

# Infrastructure improvement measure supported

Q-ONE

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clearing of ledge.

The Attorney General's office has mandated through an administrative consent order that utilities be provided to the town landfill, which is operated by Casella Waste Systems of Vermont.

Portions of the ledge and forestry leading from Worcester Street to Pleasant Street have already been cleared by Casella, which will likely reduce the \$10.5 million estimate.

Michael F. Loin, a resident of Everett Street and a manager at Bertin Engineering on Elm Street said he was "totally pleased" with yesterday's vote.

"It'll make my life a lot easier," he joked.

Loin said he has personally dealt with businesses that have inquired about moving into Southbridge only to be turned off by a lack of options. With the proper promotion work, Loin suggested, many positive industries could find their way into town.

"When and if the access road is built, with the right marketing, Southbridge can attract some of the better companies to move into the industrial park," Loin said. "It's going to take a strong Economic Development Commission to promote Southbridge."

Loin said the step forward with the access road is "long overdue," adding

“It's not only the road, it's the total infrastructure. It's water and it's sewer.”

—Michael F. Loin,  
Southbridge resident

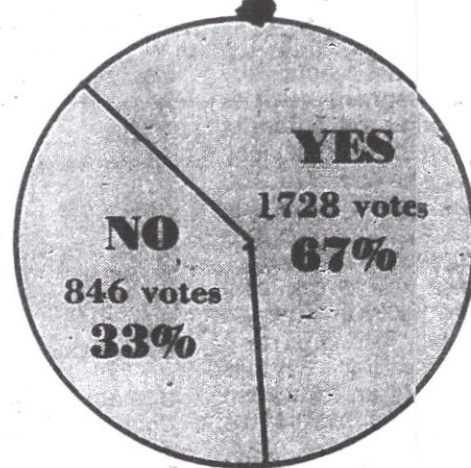
that Southbridge needs to get back to equal footing with neighboring communities that have been promoting industrial growth for years. With the proper infrastructure, services and utilities, he believes Southbridge may have an edge.

"It's a package," Loin said. "It's not only the road, it's the total infrastructure. It's water and it's sewer."

Town Council Chairman Ronald J. Chernisky was also "very pleased" with the voters' overwhelming support of Question 1.

"The people came out and spoke very clearly and they believe in the access road," Chernisky said. "It's what is best for the town."

Councilor Laurent E. McDonald, who won re-election to the Town Council with 1,364 votes yesterday, has pledged support



Question 1 asked voters to adopt a measure requesting state legislators to establish an industrial park access road. It passed by a 2:1 ratio.

to the proposed industrial park but has opposed constructing an access road from Worcester Street to Pleasant Street. After the results were announced last night, McDonald said he was ready to "roll [his] sleeves up" and fight for the wish of the voters.

"As far as I'm concerned, I'll go 110 percent," McDonald said.

Town Councilor-elect Robert F. King said he was happy with the access road referendum question's passing and hopes

it will lead to the road's construction sooner rather than later.

"Let's get the access road to be a reality," King said, suggesting that plans could be sent to the state within the next year.

"Maybe in three years it will be a reality," he continued, noting that he hoped it could come to fruition before his first term as a councilor comes to an end.

David A. Livengood, who garnered the greatest number of votes for Town Council in yesterday's election, said the public's support of Question 1 should send a serious message to area industry.

"No business wants to do things when it's up in the air," Livengood said, indicating the town's decision to call for an access road may help bring industry into the area.

Proponents believe the access road will lead to a broader industrial tax base to ease the burden on residential taxpayers. Some opponents suggested that rather than create an industrial park near the town landfill and municipal airport, a reuse study should be conducted for the former American Optical complex.

Loin and others have asserted the old mill buildings are not feasible options for 21st century businesses and industries.

News Staff Writer Shaun Moriarty can be reached at (508) 909-4142, or by e-mail at [smoriarty@stonebridgepress.com](mailto:smoriarty@stonebridgepress.com).