

Town Manager's Report Monday, April 8, 2013

To: Board of Selectmen
From: Christopher Whelan, Town Manager

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

FINANCE

Finance Committee Report: The Finance Committee Report to the 2013 Annual Town Meeting has been posted to the website (found on the 2013 Town Meeting, Finance Committee and Finance Department pages), and the printed copy will be mailed to all households by the end of this week.

FIRE

Hands-on Training: Training continues at the 51 Laws Brook Road house site. All groups have spent substantial time focusing on such skills as roof ventilation, fire attack, search and rescue, incident management and Rescue of trapped firefighters. We have scheduled several days to work on honing our coordinated fire attack with some of the surrounding communities.





LIBRARY

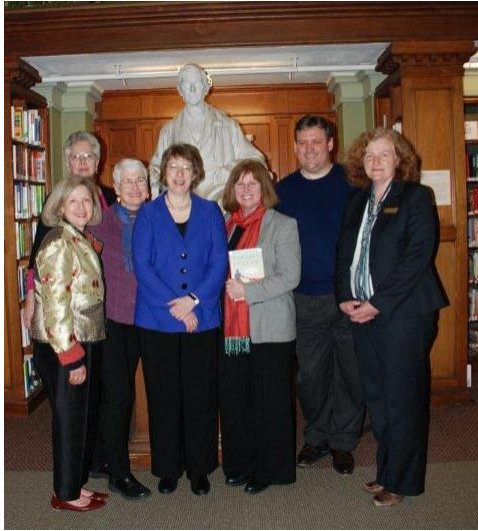
Featured Event: The World Journal, one of the largest circulating Chinese daily newspapers in North America, featured an article about the Greater Boston Chinese Cultural Association’s concert held at the Concord Free Public Library in its March 29, 2013 edition. Below please find a link to the article

<http://www.worldjournal.com/view/wjmanews/22103998/article->



Chinese Music Ensemble

Program Well Attended: Approximately 160 people attended Megan Marshall’s program about her new book, Margaret Fuller in Love, which was held at the Concord Free Public Library on April 5. The event, sponsored by Special Collections, the First Parish Church, the Thoreau Farm, and the Thoreau Society, was very well received. A reception and book signing followed the presentation. An account of the evening can be read at the following blog post: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/peterjreilly/2013/04/06/sex-and-the-single-transcendentalist-an-evening-with-megan-marshall/>



Megan Marshall with program collaborators

RFID Update: Installation of new security gates and a self-checkout kiosk for children will take place during the weeks of April 8 and 15 at the Main Library. We have posted signs about the upcoming work and apologize in advance for any noise or inconvenience that this work causes. We look forward to having Radio Frequency Identification Technology (RFID) fully operational during National Library Week, April 14 - 20.

“Seedy Sunday”: CFPL staff members Enid Boasberg and Kitty Smith hosted a program called “Seedy Sunday” at the Fowler Branch on April 7. 15 people attended to hear a presentation about the Concord Seed Lending Library and to assist in preparing seed packages. Attendees offered great suggestions on seed saving techniques. In addition to promoting the Concord Seed Lending Library at a recent Museum of Science event, this exciting community initiative will be featured in the summer edition of *Edible Boston*.

LIGHT DEPARTMENT

Cub Scouts Learn about Electricity: The Wolf Den of Cub Scout Pack 149 from the Willard School visited Concord Light on April 2. They learned about how electricity is made, including wind and solar power, how electricity gets to local homes and how line workers do their jobs.

As part of the interactive lesson, scouts got the chance to make electricity by riding a bicycle generator, create circuits to operate fans and pinwheels, and touch a real solar panel – the same type of panel that provides some of the electricity used by the Willard School.



Concord Light electrician Marty Boermeester guides the scouts as they make circuits.



Concord Light staff person Jane Karelak watches a scout generate enough electricity to light up several light bulbs.

