



TOWN OF CONCORD

Town Manager's Report

Week of: January 11, 2016

Parking Fines/Meter Fees Increasing

Contact: (978) 318-3290

Effective January 11, 2016, the Town of Concord will increase parking violation fines and parking meter rates. Fines are generally increasing by \$5.00 per violation, with the exception of parking violations associated with handicapped parking spaces or cars parked at curb ramps, which will increase by \$50 per violation. Fines and rates were last increased in July 2006.

Board/Committee Vacancies

Ever consider becoming a part of a board/commission/committee in your local government? The Town is looking for residents to fill positions on a variety of boards/commissions/committees.

If interested, please call (978) 318-3000, or find info online: www.concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA_BOS/vacancies

Attention Nurses

Contact: (978) 318-3020

Your assessment and people skills are needed to promote better health for seniors in our community. Every Wed. from 10am-11:45am, a comprehensive blood press/wellness screening is held at the Concord Council on Aging. Please consider volunteering once a month to support this great work. For more information, contact Catherine Joyce, RN/Wellness Coordinator at the number above.

MBTA Public Meeting January 28th, 6pm

In response to concerns regarding changes to the MBTA Commuter Rail schedule, the MBTA has scheduled a series of public meetings to address community concerns about the commuter rail schedule and MBTA fare increases. The public meeting with the MBTA will be held on Thursday January 28th from 6-8pm at the Concord Town House located at 22 Monument Square.

Police Logs Available Online

Contact: (978) 318-3400

The Concord Police Dept. (CPD) has made their police log available on their webpage, as well as on social media. You can access the log on the CPD webpage on the www.concordma.gov website, or you can like them on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/ConcordMAPD

Special Town Meeting

Contact: (978) 318-3000

Special Town Meeting – The Select Board called a Special Town Meeting for Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 7:00 PM at the Concord –Carlisle Regional High School.

The Public Hearing for the Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles will be held on Wednesday January 27, 2016 at the Concord Town House at 7:00pm.

Open Walk at Hunt

Contact: (978) 369-6460

Concord Recreation will have gym time available for walkers on Mondays and Fridays from 1:15-2:45 starting December 14 and ending March 18.

January 15, 22, 25, 29

February 1, 5, 8, 12, 22, 26, 29

March 7, 11, 14, 18

**Closed January 18, February 15, 19*

Please check in at the front desk of the Hunt Building and sign-in. Proper footwear is required-Sneakers only.

Commonwealth Connect

Report potholes and other problems to your town on the go!

Download on the App Store

Get it on Google play

SeeClickFix

Report a NON-emergency issue in Town online or through the mobile app with Commonwealth Connect/SeeClickFix



HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

RECREATION * SENIOR SERVICES * SOCIAL SERVICES

Veterans News

Contact (978) 318-3038

The Office of Veterans' Services (OVS) continued renewal of all Chapter 115 benefits for veterans qualifying for the year 2016. Each veteran must supply the Service Officer their December 2015 bank statement, 2016 rent letter and new 2016 Social Security award letter in order to receive these benefits.

The son of a deceased veteran contacted the Office requesting information on how to get a letter confirming that his father had received two purple heart medals when the son could only confirm one of the two medals.

The Office received information on a resident veteran who might be eligible for benefits as the veteran is in financial need. The Office has tried to make contact with the veteran three times and has been unsuccessful so far. The Office will continue to make contact.

The Office was contacted by a veteran and his wife requesting assistance paying medical bills. The Office applied for healthcare via the department of veterans affairs requesting free medical care and Rx.

A representative of Brookhaven Hospice visited the office of veterans' services reporting that her company is willing to visit Concord in the time frame of veterans day and willing to present special events that will honor those who have served.

Community Services

Contact: (978) 318-3034

The Community Services Coordinator received **33 emails, 22 phone calls and had 4 office visits** this week. Requests for assistance focused on housing payment assistance, food assistance, transportation assistance, childcare assistance, fuel assistance and mental health support.

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) –assists individuals and families with funds to purchase food. You can apply in person, online or by mail to this program. Anyone interested in determining eligibility or applying for SNAP benefits, is a Concord or Carlisle resident, and is under the age of 60, please contact Aileen Buford, MSW in the Community Services Division at 978.318.3034 or abuford@concordma.gov

SMOC Fuel Assistance – Any Concord resident under the age of 60 who is interested in applying for SMOC Fuel Assistance, please contact Aileen Buford, MSW for an informational packet and eligibility requirements. Eligibility is based on household size and income.

