

Municipal Update



Town staff attended this year's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program (MVP) Award Announcement on August 1, 2024 at Leominster Town Hall. Locally Grown Sudbury received \$92,500. Left to right: Assistant Library Director Karen Tobin, Health Director Vivian Zeng, Sustainability Coordinator Dani Marini-King, Town Manager Andrew Sheehan, Governor Maura Healey and Library Director Esme Green. Congratulations to Dani and the team on this important accomplishment!

Voting in 2024

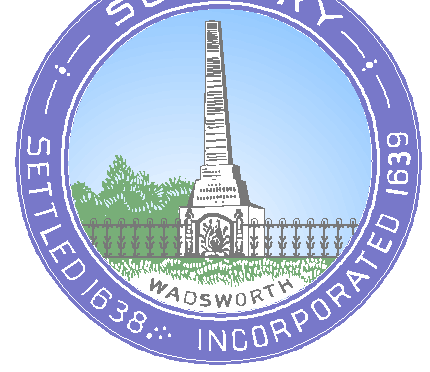
Presidential elections always generate high turnout and we expect a great turnout this year. But that's just one piece of the story. There are a total of four elections this year. We have two down and two more to go. In March, we had our Annual Town Election in which local officials were elected. These include Select Board, School Committee, Town Moderator, and others. In May, we had the Presidential Primary Election.

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FROM THE SELECT BOARD

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by Janie Dretler



Goodnow Library
by Dan Carty



Voting in 2024, cont...

Next up is the **State Primary Election** scheduled for Tuesday, Sept 3, the day after Labor Day. The State Primary chooses the candidates for certain State and Federal offices. These include State Representative, State Senator, United States Senator, and other offices. However, this is not a year in which State constitutional officers like Governor and State Treasurer are elected. However, this is not a year in which State constitutional officers like Governor and State Treasurer are elected. You can get all the details for the State Primary Election at <https://sudbury.ma.us/clerk/?p=4122>.

Early and Absentee Voting remain options for all elections. Those voting in-person before election day still do so at Town Hall, 322 Concord Road. Vote by mail is also available.

All in-person voting on election day will take place at the new **Fairbank Community Center**. This includes precincts 4 and 6, which previously voted at Town Hall. We believe having all precincts vote in the same location will reduce confusion while improving the efficiency of the operation.

And while we're on the topic of voting, did you know you can weigh in on matters involving your town via **Flashvote**? The Town needs your input on topics such as the Sewataro property, COVID impacts, Sudbury's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American revolution and more. With Flashvote, we send a quick survey to residents who sign up. At the close of the survey, we get feedback from hundreds of residents to help us determine next steps regarding the topic. It's quick to sign up and take part, and it's a powerful way to weigh in on actionable topics without having to set foot at town meeting. Sign up and learn more at <https://sudbury.ma.us/townmanager/?p=890>.

Finally, if it's not already on your calendar, the **Presidential Election** will be held on Tuesday, November 5. It's sure to be a historic election, and we look forward to seeing you at the polls. Keep an eye out for details at <https://sudbury.ma.us/clerk/?p=2346>.

Thanks, as always, for reading this newsletter.

Andy Sheehan
Town Manager



Thursday
August 29, 2024
1 PM - 2 PM
Flynn Building
278 Old Sudbury Road
2nd Floor (Silva Room)



IMPORTANT VOTER INFORMATION

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 54, Section 24, The Town of Sudbury has consolidated polling locations.

Town Hall is no longer a voting location.

Registered voters in ALL Sudbury precincts, including precincts 4&6, vote at Fairbank Community Center on Election Day.

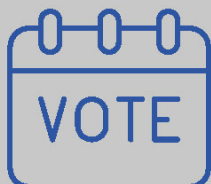
NEW VOTING LOCATION

★ FAIRBANK COMMUNITY CENTER ★

40 Fairbank Rd, Sudbury MA 01776

FOR ALL PRECINCTS

In-person Early Voting will continue to take place at Town Hall. Please see website for details.



Click here for
[Voting Calendar](#)

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

State Primary Election

September 3, 2024

Presidential Election

November 5, 2024



Broadacres Is the Place for Me

BY ROBERT BOSSO, CONSERVATION ASSISTANT

What is it about old New England farms that is so appealing? Buttressed by forest or marsh, there is a sense of history and quiet dignity imbuing the jumbling field stone walls, the unkempt meadows, the ancient shade trees. Perhaps they evoke the ideal landscape, embedded deeply within the Pleistocene of our subconscious?

Regardless, they are a precious commodity, increasingly rare with the passage of time, as one-by-one they are converted to other economic purposes. If not that, then they are often left to be smothered beneath a shag of aggressive invasive plants. The end result is the same: the farm is eventually lost to living memory, its existence attested only by an archival photo, or maybe a label on an old map. Every so often, however, circumstances allow for a different outcome.

