

Town Manager's Report Tuesday, January 18, 2011

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: The new addition has been closed in and brick veneer application will begin this week. The roof was installed several hours before the recent major snowstorm.

EMS: The Fire Department is grateful for several donations which together will enable the Department to purchase a state-of-the-art, heavy-duty automatic stretcher for the newly ordered ambulance. This will create a safer environment for both Department personnel and patients.

Fire Prevention: Open burning season begins January 15 and will last until May 1. While the same rules apply this year, there is a difference in the way permits will be obtained and activated. The public will be encouraged to visit the Fire Department website where they will be able to obtain and activate open burning permits online. For those residents unable to take advantage of this technology, they will be able to visit Station 2 in West Concord to obtain a permit. Due to the extensive renovations at headquarters, for this year only permits will not be available at the 209 Walden Street Station.

LIBRARY

Activities: Last Friday evening the library remained open for 45 middle school students and a half a dozen parent chaperones to view the popular film, *Inception* (2010) PG-13. This program, which had been requested by the Library's Teen Advisory Board, was very well received with multiple requests for similar future programs.

The Friends of CFPL's annual "Friday Flicks at Fowler" will resume this winter as "Movies at Main" while the Fowler building is closed for renovation. The series will take place at the Main Library beginning this Friday, January 21 at 7:00 p.m. with the first film, *Song of Sparrows* (Iran, 2008).

The Concord Free Public Library will be open from 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. this Sunday, January 23 for the CCHS student study day. Regular library hours will take place from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. that day.

Fowler Renovation Update: The Fowler Renovation is proceeding on time and on budget with a spring reopening planned. A new customized circulation desk installed last week restores the former charm of the main entryway.



Fowler Exterior



New Fowler Circulation Desk

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Planning Division

Community Preservation Committee: After postponing its Wednesday night meeting, the CPC met Friday morning to fine tune its funding recommendations for the 2011 Annual Town Meeting and complete the draft conditions for recommended projects. The draft project conditions will be mailed to applicants in the next week to give them a chance to review and comment on the draft conditions before the Finance Committee's public hearing in March.

West Concord Industrial Development initiatives: Last Tuesday night the Planning Board heard a presentation by proponents about the proposed redevelopment of the 50 Beharrell Street site (including 48,000 square feet of light industrial and commercial space, a 6,000 square foot restaurant and 74 units of residential units, public access and open space/park along the Nashoba Brook and a 12,000 square foot outdoor program space). The Board then discussed the potential zoning bylaw amendments required to achieve the development envisioned and heard from residents and West Concord Task Force members in attendance about some of the concerns raised about the extent of redevelopment proposed.

On Thursday, the Town's plan review staff met with the relevant property owner to discuss his application submitted to the Board of Appeals to formalize and extend parking around the buildings at the Bradford Mills on Bradford Street and obtain relief from parking requirements to increase flexibility in leasing to various businesses.

Natural Resources Division

Trails Committee: Natural Resources staff assisted the Trails Committee in applying to the Historic Districts Commission for approval of the installation of a Bay Circuit Trail (BCT) sign at Heywood Meadow. A hearing on this application will be held February 17. The Trails Committee has also begun discussions with the Bay Circuit Alliance to re-route the BCT trails across the Spencer Brook Valley. This effort would relocate the trail off College Road and a portion of Barrett's Mill Road to a more cross country route, and will require cooperation of private land owners. The Committee is researching what is required to secure private landowner permissions.

PUBLIC WORKS

Recent Storm Events

December 26 Winter Storm Event: On the morning of December 26, Public Works crews arrived at approximately 7:30 AM to begin preparation for winter weather emergency. Light snow began early morning and resulted in deteriorating road and driving conditions. CPW crews continued sanding operations through late morning with a brief snow burst arriving early afternoon. Sanding operations continued with plowing commencing during early evening hours with the arrival of heavier and sustained snowfall. Contractors were called in at approximately 7:00 PM on the evening of the 26th with plowing continuing through the evening of December 27. Strong, continuous winds and gusts resulting in drifting snow complicated plowing operations. Overall snow accumulations approached 11 inches. Total material usage was approximately 499 tons of sand and salt with total storm expenditures through Tuesday, December 28 of \$72,475.

