

Town Manager's Report

Monday, June 3, 2013

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

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

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Natural Resources Division

White Pond Watershed Management Plan: Staff received two proposals last week to develop a Watershed Management Plan for White Pond. These will be evaluated next week, and staff will determine whether the two proposals are adequate, or if the project should be rebid.

Summer Intern: Starting Monday, Henry Holm will be joining the DNR crew for nine weeks to assist the Conservation Crew in trail maintenance for the month of June, and then developing an invasive species webpage for the Town website. Henry is a Concord resident who attends Colorado College working towards his Bachelor Degree in biology and environmental science.

McGrath Farm: Jim Macone has commenced cosmetic and structural repairs on the red barn at the McGrath Farm. Work includes replacing the doors, windows, and a sill. Work requiring Historic District Commission approval will be heard at the June 20 HDC meeting.

Health Division

Risk Communication Training: Staff attended the Massachusetts Environmental Health Association annual meeting which included training on risk perception and communication. The training was conducted by Concord resident David Ropeik.

Seasonal Inspections: Health Division staff spent significant time last week conducting pre-opening inspections of swimming pools and recreational camps, and inspecting seasonal food service operations such as snack bars and catered events. Eleven swimming pools, one camp and seven food service inspections were conducted.

Annual Licenses: Administrative Assistant Karen Byrne has issued all annual licenses for food establishments, retail stores, hazardous waste, swimming pools, animals, and tanning beds for facilities whose licenses expired at the end of May.

Septic System Plans: The Health Division received eight plans for installation of new septic systems this week, an unusually high number to receive in one week.

Planning Division

CrossTown Connect: Director Marcia Rasmussen attended the meeting of the CrossTown Connect group to learn more about the work being done to create a new Transportation Management Association (TMA) in this area. Because Emerson Hospital and the number of medical offices in the community represent a significant number of vehicle trip destinations for several neighboring communities, Concord is one of two new grant partners working with the towns of Acton, Boxborough, Littleton, Maynard, Stow and Westford to develop the TMA. Through the efforts of Acton Health Director Doug Halley, this group has received a second Community Innovation Challenge Grant from the State. The proposed project is made up of three phases - Phase 1 includes mapping and analysis of trips by Council on Aging vans in Concord and Westford, expansion of business partners and consideration of special transportation needs, and TMA planning to improve employee recruitment, diversify the work force and enhance economic opportunity. Phase 2 includes purchase of dispatch software and tablet technology for those communities choosing to participate, implementation and continuous re-evaluation. Phase 3 involves the launch of a re-configured CrossTown Connect group. The information to be gathered in Phase 1 for Concord and additional outreach to the Concord community is needed before the Town can fully commit to participation in the TMA, but the group's goal is to provide a more efficient, effective and responsive means of transportation for residents and workers who do not drive or have a car or choose to reduce their carbon-footprint. This effort relates directly to conversations taking place regarding the Healthy Community initiative being led by the Health Division as well as the Board of Selectmen's goal of a more sustainable Concord.

Millbrook Tarry Task Force (MTTF): The MTTF met Thursday night to discuss the wetlands and Mill Brook as they impact the Millbrook Tarry site. Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye was invited to provide information about the regulatory framework for reviewing these areas – the Wetlands Protection Act, the Rivers Protection Act and the process for Vernal Pool Certification. The Task Force also scheduled a site visit with Owner/Developer Jim White for Tuesday, June 4 at 4:00 p.m., and a meeting with Public Works Director Rich Reine at 5:00 p.m. immediately following the site visit to discuss the sewer capacity concerns about redevelopment of Millbrook Tarry and the wastewater planning efforts underway.

POLICE

Operational Services: On Monday May 27, Officer Young responded Crosby's Marketplace for a report of a past hit & run of a parked vehicle. After taking the initial report, Officer Young was able to track down the other party. After interviewing the vehicle's owner and completing his investigation, Officer Young issued a summons to the involved party for leaving the scene of an accident.

On Tuesday May 28, CPD staff responded to Concord Park for a missing elderly woman who suffered from dementia. They learned that the woman had walked away at approximately 8AM after last being seen in the dining area. Other officers were brought in to the scene to assist with the search, with Lt. Tom Mulcahy assuming command. Notifications were put out to the community using CPD's "Code Red" notification system and. The woman was located by Det. Camilleri and Officer Capone on a path behind Junction Square. The woman was later transported to Emerson Hospital for evaluation.

The Department continues to experience a high number of calls for assistance at Emerson Hospital. The calls pertain to disturbances at the Emergency Room involving patients that are violent and uncooperative with staff. This past week saw four (4) such calls, each being resolved peacefully.

Community Services: On Friday May 31, the Fox 25 show, Zip Trip, visited Concord and presented CPD Sergeant Chris Troiano, Officers Jeff Shelley, Sylvia Toumayan, and Mike Burgess, with their "Hometown Hero Award." These officers are assigned to the North Eastern Law Enforcement Council, and responded to the Boston and Watertown incidents.

There were several community events that the Department assisted with over the weekend: The annual Garden Tour, Emerson Hospital Auxiliary walk / run; the annual Milldam Nursery Duck Derby; the Willard Carnival at the Willard School; the Just Cause Breast Cancer Walk; and a benefit motorcycle ride that passed through Town on Sunday morning. All were well attended and went off without incident.

PUBLIC WORKS

Sleepy Hollow Cemetery - Granite Post and Chain Fence Installation: Concord Public Works Highway Division staff will begin the installation this week of over 80 granite posts and black chain along Bedford Street at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. The project will begin between the first and second gate where the chain link fence had previously been located. The second phase will continue between the third and fourth gate with completion scheduled for this construction season. This project is funding through a Community Preservation Act (CPA) Grant as well as The "Friends of Sleepy Hollow".

Spring Public Shade Tree Planting: The Concord Public Works Ground's Division is continuing with the spring tree planting operation with the goal to have all spring tree plantings completed by the mid-June. Over 70 trees are scheduled to be planted during this initial phase of planting operations. Additional trees will also be planted in the fall as part of the second phase of the shade tree planting program.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Assistance: A kick off meeting with FEMA representatives to discuss reimbursements for expenses related to winter storm Nemo is scheduled for Friday June 7th. Preliminary communications from FEMA suggest that Concord will be reimbursed for up to 75% of Concord Public Works winter maintenance expenses or approximately \$106,000 for a designated 48 period related to the severe winter storm of February 8th and 9th 2013.