

## **Town Manager's Report September 16, 2014**

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

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

- **National Park Service Commendation** – On Thursday, September 11, 2014 Concord Fire Department was unexpectedly visited by Nancy Nelson, Superintendent of the Minuteman National Historic Park, and the Fire Chief for the National Park Service along with 20 Park Service firefighters from across the country to make a presentation to the Department. Fire Chief Mark Cotreau and Concord Fire were given an award for their ongoing service to the Minuteman National Historic Park and especially for their care and good work at the Wayside Inn fire several years ago. The plaque is unique and handmade from several types of wood. Concord Fire is deeply appreciative of the National Park Service recognition as it highlights the good work they do on a day to day basis to protect our community.
  
- **PUBLIC HEARING – WALDEN POND VISITORS CENTER**

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Department of Conservation and Recreation**

### **PUBLIC MEETING**

#### **WALDEN POND STATE RESERVATION VISITORS CENTER PROPOSED DESIGN**

- Tuesday, September 30, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Harvey Wheeler Community Center Auditorium
- 1276 Main Street, Concord, MA
  
- At this meeting, DCR will present, and obtain public input on, the proposed design for a new visitor center and accompany improvements

at Walden Pond State Reservation. The presentation will be viewable after the meeting on DCR's website at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/public-outreach/public-meetings/>.

- If you have comments regarding the proposed design, please email [DCR.Updates@state.ma.us](mailto:DCR.Updates@state.ma.us), noting "Walden" in the subject line or write to DCR Office of Public Outreach, 251 Causeway St., 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02114. The deadline for comments is Tuesday, October 14, 2014. If you have questions about the public meeting, please call 617-626-4974 or email [DCR.Updates@state.ma.us](mailto:DCR.Updates@state.ma.us).

- **Youth Services –**

- Carlos and Melida Arredondo will be joining us in Concord on **October 5th to kick off the Out of Darkness Walk** by speaking at the opening ceremony. You may remember Carlos as the "man in the white cowboy hat" from the Boston Marathon. Carlos and Melida are dedicated to suicide prevention awareness programs to honor Brian Arredondo, Carlos' son, who died by suicide in 2011. You can read more about Carlos and Melida's story here: <http://www.foxsports.com/other/story/how-carlos-arredondo-a-man-in-a-white-cowboy-hat-rode-to-rescue-at-the-boston-marathon-041414>
- As Carlos has said in interviews "I want everybody to know we have the capacity to help one another and share in times of grief. It's important to be human." Our walk will be just that - an opportunity to help one another and be human. How can you help? PLEASE WALK - invite a friend, family member or neighbor to join you at our walk. <http://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=2668>

- **Senior Services –**

- The COA is preparing to introduce some evening programming for seniors beginning on September 15<sup>th</sup> with an Acrylic Painting class being taught by Linda Macone. Interested seniors may contact the office at 978-318-3020 for more information.

- The roof replacement project at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center was completed this past week. Work on attic insulation is scheduled to begin later in the fall.
- The COA continues to offer individual computer tutoring to Concord seniors free of charge. Private sessions are taught by both high school students and adult volunteers. In addition to computer skills, the COA also teaches classes on the use of Facebook, cell phones, skype, ipad and kindles.
- The COA will be pleased to welcome Senator Mike Barrett for a presentation at 11am on Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.

- **Concord Public Works –**

- **Monument Square Holiday Tree** – Planning is underway for the removal of the existing Holiday Tree located at the Monument Square flagpole. The tree was originally planted in 1961 in recognition of Town of Concord Tree Warden, Charles F. Myette through a donation by the Inde-Cott Garden Club. Unfortunately, for several years the Colorado Blue Spruce has been heavily infected with, Cytospora cankers, a disease for which there is no known control. The disease causes stem cankers, which destroy conductive tissue and eventually leads to the trees death.

The Rotary Club of Concord has graciously volunteered to donate a mature evergreen tree, with increased disease resistance. Coordination with Mr. Myette's family has occurred to place a granite marker at this location to continue to mark Charles F. Myette's contributions to the Town of Concord.

