

**TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
NORTHBRIDGE TOWN HALL
7 MAIN STREET - WHITINSVILLE, MA 01588
February 10, 2014 AT 6:30 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Present: Representative George Peterson, Senator Michael O. Moore, Senator Richard T. Moore, Finance Committee & School Committee

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS

III. APPOINTMENTS

IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT

V. DECISIONS

- A. National Grid and Verizon New England / Petition for a joint pole relocation on Quaker Street to remove old pole line in woods and relocate to the side of Quaker Street [Plan #15750245, dated 1/13/14]/Vote to approve**
- B. Young Neighbors In Action – St. Patrick's Church [Gracia Casey]/Request permission to hold a 5K Road Race on Saturday, May 31, 2014 @ 9:00 A.M. to fundraise on behalf of World Youth Day**
- C. FEMA Flood Plain Mapping**
- D. Sewer Charges**

VI. DISCUSSIONS

- E. The Grill [John Pardee]/Fee for Transfer of All Alcohol Common Victualler License**
- F. Blackstone Valley Regional Recycling Center Proposal**
- G. Departmental Updates [July through December]/Present: Walter Warchol, Police Chief, R. Gary Bechtholdt, Town Planner, and Kelly Bol, Council on Aging**

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- H. 1) Snow Removal Update**
- 2) Tax Title Property Auction**
- 3) WRTA Bus Program**
- 4) Assessors – Property Tax Analysis**
- 5) Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce – Businesses inquiry**

VIII. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS

IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

X. CORRESPONDENCE

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30PM

- 1) Under M.G.L. Chapter 30A, S21 #3 – To discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiations**

THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

nationalgrid

2/10/14 agenda
1/23/14 J. Shuris
A.
RECEIVED

JAN 21 2014

Northbridge Town Manager

January 13, 2014

Town of Northbridge
Board of Selectmen
7 Main Street
Whitinsville, MA 01588

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find a petition of NATIONAL GRID and VERIZON, covering joint NATIONAL GRID-VERIZON pole locations

If you have any questions regarding this permit please contact:

Angela Birch 401-784-7726

Please notify National Grid's Angela Birch of the hearing date / time at 401-784-7726 or
angela.birch@us.ngrid.com

If this petition meets with your approval, please return an executed copy to each of the above named Companies.

National Grid Contact: Angela Birch; 280 Melrose Street; Providence, RI 02907

Very truly yours,

Chris Montalto *CM*

Chris Montalto, Engineering
Supervisor, Distribution Design

Enclosures

Board of Selectmen
Copy

PETITION FOR JOINT POLE RE-LOCATIONS

Hopedale, MA 01747

February 20, 2013

To the Board of Selectmen
of the Town of Northbridge, Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY and VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC.

request permission to relocate poles, wires, cables and fixtures, including anchors, guys and other such necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way or ways:-

Quaker Street

**Nationa Grid to remove old pole line in woods and relcoate to the side
of Quaker Street.**

Wherefore they ask that they be granted a joint relocation for and permission to erect and maintain poles, wires, cables and fixtures to be placed thereon, together with anchors, guys and other such sustaining and protecting fixtures as they must find necessary, said poles to be located substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked: Plan No. **15750245** Dated: **01/13/2014**

Also for permission to lay and maintain underground cables conduits, wires and necessary equipment in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

Your petitioners agree to reserve space for one cross arm at a suitable point on each of said poles for the fire, police, telephone and telegraph signal wires belonging to the municipality and used by it exclusively for municipal purposes.

MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY

By: Chris Montalvo
Manager of Distribution Design

VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC.

By: [Signature]
Manager, R.O.W.

ORDER FOR JOINT POLE RELOCATION

Hopedale, MA 01747

February 20, 2013

By the Board of Selectmen
of the Town of Northbridge, Massachusetts

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

that **MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY and VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC.**
be and they are hereby granted a joint relocation for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires
to be replaced thereon, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as said Companies may deem
necessary, in the public way or ways hereinafter referred to, as requested in petition of said Companies dated
the **13th day of January, 2014**

All construction under this order shall be in accordance with the following conditions:-
Poles shall be sound and timber, and reasonably straight, and shall be set substantially at the points
indicated upon the plan marked:

Plan No. **15750245** Dated: **01/13/2014** filed with said petition.

There may be attached to said poles by said **MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY** necessary wires,
cables and fixtures and by said **VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC.** not to exceed **40** wires and **4** cables and
all of said wires and cables shall be placed at a height of not less than **18** feet from the ground at highway
crossings, and not less than 16 feet from the ground elsewhere.

The following are the public ways or parts of ways along which the poles above referred to may be erected,
and the number of poles which may be erected thereon under this order:-

Quaker Street

**Nationa Grid to remove old pole line in woods and relcoate to the side
of Quaker Street.**

Also that permission be and herby is granted to each of said Companies to lay and maintain underground
cables, conduits, wires and necessary equipment in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose
of making connections with such poles and buildings as each may desire for distributing purposes.

