

**To:** Mayor William Martin  
**From:** Don Ouellette, P.E.  
DPW Director

Update # 35

**Date of Report:** November 30, 2017

**Period Covered:** October 30, 2017 to November 30, 2017

**Re:** Items of Interest

Highway Issues:

1) **Chapter 90**

Completed for 2017

2) **Nash's Mill Bridge**

The 100% plans have been delivered to MassDOT for final review. The appraisal and the review have been submitted also to MassDOT. We have a 30 day waiting period which will end on December 27, 2017 before the city councilors can vote to approve. This Council Meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 28, 2017 (time and location to be determined).

The taking is approximately 1580 ft.<sup>2</sup> and is located on the south side of the bridge in the middle of the river. The appraised value is estimated to be \$100. Once the Town Council approves the Order of Taking the site plan will be recorded at the Registry of Deeds. Everything appears to be on schedule for a bid date in March and construction start date somewhere in July to September 2018.

This will be a two-year project at which time the road will be closed. It is also an approximate \$3 million project which will be paid for by the state. Our share involved the design and the Order of Taking. I look forward to seeing this project started.

3) **Fixed Network Meter Program**

We are developing the presentation for this project which we have requested funding for Fiscal Year 2019. The intention would be to start this project on or about July 1, 2018 and it is expected to be a two-year project. This program would replace 70% of the existing water meters. It would also install transmitters on 100% of the houses that would relay the water readings to a receiver which would collect the data for water meter readings.

We just recently ran a report and found that 1,900 meters are older than 25 years. We also found that 2,886 meters were older than 20 years old. 4000 meters are older than 15 years. The expected life of a water meter is 12 to 15 years old depending on the amount of flow that has gone through this meter. The fixed network system is a proven technology that will save the town a substantial amount of money. This program got delayed one year. (No Change)

4) **Wiley Russell Dam**

This will be on next year's Capital Plan. I plan to meet with Connecticut River Conservancy in early November to plan what our next step should be. This whole area needs a long-term plan/vision.

5) **Trees and Beautifications**

Completed for 2017

For next year we received a \$5000 matching DCR grant to plant trees. The timing for this will work out perfectly. The summer interns will develop next year's planting list. With their \$5000 and our \$5000 we should be able to plant 50 to 70 trees next year which is our annual goal.

We will be requesting several Veterans Memorial trees to be planted in a couple of the local parks. These trees would be free except we do have to plant them. If you know of anyone who wishes to get on the tree list please have them call Janine at the DPW Office. These trees are at no charge to the resident.

We have submitted a new USDA grant request for a 1,000 trees over three years.

We also received \$18,000 from Berkshire Gas for the Tree Program. (No Change)

6) **Maple Brook Culvert Sewer Repairs.**

We have delayed some of this work because we are working with MassDOT and the railroad to develop a solution for a portion of Maple Brook that is under the railroad tracks near Allen Street. In our latest meeting MassDOT and the railroad accepted responsibility for the culvert at that location.

This is great news for us because we will now focus our effort on lining the sewer pipes and doing the floor repairs. We also still have several manhole structures that need to be redone. Most of this work has been delayed to late November or early December because of our heavy construction season. (No Change)

7) **Silver Street Project**

We have completed all of the pipe work. The road has been reclaimed and the binder course has been placed. They are working on the sidewalks and curbing. The current schedule for paving the top course and finishing this project is November 7.

8) **West Street Project**

While inspecting the sewer and drain pipes on West Street we found that the drain pipe is un-repairable and that the water main was installed in 1917. This has been submitted as a CDBG project for next summer. This is listed as a design project for the engineering department.

( No change)

9) **Reconstruction of Wisdom Way**

Preliminary survey work is being worked on. The Mayor and Town Council have approved the design money to move this project forward. The funding is only to get the design to the 25% level which is a very key milestone. The funding for this project is very similar to the Nash's Mill Project in that we are responsible for the design and the construction costs will be paid by the State.

