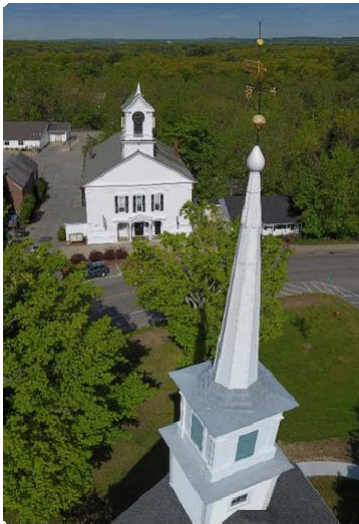



Town Manager Report


Town of Lunenburg-September 1, 2020





Contact Information

 Facebook

 17 Main Street, Lunenburg, MA,...

 978-582-4130

 hlemieux@lunenburgonline.com

 lunenburgma.gov

Announcement on Existing Vacancies:

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

- Americans with Disabilities Act Commission (1 vacancy)
- Architectural Preservation District Commission (1 vacancy)
- Historical Commission (1 vacancy)
- Senior Center Property Tax Work Off Committee (1 vacancy)
- Zoning Board of Appeals (1 Associate vacancy)

Interested persons can find application forms on the Town Website and completed forms can be sent to the Board of Selectmen's Office.

Request to Rename a Tributary off of Mulpus Brook (Current Business):

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) has received a proposal from a resident of Lunenburg to apply the new name Balish Brook to an officially unnamed stream that flows into Mulpus Brook in Cowdrey Nature Center.

The Board of Geographic Names is responsible by law for standardizing geographic names for use by the Federal Government and accepts proposals to name unnamed geographic features or change the names of already named geographic features. Because the Board of Geographic Names places importance on local opinion when it votes on these proposals, local governments who are elected to represent its citizens who might have an interest in the naming are asked for their input. This request was received by both the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission.

The stream currently has no name that is official for Federal use. The proponent wishes to honor his great-uncle Harry Balish (1915-1980), who was born in Pennsylvania and died in Oregon; Mr. Balish has no connection to Lunenburg or Massachusetts. He had a long military career, serving in World War II and the Korean War and was stationed in New Mexico, San Francisco, Germany, and Turkey. The proponent acknowledged that Mr. Balish had no connection to the area but believes that he should be commemorated for his military service.

The Conservation Commission met and voted to recommend not naming this Tributary after Mr. Balish.

Home Rule Petition for Liquor License for Lanni Orchards:

The bill (House Bill 4644) that was filed based on the home rule petition to the Legislature to add an additional liquor license for Lanni Orchards was signed off by the Governor on August 20th. I asked the Executive Assistant to contact Lanni Orchards and provide all the necessary paperwork so that they can go through the licensing procedure with the Selectmen at a future date.

Town Charter:

I was contacted by the Associate Director of Legislative Affairs in the Office of the Governor on Friday, August 21st to notify me that the bill (S. 2754) to revise the Town Charter was received by the Governor. Their office asked for us to review the Act and to let them know if the Town was alright with the language. After our review, I was told we had three options, 1) the Governor would sign as it was drafted, 2) Governor could veto the bill, or 3) return to the legislature with amendments, which would be highly unpredictable and would only make sense if there were major issues with the language passed by the legislature. Since our Town Counsel had painstakingly went through the tedious task to draft the submission to the legislature in a format that would be acceptable, I forwarded to Attorney Costa to do a compare and contrast based on the version he submitted. On Monday, August 24th Attorney Costa concluded his review and denoted a few inconsistencies from what he had submitted and the language the legislature passed. They are:

- Article 1, Section 6: The Town voted to replace commonwealth with Commonwealth of Massachusetts and this was not incorporated;
- Section 3-7 (b): The Town voted the second sentence to begin with "The Library Board of Trustees" and it says "The Library";
- Section 3-14: Missed replacing Board of Selectmen with Select Board. This was done everywhere else in the document though.

Attorney Costa and I had a conference call with the Governor's legal team on Wednesday, August 26th and after reviewing our options and hearing that it would be highly unlikely that the Governor would return to the legislature with the changes that were identified as they were not substantive in nature, if we wished to have him veto the bill, it would likely take another 6 months or longer to have an approved Charter. Ultimately we agreed to proceed with the Governor signing the version that was

before him so as not to cause significant delays in a bill where the identified inconsistencies would be manageable.

I was notified on Friday, August 28th that the Governor signed the bill.

Continuity of Operations Plan:

The kick-off meeting for the Continuity of Operations Plan was held today with all department heads in attendance. A Continuity of Operations Plan is a document that ensures the primary essential functions of the agency (town government) continue to be performed during a wide range of emergencies, including localized acts of nature, accidents and technological or attack-related emergencies or a pandemic. This plan will identify such things as essential functions, orders of succession, delegations of authority, continuity of facilities, and continuity of communications. This project is being funded through a grant through the Community Compact program and the UMass Collins Center is our consultant.

Green Community Grant Award:

We were notified on August 27th by the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Green Communities Division we were awarded our request of **\$69,361** for our Green Communities Competitive Grant application.

The approved funded projects include:

- \$15,092, Turkey Hill Elementary School - Kitchen appliance replacement
- \$2,780, Middle/ High School - LED lighting
- \$9,500, Primary School - Hot water boiler replacement
- \$7,065, Senior Center - Appliance replacement
- \$725, Ritter Memorial Administration Building -Appliance replacement
- \$725, Public Library -Appliance replacement
- \$725, DPW -Appliance replacement
- \$1,450, Public Safety Building - Appliance replacement (not range)
- \$450, Town Hall -Appliance replacement
- \$1,629, Teen Center -Appliance replacement
- \$3,200, Teen Center -Hot water heater replacement
- \$2,200, Teen Center -Mechanical insulation
- \$10,000, Town of Lunenburg- Hybrid police vehicle purchase (2)
- \$4,460, Public Safety Building - Retro-commissioning
- \$4,360, Town of Lunenburg- Building operator certification training
- \$5,000, Town of Lunenburg- Administrative assistance

Fuel Tank Removal and Replacement Project:

The Fuel Tank Removal and Replacement Project is currently out to bid and bids will be due on September 21st.

Meetings, Events and Other Announcements:

- The Conservation Commission has a meeting on Zoom on Wednesday, September 2nd at 7:00 p.m.
- The School Committee has a meeting on Zoom on Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:30 p.m.
- The Board of Assessors has a meeting on Zoom on Thursday, September 3rd at 1 p.m.
- The Sewer Commission has a meeting on Zoom on Tuesday, September 8th at 5 p.m.

