



# TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen  
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager  
Date: August 12, 2016  
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

### Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 96,372.00
- Expense Warrant: \$ 138,451.01

### For Your Information/Follow Up:

- Good news in the area of insurance. MIIA has a program to reward its members financially for activities such as attending free training to improve safety or limit risk, conducting inspections of buildings and vehicles, having strong policies in place, and low loss ratios in liability and/or workers compensation. In FY 16 we were awarded \$3,640 that we were able to use to lower our insurance premiums due this year.
- We continue to work towards addressing the issues at #60 School Street. On Wednesday a firm was on site to clean out the contents of the house and garage. That was completed today. Simultaneously the MSPCA assisted in removal of all of the remaining cats. We have received a permanent injunction from the court for the owners to re-occupy the house until it is renovated to meet the building and sanitary codes. Our Social Services staff is working with the owners to help them identify other housing opportunities. Next our priority will be to determine if the house can be renovated, and how that takes place.
- Gene Cuenot has decided not to be reappointed to the Finance Committee due to work commitments. We're disappointed to lose him as a member; he brought a lot to the committee. If you know of anyone who might be interested in serving, please have them contact Dave Loeper this position is an appointment by the Moderator.
- We have received notice from National Grid that they will soon begin their annual process of inspecting the transmission lines by helicopter. They have over 3,000 miles to inspect, so it is unknown when they will be in our area for this work.
- The Town playground parking lot and Crockett Road were treated with a chip seal surface this week. That along with the road stripping that took place Monday night completes the bulk of our summer road paving program.
- Denise Smith and I had a very productive meeting with CMRPC staff on the Village Center Bylaw this week. They have retained a new planner, Jeff Bagg who has spent quite a lot of time going over the draft and has recommended some modifications that I believe will be very beneficial to what the Town is trying to achieve. As you know this

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
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will be a topic of discussion for the joint Selectmen, Planning Board and ZBA meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- We received word from Wendall Kalsow, our architect for the Town Hall project, that the project has been recognized by the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board and the Boston Society of Architects with a William D. Smith award for accessibility and historic preservation. The award is named after Bill Smith who was a key staff person at MHC and strong advocate for both preservation and accessibility. The award ceremony will be planned for a date next February.
- I continue to remind everyone of the water restrictions that are in place as they are every summer. The hot dry weather has persisted and if you've noticed the local news, more towns are monitoring water use and ramping up restrictions. We have appreciated the changes residents have made to comply with the restrictions and ask that they continue to do so until there is some measurable rainfall. Thus, please remember that no outdoor watering is allowed except by hand from 9 AM – 5 PM.
- The demolition of the building at #2 Grove Street is tentatively planned for the week of August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The engineer has finished development of the proposed parking lot plans and those will go to Conservation and the Planning Board for their process to get underway.
- Construction complete on the new upper parking lot at Kiwanis Beach. All that remains to be done is installation of an entrance sign and handicap accessible signs at those parking spots.