

Town Manager's Report Monday, May 16, 2011

To: Board of Selectmen
From Christopher Whelan, Town Manager

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

FIRE

Station 1 Renovation: With the exception of a few "punch list" items for the second floor, things are wrapping up nicely on the original (primary) project. Fire and facilities staff members are formulating plans to complete lesser renovations in the three rooms on the first floor, and it is hoped that the project will move forward as soon as project costs are refined and available financial resources are confirmed.

Apparatus: On May 10, bids were opened for the ladder truck replacement. Greenwood Motors (emergency one) was the only bidder, with a bid price after trade-in of \$677,000. This price does not include the complement of ladders as well as the substantial investment in equipment for the vehicle. That said, this appears to be a very good price, substantially lower than the \$750,000 that was anticipated. Staff will evaluate the bid and, assuming no issues are identified, a bid award should be recommended sometime this week.

Fire Prevention: Last Friday, the Department needed to deal with a serious fire safety violation at Concord Academy, regarding their play which was scheduled for Friday and Saturday night. CA facilities staff were very cooperative and understanding of the need to immediately take corrective measures before the play could go on.

Unusual Emergency Responses: Last Wednesday, the Fire Department responded to 2 nearly simultaneous calls, each just over the line into neighboring towns.

Engine 4 responded to a two alarm fire on Flagg Road in Acton. E4 worked on fire attack with the Acton companies. All went well.

E3 and A1 responded to a car into a pole on Lowell Road just over the town line into Carlisle. Concord companies were first due and the trapped driver had to be extricated from the vehicle. He was transported to Lahey with non-life threatening injuries.

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Building and Inspections Division



Caesar Robbins House Move: The new building foundation has been installed and inspected on the new site next to the Old North Bridge parking lot off of Monument Street. The historic home has been “cribbed” on wood blocks and steel beams, and is ready to be moved (see photo). As required by the Town’s Administration Policy & Procedure, the Drinking Gourd Project has obtained “sign offs” from the Fire Department, the Natural Resource Commission, the Concord Municipal Light Plant, Concord Public Works, Verizon, Comcast and the Selectmen. All departments reviewed the moving plan and signed off on the route. The Building Commissioner met last week with the moving company to make sure that everything is in order to make the move on Saturday May 21.

New zoning bylaws: The staff of the Building & Inspections Division met with Planning Division staff last week to review the fourteen (14) new zoning bylaws adopted at 2011 Town Meeting/Special Town Meeting. The zoning changes are numerous and complex, and it will take some time for builders, homeowners and staff to get used to the new regulations, which have been in effect since February.

Natural Resources Division

Damondale Dam: Natural Resources staff met last week with the owner’s representative for the Damon Mill Building and representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Ecological Restoration, and the Organization for the Assabet River to discuss options for removing the dam and constructing a public boat access. The Office of Dam Safety has classified this dam an Intermediate structure (a structure between 15 and 40 feet high with a storage capacity between 50 and 1,000 acre-feet) with a Significant (Class II) hazard classification. The owner hopes to have permitting in place to remove the dam next summer.

Chamberlin Park: Natural Resources staff met with the landscape contractor to review improvements to Chamberlin Park. The long and snowy winter damaged some of the new plantings put in last year, which will be replaced. Additional work will include invasive species removal in the woodland, pruning, and maintaining the new landscaping beds. Small metal tags identifying many of the plants will also be added to the park this year.

Planning Division

West Concord Task Force: Last Thursday, the West Concord Task Force worked on a draft charge for a new West Concord Advisory Committee, which will be presented to the Board of Selectmen later this spring. The WCTF hopes that such a Committee will be available to provide input and comment to the Town Manager, Board of Selectmen and Planning Board on all private development where permits are required, and on municipal, State and federal projects that could impact West Concord, using the 2010 West Concord Master Plan (and other documents developed as part of the recent master planning efforts) as the guide.

Emerson Annex Unit for Sale: The Town is marketing Unit #10 in the Emerson Annex for a household earning 80% of the Boston Area Median Income, with the assistance of Sudbury Housing Specialist Beth Rust. The State's Department of Housing and Community Development has committed \$15,000 and the Concord Housing Development Corporation has committed an additional \$28,000 in subsidies to keep this unit affordable. Open Houses are scheduled for May 21 and June 4.

Health Division

Walden Grille: The Board of Health voted at the April 19 meeting to allow Walden Grille to remain open provided the facility was brought into full compliance by May 3. An inspection on May 3 showed numerous deficiencies throughout the facility that still required attention. Health Division staff extended an additional week to complete repairs; however, repairs and maintenance issues were not addressed upon re-inspection on May 11 and the facility was ordered to close until all issues were resolved. As of Saturday, May 14, Walden Grille was allowed to open after undertaking a major cleaning, painting and re-grouting tile effort. Staff continues to work with owners of Walden Grille to bring the facility into compliance so they may remain open.

Odor Complaints: Several odor complaints were received this week from residents at Shagbark Road, Blue Jay Lane and North Branch Road. A strong odor is permeating this area consistent with fertilizing a farm field. The source has not yet been determined.

Regional Public Health and Nursing Services Grant: Concord is participating with approximately 15 other communities in a grant-funded study of the potential for regionalizing public health and nursing services. The kick-off meeting was held on Tuesday in Framingham. There will be a significant amount of data collection and assessment of current services done over the summer, with the goal of submitting a grant for implementation of the identified regional program.

POLICE

Operational Services: On Monday, May 9, officers took the first of several reports regarding the spray painting of graffiti around Town. The original report identified a potential suspect possibly involved in the incident. Officers took reports of five similar incidents between Monday and Tuesday that involved similar types of graffiti being located in the Main Street, Keyes Road, Lowell Road area. Officers followed up on several leads and have

identified a subject that is involved. The case is being reviewed for the restorative justice process.

On Wednesday May, 11, Officers took a report of a past burglary from a residence on Potter Street. The owner reported a laptop was taken from the residence. Officers are continuing to follow up on the investigation.

On Saturday, May 14, officers responded to Cambridge Turnpike by the Mobil Station for single vehicle crash. Upon arrival officers located a pickup truck that struck the guardrail several times and came to rest partly atop the guardrail. Officers also determined that the subject(s) in the vehicle had fled the scene. An initial investigation determined who the vehicle belonged to, but not who was operating the vehicle. Officers made contact with the owner and are continuing to follow up with the investigation.

Community Services: On Sunday, May 15, Officers assisted with the Brain Tumor Society bicycle ride through Concord. In addition, officers also assisted with the Thoreau School Road Race and the CCHS suicide prevention walk.

As part of a nationwide effort to save lives, the Concord Police Department, in partnership with the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's (EOPSS) Highway Safety Division (HSD), and nearly 190 other local departments, is launching a high-visibility seat belt enforcement blitz called *Click It or Ticket*. The message is simple: Massachusetts drivers and passengers should always wear their seat belts or be ready to face the consequences. This special crackdown, beginning May 23 and running through June 5, marks the first seat belt enforcement mobilization across the State this year, designed to increase seat belt use and decrease motor vehicle fatalities and injuries.

Over 180 police departments and have adopted zero-tolerance policies for seat belt violations, signaling the increasing importance of the issue. This enforcement mobilization is funded by EOPSS/HSD through a federal grant.