

**TOWN OF CONCORD
SELECT BOARD
AGENDA
MARCH 8, 2021
4:00 PM
VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84092395810?pwd=TnMyWmprWHBlA21CczdQM0EvWVVFZz09>

Meeting ID: 840 9239 5810

Passcode: 865209

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,84092395810# US (New York)

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Meeting ID: 840 9239 5810

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcwFtQro3l>

#	Agenda Item
1.	Call to Order
2.	Consent Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Town Accountant Warrants: March 4, 2021 - Proclaim the Week of April 4 - April 11 as Days of Remembrance for the Victims of the Holocaust
3.	Town Manager's Report
4.	Chair's Remarks
5.	Town House Renovation Update
6.	Climate Action Advisory Board Draft Warrant Article: Authorizing the Town of Concord to Adopt and Enforce Local Regulations Restricting New Fossil Fuel Infrastructure in Certain Conditions
7.	Select Board FY21 Goal: ATM Housing Appropriation
8.	Status of ATM 2020 Article Neonicotinoids Prohibition
9.	Election Officer Appointments
10.	Committee Nominations
11.	Committee Liaison Reports
12.	Miscellaneous Correspondence
13.	Public Comments
14.	Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation in the case of L.Y. v. Kester Krueger, CCTV, Inc., Town of Concord and Concord-Carlisle School District, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Committees as declared by the Chair.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF CONCORD
SELECT BOARD

PROCLAMATION

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

WHEREAS The Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945 - six million were murdered; Roma (Gypsies), people with disabilities, and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons; and millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny; and

WHEREAS The history of the Holocaust offers an opportunity to reflect on the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies, and governments; and

WHEREAS We the people of Concord should always remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and the genocides in Armenia, Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Darfur, we all have a duty to use these memories as a catalyst to rid us of racial hatred, intolerance, tyranny, and discrimination; and

WHEREAS We the people of the Town of Concord should actively rededicate ourselves to the principles of individual freedom in a just society; and

WHEREAS April 8, 2021 has been designated pursuant to an Act of Congress and internationally as a Day of Remembrance for Victims of the Nazi Holocaust known as Yom Hashoah; and

WHEREAS It is appropriate for the people of Concord to join the international commemoration; and

NOW THEREFORE We, the Concord Select Board, recognize the Holocaust Remembrance event sponsored by the Concord-Carlisle Human Rights Council to be held virtually on Sunday, April 11, 2021 at 7 p.m. and proclaim the week of April 4, 2021 through April 11, 2021 as *Days of Remembrance* for the victims of the Holocaust.

Proclaimed this 8th day of March 2021.

CONCORD SELECT BOARD



TOWN OF CONCORD
Office of the Town Manager
Town House
P.O. Box 535
Concord, Massachusetts 01742

TEL: 978-318-3000
FAX: 978-318-3002

Stephen Crane, Town Manager

MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Escobedo and Members of the Board

From: Stephen Crane, Town Manager

Date: March 8, 2021

Re: Town Manager Report

Vaccine Update

Health Division staff reported a successful vaccine clinic for 140 seniors (age 75 and up) on Tuesday, March 2 at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center. Thanks to the COA staff that orchestrated the invitations to Concord's residents, it was learned that many of the most vulnerable residents have already received their first vaccination. The second dose clinic has been scheduled and the COA has reached out to seniors to book appointments.

Middle School Building Committee

An important milestone was achieved at the most recent MSBC meeting when recommendations from the Sustainability and Design Subcommittees were presented to the full Committee (presentations attached). During the discussion of the Sustainability Subcommittee recommendation of solar ready, it was announced that CMLP is in the process of engaging a consultant to design a solar array and battery storage at the proposed school site and plans to construct and manage the system if the school is approved by voters.

CPW

Lowell Road and Assabet Sewer Pump Station Rehabilitation Project – D&C Construction (Weymouth, MA) continues to make progress on the rehabilitation of both sewer-pumping stations. Start-up and commissioning activities have begun at the Assabet station with Lowell start-up tentatively scheduled in April. Final exterior work at both facilities is also planned for April.

Turf Field Winter Maintenance – In addition to the usual clearing of roadways and sidewalks, the Highway & Grounds Division performed snow plowing and removal from the Doug White multi-purpose field (Town of Concord) and the Memorial Stadium Field (School Department) to allow for early season organized athletic program use.

Bedford Court Gas Main Work - National Grid's Sub-contractor NEUCO has installed several hundred ft. of 2" gas main with a plan of installing a total of approximately 640 feet of main over the next few weeks. Work will include making the connection to the existing gas main in Bedford Street and installing gas services to individual homes. The Engineering Division is working closely

with National Grid by conducting daily site inspections to ensure compliance with the Town's construction standards.

DPLM

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail: Letters inviting abutters to the last ½ mile of Phase 2C to site walks scheduled for March 18 and 19 will be going out this week. We will be reviewing the need for fencing and locations of signage along this stretch of the trail. Additionally, Director Rasmussen has been providing information to the Town of Sudbury project manager regarding appraisals and timing of various aspects of the project; and, has been in discussions with MassDOT project managers regarding fencing design/need/requests along the last ½ mile of the trail. Work continues on Phase 2B with construction of the bridge over Route 2 (photo right shows ramp constructed over Nashoba Brook south of Route 2).



