

The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, began at 5:30 p.m. in the Board of Selectmen's Conference Room.

Members Present: James Gennette, Antonio Goncalves, Manuel Silva, and William Rosenblum

Members Absent: Derek DeBarge

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

## VISITATIONS

5:35 p.m. – Bruce Durand, Memorial Day Parade – to discuss changing the Memorial Day Parade route for 2024.

Mr. Durand: We'd like to change the parade route from its current route. What we'd like to do is go with the route we're going to use for the 250<sup>th</sup> parade. We'll stage at the high school leaving the high school parking lot going east down Chapin to East Street, turning right and a straight shot down to the war memorial where the parade will end. Here's the problem with all the turns in the parade. It slows the parade down. There's great gaps in there and it actually makes Eric's ceremony a lot longer because he's got to wait for everybody to come down and catch up. It also allows for more viewers along the parade route because it's a wide-open area. There's plenty of places for parking. Other than that, we were thinking that would probably be a good way to go with it. With the 250<sup>th</sup> parade we're not only using the high school as a staging area but we're using the Town Hall too and now I've got around 50 marching units between floats, music and marchers for the 250<sup>th</sup> parade. That's getting bigger and bigger. I still think that if we did Memorial Day in two straight shots, we could keep the parade together and Eric could get his ceremony off on time then everybody could disperse.

Mr. Rosenblum: Generally, we start the Memorial at Lusitano. Are you going to have a ceremony back at the high school at Desforges.

Mr. Segundo: No. On Friday's we normally do the wreath laying in different locations. We would just add the Lusitano.

Mr. Silva: So Lusitano ceremony is out? So, nothing happens for that parade? My answer is No. As far as I'm concerned, as far as a lot of people that I've gotten about it's been there forever. There's a memorial there for veterans and I think that should happen during that parade. From what I see from the people that get involved in this parade, most of the people are from that area.

Mr. Segundo: Understandable. That's one of the reasons why we had a parade committee established so it takes the parade away from me and I can just deal with the ceremonies. Again, we're not forgetting the veterans and the memorial but we're incorporating that in the solemn portion of the ceremony. We added this years ago during Covid where we go around and recognize each of these monuments, we have taps played, we lay a wreath. We're still doing that at the Lusitano. It's going to be part of the other monuments we go to, not part of the parade. It was one of my things where we wanted to separate the memorial side of Memorial Day and the celebratory parade side. By doing the Friday afternoon wreath laying that's the solemn part. We do the candlelight vigil on Sunday evening and Monday is the celebratory parade. What street we march down would be up to the committee but we're still going to honor the names on that monument at the Lusitano.

Mr. Silva: I understand. You're doing it on a Friday afternoon. Everybody works. This is a holiday Monday morning. Ever since I was a little kid it's always been a staple and we're eliminating it. There's no way in heck that I would ever not want to do that on that day.

Mr. Goncalves: I think it's tradition in general for us to go there and start it off there. I think the club looks forward to it every year and I think they're great hosts and accommodating in the morning. If we're trying to get a straighter shot why not start it there and come down Winsor to East Street and shoot it down?

Mr. Durand: It's easier for staging at the high school parking lot where you can get everybody in together.

Mr. Goncalves: I had the conversation today with somebody and we're going to have two parades 3 weeks apart. Hopefully that's going to go over well.

Mr. Durand: We can't really separate the Memorial Day from the 250<sup>th</sup>. I had a lot of people bring to my attention about combining both but it really takes away from the veterans. That's on thing I don't want to do. A little background. Last year sometime, Eric talked to me about coming in with my committee and working on the Memorial Day parade. That's what we agreed to. Once the 250<sup>th</sup> parade is over and done with, we're going to still be around and help out with Memorial Day.

Mr. Gennette: First off, I thought it was a great parade this year. I think you did a wonderful job. But it sounds like we're already going to be split no matter what happens. If we did the 250<sup>th</sup> out of the high school does that solve at least half the problem?

Mr. Durand: The 250<sup>th</sup> will be out of the high school.

Mr. Gennette: Why don't we do that? We'll see how the 250<sup>th</sup> is, we'll see how the other one is and we can gauge the whole thing in the following years from there.

Mr. Durand: Sure.

Mr. Silva: I'm all about the Memorial.

Resident: I was concerned with the cable tv. We're going to be working with Bruce Marshall from Ware. For the 250<sup>th</sup> he's going to be doing it live.

Mr. Goncalves: By then we're going to have the new cable company up and running. GoNetSpeed. You might want to talk to them. A good portion of the town could be on that GoNetSpeed. Mike is on the commission. GoNetSpeed and Spectrum are going to be competitors.

5:45 p.m. – Dangerous/Nuisance Dog Hearing – Libiszewski/Gebo – 474 Poole Street.

**Motion made by Mr. Silva to open the dangerous dog hearing at 5:40 p.m. for Libiszewski/Gebo at 474 Poole Street. Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Mr. Gennette: Both raise your right hand. Do you swear to tell the truth, whole truth and nothing but the truth?

Ms. Gebo: I do.

Ms. Libiszewski: I do. I'm Kim Libiszewski, 474 Poole Street.

Ms. Gebo: I'm Carol Gebo, 42 Aldo Drive.

Ms. Anderson: This is an ongoing problem. I have calls for these dogs being a nuisance dating back to 2020. Kim's house. The way their house and street is, Aldo is here, Poole Street is here and Kim's house is directly across the street. The calls go back to before I started with her dogs being loose. Two golden retrievers and a Pomeranian mix. The dogs are constantly getting loose. There's been multiple citations given. We need to have this hearing just to get this wrapped up. The former ACO was also involved. I don't know what she did. I have asked the neighbors over the last couple of years to send me videos of dogs. I have a whole bunch of them. I want to be clear that I know Kim loves her dogs and I have no desire to take dogs away but we need to come to some sort of understanding that these dogs can't get loose. The last time they were loose was Christmas Eve. I was out here at 8:00 p.m. in a dress because I was at a party and returning her dog Christmas morning I was at the dog kennel. This isn't just a random once or twice incident. I have at least 20 different calls. Half of them are through the police department and the neighbors have started to send them to me instead. That's where we are. What I would like to see come out of this is a fence. A fence would solve the problem. Keep your dogs inside. We all love our dogs. I know dogs can get loose sometimes but this isn't sometimes. This is an ongoing issue. The ladies and gentlemen when walking the neighborhood, the little one tends to charge at people. Whether they would actually bite or not I don't know but it's still scary to be walking and having dogs charge at you constantly. This is every spring. I know this is going to start coming up. We're trying to solve it.

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Ms. Libiszewski: Rocco got loose on Christmas Eve. I was already in bed. I had a guest over for the holidays and he let the dog out. Since then, it wasn't since October when everything started, none of them have been loose. You can say you haven't seen the dogs.

Ms. Gebo: I haven't seen them in the past 3 weeks, but I have before.

Ms. Libiszewski: Since October because I have leashes that come right into the house now and I hook them up and they go right out on the leash they have 50' to go. That's since October.

Ms. Gebo: I love animals. I dog sit for my kid's dogs but I walk them on a leash. I walk them 3 times a day on a leash. My grandchildren are afraid to ride bikes now on my street when I babysit for them because the dog came at him. I was walking my granddaughter in a stroller and my 3-year-old grandson and the little dog came after him. After she came out I said if these dogs bite me or my grandkids I will own your house and she said you got a prayer.

Ms. Libiszewski: No, I said you wish.

Ms. Gebo: I'm not asking to kill the dogs. I'm asking to just keep them in your own yard because they're forever going to the bathroom in our yard. They're loose. They're dirty because they're in the brook. They come in our yard to go to the bathroom. We've got pictures of them going to the bathroom in their yard. It's getting monotonous. We clean up after our dogs. When I take my grandkids dogs for a walk I have stool bags that I clean up. Hers are never cleaned up. They're forever going to the bathroom in our yards. The neighbor right across the street from her, Dave, is forever cleaning up. He's irritated. He didn't come tonight because his mother is dying. He said he wished he could be here because he's sick of it too.

Mr. Silva: What are you going to do?

Ms. Libiszewski: I've already solved it, honest to God. I've got those leashes. They come right in the house. I walk them 3 times a day. I walk them all the way to the end of Moore Street. Three times a day I'm walking those dogs. I don't care what kind of weather. Even with my hand, I just had an operation, I walk those dogs. All my neighbors know I'm out there all summer long walking those dogs. You open the door and they dart. Now they can't get out there anymore because I have the leashes in the house. I had a problem with me coming into the garage because one of them knows how to open the garage door and pull it in. As soon as I would pull in they would dart out the garage. Now I have a lock. I keep the keys in the garage door. I've solved all these little problems. The dog officer, I was in tears last time, she told me that she's deathly afraid of this dog. This is her taunting my dog. Come on, bite me. I don't need that.

Mr. Silva: Understand something. The dog is loose. He shouldn't be loose. What's your thought on the officer saying you need a fence?

Ms. Libiszewski: I just bought a fence in October. A 3<sup>rd</sup> electric fence. I paid \$400 and had 3 collars. Two hours after I got it I was testing them. I walked down to my mailbox to see if Luna would follow me and that's the last incident in October. When I was walking her down to the mailbox there was a man walking up the street with a little dog and Luna saw a little dog and darted and the neighbor took her phone out right away. She was just going to see the little dog at the top of Aldo Drive. If I would have seen them coming up the street I would have turned around and not took the dog to the mailbox and put her on a leash. That was the last incident that happened with the dogs.

