

# Town Manager's Report Monday, August 8, 2011

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

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

## **FINANCE**

**Credit Rating Follow-up:** Following up on last week's report regarding Moody's widespread credit rating review, Concord and all other Massachusetts triple A ratings receiving notice last week have been confirmed by Moody's as "Aaa with Negative Outlook" – to be reviewed specifically within the next 90 days.

## **PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT**

### **Natural Resources Division**

**Natural Resources Commission:** New applications received by the NRC last week included a Request for Determination of Applicability from MassDOT to resurface a section of Route 2 from the Concord/Acton line to the Assabet River (approximately 1 mile). This matter is scheduled to be heard at the August 17 NRC meeting.

**Conservation Restriction Baseline Reports:** The consultant hired by the Town, Land Stewardship Inc., has completed 13 Baseline Document Reports. Two are presently being reviewed by DNR staff. Two of these reports have already been approved and signed by the landowners. The Conservation Restriction Stewardship Committee has also finished reviewing the Baseline Reports previously completed by Mass Audubon and is finalizing them to obtain land owner signatures.

### **Planning Division**

**Bike Racks:** Requests for the final round of the MAPC's bike rack grant program were due recently, and Planning staff submitted orders for 1 bike rack at the Gaining Ground/Thoreau Farm site and for 2 bike racks at Punkatasset Knoll off of Monument Street. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that Concord has participated in the program; reimbursement for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year is still pending, but is anticipated to be processed this fall.

**CCHS Biodiesel Project:** Planning, Building and Water Division staff met last week with the Science Department Chair at CCHS to discuss his proposal to install a very small quantity generator at the high school to process waste vegetable oil collected from local businesses to produce biodiesel fuel as a teaching tool for the school's Green Revolution Environmental Club. Each batch will utilize 9 gallons of methanol to process 40 gallons of vegetable oil

which will yield 40 gallons of biodiesel fuel and 10 gallons of glycerin (if pure, the students may use the glycerin to create soap during the winter months). While in favor of the project, staff's major concerns were with the location of the high school in the Groundwater Conservancy District, proximity to the Hugh Cargill Well (which is regulated by the DEP), the quantities of hazardous materials as they relate to DEP and building code requirements, and the potential for the facility to expand and/or need to be moved as the high school is rebuilt. Further research is underway.

**MassPort Summer Interns:** Concord's MassPort Summer Interns will be working throughout the month of August with the Engineering and Planning Divisions on a variety of projects involving updates to the Town's GIS information systems. Projects will include completing survey work and data collection to update Engineering's information on stormwater systems and catch basins, and assisting the Planning Division in completing their project to make the Town's Historic Resource Survey more available to the public through the WebGIS program. Both Divisions are very excited to have this opportunity to work again with the MassPort Internship program and are looking forward to a very productive August.

### **Health Division**

**Mosquito Control Measures Underway:** The Eastern Middlesex Mosquito Control Project will be applying larvicides to approximately 800-1,000 catchbasins in Concord as part of the contracted services rendered for Mosquito Control in the Town of Concord in the next couple of weeks (this effort will be coordinated with the Department of Public Works). The mosquitoes recently collected from the Town of Concord have been submitted to the State Laboratory to be tested for both West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (WNV &EEE). Once results are received, EMMCP will notify the Health Department. Earlier last week, the Health Department was notified that mosquitoes submitted from the Town of Acton had tested positive for the WNV and initiated preventative measures (spraying) within Acton's Town borders.

**Trails End Café:** A final pre-operational inspection was conducted by the Health Inspector for Trails End Café (97 Lowell Road). A permit to operate has been issued by the Board of Health. There is currently no "opening date", but stay tuned for Concord's newest breakfast and lunch spot.

### **Building and Inspections Division**

**Top Dry Cleaners Relocating:** The Top Dry Cleaners are in the process of moving from their old store front at 1173 Main Street to the former Hamwey Carpet Store building at 1237 Main Street. At 1173 Main Street the "Pet Source" retail store will be expanding into the space vacated by the cleaners.



**Concord Flower Shop Also Relocating:** The Concord Flower Shop has announced that they are moving from Thoreau Street to their new location in the former Concord Chrysler Jeep dealership building at 135 Commonwealth Avenue in West Concord. They hope to be moved into this new space by September.

**New Residential Building Code Now In Effect:** The new 8th edition of the Massachusetts Residential Building Code is in full effect as of August 4. This new residential code governs all one- and two-family dwellings as well as townhouses of three-stories and less, for new construction, renovation and additions. The 8th edition residential code is comprised of the International Residential Code 2009 (IRC), and a separate package with Massachusetts amendments.

## **POLICE**

**Operational Services:** After several recent car breaks in the area, information was developed by off-duty Police Sgt. Paul Flynn as he drove home and observed a suspicious car in his own neighborhood. A suspect associated with that car was placed under addition surveillance and linked to additional car breaks Thursday morning he was found in possession of a stolen laptop computer belonging to a Concord Resident.

As a result, an arrest warrant and search warrant were obtained from the Concord District Court. Derek Azzolino (Age 19, Sudbury) was arrested and the search warrant was executed at his residence. Recovered during the execution of the search warrant were items taken from the various breaks in Concord, as well as Maynard. The subject was arraigned in Concord District Court. Detectives are continuing their investigation to determine the owners of the property recovered. Additional charges are anticipated as owners of the property are identified. It is believed he may have been involved in up to 50 car breaks in Concord and surrounding towns.

