



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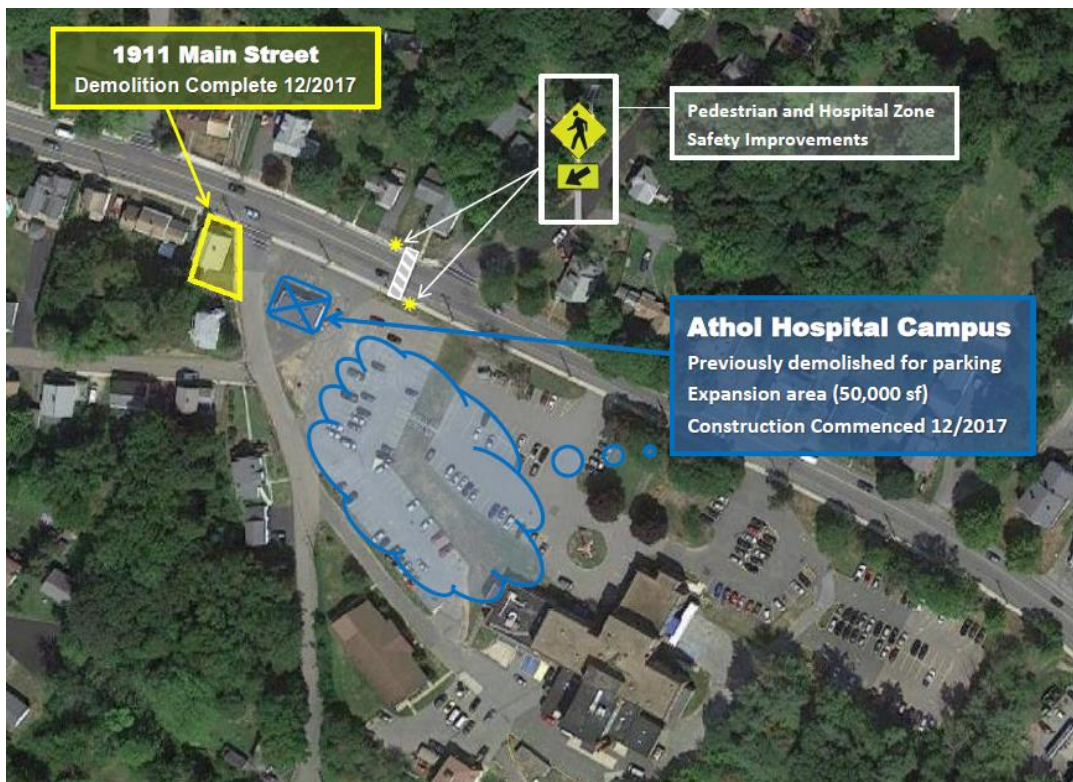
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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Athol Board of Selectmen  
FR: Shaun A. Suhoski, Town Manager  
RE: Town Manager’s Report  
DT: March 20, 2018

Dear Board: Please see following update for tonight’s meeting.

**Demolition Grant Funds Received:** The Town has received the \$11,595.50 in grant reimbursement funds for the demolition of 1911 Main Street. The Town leveraged the investment planned by Athol Hospital to secure the funding from Worcester Community Housing Resources, Inc.



The final phase of the work will be for the DPW to install an updated pedestrian crossing as indicated on the illustration above. The grant covered demolition, site clearance and half the cost of the new pedestrian signals ordered by DPW.

**Former Landfill Solar RFP Review:** The Town received ten responses to its Request for Proposals to lease the former landfill for purposes of a solar project. The responses indicate a broad range of sizing, pricing and contingencies that will require a fairly intensive review.

I am requesting whether a member of the Board with availability during work hours would participate in a review committee with the DPW Superintendent, Director of Planning and Development, Town Manager, FWAC designee and member of the Energy Committee. The Town is retaining energy services consultant Beth Greenblatt, of Beacon Integrated Solutions, to help sort out the technical and business-plan aspects of short-listed proposals.

In the end, a recommendation must come before the full Board as the entity authorized to enter into a long-term lease. Ideally, the Town will agree to designate a portion of the lease funds towards annual monitoring costs for the capped landfill, capital and debt service costs of the transfer station and perhaps an allocation to the Capital Planning Committee as a recurring revenue. The Board of Assessors will also negotiate an PILOT payment to benefit the general fund. I remain optimistic that there is a viable and achievable proposal that will come forward.

**Exchange Street Bridge Water Main Repair Update:** The DPW Superintendent advised me today that the recent storms impacted the galvanizing processing for parts needed for the water main repairs under the Exchange Street Bridge. The contractor has indicated that activity will be seen on site in the coming week.

**Miscellaneous:**

- Held Department Head meeting; conducted development team meeting including informal discussion with general manager of Blind Pig and potential operator of a new downtown restaurant in former Bon Appetit location.
- Participated in Ellen Bigelow / Riverbend “focus group” meeting at Senior Center with approximately 14 attendees.
- Attended legislative breakfast event at Athol Public Library along with local state delegation and Selectman Young.
- Offered budget testimony to the Joint Ways & Means Committee as part of Mass. Municipal Association panel along with Peabody Mayor Ted Bettencourt, Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke and Norwell Selectwoman Ellen Allen (my role was to cover regional, voke and homeless school transportation cost impacts on smaller towns).
- Had preliminary conference call with hotel developer relative to EDIC land near Route 2.