

Town Manager's Report **Monday, September 9, 2013**

To: Board of Selectmen
From Christopher Whelan, Town Manager

“It Can Wait” Day in Concord and Carlisle: Texting can wait when we are driving. While almost every new driver will say that it’s dangerous, almost half will admit to texting and driving -- increasing the chances that they will be involved in one of the 100,000 texting-related accidents this year.

CCHS Driver Education will host a special event on **Thursday, September 19**. “It Can Wait” is a campaign to encourage people not to text while driving. The event will have showings of the new Werner Herzog video about the hazards of texting, and will be asking young drivers at CCHS to pledge that they will not text and drive.

There will be a banner in the CCHS cafeteria that day, and students will be invited to signify their commitment with their signature or a thumbprint. The banner will be a visual reminder of our collective desire to reduce needless injury and death on our roadways.

CCHS is one of 250 high schools in the country selected by the National Organization for Youth Safety for participation in this event. Please consider stopping by to see the video, chat with students, make the pledge yourself and encourage others to do the same.

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

FIRE

Station 1 Renovation: Staff members met with Phillips electric last week to coordinate the public safety generator project. The generator is being ordered with a 12 week delivery date. The project can go forward with various activities that can be completed prior to the installation of the generator. Carlos DeSousa from GGD engineering will be managing the project.

Unusual Emergency Responses: At approximately 8:00am Thursday morning CFD companies responded to a house fire at 1796 Main Street. That time being shift change, CFD was fortunate in that it responded with some additional personnel. On arrival, responders found the house evacuated and smoke showing from the two story home. The fire in the basement was quickly brought under control with no injuries to residents or firefighters.

LIBRARY

Special Collections Update: Leslie Wilson, Curator of the William Munroe Special Collections, has recently completed the finding aid for the collection of Beecher and Bartram papers. You can access it at the below link:

http://www.concordlibrary.org/scollect/Fin_Aids/beecher_bartram.html This finding aid will be a tremendous asset to local history researchers.

Free Music: The Concord Free Public Library has joined Library Ideas™ network of Public Library websites that offer access to over 7 million songs including Sony Music's catalog of legendary artists. The Freegal™ Music Service will allow CFPL to increase the size and diversity of its collection by offering access to over 28,000 music labels from 85 different countries. All cardholders will be able to download three songs weekly from the Library's web site at no charge. The Freegal service also offers a mobile app that facilitates access to this music from hand held devices. Beginning 9/14 residents will be able to stream whole albums from these collections and develop customized playlists. We are very pleased to be able to offer this new service to Concord residents.

151 Main Street: The Library Corporation has launched a task force to develop recommendations for the full Library Corporation Board later this fall regarding proposed uses for the property recently purchased at 151 Main Street. The kick-off meeting is September 9, and the task force anticipates weekly meetings until plans are formulated.

Task force members are:

Kitsy Rothermel, Co-Chair of the Library Committee
Fiona Stevenson, Friends of CFPL Board Member
Kerry Cronin, Library Director
Kitty Smith, CFPL Technical Services Assistant
Di Clymer, Library Corporation Board Member
Jeff Adams, Library Corporation Board Member
Sherry Litwack, President of the Library Corporation

Children's Department Update: The Children's Department reported a very busy summer. They hosted 12 story time sessions, 6 family films, 3 concerts, 4 workshops, 1 author visit, 1 teen book group meeting, and 4 Ed Morgan Toddler Sing-along sessions (2 at the Main Library and 2 at the Fowler Library). A special thank you and congratulations to Karen Ahearn, Head of Children's Services, and her children's room colleagues for all of their hard work and planning to deliver this successful summer series.

LIGHT DEPARTMENT

Power Purchase Agreement Signed: Concord Light has signed an agreement to purchase the power that will be generated by a 360 kW rooftop solar array to be installed and operated at 300 Baker Ave by Baker I Solar LLC. The system is expected to generate almost 400,000 kWh per year, enough to supply 48 typical Concord households. The system is expected to be operational by the end of the year.

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Planning Division

Historic Districts Commission: The HDC reviewed seven new applications for Certificates of Appropriateness at their Thursday night meeting. Six Certificates were issued for work including new signage at 9 Independence Court (Beadles) and 24 Walden Street (Bondir); new HVAC and mechanical equipment at 59 Walden Street; new solar panels at 181 Lowell Road; and new windows at 388 Lowell Road. An application to replace an existing barn with a new structure was continued to the September 19 meeting to allow time for a site visit; and an application for exterior changes at 398 Main Street was continued at the request of the owners. In addition, the HDC met informally with representatives of First Parish Church on the potential for a future solar installation at that location and with a local realtor to discuss the potential to make changes to properties within the Historic Districts.

