

Town Manager's Report

Monday, March 5, 2012

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

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

FINANCE

March 6 Presidential Primary and Town Election: On Tuesday, March 6, Concord is holding two elections: the annual Town election and the Presidential Primary. Further information, including sample ballots, is available on the Town Clerk's web site.

FIRE

Unusual Emergency Responses: On Saturday afternoon, a car drove into building C at Newbury Court. There was no structural damage, but the wall did come in about 12 inches on one unit. No injuries were reported. The occupant of the affected unit has been relocated.

On Saturday evening, the Department responded to a small fire from the kiln at 119 Commonwealth Ave, Dabblers Hobbies and Café. Firefighters had to eject smoke and extinguish a small fire due to combustibles on the kiln. There was no structural damage.

Emergency Management: Deputy Kelley met with the CCHS design architects on the new building plans. A suitable community emergency shelter area was discussed as well as supporting utilities such as emergency power etc.

Other Items: The results from the Towns recent Insurance Services Office (ISO) re-classification are in. Concord has maintained the 'Class 4' rating. There are 112 other communities in the Commonwealth with a 'Class 4' designation. ISO's rating scale is from 1-10 (1 being the highest). ISO considers water supply, apparatus, staffing, training and many other factors during their evaluation. It has been 10 years since our last classification.

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Building and Inspections Division

Concord Lumber - New Lumber Shed is Built: The Building Division has signed off on Concord Lumber's new lumber shed at 126 Lowell Road. It was over a year ago during a February snowstorm that the old lumber shed collapsed. A portion of the new shed building

is located in the 100-year floodplain, is adjacent to wetlands, and is within the Main Street Historic District.

Planning Division

Planning Board: Last Tuesday night, the Planning Board approved the site plan for the proposed library and science center at the Fenn School, and made a favorable recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals on the amendment to the Moses Pond Planned Residential Development special permit to allow a room above the garage at 73 Wayside Road. The Board also discussed the continued public hearing for the two-lot definitive subdivision at 80 Squaw Sachem Trail, heard public comment, and at the request of the applicant, continued the matter again to the March 20 meeting. The Board also endorsed the Form F: Release of Lots and Form G-1: Assignment of Security by Lender's Agreement for 14A Strawberry Hill Road (Finigan Way), finalized its two nominees to the Historic Districts Commission, and volunteered for warrant article presentations at next Wednesday's public hearing.

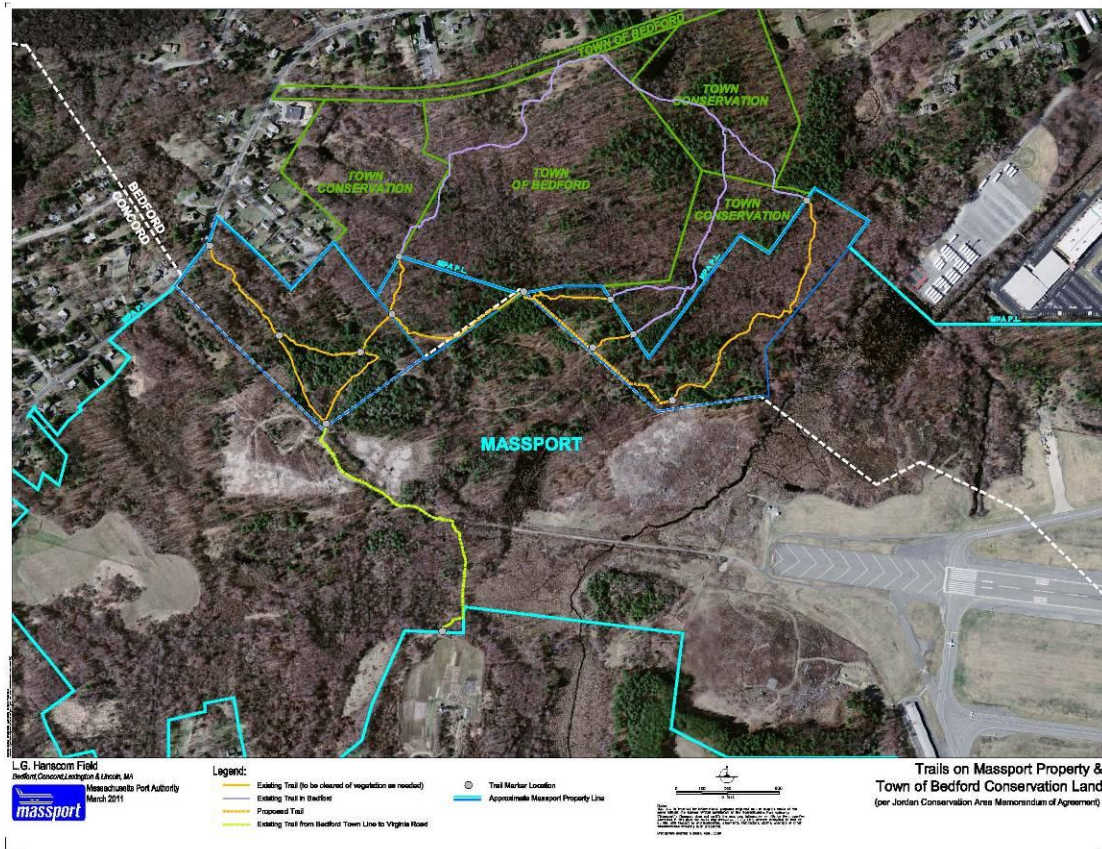
HOME Workshop: Now that Concord is part of the HOME Consortium, Senior Planner Lara Kritzer attended an intensive 2½ day introductory workshop about the HOME affordable housing program, which will help us better direct efforts to develop programs that address affordable housing needs.