Hubbard Street/Parking Management Team: As CPW-Engineering Division refines plans to reconstruct Hubbard Street near Walden Street, the Parking Management Team discussed the use of meters in this location. Based on the existing conditions and observations of the use of these meters, the PMT recommended that the meters not be re-installed at this time, but signage installed to limit three parking spaces closest to Walden Street to 30-minutes and the remaining spaces on Hubbard Street be allowed to park for 3-hours. This change will require revision to the Traffic, Parking, and Pedestrian Rules and Regulations.

MCC approves grant funds to Cultural Districts: The Massachusetts Cultural Council approved both grant applications submitted in February in the amount of \$7,500 each for Concord Center and West Concord Junction cultural districts. This year's grants are expected to help address recovery and relief from the COVID-19 pandemic for the arts & cultural resources in addition to local businesses.



Town of Concord

Concord Middle School Project

School Building Committee Meeting

03.04.21

Project Goals



Total Project Cost Range **\$80-\$100 M**



Replace two middle schools with **one combined middle school**, grades 6-8



Design enrollment **700 Students**



Team Teaching Model, meet **Ed Plan**



Design for **Net Zero Energy**

Primary Goal:
Consolidate two middle school populations **into a single, 21st century learning facility** that will serve the community for generations.

Gymnasium Correspondence

School Use

- Existing Gymnasias

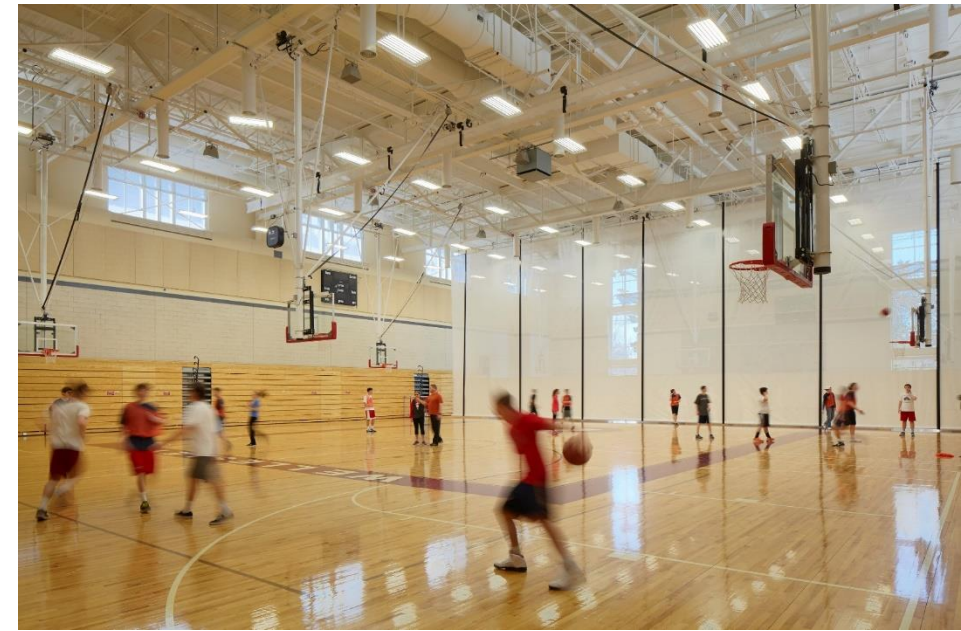
- Sanborn: 6,808 nsf w/ one 74' x 42' court
- Peabody: 3,731 nsf

Equivalent of three teaching stations and no MIAA regulation size courts.