Broadacres, cont.

Once part of a larger horse farm owned by Honora Haynes, Broadacres Farm (aka Broadacre, Broad Acres, and Broad Acre; the jury is still out) is the newest addition to the Sudbury Conservation Department's portfolio of protected open spaces. The property is bordered to the west and south by the extensive wetlands of the Wake Robin parcel. Across Morse Road to the east is the remaining portion of the Broadacre purchase, which is administered by other Town departments, and where the original riding arena still stands. Here also runs the corridor where once the trains of the Lowell and Framingham Railroad Company trundled past.

Taking advantage of the open meadows and wetlands, wildlife abounds: great blue heron, deer, and dragonflies. On a sweltering summer day, you might notice a commotion emanating from a mulberry tree playing host to a raucous assortment of avian visitors. On other days, there is little to disturb the bucolic stillness.

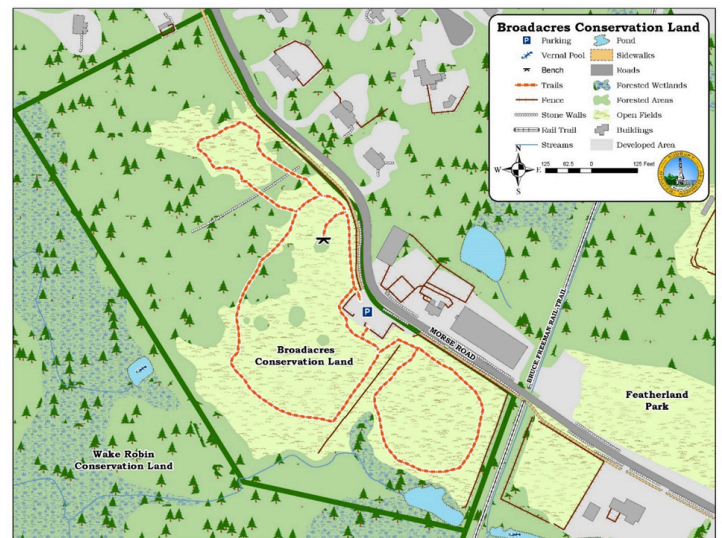
Purchased in July of 2019, Broadacres sits close to the center of town, along Morse Road just beyond Featherland Park. In a [Town Hall Forum](#) held in November of that same year, participants expressed a desire to preserve the agricultural nature of the property, while adding walking trails. This common vision is now being translated into reality. The Conservation Department's Land Manager, Joe Miller, has been busy scouting out the terrain and mowing walking paths through the meadow grasses, which can reach chest-high in summer. With the help of volunteers, a large volume of brush has been cleared, including the ubiquitous invasive bittersweet, to reveal the pasture fences. To polish it off, he has produced a brand-new trail map to add to the existing [collection](#).

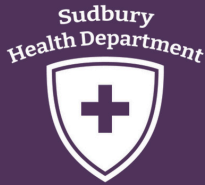
Plans for the future include the repair of the split-rail fence near the parking lot. Building on the success of the pollinator meadow at the Davis Farm Conservation Land, the Department will also introduce its own home-grown native plant seedlings in an effort to augment and diversify the existing plant population of

Broadacres. This will be the first such project since the Department's planting initiative was kicked off earlier this year.

That's all well and good, but there is something even bigger coming down the (former) track. Once the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is officially open to the public, and after a quick pass of the brush mower, Broadacres will be subsumed into the broader network of Sudbury's open spaces. Stepping onto the Rail Trail and heading left will transport you into North Sudbury, where such attractions as the pollinator meadow at Davis Farm await, as does Frost Farm with its prominent rock outcropping and double log stringer footbridge. If instead you go right towards the center, you will immediately arrive at other Town-owned open spaces, including the Howe and Parkinson properties.

Broadacre Farm is a testament to the community's dedication to preserving and enhancing its historic and natural heritage. Clearly, many of us see something worth preserving in an old New England farm, but what exactly is that "something"? You are invited to spend time there, and maybe find your own answer.





THE SUDBURY HEALTH
DEPARTMENT PRESENTS



Voices of Hope: Overdose Awareness Event

Join us to remember those affected by overdose, raise awareness, and renew hope together as a community.

State Representative Carmine Gentile will be joining us to share an inspiring message of hope.

Thursday, September 5th
5:00pm - 7:00pm

SUDBURY "THE GRANGE" HALL
326 CONCORD RD

Join us to raise awareness and break the silence on overdose!

CONNECT WITH



A peer-led support network for families dealing with addiction and recovery



An organization with the goal of forming a collective voice to educate on the value of recovery



A non-profit committed to supporting those facing disabilities and other life challenges

Mortgage Assistance Program (MAP) Ed

BY SUDBURY HOUSING TRUST

The Sudbury Housing Trust is pleased to continue to provide the Mortgage Assistance Program (MAP) to Sudbury residents. If eligible, the Program will provide mortgage assistance in the form of a grant to be paid directly to lenders.

