



TOWN OF CONCORD

Town Manager's Report

FEBRUARY 24, 2015

TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE

Fiscal Year 2016 budget Information is available online
http://www.concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA_BOS/meeting

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Richard Reine, Director

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Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant Application- Concord Public Works has submitted an Intent To Apply (ITA) grant request to the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to complete a public shade tree inventory and analysis, including the continued development of a public shade tree management plan. This DCR grant is a 50/50 matching grant with a maximum award of \$30,000 available to continue to promote the professional management (planting, protection, maintenance) of Concord's public tree resources. Upon DCR's review and acceptance of the ITA, a full grant application will be submitted.

Main Street Sidewalk Reconstruction – Public informational meetings were held by the Public Works Commission (PWC) on February 11th and on February 19th. CPW presented plans and received Historic District Commission (HDC) certificate of appropriateness for the sidewalk reconstruction project on Main Street (Route 62) from Keyes Road to Thoreau Street. The proposed sidewalk improvements are a public/private partnership with Concord Academy and will consist of the removal of the existing bituminous concrete (asphalt) pavement, and installation of a new cement concrete sidewalk. As part of the sidewalk improvements ADA non-compliant curb ramps will be replaced, a utility driveway near the library will be reconstructed and the Academy Lane brick crosswalk will be reconstructed. CPW is also incorporating sustainable infrastructure principles with the installation of four retrofit rain gardens within the grass strip. CPW will continue to advance the bid package in February for an early April bid opening. Construction is anticipated to be completed within the 2015 construction season.

Harrington Avenue at Main Street Intersection Study – The Traffic Management Group has solicited a proposal for professional traffic engineering services related to intersection improvements at Main and Harrington Ave. through the conceptual design phase. The scope will include the collection and review of existing available traffic information, performing safety evaluations, a review of intersection geometry i.e. minimum intersection site distance, stopping site distance, available ROW and the development of alternatives for improvements along with their associated estimated construction cost. The project is set to begin over the next several weeks.

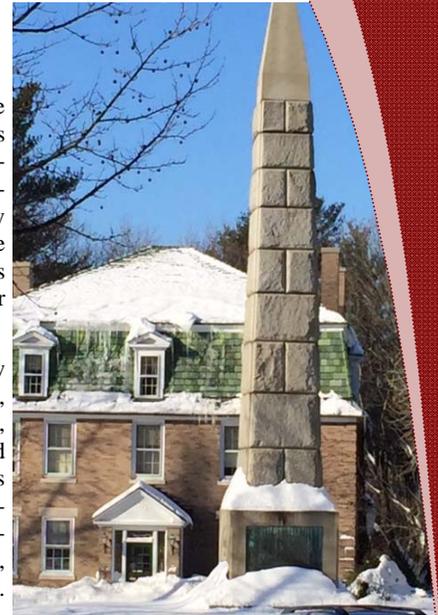
NPDES MS4 Storm water Draft Permit - EPA Region 1 has recently released a revised draft of the Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit for Massachusetts. This permit was published in the Federal Register on September 30, 2014. Originally the comment period began on September 30, 2014 and continued through December 29, 2014. Many commenters provided feedback to the EPA about the complexity of this permit and the limited time provided in the comment period. Based on this feedback the EPA has extended the public comment period through February 27, 2015. CPW and the PWC have reviewed the permit and are in the process of finalizing comments for submittal to the EPA.

Winter Storm Response & Business District Snow Removal

CPW snow fighters continue their exceptional services with the most recent emergency storm response occurring on Saturday February 21st and 22nd. To date the CPW snow fighting team has responded to a total of over 44 events.

Due to the volume of snow received since January 24th, which totaled over 95 inches, Snow Removal was required in the downtown business districts and other snow congested areas on over 7 occasions including Jan.27-28th, Jan. 29th, Jan. 30-31st, Feb. 4th, Feb. 13 -14th, Feb. 15-16th and Feb. 18th.

Furthermore, CPW completed the Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) for submittal to MEMA/FEMA relative to the January 26th Blizzard Juno which is the first step in FEMA's evaluation of eligibility for Federal reimbursement for winter maintenance costs incurred for this historic and record-setting winter event. If determined to be an eligible event, Concord would receive approximately \$97,000 in Federal reimbursements.



FIRE DEPARTMENT Mark Cotreau, Fire Chief mcotreau@concordma.gov

The CFD was very busy last week with storm related issues. On Thursday we responded to a garage roof collapse at a Lowell Road residence. There were no injuries. The risk of snow related roof collapses remain. Any residents that experience a roof collapse, or feels there is a condition resulting in a potential roof collapse should remove themselves from the structure and dial 911. This past weekend we responded to 2 residences to rescue a person who found themselves in a precarious situation while shoveling on the roof. Both were removed safely and uninjured. Please remember while it is important to remove snow from especially flat or low pitch roofs, these roofs should be shoveled off only when it is able to be done safely. Various contractors can be employed to clear roofs of snow.

The CFD expects to begin the hiring / promotional process for Deputy Chief in March. The goal here is to have the successful candidate on board by sometime in June.



