

Town Manager's Report Monday, October 31, 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

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award: We are pleased to receive notification from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) that the Town of Concord has received their Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for our FY12 General and Enterprise Fund budget documents. This is the 7th consecutive year that Concord has received this highest form of recognition from the GFOA.

FIRE

Starmet Transfer: The Fire Chief reports that control of the Starmet property was to be transferred to the EPA and its contractor this afternoon (October 31).

Apparatus: The new Ladder 1 will be delivered to our dealer, Greenwood Motors, next week so that lettering and preparation for delivery can begin.



Ladder 1

Emergency Management:

CEMA has been awarded a grant of \$13,064 for Emergency Management Equipment in this year's round of NERAC funding. After assessing our needs, the Town will receive various communication equipment and a portable pump.

Unusual Emergency Responses: CFD members were very busy during this past weekend's storm. The department spent pre-storm hours checking equipment and preparing for responses. During the storm, the department staffed the back-up ambulance. 43 emergency responses were logged from 12 noon Saturday through Sunday. Fortunately there were no major incidents during that time frame.

LIGHT DEPARTMENT

Storm Response: There were approximately 1700 customers affected by power outages throughout Concord starting early Saturday evening. Light Department crews worked hard to restore power to these customers by Sunday night. There are still numerous locations with down trees, branches on wires, low hanging wires and a small number of partial power calls. As the Light Department fields additional storm damage calls, they are being added to the list and prioritized accordingly. Crews will be working this week to make permanent repairs to the electrical distribution system.

The 1700 customers who were affected by power outages can be summarized as follows: All of Circuit 479-41, the area bordered by Williams Rd, Lawrence Drive, and the Sudbury River (331 Customers), 479-43, the area bordered by the abandoned railroad track at Old Marlboro Rd/ Williams Road intersection extending to Hunters Ridge Road and Deergrass Lane (262 Customers), 219-H14, Main Street from Forest Ridge to Pond Lane, Harrington Ave and Old Marlboro from Harrington to ORNAC and subsequent side street (529 Customers), 219-H15, the Thoreau Hills area (247 Customers) and the following locations: Fairhaven Road (69 Customers), Adams Road (17 Customers), Nimrod Drive (22 Customers), Sandy Pond Road (4 Customers), Pope Road (13 Customers), Monument Street (10 Customers), and individual house services spread throughout the Concord area (190 Customers).

Power Supply: CMLP successfully completed an RFP with a purchase from Next Era, who beat out Constellation Energy and Macquarie with an offer of \$56.45 for 10% of CMLP load for 2013, 2014, 2015 & 2016. The RFP was based on a load following method. This approach was utilized so that CMLP can fill in both peak and base load. The final prices were as expected and are significantly lower than our existing power supply contracts. Next Era's price was very aggressive in the end and provides excellent cost to Concord.

Willard PV System Solar Renewable Energy Credit (SREC) Revenue: Concord received \$9,167 in SREC revenue for the third quarter of 2011. The Town has earned over \$21,000 in SREC revenue thus far in 2011 as a result of the Willard PV system.

Understanding Energy Efficient Light Bulbs: The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 is phasing out the production of standard incandescent light bulbs beginning in 2012. CMLP has posted a number of resources on its website that Concord residents may find helpful in choosing among the growing number of energy efficient options available for home lighting.

http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_LightPlant/UnderstandLightBulbs

CCHS Back to School Night: At the invitation of CCHS Environmental Science teacher Peter Nichol, CMLP participated in CCHS Back to School night on October 20 by displaying an array of energy efficient CFL and LED light bulbs at the high school. CMLP staff answered questions from parents and students about the growing number of energy efficient home lighting choices now available.

Street Lights: Light Plant crews installed 430 new 50 Watt MH streetlight fixtures as required by the April Town Meeting vote. There are approximately 70 remaining streetlights which crews were unable to install due to inclement weather. They will be completed as a priority weather permitting.

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Natural Resources Division

Heywood Meadow Stone Wall Reconstruction: Nobles Stone Masonry has begun work on the CPA-funded reconstruction of the stone wall at Heywood Meadow near the Gun House. 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.

Health Division

1679 Main Street: Environmental Health Inspector Stan Sosnicki and Public Health Director Susan Rask were subpoenaed to testify at a trial regarding enforcement of housing code violations at 1679 Main St.

Septic Betterment Loan Program: Staff have prepared and submitted a notice to the Concord Journal to remind residents about the availability of low interest loans for upgrade and repair of failed septic systems.

Building and Inspections Division

1641 Main Street/Demolition Delay Follow-up: The Building Commissioner and Director of Planning & Land Management attended the Historical Commission meeting on Tuesday to hear developer Dan Gainsboro's presentation of his plans for the structure. The Historical Commission hoped to identify lessons learned and improve communication. On Friday, the Town Clerk reported that the property was NOT on the demolition delay bylaw, after Planning staff requested a copy of the handout of the properties approved at the 2008 Annual Town Meeting.

Planning Division

Community Preservation Committee: The Community Preservation Committee has held three meetings over the last two weeks to review the 19 applications submitted for CPA funding at the 2012 Annual Town Meeting, including a Thursday morning meeting with representatives of proposed Town projects located throughout Concord. On Saturday, Oct. 22, the Committee spent a morning visiting potential project sites throughout Town as part of their review, and one last project review meeting has been scheduled for November 9. The Committee will hold public hearings on all 19 submitted projects on Monday, November 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the Willard School Auditorium.

Planning Board: Tuesday night, the Planning Board heard a presentation about Concord Academy's proposed athletic facility at the former Arena Farm but continued the item due to outstanding concerns. The Board also met with the development team for Normandy re: 300 Baker Avenue and reviewed the plans for an amendment to the existing Special Permit and Site Plan approval to allow a 50,000 SF medical office building in place of the approved-but-not-built 130,000 SF office and 70,000 SF office building. This item was also continued due to outstanding issues. The Board made favorable recommendations to the Board of Appeals on the reconstruction of the roof at Concord Lumber, which involves some work in the floodplain, and the Special Permit amendment for an additional house lot at 440 and 448 Barrett's Mill Road; they also voted in favor of the change of use at 9 Independence Court from retail to restaurant, which may help support the applicant's petition to the Public Works Commission for an additional 200 gal./day of sewer capacity. The meeting concluded after the Board endorsed an Approval Not Required plan for 275 Forest Ridge Road.

POLICE

Operational Services: On Tuesday October 25, officers stopped a motor vehicle on Sudbury Road at Route 2 for a traffic violation. After a short investigation, officers determined that the operator had been drinking and should not be driving. The operator was arrested and charged with second offense drunk driving.

On Friday October 28, Officers responded at the area of #228 Main Street for a motor vehicle crash involving a car and a motorcycle. Upon arrival officers assisted the injured motorcycle operator, who had stopped for a pedestrian in the crosswalk. Officers investigated the crash and determined that the other operator was impaired due to prescription medication, and should not be driving. That operator was arrested and brought to the Police Station for processing. The motorcycle operator sustained non-life threatening injuries.

Community Services:

On Saturday October 29, officers, along with the other Town Departments, experienced the first snow storm of the season. Officers responded to power outages, trees and wires down, minor vehicle crashes, parking related issues and a variety of other storm related calls.