



TOWN OF CONCORD

Town Manager's Report

Week of: November 23rd 2015

Finance News

Contact: (978) 318-3090

Town Clerk Staff Busy with Initiative Petitions

Some residents may have experienced the flurry of initiative petitions circulating around Concord in recent weeks. There are 16 petitions making their way across the state with sponsors seeking to gather enough signatures to bring questions to the 2016 State/Presidential Election ballot. In addition, there are three proposed constitutional amendments circulating, aiming for inclusion on the 2018 State Election ballot. Such initiative petitions require a minimum of 64,750 signatures, with a distribution of signers from every county in the Commonwealth. Although not all circulating petitions will ultimately find their way to the ballot, it is anticipated that voters will see 4 to 6 statewide ballot questions in November 2016.

The Concord Town Clerk's Office received 617 pages of signatures by the November 18 deadline, with many of the pages coming in the last few days. To date, over 2,000 signatures have been certified. We're still busy making our way through the pages, and we anticipate that several hundred more will be certified this coming week, prior to the November 30 deadline. Unfortunately, many signatures were disallowed either because the signer is not registered to vote in Concord, is registered at an address other than the one listed on the petition, or the signature and/or address was illegible.

Voters are reminded to sign petitions essentially as registered and to let the Town Clerk's Office know of any changes to your voting address. **If you are new to Concord and are eligible to vote (U.S. citizen and 18 years of age or older), then be sure to register to vote.** This may be done in person at the Town Clerk's Office, by mail, or online at:

http://concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_TownClerk/voteinfo/index

Support Small Business in Concord This Saturday #SmallBizSat

With a variety of small businesses in Town, from West Concord to Concord Center, and everywhere in between, community members have a lot of great local talent to choose from.

November 28th, Small Business Saturday, is all about driving customers to the small businesses that make our community unique. Help support small, local Concord businesses that contribute so much to our community and make Concord a great place to come live, work and shop.

Feel free to tell us how your #SmallBizSat goes by tweeting at us (@Concord_MA), or by sharing your Concord small business experience with us on Facebook (facebook.com/ConcordMass).

A list of Concord small businesses is available on www.ShopSmall.com by entering Concord's zip.

Town Offices Closed on November 26th and 27th

In observance of Thanksgiving, all Town of Concord municipal buildings (including the library) will be closed on Thursday November 26th and Friday November 27th.

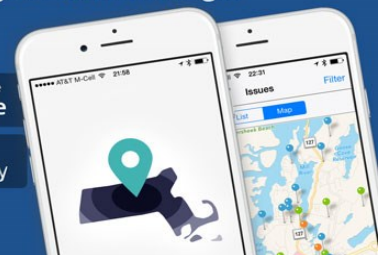
Regular hours will resume on Monday November 30th.

Commonwealth Connect

Report potholes and other problems
to your town on the go!

Download on the
App Store

Get it on
Google play



SeeClickFix



HUMAN SERVICES DIVISIONS

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

Community Services

Contact: 978-318-3034

The Community Services Coordinator (CSC) received 111 emails, 34 phone calls and had 7 home/office visits all related to assistance requests for Thanksgiving food, holiday gifts, housing, transportation, utility bills, household items, food assistance, domestic violence resources, clothing for children and fuel assistance.

2015 HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE - sponsored by the Concord-Carlisle Community Chest & CC Youth Services runs from Dec. 1st – 16th. New, unwrapped gifts will benefit clients ages 0-15 of First Connections, CC Community Services and other Community Chest supported groups. Look for festive drop boxes around Concord, West Concord and Carlisle. For a complete list of locations or gift donation questions please contact 978.369.5250.

If you know a Concord or Carlisle family in need for the holidays, please contact Aileen Buford, MSW at 978.318.3034 or abuford@concordma.gov.

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

Concord Cares Program – Emergency Heating Oil – available to Concord households who are in emergent need of heating oil, which disburses up to 75 gallons of free heating oil. To apply, contact Aileen Buford. For anyone over the age of 60 please contact the Concord Council on Aging 978.318.3020. After hours EMERGENCY NEED, contact the Concord Fire Dept. 978.318.4888 or Concord 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.

Veterans Services

Contact (978) 318-3038

The Office of Veterans' Services received a call from a resident veteran who had been able to return to work after receiving chapter 115 benefits. The veteran had been out of work for several months while receiving treatments for throat cancer and was given a clean "bill of health". Other medical issues have now occurred and the veteran wanted to keep the Veterans Services Officer aware of what was going on.

