



Town of Abington

500 GLINIEWICZ WAY
ABINGTON, MA 02351

TO: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FROM: TOWN MANAGER
DATE: March 7, 2014
SUBJ: GENERAL UPDATE

The following is meant to be a general update of activities of the Town Manager and staff. Should any member desire more information regarding any particular matter please contact me personally.

1. Financial – The FINCOM is schedule to conclude its budget discussion with departments this coming week. At that point I will be providing them and the Board with a preliminary FY 2015 proposal that should be the basis for deliberation.
2. Old Colony Planning Council – This week we had an internal “kick off” meeting that included members of our SAGE committee with regard to the two approved technical assistance requests from the town:
 - a. Green Community consultation services to assist the SAGE Committee and the town in providing the town with the opportunity to adopt the necessary requirements to be Green Community certified. Doing so would open the door for significant grant opportunities, however the requirements do include a zoning change as well as acceptance of the so-called “Stretch Code”. Educating all of us and the public on the impacts and benefits of both will be a big part of the effort by OCPC understanding that this is not going to happen at our 2014 annual town meeting; and,
 - b. Preparing a “Guide to Doing Business in Abington”. We determined during our discussion that we would probably be better served by having two separate documents: one that is directed towards business and another that is directed specifically towards the needs of a homeowner who has little or no experience dealing with the town for projects (additions, renovations, etc.)
3. Peer to Peer project - We had a “kick off” meeting with regard to this project also. In addition we finally received from the state the appropriate contract information that is necessary before we could actually begin incurring project costs. This is intended to map out a strategy to address the issue of community aesthetics, etc. and we are currently reacting to the requests for appropriate information necessary to assist our peer “consultant” in helping us.
4. Veteran’s Service District – Since our last meeting the Whitman Board of Selectmen has voted to submit a joint application. This will be submitted this coming week and we anticipate a speedy response from the Dept. of Veterans Affairs.
5. Memorial Arch – We opened bids on Wednesday for the Masonry work, which constitutes by far the majority of the project. You may recall that this is the second bidding process due to the fact that all of the responses in our first bidding effort would have put the project beyond the budgeted amount. The bids are currently under review by the project manager and we are hopeful that the low bid is indeed responsive so that we may move forward soon with the restoration.
6. Union negotiations – I was intending to discuss the status at the March 10 meeting of the Board but, due to the ever shifting landscape, an update on March 24 I believe will be more productive.
7. **REPEAT ITEM** – We have our Landfill engineering consultant Steven Wright and a representative from our Audit firm set up to meet with the Board on March 24.