mail.
- Assessors: The Assessors finished the Personal Property and Real Estate abatements last week. The Principal Assessor is working on the cyclical data collection timeline.
- Finance Director: The FY 2021 Audit will be issued shortly by Powers & Sullivan. The Finance Director completed the final reporting on the CARES Act funding.
- Council on Aging: The Director reported a new van driver will be starting soon. The COA, Police and Fire will be starting a new Lunenburg Elder Connections which will be used to support the seniors. A new platform will be created by the designer of My Senior Center to create a communication platform between the Senior Center, Police and Fire and Nashoba Nursing and Hospice. The software will allow for these departments to pull up vital information via different types of devices.

Update on Electricity and Natural Gas Contracts for Town/School Accounts

Our energy broker solicited bids for the electricity and natural gas accounts as our current contracts are expiring on November 30, 2022. For natural gas we locked in a 3 year rate of \$4.39/DTH (dekatherm). This is a decrease of \$0.80/DTH.

The electricity rates came in higher than the current municipal aggregation rate therefore I am working with our Municipal Aggregation broker to confirm that all our accounts can transition to the municipal aggregation electricity supplier on December 1, 2022.

Response from MassHousing on 40B Project Eligibility/Site Approval for Pond View Commons

On Thursday, March 31st MassHousing emailed me a copy of the letter they sent to Pond View Commons LLC notifying them that they reviewed the application and were issuing Site Approval. This approval is effective for a period of two (2) years from the date of the letter and if the applicant did not apply for a comprehensive permit through the ZBA within this period, the site approval would be expired unless MassHousing extends the effective period in writing.

A copy of the letter has been forwarded to all the appropriate officials and boards/committees.

COVID-19 Update

The weekly update from the Board of Health on the total number of new cases reported as of March 26th was 8 and the positivity rate was 1.38%.

Meetings, Events and Other Announcements

- There will be a Veterans Informational Expo at the Eagle House on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 from 6-8 pm. The Veterans Service Officer worked with the COA Director to put this together.
- Yard Waste Collection Days at Youngs Road will begin Saturdays starting April 16th until May 21st. The collection is open from 8 am until 4 pm.
- The Lunenburg Lions Club will host an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 16th from 11 am until 1 pm in the field between the TCP building and Kids Kingdom. There will be face painting and light refreshments provided. This event is for Lunenburg residents only.
- The Planning Board will be holding the public hearing on the three articles they submitted to be voted on at the Annual Town Meeting on April 11th at Town Hall at 6:05 PM.
- The Lunenburg Farmers Market will start on Sunday, June 12th until Sunday, September 25th.