As a result of the terror attacks in Paris, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ordered all national flags to be lowered immediately to half-staff and stay at half-staff until last Thursday, November 19th. The office notified the Concord Fire Department and the State Fire Academy of this notification.

The Veterans Services Officer attended a monthly meeting with area Veterans Services Officers at Shawsheen Tech in Billerica. The two topics of discussion were social security issues with veterans and Veterans Affairs Special Housing (VASH) certificates for veterans who qualify (affordable housing for veterans).

The daughter of a World War II veteran called the office requesting assistance for her mother- (surviving spouse benefit), and the information was provided.

2015 HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE

Sponsored by Concord-Carlisle Community Chest & CC Youth Services



- WHEN?** DECEMBER 1 - 16
- WHERE?** Festive drop boxes at Concord & Carlisle schools, Cambridge Trust Bank, Cambridge Savings, Middlesex Savings, Concord Recreation and Beede Center, Concord Council on Aging, Concord Town House, Fritz & Gigi, CVS, Sarah Campbell, Concord Toy Shop and at the Parade of Giving & Concord Tree Lighting on December 6.
- Online purchases can be sent to the Community Chest Office, 19 Main Street, Concord, MA 01742. For complete list of locations or gift donation questions, contact 978.369.5250. We can arrange to pick up gifts at your Concord or Carlisle home or business too!
- WHO?** New, unwrapped collection benefits client's ages 0-15 of First Connections, CC Community Services and other Community Chest supported programs. Know a Concord or Carlisle family in need? Contact Aileen Buford, MSW, at 978.318.3034.
- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>CHILDREN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Toys and action figures ❖ Board games ❖ Puzzles ❖ Arts and crafts kits ❖ Lego and building kits ❖ Dress-up clothing ❖ Hats, gloves and scarves ❖ Pajamas | <p>TEENS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Sports equipment ❖ Gift Cards (Target, TJ Maxx, Marshalls, iTunes) ❖ Bath and body products ❖ Electronics and Headphones ❖ PG-13 DVD Movies ❖ Boston sports team merchandise ❖ Hats, gloves and scarves ❖ Pajamas |
|--|--|





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

Natural Resources Division

Contact: 978-318-3285

Natural Resources Commission (NRC) meeting of November 18th: The NRC heard the following matters: an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation to confirm the wetland boundary at 15B Monument Street; a Notice of Intent (NOI), previously continued from November 4th, for after-the-fact tree clearing and construction of a garage and other landscape amenities at 129 Everett Street; an NOI, previously continued from July 8th, to remove trees and conduct dam and retaining wall repairs at 9 Pond Lane; an NOI to demolish and reconstruct a single family house at 197 Elsinore Street; an NOI to reconstruct a retaining wall at 33 Walden Street; and, a Request for Determination of Applicability to demolish the existing house at 892 Fairhaven Hill Road. The NRC also voted to recommend the Select Board approve an amendment to an existing Conservation Restriction (CR) at 1061 Monument Street to expand the CR by 1.37 acres and provide some public access. The NRC also voted to recommend the Select Board approve a new 11.01-acre CR at 75 Buttricks Hill Road.

White Pond Reservation Trail Guide: The White Pond Reservation Trail Guide is now available. Copies may be obtained at the trail head kiosks and at the Division of Natural Resources (DNR) Offices at 141 Keyes Road or you can print your own from the DNR webpage at: http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_NaturalResources/

Health Division

Contact: 978-318-3275

Septic system permitting: 9 septic plan designs reviewed, 7 septic permits issued, and 4 septic designs denied with changes requested from engineers; 4 septic variances issued. 3 Deep test holes witnessed; 12 septic field inspections. 2 building reviews and 4 sewer reviews completed. 1 certificate of compliance issued for a well installation.

Food Service: 6 food inspections and 3 follow-ups to inspections; 1 site review for equipment replacement. 1 temporary food event permit issued. Consult on 2 new food ventures, and partial review of expansion of food service facilities at the Verrill Farm stand.

Housing complaints: 1 housing inspection and 1 'Order to Correct' letter issued. Follow-up provided on 2 housing inspections; 1 complaint filed in Northeast Housing Court for failure to provide heat as required in a rental unit.