Mr. Silva: Since you got these fences, what you're saying is they went right through them.

Ms. Libiszewski: I talked to the people at Tractor Supply and they said they're too old, you have to train them as puppies and I've tried 3 different ones.

Mr. Silva: I hate these things because most of the time I know both, and I do know both. It's just so difficult. What I do is let the dog officer do the recommendations that she's suggests and move on from there.

Ms. Anderson: The problem with electric fences, it doesn't matter the age of the dog but you have to spend time training the dog. At least a month. That means constant everyday training them so

they learn where the boundary is. You can't expect to walk up and get the dog zapped and walk back and expect your dog to listen because dogs don't learn like that. Whether they're a puppy or adult. Obviously if you bought 3 of them and none of them worked, on some dogs they just don't work. I had an English mastiff that would cross it and it wouldn't move and I could find them not moving 3 hours later. My English bulldog jumped on the fence, barked, got shocked.

Mr. Goncalves: These are a lot of calls and it seems like you're calling to come get your dogs because you can't catch them and you have police having to pick them up and put them in the car and bring them back to you. It's not fair to anybody walking the neighborhood getting chased whether the dog is wagging their tail or not. The rules are you keep them on a leash and on your property and you keep them under control.

Ms. Libiszewski: Since October they haven't been loose at all.

Mr. Goncalves: Whatever the ACO says, for me. You're both townies for a long time. I think we've got a good referee here.

Ms. Gebo: In August or early September the dog ran across the street and there was a car coming. She had to slam on her brakes. A car was coming around Ventura and he almost hit her too because the dog was in the street. The girl ended up going up to you.

Mr. Gennette: I think we've established the dogs are getting out.

Mr. Rosenblum: I'm pretty consistent with anything we do with a dog hearing. I always defer to the ACO.

Ms. Anderson: I prefer a solid fence.

Mr. Gennette: I'm in agreement as well. The only thing I have to ask is the are the dogs licensed?

Ms. Anderson: They are.

Mr. Gennette: They haven't bit anybody?

Ms. Anderson: No. The little one definitely goes out of his way to harass people. Every dog could bite. There is no documented bites.

Mr. Gennette: Has this already been deemed a nuisance dog?

Ms. Anderson: Not yet.

Mr. Gennette: We don't want to get into that but I think the board is pretty clear that they're going to follow Octavia's recommendation that you've got to get a hard fence. If your electric fence isn't working then you've got to do something else. They're your dogs. You have to maintain them.

Ms. Libiszewski: At this point I can't get a hard fence. It's wintertime. I wouldn't be able to do it until springtime. I'm out of work for months because of my surgery.

Mr. Gennette: I don't know how to help you with that.

Ms. Libiszewski: This hasn't been since October.

Mr. Gennette: The dogs got out.

Ms. Libiszewski: That was from a guest that came when they got out on Christmas.

Mr. Gennette: They still got out.

Ms. Libiszewski: He let them out without knowing to put them on the chain.

Mr. Rosenblum: I don't think anyone is going to come out and put a fence in now anyway. Once we get to March or April I think they're going to wait for a thaw.

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Ms. Anderson: I'm ok with that. We also haven't had a very hard winter as far as ground being frozen.

Mr. Goncalves: At what point are we with fines?

Ms. Anderson: I've been fairly lax with fines with her. Christmas time I told her that she would get a \$250 fine for this dog being loose again. She has paid one fine of \$50. I sent 2 in the mail that were not paid, \$100, and now we're up to \$250. Christmas and anything past this is \$250 a dog until our fines go up, which I think will happen soon. I'm not quite sure of the date. Right now, we're at \$250 per dog every time they get loose.

Mr. Gennette: I don't know about you guys but I'm willing to waive this fine provided you put that money towards a fence.

Ms. Libiszewski: I know I have to put a fence up.

Mr. Rosenblum: I would get a quote and talk to someone and see when they can install it. Now or later, just get the quote. There's plenty of fence installers out there.

Ms. Libiszewski: I have family that are in construction. I would pay a lot less for them to put in a fence than a regular fence company.

Mr. Silva: Talking about a fence, are we talking about an area or the whole yard?

Ms. Gebo: Just her backyard.

Ms. Anderson: If she does the backyard that's fine. Obviously the problem is the dogs go out the front and they dart across. She has a long front yard. I don't know what the backyard looks like. Whichever will make it easier. Then maybe a puppy gate on your front porch in case they do bolt out the front door they can't go down. You have the perfect porch that can handle a puppy gate. It's like a kid gate. You have a very nice house and porch.

Ms. Libiszewski: They would fly right over that. I have a fenced in back porch that's all fenced in with a gate on it. I could start there with them to get them out the back.

Mr. Silva: If there is nothing else, my suggestion is that we move this on 90 days.

Ms. Anderson: I would like the estimates within the next month. We can maybe come back in a month to see.

Mr. Gennette: A date for when they can do the construction. If it happens to be April or May by the time they can get there.

Mr. Goncalves: You made a comment about waiving the fine. Octavia, are you ok with that? If they get loose again, we collect them all and we let her off the hook for now towards the fence if nothing else happens between now and when the fence goes up. If they get out again and you get a call again you've got to pay the ones you owe plus the next one. That's my suggestion to the board.

Ms. Anderson: If we can have a quote in a month.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves** to table this for 30 days subject to the dog owner getting reliable quotes for the installation of a fence. At the same time, any fines due will be waived if the dogs don't have another incident and the fence is installed within 90 days subject to an extension for weather if the board so deems it. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to close the dangerous dog hearing at 6:07 p.m. **Mr. Silva second. Roll call. Mr. Rosenblum yes, Mr. Silva yes, Mr. Goncalves yes, Mr. Gennette yes. Motion passed 4-0.**

6:15 p.m. – Josue Irizarry, President & CEO, Ludlow Boys and Girls Club – Club Update.

Mr. Irizarry: Thank you for this opportunity to give you some highlights of some projects that we worked on in 2023. I know you do so much for the club. I wanted to share some of the things we have done to help improve the club for the community. A lot of these projects were made possible, and I'll talk a little bit about them afterwards, but if you were to visit the club you would see the club inside looking freshly painted. It had not been painted in over 20 years. We brightened it up. All the first floor, the preschool rooms, the administrative offices, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to give it a nice bright look for the community. As you can see in the pictures, this was some of the areas we painted. This year we received some funding to replace the bleachers. They were in pretty bad shape. They were the wooden bleachers and they needed some improvement. We did receive a grant. We were also able to replace all the drinking fountains. Especially after Covid we were trying to look for a way that you could put the bottle under. It also counts how many bottles people are filling up. There's 2 ways for people to get a drink. A button to get the water or the water bottle. We replaced all the drinking fountains at the club and I think there are 4. We also had additional funding to do our E-Sports room, which is the middle room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. We made it into our E-Sports room. We re-did the floor. It was in pretty bad shape. My staff repainted the room. We had a grand opening and it allows teens to come in the E-Sports room. It's gaming. There's a variety of games they can play and compete against each other. A lot of other Boys & Girls Clubs have E-Sports so the goal is to have middle and high school kids use the room to compete in different sports. Tournaments against other clubs. As time goes by hopefully we'll be able to get more teens to be able to use the club. We've been using the room to help our school aged students get prepared. A lot of the kids are into technology. We use the room to do a lot of STEM activities. We have two 3-D printers in there and they get to do projects with our STEM coordinator. Our sports court has been a long project this year. One more part of the project is the railings for the stairs. The middle part where the sports court and main court are not even we'll just put in a railing there so nobody flips over the side of the wall. The sports court will be open. We will have open time for the public and our members to be able to use it. The court will be closed when the club is closed because we need someone to monitor to make sure everything is ok. When the weather is nice it will be open until the time the club is open. We will be providing that information when we get closer to nicer weather. We will be having a grand opening in April when the weather gets nice. You will all be invited. A lot of this we were able to do with ARPA money that we received. It's a basketball court and can be used for pickleball. I know pickleball has been becoming very popular. We have people using our gym to play pickleball.

Mr. Gennette: Is it just people going to the club that are using it?

Mr. Irizarry: No. Adults can come in. Right now, a lot of the people who are playing pickleball are using our gym are adults. It's for our members. We go from Pre-School to Seniors. We're very excited for this opportunity to be able to give people an opportunity to be outside. One of the things we did this week is we finished off, if you've ever been to the club you would have seen a lot of the logos and wording were faded and coming off. With the additional funding we had we have been able to replace a lot of our logos. We replaced all the town logos that were around the building. In 2023, the projects we ended up doing were painting the club, replaced the logos around the building, we replaced the bleachers and drinking fountains, the new E-Sports room. The total cost of all these projects was \$355,000. We were able to do this because we received grants and funding to be able to do these improvements. If not we would not have been able to. Potential projects we are looking into, we did get some funding, in our conference room we are looking to try to make it into a multi-purpose room where we will replace the cabinets and put a stove and fridge in there and take out the rug and put a floor to be able to do different cooking projects with the kids to teach some healthy classes. For adults, seniors, and kids. Because it would be a multi-purpose room potentially be able to use it as a yoga to do some of our smaller exercise programs. We're trying to utilize all of our space but still use it as a conference room. One of the goals we are hoping to also replace the rug in our administrative office that has been over 20 years. We are looking to see if we can get some funding for that. We're going to be looking into potential grants. One of the big projects we will be working on is project Home Run. We received some funding from the May Sisters to help improve the baseball field. We will be working on that when we get a little closer. I will bring everything up to you and let you know a timeline for that. The idea is to put some dugouts there. It's not an official size field. Hopefully we'll be able to use it for softball and younger kids for baseball. We'll have to clean up the field a little bit because a lot of weeds have grown. Right now, it's more for softball. We're going to be looking into a removable mound. Younger kids pitching could potentially use it there. Because we have a pavilion there and there is handicapped parking so we'll be looking to see if there's any nets to cover one side of the pavilion so if the ball goes it will hit the net instead of somebody's car. We will be building some multi-

purpose storage that could potentially be used as a concession stand. It will be multi-purpose concession just to sell candy. No cooking. It will potentially have 2 bathrooms there.

