

# Municipal Update



Scenes from Sudbury's Fourth of July Parade, hosted by the Sudbury Chamber of Commerce.

## What did you do on your summer vacation?

This summer I had the pleasure of travelling to Estonia, a European country located north of Latvia, south of Finland, and west of Russia. It was part of the Soviet Union until it gained its independence in the 1990s. Tallinn, the capital, is first mentioned in chronicles in the 11th Century, and there is evidence of human population dating back 5,000 years.

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# Summer Vacation continued...

Many of the old structures remain, though some had to be rebuilt after devastating bombings in World War II. It is always fascinating to go to other places and see what constitutes old buildings. In the American west, you're talking late 19th Century, and in New England you have buildings approaching 400 years. In Europe and other parts of the Old World, you're talking seriously old.

Tallinn Town Hall, which has served as a market, church, and seat of government, was constructed in the 1300s. By contrast, Sudbury's Town Hall was built in 1932. (This is Sudbury's second Town Hall as the original, built in 1846, was lost in a fire.) Although our Town Hall has a history approximately 500 years shorter than the one in Estonia, its uses have also evolved over time. Formerly used as a ballroom, the Sudbury Historical Society headquarters and surplus good storage, Sudbury Town Hall currently houses the Town Clerk and Veterans Services Offices. It is also where the Town's committees including the Zoning Board, Planning Board and Select Board met prior to COVID and are starting to return.

Later this fall, Sudbury Town Hall will be the site of the annual Town Forum. This year's forum will focus on how residents shape our future. We will discuss Sudbury's government, the various players, Town Meeting, and how you can get involved. We will pay particular attention to the role residents play in Sudbury's government, initiatives residents have led, and how you can engage with us. We also want to hear how we can better engage with you. We hope the historic Sudbury setting will encourage you to ask us questions and inspire you to get involved with your local government. And if the setting doesn't work, our time-tested backup plan is to offer snacks.

Please mark your calendar for Thursday, October 12 at 7PM in Lower Town Hall. Check out the flyer in this newsletter and stay tuned for more details. As they say in Estonia "Näeme Seal" - we hope to see you there.

**Andy Sheehan**  
Town Manager

*Town of Sudbury*

## TOWN MANAGER OFFICE HOURS

**Andrew J. Sheehan**

Meet & Greet Sudbury's new Town Manager **Andy Sheehan**. Residents, business owners and community members are invited to stop by and say hello.

**Mon. September 18, 2023**  
10:00 - 11:00 AM  
Flynn Building, Silva Room



<https://sudbury.ma.us/townmanager/?p=2535>

# *Why we Give a Dam*

**BY LORI CAPONE,  
CONSERVATION  
COORDINATOR**



Beavers have always been important to humans: used as a source of food, clothing, currency, and even medicine, by native and colonial Americans. Intense hunting, trapping, and deforestation eliminated the beaver from much of North America by the Revolutionary War. However, beaver populations have recently rebounded, helping us restore our lost wetlands, 50% of which had been filled, degraded, or destroyed before the first wetlands protection laws were enacted.



*A beaver-felled tree at Hop Brook*

Beaver mate for life and reproduce exponentially, having 3-5 kits each year. They are very territorial, each beaver pond supporting only one colony or family. At three years of age, male beavers are driven away from the colony to seek their own territory. The growth rate and territorial nature of beaver has allowed them to quickly repopulate their original range.

Renowned as nature's engineers, beaver build dams in small rivers and streams, to create access to food, protection from predators, and shelter. The wetlands that result from these dams create diverse habitat that supports up to 80% of other species from fish and frogs, to rookeries for heron, and yes, mosquitos, which are a critical food source for birds, bats, amphibians, and other insects. These dammed up systems create wet meadows and swamps, which benefit people by slowly releasing floodwaters and improving water quality by binding excess nutrients, toxins, and sediment, while recharging our aquifers. Studies have shown that beaver dams help create climate resilient landscapes that protect us against the effects of climate change by creating fertile soil, recharging clean water to aquifers, and reducing susceptibility to wildfires.

# Why we Give a Dam, Continued



*Water levels at a Hop Brook footbridge before and after the installation of the beaver deceiver.*

The beavers' return to Massachusetts, however, occurred after many lands adjacent to streams were already developed, creating beaver-human conflicts that can have significant impacts to public health and safety. Expanding wetlands can flood structures, inundate septic systems, or damage roadway infrastructure. Drinking water supplies can also become contaminated with E. coli. or Giardiasis when a colony is located in close proximity to municipal drinking wells. This need to create ever expanding territories is one reason why beaver management is necessary in our suburban environment.

Recently, beavers took up residency in Duck Pond at Hop Brook Conservation Land. Beavers built a dam under the footbridge at the inlet to Duck Pond, while also clogging up the culvert at the outlet to Duck Pond. This caused the water levels to rise a couple feet, flooding a number of trails around the pond. The Conservation Commission saw this as an opportunity to see how we could co-exist with the resident beavers.

We first tried to manually manage the situation; removing the debris from the culvert and notching the dam to release some water. We also had a number of bog bridges constructed to allow passage through more flooded portions of the trail system. The beavers rose to the occasion, encouraged by the challenge, reinforcing their dams each night.

We quickly realized that we were no challenge for them and additional efforts needed to be explored to manage the water levels. We engaged professionals to assess the situation. The goal was to achieve a water elevation that would provide sufficient habitat for the beavers, while maintaining the water levels at a height that would not impact the trails around the pond. It was determined that a 1+/- foot drop in water would find that happy medium where both wildlife habitat and recreational use were maximized. After measuring the depth upgradient of these obstructions, it was determined that the conditions were right to install flow devices, or "beaver deceivers"; one through the beaver dam, and one at the culvert.

In July, these devices were installed. At the culvert, an exclusionary fence was installed in front of the culvert, to prevent the beaver from blocking the structure. A cage was installed about 40 feet upgradient of the culvert and a flexible pipe was installed between the cage and the culvert. This allows water to continue to flow through the culvert without the beavers feeling the flow of water, which would trigger them to clog up the culvert. The inlet and outlet of the pipe were set at the elevation of the target pond level. A similar system was installed through the beaver dam. The pipes were sized based on the volume of water that would regularly flow through the pond.

