

WARD 5
COMMUNITY FORUM AGENDA

May 19, 2010

Hosted by Ward 5 City Councilor, Linda Vacon

With Guest Speaker, Superintendent of Public Works, Bill Fuqua

Approximately 25 residents of Ward 5 met at Pilsudski Park at 6:30 to hear updates and get questions on current activities answered.

1. UPDATES FROM BILL FUQUA:

Bill Fuqua provided all in attendance with updates on road improvements in the Fruit Bowl area. He distributed a flyer with the list of roads to be reconstructed (Bayberry Dr., Blackberry Circle, Applewood Lane, and Blossom Lane). He also explained the process so that residents gained an understanding of the process and that there will be a period of time (few days) of dirt and dust when the road work is completed. His office will seek bids soon and expect to begin work in the summer. The upper part of Apremont Highway will also be done later. Re: the Route 202 resurfacing, Bill let everyone know that it will take place over the next two weeks, along with the light work on Rt. 141 and it will take some patience on everyone's part until the improvements are completed. He let us know that they are planning to close a bridge in Easthampton that would add to the traffic problem and he will check to see if that can be delayed by a week.

2. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS RE: WARD 5 FOR BILL

A member of the audience asked if Cranberry Street would also be done and Bill explained that streets in the Fruit Bowl that had patch work done within the last year or two would not be done for another two to three years, because money had been expended on them already to extend their life.

3. BUDGET:

The proposed budget for 2011 was distributed for review by all present during the meeting. Anyone could write a comment or question on the page of the budget that was of interest to them. Budget hearings will begin next week and at least three meetings will be held with different departments.

4. UPDATES CITY WIDE:

LIBRARY SENIOR CENTER

Plans for the library and senior center are underway and initial funding has been approved for these projects, pending certain requirements.

DATA CENTER

This project is moving forward. The final location is to be determined in a month. The long term benefit of this academia, public, private research center is expected to occur in the development of spin-off business growth.

TRANSPORTATION CENTER

This project is underway and is expected to be completed by the fall.

OTHER ISSUES IN THE NEWS (cats, chickens)

These issues continue to be addressed in committee. When asked about the cats, Linda explained she is working to find a resolution that allows the feeding of the cats and also addresses true nuisance situations.

A member of the audience raised the question about stop signs and the problem of visibility. Bill Fuqua stated residents can call his office directly or call Linda, as City Councilor, to get assistance in problem areas.

Bill generously stayed for the entire meeting and provided a lot of information on the various projects throughout the city that he is overseeing.