I hereby certify that the foregoing order was adopted at a meeting of the Board of Selectmen
of the Town of Northbridge, Massachusetts held on the _____ day of _____ 2013

Clerk of Selectmen

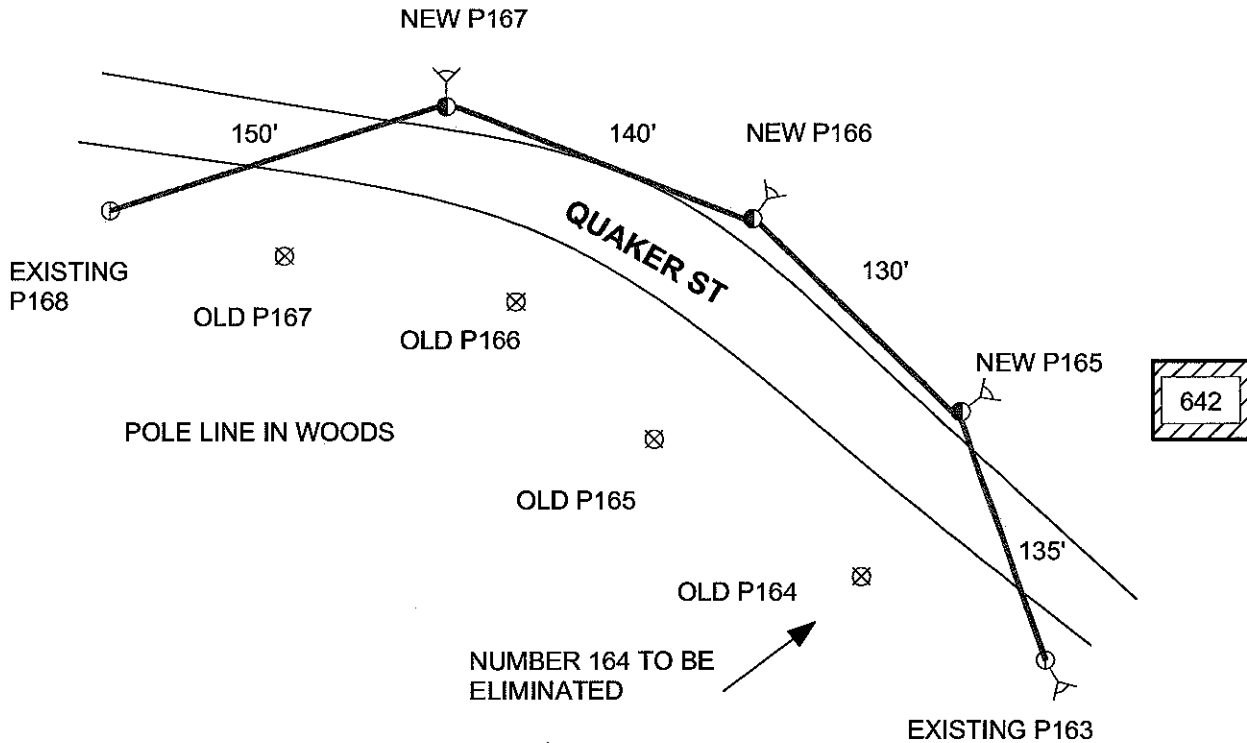
CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing order was adopted at a meeting of the Board of Selectmen
of the Town of Northbridge, Massachusetts held on the _____ day of _____ 2013
recorded with the records of location orders of said Town,
Book _____, Page _____.

This certified copy is made under the provisions of Chapter 166 of General Laws and any additions thereto
or amendments thereof.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk

NATIONAL GRID TO REMOVE OLD POLE LINE IN WOODS AND RELOCATE TO THE SIDE OF QUAKER STREET



JOINT OWNED POLE PETITION

- Proposed NGRID Pole Locations
- Existing NGRID Pole Locations
- ⊙ Proposed J.O. Pole Locations
- ① Existing J.O. Pole Locations
- ⊕ Existing Telephone Co. Pole Locations
- ⊗ Existing NGRID Pole Location To Be Made J.O.
- ⊗ Existing Pole Locations To Be Removed

DISTANCES ARE APPROXIMATE

nationalgrid
And
Verizon New England, Inc.

Date:

Plan Number: 15750245

To Accompany Petition Dated:

To The: TOWN Of NORTHBRIDGE

For Proposed: 4 Pole: JO Location: QUAKER ST

Date Of Original Grant:

J. Shuris
Response

Donna Gosselin

From: James Shuris <jshuris@northbridgemass.org>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 2:43 PM
To: dgosselin@northbridgemass.org
Subject: RE: Quaker Street

Donna:

Our concerns pertain to disturbance of the public right-of-way and that the old poles be removed/areas restored and the new pole excavation materials be removed and sites restored to acceptable/original conditions.

Please make sure that these comments become part of the approval process.

Thanks,

Jim Shuris

From: Donna Gosselin [mailto:dgosselin@northbridgemass.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2014 11:21 AM
To: James Shuris
Subject: Quaker Street

Good morning Jim – Please see attached Pole Relocation (does not require a public hearing) and let me know if you have any issues with this. Thank you.

