

# Town Manager's Report Monday, April 1, 2013

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

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

## **LIBRARY**

### **Fowler Branch**

**Programming:** The final movie in the Harry Potter marathon was finally shown on Tuesday, March 26 after 2 snow delays. The organizers commented that it did indeed turn into a marathon.

Village University has been using Fowler's meeting room for some of their classes, and is very pleased with the room and the turnout.

### **Main Library:**

**Special Collections:** Leslie Wilson is processing the Beecher-Bartram papers. The biographical/family narrative for the finding aid for the papers is being prepared by Conni Manoli-Skocay. A display of West Concord landscape images by Herbert Wendell Gleason is being prepared for the Fowler branch showcase.

**RFID:** The Circulation Department continues to work with the new Radio Frequency Identification Technology (RFID) system defining best practices. We have been finalizing plans this week for the installation of security gates and kiosk for children. Caroline Nie worked with the RFID vendor Bibliotheca this week on the installation of RFID software on the Fowler Branch PCs and has completed the installation project. Both Main and Fowler Libraries are using RFID for checking in and checking out materials.

**Speaker Invited:** Children's Librarian Karen Ahearn sent an invitation to the illustrator Jerry Pinkney to be this year's Leslie Riedel Memorial Lecture speaker. The Leslie Riedel Memorial Lecture takes place in the fall.

**Chinese Music Night:** The Friends of the Concord Free Public Library sponsored a Chinese Music Night last Saturday evening and we had a full house for the concert. Many thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring the event and to the many helping hands that made the evening a success.

The Library was closed Sunday, March 31 for the Easter holiday.

## **PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT**

### **Building Inspections Division**

**Fenn School:** The Building Inspections Division has issued permits to begin reconstruction of the main entrance driveway and student drop-off area off of Monument Street. This work was approved by the Planning Board under an educational site plan approval process. This work will complete the construction being carried out to replace the old Robb Hall with the new Fenn School Library & Science Center: This work will total over \$5 Million when completed.

**Generator Relocation to Harvey Wheeler:** DPLM staff from Inspections and Planning met with Fire Chief Cotreau, Captain Noke and their consulting firm Garcia, Galuska, DeSousa Inc., to discuss the relocation of the 125 kW natural gas-fired generator from the Public Safety Building to the Harvey Wheeler Community Center. While the generator is no longer adequate to serve the Public Safety Building emergency operations, it is the perfect size to provide back-up power for the HWCC. The conversation focused on: positioning the generator so that it will meet the separation and setback requirements from buildings and lot lines; appropriately placing the generator on the site in a way that will minimize visibility from all public ways; and how best to screen/shelter the generator to reduce the visual impacts to the site, which is located within the Church Street Historic District. This work will not require site plan approval but must be reviewed and approved by the Historic Districts Commission.

### **Planning Division**

**Downtown Initiative Technical Assistant Funds:** The Town of Concord was notified this week that it has been awarded up to \$10,000 worth of consultant services to assist with the development of a way-finding program for the newly created Concord Center Cultural District. This grant was awarded in response to an application submitted by the Planning Division in September 2012 to the DHCD Massachusetts Downtown Initiative, and will help the Town coordinate efforts to create an appropriate and historically-sensitive system of standardized navigational tools that will aid visitors in finding historic sites, parks, natural features, cultural attractions, parking lots, public restrooms and other amenities once they are within the boundaries of the Cultural District.

**MAGIC Agricultural Forum follow-up:** Member communities and partners met to follow up on the March 5 Agricultural Forum that was hosted in Sudbury. Over 100 people participated from the 13 MAGIC communities. Next steps include identifying programs and municipal actions to support agriculture; identifying resources to protect and expand farm land; and training & educational needs to promote communication and resolve disputes.

**50 Beharrell Street:** Town staff from DPLM and CPW met early in the week to discuss proposed traffic improvements, legal issues around easement language, and additional

information needed. After compiling the notes from this meeting, Town staff met with project proponents to address questions and concerns with the recommendations developed.

### **Natural Resources Division**

**Natural Resources Intern:** Staff bid farewell to Frank Corbett, who has assisted with redeveloping the Wetlands Permitting Database; his work is greatly appreciated. Staff also interviewed candidates for an intern position to complete this project and anticipate bringing someone on board by mid to late-April.

**Natural Resources Commission:** At the next NRC meeting on April 3, the following matters will be heard: an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation for 965 Elm Street, and a new Notice of Intent for an addition at 557 Sudbury Road.

**Proposed Wetlands Protection Act Regulation Revisions:** Staff attended a public hearing at the DEP NERO office regarding proposed changes to the Wetlands Protection Act Regulations. Please visit [http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/approvals/2012\\_rr.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/approvals/2012_rr.htm) to view the specific dates/times for the hearings that are scheduled throughout the Commonwealth. The website also contains a red-line version of the proposed changes, in addition to a summary of changes.