

Town Manager's Report Monday, October 24, 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: First floor window, door trim and some floor tiling were completed last week. We are waiting for the HVAC components that need to be installed in the ceiling space. Once this occurs, we will finish ceiling electrical and install the ceiling grid.

Emergency Management: DPH now has a security firm, RSCS-Security, on-site at Starmet 24/7 until operations there ceases completely and EPA has full control of the site.

Concord Academy/Arena Farms Training: The Fire department will be conducting extensive training at the old Arena Farms buildings that are now owned by Concord Academy. These buildings are slated for demolition. The core of this training will be an intensive course in rescuing trapped firefighters. The Department will also train on basic firefighting skills such as search and rescue, ventilation etc. There will be NO actual fires, but a non-toxic smoke machine may be employed. The Department is very appreciative to Concord Academy for offering this facility.

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Building and Inspections Division

99 Restaurant Lawsuit: Staff recently met with an attorney who represents a woman who tripped and fell two years ago when entering the 99 Restaurant on Commonwealth Avenue. The woman who fell was 102 at the time. The building inspection records indicate that the entry existed prior to any State Building Code. A second entry with a handicap compliant entrance and ramp was added to the Commonwealth Avenue side of the restaurant during a 1998 renovation to the building.

Demolition Delay Initiated: The Building Inspection Division has denied a building permit request to demolish and reconstruct part of an existing home at 1621 Main Street (formerly 1641) in West Concord that is listed as a protected structure under the Demolition Delay Bylaw. This home is located on the site of the Concord Riverwalk PRD project which is currently under construction. Under the Demolition Delay Bylaw, the Building Commissioner determined that the work that was being proposed resulted in demolition of greater than

50% of the square footage and value of the structure and denied the building permit request, sending a letter to the Historical Commission alerting them to the proposed demolition/reconstruction work. The Historical Commission met with Town staff John Minty and Marcia Rasmussen on Thursday as part of their regularly scheduled meeting, and has scheduled an additional meeting to discuss this project on Tuesday October 25.

Natural Resources Division

Natural Resources Commission: At the NRC meeting on October 19, the redevelopment of Arena Farm for athletic fields for Concord Academy was continued to November 16 for the submittal of additional information. New applications received last week included two Notices of Intent for North River Builders, Inc. for installation of underground utilities at 1373-4, 1437-5 and 1373-1 Monument Street and an Amendment to remove trees at 21 Riverside Avenue. Other matters to be heard at the November 2 NRC meeting include the installation of a sewer line at Concord-Carlisle High School and the installation of underground utilities on Hunters Ridge Road.

Heywood Meadow Stone Wall Reconstruction: The bid to reconstruct the 410-foot section of stone wall along Lexington Road at Heywood Meadow was recently awarded to Nobles Stone Masonry, and Division staff met with them last week to review construction phasing and schedule for the CPA-funded project. Work is expected to begin early this week. Completion of the wall this season would be ideal, depending on weather conditions. The contractor will construct the wall in discrete sections to ensure that the site can easily be buttoned up for the winter if needed.

SuAsCoShaw Network Meeting: Division staff attended a workshop given by Tim Simmons, Restoration Ecologist from the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP). He provided an overview of NHESP's Biodiversity Initiative, which is comprised of three interrelated programs: the Ecological Restoration Program, Upland Habitat Management Program, and the Forest Management Program. His discussion described how the Ecological Restoration Program focuses on habitat restoration sites of exceptional ecological significance with an emphasis on research based management through fire ecology, hydro-ecology and invasive species management. In addition, Tim discussed the Upland Habitat Program and how communities and land trusts can reclaim early successional habitats, such as fields and orchards. DNR staff is considering having Tim visit some of the Town's conservation land to determine restoration methodologies, particularly how such methods relate to invasive species control.

