



## **LACONIA PROJECT UPDATES – March, 2019**

### **LACONIA ROAD PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR 2019**

Current: Work has started on the **Court Street** Improvement project. Test pits are being completed to confirm the location of existing utilities. Liberty Utilities is finalizing plans to relay their gas main under the Durkee Brook bridge between Keasor Court and Addison Street. It may begin at the end of March. Busby Construction Co. will begin drainage work in early April followed by roadway and sidewalk reconstruction. First Busby will finish the work between Keasor Court and Fair Street started last year. The second phase of Court Street will begin this year. This phase is from Fair to Main Street. A public information session on the Court Street project will be held on April 3, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Belknap Mill.

Work is scheduled to resume on **Union Avenue** (Elm St. to Stark St.) in early April. Storm water drainage, sewer, and road and sidewalk work will resume as soon as weather allows. Work will begin at the Union/Elm/Clinton Street intersection and head north toward Stark Street. Traffic detours are expected, as well as one lane alternating traffic. Construction is expected to be complete in November 2019.

Public Works is finalizing our list of road improvements for the 2019 construction season. The proposed list of roads is under review as a result of the new construction cost prices from the low bidder on the road and sidewalk project bids that were opened on March 15, 2019.

Previous: Public Works has completed a prioritized list of roads for the 2019 construction season which includes standby streets that may or may not be done this year depending on bid prices and actual costs of higher priority streets. Once we see how the bids come in a list will be created and made available. The contract for the 2019 construction season is similar to prior year contracts, a design-build format with unit prices per line item. The contract will be awarded on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Public Works is coordinating with Busby Construction and the utility companies to ensure the Court Street and Union (Elm to Stark) projects are ready to start as soon as weather allows. Consolidated Communications has completed some test pits to determine the location and condition of their duct banks in the area between Fair Street and Main Street. Public Works is coordinating with Consolidated Communications to determine their plans for the manhole in the intersection of Union, Court and Main. The top of the manhole is very shallow. The lack of cover shortens the life of the road surface in the intersection.

### **MESSER STREET/DUTILE OIL DRAINAGE**

Current: The gas, water and drain work scheduled for Messer Street between Union Avenue and Bisson Avenue starts in early April, weather depending, and continues through July, 2019. Once the utility work is complete, Messer Street from Bisson to Union will be reclaimed and paved.

Previous: Public works continues to coordinate with the various utility companies to ensure they are ready to start work in the spring of 2019.

### **LACONIA DOWNTOWN TIF DISTRICT**

Current: No update. The Board will next meet on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Previous: The Downtown TIF Advisory Board met on February 19<sup>th</sup>. The City Manager provided an update on the Colonial Theater project and the proposed financing elements including how the Downtown TIF District funds may be applied. Other topics discussed included the Downtown Parking Garage, Beacon Street angled parking concept, and potential future Riverwalk projects. The Board will next meet on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **WEIRS TIF DISTRICT**

Current: No update. The Board is scheduled to meet next on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Previous: At the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the City Council, the recommendation by the Weirs TIF Advisory Board to utilize TIF funding for replacement bulbs for the Weirs Beach sign was denied. The Board is scheduled to meet next on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **WINNIPESAUKEE RIVER BASIN PROJECT**

Current: The consultant has collected all of the information it needs to review the feasibility of installing flow meters in the four communities. The consultant is continuing to collect data from these communities to determine an alternative method of estimating flow if it is not feasible to meter them. The Advisory Board leadership is working with its attorney to continue finalizing a memorandum of understanding with the other state agencies on the effort to determine if the communities want to create a municipal waste water authority.

Previous: A contract was awarded to a consultant to determine if it is feasible to determine the four communities' flows with flowmeters. The consultant has 130 days to determine if it is feasible. The managers and administrators were updated on the status of the Advisory Board's plans and developed talking points in support of a future meeting with State agencies as the decision process progresses.

### **WEIRS BEACH RESTORATION**

Current: No update. The City Manager will connect with representatives of the NHDES to clarify what next logical steps need to be taken by the City in order to move the project forward.