Donna M. Gosselin
Sr. Admin. Asst./Human Resources Asst.
Town of Northbridge
7 Main Street
Whitinsville, MA 01588
P: 508-234-2095
F: 508-234-7640
dgosselin@northbridgemass.org

To benefit

YNIA - Young Neighbors ^{2/10/14} agenda
in Action
St. Patrick's Church B.
DPW - J. Shuri's
Chief of Police -
W. Warchol

From: Timothy Labrie tlabrie@northbridgemass.org
Subject: RE: St. Patricks Parish 5k - May 31
Date: January 22, 2014 at 2:40 PM
To: Gracia Casey gracia144@yahoo.com
Cc: wwarchol@northbridgemass.org

Hi Gracia,

I see the need for police presence at the start & end area depending on the number of participants, Church St. and Linwood Ave. also. When you get approval from the town and get closer to the race day, please contact me to schedule the officers. This will give us a better idea on the number of participants. I have cc'ed the Chief on this as he determines how the police are billed out to the requesting agency.

Thank you

From: Gracia Casey [mailto:gracia144@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 2:27 PM
To: tlabrie@northbridgemass.org
Subject: St. Patricks Parish 5k - May 31

Good Afternoon Officer Labrie-

St. Patrick's Youth ministries is looking to host a 5k on Saturday, May 31 to fundraise for World Youth Day. High School and College members of this parish will be heading to Warsaw, Poland in 2016.

We will hold the 5k in conjunction with a Polish Festival that St. Patricks will also be hosting. Race will be at 9:00am (registration 8:00am) and start and finish at St. Patrick's Parish, 7 East Street, Whitinsville. Attached is a copy of the route and here is written directions of the route:

1. Start out going east on East St
2. Take the 1st left onto Johnston Ave
3. Turn right onto Church St.
4. Take the 2nd right onto Summit St.
5. Turn right onto East St.
6. Take the 1st left onto Johnston Ave.
7. Take the 1st right onto Brook St. Brook St becomes Willow St.
8. Turn right onto Pleasant St.
9. Turn left onto Cross St.
10. Turn left onto Linwood Ave.
11. Turn around at .427 LINWOOD AVE
12. Start out going northwest on Linwood Ave
13. Turn right onto Cross St.
14. Take the 2nd right onto East St.

Please let me know if you need any more information or any changes needed. Once I have police approval, I will be notifying the town to get approval from the selectman.