Expect the design costs to be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$375,000-\$400,000. The construction cost for this roadway will be somewhere around 3½ million dollars to \$4 million. If we are aggressive and get this design completed we could possibly see this road completed in three years instead of five. (No Change)

10) **Shelburne Road Washout**

Nick Rietzel and I are looking at ways to repair this washout on Shelburne Road. We now think that we can do this project in-house with a couple of vendors. Our intent right now is to develop a plan using pre-built blocks such as Redi Rock to construct a new 16 foot high retaining wall. The challenges to this project is first build a firm foundation at the bottom of the ravine most likely a concrete footing pinned into the existing ledge and then to tie back into the ledge. The small box culvert also needs to be replaced. We will need a crane and operator to place the blocks and box culvert. Also a tracked excavator to do about half of the excavation. An Engineering Firm to develop a footing plan and a pinning system for the wall. Our rough estimates for this work, is about \$500,000. This estimate is only for the bad washout that happened in 2001. There are two other culverts that need to be repaired but we feel we can do this in-house. The entire road will have to be reclaimed and paved and my rough estimate would be another \$300-\$400,000 to complete everything. This work is very similar to work that I have done in other communities. The road would be closed for two months. Borings were completed and this project is on hold until we receive either a grant or local funding. ( No change)

11) **DPW Yard Improvements**

The DPW yard improvements for this year.

1. Upgrade the emergency generator. This generator has been placed at the DPW Yard. We need to update some of our electrical systems before the generator can be installed. It is currently being evaluated and hopefully will have this in place within the next 2 to 4 weeks.
2. Replace the roof on the main building. Completed finalizing the paperwork.
3. Replace the blue storage building with a clear spanned storage building. Completed
4. The new office building for the DPW Engineer's and Administration Staff was rebid and awarded to Renaissance Builders. The schedule has this project completed in May. The cellar hole will be dug in the next three weeks. ( No Change)
5. Remove the below ground fuel storage tanks. Completed.
6. Last item is that we plan on painting the existing DPW building using prisoners. We completed three sides and ran out of paint and the free labor for this year. Completed for this year. The DPW has received multiple positive comments.

12) **I/I Work**

We have had significant reduction. It appears that we have reduced the I/I at least 50%. Our peaks have been less than 10 million gals per day and recede back to 3 or 4 million gals within a day. On Silver Street we found a couple of illegal connections and we repaired them as part of the construction effort. One notable illegal connection was from Veterans field. We also completed a separation on School Street and we lined a couple of manholes.

We also expect to see a reduction of I/I from the Tyler Place Pump Station Replacement. That work started this week and may be completed next week. Utilizing the Maple Brook funding we are looking at inspecting the Riddell and Beacon portions of the brook and also at the Wells Street DPW Yard. The DPW staff will begin sending out the I/I letters in December. We still have more work to do but we are getting some encouraging results. Because of this improvement we are looking at adding Pickett Lane to the sewer system and we are proposing to take on more septage. The septage will generate an additional \$80,000 and actually helps our process at the Treatment Plant. We also met with DEP and several good conversations about our I/I program, anaerobic digestions, and some regional solutions which may help us get some much needed funding.

13) **Replacement of the three wastewater pump stations.**

Completed just minor site work. The DPW will plant some new trees in both locations next spring.

14) **Dredging the Glen and small Dam repairs**

The Water Quality Permit has been submitted and we have a 30 day comment period. So far we have received positive comments from Corps of Engineers, National Historical Society, and the Natural Heritage Foundation. On December 8 we have a site visit from MEPA. The hope is we can get this permit approved in January 2018.

DEP agreed to allow us to test the material behind the dam after we dredge. The little bit of sampling that we've completed shows a very clean benign sediment.

15) **Pickett Lane Sewer Extension.**

On Pickett Lane there is a property that had its septic tank fail Title 5 and they were ordered to have a new system installed. Unfortunately that area does not perk and does not have a sewer line. The Engineering Department evaluated three options and it was determined that best solution would be to install a pressure main down the street and allow the owners to hook in as their systems fail.

We are proposing a betterment be charged to each owner for the work in the street. As the Director I have met with several homeowners to present this option in a neighborhood meeting August 16, 2017. I had a second meeting on about October 19, to see if we have neighbor support of the idea of the betterment. We have a petition with 13 signatures on it and I plan to address the Town Council in January and it has also been added to the DPW Capital Plan for next year.

16) **Poet Seat Repairs.**

This project has been bid. The work will not start until next spring. The intent is to repair all of the cracks and masonry repairs especially on the third level. The stairs will be welded next spring and then painted.

17) **Future Focus**

We are closing out all construction jobs. Our focus is now winter operations and maintenance.