

**Town Manager's Report**  
**Monday, November 21, 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**

**Apparatus:** Bids were recently opened for the Engine 8 refurbishment project. Staff members are currently evaluating the low bid.

**Unusual emergency responses:** On November 16 the Department responded along with other Town departments to Rte. 2 and Sudbury Road for a septic tank overturned in the roadway after narrowly missing a gasoline tanker. There was 1 minor injury. Sewage did leak onto the roadway with no release to the drainage system.

**LIGHT DEPARTMENT**

**Spruce Mountain Wind Project.** Concord Light will soon be purchasing energy from wind as the project at Spruce Mountain located in Woodstock, Maine (pictured below) is nearing completion. Concord Light's share of the output is approximately six million kilowatthours per year or 3% of our energy needs. The price of 9.925 cents per kilowatthour, for capacity and energy over the next fifteen years has been agreed to and CMLP's share will be approximately 9% of the output or about 6 million kilowatthours per year. Construction of the last turbine was completed on November 16. Site testing is beginning with an estimated commercial date of December 15. Node activation is in place and power will begin to be delivered to the participants through the ISO New England settlement accounts. On November 19 the First Sync/First Test Power to Grid date was completed; please note that this testing period will produce limited power, and as stated in the Purchase Power Agreement, will be supplied at a reduced rate of 8.9325 cents per kilowatthour.



## **PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT**

### **Building and Inspections Division**

**Middlesex School:** John Minty has been in discussions with Middlesex School regarding their need for additional faculty housing. The current plan being discussed involves building the five new single family dwellings on Lowell Road opposite the school campus. The final plan has not yet been developed but the plan would be reviewed by the Planning Board for approval.

**Fenn School Performing Arts Center:** Construction of the Fenn School's new Performing Arts Center is completed and a certificate of occupancy will be issued very soon. The school is hoping to have the building available for their Thanksgiving assembly. This project included creating a new "campus green" outdoor space and involved revising the school's parking/pick-up-drop-off plan that will mitigate queuing problems along Carr Road. The value of this construction project was \$4,189,485.

### **Planning Division**

**Zoning Board of Appeals:** At its last meeting, the Zoning Board approved the continuance requests for the applications of 9 Independence Court and 300 Baker Avenue, and voted to grant the special permit applications for a special home occupation at 47 Elsinore Street, the alteration of a non-conforming structure at 227 Belknap Street, the reconstruction of the non-conforming structure after catastrophe at 126 Lowell Road, and the creation of a 3<sup>rd</sup> lot with reduced frontage at 440 and 448 Barrett's Mill Road. In addition, the Board scheduled a site visit to 57 Grove Street for Saturday, November 19 at 9:00 a.m. and continued the matter, which involves an Appeal to a Decision of the Zoning Enforcement Officer, to their December 8 meeting.

**Planning Board:** The Planning Board at its last meeting approved the Amendment to a Common Driveway Special Permit for 440 and 448 Barrett's Mill Road, to allow Save Our Heritage to use the existing common driveway to provide access to a potential 3<sup>rd</sup> lot. The Board also discussed potential Zoning Bylaw Amendments for the 2012 Annual Town Meeting, which included: review of draft language to create two Industrial Park districts and allow extended-stay hotel use in a new Industrial Park A District on Baker Avenue, and suggestions by the ZBA, Building Commissioner and Planning Division for changes and/or

clarification of the following: the definition of “adjacent lot” in terms of allowed accessory uses (ZBL Section 5.1), the length of time for a special permit for a temporary medical trailer (Section 5.4.1.3), consistency of wording regarding dimensional exceptions for historically significant structures (Section 6.3.3), the intent of the residential cluster tract setback (Section 9.2.3), and revisions to the bylaw in accordance with revisions to the State Zoning Act definition of agricultural uses.

**Bike Rack Reimbursement Received:** The Town received reimbursement last week from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) for 3 bike racks on CHA properties, 2 bike racks at Emerson Umbrella, 7 bike racks at the Willard, Sanborn, Peabody and Ripley school sites, and a bike rack at the Public Safety Building.

**Community Preservation Committee:** The CPC held their annual public hearing for all applications submitted for funding consideration by the 2012 Annual Town Meeting on Monday, November 14, in the Willard School Auditorium. The CPC will begin their deliberations on funding recommendations at their next meeting on Monday, Dec. 5.

**Historic Districts Commission:** The HDC met on Thursday, November 17, and approved one new application for gutters at 41 Wood Street. The HDC also elected member Marta Brooks to serve as chair pro tem until formal elections can be held at their December 1 meeting.

### **Natural Resources Division**

**Natural Resources Commission:** At the November 16 meeting, the Natural Resources Commission issued the following permits: an Order of Conditions to 495 Monument Street for the construction of a three-car garage with living space above and extension of the driveway; an amended Order to 21 Riverside Avenue for the removal of two pine and some Norway Maples and re-vegetation with native plantings; and, an Order to 1373-1 Monument Street for the installation of underground utilities. The Commission heard the following Notices of Intent: 181, 195, and 203 Sudbury Road (Crosby’s Market) for parking lot improvements and 445 and 41A Lowell Road to verify the wetland delineation. The following matters were continued to the December 7 meeting: Concord Academy athletic fields at 15A, 16A, and 153 Fairhaven Road; Save Our Heritage drainage project at 449/448 Barrett’s Mill Road; 120 Channing Road for the construction of an addition and underground tank; and the Concord-Carlisle High School sewer realignment project. The Commission also discussed a wetlands violation at 124 Nashoba Road - work has ceased and a Notice of Intent will be forthcoming. Projects that commenced this week include: a septic repair at 177 Monsen Road; a landscape project at 35 Macone Farm Lane; and, replacement of a retaining wall at 65 College Road.

