

Town Manager's Report

Monday, January 24, 2011

To: Board of Selectmen
From: Christopher Whelan, Town Manager

Following are some of the matters reported on this week by various Town Departments:

COUNCIL ON AGING

COA Director Retiring: Mary Anne Mortenson has announced her intention to retire from the Director position on March 31. Staff has begun the recruitment process, and the position was advertised as of the past weekend.

FINANCE

New Assessor begins work: Lane Partridge begins work today as Concord's new Assessor.

LIGHT DEPARTMENT

Smart Grid – Marketing Roundtable Discussion: Concord Light is planning a roundtable discussion with a few dozen of its Electronic Thermal Storage (ETS) and controlled water heating customers to solicit feedback to help CMLP develop its Smart Grid marketing program and product ideas. The discussion group is scheduled for Tuesday, January 25. An invitation brochure will be sent out to customers this week.

Solar Purchased Power Program: Documents continue to be refined in preparation for the innovative Solar Purchased Power Program to be launched by Concord Light this spring. Under this program, customers can lease a solar PV array from a third party vendor who will install the system on the customer's property and the customer in turn sells the power to Concord Light. The lease arrangement eliminates the high first cost barrier to entry for residential customers and appears to be an economic alternative in providing alternative energy.

Miller Hydro: It appears the three year contract with Miller Hydro, which is scheduled to end on 2/28/13, will be extended an additional 39 months and at a price reduction. The price on the extension will be about 10% less per kilowatt-hour and include capacity credits. Miller Hydro represents about 3% of our total energy purchases.

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Health Division

Soil testing on Monsen Road: Health Division staff reports witnessing soil tests for 9 new lots on a portion of the Scimone Farm property with access from Monsen Rd. Soil results were suitable to design septic systems on the property.

Planning Division

West Concord Task Force: Last Tuesday the Planning Director attended the WCTF meeting where the Task Force considered its recommendation on potential zoning bylaw amendments for the West Concord Industrial District. The Task Force also heard updates from a few West Concord Industrial property owners, and a plea to be clear about direction for redevelopment).

Affordable Housing: Planning Division staff compiled and submitted the Subsidized Housing Inventory forms to the Dept. of Housing & Community Development requesting that the 350 units of rental housing be re-instated on the Inventory. Staff also met with the Town Assessor and Sudbury Housing Specialist Beth Rust to discuss a standard methodology for assessing all affordable housing units in Concord.

Historical Commission update: Staff attended the Historical Commission meeting last Thursday to discuss updates to the Historic Resources Master Plan and the creation of a new GIS data-layer that will provide photographs of and Mass Historic inventory forms for the many historic structures in the community.

POLICE

Operations: On Tuesday, January 18, the traffic lights at the intersection of ORNAC and Rte. 2 malfunctioned several times during the evening commuting hours. Concord Officers were called to assist with traffic while the lights were repaired by Mass. Highway staff.

The Department investigated a break-in at the Rte. 2 Sunoco Gas Station early Wednesday morning. Officers were sent to investigate alarm activation at the gas station and noticed that it had been broken into. Upon further investigation it was discovered that \$5,000 was stolen from their ATM machine. Groton Police are investigating a similar incident and officers believe the same individual is responsible for both break-ins. The Department hopes to identify the suspect from the gas station's video footage.

This week the Department dealt with two winter storms that came through the area. Traffic crashes reported were minimal, although officers had to assist with multiple vehicles that became stuck in the snow. Officers also assisted the Public Works Staff with removal of vehicles that inhibited snow removal efforts.

Community Services: The Department wrapped up its efforts to detect drunk drivers over the Holidays. As part of the national campaign sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA) and the Executive Office of Public Safety (EOPSS), officers

participated in the *Drunk Driving, Over the Limit, Under Arrest*, mobilization. Officers worked specific patrols to detect and deter drunk drivers over the holiday period. The Department did make several arrests during the first part of the year in a continuing effort to make the roadways in Concord safer.

Administrative Services: Roy Mulcahy was appointed to the position of Police Lieutenant last week. Lt. Mulcahy will oversee the Department's Patrol and Special Services Divisions.

PUBLIC WORKS

Nagog Pond Water Supply, Dam Rehabilitation: Public Works staff has proactively submitted the required Phase I and Phase II evaluations of the Nagog Dam to the Office of Dam Safety. Dam investigations have shown

- 1) significant deterioration of concrete along the length of the structure
- 2) Areas of leakage through the mass concrete dam in areas
- 3) Inoperable low level outlet
- 4) Inoperable gates within the gatehouse and
- 5) Growth of large trees in the area of the dam

A meeting with the Office of Dam Safety is scheduled to discuss approach for repair. Based on initial cost estimates, anticipated funding has been established as part of the \$1.9 Million dollar debt authorization approved at the 2010 Town Meeting for reconstruction of the Route 2A pump station, water intake design and dam design and construction improvements.

Traffic Management Group: Concord Public Works and Police Department staff is continuing to develop a process to evaluate and prioritize requests for traffic calming measures primarily on residential and minor collector streets. The process has been developed in order to establish a structured process through which the Town can respond to and address residents' concerns regarding these types of traffic issues that occur on Town maintained residential and minor collector streets.

2011 Roads Program: Public Works Engineering Division is beginning preliminary design of the 2011 Roads Program. The initial list of roadways that are projected to receive treatment include: mill and overlay of Thoreau Street (from Sudbury Road to Walden Street), reclamation of Whittemore Street, Brook Trail Road, the Willow/Hubbard/Fielding/Union Street neighborhood, Thoreau Court, Central Street (from Pine Street to Derby Street) and Riverside Avenue from (Pine Street to Derby Street).

Upon completion of the preliminary designs, the Engineering Division will begin scheduling neighborhood outreach meetings along with Public Works Commission Public Hearings. Residents on streets which will be affected will receive notification of outreach meeting times as well as a comment card to allow any roadway concerns to be addressed within the design process.

Monument Street Retaining Wall (Hutchins Farm): The Engineering Division is in the process of preparing a request for proposals for design services to develop plans and specifications to reconstruct the bulging portion of the dry stack stone retaining wall at Hutchins Farm. CPW installed a stone buttressing two years ago to stop the any further movement of the retaining wall stones. The design will be fast tracked for a summer/fall construction timeframe and is partially funded through the Community Preservation Act.

Water Service Break: Unusually cold temperatures may have contributed to a private water service break on Friday which feeds the Mediplex facility at 57 ORNAC. The break required response from Concord Public Works Water Division crews to provide assistance and oversight of the contracted repairs. The main was isolated at the property line, repairs were made and potable water service was back on line by 4:00 PM. Fire protection was never disrupted.

YOUTH SERVICES

Coordinator Begins Work: Concord resident Erin Duggan begins work today as Concord's first Youth Services Coordinator, in time to join the new Youth Advisory Committee for their first meeting this Wednesday evening.