

Town Manager's Report

Monday, January 9, 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

Station 1 Renovation (first floor): Flooring was being finished and the baseboard was being installed this week. Air conditioning should be installed this week, with the ceiling finished shortly thereafter.

Apparatus: The Fire Department is presently working with its radio repair company to identify and remedy some complications subsequent to our federally-required narrow-banding project undertaken last October.

The new Ladder 1 is at the dealer having some warranty work performed, and should be back Tuesday.

Emergency Management: CEMA has applied for a CERT grant through MEMA. This \$2000 grant will fund various organizational endeavors. Thanks go to Deputy Director Steve Telsey for putting the proposal together.

Personnel: The current Firefighter hiring process continues with the original field of 153 applicants narrowed to a field of 5 for further consideration. We hope to conclude the process by the end of the month.

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Building and Inspections Division

Squaw Sachem Trail: Town staff will be reviewing the Approval Not Required (ANR) plans from two different property owners off of Squaw Sachem Trail. Both property owners appear to have enough frontage and area on their lots to be able to divide their single lot into two building lots. A building permit would not be issued to build a house on either new lot until such time as the Planning Board determines under sub-division control law that the road is adequate to serve additional homes.

Long View Meadow: The Long View Meadow project off Old Powder Mill Road has started to rent and they have a new name - "Concord Mews". The rental costs for the non-affordable units has been established at \$1,840/month for a one bedroom/one bath unit, to

\$3,100/month for a three bedroom/2 bath unit. The new web site for the project is: <http://www.liveatthemews.com/concord-mews>.

Planning Division

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail: BFRT Advisory Committee Chair Judy LaRocca and Director Marcia Rasmussen attended the NRC meeting Wednesday night to discuss the two potential alignments for the Route 2 crossing (Phase 2B). Director Rasmussen will follow up with BOS Carmin Reese to discuss outreach to Acton and next steps. Consultant Greenman-Pedersen (GPI) is working on the design exception report for the West Concord portion of the trail and has been pulling together prior documentation for resubmittal. The Right of Entry document is expected to be signed by the Town Manager and forwarded to Acton, which will allow GPI to enter the property and begin initial survey work. The BFRT Advisory Committee met Thursday morning and was pleased to hear that there has been progress.

Natural Resources Division

Natural Resources Commission: At the NRC Meeting on January 4, 2012, the Commission heard the continued Notice of Intent hearings for the sewer main replacement at Concord-Carlisle High School (CCHS) and the athletic fields for Concord Academy at 153 Fairhaven Road. CCHS was continued to the January 18 meeting to revise the culvert replacement design. Concord Academy was closed and an Order of Conditions will be issued January 20. The Commission also heard a presentation from consultants to MassDOT on the two conceptual bridge alignments over Route 2 for Phase 2B of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. The Commission determined that the skew alignment that follows the existing right-of-way was preferred and an intermediate alignment should not be explored because it would not meet the performance standards of the Wetlands Protection Act Regulations and the Concord Wetlands Bylaw.

Health Division

Walden Grille: Walden Grille unexpectedly announced that it is closing.

Middlesex School: The Health Division received a complaint from a resident of Carlisle, who lives near Middlesex School, that sooty material had been deposited on her home and cars as well as those of her neighbors. The resident believed that the source of the soot was the heating plant at Middlesex School. Public Health Director Susan Rask, along with Carlisle Health Director Linda Fantasia, did a site visit to the resident's home and also spoke with the Director of Facilities at Middlesex School. A mechanical failure in the boiler caused incomplete combustion of fuel resulting in the release of soot for a period of several hours. The problem has been corrected and should not be ongoing. The complaint and results of the investigation were reported to DEP NERO.

76 Hawthorne Lane: Environmental Health Inspector Stan Sosnicki and PHD Susan Rask conducted a site visit to follow up on concerns expressed by the resident about high

groundwater and possible flooding caused by the presence of beavers. Groundwater levels near the residence and the neighborhood in general was noted to be high, as it is throughout the Town and region this year. Septic systems in the area do not appear to be flooded and a determination was made that no emergency exists at this time.