**Community Services:** A recent in the Boston Globe Report suggested that there was a 20% less chance that a motorist would receive a speeding ticket, as statewide statistics showed that police are issuing fewer citations. However that is not true in Concord, as current statistics show that citations are at the highest level in three years. We attribute this to Concord's proactive traffic enforcement programs.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

**Sidewalk Program:** Contractor Allied Paving has completed all sidewalk extension work on Lowell Road from Pratt Lane (south entrance of Middlesex School) to Lindsay Pond Road. Work will continue from Lindsay Pond Road to Hugh Cargill Road with headwall and retaining wall construction the week of August 8. In addition to the Lowell Road work, Allied Paving will finalize concrete sidewalk installation, perform cleanup and complete loam and seeding for the Sudbury Road sidewalk rehabilitation.

**Crosby's Corner Reconstruction Project:** CPW staff attended the MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee meeting in Boston on Thursday August 4<sup>th</sup> at which time the Transportation Improvement Program's (TIP) fiscal year 2012-15 plan was discussed. Due to ongoing fiscal constraints, the MPO was required to further adjust the list of projects to be included for funding as well as project budgets. The Crosby Corner project's budget was adjusted downward by approximately \$3 million dollars to reflect current construction unit costs and a revised project budget based on the 100% design submittal. MPO representatives assured both Concord and Lincoln representatives that this adjustment will in no way preclude construction award in the event project bids received are higher than the revised project budget.

**Roads Program:** Project contractor Lazaro Paving was again the apparent low bidder for the 2011 Roads Program contract. The Engineering Division is recommending award to Lazaro Paving and anticipates work on the project to begin within mid-August with the reclamation of Whittemore Street. Utility improvements within Whittemore Street were closely coordinated throughout the Town's departments, with water main replacement being included within the 2010 roads program contract, drainage replacement being replaced by the Highway Division as a CPW internal project within the 2010 construction season and CMLP completing undergrounding work as part of the 2011 contract early this construction season.

The 2011 project will also include reclamation of the pavement within the Hubbard/Fielding/Union/Willow neighborhood which will also receive major improvements to the water and sewer infrastructure. Installation of the water and sewer improvements and binder course pavement are expected to be completed within the Fall of 2011. The installation top course pavement will be deferred until the Spring of 2012 to allow for trench settlement over a freeze/thaw cycle. Pavement reclamation is also proposed within the Riverside Avenue, Central Street and Derby Street neighborhood. CPW's Highway Division completed a major drainage improvement within the spring of 2011, so top course paving for Derby Street will also be deferred until 2012 to allow for trench settlement. Riverside Avenue and Central Street are expected to receive the full top course pavement installation within the 2011 construction season. Lastly, Thoreau Street from Sudbury Road to Walden Street will receive a mill and overlay treatment as part of the 2011 Roads Program contract.

**Main Street/Thoreau Street Intersection:** The Engineering Division is working with consultant GPI to prepare a scope of work to provide pedestrian upgrades to the existing signal equipment at the intersection. The design scope of work will also evaluate the existing

curb ramp's conformance with ADA requirements and will recommend additional upgrades. CPW proposes to install the signal upgrades this construction season. Signal improvements are planned to dovetail with the curb ramp upgrades.

**GIS Strategic Plan:** CPW coordinated a kick off meeting with project consultant AppGeo for the Town's GIS Strategic Plan. The project steering committee includes a cross section of Town departments including: CPW, IT, DPLM, DNR and Assessing. The overall goals of this project are to document the current state of GIS in the Town and make recommendations for future investments in the GIS program. To achieve these goals, AppGeo will begin scheduling meetings with departments to discuss current GIS uses and future GIS needs and projects. Department heads have received a list of common GIS applications and projects for their departments to serve as food for thought for those taking part in the interviews later in the month.

**Rt. 2A Pump Station Rehabilitation:** A Request for Bids has been issued for the overhaul/replacement of this 60 year old facility which will include the installation of a new UV disinfection system for compliance with Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR) by 2013.

**Bedford Street Sewer Extension:** Lynch Development Corporation Inc. began installing a new low pressure sewer main between 324 and 374 Bedford Street (under the existing sidewalk). The work included the use of trenchless technology to minimize construction disturbance within the Route 62 right-of-way.

**Water Fluoridation Quality Award:** The Concord Public Works Water Division was recently commended by The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for its consistent and professional adjustment of the water fluoride content to the optimum level for oral health for 12 consistent months. Consistent, high-quality water fluoridation practice, as demonstrated by this water system, is a safe and effective method to prevent tooth decay, improving the oral health of community residents of all ages.

**Cemetery Fence Replacement Project:** Bids will be opened on August 11 for the furnishing and installation of granite posts and black chain fence along the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery frontage on sections of Bedford Street. This is planned to replace the existing chain link fence. Depending on project costs, the Friends of Sleepy Hollow have indicated their desire to potentially participate in this project.

**MUSCO Field Lighting, Lightning Strike:** Repairs are underway to the field lighting and certain damaged electronic components located at Doug White Field due to last week's lightning strike. All repairs are being coordinated through CPW's Park and Tree Division utilizing the Town's project electrician. A claim with the Town's insurer may be submitted, depending upon the final cost of repairs.