

Town Manager's Report

Monday, March 25, 2013

To: Board of Selectmen
From Christopher Whelan, Town Manager

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

FIRE

Emergency Management [Concord Emergency Management (CEMA) and Concord Emergency Response Team (CERT)]: An introductory CEMA/CERT meeting was held Wednesday night in the Walden Street Meeting room to give interested citizens an overview of CEMA's activities and responsibilities and to solicit increased citizen participation. Areas of interest include Sheltering, Medical Reserve Corp, Initial Damage Assessment as well as radio communications.

LIBRARY

Lending Library: This spring, the Fowler Branch Library officially launches the Concord Seed Lending Library. The mission of the Concord Seed Lending Library, an initiative of the Concord Free Public Library and the community, is to collect and share bio-diverse, locally-adapted plant seeds, cultivated by and for area residents. Please visit www.concordseedlendinglibrary.org for more information. Library Assistants Enid Boasberg and Kitty Smith recently promoted this new service at a Museum of Science program, "One Seed at a Time." Congratulations again to all of the planning team members, who have brought this wonderful opportunity to Concord gardeners.

RFID: During National Library week, CFPL will complete the implementation of Radio Frequency Identification Technology (RFID). Recently we added pads that enable the checkout of multiple items during the circulation process. Forthcoming additions will include new security gates, an additional self-checkout station, and a self-checkout kiosk for children. We look forward to adding these enhancements to better serve library users.

Collaboration with School Librarians: Last week, the Library hosted an afternoon tea for area school librarians. It was great to meet and share ideas regarding ways to improve library services to children and teens. A special thanks to our invaluable CFPL Friends for all of their help in coordinating this successful event.

E-Books: Caroline Nie and Kitty Smith presented another successful class on downloading e-books to the ipad last week which was very well received.

Online Exhibit: Earlier in the month Special Collections launched an online exhibition entitled, “Anti-slavery in Concord,” which can be viewed at <http://www.concordlibrary.org/scollect/antislavery/index.html>

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Natural Resources Division

Natural Resources Commission: At their March 20 meeting, the NRC heard two new projects, which they expect to close and issue Orders of Conditions for at their April 3 meeting. The first is for the Fire Department to replace the existing 125kW natural gas generator with a 200kW diesel generator, and the second is to replace the septic system at 1200 Monument Street. The Commission issued Orders to construct drainage facilities to service an 8-lot subdivision at 9B Monsen Road, conduct invasive species removal at 68B Sudbury Road (Soutter Field), and to demolish and rebuild a single-family home at 120 Laurel Street. The Commission also began discussing positions on Town Meeting articles. The Commission voted to support Articles 51, 54, and 58, and voted No Action on Articles 44 and 53. Articles 12, 13, and 52 were discussed but the vote postponed until April 3. Finally, the Commission accepted an Amendment to a Conservation Restriction at 455 Old Road to Nine Acre Corner, with a recommendation that the Board of Selectmen approve and accept this Amendment.

Building Inspections Division



Here on Monday, gone by Friday: A demolition permit was issued at the beginning of last week for 113 Commonwealth Ave. and by week’s end the building had been demolished and the site cleared – Concord Outfitters will be seeking a building permit to begin construction of a new building with other site improvements approved by the Board of Appeals last fall.

FEMA/Revised Flood Maps for the Concord River Watershed: Town staff from Building Inspections, Planning, Natural Resources and Public Works-Engineering met to discuss the

latest flood maps (dated January 10, 2013) that show changes in the 100-year flood elevations for the Concord River Watershed (including the Assabet and Sudbury Rivers and tributaries), review the federal Flood Hazard Mapping Procedures and to develop a public outreach process moving forward. One of the first tasks is to post information to the Town's website and to identify the properties where there has been a change in the flood plain so letters can be sent to the property owners to advise them of the available information. There will be a 90-day appeal period later this year (anticipated to begin sometime in May and ending in August) and an expectation that the 2014 Annual Town Meeting will adopt the new maps to remain in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program.

Health Division

Healthy Concord Community Forum: All Concord residents are invited to attend the THRIVE: Healthy Concord Community Forum which will be held Saturday March 30 from 9:30 am-12:30 pm at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center. Over the past few months, Healthy Concord has asked residents to express their views on community health and well-being. We've heard back from residents that our key issues are: enhancing programming that increases our sense of community; creating better support systems for youth, families, and seniors; and transportation including bikeways, walkways and getting around town. We hope many residents of all ages will attend the forum to share their ideas for possible solutions to these issues.