Thank you for your time-

Gracia Casey

Independent Consultant

The Traveling Vineyard

508-234-7234

www.myttv.com/20845

Notes

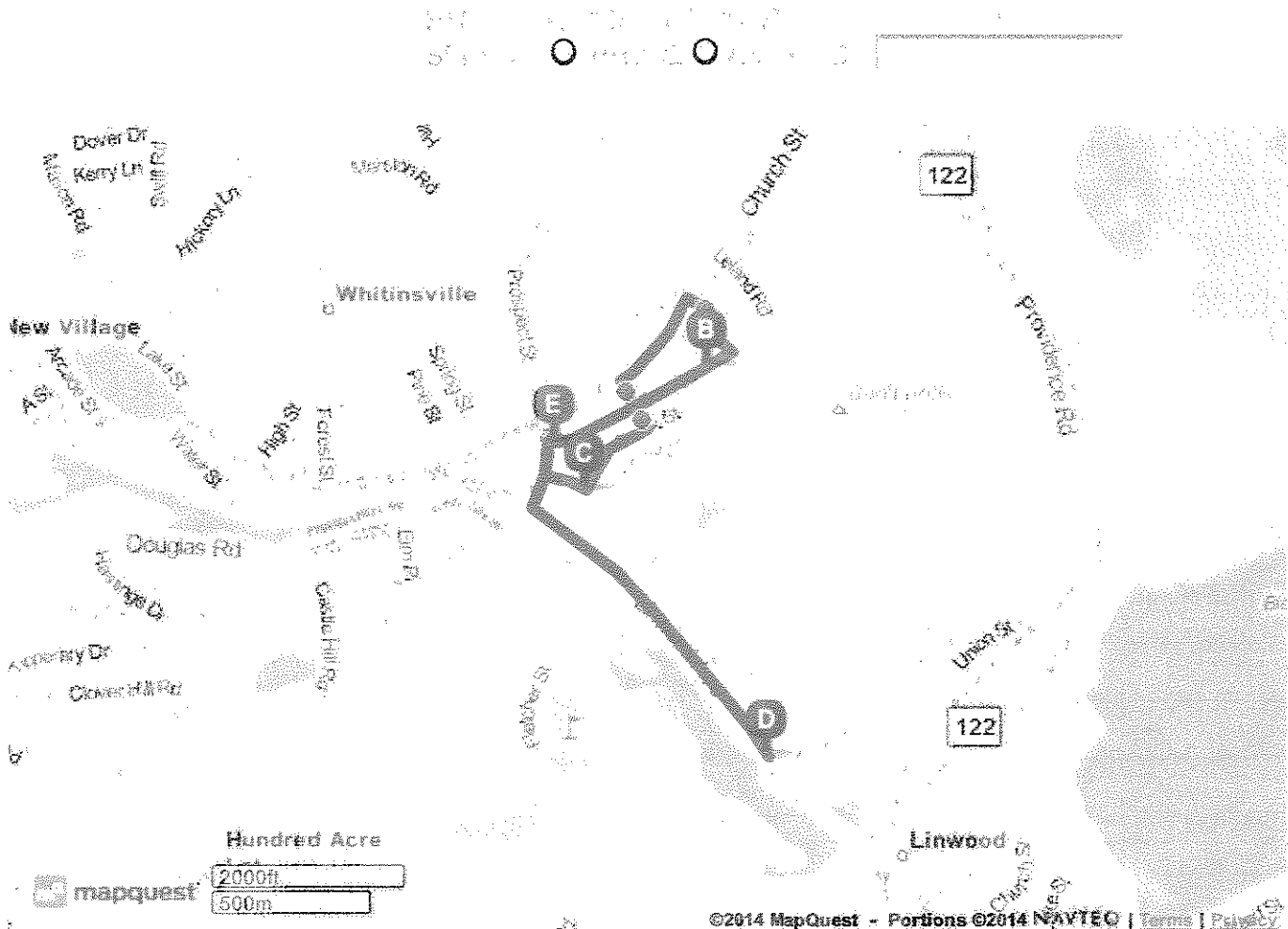


Trip to:

7 East St

Whitinsville, MA 01588-2325

3.03 miles / 8 minutes



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Donna Gosselin

From: Walter Warchol <wwarchol@northbridgemass.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2014 8:03 AM
To: dgosselin@northbridgemass.org
Subject: RE: YNIA - Young Neighbors In Action

Donna;

They already contacted us and as long they comply with the police department's traffic request I do not have a problem with the race.

Chief Warchol

From: Donna Gosselin [mailto:dgosselin@northbridgemass.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 3:59 PM
To: wwarchol@northbridgemass.org; James Shuris
Subject: YNIA - Young Neighbors In Action

Good afternoon – Please see the attached documentation and provide me with your response by 2/5/14. Thank you.

Donna M. Gosselin
Sr. Admin. Asst./Human Resources Asst.
Town of Northbridge
7 Main Street
Whitinsville, MA 01588
P: 508-234-2095
F: 508-234-7640
dgosselin@northbridgemass.org



25 Central Square • Grafton, MA 01519
508-839-5931

RECEIVED

JAN 27 2014

Northbridge Town Manager

E.

1/23/14

Office of Selectmen
Town of Northbridge
Re: Transfer of license

Dear Sirs,

I would like to request transfer of monies
paid for yearly fees on the Grill Sign License.
Mr. MacNeil will be reimbursing me on a pro rated basis
for the license. I appreciate your consideration
on this.

Sincerely

John A. Proke
The Grill

Blackstone Valley Regional Municipal Recycling Center Northbridge Division

January 29, 2014

Theodore Kozak
Town Manager
Town of Northbridge
7 Main Street
Whitinsville, MA 01588

Dear Mr. Kozak,

Pursuant to our recent discussions we offer the following proposal to increase recycling, reduce trash disposal and ease the burden on your Senior Citizens.

Currently the Blackstone Valley Regional Municipal Recycling Center operates, for the Town of Northbridge, a Drop-Off Recycling Center behind the Fire Station at 193 Main Street, Northbridge.

Our consensus is that this facility would be closed at the end of June 2014. We would then relocate the current assets to the newly State Permitted Recycling Station at Tom Berkowitz Trucking. Our new location offers Northbridge Residents a new and far more accessible location which will allow them to dispose of trash more economically.

This Recycling Operation will be a joint operation of Municipal and Private enterprise. The Town of Northbridge, The Town of Blackstone and their enterprise account The Blackstone Valley Regional Municipal Recycling Center (BVRMRC) and Tom Berkowitz Trucking, Inc. (TBT) will be the operators in this proposal.

1. All assets will be relocated from 1193 Main St. to TBT (279 Douglas Road, Northbridge).
2. BVRMRC will operate the (State permitted) Recycling Center.
3. TBT will operate the (State permitted) Solid Waste Transfer Station.
4. The Town of Northbridge will authorize and support this operation.
5. Permits are in force from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for this operation.

The following recyclables will be accepted at the Drop-Off Center:

Cardboard, Paper, Scrap Metal, Plastic, Motor Oil, Paint cans, Electronics, TV's, Computers, Monitors Tires, Mattresses, Box spring, Batteries, Glass, tin cans, aluminum cans, used books and Fluorescent bulbs.

The following will be accepted at the Transfer Station:

1. Solid Waste
2. Demolition waste

Blackstone Valley Regional Municipal Recycling Center & Tom Berkowitz Trucking, Inc.

