

## **Department of Public Works Action Committee Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q1. What is the purpose of the DPW Action Committee?**

The DPW Action Committee has been charged by the Board of Selectmen to help research, communicate, and support the Town in its preparation to bring to referendum, a proposal for an upgraded DPW facility. The focus is specific to the facility remaining at the current Old Colchester Road location.

### **Q2. What is the goal of the DPW Action Committee?**

To evaluate the viability of upgrading the DPW facility at Old Colchester Road.

### **Q3. What is the intended outcome of the work performed by the DPW Action Committee?**

A process that includes updating any cost estimates and schematics, and bring to the Board of Selectmen a proposal that would be voted on by Town of Hebron residents at a communitywide referendum in 2025.

### **Q4. Is the DPW Action Committee considering building a new complex at the Horton Property adjacent to Kinney Road?**

No. The Committee is focused on options at the current DPW site on Old Colchester Road.

### **Q5. Why is Old Colchester Road the sole focus?**

When asked for a preferred site, 69% of respondents to the Summer 2023 community survey selected the current facility location. The results gave the DPW Action Committee a clear charge to provide, if feasible, a proposal for reconstructing or expanding the current site to suit the needs of the DPW.

### **Q6. Will the Committee consider separate locations for some or all of the DPW's needs such as administration offices, vehicle storage, maintenance, break room, sleep and shower station, salt storage and cleaning facilities?**

Not at this time. The Committee's goal is to pursue an option where the DPW department can maintain full scope of operations at a single location.

### **Q7. Is there currently enough space at the Old Colchester Road location to support a previous analysis conducted by Nathan L. Jacobsen and Associates and BL Companies?**

The original analysis was conducted approximately ten years ago and requires further information, including an updated operational needs assessment, in order to enter a new design phase. There are space constraints evident when comparing to the original analysis and the Town is currently exploring an adjacent property owned by Eversource to solve. Any purchase of property would need to be approved by Town residents.

**Q8. Can the Old Colchester Road site be constructed without the purchase of additional land?**

While it is possible, the Town would have to compromise on something at that site. The Transfer Station currently located at the property would need to be reduced, removed or relocated. The Town would seek public input in that scenario and determine if sacrificing the current system is acceptable. To deliver the full scope of Transfer Station services, other options would be explored.

**Q9. Why would the Town need to purchase additional land for the Old Colchester Road site when we own acreage across the street?**

The land across the street from the current DPW facility was purchased with Open Space funds and therefore cannot be used for construction of any portion of the DPW facility.

**Q10. Why can't the current DPW complex simply be repaired?**

Substantial upgrades are needed, and a quick fix will not solve the array of safety hazards and facility shortfalls. The current age and condition of the buildings do not allow for adequate repair or renovation. The buildings are beyond their useful life.

**Q11. What are the responsibilities of the Hebron Department of Public Works?**

Please refer to the document titled, "Hebron Public Works Responsibilities"(attached) for information on services performed by the DPW for the overall benefit of the Town and its residents.

**Q12. What is the latest status of progress on the DPW Project?**

On April 25th, a meeting was held to review the conceptual building and site requirements for a new DPW facility with Town Staff, BL Companies, and Nathan Jacobsen Associates all in attendance. As a result of that meeting, a formal design proposal will be issued by the Architect and Engineer during the first week of May. A majority of the discussion dealt with how to phase the construction that will minimize the disruption of Town services while maintaining a productive and safe working environment for DPW personnel and visiting Town residents.

**Q13. What is the status of the Town's exploration into the Eversource property adjacent to the DPW location?**

An appraisal of the adjacent Eversource property was requested, has been received, and is currently being evaluated.

**Q14. What process would be utilized to be sure that the space requirements and building layouts for a new DPW are appropriate and that they adequately address all daily operations in an efficient and cost-effective manner?**

The Committee has received a detailed list of operations and space requirements from the DPW that will need to be required to be incorporated into a new facility. However, at some point in the future, the Committee will be selecting and engaging an architectural firm that has extensive knowledge and experience in constructing public works facilities in the state. One of their many responsibilities will be to evaluate the space requirements for the various buildings, but also making sure that the interior layout affords an efficient process for the various work tasks to be accomplished. But just as important, they will be sure that the overall site layout of the buildings, operations, parking and driveways, etc. are planned to also provide the highest efficiency.