- **Recreation Department- Beede Center –**

- The Beede Center's Swim Registration began on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 am for all classes except water fitness which registration begins at 7 am. It was a busy day, of the 334 transaction processed on Monday, 232 transaction were in-house and 102 transactions were processed on the web. The reception staff did a phenomenal job processing all the registrations in a timely manner so as not to disadvantage any of the customers that came in person. These transactions translated to \$12,200 of revenue from the web and \$38,000 from walk-ins for the first day of registration.
- Construction continues with work being conducted outside-the large openings from the outside into the Storage room have begun—noise and disruption to

the membership is minimal. Inside-in the boiler room the concentration of work this week has been to finish the breeching on all the boilers, insulate the pipes and install the water softener unit.

- **Veterans Services –**

- We had a client who had some emergency medical issue and was transported via ambulance to Emerson Hospital and then to the VA hospital at Jamaica Plain. My client received bills for Emerson Hospital and the ambulance ride which I am assisting the veteran in appealing. I will be hand delivering the appeal to the office of Congresswomen Niki Tsongas in Lowell.
- I am also assisting a service connected disabled veteran in getting real estate tax relief that is referred to as clause 22. Clause 22 is a benefit for veterans who are 10% or greater disabled as a result of their military service and provides a \$400 to \$800 tax break.
- Finally, assisting a veteran at an assisted living facility obtaining a VA veterans pension.

- **Community Services –**

- **Community Services** had **6 office visits** this week and continues to assist families with completing their fuel assistance re-certification applications.
- Anyone who is interested in applying for fuel assistance or for information about energy assistance programs, please contact Aileen Buford, Community Services Coordinator 978.318.3034 for income eligibility requirements and an application packet.
- **Concord Cares** is an emergency oil disbursement program providing up to 75 gallons of emergency oil. To apply, contact **Community Services Coordinator – Aileen Buford** at 978.318.3034. If 60 or above, contact the **Council on Aging** at 978.318.3020. After hours emergency need contact the **Concord Fire Dept.** at 978.318.3488 or the **Concord Police Dept.** at 978.318.3400.
- **Community Services** collaborated with Hugh Cargill Trust, The St. Vincent De Paul Society, The Concord Municipal Light Plant, the Concord Carlisle Community Chest, SMOC, SNAP, The Concord Housing Authority, The Food for Families program, Concord Elementary Schools, Salvation Army and The First Parish Church to assist **14 families** with various services such as paying utility bills, housing costs, assisting with applying for fuel assistance and food assistance programs as well as housing issues.

- **Community Services and Youth Services** launched the **NEW & IMPROVED Social Service Resource Guide** along with the Inaugural edition of the Youth and Community Services Newsletter.
  
- **Department of Planning and Land Management**
  - **Building Inspections Division**
  - Permit activity: As of Friday morning, the Building Inspections Division staff had conducted 58 building inspections, 28 plumbing inspections and 45 electrical inspections.
  - Emerson Hospital: Building Inspector Laurie Livoli continues to meet with Emerson Hospital staff regarding bringing their stairways up to building code compliance because the baluster spacing and handrails do not meet the current code requirements. The hospital has encumbered funds for the worst stairways, with the understanding that within the next fiscal year, which starts October 15, all should be completed by the end of fiscal year.
  - **Planning Division**
  - Community Preservation Committee: The CPC held their annual informational workshop on Wednesday night (9/10/14) at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center. The Committee heard potential project ideas from both Town and Non Profit organizations in all four potential funding categories (Community Housing, Historic Preservation, Recreation and Open Space) and anticipated having approximately \$1.5 million available for allocation at the 2015 Annual Town Meeting. The CPC's deadline for new applications is Friday, September 26. Application materials can be found on the Town's website at [www.concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA\\_CPC/index](http://www.concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA_CPC/index).
  - Zoning Board of Appeals: The ZBA met Thursday night (9/11/14) to hear the continued application of Symes Development for a 22-unit Planned Residential Development off Commerford Road, which was again continued to October 9<sup>th</sup>; a site visit was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. The Board also heard and granted the application of Stevens and McIntyre for a variance to allow construction of a greenhouse 30.1 feet from the front property line at 26 Simon Willard Road. The application of Normandy Concord Acquisition LLC, for a 3-story extended stay hotel at 320 Baker Avenue was continued to October 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - Concord Historical Commission: The CHC met on Thursday evening (9/11/14) to review both current and ongoing projects, which includes: the updated plans for accessibility improvements at the Concord Armory; the status of the McGrath Farm Archaeology Project; current progress on the Wheeler-Harrington House studies; and, a potential project to restore the fountain located on Route 2 in front of MCI Concord (the original Reformatory Building). The Commission

finalized the project prospectus for the joint Archaeology project between the Town and Brandeis University and authorized its distribution.

