



Town of Concord

Weekly Operations Report

2025 Volume 4/February 21, 2025

General Administration

Concord250

To prepare for the 2025 Patriots Day weekend activities, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) conducted a multi-jurisdictional functional exercise. This exercise involved staff from Concord, Lexington, Arlington, Lincoln, and the National Park Service, including public safety, fire, public works, IT, GIS, communications, and other personnel. Participants practiced coordinated responses to various simulated scenarios related to the April 19th weekend. The exercise's outcomes will be evaluated, and the feedback will be used to refine preparedness plans for the actual event.



Town Clerk

2025 Annual Town Election Candidates

The following are candidates nominated by the Annual Town Caucus to appear on the 2025 Annual Town Election ballot in the order presented below:

For Moderator (1 seat):

Carmin Reiss (Caucus nominee)

For Select Board (2 seats):

Mary Hartman (candidate for re-election, Caucus nominee)

Elizabeth Akehurst-Moore (Caucus nominee)

Paul Boehm (Caucus nominee)

Joseph Laurin (Caucus nominee)

For School Committee (2 seats):

Alexa Boland Anderson (candidate for re-election, Caucus nominee)

Sandeep Pisharody (Caucus nominee)

Michael A. Williams (Caucus nominee)

Dates to Remember:

Monday, March 17th, 2025	Vote by Mail/Absentee ballots are expected to be available, in person absentee voting is available as soon as ballots arrive.
Tuesday, April 1st, 2025	Deadline to apply to receive a ballot by mail (5:00 pm)
Friday, April 4th, 2025	Additional in person absentee voting session (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)
Saturday, April 5th, 2025	Additional in person absentee voting session (10:00 am – 2:00 pm)
Monday, April 7th, 2025	Deadline to apply for in-person absentee voting at the Town Clerk’s Office (12:00 pm)
Tuesday, April 8th, 2025	Election Day (polls are open from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm)

For more information, go to: [Elections and Voting](#) and [Absentee Early Voting in Concord](#)

Gearing up for Census 2025 Second Mailing

At the beginning of each year, the Town Clerk's Office is required under Massachusetts General Law to mail the annual street listing form to every household in Concord.

Residents are urged to check the information contained on the form, make any necessary corrections, sign the form, and return it to the Town Clerk's Office as soon as possible.

Ignoring the first mailing leads to additional costs to taxpayers when a second mailing is conducted. If you or someone listed in your household has moved, please include a forwarding address. More information can be found here: [Census Webpage](#)

2025 Dog Licensing Reminder

Dog owners are reminded that all dogs six months and older are required to be vaccinated against rabies and must be licensed where the dog resides. To date, 1,308 dogs have been licensed compared to 1,692 in 2024. The deadline for licensing your dog without a late fee is March 31, 2025. From April 1, 2025, onward, a \$25 late fee per household will apply.

You may license your dog(s) in person, online, or by mail.

In person: 22 Monument Square, Mon – Thu: 8:30 AM – 4:30 AM | Fri: 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Online: <https://concordma.gov/543/Dog-Licenses>

By Mail: Town Clerk's Office, Attn: Dog License, 22 Monument Square, Concord MA 01742

Department of Planning and Land Management

Natural Resources

Natural Resources Commission

The Natural Resources Commission is scheduled to meet on February 19th. Four new applications will be heard including a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for replacement of an existing deck at 40 Spencer Brook Road, a RDA for improvements to a vehicular access road and vegetation management at 8A Lindsay Pond Road, a Notice of Intent (NOI) for replacement of an existing septic system at 201 Annursnac Hill Road, and a NOI to demolish an existing barn and construct a garage at 1487 Monument Street.

Warner's Pond Task Force

The Warner's Pond Task Force met on February 12th and approved a document summarizing each of the three alternatives under consideration (dam removal, dredging, and recurring management). A public forum to present these alternatives and gain public feedback is scheduled for March 13th at the Town House and on Zoom.

Walden Pond Bathhouse and Accessibility Improvements Project

Natural Resources and Engineering staff attended a pre-construction site visit with DCR representatives and their contractors in advance of the upcoming Bathhouse Replacement and Accessibility Improvements Project. Phase 1, which will begin this month, includes demolishing the 1946 bathhouse and replacing it with a new, universally accessible bathhouse featuring individual and family restrooms, changing rooms, space for lifeguards, and a first-aid room. The existing bathhouse foundation will become an outdoor classroom and overlook plaza. Site utilities, retaining walls, and landscape plantings are also proposed

under Phase 1. Phase II is anticipated to begin construction next fall and will include a new, universally accessible boardwalk and overlook.



Town-wide Trails Map

Natural Resources and GIS staff are collaborating to update the 2015 Town-wide Trails Map. New conservation acquisitions, trail additions, reroutes, and symbology changes will be provided on the new map. GIS staff have been essential in converting and adapting the large project file into new ArcGIS Pro software, and editing and improving the map. The final trail map will be available to the public this spring in a printed format, an 18" x 24" map that folds down to a 6" x 6" square.

Hapgood Wright-Town Forest

The Town Forest will see two infrastructure upgrades this spring. The first is a new wood property sign, routed by the 2024 Summer Conservation Crew and currently being painted and prepped for mounting by a dedicated Town Forest Trail Steward volunteer. The second is a new trailhead kiosk, featuring a new timber framing design, which is being constructed Trails Committee Chair Bob White. Both upgrades will be at the main trailhead parking lot off Walden Street and will complement CPW's recent parking lot improvement project.

