



Town Manager's Operational Update February 17, 2023

VARIOUS PROJECTS AND TOWN-WIDE INCENTIVES

- As we continue to report on Town activities, we will be converting much of the report to number – number of library visits, number of ambulance call, number of Senior Center activities, etc. This will allow the Council to track progress and the use of town services. For now, you get a mix of numbers and prose.
- Budget season is upon us, and the Finance Department has been putting final touches on the FY23-28 capital improvement plan and the FY2024 employee costs. The Town Manager has reviewed the capital plan and the senior management team has prioritized projects based on six weighted factors:
 - Required Project: Is the project required to meet legal, compliance, or regulatory mandates?
 - Strategic Alignment: To what extent is the project aligned with our government's overall strategies?
 - Value to Citizen: How much value will the outcome of this project bring to our citizens?
 - Urgent Need: Is there a risk to Public health, safety or security threat; infrastructure failure; and/or loss of service?
 - Business Priorities: Does the capital implement departmental plan/policy; creates a tangible improvement to service delivery?
 - Impact Criteria: Sustainability: Is the capital required to maintain building /infrastructure/minimize and/or manage risk/cost savings/generate alternative/diversified revenue streams?
- The capital plan should be coming to the Council for review in March.
- We received all our contract documents from the National Park Service and the MA EOEEA to secure the \$450,000 in federal funds. We also attended a project kickoff meeting with the state to go over the grant requirements and reporting schedules.
- The Town Hall roof project gets under way in early March after the pre-construction meeting. The bid was awarded to Vareika Construction Inc. of East Bridgewater which is a roofing company certified by the Massachusetts Historic Commission as a historic roofing specialist.
- DPW has transitioned to the Memorial Building. For those who did not attend the pre-opening tour, feel free to stop in and say hello. The only major item to be completed is the storm windows which are backordered. Additional plantings will go in this spring.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Bob Rulli is working on putting together a Council workshop to discuss the downtown area and develop next steps. The workshop will likely be held at BSU.
- Federal grant application for the Oak Street Bridge to repair the road deck which has been narrowed to one lane since the auto accident in 2015. The updated cost to repair what is there is \$1.6 million. This would give us a two-lane deck and a pedestrian sidewalk.
- Finally taping water system informational videos next week. The taping has been delayed by staff shortages and unexpected main break calls.
- Truck Exclusion on High Street: We have engaged a traffic count engineer who will do the required traffic counts to see if High Street would qualify for application to DOT for a truck exclusion. While the traffic count is fairly straightforward and quick, the process beyond that can be slow once the application reaches MA DOT.
- Implementation of See-Click-Fix, the comprehensive issue reporting module available through our web site, is being worked on by IT and the Town Manager's office. We are looking at an April rollout.
- Work began on the removal of the **High Street Dam** (Jenkins Dam) and the bridge replacement. The contractor is mobilizing and removing several trees and installing a mat over which heavy equipment will be brought into Iron Works Park. The road is scheduled to close on June 15 and will reopen in mid-October after the bridge replacement.

For those interested in a more detailed condensed timeline of the High Street Dam
See pages 6-7 of this update.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- **Fire Department:** The Incident map below represents a month of fire/ambulance calls. This is raw data which we will refine in future reports.



- **Police**
 - Several retirements in the command staff have meant that there will be promotions over the next few months. The Chief is working to restore the command staff and supervisory positions lost due to retirements over the past 6 months. The process is more intensive than a non-police hire, and involves conducting assessment centers, interview panels, phycological exams, and intensive background checks. Bridgewater remains in Massachusetts Civil Service which arguably restricts the candidates we are permitted to entertain.
 - We are also finalizing our FY 24 budget request and coordinating our integrated active threat training, firearms, and electronic control weapons training, as well as continuing with in-service training for all officers.
- **Health Department**
 - Septic: 2 Septic installs, 2 Final reviews of as-built plans.
 - Septic failure reported to our office for a property located in Bridgewater Preserve. Field backed up and contractor is repairing.
 - 2nd Septic failure reported on Sunrise Drive. System failed due to water table miscalculation combined with heavy soil saturation due to rain fall. Engineer and installer are repairing and raising the field by 2ft to adjust.