Resolving to Declutter in 2016? Call today and join a Declutterers' Group! Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Ten-week groups begin late January. No age or geographic restrictions for membership. For more information please contact Marnie McDonald, LCSW 978-624-2207 or mmcdonald@nselder.org

Are you a caregiver and would like to talk with others in the same situation? Join the Carlisle Council on Aging for a FREE Caregiver Support Group 3:30-4:30pm and Bereavement Support Group 4:30-5:30pm at the Hollis Room of the Gleason Public Library, 22 Bedford Road, Carlisle, starting Monday, January 11th, and continuing February 8, March 14 and April 11, 2016. Both groups are open to residents from any town and are FREE. For more information, please write amarowse@charter.net or contact the Carlisle Council on Aging at 978.371.2895



CONCORD PUBLIC WORKS (CPW)
ADMINISTRATION • ENGINEERING • HIGHWAY & GROUNDS • WATER & SEWER

Contact: (978) 318-3206

Public Shade Tree Maintenance

The limited snow fall this season has been beneficial to CPW Park and Tree Division crews by allowing them to continue with required public shade tree maintenance work. Most recently, one Catalpa tree was removed from Hawthorne Lane and one Norway maple was removed from Sandy Pond Road. Both of these trees were determined to be in declining health by the Tree Warden, potentially posing a hazard, so removal was necessary. Weather permitting, the stumps will be removed and the areas will receive a final cleanup next week.

West Concord Public Sand/Salt Storage Bin

CPW Highway Division crews recently delivered a new sand/salt storage bin to Rideout Field near the Lawsbrook Road entrance in West Concord for residents to pick up sand and salt mix for winter use. It was determined that the previous bin had deteriorated to the point it was no longer suitable for this use. Residents are reminded that there is also sand and salt mix available on Keyes Road near the public works complex and this sand and salt mix is for residential use only. Private winter maintenance contractors are not permitted to access this supply.

Plastic Bag Reduction Bylaw Update

The plastic bag reduction bylaw, which bans the use of thin-film, single-use plastic bags for checkout in Concord retail stores and grocery stores, went into effect January 1, 2016. Outreach for the plastic bag reduction bylaw included mailers, flyers, website promotion, a poll, an informational meeting, reusable bag distribution, and visits to 67 retail stores. Based on results from the poll, store visits, and general feedback, many stores had already migrated away from plastic checkout bags by mid-December, and are now using paper or reusable bags, and in some cases, a combination of both.

Robinson Well Water Supply

The Robinson well has recently been taken off line due to a critical failure of the submersible pump and motor. Well drilling and pump services contractor, Denis L Maher Company removed the submersible motor, pump and column assembly and has been tasked to clean and inspect the unit to identify the extent of the problem and make recommendations around proposed system repair. Based on current water system demand, temporarily decommissioning Robinson well while repairs are underway is not expected to present any capacity challenges.

Assabet Avenue Drainage Improvement Project

CPW Engineering Division crews continued to work to finalize the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) permitting for the drainage rehabilitation project on Assabet Avenue. The main concerns were on the aesthetics of the armored slope at the two proposed outfalls as this stretch of the Assabet River is designated as a Wild and Scenic River. CPW has also reached out to the Army Corps of Engineers and plans to begin the Preconstruction Notification filing process in early January. The CPW Engineering Division will also prepare an updated filing for the Natural Resources Commission and plans to discuss the proposed changes at their February 3rd meeting. It should be noted that the Commission was supportive of the original two outfall design scopes. If an outfall to the river is not permitted through the ACOE, CPW would defer the drainage improvement until the roadway is reconstructed at a date to be determined.

Quiet Zone (Train Horn Silencing)

The Town of Concord established a quiet zone in accordance with Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 222 in 2006. The quiet zone is subject to periodic updates of the at-grade crossing inventory file as required by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). These updates require municipalities to conduct site surveys of each at-grade crossing to document any changes to the: physical characteristics of the intersection, traffic control and warning devices installed, current railroad information (train counts), and highway information including the average daily traffic counts and number of school buses crossing each intersection. CPW Engineering completed traffic data collection with CPD in November and December. The package to FRA and MassDOT was finalized in early January and submitted.



Department of Planning & Land Management (DPLM)
BUILDING INSPECTION • PLANNING • NATURAL RESOURCES • BOARD OF HEALTH • ZONING

Health Division

Contact: 978-318-3275

Septic system permitting: 5 septic plan designs reviewed, 5 septic permits issued; 1 septic variance issued; 2 Certificates of Compliance issued. 3 Deep test holes witnessed; 2 septic field inspections. 2 building reviews completed.

Food Service: 4 food service inspections and 2 re-inspections; 2 order letters sent to operators of food service establishments to correct violations; 1 follow up letter sent to assure compliance with the conditions of a previously granted food service variance. Due to an increase in requests from residents looking to start home-based food businesses (residential retail kitchens), Health Inspector Gabrielle White has updated the Health Division webpage with updated guidance materials and a new application to assist applicants.

License & Contract renewals underway: Administrative Assistant Karen Byrne sent out license renewals and has begun issuing 2016 licenses for: 92 Septic Installers; 27 Septic Haulers; 48 Registered Sanitarians; 15 Rubbish Haulers; 5 Body Art Technicians. Ms. Byrne also worked with Finance Department to execute renewed contracts for Weights & Measures inspections and beach water sampling for 2016.

CHNA 15 Meeting: Public Health Director Susan Rask and DPLM Director Marcia Rasmussen attended the bi-monthly CHNA 15 meeting. The meeting topic was “8 to 80 Communities”— designing communities to meet the needs of residents of all ages.

