



To: Town Council
Fr: Paul Bockelman
Town Manager
Dt: February 6, 2019
Re: Town Manager Report for February 11, 2019

Town Manager Update:

- Department Orientations: With Wednesday's meeting, we have concluded the department orientations that we began in January. I thank all of the Councilors for the major commitment of time to engage with our departments as you continue to learn about Town operations. Our Departments were very pleased that you have taken the time to listen to them. The Town staff is superbly qualified with many recognized as state-wide leaders in their fields, highly credentialed with many achieving education and certification beyond requirements, and come to their jobs with deep experience and connections to the community.
- Coffee with Town Manager: "Cuppa Joe with Paul" will be held on Friday, February 8th at the Lone Wolf. Sustainability Coordinator Stephanie Ciccarello will be the guest.
- Hampshire College: Last Friday, the Chair of the Board of Hampshire College announced that the College would not be accepting a new incoming class, but would accept early decision and delayed admission students. With 648 acres of land, Hampshire is a major landholder in the Town and with approximately 400 full-time and 50 part-time employees, one of our largest employers. I continue to work on this issue with interest expressed from stakeholders at Hampshire College, the region's business community, and government officials.
- 260th Anniversary: We will be making a minor fuss on February 13th because it was on that date 260 years ago that "An act for erecting the Second Precinct in the Town of Hadley, in the county of Hampshire, into a District by the name of Amherst" was passed by the Legislature.
- Board of License Commissioners: First meeting of the Board of License Commissioners is February 12th.
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Representative: The President has been nominated to fill the seat previously held by the Select Board Chair on the MPO. Votes were cast in accordance with the Town Council's vote on February 6th. Ballots were due February 8th.
- Community Participation Officers (CPOs):
 - CPO officers met with representatives from the Communication, Outreach and Appointments Committee to discuss their work and roles.

- A graduate student from UMass, Daniel Desrochers, has started an internship to improve community engagement between constituents and the Town government.
- CPO representatives attended school concerts and the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast celebration and the Cuppa Joe with Paul coffee.
- Keep an eye out as we roll out our “Get Involved” web site to be more accessible.
- Other initiatives in the works include an “Academy” to help residents dip their toes into Town government and learn more about how we operate and leveraging the Sustainability Fair to create a community-wide “clean-up” day throughout the Town utilizing and engaging volunteers.
- Public Safety:
 - The Fire Chief is organizing a mock emergency exercise in conjunction with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.
 - Preparations are in progress as we prepare for the coming of spring and increased student activity.
 - A panel reviewing the Police Department will be in Town for several days as part of the Department’s accreditation process.
 - Activity after the Super Bowl was managed well due to superb preparation, great communication and cooperation among multiple public safety agencies, smart pre-deployment of equipment and personnel, and solid execution during the event.
- Human Resources:
 - The Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committee and Union 26 School Committee both voted unanimously to support my proposal to cooperate on planning and budgeting for major capital projects, utilizing the expertise of the School Finance Director. Sean’s new role became effective on February 1st. He will be staffing the Joint Capital Planning Committee, among other duties. The Town’s procurement officer is spending one day a week at the School Department to assist in purchasing duties.
 - Based on Police Chief Scott Livingstone’s recommendation, I promoted Gabe Ting to Police Captain effective February 8, 2019. Gabe is a graduate of Amherst-Pelham Regional High school and joined the Police Department in 1997. He has served in many capacities in the Department including as detective. He is a graduate of UMass and has a Master’s Degree in criminal justice.
- Short-Term Rental Tax:
 - On December 28, 2019, Governor Baker signed into law *An Act Regulating and Insuring Short-term Rentals*. The Act adds short-term rentals (i.e. Air BNB) to the room occupancy excise under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 64G.
 - Since the Town already adopted the local option room occupancy excise (became effective October 1, 2009), the Town’s local excise will automatically apply to a short-term rental starting July 1, 2019 for which a rental contract was entered into on or after January 1, 2019. No further action is required for the excise to apply to short-term rentals.
 - The local excise applies to the same occupancies as the state excise. (Note: As a rule, a municipality that accepts a statute accepts any amendments the legislature subsequently makes to the statute. Therefore, if a municipality has accepted a local option statute, then it operates under the statute as amended. No further action is necessary unless the legislature provides otherwise. Moreover, in this case, section 15 of the legislation states the following: “A city or town that accepted section 3A of chapter 64G of the General Laws before July 1, 2019 shall be deemed to have accepted said section 3A of said chapter 64G for the purposes of this act.”)

Major Capital Projects:

- North Common Restoration/Main Street Parking Lot: On hold.
- Groff Park: DPW has removed the existing equipment. DPW will return later to remove hazardous trees and do site preparation. Request for bids is in process. There was more interest than previously. Work is projected to be done this spring/summer with completion in July.
- DPW/Fire: On the agenda for February 11th.
- Schools: Listening Sessions have been scheduled for February 27, February 28, and March 6. Each day will have an afternoon and evening session. The flyer announcing the event is attached.
- Capital Plan: Staff will be introducing various funding scenarios to the Council on February 25th as you prepare to consider the request to submit an application to the MSBA.