Mr. Goncalves: I think there was some plans for that a couple years ago floating around.

Mr. Irizarry: I know it's been over 6 years that this has been discussed. The idea is to get this project completed. My goal is to have this completed by the end of August so it's not going to impact anybody from using the field. When we do a grand opening you will be invited. That's an update of the projects we've been doing.

Mr. Silva: The pickleball court. There was an issue that it didn't open up. Has that been resolved?

Mr. Irizarry: If you look at the pictures, the staircases I had them build another railing on the other side to build the steps. I'm waiting for the railings. Then we'll have the inspector come out to look at the railings.

Mr. Silva: It hasn't been used yet. Is that going to be for a time that you can request and for adults as well as children?

Mr. Irizarry: When we're open we'll have some time for members and openings for non-members wanting to use it. There will be potential rental fees.

Mr. Silva: I was wondering, when I was a kid we used to compete with different clubs. Pool table, bumper pool, ping pong, and we'd go to other clubs and they'd come to our club. It was just a great thing that happened. Suddenly none of that is done anymore.

Mr. Goncalves: PlayStation with other clubs.

Mr. Silva: What is the problem with taking a few kids and going to play this club at whatever little functions you do. And they used to be more than E-Sports. Actual physical sports. We used to play a lot of ping pong. We even had little pool matches. My friends say remember when we used to do that. It was really a lot of fun. We engaged in a lot of different...it was kind of fun.

Mr. Goncalves: You and I were able to go on our own after school. Go there and then go home. Today the kids aren't allowed to walk freely. This is a little bit out of the way vs where we were.

Mr. Irizarry: Transportation is very expensive compared to even a few years ago.

Mr. Silva: You can pass the fee onto the kid's parents.

Mr. Rosenblum: This is great. I remember the one time we were talking about parking. I might have mentioned to you before, is there a long-range plan and we could think about using some part of the back part of the compost area to build it up where it's level with the field. I know parking is becoming an issue when you have as many activities as you have now and adding these activities. Also, when we were talking about soccer and the camps up there. It was just a thought. Thinking about some way to expand parking up there.

Mr. Gennette: Do you differentiate between the students you have coming there and watching them vs community members that join? Do you know those numbers?

Mr. Irizarry: Not off the top of my head. I would say it's over 140 kids. For example, we have a swim team for the younger kids and the high school that comes in and uses the pool. Right now, we're trying to put our system together to be able to calculate how many individual people are coming to use our facility so we are working on that right now.

Mr. Gennette: You don't have a concept of if you're improving or losing membership? Are you seeing a decline or increase?

Mr. Irizarry: Right now, we're trying to increase our membership. This month we are waiving the sign-up fee. We used to have different types of memberships. When people hear Boys and Girls Club they think it's just for kids but we're in a unique situation where it's also for adults. We're working on trying to let the community know that we do have adults come and use our facility.

Mr. Gennette: I used to belong about 10 years ago. I would use the gym upstairs and the pool. I was a little kids lacrosse coach for a little while. How much is a membership?

Mr. Irizarry: Rates just went up. We have a senior, adult and family fee. They're all different right now. I can let you guys know.

Mr. Gennette: Thanks for coming in. We have a little bit of time before our next meeting with Sean McBride

## CORRESPONDENCE

168. Philip Brodeur, Advancement Chair – Scouts BSA Troop 180 Inviting the Board to attend an Eagle Scout Court of Honor recognizing the achievements of Bridget and Ronald Schneider on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at the Pastoral Center of St. Elizabeth Parish in Ludlow.

Mr. Goncalves: I'd love to see if we could put a certificate of commendation together for these kids and hopefully one of us can get over there.

Mr. Gennette: That would be very nice.

Mr. Silva: In reference to Tony's comment, it's ok for 3-4-5 of us to go somewhere. We just cannot deliberate.

Mr. Goncalves: I understand that. In general, if we can avoid it.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to file. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

169. Chief Valadas – Notifying the Board of the separation from full-time employment of Detective Melissa Stokowski effective December 22, 2023.

Mr. Goncalves: I'd like to thank Melissa for her service. She was with us for almost 10 years. It's a shame, especially this day in age when we're having trouble getting police officers.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to accept the resignation with regrets. Mr. Silva second.**

Mr. Silva: I'm just hoping this isn't due to circumstances happening around police departments and it's something she just feels its time for her to pass on.

Mr. Goncalves: I believe she's going into nursing.

Mr. Silva: It's a difficult job now.

**All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

170. Marcum, LLP – Notifying the Board of the governance for the Town of Ludlow's FY22 Audit.

Mr. Strange: Nothing on this one specifically. We did meet with the auditors from Marcum today. We have 4 audits outstanding right now. Fiscal 20 and 21 both had some issues with the CARES and FEMA money that we got. The consultant we hired put them into one account and they have to be technically separated. They're dealing with that right now. They also went through the fiscal 22 management letter, which for us the day-to-day recommendations for how we can improve. The treasurer/collector, town accountant, and Carrie were there. We got a lot of good information about reconciling cash accounts and handling cash. All good recommendations and I know Elsa is following them. They're not done with the fiscal 22 audit yet. We've got a couple things still outstanding but they're going to start working on fiscal 23 because it has to be done around May because we're going to be transitioning short term bonds to long-term borrowing and the rating agencies are going to want to see our fiscal 23 audit completed, which I realize is outside of the scope of this specific thing was. We at least wanted to get this on your radar so we could have this discussion and give you a quick update.

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Mr. Silva: We used to have Melanson, right?

Mr. Strange: Marcum bought Melanson.

**Motion made by Mr. Silva to file. Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

171. Ryan Linton, Westover Golf Course Superintendent – Requesting the Board declare the following equipment as surplus in order to list at a municipal auction: 1993 Ford F350 with an 8-foot fisher plow, 2000 Toro Multi-Pro 5500, 2004 Dakota Turf Tender and a Chem-pro spray tank.

**Motion made by Mr. Silva to declare the equipment as outlined by Ryan Linton, Westover Golf Course Superintendent as surplus. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

172. Deobrah Potter – Requesting the Board appoint her to the Council on Aging.

**Motion made by Mr. Silva to appoint Deborah Potter to the Council on Aging. Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

173. Chief Pease – Request to charge off medical expense and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a Firefighter/Paramedic as a result of an incident that occurred on December 28, 2023.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to charge off medical expense and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a Firefighter/Paramedic as a result of an incident that occurred on December 28, 2023. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

174. Angela Kramer – Advising the Board of her resignation from the 250<sup>th</sup> Committee.

Mr. Silva: Thank you to Angela Kramer. I don't know how she does it. She's involved in everything.

**Motion made by Mr. Silva to approve her resignation from the 250<sup>th</sup> committee and thank her. Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

175. Chief Valadas, Police Department – Requesting a Civil Service list to fill three Police Officer vacancies as of January 24, 2024.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to get the list for the purpose of filling three vacancies. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

7:00 p.m. – Sean McBride – To request a new position (Recreation Assistant)

Mr. McBride: Often times you don't get a pat on the back for a department. Compliments to the DPW for the storm cleanup. They did a fantastic job. This position is something we've been kicking around for quite a period of time. I know that you guys have had a number of requests from a number of departments. I'm sure all those department requests are important so I don't envy the decision you're going to have to make. What we're looking for on the rec side. We're a department of one. As you well know it's increasingly difficult for us to be able to effectively operate and provide services to the town with a department of one. The current clerk has a number of responsibilities that oftentimes take them away from answering phones and inquiries from the public. It tends to increase during the summer and spring months when we're getting the pool up and operational or when we're working on getting the pond open and other tasks she has taken on and done a fantastic job with. Originally we asked for it to be a shared position with the golf course. This position is a little unique in that the hours are non-traditional. We found it was going to become increasingly difficult to fill that position with a traditional LATOSS worker. The primary function of this job would be to work in the before and after school program as needed. Our greater need right now is before school which is 5:30-6:00 a.m. till when kids get picked up about 8:30. The thought would be that this person would transition our current clerk with various administrative functions, phones, data entry, entering bills, camp applications, working with HR for employment applications. I think there is enough work to cover the 35-hour/week position. It would not be, our thought in talking with Carrie was to not make it a LATOSS position but make it an hourly non-union position. I think it would allow us the flexibility that we need as far as the

hours go. What we were looking at just to give you an idea of the pay scale it would follow along the lines of a pay scale of a LATOSS 3, but obviously it wouldn't be a LATOSS 3 it would be an hourly employee. I think it's an important position. We need to increase the size of that department. It's not conducive to operating a functioning department. We had a lot of requests in the spring and fall with field requests, game changes because of weather and things of that nature. It's important that we have somebody not only in the office but available to answer inquiries and be able to provide a level of service that we expect as a department and the town expects from its department. As a town, when we call a department we want to make sure somebody is answering the phone, especially during traditional business hours. I think that by creating this position, staffing, and funding this position we're also going to see that reduction that we've all been concerned about with the overtime. We can track the overtime. The reason for that is generally because our current clerk is filling that role to make sure there's coverage in the before school and making sure there's somebody in the office towards the end of the day and making sure their administrative functions get done. I think this would allow the office to be able to function, whether it's the morning person, the new position or current position, to be able to hand off some of that workload, reduce overtime and the department can function more efficiently. That's kind of where we're at. As far as the job description, I don't have it on me.

