

Town Manager's Report Monday, October 7, 2013

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

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

LIGHT DEPARTMENT

New Bucket Truck: Last week CMLP commissioned a new bucket truck designated as Truck 6. This truck is comprised of a 2013 International 4300 SBA chassis with automatic transmission and 260 HP diesel engine. The aerial device is a Terex Telelect 50 foot boom which allows for a 55 foot working height, 400 pound basket capacity and a 1,500 pound material lifting ability. This truck is also unique in that all of the lighting is LED which will improve visibility while also reducing maintenance. Like all of the bucket trucks, it is expected that this vehicle will be part of the fleet for a minimum of twenty years.



Willard Solar PV System: The solar photovoltaic system on the roof of the Willard School began generating electricity on September 15, 2010, just about three years ago. Since it began operation, the system has generated 162,195 kWh of electricity, enough to power a Concord home with median electricity usage for almost 20 years.

In its third year of operation, the system generated 61,210 kilowatt hours of electricity, or about 10% of the school's total electricity needs.

By reducing the school's need for electricity generated by burning fossil fuels, the PV system has prevented 84 tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere since September 2010. The free, renewable electricity generated by the system has saved the Concord Public Schools over \$18,000 in electricity costs since that time.

Concord Conserves Campaign: On October 7, the Town launched the Concord Conserves Campaign, a municipal workplace energy conservation campaign designed to make it easy for Concord employees to adopt energy saving practices in the workplace. The campaign was planned by a group of Concord employees representing each of the municipal buildings in town. These volunteer Energy Coaches are available to help their co-workers incorporate a variety of energy saving practices into their daily work lives.

The Concord Conserves Campaign aims to reduce workplace energy use 3% to 5%, helping to move the Town closer to achieving its goal of a 20% reduction in energy used in municipal facilities by July 1, 2015, compared to 2008 levels. The Campaign is also a part of the Energy Reduction Plan that the Town plans to submit to the state Department of Energy Resources in furtherance of its application to become a Green Community.

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Planning Division

Historic Districts Commission: The HDC met on Thursday to review one new and three continued applications for changes within the Historic Districts. The Commission approved Certificates of Appropriateness for a new rear entrance surround and paint color at the Colonial Inn, 48 Monument Square; and for changes to the front façade, new paint colors, paving, and doors at 398 Main Street. The Commission also reviewed a proposal to construct a new house at 310 Lexington Road and to install new solar panels at 144 Partridge Lane. Both of these discussions were continued to allow additional time for the applicants to submit revised plans and details.

Community Preservation Committee: The CPC received nine new applications for potential projects by the October 1 deadline. There were five applications submitted from the Town and four applications from non-profit groups in the community. This year's applications include projects in all four funding categories of the CPA, with the majority of applications this year for Recreation projects. The CPC currently anticipates having approximately \$1,325,400 in CPA funding available for allocation in 2014.

Millbrook Tarry Task Force: The MTTF held two presentations on Tuesday – the first for Town board and committee members responsible for permitting and the second for the public in general (approximately 40 people attended the second presentation). The presentation is available on line at: http://www.concordma.gov/pages/concordma_millbrooktarry/Millbrook_Tarry_pres_100113.pdf. The Task Force discussed the review process undertaken so far, changes in the

redevelopment planning and next steps in preparing a recommendation to the Planning Board

Mass Housing Partnership/Affordable Housing Trust Workshop: The MHP sponsored a housing workshop on Friday. Director Marcia Rasmussen attended the information session that focused on using Community Preservation funding to develop affordable and community housing.

Natural Resources Division

Natural Resources Commission: At the October 2 meeting, the NRC heard the following matters: the continued Amended Notice of Intent (NOI) for 310 Lexington Road to demolish and reconstruct a single family house; the continued NOI for 24 Off Harrington Road for the after-the-fact replacement of a driveway; an NOI for 1437-1, 1437-2, 1437-3, and 1437-5 Monument Street to install utilities; a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) to conduct invasive species management at 64A Sudbury Road/25X Fairhaven Road; an NOI to construct a pool at 1533 Monument Street; an NOI to demolish and reconstruct a single family house at 216 Southfield Road; an RDA to construct additions at 100 Walden Street; and, an RDA to construct an addition and decks at 350 Plainfield Road. After discussion, the applications for 310 Lexington Road and 216 Southfield Road were continued to the October 16th NRC meeting while 24 Off Harrington Road was continued to November 6th NRC meeting, for additional information. Permits were issued for 64A Sudbury Road/25X Fairhaven Road, 100 Walden Street, and 350 Plainfield Road. Applications discussed at the September 18 NRC meeting were also issued for Lots 1 and 2 Squaw Sachem Road and 50 Wayside Road.