Planning Division

Preparation for October 25 Planning Board Meeting: Town review staff met Wednesday afternoon to discuss the plans and submitted information for two projects – the Concord Academy playing fields site plan review on Fairhaven Road and the 300/330 Baker Ave. medical office building special permit and site plan amendment. Both projects are scheduled for the October 25 Planning Board meeting; Senior Planner Julie Vaughan prepared the Planner's reports for these projects and for 126 Lowell Road/Concord Lumber flood plain special permit to reconstruct the storage building damaged last year by snow. Director

Rasmussen prepared the report for the special permit amendment for 440/448 Barrett's Mill Road (the Barrett Farm House).

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee: The BFRT Advisory Committee met Thursday morning to hear the status reports on the 75% design of Phase 2C; an update on the bridge over Route 2 for Phase 2B and to review the comments compiled as a result of the neighborhood site walks.

Health Division

Influenza Clinics: The Health Department, in conjunction with the Council on Aging held its annual seasonal influenza clinic at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center on Friday, October 14. Emerson Hospital Home Care administered approximately 170 influenza vaccines to Concord Seniors – a much lower turnout than last year. The early availability of influenza vaccine from manufacturers to primary care physicians and other venues such as CVS, Walgreens, and Rite Aid continues to have an effect in the total number of vaccines administered at Town-sponsored clinics.

Concord CAN Sustainable Concord Coffee: Division staff attended this coffee to discuss ways in which the Health Division can assist and inform the group's efforts to improve the community's food system and school lunch program.

Eastern Middlesex Mosquito Control Program: EMMCP made a presentation to the Board of Health to discuss results of this year's mosquito surveillance program and plan for summer 2012.

POLICE

Operational Services: On Tuesday October 18, Officers responded to 680 Main Street for a report of a suspicious person(s) in the area. Officers quickly learned that the subjects involved were attempting to break into houses in the area. Officers identified their direction of flight, set up a perimeter and subsequently arrested the two suspects involved. Both suspects were charged with multiple offenses including breaking into two homes and receiving stolen property.

On Saturday October 22, Officers responded to a motorcycle crash on Plainfield Road. The operator of the motorcycle struck a tree and was transported by Med Flight to a Worcester Hospital with serious but non-life threatening injuries. The operator was part of a fundraising ride of 50 motorcycles that were passing through Concord.

On Sunday October 23, Officers responded to Lowell Road by Concord Lumber for a motor vehicle that had two flat tires. After a brief investigation, officers determined that the operator was intoxicated and should not be operating a motor vehicle. The subject was arrested and charged with second offense drunk driving.

Community Services: On Friday October 21, Officers assisted with the Concord Carlisle versus Acton Boxboro football game. No issues were reported.

On Saturday October 22, officers assisted with a charity motorcycle ride from Belmont, passing through Concord.

Administrative Services: The Department's drunk driving statistics so far this year show 52 arrests. This is on track for the highest amount of drunk driving arrests since 2006.

PUBLIC WORKS

2011/2012 Roads Program: Due to unfavorable weather conditions, Lazaro Paving, was forced to postpone the final course of pavement on Whittemore St. as was planned for the week of October 17. However, Lazaro Paving was able to pave driveway aprons on Central St., Riverside Ave., and Derby St. with the first course of pavement. In addition to driveway paving, Lazaro, installed curb ramps and curbing at Whittemore St. Lazaro anticipates paving Whittemore St. mid-week (week of October 24). As part of paving Whittemore St., Lazaro will also overlay small electrical facility trenches installed last year by CMLP contractor within Sudbury Road that have settled. These areas have been prepped for overlay, by having keyways cut around the trenches. The overlay treatment will improve drivability in these sections until Sudbury Rd is reconstructed under a future Roads Program. Subcontractor Fenton and Sons continues to install new sewer mains and house services on Willow St. It is anticipated that they will proceed with sewer installation on Hubbard St. the week of October 24, followed by Union Street shortly thereafter.

