



President's Message

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COMMON SENSE PREVAILS

Killing Two Birds With One Stone...

A Win-Win Situation

It caught my attention immediately. Any newspaper article with the word "pipeline" in it does that. Add the word "savings" and now the article becomes a "must read."

As I read an article in the July 13th edition of the Patriot Ledger on a local town issue titled, "Seeking a Pipeline to Savings," it reminded me of a similar article written in this magazine three or four years ago, imploring town DPWs and state officials to look at conditions below-ground before taking on improvement projects on highways and local roads. In other words, be proactive by replacing ready-to-fail pipelines when the situation allows both above and below-ground work to proceed together...and thereby save money.

The Patriot Ledger article told of Milton officials, their State Rep. Walter Timilty, their Selectmen Chairman John Shields (and members of their DPW) who were doing just that. They were fully aware of nearly 100 year old cast iron water pipe in the town that had gone beyond its life expectancy and would eventually need to be replaced.

And it just so happened that the MWRA was planning a major pipe project on the same streets where the town's nearly century old pipe had been installed in 1912. What Milton officials wanted to do was piggy-back the replacement of the old town water main with MWRA construction projects and thereby reduce the town's cost as much as possible.

The article went on to quote Rep. Timilty as saying, "It only makes sense, particularly given the current economic climate, to try to limit spending any way possible...We figure while the ground is still broken by the MWRA, there is no better time to replace the old water main than now."

To me, this article and statements reported were a vindication of UCANE's position on this issue. While our original article could be interpreted as being in the self interest of our members who install water and sewer pipe, the fact remains it's a "WIN-WIN" situation for everyone involved.

I would like the DPW and elected officials in every town in Massachusetts to take heed of Milton's forward thinking approach...that when plans for street and highway repaving, or a state agency such as the MWRA informs them about street openings to install water or sewer pipes...they investigate the condition of the underground infrastructure in their town owned pipeline and appurtenances, as to whether it makes sense to replace certain parts of the infrastructure at the same time.

I wish I had thought of the saying, "Killing Two Birds with One Stone" but according to the Ledger article, Rep. Timilty referred to the cost savings of performing needed Town work in conjunction with the MWRA's projects, and was quoted as saying, "It's the quintessential killing of two birds with one stone." That really says it all. And the winners are the Milton townspeople because "Common Sense Prevails." (see Patriot Ledger article page 5)

