

Town Manager's Report Monday, May 5, 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 Governance Study Committee Sets Public Hearing Dates: The Town Governance Study Committee, which began its work last May to review the Town Charter and other aspects of the Town government, has scheduled two public hearings to share its draft findings and tentative recommendations, and to receive further public input.

The meetings are set for:

Wednesday, May 14 at 7 PM at the Town House Hearing Room;
Tuesday, May 20 at 7 PM at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center.

The May 14 meeting will be broadcast live on CCTV. Those unable to attend the May 14 hearing in person are welcome to participate remotely by watching on CCTV and sending questions or comments via e-mail to tgsc@concordma.gov. As time allows, the e-mailed questions and comments will be read at the meeting.

Background information for public review prior to the public meetings has been posted to the Study Committee's website at:

http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_BComm/Town%20Governance%20Study%20Committee/TownGovStudyCommittee_index

LIGHT DEPARTMENT

Municipal Energy Efficiency Grant Application: Concord Light has requested \$250,000 in grant funding from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources to support the following energy efficiency initiatives:

- the replacement of 45 high pressure sodium streetlights in downtown Concord with energy efficient LED streetlights;
- a collaboration with the Concord business community to increase participation in Concord Light's High Efficiency Lighting Program, which provides financial and technical assistance to Concord businesses wishing to upgrade to more efficient indoor lighting; and
- the Greening Your Heat Program, an initiative being developed by the Town's Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee, which will provide financial and

technical assistance to oil-heating households in Concord that wish to weatherize their homes.

Utility Scale Solar at Former Landfill Site: Construction of a 2.7 megawatt (MW) solar array is underway at the former Landfill on Walden Street. This project is divided into two parts consisting of a 1.7 MW array that will be located on the top of the landfill cap and a 1 MW array to be placed on the southern facing slope of the capped landfill. Concord Light successfully negotiated a purchase power agreement in 2013 with Kearsarge Energy for phase 1, the 1.7 MW section, under the initial SREC program. Construction for this phase continued throughout the winter in anticipation to come online this spring. On Wednesday, May 1, the array energized its first 500 kW inverter and started providing power to the grid! The finishing touches are being completed on the final two inverters with an expected commissioning in the middle of May. At that point we will then be able to receive the full output of phase 1 just in time for summer!

Due to the uncertain climate of the 2014 SREC program, phase 2 negotiations were not included with the first purchase power agreement. CMLP hosted initial project discussions in early April and expect them to continue into May. Once we establish a purchase power agreement under the new SREC program, construction can begin on phase 2. Combined, this renewable energy source will provide Concord with 2% of its' total electricity consumption. In other words, that is enough energy to provide almost 400 homes with electricity for a year!

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Planning Division

Historic Districts Commission: The HDC met on Thursday evening at which three continued and six new applications were scheduled. The HDC issued Certificates of Approval for new safety signage at 2 Independence Court; new fencing and building renovations for 502 Main Street (aka South Bridge Boathouse); new windows, doors, garage doors and building repairs to the white barn at 449 Barrett's Mill Road; a new heat pump and piping at 307 Main Street; new windows at 281 Lexington Road; a new shed at 10 Wood Street; and to replace the fire escape, rear entrance, and siding at 23 Monument Street. The Commission also discussed potential new building designs at 427 Lowell Road and accepted a request to continue discussion on proposed additions at 252 Main Street. Both of these projects will be discussed further at the Commission's next meeting on May 22.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail: On Thursday, Town staff from Planning & Land Management and Concord Public Works with the co-chairs of the BFRT Advisory Committee and Consulting Engineers from Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. attended a mini kick-off meeting at MassDOT to discuss the alternative commuter rail crossing and to coordinate other aspects of the 75% design planning effort underway.

West Concord Forum on Traffic: It was standing room only for the West Concord Advisory Committee's annual open house and forum on traffic. The first half-hour gave residents an opportunity to review current owner's plans for current and future development in West Concord and talk with the owner/developers. The next portion of the forum was a panel discussion of traffic issues and concerns in West Concord led by WCAC Chair Carlene Hempel with panel participants Director Marcia Rasmussen, CHDC Chair David Hale, Developer/property owner Nick Boynton and an independent consulting Traffic Engineer Rick Bryant.