New applications received last week for the October 16 NRC meeting include: an after-the-fact NOI for a greenhouse at 109 Seymour Street, an NOI to repave a common driveway at 1373-1, 1373-2, 1373-3, and 1373-4 Monument Street; an RDA for the play-scape at Ripley to construct a path, viewing platform, climbing hill, and sand and water play area; and an NOI to replace the septic system and expand the existing patio at 394 Monument Street.

Building Inspections Division

West Concord Shopping Plaza: Building permits were issued last week to allow substantial changes to the front fenestration of the West Concord Shopping Plaza at 1200 Main Street. The proposed changes include adding three cupolas as well as extending the overhang on the building so that the water coming off of the roof no longer drips onto the middle of the sidewalk.

OSHA training: All three Building Inspectors attended an OSHA training course sponsored by the Mass. Building Commissioners and Inspectors Association. The training focused on construction site safety.

Health Division

Healthy Concord Project: Coordinated by Public Health Director Susan Rask, Health Inspector Gabrielle White and consultant Jill Block, the planning phase of Concord's healthy community planning project concluded September 30. Two themes were repeated in interviews, surveys, and discussions: people of all ages in Concord are experiencing stress, with particular concern for youth, and there is desire for safer roads and paths for bicycling, sidewalks for walking, and better transportation in general. A Final Report summarizing key findings, and a grant proposal for \$25,000 to implement two proposed initiatives to address these issues, has been submitted to CHNA15, the project funding source. Based on the information learned during the public outreach process, the Steering Committee has selected two priority areas for Healthy Concord implementation projects – a town-wide Stress Reduction program, and a Road Safety initiative that incorporates bicyclists, drivers and pedestrians. If awarded funding, these initiatives will begin in November.

Septic Permits and Building Reviews: In the past two weeks, the Health Division has received an unusually high number of requests for permits to install septic systems and to review building permits for compliance with Title 5 and sewer flows. In general, it has been a busy year for septic permits. To date, Assistant Health Director Stan Sosnicki has performed 140 building reviews and issued 93 septic permits.

Annual Barn Inspections: In her capacity as the Town's Animal Inspector, Health Inspector Gabrielle White began MDAR-required annual barn inspections this week. Completing these inspections will require the majority of her time during the month of October.

POLICE

Operational Services: On Monday, September 30, Officer Holsinger conducted a motor vehicle stop on Route 2 by Walden Street involving a vehicle that had a large amount of scrap metal. The stop was related to a "BOLO" that was sent out by Billerica PD regarding a vehicle that had stolen a large amount of scrap metal in their Town. Officer Holsinger identified the occupants of the vehicle and ascertained where they were coming from (Waltham), which indicated that this may not be the vehicle in question. Billerica PD and Waltham PD (where the operator stated that they were coming from) were advised of the findings and a report was filed.

On Monday, September 30, Sgt. Morahan and Det. Forten responded to Camp Thoreau, at the Thoreau Club, for a report of two cabins being broken into and items missing. Officers processed the cabins for evidence as well as determining that the incident took place sometime weeks earlier, prior to being reported on this date.

On Monday September 30, Sgt. Connell and Officer Young responded to the Concord Assabet Adolescent Services on Main Street for a report of a student causing a disturbance. Upon arrival officers were able to calm the student down and assist in getting her transported to the other facility on Walden Street.

On Tuesday October 1, Officer Walsh responded to the Middlesex Day Care facility on Lowell Road for a report of a past larceny. Upon arrival Officer Walsh learned that a parent picking up their child had her pocketbook stolen from an unlocked motor vehicle. A report was filed and several leads are being followed up on.

Community Services: Members of the Department will be supporting breast cancer awareness this month by wearing a pink ribbon around their badge beginning on October 9. This is to show our support for all those affected by the disease.

Administrative Services: The Department mourned the loss this past week of retired Deputy Police Chief Robert Learmonth, who retired in 1988 as the acting Chief. On Friday October 4, officers from this Department attended his funeral service in Littleton.