3. Bulky Waste
4. Pick-ups will be available.

Tom Berkowitz Trucking, Inc.
279 Douglas Road, Whitinsville, MA
Phone 508-234-2920
Fax 508-234-9865
Email: tberkowitztrucking@yahoo.com

Our start date and hours will be as follows:

Operations will begin July 1, 2014
Recycling Station will be open twelve months a year.
Recycling Station Hours : Wednesday 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM & Saturday 8:00 AM to Noon.
This is a major increase in site availability to residents.

The Town of Northbridge wishes to improve upon their recycling and to make trash disposal more affordable and convenient to their residents. The BVRMRC wishes to continue operation for the generation and processing of recyclable commodities. TBT wishes to offer Northbridge residents a convenient one stop location for recycling and trash disposal, while utilizing their current assets and increasing availability to residents.

Make recycling more available to Northbridge residents.

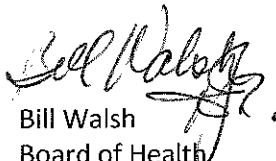
1. Increase recycling
2. Decrease trash disposal
3. Make trash disposal more affordable
4. It is the right thing to do.

Our pricing schedule is as follows:

1. Paper, cardboard, Plastic, will be free.
2. Please see attached per item fee schedule.
3. Trash will be priced per bag – 32 gallon bag @ \$ 5.00
4. Curbside pickup is available.

We look forward to continuing our service to the town.

Sincerely,



Bill Walsh
Board of Health
Town of Blackstone
General Manager – BVRMRC
508-883-1500 ex 129
bwalsh@townofblackstone.org



Jim Berkowitz
Tom Berkowitz Trucking, Inc.
279 Douglas Road
Whitinsville, MA 01588
508-234-2920
tberkowitztrucking@yahoo.com

Blackstone Valley Regional Municipal Recycling Center & Tom Berkowitz Trucking, Inc.



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Contact Info

Hours of Operation

The Recycling Center will be open
EVERY Saturday from 9:00 AM to 2:00
PM (CLOSED during the months of
January and February)

[Home](#) > [Recycling Center](#) > [Fee Schedule](#)

Fee Schedule

SHARE

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[Send by email](#)

FEE SCHEDULE for disposal of the following items:

Phone

508-883-1500 x129

Address

Whitinsville Fire Station
193 Main Street
(Rear of Building—access from Water
Street)
Whitinsville, MA
United States
See map: [Google Maps](#)

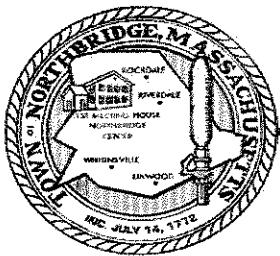
Links

[Fee Schedule](#)

AIR CONDITIONERS / REFRIGERATORS / FREEZERS	\$30.00
AUTOMOTIVE BATTERES (CAR / BOAT / MOTORCYCLE)	\$5.00
BATHTUBS / SINKS / ETC. (METAL)	\$15.00
BATHTUBS / SINKS/ ETC. (FIBERGLASS)	\$15.00
BICYCLES (ALL TYPES)	\$5.00
COMPUTER MONITORS / PRINTERS	\$15.00
EXERCISE EQUIPMENT	\$10.00
LAWN MOWERS (PUSH TYPE)	\$15.00
LAWN MOWERS (RIDE ON TYPE)	\$30.00
MATTRESSES / BOX SPRINGS	\$25.00
METAL FENCES (Discretion of attendant—approx. every 100 sq. ft.)	\$5.00
MICROWAVES	\$20.00
PROPANE TANKS	\$10.00
STEREOS (WITH OR WITHOUT SPEAKERS & WIRES)	\$15.00
SWING SETS (DISMANTLED)	\$15.00
TELEVISIONS	\$25.00
TIRES	\$5.00
WATER HEATERS	\$10.00
WEED WHACKERS (CLIPERS / TRIMMERS / ETC.)	\$5.00
WHITE METAL GOODS (WASHERS / DRYERS / DISHWASHERS / ETC.)	\$15.00

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7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588
Phone: (508) 234-2095



COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

R. Gary Bechtholdt II, Town Planner
 7 Main Street Whitinsville, MA 01588
 Phone: (508) 234.2447 Fax: (508) 234.0814
 gbechtholdt@northbridgema.org

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 13, 2014

TO: MR. THEODORE D. KOZAK, TOWN MANAGER
 -with copy to the Northbridge Board of Selectmen

From: R. Gary Bechtholdt II, Town Planner

RE: QUARTERLY REPORT (OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2013)
 Community Planning & Development Office

Please accept this as the Community Planning & Development's quarterly report for October-December 2013. Provided below is a summation of projects, applications, meetings, and initiatives considered.

RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISIONS

The Camelot* –Home construction continues with approximately twenty (20) homes completed or under construction (Phase 1 -as revised); the Developer (J&F Marinella) has secured the construction of ways and utilities in the amount of \$373,755.75 (for Phase 1); a punchlist & construction estimate describing remaining work (Phase 1) has been prepared by the Planning Board's consulting engineering (JH Engineering Group, LLC). Developer shall work with the Sewer Superintendent in addressing known concerns specific to the sewer pump station installed within the subdivision.

