



Peter B. Webster  
Town Manager

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Board of Selectmen

**FROM:** Peter B. Webster, Town Manager

**DATE:** May 7, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Information for the Selectboard

### Communications Study

You have in your packets a very detailed analysis of the three communications proposals that were reviewed, and then interviewed. Having participated in the interviewing process coordinated by Neil, with Andy, Doug and Steve, I also agree that the proposal from CDCG, the low bidder, is the correct choice. The quote of \$17,750 is well within our reserve fund balance, and I recommend this company's proposal.

### Solar Project

This past week we had another group of interested solar providers do a site visit, answering questions and providing more detail for the project. After much deliberation, it has been decided to postpone a second round of bids until more information about the proposed site behind the Public Works garage can be ascertained. It has become apparent that a portion of this area has been used as a dump in decades past, and we need to know exactly what is there. We currently have almost \$71,000 in a reserve fund for the Town Garage, for a possible expansion of this facility, and I would like to go out for proposals this spring for a thorough site evaluation with site plans for this property. It makes good economic sense to include both a potential solar sight with the potential garage expansion in any site planning, as the incremental cost will be minimal. Obviously this will push back the timeframe for any proposed solar project—RFP

might go out in the fall, with public hearings after that and a possible vote at Town Meeting in March, if it continues to look feasible. We are researching the grants already received to make sure we do not lose any of this funding with the new timetable.

### **Huntley Meadows**

Jill has a special purpose fund of about \$66,000, privately raised, that she would like to tap at some point this summer/fall. Major projects that need attention: the northern field (Field #1) needs to be completely leveled, rotor tilled and hydro-seeded with compost brought in, an area of about 1 ½ to 2 acres; a new stairway from the upper parking lot installed (the current one is over twenty years old, constructed through generous funding from the NWC), and this might be complete utilizing some inexpensive inmate labor from the Windsor prison; and replacing the bath house at the Norwich pool. I've met with Andy, Justin and Jill to go over her 'wish' list of projects, and these might all be addressed this fall.

### **Union Village Road**

Andy and I have agreed on the final signage for this road, after consulting with two concerned residents and again driving the road. A number of additional reflectors and road signs will be removed. I hope to get Doug and his officers to patrol more frequently on this section from Goodrich Four Corners on out to Rt. 132, as I had a chance during Green Up Day to walk this entire section and personally experience the rate of speeding, which is significant. Drivers beware. It is a 40 MPH zone, frequently ignored by those travelling this scenic, but winding, route.

### **Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Project**

Phil has been very helpful in working with me, meeting with Andy, to discuss various aspects of this project. The official word came yesterday from Rep. Cheney that on Wednesday (May 5) the Transportation Bill was passed that will transfer ownership to the Town of Church Street and Rt. 10A coming into town from Ledyard Bridge as of July 1. River road will remain a State road. Plans can now proceed with TY\*LIN of Falmouth, Maine, the engineering firm that is designing this sidewalk, to finalize the details. We will have a public hearing with all the neighbors, going over all the design issues, including landscaping changes, curbing, drainage, etc. It is a complicated little project, but we anticipate going out to bid later this summer for a fall construction scenario.