White Pond and 13 Small, Town-owned Parcels: Director Rasmussen presented background and historical information at the Board of Selectmen's meeting on Wednesday. This was a preliminary discussion of the small Town-owned parcels that are scattered around White Pond, and the current opinion of Town staff that these parcels should continue to be owned by the Town.

Natural Resources Division

Proposed Development at Mill Brook Tarry: The owner of Mill Brook Tarry requested a meeting with DPLM staff to discuss proposed changes to the Mill Brook Tarry site at 91/97 Lowell Road. The proposed changes include constructing a new building next to the Citizen's Bank, reconfiguring the café to a full service restaurant with additional seating, an addition adjacent to Rite Aid (occupant unknown) and associated site improvements. In addition to this expansion, Mr. White is proposing architectural modifications to the existing buildings to make them more aesthetically complementary. This development will require Historic Districts, Public Works Water/Sewer Commission, Board of Appeals Special Permit and Site Plan Review and Natural Resources Commission approvals.

MassPort Trails: Natural Resources staff and the members of the Trails Committee met with representatives from the Bedford Trails Committee and MassPort to review trails on MassPort land leading from Bedford to Concord. A trail currently leads from Bedford to the conservation land leased to Gaining Ground, which will be blazed through Gaining Ground land to Virginia Road. These trails would ultimately connect to a larger network of trails that will extend to the Battle Road Trail.



Health Division

Concord Community Food Report: Health Inspector Gabrielle White has been working closely with the Conway School students on the Community Food Report. Gabrielle has shared her expertise on local agriculture, farm animal populations, and regulations pertaining to safe food handling so this information can be incorporated into the report.

Town Meeting Warrant Articles: Proposed articles relating to the hiring of an Animal Control Officer, a new Cat Bylaw, and Responsible Pet Ownership have generated a number of inquiries to the Health Division office. Administrative Assistant Karen Byrne has responded to multiple requests for historical information on the number of cats and dogs in Concord, the number of domestic animals quarantined, and results of all animals that have been sent to the DPH state laboratory to be tested for rabies.

Town of Lincoln Health Services Support: Stan Sosnicki has been providing technical guidance to the Lincoln Board of Health and School Superintendent on sewage design for Lincoln's new elementary and middle school complex.

Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) Wellness Grant Application: In conjunction with the Health Departments in Acton and Carlisle, the Health Division submitted a grant application to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. This grant application requests funding, which will be used to identify ADA accessible trails, with a particular focus on the use of OPDMD (Other Power Driven Mobility Devices), and to review and

recommend zoning, design guidelines, plans and/or other municipal standards that affect the built environment for inclusion of health elements, and to identify other opportunities for guideline development that would improve public health.

POLICE

Operational Services: On Tuesday, February 28, vandalism was reported to the stone wall at the bottom of Nashawtuc Rd. This is property of the Concord Land Trust. Rocks that make up the wall were knocked from their location. The incident is under investigation, and officers are making extra patrols of the area.

On Thursday, March 1, a housebreak was reported on Hunters Ridge Rd. The homeowner arrived home to hear voices inside the house. Entry was gained by breaking a rear window. Footprints were tracked by the K9 back out to the roadway. This appears to be similar to housebreaks that have occurred in Wayland and Sudbury. The case is under investigation, and officers are working on developing suspects.

