



TOWN OF CONCORD

Town Manager's Report

Week of: November 9th 2015

Public Hearing on Rideout Recreation Renovation and Rehab. Project

Contact: 978-369-6460

The Town of Concord will hold a public hearing **Monday, November 16th at 6:30 p.m.** in the Town House Public Hearing Room, 22 Monument Square, to discuss options, progress and goals relating to the active recreation property located on Lawsbrook Road in Concord.

Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc., a design, construction, and maintenance corporation, with offices located throughout the Northeast was hired by the Town to spearhead a Master Plan and conceptual design plan for integrating the 51 Lawsbrook Road parcel to the existing Rideout Recreation property. Their Engineers have taken time to assess the property's existing amenities and parking. At the hearing, representatives from Weston and Sampson plan to present a current conditions report as well as several conceptual designs, ideas, and options for the usage of the areas.

The Town of Concord is interested in gathering citizen input for the project. If you require assistance with accessibility to assisted listening devices, please contact Zachary Vaillette, Recreation Programs and Events Manager, to request an accommodation.

Tax Classification Public Hearing

Contact: (978) 318-3070

After having been duly advertised in the Concord Journal, the Select Board will hold a public hearing next Monday November 16th at 7:10 p.m. in the Select Board Room of the Concord Town House at 22 Monument Square to determine the allocation of the FY16 tax levy among the four classes of real property and of personal property. The tax policy decisions include a split tax rate, an open space discount, a residential exemption, and a small commercial exemption. The Board of Assessors presentation will be available on the Town's website at www.concordma.gov on the Assessor's webpage. Public comment may be submitted in writing to the Select Board prior to the hearing, or it may be presented orally at the meeting. A vote on the FY16 tax policies will be taken following the Select Board's hearing.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) – MassDOT hosts Public Information Meeting, November 17th

Contact: (978) 318-3290

MassDOT has scheduled a public information meeting for **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17th** to discuss the 75% design plans of the proposed Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) in Concord. The meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Harvey Wheeler Community Center at 1276 Main Street. An open house for individual property owners abutting the trail to review the proposed design adjacent to their property will take place immediately before the meeting beginning at 6:15 p.m. Members of the BFRT Advisory Committee, MassDOT staff and the Design Consultant will be present to answer questions and interpret plans as needed.

All Concord residents are invited to attend to learn more about the 75% design and to provide input for the plans. Light refreshments will be provided, courtesy of the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. For more information, please visit the Town's website at:

http://concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_Freeman/index.

Energy Rebates!

With weatherization services such as insulation, sealing of air leaks, and installation of programmable thermostats, most residents can save as much as 20-30% off of their energy bills. In addition to saving you money, weatherization can make you and your family more comfortable in your home by reducing drafts.

And reducing the energy used to heat and cool your home can reduce fossil fuel emissions that contribute to climate change by as much as 20-30%.

Go to
www.greenyourheatconcord.com
or call 617-963-8141
for more information.





HUMAN SERVICES DIVISIONS

RECREATION • COUNCIL ON AGING • COMMUNITY SERVICES • YOUTH SERVICES • VETERANS OUTREACH

Community Services

Contact: 978-318-3034

The Community Services Coordinator received **75 emails, 27 phone calls and had 4 home/office visits** all related to requests for assistance. The requests focused on food assistance, utility bill payment assistance, rental cost assistance, housing location assistance, transportation assistance, applying for disability assistance, applying for fuel assistance and food stamp assistance and upcoming holiday assistance.

SMOC Fuel Assistance – 2015-2016 Fuel Assistance Program Season is now open! If you are a Concord resident under the age of 60 and are interested in applying for fuel assistance, please contact Aileen Buford, MSW at 978.318.3034 or abuford@concordma.gov for an informational packet. Eligibility is based on household size and household income.

Concord Cares – Emergency Heating Oil program – disburses 75 gallons of free heating oil to Concord families in emergent need. To apply contact the Community Services Coordinator, Aileen Buford, MSW at 978.318.3034 or if over age 60 contact the Concord Council on Aging at 978.318.3020. After hours **EMERGENCY NEED**, contact the Fire Dept at 978.318.4888 or the Police Dept/ at 978.318.3400.

