

Town Manager's Report Monday, August 12, 2013

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

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

LIBRARY

Final Summer Concert; Last Wednesday the Boogaloo Swamis, a band known for their lively Cajun and Zydeco tunes, performed the third and final summer concert in the annual series sponsored by the Friends of the Concord Free Public Library. The music was delightful and all who attended seemed to enjoy the great weather and lovely setting. A special thank you to the Friends of CFPL for their generosity in funding this series, and to Karen Ahearn, Head of Children's Services, for selecting several talented groups of musicians, who represent a variety of musical styles to perform at the library annually.



Last Monday a group of teens met at the Library to discuss the book, *Candymakers* by Wendy Mass. Following an enthusiastic discussion, the group went to the ice cream shop, Reasons to be Cheerful to create sundaes using the wide variety of candy and toppings supplied.

Seed Lending Library: Enid Boasberg, one of the founders of the Concord Seed Lending Library, reported that 75 residents checked out seeds from the Library this year. Plans are already underway to gain further awareness for the service and encourage greater participation for next year's growing season. Representatives from the Concord Seed Lending Library are looking forward to participating in the upcoming Annual Ag Day in September.

Workshops: Upcoming workshops include a class on downloading eBooks to iPads on 8/21 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m., and a second class on downloading eBooks to Kindles on 8/22,

also from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Both classes will take place in the Main Library’s lower level meeting room.

Recruitment/Staffing Update: 2nd round interviews for the Circulation Assistant position took place on 8/8 and 8/9. We anticipate checking references and preparing a request to make a job offer sometime next week.

Laura Faunce has resigned from her part-time position as Library Assistant in order to pursue a full-time library assistant position at the Robbins Library in Arlington, Mass.

LIGHT DEPARTMENT

Substation 219 Capacity Upgrade: On Tuesday, August 6, Concord Light took delivery of the first of two new high voltage substation transformers. The transformer weighed over 130,000 pounds and was delivered on a truck that weighed over 100,000 pounds. Delivery of the second transformer is expected on August 20. Construction at the substation is estimated to commence on or around the 12 of September.





PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Health Division

Mosquito Surveillance: The MDPH risk level for both Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV) remains at Low in Concord. Residents should be aware that WNV infected mosquitoes have been found in Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth and Suffolk counties. These geographically widespread findings indicate that virus is circulating throughout the Commonwealth and is not confined to municipalities where infected mosquitoes have been found. Residents are encouraged to continue efforts to reduce sources of mosquito breeding, which include draining buckets, barrels, tarps, and wheel barrows to avoid water accumulation; changing the water twice each week in birdbaths and outdoor pet water dishes; keeping rain gutters clean of debris; and checking children's outdoor toys for water accumulation. Most human infections with WNV have occurred in the first several weeks of August. People, especially those over 50 and/or immune-compromised, are strongly encouraged to use repellent and cover up to reduce mosquito bites.

Food Service Review: Public Health Inspector Gabrielle White has approved plans for the re-design and renovation of Dunkin Donuts in West Concord, and construction is underway. Construction is also underway at Haute Coffee, 12 Walden St., which hopes to open for business in September.

Sewer Reviews, 50 Beharrell St. and 13B Commonwealth Ave.: Assistant Health Director Stan Sosnicki expedited sewer reviews for increased wastewater flows that will result from the redevelopment project at 50 Beharrell St and 13B Commonwealth Avenue, so that the applicant will be able to appear at the Public Works Commission meeting next week.

Tick-Borne Illness Education: The Health Division's summer intern, Pamela Okerholm, completed her 10-week community health practicum this week. Pam developed a variety of educational materials that will be used by seven partner towns in the Middlesex Tick Task Force to educate residents about prevention of tick-borne illnesses. These materials include a brochure describing landscaping techniques to reduce ticks in residential yards; trail signs; an educational bookmark; and a traveling educational display. Pam also developed an on-line survey which is intended to assess residents' knowledge, advise future educational efforts, and provide residents with information that may help prevent tick-borne illnesses. We hope that many residents will take the survey which is available at <http://tinyurl.com/MiddlesexTickSurvey>.

