

Town Manager's Report
Monday, June 2, 2014

To: Board of Selectmen
From Christopher Whelan, Town Manager

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

FINANCE

Town of Concord \$7,985,000 Bond Issue Scheduled for Sale on Tuesday, June 3, 2014; Moody's Reaffirms Town's "Triple A" Credit Rating: The Town of Concord has scheduled a bond sale for Tuesday, June 3, 2013 at 11 A.M. Sealed bids will be accepted at First Southwest Company, 54 Canal Street, 3rd floor, Boston, Massachusetts, on \$7,985,000 of General Obligation debt with serial maturities from June 1, 2015 through June 1, 2027 as detailed in the Preliminary Official Statement dated May 23, 2014. In connection with the sale, Moody's Investors Service, Inc. has issued its Credit Report rating the bond issue Aaa, its highest possible rating, and reaffirming the Aaa rating on the Town's outstanding debt. The Credit Report can be reviewed on the Town's website at: http://concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_Finance/Moody%27s%20Rating%20Report%20-%20Concord%20MA%20%283%29.pdf.

The Town's credit rating has been unchanged at Aaa since 1987.

Use of Proceeds

The bonds will finance the following projects pursuant to authorizations approved by the Concord Town Meeting:

A. Debt service to be paid within the property tax levy limit

- **Library Equipment** \$ 15,000
Pursuant to Article 34 of the 2011 Annual Town Meeting

- **School Building Renovations** \$ 675,000
Pursuant to Article 8 of the 2012 Annual Town Meeting

- **Road Improvement Program** \$ 900,000
Pursuant to Article 45 of the 2013 Annual Town Meeting
- **Police/Fire Radio System** \$ 450,000
Pursuant to Article 49 of the 2013 Annual Town Meeting
- **Town House Exterior Renovations** \$ 625,000
Pursuant to Article 55 of the 2013 Annual Town Meeting
- **Land Acquisition – McGrath Farm** \$ 500,000
Pursuant to Article 52 of the 2013 Annual Town Meeting
- **School Building Renovations** \$ 795,000
Pursuant to Article 8 of the 2013 Annual Town Meeting
- **Recreation Improvements – 51 Laws Brook Road** \$ 25,000

Pursuant to Article 50 of the 2013 Special Town Meeting

B. Debt service supported from enterprise fund revenues

- **Light Plant Expansion (CMLP)** \$3,900,000
- **Telecommunication services (CMLP)** \$ 100,000

Pursuant to Article 28 of the 2012 Annual Town Meeting

Pursuant to Article 28 of the 2012 Annual Town Meeting

Proceeds of the bonds will be applied first to repay short-term notes that had been last June (\$1,800,000) and last December (\$4,650,000) to cover project financing. The balance of the bond issue proceeds will cover current and remaining project expenses to completion of each project.

The bonds will be awarded to the underwriter offering the lowest true interest cost to the Town over the life of the bonds through June 1, 2027. The award will be made upon the recommendation of the Treasurer and the approval of the Board of Selectmen at the June 9 meeting of the Board.

The Preliminary Official Statement dated May 23, 2014, prepared in connection with the bond issue, is available on the Town website at:

http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_Finance/os-and-credit-ratings.

Questions concerning the bond sale can be addressed to Anthony T. Logalbo, Treasurer, Town of Concord, by telephone at 978-318-3090, or by e-mail at: alogalbo@concordma.gov.

Staff News: At the Northeastern Regional Association of Assessing Officers Conference last week, **Town Assessor Lane Partridge** received the Sherry Vermilya Award, given in recognition of outstanding service to the assessment profession.

At the annual conference of the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada, held in Minneapolis, **Budget and Purchasing Administrator Jonathan Harris** was recognized during the annual business meeting with the new class of members receiving designation as a certified Public Finance Officer. This GFOA program is a five-year cycle of coursework and examination in the functional areas of accounting, budgeting, investment management and retirement/benefits administration. Only 575 individuals in the US and Canada have achieved this distinction. The GFOA is the premier organization of public finance professionals, with 18,000 members

FIRE

Apparatus: The new ambulance donation should arrive sometime in the middle of June. It will need to be lettered, inspected by the state and equipped before being ready for service.

