

NEWS

Shaw Elementary School building project on time and under budget



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MILLBURY -- So far, so good, so close for the Raymond E. Shaw Elementary School building project.

During the Board of Selectmen's meeting on April 12, members of the building committee presented updates on the project.

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Built as a junior high school in 1975, the Shaw currently houses students in grades three-six.

According to Project Director David Billings from Hill International, the current costs are running about \$59.083 million, about \$1.8 million under budget. This is despite running into pandemic-related supply issues over the past few months.

Billings also said the project is on schedule, with teachers scheduled to move into the school in July and the school opening in September. The old school is scheduled to be demolished in July and August, with new turf fields installed from September-December.

In August 2023, the entrance drive will be milled and paved.

As to whether residents and Shaw alums can take a final walk-through of the old school, Billings said that could be arranged.

Take a virtual walkthrough -- <https://shaw.millburyschools.org/>

MBTA update

Kelli Salwa and Emily Glaubitz from the Central Mass. Regional Planning Committee gave Selectmen an update on the state's law for MBTA communities to set aside land for

multifamily housing "as of right."

Millbury is an "adjacent community," with no direct MBTA services. The town could be asked to set aside 50 acres for 598-750 units.

The law, which went into effect in 2021, is designed to help deal with a statewide lack of housing.

Final recommendations from the MBTA are scheduled to be announced this spring.

Communities have until the end of 2024 to get into compliance, or risk losing state funding from certain programs.

"We'll help you any way we can over the next two years," said Salwa.

Other business

... Kendra Faldetta appeared before the Selectmen to announce that she was leaving her post as the Senior Center's interim director to become the new director at Northborough Senior Center. She also had a few parting words for the Council on Aging's board.

Faldetta said although she loves Millbury, "it's very difficult to get things done" and claimed to be the subject of negative rumors.

Faldetta became interim director last summer when the executive director, Judy O'Connor, was placed on administrative leave pending an investigation.

Later in the meeting, Town Manager Sean Hendricks announced that the investigation has concluded, and that he will be meeting with the COA.

"There will be some movement soon," he said.

... Board members approved, 4-1, the extension of Hilltop Drive as a public way, as well as renaming JC Lane to Ilyas Lane.

... Jennifer Thalhauser has been named to the Butler Park Re-Use Committee.

... Ken Gasco, president of the Millbury Police Association, asked whether premium pay for first responders could be added to the list of projects to be funded by the American Rescue Plan Act; Millbury's share comes to \$4.1 million.

He said he had sent a letter to the Selectmen five months ago, but received no response.

After some discussion, board Chair Mary Krumsiek said she would sit down with Gasco and Hendricks to sort out the matter.

... Board members voted to close and sign the Town Meeting Warrant, which will soon be mailed out to residents. The packet will include information about the Fire Headquarters building project, and how to access the FY23 budget, which may be found at <https://www.millburyma.gov/home/news/fiscal-year-2023-proposed-budget>

... Applications are now available for the town's Small Business Recovery Grant program. Details on eligibility, restrictions, etc. may be found via <https://www.millburyma.gov/home/news/small-business-recovery-grant-application-available-now>

... Dates to remember -- Earth Day townwide cleanup on April 22; Little League Parade, April 24, 10 a.m., West and Waters streets to Woolie World; Annual Town Election on April 26, 7 a.m.-8 p.m., Millbury Jr.-Sr. High School; Annual Town Meeting, May 3, 7 p.m., high school; Food Truck Festival and Craft Festival, May 22, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Millbury Jr.-Sr. High School. Sponsored by the Millbury Redevelopment Authority. Food trucks and craft vendors interested in attending may email millburyfoodtruckfestival@gmail.com.