



TOWN OF CONCORD

Town Manager's Report

Week of: December 7th 2015

Town of Concord Receives Certificate for Hosting Medal of Honor Recipients

The Town of Concord recently received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society for its involvement with the September 19 visit of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society Convention to Concord's Old North Bridge. The Convention was held in Boston this year, and attendees had the opportunity to visit the Old North Bridge, which was well received by those who came out to Concord.



Pictured above Select Board Member Steven Ng accepting the Certificate of Appreciation from the Medal of Honor Society

Town Meeting Article Review

This past Saturday, the Select Board held a meeting to preliminarily review articles that may be on the Town Meeting Warrant this upcoming year. The meeting was well attended, and many article sponsors answered questions and provided feedback. The meeting was broadcast by Concord-Carlisle TV, and the presentations are available on the Town Manager's web page. Please contact sdugan@concordma.gov for questions on any presentations.

Library News

Contact: (978) 318-3301

Successful Series in Celebration of 200th Anniversary of Jane Austen's Emma

On December 1, 49 people attended an engaging lecture by Randall Warniers entitled, The Enduring Greatness of Jane Austen's "Emma." The following day an additional 18 people enjoyed a showing of the film, Emma (1996) at the Fowler Branch Library. Approximately 40 patrons have signed up for the special Jane Austen tea with tea educator, Lisa Steigerwalt that will take place at the Fowler Branch on 12/7.



A full house for the talk by Randall Warniers

The next session of Cookbook Club will take place at the Fowler Branch Library on December 9 at noon with a discussion and recipes from "The Nantucket Holiday Table" by Susan Simon. Pre-registration is required. Last week, CFPL received a gift of a 2002 Minolta Microfilm Reader from the Winchester Public Library; it will replace an older model that the Main Library makes available for public use.

This week Deb Ervin, Assistant Library Director, will retire from the Concord Free Public Library after 3+ years in that role. Many thanks to Deb for her service to the Town and best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

The Friends of CFPL hosted a very successful holiday book sale December 4-6 with \$8,123.70 in proceeds collected over the 3 day period. Many thanks to all who supported the library by shopping at the sale and for everyone who donated books over the course of the year to help make this fundraiser possible.

Dr. Resciniti's much-anticipated annual gingerbread house is currently under construction and is slated to arrive at the Main Library sometime during the next few weeks. Please stay tuned for details.



HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

RECREATION * SENIOR SERVICES * SOCIAL SERVICES

Veterans News

Contact (978) 318-3038

The week was started off by closing out the month of November with the Department of Veterans' Services so the numbers match with the State; Concord receives the seventy five percent reimbursement. Benefit payments for the month of December were started so that recipients of Chapter 115 veteran would receive them in a timely fashion.

A recipient of benefits under Chapter 115 emailed the office with medical bills that are covered through the program but failed to have the bills adjusted with insurance coverage. The bills were returned to the client requesting insurance adjustments and the Town will cover the balance.

A veteran residing in West Concord contacted the office requesting assistance with forms required for Veterans Affairs healthcare. The Service Officer met with the veteran and completed the forms.

The Office received a call from a social worker from the Bedford VA regarding public transit in Concord, as she has a client who resides in the Concord Mews and is unable to make her appointments with the VA without public transportation. Information was given to the social worker, and the client should be able to make appointments in the future.

The Office notified the Concord Fire Department and the State Fire Academy of a "half-staff" lowering of the flag to honor the victims of the San Bernardino, CA attack this week.

The daughter of a World War II veteran called the Office requesting assistance for her mother- (surviving spouse benefit), and the information was provided.

Senior Services (Council on Aging/COA)

Contact (978) 318-3020

Join us at the COA for one of our most popular crafting classes. On Friday, December 11 at 11:00 AM, COA staff will instruct the class on how to make and decorate holiday boxwood trees. We will have all the materials for you including the boxwood branches, oasis, containers and decorations. Participants should bring their own clippers. Please register early as attendance is limited to 15. The per-person cost is \$15. This workshop will sell out quickly, so please call to reserve your spot!

This year's Holiday Show and Party is featuring well-known performer Bill Shontz, a gifted entertainer, musician, singer, and songwriter. Join us on Friday, December 18 at 2:00 PM and be thoroughly entertained! Refreshments will be served. Thanks to proceeds from the Harvey's Treasure Chest Gift Shop, this event is presented free of charge. Space is limited to 90 people, so please call to save your seat!

Stephen Collins, critically acclaimed actor, teacher and historian, and a favorite performer at the Concord Council on Aging, on December 21 at 12:30 PM. Stephen will recite "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. Refreshments will be served. Please call to let us know you plan to attend. Thanks to the support of the Concord Friends of the Aging there is no charge for this event.

Ring in the new year with a special luncheon at the Top of the Hub! We will leave Concord Health Care Center by coach bus on December 30 at 11:00 AM and return by 4:30 PM. A non-refundable check for \$60, payable to the Town of Concord, is due within one week of signing up. Those attending this trip must be able to navigate a considerable distance from the bus through the Sheraton and Prudential Center lobbies to reach the Top of the Hub. A limited number of tickets are still available for this trip. The deadline to sign up is Wednesday, December 9th.