- Housing:
 - 96-98 Maple Ave- Neighbor complaint about dumpster stored on property which is causing pest infestation. Alleges illegal dumping into dumpster since both sides of building are empty and being renovated.
 - Health Agent contacted property owner, they removed the dumpster and committed to alleviating the complaint.
 - 40 Central Square- Tenant states bedbug issue has returned, and landlord has responded with pest control again. Tenant is worried about eviction threats due to complaint, however it was explained last time he had rights which protect him from retaliatory practice.
- Food: Inspections due this week:
 - CVS / Wine, Beer & More / Go Gas and Walgreens
- Nursing:
 - Public Health Nurse, April Panos, has started blood pressure checks and med checks at the Senior Center on Mondays.
 - Covid cases have been limited and the Health Agent will be winding down reporting on the state MAVEN system and convert to office reporting.
 - All other Communicable Diseases will continue to be handled by our Public Health Nurse.
- Covid: Currently five (5) active cases.
- Water
 - The new plant is scheduled gradually to go into service over the next month.
 - Only two of the four wells on High Street will be going to the new plant (wells 8 & 9). The other two wells (3 & 6) will still be going into the distribution system but not receiving filtration. We will run like this for at least one week to shake out the bugs of the new plant and top off the towers. After the week, we will stop wells 3 & 6 and Waterline Construction will be given the go ahead to refurbish those wells. We expect to have those wells back in operation by the spring in time for the heavy water demand season. This is a slight modification to the original amended plan so that we can get the plant up and functioning a bit sooner. Originally all the wells were to be refurbished prior to plant start up.
 - Once the towers are full, we will do hydrant flushing in the trouble areas of Town to reduce discoloration of the water. **It is important to remember that the disruptions of the wells and the system as flow diverts from the distribution system to the treatment plant will likely produce discoloration. It will take up to year to get the system completely flushed of sediments and discoloration will be occurring from time-to-time, especially when localized disruptions occur such as construction, main breaks, etc.**

- **Sewer**
 - Construction continues on Phase I of the wastewater plant upgrade. The installation of natural gas service has been slightly delayed due to the need to engage PAL (Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc) to conduct archaeological monitoring along Morris Avenue as excavation occurs for the gas line. Eversource will permit all homes along Morris Avenue to tie into the gas if they wish, but at a later date. Also, all residents along the road will be notified directly of the road work as passage will be limited during the construction.

- **Inspections/Building**
 - The Building Dept. is still busy with plan review, permits and inspections. The new warehouse on 900 Bedford is moving along, working on the roof and site drainage.
 - A temporary certificate of occupancy was issued for 250 Main Street (McElwain Apartments), rear building which allows tenants to begin a move-in process.

- **Elderly Affairs**
 - The federal pandemic EBT benefit is ending March 2023 and it may significantly impact the senior and low-income community in Bridgewater. As a result, Elder Affairs is performing a needs assessment and increasing our resources to supplement residents on SNAP benefits. We will be working with a local farm in East Bridgewater to bring healthy fruits and vegetables to those in need.
 - Elder Services spearheaded a micro-transit grant from the DOT to test the need for micro-transportation in Bridgewater. BSU, Brockton Area Transit and A&A Metro were instrumental in partnering with Elder Services to secure the grant and will aid in the implementation. The grant will allow the Town and our partners to gauge the need for additional transportation needs, especially among seniors, disabled population, and BSU's at-risk population.

- **Library – Monthly Numbers**
 - Circulation:
 - New Library Card Registrations: 76
 - New Items Added to the Collection and available to borrow: 429.
 - Total Physical Collection Count: 63,406
 - Physical Item Check-Outs: 5538
 - Digital Item Check-Outs: 1,930
 - Museum Passes Borrowed: 49
 - Visitors:
 - Bridgewater Public Library was open a total of 24.5 days in January with a total visitor count of 3,663 people.
 - Computer Users: 257 sessions / 131 hours 39 minutes
 - Website Visitors: 2.9K
 - Library Programs/Attendance:
 - Adult Programs: 10 / Adult Attendance: 279
 - Youth Programs: 8 / Youth Attendance: 266