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Health Division

Healthy Concord Community Forum - THRIVE: Healthy Concord held a Town Forum on Saturday March 30 for the purpose of gathering residents to discuss the key issues identified in the two healthy community resident surveys which were conducted late last fall and early winter, and to brainstorm solutions to these issues. The forum was well attended, with almost 50 residents participating. The key issues discussed were: enhancing community connections; creating better support systems for youth, families, and seniors; and transportation including bikeways, walkways and getting around town. The Healthy Concord Steering Committee will review the suggestions resulting from this forum, to develop the final projects that will be implemented in coming months.

Septic Betterment Loan Program: The Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust (WPAT) provides loan funding to the Town of Concord so that the Town can provide low-interest loans to residents to cover the costs of upgrading failed septic systems. Concord's existing loan from WPAT is being closed out due to the end of its loan term, and a new loan is in the process of being issued. Administrative Assistant Karen Byrne has spent a significant amount of time in the past several weeks working with the Finance Department to ensure that all necessary documents for the loan are prepared and submitted to WPAT to ensure that the new loan is issued promptly so that residents who are in need of loan funds can take advantage of this program without delays.

Private Well Inventory: The Health Division has been receiving an increasing number of requests for permits for the installation of private wells. These include drinking water, irrigation, and geothermal wells. Assistant Health Director Stan Sosnicki has initiated a project to update the Health Division inventory of all private wells (which was last updated in 2005), so that wells can be accurately mapped on the Town's GIS system.

Planning Division

Historic Districts Commission: This week the HDC reviewed two new and two continued applications for Certificates of Appropriateness within the Historic Districts. The Commission issued three new Certificates for new signage, lighting, and awnings at 33-35 Main Street, a new window at 276 Main Street, and a new addition and sun-porch at 26 Elm Street. The application for a new addition, garage, and paving at 59 Elm Street was continued to the May 2 meeting to allow the Applicant time to consider other options.

Planning Board: The Planning Board met Tuesday to hear a presentation on the proposed new generator at the Town's Public Safety Facility/209 Walden Street to be located within the Flood Plain Conservancy District and voted to recommend that the Board of Appeals approve the proposal; to consider additional site design and information about the proposed redevelopment of 50 Beharrell Street, which was continued to the May 9th meeting; and, to consider its position on Articles 38, 39 & 40 (recommending affirmative action on all three as

amended) and discuss potential reports or positions on other Warrant articles. The Planning Board voted to recommend no action on Article 12 (5:1 vote) and to recommend affirmative action on Article 13 (4:2 vote). Articles 44, 46, 52 and 54 will be discussed on April 9th.

Saris Bike Corral Competition: Concord was selected as one of three communities to compete for a Saris Bike Corral; voting was done via Facebook. After an early lead, Concord was in fierce competition with Morristown NJ (Wheat Ridge, CO was in distant third place) over the week as Planning Division staff worked to get the word out to local community groups, Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and others. The winner will be announced April 8.

MAPC MAGIC Monthly Meeting: Concord has been hosting the bi-monthly daytime meetings of the Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination. This month's agenda included a briefing from the MAPC Clean Energy Division and a presentation on regional planning initiatives for Climate Change Adaptation Strategies.

Natural Resources Division

Natural Resources Commission: On April 3, the NRC heard a Notice of Intent application to construct an addition at 557 Sudbury Road and closed the Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation hearing for Concord Housing Development Corp at 965 Elm Street. The Commission also issued Orders of Conditions for a septic system replacement at 1200 Monument Street and a replacement generator at the Fire Department on Walden Street. New applications received this week for the April 17 NRC meeting include a Request for Determination of Applicability for 221 Baker Avenue to review a wetland delineation, an after-the-fact Notice of Intent for 24 Off-Harrington Avenue for reconstructing a driveway and to construct a deck, and an Amendment Request for 88 Martin Road to install a sprinkler system and dry wells.

Baseline Documentation Report RFP: One proposal was received to complete 16 Baseline Documentation Reports for lands on which the Town holds Conservation Restrictions. This work supplements 35 BDRs prepared by the Conservation Restriction Stewardship Committee and consultants since 2007 and is anticipated to be completed over the next year.

Landmark Agricultural RFP: Two proposals were received in response to the Request for Proposals to farm a 3-acre portion of a 24.89-acre parcel of land at 79B Old Road to Nine Acre Corner (Landmark Field). These will be evaluated by the NRC at their April 17 meeting.