APPLY NOW



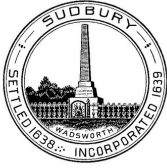
Program Details

- Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, and eligibility is determined.
- If approved, Owner provides Lender's W9, and Owner and Trust sign Participation Agreement.
- Town issues payment/s payable to the Lender, forwarded by Owner to Lender. Owner is responsible for remaining amounts for taxes and insurance portion of payment.

Grant Amount

Up to \$3,000 of assistance, in monthly payments payable to the holder of first mortgage, towards arrears of outstanding principal or upcoming payment. Other housing costs (e.g., condo fees, escrowed insurance or taxes, home equity line of credit, or second mortgages, etc.) are not covered expenses.





Town of Sudbury

Board of Health

Sudbury Health Department
275 Old Lancaster Road
Sudbury, MA 01776
978-440-5479
Health@sudbury.ma.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 15, 2024

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) Virus Confirmed in Mosquitoes in Sudbury

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) announced today that Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus has been detected in mosquitoes collected from Sudbury, Massachusetts. There are currently no human cases.

EEE is a rare but serious illness spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. While EEE can infect people of all ages, people under 15 years of age or over 50 years of age are at greatest risk for serious illness.

By taking a few, common sense precautions, people can help to protect themselves and their loved ones:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

- **Apply Insect Repellent** when you go outdoors. Use a repellent with **DEET** (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), **permethrin**, **picaridin** (KBR 3023), **IR3535** or **oil of lemon eucalyptus** [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets and camping gear and should not be applied to skin.
- **Clothing Can Help** reduce mosquito bites. Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot, wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- **Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours** - The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. When risk is increased, consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning. If you are outdoors at any time and notice mosquitoes around you, take steps to avoid being bitten by moving indoors, covering up and/or wearing repellent.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

- **Drain Standing Water** – Many mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or getting rid of items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change water in birdbaths frequently.
- **Install or Repair Screens** - Keep mosquitos outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all your windows and doors.

While Sudbury continues to work closely with the MDPH and other agencies, locally we are actively working closely with East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project to conduct additional truck mounted spraying beginning Monday August 19th, 2024. Additional mosquito surveillance will take place in the community.

Information about EEE and reports of current and historical EEE virus activity in Massachusetts can be found on the MDPH website at mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-arbovirus-update.



Community Preservation Committee Now Accepting Applications

BY COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

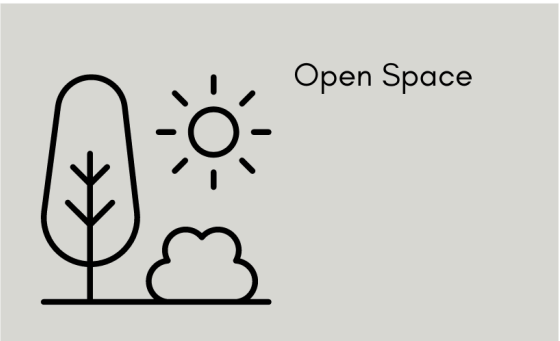
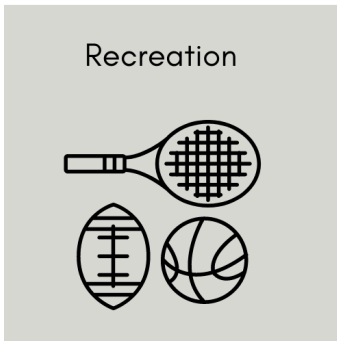
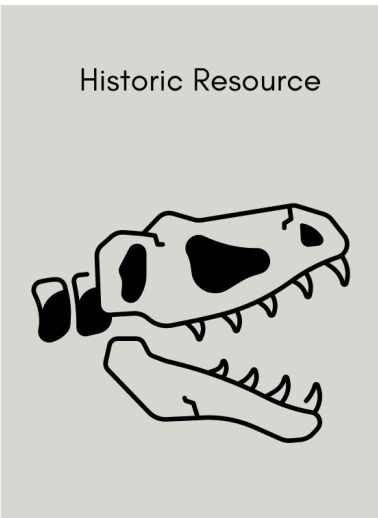
The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is now accepting proposals for projects that may qualify for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding to be presented at the May 2025 Annual Town Meeting. Proposals can be submitted under any of the following three areas:

- 1) acquisition, creation, and preservation of **open space** and acquisition, creation, preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of land for **recreational** use;
- 2) acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of **historic resources** and;
- 3) acquisition, creation, preservation, and support of **community housing**.

Click on the following link to download the application form:

[FY26-Project Form](#)

Applications should be submitted to the CPC as soon as possible and no later than 12:30 PM on Friday, September 6, 2024.