Mr. Gennette: We have it.

Mr. McBride: We did provide some input to HR in the creation of that but I just haven't seen the final product.

Mr. Goncalves: How much are we spending in overtime right now?

Mr. McBride: I don't have that number.

Mr. Goncalves: Would we eliminate 80-90% of the overtime?

Mr. McBride: I think we can eliminate the lion's share of the overtime when we look at 2 different factors. Utilizing the other town employee who has a pool certification license and also having this position. The lion's share of the overtime would be eliminated.

Mr. Goncalves: That's a great reason to create a position where we really need it.

Mr. McBride: I think a fair share of it would be. I think one of the things we've been looking at trying to do over the last year or so has been trying to put together or enter into a voucher program for the before and after school. The summer camp wouldn't qualify for it because of the condition of the park but the before and after school we could qualify because we're licensed. It's a little labor intensive as far as inputting the data to get the reimbursement and I think this position would go a long way towards getting us to the point where we could be enrolled in that voucher program. It would allow us to increase our rates a little.

Mr. Goncalves: With the second person, could we chase some grants that are out there?

Mr. McBride: I don't know what talent you're going to get at that pay rate to be able to adequately chase grants and fill out grant applications but I think it would provide us an opportunity where we could at least start to look at grants and make some suggestions to folks here.

Mr. Goncalves: You would think at \$21/hour you would get a pretty sharp person. It's \$700-\$800/week. That's a different subject.

Mr. McBride: Who knows. There's a lot of opportunity when you increase salary to be able to look at creative ways to get some additional funding sources.

Mr. Gennette: Does it help to have a part-time employee vs a full-time employee? Less than 35 hours.

Mr. McBride: I don't know to be quite honest with you. We talked about it. I don't know that we would get much interest in a part-time position. When you look at the before and after school component now, they're part-time positions. That's why we're in the situation we're in. We have difficulty finding folks. We thought we would be able to increase the candidate pool and make the

position a little more lucrative. That's why we decided to add some additional duties with the job description.

Mr. Gennette: I don't know anything about recreation so if I'm off base, please tell me I am. You have camp counselors or younger kids that are looking to improve their situation. Maybe they can't come in and do a part time position for less than \$21/hour and at least fill the need for a lot of the stuff that's here. If they're already a counselor I don't know if that's an avenue to which engage whether full time or part time.

Mr. McBride: Most of our counselors are summer hires, high school students and some college students. The availability for them to be able to work we're looking at more of a post high school age, post college age individual who it may be beneficial to somebody who is looking to get into early education and looking for some level of experience. Maybe we fill that gap for them for a couple year period of time where you're getting the experience of somebody who is eager to work with children and work in that sort of setting. The benefit to them is that they're getting valuable experience they can take to their next position.

Mr. Goncalves: It's a shame because two 20-hour/week employees would save us benefits, almost like buy one get one free.

Mr. Gennette: For the wage, for the position you're looking at I think you're looking at somebody that's probably still in school or a senior. It's probably going to be pretty hard to find somebody full-time to take up 35 hours a week for that wage.

Mr. McBride: I wouldn't necessarily be opposed to, we've been talking about this position for a while, do we attempt 20-hour/week positions and see what sort of interest it generates? Maybe. Worst comes to worst I'm back here in another year saying it didn't work out and maybe we go this route. Maybe circumstances have changed at that point.

Mr. Goncalves: At 20 hours we're not paying benefits, right?

Ms. Ribeiro: 19 ½.

Mr. Goncalves: At two 19 ½ it's buy one get one free because you're saving \$25,000 on the benefits.

Ms. Ribeiro: I missed some of it so I'm assuming you're talking about the after-school program. I don't know that according to speaking with Sean & Debbie it's not just before and after school, it's the summer, pool.

Mr. Gennette: That still works out for students.

Ms. Ribeiro: You're not going to get a student to come in at 5:30 a.m. for the before school program.

Mr. McBride: The hours do make it tough. That shift isn't for everybody.

Ms. Ribeiro: The after school could probably use a student.

Mr. McBride: I think the position is necessary but I also look at the fact that every year we sit here, and they're never great years, and I've been involved in state and municipal government all of my career and I've never heard a state department or municipal department say we're flush with money so whatever you want you get.

Mr. Silva: That's not true. There's a couple communities that have Amazon building in there and loads of money. That's the only way.

Mr. McBride: I would say I do think the position is important. I see your point too. Thinking outside the box I just don't know that you're going to get a lot of interest. I know there has been some interest in this particular position already so that's a good sign. It means either the hours are conducive to a small section of population or the wage is right.

Mr. Gennette: We'll take it into consideration along with a lot of them and we'll give you our answer.

Mr. Strange: A quick update. It looked like we were a little bit ahead of schedule so I texted Weston & Sampson to see if they could come in at 7:15 instead of 7:45 so they are prepared to hop on the call at 7:15 if we get through some of this stuff.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board to sign corrected Class II License for Ludlow Auto Sales.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to sign the corrected Class II License for Ludlow Auto Sales. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 3-0-1.**

Board to sign corrected Class II License for MDS Auto Sales.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to sign the corrected Class II License for MDS Auto Sales. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 3-0-1.**

### NEW BUSINESS

Board to open the warrant for the May 6, 2024 Annual Town Meeting and will close the warrant at their March 5, 2024 meeting.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to open the warrant for the May 6, 2024 Annual Town Meeting and will close the warrant at their March 5, 2024 meeting. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to approve and possibly sign the amendment to the lease agreement between the Town of Ludlow and the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club, Inc.

Mr. Strange: I don't know if you guys remember but we had some discussions about formalizing processes and covering our potential liabilities for if the club were to make improvements to the building but also renting out space to various groups. What you have in front of you is an amendment that's going to be attached to the existing agreement that we have. Paragraph 2 is a memorialization of what we have now. The board, if they get a request for use of the premises it comes before the Board of Selectmen for approval. Paragraph 3 the board generously allowed employees of the Town of Ludlow to use the club for a free or nominal cost. Paragraph 4 requires that if they're going to make any material alterations to the building that it's got to be approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Silva: Looks good to me.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the amendment to the lease agreement between the Town of Ludlow and the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club, Inc. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Mr. Strange: There's only a couple signature lines on that one.

Board to approve and appoint Ron Saloio to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee.

Mr. Gennette: A little update. We had changed the bylaws to reflect the boards in town so the school committee sent over Mr. Saloio as their representative.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to appoint Ron Saloio to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly vote to approve an employment contract for the Police Chief.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to table for 2 weeks. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly vote to approve a contract extension for the Town Administrator.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to table for 2 weeks. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to approve and sign the contract between the Town of Ludlow and Caolo & Bieneik in the amount of \$24,600 for engineer and design services for the Ludlow HS façade project.

Mr. Goncalves: Let me guess, it's a \$246,000 contract.

Mr. Strange: Not yet.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the contract between the Town of Ludlow and Caolo & Bieneik in the amount of \$24,600 for engineer and design services for the Ludlow HS façade project. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Mr. Strange: There was a late addition agenda item, I don't know if you guys have it on yours, which is it's under new business. The board needs to authorize the money for that project from the building infrastructure fund.

Board to discuss and possibly vote to approve \$24,600 in the building infrastructure funds for a new engineer and design services for the Ludlow HS façade project.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve \$24,600 in the building infrastructure funds for a new engineer and design services for the Ludlow HS façade project. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

#### **BOARD UPDATES/MISC**

Mr. Rosenblum: The charter committee met last Thursday and we delved deeper into 2 forms of government; town manager/council and mayor/council. Those are on tv. There is an open portion to the meeting where anyone can email in questions or comments that we could possibly comment on during the open session. People are more than welcome to come in. We also had a student, a junior from the high school, that is going to be part of the committee that can report back to the high school for learning the government form of the town. We are hoping to interview a couple mayors in the next couple weeks and we're hoping by the end of this month that we narrow it down to the form of government, what it's going to be and building it out from there.

Mr. Gennette: Capital Planning. We've been doing a little bit of work. The requests are in and of course everybody has a lot of them. There is an item coming up that that I would like this board to have a conversation with me about and that is barrels. We have a contract negotiation coming up for our waste disposal in the middle of January and we're not really sure what the price difference is going to be for automation vs manual. We believe through various revenues and capital we could probably come up with a way to buy, we're hoping, two 35-gallon barrels. One for recycling and one for trash. I'm hoping to have something a little more resolute for somebody in the future. We're going to try to get this done through capital. It's a one-time purchase. If people need barrels, they lose them, they damage them or anything like that they would have to buy them from the DPW afterwards. It would be their responsibility. The town would pick up the bill first. These are just some of the ideas getting tossed around and I'm wondering if you have any conversation you would like to have with it.

