



Town of
Longmeadow, Massachusetts
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TO: Chairman Strange and Members of the Select Board

FROM: Lyn N. Simmons, Town Manager

DATE: July 19, 2021

SUBJECT: Request to name DPW driveway Warren Cowles Way

I received a request from the Department of Public Works staff to name the driveway to the new DPW facility as “Warren Cowles Way”. The sign can be made in-house by DPW staff and would be posted at the driveway entrance used by town staff to enter the rear of the facility.

By way of background on this request – Warren Cowles was a Town of Longmeadow DPW employee for 29 years. During snowplowing operations in 2017, Mr. Cowles was plowing near the rail crossing on Tina Lane. The heavy snow and wind created limited to no visibility. Passenger trains were not running due to the weather conditions, however Amtrak did have a snow clearing train on the tracks. Mr. Cowles snow plow was on the track when struck by the train causing it to be pushed down the track, down an embankment and into a swampy area. Unfortunately, Mr. Cowles died as a result of the accident.

Naming the DPW driveway after Warren Cowles memorializes his presence at the DPW and serves as a safety reminder for all staff. I support this request and agreed to bring it forward under the Select Board Public Property Naming Policy.