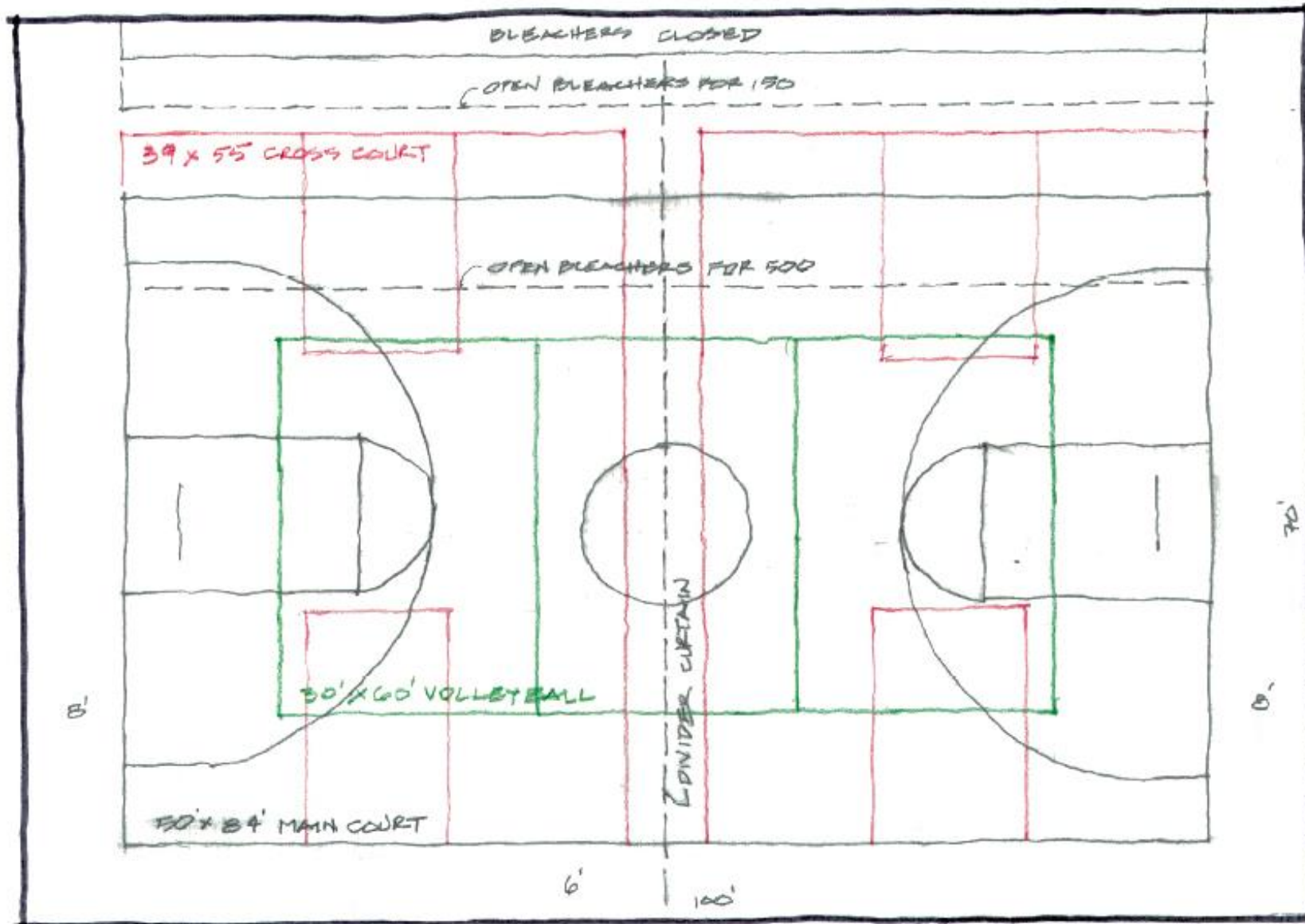
- Planned Gymnasium/Athletics Space

- Gym: 7,000 nsf w/ one 84' x 50' court or two 55' x 39' cross courts
- Alternate PE: 1,600 nsf

Equivalent of 2-3 teaching stations; **meets Educational Plan** and scheduling needs



Gymnasium Correspondence



Sketch

- 7,000 nsf gym
- 150 bleacher seating
- MIAA regulation main court
- divider curtain
- 55' x 39' cross courts

7000 SF GYM

Gymnasium Correspondence

Community Use (CCYB)

- Existing Gymnasias

- Sanborn: 6,808 nsf w/ one 74' x 42' court
- Peabody: 3,731 nsf, *estim. a 50' x 39' court*

Both gyms used by CCYB.

Two schools used as two practice courts.

One court used for games (Sanborn).
(not an MIAA regulation size court)

- Planned Gymnasium/Athletics Space

- Gym: 7,000 nsf w/ one 84' x 50' court or two 55' x 39' cross courts
- [Alternate PE: 1,600 nsf]

Can be used as two practice courts (of equivalent size to Peabody practice courts)

Or one court used for games

Gymnasium Correspondence

Considerations for Adding Gym

- **Site – 15% lot coverage**
 - cannot be exceeded
 - adding 6,000 nsf will reduce flexibility of locating educational spaces
- **Funding Construction Cost**
 - Public Private Partnership
 - Commitment needed before Schematic Design Starts
- **Ancillary Considerations**
 - Additional Volume for Heating/Cooling and Lighting
 - Additional Facility Maintenance



SSC Recommendation

Concord Middle School

Sustainability

SSC Recommendation 2/2021

CMS Sustainability Subcommittee – Feasibility Recommendations

February 26, 2021

Sustainability Framework

The Sustainability Subcommittee unanimously approved the following two bullets for the Project Charter on February 6, 2020:

- The CMS building will leverage green certification standards to ensure design rigor and construction quality. Energy goals of the project include super energy efficient (EUI of 25 or better), schematic design Passive House software modeling, reduced embodied carbon (20%), all electric (excluding emergency backup), and solar ready.
- The Committee will engage in a robust discussion on sustainability issues, grounded in expertise and life-cycle cost analysis, with the goal of achieving clear and ambitious targets that hold widespread support of the community.

Sustainability

The Subcommittee has six high level sustainability goals for the Design and Construction Teams:

1. Deliver a Healthy Indoor Environment
2. Inspire a Passion for Learning
3. Achieve High Performance Energy Efficiency¹ (EUI of 25 or better)
4. Reduce Embodied Carbon During Construction
5. Be All-Electric¹
6. Be Solar¹ and Storage Ready*

*The Sustainability Sub-Committee is committed to Net Zero Energy and is working with the CMLP to develop a Zero Energy Building strategy with the CMS.