Mr. Silva: You just mentioned in your last part damage or anything. A lot of those damages come from the truck itself. Not really the fault of the resident but it's something we should look at.

Mr. Gennette: Something we should keep on our radar. Marc, I wouldn't mind being part of that conversation when we start talking about waste disposal with Waste Management. Another conversation is will those automated trash trucks pick up any size. If we told the community if they wanted a 50-gallon trash barrel, they just have to buy one. We provide them with one but if they want to up it they can. Is an automated truck going to be able to pick up multiple size barrels. There are a lot of questions.

Mr. Silva: I'm sure they'll go by tonnage. Probably best to go by one. Then the truck is going to have to know.

Mr. Gennette: Then we run into a purple bag problem.

Mr. Silva: I'm absolutely in favor of doing automated and getting these bins picked up. It was one of the contentions that we had when we previously went into the \$100 fee. We were going to get bins and that didn't happen. To see that happening now at least we can say now this did happen.

Mr. Gennette: That's part of the reason I'm chasing it. If you have any questions or comments drop Marc a message.

Mr. Rosenblum: Single stream?

Mr. Gennette: I'm not sure. I'm hoping. To put everything in 1 barrel for recycling?

Mr. Rosenblum: Yes we went from single stream to dual stream. You're supposed to save money on the dual stream.

Mr. Gennette: If you save money on dual stream then we take what we can get.

Mr. Rosenblum: You still do the same one, just alternating.

Mr. Goncalves: It's not going to make a big difference. I think we're in trouble. We've probably got to look at the alternative till we get those numbers. Unaffordable with our current obligations and what we're going to get his for an increase there's just not going to be enough money there.

Mr. Silva: I agree with you. Why is it affordable for Springfield?

Mr. Goncalves: In Springfield everybody pays. They've got their own contracts.

Mr. Silva: They pay less than we do. \$90. I pay \$90 for a bin and they collect the trash. \$90/year.

Mr. Goncalves: Wilbraham is about \$100/quarter. They're collecting 100,000 people in Springfield in the same area as here.

Mr. Gennette: The other part of this whole thing is it looks like we're going to try to get together and we may be able to align with Hampden and possibly Longmeadow to try to group our services and get one contract so it's more of a population based that we get 3 towns and maybe we can cut down the cost of the contract that way. We're out of sync with Wilbraham and Belchertown. Their contracts don't come up at the same time but it looks like Hampden and Longmeadow are close. Granby brings theirs.

Mr. Silva: We might be able to get Southbridge. They just contracted the first time they're going to be picking up. Casella is going to be picking up their trash and see what they're going to be paying. I don't know why but the Assessors office is dealing with that and water also.

Mr. Goncalves: How many people in Southbridge?

Mr. Silva: Properties are 3,000 less here. I'll see if I can find out what the costs were. They're a little out towards the Worcester area.

Mr. Gennette: It would still be nice to have a comparison. If we can get some information and knowledge about it, what's it going to cost us. What are the contracts going to be? Can we get together with some of the other communities? If we could put together that information at least we can go in knowing what we're looking at. Right now, we know nothing. It's a little over a year. When is our contract done?

Mr. Strange: June 30, 2025.

Mr. Goncalves: There's got to be notice of renewal.

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Mr. Gennette: I think it's a year?

Mr. Strange: I'd have to check the contract. We're talking to them next week so we're getting started. It's in person but if you want to call in...it's at the DPW. The 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00. I sent you the invite. I'm glad to hear you're talking about it. We'll go over event calendars. We've got another minute here before we have the East Street revitalization.

**Event Calendar:**

Monday, January 15, 2024 – Town Hall Closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Wednesday, January 17, 2024 – Town Hall Closed for Employee Wellness Day  
Saturday, February 24, 2024 – 250<sup>th</sup> First Night to be held at Ludlow High School

Mr. Goncalves: 250<sup>th</sup> event. They're also having a dinner dance. Cabin Fever dinner dance March 9<sup>th</sup> at Gremio Lusitano. Tony & Penny's catering with music and dancing to follow. \$50/person. Lots of wonderful raffle baskets, 50/50, etc. to benefit the 250<sup>th</sup>. Also congratulate Grit 24, the new gym next to Walgreens. Grand opening this week. Beautiful place. Incredible. Very modern. Good luck to them. Down on East Street near Deluxe Auto a new Brazilian restaurant, Monster Den, opened yesterday morning. We got to try a little bit of what they had. Did you go down there?

Mr. Gennette: I did and I went back and got dinner. I asked where they came up with the name. One of the daughters said everybody calls your sandwiches monsters so why don't you call it Monster Den. It's a great little place. They re-did the inside. It's the old East Street Coffee Company. Beautiful place.

7:45 p.m. – Weston & Sampson – East Street Revitalization Update

Mr. Gennette: This is a final master plan presentation coming up from Weston & Sampson. It's the East Street revitalization update. They were here 4-5 months ago.

Mr. Kunkel: Good evening and thanks for having us in tonight. We're pretty excited for the final master plan for East Street corridor and thinking about some of the potential opportunities we think are relevant and valid and really help accomplish the goals that we were tasked with. Marc and Doug and others have been great in guiding us to getting us to where we are tonight. We're excited to present the final product. I want to frame this up in that these are some pretty big picture concepts to show the opportunity and the potential that the East Street corridor has. It's got a lot of great features to it. It's got a lot of diversity from residential to business. Different scaled buildings, different vintage buildings. It's got a great neighborhood in the immediately surrounding area so we tried to capture all that and really leverage the fact that this is an opportunity to help mitigate some stormwater and urban heat island in regards to potential grants and funding as you move forward. I'm Brandon Kunkel with Weston & Sampson. I'm here with my colleague, Lindsay Abbott. I'm the practice leader for the design landscape architect program. We've been in front of you folks previously but to just re-introduce myself. If anyone has any questions please jump in at any time, I want this to be an interactive conversation. I want to reiterate some of the goals that were set out at the beginning. To return pedestrians to East Street, create a welcome village feel, really capitalize on the scale of the buildings, the closeness of the neighborhood, the close-knit community, all the surrounding development that's going on. Leverage that. There's a lot of momentum going on in this corridor. This does have a lot of opportunity to become a key corridor within Ludlow with a lot of amenities, a lot of business opportunities where people can have a village downtown feel on a smaller scale where you can easily walk into your neighbor at the coffee shop. You don't want to drive. You want to get out and experience the sidewalk atmosphere. You want to take advantage of the weather if it happens to be a really nice weather day and take in the sights and sounds, the great architectural features. I'll say it a few times tonight, to really embrace the culture of Ludlow and surrounding neighborhood itself. We want to feel a sense of arrival onto East Street. It's a 2-mile corridor that we looked at and we wanted to highlight as you approach downtown and into the mill area and that development that's going on but also coming the opposite way towards the golf course. Think about this as a bookend on both sides. We want to announce the fact that there are great things going on in this corridor, some great businesses, some great restaurants, coffee shops, hair salons, and all the good things going on there. We want to improve pedestrian access, make it feel safe when you're crossing the street and we'll get into some of the public comments. We'll revisit that. We want it to feel comfortable, to scale, lighting. We want people to feel good about walking there at night. We want to feel good about crossing the street. We want it to be safe. We want it to be accessible, handicapped accessible. There's a lot