## *Why we Give a Dam, Continued 2*

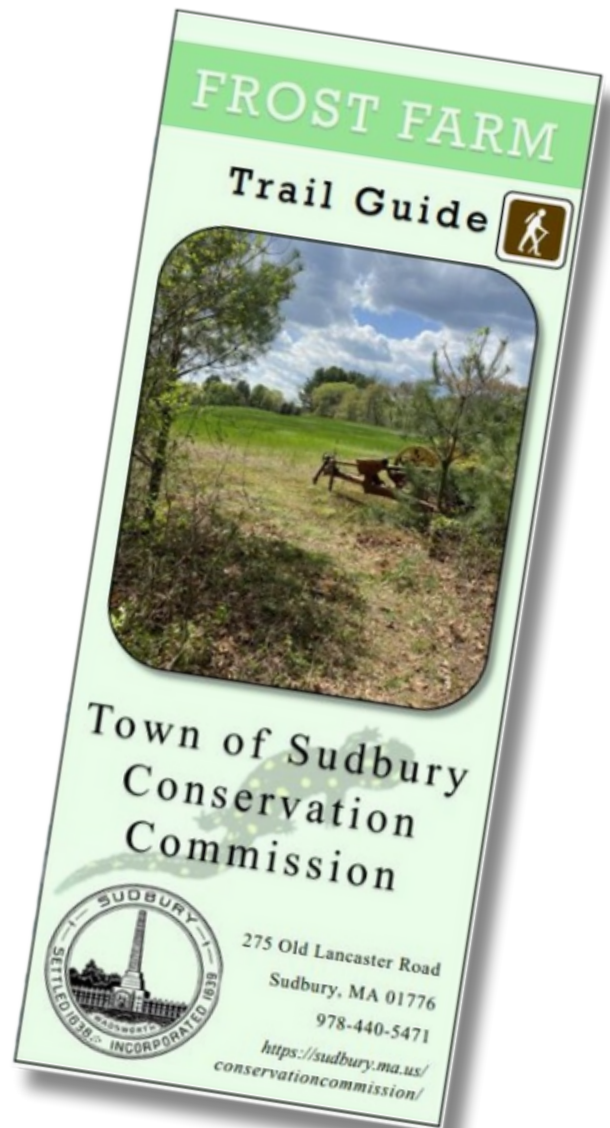
One week following the installation of the deceivers, the trails started to emerge from under the water. After three weeks, the trails are completely dry and the system continues to function with no required maintenance. This sustainable system is a permanent solution to allow humans and wildlife to live together without impacting each other's use of the space. However, environmental conditions do not always allow for these flow device systems to function, and trapping may still be needed.

Since time immemorial, the movement of animal populations in tune with the cycles of nature have been a prominent feature of life on our planet. The drama of the vernal pool, played out over countless rainy spring evenings by tiny actors, is no less a part of that natural heritage. As with so many organisms, their survival is increasingly precarious. Together, we can ensure that Sudbury continues to host its own Big Night for many years to come.

## *A Walk at Frost Farm*

**BY ROBERT BOSSO,  
CONSERVATION ASSISTANT**

A short distance past Davis Farm and the adjoining Davis Field, the sign for the Frost Farm Conservation Land comes into view as you drive along North Road heading towards Concord. Sporting a fresh coat of brown paint and standing modestly on the small expanse of lawn to your left, it is located well away from the trailhead. To get there, turn left on Northwood Drive, then left again. Across from the office park is a gravel parking lot with some picnic benches. About 50 feet further along the drive, just past a row of pines and before the private entrance to Frost Farm Village, stands the kiosk at the start of the trailhead. Take a moment to pause and read the postings, and while you are at it, pick up a newly-published trail guide.



## *Frost Farm, Continued*

Stepping onto the orange-blazed trail begins a journey that immediately takes you down a narrow alley of sorts, lined on the one side by the now familiar pines, and the other by low shrubs. Momentarily, you step out from under the cover of a stately pin oak looming over the end of the alley, and enter into the upper meadow. Of the Town's portfolio of Conservation Lands, Frost Farm is distinguished by its three sizeable meadows. Certain species thrive in this kind of environment, such as wildflowers and butterflies, and of course, grassland-nesting birds like meadowlarks and vesper sparrows. Still other species prefer the edge habitat that forms in the transitional zone between meadow and forest. A diverse landscape, comprised of different types of habitat, is essential to sustaining a rich panoply of living things.

Continuing along the path, you arrive at a junction inhabited by a lonesome white ash. Bearing to the right takes you towards the old Framingham and Lowell Railroad corridor (which is in the process of being replaced by the [Bruce Freeman Rail Trail](#)), and onwards across the town line to points beyond. If instead you proceed to the left, you enter onto a loop trail that takes you to the lower meadows and, between them, a broad forest. For many years, this area was harder to access, being unmarked and overgrown, but that has begun to change. Starting this year, dedicated volunteers, Eagle Scouts, senior workers, and municipal staff have been hard at work making improvements. They have mapped, cleared, and marked old trails. Paths have been mowed through the high meadow grass.

The trailhead kiosk has been upgraded. Invasive plant species, such as glossy buckthorn and Japanese barberry, have been identified and cut back or removed (for the time being!).

Workers have also improved two ancient footbridges recently rediscovered in the forest. The shorter of them was still in reasonably good condition, and only required some minor tweaking. This involved the replacement of a few boards, and where a tree had started to encroach upon the structure, strategic sawing to give it more room to grow.

The other footbridge, being higher, longer, and more dilapidated, required considerably more effort to make safe again. This involved the complete replacement of the treads, and the addition of railings and two ramps where none had existed previously. Thus, re-fortified against the ravages of time, it will continue its vigil in the woods at Frost Farm, still spanning the 30-odd feet between opposing banks, waiting to convey hikers over the confluence of two streams to an isolated hayfield. Doing its job well.