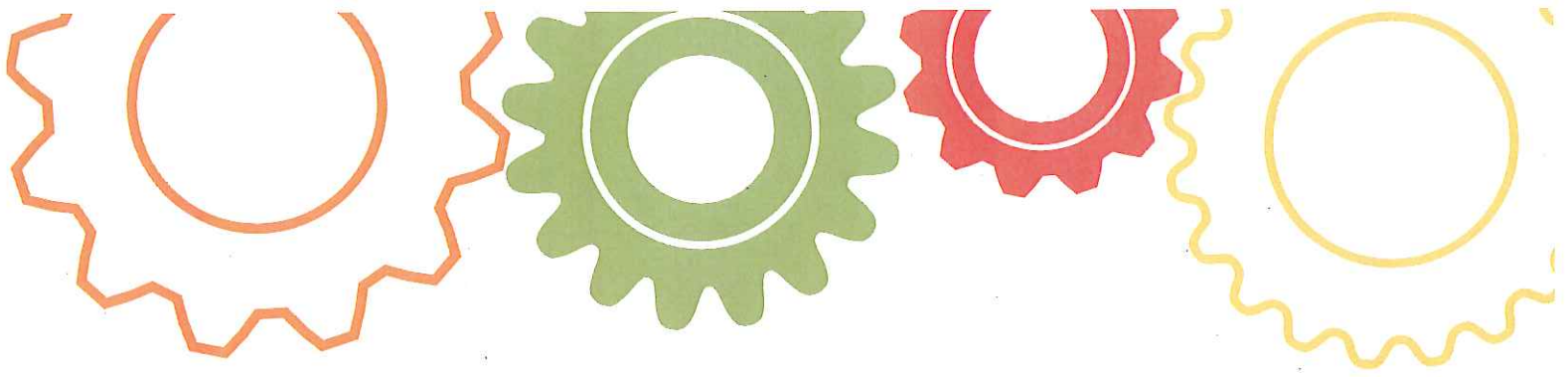
Project Update:

- Downtown Parking: The consultants have begun their work, spending much of last Friday in Town meeting with various constituencies including the Business Improvement District Board of Directors, other business leaders, and Town staff. Traffic counts will be done in early March. Numerous other outreach efforts will be scheduled. Community outreach will be in early April. Report should be finalized by July.
- Puffer's Pond Parking and State Street Changes: The Select Board approved changes to provide more defined parking and to make State Street one-way from west to east. The DPW work will be implemented before the beginning of the busy season in the Spring.
- North Amherst Library: Kuhn-Riddle has completed the first phase of its report that looked at three options: (a) adding a lift and bathrooms; (b) adding a lift, bathrooms, and a community room; and (c) adding a lift, bathroom, community room and reconfiguring the stacks into the new addition.
- Downtown Recreation Working Group: Designs have been finalized by the Downtown Recreation Working Group and an implementation plan has been developed. Future steps require funding.
- Dog Park: The Dog Park Committee continues its work to build a new dog park on the site of the capped landfill south of Belchertown Road.
- Solar on the Landfill:
 - I signed a power purchase agreement with Amsol, LLC to purchase the energy produced by the solar installation on the "north" landfill, adjacent to the transfer station.
 - The "south" landfill will be used to mitigate the environmental issues encountered in this project with some room available for the installation of a dog park.
 - Cypress Creek, the solar developer who took over the project when Sun Edison declared bankruptcy, is currently working with the Town's engineering department to establish landfill engineering baselines to continue on the civil plans.
 - The site topographic survey has been completed and their consultants are processing the data (expected back in the next couple of weeks).
 - The interconnection request was submitted on 11/15/18 and they are working with Eversource on the technical specifications to deem it complete.
 - Environmental consultants visited the site on 1/10/19 and are currently drafting the Environmental Site Assessment.
 - On January 15th, the Kestrel Land Trust Board of Trustees approved acceptance of a Conservation Restriction on 52 acres of grassland bird habitat and woodland buffer on the

- “south” landfill, including a section of the Robert Frost Trail, as required mitigation for the proposed solar project on the “north” landfill.
- Medical Marijuana: The Town has five host community agreements (HCAs) with medical marijuana establishments and one is currently in operation. One four of the five HCAs could result in medical marijuana establishments because two of the HCAs are for the same location and only one operator is allowed at a location.
 - Recreational Marijuana: The Town has signed three HCAs with recreational marijuana retail establishments. None are currently in operation. One went before the Zoning Board of Appeals on January 31st.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

- February 18th – Presidents Day Holiday
- February 18th-22nd – School Vacation Week
- February 25th at 6:30 p.m. – Town Council meeting
- March 2nd at 9:00 a.m. – Four Towns meeting (possible)
- March 4th at 6:30 p.m. – Town Council meeting
- March 7th at 6:30 p.m. – Public Forum on the Budget
- March 18th at 6:30 p.m. – Town Council meeting
- March 20th at 3:00 p.m. – Welcome Reception for Kanegasaki Sister-City Delegation at Bangs Community Center
- March 22nd at 7:30 a.m. – Legislative Breakfast at Jones Library
- April 1st at 6:30 pm. – Town Council meeting
- April 22nd at 6:30 p.m. – Town Council meeting



Save The Date

Listening Sessions Regarding a Proposal and
Application to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA)

Get details of the current proposal for state aid to build a new school for Amherst, and participate in a facilitated discussion to share your thoughts. Mark your calendars--more information to come soon!