Unusual Emergency Responses: CFD did provide mutual aid in connection with this past weekend's tragic plane accident on the Bedford end of Hanscom/Massport runway 11. Engine 3 provided a coverage assignment while Car 1 assisted at the Command Post. An After Action Review will be held and lessons learned applied to our pre-planning process.

Personnel: The second ambulance staffing voted at Town Meeting will begin on July 1. The second ambulance will be staffed 7 days per week from 8AM-8PM. The 4 new firefighters hired to staff the second ambulance will report for duty June 16 to begin their 2 week orientation. We welcome new Firefighter EMT's Matthew Vickery, James Mazzola, Charles Hopkins and Brendan Lyons

LIBRARY

From Special Collections: Leslie Wilson participated in the Hawthorne commemorative ceremonies at the First Parish Church last weekend by reading a passage by James T. Fields, Hawthorne's publisher, about the authors' death and funeral. Approximately 120 people attended. The following day Special Collections hosted a Hawthorne reading discussion group which drew another 20 participants, including scholars and other experts.

Angelou Display: After learning about Maya Angelou's death on 5/28 the Reference Department created a display related to Angelou's life and work which is located in the front lobby.

Summer Reading Program: Online registration for the 2014 Summer Reading Program, FIZZ, BOOM, READ! began on 6/1 and the program will run through 8/31. This exciting program will enable children to share reviews of their favorite books with other readers and win prizes throughout the summer. For additional details visit <http://www.readsinma.org>

Book Sale Saturday: The Friends of the Concord Free Public Library's Annual Book Sale will take place this Saturday, 6/7 on the front lawn of the Main Library from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. There will be a great selection of books carefully organized by subject and genre. Please join us for this fun, community event the proceeds from which support many valued library programs.

Seed Lending Library on Chronicle: In case you missed the 5/20 WCVB Chronicle segment entitled, "What's New?" which featured the Concord Seed Lending Library @ the Fowler Branch Library, it is available online at <http://m.wcvb.com/chronicle/seed-loans-shopping-for-the-unusual/26086820> Last week Enid Boasberg was also interviewed by WBUR for a segment about seed stories. The details of when the segment will air will be forthcoming soon.

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Natural Resources Division

Natural Resources Commission: New applications received for the June 4 meeting include two Requests for Determination: one for 169 Lowell Street to construct a new driveway and one for 920 Sudbury Road to repair and renovate an outbuilding. Three Notice of Intent (NOI) applications were also received, including: 165 Balls Hill Road for construction of a new driveway; 29 Assabet Avenue to remove and replace a sewage disposal system; and 112 Great Meadows Road to remove an outbuilding, fence, gate and stone wall, and restore a lawn and vegetation. Other matters previously continued to the June 4th meeting include: a NOI for 1123 Monument Street to demolish an existing dwelling and garages and construct a new house with associated driveway, pavilion, and landscaping; a NOI for Middlesex School to demolish and reconstruct the barn at 1435 Lowell Road and renovate the barn at 1427 Lowell Road; a NOI for 140 Commerford Road to demolish an existing dwelling and construct a 22-unit Planned Residential Development; and a NOI for 169 Heath's Bridge Road to demolish an existing dwelling and construct a new house with attached garage, driveway, and patio with associated tree removal and landscaping. There are two requests for Administrative Approvals for tree removals, one at 47 Harrington Avenue and one at 181 Lowell Road.

Pond Management: A beaver exclusion device was installed last week by Beaver Solutions at Fairyland Pond to alleviate trail flooding at the Town Forest. Beavers have also enlarged

the dam at Hutchins Pond in Punkatasset, flooding the trail between Hutchins Pond and Turtle Pond. A beaver deceiver should be installed at this location in the upcoming weeks.

Health Division

Operation “Dirty Water”: Public Health Director Susan Rask and Assistant Public Health Director Stan Sosnicki, along with the Fire Chief and members of the Water and Sewer Division, participated in a ‘table top’ exercise to evaluate the operational readiness of Emerson Hospital and the Town of Concord. The exercise was to determine how well the Town and the Hospital would respond to a loss of water due to a water main break at the hospital entrance. The exercise was very informative and provided insight on how to approach an inter-agency response to an emergency.