On Saturday, March 3, a housebreak was reported on Walden St. The incident appears to have occurred on Friday, but was not noticed until later. Jewelry and prescription medication was taken. Entry was gained by forcing a cellar window.

Community Services: Officer Sylvia Toumayan and Officer Damon Reinold are attending the 40 hour Domestic Violence Services Network Volunteer Advocate Training. The program runs from February 27 to March 19. Sgt. Jack Kennedy is one of the trainers for this program.

On Tuesday, February 28, Sergeant Troiano participated in an emergency preparedness discussion at The Harvey Wheeler building in West Concord.

Administrative Services: Scheduling for second round interviews for Public Safety Dispatcher candidates begins this week.

PUBLIC WORKS

Junction Park Rehabilitation Project: CPW is in the process of finalizing the plan set, bid documents, and construction specifications for the internal design project. The project will be advertised the week of March 5 and plans and specifications are available on March 9. The project's bid opening is tentatively scheduled for the last week in March. The park rehabilitation will utilize Low Impact Development techniques and sustainable engineering practices with the replacement of the existing brick park surface with a porous paver system and installation of a new bioretention area to provide increased stormwater infiltration. Additionally, park amenities and landscaping will be upgraded. Construction is expected to begin within the Spring.

2012 Pavement Markings: CPW has received bids for the 2012 Pavement Markings Contract. The apparent low bidder was Hi-Way Safety Systems Inc. with a total bid of \$31,403.00. Once awarded, the contractor will apply pavement markings including center

lines, fog lines, crosswalks, stop bars, and other miscellaneous markings Town-wide. The anticipated start date of the project is on or about April 1, weather permitting, so the contractor can apply pavement markings along the Patriot's Day Parade Route before April 16.

2012 Crack Sealing: CPW has received bids for the 2012 Crack Sealing Contract. The apparent low bidder was Superior Sealcoat, Inc. with a total bid of \$29,865.00. Once awarded the contractor will seal cracks in the above listed roads with a hot-poured asphalt fiber compound which has been designed especially for improving strength and performance of asphalt pavements, which in turn extends the life expectancy of the road. The roads or portions thereof scheduled for crack sealing are; Monument Sq., Upland Rd, Main St, Lexington Rd, Lowell Rd, Edgewood Rd, Old Marlboro Rd, Pine St, Emerson Rd, Annursnac Hill Rd, Stow St, Harrington Ave, Old Pickard Rd, Nashawtuc Rd, Central St and Sudbury Rd. The anticipated start date of the project is on or about April 1 weather permitting so that the contractor can complete the work along the Patriots Day Parade Route to facilitate the pavement markings contractor also completing work prior to the Patriot's Day Parade.

2012 Roads Program Pavement and Soils Testing: CPW is in the process of awarding the Pavement and Soils Testing contract for the 2012 roads program to ATC Associates Inc. Once awarded the contractor will utilize a crew to cut pavement cores and sample the underlying sub-base soils at. Testing will then be performed on the soil samples. The core holes will be patched and the results of the testing submitted to the Engineering Division. The anticipated start date of this task is the 1st to 2nd week of March. The testing is an integral component in the Engineering Division completing the design and finalizing the project scope for the 2012 roads program.

Monument Street Retaining Wall: CPW and project design engineer CMA Engineers, conducted an onsite preconstruction meeting to discuss project commencement, traffic controls, construction staging and mobilization on Friday March 2. Mobilization for the project will begin Monday March 5, with the stockpiling of jersey barriers on the shoulder in front of the wall. Placement of barriers should commence Tuesday with excavation for the temporary pavement widening beginning on Wednesday. Alternating traffic should be anticipated during the barrier installation and temporary pavement work. Sheeting installation to support the roadway during wall rehabilitation is anticipated to begin next week.

CPW Storm Response: A slow moving winter storm with minor accumulation required significant response from CPW over the latter part of last week. CPW crews began pretreating all roads with brine on Tuesday morning and continued through noon Wednesday. Plowing activity began in the middle of the Wednesday night and all CPW plow staff called in for a 5:00 AM Thursday start. Plowing activity continued through noon Thursday. The alternate sanding/salting crew was in through the commuting time on Thursday night as temperatures began to drop and roads began refreezing. Highway staff returned at 5:00 AM on Friday to treat all roads again and to plow parking lots and sidewalks. Total storm accumulation over the two days was 5-6 inches with lots of moisture.

Additional freezing rain and sleet commenced late Friday night and sanding crews were called in again and were here through 4:30 AM on Saturday morning treating main roads and hills. Refreezing took place again late Saturday night into Sunday which required a sanding crew response again. **No contractors were involved for any storm response over last week.**