**HIGH STREET DAM REMOVAL AND BRIDGE REPLACEMENT CONDENSED PROJECT SCHEDULE
(BASELINE) – Continued from Page 2
JANUARY 20, 2023**

TIME OF YEAR RESTRICTIONS/MILESTONES

- Dec 23, 2022: Notice to Proceed
- March 15, 2023, to June 15, 2023: Springtime of Year (TOY) Restriction (Up migrating fish, flow in Town River required, no flow in Mill Race)
- June 15, 2023: Bridge Closed
- June 16, 2023, to March 15, 2024: Cofferdam main channel, all flow to mill race. – Note: September 1, 2023, to November 15, 2023: Fall TOY (Down, migrating fish, can occur through mill race channel with soft landing)
- October 13, 2023: Bridge Opened
- December 27, 2023: Substantial Completion
- February 25, 2024: Final Completion - Note: Final Completion in Contract is June 30, 2024

BASELINE SCHEDULE

- Dec 23, 2022, to February 22, 2023: Buyouts, Submittals & Preparation
- February 23, 2023: Mobilize on Site
- February 24, 2023 to March 6, 2023: General Site Preparation (Tree removal, stakeout, test pits, construction roads, fencing, etc.,)
- March 6, 2023 to September 30, 2023: Temporary Utility Bridge and Utility Relocation
- March 6, 2023 to March 27, 2023: Install temp utility bridge and temp water and sewer relocation.
- September 14, 2023 to September 20, 2023: Remove temp water and sewer and temp utility bridge.
- March 3, 2023 to March 13, 2023: Install cofferdam at Mill race, dewater and remove sediment in mill race
- April 7, 2023 to April 17, 2023: Deliver mill race sediment offsite.
- June 9, 2023 to June 29, 2023: Bridge site prep (detour, bridge removal and demo, utility removal, etc.)
- June 20, 2023 to September 11, 2023: Install proposed bridge (drilled shafts, abutments, backwalls, wingwalls, damp proofing, etc.)
- June 21, 2023 to July 13, 2023: Install abutments 1 and 2
- July 12, 2023 to August 21, 2023: Install backwall 1 and 2
- August 22, 2023 to September 11, 2023: Install wingwalls, damp proof, backfill.
- September 21, 2023 to September 28, 2023: Deliver soil related to bridge demo & excavation offsite (NOT sediment)

BASELINE SCHEDULE CONTINUED

- June 16, 2023 to August 21, 2023: Channel & Dam Removal Work
- June 16, 2023 to July 3, 2023: Channel work at bridge (excavate sediment, installed bed and bank treatments at bridge)
- June 30, 2023 to August 9, 2023: Channel work downstream of bridge (excavate sediment prior to dam demo, demo dam, salvage materials, install bed and bank treatments)
- July 30, 2023 to August 15, 2023: Channel work upstream of bridge (excavate sediment, install bed and bank treatments)
- August 10, 2023 to September 21, 2023: Install Bridge (bearings, steel, utility casings, decks, relocated utilities, rails, etc.)
- September 19, 2023 to October 13, 2023: Install bridge approaches (excavate approaches, guard rails, bridge joints, paving, approach sidewalks, etc.)
- June 16, 2023 to December 1, 2023: Roadway restoration (utilities, roadways, driveways, parking lots)
- June 16, 2023 to November 27, 2023: Install drainage and sewer structures & pipes.
- October 31, 2023 to November 30, 2023: Excavate roadway, install base courses and pavement, pavement markings, curbs, sidewalks)
- November 2, 2023 to December 8, 2023: demo and pave parking lots, driveways and sidewalks, install pavement markings, wheel stops, curbs, pedestrian walkways)
- November 30, 2023 to December 1, 2023: Install sediment treatment chamber
- November 20, 2023 to December 12, 2023: Install signage, fences, guardrails.
- April 30, 2023, to July 17, 2023: Site restoration
- October 16, 2023, to February 25, 2025: Project closeout
- October 16, 2023 to December 27, 2023: Post-construction survey, remove E&S, site walkthroughs
- December 28, 2023 to February 9, 2024: Demobilize equipment and personnel.
- February 24, 2024: File notice of termination