Nature abhors a vacuum. No sooner is a trail corridor cleared than plants start growing back. The [Conservation Commission needs your help](#) to maintain the delicate balance between conservation and recreation on our properties. [Contact us](#) to volunteer your time.

# Meet Conservation Commissioner Luke Faust

**BY ROBERT BOSSO,  
CONSERVATION ASSISTANT**

Enthusiastically stepping into the spot formerly occupied by the well-respected and veteran member Richard Morse, Luke Faust is the newest member of your Conservation Commission. Appointed by the Select Board in May of this year, he joins Chair David Henkels, Vice Chair Ken Holtz, Jeremy Cook, Bruce Porter, Kathleen Rogers, and Bruce Porter in stewarding Sudbury's wetland resources and open spaces on behalf of the community. He will serve a three-year term, and will be up for re-appointment in 2026.

Like many Sudbury residents, not least the members of the Commission, Luke has long had a deep affinity for the natural world. In college, he pursued a degree in Biology. His ecological research endeavors carried him to such far-flung locales as Lake Superior's Isle Royale National Park, South Africa, and the Central Pacific. The call of the natural world has also resounded in his subsequent career path. He currently works as a Financial Planning & Analysis Manager for the Appalachian Mountain Club, the eminent outdoor recreation and conservation nonprofit. There, he is responsible for ensuring that the organization's conservation goals can be achieved while simultaneously navigating the shoals of financial constraints.

It was about three years ago that a phone call with the Town's Conservation Coordinator, Lori Capone, sparked a series of events that ultimately led Luke to his current role. At the time, he was studying in Mass Audubon's Birder Program. As part of his certificate work, it was decided that he would conduct a



*Conservation Commissioner and bird enthusiast  
Luke Faust.*

survey of bird species at Davis Farm, one of the many Town-owned open spaces overseen by the Commission. The survey was carried out over a year, during which 58 species were identified. Luke would go on to present his results to the Commission, which he joined as an Associate Member in May of 2021.

Luke has continued his involvement with the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC), a venerable, on-going community science project now in its 122nd year. This is a single-day survey, conducted across the Americas, where volunteers count as many birds as possible within the allotted time. Luke is responsible for coordinating Sudbury's contingent of volunteers. In 2022, a Sudbury team of twenty individuals recorded 2,252 individual birds representing 53 species. The aggregated CBC data is of extremely high value to ornithologists and conservationists examining long-term population ecological dynamics, and has been cited in hundreds of scientific journal publications.



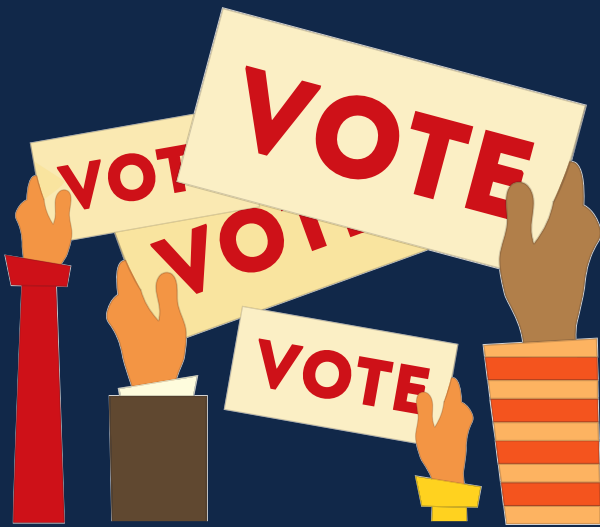
## Luke Faust, Continued

Birding continues to be an important way for Luke to stay connected with nature. It also happens to be an engaging way for him to spend time outdoors with his family. This includes his wife, Chelsea, and daughter, Juliet. Ever alert for a tell-tale song lilting from across a meadow, or a swift-winged motion in the tree canopy, they hike the open spaces of Massachusetts and beyond. Occasionally, they are rewarded with the thrill of checking off another box on their checklist of bird species.

Asked about what he hopes to accomplish during his tenure as Commissioner, Luke stated that he hopes "to serve the community in helping to figure out how to balance the challenges of development pressure and importance of wild green space to build climate resilience." With multiple complex

construction projects regularly falling under the Commission's authority, such as the two on-going Rail Trail projects, the Town relies on the commitment of talented and dedicated citizen volunteers. Please join the Conservation Commission in welcoming Luke, and wishing him the best of luck in the fulfillment of his duties.

The Conservation Commission is a seven-member, all-volunteer committee, primarily tasked with the administration of the Wetland Protection Act and the Sudbury Wetlands Administration Bylaw. It also oversees the town's portfolio of Conservation Lands. *The Commission is currently seeking a conscientious Town resident to serve their community as an Associate Member. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please [contact us](#).*



## Fall Town Meeting

2023 Fall Special Town Meeting will be held in late October at L-SRHS auditorium.

The warrant period is now open. Those wishing to add an article to the Town Meeting warrant, must complete and collect signatures using the [Special Town Meeting Petition Form](#).

Articles for inclusion in the Town Meeting Warrant are due to the Select Board Office, 278 Old Sudbury Road no later than 4:30 pm on Tuesday, August 29, 2023.

# SUDBURY NEEDS YOU!

<p>DESIGN REVIEW BOARD</p>  <p>DESIGN REVIEW BOARD</p>	 <p>DISABILITY COMMISSION</p>	<p>AGING COUNCIL</p>  <p>AGING COUNCIL</p>
 <p>DIVERSITY, EQUITY &amp; INCLUSION COMMISSION</p>	<p>ENERGY &amp; SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE</p>  <p>ENERGY &amp; SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE</p>	 <p>HISTORICAL COMMISSION</p>
<p>LAND ACQUISITION REVIEW COMMITTEE</p>  <p>LAND ACQUISITION REVIEW COMMITTEE</p>	 <p>L-SRHS COMMITTEE</p>	<p>MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE</p>  <p>MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE</p>
 <p>CONSERVATION COMMISSION</p>	<p>SUDBURY CULTURAL COUNCIL</p>  <p>SUDBURY CULTURAL COUNCIL</p>	 <p>SUDBURY HOUSING TRUST</p>

**VOLUNTEER TO SERVE YOUR TOWN**

# Goodnow Library Summer Memories



*"Find Your Voice" was this year's Summer Reading theme. Goodnow's weekly programs included book clubs, crafts, special performers and more!*

# Goodnow Library News

BY ESMÉ GREEN,  
GOODNOW LIBRARY DIRECTOR

## Adaptive Additions

The library was recently awarded \$15K from the Sudbury Foundation to add adaptive items to the Library of Things and for creating a Decodables book collection in Children's, as well as enhanced programming.

