

Town Manager's Report Monday, November 4, 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

Health Division

Board of Health Tobacco and Nicotine Delivery Products Regulation: The Board of Health is concerned with the increasing popularity of e-cigarettes, especially among youth. A recent survey conducted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show that the number of teens who have tried an e-cigarette doubled from one in 20 in 2011, to one in ten in 2012. About 3% of teens said they had used an e-cigarette in the past 30 days, and 1.8 million middle and high school students said they had tried e-cigarettes in 2012. The long term health effects of these nicotine delivery products are poorly understood, and they are increasingly being marketed to teens. The Board is also concerned over “vaping”, the use of e-cigarettes in public spaces where smoking has generally been prohibited. The Board is in the process of amending its tobacco and nicotine delivery product regulation to strengthen provisions that impede youth access to nicotine delivery products, single inexpensive cigars, and blunt wraps, and to prohibit the use of e-cigarettes in public places.

Planning Division

Community Preservation Committee: The CPC held its second project review meeting on Friday, November 1, to review the Town projects submitted for potential funding at the 2014 Annual Town Meeting. Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye presented the application for the Rogers Land Restoration work and was joined by Joanne Gibson of the Heywood Meadow Subcommittee for the review of the Heywood Meadow Stone Wall Restoration Project. Planning Director Marcia Rasmussen presented three projects at this time – the Rappoli Land Acquisition, continued funding for the design of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail – Phase 2B, and the Regional Housing Services Program. The Committee will hold its last project review meeting on Monday, November 4 and has scheduled a public hearing on the proposed projects for Monday, November 18.

Wheeler-Harrington House RFP Underway: The Historical Commission recently released a Request for Proposals from qualified planning firms and individuals to complete a three part review of the Wheeler-Harrington House and Park for inclusion in a Management Plan for the site. On Thursday, Senior Planner Lara Kritzer, Historical Commission Member

Electa Tritsch and Property Caretaker Peter Benes led a site visit for seven interested consultants to view the current conditions at the property. The RFP will remain open through Thursday, November 21 and the CHC hopes to have a contractor in place and work underway this winter.

Millbrook Tarry Task Force: The MTTF met on Tuesday to discuss the latest developments at the Millbrook Tarry site - Rite Aid is now willing to consider temporary relocation to allow demolition of the existing structure and construction of a new building that will have space for Rite Aid, along with other retail and residential uses. The Task Force also discussed the outreach to abutting commercial property owners, the report to the Planning Board and possible zoning bylaw amendments that may be necessary to allow the redevelopment to occur as discussed to date. The next meeting of the MTTF is scheduled for Wednesday, November 6 at 7:00 p.m. at 141 Keyes Road.

Building Inspections Division

Construction in Concord: At this time a year ago, the value of all construction permitted in Concord was \$58.8 million dollars. To date in 2013, the value of all construction permitted is over twice that - at \$119.5 million. Building permits for new home construction has increased from 24 new homes a year ago to 37 new homes this year as of November 1. Of the 37 new homes, 32 are being built on lots in which a previous home had existed and was demolished to make way for the new home. In 2012, there was only half this number of tear-downs (16).

Monsen Road Extension Begins/Lot 9B Monsen Road: Bentley Building Corp. expects to start construction next week of an eight-lot Definitive Subdivision of land at 9B and 247 Monsen Road (Parcels 1059 & 1069). This will be an extension of the existing Monsen Road.

Shaw Farm Road Project Begins: Located off of Elm Street opposite the Northeast Correctional Center, this Comprehensive Permit Local Initiative Project began construction with the installation of the first four foundations. "The Homes on Elm" project by ABODE Development includes eight (8) dwelling units in a mix of 2- and 3-bedroom homes. Two (2) of the 8 units will be made available as affordable units and will be included in the State's Subsidized Housing Inventory.

POLICE

Operational Services: On Monday October 28, Sgt. Morahan conducted a motor vehicle stop on Route 2 at Sandy Pond Road for a suspected impaired operator. After a brief roadside investigation, Sgt. Morahan determined that the operator was intoxicated and should not be driving. The operator was placed under arrest and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol.

On Tuesday October 29, Officer Toumayan responded to CVS Pharmacy for a report of fraudulent use of a credit card. Officer Toumayan learned that the owner of the credit card had lost the card in the CVS, and an unknown individual(s) had taken it. Several

unauthorized charges were placed on the account prior to the account being closed. Surveillance tapes from the locations where the credit card were used are being retrieved and reviewed, and the case remains under investigation.

On Friday November 1, Sgt. Connell, Officer Toumayan and Officer Young responded to the Emerson Hospital Emergency Department for a disturbance. Upon arrival officers learned that an altercation had taken place and one subject had been assaulted. Initially, charges were to be filed against that party and he was to be summonsed into court. While the officers were still conducting their investigation, that individual became combative while being admitted to the Hospital. During that altercation, Officer Young was assaulted while the subject was trying to be restrained. Officers ended up subduing the subject and he was later placed under arrest. He was transported to the Station where he was processed and held until a Monday morning court appearance.

Community Services: Officers assisted CPW Engineering on Saturday, November 2 in their completion of a paving project at RTE 117 and Sudbury Rd. Pavement markings of the roadways will be completed in the near future.

Administrative Services: The Department was recently awarded additional funding for pedestrian and crosswalk enforcement. The funding was received through a grant which was awarded by the Executive Office of Public Safety. The grant will enable officers to increase existing enforcement activities at crosswalks throughout Town, as well as ensure pedestrian and bicycle safety. This is the next installment of the grant which EOPSS provides to communities throughout the Commonwealth in an effort to promote safety and education to motor vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The Department recently completed similar additional enforcement activities through another grant at the end of September.