

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

Happy Spring:

I want to thank everyone that came out on a chilly Saturday morning for Clean Sweep. We had around 50 volunteers spread out over the city cleaning up our parks. A sure sign of Spring. Harbormaster Paul Hogg and team has begun putting the docks in for the season. Last week he started with Cashman Park and this week he will move on to the central waterfront. We also had a parklet planning meeting at City Hall to prepare for outdoor dining downtown. Parklets will be set up on Pleasant Street first and then move to State Street once the National Grid work is completed.

Plum Island Dredge:

I am happy to report that the Plum Island Dredge project is complete. The last of the equipment left the Island this weekend. The federal navigation channel is clear. A little over 180,000 cubic yards of sand was placed on Reservation Terrace which added 400 feet of beach front. The side dredge project with Salisbury was also quickly completed by Norfolk Dredging. Last week, we met with the Army Corps of Engineers at their offices in Concord, MA to discuss moving forward with the federal study on the jetty that will work to find a long-term solution to the erosion problem. The study is being funded by federal funds secured by Senator Warren and Markey. I will continue to update the Council on the progress.

DPS Director:

The appointment of Wayne Amaral as the next Director of DPS is in your packet tonight. He is on vacation and cannot be here but he did appear in front of the Public Works and Safety Committee last Tuesday. Wayne is excited to get started on May 1st. HR will be posting the open Deputy Director of DPS position this week.

Fire Chief Search:

The Fire Chief Screening Committee is moving forward with initial interviews on Friday. The City received eight applications and the window to apply closed on 3/20. The list of viable candidates was reduced to six and one candidate removed their name from consideration. The Fire Chief Screening Committee will interview five of the candidates and then decide if all five will be put through the fire chief assessment center. After Friday, the Committee's work will be complete.

NYS at 59 Low Street:

We received four responses to our RFQ for architectural services for 59 Low St. An informal review committee including staff from NYS, Engineering, Planning and the Mayor's office reviewed the qualifications and asked for fee proposals from the top three candidates, which are being reviewed now. We will have a selection announced this week. The chosen firm will move us forward in the process to get to full design of the project.

Budget Process

All department head budget meetings have been completed and we will now begin putting the budget and CIP pieces together. School Committee will vote on the Superintendents budget on April 25th. The meetings with department heads were valuable conversations around priorities and effectiveness of systems already in place.

Year 2 Streets and Sidewalks Plan:

The 2023 paving plan will begin this week. We are excited for year 2 of the plan that will see work taking place in wards 2, 4, and 6. D & R is our contractor again for the paving this year and Allied will be doing the sidewalks through June when the sidewalk contract goes out to bid. Curbing and sidewalk work has already begun on Plummer Ave. In all, over 4 miles of paving will take place this year.

Bulkhead and other Projects:

We received some good news from FEMA on Friday. The final reward of \$2.25M was officially approved for the Bulkhead project, giving the green light for the bid to open up on April 13th. Market Landing Park and West End Fire Station bids are due on 4/26.

Mayor Sean Reardon