Planning Division

Historic Districts Commission: At the May 22 meeting, the HDC reviewed three continued and seven new applications for changes within the Historic Districts. The Commission approved Certificates of Appropriateness for work including new curbing at 324 Main Street; new copper snow guards, flashing and gutters at 32 Main Street; relocating windows at 339 Main Street; replacing basement windows at 58 Monument Square; replacing the front entry at 475 Lexington Road; and new paint colors for 415 Lowell Road. The Commission continued discussions concerning new construction at 252 Main Street, 131 Monument Street, and 427 Lowell Road to allow for site visits to each property before the next meeting on June 5th. The Commission also continued the discussion of landscape features at 415-445 Lowell Road as their landscape architect was not available and of new signage at 449 Barrett’s Mill Road as the applicant was not yet ready.

Smart Growth Walk and Discussion: Senior Planner Lara Kritzer attended a Smart Growth Walk and Discussion in Gloucester on Thursday which was organized by the Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance and Great Neighborhoods Network. While very different from Concord in design, size, and function, Gloucester’s Downtown and Railroad areas have many of the same challenges as Concord, and the community has taken some innovative approaches to dealing with them. Attendees learned about Gloucester’s Harborwalk and signage program, which integrates online and on site information to provide additional information to both visitors and residents; their work to create and develop online apps for their HarborTown Cultural District; and their ongoing work to balance Smart Growth development with the concerns of local residents.

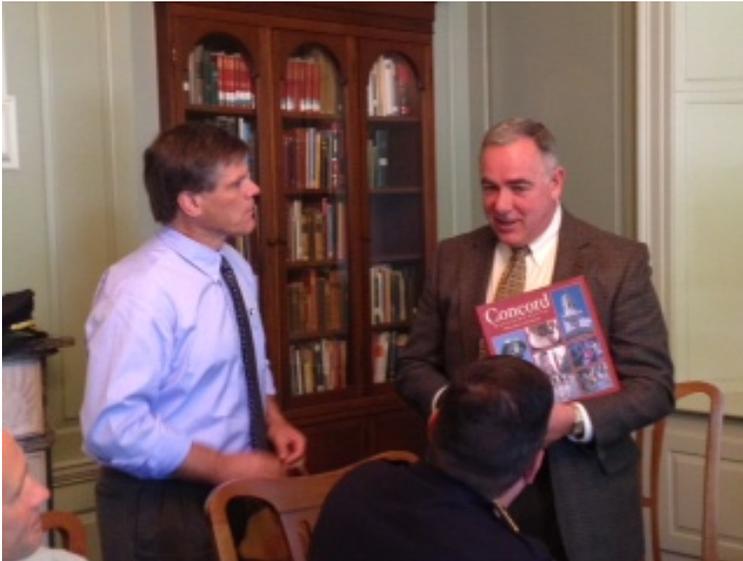
Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Update: Town staff and residents met with MassDOT staff from the Cultural Resources Division and the Town’s consultant GPI to discuss the railroad artifacts located along the railroad right-of-way and how best to present the history of the railroad in West Concord; there was general consensus of organizing the information around the proposed rest area at the existing Nashoba Brook bridge and near the new bridge over the Assabet River.

Review of the 2005 Comprehensive Long Range Plan: The Planning Division has reviewed all 354 implementation actions recommended in the 2005 Comprehensive Long Range Plan and provided information to the Town Manager noting that 64 action items have been completed; 164 actions items are underway or ongoing and 126 items are pending or not done. This information may be useful to the Town boards and committees as they begin to set goals for the coming fiscal year.

Building Inspections Division

West Concord site of TD Bank - update: The Building Inspections Division issued a building permit to TD Bank on January 28, 2014, which was valid for 6 months. TD Bank recently requested an extension of that building permit for an additional 6 months, which was granted. The building permit is now scheduled to expire on December 28, 2014. TD Bank expects to start construction in the fall.

POLICE



Thanks to Interim Chief: The Town Manager and Senior Management Team took a few minutes at their weekly meeting to offer sincere and well-deserved thanks to outgoing Interim Police Chief William Chase for his Department leadership and guidance over the past several months during the search for a new permanent Chief of Police.