

Jeff Cyr, Chair  
Andrea Miles, Vice-Chair  
Renee Sweeney, Clerk  
Sarah Etelman  
Carol Constant

Lisa Wong  
Town Administrator

## Town Administrator's Report to Selectboard June 7, 2022

### Administration, Finance and Operations

- The open Town Clerk position was posted on May 4. The position is open until filled and the Town will begin evaluation of candidates in early June.
- The Senate passed their budget bill that includes the additional local aid and increased Chapter 70 minimum aid. The bill also includes extending authorization for remote local government meetings from the current deadline of this July 15 to December 15 of 2023. The Mass Municipal Association is advocating for a permanent option for remote meetings. The next step is for the House and Senate to appoint a conference committee to work out the differences between their two budgets and present the final legislative budget to the governor prior to July 1.
- This month, municipalities that signed up to participate in the statewide opioid settlements with the Distributors and Johnson & Johnson should receive an email from settlement administrator Brown Greer with instructions about how to establish an account in the National Opioid Settlements Portal. Municipalities will then need to complete and submit through the Portal a Payment Election Form and a W-9 before payments can begin. Payments will be received as early as June/July. The Town will work on a process to determine the use of the payments. The payment schedule can be found online: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/max-municipal-abatement-payments-alphabetized-by-town/download>

### Community Highlights

- Thank you to Veterans Agent Michael Slater for organizing a series of events for Memorial Day. Also thank you to Veterans Grave Office George Francis for placing a total of 4,273 flags to honor our deceased veterans in town cemeteries and war memorials with the help of volunteers from American Legion Post 260, Veterans of Foreign War Post 3104, the High School National Honor Society, and the Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts.
- There was a reception to celebrate the mural installation at Buttery Brook Park on June 2. The mural was completed by students at Mount Holyoke College and coordinated by the Planning and Conservation Department, who utilized Massachusetts Vulnerability Protection grant funds.

### Planning and Economic Development

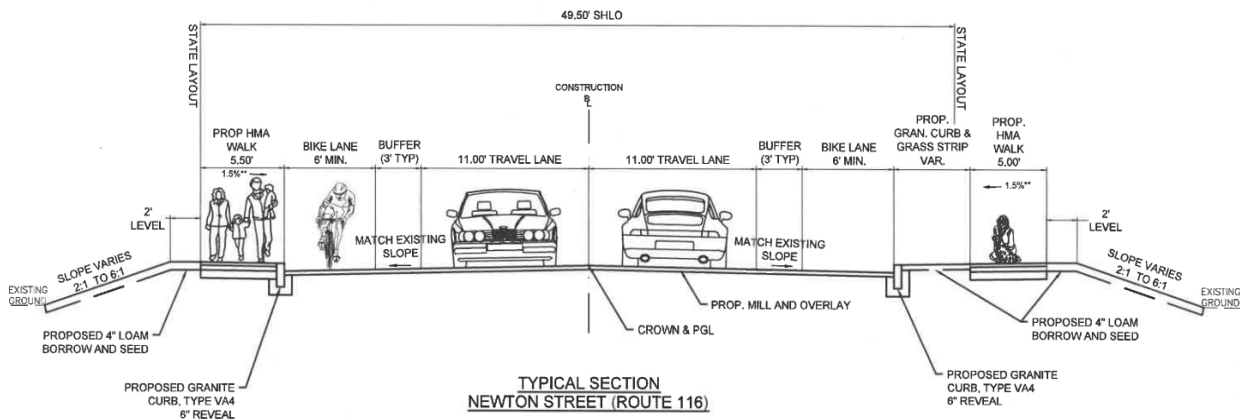
- Bids for firms to update the town's Housing Production Plan are due June 3. A committee will evaluate the proposals.
- At the May 23 public hearing, the Planning Board issued EINK a Special Permit by a vote of 4-1 with special conditions to be finalized at the 6/13 meeting.

**Public Health**

- 43 active confirmed cases as of May 31. One new death associated with COVID is reported.
- The MA Division of Local Services is offering more free Rapid Antigen tests to municipalities. They will send out a survey to local boards of health to distribute tests as well as Personal Protective Equipment based on population size that needs to be completed by June 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Works**

- The pickleball quotes came in on or under that target budget. The site is paved, and fencing will be in shortly. The contract has the work being finished by September, however the work could be completed as soon as the end of July.
- A new sign for Woodlawn Park has been designed. We are waiting for pricing and installation timelines, and will plan an event for its launch.
- The Mass Dept. of Transportation project to resurface Route 116 (Newton Street) with ADA compliance, new crosswalks, an on-road buffered bicycle lane from the intersection of Route 202 to just beyond Kendrick Street is on the 2022 Transportation Improvement Project list. Staff are attending regular construction meetings. A lot of work will need to be done including moving natural gas lines, so the full road closure is not likely to occur before next summer at the earliest.



A

list of MassDOT projects in South Hadley can be found at this link:

[https://hwy.massdot.state.ma.us/ProjectInfo/Main.asp?ACTION=GISReportByCity&SELECTED\\_CITY\\_ID=275](https://hwy.massdot.state.ma.us/ProjectInfo/Main.asp?ACTION=GISReportByCity&SELECTED_CITY_ID=275)