



**Shaun A. Suhoski**, *Town Manager*  
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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Athol Board of Selectmen  
FR: Shaun A. Suhoski, Town Manager  
RE: Town Manager's Report  
DT: August 16, 2016

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

**Lake Ellis Association:** The Lake Ellis Association has responded to the call for action with enthusiasm and a commitment towards working with the Town and state DCR towards a program that will:

- Eliminate existing invasive weed problem with robust treatment program in accordance with a management and application plan to be approved by licensed professionals through the Dept. of Public Works and Conservation Commission,
- Provide an ongoing weed management program through the efforts of the Lake Association and targeted assistance from the Town,
- Include a comprehensive educational component for the general public and all boaters to limit transport of invasive weeds into Lake Ellis going forward;
- Seek grant funding to reconstruct the public boat ramp and make improvements thereto, and
- Allows installation of an information kiosk in the same style as at Alan E. Rich Environmental Park and at the Bearsden Conservation Area through resources donated by the Lake Ellis Association.

The Board has already approved the DPW to initiate the Notice of Intent which will include a treatment protocol and program that will be submitted to the Conservation Commission for approval, and to the Capital Program Committee for potential funding.

John Robinson and the members of the Lake Ellis Association today undertook training from the DCR to identify the types of plants and weeds present in the water body. Further, Mr. Robinson has indicated that the Association will step to the plate with the donated kiosk for educational and regulatory materials, together with collaborating as a partner in seeking a state grant to reconstruct the public boat ramp.

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I am heartened by the quick and earnest response of the Lake Ellis Association as their involvement and assistance will allow the improvements to be achieved much more quickly than through government action alone.

Tonight I am seeking the Board's approval to accept the gift of a kiosk near the Lake Ellis boat ramp – constructed in similar fashion and design to those referenced above – subject to final approval of the location and design by the Supt. of Public Works.

**Miscellaneous Items:**

- Conducted Department Head meeting
- Met with Building Commissioner and Director of Planning and Development to review draft Zoning Bylaw proposal concerning “temporary” signs (eg. vinyl banners)
- Met with Larry Adams concerning transfer station operations
- Held first Finance Team meeting to include new Treasurer/Collector Melissa Murphy (she is to meet the Board briefly tonight)
- Discussed general parameters of payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) agreement for planned small-scale solar facility off South Athol Road with Board of Assessors chairman, Principal Assessor and project developer
- Attended STAM program committee meeting in Greenfield
- Telephone conference with attorney for update on proposed “Mr. Mike’s” improvements at Main Street and Lake Ellis Road
- Met with regional dispatch grant project manager, radio technician consultant, management and staff from police, fire and dispatch concerning local radio reception concerns (will need to be addressed with or without state aid for regional dispatch)
- Brainstormed potential projects in upcoming CDBG round with Director of Planning and Development, CDBG consultant and DPW Supt.