



Town of Wenham

Town Hall
138 Main Street
Wenham, MA 01984

Selectmen / Town Administrator
TEL 978-468-5520 FAX 978-468-8014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Selectmen
FROM: Peter Lombardi, Town Administrator
RE: Town Administrator's Report
DATE: April 14, 2016

Storm Water Permits

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region 1) finally released their long overdue Small MS4 general permits for Massachusetts earlier this week. These updated federal regulations regarding storm water management have been delayed for the past several years due to concerns expressed by local and state government officials. They are now set to go into effect on July 1, 2017, so we do have time to prepare. While some modifications were made to the regulations after the public comment period based on the considerable and strident feedback from municipalities, these permits will still be significantly more burdensome on cities and towns and will ultimately amount to yet another unfunded mandate.

While the Town has done some work in anticipation of these regulatory changes, including approval of a Storm Water Management Bylaw (Chapter XXIV of our general Town Bylaws), we need to understand the specific implications for Wenham now that the final permits have been issued. There is a regional workshop in mid-May that Bill Tyack and I will be attending, after which I will report back to the Board with additional information. We will also continue to consult with our engineering partners at Weston and Sampson.

Essex Street Culvert Project

Bid submissions for this project were due on Thursday April 14. The apparent low bidder came in significantly under our \$500k grant funded budget, even after accounting for details and construction phase engineering services. We are in the process of checking references and are looking to execute a contract in the next week or two, with the goal of mobilizing onsite in early summer.

Community Service Partnership

Based on the success of our recent efforts to bolster the Senior Tax Work-off program, we are now working with the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District to offer our high school students the opportunity to meet their annual community service requirements by volunteering their services in various capacities with the Town. Kudos to Nicci Roebuck for taking the initiative to organize this new offering and for coordinating the ongoing scheduling logistics.