



TOWN OF CONCORD

Town Manager's Report



Week Of: June 29 , 2015

PRELIMINARY PROPERTY TAX BILLS MAILED

Preliminary property tax bills for Fiscal Year 2016 have been mailed to Concord taxpayers. First quarter payments are due in the Treasurer-Collector's Office at the Town House by 4:30 PM on Monday, August 3, 2015. Post-marks will not verify timely payment. Interest at a rate of 14% per year will accrue from the due date on overdue payments.

Fiscal year 2016 begins on July 1, 2015 and ends on June 30, 2016. Tax bills for the first two quarters will be preliminary and based on Fiscal Year 2015 taxes, with an adjustment for an increase. The increase calculated on the preliminary tax bill for Fiscal Year 2016 is 2.98% for most parcels.

Tax bills for the third and fourth quarters (bills due February 1, 2016 and May 1, 2016) will show the balance of the actual Fiscal Year 2016 assessment, based upon the tax rate to be set in December.

Concord taxpayers who have not received a preliminary tax bill should call the Treasurer-Collector's Office at 978-318-3050.

Please be advised that Treasury Office summer hours (from July 6 through September 4) are Monday-Thursday 8:30AM – 5:00PM and Fridays 8:30AM – 12:00PM. Treasury office hours for the week of July 27-July 31 will revert back to 8:30AM – 4:30PM.

While the first quarter tax bills for fiscal year 2016 have been mailed, the fiscal year does not begin until July 1, 2015. Therefore, in accordance with Department of Revenue guidelines, tax payments cannot be accepted until July 1. The Town online payment system will be available as of July 1, 2015.

Inventory Sale on Strawberries & Streetcars!!

The highly acclaimed 242-page publication Concord in the Days of Strawberries and Streetcars by the late Concord author Renee Garrelick is now available at the rock-bottom price of \$5.00, while supplies last. Originally published in 1985 and updated in 1999, Ms. Garrelick's book is a wonderful window into Concord's past. The story of earlier twentieth-century life unfolds through the oral history memories of its long-time residents as they describe Concord's transition from a small country town. The book originally sold for \$25-30. Copies are available at this reduced price at the Town Clerk's Office, 22 Monument Square, weekdays from 8:30 to 4:30. Cash or checks are accepted for payment.

Town Clerk's Office Hosts Area Funeral Directors for Workshop

The Town Clerk's Office recently hosted a workshop for area funeral directors given by staff of the State Office of Vital Records & Statistics. The workshop was well attended, with 16 area funeral directors and staff participating. Last September, the State Department of Public Health initiated an online death registration system, requiring all deaths that had formerly been recorded only on paper, to now be completed and registered electronically, using a secure state website. The system is similar to a state-wide system in use for birth registrations, which has been operating since 2011.

The electronic death system was designed to provide for a more timely and accurate issuance of death certificates. What in the past could take over a week for the paperwork to physically flow between affected parties can now be accurately completed in a matter of days, which is critically important for families and public health surveillance. The system was designed for physicians and medical practitioners to certify the cause and circumstances of death online at the time of occurrence, prior to the record being electronically recorded and released by the Town Clerk. Unfortunately, Emerson Hospital and most of their affiliated physicians are not active participants in the online death system. The workshop provided state officials with a first-hand record of the problems that have been encountered in Concord, and state officials offered some tips on navigating the system on a temporary basis without the participation of Emerson Hospital and medical certifiers. At the workshop, state officials were committed to working with Emerson Hospital to gain their cooperation and participation in the program, which has been successfully implemented throughout most of Massachusetts.

FRIENDLY REMINDER



There is no Public swimming at White Pond for the Summer of 2015.

