

MAYOR'S UPDATE
July 10, 2023
Mayor Sean R. Reardon

Girl Power, Title Town:

I want to thank the NHS State Championship teams from this Spring for rallying on short notice to be here tonight. There has never been a more successful year of NHS sports with 4 total State Championship teams. **Congratulations to the Girls Lacrosse, Girls Tennis (Back to Back), and Girls Track teams on their state championships!**

Happy Summer:

This is your last meeting until August 14th which means the two meetings in August will be very busy. We are anticipating that we will receive the final cost estimates and bids for Bartlet Mall in August, and the designs for NYS at 59 Low Street are scheduled for late summer/early fall as well. We also will be looking for a vote on the previously submitted bond order for streets and sidewalks at one of your August meetings so we can plan the next round of road maintenance. We're sure there will be other items that come up in July as well for consideration. Until then, we can all enjoy the July break.

Colby Farm Lane OSRD Development:

Last week the Board of Health granted a waiver to Daly General Contracting for their property at 8 Doyle Drive from their regulation concerning separation between the basement and the Estimated Seasonal High Groundwater (ESHGW). This was based on certifications provided on the record that a crushed stone drainage base was installed beneath the slab and foundation at the time of initial construction, and the waiver is subject to a ten-year warranty. This waiver will allow Daly to comply with the terms of an escrow agreement with the Department of Housing and Community Development which was developed to address any outstanding issues related to the construction of this home. Daly has signed a Purchase and Sale Agreement with the property owner to repurchase the property, subject to several provisions and coordination with DHCD.

Brown School RFI:

As you were notified by email earlier, the Brown School RFI was released today. Responses are due September 8th, which should allow sufficient time for interested parties to submit materials.

Project Updates:

I wanted to take this opportunity to provide thorough updates on all the projects going on throughout the City. We look forward to making a significant amount of progress on these projects in the summer months.

Court Projects:

I'm happy to announce that the Atkinson Common Tennis Court resurfacing project is quickly nearing completion. The courts are receiving one final coat of paint before they reopen on

Wednesday. The contractor, SportsTek out of Beverly, has done a wonderful job working quickly and efficiently. They just started work at the Cushman courts and hope to complete the resurfacing of both the basketball and tennis/pickleball courts within the next two weeks, pending any weather delays. Thank you again to the CPC and City Council for approving the funding allocation for these projects this past spring. We think this was a fantastic use of CPA funds and the projects will be completed in a timely manner thanks to the efforts of the Manager of Special Projects, Kim Turner, and Parks Manager, Mike Hennessey.

Bartlet Mall:

You have an updated design plan in your packet tonight for the Bartlet Mall Restoration Project. This is another project that is moving forward thanks to the CPC and City Council's funding approvals. As a condition of the CPA bond order that was approved last September, the City Council requested one final look at the design plans, which is what is included in your packet tonight. Kim Turner has been working diligently with our Engineering consultants to obtain the lengthy list of permitting approvals and finalize the bid documents. We are at 90% design and will be ready to put this project to bid shortly. The northwest corner of the park will be completed first, along with the installation of a universally accessible playground, and the rest of the project will follow. We look forward to presenting further details of the project, as well as a vote of support from the Council to keep this important project moving forward.

59 Low St:

NYS Director Andi Egmont and Kim Turner continue to meet weekly with EGA Architects as the design for Low Street progresses. They will be meeting with the Sustainability Office and Energy Advisory Committee this week to look at ways to meet the City's Net Zero initiatives for this project. EGA has done a tremendous job to date meeting the goals of the Department in creating a flexible and effective floorplan and we look forward to presenting their progress to the Council and community in the coming months.

Lower Atkinson Common:

My office has requested a transfer from ARPA funding for the next phase of the Lower Atkinson Common master plan, which includes parking that is internal to the park, and will improve pedestrian and traffic safety in the Merrimac, Plummer and Moulton St neighborhood. Kim Turner is continuing to work with DPS and in particular our City Engineer, Jon-Eric White, and our Wetlands consultant to obtain permitting approvals from the Conservation Commission and Planning Board. We look forward to presenting details to the City Council at an upcoming Committee meeting.

Atkinson Common Rock Tower:

We have awarded the bid for phase 2 of the Atkinson Common Rock Tower Restoration project. This is another project that was funded through the CPA and the Belleville Improvement Society and will include coating exposed concrete surfaces on all floors to slow the deterioration of the Tower. This work should begin this month, pending weather delays. We look forward to progressing this phase of the project, with the expectation that CPA

funds will be requested for remaining portions of this project next cycle. A special thank you to Parks Commissioner Matt Ellsworth for his efforts on this project.

John F. Cutter Jr. Fire Station Project:

Demolition and site preparation work is proceeding. As with most of our large capital projects, weekly job meetings are being held with the contractor, design team, Fire Department and Owner's Project Manager (OPM) to address any potential issues as they arise and keep the project on schedule. So far there are no surprises or problems we have encountered. Should you have any further questions regarding this project please contact Geordie Vining, Senior Project Manager (*lead*) or Andy Port, Director of Planning & Development. Geordie is using the project page on the City website (*under Planning & Development*) to provide routine updates on the contractor's progress, and work anticipated in the coming weeks.

Central Waterfront Bulkhead Renovation Project:

As you may recall, federal funding and procurement requirements associated with this project necessitated separate bidding for distinct segments of the bulkhead renovation work. After bidding out both sections, we are happy to announce that the work will be performed by BTT Marine Construction Company, who was the low bid for both scopes. Coordination with the contractor is now underway to ensure timely mobilization in the fall when the Harbormaster's docks come out. Based on the bids received we have a healthy construction contingency going forward to address unknown issues that may arise as the work progresses off-season.

Market Landing Park Expansion Project:

Following the Council's vote to approve gap funding for the construction of this project, the contract was awarded to Onyx Construction. Andy Port is now coordinating kickoff meetings with the contractor and design team and we will be pushing to mobilize orders for materials with long lead times such as new electrical transformers. After the first meeting, we will have a better idea of when construction will start, with a date currently anticipated in late July or early August. The project is on schedule for completion in late spring 2024, in time to get full grant reimbursements from the state. Our Engineering Department is continuing to evaluate the plans for the remaining culvert and we will keep the Council informed on progress for this part of the project. Andy and Geordie will be working closely together on coordination of the two waterfront contractors. Andy will also be having routine meetings with a core group of key stakeholders to ensure things go smoothly, and to ensure that any concerns which may arise are timely addressed by the contractor.

Project Updates in General:

Chief of Staff Andrew Levine is working with DPS and the Office of Planning & Development to create a series of dedicated webpages providing routine updates on key City projects, which would be grouped under a "Project Updates" button on the main page, making access convenient both to the Council and the general public. We will advise when this new online resource is available, and let us know if there are any projects or initiatives to add.

Mayor Sean Reardon