

Town Manager's Report **Monday, December 20, 2010**

To: Board of Selectmen
From Christopher Whelan, Town Manager

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

FIRE

Station 1 renovation: Work continues without major issues. Weather permitting floors of the addition should be poured this week.

Apparatus: A staff committee is in place and actively working on a set of bid specs for the new ladder truck. The Fire Chief hopes to have a good idea of the estimated cost this week.

Emergency Management: The Concord Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) leadership are planning to incorporate the media capabilities of CCTV into the newly renovated Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This will enable public service announcements and other educational / instructional messages to be produced and perhaps broadcast from the EOC.

LIGHT DEPARTMENT

Utility Scale Solar: Tioga Energy is working on the Purchase Power Agreement (PPA). It is expected that the PPA will be ready for review in the next few weeks. The PPA needs to be completed so that Tioga can obtain financing and propose a work schedule for the installation of 2/3 mW at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

West Concord Business District Electric System Upgrade Project: The Light Department has now completed installation of the cable for the main trunk lines for the primary West Concord downtown circuit, including the trunk line extensions of two separate circuits which are designed to back up the primary circuit. As part of the conversion plan, a power outage has been scheduled for part of Commonwealth Ave and for part of Church Street. The outage is scheduled for early Thursday morning on December 30 from 2am to 5am, however the outage at #68 Commonwealth Ave, VOA Concord Assisted Living, Inc, will only last between 2am and 2:15am. All the customers affected by the outage have been notified.

Smart Grid/ Fiber: Aerial fiber cable placement continues in the northern section of Town. Underground cable work is well under way in the eastern section of Town. Fiber cable splicing is also underway, as are various other project elements.

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Planning Division

Planning Board: Last Tuesday's Board meeting continued discussion of the 14 potential Zoning Bylaw Amendments. The Board also discussed requesting a Special Town Meeting within Town Meeting to address West Concord Task Force recommendations for the West Concord Mixed Use Overlay District and changes to the West Concord Industrial District.

Community Preservation Committee: The CPC met last Monday to further review the projects recommended for CPA funding at the 2011 Town Meeting, at which time the Warrant Article was finalized. Several minor changes were made at that time to accommodate the CPA funding requirements, including establishing a Community Housing Reserve Fund for future use. CPC members have also met separately with a representative of the Emerson Annex Rehabilitation Project to discuss potential routes that that project might take. The CPC will continue to work with the Emerson Annex in January, and will also be putting together project conditions at that time.

Health Division

Regional Services: Acton's Public Health Director contacted DPLM to discuss possible regional services with regard to nursing/public health outreach programs. These preliminary discussions, scheduled for early January, will allow the Health Division to evaluate services available and promote community health planning.

Building and Inspections Division



Longview Meadow/formerly Alexan project - demolition begins: Demolition of two industrial buildings, #48 and #54 Old Powder Mill Road, has begun in preparation for construction of the 350 unit Longview Meadow project off Old Powder Mill Road. The building permits for the club house and the residential units have been reviewed under zoning and the building code and, with the payment of the building permit fee, will be issued.

Natural Resources Division

Natural Resource Commission: At the NRC Meeting on December 15, the Commission closed the hearing for the relocation of the Caesar Robbins house to 34B Monument

Street, and the permit will be issued on January 7. Among the matters continued to January 5 is the Lowell Road sidewalk project for the CPW.

Beaver Dam Removal: Last Wednesday, a contractor removed a beaver dam at the wetlands crossing on Lindsay Pond Road without authorization from the Board of Health or approval from the Natural Resources Commission. This action caused Lindsay Pond to drop three feet within eight hours thus destroying the overwintering sites for many of the ponds' inhabitants. Staff is in the process of contacting those responsible to determine the appropriate resolution to this situation. Beaver dams cannot be breached or removed unless the Board of Health determines that there is public emergency, such as road flooding, septic flooding, agricultural field flooding, or other public emergency. If there is an emergency, dams should be removed in a controlled fashion so that there is no downstream property damage. The NRC and staff have the ability to issue Emergency Permits to allow work to proceed quickly when emergencies require such action.

POLICE

Community Services: Last week, the Department and CCTV collaborated on two public service announcements involving seasonal safety tips and winter driving tips. CCTV started airing them last week.

Operations: Last Thursday, the Department responded to a serious pedestrian accident reported on Walden St in the area of North Bridge Antiques. It was reported that a vehicle struck the building at that location. The accident turned out to involve two vehicles and two pedestrians. One pedestrian was not injured, while the other sustained serious injuries and was attended to by Fire Department personnel. He was later flown by Med Flight to Boston Medical Center, where he later died. The Police Department is investigating the incident in conjunction with the Middlesex District Attorney's Office.