The Concord Free Public Library

Concord, Massachusetts

**** NEWS ****

Concord Library Receives Nomination

The Fowler Branch Library has been nominated for a 2015 Massachusetts Historical Commission Preservation Award.

The award recipients will be announced in May of 2015.

Kerry Cronin, Library Director

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Last Week to View Special Collections Exhibition:

Residents will be able to view the exhibition, *"This man grew according to the need" Concord and Abraham Lincoln* in the library's gallery through Friday, February 27th. On Saturday, 2/21 28 people attended the last lecture in this exhibition related series delivered by Prof. Len Gougeon of the University of Scranton who spoke on *Transcendental Politics: Emerson, Lincoln, and the Civil War*.

Reading Program with Phoebe the Dog: During school vacation week children had the opportunity to build confidence in their reading skills by reading aloud to Phoebe, a golden lab and therapy dog with the Tale Waggin' Tutors Program. Given the popularity of the program it is likely to be expanded to additional sessions.

New Exhibit at the Fowler Branch Library: Last week CFPL colleagues installed a new exhibit at the Fowler Branch Library's on the Michael J. Dee – Edward D. Dee letters. Michael J. Dee was the superintendent at the Concord Reformatory, giving the exhibit its West Concord connection.

New Teen Conversations Program with Lauren Zou of Google

The Concord Free Public Library is pleased to offer a new *Teen Conversations* series that will take place several times a year on current events and timely topics of interest to high school students. The program's kick-off will feature 2011 CCHS and recent Columbia University graduate, Lauren Zou who will discuss her recent internship with Google. Among the topics covered will be Google features to assist you throughout the day, as well as an overview of such innovations as: Google cardboard, smart watches, and smart cars. Please join us for an engaging discussion about these emerging technologies and learn more about the unique work atmosphere at Google. The program will take place on Friday, February 27, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library's teen area at 129 Main Street in Concord center. Pre-registration is not required. Refreshments will be served.

FACILITIES & AROUND TOWN



Monday, February 23rd was "Crane Day" at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center on Main Street.

The building, which is currently used by the Council on Aging and Recreation Departments for senior services, preschool, and afterschool youth programming, received a much-needed heating and cooling system which is mounted on the HWCC roof.

The new apparatus will allow the entire building to boast a more energy efficient and comfortable environment for its visitors. The project is slated for completion early next month.



PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Marcia Rasmussen , Director

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Health Division

Routine Health Division Activities—Health Division staff provided the following services:

Septic system permitting: 5 Building Reviews to determine adequacy of septic system for residential expansion; 1 septic permit issued and 1 denied. 1 consultation with homeowner for emergency repair of a frozen force main between pump chamber and leaching field. 10 septic file reviews with contractors; 8 file reviews for sewer improvement determinations; 5 file reviews for bedroom determinations. Assisted with septic betterment loan application at 1 property and inquiries from 4 homeowners.

Food service: 2 regular food service inspections and 1 post-renovation pre-operational inspection at Dunkin Donuts. Consulted with Thoreau Club on revised menu for snack bar for 2015 operations. Responded to citizen complaint of a possible putrid whole chicken sold at a retail market that appeared green inside after cooking. Consulted with MDPH and USDA chicken inspector who believe the problem arose at the slaughter facility where the gallbladder was accidentally cut during evisceration. The resident discarded the chicken and received a refund from the market. No harm--No fowl.

Other: Followed up with 2 homeowner associations regarding 2015 beach water testing. 2 housing complaint consultations. Responded to 1 possible rabies exposure. Wrote Health Division permitting information for Development Guide. Staff members updated the Building Department's web page to provide safety information on preventing roof collapses. Responded to 45 general telephone inquiries.

Natural Resources Division

Natural Resources Commission: At the February 17th meeting, the Commission heard one new application for site improvements at 6A Harrington Ave and 177X Main Street (the former Rogers Land) submitted by the Division of Natural Resources, and issued an order of Conditions to Middlesex School for renovations at Clay Hall. One application was received for the March 4 meeting, an Amendment Request to modify a new house footprint at 40 Squaw Sachem Trail.

Building Inspections Division

Roof collapse: This winter's snow fall has resulted in the collapse of a three car garage at 399 Lowell Road this past week. The 28 foot by 36 foot garage was a total loss.

The Concord Museum at 200 Lexington Road: The Museum is proposing to show at least two movies on the lawn this summer; which will require a Board of Appeals review and special permit.

The Emerson Umbrella at 40 Stow Street: The Umbrella is proposing to build two "Tiny Houses" on the front lawn of 40 Stow Street as a public art project beginning in May and running through the year. The Umbrella is proposing this as an "art project" and the Building Commissioner has determined that this outside use will require a Board of Appeals review and special permit. The Umbrella's interest in this project is the artistic process behind the creation of the house and the opportunity to educate the community about the 'Tiny House' movement as it relates to the Arts. There is a lot of interest in this type of living and the hope is to pair the outside exhibit with an exhibition in the gallery; showcasing hand-built furniture, pottery, and architectural drawings. When these houses have been completed, they will be moved off the Emerson Umbrella site to their final home.