- Bruce Freeman Rail Trail: Town staff from Planning and Public Works met with the primary design engineer and a railroad crossing specialist to discuss the scope of work for the rail trail to cross the commuter rail line in West Concord. Planning staff also met with BFRT Advisory Committee member Judy LaRocca, Selectmen Carmin Reiss and Representative Cory Atkins to discuss the historic and cultural resources in West Concord that are within the State's right-of-way, which we hope to have incorporated and interpreted in the final design for the trail.
- **Health Division**
- Flu Clinics Scheduled: The Health Division, in conjunction with the Council-on-Aging will hold its annual seasonal influenza clinic for seniors at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center on Thursday, October 8, 2014 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Emerson Hospital Home Care (EHC) will administer the vaccines. Health Division staff has also coordinated a Town Employee Flu Clinic with EHC for Monday, October 21, 2014 between 11 am – 1:00 pm at 141 Keyes Road – 1st Floor Conference Room. EHC continues to be excellent partners in assisting the Town in carrying out this important preventative health initiative to Town residents and Town employees.
- Concord Farm & Garden Fair: Public Health Inspector Gabrielle White has been reviewing last minute menu changes for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Stone Soup Dinner to be held this Sunday at Verrill Farm. Permits have been issued to 13 local restaurants participating in this event.
- SaltBox Farm Restaurant: Public Health Inspector White also completed the kitchen plan review for SaltBox Farm Restaurant and issued an approval letter to construct a 15 seat restaurant and brewery at the former Concord Outfitters location at 84 Commonwealth Ave.
- **Natural Resources Division**
- Natural Resources Commission: New applications received for the September 17<sup>th</sup> NRC meeting include: a Request for Determination of Applicability for National Grid to install a new gas line in Bartkus Farm Road; an Amended NOI for 1373 Monument Street to repair and stabilize driveway side slopes; and a Notice of Intent for Middlesex School at 1400 Lowell Road to construct a guard house, new residence hall with new parking, improvements to the boathouse walkway and dock, and tree management. Continued hearings that are scheduled include: a Notice of Intent (NOI) for 55 Estabrook Road to install a new driveway and an NOI to construct a 22-unit Planned Residential Development at 140 Commerford Road. Orders of Conditions will be issued for additions at 300 Main Street and demolition and reconstruction of a new single family house at 84 Bruce Road.

- Old Calf Pasture Invasive Species Management: One quote was received by the due date this week from the New England Wild Flower Society for the 2014 and 2015 invasive species management at Old Calf Pasture. Pending successful contract negotiations, work may begin as early as next week.
- Gaining Ground Site Visit: Town Manager Chris Whelan, Director Marcia Rasmussen, and Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye met with representatives of Gaining Ground to view recent improvements to the town-owned farmland off Virginia Road including the recently constructed hoop house, the new irrigation well, and a wood/wire deer fence. Potential locations for a future barn under consideration by Gaining Ground were also evaluated.

### **Concord Municipal Light department**

- **Saddleback Ridge Wind Project:** In October of 2012 Concord Light sent a Letter Of Intent to Energy New England indicating our interest in a share of the output from the 33 megawatt Saddleback Ridge Wind Project, Carthage, ME. The terms of the power supply agreement have been agreed to with Concord's share of the output estimated at four million kilowatt hours annually or about two percent of our needs. This project is being developed by Patriot Renewables, LLC who also developed the Spruce Mountain Wind Project, Woodstock, ME. The project scope includes twelve turbines of which three are scheduled to be commissioned in late November of 2014. The remaining nine turbines will be constructed over the next several months with the intent for the entire facility to be fully operational by mid-September of 2015

### **Concord Public Works -**

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