



2013 CONCORD ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

Board of Selectmen



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Elise Woodward, Carmin Reiss, Jeff Wieand, Chair; Alice Kaufman, Steven Ng, Clerk

Ruth Lauer

General Business

The Board of Selectmen is the elected board responsible for the development and implementation of Town policy. It performs these functions by sponsoring Town Meeting Warrant articles and making recommendations to Town Meeting, implementing the decisions of Town Meeting, managing the bylaws and budget of the Town, monitoring and evaluating the annual goals and objectives of the Town Manager, making appointments to a variety of Town boards, committees and task forces, guiding the development and evaluating the performance of the Town's operating and capital budgets, and acting as the authority for the granting of numerous licenses. The Board of Selectmen also represents the Town in a variety of roles with Federal, State regional and other local government agencies. The Town Manager reports to the Board.

Alice Kaufman was elected to the Board in March for her first term. Steven Ng continued his first term while Jeffrey Wieand, Carmin Reiss and Elise Woodward continued their second terms on the Board. Following Town

Meeting, the Board elected Jeffrey Wieand as Chair and Steven Ng as Clerk.

Boards and Committees

The Board continued its practice of meeting at 7:00pm on Monday evenings, every other week, with additional meetings as necessary. To allow greater time for consideration of more substantive matters, the Board employs a consent calendar for routine and non-controversial matters such as gift acceptances and special licenses. Meetings are open to all interested Concord citizens and, at regular meetings, time is scheduled for the Board to hear citizens comments. Copies of supporting materials for meetings of the Board are posted on the Town website. CCTV records the Board's meetings and broadcasts live on Concord's local access cable channel. The Concord Journal and Concord Patch, www.concord.patch.com, both regularly report on the Board's meetings.

The Board met regularly with Carlisle officials and the Town's representative to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and was in communication with the Town's State Senator. The challenge of managing budgets and tax burdens in a persistently weak economy remained a central focus of discussion. Other topics of discussion included continued construction of the new Concord-Carlisle Regional High School building, school bus issues, the operation and capital expenses of Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical High School and local option tax alternatives.

In September, the Board convened a fiscal coordination planning meeting for Fiscal Year 2015 with the Concord Finance Committee and representatives of Concord Public Schools, the Concord and Regional School Committees and the Carlisle Board of Selectmen. In December, the Board convened a Coordination Meeting of Town boards and departments to identify and begin discussion on potential Articles for the 2014 Town Meeting Warrant.

As in prior years, the Board and the Town Manager established and coordinated their goals for Fiscal Year 2013. This year, each Board member presented their own personal goals based upon the Board member's interests and liaison responsibilities. Board goals proposed included but were not limited to the following, "Working with the Town Manager and Departments to move municipal buildings towards carbon neutrality", "Assisting the Town Governance Committee and the Consolidation Study", "Enhancing public participation and awareness of local government" and "Continued efforts on the acquisition of the WR Grace land and the McGrath land."

The Board continued its practice of hearing regular reports from a number of boards and committees as well as from Town departments, and made and approved appointments to those volunteer groups. Reports heard by the Board included the Concord Municipal Light Plant, 2229 Main Street Committee, Public Works Department, Fire Department, Board of Registrars,

the Town Information Technology Division, the Board of Health with the Police Chief as well as the Historical Commission.

Notable Issues

Notable issues taken up by the Board this year included: continued support for the Concord-Carlisle Regional High School building project; approval of starting 2014 Town Meeting on a Sunday afternoon; discussing firearms and public health with the Chief of Police and the Board of Health; supporting the nomination of the Wheeler-Harrington House to National Register of Historic Places; clarifying policies for declaring emergencies involving the water bottle by-law suspension; discussing the potential acquisition of parcels for open space, agricultural, and municipal purposes, including the W.R. Grace property at 214-Y Main Street; authorizing the Town Manager to sign the purchase and sales agreement for the McGrath property at 449 Barretts Mill Road; applying for and receiving Green Communities designation for the Town; adopting the Municipal energy reduction plan and Fuel Efficient Vehicle policy; accepting conservation restrictions at 41A Lowell Road and 189 Mildred Circle; discussing Walden Woods Project commitment to Affordable Housing; discussing a study of opportunities for school/town consolidation; reviewing Planning Department Parking Study; supporting continued construction progress of utility scale solar power generation on the former landfill; receiving updates on MBTA construction projects; numerous pole petition, gas main petition, license and victualler license hearings; and evaluating the performance of the Town Manager.

Town Meeting

In April, Concord voters assembled for the Annual Town Meeting to take action on sixty-three Warrant Articles. Of note, Town Meeting voted to approve Town and School budgets without any override; authorize borrowing of \$795,000 for renovation of Concord Public Schools; authorize borrowing of \$900,000 for the Town's 2014 road program; authorize borrowing of \$450,000 for Police/Fire Radio System; authorize borrowing \$100,000 for site improvements at 51 Laws Brook Road and Rideout Playground; and approve the Community Preservation Funds. The Articles to sell a conservation restriction at the former landfill site and the use of CPS Capital Needs Stabilization Fund for transportation infrastructure at the former landfill both failed to pass.

Special Town Meeting

The Town assembled on December 4, for a Special Town Meeting to consider three Warrant Articles. Special Town Meeting voted to acquire a parcel of land at 55 and 55R Knox Trail in Acton and to grant rights to a portion of this parcel to the School Committee for parking, maintenance and fueling of school buses and other educational uses. Special Town Meeting

also voted to acquire a parcel of State owned land at 407-9 Commonwealth Avenue for municipal purposes including the construction of amenities to support the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

Gifts

The Town was fortunate to receive numerous gifts from residents, charities and other organizations. The Town is grateful for each and every gift. The Board of Selectmen formally accepts all gifts in excess of \$500. The Board accepted, among many others, the following generous and appreciated gifts: ambulance gift from Mrs. Audrey Mold; numerous gifts totalling over \$41,000 for the Concord Open Golf Tournament and Recreation Department summer camp scholarships; \$50,000 from the friends of Concord-Carlisle Fields for the fields maintenance account; \$7,700 from Concord-Carlisle Youth Baseball and Softball to the Ripley baseball field account; \$100,000 from an anonymous donor to support affordable housing on the McGrath land; \$2,500 from the Boston Foundation to the Nanae gift account; \$10,000 from Ann and George Colony to the conservation restriction baseline documentation gift account; \$15,500 from John Florio to the Council on Aging account; and several gifts from Community Chest, including \$26,158 to the Youth Coordinator gift account, \$26,268 to the Council on Aging account, and \$25,083 to the Community Services Coordinator gift account.

Acknowledgements

The Board wishes to thank Town Manager Chris Whelan, Deputy Town Manager Doug Meagher, Staff Liaison Ruth Lauer, Executive Assistant to Town Manager Laurel Landry and all of the employees of the Town of Concord for their professionalism and dedication in serving the residents of Concord. We also wish to acknowledge and thank the hundreds of citizen volunteers willing to devote their time and skill to Town affairs and without whom the Town simply could not function.