POLICE

Operational Services: On Monday January 2, officers conducted a motor vehicle stop on Route 2 involving a vehicle that was weaving all over the road at 5:20PM. After conducting an investigation, officers determined that the operator was intoxicated and should not be driving. The operator was placed under arrest and charged with 2nd offense drunk driving.

On Friday January 6, officers responded to the District Court for a report of a restraining order violation. Upon arrival officers identified the involved parties and learned that the male subject had violated an active restraining order. He was arrested and transported to the police station for processing.

Administrative Services: The application deadline for the current dispatch recruitment was January 6. The Town received approximately 60 applications, and a test will be held this week for the applicants at the police station.

PUBLIC WORKS

Main Street at Thoreau Intersection Improvements: Design of improvements at the intersection of Main and Thoreau Streets to include pedestrian signalization, curb ramp reconstruction, vehicle detection, emergency preemption and mast arm replacement is proceeding with an expected design completion date of mid-February. Construction is scheduled to take place in spring, 2012. Public outreach efforts will include both a Public Works Commission meeting and Historic District Commission hearing during a February/March timeframe.

Nagog Dam at Nagog Pond Water Supply: CPW is currently reviewing the 50% design submittal from the Town's dam engineering consultant, Pare Engineers. The design will repair several structural and hydraulic deficiencies associated with this important Town water supply. The dam is classified as a large dam with significant hazard potential by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Office of Dam Safety (ODS). A request for an advisory opinion relative to determination of whether a review under the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Act (MEPA) is required has returned a result that the current design may exceed a MEPA review threshold requiring the submittal of an Environmental Notification Form (ENF). Completion of the ENF along with other required permitting (Notice of Intent, Chapter 91 RDA, Water Quality Certification, Army Corp. of Engineering Massachusetts General Permit Category I) will occur in January to allow for 2013 construction improvements.

Cambridge Turnpike Construction Improvements Pre-Proposal Site Meeting: A Request for Qualifications has been advertised to procure engineering design services to

complete all permitting and design of roadway improvements of Cambridge Turnpike from Lexington Road to Route 2, Crosby's Corner. A pre-proposal site meeting is scheduled to take place on January 13 at 1:00 at which time all interested engineering firms will have the opportunity to visit the site and ask questions of CPW staff. An alternate lane traffic configuration will be in place at the two Mill Brook crossing locations for a brief period of time during the site meeting to provide potential proposers the ability to assess the site conditions.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Flows: As a consequence of the unusually high groundwater levels observed in Concord and throughout the region, average daily wastewater flows for December 2011 reached 1.39 million gallons per day (MGD). This has resulted in the EPA and DEP-regulated 12-month rolling average to reach the 1.2 MGD permit threshold. Continued high groundwater and resultant wastewater flows have the potential to cause an exceedance of the NPDES discharge permit level requiring DEP and EPA notification and action.

TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE

Federal Disaster Assistance: In a December 7 press release, Governor Patrick announced that as a result of his December 16 request to President Obama, federal disaster aid will be made available to Massachusetts communities to assist in their recovery from the October 29-30, 2011 Nor'easter. The assistance was authorized under a Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance (PA) issued by President Obama following a review of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) analysis of Governor Patrick's request letter. The PA assistance will be made available to Middlesex, Worcester, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire and Berkshire County. These are the six Massachusetts counties, which had eligible costs that exceeded federal financial thresholds for storm-related damage.

Under this Public Assistance Program, affected local governments, state agencies and various eligible private non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for federal funds to be reimbursed for 75% of the approved cost of protective measures, clearing debris from public roads and public property, and repairing, replacing or restoring damaged public facilities and infrastructure. Procedures for requesting the assistance will be explained at a series of applicant briefings for local officials at locations to be announced shortly by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These briefings will explain the reimbursement process for receiving federal funds for eligible expenses incurred by state and local governments, as well as eligible non-profit organizations.