

Town Manager's Report

Monday, November 25, 2013

To: Board of Selectmen
From Christopher Whelan, Town Manager

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

FINANCE

Distinguished Budget Award: The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has announced yet again that The Town of Concord has received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget.

From the GFOA: "The award represents a significant achievement by the entity. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well the entity's budget serves as:

- A policy document
- A financial plan
- An operations guide
- A communications device"

In presenting this award to the Town, a Certificate of Recognition is also presented to Concord's Finance Department in recognition of the Department and its staff's primary role in preparing the budget document.

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Building Inspections Division

New Solar Farm at Former Landfill Permitted: A building permit has been issued this week to construct a 1.72 Megawatt DC solar farm (5830 solar panels) at the former Town landfill at 777 Walden Street. This project was previously reviewed and approved by the Planning Board. The project will be built by Kearsarge Concord LLC with the entire electricity generated by this facility sold back to the Concord Municipal Light Plant and distributed to Concord subscribers throughout the Town. This project is valued at \$2.86 million.

Health Division

Creating Healthy Communities Workshop: The Community Health Network Area 15 (CHNA15) and the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail brought walkable communities

expert Mark Fenton to Acton to present ideas and approaches for building community health through design. Public Health Inspector Gabrielle White and Director Marcia Rasmussen attended the workshop.

Planning Division

Community Preservation Committee: The CPC held their annual public hearing on Monday, November 18, to provide an opportunity for the public to learn about this year's applications for CPA funding and voice any concerns. CPC Chair Chris Toomey gave a brief presentation on each of the projects submitted for potential funding at the 2014 Annual Town Meeting before opening the meeting to public discussion. A number of members present raised concerns with the design and funding of the Concord Carlisle at Play Application for Field Renovations at the Concord Carlisle High School. Other attendees asked questions about the proposed natural playscape application from the Concord Children's Center, the restoration work proposed for the Rogers Land, and the proposed funding of the Concord Housing Development Corporation's project at Junction Village. The CPC will take these comments and concerns into account when they begin deliberating on their 2014 funding recommendations in December.

Historic Districts Commission: The Commission met on Thursday to review one new and two continued applications for Certificates of Appropriateness. The Commission then voted to approve the construction of a new house at 445 Lowell Road, Lot 3, with the paint color and landscaping to be approved at a later time, and to approve the installation of new windows on the ground floor level of 30 Monument Square. The Commission also met with representatives of 24-26 Walden Street to discuss their plans to address the accessibility issues at the building, install new lighting, and correct the installed doors and windows on the building. The Commission also discussed its upcoming meeting schedule and voted to cancel its December 19 meeting and to reschedule its January meetings to January 9 and 23.

Planning Board: The Planning Board met with Millbrook Tarry developer/owner Jim White on Tuesday to discuss potential zoning bylaw amendments that may be necessary to move forward with redevelopment of the site as its been envisioned, primarily by establishing a new Limited Business District #9. Zoning Bylaw amendments will continue to be discussed at the next meeting on Tuesday, December 3.

Historical Commission: On Thursday, the Historical Commission held its second public hearing on the proposed amendment to the Demolition Delay bylaw. Although post cards were sent to all properties that will be impacted by the revised bylaw (1,230 structures), only 8 people attended the hearing. Good questions were asked, and suggestions made to improve the process and provide property owners who want to sell with some assurance about the timeframe for delay.