January 12 Winter Storm Event: During the early morning hours of January 12 (at approximately 1:30 AM) Public Works initial response crews arrived to begin plowing operations for a storm predicted to be one of significant duration and accumulation. The balance of CPW crews arrived at 3:00 AM with contractors reporting for duty at 4:30 AM. Plowing operations continued through 7:30 PM on January 12 with snow accumulations exceeding 17". As accumulating snow ended at approximately 7:30 PM on January 12, plowing contractors were released. Clearing of parking lots along with push back on main roadways and intersections, sidewalk clearing, scraping and treatment continued through 9:00 AM on Thursday January 13 with Concord Public Works crews focusing on post storm cleanup for the balance of Thursday, January 13. Limited snow removal operations took place on the morning of January 15 in West Concord and Concord Centers along with Thoreau Street. Public Works crews once again did an excellent job in snow fighting. The duration of the storm at which time CPW crews were continuously engaged in snow fighting operations exceeded 32 hours.

Wastewater Incentive Payment - CoMag Phosphorous Removal System: Public Works recently received a check in the amount of \$133,045 for deposit in the Town's Sewer Fund. This payment was made by Cambridge Water Technologies (CWT) and is part of the incentive agreement negotiated with the manufacturer of the CoMag Phosphorous removal system installed as part of the recent wastewater treatment plant upgrades. The CoMag technology is in place to meet Federal NPDES wastewater discharge permit requirements.

The Town of Concord was the first facility in the world to invest in this CWT Phosphorous treatment technology and has the potential to recoup all of its investment through this incentive agreement.

Traffic Signal Mast Arm Damaged at Main and Thoreau: On the morning of Tuesday December 28 at approximately 8:20 AM, the traffic signal pole, mast arm and sign cabling system was struck by a private solid waste hauling truck resulting in substantial damage to the traffic signal system at the intersection of Main and Thoreau Streets. Concord Public Works and Concord Police responded and have worked closely with the traffic signal contractor to implement emergency measures and coordinate temporary repairs which were completed as of Friday afternoon, December 31. Conversations are ongoing with the contractor's insurance company to finalize a plan for permanent repairs.

Christmas Tree Recycling and Styrofoam Block Drop-off: The annual residential drop off of Christmas trees & Styrofoam block for recycling was once again made available at the Compost site located at 755 Walden Street. The Compost Site was open for Christmas tree drop-off on two consecutive weekend on Friday and Saturday with the final collection ending on Friday, January 14 & Saturday, January 15.

Sewer Collection System Modeling: Water and Sewer staff have been working with Black and Veatch Engineering to develop a sewer collection system model which, when calibrated, will assist in ongoing inflow & infiltration analysis and will help highlight collection system carrying capacity constraints and challenges. Present activities involve an infrastructure data verification of our existing wastewater collection system. Once this work is complete, historic flow data from individual pumping stations will be compiled and populated into this Stormwater Management Model (INFO SWMM).

Water System Improvement Project: Public Works staff is in the process of reviewing request for proposal responses from engineering firms in anticipation of a contract award to inspect and develop both preliminary and final design plans for two treated water storage tanks to included mixing and treatment systems along with exploring the viability of adding satellite replacement wells at existing water supply site for the purpose of restoring the permitted water yield. Engineering design services will involve hydrological, structural, mechanical, electrical and process control support for these improvements.

Fire Hydrant Snow Clearing: After each major snow storm has abated and the streets have been cleared, the Water & Sewer Division crews target their efforts towards shoveling out the over 1,200 fire hydrants located across Town. The public's support is welcome and appreciated in accomplishing this following each snow storm. CPW offers the reminder that the hydrant that one can see from their home is very same hydrant that is there to protect you and your property.