

Town Manager's Report Monday, July 22, 2013

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: Replacement of the Station 1 Plymovent vehicle exhaust system is now underway. The project should be completed in 2 weeks.

Unusual Emergency Responses: During the recent heat wave, CFD did receive some medical calls due to heat related illnesses. The Department also responded to two mulch fires due, in part, to the weather.

Emergency Management: In association with the Concord COA, CEMA made a cooling center available to the public at Harvey Wheeler Community Center last Wednesday through Friday, 8:30am-10:00 pm. Activity for this center was very light, and those residents who did take advantage did so during the daytime hours only. Thanks goes to the folks at HWCC and our CEMA volunteer staff for the effort put forth for our residents.

LIGHT DEPARTMENT

Summer 2013 - Potential Electric Peak Demand Hour: Fifteen percent of a customer's electric bill is directly related to the amount of electricity Concord uses for just one hour during the entire year. That one hour, referred to as the **peak demand hour**, occurs on a hot weekday afternoon sometime in June – August between the hours of 12PM – 5PM. By reducing our electric use during these hours when a peak demand hour is expected, everyone in Concord benefits with lower electric rates and a cleaner environment, as the least efficient electric generating plants operate during peaks.

The weather during the week of 7/14/2013 turned out to be excessively hot in the 90's and humid for most of the week, and Concord reached a peak demand for the summer so far on Friday, 7/19 at between 3PM - 4PM with a reading of 42,612 kilowatts. New England's peak was 27,377,000 kilowatts between 4PM - 5PM on Friday. Of course, there is still a likelihood of hot and humid weather ahead and we may have another chance of reducing the summer peak demand through the end of August.

Based on the weather forecast and the ISO (Independent System Operator) New England forecasts for electricity demand for the week, Concord Light anticipated an electric peak

demand hour on Wednesday, 7/17 and on Thursday, 7/18 between 1PM – 5PM. We issued the third notice this summer to the Concordians Addressing the Peak (CAP) Google Group asking Concord residents to voluntarily reduce their electrical use during this time.

As a result of late-changing ISO (Independent System Operator) New England forecasts for electricity demand and the continued high temperatures continuing through Friday, 7/19, Concord Light issued the fourth call of the summer to the Google Group to expect a potential peak demand hour between 1PM – 5PM on Friday.

The CAP Google Group membership continues to grow, and we have 465 members now, not including the links from our members to other groups, so the actual membership is likely much larger. Thanks to everyone who participates in our 2013 CAP Google program and to others who have helped to reduce electrical use during the annual peak demand hour. Concord Light hopes for your continued support for the remainder of the summer.

Concord Light’s Business Customers Install High Efficiency Lighting: When Domino Veterinary Hospital renovated space for a new facility at 29 Domino Drive, they replaced the existing lighting with higher efficiency fluorescent and LED fixtures. Concord Light helped offset the cost of the upgrade with a \$1,700 High Efficiency Lighting Program rebate.



PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Planning Division

Wayfinding Grant Stakeholder Meeting: Wednesday, DPLM and CPW staff, along with the Town’s consultant, The Cecil Group, met with stakeholders from the Library, Museum, Concord Center Cultural District, Chamber of Commerce, and Historic Districts Commission to brainstorm innovative approaches for wayfinding in Concord Center. The meeting began with a presentation of findings by The Cecil Group, and continued with a discussion of needs and an exploration of possibilities that are currently in place in other communities that may be acceptable to the Historic Districts Commission and would integrate other efforts that are underway regarding directional signage and parking signage. The next step is for The Cecil Group to develop a draft set of recommendations and a strategy for implementation.

FEMA 2013 Flood Map Update Open House: Last Tuesday, DPLM and CPW staff hosted an open house for residents whose properties were impacted with increases to the 100-year

flood elevation by the most recent set of FEMA flood map updates. Fifty residents signed in – out of just under 500 residents who were sent letters. Some people came because they received a letter, and others because they saw the article in the paper or on the Town's website. Staff assisted the attendees by using the Town's interactive mapping tool, recently created Flood Map Update webpage, printed maps, and handouts. Feedback received was generally positive; everyone appreciated the opportunity to discuss their parcel of land, see the changes that FEMA is proposing and get a better understanding about how the changes may impact their property.