**Applications Due
Sept 6, 2024**

Have you experienced any of the following?

- 1 Extreme heat
- 2 Flooding
- 3 Intense storms/strong winds
- 4 None of the above

**Sudbury wants to hear about it!
TAKE THE SURVEY**

<https://mapc.ma/ClimateConversations>

Women's Equality Day

August 26

Labor Day

TOWN OFFICES
CLOSED

Monday
September 2, 2024

Lives Lost to Opioid Overdoses

IN MASSACHUSETTS IN 2023

WHITE FLAGS REPRESENT LIVES LOST IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY

THIS VISUAL REPRESENTATION AIMS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE OPIOID CRISIS AND ITS IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY.

SELECT
BOARD

OFFICE HOURS



Lisa Kouchakdjian



Dan Carty

Wednesday, AUGUST 28
12 PM
via Zoom

Committee Vacancies

Get involved with the town and serve your community!

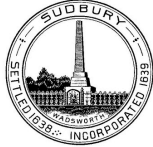
ZONING BOARD
OF APPEALS



COMMISSION ON
DISABILITY

COMMUNITY
PRESERVATION
COMMITTEE





Town of Sudbury

Planning & Community Development Department

pcd@sudbury.ma.us

Flynn Building
278 Old Sudbury Road
Sudbury, MA 01776
978-639-3387
Fax : 978-639-3314
www.sudbury.ma.us/pcd

To: Sudbury Residents and Businesses

From: Marcia Rasmussen, Planning Development Assistant - Rail Trails project coordinator

Re: Update on Sudbury Rail Trail Projects

Date: July 25, 2024

PUBLIC TAKE NOTICE – the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is still an active construction zone and is CLOSED to the public. Using the trail is at your own risk – please observe caution if you insist on using the path. Safety features, such as traffic signals, flashing beacons, pavement markings, and signs have not yet been installed.

Town officials are very concerned about the numbers of people already using the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail while it is an active construction zone, crossing public ways without taking notice of traffic conditions, and trespassing over private property abutting the trail. The official completion date, per the contract, is June 2025.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase-2D Construction

- Fuss & O'Neill submitted 3 Field Inspection Reports since the last update, which have been posted to the Town's BFRT webpage. Look for the blue Field Inspections Reports Icon.
- Replacement of the 8-inch pipe under the rail bed at Fairview Farm has been installed.
- New traffic signals have been installed at the intersections of Peakham Road and Hudson Road in Sudbury Center and at North Road and Windmill Drive. These signals will be activated soon, now that power has been provided to them. Additional flashing beacon signals are being installed on Pantry Road, Haynes Road, Morse Road, Old Lancaster Road and Codjer Lane.
- A consultant to provide Graphic Design Services and assist with the Interpretive Panels (both large and small) and 3 orientation maps has been selected and the contract is in the works. An initial meeting with the volunteers is planned for late July.



Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase-3 Design

- The Boston MPO Board met on Thursday, June 6th and voted to approve the final FFY2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which includes 50% construction funding for Phase 3 in FFY2029. The remaining 50% funding is anticipated to be added to next year's TIP in FFY2030.
- Engineering Design consultant Fuss & O'Neill finalized the 25% design submission package and delivered it to MassDOT on June 20th. These plans have been posted to the Town's Rail Trail webpage – look for the green icon.
- The Town of Sudbury received news on Tuesday, June 17th that the MassTrails grant in the amount of \$250,000 has been awarded for the next



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phase of design for the BFRT Phase 3! I attended the celebration event in Holliston on Friday, June 20th when the announcements were released.



- The final report for the MassTrails grant which funded a significant portion of the 25% Design for Phase 3 was submitted by Friday, July 12th. We are now working to provide documentation for reimbursement funds in the amount of \$192,000.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail – Framingham

- Sudbury Town Counsel prepared a draft Inter-Municipal Agreement regarding access to 200 feet of the Framingham-owned former railroad right-of-way to extend the rail trail to Eaton Road W. in Framingham. The document is currently being reviewed by the Framingham City Solicitor.
- The Framingham Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Trails Committee met on Thursday, July 11th, where I had the opportunity to introduce myself and provide an update on Phase 3. I've also reached out to the Traffic Commission in Framingham for guidance and recommendations to address parking concerns expressed by residents of Eaton Road West at the April public forum.

Mass Central Rail Trail

- Eversource continues its work to construct a new 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line underground within the former MBTA railroad corridor, with the projected in-service date of the first quarter 2025. Massachusetts DCR will then complete the paving and other amenities proposed for the trail.
- Cut and fill/Grading/Gravel installation and Loam installation work is underway in Sudbury from Peakham Road to Union Ave. and from Bridge 127 to Sudbury Substation. Timber rail post installation is in progress at Bridge 127. Erosion & Sedimentation repairs and hydroseeding is in progress along the right-of-way.