Medical Marijuana: Public Health Director Susan Rask attended an MHOA seminar on the impending implementation of the new medical marijuana law. This law was enacted in November, 2012 and became effective on January 1, 2013. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is in the process of writing regulations that will determine how the law is implemented. These regulations are expected to be promulgated in May 2013. The MHOA seminar discussed how towns may plan for and regulate medical marijuana dispensaries at the local level.

[Note from the Planning Division: The State's Attorney General Office issued its determinations on two zoning bylaw amendments concerning medical marijuana last week, disapproving Wakefield's proposed ban but approving Burlington's temporary moratorium. Copies of the decisions, dated 3/13/13, are posted on the AG's website at: <http://www.mlu.ago.state.ma.us/>. This year's Annual Town Meeting will consider an amendment to Concord's Zoning Bylaw under Article 39 that defines and locates medical marijuana treatment centers in the Medical-Professional zoning district (near Emerson Hospital).]

Compliance with Requirements for Innovative/Alternative (I/A) On-site Sewage Treatment Systems: Assistant Public Health Director Stan Sosnicki issued 20 letters of non-compliance to owners of I/A on-site sewage treatment systems, asking them to verify that a contract is in place for the required maintenance of the system. Responses have been received from many owners documenting that their systems are being maintained as required.

Planning Division

Historic Districts Commission: The HDC met Thursday night to review and approve an application for a new side entrance, garage doors, paving and fencing at 570 Lexington Road and agreed to another continuance of the proposed sign, lighting and awning for Comella's relocation to 33 Main Street.

Harrington House National Register Nomination: On Tuesday, Historical Commission Chair Valarie Kinkade and Senior Planner Lara Kritzer attended the meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Commission to support the National Register Nomination of the Harrington House property in West Concord. The Concord property was one of six reviewed and received unanimous approval from the MHC. This approval and the submitted nomination will now be sent to the National Park Service for their review and final approval to include the property on the National Register of Historic Places.

Plan Review: On Thursday, plan review staff met with the development team for a Preliminary Subdivision at 150 Barnes Hill Road which proposes a cul-de-sac (for frontage purposes) and two lots. The Applicant's intent is to seek waivers from construction of the cul-de-sac, and to use a more environmentally-sensitive approach of creating a common driveway (allowed by special permit). Staff expressed concerns with the grading of the site and constructability of the road; the Applicant will provide additional information for staff review prior to the Planning Board meeting on April 9. Staff then met with Bill Noke of the Fire Department and consultants Garcia, Galuska, DeSousa Inc. to discuss the proposed generator project at the Public Safety Building on Walden Street, which will require minor work in the floodplain. No major concerns were raised, and this project is scheduled on the Planning Board's April 2nd agenda. The meeting concluded after staff reviewed conceptual plans for the construction of a bus depot at the landfill site and provided the design team with information on the permit requirements. This project will only go forward if Town Meeting votes in favor of it.

Bike Corral Photo Contest UPDATE: After entering the Town into the Saris Bike Corral Photo Contest last week, DPLM staff spent some time getting the word out via emails and flyers last week. The Town has received over 100 votes so far and is the second most popular contestant. Of all the entries received, the 3 with the most public support will be selected as finalists for a second round of voting that will begin on April 1. So if you have not voted yet, please take a minute and show your support! **VOTING** takes place at the Saris Facebook page: (www.facebook.com/SarisCycleRacks)

POLICE

Operational Services: On Monday March 18, CPD staff responded to Emerson Hospital to investigate thefts of money from offices. The cases are under investigation and anyone with information is asked to contact CPD.

On Tuesday March 19, CPD staff responded to Emerson Hospital for a report of a past assault in the emergency room. The patient will be summonsed to court on the assault charges.

On Saturday March 23, CPD staff responded to Emerson Hospital for an “out of control patient,” in the Emergency Department. Upon arrival, officers located the subject and assisted the staff while the patient was receiving treatment. Officers stood by until the patient was calm and cooperative.

On Saturday March 23, Inspector Monahan responded to Kindred Nursing Home for a report of a past larceny. Inspector Monahan interviewed the victim whom stated that cash had been stolen from a locked box in the room.

Community Services: CPD is intensifying its traffic enforcement in the business districts, due to a large number of complaints of vehicles failing to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks. The fine for failing to yield/stop for a pedestrian in a crosswalk is \$100.

Administrative Services: The Department is currently recruiting for Police Officers. Interviews will be conducted in the upcoming weeks.