Final Review of Draft Historic District Guidelines: A reminder that the review period for the HDC's proposed updates to the Historic District Guidelines will close in two weeks on Thursday, September 19. The HDC will formally review any potential changes at their meeting on that date, and invite all who are interested in commenting on the draft document to attend the meeting or to submit written changes to Senior Planner Lara Kritzer (lkritzer@concordma.gov) prior to the meeting.

Community Preservation Committee's Informational Workshop: The CPC's annual informational workshop will be held on Monday, September 9, in the Harvey Wheeler Community Center Auditorium beginning at 7:30PM. This is an excellent opportunity for applicants to learn more about the CPA funding process and ask Committee members about potential applications, and anyone interested in submitted an application for funding at the 2014 Annual Town Meeting is strongly encouraged to attend.

Coordination with FEMA Representatives for September 12 Open House at Alcott School: Planning Division staff have been coordinating with representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) who will be coming to Concord's Alcott Elementary School on September 12 (from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.) to review the 2013 Flood Map revisions and present information about the federal Flood Insurance Program. Residents from 12 communities have been invited to attend the open house, where property owners can meet with FEMA representatives to review the map changes and discuss the impacts to their properties, hear "flood insurance 101" discussions on the hour and half-hour beginning at 4:30 and hear a formal presentation at 6:00 p.m. on the map changes, the letter of map amendment process and recent changes to the flood insurance program.

Natural Resources Division

Natural Resources Commission: At the September 3 NRC meeting, the Commission heard the following applications: a Notice of Intent to repave the parking lot and install drainage improvements at 7 Monument Square; an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area

Delineation (RAD) to confirm the status of a wetland for 43 Park Lane; an after-the-fact Notice of Intent (NOI) to remove invasive species and erect a fence at 350 Bedford Street; a Request for Determination of Applicability to erect a fence at 117 Channing Road; a Notice of Intent to relocate a barn and construct a single family house at 40 Squaw Sachem Trail (Lot 1); a Notice of Intent to demolish and reconstruct a single family house at 40 Squaw Sachem Trail (Lot 2); and a Notice of Intent to construct an addition at 88 Southfield Road. The Commission closed and issued permits for 7 Monument Square, 43 Park Lane, and 117 Channing Road. All other matters were continued to the September 18th NRC meeting for additional information. The following matters requested to continue to the September 18th NRC meeting: the culvert replacement project at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery; the after-the-fact driveway reconstruction at 24 Off-Harrington Road; the wetland delineation at Keuka Road, and an Amendment request for 310 Lexington Road.

New applications received this week for the September 18 NRC meeting include: a Request for Determination of Applicability to install a solar array at 38 Philip Farm Road; a Notice of Intent to enclose a deck at 50 Wayside Road; and, a Notice of Intent to replace the septic system at 955 Lexington Road.

Building Inspections Division

Mobil Station Renovation Project at the Corner of Sudbury Road and Thoreau Street has Begun: The gas station owned by Charlie Audi has now been fenced in and demolition has been completed on the gas pump canopy. A new gas pump canopy will be installed on the site along with renovations to the gas station building.

113 Commonwealth Avenue: Last week the “Concord Outfitters” relocation project started construction of their new retail store on the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Bradford Street.

Incredible Construction Season for Concord: Building permits are up 14 % over a year ago at this time. Based on the level of activity so far - this year may be a record breaker for the number of permits issued and the value of construction.

Health Division

Mosquito Surveillance: The MDPH risk level for West Nile Virus (WNV) remains at “Moderate” and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) remains at “Low”. Residents should be aware that WNV infected mosquitos have been found in Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk and Worcester counties. These geographically widespread findings indicate that virus is circulating throughout the Commonwealth and is not confined to municipalities where infected mosquitoes have been found. As we move into the later part of mosquito season, mosquito populations will start to decrease but older mosquitoes are also more likely to carry virus. Residents are reminded to be vigilant about taking all necessary steps to avoid mosquito bites. As early season sports activities begin, residents should be aware that mosquitoes are attracted to both body heat and carbon dioxide and both are produced in higher amounts during physical activity.

Students and residents playing sports into the late afternoon and early evening hours should carry mosquito repellent and apply it as needed. Residents are encouraged to continue efforts to reduce sources of mosquito breeding, which include draining buckets, barrels, tarps, and wheel barrows to avoid water accumulation; changing the water twice each week in birdbaths and outdoor pet water dishes; keeping rain gutters clean of debris; and checking children's outdoor toys for water accumulation.

Food Service: Construction continues for several new food service establishments: Haute Coffee, 12 Walden St., which hopes to open for business later in September; Bondir, at 24 Walden St., which hopes to open in October; and Comella's at 33 Main St.