Some of the items we have added to the Library of Things include a Hippocampe, an all-terrain wheelchair for children, which allows access to typically inaccessible places like hiking trails and the beach. We have also purchased an electronic Therapy Dog that provides interactive companionship for people with dementia and/or other disabilities.

As part of the grant, we are also developing a new collection of decodable books to support developing and struggling readers using a scientific approach to reading instruction. Decodable books encourage children to sound out words using phonics-based decoding strategies rather than guessing from pictures or predicting from other cues. This collection will be formally introduced in early October and featured in an evening program to be held by the Goodnow Library Foundation on the science of reading and how young children learn to read and write. Stay tuned for registration details and more information.

## LIBRARY OF THINGS

### HEALTH & ADAPTIVE AIDS



#### Therapy Dog

**Loan Period:** Between 1 and 14 days

[\[Details/Borrow\]](#)



#### Digital Magnifier

**Loan Period:** Between 1 and 14 days

[\[Details/Borrow\]](#)



#### Hippocampe - Summer

**Loan Period:** Between 1 and 14 days

[\[Details/Borrow\]](#)



[HTTPS://GOODNOWLIBRARY.ORG  
/SERVICES/BROWSE/LIBRARY-OF-THINGS/](https://goodnowlibrary.org/services/browse/library-of-things/)

# Goodnow Library, Continued

## Sudbury's Indigenous History

Goodnow Library is pleased to share that it was recently awarded a federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant for \$20,000 from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) to help amplify Sudbury's Indigenous history.

The Goodnow Library plans to use the grant to gather and consolidate copies of documents into one special collection at the Goodnow Library. The project also has an oral history component, for which local Nipmuc, Massachusetts, and Wampanoag elders will be interviewed to record and preserve stories passed along from generation to generation.

These oral histories will provide new perspectives on local history and potentially lead project staff toward additional documents or artifacts to add to the Goodnow Library's special collection.

Sudbury's existing historical record has long glossed over its Indigenous history. The town's archives have only a small number of primary source documents from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. Most of the available secondary sources, primarily books, are written from a Colonial perspective and in a manner that is biased toward the English settlers, especially in discussions of conflicts and war.

Once created, this collection can add a more comprehensive and inclusive perspective of Sudbury's history, and will be accessible to the public in perpetuity.

"Across our town, organizations are working to fill in the gaps in the historical record and provide a more inclusive narrative of the history of Sudbury," said Esmé Green, Library Director. "This collection will provide better access for researchers, educators, and members of the public with a desire to learn more about local history in an inclusive and balanced manner."





# SAVE *the* DATE

Sudbury  
HOLIDAY VILLAGE  
DEC 2, 2023



# *Sudbury's Sustainability Progress*

**BY DANI MARINI-KING,  
SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR**

With the intense and frequent thunderstorms, flooding events, and heat waves that the Northeast has experienced this summer, it has become clear that the Town of Sudbury needs to put sustainability at the forefront. In order to respond to this growing climate threat, it is imperative that the Town focuses on two main goals: Emissions Reduction and Climate Resilience.

As more and more greenhouse gas emissions cover the earth, they trap the sun's heat leading to global warming and changes in the climate. As such, it is important to reduce the Town's greenhouse gas emissions so that we can help slow this warming and halt further catastrophic changes. While it is critical to prevent further changes, it is equally as important to treat the symptoms that we are already feeling from our changing climate. Climate resilience is the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to the climate. Within the past four months, the Town of Sudbury has taken steps forward to reduce our emissions and improve the community's climate resilience. What follows is an overview of some of the steps that Sudbury has already taken, or will take in the near future, to meet these goals.



## **GHG Emissions Inventory and Net Zero Plan**

In order to reduce our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, we must first develop an understanding of what our current emissions are and what the most damaging sectors are. The Town is interested in creating an inventory of Sudbury's (GHG) emissions to set a baseline of our emissions impact. The Town released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to secure a consulting firm to conduct this inventory.

In conjunction with the GHG Emissions Inventory, the Town is also interested in developing a Net Zero Plan to target the sectors in the community that are of most concern and are emitting the most greenhouse gases. This will help the Town meet its GHG reduction goals, which will be set following completion of the GHG inventory. The Town partnered with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to scope this Net Zero Plan. The GHG emissions inventory will kick off at the beginning of September 2023. Once both of these efforts are completed, the Town will understand what our emissions impact is, what sectors to prioritize, and have strategies to help reduce our emissions.

# *Sustainability, Cont.*

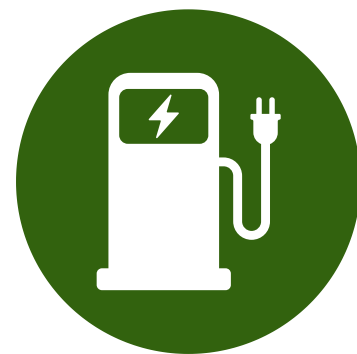


## **Solar Rooftop Arrays**

While the Town waits for the completion of its GHG emissions inventory and Net Zero Plan, we are still taking action to reduce our emissions. The Town is making progress towards installing solar rooftop arrays on the Department of Public Works (DPW) office building, the Fairbank Community Center, and Fire Station 2. By installing solar panels on these facilities, we can reduce our GHG emissions and the demand for electricity during peak hours, reducing the strain on the grid and further lessening the need to burn fossil fuels. Solar design, Purchase of Power Agreement and solar panel lease term options for DPW, Fairbank and Fire Station 2 are underway. In addition to these facilities, the Town is also exploring solar options for the Flynn Building, Fire Department Headquarters, and Fire Station 3. Solar panels at Fire Station 2 will need to go before Town Meeting for approval - please stay tuned for more information.