The temporary signage will be replaced with permanent, heavier, and more visible signage sometime within the next two weeks. For more information, please see the town's webpage: http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_Planning/white%20pond%20info



Voter Registration Available Online

The Secretary of State's Office has announced that online voter registration system is now available on the State's web site: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>. This important advancement will make registration easier and more convenient, and will reduce costs relating to the printing of voter registration forms. There is also a link from the Town Clerk's web page: www.concordma.gov – click "Elections & Voting" from the home page. Any Massachusetts resident who (1) will be 18 years of age or older by election day; (2) is a U.S. citizen; (3) is not currently incarcerated for a felony conviction; and (4) has a valid identification card or license issued by the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles may use the online voter registration system to register to vote, update an address, or change party enrollment. Massachusetts citizens who do not have identification issued by the RMV can still complete an application online, which can then be printed, signed and mailed or hand-delivered to the Town Clerk's Office. Concord residents who use this option should mail the completed form to: Town Clerk, P.O. Box 535, Concord, MA 01742. Now is the time to visit the web site to check your voter registration status and make any updates as necessary—don't wait until an election is upon us.

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Health Division

Routine Health Division Activities: Septic system permitting: 2 septic system deep test holes witnessed; 4 reviews of septic design plans for permitting; 5 septic field inspections; 1 Certificate of compliance issued. 3 Building Reviews and 1 Sewer Review completed. 2 well permits issued.

Food service: 2 final inspections and licensing of Trails End Café new bar and 50 seat restaurant expansion. Review of replacement of a wood fired grill in disrepair at Papa Razzi. Review of New Leaf Café (located at the recently renamed 'Middlesex Green' office park on Virginia Road) changes to a previously approved plan for a 103 seat restaurant and site visit to review construction and permitting questions. Review of Dunkin Donuts plan to renovate the Sudbury Road facility; approval for renovation plans was issued. 1 caterer permit issued.

Other: 8 camp pre-operational inspections and permits to operate issued; 3 camp re-inspections. Provided follow up on illegal camp operation reported to the Health Division by the City of Newton, and follow up to determine if another program identified qualifies as a camp. Issued beach closure at Silverhill Beach on Thursday 6/25 after water tests exceeded allowable limits for swimming; the beach was re-sampled and re-opened on Friday 6/26. Consulted with MDPH beach coordinator regarding changes to the beach regulation 105 CMR 445.00.

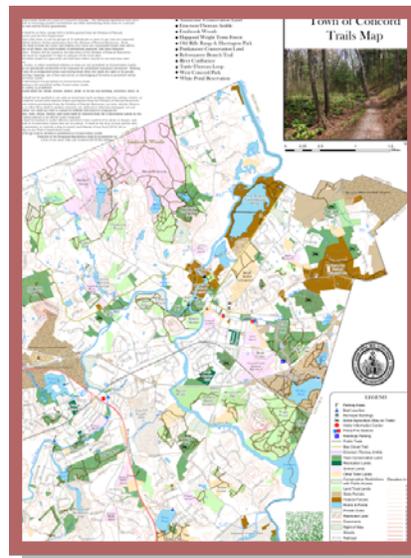
Annual contracts: Administrative Assistant Karen Byrne worked with the Finance Department to revise and finalize FY16 budget contracts for Emerson Hospital Home Care (Public Health Nursing Services), the Town of Lincoln (inter-municipal contract for Health Inspectional Services), and the Eastern Middlesex Mosquito Control Program (mosquito control services).

Meetings attended: Public Health Director Susan Rask attended a meeting of the Concord Youth Substance Abuse Prevention team, and the monthly meeting of Public Health Emergency Preparedness Region 4A.

Natural Resources Commission

New applications received this week for the July 8th NRC meeting include: a Notice of Intent for Damonmill Square Properties to repair and maintain the existing dam, stabilize the embankment, repair a section of wall, remove trees, and close the headrace and tailrace; a Request for Determination of Applicability for 129 Everett Street to determine whether a portion of the existing ditch on 135 Everett Street is a resource area and whether the proposed demolition and reconstruction of the single family house at 129 Everett Street is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act and the Concord Wetlands Bylaw; and, an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation to confirm the wetland resource area boundary at 577 Monument Street.