Carpenter Estates* –Planning Board is awaiting receipt of revised definitive plan set for endorsement (to be recorded at the Worcester Registry of Deeds) illustrating construction change(s) which includes low impact development techniques for stormwater management; construction has yet to commence within the subdivision development (18-lots); with only a frontage lot (single-family home) along Carpenter Estates completed within the last 2 to 3 years. At its meeting in November Planning Board voted to release original Covenant and established new Covenant detailing changes (LID stormwater) and revised lot layouts.

Farnum Circle & Green Meadow Court –Subdivisions are incomplete and/or remain unaccepted public ways; Planning Board may look to review and work with the developers to readying roadways for acceptance next year.

Hemlock Estates/Pine Knoll* –The senior living development known as Pine Knoll is complete/built-out; fifteen (15) of the thirty-one (31) single-family house lots have also been developed or under construction. Developer is to provide the Planning Board with an updated status report/construction schedule regarding remaining phase(s) and current outstanding issues. Developer shall work with the Sewer Superintendent in addressing known concerns specific to the sewer pump station installed within the subdivision.

Hillside Garden Estates* –Developer has addressed concerns specific to the abandoned waterline services the Planning Board allowed for building permit application sign-off for all lots released from the Covenant; seven (7) house lots have been development or under construction.

Presidential Farms* -Construction continues within Phase III & IV; developer shall work with the Planning Board concerning required playground & bikeway/walking path improvements or provide for suitable alternative(s) prior to commencement of Phase V.

Shining Rock Golf Community* -Majority of lot development has been completed; home construction on Shining Rock Drive and Fairway Drive remains ongoing; Norwood Cooperative Bank recently conveyed remaining house lots on Shining Rock Drive to Elite Home Builders LLC (BK 51655 PG 107). Foundations for the 14-townhouse units on Fairway Drive are in, with construction of the 5-plex nearing completion.

Leonardo Estates –Planning Board received definitive plan submittal for 18-lot single family subdivision to be located off Highland Street (former Bikes property); pursuant to Mass General Laws the Planning Board shall hold a public hearing to consider application at its meeting of January 07, 2014; the Planning Board has engaged the services of JH Engineering Group, LLC for consulting services.

**Northbridge continues to see an increase in housing /residential build-out (population growth); of the six (6) active subdivisions (noted with asterisks above) a total of 435 housing units have been permitted with approximately 138-units yet to be constructed (does not include 75-units in Linwood Mill Lofts and those approved/not constructed or expired).*

Snow Plowing/Sanding –Communication was sent (October 2013) to all active subdivision developments (developers) requesting they provide DPW –Highway with name and contact information for those responsible for snow plowing/sanding. In the event of a storm-related emergency the DPW shall coordinate with the contractor(s) and/or bill the developer accordingly, if and when municipal services are provided.

ANR PLANS

The Planning Board reviewed and approved two (2) ANR plans during this quarter.

SITE DEVELOPMENTS

Ashton Place –Redevelopment of property (formerly Northbridge Nursing Home) is nearing completion; the project constructed in 3 phases (Phase I 8-units, Phase II 9-units & Phase III 6-units) now have twelve (12) of the 23-apartment units issued occupancy permits. As noted last quarter, the Planning Board and members of the Zoning Board conducted a site visit earlier this quarter and seemed very pleased with the work to date.

Linwood Mill Lofts –Developer met with Safety Committee (July 17, 2013) to review potential pedestrian crosswalk locations on Linwood Avenue. DPW –Highway Superintendent and Director of Public Works are to provide developer with guidance documents and town specifications, after which the Safety Committee will revisit proposal; at this time still awaiting input from the DPW.

Marston Heights –The Planning Board released (12/10/2013) the performance surety held for the private development known as Marston Heights (condo lot #2 w/in the Hills @ Whitinsville); as the developer completed necessary and required improvements to the satisfaction of the Planning Board. At its meeting of December 10, 2013, residents in attendance expressed their appreciation of the developer completing improvements within the development; residents also acknowledged and thanked the Board for their time and commitment to follow-through.

Osterman Commence Park –Planning Board issued Special Permit [Planned Business Development] and Site Development Plan approvals [Phase 1 & 2] for subject property located off Church Street Extension. Planned Business Development (PBD) will include a $\pm 4,600$ LF roadway (private drive); ± 26.4 acres of dedicated open space; and $\pm 206,500$ square-feet of building space at build-out; Phase 1 includes $\pm 1,575$ LF of roadway from Church Street Extension, a $\pm 24,000$ SF Medical office building and a $\pm 12,000$ SF Office building; Phase 2 includes $\pm 1,2750$ LF of roadway (wetland/resource crossing). Reference is made to Planning Board Certificate of Approval dated July 31, 2013 and Special Permit Decision [01-SPP-2013]. Phase 1 private drive installed; foundation in for first building (medical office).