Amherst Town Councilors and Amherst School Committee members will be present at each of these meetings.



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27: 3:30-5:30 P.M. AT BANGS COMMUNITY CENTER
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27: 7:00-9:00 P.M. AT WILDWOOD ELEMENTARY

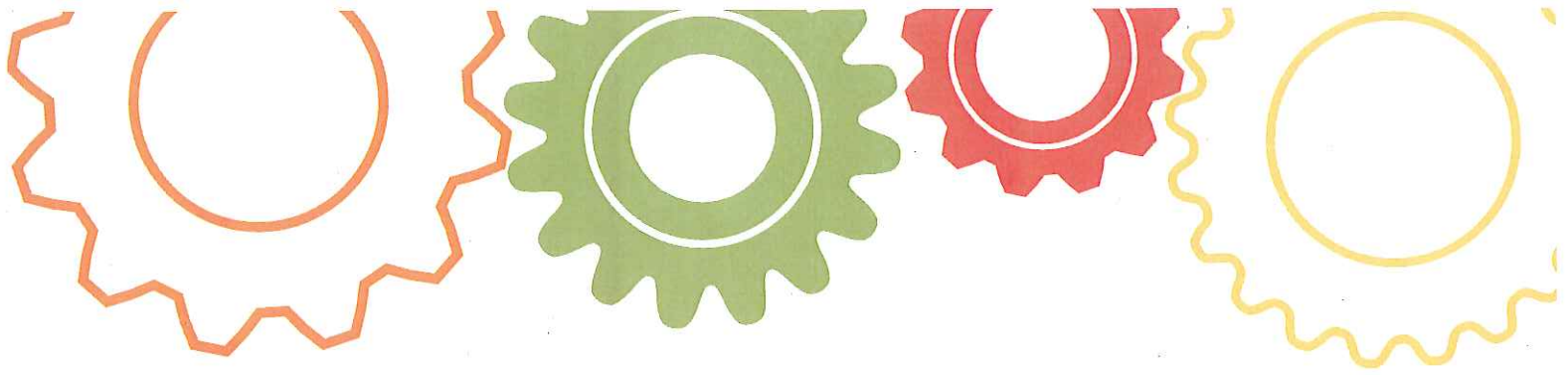
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28: 4:00-6:00 P.M. AT FORT RIVER ELEMENTARY
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28: 7:00-9:00 P.M. AT JONES LIBRARY, WOODBURY ROOM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6: 4:00-6:00 P.M. AT CROCKER FARM ELEMENTARY
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6: 7:00-9:00 P.M. AT ARHS LIBRARY

(ALTERNATE SNOW DATE ONLY)

THURSDAY, MARCH 7: 4:15-6:00PM; 6:30PM-8:00 P.M. AT ARHS LIBRARY

QUESTIONS? PLEASE EMAIL ORDONEZA@ARPS.ORG OR MCDONALDA@ARPS.ORG.



Reserve la Fecha

**Sesiones Informativas sobre Propuesta y
Solicitud a la Autoridad de Edificios Escolares de Massachusetts (MSBA)**

**Obtenga detalles sobre la propuesta actual de solicitud de ayuda estatal para
construir una nueva escuela para Amherst y participe en una discusión
facilitada para compartir su sentir.**

Marque sus calendarios - ¡más información pronto!

**Los Concejales del Pueblo de Amherst y los miembros del Comité
Escolar de Amherst estarán presentes en cada una de estas reuniones.**



MIÉRCOLES, 27 DE FEBRERO: 3:30-5:30 P.M. EN EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO BANGS

MIÉRCOLES, 27 DE FEBRERO: 7:00-9:00 P.M. EN LA ELEMENTAL WILDWOOD

JUEVES, 28 DE FEBRERO: 4:00-6:00 P.M. EN LA ELEMENTAL FORT RIVER

JUEVES, 28 DE FEBRERO: 7:00-9:00 P.M. EN LA BIBLIOTECA JONES, SALA WOODBURY

MIÉRCOLES, 6 DE MARZO: 4:00-6:00 P.M. EN LA ELEMENTAL CROCKER FARM

MIÉRCOLES, 6 DE MARZO: 7:00-9:00 P.M. EN LA BIBLIOTECA DE ARHS (ESCUELA SUPERIOR)

(FECHA ALTERNA DE HABER SUSPENSIÓN POR NIEVE SOLAMENTE)

JUEVES, 7 DE MARZO: 4:15-6:00 PM; 6:30 PM-8:00 P.M. EN LA BIBLIOTECA DE ARHS

**¿PREGUNTAS? POR FAVOR ENVÍE UN CORREO ELECTRÓNICO A:
ORDONEZA@ARPS.ORG o MCDONALDA@ARPS.ORG.**

