



TOWN OF CONCORD

Town Manager's Report

Week of: August 22, 2016

EF-1 Tornado Hits Concord

Monday, August 22, at approximately 3:15am, winds reaching 100 miles per hour ripped through a half mile stretch of Town, ranging from Cambridge Turnpike and up Lexington Road. The storm damaged 39 homes, only one severely, and no storm-related injuries were reported. At most, nearly 1,000 customers lost power, but as of noon on August 23, that number reduced to 68, with the remaining customers getting power back shortly after. Lexington Road was closed for over a day, but it has since reopened.

Mutual aid from surrounding towns, as well as towns further away, came to assist in repair, cleanup and emergency management; the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), as well as other State Agencies, provided additional support.

Gov. Charlie Baker, Lieutenant Gov. Karyn Polito, State Rep. Cory Atkins and MEMA Dir. Kurt Schwartz visited the site and spoke with affected residents .

The Town is thankful for the support and well-wishes that have flooded in from neighboring community members and other governmental organizations and looks forward to restoring the Concord community to regular order.

Updating Resident Information on Code Red for Emergencies

After the last Code Red (reverse 911) communication that was sent out regarding the water ban, it was brought to Town Staff's attention that some resident information in the Code Red system was outdated; in fact, 33% is outdated. The Town is urging residents to update their information if it has changed, so emergency information can successfully reach as many residents as possible. Please go to <https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/BFB7CC4C6C0A> to sign up.



The Concord Public-Private Partnership Study Committee Public Forum

Thursday, Sept. 8, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Concord Town House Hearing Room

The Concord Public-Private Partnership Study Committee, created by the Concord Select Board earlier this year, will hold a public forum to summarize their findings to date and solicit comment from the public. The forum is an opportunity for the public to voice their thoughts on the pluses and minuses of public-private partnerships and to suggest guidelines for future partnerships. The committee wants to hear from residents before making a report to the Select Board. The public is urged to attend.

Backpack Program Begins to Give Backpacks to Families in Need

Contact: (978) 318-3034

The Community & Youth Services Division continues to distribute new, unused backpacks and schools supplies to eligible families in Concord & Carlisle. To date, 46 backpacks full of school supplies have been distributed! If you are interested in receiving a backpack for your child or children, or if you know someone who might benefit from this program, please contact Bonny Wilbur, Community Services Coordinator, bwilbur@concordma.gov.

Expanded Hours for Compost Site

Contact: (978) 318-3240

The Compost Site at 755 Walden Street is open Saturdays 9am-3pm. In addition to those hours, a pilot program has been established to also open the compost site on Wednesday's beginning August 3 through October 12, from 3-6pm. The extended hours from October 19 through November 23 will be 3-5:30pm. Concord residents can drop off leaves and grass clippings free of charge. Brush can be dropped off for \$5 per carload (checks payable to Town of Concord). Free compost is also available. For additional information call Concord Public Works.



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT
Natural Resources • Planning • Building • Health

Natural Resources Division

Contact: (978) 318-3285

White Pond Brochure: Brochures developed by the Division of Natural Resources and ESS Group were mailed out this week to White Pond watershed residents. The brochure contains tips and strategies for homeowners to take to help protect the water quality at White Pond. Brochures are available at the Division of Natural Resources office and webpage.

October Farm Riverfront Acquisition: The Town and the Concord Land Conservation Trust are working together to purchase 80 acres of land at the end of Ball's Hill Road for conservation, open space, and water supply purposes. To that end, the Division of Natural Resources (DNR) submitted a LAND grant application for funding assistance, and this week, the Town Manager, members of the Select Board, Natural Resources Commission, Concord Land Conservation Trust, and DNR staff accompanied Bob O'Connor from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for a site walk. A decision will be rendered in November on this grant proposal for \$400,000 to support the \$6 million purchase price. This property, once owned by noted ornithologist William Brewster, is frequently referenced in two of his books (October Farm and Concord River), and is an idyllic setting of drumlins and vernal pools with over a mile of frontage on the Concord River.



Health Division

Contact: (978) 318-3275

Guild for Human Services, 521 Virginia Rd.—the septic system for the Guild for Human Services school facility is in the process of being installed.

Public Health Intern Presentation—the Health Division has hosted an MPH-candidate performing a community health internship this summer. The intern analyzed data from weekly blood pressure clinics held at the Council on Aging (COA). At these clinics, volunteer nurses perform a brief assessment of each client to determine whether the client is experiencing other health issues such as need for assistance with medication management, falls, nutritional or hydration concerns; and psychosocial concerns such as stress, anxiety, depression/sadness or isolation. In conjunction with COA Wellness Coordinator Catherine Joyce, intern Caitlin Dillon collated and analyzed data from the 2014-2015 clinics. Results from this study will be used to better understand the needs of COA clients and to plan for future programming to meet these needs.

Planning Division

Contact: (978) 318-3290

Tree Preservation Subcommittee: On August 15th, the Subcommittee met to begin drafting their report and recommendations to the Planning Board. Members agreed that the Planning Board will be given a couple options to consider; one based on the Wellesley bylaw and the other based on a more simplified approach.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail: The Select Board held a public hearing on last Monday to vote to take temporary and permanent easements over 13 properties and to acknowledge donations by ten property owners. Town Counsel recorded the easements over private property and over Town Land on Tuesday and Thursday this week, while Director Rasmussen finalized the submittals to MassDOT Right-of-Way. The Finance Department issued payments for seven properties. Two items remain – the Lease Agreement with MassDOT Rail for long term use of the former railroad corridor as a bike path and the permanent easement/lease agreement with the MBTA for the permanent bike path over its land near the West Concord Depot. MassDOT Right-of-Way expects these documents to be finalized early next week and will be issuing its certification of the right-of-way by August 26th, which will allow the project to be advertised August 27th – we're on track for construction to start in 2017!