Woods Hill Table, 24 Commonwealth Ave



Final pre-operational inspections of Woods Hill table have been conducted throughout the week. As of Thursday Feb. 19, the restaurant is allowed to have staff only onsite for trial food preparation and use

of all new equipment. A Permit to Operate will be issued next week after all staff arrive, final staff trainings are completed, and a certificate of occupancy is issued by the Building Department. The restaurant is expected to open soon.



Planning Division

Historic Districts Commission: At the Thursday meeting, the HDC reviewed one continued and six new applications for changes within the Historic Districts. The Commission approved new Certificates of Appropriateness for a mailbox at 415 Lowell Road; the reconstruction of Town sidewalks on Main Street from Keyes Road to Nashawtuc Road; a new farm sign at 449 Barrett's Mill Road; a new store sign at 57 Main Street; and new fencing, paving, and windows at Concord Academy, 158-204 Main Street. The Commission also discussed plans to alter 300 Main Street but continued the discussion to their March 5 meeting to allow time for a site visit.

Prior to the meeting, the Commission had received a request to continue the discussion of changes to the design at 427 Lowell Road to a future date. Noting that the application was originally submitted on November 12, 2014, that it had been continued at least twice since its initial discussion, and that there was no information available as to when a revised plan might be available for further review, the Commission decided against a further continuance and instead voted to deny the application as currently submitted. In making this decision, the Commission stated that 427 Lowell Road can submit a new application for revised plans for the site whenever they are ready to proceed. The HDC also reviewed and discussed a draft construction policy statement and made revisions to the draft. The Commission has scheduled the draft policy for further discussion and public comment at their meeting on March 5, after which they will finalize the document and prepare to officially vote on it at a future meeting.



Human Services Divisions

Veteran's Services

Dick Krug, Veteran's Agent
dkrug@concordma.gov

It appears that the history-making winter storms have slowed the pace of those who are in need of the assistance of Veterans' Services. This past week, the office of Veterans' Services perused bids for twenty gross, or 2,880, veterans flags which will be placed on each veterans grave during the calendar year. The winning bid for these items was awarded to a company in Rockland. A purchase order has been requested through the Town Manager's Office.

The office of Veterans' Services received a request from a local assisted living facility questioning the possible veteran status of a resident. The office also received requests for copies of military records and assistance with Veteran healthcare.

Youth Services

Jennifer Clarke, Coordinator
jclarke@concordma.gov

Community Conversation about Youth and Stress, February 25-- Healthy Concord, in collaboration with the Center for Parents and Teachers and Concord Carlisle Youth Services, invites you to participate in a community conversation about youth and stress. Join leaders from Concord schools, community organizations, youth and adults in a structured conversation designed to identify the practices and policies that result in stress for our youth and our families, and strategize how we can address these together.

The event is free but registration is required. For more information and to register, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/healthy-concords-world-cafe-discussion-on-youth-and-stress-rescheduled-tickets-15599275854>

FUEL & ENERGY ASSISTANCE

If you or someone you know is struggling to pay their heat or electric bills, please refer them to the Community Services Coordinator, Aileen Buford, for assistance.

Confidential emails may be sent to:
abuford@concordma.gov

Laura Lunig, Recreation Services Director
llunig@concordma.gov



Vacation Week was very busy at the Hunt Recreation Center. The daily program allowed approximately 35 students to a play in Boston, ice skating in Nashua and bowling in Harvard. While on field trips, staff opened the gym for public use. The gym was shared by teens and multiple families every day.

There is Adult Basketball and Volleyball in the evening. Please call the Recreation Office if you are interested in joining one of our programs or interested in Open Gym time.

Due to the cancellations, the following programs have been rescheduled for the following dates: Middle School Ski: February 24, March 3, 10. Elementary Ski: March 3, 10. The last day of Girls Basketball will be Saturday, March 21, and Boys Basketball, grades 3 and 4 will be Sunday March 22.

Summer Camp Registration is now available at the Hunt Recreation Center, 90 Stow Street and online at [Http://summercamp.concordma.gov](http://summercamp.concordma.gov). There is a 15% discount the week of February 23rd.

Call the Recreation office at 978-369-6460 for more details.

Council on Aging
Ginger Quarles, Director
gquarles@concordma.gov

Due to two winter weather cancellations, Dr. Gregorian's podiatry clinic has been rescheduled to Monday, March 2nd. If you would like an appointment, please call the COA to make an appointment.

The COA would like to remind senior men that we host a Men's social time every Monday at 10:30am. We hope you will consider coming and joining in the conversation with others.

Senior Walking Group Meeting: After a year of dwindling attendance and a severe winter when nobody can really walk, we need to hear if there is still interest in keeping this group going. Please come to a meeting on Wednesday, March 11th at 10:00am to share your thoughts. No need to sign up.

The COA will be making van rides available to the polls for the election scheduled for March 31st. If you need a ride vote, please call the COA at 978-318-3020 to sign up.