

**TOWN OF CONCORD  
SELECT BOARD  
MAY 10 2021  
MINUTES**

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, the Concord Select Board convened in a meeting via video conference on May 10, 2021 at 4:00pm.

Present were Linda Escobedo, Chair; Susan Bates, Clerk; Jane Hotchkiss, Terri Ackerman, and Matthew Johnson. Also present was Stephen Crane, Town Manager.

**Call to Order**

**Roll call vote**

Ms. Escobedo: Present  
Ms. Bates: Present  
Ms. Ackerman: Present  
Ms. Hotchkiss: Present  
Mr. Johnson: Present

**Consent Agenda**

- Minutes to approve: April 5, 2021; April 12, 2021; April 12, 2021 Executive Session (not to be released)

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY  
**VOTED:** to approve the consent agenda.

**Roll call vote**

Ms. Escobedo: Aye  
Ms. Bates: Aye  
Ms. Ackerman: Aye  
Ms. Hotchkiss: Aye  
Mr. Johnson: Aye

**Town Manager's Report**

Governor Baker recently announced that four mass vaccinations sites would be closing by the end of June and that vaccination efforts would be focused at the regional level in partnership with local boards of health. The regional vaccination clinic that was submitted by a nine-town collaborative, including Concord, is still pending before the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). It is unclear if that application will be approved but Health Director Susan Rask has contacted DPH to reiterate our commitment to the regional clinic.

The Concord Police Department participated in a bicycle rodeo for children on Saturday, May 1, at Cousins Field, and featured a variety of activities and courses that children, parents and officers took part in together. Children won prizes, including backpacks and reflective stripes.

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Officer Anthony Salvucci, Detective Tia Manchuso and Inspector Ronald Holsinger were on hand to help participants of all ages learn new skills — including the rules of the road — in order to help children safely ride their bikes to school. The event was held ahead of National Walk, Bike and Roll to School Day on Wednesday, May 5, which was celebrated with support from Concord Police, the Concord Public schools, Safe Routes to School and the Transportation Advisory Bicycle Subcommittee, as well as numerous community members, to make the event a success.

In accordance with MassDEP's requirement for all Public Water Systems (PWS) serving between 10,000 and 50,000 customers to begin quarterly sampling for PFAS in the month of April 2021. Division staff completed initial sampling activities on April 12th at all raw and finished groundwater supply sources. Testing was performed under MassDEP's free PFAS Lab Analyses Program for PWS, with the cost for field samples, associated confirmatory samples, and QA/QC data review covered under the program.

Initial results were received in late April, and confirmatory sampling to ensure the validity of initial results was completed in early May. While not final, these initial results demonstrate that all groundwater supplies have levels of PFAS6 below MassDEP's Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 20 parts per trillion (ppt), indicating immediate or emergency treatment for these compounds is not needed at this time. One groundwater supply (Hugh Cargill Wellfield) had an initial result of >10 ppt, and will likely require monthly monitoring going forward. All other groundwater supplies will remain on quarterly monitoring. Notably, there was no detection of PFAS6 at Robinson Well. Messaging is actively being prepared to communicate these results to our customers, including the development of a webpage dedicated to this topic.

The benches at Heywood Meadow will be replaced this week after receiving a facelift from resident Michael Sprague, who sanded the benches and applied marine grade spar varnish to each bench.

The Division of Natural Resources invites all residents to participate in pulling the wildly invasive Garlic Mustard that is currently flowering around Town. The Division of Natural Resources staff will train volunteers on garlic mustard identification and will supply yard waste bags for garlic mustard.

The Fire Department responded to eighty-one calls for service and conducted several fire prevention inspections including a property with two 1,000 gallon underground propane tanks. School fire drills were also conducted at Alcott, Thoreau, Ripley, and Willard. This burn season through Permiteyes, we have issued over 362 burn permits. We still have 22 Agriculture burn permits active and we have received 280 request and transactions for permits and 26Fs.

Mr. Crane announced that the Town of Concord has once again received an AAA Bond Rating with stable outlook from Moody's. Mr. Crane commended the Chief Financial Officer Kerry Lafleur and her department for their work.

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**Chair's Remarks**

Ms. Escobedo noted that the League of Women Voters recently held a presentation regarding cyber security led by Chief Information Officer Jason Bulger and the Town Manager. The League of Women Voters also held a presentation on Open Meeting Law from the Assistant Attorney General.

The Select Board sent a letter to the Middle School Building Committee last week to applaud all of the work they have been doing. The Select Board also encouraged them to target, as closely as possible, a one hundred million dollar project, and strongly encouraged them to listen to the significant feedback from the community at this time as they seek compromise before moving into the schematic design phase.