## **Electric Vehicles (EV)**

Another step that the Town of Sudbury has taken to reduce GHG emissions and improve climate resilience is dedicating resources to install electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure in the Town. Unlike gasoline-powered vehicles, EVs do not produce tailpipe emissions, meaning that they do not release harmful pollutants, like carbon dioxide, into the atmosphere. By installing EV charger infrastructure throughout Sudbury, the Town can transition to an all-electric fleet and make it easier for residents to decide to purchase electric vehicles over gasoline-powered ones. The Town is currently working with Guardian to install electric vehicle (EV) chargers at the DPW and Police Station. One mounted level 2 dual-port EV charger will be installed at the Police Station, and two level 2 dual-port EV chargers will be installed at the DPW. These chargers will be utilized by Town-owned electric vehicles stationed at both facilities, and will also be open for public use. Construction is anticipated to begin in late Summer 2023. The Town is also exploring options to install new EV chargers at other facilities throughout Town.



Over the past four months, the Town has made great strides in combatting the climate crisis, but more work is needed to ensure that Sudbury is a sustainable and adaptable community for generations to come.



# Senior Center News

**BY DEBRA GALLOWAY,  
SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR**

The New Community Center being built next to our building continues to look better and better. Siding for the building has started to be put into place. We continue to be excited for the move and the expansion in space. We expect to move in November or December, though this could change. Look for news about the move and our upcoming programs in our monthly newsletter, the Sudbury Scene.

With the addition of more rooms, we will be able to offer more programming. If you are or know someone who is interested in volunteering at the new Community Center, please let us know. We will need more help in the larger space. We will also be able to expand our programming, adding more social or special interest groups, arts, fitness and educational programs. Please reach out by contacting us at 978-443-3055 or [senior@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:senior@sudbury.ma.us).

## **What's Happening at the Sudbury Senior Center?**

Lifelong learning academic classes, support groups, art classes, social and discussion groups, movies, cards and games... there's something for everyone at the Senior Center. See below for information on some of our upcoming special events. If you don't already receive our newsletter, please contact us or [click here](#) to sign up.

## **Art Workshop**

Beginning on Wednesday, September 13, our newest Art Instructor Lane Williamson will offer a six-part series entitled "Come See with Me". This course is about what makes a good painting. Students will study works such as Paul Klee's abstract "Three Houses," Arthur Dove's "Me & the Moon," and Jane Frielichers' Sweet still life "Roses & Chrysanthemums," noting how they are all, abstract or representational, accessing the same visual tools. Students will experiment with those tools and will find that most art that pleases in its presentation is drawing on a common set of principles and organizing a finite set of visual elements. How an artist chooses to manipulate those elements is what is fascinating. For more information and to register, please contact the Senior Center at 978-443-3055 or [senior@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:senior@sudbury.ma.us).

## **Become a Dementia Friend!**

To become a Dementia Friend, you participate in a one-hour Dementia Friends Information Session offered by a Dementia Friends Champion. You will learn five key messages about dementia and a bit about what it's like to live with dementia. As a Dementia Friend, you turn your new understanding of dementia into a practical action that can help someone with dementia living in your community. Your action can be as big or as small as you choose - because every action counts! The Sudbury Senior Center and Dementia Friendly Sudbury Team will host a Dementia Friends Information Session on Zoom, on Friday, September 22, at 10:00 AM. For information and to sign up, please reach out to Outreach Specialist Ana Cristina Oliveira at 978-639-3268 or [oliveiraa@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:oliveiraa@sudbury.ma.us).

# Senior Center, Continued

## Prevent a Fall!

September is Fall Prevention month and the Sudbury Senior Center will offer programs to assist residents in preventing a fall, recovering from a fall, and in assessing balance (a key risk factor in falls). Rebound Physical Therapy will offer a talk on "How to Prevent and Recover from a Fall" on Tuesday, September 19, at 10:30 AM. Adita Chandra, DPT, co-owner of Longfellow Holistic Health Center, will be at the Senior Center offering free Balance Assessments on Tuesday, September 26 from 9:30-11:30 AM. Please register for the talk, or make an appointment for a Balance assessment, by contacting the Senior Center at 978-443-3055 or [senior@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:senior@sudbury.ma.us).

## Services for Seniors

by Janet Lipkin, Volunteer Coordinator

### Lock Box

The Sudbury Firefighter's Association Local #2023 sponsors and coordinates the installment of lock boxes (also known as Supra boxes, pictured) for senior residents who request one. The Senior Center works with the Firefighter's Association to coordinate the program. The lock box, a small key safe, is affixed to the outside of the home for emergency access by the Fire Department. For more information or to request a lock box, contact Janet Lipkin at the Sudbury Senior Center (978-639-3223).

## Friendly Visitor

A Friendly Visitor volunteer is matched with a homebound senior, and makes a weekly 1 to 2 hour-long outdoor home visit to them. The visits supply friendship and conversation, and help with loneliness. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact Janet Lipkin at 978-639-3223.



Matt D'Agostino, Goodnow To Go volunteer

## Goodnow to Go

Volunteers deliver library materials to Sudbury residents unable to get to the Goodnow Library on their own due to a temporary or chronic condition. Drop-off of library materials is to the client's front door. For more information or to receive this volunteer service, please contact Janet Lipkin at [LipkinJ@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:LipkinJ@sudbury.ma.us) (978-639-3223).

For a complete listing of volunteer services, please visit: <https://sudburyseniorcenter.org/services/>  
Kudos to our valued team of volunteers for their acts of kindness!  
They are truly making a difference in the lives of others.

# Hosmer House Museum

Sunday, August 20th 1pm to 3pm



The Sudbury Historical Commission invites you to our Open House at the Hosmer House Museum, 299 Old Sudbury Rd, Sudbury, MA 01776 on Sunday, August 20th from 1pm to 3pm.