¹ Goal aligns with the Town Meeting Amendment to the funding article for the design of the new CMS.

Sustainability

Metrics for Success

The Sustainability Subcommittee has identified the following metrics for the Design and Construction Teams to support achievement of the goals listed above:

1. Compliance with the Energy Zero Code Version 2.0 (E-Z Code) as proposed to the Massachusetts Board of Building Regulations and Standards on November 5, 2020. The subcommittee adds the following clarifications to the E-Z Code:
 - a. Follow the Prescriptive Compliance Path (AA104.3)
 - b. Solar Ready (AA106.8.1) is the responsibility of the Design Team. The balance of the requirements within On-Site Renewable Energy (AA106.8) are the responsibility of the CMLP and/or the Town.
 - c. AA106.9 through AA106.12, AA107.6.1, AA107.7, and AA107.8 are excluded as they are not within the scope of the CMS project.
2. Indoor Air Quality and Materials
 - a. Dedicated outdoor air system shall maintain the CO₂ below 800 parts per million
 - b. Install 20 building products that have a high impact on indoor environmental quality that provide full materials transparency and are Red List free

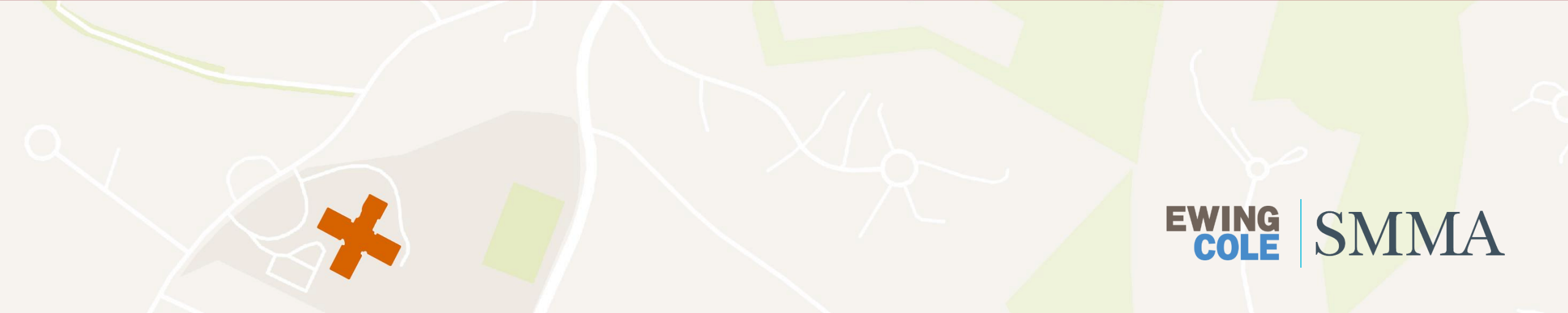
Sustainability

3. Daylighting
 - a. Spatial Daylight Autonomy – Greater than 75%
 - b. Annual Sunlight Exposure – Less than 3%
4. Embodied Carbon
 - a. Reduce the embodied carbon of the primary building materials by more than 20% compared to an equivalent baseline
5. LEED v4 Silver Certifiable



DSC Recommendation

Concord Middle School



Educational Program

DSC Recommendation 2/2021

The DSC voted on items identified in the space summary as Alternative Scenarios.

The DSC voted unanimously to recommend

- the gym sizing of 7,000 nsf, noting that alternatives may remain.
- the one-grade (270 seat) auditorium in the current space summary.
- the 1600 nsf “Alt PE” room, noting that alternatives may remain.

- 1000 nsf Maker Space room, noting that alternatives may remain.
- that the remainder of the space summary recommendations in the February 11, 2020 SMMA presentation be moved forward to the SBC for consideration.
- The DSC voted, six in favor, one opposed, to recommend the 3400 nsf Media Center.