Updates Sudbury Rail Trails
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Get the latest updates, project plans, field inspection reports and more at
<https://sudbury.ma.us/pcd/?p=354>

Homeowner Tips from the DPW

Compost versus Fertilizer



Green Your Lawn, Save Our Water: The Compost Advantage

Nourish your lawn with compost instead of commercial fertilizers. Compost provides all the essential nutrients your lawn needs, while also helping to reduce pollution in your community. Unlike store-bought fertilizers, which can wash into runoff and contaminate waterways, leading to harmful algae blooms and fish die-offs, compost is a natural and eco-friendly alternative. By choosing compost, you not only save money but also help protect our water quality.



Be septic smart!

by keeping up with your septic tank maintenance! Ideally, you should have your tank inspected every 1-3 years and pumped every 3-5 years. This proactive approach helps identify leaks and malfunctions early, preventing pollution of local waterways.

Septic Tank Maintenance



METROWEST REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
 Public Transportation System
 15 Blandin Ave Framingham, MA 01702
 Ph. (508) 935 2222 • Fax (508) 935 2225 • www.mwrta.com

Sudbury / Wayland Boston Hospital Shuttle

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

On this service, Customers living in Sudbury and Wayland can be picked up directly from their home address

Shuttle runs on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday only

Times are approximate and based on trips scheduled. Specific travel times will be provided the night before via automated voicemails. Please discuss your scheduled medical appointment times when booking your trip with Call Center staff to help find the best trip, and ensure that you get to your appointment on time. Customers should contact the hospital for any additional needs (i.e. Wheelchair from vehicle). For rider safety and appointment promptness, please have the exact address available that you would like to travel to when calling to book your trip.

The Sudbury/Wayland Boston Hospital Shuttle will pick up and drop off Sudbury and Wayland residents at their homes. The return trip to Sudbury and Wayland--and dropping off of Sudbury and Wayland residents--will take place once all returning riders are picked up from the booked stops. This will take about 45 minutes from the last booked location.

The 3:00 PM Shuttle is the last shuttle that will drop off and pick up in Boston. Riders booking this run cannot book both in and out of Boston on the same run. Riders using this to go into Boston will need to find alternative ways home. Please contact the Senior Center / Council on Aging for additional transportation options. Shuttle will only stop at pre-booked locations. If you have any questions regarding the Hospital Shuttle service, please contact the MWRTA Call Center at (508) 820-4650 between 8:00am -4:00 pm. For issues with booked trips after hours, use the same # and press option 2 to speak to dispatch.

Revised: 7/2024 Document is subject to revision.

Possible Stop Locations	Pick Up & Drop Off Times		
Sudbury Departures	8:00 AM	11:00 AM	3:00 PM
Wayland Departures	8:15 AM	11:15 AM	3:15 PM
Newton Wellesley Hospital	8:45 AM	11:45 AM	3:45 PM
Jamaica Plain VA	Starting at 9:15 AM	Starting at 12:15 PM	Starting at 4:15 PM
New England Baptist	Based on Bookings	Based on Bookings	Based on Bookings
Mass Eye and Ear (Huntington)	↓	↓	↓
Brigham and Womens			
Dana Farber Cancer Institute			
Joslin Clinic			
Beth Israel Deaconess			
Mass General via Parkman St			
Mass Eye and Ear (Longwood)			
End Time In Boston (Approx):	10:00 AM	1:00 PM	5:15 PM
Return to Sudbury and Wayland Destinations (Approx)	10:45 AM	1:45 PM	6:00 PM

To learn more, visit the [MWRTA](http://www.mwrta.com) website or contact the Senior Center at [\(978\) 443-3055](tel:9784433055).



**SHARE YOUR OPINIONS
MAKE YOUR TOWN BETTER**



**Make your voice
HEARD.**

Sign up today.

Resident input is essential to the town's decision-making process. FlashVote sends one-minute surveys on important local matters to residents who sign up to share their opinions. When each survey ends, FlashVote sends the anonymized results to everyone who participated, and the town gets valuable feedback from the community.



[SUDBURY.MA.US/FLASHVOTE](https://sudbury.ma.us/flashvote)

FROM THE SELECT BOARD

Summer 2024

Town of Sudbury

How Town Goals are Established in Sudbury

BY JENNIFER ROBERTS,
SELECT BOARD

#GOALS

Each year, the Town of Sudbury reviews its goals and priorities for the upcoming year so it can determine how to commit critical staff time and funding. Many of these goals are long-standing or multi-year goals, and others may emerge due to newly identified needs or requirements.