Building Inspections Division

Construction in Concord Setting New Records: Through April, construction activity is up appreciably over a year ago. Plumbing & Gas permits issued are up 36% over a year ago and Electrical permits issued are up 23% over a year ago.

Solar Panel Permitting Continues: Photo-voltaic solar panel installations continue to keep the building inspections division staff busy. Last year we issued 141 solar panels permits to Concord residents and this year we are on track to better that number with 32 solar permits issued to date.

Natural Resources Division

Natural Resources Commission: At the April 30 NRC meeting, the Commission heard the following matters: an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation for 385 and 405 Cambridge Turnpike; a Notice of Intent (NOI) for demolishing and reconstructing a single family house at 69 Pilgrim Road; an NOI to install a gas line and solar panels at 280 Silver Hill Road; an NOI for MassPort to update the existing Vegetation Management Plan at Hanscom Field; an NOI to install an aeration system in a pond at 39Y Old Marlboro Road; an NOI to demolish and reconstruct a single family house at 1123 Monument Street; and an NOI for a 22-unit Planned Residential Development at 140 Commerford Road. Permits issued include a Determination of Applicability confirming the Mean Annual High Water Delineation at 163 Lindsay Pond Road; an Order of Conditions to renovate the athletic fields at Concord Carlisle Regional High School; and an Order of Conditions for 280 Silver Hill Road.

New applications received this week for the May 14 NRC meeting include: a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) to conduct invasive species management at 362 Bedford Street; an RDA to remove trees at 135 Elsinore Street; a Notice of Intent to construct a new single family house at 385/405/37A Cambridge Turnpike; an NOI to install a new trail to the Hallenbeck Land at 87A, 88A, and 89X, Lowell Road; and, an NOI to demolish and reconstruct a new single family house at 169 Heath's Bridge Road.

Health Division

Free Tick Testing for Concord Residents: Lyme disease is the most common infectious disease in Concord. Funded under a Governor's Community Innovation Challenge Grant,

the Concord Health Division is offering tick testing at no-cost to residents—if you are bitten by a tick, the tick may be submitted for FREE testing during 2014 to determine if it is carrying pathogens that cause Lyme Disease, Babesiosis, and Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis (HGA). Tick testing will be performed by the Laboratory of Medical Zoology (LMZ) at the University of Massachusetts. If residents find a tick biting them it should be carefully removed using tweezers and placed in a sealable plastic bag (alive or dead). Submitting a sample is easy: go to www.TickReport.com, complete a testing submittal form and receive a sample number, place the tick with sample number in an envelope and mail it to the LMZ address indicated on the form. Testing results will be sent by email within 5 business days. Test results can be shared with physicians to help guide treatment decisions. The findings of the testing are maintained anonymously and will help local and state agencies build a surveillance database to better inform public health disease prevention programs and track tick-borne disease. The cost for tick testing outside this program can be upwards of \$140, so we are pleased to offer this service to Concord residents for no cost for the coming year. Once the LMZ has analyzed 100 ticks from Concord, a discounted testing rate of \$50 will be offered. For more information, please contact the Concord Health Division at 978 318 3275.

Annual Permit Renewals: Administrative Assistant Karen Byrne mailed out renewal notices and is in the process of issuing 469 annual licenses and permits for: Food Service Establishments (137 permits), Retail Food (65), Keeping of Animals (123), Hazardous Materials (50), Recreational Camp Sites (14), Recreational Camp Programs (36), Swimming Pools (24), Tanning Salons (1), Tobacco Sales Permits (16), Body Art Practitioner (1), and Funeral Homes (2).

Best Western Food Service Facility: Food service design plans have been approved for construction of the kitchen and dining area at Best Western, 740 Elm St.

Bathing Beach Water Sampling: Contracts with homeowner associations for water sampling at each of the three semi-public bathing beaches have been signed. G&L Laboratories will conduct weekly sampling of beaches during summer 2014, beginning on May 20 and ending the week after Labor Day.

POLICE

Operational Services: On Monday, April 28, Officer Moore responded to Kindred Nursing and Rehabilitation on Main Street for a report of a male subject that walked into the building and appeared confused. Officer Moore located the subject and identified the individual, who was there with another family member. Officer Moore confirmed that there were no issues with the subject and that he did not need any further assistance.

