

Town Manager's Report Tuesday, December 11, 2012

To: Board of Selectmen
From Christopher Whelan, Town Manager

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

LIGHT DEPARTMENT

NEPPA Lineworker Graduation: The Light Department would like to extend congratulations to Mike Hoogendoorn and Jack Tombeno for graduating from the Apprentice Lineworker program offered by the Northeast Public Power Association (NEPPA). The Apprentice Lineworker Program is a 4 year school for new Lineworkers, which teaches them the skills necessary to succeed in their craft. The program is comprised of classroom study of electrical theory, construction practices, system operations and crew leadership combined with field work in a controlled environment to practice and expand on what they learn. Students then take what they learned during the year back to their respective utilities and hone their skills through on-the-job training.

Finally on December 7, after 4 years of successfully passing countless written and physical tests, Mike and Jack's hard work paid off as they each received their diploma at a graduation ceremony held at the NEPPA training facility in Littleton, Massachusetts. We would like to again extend our congratulations to these two individuals who have made CMLP proud, and we look forward to watching them advance through their careers in Concord.

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Health Division

Meeting with Town Manager and Business Owners to Discuss Enforcement of the Bottled Water Bylaw: Public Health Director Susan Rask and Administrative Assistant Karen Byrne attended a meeting with business owners to answer questions about enforcement of the new bylaw, Drinking Water in Single-Serve PET Bottles. The bylaw will become effective January 1, 2013 and enforcement will begin shortly thereafter.

Regional Tick Task Force: Health Inspector Gabrielle White attended the second meeting of the newly-formed regional tick task force, which is being coordinated by the Town of Lincoln. The purpose of the task force is to educate residents about tick-borne illnesses and steps that may be taken to prevent contracting these diseases.

MAVEN Communicable Disease Reporting Software: Health Inspector Gabrielle White and Administrative Assistant Karen Byrne recently attended training on MAVEN, MDPH's on-line system for reporting and tracking communicable diseases within each community.

THRIVE: Healthy Concord: To date, the Healthy Concord survey has received 612 responses, and we are hoping to hear from many more residents. Everyone is invited to take the on-line survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HealthyConcord>. Paper copies of the survey are also available at key locations around Concord, including the libraries, COA, Beede Center and Hunt Gym, and the Town House. Please visit the Healthy Concord webpage: http://www.concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA_Thrive/index to learn more about healthy communities, view the results of our most recent resident surveys, find links to new surveys, and see progress on Concord's Healthy Community Planning Process.

Planning Division

Historic Districts Commission: The HDC met on Thursday, December 6, to review four continued and three new applications for Certificates of Appropriateness within the Historic Districts. The HDC approved two new Certificates – the demolition of the gazebo at 200 Lexington Road (Concord Museum) and the replacement of four accessible entry stairs at 51 Walden Street (FOPAC). In addition, the Commission reviewed the new applications at 276 Main Street and the proposal to add Cultural District Signage throughout the Districts: both items were continued to allow the applicants' time to gather additional information and revise the proposed plans. Lastly, the Commission continued the discussion of the proposed demolition and new construction at Trinity Church and looked at several schemes which allowed the existing structure at 18 River Street to stay in place as part of the proposed expansion. Commission Members have urged the Applicant to consider developing a plan which incorporates the existing house; the discussion was continued to January 17.

Students Recognized for Concord's "Building Local Food Connections" Report: Congratulations are due to Conway School of Landscape Design students Christina Gibson and Jamie Potters! The American Planning Association - Massachusetts Chapter (APA-MA) Awards Committee has selected the **BUILDING LOCAL FOOD CONNECTIONS - A COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEM ASSESSMENT** to receive a **Student Project Award**. This award honors an individual or group of students for an outstanding project. The report is available online at <http://issuu.com/conwaydesign/docs/concordfood2012>.

Community Innovation Challenge Grant – Transportation Management Association: Concord and Westford were invited to participate in the Phase 2 application for a Community Challenge Grant to create a 7-town Transportation Management Association. Concord was identified as a potential partner because of the Emerson Hospital complex as a high-demand destination for residents of Stow, Maynard, Acton, Boxborough and Littleton. The Phase 2 grant was submitted on November 30. The meeting on December 7 focused on branding the program, discussing potential and perceived concerns and the initial structure for the program. This project is unique because it is being driven by the communities involved rather than private businesses and industries.