In the Fall the Select Board has a goal-setting process, where typically five to six high priority goals are identified. The Select Board's 2023-2024 goals can be found [here](#). This process considers the input of the Town Manager and Town staff who may present their recommendations at or in advance of the goal-setting meeting. The discussion is typically facilitated by a consultant from an outside organization such as The Collins Center which works with Massachusetts towns and cities. After hearing input from the Town Manager and Town staff, Select Board members then propose goals and provide justification. Once all the potential goals are laid out, Select Board members individually rank the goals in order of priority; the results are tallied to identify the final goals.

Once high priority goals are established, Select Board members are then assigned to be goal champions. Each goal liaison will further define individual goals and offer an action plan and deliverables to address them. These steps are again discussed and agreed upon by the full Select Board at a subsequent meeting.

Additionally, goals are set for Sudbury's Town Manager. These goals may reflect Select Board goals, or they may differ - particularly if they are related to operations or staff management. The establishment of Town Manager goals results from collaboration and dialogue between the Select Board and Town Manager.

Ideas for Town goals may be derived from a number of strategic plans developed in recent years, some which are broad-based and others more focused in nature. These plans include Sudbury's 2020 [Master Plan](#), 2019 [Municipal Vulnerability Plan](#), 2020 [ADA Evaluation & Transition Plan](#), and 2022 [Historic Preservation Plan](#). Other plans that are still underway include the Open Space & Recreation Plan, Field Assessment Study, Housing Production Plan, and Economic Development Study.

To the extent feasible, established goals for both the Select Board and Town Manager are created to be SMART goals: specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-based. In a municipal environment where staff time and financial resources are often limited, it is particularly important to adhere to rigorous goal-setting. This process helps all parties to be aligned and moving in the same direction for the betterment of the town.

This year's Select Board Goal-Setting session will occur on September 5, 2024 at 5:30pm.

FROM THE SELECT BOARD



Welcome To Our Social Workers Here to Support Our Community

BY LISA KOUCHAKDJIAN, SELECT BOARD

When we think about Town services, often what comes to mind first are departments like Public Works, the schools, or public safety. One of the most important services falls under our Health Department, our town social workers. During the COVID Pandemic, the necessity and importance of these services became more apparent. Social workers provide an extremely important role supporting residents and community members with varied needs. Whether it be a mental health crisis, housing issues, or food insecurity, our social workers play a pivotal role in helping community members through personal crises.

I had the opportunity to recently speak with our two social workers, Nina Lurie, LICSW and Kirstin Wilcox, MSW. Nina began her tenure with the Town of Sudbury in February of 2024. She brings 20 years of experience in the field of children and families, as well as elder services. Kirstin began her employment with the Town of Sudbury at the end of June. She comes to Sudbury with abundant experience working with youth and families. Her experience as a public-school teacher working with students with disabilities put her on a path to receiving her Master's Degree in Social Work.

I initially met Nina and Kirstin while visiting Gifts of Hope Unlimited. They were in the community, eagerly learning about the great work this organization is doing to meet the needs of community members. It was evident to me, experiencing Nina and Kirstin in the community and in speaking with them later, they make

a wonderful team and will prove to be a great asset for our community. At the present time, they are working to connect with community members, including in part, community volunteers, different committees, public safety services, the Senior Center, and the Sudbury Housing Authority. They will work with the public health nurse to address the needs of vulnerable populations in our community.

Nina and Kirstin are determining the ways to connect with community members. They are currently available for office and phone hours Monday through Friday 8-3:30. are also collaborating with the Senior Center to start quarterly discussions with community members on a variety of topics. Another goal they have is to update the town's social worker website. The website contains a great deal of important information for community members regarding the varied resources available. Nina and Kirstin are working on updating the [Social Worker web page](#) and providing additional current information for the community's benefit. This should be updated by the end of August.

If you, or anyone you know or love, is struggling with some challenge, and needs help, you can reach out to Nina and Kirstin at socialworker@sudbury.ma.us

Although Nina and Kirstin's office is located at the Department of Public Works Building, they are willing to meet people where they are, at their homes or some place in the community. We are very fortunate to have wonderful staff like Nina and Kirstin who are here to help our community.

Sudbury Community Social Workers



Nina Lurie, LICSW
LurieN@sudbury.ma.us
Office: 978-440-5476
Cell: 978-493-1814



Kirstin Wilcox, MSW
wilcoxk@sudbury.ma.us
Office: 978-440-5475
Cell: 978-246-3660

What We Do

Connect residents to resources for

- basic needs (food, clothing, housing)
- financial support
- mental health support
- connecting to the community
- help with state/federal benefits
- getting involved in community programs
- others- just ask!

General Email: socialworker@sudbury.ma.us

Scan the QR code to check out our website
filled with resources!