**Q15. At a recent DPW Action Committee meeting, there seemed to be some discussion that the Committee would evaluate the viability and costs of developing an undisclosed site as a future DPW facility. Is this correct?**

No. The Board of Selectmen's charge to the DPW Action Committee was very specific in that the Committee's total focus is on evaluating the Old Colchester Road site as the potential future home for a new DPW facility. In addition, the Board of Selectmen directed that the Committee explore every possible avenue and to "think outside the box" to make that goal come to fruition.

***Additional questions and answers will be added to this document as DPW Action Committee work progresses and new information becomes available.***

7/15/2024

## Hebron Public Works Responsibilities

- Road Maintenance:
  - Catch Basins (clearing tops to allow proper drainage, replacing catch basins that are damaged, emptying catch basins every year is done by a contractor that we schedule)
  - Sink Hole repair
  - Washouts of roadway
  - Driveway aprons (when paving projects have changed the height of driveway aprons or have left driveway aprons damaged)
  - Paving of roadways
  - Traffic Control
  - Line Striping (we will hire contractor for roadways)
    - Public Works does parking lots and stop bars
  - Pothole patching (cold patch and hot patch)
  - Street Sweeping ( State does the state roads)
  - Stop sign and Road sign replacement and repair
  - Drainage
    - Ditch work, bridge repair, flooding of roadways, piping, beaver dam
  - Curb repair
  - Roadside and Vegetation Mowing: assist residents, Town land, and sight line issues
  - Repair lawns and mailboxes due to plow damage
  - Pick up litter along streets
- Tree Maintenance
  - Tree removal (unless on wires)
    - Dead Trees, Hazardous trees (all in ROW), fallen trees into roadway
    - Contractors are hired to remove trees on wires
  - Tree trimming
    - For sight line issues, low hanging branches
  - Respond to all resident concerns with trees (Town Tree Warden and Town Deputy Tree Warden)
- Sewer
  - While WPCA is not part of our department, we assist in responding to sewer calls, reading the meters, responding to resident concerns with water and sewer issues, schedule maintenance on all generators and pump stations, emergency respond to issues at pump stations and generators, fuel up generators, billing and payments to vendors

- Weather Response
  - Winter
    - Snow plowing of roadways and Town parking lots (also helps Hebron Schools parking lots), treating roadways (salt and sand), mailbox replacement when damaged by plows, tree removal, ice removal, block off roads for closures
    - Respond to all resident concerns
  - Hurricanes & Heavy Rain Storms
    - Tree removal, cleanup of roadways from debris, flooding, block off roads for closures
    - Respond to all resident concerns
- Vehicle Maintenance
  - Equipment and vehicle maintenance of all Town departments including:
    - Senior Center (buses and cars), Police (cars), Hebron Schools (pick up truck), Parks & Rec (larger equipment), Public Works (plow trucks, pickup trucks, loaders, backhoe, tractor, chainsaws, curb machine, compactor and container maintenance, sweeper)
- Transfer Station/ Recycling Center
  - Attendants handle money and fees for items that are not considered household trash
  - Trash compactor maintenance and emptying of containers
  - Container hauling to proper facilities for recycling, bulky, and MSW
  - Assist residents with proper disposal
  - Waste removal: proper removal and testing of substances (oil)
  - Landfill monitoring
- Building Maintenance
  - Building fuel shack, roof maintenance, light building maintenance
- Town Events
  - Support local PD during Town events, assist in road closures, assist in clean up, put up event signs, change banners
- Other Department Assistance
  - Review all subdivision and proposed new town roads
  - Parks and Rec: Park clean up and trails
  - Police Department: road closures in response to emergency events
  - Fire Department: Support during emergency fires
  - WPCA: Assists in all response calls and sewer issues
  - Town Hall: Moving/removing equipment/ furniture, parking lots
  - Grant writing, as grant opportunities become available
- Keep Town compliant with Storm Water Phase II – Federal Mandate
- Office duties
  - Answering, directing and responding to resident concerns, billing and payments with all vendors, invoice filing, salt orders, equipment orders, sign replacement orders, fuel reports, create fuel keys for departments, order gas and diesel fuel, transfer station deposits, preparing budget, quarterly and annual reports for transfer station, contacting State when necessary, payroll