Admission is free, yet donations at the door are welcome. All donations go to funding restoration projects at the house. The Hosmer House is located at the intersection of Route 27 and Concord Rd. Ample parking is available behind Sudbury Town Hall.

This month's theme and displays take a look at the agricultural history of Sudbury. We are proud to show off the recently donated Joel Nourse horse drawn Eagle Plow used by the Hosmer Family, as well as some of the original gardening tools Florence used to tend to her prized Fairy Garden.

# FROM THE SELECT BOARD

Summer 2023

Town of Sudbury

## *Excitement Builds for the New Fairbank Community Center*

**BY LISA KOUCHAKDJIAN, SELECT BOARD**

There is light at the end of the tunnel! Over the last number of months, tremendous progress has been made on the construction of the new community center, the home of our Sudbury Senior Center, Park and Recreation Department and the Sudbury Public Schools (SPS) Administrative Offices. Recently, I had the opportunity to communicate with officials from each of the three user groups to get an update on how preparations are going for their transition to the new building, and to hear about the things they are looking forward to with the new building.

Deborah Galloway, Director of the Senior Center, shared excitement about the new and expanded spaces to offer more programs and classes. The Senior Center serves residents who are 60 years of age and older. With the aging of the “baby boomers” the 60+ population has grown over the last 10-15 years. The new Senior Center facilities will better serve our community members and provide needed programming.

Galloway indicated there is potential for them to transition to the new building in late Fall some time. Preparations are underway to inventory and document the contents of the Senior Center to facilitate the transition. In anticipation of the new programming, staff are also in the process of finding new instructors



## FROM THE SELECT BOARD

### *New Fairbank Community Center, Continued*



and group leaders for the new and improved programming. Galloway mentioned she is working with the Council on Aging's Special Events Subcommittee to plan a soft opening celebration of the new Senior Center space a few weeks after they move in.

In a recent communication with the Park and Recreation Commission's former Chair, Mara Huston, Huston shared that the new building will provide great spaces to create programs for residents of all ages. From the new preschool room with an internal bathroom, to the three dedicated program rooms and a full-size gym, as well as new pool locker rooms to support people of all genders and abilities, the new Community Center will have something for everyone!

Huston indicated that once Park and Recreation moves into the new space, the department will still be involved in continued construction as the old building needs to be taken down before the new recreation entrance can be built. The aquatics office and pool viewing area will be rebuilt once they move out of the old building. The community will be able to enjoy pool activities with new extra-large viewing windows and a renovated viewing area. The multi-sport court and outside space on the recreation side of the building will be created when work on the pool areas is complete. Huston stated that the transition out of the old building is an important step in delivering a new recreation facility for the town to enjoy.

In a recent communication with SPS, School Committee Chair Silvia Nersessian and Superintendent Brad Crozier stated preparations to the new building are going smoothly. Staff participate in weekly user meetings which provide them with crucial updates on progress and potential impacts on SPS operations. The meetings also serve as a platform to surface any concerns and address them promptly. A comprehensive survey of all items in the current spaces has been conducted to determine what will be relocated to the new building and what could be repurposed to benefit other departments. The transition to the new building will likely occur in late Fall.

Since the current space is beyond its useful life, SPS looks forward to modern, professional, and efficient workspaces that will provide an improved environment for staff, visitors, and families.

As the old adage goes, "out with the old and in with the new!" As we watch the new Fairbank Community Center literally go up before our eyes, we can see the hope and potential of this project becoming fully realized. It has been a long road to get to this point, but the finish line is approaching. We have a lot to look forward to as a community with the new Fairbank Community Center! For more detailed information regarding the Fairbank Community Center project, please visit <https://sudbury.ma.us/fairbankproject>.

# FROM THE SELECT BOARD

## *Updating the Housing Production Plan*

**BY JANIE DRETHER, SELECT BOARD**

Sudbury, like many other Massachusetts towns and cities, faces challenges related to housing affordability, diversity, and availability. To address these issues, the Town has contracted with JM Goldson, a community planning consulting firm, to develop an updated Housing Production Plan (HPP). Sudbury is committed to supporting and creating affordable housing solutions which respect the historic and natural character of the community. The Town is also increasingly aware of the need to consider smart growth opportunities and environmentally sustainable solutions in all its projects.

The updated HPP will identify obstacles and opportunities to developing affordable housing in Sudbury, including recommendations to overcome those obstacles and a map of possible housing development sites. The [HPP Working Group \(HPPWG\)](#), which includes members of Town boards and committees and resident volunteers working together with JM Goldson and Town staff, will consider the current zoning and other local bylaws to identify possible amendments, as well as town-owned properties and other opportunities, which could help encourage redevelopment and a range of housing options that can help meet the needs of the local workforce, families, and the elderly and disabled.

In developing the HPP, community engagement and input will be crucial. The HPP will integrate the findings of the Housing Needs Assessment developed by [Regional Housing Services Office \(RHISO\)](#), along with community feedback compiled from workshops, focus groups, and a web-based survey. It is critical to gather feedback from residents, local businesses, and stakeholders to ensure that the plan aligns with the community's values and needs. Based on the local housing needs and priorities that emerge from this process, the team will draft goals and strategies that can be implemented over the next five years, including:

- Sites for possible LIP (Local Initiative Program) and 40B development, including town-owned land.
- Proposed amendments to local by-laws and zoning ordinances to support housing.
- Implementation strategies that indicate potential funding sources and responsible parties.
- Prioritization of strategies, including a proposed timeline to help maintain "Safe Harbor".

Sudbury's updated Housing Production Plan will be a comprehensive strategy to address housing challenges and promote responsible growth. By analyzing current housing trends, engaging the community, incorporating environmental considerations, and prioritizing affordable and inclusive housing options, the plan will aim to create a more sustainable and equitable community for all residents.

A special thank you to Liz Rust, Director, Regional Housing Services Office, for her time, knowledge, and input.