OPEN TABLE – FOOD PANTRY IS IN NEED OF DONATIONS! most especially non-perishable sources of protein, such as canned fish, ham, hash, chili, beef stew and spam. Donations are accepted at 105 Everett Street on Thursdays from 12-3pm. For further information please contact 978.369.2275.

Open Table offers a community supper in Concord on Thursdays at First Parish Church (20 Lexington Road) at 5:30pm and has pantry items available at this location from 4:30pm-6:30pm for anyone who is in need of food. No application is required, everyone is welcome. For additional information call 978.369.2275 or visit the website at www.opentable.org

Community Services (Continued)

The 17th Annual International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day Healing Conference -- a free program open to all who have lost someone to suicide. Saturday, November 21st, 2015 at Family Services of the Merrimack Valley 430 North Canal Street, Lawrence, MA 01840 --directions located on <http://fsmv.org/Contact.html> TIME – 10am until 2pm – Continental breakfast and lunch will be served. **REGISTRATION is REQUIRED.** To register or for more information, please call or email Debbie at 978.327.6671 or dhelms@fsmv.org

Concord Youth and Community Services are teaming up with the Concord Carlisle Community Chest to have a Holiday Gift Drive. Locations of drop boxes and dates will be announced.

Council on Aging

Contact: 978-318-3020

On Friday, November 6th the Council on Aging staff and volunteers had the pleasure of hosting a breakfast to honor the Veterans living in Concord. Close to 90 Veterans and their spouses filled the auditorium on a bright autumn day. Ray Snay was the Master of Ceremonies. After the pledge of Allegiance and the singing of God Bless America by Al Robichaud, presentations were made by Assistant Town Manager, Kate Hodges; Veteran's Agent, Dick Krug; and business owner, Charlie Dee. The 1st and 4th grade children at Alcott School made the place mats and the Lions Club provided the center pieces. The children of the Carousel Preschool provided precious singing entertainment. For those Veterans who were not able to join us, the event was filmed for CCTV by volunteer, Bob Bratzler. The event was offered free of charge to all attending thanks to the proceeds from the Harvey Wheeler gift shop. The COA joins a grateful nation in saluting all Veterans for their service to our country.

Food Drive

Contact: (978) 369-6460

Open Table is looking for donations of non-perishable food items from November 9th-November 24th at the Hunt Rec. Center, The Beede Center, and the Harvey Wheeler Community Center Mon.-Fri. from 8:00am-5:00pm.



Department of Planning & Land Management (DPLM)
BUILDING INSPECTION • PLANNING • NATURAL RESOURCES • BOARD OF HEALTH • ZONING

Planning Division

Contact: (978) 318-3290

Community Preservation Committee on Tuesday, November 3: The CPC held their second CPA funding application review session and met with two applicants. The Committee will continue project reviews on Monday, November 9 beginning at 8:00 AM.

Historic Districts Commission on Thursday, November 5: The HDC reviewed one continued and two new applications. New Certificates of Appropriateness were issued for a new slide at Concord Children's Center, 1300 Main Street; a new chimney cap at 20 Bow Street; and a new addition at 410 Lowell Road. The Commission continued review of alternative forms of preservation legislation that could be considered for Concord's historic neighborhoods that currently have no protections in place.

59 Walden St./former TD Bank site: The DPLM Director and Town Planner met with the property owner for 59 Walden Street to discuss potential Zoning Bylaw amendments to increase the allowed uses for the site. The property owner will be attending the November 10th Planning Board meeting to discuss a possible Zoning Bylaw amendment to allow combined business/residential as a permitted use.

MAPC/MAGIC and regional planning issues: The Town Planner attended the Metropolitan Area Planning Council MAGIC (Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination) sub regional meeting on November 5th. Members of the Boston MPO presented the update to the MPO's Long Range Plan, which provides a 25-year vision for transportation in the Boston metropolitan area. One noted change to the Plan was a shift to a larger share of funding investments from major infrastructure projects to 'complete streets' efforts. MBTA staff presented on the development of the 2040 long-term capital investment plan, called FOCUS 4T. There was also a reminder that the MAGIC sub region is having a public forum on Local Planning for Climate Resilience on Thursday, November 19th at 6:30pm in the Acton Town Hall. Registration for the forum is requested. For more information, please visit the Planning Division web page at http://concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_Planning/index and click on the button for regional planning issues.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee meeting of November 5th: The BFRTAC discussed planning for the November 17th public information meeting, reviewed draft design of the Historic interpretive panels and heard an update on recent activity from Director Marcia Rasmussen.

