



TOWN OF CONCORD

Office of the Town Manager

Operational Status Reports and Departmental Updates
For the week ending August 18, 2023

Council on Aging

Ping Pong...

Or table tennis, whichever you call it, works up a healthy sweat for senior residents on Tuesdays at the COA!



Police Department

Activity Log:

- Log items: 649
- Traffic enforcements: 54
- Motor vehicle stops: 54
- Motor vehicle crashes and/or paper exchanges: 4
- Arrests: 1

Community

- Officer Mailloux and Dispatcher Pagnotta participated in the “Touch-a-Truck and Tunes” event at the Nashoba Brooks School. They brought one of the department motorcycles and the mobile command post for display at the event.

Tourism

Business Post, Ireland Press Story

Wonderful Press story from a writer we hosted in March 2023. Below is a snippet of the press story. Full article can be found here: [Mary Kate O’Flanagan article](#) Business Post, Ireland.

“Travel: Born-again Boston – proof of the power of stories to change the world”



The city is putting overlooked narratives to the fore as its inhabitants choose a more inclusive identity for their future, retelling their story with a fresh look at the past, writes Mary Kate O’Flanagan.

Down the road is Concord, where those Redcoats were repelled. Their ignominious retreat to Boston foreshadowed the final outcome of the Revolutionary War. Rich as it is in colonial history, Concord’s main appeal is as home to an extraordinary concentration of authors. Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Henry Thoreau (Walden Pond is here, where you can visit a recreation of the cabin he built, removing himself from the everyday “to live deliberately”). I’m fulfilling a childhood dream to come here because it’s also where Louisa May Alcott lived and wrote Little Women.....

Local historians don’t flinch from the uglier part of New England’s history despite the bloodshed, slavery and iniquity. The legacy that survives is that of the generous, the open-minded, the Alcotts, Emerson and Thoreau, the transcendentalists, the abolitionists, the homes on the underground railroad.

Department of Planning and Land Management

Planning Board

Next week, August 23rd from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, is the third public workshop on the MBTA Communities Zoning. This is a virtual event that will focus on the development of the MBTA Communities Zoning Bylaw language. There will again be breakout rooms to get input from participants on the various aspects of the potential zoning as well as a robust question and answer session. Please go to www.concordma.gov/mbtacommunities to get the Zoom link for the workshop.

MBTA Communities Zoning

Town Planner Elizabeth Hughes attended a League of Women Voters Committee Chairs meeting at the Concord Free Public Library on August 16th to discuss the MBTA Communities Zoning. The League hopes to use this as a kick-off for collaboration among the various committees and deliberate on how the League can best help folks to understand the MBTA Communities requirements. On August 17th, the Town Planner and Senior Planner Erin Stevens held an MBTA Communities Connection Hour at Nashoba Brook Bakery. There were 10 people who came to learn more about the requirements and ask questions about developing the draft zoning language and the district boundary. There was discussion about specific potential sites and what types of incentives could be included in the zoning.

Community Preservation Committee

Senior Planner Ann Clifford submitted, on behalf of the Concord Community Preservation Committee, the required annual online Community Preservation Projects Report to the MA Community Preservation Coalition. This report provides an update to the Coalition on all of the open CPA projects. After a year-long effort, Ann was able to work with recipients to close out 31 projects so that this year the report listed only 38 active projects.

Natural Resources

Natural Resources Commission

Six new applications were received for the August 30th Natural Resources Commission including a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for replacement of underground cables at Concord Greene: a Notice of Intent (NOI) for construction of an addition at 256 Bedford Road, a NOI for replacing a shed and constructing a patio at 241 Barrett's Mill Road, a NOI for construction of an addition at 103 Pilgrim Road, a NOI for redevelopment of a commercial site at 768 Elm Street, and a NOI for construction of an addition at 460 Garfield Road. Two applications have been continued to October including a NOI to redevelop a commercial site at 166 Commonwealth Ave and a NOI for construction of an addition at 154 Southfield Road.

Community Preservation Act

Division staff are working on CPA applications for submission this fall. The first is to rebuild a 70-foot section of stone wall at Heywood Meadow; the second is for survey, design, and permitting to replace failing steps to the Hillcrest conservation land, and the third under consideration is to construct an addition to the 1-bedroom apartment at the Barrett's Mill farmhouse.



Conservation Land Property Signs

Conservation Crew Shelby Guinard and Mike Murray have worked over the last few weeks to construct new wood routed property signs as well as restore older signs for conservation lands around town. Sign building for conservation lands is typically done in-house through a multi-step process: routing, priming, painting, mounting, and installation on site. Three new signs have been built along with two older signs restored, and an additional three signs were built for sensitive restoration areas at White Pond. Keep an eye out for new installations around town!



West Concord Park Trail Erosion

Natural Resources Division staff and volunteers worked to install 2 new water bars at West Concord Park along a steep eroded trail to divert water runoff from rain events. Additionally, trail regrading was done to establish a proper out slope for drainage as well. This project helped to restore a damaged trail surface and ensure long term trail resiliency.



Public Works- Engineering



CC High School Access Road

The paving of the asphalt binder layer on the entire access road is complete. Curbing from the Walden St intersection to the Beede Center is complete and sidewalk work has started. Electrical conduit for new sidewalk lighting was installed along the football field side of the access road.

Commonwealth Ave Improvements

The paving of the asphalt binder layer has been completed and the contractor is preparing to start curb and sidewalk work in sections approximately 200 feet long to minimize impacts to abutting businesses.



Main Street Sewer Manholes

The replacement of frames and covers on six sewer manholes between 122 Main Street and Elm Street is scheduled for Tuesday, August 22nd and the following morning. In order to maintain two-way traffic in the work area, parking will be eliminated on the north side of Main Street from Sudbury Rd to Thoreau St.

Crack Sealing of Town Streets

The crack sealing of streets that are to be re-striped has been completed so that the pavement marking project can proceed. The remaining crack sealing work will resume in September.