### **Additional Information/Links:**

[Chapter 40B Housing Production Plan](#)

[2021 Town Meeting Article 32](#)

[Chapter 40B Subsidized Housing Inventory \(SHI\)](#)

[Housing Production Plan RFP](#)

## *PFAS and Sudbury's Water Supply*

**BY DAN CARTY, SELECT BOARD**

I recently had the privilege of meeting with Vincent Roy, Executive Director of the Sudbury Water District (SWD), to discuss PFAS, also known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or “forever chemicals”. They are called “forever chemicals” simply because they do not break down over time. PFASs were used for their water-resistant properties in items like Teflon, water-repellent clothing and ski wax, and migrated into the soil, water, and air. Per the Environmental Protection Agency, scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS in the environment may be linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals. Thus, I asked Vin if PFASs were present in Sudbury's water supply and, if so, what could be done, or is being done, as countermeasures.

He stated that PFAS testing was first performed in 2013 as required under the EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule. Analytical results at that time were non-detectable. Since 2013, analytical techniques have become much more sophisticated which have enabled detection limits at much lower concentrations. Starting in January of 2020, SWD began evaluating their water sources for PFAS, working with the Sudbury Board of Health. The District initially sampled and analyzed the system quarterly and are now monitoring monthly as per MassDEP regulations.



He stated that PFAS results have varied somewhat over time, but the concentrations have remained below the MassDEP's maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 20 parts per trillion, staying roughly in the 12 - 15 parts per trillion (ppt) range. He added that it's difficult to point to any specific source within Sudbury, but that treatment actions are well underway.

Taking a step back, it is important to understand the structure and operations of the SWD. Separate and distinct from the Town of Sudbury, the SWD is an independent municipal entity established by an Act of the Massachusetts Legislature in 1934. They have their own elected officials and staff as well as their own annual town meeting (plenty of information is available at [www.sudburywater.com](http://www.sudburywater.com)). There are nine primary active sources of water (i.e., wells) across town feeding four points of entry into the overall system: two on Raymond Road, one on East Street, and one on Warren Road. From these points, the water gets pumped into four water tanks - two on Willis Hill and one each

# FROM THE SELECT BOARD

## *PFAS and Sudbury's Water Supply, Continued*

on Goodmans Hill and at the end of Bigelow Drive. All of these are connected with miles and miles of pipes that eventually connect to customer homes. And since it is difficult to point to one single source of PFAS, it makes the most sense to treat the water as it enters the system, which is exactly what the SWD is doing.

Raymond Road is the largest point of entry in the SWD system, handling 1.8 million gallons of water per day, enough to satisfy the demand for the entire town, so it made the most sense to start there. In the spring of 2020, they hired Weston and Sampson, experts in PFAS monitoring and treatment, to advise on the subject. Weston and Sampson' team has worked with them to prepare a study summarizing findings to date and prescribing a plan for building granular activated carbon (GAC) treatment facilities. In August of 2020, they applied for \$3.2 million in bond funding through the State Revolving Funds (SRF) program for construction of PFAS filtration system at the Raymond Road Water Treatment Facility (WTF), and at their 2021 Annual District Meeting, they were granted authorization to borrow that \$3.2 million. They also received a \$111,169 earmark in ARPA funding from the State to help offset the cost

of its design. In March of this year, they awarded a construction contract to Barbato Construction and expect a May 2024 completion. They are currently in design for their East Street treatment facility, and expect it to be completed in the spring of 2025, with the two smallest points of entry to follow. In addition to trapping PFAS, these facilities will also remove iron and manganese, which will lead to less discoloration and staining that some customers now experience.

I asked Vin if PFAS would be eliminated after the treatment sites came online, and he said no, but they would be undetectable. To put it in perspective, he explained that usually contaminants are measured in parts per million or billion, but PFAS is measured in trillions. He went on to say that, looking at distance through the same lens, one inch per million means one inch in approximately 16 miles, one per billion would be one inch in 16,000 miles, and one inch per trillion would be one inch in 16 million miles, or one inch in 600 laps around the earth! He summed up our conversation by saying that water is bountiful in Sudbury and of high quality, and that, compared to towns near us, we are ahead of the curve with where we are currently in PFAS levels and where we will be after the treatment centers come online.

Wednesday, August 23

12 PM

With *Janie Dretler and Dan Carty*



Dan Carty



Janie Dretler

## Select Board Office Hours

### Zoom Meeting

Join On-Line: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82788884457>

Join By Phone: 978-639-3366 or 470-250-9358

Meeting ID: 827 8888 4457



# FROM THE SELECT BOARD

## *Future Costs for Today's Services*



BY CHARLIE RUSSO, SELECT BOARD

Sudbury's \$116 million budget for Fiscal Year 2024 is often thought of as divided into three major cost centers: Sudbury Public Schools (SPS), Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School (LS), and the Town Departments, which provide the services residents benefit from today. However, within that overall budget are two items focused on the future costs of today's services: Pension and OPEB Contributions.

### **Employee Benefits (Town and SPS)**

In the FY24 Budget, Sudbury's projected budget is \$15,730,817 for Employee Benefits - about 13.5 percent of the overall budget. Employee Benefits includes health insurance, pension costs, unemployment, property, auto and liability insurances, Medicare payroll taxes, workers compensation insurance and other related contributions - not salaries. This includes a budgeted contribution of \$6.4 million in FY24 for pensions. The overall Employee Benefits line item increased 6.08% from the FY24 budget, while the overall budget increased just 5.04%.

### **OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits)**

The Sudbury Select Board Financial Policies Manual has a specific OPEB chapter, with guidelines designed to ensure OPEB sustainability and equity over time.

In addition to the \$1,453,049 budgeted to pay for current retirees' medical premiums, which is

included in the Employee Benefits budget, the Town has budgeted a \$650,000 contribution to its OPEB Trust Fund to accumulate funds to offset the cost of future retirees' medical premiums.

The OPEB Trust Fund is not utilized to pay for costs related to the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, which handles these payments as part of its budget.

### **Actuarial Analyses**

Pension and OPEB systems rely on actuarial analyses of assets and liabilities to determine funding obligations. Actuaries determine a system's assets; its liabilities as of a specific future date; incorporate assumptions such as investment return, employee turnover, and salary increases over time; and then determine the payments necessary to close to the unfunded liability (the difference between the actuarial accrued liability and the fund's assets).

