



TOWN OF TYNGSBOROUGH

Office of the Town Manager

Town Offices

25 Bryants Lane

Tyngsborough, MA 01879

Tel: (978) 649-2314 | Fax: (978) 649-2320

July 28, 2025

Town Manager's Report

Dear Board Members:

I am pleased to report the following updates from Town Hall and throughout Town:

General Updates

- I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the challenges that we're facing on Lake Mascuppic. As this Board is aware, more than 75% of Lake Mascuppic is in Tyngsborough with the rest being in Dracut. There is no public boat ramp in Tyngsborough and the Town beach in Tyngsborough is town-owned and restricted to residents only. Aside from occasional parking challenges, this beach is well run and we have very few issues over there. However, on the Dracut side there is a state-owned boat ramp that has no access restriction and the beach is open to anyone. That beach becomes a total zoo from Thursday to Sunday in the summer, and the number of outside watercraft entering the lake is becoming unmanageable. Thanks to the Lake Association, the Town has a boat that it uses regularly to patrol the lake, but that is all funded via overtime. Our staffing is challenged right now and so having someone out there during all the busy hours is becoming more and more impossible. We get occasional assistance from the Mass Environmental Police but again, they can't be out there 24/7. In recent weeks we have had to have Chief Woods physically assist our patrol officers because Dracut was unable to respond. He spent two nights a couple weekends ago out on the boat helping get dangerous boaters off the water. We had one OUI crash last month and are encountering reckless operators every day. On a Tuesday afternoon two weeks ago, the Tyngsborough PD responded to a report of jetskiers playing bumper jetskis and throwing things at each other while racing at high speeds. They were observed in Dracut at the ramp but Dracut PD didn't have any units available to assist, so Chief Woods assisted the patrol officers in removing them from the water. None of them were from the area. Residents on the lake are obviously frustrated -- the waters have become completely unsafe for passive recreation like swimming, kayaking, or paddleboarding, and even using their own watercraft is risky. I have called on the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Wildlife to grant us permission to close the boat ramp for the season to allow the Towns of Dracut and Tyngsborough to work with the state to develop a better control plan to manage access. We've arranged a meeting this week with state officials to discuss and I hope that they'll take our request seriously while we work to implement better control measures.
- The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has ramped up their public involvement and awareness campaign around the much awaited Rourke Bridge replacement project. They most recently conducted a virtual briefing on the project and held an in-person





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meeting in Lowell late last month. The project was awarded in May 2025 to Skanska USA and Jacobs Engineering for \$273.84 million. As a part of the project, the new bridge will be installed further to the west of the original bridge (closer to Tyngsborough) and there will be significant roadway reconstruction on Pawtucket Boulevard and Middlesex Street in Lowell. The new bridge will connect Old Ferry Road in Lowell to Middlesex Street. The new bridge will be much wider than the old with two travel lanes in each direction and a bike lane and sidewalk in each direction as well. The existing bridge will be maintained until the new bridge is constructed and most of the work is planned for the daytime hours but more intrusive work will take place at night. The construction work has commenced with investigative explorations and the clearing of vegetation and prep work will commence in August. By October, full construction will be underway with a goal of having the full new bridge constructed at some point in 2029. The old bridge will be down and the work completed by 2030.

- Included in the Board's correspondence this evening is a report from the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) identifying four violations from four different establishments in Tyngsborough -- all of which dealt with the service of alcohol to minors. Since the ABCC is the entity that identified the violations, there is no action required by this Board. The ABCC has scheduled hearings for all four establishments in September and our office will follow up to ensure we know the outcome. In the meantime, this is the first time in quite some time that we've had any violations of this sort. The last ABCC enforcement action in Tyngsborough was during the pandemic back in 2020 and dealt with violations of the re-opening rules at the time. Given the unacceptable number of violations found in one day, I will be meeting with Chief Woods to develop a local compliance check by Tyngsborough PD whereby we'll do random compliance checks on our own to ensure that our licensees are adhering to the law at all times.