Concord Public Works

Water and Sewer Division

The 2024 Water Quality Report is now available to the public and can be read here:

<https://concordma.gov/wqreport>

Sustainability

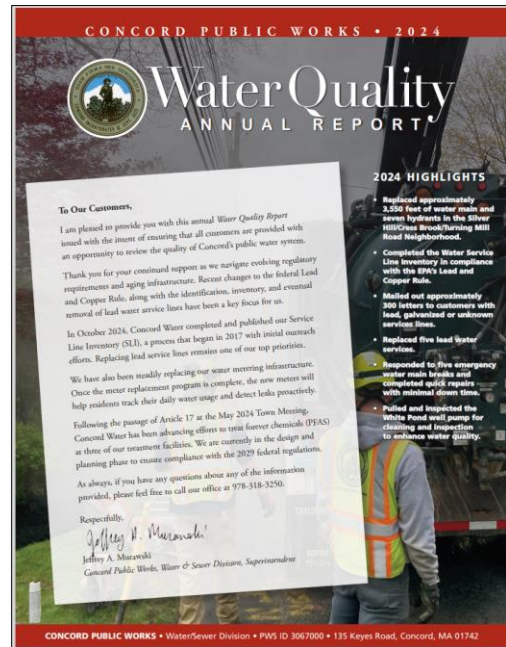
Technical Assistance

The Sustainability Division has been notified that Concord will be awarded technical assistance from the MA Department of Energy Resources to develop a municipal decarbonization roadmap for the Town. The effort will involve working with consultants from Power Options to assess current energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from municipal buildings and vehicles as a baseline to develop a customized roadmap for future decarbonization and energy efficiency planning. The roadmap will also serve to meet a requirement for Concord to apply to the DOER Green Communities program for the new Climate Leaders certification. As a Climate Leaders community, the Town will be eligible to apply for additional Green Communities grant funding to support projects identified in the decarbonization roadmap. Development of the roadmap is anticipated to start in February and be completed in 6-8 months.

Concord Free Public Library

Below are some highlights from the CFPL's January report. The full report can be read here:

<https://concordlibrary.org/learn/about-us/directors-report>



Reference Services

January Programs

The department hosted a number of exciting programs in January including author talks by



local authors Fred Kinch, author of *The Business of Secrets*, and Yasin Kakande, author of *A Murder of Hate* (pictured at left). In



addition, the library

hosted mindfulness

instructors Lara Wilson and Jacob Millendorf for a 10-week virtual course starting on January 21 called Ancient Wisdom: Practices and Principles. The Tuesday Book Discussion group

had a lively discussion of the book *The Beast in the Jungle*, by

Henry James, while the Cookbook Club (pictured above right) enjoyed recipes from Chef Jennifer Segal, author of *Once Upon a Chef*.

Youth Services

Transforming Childhood: Expertise, Innovation, and Community Engagement Event

Children's staff again partnered with the Concord-Carlisle Regional Special Education Parent Advisory Council to present "Growth: Harmonizing Solitude, Guidance, and Freedom," the last in the *Transforming Childhood: Expertise, Innovation, and Community Engagement* series located at the Library. This event invited parents to consider options for their children's summer learning experiences and offered alternatives to rigid summer schedules. Library staff encourages the public to attend our partner's culminating event in the series, a visit from Kareem Weaver, documentarian and literacy advocate, which will take place at the CCHS auditorium on March 6, 2025 at 6:30pm.

February Break Events

Next month, the staff look forward to sharing more details on a special run of programming for February vacation week, including:

- a winter paint and sip for families,
 - a dinosaur egg hunt in the Children's Library,
 - a special "Break-it! Club" where kids will take apart old and broken technology,
-

-
- and a Spanish language learning program featuring songs and stories

Circulation

Book Selector Additions

Bart has been added as a book selector. Bart has a deep background in the science fiction genre and hopes to further develop the library's collection for that genre as it has a strong following of readers.

Fowler Library

Winter Seed Sow workshops

To promote sustainability and support biodiversity, Fowler staff offered a range of Winter Seed Sow workshops, which are continuing into February. In early January, staff collaborated with the Pollinator Health Advisory Committee, the CCHS Green Team, West Concord Green Thumbs, and others for workshops hosted by Verrill Farm. Thanks to the Friends of CFPL, Lady Fern Farm provided a workshop at Fowler.

Innovation and Communication

Spring Program Series

The Workshop launched its Spring program series with a fused glass workshop and a Valentine's card-making buffet! See everything that's coming up at

cfpl.info/workshopevents



Special Collections

The American Revolution Film Discussion

Documentarian Ken Burns will visit Concord on April 17 to discuss his new film, *The American Revolution*, timed to the start of the War of Independence on April 19, 1775. Burns will be joined by co-directors Sarah Botstein, David Schmidt, and historian Rick Atkinson, author of *The British Are Coming* from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Concord-Carlisle High School. Following approximately 40 minutes of clips, the filmmakers and Atkinson will join in a

conversation about the film and the meaning of events at Lexington and Concord that led to the American Revolution. The event will be open to the general public, with reserved seating for Arlington, Concord, Lexington, and Lincoln residents and students. Registration information will be available in early March.

Council on Aging

Valentine's Day Celebration

Director Dan Petitt welcomed the student body from the Concord Children's Center on Valentine's Day. The *munchkins from next door* created Valentine cards for senior residents attending Valentine Wednesday Lunch.



The COA hosted chocolate sommelier Victoria Kichuk (middle picture center; Tina Close, COA program & activities coordinator, right) on a cold Tuesday afternoon to celebrate National Chocolate Month. The audience learned about endorphins, cocoa pods, ingredients, chocolate world wide and more.

