

Town Manager's Report Monday, April 23, 2012

To: Board of Selectmen
From: Christopher Whelan, Town Manager

Following are some of the matters reported on this week by various Town Departments:

FIRE

Unusual Emergency Responses: The Department was busy last week with several brush fires. Response to these involved dealing with access issues and establishing water supplies. Mutual aid and off-duty call back were critical to the successful operations at each of these events. The welcome rain early this week should relieve some of the dry conditions we have been experiencing, however we still expect to be well below average in rainfall YTD.

April 10: CFD, Carlisle and Bedford responded to Extensive brush behind Batemans Pond.

April 13: CFD, Sudbury and Lincoln responded to a fatal motorcycle accident near Nashawtuc Country Club. While still at the scene, CFD, Bedford and Lincoln responded to a structure fire on Alcott Road. Damage was limited to the kitchen and there were no injuries.

April 17: CFD, Bedford and Hanscom responded to extensive brush in a heavily wooded area between the Bedford/Concord line on Route 62 and the end of the Hanscom runway. The majority of the fire was in Bedford.

April 22: CFD responded to a brush fire off of Fairhaven hill road well behind Walden Pond.

Personnel: Peter Ostroskey, the newest CFD Firefighter, is scheduled to report to work on May 7. Peter will go through a two week orientation before beginning work on his regular shift.

Emergency Management: The Concord Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) was represented at an Emergency Preparedness Seminar held on Friday April 13 in Northborough. Emphasis was placed on lessons learned from various recent natural disasters in Massachusetts.

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Planning Division

Community Preservation Committee: The CPC held a special meeting on April 17 to discuss the Town's Special Application for CPA funding of the Laws Brook Road Land Acquisition. The Town Manager and Selectmen Reiss reviewed the proposed project with the CPC and discussed the potential CPA funds available for the project, after which the Committee unanimously voted to approve \$160,000 in CPA funding for the acquisition. The CPA funding is recommended under the Recreation category. The purchase of the property in part with CPA funds will also make the site eligible for future CPA funding applications for recreation projects and improvements on the site.

Historic Districts Commission: The HDC met on April 19 to review two continued, and five new applications for Certificates of Appropriateness. The Commission approved the construction of new additions, fencing, paving and a garage at 277 Main Street; the installation of new A/C grills on the Lowell Road façade of the Colonial Inn at 48 Monument Square; the construction of a new addition and installation of A/C units at 37 Bedford Street; the replacement of porch railings at 1 Lexington Road; and amendments to the approved design of the new house at 266 Main Street. The Commission also continued the review of proposed alterations at 51 Lang Street and the design of new pedestrian signals and ramps at the Main Street/Thoreau Street/Nashawtuc Road intersections to the May 3 meeting.

Thoreau Birth House wins 2012 Massachusetts Historical Commission Preservation Award: The Historical Commission received notification on April 19 that their nomination of the Wheeler-Minot House (better known locally as the Thoreau Birth House) for a restoration and rehabilitation award from the Massachusetts Historical Commission has been successful. The recent work on the building, which was carried out by the Thoreau Farm Trust and partially funded by the Town's Community Preservation Fund, restored the exterior of the long neglected building to its ca. 1848 appearance and documented and preserved the historic interiors. The project will be honored with the award during a ceremony at the Massachusetts Archives Building in May.

Planning Board: On April 10, the Planning Board held a public hearing for the proposed zoning bylaw amendment to be considered under Warrant Article 8 – Limited Business District #7 at the Special Town Meeting. After a presentation by the petitioner's representative and opportunity for discussion, the Board voted unanimously to support the proposed amendment, which will allow the combined business/residence use at 100 Main Street. After acknowledging receipt of a continuance request from the applicant for the 80 Squaw Sachem Trail 2-lot Definitive Subdivision, and in the absence of the applicant and development team, the Board granted the continuance and continued the public hearing to May 8 at 7:00 p.m. The Board then endorsed an Approval Not Required Plan for the Concord Open Land Foundation and Charles & Frances Doolittle at 221 & 201 Independence Road, and voted to move Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles 34 and 42 as written and approved by the Town Moderator. The meeting concluded after the Board voted to nominate Chris Sgarzi as liaison to the Community Preservation Committee.

Zoning Board of Appeals: On April 12, the Zoning Board of Appeals held a very short meeting. With just two applications on the agenda, one of which was withdrawn, the Board voted to grant a special permit for work in the Floodplain Conservancy District at 76 Hawthorne Lane.

Natural Resources Division

Natural Resources Commission April 18 Meeting: Hearings were held for the following projects: a Notice of Intent (NOI) to demolish and reconstruct a single family house at 925 Lowell Road; an NOI to construct a deck, patio, and lawn at 39A Pope Road; a Request for Determination of Applicability to verify the wetland delineation at 12A Independence Road; an NOI to construct a perimeter road at Hansom Field Airport; and an Amendment to revise the footprint for a new single family house at Lot 10A Martin Road. Additionally, the Commission issued an Order of Conditions to construct a new single family house at Lot 2 Southfield Road.

