

Town Manager's Report

Monday, October 29, 2012

To: Board of Selectmen
From Christopher Whelan, Town Manager

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

FINANCE

Quarterly Tax Payments: Quarterly property tax payments are due at the Treasurer's office on Thursday, Nov. 1 by the close of business (4:30 p.m.).

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Planning Division

Parking Management Plan - Open Houses: Last Tuesday and Thursday nights, Planning staff hosted Parking Management Open Houses for Concord Center and West Concord, respectively. Each night started off with an informative presentation by the consultant, Nelson-Nygaard, where they explained their public process, data collection strategy (supply and utilization), initial findings and preliminary recommendations. Tuesday night's open house was attended by about 25 people and the issues centered on the residential streets around the Emerson Playground, the overflow from the commuter lots at Crosby's and the Depot, and balancing resident/business needs in areas like Thoreau Street. Thursday night's open house was attended by about 15 people and issues raised centered on the residential streets around the Thoreau School, Concord Conservatory and the commuter rail, existing impediments to the handicapped and elderly, and potential areas for curb cut, crosswalk and pedestrian improvements. In summary, the study shows that both Concord Center and West Concord have a glut of underutilized parking as well as pockets of high parking demand. The presentations will be available on the Town's website site this week.

Community Preservation Committee: The CPC held their third project review meeting on Monday evening beginning with a review and discussion on the Town House Restoration project with Deputy Town Manager Doug Meagher and consultants Wendall Kalsow and Doug Manley of McGinley, Kalsow and Associates. In addition to a full review of the project and the proposed work, the Committee also received an update on the requested funding for the project - the current request for CPA funding has been reduced from \$1.8 million to \$800,000. In addition, the CPC also reviewed the Wright Tavern application for restoration of the roof, windows, and door and/or the completion of an historic structure report for the building and the Concord Housing Development Corporation's request for funding to continue the development of the Junction Village project and other housing programs in

Concord. The Committee will hold their last project review meeting on Monday, November 5, at 8:00 AM.

Concord Housing Development Corporation: The CHDC discussed several potential housing projects with DPLM staff at their meeting last Tuesday evening. DPLM Director Marcia Rasmussen met with the CHDC to discuss potential future farm worker and other affordable housing opportunities at the McGrath Farm, and Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye presented two potential properties on Harrington Avenue where small homes are located on relatively large open lots adjacent to existing Town open space. While the CHDC has agreed that they are interested in learning more about the potential for housing at the McGrath Farm, they agreed that the current projected cost of the Harrington Avenue parcels does not make them attractive for affordable housing at this time. Lastly, the CHDC met with Senior Planner Lara Kritzer to finalize and approve the Small Grants Program which will provide assistance to income eligible residents who need to make small improvements, repairs, or other life safety alterations to their homes. Information on the program is expected to be published online this week, and the CHDC hopes to begin making funding grants on a quarterly basis beginning in January.

Natural Resources Division

Heywood Meadow: With great assistance from Facilities Maintenance Supervisor Jim Macone and the Northeast Correctional Facility, DNR staff and the Heywood Meadow Stewardship Committee planted 400 daffodil bulbs at the meadow this week. Bulbs were purchased with a generous grant from the Concord Garden Club. Four stalwart varieties were planted in drifts to brighten the meadow color in spring, and were planted on the side of the path that is only mowed once a year - in the fall - to ensure that the daffodils naturalize on the meadow.

Health Division

Massachusetts Health Officers Association Annual Conference: Public Health Director Susan Rask and Assistant Director Stan Sosnicki attended the MHOA conference in Springfield on October 24-25. The conference provides valuable regulatory and programmatic updates from MDPH and MA DEP, and provides Continuing Education credits needed by staff to maintain professional licensure.

Healthy Concord Webpage: Health Inspector Gabrielle White has been constructing a number of linked webpages to provide residents with information about the Healthy Concord community planning process. The webpage will be posted on the Town's website this week.

POLICE

Operational Services: On Thursday October 25, Officer Capone responded to Upstairs Antiques on Walden Street for a report of missing jewelry. A broach was reported stolen from the establishment earlier in the month. A report was taken and several leads are being investigated.

On Thursday October 25, Officer Toumayan responded Main Street at Church Street for a motorcycle crash. Upon arrival Officer Toumayan learned that the operator had her leg pinned under the motorcycle. The operator was transported to Emerson Hospital with minor injuries.

On Saturday October 27, Officer Dirienzo and Officer Bordenca responded to Fitchburg Turnpike at Lee's Bridge for a motor vehicle crash. Upon arrival officers located the vehicle, which was now in the opposite lane of travel. Officer spoke with the operator and determined that she had been drinking. After completing their investigation, officers determined that the operator was intoxicated and they arrested her for drunk driving. No one was injured as a result of the crash. This marks the Department's 43rd OUI arrest this year.

Community Services: School Bus Safety week was completed successfully. Inspector Monahan coordinated the police response which included patrol officers continuously monitoring buses as they conducted their pickups along the routes. Several motorists were stopped and cited for failure to stop for the red lights of the school bus. Inspector Monahan also assisted with bus evacuation drills on Monday.

The Department has been actively working with other agencies this past weekend in order to prepare for the arrival of Hurricane Sandy. Lt. Roy Mulcahy has been overseeing the preparations, which included several conference calls with MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency). Extra staff has been scheduled to deal with any and all storm related issues.