

## Millis Wins Green Communities Grant!

Millis has won its first Green Communities Competitive Grant. On Friday, July 20 the state's Department of Energy Resources announced the Town was awarded **\$219,160** to install 5 energy efficiency measures.

In 2015, the Town became a Massachusetts Green Community and went on to win a Designation Grant. Under that grant, the Town install its new streetlights, weatherized several buildings, put in efficient refrigeration motors for the Middle School/High School kitchen, got new interior and exterior lights and installed efficient drives for pumps at three of its wells.

### The 5 Competitive Grant projects are:

Programmable thermostats for the DPW Garage. These will keep the garage at a steady day-time temperature during the winter and automatically set the temperature to a night-time level when the staff leaves.

Variable Frequency Drives for the hot water pipes at the Middle School/High School. These devices turn the heating system's pumps on and off. They are more efficient because they control the pumps' speed according to the amount of heat that's needed. The old controls turned the pumps to only their highest settings. This could save MPS as much as \$18,000 a year in electric costs.

Lighting upgrades for the Veterans Memorial Building. VMB has several hundred fluorescent light fixtures in its offices and hallways. Those fixtures will be replaced with energy efficient LEDs and reduce the building's light bill by about \$11,000 each year.

An energy management system for the Veterans Memorial Building. Energy management systems (EMS) control heating and cooling in each room independently. We'll be able to lower heat in meeting rooms when they're not in use. Getting temperature readings from each location we'll be able to control the heating and cooling in different parts of the building from a computer or a cell phone. The annual heating and A.C. cost savings projected for this installation is around \$14,000.

De-stratification fans for the VMB Gym. This measure enables us to deliver comfort, fresh air and energy savings before unnecessarily taxing the building's high-use mechanical air conditioning, heating and ventilation systems. The six fans will deliver comfort to a wide range of diverse gymnasium occupants throughout the day, including very young preschoolers and toddlers accompanying their mothers to exercise classes, adolescents in sports leagues and the elderly who use the gym for yoga and dance daily.

The projects, once installed, will reduce the Town's annual electrical use by 169,139 kilowatt hours and its natural gas use by 3,768 therms.

Submitted by: Robert Weiss, Energy Manager