2015 Trails Map: The Division of Natural Resources has developed a new trail map showing all trails that are open to the public which is now available for purchase at the Division of Natural Resources Office at 141 Keyes Road and at the Town House at 22 Monument Square. You can also access the trail map on the Division of Natural Resources webpage at: <http://concordma.gov/pages/Concord->





NEWS & NOTICES

Youth Services Coordinator, Jennifer Clarke serves on the steering committee at 2Volunteer – a community based organization partnering with CCHS to help kids learn the value and importance of service to others.

Ongoing and special opportunities for teen community service are posted regularly throughout the summer @ www.2volunteeronline.org.

Check it out!

Veterans' Services

The office of veterans' services assisted a veteran from WWII, and his spouse, in obtaining no-cost prescriptions from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). Many do not realize that the DVA will run a financial means *test* on any veteran to determine the costs of their prescription benefits where applicable.

The State Fire Marshal's office and the Town's Fire Department were informed by the Concord Veteran's Service Officer of a half-staff flag notification issued by the state for a Massachusetts resident/active service member killed in combat; the flag was lowered on Tuesday to honor this soldier.

The family of a deceased Vietnam veteran contacted the office requesting assistance in obtaining a US Government marker for their father. This marker is provided for free for war time veterans (*90 days or more of active duty*) and peace time veterans (*180 days or more of active duty, excluding all training*). In addition, the Town of Concord placed the marker on the Veteran's grave-site at no cost.

The office was contacted by the office of Employment Training Resources Career Center in Framingham. The office called to offer assistance with local veterans in need of employment or if they are "*under employed*". We will be working together to assist local veterans perusing employment.

The remainder of the VA's service was consumed with local veterans checking-in regarding their monthly paperwork for their benefits and reimbursements which are provided by the state at a rate of 75%.

Planning Division

Planning Board meeting on June 23rd: The Board voted to recommend that the Board of Appeals grant an amendment to a Special Permit to Thoreau Realty Trust for transfer of development rights that will allow the development of the Black Birch Lane PRD consistent with the Alternative PRD authorized by the 2015 Annual Town Meeting. The Board also heard a presentation from the developer of the Black Birch PRD and continued discussion of the application to the July 14th meeting to allow resolution of minor stormwater drainage issues and drafting of a recommendation to the Board of Appeals for the granting of the Special Permit with conditions. The Board also accepted a request to withdraw without prejudice the application of Symes Development for a Preliminary Subdivision Plan off Commerford Road.

Battle Road Scenic Byway Committee on June 25th: Senior Planner Lara Kritzer and Assistant Public Works Engineer Ian McKenzie represented Concord at the Battle Road Scenic Byway meeting where the Committee met with Sheri Bates of Selbert Perkins Design to review draft logo and sign for the Battle Road Scenic Byway. This design work is expected to be completed this summer and ready to present to the four member communities and National Park Service in early fall. The Committee also discussed the need to develop a local stakeholder group to assist in further developing the byway, the website and interpretive materials, the strategy for sign locations, and the possibility of developing apps and other guides for the area. The Committee meets again on July 30 in the Lincoln Town Hall.

Regional Housing Services Office (RHSO): RHSO staff Dan Gaulin and Senior Planner Lara Kritzer completed the Environmental Review process for two Concord Housing Authority projects, which allows the projects to move forward. Dan has also prepared the HOME commitment documents that will be presented to the Concord Select Board in July for acceptance of HOME funds in support of the four additional housing units at Peter Bulkeley Terrace. The amendment to the Intermunicipal Agreement has been signed by the seven participating communities (Acton, Bedford, Burlington, Concord, Lexington, Sudbury and Weston) and the RHSO staff is ready to begin a new year. Information about the RHSO is available on their new website at: <http://www.rhsohousing.org/>.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail: Design consultant Greenman Pedersen, Inc. (GPI) submitted the BFRT Phase 2C 75% design plans to MassDOT on June 19th and the BFRT Right-of-Way plans were submitted on June 22nd. The groundbreaking ceremony for Phase 2A was held in Acton at NARA Park on Thursday, June 25th – the event celebrated 30 years effort so far in creating this resource that will connect neighborhoods and communities. We all hope that it doesn't take another 30