Fitchburg Turnpike (Rte. 117) Culvert Replacement: Contractor Fenton and Sons, working with CPW Engineering, Highway and Water/Sewer staff, has completed the replacement of a 24" culvert on Fitchburg Turnpike (Rte. 117) over this past weekend commencing work on October 22. In order to do this work in the safest and most efficient way possible, the section of Fitchburg Turnpike (Rte. 117), from Plainfield Road to Sudbury Road, was closed and detoured via Plainfield, Sudbury and Wheeler Roads. With the culvert replacement work now complete, CPW crews will return prior to winter shutdown to complete permanent paving in the culvert area using an alternate lane traffic configuration during non-commuter peak.

2010/2011 Sidewalk Program: Contractor Allied Paving Corporation completed miscellaneous punch list items including staging area clean up and completion of the handicap ramp construction at Sudbury Rd near the Library parking area and on Lowell Rd at Lindsay Pond Rd. Allied also completed the remaining roadway patching on Lowell Rd. Starting the week of October 24 Allied plans on completing the remaining punch list items as they work toward final completion of the work within the original project scope. Allied will also begin added contract work which includes the rehabilitation of sidewalk and curb ramps at the intersection of Old Marlboro Rd/Harrington Ave and at the intersection of Pine St & Central St.

Concord Artificial Turf Fields: The two existing Sprinturf fields have now been in service for approximately one year and are now due for annual performance testing. This testing includes annual G-max testing which will provide an indication of the effectiveness of CPW's maintenance program and field durability. The G-max testing will also provide an

understanding of the Sprinturf product's performance with regard to "shock absorbency" while ensuring ASTM standards are met for player safety.

Fuelmaster - Fuel Management System Webinar: Concord Public Works (CPW) and Concord Municipal Light Plant (CMLP) staff has scheduled a training webinar on the newly installed fleet fuel management system. The Fuelmaster system has been installed at two fueling depots at CPW and CMLP. This advanced system will allow for the management of fuel consumption, vehicle efficiency and vehicle maintenance through the interfacing with the vehicles On Board Diagnostics (OBD) computer.

Construction and Demolition Debris (C&D) Recycling Survey & Analysis Results: CPW surveyed forty building projects in Town to determine the level of construction & demolition (C&D) materials that were being recycled at these sites, and to determine if a C&D recycling bylaw or ordinance might be necessary to encourage C&D recycling. The building projects included new construction, renovations, additions, and roofing. These projects were either ongoing or completed within the last three months.

The survey included single family homes as well as multi-unit housing developments, the largest being Longview Meadow, a 350 unit residential apartment complex under construction in West Concord.

Of the forty projects surveyed, 78% hauled their C&D materials to either a C&D processor or a "recycling-focused" C&D transfer station, whereas 5% hauled C&D materials to a C&D transfer station that shipped only certain C&D materials for recycling, and 17% trucked C&D materials to a C&D transfer station that in turn shipped C&D materials to landfills in Maine.

Where 78% of the projects surveyed appropriately disposed of their C&D materials using either a C&D processor or a "recycling-focused" C&D transfer station, initial results indicate that implementation of a C&D recycling bylaw or ordinance does not seem necessary at this time. These results were presented to the Public Works Commission during their October meeting with a recommendation that an education and awareness campaign be the focus at this time.

In the weeks and months ahead, CPW will focus on C&D education and awareness, and will work with the Building/Inspections Department to develop strategies to educate homeowners, contractors and developers about the benefits of C&D recycling.

Route 2A Pump Station Construction: A construction contract has been awarded to Barbato Construction Co. Inc. (Middleboro MA) for the overhaul/replacement of 60 year old facility including the installation of a new UV disinfection system for compliance with Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR) by 2013. In anticipation of this work, Economic Enviro Tech Inc. (Fitchburg Ma) removed approximately 87 linear feet of asbestos from a 2-inch diameter overhead steam piping in accordance with applicable Federal, State and local regulations.

Lead & Copper Rule Sampling Activities: All samples have been successfully collected from 30 residential services in accordance with a MA DEP approved sample plan. Results confirm ongoing corrosion control efforts continue to effectively reduce concentrations of lead and copper attributed to leaching from private plumbing fixtures.