### **Health Division**

**Overtured septic pumping truck:** In conjunction with Concord Fire, Police and CPW, PHD Susan Rask responded to an accident at the intersection of Rte. 2 and Sudbury Rd. involving an overturned septic pumping truck. Hundreds of gallons of sewage were spilled in the road. Rapid response by Concord Fire and CPW contained the sewage in a sand berm so that it did not travel or reach catch basins. The sewage was pumped from the road

and the road surface disinfected with bleach. A small amount of crankcase oil was also spilled from the truck. While this was a less than a reportable amount, Concord Fire notified DEP of the spill as a courtesy.

**Nuclear Metals/Starmet:** Representatives from the US EPA and the cleanup site contractor, de maximus Inc., met with representatives of the 2229 Main St. Committee to provide an update now that EPA has taken control of the site. Updated information on the status of the site has been posted on the Town's website and is available in the Health Division and Town Manager's offices.

## **POLICE**

**Operational Services:** On Monday November 14, officers stopped a motor vehicle in parking lot of Papa Razzi. Officers conducted an investigation of the operator and the motor vehicle, discovering the operator had illegal drugs in his possession. The operator was issued a summons to appear in Concord District Court for the criminal charges.

On Saturday November 12, officers stopped a vehicle on Sudbury Road @ Thoreau Street. Officers conducted an investigation that uncovered illegal drugs in the possession of the operator. The operator was subsequently arrested for the violation.

**Community Services:** The Department will be conducting alcohol compliance checks of all licensed alcohol establishments throughout the remainder of the year. This will not be a one-time initiative. Periodic compliance checks ensure the safety of our residents and ensure that our licensed establishments are in compliance with the law. Sgt. Jack Kennedy is notifying the licensed establishments of the compliance checks.

The Department is preparing for the week of Thanksgiving. Officers are currently scheduled for several activities including the CCHS versus Bedford Football game.

**Administrative Services:** Officer Timothy Landers completed a week long training class in order to become a field training officer. The class was held at the Lowell Police Academy.

The Department was recently awarded a training grant from the 911 Department. This grant will assist in providing the dispatchers with additional job related training.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

**Halloween Storm Clean Up:** An extraordinary effort to clear the Town's roadways and properties of wood debris that fell as a result the recent Nor'easter is winding down. This effort was coordinated through CPW's Highway and Grounds Division, utilizing chippers and assorted heavy and light equipment. Through the hard work of all CPW staff, the majority of the Town has now been cleaned up with the crews continuing to address areas needing additional attention over the next week.

**Rideout Playground Equipment :** CPW's Park and Tree Division staff continued to assist the Recreation Department with certain aspects of the new playground equipment

installation at Rideout Field. This included the complete dismantling and recycling of the old equipment, removal of material to prepare the site for new equipment, removal of contractor debris and loaming and seeding of the border of the new site.

**2011 Roads Program:** Project contractor, Lazaro Paving, completed the revisions to the curb ramps at Whittemore Street the week of November 7th. Lazaro has completed top course paving of Whittemore Street. Lazaro also began the paving operations within the Union Street neighborhood during the week of November 14th, in which significant water and sewer utility work has been underway. Reclamation and fine grading of Union, Fielding and Willow Streets are expected to be completed by week's end, with binder course paving being completed thereafter. Union, Fielding and Willow Streets will be left at binder course pavement grade for the winter and top course pavement will be installed within the spring of 2012.

Project utility sub-contractor, Fenton and Sons, completed the installation of sewer on Union Street and also completed pressure and mandrel (deflection) testing of all the new sewer mains and services on Fielding and Union Streets. Additionally, Fenton and CPW forces were able to replace an undersized and damaged drainage line within Fielding Street by successfully relocating two house sewer services at #18 and #24 Fielding St., through a careful and collaborative coordination with the Engineering and Water/Sewer Divisions and CMLP. CMLP forces were onsite to brace a utility pole during drainage installation and to relocate portions of underground conduit to accommodate the larger diameter drain pipe.

CPW staff have also been working with CCHS staff to ensure a new (replacement) water service tap has been installed before the end of this construction season, near the school entrance located on Thoreau Street.

**Sidewalk Maintenance and Extension Program:** During the week of November 7, contractor Allied Paving Corporation, completed sidewalk rehabilitation work at the corner of Highland St and Church St for new curb ramps. At the intersection of Pine and Central St., Allied installed new curbing, curb ramps and paved a new sidewalk. Allied also installed new curb ramps, curbing and paved the sidewalk at the intersection of Old Marlboro Rd and Harrington Ave. Upcoming items for the week of November 21st will include remaining miscellaneous work at Pine and Central Streets, and at the intersection of Old Marlboro Rd and Harrington Ave, and remaining punch list items town wide. The project is nearing substantial completion.

**Park Lane & Gifford Lane Sewer Pumping Station Rehabilitation Project:** Aqua Line Utilities Inc. (East Bridgewater, MA) has been awarded a contract to rehabilitate Gifford and Park Lane sewer pumping stations. They have moved forward on the first phase of work which includes the installation of bypass piping at both facilities. The actual rehabilitation of the stations is planned to be performed beginning in 2012.

### **Sustainability Projects and Programs**

**Paint Shed Recycling:** The paint shed at the 755 Walden Street compost site is closed for the season as of October 29th and will re-open on Saturday, April 7, 2012. This was one of

the busier years at the paint shed with 279 residents dropping off paint and 156 residents picking up paint for reuse.

**Water Conservation Program:** The Town House has been provided with low flow, hands free automatic faucets which will be installed in the public restrooms. These units will not only provide for a municipal water and sewer conservation opportunity but also reflect on Concord's goal to promote and advance sustainable practices. The units were funded via a DEP issued water conservation grant.