**Concord Library Sustainability Committee Draft Report**

The Library Sustainability Committee has drafted a sustainability plan. Library Corporation Director Sherry Litwack and Library Trustee Jeff Adams presented the report. The plan outlines the necessary steps for assessing, planning, and implementing a series of collaborative actions across operations and programming between 2021 and 2026 and establishes the aspirational goal of carbon neutrality by 2030. The plan builds on the commitment of the Library to meet the needs of today and future generations through stewardship and information sharing. Finally, the plan aligns with the Town of Concord's emissions reduction goals for 2050. This plan supports a ten year roadmap to climate neutrality and sustainability for the CFPL Corporation and its partners. Residents can [view the full plan on the committee's website](#).

Select Board members voiced support for the committee's goals of consistently reassessing needs and feasibility of different sources of energy, new technology, and grant opportunities. The committee acknowledged the rapidly changing energy market and technology landscape, and the need to plan and reassess in short intervals in order to meet the goal of carbon neutrality.

**Update on 2019 Hard Drive Data Breach**

Mr. Crane reiterated that in October 2019, 108 hard drives were inappropriately removed from Concord Public Works, where they were being held in preparation for proper disposal. Concord Police launched an extensive investigation which is ongoing. There has not been definitive proof of a case of identity theft associated with this breach. Under state law, the Town had to notify the population that was impacted by this breach. Part of this process includes offering credit monitoring to the party subjected to the breach. The hard drives were not encrypted, a third party forensic data company searched the devices the drives were taken from to understand who was impacted. A third party call service has been providing credit monitoring to impacted individuals who were notified. Mr. Crane stated that the Town has taken all the steps that need to be taken, and is in the process of summarizing the impact of the data breach and all the steps that have been taken.

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**Discussion of ATM Warrant Articles Discussed at the May 6 Public Hearing**

#	Article Name	SB Recommendation	Vote
34	Community Preservation Committee Appropriation Recommendations in the amount of \$1,769,891.00	Affirmative Action	Unanimous
27	Minuteman Regional Technical High School District Budget in the amount of \$1,289,284.00.	Affirmative Action	Unanimous
28	Concord Public Schools Budget in the amount of \$41,708,424.00	Affirmative Action	Unanimous
29	Concord Public Schools Capital Budget as written in the warrant.	Affirmative Action	Unanimous
30	Concord-Carlisle Regional High School Budget in the amount of \$24,608,739.00	Affirmative Action	Unanimous

**Assign Select Board Warrant Article Narratives as needed**

Ms. Escobedo stated that it is unlikely there will be a Select Board narrative needed for the Town Meeting materials booklet regarding any of the articles in the previous agenda item. Draft narratives need to be completed by the 19<sup>th</sup> to Ms. Escobedo. These will be discussed on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Committee Nominations:**

Chief Financial Officer Kerry Lafleur to the Retirement Board for a term to begin on June 1, 2021, set to expire on April 30, 2024

**Committee Liaison Reports**

Ms. Hotchkiss attended the White Pond Advisory Committee meeting, where Deputy Town Manager Kate Hodges and Town Manager Stephen Crane met with the committee regarding the redevelopment plans for the pond. The Natural Resources Commission met and discussed the wetlands boundaries requirements for different properties.

Ms. Ackerman attended the PEG Access Committee meeting, where they are looking for three new members. The PAAC also voted to support Article 41 for the 2021 Town Meeting. The

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West Concord Advisory Committee and West Concord Cultural District Committee held a joint meeting where they reviewed the preamble of the West Concord Building Design Guidelines. The West Concord Junction Cultural District Committee is looking for a new member.

Mr. Johnson attended the Middle School Building Committee, where they voted 14-2 to revise the space summary recommendation and move to the schematic design phase. The Housing Authority Board has negotiated a contract with the new Executive Director Jennifer Polito. Town engineers have also completed a proposed site plan for a new house on Commonwealth Avenue and will be submitting a notice of intent to the Natural Resources Commission. The Public Ceremonies and Celebrations Committee is preparing for their Memorial Day celebrations. The MAPC MAGIC group met and discussed the MetroCommon 2050 Plan, with a focus on strategies for developing affordable housing in the region.

Ms. Bates attended the Planning Board meeting, where they had a hearing regarding Concord Children's Center proposal at 250 Old Bedford Road. The hearing will be continued until June 4. On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, there will be a public forum on the MAPC's plan for the Thoreau Business District. The Concord Business Partnership heard a presentation from the Middle School Building Committee. The Cemetery Committee met and discussed the declining population of Blanding's Turtle in Concord. The committee is working with Mass Wildlife to protect the turtles. Ms. Bates announced she will not be stepping up to the role of SB Chair for FY'22 as might be expected as SB tradition for the board's Clerk.

**Miscellaneous Correspondence**

Correspondence was included in the [meeting materials](#).

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Adjourn**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY  
**VOTED:** to adjourn.

**Roll call vote**

Ms. Escobedo: Aye

Ms. Bates: Aye

Ms. Ackerman: Aye

Ms. Hotchkiss: Aye

Mr. Johnson: Aye

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**Meeting Materials:** <https://concordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/29597/May-10-SB-Packet>

**Minuteman Media Network Coverage:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oe2BtHqNfRY>