of great architecture we want to highlight. We want to play with the textures and patterns of pavement types and leverage different materials for infiltration for stormwater and that includes permeable pavers or whether or not that's inlets along the street for tree planting in the rain gardens. We want to upgrade or add some furniture. There's a series of benches along the way that are tired. I want to bring a little bit of upgraded, modern day furniture, and we want to increase the shade canopy, that's one of the drivers of this. To make it feel comfortable. There are some trees out there now and we'll break it down, but there is a large void within the tree canopy along the entire corridor. We want it to feel comfortable on those hot summer days. We want it to look really nice in the fall when those trees are changing colors. It provides a human scale to the corridor itself. With this all combined, if we were to mix these all up, it's not just one thing, it's all these things put together that would really make it feel comfortable. We want people to hang out there. We want people to come enjoy those businesses, do their business here. We would love them to get out of their cars, visit those restaurants or coffee shop. We want it to be easily accessible and we want it to be highly visible as well. We want to give the street sidewalk edges back to the pedestrians. We want them to feel safe crossing those streets. By doing that we'll hopefully through some of these mitigation features that we'll talk about tonight, reduce the speed. It's a long, straight corridor. There's a few crosswalks along the way but there's not a lot of traffic lights, and that's completely fine. There's other ways we can mitigate that tendency for higher speed, given the fact that it's straight long runs. More to come on that. The upper image is the existing corridor as it is and the one below is the proposed version. We'll go into detail in the proposed version specifically. You can sort of see along the entire corridor of East Street from the golf course and the bank all the way down to the diner intersection. There's not a lot of tree canopy currently. I know that there's been several reasons for that. There's no particular reason why there's not trees there. It's just a culmination over time but we think this is a great opportunity to reset the compass and get some more trees along the street edge. We're going to start zooming in a little bit. We have broken down the corridor to 5 key locations. That doesn't mean the rest of it's not important or taken into account but there's 3 key areas and a couple typical sections of those areas that bridge those key points. The intersection down by Sewall, there's what we by default have referred to as the core business district or that Winsor Street intersection, the Polish Club, and the bank and then we did a typical street section where there are these notable features along the way. I want to point out, and we are aware, that parking is a key concern for the community. Keep in mind this is big picture, putting out there some ideas that we have found to be successful, we think they provide the greatest opportunity for early action. It doesn't require big dollar investments but particularly parking. We know parking is a major issue and if we're going to take any away we want to make sure we're adding it back but I think we do it strategically. I think there's some opportunities during off business hours or on the weekends to come to an agreement with some of the businesses, or the Polish Club in particular or the school where you can leverage their existing parking lots for public use. It requires conversations, it requires a memorandum of understanding or an agreement. There's several different tactics. In lieu of purchasing a property directly to create more parking we feel like these are some of the opportunities that should be considered. We'll talk about parking commodities in a few slides but you'll note in a few slides we've highlighted 3 adjacent parcels that we believe provide the best opportunity for nearby parking that's reasonable. And we'll talk about distances and walking times to where you can get to anywhere on East Street within a 10-minute walk at most, but mostly a 5-minute or less walk. We're going to go through these key enlargement areas and talk about them a little bit in detail and then I'm going to hand it over to Lindsay and she'll work through some more detail and more specifics on the various sections. We've got several sections on the street to help tell the story and get a scale and she'll talk about the potential for a furniture pallet, lightings, signage, tree types that we think are an appropriate scale that would be successful, low-maintenance and provide the best value and benefit to East Street. This is the corner of East & Sewall Streets. This is the parking lot currently at Frank's Diner. Right now, every time I've been there that parking lot tends to be available Monday – Friday during the day. I'm sure it's quite busy on the weekends but we think this is a key intersection to set up the framework for this revitalization of East Street. We think if we could take a little bit of that parking and turn it into a gateway to announce the revitalization of East Street to create some public space an opportunity for a piece of public art or sculpture or signage, some shaded seating underneath a trellis to help bring that scale down. That's a big intersection currently. You have the clock tower across the street. You have a multi-story factory building; you've got the municipal complex across the street. We want to bring that scale down. We want to bring it to a human scale. We want to provide a lot of shade. We want people to get out and enjoy East Street and the diner and provide some outdoor dining. This also provides some green space for what we refer to as LID, low impact development, and that's related to green infrastructure. You don't have to spend big bucks to deal with stormwater run-off. You can mitigate that through landscape or rain gardens.



With the right plant materials, the right soil amendments you can really capture a lot of storm water without having to put in the big, heavy, typical civil pipes and catch basin infrastructure, as well as it's great for cleaning the quality of the stormwater as well. As we move further down you'll see where we are focused on providing opportunities and this is the wider end of East Street. We think there's a lot of opportunity to leverage along the sidewalk. We'll be cutting some sections along the way. We think there's some opportunity where given the driveways and amount of the in and out. The safety factor. Not wanting to, you'll note in one of the public comments was they feel unsafe pulling in and out of driveways because cars are parked right there. There's not a lot of visibility. This would prevent the cars from pulling up right against the driveway. We set them back approximately 20'. That provides an opportunity for street trees. As you folks may or may not be aware, this is a really tight corridor in regard to the width of the right of way so there's not a lot of opportunity on the outside of the right of way. A lot of these improvements are going to have to occur within the right of way, given the businesses, the residences. We can't put a tree inside of a building or onto a private resident without their permission or knowledge. We can talk a little bit about some of those opportunities as we move along. I do want to point out the proposed trees are more artsy, more fluffy trees. We did recognize there are still some trees there currently that have some value so we've highlighted those with a classic round circle. One thing you'll also notice is we're proposing a lot of pedestrian scale lighting. We want to make sure this corridor is well lit at night so people feel safe walking on those sidewalks from business to business and from the restaurant to their car. We think another key piece would be within the street itself is providing highly visible crosswalks and that can be simply done through a change in material. Lindsay will speak to the materials specifically at the end. We want to identify that highly visible; these are where pedestrians are crossing. We want those cars to slow down and we want people to feel safe along this corridor. We want to make sure we are very respectful to the businesses. We know that parking is key to their success so where we could and where it was appropriate we made sure we provided parking directly out front of the businesses. In this particular situation, this is the East Street Coffee Company Café. Phenomenal people when we've been there. They've always treated us well. Very friendly people. They actually invited us in for coffee the morning we were there. You'll also notice at Lower Whitney Street there's a great opportunity there to have another pocket park. It's an opportunity where you can't do too much with it given the square footage, but it provides a place for someone to stop in the hot summer or rain and provide a little bit of refuge. What we're trying to do is break this corridor down providing areas where they can if people have to take a minute and catch their breath in the shade, have a seat. We understand 2 miles can be formidable for some people. We want to make sure we're providing those opportunities for them to be able to rest and be comfortable.

Mr. Gennette: You were mentioning streetlights and I'm looking at the slide before, along that south side there's an awful lot of telephone there and I noticed with those streetlights and telephone poles its horrendous looking there and I don't know if adding more poles is going to be conducive to improving the situation and I'm just wondering if you had any thoughts.

Mr. Kunkel: That's a great comment and yes, we are aware of the utility poles. I would suggest as the town moves forward they continue to take these ideas and thoughts and strongly consider whether or not it makes sense to put the utilities underground and I understand there's big dollar values to doing that and there's implications or you leverage those light pole locations. Some of these lights are at those utility pole locations so that could easily be a light that's fixed to the utility pole. We'll talk about the precedent. There's much nicer fixtures now than when I was growing up with the classic cobra heads. They can definitely be fixed to utility poles but they're a lot more of a classic New England village feel, which I think we're trying to go for, much more aesthetically pleasing than the old classic cobra head from the 50's and 60's, much more efficient. Definitely a great comment and something to consider. We're at the 2<sup>nd</sup> key area that we wanted to blow up and provide a little bit more detail. We understand there's other businesses along this corridor but this seems to be the hub, in our opinion, where it's all businesses. There's already a couple of restaurants, hair salons, a smoke shop, a church, a bakery. There's so many great things going on. There's such a diversity and we really wanted to play that up. We think this is a great opportunity for where you really highlight the fact that you have all these great businesses and you could really create a spot where you could have events, and when we say events is it as simple as on a Saturday morning from 7 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. you could have a farmers market and you can divert the traffic from this particular area for those hours. Whether or not it's pop up stands or a movie night on a Saturday night. This could be a promenade between the businesses where for certain hours or certain days of the year cars are prevented from passing through or there's certain hours where they park and the cars either need to stay there or what not. The idea was that this really does

become a pedestrian promenade in between the businesses. Outdoor dining could be encouraged. Lindsay was great in identifying some spaces, particularly at Primavera where there's these plaza spaces adjacent to restaurants where they could have outdoor dining right along the street to activate that sidewalk. With the lighting I'm imagining on a Friday night you could have music playing, lights above, a lot of people moving along the sidewalk, enjoying the restaurants and businesses and then they can walk down to the next block and get to their car. When it's not the key Monday through Friday transit and getting in and out of town and out of the neighborhood we completely understand that cars have to pass through and it has to be functional. We're providing parking right outside businesses and we thought this was a great opportunity to create this amazing space where it provides a lot of flexibility for actual events beyond just being a sidewalk element.

Mr. Gennette: I was just going to bring up we're missing a section down by the end of Highland Street where the gas station is. There's nothing going on there?

Mr. Kunkel: Cumberland Farms?

Mr. Gennette: That's not part of your plan? Ok.

Mr. Kunkel: That's not part of your enlargement. If you have a question there's value in looking at something adjacent to that and we can definitely do that.

Ms. Abbott: I can appreciate that there are a lot of businesses that continue to where the gas station is, that whole stretch of new boutiques where there's the cosmetic tattooing and the luxury brand elements so it could be worthwhile exploring continuing this paving pattern and extending that downtown economic corridor area. We take your point.

