



**Mayor Bob Hedlund**

# YEAR ONE

## **“Progress for Weymouth”**

### **Economic Development**

- \$100K Community Preservation Funds for design and permitting of Smelt Brook daylighting at Weymouth Landing
- \$1.6M MassWorks Grant for construction of Smelt Brook daylighting
- Phase I of Columbian Square improvements – resurfaced the municipal lot and a sidewalk added (adjacent streets resurfaced at no cost to town)
- Initiate Columbian Square traffic control review and design improvements
- Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Community Benefits Agreement executed with Prodrive Technologies, first commercial tenant at Union Point
- Worked with Brewster Ambulance to bring \$5M fleet dispatch and services HQ to Weymouth, located near Route 18 and 53 junction
- Worked with Barrel House Z Brewery to bring their production facility to Wood Rock Road in East Weymouth Industrial Park
- Patriot (East-West) Parkway extension constructed at Union Point, completing road connection from Route 18 in Weymouth to Hingham Street in Rockland
- Conclude negotiations with Delagas on Weymouth landing redevelopment
- Revive Town’s Waterfront Committee and prepared and submitted Seaport Economic Council grant application

### **Education & Schools**

- Developed an honest school budget that was funded beyond level services and, unlike previous years, was not reliant on one-time sources of revenue. We closed a \$1.6M structural deficit to accomplish this.
- \$277K increase in FY2017 School Budget for Special Education and IT support
- \$220K State Budget Grant for computer hardware replacement and technology
- Funded \$900K for district-wide IT needs, meeting the initial needs identified in independent IT needs report

- Funded \$150K for high school curriculum and textbooks
- Funded \$84K for two school maintenance vehicles
- School Building Committee established for the Chapman Middle School project
- Feasibility study authorized for construction or reconstruction of the Chapman Middle School (\$1M budget), with partial funding from \$562K State Grant

## **Financing**

- Hired Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer-Collector, and Asst. Treasurer-Collector
- Eliminated reliance on Free Cash (one-time revenue) for level service budget
- Absorbed \$400K into FY2017 budget to retain five firefighter positions, previously funded by SAFER Grant
- Increased Town's Stabilization Fund by over 30% (an additional \$350,000)
- \$200K contribution made in Other Public Employee Benefits (OPEB) Liability Fund
- \$7M in Free Cash certified for FY2017 (certified on earliest date in four years)
- Tax rate approved and certified on earliest date in seven years
- Received AA credit rating from Moody's Investors
- Initial step to transfer an additional \$2 million to Town's stabilization fund

## **Libraries**

- Library Construction Committee established to prepare grant application for Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program
- Library Building Program completed as pre-requisite for grant application
- \$100K Reserve Funds for schematic design to construct new public library
- \$21K State Library Grant for "All Aboard, Greenbush! One Train, One Book"

## **Parks & Recreation**

- \$11.4M Bond and Host Community Funds for field and park improvements townwide, including...
  - Multi-sport turf fields, playground, and walking paths at Lovell Playground
  - Turf ballfield at Libby Field
  - Renovated ballfield and basketball courts at Weston Park
  - Various improvements at 10 additional parks, fields, courts, and beaches
- \$1.7M Bond for improvements to the grounds of the Emery Estate, with partial funding from \$400K PARC Grant
- Modular floating dock system installed at George Lane Beach
- Beach cleaning system (SURF RAKE) purchased
- Work to complete acquisition and new trails at Kibby Property, adjacent to Abigail Adams State Park
- New playground and other improvements completed at Gifford Park
- Renovations completed at Humphrey Field, including fencing and parking

- Irrigation systems installed and/or repaired at six parks
- First annual Great Esker Day celebrated in more than 10 years
- Work toward reforming and improving field maintenance plan and procedures
- Work to extend Back River trail with Osprey Overlook Park

### **Whitman's Pond**

- Purchase and implement use of weed harvester to remove invasive and harmful weeds to help protect many species of fish, especially herring
- Utilized \$100K state grant to initiate hydroraking operation for removal of nuisance levels of water lilies with focus on areas encroaching into open water areas and the shoreline adjacent to the retaining wall (a popular fishing spot)

### **Public Health**

- \$132K Prevention and Wellness Fund Grant for programming to address preventable and/or chronic health conditions (part of three-year grant award)
- \$125K Drug-Free Community Grant for substance use education and prevention
- \$40K Mass in Motion Grant for health eating and active living
- Farmer's Market awarded "Best in Class" nationwide and 1st in Massachusetts for markets providing healthy food for all