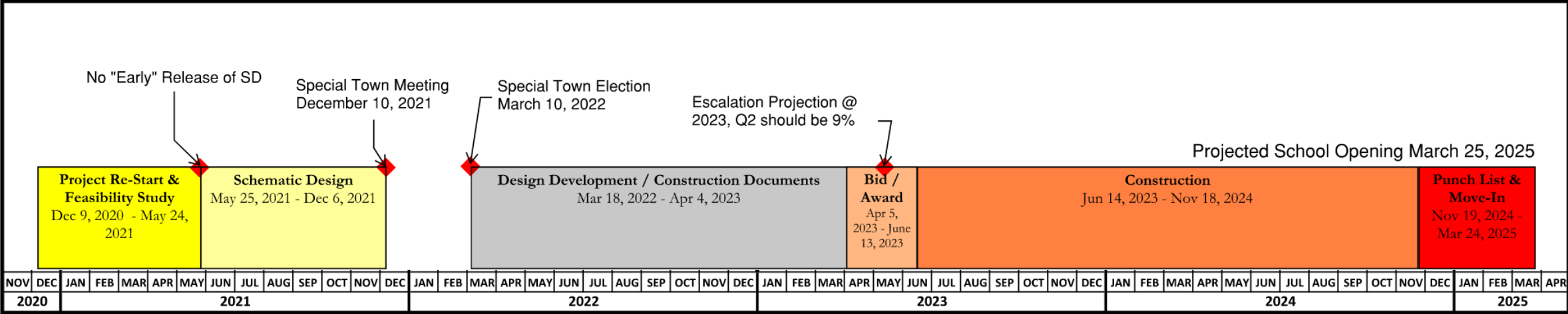


Project Schedule

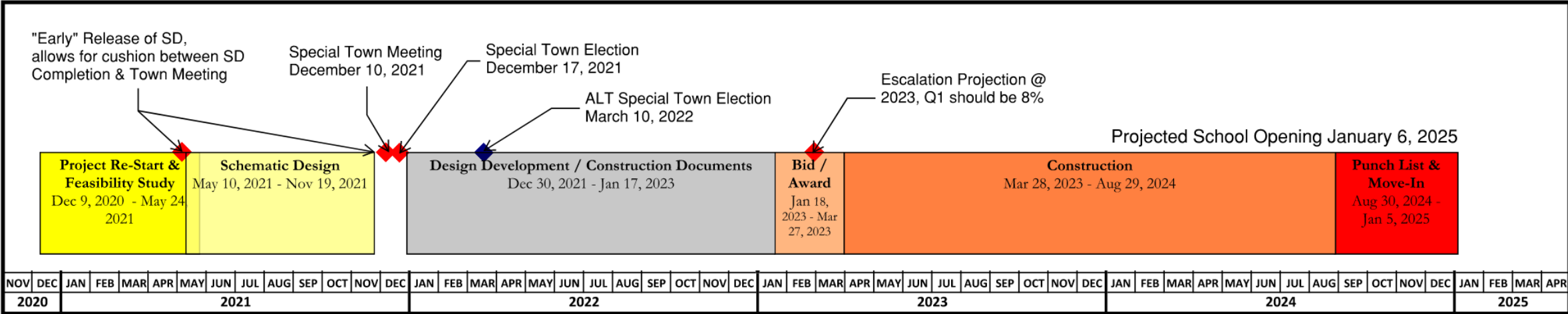
Concord Middle School

Project Schedule

Schedule Scenario Option A - No "Early" Release of Design Phases



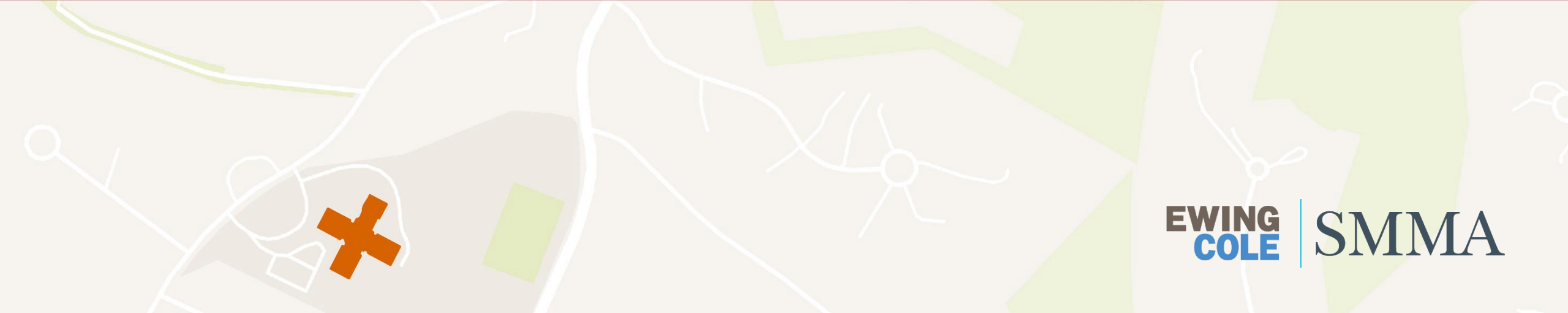
Schedule Scenario Option B - "Early" Release of Schematic Design & Design Development





Discussion

Concord Middle School





Thank You!

Concord Middle School

Memo



To: Concord Select Board

From: Kate Hanley, Sustainability Director, on behalf of Climate Action Advisory Board
Jake Swenson, Chair of Concord Climate Action Advisory Board

CC: Stephen Crane, Town Manager

Date: February 17, 2021
Home rule petition – “AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF CONCORD TO ADOPT AND ENFORCE LOCAL REGULATIONS RESTRICTING NEW FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE IN CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION”

Re: CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION”

Concord’s Climate Action Advisory Board (CAAB) requests that the Concord Select Board sponsor a home rule petition for 2021 Annual Town meeting titled “AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF CONCORD TO ADOPT AND ENFORCE LOCAL REGULATIONS RESTRICTING NEW FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE IN CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION.”