Department of Planning & Land Management (DPLM)
BUILDING INSPECTION • PLANNING • NATURAL RESOURCES • BOARD OF HEALTH • ZONING

Planning Division

Contact: (978) 318-3290

Black Horse Planned Residential Development (PRD)/Commerford Road: The final Zoning Board of Appeals decision for the Black Horse Place PRD off Commerford Road was released by the Town Clerk on December 1st with no appeals taken. The developer intends to work with Town staff over the winter to satisfy all of the required conditions of approval and begin site work in the spring (after mud season).

Historic Districts Commission (HDC) Meeting on December 3: The HDC reviewed seven new applications for changes within the Historic Districts. The Commission reviewed and approved Certificates of Appropriateness for a new mailbox at 428 Lowell Road; a fenced corral at 616 Lowell Road; new stone walls at 55 Estabrook Road; and a new driveway and walkway at 17 Munroe Place. The Commission also reviewed a request to install a new terrace, bollards and walkways at 252 Main Street; a request to demolish the existing buildings and construct a new house at 12 Bow Street; and a plan from the Concord Rotary to install a new memorial for the USS Concord Bell in Monument Square. These three items were continued to the Commission's next meeting on January 7, 2016. The Commission said goodbye to Commission Member Jack Clymer, whose term on the HDC expires on January 1, 2016, and thanked him for his years of excellent work for the Commission. New elections were held for 2016 Commission Officers with Terry Gregory elected as Chair; Mark Giddings as Vice Chair; and Nea Glenn as Secretary.

Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Meeting on November 30: The CPC held the first of two project recommendation reviews on Monday evening where they reviewed the project applications submitted and the results of the last month of individual discussions and reviews. The Committee used this meeting to begin the process of making their funding recommendations for the 2016 Annual Town Meeting and developed preliminary recommendations which will be revised and voted on at their next meeting on Monday, December 7. The Committee anticipates that all funding recommendations will be finalized on December 7 for inclusion in the Warrant Article due at the end of the month.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail: Director Rasmussen met with the Select Board on Monday to review a letter to MassDOT urging that the Powder Mill Road tunnel and environmental improvements south of Powder Mill Road be included in the Phase 2C construction package. She delivered the letter to MassDOT on Tuesday when she met with the MassDOT Right-of-way section to review the required permanent and temporary easements and learn more about the Federal Highway Administration's process for acquisition. The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee met on Thursday night to discuss the status of the project, additional information heard at the November 17th hearing and to finalize comments to MassDOT on the latest set of plans

Natural Resources Division

Contact: 978-318-3285

Natural Resources Commission meeting of December 2: The Commission heard the following matters: the Notice of Intent (NOI) to replace a retaining wall at 297 Heath's Bridge Road; the NOI for the after-the-fact removal of trees, construction of a garage, and other site amenities at 129 Everett Street; the NOI to demolish and reconstruct a single family house at 197 Elsinore Street; and the NOI to reconstruct the retaining wall at 33 Walden Street. Orders of Conditions were issued for 129 Everett Street and 197 Elsinore Street. Additionally, a Minor Modification was approved to install a well and irrigation system at 163 Lindsay Pond Road and Administrative Approvals were granted for the replacement of signs at Mill Brook Tarry and replacement of a playhouse at Milldam Nursery.

New Bench at Fairyland: The NRC would like to extend a special thank you to David Ropeik for replacing a bench in the Town Forest. The new bench, made from a fallen red oak in the woods, offers a beautiful resting spot overlooking Fairyland Pond.





Department of Planning & Land Management (DPLM)
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Health Division

Contact: 978-318-3275

Septic system permitting: 5 septic plan designs reviewed, 3 septic permits issued, and 2 septic designs denied with changes requested from engineers; 1 septic variance issued. 3 Deep test holes witnessed; 11 septic field inspections. 2 building reviews and 1 sewer reviews completed. 5 certificates of compliance issued.

Food Service: Working in conjunction with the Concord Public Works Water and Sewer Division, Health Inspector Gabrielle White met with Colonial Inn staff regarding grease in Town sewer lines outside of Colonial Inn. Best Management practices were reviewed as well as documentation from the waste management company that cleans the grease traps. The Inn will review its plumbing configuration to determine the source of the grease migrating beyond internal grease traps to the sewer system.

- 3 temporary food event permits issued for holiday gatherings around Town.
- Performed review of the proposed Millbrook Tarry market. Revised plans were reviewed to determine dumpster location and accessibility and turning radius for delivery and pick up to service the three buildings on site.

Housing complaints: 1 'Order to Correct' letter was issued.

Meetings attended: Health Director Susan Rask spoke about the roles and responsibilities of the Health Division and Board of Health at the monthly meeting of the League of Women Voters.

Follow the Concord Police Department on social media for updates on their activity in Town, advisories, and other important information that affects you!



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