Mr. Kunkel: This is down by the Polish American Club. It is in my opinion an icon. I think everybody must know it particularly along the neighborhood and Ludlow in general. We think there's a great opportunity. They have a little bit of green space right there right on the street. I know they're engrained in the neighborhood. I would think there's a great opportunity there to create this pedestrian scale little pocket park. It's sort of the mid-point of East Street where there could be café tables for chess or checkers or getting your coffee at the café and walking down and hanging out. Every one of these spaces surrounded by green is being leveraged for also the stormwater quality and rain gardens. We're sneaking in these opportunities where you can capture that stormwater off the Polish American Club parking lot and not have it run into the East Street system. You could treat it right there and it infiltrates into the ground, whatever the ultimate goal of storage and capacity are, the point is you're able to take burden off of the existing stormwater system within East Street as well as create this nice pedestrian scale space with trees, shade and canopies. Again, that's sort of the mid-point, everybody knows it, meet me down at the Polish Club, they know exactly what you're talking about. You either walk or park there, ride your bike there, but it becomes a mid-point destination along the entire East Street corridor. Again, we are leveraging the fact that there's a lot of driveways in and out of East Street and the safety of pulling cars away from the actual driveways to allow for turning radius and visibility. They provide these opportunities for adding trees or a little bit of stormwater treatment along the way and rain gardens. Again, you'll see the existing tree circles. There are some trees in this corridor. We wanted to preserve them. Through doing this you can actually increase their viability and their chances of living longer lives by providing more growing areas and not being completely surrounded by pavement and sidewalk. We appreciate the fact that there are some trees there surviving. We want to keep them and give them a better community to live. Our next slide is in between the other spaces that I mentioned in the beginning and the end. The core business district. This is more of the residential scale here. It's also a typical street scape. You have a few businesses and residential. We think there's some opportunities where you're leveraging the fact that there's driveways that need setbacks and visibility turning in and out. This also helps flow the traffic down, particularly in the residential areas by narrowing the street, and we'll talk about those sections shortly. I think this is a great opportunity, and I'll use the house on the left of Kirkland. I floated this out to Marc and Doug earlier this week. I'm aware of municipalities that have a tree program. I'm not saying you guys have one in place or should put one in place but I think it's a great opportunity to reach out to the neighbors and see if they have a desire to have a tree put on their property. By doing that you're increasing the tree canopy without having to take away from parking without having to narrow the street anymore beyond that. Just something to consider. I'll use the City of Worcester for example. They have a tree program so any resident who desires to have a tree in their front yard, they would call up and it allows the city to provide you with a tree and you have to plant it

but it has to be within the first 5' setback from the sidewalk or something along those lines. What it does is it allows us to leverage private property for the benefit of the public by providing shade along the sidewalk. That's something that may be considered as this moves forward, sort of revitalization of this district overlay requirements that might be considered in the future. This is the complete other end down by the sidewalk in front of the bank. This is where we were asked to start East Street. This is another opportunity where approaching the federal credit union as a business in Ludlow and along East Street is there an opportunity to where we're creating a gateway element? Some more artwork, signage that says Welcome to East Street, or if there's a rebranding exercise of East Street for the neighborhood or Ludlow in general. We think this is a great place to have that. You have the golf course across the street. They have some great mature trees but there's some gaps in there. We think there's some opportunities in between the street edge and the edge of the right of way where you can either come to an agreement with the golf course or within the right of way itself and plant some additional trees. This is another opportunity for stormwater management along the street edge as well as from Amherst Street and the bank parking lot where you're leveraging that landscape area for stormwater management purposes. With that I'm going to hand it over to Lindsay. She's going to go over existing conditions and give us a sense of the scale as well as the proposed features.

Ms. Abbott: Just a few more slides. This is existing conditions. In some cases, we'll continue with this because it's appropriate to do so. It's very car dominated. There's very little room for pedestrians and this is the general condition we find currently on the street. Two people can cozily walk along together but it's rather tight. Where there's a tree or lighting you might be stepping into the road or walking right behind one another. A few proposed conditions. There's a mix of space that's next to Primavera Café and it's unused. It's got utilities running up the wall that felt like a great opportunity or missed opportunity for something great. We're showing that this blank wall is a great place for public art. This is conceptual so perhaps it references the Portuguese culture since Primavera is a Portuguese restaurant. Maybe it talks about the history of Ludlow. I understand this year you celebrate 250 years as an incorporated Town so maybe there's an opportunity to celebrate that long history. I think there's a lot of opportunity for different walls along the corridor to be used in this way. It gives you a sense of what it would be like to widen the paving by taking over some parking. Adding the rain gardens with the trees included and it's less car dominated. This would be the area where we would have that economic corridor or commercial corridor where it could be closed down and it creates a lovely, wonderful atmosphere for the pedestrian. Both with cars and during events should that happen in the future. This is moving further into that section of that commercial corridor. You can see the variety of situations. You might have a bump out, which is an existing condition in many ways with the rain garden. Instead of the trees being in tree grates we would open that up and extend that and make rain gardens underneath. Then there's also situations where there's still parking behind. That's why you see the trees. You can see brick that highlights the crosswalk that Brandon talked about providing more visibility for pedestrians crossing the street. One of the things that came out of the survey we shared the last time was that people's desire for even more exaggerated forms to indicate a crosswalk. I think at key locations it might be appropriate to have the crosswalk symbols and flashing lights in key locations. The idea of street clutter and be mindful of where we place things like this. Whether they're fixed tandem to existing utility poles, thinking about reducing the street furniture and keeping it very clean and highly visible for vehicles and pedestrians.

Mr. Gennette: Through this cobblestone area, did the community ask for a raised sidewalk.

Ms. Abbott: There was some suggestion of that. We listed a number of different traffic calming methods. The raised table tops, the flashing lights. The flashing lights got the highest number of votes, which is why we've included them. The raised table tops are great because they slow traffic down but I think we have to be very careful where we use them because this is a highly trafficked area with trucks as well as regular residents and their cars. I think you can create some traffic problems with the up down of raised crosswalks.

Mr. Kunkel: In my experience, though I'm not a maintenance worker or plow driver, but my understanding is they are not fans of the raised crosswalk. That being said, there's a place for everything. These are big picture thoughts. I wanted to get the opportunities out there and these key guiding principles so as the town moves forward we should start to think about this in more detail. What does that look like? What do we really want? What do the businesses and community want? I think there's a series of steps. What can the town afford? Is there an early phase? Is it the whole corridor or a piece of the corridor? Over time that may change depending on how funding

is implemented. This is a long-term project. How do we revitalize this corridor? We think it's through a series of materials, making pedestrians feel comfortable, bringing the scale down really creating these comfortable spaces between the businesses.

Ms. Abbott: Moving further along towards King Street and the bank and golf course, this is the Polish American Citizens Club and the space in front. It's a traffic island right now that I think has a beautiful mature tree and signage. Is there a way to reuse that for people? To capture stormwater? Perhaps it can look something like this. I understand the citizens club is an event venue so photos for weddings can be taken out here or there's a bar where drinks or barbeque can take place. I think creating more gathering places and punctuating the street with them not only provides a place for pedestrians to pause along but places to gather and meet. In a post covid world that's so critical. People want to connect with their community again and maybe this spot can be rethought. A space that is maintenance mowing, maybe it can be a little bit of hardscape and something quite attractive. You'll see the rain garden tree planting edges as well with parking included. I also wanted to bring your attention to the signage and the opportunity to celebrate different events, different holidays, or seasons with the signage along the pedestrian level lighting. Taking advantage of all of those verticals are critical whether its American flags for 4<sup>th</sup> of July on the utility poles or the Festa. All these things bring vibrancy to town and make people want to be, shop, walk, live there. All these exciting things. This is an example of what a typical residential area might look like. Parking that's critical for so many houses that front right on East Street. I think that's important. Not all of them have driveways, particularly when they're multi-family residences. Trying to be mindful of that and keeping parking on the street where we can and perhaps taking advantage of a scheme that branded and described where we're able to plant trees in people's fronts. If you look at aerials and walk the street you'll notice there are lots of opportunities for that where it's open lawn and trees could be included in people's lawns to provide shade for the public good. Finally, a section in an area by the bank and across from the golf course. This is where we've got these majestic mature trees, which are super as an outsider driving in. It almost gives a rural feel on the golf course side. Is there an opportunity to celebrate this as a gateway? We took advice from last time that people didn't want anything too fancy and this is suggestive of signage. It could be something smaller or in the paving. I think it's nice to market in some way that you've arrived and this is an important corridor for the town and it creates an opportunity for a place for people to meet as well. I wanted to talk a little bit about parking. I know Brandon hit on that and I know that will be something that people are very concerned about. Currently, and this is a very loose count, because there are no parking markers on East Street, there are no set parallel parking lines that show where spaces are. For an intersection you should park 20' from the intersection or driveways and those areas haven't been marked out so people can park wherever they want. We counted roughly 190 spaces. With all of the trees that we're adding we reduced that by half. You'll see when we get to the tree section we've got double or triple the number of trees you have currently; however, when you include these satellite locations and agreements are entered into we have the 81 that continue on East Street as on street parallel parking and 135 spaces that could be used during off hours as municipal spaces. This doesn't take into consideration either parking that is currently being considered by planning. Primavera Café is a good example. We learned through Marc and his team that the adjacent lot, Sosa's Barbershop, that lot has been purchased by Primavera and is being turned into a parking lot for the restaurant. There are a lot of scenarios like this where there's a lot of off-street parking for restaurants and other commercial venues.

Mr. Kunkel: I think what's important to note is, while it seems daunting just knowing the length of 2 miles, for some people that is a lot and we acknowledge that, but I don't believe it's unreasonable to say it's a 5-minute walk from a car to a restaurant. Weather is definitely a factor and there's always a reason you want to park out front, we just know this is a very densely populated area, particularly on the residential side right off of East Street. We want to be very aware of that. We don't want to have people parking in the neighborhoods. Maybe they're doing that now and this helps ease that. I think this creates an opportunity of efficiencies in leveraging already existing infrastructure for parking during the weekends when the schools aren't in session or during off hours at night, particularly on a Friday night where people want to go out and enjoy the restaurants you can easily park within a 5-minute walk of that. What's also great, it was amazing the first time we were down there, we actually walked along the riverwalk, which is a great asset to the community and I'm glad to see that's been embraced by the community and its got the old historic artifacts. To me this is sort of a walking loop. We walked behind the mill development and cut back up next to the brewery. It was a nice walk and it is completely walkable

and easily do it within 20 minutes. We hope that it's more of a leisurely stroll and people take advantage of businesses along the way.