SCAN ME

FROM THE SELECT BOARD

A Warm Welcome to Victor Garofalo Sudbury's new Finance Director and Treasurer/Collector

BY JANIE DRETHER, SELECT BOARD

We are excited to introduce Victor Garofalo, who has recently joined the Town of Sudbury as the new Finance Director and Treasurer/Collector, reporting directly to Town Manager Andrew Sheehan. Victor began his role in mid-July, succeeding Dennis Keohane, who honorably served our community for over eight years. Victor generously took the time to share his thoughts and insights, providing our community with an opportunity to know him better and to gain a deeper understanding of his approach to municipal finance.

Victor, you have worked in municipal government for several years, specifically in the Town of Bedford and most recently in the Town of Dracut. Can you tell us more about your background and what interests you most about municipal finance?

I started in Bedford in 2003 as the Treasurer/Collector, and in 2011 upon the retirement of the long standing Finance Director, I worked with the Town Manager to restructure the Finance Department and we combined the position into a Finance Director, Treasurer/Collector. In January 2021, I accepted a position as the Finance Director, Town Accountant for the Town of Dracut. Shortly after that, I was promoted by the Town Manager, to Assistant Town Manager, Finance Director-Accountant. I am a certified Treasurer/Collector with the Massachusetts Treasurer/Collector Association, Certified Town Accountant with the Massachusetts Accountants and Auditors Association, and a Massachusetts Certified Public Procurement Official. I have a bachelor's degree in accounting. I received a Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management



from Suffolk University. I am also a past president of the Massachusetts Treasurer/Collectors Association, and was a member of the Executive board for 8 years. I also served on the Massachusetts Personnel and Labor Relations Policy Committee for 4 years.

I enjoy working in municipal finance, as it is rewarding and challenging work. Along with my experience and education as a financial professional, this position allows me to combine my analytical thinking with strategic problem solving when it comes to municipal finance. My hope is that my work will have long-lasting and meaningful impacts on the community I work for.

FROM THE SELECT BOARD

Finance Director Victor Garofalo, Continued

What financial challenges have you faced in the communities you have previously worked in?

In 2008, Bedford experienced a revenue shortfall due to state aid 9C cuts, along with a decrease in local receipts. The Town's Fiscal Planning and Coordinating Committee worked together to address these shortfalls. In 2010/11 the Town of Bedford was seeing higher increases in Health Insurance, and in order to address these increases, I worked with the Town Manager and Human Resources to convert the Town's health insurance plans to state's Group Insurance Commission (GIC). Recently I have worked with a consultant to address the increases in our energy costs, and secure fixed pricing for the next few fiscal years.

In the last few years Sudbury received a review of its Capital Improvement program by the Division of Local Services. Based on that report and with the help of our former finance director, the Select Board formalized its financial policies manual. Are there other financial areas that Sudbury should be addressing? For example, a recent article published by the GFOA suggests the communities may want to rethink how they look at reserves. Is this an area that you believe Sudbury should focus on?

The Town of Sudbury's Financial Policy is very detailed and outlines all areas that the Town should look at to safeguard public funds, protect local assets, and comply with financial standards and regulations. It also took into consideration all the suggestions made by the Division of Local Services. Although the GFOA article talks about a reserve policy anywhere between 15%-20% of a community annual revenue, I believe the Town's reserve policy of

10-12% set by the Town is a strong reserve policy, and Rating Agencies will also view this as a strong policy. Although having a higher reserve percentage would certainly be beneficial, it should be looked at based on a community's needs and risks. I also believe, as stated in the Town's Policy, that maintaining a Free Cash policy of 3-5% is a strong policy the community should strive for. It is also great to see that the Town has a policy to maintain a capital stabilization fund, which can address aging capital needs. The Town's Debt Management policy is very similar to the policy that I used in Bedford, and the range is set by the Town of Sudbury of 5-7%, but not greater than 10% is where I believe the Town should be to maintain its strong AAA rating. I also believe it is important to review your debt annually with your financial advisor, and look at refunding options. I have refunded bonds on 5 different occasions, saving over \$6M in interest cost. The Capital Improvement Plan is also very similar to what I have been involved with in my prior communities, and having a 5-year plan is very important to address your capital needs. Many communities have started to fund their OPEB liability, and Sudbury's policy certainly addresses this. The policy could also address what type of funding strategy Sudbury could use. In Bedford, we formed an OPEB Committee, and developed a funding strategy that the Town could commit to, and maintain.

What is your approach to budgeting and forecasting?

I believe the guidance that is put out by the Division of Local services, which states communities should use a moderately conservative approach when forecasting revenues is the best practice. Prop 2 ½ only allows a community to increase its tax levy by

FROM THE SELECT BOARD

Finance Director Victor Garofalo, Continued II

2.5, plus new growth. When it comes to local receipts and state aid, I believe you need to look at historical data, usually a 5-year lookback, and take into consideration what is happening in the economy at that time. Certain revenue factors will change during your budget process, i.e Governor's Budget and new growth. As these changes occur, a community could adjust their revenue forecast to reflect these changes. Using a conservative approach avoids a community from having to reduce its revenue forecast projections. Using a conservative approach also allows for a potential revenue gain that could be diverted to reserves or left unexpended which would close to free cash at year-end.