Planning Board: Last Tuesday, the Planning Board invited residents of the Residence B zoning district to attend a presentation of the proposed zoning bylaw amendments being considered for the 2013 Annual Town Meeting. Approximately 40 residents attended. These proposed changes are the same as the changes adopted for the Residence C district in 2011 and will address the way that the height of a building is measured (35-feet to the "ridge" or peak of the roof, rather than the mid-point, which is the current method of measurement) and the height of structures that are located closer than 15 feet from the side yard lot line (the Zoning Bylaw currently allows a house to be located as close as 12-feet from a side lot line if there is 18-foot setback from the other side lot line). The presentation and proposed language are posted on-line at http://www.concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA_Planning/board. The Board also reviewed other draft zoning bylaw amendments for submittal to the warrant and concluded its deliberation on a recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals on the Application of Arista Development for the Special Permit and Site Plan Review to allow demolition of the Mobil gas station and construction of a TD Bank facility at 1112 Main Street.

Natural Resources Division

Natural Resources Commission: At the NRC meeting of December 5, the following projects were heard. The Commission closed the hearing and will issue an Order at the December 19 meeting for the continued matter at 1112 Main Street to demolish the existing gas station and construct a TD Bank. The Commission heard the new application for 676 Monument Street for an after-the fact tree removal and restoration: this matter was continued to January 2 for additional information. An application was heard for 276 Main Street to construct a garage, two additions, deck, patio, and new driveway: this was also continued to the January 2. The Commission discussed the application to verify a wetland delineation at Keuka Road; which was continued to obtain a third party review. The Commission also heard the after-the-fact application for 68 Shore Drive for replacing a retaining wall, dock, and stairs and constructing a new deck, which was continued for the Commission to perform a site visit. Lastly the Commission heard the Amendment request for Crosby's Market to store excess snow within the grass strip adjacent to the parking lot for a one year period: this request was granted. The Commission issued Orders for tree removal at 280 Great Meadows Road and to approve the wetland delineation at 8A Bradford Street. The NRC will be holding a Public Hearing on proposed Wetland Bylaw changes for 2013 Town Meeting on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at 7:30 PM at 141 Keyes Road.

Building Inspection Division

Greenhouse/Agriculture Proposal for the Town: Julie Vaughan and John Minty met last week with Joseph Chiappetta, who is interested in placing agricultural greenhouses on the growing fields along the entrance driveway to the Waste Water Treatment Plant off Bedford Street. Advanced greenhouse aquiculture would be used to grow organic lettuce for the local markets. In conjunction with the greenhouse use Mr. Chiappetta proposes to use an anaerobic digester to convert sewage waste (from the waste-water treatment plant) and organic matter, into methane gas, which would be used to produce electricity and heat for

the greenhouse operations. This project is in the very early stage of discussion with Town staff.

437 Old Marlboro Road Fence Down: As a result of the demolition and new construction at 437 Old Marlboro Road, members of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee noticed that a fence had been installed within the Railroad Right-of-Way, and that the fence would be an issue with future trail improvements. John Minty met with the new owner of the property; contractor, John Hill, who is constructing a new home on the site. Mr. Hill agreed to remove the encroaching fence as part of the landscaping that he is proposing around the new home.

POLICE

Operational Services: On Monday December 3, Officer Moore responded to NOA Gifts on Commonwealth Ave for a report of a past shoplifting. Officer Moore learned that an unknown female subject had stolen several items from the store and left the store. Officer Moore checked the area for the suspect based on the description given but did not locate her. Information on the suspect and theft is being shared with surrounding law enforcement agencies and the investigation continues.

On Wednesday December 5, officers responded to Upstairs Antiques for a report of a past shoplifting. Officer Carlton spoke with the reporting party and learned that a bottle of perfume had been stolen on Tuesday. A report was filed on the incident and the case is under investigation.

On Sunday December 9, officers responded to CCHS for a report of vandalism. Some unknown individual(s) had kicked in a window at the front entrance of the school sometime during the overnight. Photos were taken and the scene was processed. The case is currently under investigation.

Community Services: Additional officers have been assigned to foot patrol activities in the business areas of Town. With the holidays upon us and the recent shoplifting cases, officers have been given assignments to continuously monitor these areas of Town. We are requesting the community to contact us regarding any suspicious activity.

On Thursday December 6, The Concord Cheese Shop on Walden Street held its annual Crucolo Cheese Parade. Dayshift officers assisted with traffic and crowd control during the event.