



TOWN OF CONCORD

Office of the Town Manager

Operational Status Reports & Departmental Updates

For the Week Ending July 15, 2022

Town Manager and General Government

The Town Manager’s Office and the Town Clerk’s Office have been monitoring Beacon Hill’s re-authorization of Concord’s boards and committees to meet virtually. On Thursday afternoon, the House and Senate passed legislation extending key pandemic-era accommodations, including remote meeting authorizations, to March 31, 2023. Once the Governor signs the bill, cities and towns will retain the option to hold public meetings remotely, following the same guidelines that have been in place since the COVID public health emergency was first declared in March of 2020.

Until the bill is signed, all Concord boards, committees, and commissions must meet in a physical location, have a majority of members meet there in person, and have the chair present at the physical meeting location. Hybrid meetings are allowed and the Town will continue to Zoom record, broadcast, and publish all public board and committee meetings. The public will be allowed to attend in person or via zoom.

Police Department

Activity Log July 7 – July 13

Log items	735
Traffic Enforcement	64
Motor Vehicle Stops	106
Arrests	2

- On Monday July 11, the Department began its second **Youth Police Academy**. District Attorney Marian Ryan visited the department, and spoke with the participants of the youth academy. Sergeant Manchuso and School Resource Officers Paladino and Rodriguez provided a structured week for the participants, who were provided an experience to see what a day in the life of a Police officer entails. There were over twenty participants who attended the youth academy. Each student has an enjoyable week, experiencing demonstrations of equipment with our officers, as well as touring the district court and State Police horse barn.



- Chief O'Connor and his command staff attended the **Select Board meeting on Monday July 11**, providing an **overview of the department**, calls for service, new State certification processes, as well as recent department accreditation and investigations.

Public Works and Engineering

- **CPW Fleet Upgrade:** Concord Public Works took receipt of a new 2022 Elgin Street Sweeper. The sweeper will be used to provide cleaning services of public roadways and parking lots. Sweeping and cleaning of roadways not only removes sand, leaves and other debris that if left in the roadway that would otherwise clog storm water infrastructure but it mitigates hazards to motor vehicles or bicyclists traveling along the roadway. Employees participated in training provided by the vendor, CN Wood Co. of Woburn, MA.
- **Nagog Pond Treatment Design:** As drinking water regulations continue to evolve and with the cost for treatment escalating, staff are evaluating how Nagog Pond treatment goals fit into Concord's long-range plan. Recognizing that Concord's needs may impact water service interests along the Rt2A corridor in Acton, Concord has reached out to the Town of Acton and Acton Water District to ensure mutual needs and interests are appropriately identified and accommodated.
- **Drought Awareness:** As temperatures rise and drought conditions continue to persist across the region, Nagog Pond was activated for seasonal use. The Water Division continues to encourage continued compliance with the town's voluntary water use restrictions limiting outdoor water use to one day per week.
- **Commonwealth Avenue** - National Grid has submitted their revised traffic management plan based on the review by Concord Police and Public Works. A meeting with project abutters will be scheduled to discuss the schedule for construction and the impacts to the area. Nashoba Brook Bakery has scheduled the construction of utility service connections related to their expansion.
- **Hubbard Street** – Paving of sidewalks with the first course of asphalt has been occurring for the past few days. The final paving of sidewalks will follow.
- **Roadway Improvement Project** – The contractor, All States Materials has been adjusting roadway castings (frames and covers) on Barrett's Mill Rd, Hildreth Ln, Farmer's Cliff Rd and Annursnac Hill Rd in preparation for the application of asphalt rubber chip seal finish layer on these streets. Motorists are asked to be cautious in navigating these areas.
- **Right-of-way Permits** – Since the opening of the construction season in April this year, the Engineering Division has processed 93 permits related to work within the public right-of-way and on driveways.
- **Culvert and Bridge Assessment** – The consultant, Wright-Pierce has completed the inspection of the Town-owned bridges and about 25 percent of the Town-owned drainage culverts.



Department of Planning & Land Management

Economic Vitality & Tourism Division

- The Town did a soft launch of the **Concord Trolley** on July 2 to make sure the everything was running smoothly, and drivers felt comfortable on the route. In the first week we had 30 riders, and this was before

starting the marketing campaign. We are encouraged by the level of marketing web traffic so far and the number of calls we have received. There has also been very positive feedback from the historic sites. Early usage has been seen from commuter rail users and visitors who are planning trips based on using it. A web-based app has been created to help people learn of other points of interest near the trolley stops and is live! Scan the green QR code to check it out.

Health Division

White Pond update - Water sampling conducted July 12 shows cyanobacteria and microcystin toxin results below state beach closure limits. The pond remains at Swim at Your Own Risk, due to the possibility that small wind-blown visible blooms and scums may accumulate temporarily at areas along the shoreline. These should be avoided when encountered. A Pet Advisory is also posted.

Water samples this week show an increase of Bloom Forming Colonies (BFC), which indicates that the whole lake may show a visible bloom in the near future. Water sampling will continue weekly to monitor cyanobacterial populations in the pond.

Human Services

Community Services

This summer marks the 8th year that Concord's Community Services will be running a **Back-to-School Backpack Drive** to distribute backpacks filled with school supplies to Concord families in need. Donations of NEW backpacks and school supplies for students of any age would be greatly appreciated! You may drop off a donation at one of the boxes located at: Town Hall, 55 Church Street in West Concord, the Beede Center, the downtown Public Library's Sudbury Road entrance, or the Concord-Carlisle Community Chest. Backpack Drive runs through August 21st. For more information, contact Bonny Wilbur, Community Services Coordinator, bwilbur@concordma.gov or tel. 978-318-3034.

