



**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: April 3, 2018

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

**Traffic Safety Team Recommendations and Issues:** As the Board is aware, the staff-level traffic safety team is comprised of the police and fire chiefs, public works director and town manager. Over the past couple of months we have received a variety of inquiries; some of which require policy direction from your Board. Chief Duguay and DPW Supt. Walsh are available to join us tonight for discussion of the following (supporting materials in packets):

- 1) Pedestrian Crosswalks/Signage – Army Corps of Engineers: Jeffrey Mangum, Project Manager for Birch Hill Dam and Tully Lake, submitted a request to partner with the Corps on installing two crosswalks on Route 32 near the dam facility to accommodate disc golfers. The Corps will fund the installation of solar LED pedestrian signage and the initial crosswalk painting with the Town agreeing to maintain these crosswalks. ***The traffic safety team recommends Board approval.***
- 2) Install "Stop" Sign on Fish Street at Crescent Street: due to poor sight lines and no existing traffic control for southbound traffic on Fish Street ***the traffic safety team recommends installation of a "stop" sign*** on Fish Street at its intersection with Crescent.
- 3) No left-hand turn from municipal parking lot across from YMCA: both a resident and a selectman have questioned why the public parking lot across from the YMCA has signage at the exit to School Street prohibiting left-hand turns. The traffic safety team noted that cars traveling down School Street around the corner with the railroad overpass have a limited sight line. ***No action is recommended.***

In addition, we have received inquiries about safety at the following locations and will seek your Board's policy guidance as we further research the requests:

- 1) Alleyway between Town Hall and Library: a couple of walk-ins have reported 'close calls' exiting this alleyway with the crosswalk, two-way Main Street traffic and the turning traffic coming from School and Traverse streets. The traffic safety team discussed options including whether to prohibit vehicle access (make it pedestrian only), or, to allow enter-only from Main Street. We are seeking Board input on whether this item requires attention.

- 2) Five Points Intersection: an email from Tom Mann explains his concerns. Doug Walsh met with him today as this intersection has gone through several iterations of rights-of-way, etc. In addition, the entire area is being engineered for reconstructing the retaining walls and roads. Doug can update the Board tonight.

There are a few of other requests that are in process:

- Request for “stop” signs at Swanzey, Oak, Harvard: requires more review.
- Temporary relocation of MART bus stop to front of hospital during reconstruction of parking areas: Town Manager will make request to MART.
- Request for “blind drive” or “disabled child” sign on North Orange Road: DPW supt. notes existing “slow children” signage can be replaced with new “blind drive” signage.

**Exchange Street Bridge Water Main Repair:**

Crews from Methuen Construction have been on site at the bridge installing the new fasteners and repairing the existing. The site foreman said that, barring any equipment failures or unknown conditions, he hopes to have the work completed this week and perhaps as soon as tomorrow. This will allow the bridge to re-open to traffic.



On April 2, voters approved the debt exclusion for the full reconstruction of the bridge which will allow design and engineering to continue unabated for the long-term repair.

**Pleasant Street School RFP:** The Pleasant Street School Reuse Committee has recommended awarding the RFP to LaunchSpace, Inc. and requested that Bob Muzzy be a committee liaison. If the Board is amenable to proceeding, ***I recommend a motion that the Board finds the LaunchSpace, Inc. proposal responsive to the RFP and that a lease be granted subject to successful post-award negotiations.*** Does the BOS have one or two members that wish to participate in lease negotiations?

**Miscellaneous:**

- Appointed Richard Kilhart as Asst. Supt. of Public Works effective April 23; he will attend the Board meeting on May 1 for introductions.
- Held finance team meetings throughout budget process finalization; met with school district administration officials regarding FY19 budget planning.
- Attended inauguration of MWCC president James Vander Hooven; attended new loan program announcement at North Central Mass. Development Corp.
- Met with owner of former Bon Appetit restaurant regarding loan status and potential new restaurant leasing space at said location.