St. Camillus Health Center –Planning Board issued Site Development Approval (July 31, 2013) for addition of eight (8) parking spaces, landscaping and restriping of existing parking area; original application was reduced in scope and longer includes additional parking to the rear of the property. The parking and required landscaping are (screening) has been installed.

Self-Storage Units - Planning Board issued Site Development Approval (August 14, 2013) for construction of a $\pm 2,500$ square-foot self-storage units to be sited on abutting parcel of 546 Providence Road (Harbro).

4 & 16 North Main Street –Applicant/Engineer met with the Safety Committee (December 2013) to review (conceptual plan); planned modification showing a proposed drive-thru (Dunkin Donuts) to include gas service station and convenience store; original site plan approval included gas station, convenience store and garage/maintenance facility. New proposal received Special Permit from the Zoning Board and site plan review approval from the Planning Board. Safety Committee approved conceptual layout as presented with the understanding an alternative circulation plan (vehicle queuing) will be explored in greater detail as part of a formal submittal/review.

ZONING AMENDMENTS

Large-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Installation –Fall Town Meeting (2013) action approved adoption of zoning amendment article(s) to permit Large-scale solar photovoltaic installations within the town's Industrial and Business-Thee Zoning Districts; certification/approval of same received from the State Attorney General –commentary includes follow-up discussion with Town Counsel regarding certain aspects of the bylaw regulation.

Expand Business-One Zoning District –Planning Board conducted public hearing (December 10, 2013) pursuant to Mass General Laws Chapter 40A Section 5; upon taking public testimony the Board voted (4-0-1 [Gaudette abstained]) to support and recommend zoning amendment article (Art. 1); the purpose of the zoning amendment is to extend the Business-One Zoning District to include the subject property

formerly known as the China Pacific restaurant (a non-conforming use). The property is currently zoned industrial; changing the zone to business would allow for a new restaurant to locate there.

Amend Zoning Section 173-27 [Off-street parking, loading and landscaping standards] -Planning Board conducted public hearing (December 10, 2013) pursuant to Mass General Laws Chapter 40A Section 5; upon taking public testimony the Board voted (5-0) to support and recommend zoning amendment article (art. 2); the purpose of the zoning amendment is to provide zoning relief and flexibility for retail and service uses in buildings constructed prior to November 07, 1967.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTERS

Since the adoption of a temporary zoning moratorium (2013 Spring Annual Town Meeting) the Community Planning & Development office has been working with the Board of Health Administrator in reviewing Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations as well as potential land use and other local regulations; multiple meetings have been held with the Town Manager, Building Inspector and Police Chief to discuss next steps. Town Counsel has offered a (draft) model bylaw for review and consideration; zoning amendment establishing land use provisions and siting of potential treatment centers will be considered at the 2014 Spring Annual Town Meeting. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (one of the state's other regional planning agency) recently presented a model bylaw –this too shall be reviewed by the various municipal departments and Planning Board as part of Northbridge's consideration for adopting local zoning.

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN UPDATE

The Community Planning & Development office continues to assist the Planning Board and the Ad-hoc update committee on updating the town's 2002 Open Space & Recreation Plan. The OSRP update shall help facilitate future preservation and protection of Northbridge's natural/historic landscapes; improve and expand recreation opportunities; as well as identify priority land for habitat and water resource protection. Updating the plan will provide the town with the means to assess existing inventory, identify potential improvements and expansions; maintain and enhance community character; and promote the preservation and management of land for wildlife habitat, water quality and public recreation. The Open Space & Recreation Plan Update Committee met the first Tuesday of each month (October, November & December). The Planning office is working with Matt Franz, GIS Analyst (CMRPC) in preparing the required maps. The update committee is drafting a survey/questionnaire which is planned to be distributed at the Special Town Meeting (January 14, 2014) as well as available online.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT –DISASTER RECOVERY

Town received CDBG –Disaster Recovery grant funds (in the amount of \$601,654) from US Department of Housing & Urban Development (FEMA Disaster Declarations); project scope to include relocating Rockdale Youth Center (RYC) from Floodplain and the rehabilitation of St. Peter Parish Building #3 for the RYC; grant program to be administered through DHCD –Department of Housing & Community Development; with project to be administered locally through the Community Planning & Development Office with assistance from Central Massachusetts Planning Commission (CMRPC).

MASS DOWNTOWN INITIATIVE PROGRAM (MDI) –TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

The Community Planning & Development office submitted Technical Assistance grant application to the Department of Housing & Community Development under its Massachusetts Downtown Initiative (MDI) program; for up to \$10,000 in consultant services. The Technical Assistance grant will help assess tenant space & amenities (general assessment) of Whitin Machine Works for the purpose of attracting & marketing new users, as well as, evaluate land use & local zoning codes of the Northbridge Zoning Bylaw for the purpose of identifying new zoning provisions for manufacturing, bio-tech & other emerging technologies (expand permitted uses within Industrial zone). The zoning assessment will provide the town with a template to initiate an update, modernization of its Use Definitions and Table of Use Regulations; promoting economic development within the downtown (Whitin Machine Works) and other similarly zoned properties.