Natural Resources Division

Natural Resources Commission: New applications received last week for the July 31, 2013 NRC meeting include: a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) to remove trees at 73 Wayside Road; a Notice of Intent (NOI) to construct a pool, deck, and wildlife platform at 389 Pope Road; an NOI to demolish and reconstruct a single family house at 60 Walden Terrace; an NOI to repave the roadways and parking lots at Wedgewood Commons; an NOI to replace a failed septic system at 34-38 Cranberry Lane; an NOI to relocate driveways, create meadow habitat and manage invasive species at 41, 68, and 112 Great Meadows Road; an RDA to manage invasive species at 99 Riverside Ave.; an NOI to demolish and reconstruct a single family house at 147 Minot Road; an NOI to repave the parking lot at 7 Monument Square; and, an RDA to install a fence at 195 Commonwealth Avenue. Continued matters that will also be heard at the July 31 NRC meeting include an NOI to remove trees at the Concord Country Club and Concord Public Works culvert replacement project at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

Invasives Website: Henry Holm, the Division of Natural Resources summer intern, developed an invasive species website that went live last week. This site will assist residents with identifying invasive species, provide control techniques and identify alternative native species to plant in their place. Residents can access the site at:
http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_NaturalResources/invasives/inhome.

Building Inspections Division

Middlesex School Proposed Dorm Renovations: Middlesex School met with Town staff to begin the Site Plan Review process which will allow renovations to the Robert Winsor and LeBaron Briggs dorms on the Middlesex School campus. The School is expected to present their proposal to the Planning Board in August, with construction occurring during the summer of 2014.

24 Commonwealth Avenue: Building Inspections staff is reviewing a proposal to renovate the former West Concord Supermarket into a 176 seat restaurant. Twenty of these seats are proposed to be located outside for seasonal use. The applicant will need a special permit to increase the square foot area of the restaurant in the West Concord Village District; relief from parking requirements of 60 parking spaces; and site plan approval from the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Health Division

Tick-Borne Illness Education: The Middlesex Tick Task Force partner towns of Concord, Acton, Bedford, Carlisle, Lincoln, Wayland and Weston are conducting summer tick-borne illness prevention efforts, using grant funds provided by CHNA 15. Residents are encouraged to take an on-line survey which is intended to assess our residents' knowledge which will advise future educational efforts, and provide residents with information that may help prevent tick-borne illnesses. The survey is available at <http://tinyurl.com/MiddlesexTickSurvey>. The Town of Carlisle has also produced an excellent short informational video about preventing tick bites, which is available at www.tinyurl.com/tickbiteprevention

Mosquito Surveillance: The MDPH risk level for West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) remains at Low. No EEE-positive mosquitos have been found anywhere in Massachusetts to date, and only one WNV-positive mosquito has been found, in Plymouth County.

Food Service Reviews: Public Health Inspector Gabrielle White is resolving a few final design issues for the kitchen at the proposed restaurant Bondir at 24 Walden Ave. and expects to be ready to approve construction plans by next week. Design plans for the proposed restaurant Haute Coffee, 12 Walden St., are also nearing approval.

POLICE

Operational Services: On Monday, July 8, Officer Dirienzo took a report of a vehicle that had been stolen from Concord Crossing. The vehicle was parked outside the owner's apartment and was found missing when the owner returned home from a trip to California. The case is currently under investigation.

On Saturday July 20, Officer Shelley responded to a Silver Hill Road address for a report of a past larceny. Officer Shelley met with the homeowner who reported that over the past several weeks someone has been stealing cash from the residence. The homeowner provided a list a potential suspects and the case is under investigation.

Community Services: On Saturday July 20, Officers from the dayshift assisted with the Bike MS Ride through Concord. This annual bicycle ride takes place to raise awareness and donations for Multiple Sclerosis.

Administrative Services: The Department would like to welcome Ron Holsinger as one of its newest officers. Ron begins his field training assignment with Officer Tim Landers on Monday, July 22.

Paul Landini passed away this past week. He retired as Concord Police Sergeant and was a prominent member of the community. He also owned the Mill Dam Store on Main Street and his wife, Ginger, served with us as a crossing guard. Members of the Department assisted with services at his wake on Sunday and are attending his funeral on Monday.