



FRIENDS OF SAXONVILLE

NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2014

Town Manager Bob Halpin featured at March 2014 FOS Annual Meeting

by John Stasik

“Saxonville soon will see a number of projects that will protect the village’s historic resources, upgrade aging transportation infrastructure, increase public safety and improve the livability of neighborhoods.”

That was the message from Town Manager Robert Halpin, who spoke to a standing room only audience at the Friends of Saxonville’s Annual Meeting on March 26, 2014.

Renovating the historic Athenaeum Hall

The Town’s intent is to return the Hall to its original use as a local venue for Community events and activities. An architect has been selected with Town Meeting-approved funding to develop and detail design and prepare bid documents for construction. A request for construction funding is scheduled to go before the fall Town Meeting. This building will be a valuable resource to the entire Framingham community.

Re-purposing the Saxonville Fire Station and sewage pumping station site on Watson Place

The old fire station has become obsolete, is unable to house new larger fire trucks and will be decommissioned in 2015. A new fire station will be located somewhere in Saxonville. Similarly, the sewage pumping station next to the Fire House has been replaced with a new facility on A Street. Both locations could become part of an Athenaeum Community Hall Complex, providing additional community space for Framingham residents. The combined potential at this location is significant and is being explored at multiple levels.

Streetscape, traffic and infrastructure improvements

- Roadway improvements will begin this spring at the south entrance to the Village on Concord Street with new synchronized traffic signals at both Concord/A Streets and Concord/School Streets. Turning lanes will also be added. These improvements are the result of a partnership between the Town, the owner of the former State Lumber Site and the owner of the Danforth Green housing project under development at the former New England Sand and Gravel location.
- In addition, Tony Kwan, who owns the former State Lumber location, has pledged to replace sidewalks, add landscaping and create a pocket park between Cochituate Brook on School Street and the Sudbury River Bridge on Concord Street.
- At the northwest entrance to McGrath Square at Water Street, the Town will replace the deteriorated concrete retaining wall with a more attractive and stable stone façade, install new street lighting, new, wider sidewalks, repave and build a new pocket park at the Central Street dam.
- Further, at the west entrance to the Square, the Central Street Bridge will be replaced. Although we will need to deal with detours for two years while the bridge is closed, work will not begin until the Wickford Road Bridge project has been completed.

Expanded open space and recreation

- After many years in development, the Cochituate Rail Trail will be completed this spring between Saxonville Village at School Street and Route 30 at the Natick-Framingham Line. A bike/pedestrian-activated stoplight is planned at the crossing on Old Connecticut Path.
- The Town has acquired 80 acres of open space for conservation and recreation at the oxbow on the Sudbury River, adjacent to the Danforth Green project, in a tax relief agreement between the Town and the Danforth Green developer. This is an unprecedented opportunity to develop a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities for all Town residents along this section of federally designated Wild and Scenic River. Friends of Saxonville will be assisting the Town's Planning Department with outreach to area residents for their input into decision-making about the future use of this parcel.
- The MWRA aqueduct trails, which run through Saxonville and connect to the oxbow area, are being opened by the town for recreational travel, providing another network of paths that are available to area residents.

An end to asphalt grinding on Meadow Street

Grinding at the Ellingwood Property on Meadow Street, long a concern of neighbors, will cease completely by mid-2016. This phase out process will be complete when current contracts between Ellingwood and clients are over. No new contracts will be permitted, debris will be removed and the site re-purposed for non-industrial use.

Mr. Halpin closed by thanking the Friends of Saxonville for their interest in and contribution to the betterment of the community and he indicated that he looks forward to continuing to work with us in the future on these and other initiatives.

Friends' President David Longden presented an update on past FOS projects, the **Danforth Street Bridge restoration** and the **Carol Getchell Nature Trail**. He reported that new education placards have been installed at the kiosk at the Danforth Street Bridge describing the return of bald eagles to the Sudbury River (!!) and that a plaque was installed on the kiosk to recognize the extensive contributions to the bridge restoration project by founding FOS Treasurer George Dixon. Dave also reminded attendees that the Carol Getchell Trail needs constant attention to keep it safe and usable by the public. Volunteers are always needed at the site to clear brush, reset boardwalks and rid the trail of liter and debris. ❖

RiverFest - A weekend of celebration on and around the Sudbury, Assabet & Concord Rivers

Events in Saxonville – Saturday, June 21, 2014

Discovery Walk: 10 am

Join the Framingham Conservation Commission on a discovery walk on the Carol Getchell Trail. We'll "go there and back again" and look for tracks and emerging plants along the banks of the Sudbury River as spring turns toward summer. Meet at the end of Little Farms Road. Please call (508)532-5460 or email mnw@framinghamma.gov to register and for directions and trail conditions.

Self-Guided History Walk: 11 am to 1 pm

Join the Friends of Saxonville for refreshments and a self-guided history walk in Saxonville, the oldest part of Framingham. Meet on the historic Danforth Bridge for your map. For more information, contact Lynne at lynne@damianosphotography.com.

Family Walk Along the River: 1 pm.

Join the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) Rx walk especially for families with young children starting at the Danforth Bridge. For more information, contact Libby at lsdeegear@outdoors.org. ❖

Welcome new business members

For a complete list of FOS Business/Group Members, please visit www.Saxonville.org/businessmembers.htm

David J. Murphy and Sons

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To receive our newsletter and other updates via email, please send your request to david.longden@verizon.net with the subject line: FOS - add me to email list.