### **Public Works**

- \$3.25M Bond and Host Community Funds to supplement existing budget of \$1.1M for town wide public road and sidewalk repairs and reconstruction, including purchase of first town-owned sidewalk paver
- \$100K Free Cash for town wide guardrail and fencing improvements
- \$210K Free Cash for traffic signal upgrades at Green and East Streets
- \$150K host community funds for solar lighting in Columbian Square municipal lot
- \$90K Free Cash for DPW aerial lift vehicle
- \$70K Host Community Funds for new dump truck with plow attached
- \$150K Dam and Seawall Fund Grant for repair designs at Great Pond Dam
- \$51K Coastal Resilience Grant for flood mitigation design and permitting at Puritan Road entrance to Great Esker Park
- Water Main Pipes replaced at Carlson Cove, Columbian Street, Front Street, and Sundin, Klausin and Erickson Streets
- Walls and fencing repaired at Herring Run in lower Jackson Square
- Prepare and submit grant application for replacement of Commercial St. Bridge

### **Public Safety**

- \$120K increase in FY2017 Police Budget for law enforcement

- \$100K State Budget Grant for police Tasers and training
- \$100K State Budget Grant for firefighter equipment upgrades
- \$650K Free Cash for new fire engine, replacing 1986 model
- \$400K Free Cash for seven new police cruisers and four new police motorcycles
- \$18K First-Responder Grant for substance use education and prevention
- \$106K Partnership for Success Grant for reducing and preventing high school age prescription drug misuse (part of five-year grant award)
- Weymouth Fire Department received Class 2 ISO classification rating
- Received Firefighter of the year for Ladder 2 at Queen Anne fire
- Received the Metropolitan Boston Emergency Medical Services Council 2016 Heart Safe Community Award

### **Personnel**

- Hired first full-time, in-house Town Solicitor to streamline Town Hall functions and save on billable hours and outside legal fees
- Reorganized Finance Department and Operations

### **Whipple Senior Center and Elder Services**

- \$50K State Budget Grant for Whipple Senior Center services
- \$131K Free Cash and Overlay Surplus Funds for building and grounds improvements at John F. McCulloch building, including new gymnasium floor, roof replacement, and outdoor walking paths and pavilion
- \$125K Host Community Funds for air conditioning (AC) at Whipple Senior Center
- \$35K Host Community Funds for Elder Services passenger van

### **Town Facilities & Services**

- \$25K State Budget Grant for memorial markers to honor Weymouth's five Congressional Medal of Honor recipients
- \$50K State Budget Grant for Teen Center services
- \$277K Green Communities Grant for municipal energy conservation projects
- \$60K Host Community Funds for replacement AC compressors at Tufts Library
- \$50K Free Cash for restoration design for Veterans Memorial Wall
- \$25K Energy Incentive Grant for two hybrid vehicles, one electric vehicle, and one charging station for municipal use
- \$486 HOME Grant for new veterans housing at 741 Main Street
- Adopted local option to increase service member survivor benefits from \$250 per month to \$500 per month

### **Access and Transparency**

- Weekly sit down with local press

- Initiated two local cable shows
- Initiated WETC coverage of Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Committee, Community Preservation Committee, and the School Building Committee

### **Fight against Spectra's proposed compressor station in North Weymouth**

- Petitioned the federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to conduct a more comprehensive environmental review, an environmental impact statement (EIS), of the Atlantic Bridge Project, instead of the cursory review FERC approved, called an environmental assessment (EA).
  - FERC did not require this comprehensive review. Instead, on May 2, FERC released a shorter, less intense environmental review, the EA, not the EIS I sought.
- Conducted numerous meetings with Spectra to push for alternative locations outside of Weymouth.
- Opposed Spectra's efforts to obtain a wetlands permit resulting in a stay now.
  - The Conservation Commission under my administration, refused to accept—twice—Spectra's filing for a wetlands permit requiring Spectra to file accurate and complete documents.
  - On June 15, our Conservation Commission denied their wetland permit;
  - Spectra appealed the denial which we opposed at the state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP);
  - On September 21, we appealed DEP's grant of a wetlands permit; and
  - On November 21, we succeeded in getting a stay of the wetland permit review.
- Beginning on March 15, I sought an independent environmental review by the state's Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs. No other community or citizens group opposing natural gas pipelines had asked for this type of comprehensive review. Weymouth was the only community to take such action.
  - Asked the Secretary to review Atlantic Bridge and Access Northeast separately, together, AND together with several other natural gas pipeline projects in other parts of the state to consider their possible combined impact.
  - After issuing a call to action from opponents of natural gas pipelines across the state, we submitted 90 additional comments from 23 communities including not just from Weymouth residents, but supportive emails from multiple residents of Sharon, Westwood, Quincy, Acushnet, Upton, and the City of Boston, including the neighborhoods of Charlestown, Hyde Park, Roslindale, and West Roxbury. We also received comments from individuals in Cambridge, Dartmouth, Dedham, Freetown, Grafton, Marblehead, Mendon, Milton, New Bedford, Norfolk, Rehoboth, Walpole, and West Newbury.

