

Town Manager's Report Monday, February 27, 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

Apparatus: Engine 8 should be back in service next week having completed its mid-life refurbishment.

Unusual Emergency Responses: Saturday night, Engine 4 responded in mutual aid to 26 Minebrook Road in Sudbury for a 2-alarm house fire.

Personnel: The department continues to conduct pre-employment activities with our 2 prospective new firefighters. We hope to have a March start date.

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Health Division

Revisions to Board of Health Regulation, Minimum Standards for Keeping of Animals: Proposed regulations have been sent to all current holders of Animal Permits and the Agriculture Committee in addition to being posted on the Health Division website. Distribution of the regulation has generated a fair amount of interest, and Health Division staff has fielded a number of inquiries and requests for more information from Town residents.

DEP/Massachusetts Health Officers Association Annual Conference: Health Division staff attended this annual conference to be briefed on State regulatory updates and DEP environmental health programs. The conference also provided Continuing Education credits, which are required for staff to maintain professional licensure.

Building and Inspections Division

Nashoba Brook Bridge Repairs: The Building Division staff met with the owner's representative of the former Leather Shop property at 152 Commonwealth Avenue. The property owner has agreed to make repairs to the pedestrian bridge that crosses over Nashoba Brook, which connects the building to their parking lot off Winthrop Street. Repairs will include the replacement of loose and rotting railings, handrails and walking deck.

Middlesex School Faculty Housing: The Building Commissioner met with Middlesex School legal counsel last week to discuss a proposal to construct five (5) faculty housing units on Middlesex School property across from the main school campus. This housing is likely to be constructed as single family dwellings and be sited close to Lowell Road.

Planning Division

Historical Commission Nominates the Thoreau Birth House: The Historical Commission is currently working with the Thoreau Farm Trust on a nomination for the Massachusetts Historical Commission's 2012 Historic Preservation Awards. The Awards recognize annual achievements in a number of Historic Preservation-related categories including restoration and rehabilitation, and would recognize the outstanding work completed by the Thoreau Farm Trust to both restore this historic structure and put it back into community use.

Natural Resources Division

Natural Resources Commission: No new applications were received last week. The following matters will be heard at the March 7 NRC meeting: a Request for Determination of Applicability for 686 Elm Street to introduce 340 square feet of additional bituminous asphalt to access the rear addition; a Notice of Intent for 88 Crowell Farm Road for the after-the-fact removal of ten red maple and invasive species removal, restoration and management; and, a Notice of Intent for 1723 Monument Street for the demolition and reconstruction of a single family house. Additionally, the NRC anticipates the issuance of an Order of Conditions for Save Our Heritage, 448/449 Barrett's Mill Road.

Gaining Ground: Natural Resources staff met with representatives from Gaining Ground to discuss this year's activities, which include constructing a bridge to MassPort land, developing an irrigation well, and purchasing a new tractor this spring. It is anticipated that a trail will be marked through the Gaining Ground farm this year to link to the Town of Bedford and MassPort trails system.

POLICE

Operational Services: On Thursday February 23, officers responded to Logan Airport to take custody of a juvenile who was arrested on a CHINS (Child in Need of Services) warrant issued by our Department. The juvenile had been missing for several weeks, creating the need for the warrant to be activated. The juvenile was held overnight until being brought to court on Friday.

On Sunday February 26, officers responded to Emerson Hospital for a patient causing a disturbance. Upon arrival, officers located the subject and assisted the staff in admitting the patient so she would not continue to be hostile to the staff and others.

In coordination with a Sudbury Police Department arrest, Concord Police investigators were able to identify individuals involved in a past housebreak at 147 Silver Hill Rd. Owners of the home were able to identify and recover property taken during the break-in, and we will be pursuing charges against the suspects.

Community Services: This weekend Officer Michael Bordenca gave presentations to the Concord Carlisle Drivers Education program on the hazards of drunk and impeded driving.

Administrative Services: On Thursday February 23, the Department hosted a course on truck and bus motor vehicle crash reporting sponsored by the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

On Thursday February 23, the second round of interviews for dispatch candidates continued narrowing the field of candidates to nine. A second round interview panel is being coordinated this week.

PUBLIC WORKS

Deaconess Replacement/Satellite Well Initiative: Bids have been received and are under review for the installation of a 12 by 18-inch diameter gravel packed production well, well development, and 48 hour pumping test. Additional work will include the redevelopment of the existing Deaconess Well.

Monument Street Wall: CPW expects to conduct the preconstruction meeting for the project mid to late week. The project contractor will begin dig-safe markings for the construction signage installation and also finalize variable message board locations throughout the week. The construction notice to proceed is expected to be issued for the second week in March. The favorable weather will allow project construction a little earlier than anticipated.

Cambridge Turnpike Reconstruction Project RFQ: CPW sent out a Request for Qualifications for engineering services for the Cambridge Turnpike reconstruction project. This very exciting reconstruction project attracted some of the most well respected engineering firms in New England. The RFQs were all well thought out and impressive. Therefore, a review panel was compiled by the Public Works Director and each of the eleven firms was given an opportunity to present their qualifications, experience, and overall project approach. The panel is in the process of evaluating these presentations, and anticipates making a recommendation in the near future.

Brush-Clearing: Park and Tree crews are brush-clearing the edges of many of the Town parks and recreation sites. Recently completed was Rideout, with work being started on Sanborn and lower Sanborn. The lack of snow has allowed this activity to take place, with many of these properties not having edging cutback attention in over 10 years.