According to the FY22 Audit Presentation by Renee Davis and Jessica Greene of Powers & Sullivan, LLC from April 25, 2023, Sudbury's OPEB Trust Fund balance was \$11.9 million, with an unfunded liability of \$48.2 million as of June 30, 2022. There is no set deadline to fully fund OPEB liabilities.

For pensions, Sudbury pays into the Middlesex County Retirement System (MCRS) - a defined benefit plan that provides retirement, disability, and survivor benefits to approximately 6,000 retirees and 10,000 active employees of 31 towns within Middlesex County.

## FROM THE SELECT BOARD

### *Future Costs for Today's Services, Continued*

As part of MCRS, Sudbury's proportionate share of net pension liability as of 12/31/2021 was \$54.6 million, leading to a budgeted contribution of \$6.4 million in FY24, included as part of the Employee Benefits budget. The MCRS system has funded 61.14% of its pension obligations as of December 31, 2021.

Massachusetts has set a 2037 deadline for municipalities to fully fund pension obligations.

Some Massachusetts towns are concerned that Pension and OPEB obligations may grow faster than contributions are made - which could wind up consuming an ever-larger portion of the general budget - have taken some creative steps toward aggressively or even fully funding their OPEB and Pension obligations.

Whatever the approach and whatever the amount, contributions toward future costs are a significant part of today's budget.

### *The Broader Context for Sudbury: Climate Change and Sustainability*

**BY JENNIFER ROBERTS, SELECT BOARD**

Throughout the past year, there has been strong progress in Sudbury towards steps to fight climate change and foster sustainability. At the recent July 25th Select Board Meeting, Sudbury Sustainability Coordinator, Dani Marini-King, presented an update on new and ongoing sustainability initiatives, including completion of the pivotal Climate Mobilization Action Plan. Dani has also provided an update of this work that can be found in this Municipal Update on page 14.

In this Select Board article, I will review with Sudbury residents the global and state context we are operating in - as climate change action unfolds in our own community!

In recent years, there have been multiple eye-opening and dire reports by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), warning of the impacts of climate change and calling for action by leaders and communities across the globe. In 2023, the IPCC released the AR6 Synthesis Report for Climate Change, stating that "Climate Change is a threat to human well-being and planetary health. There is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all." The message is clear that around the globe and in every community like Sudbury, we must take immediate action to fight climate change.

Fortunately, there has been significant anti-climate change State legislation in Massachusetts throughout the past two years. In 2021, a bill called the Next Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy was passed by the Massachusetts legislature and signed by Governor Baker. This legislation

# FROM THE SELECT BOARD

## *Climate Change and Sustainability, Continued*

sets goals for the state to achieve “net zero” emissions by 2050, with interim benchmarks of 50% by 2030 and 75% by 2040. The new law also adds climate goals to the Department of Utilities priorities, increases demand for renewable energy, incentivizes utility companies to pursue clean energy projects, sets EV and charging station targets, encourages more solar power, and more.

The next year in 2022, Governor Baker signed An Act Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind bill into law. The new law builds on the 2021 legislation, providing more details about how the state can meet climate targets and clean energy goals.

Early in 2023, new Governor Healey signed an executive order establishing the position of Climate Chief and creating an Office of Climate Innovation and Resilience within the Governor’s Office. In addition, each Cabinet Secretary is required to appoint a Climate Officer responsible for implementing climate-related efforts within their respective executive department, in consultation with the Climate Chief. No longer is fighting climate change limited to select departments, rather it is planned to be prioritized throughout the state government.

With the recent progress at the state level, municipalities like Sudbury are seeking to understand how to do their parts as these critical and ambitious goals are set. In Fall 2021, the Select Board set as a top goal “Climate Change & Sustainability Initiatives” and held a robust Sustainability-oriented Town Forum in July 2022. (Available for viewing on SudburyTV).

In May 2022, Sudbury Town Meeting proactively passed its own Climate Emergency

Declaration (Article 58). The citizen petition called for the hiring of a Sustainability-dedicated staff member in Sudbury as well as community greenhouse gas emissions reductions (as soon as possible and no slower than state benchmarks signed into law), development of a Climate Mobilization Action Plan, and regular related updates for the public. During this time, Sudbury’s own Energy and Sustainability Committee continued to advance important measures, including a plan to put solar on the Town’s Department of Public Works building and consultations to enhance the energy efficiency of the new Fairbank Community Center.

Throughout the past year, critical developments included the Town partnering with Andrew Blair, a Harvard Graduate student, in developing a Climate Mobilization Action Plan and the hiring of new Sustainability Coordinator Dani Marini-King. There is much work to be done, but fortunately there is now dedicated staff and community energy and momentum to help move things forward. I encourage all who live and work in Sudbury to follow this ongoing work through Town updates and Energy and Sustainability Committee meetings.

To conclude, it is becoming increasingly evident globally that aggressive, comprehensive, and collaborative action must be taken to combat the detrimental effects of climate change. In recent years, here in Massachusetts, there has been significant government action to start to lay out goals and plans, but ultimately the work must be conducted in every individual community, such as Sudbury. I thank Sudbury residents for their support of recent municipal sustainability initiatives, and I encourage all to do their part every day to protect the future of our planet.



# TOWN FORUM: RESIDENTS SHAPING SUDBURY'S FUTURE

VOTING & VOLUNTEERISM



**Oct 12, 2023**

**7 - 8:30 PM**

**HYBRID EVENT**

Town Hall - 322 Concord Rd

Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us>

[/j/84914794891](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84914794891)

## FEATURING

**Lisa Kouchakdjian**, Select Board Vice-Chair

**Andrew Sheehan**, Town Manager

**Kirsten Roopenian**, Community Leader

**Leila Frank**, Information Officer

Questions? [TownForum@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:TownForum@sudbury.ma.us)

7 PM Meet & Greet  
7:30-8:30 PM Program with Q&A

Light refreshments served