- Intervened in several rate proceedings by the state’s Department of Public Utilities (DPU) concerning Access Northeast. Weymouth was the only community to intervene in these proceedings.
- Attempted to block Spectra’s ability to purchase the parcel of land to build compressor station from Calpine by repeatedly meeting with Calpine asking them to join our fight.
- Filed comprehensive comments on March 30 on Spectra’s weakest argument—siting a natural gas compressor station adjacent to the waterfront.
  - We identified Spectra’s weakest link and sought to exploit it with environmental regulators.
  - To build along the waterfront, Spectra must prove its compressor station is a water-dependent use.
  - Spectra’s own documents show that it considered sites in Holbrook, Franklin, and other areas of Weymouth without waterfront.
- Testified at several hearings including on March 28 before DEP Waterways, on May 11 before the Energy Facility Siting Board (EFSB), on May 19 to FERC, and on May 25 to our own Conservation Commission each time asking regulators to deny siting a natural gas facility in such an inappropriate location.
- Created an email address [nocompressor@weymouth.ma.us](mailto:nocompressor@weymouth.ma.us) to allow residents one place to send in comments that we forwarded to the proper regulator before each separate deadline.
  - For example, we submitted 104 pages of emails to the EFSB on May 20 opposing the project.
  - We submitted 178 pages of emails to the Town’s Conservation Commission on May 25 asking them to deny the project.
  - We submitted 221 pages of emails to state’s Secretary of Environmental Affairs on May 30 asking CZM to deny the project.
  - We submitted an additional 225 pages of emails to state’s Secretary of Environmental Affairs on June 28 asking MEPA to review comprehensively all pending natural gas projects.
- Sought several times an extension of time to allow more citizen input before FERC made decisions that affected Weymouth. For example,
  - On May 25 I asked FERC to provide Weymouth residents the same amount of time to comment on Access Northeast residents opposing Kinder Morgan’s pipeline in Western Massachusetts had to comment on that natural gas project;
  - On May 27, I asked FERC to provide more time to comment on Atlantic Bridge because of the intentionally confusing and overlapping public comment periods;
  - On June 20, I asked FERC to delay a decision the Atlantic Bridge environmental assessment while the state’s Secretary of Environmental

Affairs reviewed whether to require a separate cumulative review of all natural gas projects; and

- On August 19, I asked FERC to reopen comment because of changes Spectra made to its plan to avoid more rigorous environmental review.
- On May 20, I urged the state's EFSB to require FERC to conduct a combined, comprehensive review of the cumulative impacts of both Atlantic Bridge and Access Northeast. Spectra seeks to evade review by segmenting their projects; we seek to have regulators review the entire picture—not just a sliver at a time.
- On May 30, I wrote state's Secretary of Environmental Affairs asking him to consider additional information as part of his review that Spectra's plans are consistent with state policies designed to protect the public waterfront, hoping that CZM's federal consistency review will prevent a compressor station in North Weymouth.
- On August 3, CZM delayed its review of Atlantic Bridge for up to one year because of concerns we addressed. Without CZM's approval, Spectra cannot proceed with Atlantic Bridge even with FERC approval.
- On August 25, I notified DEP Waterways of the problems Spectra has with its attempt to obtain a waterways license, such as no wetlands permit, changes in Spectra's plans from its original application, and that a compressor station that Spectra admits could be sited elsewhere should not be licensed on land in which the public has rights because it was once land covered by water.
- On November 1, our Planning Board voted to deny a plan by Spectra seeking to subdivide Calpine's property so Spectra could buy a portion.
- Despite the plan denial, Spectra bought a portion of Calpine land and recorded an illegal plan on December 2.
- On December 23, I filed a complaint in court seeking a court ruling that Spectra illegally subdivided Calpine's land and illegally recorded a plan rejected by the Town.
- On January 6, Spectra's existing metering and regulating station leaked natural gas for nearly two hours. Today, I met with Spectra officials and the Town's Fire Chief to investigate this safety concern.
- Sought assistance from anyone and everyone in opposing Spectra.
  - Calpine's station operators and lawyers about blocking the sale of the property.
  - Spectra's lawyers and lobbyists about alternative locations.
  - Our Federal delegation about swaying FERC.
  - Town Councilors about how they could help.
  - Area residents and activists familiar with the issues.
  - My staff, including my Chief of Staff, our Town Solicitor, and various department heads.

- Other communities that have compressor stations, such as Hopkinton, Mendon, Charlton, and Agawam to ask about their experiences with compressor stations.
  - Residents from across the state that similarly oppose natural gas pipelines.
  - Outside counsel previously retained by the Town.
- Continued to retain experienced outside counsel previously retained by the Town and instructed the law firm to aggressively continue efforts to stop the compressor station from being built in North Weymouth.
- For the first time Weymouth hired an in-house, full-time Town Solicitor. My choice was partly based on his background and experience in these matters working for the state regulators including the state's Secretary of Environmental Affairs, DEP, and the state's Attorney General.

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