Ms. Abbott: To that point, walking isn't bad. Getting people to park just a few blocks from where they're headed means they pass 5-6 businesses. Maybe they pop into one of the businesses that they didn't mean to and there's an economic gain. I think that by adding the street trees we're increasing property values and values for businesses too. Onto the trees. You currently have 25. We counted about 26 abutter vegetation, substantial trees in people's yards that are providing shade. We are proposing 134 trees. You can see that it substantially transforms the area in terms of adding shade, gathering particulate pollution, capturing stormwater, reducing heat islands, getting people back onto the streets and I think that will be felt immeasurably by people. What do the trees look like? I was mindful again of a big anniversary coming up and there's a street close to where I live here in Boston. In America's bicentennial they planted all pears and it is something quite spectacular in the spring when they're all white. I'm not proposing pears for here because I think they have some issues with branching and snow fall breakage but the Amelanchier is a beautiful, small street tree that would be appropriate with all the overhanging utility lines. It's very showy in the spring and it could be quite beautiful. The Zelkova is super successful out there. It gives great deep shade in summer. The other 2 are something that provides gorgeous autumnal color. I think if we can provide things in all seasons we're off to a great start. The maple and Ginko Biloba are great urban trees. They're robust and do well in rain gardens. All of the trees we selected are happy with wet feet. We wanted to give examples of Milbury. This is a site when we met with Marc for the first time he talked about a project that Weston & Sampson did, we did, that people really liked the look of. That was why we were asked to come on and give some ideas here. We're getting examples of what that finished project looked like and what that rain garden looked like and what you might expect as far as crosswalks in key locations this idea of raised planters with ornamental flowering, trees, shrubs, or perennials, etc.

Mr. Kunkel: I want to point out the image on the left while it's focused on the rain garden immediately after construction was completed. The plants themselves are small at the very moment. What I wanted to point out is the gray paving on the back. Those are permeable pavers. The sidewalks are pitched towards the street so you're capturing those sidewalk runoffs within that permeable paver band and it looks great. It's serving dual purpose. Water infiltrates down into that rain guard and you can see the curb opening in the street drains to that rain guard. You're not putting in a costly infrastructure along the entire East Street corridor. There's utilities under there. They're strategically placed where the actual dollar cost of installing is relatively limited all things considered vs relocating 48" trunk lines and utilities throughout the entire corridor. These little pockets are much more manageable from a cost perspective as well as providing a lot of value for stormwater.

Ms. Abbott: This is a plan view of what Brandon was talking about. Anything further about this one?

Mr. Kunkel: No, other than when you have a series of rain gardens you can link them together so you're taking advantage of the full area vs creating a puzzle work of smaller pieces that may become over inundated. A lot of times we'll link them together so you get more bang for your buck. I want to point out these are great opportunities to narrow that crosswalk. In this particular sketch we did infer that there is a raised crosswalk here, but this is a practical, real-world image in the lower right, so they can look very nice. In my opinion, the one in the lower right doesn't have trees but it's more about the ground cover and the scale and reducing the little bit of roadway down, help slow the traffic down as well as provide that stormwater management. It provides an opportunity for trees to be planted.

Ms. Abbott: Finally, the street furniture. One of the other ways this was updated, people were interested in having a neutral more natural pallet so we included timber, which is lovely and warm to sit in the winter but stays cool in the summertime and is a natural pallet with poured concrete. We could use for edges street planters and providing a few exciting moments in the plazas. Is there an opportunity for the swinging benches? A variety of different tables. The high tabletops that reference the diner at the end. They could be workstations, whether they're lower or picnic tables in front of the American Citizens club where a mom and child could go after school because East Street School is right there. Bringing in similar color with the backgrounds and trash receptacles. Finally, thinking about paving, Brandon discussed the idea of double banding that's permeable and allows the stormwater to soak in. This is already a precedent in Ludlow, not so much that it's

permeable but that you have a band of bricks as your signature paving pattern along East Street. Similarly, thinking about using special paving pocket park areas to give that indication that here's a place to pause. This is a public space for you to be in and sit with your coffee and newspaper. Using that same language for street crossings these are different street elements and lighting that you've seen in the plans in the sections, whether there's some kind of gateway signage that is lit up, perhaps not as wild as this one. That could be interesting and could be used at night-time of course incorporating the beautiful town clock. Thinking about flower baskets in that economic corridor so that's specific areas to provide that burst of color but being mindful of maintenance and limit it to just a certain area where you will have the majority of your pedestrians. Finally, using the catenary lighting in special places too, such as the gateway, plazas and certainly at that large intersection where Iron Duke is, the bell at the end. It lends a festive atmosphere and encourages people to be there and feel safe there. I think that concludes our presentation.

Mr. Silva: I have a comment. We're talking a lot about trees. Trees can be beautiful. Hopefully we can get some that are dwarf trees and they can be put in spots that are not a nuisance because trees are a nuisance. We put in trees now and you can see most of them were cut by some of the residents or property owners because they were a nuisance. They're infiltrating into their windows. Some of the pictures you have the trees are right up against the building. Who's going to be responsible for cutting those? Business owners will want to go over there and just cut the limbs and it's not going to look pretty. They are a nuisance. The roots grow and they get pretty big. They start making cracks in the sidewalks. The problem we have with where they are now even the grates are lifted and it was a total nuisance. If you've got all these trees the leaves are going to be a nuisance. What I'm suggesting is if this is done, some dwarf trees that don't go crazy. If you let them grow the utility companies have to deal with them. They look beautiful when they're round and trim but if not they don't look so good.

Mr. Kunkel: That's a great comment. This is a long game and it requires resources, investment, long term maintenance and good tree pruning practices, good maintenance and clean up and there are dollars associated with that. On multiple projects as you start to say we're going to move forward with this, what are we looking at? You want to program that's out over a 5-10-year period so there can be an allocation or budget annually for tree care and maintenance. Whether or not you are doing that with town forces or that's a private service through a contract. I appreciate the businesses want that visibility. We've selected these trees based on their maturity height as it relates to utilities above as well as their growth as it relates to their width as well. A lot of these trees are colander or narrow in shape and they don't grow over 25'. That's not to say they're perfect. Every scenario and block is different. If the utility poles were to stay where they are today we're actually pulling the trees in on the inside so that from a utility perspective we shouldn't be directly impacting those utility lines above. Maybe in 75 years, yes. But that's not to say, I'll use again the City of Worcester. It's what they call a green city. They get funding every year by being that for providing trees within the city. What that really means is they have a tree program for placement. They basically predict or propose a certain life span of the tree as it relates to smart urban design. After 30 years, and that's pretty aggressive for an urban street tree surrounded by pavement, it's ready to come out a lot of times. They're not healthy and the branches are broken. They incrementally do it over time so there's not this wholesale of long corridors of no new trees or no trees at all or trees that are overgrown or with broken limbs. They do it in segments so there's always some version of an up-and-coming canopy. There's a lot to this. A lot of long-term strategies that have to be thought about and considered. I know we're looking at the zoning and requirements of that and how that affects the businesses as well. Jenny Mooney is the project manager for the overall piece and I know that her team is looking at the zoning and planning piece as well. There's a lot to this equation. It takes a lot of in-depth conversations and forward thinking by many people. A lot of buy in and a lot of commitment.

Mr. Strange: We did something similar to this in Agawam when I first started. This is a really nice job. A lot of this stuff is comparatively compared to digging up asphalt, laying down pipes, this is relatively inexpensive. You're talking about materials and lighting. We could phase it where you could make a difference pretty quickly and relatively inexpensive. It's also within the DIF so we could use DIF money to make those improvements.

Mr. Gennette: I like the cobblestone area personally. I'm not exactly with Manny. I love trees too. This is a lot of trees. I understand where he's coming from. Thank you so much for the presentation. If nobody else has no other questions I think we'll take everything under advisement. What's the plans going forward?



Mr. Strange: This is the conceptual design, as Brandon alluded to. We also have the MVP grant, which is like a sister project. We're hoping to put them all together so we can be competitive with grants moving forward. Some degree and elements might be able to be financed through the MVP program. This is kind of the beginning. As Brandon said, this is high level conceptual stuff. It would have to be a public engagement process depending on how the board wanted to move forward we would certainly aggressively pursue grants.

Mr. Kunkel: This provides a visual graphic for granting agencies to say you did some due diligence and some work to say this is possible and feasible. It helps sell the project to those willing to provide a grant opportunity.

Mr. Goncalves: We're closer to being shovel ready.

Mr. Gennette: Brandon & Lindsay I appreciate your time and the work you've done.

Chairman to approve and sign all bills, warrants and abatements. A record of all warrants is in the Selectmen's office for perusal until provided to the Town Accountant's office.



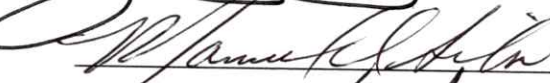


### CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Goncalves: Support local, buy local.

Mr. Gennette: I want to add what a wonderful job the DPW did over the past storm.

Mr. Goncalves: I was impressed and kind of proud sitting at home and my kids are telling me what's going on? We're the only place that doesn't have a 2-hour delay.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to adjourn the regular session at 8:30 p.m. Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

  
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