Animal Inspections: Health Inspector Gabrielle White, in her capacity as Animal Inspector, has completed inspections of 109 sites in town which hold a Permit to Keep Animals. Required reporting has been sent to the MA Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health. The current animal census is as follows:

Horses 146, Chickens 973, Rabbits 8, Quail 40, Cattle 199, Geese/Ducks 52, Goats 11, Guinea Hens 5, Sheep 4, Turkey 0, Pigs 0 and Donkey/Mule 5.

Concord Board of Health: At its November 17 meeting, the Board held a hearing for a variance from local regulations to allow use of a private well as a drinking water source at 695 Monument St; the hearing was continued until the December 15 meeting pending receipt of further information from the applicant. The Board also reviewed the Water Division's proposed plan to reduce the fluoride target dose in the Concord municipal drinking water supply to 0.7 ppm in accordance with updated recommendations issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in April 2015; the Board concurred that they endorse this reduction in fluoride level. The Board approved a preliminary septic betterment lien for 243 Powder Mill Rd.

Lincoln Board of Health: Assistant Health Director Stan Sosnicki attended the regular monthly meeting of the Lincoln Board of Health on November 18.



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

Building Inspections Division

Contact: 978-318-3280

Minuteman ARC at 35 Forest Ridge Road: Inspections Division staff reviewed a proposed “putting green” to be built on the lawn of the new Minuteman ARC site and determined that no site plan review or building permit were required for construction to begin.

Concord-Carlisle Youth Soccer at Ripley: Inspections Division staff reviewed and approved a new wood equipment shed for the Concord-Carlisle Youth Soccer league for the Ripley School Fields site. The structure will be used to store equipment at the soccer fields.

Planning Division

Contact: (978) 318-3290

Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Meetings on November 17 and 20: The CPC held two meetings at which applicants provided additional information and responded to questions. On Tuesday the CPC met with representatives of the Concord Housing Development Corporation (CHDC), the Regional Housing Services Office, and Grantham Development to review the CHDC’s application for affordable housing buy-down funds and the Junction Village project. On Friday, the Committee met with Town Staff to review applications for the Regional Housing Services Program, Land Acquisition Fund, Wheeler Harrington House Preservation, Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, and Town House Elevator projects. These meetings complete the CPC’s project review process.

MAPC/MAGIC Climate Adaptation Plan: Town Planner Elizabeth Hughes attended the kick-off event at the Acton Town Hall on November 19th. Over 70 people attended the event, including Concord residents from the Select Board, Natural Resources Commission, Sustainable Energy Committee and the Concord Climate Action Network. MAPC will assist the MAGIC Communities in assessing vulnerabilities from, and developing an action plan for, non-coastal-related climate impacts (e.g. increased precipitation, inland flooding, increased heat and drought). This project provides a unique opportunity for MAPC to pilot assessment methodologies and sub-regional climate change planning across multiple inland communities.

Millbrook Tarry/Zoning Board of Appeals application: The Board has received revised plans for the proposed Millbrook Tarry Market that now includes a parking deck over a portion of the isolated wetland adjacent to Keyes Road. With the inclusion of the parking deck, the revised plans have a total of 188 parking spaces. The applicant has prior approvals for relief from parking for 36 spaces and is now seeking additional relief from the parking requirements of 68 spaces for a total of 104 spaces at the site. Included in the resubmission is a traffic report that is being sent to an outside consultant for review. The revised plans and traffic report can be viewed from the Zoning Board of Appeals webpage at: http://www.concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA_BOA/Meeting%20Documents.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT): MassDOT held a public hearing on Tuesday, November 17th on the 75% design plans for construction of the BFRT. Concerns were expressed about the redesign of the Main St./Commonwealth Ave. intersection (eliminating the landscaped traffic island) and potential impacts to White Pond resulting from replacement of the Powder Mill Road culvert with a new tunnel without providing environmental protection measures along the right-of-way if the trail were not continued to Route 117. Follow up with MassDOT staff suggested that the landscaping from the island could be relocated on the southerly side of Main Street or in the proposed ‘bump-out’ at the Main Street entrance to Junction Park to address concerns raised by the Concord Garden Club and Green Thumbs. MassDOT also suggested that the environmental protection measures for White Pond may be installed without extending the trail. MassDOT will follow up with Federal Highway to determine funding eligibility.

Additionally, MassDOT has scheduled a MEPA review of the site for Tuesday, November 24 at 10:00 a.m. Town staff will be meeting MassDOT review staff at Junction Park, weather permitting (in case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held at 141 Keyes Road, first floor meeting room).