Natural Resources Commission May 2 Meeting: Five new applications were received last week, including: a Notice of Intent for 874 Barrett's Mill Road to restore a portion of the site to agricultural use; a Request for Determination of Applicability for 34 Tanglewood Drive to replace an existing split-rail fence with a six-foot black chain-link fence; a Request for Determination of Applicability for 887 Lowell Road for invasive species removal, control, and restoration; a Notice of Intent for Millbrook Tarry Condominium Association, Inc., 91 – 107 Lowell Road, to construct a 1,925 square foot one-story addition, a 9,450 square foot two-story addition, and parking lot improvements; and, a Request for Determination of Applicability for 8 Jonas Brown Circle to install a 500-gallon underground propane tank.

Project Coyote: A presentation of "Project Coyote" will be held May 7 at 6:30 PM at 141 Keyes Road, First Floor Conference Room. Guest speaker, John Maguranis, will answer questions and debunk myths and misconceptions regarding coyotes. For more information on Project Coyote, go to www.projectcoyote.org

Health Division

Heightened Risk of Lyme Disease and other Tick-borne Illnesses this Spring: Deer ticks may carry the organisms that cause Lyme disease as well as Babesiosis and Anaplasmosis. Due to this spring's warm weather, deer ticks nymphs have emerged early and are being seen in abundance. Nymph stage ticks cause most of the confirmed cases of tick-borne illnesses. This is because they are about the size of a poppy seed, so they are difficult to see and their bite is hard to detect. Tick-borne illnesses are completely preventable. Residents should consider a 3 phase action plan: Personal protection, pet protection and yard protection. Personal Protection – Conduct tick checks after coming in from outdoors, and tumble-dry any clothing that was worn outdoors. Treating footwear, socks and pants with permethrin is highly effective in killing ticks; permethrin is sold under a number of different brands like Sawyer, Bens and Permanone. Pet Protection – Products like K9 Advantix (dogs only) and Frontline Plus are effective in killing ticks on dogs. A Lyme disease vaccine is available for dogs. Yard Protection – ticks prefer shady areas with high humidity, and nymph stage ticks will be found in the leaf litter in wooded areas. If your yard borders woods, be aware that this is tick habitat. Landscape your yard to create dry, sunny

buffer areas between lawn and bordering woods. More information on ticks and tick-borne illnesses can be found on the Health Division's web page:

http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_health/Tickborne%20Diseases

Tick-Borne Illness Education: On April 17, the Board of Health hosted a meeting with Dr. Alfred DeMaria, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Director of Infectious Disease and State Epidemiologist, who spoke on "Tick-borne Illness: Living in a Hot Zone and What to Do About It". The Concord Journal covered the meeting with an article which appeared in last week's edition. Public Health Inspector Gabrielle White has expanded her annual efforts at tick education and has been delivering educational materials to camps, garden centers, libraries, and other venues. Gabrielle is working with CPW to deploy additional boxes which hold tick information cards at conservation land trailheads. This includes Town lands, Conservation Trust lands, and the National Park. The Concord Health Division is working cooperatively with the town of Acton Health Department on this project; Concord will print the tick information cards, Acton is providing grant funding to purchase supplies, and Concord CPW will build the boxes which will be used by both towns.

Weights and Measures Inspections: The Health Division has signed a contract with the Massachusetts Division of Standards to perform all weights and measure inspections throughout Town for the remainder of 2012.

Beach Water Sampling: The Health Division has signed a contract with G&L Laboratories to perform required water sampling at the Town's three semi-public beaches during summer 2012.

Housing issues: Housing issues continue to take up significant amounts of Health Division staff time. Assistant Health Director San Sosnicki was subpoenaed to appear in District Court regarding enforcement of the housing code at 20 Old Cambridge Turnpike in Lincoln.

POLICE

Operational Services: On Saturday April 21, officers were dispatched to the area of Monument and Liberty Street for a report of a past domestic violence incident. Officers interviewed the involved individuals and determined that no violations of the law occurred. All parties were advised of their rights.

On Saturday April 21, Officer Soll conducted a motor vehicle stop on Walden St. As a result of the stop the operator of the vehicle was placed under arrest for numerous motor vehicle offenses.

Community Services: A suspect had been positively identified in the recent locker room thefts from Valley Sports. A warrant has been issued for the suspect.

Administrative Services: The Concord District Court, in collaboration with the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office, is in the process of implementing its fourth Domestic Violence High Risk Team. All command staff members of the Concord Police Department have begun training on this new program.

All Concord Police officers were issued new bulletproof vests, which arrived at the Station last week. Vest manufactures recommend replacing the vests every five (5) years.