In forecasting expenditures, a community can opt to develop a maintenance (level service) budget or a level-funded budget, or it can specify percentages to increase or decrease costs (either across the board or by department). Depending on the circumstances and what your revenue forecast looks like, either of these approaches could be used. I believe you start your process by looking at your fixed costs, which includes the increase on health and dental insurance, general and property liability insurance, energy cost, debt, retirement assessment, and solid waste. You also need to look at the impact of multiyear collective bargaining agreements. You also need to review your capital plan, and how that fits into the budget projections.

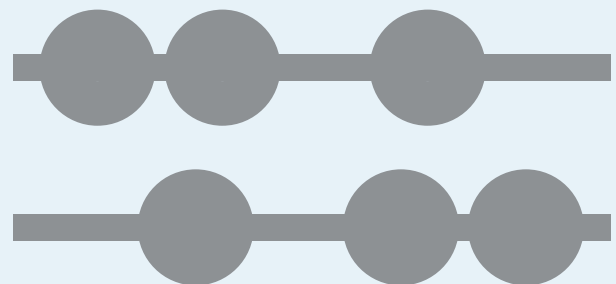
What financial challenges do you see in Sudbury or in municipal government in general?

I believe there are several challenges that face not only Sudbury, but many municipalities as a whole. Inflation is one of the biggest things impacting communities, which has resulted in higher Health Insurance, General/Liability Insurance, Energy, Refuse and Recycling costs. The cost to purchase goods and services has increased. Recruitment and retention of quality staff is another challenge, which could be contributed to competitive wages with other communities and competition with the private sector for certain positions. In addition, I am aware that management has identified a number of staffing needs that have not been able to be filled. We need to find a way to fit these in so we can improve our ability to deliver top notch services. State Aid is always a concern, and the fact that communities could be impacted by how much it receives. Aging infrastructure and the ability to pay to repair or replace is another challenge.

Victor, is there anything else you would like Sudbury to know?

I enjoy going to the gym, and biking. My fiancé (who also works in local government) and I also enjoy cruising, and our favorite place to visit is Bermuda. I have a 23 year old daughter, who graduated from UMass Amherst last year, and recently returned from teaching in Thailand.

Thank you, Victor, for addressing our questions. As you continue to familiarize yourself with Sudbury, we hope you find your time here both rewarding and enjoyable.



FROM THE SELECT BOARD

Happenings at the Goodnow Library

BY DAN CARTY, SELECT BOARD



It may be summer but there is a lot of action and activity at the Goodnow Library. The “Read, Renew, Repeat” is the Library’s 2024 summer reading program where kids from birth through rising 5th graders are invited to learn creative ways to care for our planet and themselves. Fun programs and activities to get children excited about reading will continue all summer long including Summer Sweets & Science, LEGO Club, craft programs, special performers and more. The summer reading program will conclude the evening of August 8 at a special Rolie Polie Guacamole Band & Ice Cream Party.

Speaking of sustainability, the library is a member of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative, and Director Esmé Green is participating in a four-week e-course called Sustainable Librarianship: Core Competencies and Practices with librarians across the nation. This is a preliminary step towards sustainability certification for the library.

The Goodnow is collaborating with the Health Department and Sustainability Coordinator to host a farmers’ market. A grant was applied for to promote good health, increase accessibility to locally grown produce, educate community on growing food, nutrition, sustainable choices. Should the library win the grant they will hold two pilot farmer’s markets in town, perhaps at the library, including coupon books for low-income families to purchase food at the markets. Watch the Goodnow website regarding a community wide read of Barbara Kingsolver’s book “Animal, Vegetable, Miracle.”

Recently the Goodnow received a two year, \$20K grant from the Board of Library Commissioners for “Unearthing Sudbury’s Indigenous History”. They are working on recruiting a researcher who can collect and digitize records spread across locations in the MetroWest area for an archive at Goodnow. The second component is gathering oral histories from native elders by young people. Stay tuned for more information!

The Library recently became a member of the Massachusetts Coalition to Build Community & End Loneliness. One of its initiatives is Good Neighbor Day. The library will be participating by hosting a block party with music and activities as a strategy to combat isolation and end loneliness. Sat, Sep 28.

And finally, this is a very busy election year and thus the Goodnow Library is a National Voter Registration Day (9/17) partner. The library will host an event and share voter information. All this and more can be found at the library’s excellent website: <https://goodnowlibrary.org/>.



Town of Sudbury

HOLIDAY VILLAGE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

11AM - 2PM

HISTORIC TOWN CENTER

Intersection of Old Sudbury & Concord Rd



SAVE THE DATE