Projects

- The demo of 180 Lakeview has hit a major milestone - the submission of a work plan to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Sean & I met with the contractor last week to discuss the project schedule. If the MassDEP approves the plan as submitted, the abatement and demo will all be done in 2.5 days. The contractor will simply demo the building and transmit all the material as possibly hazardous to a landfill per testing they did upon contract award. They will then fill in the foundation and the Town's DPW will pave over it to expand parking. As was previously indicated to this Board, the Town will maintain access to the ballfields during the construction and we expect the impacts to be minimal if any.
- Work to install the new sidewalk on Norris Road began today. Crews will be installing a new ADA accessible sidewalk from the intersection of Norris and Frost up to the school campus. The project is funded by the capital improvement plan and is expected to be complete before the first day of school.





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- We were notified by the Executive Office of Administration & Finance for the Commonwealth (A&F) that the earmark included in the Economic Development Bond bill for \$600,000 for the DPW buildings will not be released -- rather, the Administration is hitting pause on all local earmarks due to uncertainty around state revenue. To that end, DPW Superintendent Jake Zwicker & I have gone back to the drawing board about to how to best spend the available funds which equal about \$660,000 including the one third commitment from the Sewer Enterprise Fund. We've been talking to some Massachusetts communities that have erected pre-fab storage structures which can be procured much cheaper and avoid the costly provisions of MGL Chapter 149 that require you hire a designer/architect. If this path proves viable and the Sewer Commission is amenable, we'll pursue that path. I expect by September we'll have a more concrete plan to present to the Board.
- We're hosting our second department head goal setting workshop on August 18th. This is the second year that we've brought all department heads together to focus on planning and goal setting for the upcoming year. This year's effort is being led by Mr. Walsh and will have departments incorporate the Select Board's goals and Master Plan Goals into their efforts.

Procurement

- On Wednesday, we'll release a Request for Qualifications for Architectural Firms to conduct the Schematic Design for the new Fire Department Headquarters. Later this evening, we'll ask the Select Board to appoint a representative to the Designer Selection Committee which will review the responses and recommend the most qualified firm. Responses are due by August 20th and I expect to be able to award a contract by September 1st. The selected firm will have up to four months to complete the work which will also include a new construction estimate.

Reminders/Upcoming Events

- There are far too many events happening at the Tyngsborough Public Library for me to list every one, but instead I'll just remind folks that you can visit www.tynglib.org/event-calendar to learn about all of the different events happening this summer.
- The Recreation Committee's Summer Concert Series continues at Ironwood Park this month with the FunRazrs on August 7th, and Ben Durand on September 11th. Summer concerts take place under the Pavilion at Ironwood Park and start at 6:30 PM. Bring your own snacks and non-alcoholic beverages and a comfy chair and enjoy great music.
- The Annual Party by the Bridge hosted by the Recreation Committee will take place on Saturday, August 23, 2025 in the Town Center. The program will begin at 11 AM and will end with fireworks at dark over the river. As always, we are looking for volunteers. If you're able to help, visit www.tyngsboroughma.gov for more information or contact the Recreation Department at 978-649-2300 x150.





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- The Fall Health and Safety Fair will take place on Saturday, September 27th from 11 AM to 2 PM at the Tyngsborough Elementary School. Hope to see you all there.

Assistant Town Manager's Report

- I am happy to report a positive update that we have awarded a contract to MoJin Solutions LLC to provide food inspection coverage in relation to a bid opening we discussed at our last meeting. MoJin Solutions had been providing regional food inspectional services to several local communities, including Tyngsborough since early this year. They were the low bidder and their prices for FY26 are largely in line with FY25 with a very modest increase. They will begin August 1 with a contract running through June 2026, and in coordination with NEPHA, hold two additional 1-year extension options on the contract should we wish to extend the partnership.

Regards,

Colin F. Loiselle
Town Manager

Sean M. Walsh
Assistant Town Manager

