

# Town Manager's Report Monday, November 18, 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:** Excavation work is complete on the Station 1 oil/water separator drain project. The area is patched and awaiting final vent work by plumber.

Site excavation work on the Station 1 generator is complete. The area has been patched and will be ready for the generator when it arrives. Meanwhile, the contractor continues to prepare wiring, etc.

The Light Department has completed the installation of the concrete pads at the Harvey Wheeler facility in preparation for relocating the current Station 1 generator for use at that site.

**Apparatus:** Ladder 1 went out last week for some service/repairs. It is now back in service.

## **PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT**

### **Planning Division**

**Medical Marijuana:** Director Marcia Rasmussen participated in a panel discussion on zoning for medical marijuana facilities held for the MAPC South Shore Coalition members. Approximately 50 people attended. Three communities (Concord, Dennis and Norwell) presented the zoning bylaw amendment process and the status of facilities in the respective communities.

**West Concord Advisory Committee:** The WCAC invited the Concord Housing Development Corporation to present the various development scenarios for the former Dept. of Corrections land at their November 13 meeting. The meeting was held at the Thoreau School auditorium where 60-70 people attended. The CHDC is interested in hearing comments and feedback on the various scenarios to better focus the project. Director Rasmussen attended the presentation.

## **Natural Resources Division**

**Natural Resources Commission:** The NRC will hear the following applications at their November 20 Meeting: the after-the-fact Notice of Intent (NOI) to reconstruct a driveway at 24 Off Harrington Avenue; an NOI to demolish and reconstruct a single family house at 310 Lexington Road; an NOI to replace a retaining wall at 5C Shore Drive; and, an NOI to replace the septic system at 768 Elm Street.

**CISMA Meeting:** Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye attended the annual Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area meeting this week with local, regional, State, and federal conservation agencies and organizations. Part of the \$3 million Nyanza grant awarded to the US Fish and Wildlife Service funded the purchase of a new water chestnut harvester, canoes, paddles, and interns to control water chestnut in the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord River watersheds over a 3-year period. Other initiatives funded by the grant include purple loosestrife control, and mapping aquatic and terrestrial invasive species infestations in the watershed.

**Water Chestnut Harvesting:** Assistant Natural Resources Director Lori Capone attended a meeting with US Fish and Wildlife, the Town of Lincoln, Concord Land Conservation Trust and the Hop Brook Protection Association to discuss use of the new harvester purchased with the Nyanza Restoration funds. Two harvesters will now be available for use by the consortium. Water Chestnut efforts in Concord and Lincoln have been managed with hand pulling the last two years; however, a large population has recently been discovered in Framingham, which if left unmanaged, will impact populations throughout the Sudbury River Watershed.

## **Building Inspections Division**

**Zoning Board of Appeals:** The Board of Appeals reviewed eleven applications at its November 14 hearing. Ten of the eleven applications were approved with conditions – renewal of special home occupations at 414 Powder Mill Rd. and 40 Westford Rd.; additional dwelling units at 343 Nashawtuc Rd. and 401 Elm St.; lodging for farm employees at 449 Barrett's Mill Rd.; reconstruction of a nonconforming structure at 41 Monument St.; demolition and reconstruction/extension/alteration of a nonconforming structure at 104 Bolton St.; relief from parking requirements at 97-105 Lowell Road; renewal of temporary accessory use at 1400 Lowell Road; and, a sign variance for 143 Sudbury Road. Emerson Hospital's sign variance request was continued to December 12. Building Inspector Laurie Livoli, Administrative Assistant Andrew Mara and Director Marcia Rasmussen provided staff support to the ZBA.

**Construction Activity:** The Building Inspections Division is very busy, a good sign that the economy is improving. In this short week the Division has conducted 29 electrical inspections, 21 plumbing inspections and 51 building inspections. Building permit issuance is at a record high, including issuance of 48 new homes as of this date. Many solar permits have been issued as a result of Concord's solar challenge to homeowner's and local businesses.

**Fire Safety Inspections of Establishments that Serve Alcohol:** The Ch.304 inspections have been completed in coordination with the Fire Department. These inspections are part of MGL Chapter 304 of the Acts of 2004, the Massachusetts Fire Safety Act; initiated as a result of the tragedy at the Rhode Island "Station Night Club" fire that occurred ten years ago. Each year all establishments that serve alcohol are inspected by Fire and Building Inspections staff together. This coordinated inspection ensures that all safety aspects are met, and approval of this inspection enables the Board of Selectman to then issue an annual liquor license. This year was a notable year because many establishments were in compliance and did not require re-inspection.

### **Health Division**

**Septic Upgrade, Papa Razzi Restaurant, 768 Elm St.:** Assistant Health Director Stan Sosnicki is reviewing plans for upgrade of the 8,400 gallons per day (gpd) on-site sewage disposal system at Papa Razzi. The system will include a Bioclere advanced innovative/alternative treatment unit.

### **POLICE**

**Operational Services:** On Wednesday November 13, Sgt. Connell, Officer Toumayan and Officer Capone responded to the Emerson Hospital emergency department for a patient out of control. Upon arrival, officers located the patient in the triage area and quickly subdued her. Due to the fact that the patient was intoxicated and refusing medical treatment, the patient was placed into protective custody. The subject was taken to the police station for processing and she was held until sober enough to be released.

On Thursday November 14, Officer Mearn responded to the area of 363 ORNAC for a report of bones being found in the area. The bones, which appeared to be remains of an animal, were collected and forwarded to the State Medical Examiner's Office for analysis.

On Thursday November 14, Sgt. Kennedy, Officer Hodgson and Officer McGrath responded to a Riverside Ave residence as part of an investigation into a report of domestic violence. Officers spoke with all parties involved and determined that a female subject had been assaulted by her boyfriend. Officers placed the boyfriend under arrest and charged him with assault, assault and battery and intimidation of a witness. The subject was held overnight until his court appearance the next morning.

**Community Services:** Sergeant Kennedy assisted the Domestic Violence Services Network (DVSN) this past week with training for Emerson Hospital staff. He will continue working to train hospital staff throughout the upcoming weeks.

**Administrative Services:** The Department was recently awarded a grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety for underage alcohol enforcement. This grant allows the Department to perform activities such as compliance checks, shoulder taps (minors solicit

adults to buy alcohol under supervision of law enforcement), and surveillance patrols. Officers will be conducting enforcement activities over the next several months.

The Department placed an announcement in local newspapers for the hiring of a police officer. The Department is advertising for Massachusetts trained officers who hold degrees in the field of Criminal Justice. The application deadline is December 13, 2013.