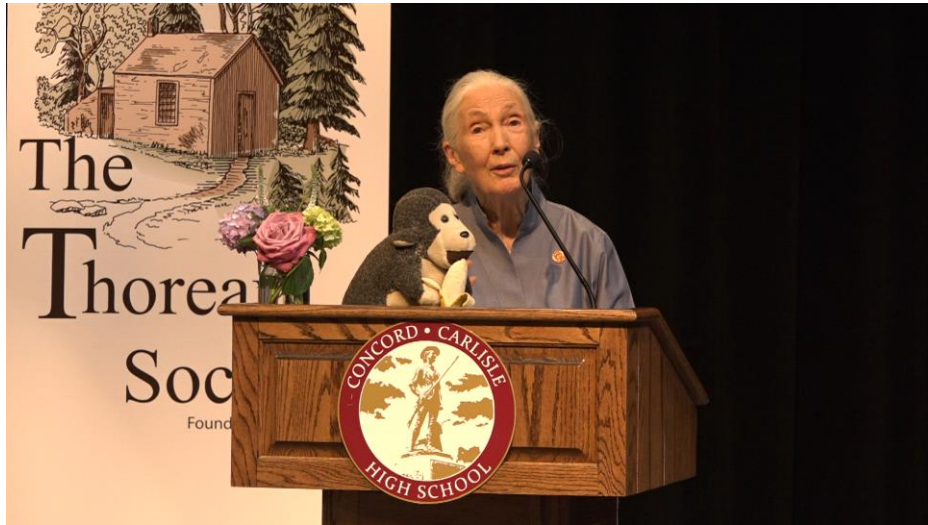
Recreation

- **Events**
 - The Recreation Department will host a community event on August 18 at White Pond beach, 7:15-8:30 p.m. More details to come.
 - The Summer Concert Series at Rideout Park continues. Concerts will run Thursday nights 6:00-9:00P 7/14/, 7/21, 7/28.
- **Programming**
 - Emerson Pool is now open for use and memberships can be purchased for \$75.
 - Enrollment for After School for the Fall is robust. There are waitlists for every day, except Friday at all sites. Carousel Preschool enrollment is still slow as it typically is this time of year.
 - Carousel Preschool and Afterschool Programs will be participating in the Family Trees at the Concord Museum. The preschool chose the book *Memory Jars* and will be working with the Council on Aging to design the tree. The Afterschool Program chose the book *If I Build a House*.
 - A new, outdoor basketball program for Concord youth is running this summer through August.
- **Administrative update**
 - The next Recreation Commission meeting is on July 19, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. at White Pond
 - The Beede Center General Manager position is posted and applications will be accepted through July 20.
 - Jobs are posted for the 2022-2023 School Year.

- The RFP for the Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan Consultant is complete and hope to get it sent out and posted in the next week.

Minuteman Media Network

Thoreau Society Coverage: MMN had a great week working with the Thoreau Society, providing coverage of their events in support for the public to have the opportunity to view them on Zoom.



Wj

Jane Goodall accepting the Henry David Thoreau Prize in Literary Excellence in nature Writing.



Jesse Paris Smith with Alana Amram at the Umbrella Arts Center.



Kora musician John at the Robbins House

Municipal Broadband

The monthly **municipal broadband report** is linked [here](#).

Library Program Highlights

- The Library’s “Concerts on the Lawn” series is off to a great start. Rockabye Beats drew a crowd of about 70 people on July 7th. The Library will be hosting the acoustic folk-rock duo, Knock on Wood, on July 14th and then welcoming Pete Kilpatrick on July 21st. Concerts are Thursdays at 7pm on the Main Library’s front lawn.
- The Summer Shakespeare on the Lawn returns this year with the Concord Players presenting an abridged version of Pericles, Prince of Tyre. Performances are on the front lawn of the Main Library on July 23, 24, 30 and 31 from 5pm to 6:30pm. Bring a lawn chair, snack or non-alcoholic beverage and enjoy this Shakespearean fairy tale.
- The library is providing free, low-pressure opportunities to practice English at Fowler Library during the Conversation Circle for English Language Learners on Mondays at 2pm. The first session kicks off next week on July 18th. Registration is required. See the library’s events calendar for more information.
- The popular “Films at Fowler” series will run this summer from June 8 to August 17 with the theme Breaking Boundaries. All six movies in this summer series are about going beyond the status quo and challenging limits and expectations. Watch films on Kanopy at your leisure and join the group discussions on Zoom. Check the library’s events calendar for more information and to register. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Concord Free Public Library.



Library-Wide Initiatives

The Concord Free Public Library is now a member of the [Sustainable Libraries Initiative \(SLI\)](#) and their Certification Program! Their [July 2022 Newsletter](#) highlighted the Concord Free Public Library Corporation's [Sustainability Plan 2021-2025](#). The Concord Free Public Library Corporation envisions the Library as a model of sustainability and climate action. The Plan outlines the necessary steps for assessing, planning, and implementing a series of collaborative actions across operations and programming between 2021 and 2026 and establishes the aspirational goal of carbon neutrality by 2030.