Electrification of buildings is critical to achieving the Town’s climate goals of 80% greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2050 and the Commonwealth’s goal of net zero emissions by 2050. It is one of 22 priority actions in Sustainable Concord, Concord’s climate action and resilience plan.

On February 8, 2021, the Select Board approved a non-binding resolution, requested by CAAB, to be sent to the state legislature, Governor, and state agencies calling for a commitment to a just transition away from fossil fuels to decarbonization of buildings in the Commonwealth by acting at the state-level and allowing rapid municipal action. The resolution was the first step in a broader strategy to accelerate electrification of buildings in Concord, developed thanks to Concord’s participation in a program run by RMI to help Massachusetts communities understand local policy options.

The next step is a home rule petition to request the authority to regulate the use of fossil fuels in new construction as an important step in meeting the greenhouse gas emission reductions. The Select Board was prepared to move Article 40 at 2020 Town Meeting, to do exactly that, through a bylaw prohibiting the expansion of fossil fuel. This article was not moved because in the summer of 2020 the Attorney General decided that a similar article in Brookline was not allowable by state law. It is CAAB’s understanding that a home rule petition is a viable and practical strategy to move forward with prohibiting new fossil fuel infrastructure.

The following document is an initial draft of the home rule petition for your consideration.

ARTICLE XX

HOME RULE LEGISLATION/BYLAW AMENDMENT REGULATION OF FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

To determine whether the Town will vote to request home rule legislation substantially in the form below to establish the authority to regulate the use of fossil fuels in new construction as an important step in meeting the greenhouse gas emission reductions approved by the voters in Article 51 in 2017, notwithstanding the State Building Code, the Gas Code, M.G.L. c. 164 or any other law of the Commonwealth regulating natural gas as a residential utility, as set forth below:

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF CONCORD TO ADOPT AND ENFORCE LOCAL REGULATIONS RESTRICTING NEW FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE IN CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding chapter 164 of the General Laws, section 13 of chapter 142 of the General Laws, the State Building Code, or any other general or special law or regulation to the contrary, the town of Concord is hereby authorized to adopt and further amend general or zoning by-laws that restrict new construction projects that do not qualify as fossil-fuel-free, as defined in section 3 of this act.

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding section 7 of chapter 40A of the General Laws, or any other general or special law or regulation to the contrary, the Building Inspector of the town of Concord, or any designee thereof, shall be authorized to enforce restrictions on new construction that do not qualify as fossil-fuel-free, as defined in Section 3 of this act, including through the withholding of building permits.

SECTION 3. As used in this act, the term “fossil-fuel-free” shall refer to construction that results in an entire building or an entire condominium unit that does not utilize coal, oil, natural gas other fuel hydrocarbons (including synthetic equivalents), or other fossil fuels in support of its operation.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage. Any bylaw previously approved by the Concord Town Meeting consistent with Sections 1 through 3 of this act, including, without limitation, the bylaw adopted by the 2021 Concord Annual Town Meeting by affirmative vote on Article __, is hereby ratified.

SECTION 5. If any provision or section of this act is invalidated, the remainder shall survive in full force and effect.

And further to vote to establish a new general bylaw prohibiting or otherwise regulating the installation of fossil fuel infrastructure in new construction projects in Concord, and to set forth the terms and scope of such prohibition, including exemptions or waivers thereto, as set forth below:

PROHIBITION ON THE EXPANSION OF FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION

1. Purpose

This Bylaw is adopted by the Town of Concord, under its Home Rule powers and its police powers the authority granted by Article 89, § 6, of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution, and by Mass. Gen. Laws, ch. 40, § 21(1) and (18), § 21D, and ch. 43B, § 13, to protect the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the town from the effects of air pollution, including greenhouse gas emissions that are contributing to climate change, and from fuel leaks and explosions that threaten the Town and its inhabitants.

2. Definitions

For the purposes of this bylaw, the following definitions shall apply:

“Building” shall have the same meaning as set forth in Section 1.3.4 of the Concord Zoning Bylaw, provided that the pertinent structure is or will be furnished with a heating or hot water system.

“On-Site Fossil Fuel Infrastructure” shall mean piping for fuel gas, fuel oil, or other fuel hydrocarbons, including synthetic equivalent that is in a building, in connection with a building, or otherwise within the property lines of premises, extending from a supply tank or from the point of delivery behind a gas meter (customer-side of gas meter).

“On-Site Fossil Fuel Infrastructure” shall mean any assemblage of materials and equipment, including pipes, tanks, storage units, valves, gauges, and other appurtenances, incorporated in a building or its surrounding premises, designed to be used for the purpose of supplying fossil fuel to the building and its premises for on-site combustion. Fossil fuel is defined as fuel gas, fuel oil, or other fuel hydrocarbons, including synthetic equivalent. For the purposes of this bylaw, such infrastructure shall include:

- a) In the case of natural gas, a supply line that runs from the gas meter to the building and its premises, including a gas supply line running directly to a heating system, a water heater, cook stove, clothes dryer, or other appliances or equipment.
- b) In the case of propane gas, a supply line that runs from a propane tank to any appliances or equipment.
- c) In the case of fuel oil, also known as heating oil, a supply line that feeds directly from the tank to a furnace or boiler to produce heat.

