

Town Manager's Report Monday, January 10, 2011

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

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

FINANCE

Annual Audit: The Finance Director reports that the annual audit report is expected in from our auditors soon, in advance of their scheduled January 24 presentation to the Board of Selectmen.

FIRE

Station 1 Renovation: Concrete was poured in the new addition last week and roof work was to begin today.

Fire Prevention: Crosby's Mobil is shut down for minor renovations. Underground storage tanks are to be removed and replaced with up-to-date double wall glass tanks and a vapor recovery system.

Unusual Emergency Responses: On December 7, the Fire department responded to a chimney Fire at an Old Bedford Road residence. The flue was completely blocked with creosote and burning vigorously. The fire was contained to the flue but firefighters needed to open up a wall to ensure containment.

On December 5, the Department responded to a three car crash in the area of 219 Commonwealth Avenue. One car was on its roof with a person entrapped inside. The extrication went swiftly and there were no apparent serious injuries.

LIBRARY

EBook Interest: The Library's Kindle eBook readers have been very well received, with 71 people currently in the queue to check out one of the five available readers. At their monthly meeting on January 4, the Friends of CFPL elected to purchase 5 additional Kindles in order to expand this popular program and decrease the wait time for checking out a device.

Library Closed for Professional Development: On Friday, January 21 the Main Library and Fowler Express will close from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. for an in-service training session for Library staff.

Fowler Update: The Fowler building renovation is in its final stages with telephone and shelving installations taking place last week. The planning stages for the move back into the building have begun. The Library Corporation has offered to have the lower level space at Harvey Wheeler, currently serving as “Fowler Express”, painted and the carpets professionally cleaned upon the Library’s move back to Fowler. Also, the Library Corporation will discuss the possibility of keeping the book /a-v return at the West Concord Train Station on a more permanent basis at their meeting on 1/12.



Library shelving installation took place at Fowler last week.

LIGHT DEPARTMENT

Smart Grid – Marketing Roundtable Discussion: The Light Department is planning a roundtable discussion with a few dozen of our Electronic Thermal Storage (ETS) and controlled water heating customers to solicit feedback to help develop the Department’s Smart Grid marketing program and product ideas. The discussion group is scheduled for Tuesday, January 25. An invitation brochure will be sent out to customers this week.

Mass Energy Insight: Light Department staff continues work on the facility usage tracking tool for our Town-wide energy conservation initiative, preparing for use of the software referred to as Mass Energy Insight, which will constitute the data base for municipal building usage. In this regard, discussions were recently held with Peter Nobile, new Chair of CSEC on how Concord Light might work with CSEC regarding roles and responsibilities on municipal sector energy efficiency between CSEC and Town staff.

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Natural Resources Division

Natural Resource Commission: At the January 5 NRC Meeting, the Commission issued an Order of Conditions for the relocation of the Caesar Robbins house to 34B Monument Street.

Conservation Coffee: The first Conservation Coffee of the New Year was again well attended. At this week’s Coffee, attendees learned of a generous gift of land from Gordon Shaw to the Concord Land Conservation Trust. This 5.2 acre parcel below Nashawtuc Hill

was once a pasture for William Wheeler's dairy herd and is bordered by an unusual dentated stone wall built by Mr. Wheeler in the late 1800s. It includes a segment of Squaw Sachem's Trail and a public walking path. This property is adjacent to the 'ski hill' that was given to CLCT by Gordon's father. Gordon's childhood home overlooked this meadow which his family farmed and for the past decade, he has acted as its steward. With this gift, Gordon has ensured that the natural and historic landscape that it represents will be permanently preserved and enjoyed by all.

Planning Division

Renovations underway in the Planning Division: Long anticipated office renovations are in progress in the Planning Division – a new enclosed office space is being created for the second Senior Planner and a new floor plan/office workstation configuration is scheduled for the Administrative Assistants that serve the Planning Board and Board of Appeals/Historic Districts Commission. Planning Staff has relocated to other parts of the 141 Keyes Road building during the construction activity, which is expected to be completed by the end of the month.

Health Division

Regional Public Health Services: Department staff met recently with Acton Public Health staff to discuss the prospect of regional public health nursing services under a grant which would fund the program for a five-year period.

Building and Inspections Division

Former Dee Bus Location: The new building at the former Dee Bus/Dino's Pizza/Manicure Salon site was close to being weather tight last week with most of the siding done and the windows installed. This building went through Planning Board and Board of Appeals special permit and site plan approvals.



Dunkin Donuts Renovation: Remodeling of the Dunkin Donuts at the corner of Thoreau Street and Sudbury Road wrapped up with final building inspections being completed last week.

POLICE

Community Services: The Department participated in a panel discussion about the dangers of teen driving and what parents and peers could do to help new drivers keep our roads safe. The discussion was held on Thursday, January 6 at the Alcott School.

Operations: On January 3, at 8:15 am, the Department received multiple 911 calls reporting a motor vehicle striking a pedestrian on Thoreau St., in the Depot area. The pedestrian was treated and released at Emerson Hospital after sustaining “bumps and bruises.” The operator, a 17 year old Concord resident was cited for failing to yield to a pedestrian in the crosswalk.

The Department assisted the Acton Police Department with their pursuit of a stolen motor vehicle through Concord on Monday, January 3, at 1:00 pm. The operator had stolen the vehicle in Tewksbury early in the day and was observed breaking into a vehicle in a parking lot in Acton. Acton Police pursued the suspect vehicle in Concord. Concord Officers followed the stolen vehicle at a safe distance and terminated their involvement in Lincoln. The suspect vehicle reached speeds up to seventy-five miles per hour while traveling on Rte. 2A in Lincoln. The Department is working with Acton Police in an attempt to identify the suspect involved in the incident.

On Tuesday, January 4, Department staff met with the District Attorney’s Office to review the Walden St., pedestrian fatality investigation. The investigation is currently being reviewed by the DA’s Office for charges.