

Manager's Report – November 14, 2016

Election

First, I want to congratulate and thank Linda and her staff and the volunteers that made this election run as smoothly as possible. I know it is a very stressful time for Linda and she did an excellent job.

With the exception of a pretty hefty line the first hour of the time that the polls were open, they kept the lines moving smoothly and the waiting time was, for the most part, very short. Contrast this with other polling locations around the State. So, thank you Linda and all of the people you get to work at the polls on election day.

We had an excellent turnout with 83.5% of the registered voters voting in this election. Surprisingly, this was not a record! The 2012 Presidential election had a voter turnout of 84.6% of the registered voters and 2008 had a voter turnout of 80%. What is different about this election is the number of newly registered voters and the high percentage of absentee/early voters. In this election 1067 voters (45.2%) chose to vote absentee or early.

One thing to keep in mind with the absentee and early voting is it takes more time than walking in and voting in person. Early voting is a great thing. It gets more people to vote and I am NOT advocating that it be changed in ANY way, but for the purposes of what goes on in Linda's office I offer the following:

Linda estimates that, of the 1062 early voters, about 60% of voters chose to take their ballots with them and not vote on site.

She estimates, when voters do that, the added security and handling, to protect against voter fraud, adds about 15 minutes per voter. There are NUMEROUS steps and different actions that have to take place for each vote handled in this way. She estimates that on average, if you add up all the time it takes to process these types of votes, you are looking at about 150 hours of work (60% of 1060 voters = 660 off site voters x 15min per ballot = 9,990 minutes of time to process, divided by 60 minutes in an hour = 165 hours).

This gives you a sense of the extra work being performed in her office over the last month.

Summer Street

Summer Street is nearly complete. There are a few remaining punch list items to finish up, railings on the stairs and the stop sign replacement, but for all intents and purposes it is completed and is safe and passable. Mike and I have some concerns about the drainage that was installed and if the road grades are actually flowing water to the new drainage. Gartley and Dorsky are following up on it.

High Sidewalk

The High Sidewalk project is officially on hold until spring, as getting all of the utilities moved (they were notified a year ago) has still not been completed. While all that stuff is in our right of way, we have no means to force them to get the work done. CMP has been very helpful in getting the other utilities to cooperate but the time has passed for us to get the project completed. Our fear was that we would get the project partially completed and the sidewalk would be closed for the winter. This would be a problem, as that sidewalk is heavily used and even more important during the winter months.

West Street Sidewalk Extension/New Traffic Signals at Routes 1 and 90

In a rather strange turn of events, we found out that the sidewalk on the Market Basket side of the Route 1 and Route 90 was included in the bid package to change out the signals at the intersection.

This was news to us, as we were told that in order for the signals to be changed, and include a crossing signal, we would need to build a sidewalk on both sides of the road. As you may remember we were in the process of building the sidewalk, when we were told that DOT was planning a culvert replacement and to hold up on the construction. When Will contacted DOT to get a timeframe for that work and the signal replacement, he discovered that the project was bid out including the sidewalk.

The bad news is the signal and sidewalk is now scheduled for next spring. The good news is DOT is paying for it.

Low sewer covers on Pascal and Central Streets

There have been a lot of complaints about the low sewer covers on Pascal and Central Streets as a result of the paving. The Highway and Wastewater Department raised the covers a little higher than what we were told the thickness of the new pavement would be. The problem is the pavement put down by the contractor, was significantly thicker than we were told, resulting in deep depressions in the road.

This work involves cutting the new pavement, raising the collars and repaving. Mike has arranged for that to be done at night by an outside contractor. This is planned for Monday night (tonight).

Winter Parking Ban

The Winter Parking Ban goes into effect on November 15th. While we will not be ticketing or towing vehicles at this point, it could happen. I have asked the Police Chief to begin a program of notifying residents parked all night, in the ROW of the possibility of a ticket at any time or possible tow, during plowing operations.

Marge Jones Field and Other Public Areas

The good weather has been extremely helpful with the root establishment of the newly planted sod. On last check, it appears that the roots have developed very nicely and the field should be in great shape for the spring. I met with the Recreation Committee last meeting about communications and budgets and they will be working more closely with Mike to get the budget developed and the work done in a timely fashion.

Where the weather has been so good, the Marge Jones facility will remain unlocked until the weather deteriorates to warrant locking it. The same goes for Beauchamp Point Road. We will close that whenever it appears necessary due to the weather.

We will close the Glen Cove Rest Area on Monday the 14th.

Public Works

The public works crew has been working on getting the equipment in shape for winter. Sand and salt is all in and ready for the first snow and the staff have been getting in the time off they need to take off before winter hits us and they start building up more time.

Fire Department

The Fire Department has been relatively quiet over the past few weeks, but the chief has kept busy with fire prevention and officer training.

Harbor

All the recreational floats have been hauled out with the exception of the “Heron float” which will be removed after Holiday on the Harbor.

Finance

Megan and I have been working on finalizing our work on the CIP which we plan to present to the Board at the next meeting. From there it will need to be reviewed and worked on by the CIP committee before coming back to the Board for approval.

Holiday on the Harbor

The Holiday on the Harbor committee is back in full planning mode and are planning a bigger and better celebration than last year.