



## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Board of Selectmen

**FROM:** John C. Curran, Town Manager

**CC:** Susan Aker, Cathy O'Dea

**SUBJECT:** Town Manager's Report, January 7, 2019

**DATE:** January 4, 2018

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### **Police Interviews – Lieutenant and Sergeant**

This office conducted seven interviews with candidates for one lieutenant's position and one sergeant's positions. All candidates interviewed well. The decision is delayed until civil service releases the official list for the sergeant's position official. Sergeant Grogan is being promoted to Lieutenant. He has a long and impressive career and is expected to do well in his new position.

### **8 Carter Ave Demolition**

This project is scheduled to take place in February. The Town solicited quotes for demolition and hazardous materials testing. Conservation is requiring hay bales around the property before the job begins. The water and gas has been disconnected.

### **Big Lots Fines for Sign Violations**

Big Lots paid \$1,200 in fines for posting illegal signs in the public right of way.

### **Removal of DPW from Civil Service**

At Fall Town Meeting Article 27, Remove DPW from Civil Service passed 136 -28. Rep. Lombardo filed House Docket Number 5293 on 12/10/2018. The bill has made its way through the House and Senate and is currently on the Governor's desk. Action is due by 1/11. The Town fully expects the bill to be signed and DPW to be removed from Civil Service. Thank you to Representative Lombardo for all of his hard work on this bill.

### **DEP Recycling Dividends Program Grant**

The Town was awarded a grant by MassDEP under their sustainable materials recovery program. The Town will receive \$35,000 this year. This was an increase from the \$21,000 we received last year. The Town has yet to appropriate the money towards a use under the DEP guidelines.

### **Green Community Designation**

On December 27th the Town was notified that they have officially been designated a Green Community. The Town was awarded a grant amount of \$225,098. In the initial plan the Town had focused its efforts on potentially weatherizing many of the school and town buildings. This office will be meeting with state officials and our energy consultant to further explore these projects. A final

determination must be made by the Feb 8th deadline. The initial planned projects would save the town approximately ~\$39,000 a year.

### **Dementia Friendly Billerica Training**

On Friday, March 22nd Town Hall staff will be participating in a one hour dementia friendly training sessions presented by Daria Rabkin of Brightview Senior Living. This training will be based around learning skills that will be helpful in dealing with an aging population. Staff will learn five key messages about dementia and what it's like to live with dementia. We also will be offering a virtual reality sensory tool that will enable people to experience what living with dementia is like. The Town will be opening the training up to all Board and Commissions as well.

### **Vaping BOH Regulations**

After our marijuana working session the chair and I discussed the idea of including more stringent vaping regulations in the BOH Regulations. This office is exploring the possibility of creating guidelines that would be administered through the Board of Health. Recently Ayer, Dracut, and Wilmington now only allow the sale of e-cigarettes and flavored tobacco in smoke shops open to those 21 and older. Convenience stores and other retail outlets would be unable to sell these products. An excerpt of Dracut's regulations are below:

1. Prohibit the sale of tobacco and vape products to persons under the age of 21.
2. Mandate that retailers require a government-issued photographic identification card be presented by all persons appearing under the age of 40 who wish to purchase tobacco products.
3. Require all single cigars be priced at \$2.50 or more and require packages of two or more cigars be priced at \$5.00 or more.
4. Prohibit the sale of any flavored tobacco and vape products, except in adult-only retail tobacco stores (i.e. smoke shops and vape shops) where no one under the age of 21 is permitted entry.
5. Prohibit the sale of blunt wraps, except in adult-only retail tobacco stores (i.e. smoke shops and vape shops) where no one under the age of 21 is permitted entry.
6. Prohibit new tobacco sales permit holders from locating within 500 feet of a school.

These regulations will need to be approved by the BOH. This office is working on a draft with the BOH Department.

### **CPC Update**

The Community Preservation Committee will have its' first meeting of the New Year on Thursday, January 10th. At this meeting they will be reviewing the applications submitted from the Billerica Public Library for preservation of the "Great Deed", the First Parish Church's steeple and rehabilitation restoration project, the Billerica Fire Department's restoration project of a 1926 Maxim ladder truck, The Billerica Masonic Association's historic building preservation project and the Billerica Affordable Housing Authority/Trust. The next step for the Committee is to schedule applicant interviews over the next couple of months before holding a public hearing prior to Spring Town Meeting. The deadline has passed for Spring Town Meeting.