



Town of Natick

Fall 2015 Newsletter

*Issued by Martha L. White,
Town Administrator*

Natick Board of Selectmen

Charles Hughes, Chair
Richard Jennett, Vice Chair
Nicholas Mabardy, Clerk
Joshua Ostroff
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Town of Natick, Massachusetts

13 East Central Street Natick, Massachusetts 01760

www.natickma.gov

2015 Fall Annual Town Meeting

The 2015 Fall Annual Town Meeting will commence on October 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Natick High School. The Town Meeting Warrant includes numerous annually-recurring Articles such as requests to fund capital equipment and improvements, amendments to the Personnel Board Classification and Pay Plan, amendments to the FY 2016 (current year) budget, and more.

Town Meeting will also be asked to form a Charter and By-Law Review Committee, increase the fines associated with dangerous or nuisance dogs, endorse a Board of Health initiative regarding regulations to reduce the use of plastic bags, authorize the Selectmen to seek legislative authority to fine utility companies for failure to remove utility poles and wires, and more.

These and other proposals are sure to generate interest among Town Meeting members and their constituents.

Transportation Updates

There are many transportation updates planned or in the works. The Federal- and state-funded redesign of the Oak Street/Route 9 intersection is getting back on track, after utility company delays in relocating poles and wires. A new traffic pattern may be in place this fall, although the project will not be complete until the spring.

The replacement of the Marion Street Bridge, named in 2003 for Tilly Ciccarielli, will begin this fall, with work expected to be complete by March 2017. This state-funded project will include a complete replacement of the original bridge, which was built in 1896. The bulk of the work will be done in 2016.

The Cochituate Rail Trail has recently been approved for construction starting in Federal FY 2018, using

80% federal and 20% state funding. Final design funding has been approved by Town Meeting, and a public design hearing will be held in a few months. The Town still needs to acquire the property from CSX, for which the Towns of Natick and Framingham, along with several abutting businesses, have requested state assistance to bring this long-awaited project to completion. Learn more at natickma.gov/crt.

The reconstruction of Route 27 from Natick Center to the Wayland line has also been approved for federal and state funding for Federal FY 2019. The Town is still working on a redesign, and a public hearing will be scheduled in the coming year. The interchange of Routes 9 and 27 is a separate project that is still awaiting federal and state funding approval.

The Town continues to work with the MBTA to advance the redesign of the Natick Center commuter rail station, and we hope to have more information soon.

The reconstruction of Pine Street is almost complete; this town-funded project includes new drainage and sidewalks. Residents will notice that utility poles still obstruct travel, which is part of the motivation for a Town Meeting article that is intended to improve responsiveness of utility companies in working with the town on wire and pole relocation.

Sustainability Programs

This summer, the Town of Natick was awarded more than \$350,000 in sustainability-related grants and utility incentives. These funds are supporting the implementation of 15 energy efficiency projects that are expected to save the Town more than \$75,000 annually. Projects include the purchase of a new electric car for our Assessor's Office, the installation of an electric car charging station in the Natick Center

Pond Street parking lot, and the transition of the Bacon Free Library, Memorial Elementary School soccer field and John J. Lane Park to organic land care management practices. The Town also spent the summer evaluating solar opportunities that have the potential to double our generation capacity and save more than \$100,000 a year in electricity costs.

To reduce waste and ultimately save the Town money in disposal fees, our DPW Highway and Sanitation Division is exploring the opportunity to pilot a weekly curbside composting program for items such as coffee grounds, vegetable scraps, egg shells and meat products. The service would provide participating residents with weekly collection of food waste, as well as a 14 gallon curbside bin, kitchen countertop container and biodegradable bags. If you are interested in participating, please complete our survey at www.bit.do/naticktalkstrash.

DPW Memorial

The men and women of the Natick Department of Public Works are raising funds for a memorial to be dedicated to two members of the department who were killed in the line of duty; Michael McDaniel (2/4/2014) and Joseph Webster (3/1/1976). Donations, made payable to DPW Memorial Fund, can be sent to the attention of Tom Collins, Deputy DPW Director, 75 West Street, Natick.

Property Tax Deferral Program

Qualified homeowners age 65 and over may defer all or part of their property taxes until the property is sold or transferred. In an effort to encourage participation in this program, we are asking Town Meeting to reduce the program's interest rate from 4.5% to 2%, and increase the maximum allowable income from \$40,000 to \$56,000. By making these changes, more elderly homeowners will be eligible for this program. We encourage eligible residents to consider this option and other programs to assist those in need.

Natick Center Parking Changes

The Parking Advisory Committee, established by the Board of Selectmen in 2013, has made numerous recommendations to help resolve longstanding parking issues in Natick Center. Thanks to Town Meeting support, new parking meters and kiosks will soon be installed, and new meter rates were recently approved to help encourage turnover and availability. The Town is also pursuing options to develop one or more parking

garages. In addition, the Board recently approved parking changes to encourage greater use of permits in the Town Hall and South Avenue lots. Education, gradual enforcement and warnings will be used to help people adjust to new regulations and locations. We anticipate making further changes based on public feedback and utilization as we seek to balance the needs of town and business employees, visitors and commuters.

Veterans Appreciation Dinner

The Town is grateful for the service of our veterans and the support of their families, and is honored to co-sponsor the annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner, generously hosted by the Natick Firefighters, to be held at Fire Station 1, 22 East Central Street at 6PM on Wednesday, November 11. Veterans and their families, and the families of active duty service members, are welcome to this free dinner to acknowledge our vets. To help plan a great event, we ask that guests RSVP by November 1 to our Veterans Service Officer, Paul Carew, at pcarew@natickma.org or 508-647-6545.

Website update

Receive automatic notices of committee meetings, community events, and more! From the website home page, click on Site Tools (at top of page) then Notifications.

Staff Updates

After serving as Senior Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator for nearly 30 years, **Maureen Fleming** recently retired. We wish Maureen many happy, healthy and relaxing years! We recently welcomed **Jim Kane** to the position of Facilities Management Director. Jim most recently served as Director of Facilities at Rogerson Communities where he was responsible for maintenance, repair, security and capital planning at 24 properties totaling 1.8 million square feet. Jim previously served as Construction Specialist/Project Manager for the City of Boston Department of Neighborhood Development. Welcome Jim!