MUNIMAPPER

Municipal Mapper (MuniMapper) is a mapping tool created by the Office of Geographic Information Systems, in cooperation with MassGIS, the Town of Northbridge and Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission. The Northbridge MuniMapper provides online access to a selection of map information from the state's repository and local data; this viewer provides access to basemaps; tax-parcels; zoning; wetland resource areas, query tool, etc. A link from the town's webpage is accessible from the Community Planning & Development site as well as from the town's homepage.

DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETINGS

- November 27, 2013 –topics of discussion included: Fiscal Year 2015 budgets (level-fund); 5-year Capital Plan (inclusion requests); Computer usage policy (acknowledgement of receipt); & third-party vendor for payroll, etc.

PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS

The Planning Board met three (3) times during this quarter; all approved meeting minutes of the Planning Board are posted on the town's website: October 08, 2013 (approved); November 12, 2013 (approved); & December 10, 2013 (draft).

2013 FALL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

- October 22, 2013 –zoning petition articles Article #9 & Article #10 Large-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Installations/Facilities (-see Zoning Amendments above).

TECHNICAL REVIEW MEETINGS

The Community Planning & Development Office hosted two (2) Technical Review meetings during this quarter; both meetings were specific to Leonardo Estates, a proposed definitive subdivision for 18 single-family house lots to be located off Highland Street. A Technical Review is an informal meeting which

offers an opportunity for the applicant and or his/her engineering to meet with the various municipal department staff to review a development proposal.

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Open Space & Recreation Plan Update (Ad-hoc) Committee met three (3) times during this quarter:

- October 08, 2013; November 12, 2013 & December 10, 2013

SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Safety Committee met once during the quarter –December 04, 2013

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETINGS

- November 18, 2013 –Special Town Meeting discussion (China Pacific Restaurant, etc);
- December 16, 2013 –CDBG Disaster Recovery grant (Rockdale Youth Center Relocation Project)

If you should require additional information or have any questions please contact the Community Planning & Development office.

Cc: Planning Board
/File

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – February 10, 2014

1) Snow Removal Update: Mentioned that this was the 13th snow event this year and it was a 24-hour storm with 12 inches of snow. As of now, we have had roughly 49 inches of snow this year. The approximate cost of the storm is \$15,000 for sand and salt and around \$10,000 to \$12,000 for contractors and overtime.

2) Tax Title Property Auction: Announced that tax title properties are being auctioned by the Treasurer/Collector's office on Friday, March 14, 2014, at Noontime, in the Board of Selectmen's Room at Town Hall. Properties being auctioned are: 1) 2094 Quaker Street, Northbridge, 2) 84 Border Street, Whitinsville, and 3) C Street, Whitinsville.

3) WRTA Bus Program: Announced that in December, Route A had 68 passengers and Route B had 69 passengers. In January, Route A had 77 passengers and Route B had 97 passengers. Considering this winter, WRTA is encouraged by the ridership but will continue to market the program.

4) Assessors – Property Tax Analysis: Announced that Robert Fitzgerald, Town Assessor, is preparing an analysis to be placed on the Town's homepage. He will explain the process for establishing the tax rate and the difference between last year's and this year's tax rate.

5) Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce – Businesses inquiry: Announced that he contacted Jeannie Hebert, President and CEO of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce. He mentioned that Ms. Hebert has not heard of any complaints by businesses on how the town handles permitting but will check into this matter and get back to us. Also, Ms. Hebert is working with former Lt. Governor Timothy Murray on his program to increase industrial usage in the Valley and noted that she will be attending a future Board of Selectmen's meeting in the future to discuss these issues.

Ted Kozak

From: Jonathan Church [jchurch@cmrpc.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 3:51 PM
To: tkozak@northbridgemass.org
Subject: Route A and B Shuttle Ridership Numbers

Hi Ted,

As promised, enclosed is ridership information for Routes A and B. This data comes from the daily driver tally sheets. The data is for weekday in January and excludes MLK Jr. Day. I've also included December's ridership as a comparison.

Monthly Ridership- Route A

January 2014 (Jan 2-31 - 21 weekdays)

77 boardings

December (Dec 2-31 - 21 weekdays[excludes holidays])

68 boardings

Monthly Ridership- Route B

January 2014 (Jan 2-31 - 21 weekdays)

97 boardings

December (Dec 2-31 - 21 weekdays[excludes holidays])

69 boardings

As you can see, ridership is growing slightly from its first month of operation based on these daily sheets, so that is good news. It is difficult to start new transit service in the winter, but I personally think these numbers show progress. While this shows ridership along all of Routes A and B, we are working through another data source to see how the ridership is split between Grafton and Northbridge. We will continue to monitor Routes A and B and its performance over the coming weeks and months, especially once the MBTA implements its new commuter rail schedule in late February (according to the newspapers).

Best regards,
 Jonathan

Jonathan E. Church, AICP

Project Manager

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission

508.459.3316 (direct)

508.792.6818 (fax)

www.cmrpc.org