

*Jonathan Anderson, Chair
David Hall, Vice-Chair
Jesse Limanek, Clerk
Jeffrey Bannon
Normand Champigny*

James Smith, Town Manager
Debra Jacques, Executive Assistant



Sutton Town Hall
4 Uxbridge Road
Sutton, Massachusetts 01590
(508) 865-8727
Fax: (508) 865-8721

TOWN OF SUTTON OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

MEMORANDUM

TO: SELECT BOARD
FROM: JAMES SMITH
SUBJECT: TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE
DATE: OCTOBER 24, 2023

The following is an update of projects and activities for your information

1. Town Hall Septic- bid opening occurred on Thursday, October 19. We had seven bidders and the low bid appears to be Peter Amorello Construction at \$405,585 for the base bid. We are following up with their references and deciding whether we want to the project plus Alternate 1 and Alternate 2. Our plan is to use ARPA funds to complete this project. Our hope is to get this work done prior to the winter setting in.
2. Free Cash certification- Massachusetts Department of Revenue recently certified the town's free cash at \$3,564,421. As requested by the Board, I have enclosed information contributing to the FY 23 free cash. Some of the larger numbers contributing to free cash include; free Cash unappropriated from 2022, in the amount of \$774,439; inspectional services \$618,698; interest income \$180,031 and expenditures less than budget \$613,058.
3. American Legion Park grant award-the town of Sutton was notified on Wednesday, October 18 that we received a \$218,932 Land and Water Conservation fund (LWCF) grant. The LWCF is federal money dispersed through states. This project will provide an updated playground for toddlers to teens, new basketball court fencing, softball outfield fencing and foul poles and a pervious parking area. The town originally appropriated \$268,000 from free cash at the May 2022 Annual Town Meeting. The lead on this project from the town was Jen Hager and she was assisted

by Sutton Recreational Resources, Laura Bessette, Diane David and Christine Watkins. This project is a continuation of the success at Unity Park and Van Dyke Park. Congratulations to all.

4. Massachusetts reaching capacity with migrant families- Gov. Healey announced on Monday that the state will stop increasing the number of new families located in right to shelter locations. Currently there are 7000 families close to 23,000 people in the State's emergency shelter system. The Gov.'s office has stated that they will max out at 7500 families by the end of the month and will not allow additional placements.
5. Thank you to Longueview Farm- Longueview Farm has graciously donated their time and material at the softball field at American Legion Park in Manchaug. They cleaned up the field and put roofs on the dugouts. They also donated equipment cubbies for the dugouts.
6. Follow-up items presented at public input-
 - A. informational sign in front of town hall. Last May's town meeting approved of internally illuminated signs for town and nonprofits. We have been working with the School Department to identify 2 signs that will go in front of the Middle School/High School and replace the sign in front of town hall. We thought going out for both signs at the same time would give us increased purchasing power. This will be funded in the FY 25 capital plan.
 - B. Highway superintendent Matt Stencel plans on putting fog lines down at various troublesome intersections. Leland Hill at Leland Hill Estates and Lincoln Road will be one location. This work will be done in the springtime at the appropriate temperature.
 - C. A request for no parking on Uxbridge road adjacent to the town common. We will not be putting up no parking signs on Uxbridge road adjacent to the town common. We dealt with this issue eight years ago, when our goal was to create parallel parking adjacent to the common. The land was surveyed and it was within the road layout.