Planning Division

Moderate Affordable Unit Available at 87 Elm Brook Lane: Senior Planner Lara Kritzer is working to find a new income eligible buyer for 87 Elm Brook Lane, a detached single-family, three bedroom home built in 2002 as part of the Elm Brook Homes. The unit is being marketed to households with incomes at or below 110% of the Boston Area Median Income (AMI) and is currently listed at \$354,403. An Open House is scheduled for Sunday, August 18 from 1:00PM – 3:00PM and the house is available to be shown on request. Additional information on income eligibility requirements and applications are available in the Concord Planning Division office at 141 Keyes Road and online at www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_Planning/Affordable%20Housing%20Information.

Farewell to Senior Planner Julie Vaughan: Friday, August 9 was Julie Vaughan's final day working for the Town of Concord because she begins her pursuit of a master's degree at the Harvard Graduate School of Design in September. Julie brought exceptional Geographic Information Systems skills to the job, and had a special interest in sustainability issues. She coordinated the project review process with applicants and Town staff, compiling staff comments into an informative report that provided the basis for Planning Board and Board of Appeals decisions. We wish her continued success in all her future endeavors.

Natural Resources Division

Natural Resources Commission: The following hearings will be heard at the August 14 NRC meeting: the after-the-fact Notice of Intent (NOI) to reconstruct a driveway at 24 Off-Harrington Road; an NOI for 389 Pope Road to construct a deck and pool; an NOI to demolish and reconstruct a single family house at 147 Minot Road; a Request for Determination of Applicability for 67 Wayside Road to remove trees; and, an NOI for 34 East Circle to replace a failed subsurface sewage disposal system.

White Pond Watershed Management Plan: The Division of Natural Resources and the White Pond Advisory Committee will hold a kickoff meeting this week with the ESS Group to develop a Watershed Management Plan for White Pond. It is anticipated that the plan will be complete within one year.

Heywood Meadow Invasive Species Control: Natural Resources staff received three proposals to control invasive species at Heywood Meadow. These proposals will be reviewed next week, and a recommendation developed on a consultant to perform the work. The invasive species control is expected to begin this fall and continue through 2015.

Building Inspections Division

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA): At Thursday's meeting, the ZBA voted to approve the continued application of the Trinity Episcopal Church of Concord for a special permit to reconstruct, extend, alter or change a nonconforming use and structures, and for relief from parking requirements associated with a religious use at 81 Elm Street and 18 River Street. In addition, the ZBA granted renewal of a special home occupation for the homeowner at 199 Park Lane; approved the special permit to reconstruct, extend, alter or change a nonconforming structure at 591 Main Street; approved a special permit to alter or change a structure on a nonconforming lot so that the new structure is more than fifty percent greater than the gross floor area of the existing structure at 34 Nimrod Drive and allowed Gaining Ground to withdraw without prejudice their application to host an outdoor fundraiser 341 Virginia Road.

POLICE

Operational Services: On Monday, August 5, Officer Capone responded to a motor vehicle crash on Westford Road involving a vehicle that fled from the scene of the crash. Witnesses to the crash were able to provide a photo and the license plate number. Officer Capone located the involved vehicle a short time later, parked on Lowell Road by the Middlesex School. The operator was charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, leaving the scene of a property damage accident and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

On Saturday August 10, Inspector Skinner and Officer Moore responded to Emerson Hospital for a patient who had walked away from the Emergency Department. Prior to their arrival, officers learned that the subject had returned. Officers confirmed this with hospital staff and stood by to assist while the patient was admitted.

Community Services: On August 15, the Department will be taking part in NHSTA National campaign against drunk driving, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over. The Department will be adding additional patrols funded by a grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety. Officers will be focused on detecting drunk drivers as well as other offenses during their patrols.

Administrative Services: Officer Dirienzo and Dispatcher Manchuso successfully completed the RAD (self-defense) Instructor program in Wilmington, MA this past week. Both stated that the course was intense and physically demanding, but the skills that they learned were excellent.