Natural Resources Division

Contact: 978-318-3285

Natural Resources Commission meeting of January 6th: The NRC heard the following matters: the continued Notice of Intent for 33 Walden Street to replace the retaining wall along Mill Brook and a Request for Determination of Applicability for 143 Elsinore Street to excavate and install a foundation under an existing porch. The Commission issued an Order of Conditions for the retaining wall at 33 Walden Street and issued Extensions for the MBTA to complete work associated with the Main Street bridge and for 300-330 Baker Avenue to complete work associated with the Extended Stay Hotel. One new Notice of Intent application for the February 2nd NRC meeting was received this week to demolish and reconstruct a single family house at 874 Elm Street.

Land Available for Farming: Staff held pre-bid site visits at 41A Barretts Mill Road and 6A Harrington Avenue for parties interested in farming these parcels. Proposals are due to the Division of Natural Resources by 2:00PM on January 21st.

Building Inspection Division

Contact: 978-318-3280

Annual Report Info: The Building Inspections Division issued 1,038 building permits in calendar year (CY) 2015, which is a 19% increase from last year. This is a record year for the number of building permits issued in Concord. The overall construction value in CY2015 was \$80.7 million compared to \$80.4 million in CY2014. Of this total, \$52.7 million was for residential construction with \$28 million for commercial/institutional work. This is a 12% increase in residential construction value over a year ago.

The value of “new residential dwelling units” built in Concord went from \$24 million last year to \$27.4 million in CY2015. This new residential construction value represents fifty-one (51) new detached single family homes permitted in CY2015 versus thirty-eight (38) new home permits issued in CY2014. Of these fifty-one (51) new homes, thirty-four (34) or 67% were the result of “tear downs” (the demolition of an existing house to allow the construction of a new, often larger home). Three duplex’s account for another six (6) attached dwelling units permitted as part of the Black Birch PRD off of Forest Ridge Road. Over the past year, an additional \$25.3 million dollars was spent on alterations or additions to existing single family residential homes in Concord. This is a 9% increase over CY2014.



Department of Planning & Land Management (DPLM)
BUILDING INSPECTION • PLANNING • NATURAL RESOURCES • BOARD OF HEALTH • ZONING

Planning Division

Contact: (978) 318-3290

MAPC/MAGIC monthly meeting on January 7th: Town Planner Elizabeth Hughes attended the MAGIC sub regional meeting. MAPC staff gave a presentation on the District Local Technical Assistance grant program. The Town Planner will follow-up with the possibility of applying for grant funds to have MAPC staff assist the Tree Preservation Subcommittee with researching tree preservation bylaws and ordinances from other communities and holding a public forum on the topic. The second speaker at the meeting was Corey Lynch, Deputy Director of Railroad Operations with the MBTA, who gave a presentation on the revised commuter rail schedule for the Fitchburg Line. See proposed Fitchburg line schedule by and Fitchburg line station-by-station comparison by [clicking here](#).

Mr. Lynch stated that the MBTA would start the public engagement process on Thursday, January 7th with the release of an on-line public survey and comment tool, which will provide riders a fast and easy way to weigh in on the proposed schedule. As of Friday morning, the tool was not yet up on the MBTA website (<http://www.mbta.com/index.asp>). **The MBTA will also be holding a public information session regarding the Fitchburg Line schedule changes and proposed fare increase on January 28th at 6 pm in the Concord Town House 2nd floor hearing room.**

Historic Districts Commission Meeting on January 7th: The HDC reviewed six new and three continued applications for Certificates of Appropriateness for work within the Historic Districts. The Commission approved Certificates for new bollards and paving at 252 Main Street, a new sign at 11 Main Street; new roofing and gutters at 616 Lowell Road; new lamp posts at 105 Lexington Road; a stone wall at 131 Monument Street; and new windows, paint colors, and garage doors at 50 Monument Street. The Commission continued discussion of the proposed new Concord Bell Memorial at 12 Main Street to allow the Concord Rotary to update and finalize its plans; the proposed changes to 12 Bow Street to allow the Applicant time to develop an alternative design that includes the existing house; and the proposed new greenhouse at Barretts Mill Farm, 449 Barrett's Mill Road, to allow time for a site visit to the property on January 14. Lastly, the Commission met with representatives of the Millbrook Tarry Market project to informally review the proposed designs for the potential new parking deck.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee meeting of January 7th: The BFRT Advisory Committee discussed the updated memo prepared by Director Marcia Rasmussen and reviewed the draft Interpretive Signs prepared by committee member Judy LaRocca. The draft signs need to be submitted to GPI to incorporate into the 100% design plans. Permissions are being sought as needed for use of the photographs and maps incorporated into the draft Signs.

'Pay by Phone' at the West Concord Commuter Lot: The Town has been working with the MBTA's parking management vendor 'Pay By Phone' to bring this service to the West Concord commuter lot for the 100+ spaces that are owned by the MBTA. We anticipate going "live" with the application on Wednesday, February 10th. There will be significant outreach in advance of that date with signs on the platform and in the parking lot, articles in the paper and on the web, flyers on vehicles and handouts at local businesses, if possible. Additionally, 'Pay By Phone' will coordinate with the MBTA to help us get the word out to resident commuters as well as commuters from out of town.



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