Previous: Parks and Facilities Director Kevin Dunleavy presented an update to the City Council at their February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. The update focused on the history of the project, proposed erosion control elements, mitigation requirements and a conceptual mitigation element called a created wetland in the area of shoreline near the public docks. The City Council authorized the City Manager to meet with representatives of the NHDES to clarify what next logical steps need to be taken by the City in order to move the project forward.

### **LACONIA MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

Current: Planning Director Dean Trefethen presented proposals to the Planning Board detailing Performance Zoning and Downtown Zone consolidation. The Planning Board will have a public hearing on the concepts at their April 2 meeting. Meanwhile, the Steering Committee has suggested expanding the areas in the City identified which will result in further review and another public hearing at the Planning Board level.

Previous: The Master Plan Steering Committee has asked Planning staff to pursue implementation of “performance zoning” in three areas of the City as soon as possible. As part of that revision to the City’s Zoning Ordinance, there will also be an effort to consolidate the greater downtown area into one zoning district where there are now five.

### **LACONIA DOWNTOWN RIVERWALK**

Current: City staff met with Busby Construction on March 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss completion of the remaining work on the Walgreens/Landmark Inn and the City Hall parking lot to Church Street segments. Work on the City Hall to Church Street segment will begin when weather conditions allow. Fence, sidewalk and final treatments will be completed this spring. Work on the Walgreens/Landmark Inn section will likely occur later in the spring once the Landmark Inn finishes renovation of their building.

Previous: No update. Remaining work on the Walgreens/Landmark Inn and the City Hall parking lot to Church Street segments will be completed in the spring.

### **BARTLETT BEACH AND BOND BEACH EROSION/DRAINAGE PROJECTS**

Current: The Bond Beach project is ready for bidding. A pre-bid site meeting will occur when weather conditions allow. The wetlands permit has been received. The Bartlett Beach project design is complete and construction of the improvements will occur at this beach when funding is available.

Previous: Advertising for the bidding of the Bond Beach project has been delayed until a final wetlands permit is received from the NHDES. Final plans and bid documents are complete and will be advertised once the wetlands permit is in hand. The wetlands permit is expected to arrive in the next week.

### **NATIVE AMERICAN SCULPTURE**

Current: At the February 19<sup>th</sup> Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, Parks and Facilities Director Kevin Dunleavy recommended that the statue be taken down for safety reasons. The Commission voted to remove and set aside the statue outside the running track until a plan for its renovation is formulated. The Director recommended that if the statue is renovated a more suitable location be sought because the location inside the running track is problematic for maintenance and accessibility.

Previous: At the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission, Peter Brunette asked to have more time to get more information and more fundraising time. Concerns were raised about how a crane would access the statue for its removal due to the potential damage to the running track. The Parks and Recreation Commission agreed to extend the time to formulate a plan for its renovation until March 18<sup>th</sup>. An update on the progress of the restoration initiative will take place at the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

### **MEMORIAL PARK SOFTBALL IRRIGATION**

Current: No update.

Previous: No update. Installation of the irrigation system will occur in the spring when weather permits.

## **WELCOME TO LACONIA SIGNAGE**

Current: A revised sign design has been requested and Parks and Recreation is awaiting the new design for approval. Initially, new welcome signs are proposed at Court Street and McIntyre Circle.

Previous: No update. Parks and Recreation is awaiting feedback on any available funding and preferred design.

## **PERLEY POND/OPECHEE COVE BRUSH CLEARING**

Current: The Parks and Recreation Director met with the Conservation Commission on February 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss next steps. No further cutting and clearing will occur until a formal plan for the area has been determined. A meeting will be scheduled with a landscape architect, Parks and Recreation and the Perley Family in the spring of 2019 to determine an approach that is acceptable to the Perley Family.

Previous: At the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the City Council Land and Buildings Sub-Committee, concerns were raised about the appearance of the Perley Pond Conservation Area. It was determined that a recommendation to the City Council be made to add a line item to the Parks and Recreation budget for the maintenance of Perley Pond, and that a meeting be scheduled with a landscape architect, Parks and Recreation and the Perley Family in the spring of 2019 to determine an approach that is acceptable to the Perley Family.