CrossTown Connect (CTC) meeting of Nov. 6th: The DPLM Director attended the November meeting of CTC to learn more about the Transportation Management Association's (TMA) efforts on mobility management. CTC is a public-private partnership focused on reducing traffic congestion and air pollution while increasing mobility and travel options for citizens and commuters. The member communities of CTC (Acton, Boxborough, Littleton, Maynard and Westford) have entered into a community compact with the Governor to continue the best practices that CTC has been developing.

Building Inspections Division

Contact: (978) 318-3280

LED lighting conversion for 141 Keyes Road: The proposal to convert all interior lighting to LED lighting at 141 Keyes Road has been approved by the Town Manager using funding from Sawyer Trust funds. This re-lamping work is scheduled to begin in two weeks.

Permit activity remains high: The Inspections Division staff anticipates setting a new record for construction activity in Concord this year. Permits issued to date are 17% above a year ago. There were 766 building permits issued last year; staff is projecting over 1,000 building permits to be issued in 2015.



Department of Planning & Land Management (DPLM)
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Health Division

Contact: (978) 318-3275

Septic system permitting: 5 septic plan designs reviewed and 5 septic permits issued; 1 septic variance issued; 3 Certificates of Compliance issued. 4 Deep test holes witnessed; 9 septic field inspections. 1 sewer review and 2 building reviews completed. Assistant Health Director Stan Sosnicki worked with a project engineer to discuss upgrade of septic system at 221 Baker Ave., related to conversion of the building's use from Concord Elks to New Life Church.

Food service: 3 re-inspections of food establishments; Order letter sent to New England Deaconess for failure to correct violations. 1 site inspection of a proposed Residential Retail Kitchen for baked goods. 3 temporary food permits issued; 1 inspection of a Temporary Food Event during service.

Health Inspector Gabrielle White worked with 3 local church groups this week to permit temporary food events for holiday and antique fairs this weekend at First Parish Church, Trinity Episcopal Church and Trinitarian Congregational. Gabrielle spent significant amounts of time working with volunteers at each church to assure that complex menus of food could be prepared and served to the public safely.

Housing complaints: 2 housing inspections and 2 Order letters issued to property owners for failure to provide heat as required in rental units.

Other: Updated the Health Division webpage to include new information for poultry owners on the emerging disease risk of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and to provide information on MDPH and United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) revised guidelines on fluoridation levels in public water supplies.

Natural Resources Division

Contact: (978) 318-3285

Natural Resources Commission meeting of November 4th: The Commission heard the following matters: an Amendment Request to construct a stone wall at 987 Lowell Road; a Notice of Intent (NOI) to demolish and reconstruct a house at 317 Old Bedford Road; a NOI for after-the-fact tree removal and construction of a garage or other landscape amenities at 129 Everett Street; and a Request for Determination of Applicability for 164 Southfield Road to winterize a three season porch. Permits were issued for 987 Lowell Road, 317 Old Bedford Road, 164 Southfield Road and for the construction of a single family house at 44A Fitchburg Road (heard at the last meeting).

New applications received this week for the November 18th NRC meeting include a Notice of Intent to demolish and reconstruct a single family house at 197 Elsinore Street; and to reconstruct an existing retaining wall, install a storm-water treatment unit, and remove and repave portions of an existing parking lot and sidewalk at 33 Walden Street.

Trails Committee: DNR staff worked with the Trails Committee to evaluate existing trails at Harrington Park and Second Division Brook and assessed how these trails could be extended through the Rogers Land and recently acquired easements to create a mile loop trail that would extend from Main Street through to Harrington Park.



Solar array near Walden Pond looking east. Photo credit: Steven Ng