“New Building” shall mean any new construction that will require heating and/or cooling and that is associated with a valid building permit application on or after the effective date of this bylaw, including but not limited to, construction (a) on a vacant lot, (b) to replace a demolished building, or (c) of a new accessory building constructed on an existing residential or commercial property.

3. Limitation on the Issuance of Town Permits; Effective Date

Commencing on the Effective Date of this bylaw, no applications for building permits shall be accepted by the Town for the construction of a New Building that includes the installation of On-Site Fossil Fuel Infrastructure, except as otherwise provided in section 4.

“Effective Date” shall mean January 1, 2022, or six months following the date by which the Town is authorized by the Massachusetts General Court to regulate fossil fuel infrastructure, whichever is later in time.

4. Applicability and Exemptions

4.1. As of January 1, 2022, this bylaw shall apply to all permit applications for New Buildings proposed to be located in whole or in part within the Town.

4.2. The provisions of this bylaw shall not apply to (i) the development of new affordable housing, as defined in G.L. ch. 184, § 26; (ii) to cook stoves and ovens used in restaurants or commercial kitchens; (iii) any fossil fuel infrastructure the exclusive purpose of which is to fuel backup electrical generators; (iv) public utilities, their operations, or installations.

4.3. The requirements of this article shall not apply to the piping required to produce potable or domestic hot water from centralized hot water systems in buildings with building floor areas of at least 10,000 square feet, provided that the Engineer of Record certifies that no commercially available electric hot water heater exists that could meet the required hot water demand for less than 150% of installation or operational costs, compared to a conventional fossil-fuel hot water system.

5. Administration

5.1. Enforcement

The Building and Inspections Department is hereby authorized to enforce the provisions of this bylaw.

5.2 Appeal

Any applicant who is aggrieved by a denial of a building permit, in whole or part, in connection with this bylaw, may appeal to the person or entity established by the Town Manager to hear and resolve such appeals within 20 days from the date of such denial.

6. Severability

Each provision of this by-law shall be construed as separate to the extent that if any section, sentence, clause or phrase is held to be invalid for any reason, the remainder of the by-law shall continue in full force and effect.

or take any other action relative thereto.



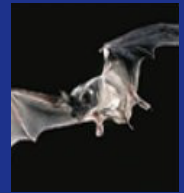
ARTICLE 49. Neonicotinoids Prohibition on Town Land

To determine whether the Town will vote to ensure that any new leases or license agreements (not including renewals) entered into by the Town for agricultural or retail use on Town-owned land will prohibit the use of neonicotinoids, including neonicotinoid-coated seed, or take any other action relative thereto.



Pollinators are at Risk!

- Pollinators are a necessary component of a healthy ecosystem and food system, providing essential pollination of plants in order to grow vegetables, herbs, and fruits.



- In MA, over 45% of agricultural commodities rely on pollinators, mainly wild and managed bees, for pollination.
- At risk due to climate change, habitat loss, pesticides and diseases.



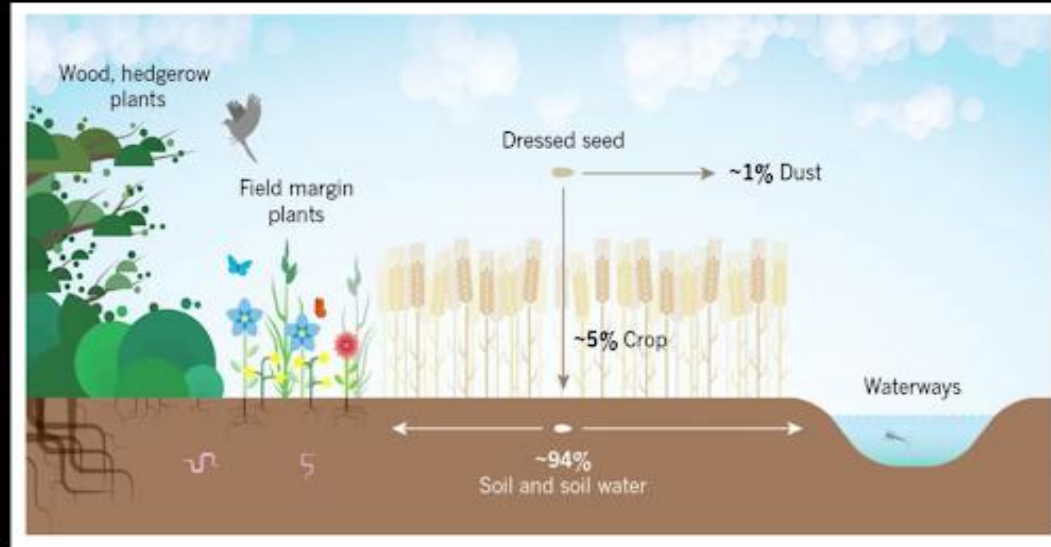
What are Neonicotinoids?