On Wednesday April 30, Officer Young responded to a Hayward Mill Road address for a report of an alleged scam. Officer Young learned that a subject had agreed to do work on the property and then never showed up. The resident paid for the services and has not been able to get ahold of the contractor. Officer Young filed a report and is following up with the company in an attempt to get the funds returned.

On Thursday May 1, Officer Hodgson responded to Emerson Hospital for a report of a larceny of a cellphone. Officer Hodgson was able to track the cellphone to a Wakefield location and with the assistance of Wakefield Police, the perpetrator was arrested. The cellphone was recovered and returned to its owner.

Community Services: The Department learned that a retired member of the force, Martin S. Yauga, passed away last week. He retired from the Department as an Inspector and also served in World War II as a member of the Marine Corp. Our condolences go out to Inspector Yauga's family.

The work on the railroad crossings continued this weekend as the Belknap Street crossings were repaired / upgraded. Officers once again assisted the Mass Bay Commuter Rail with the closure of the roads around the crossing.

On Sunday May 4, Officers assisted with the first day / night of Town Meeting. This is the first year that Town Meeting began on a Sunday. Areas in and around CCHS have been designated no parking for the duration of Town Meeting. Also, there will be shuttle buses from both the Alcott School and the District Court where additional overflow parking is located.

Concord Carlisle High School held their prom on Saturday evening at Gillette Stadium. Detective Camilleri assisted with school staff and reported that there were no issues at the function.

PUBLIC WORKS

Fitchburg Turnpike/Sudbury Road Intersection: Central Mass Signal (CMS) is expected to begin signal improvement work at the intersection of Sudbury Road and Fitchburg Turnpike in early May. The intersection upgrade will install a new video vehicle detection system and emergency pre-emption technology as well as replace the signal controller and cabinet. CMS has provided the Town a preliminary traffic management plan which proposes four separate lane closures to install the video vehicle detection system on the main arms. Only one closure will be permitted at any given time. The closures will be on turning lanes only, which will allow for the majority of the thru traffic to pass normally. Each closure is expected to last approximately one hour.

Installation of the new signal controller and cabinet assembly will have a more significant traffic impact. A complete signal shut down for approximately 4 hours will be required to complete the work. CPD will assist to route traffic through the intersection. After the new signal equipment is installed minor intermittent traffic impacts will occur as the contractor enters the roadway to complete the necessary fine-tuning of the detection zones. All work will be completed during off peak hours. Additional notification of the work and anticipated traffic impacts will be placed on the Town website and on Variable Message Boards.

DropOff-SwapOff: The spring DropOff-SwapOff is scheduled for Saturday, May 10, 9:30-3:00. There will also be an "early SwapOff" on Friday, May 9, from 11-2, weather permitting.

The early SwapOff was developed in an effort to alleviate traffic on Saturday and provide residents with another option to bring in items for SwapOff, should they not be able to bring items to SwapOff on Saturday. Please note that labor will not be provided for unloading, and browsing / removal of items is not permitted at the early SwapOff.

Once again, SHARPS and unwanted medications will be collected at the DropOff portion of the event on Saturday, May 10. For a complete list of items collected and additional information, residents can visit www.concordma.gov, or call 978 318-3240.

Water Quality, Consumer Confidence Report : The 2014 Annual Water Quality Report is now available online at www.concordma.gov/wqreport.pdf. This year's report is available in PDF format which can be easily viewed, downloaded, or printed from your computer or smartphone. The report details water quality over calendar year 2013 along with some helpful water conservation tips. For the second year, Concord has elected to provide this report electronically to customers with notice that the report is available sent out via News & Notices email blast, water bill stuffer and posters around Town. Electronic distribution saves over \$3,000 in printing and mailing costs annually.

For customers who are not interested or able to receive the Annual WQ Report electronically, a limited number of paper copies have been printed for those individuals who would prefer a hard copy. These can be found at the following locations; Concord Town House, Harvey Wheeler Community Center, Concord Free Public Library, Main & Fowler Branches, Concord Public Works' Offices, and Concord Health Department.

Winter Maintenance Pavement Repairs: Following a Town-wide assessment over the previous four weeks of all 107 miles of Concord's roadway system, CPW's Highway Division crews continue their targeted efforts to systematically address repairs to the roadway wearing surface along with full depth patching. These repairs resulted from the harsh winter weather conditions the region experienced. It is anticipated that these repair operations will continue through the 2014 construction season.