



Shaun A. Suhoski, *Town Manager*
Email: ssuhoski@townofathol.org

Heather J. Brissette, *Administrative Asst.*
Email: selectmen@townofathol.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Athol Board of Selectmen
FR: Shaun A. Suhoski, Town Manager
RE: Town Manager's Report
DT: October 18, 2016

Dear Board: Please see the following report for your meeting tonight:

Lake Ellis Boat Ramp: In your packets – and previously emailed – are the conditions that the Commonwealth's Dept. of Fish and Game would require should they undertake construction of a permanent boat ramp at this location. The Land Management Agreement (LMA) and a copy of the Code of Mass. Regulations applicable to this project were also distributed to the DPW Superintendent, Town Counsel and Lake Ellis Association.

DF&G will require that a LMA be executed that essentially makes the Town responsible for day-to-day monitoring and light maintenance (eg. lawn mowing, parking area cleanup, etc.) of the facility after construction. The Department would retain responsibility for major repairs or replacement of the facility if it is damaged.

Because Lake Ellis is a "Great Pond" in the Commonwealth, and, as a result of any state-funded improvements, the Town through this agreement would also assent to the regulations including the prohibited uses spelled out in 320 CMR 2.04 (essentially standard regulations imposed upon all state facilities).

At this time I am inquiring whether the Board will assent to these conditions so that we can pursue state funding for installation of a permanent boat ramp (and, potentially an accessible dock/pier for fishing purposes). A motion to approve the Land Management Agreement would suffice for this purpose and we'll have a clean original for signature provided by DF&G.

Update: Disposition of Former Elementary Schools: As the Board knows, the deadline for bids on the former ***Sanders Street School*** is Monday, October 24 at 2:00 p.m. Bids must be tendered through www.municibid.com.

Separately, further to the Board's direction, I have handed-off disposition and/or reuse planning for the ***Pleasant Street School*** to the Director of Planning and Development.

Over the summer, it appeared that we may have a sufficient demand for classroom space so as to pay for operating expenses of the building. In the end, however, there was only one agency firmly committed and the amount of space (and rent) was insufficient to warrant keeping the building occupied through the winter. The decision to utilize the school as a polling location on November 8 will help many folks in the community understand its location and condition.

Finally, the Request for Proposals for productive reuse of the former *Ellen Bigelow / Riverbend* school campus is in final form awaiting legal review. A final draft was emailed to the Board earlier today. The advertisement has been confirmed for publication on October 26 in the Central Register and the deadline for submittal of proposals is December 7 by 2:00 p.m. I remain cautiously optimistic that a thoughtful redevelopment of these buildings will be achieved.



Aerial view of Ellen Bigelow / Riverbend campus looking westerly.

Miscellaneous Items:

- Held Department Head and Finance Team meetings.
- Met with MIIA health insurance rep and Treasurer to discuss cost and plan concerns for FY18.
- Attended MMA's Legislative Breakfast in Gardner (heard rationale for recommendation on "NO" votes for questions #2 and #4).
- Telephone conference with MassDOR Senior Deputy Commissioner regarding Community Compact program and potential assistance.
- Met with Heywood Healthcare senior management and Director of Planning and Development for future planning purposes.
- Conducted pre-planning for election / voting at Pleasant Street School with Town Clerk and school, police, fire and public works staff.
- Attended Fall Town Meeting.