- Systemic insecticides resembling nicotine
 - Acetamiprid, clothianidin, imidacloprid, nitenpyram, nithiazine, thiacloprid and thiamethoxam.
- Introduced to the US market in the mid-1990s
 - Lower toxicity to mammals than organophosphate and carbamate insecticides
 - By 2011, over 90 percent of field corn and 40 percent of soybeans planted were treated with a neonicotinoid.
- Systemic action leads to distribution throughout plants.
 - Stem, leaves, nectar, pollen, vegetables & fruit.



Environmental fate of neonic seed dressings

ARTICLE 49



Goulson, D. 2014. *Nature*, doi:10.1038/nature13642

34

- For the most commonly used seed treatments, reported half-lives in soil typically range from 200 to in excess of 1000 days.



MA Pollinators are at Risk

- Neonicotinoids present a major risk to bee pollinators
 - Direct mortality at very low doses
 - Sub-lethal effects render bees less able to forage, pollinate, and reproduce.
- Harvard research study (Lu et al., 2016)
 - Nearly three quarters of all pollen and honey tested from across MA contained at least one detectable neonicotinoid.
- Neonicotinoids have been banned in the European Union.



ARTICLE 49. Neonicotinoids Prohibition on Town Land

To determine whether the Town will vote to ensure that any new leases or license agreements (not including renewals) entered into by the Town for agricultural or retail use on Town-owned land will prohibit the use of neonicotinoids, including neonicotinoid-coated seed, or take any other action relative thereto.



Town Clerk's Office
22 Monument Square
Concord, MA 01742

Memo

To: Select Board
Cc: Stephen Crane, Town Manager
Kerry Lafleur, Finance Director
From: Kaari Mai Tari, Town Clerk
Date: March 8, 2021
Re: Election Officer Appointments

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 54: Section 12, I would like to request, on behalf of the Board of Registrars, appointment of the following **6** voters (list of appointees follows) as Election Officers for terms to expire July 31, 2021.

Party distribution among 142 Election Workers

Democrat: 74 (52%)
Republican: 5 (4%)
Unenrolled: 59 (42%)
Not registered: 4 (2%)

Thank you for your consideration.

Kaari

APPOINTMENT LIST

Party	Name	Street	Precinct
Unenrolled	Alice Lencioni	297 Plainfield Rd	3
Democrat	Laura LeVan	58 Nimrod Dr	1
Unenrolled	William Lott	1011 Main St	3
Democrat	Caroline McCloy	137 Central St	2
Unenrolled	Juliana Melly	3 Concord Greene #3	3
Democrat	Susan St. Croix	32 Center Villabe Dr	2

Concord Housing Authority

34 Everett St.
Concord, Ma 01742
978-369-8435 (p)
978-369-4269 (f)
cha.office@verizon.net

March 5, 2021

Ms. Linda Escobedo, Chair
Town of Concord Select Board
Monument Square
Concord, Ma 01742

Dear Ms. Escobedo:

At a regular meeting on March 4, 2021, the Concord Housing Authority Board of Commissioners voted to request that the Select Board move a 2021 town warrant to appropriate and transfer from the Certified Free Cash Balance the sum of \$500,000.00 for the purpose of developing and supporting affordable housing within the Town of Concord.

Sincerely,


Marianne Nelson
Executive Director

Delivered via email
March 5, 2021

Ms. Linda Escobedo, Chair
Town of Concord Select Board

Dear Ms. Escobedo,

As you know, the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee (BFRTAC) was established by the Concord Select Board to provide guidance regarding the design and operation of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail in Concord.

A group of Concord residents comprising 68 families (including 65 children) living in the neighborhood along Route 2A (Elm Street) between the Concord Rotary and the Acton town line approached the BFRTAC regarding access to the rail trail. Currently there are no sidewalks or crosswalks that provide a safe route for bicyclists or pedestrians to access the trail and travel to West Concord center or schools near the rail trail. The committee shares the neighborhood concerns and urges Town and State officials to work together to find solutions .

Measures that residents have identified include:

- Completing an unfinished sidewalk on the north side of Route 2A from the Route 2 Rotary to the Acton town line.
- Installing a sidewalk on the south- side of Route 2A between the Lalli Woods neighborhood and the Acton town line.
- Installing pedestrian crossings across Route 2A, with flashing yellow lights, providing residents on both sides of Route 2A safe access to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and Hidden Trails (a public walking trail at the entrance of Black Horse Place).
- Reducing Route 2A speed limits.

Not only will these residents benefit from such safety improvements, but additional Concord residents from Barretts Mill Road neighborhoods will gain access to the rail trail without having to negotiate the infamous Rotary.

These safety measures take on additional urgency with the completion of the Route 2 bridge in November 2021 when it is likely that more walkers and bikers will be tempted to navigate busy Route 2A in order to reach the trail. The committee requests that appropriate parties convene as soon as possible to evaluate options and prepare a plan that ensures safe access for all to the rail trail.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the success of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and we are available to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,
(signed)

Richard Fahlander, Co-chair Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee, on behalf of the committee

cc: State Representative Tami Gouveia
State Senator Michael Barrett
Jamey Tesler, Acting Secretary, Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Town of Acton Board of Selectmen