



TOWN OF CONCORD

Town Manager's Report

March 31, 2015

Concord Light Department

Dave Wood, Director: concordlight@concordma.gov

Overhead Line Clearance: Over the last several weeks, you may have seen a number of bucket trucks trimming trees around power lines in Town. This is CMLP's latest iteration of our overhead line clearance program. This effort is very important to minimizing the impact that Concord's dense tree canopy can have on electric reliability. Last Fall we solicited bids for tree contractors to tackle approximately 60% of Concord's overhead distribution system north of Route 2. Mayer Tree Service answered the call with a competitive bid and began work in December. The extreme winter this year slowed progress but Mayer has dedicated extra crews this month in an effort have the project completed in May.

Suspension of Weekend Service to support Construction

Service Alert – No Weekend Service on Fitchburg Main Line

April 25th, 2015 - November 22nd, 2015

Construction of major improvements on the Fitchburg Main Line will continue through the 2015 season. This 3rd year of the Commuter Rail Improvement Project will continue improvements to track, signal, bridges, and stations to reduce trip times and increase service reliability on the line.~ To facilitate the efficient completion of this work, **weekend service will again be suspended on the Fitchburg Main Line beginning April 25th, 2015 through November 22nd, 2015. Substitute busing will not be provided.** Normal Weekend (Sunday) service will operate on the Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving weekends. Prior to the extended weekend shutdown program, there will be two (2) weekends where bus service between Littleton Station and Concord Station will be employed on the line to allow for Track and Signal improvements to support the upcoming bridge and track work schedule. **Busing between Littleton Station and Concord Station will support existing weekend service on the weekends of March 28th-29th and April 11th-12th, 2015.**

Commuters seeking additional information can access project updates at: http://www.mbta.com/about_the_mbta/t_projects/default.asp?id=15585.

Town Clerk's Office

Anita Tekle: TownClerk@concordma.gov

TOWN ELECTION MARCH 31— POLLS OPEN FROM NOON TO 8:00 PM

Reminder that the Town Election is being held on Tuesday, March 31 from Noon to 8:00 pm. The election is to fill the following positions: Town Moderator, Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Concord Housing Authority. A sample ballot may be viewed on the Town's web site — www.concordma.gov – click "Elections & Voting." Note that the polls will open at Noon!

DOG LICENSING: Tuesday, March 31st is the last day to license your dog in Concord for 2015 without paying a penalty. Licensing may be done online at the Town's web site (www.concordma.gov – click "Online Payments"), in person at the Town Clerk's Office, or by mail. A valid rabies vaccination is required before licensing. If you use a local veterinarian and have licensed your dog with us in the past, we most likely have the rabies information in our database. Feel free to contact the Town Clerk's Office to verify rabies status before licensing – 978-318-3080 or via e-mail at townclerk@concordma.gov.

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

If you are not currently registered to vote in Concord, the deadline for doing so in order to participate in the April 14 Special Town Meeting is Friday, April 3. The Town Clerk's Office will be open until 8:00 pm on Friday, April 3 for last-minute voter registrations. Registration may be done in person at the Town Clerk's Office, or by mail. A PDF-fillable form may be downloaded from the Town's web site – www.concordma.gov – click "Elections & Voting." Mail-in registrations must be postmarked by April 3rd in order to qualify for the Special Town Meeting.

FY14 Audited Financial Statements and the 2015 Finance Committee Report are now available online . Please click below for more information

FY14 Audited Financial Statements: http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_Finance/Concord%20MA%20Final%20FS14.pdf

Finance Committee Report 2015 ATM: http://www.concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA_BComm/2015%20FinCom%20Report%20-%20Final.pdf



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Spring 2015 Barrel Stickers & Curbside Invoices

The spring 2015 trash barrel stickers are now available for sale at the Town House and retail establishments. Please note that the spring 2015 barrel stickers and curbside invoices cover a 5 month period (May 1, 2015 – Sept. 30, 2015) rather than the usual six-month term, and are priced accordingly (\$32.50 per barrel sticker; \$95.83 curbside invoice). The 5 month term will be a one-time occurrence. Effective October 1, 2015, the barrel stickers and curbside invoices will revert to six-month terms. This one-time change was made in an effort to avoid the curbside and real estate tax billing cycles from overlapping going forward. Please feel free to call (978) 318-3240 with any questions.

Pothole Patching and Response Strategy

CPW Highway Division has added to its fleet of roadway rehabilitation equipment with the March 13th delivery of a Falcon Hot Box and Asphalt Recycler. This unit allows CPW roadway crews to obtain up to 6 tons of bituminous asphalt and keep the material at the prescribed temperature through the day and overnight. This provides roadway repair crews with sufficient time to make repairs to potholes using hot mix asphalt which is substantially more durable than using cold patch. In addition, old asphalt and millings can now be recycled furthering the Town's sustainability principles. CPW Highway Division crews have been out patching potholes as weather permits. Over 120 tons of hot mix asphalt has been used to patch potholes thus far this season. Patching efforts are Town-wide with higher speed arterial and major/minor collector roads being the initial priority. Many potholes have required multiple responses resulting from the ongoing freezing and thawing action.

Business Recycling Event

The spring 2015 business recycling event is scheduled for Friday, April 3rd, from 9 AM-12 PM. The event will be held at the 300 Baker Ave. Ext. parking lot, as in the past. CPW partners with the Chamber of Commerce for this event. The vendors are Complete Recycling Solutions (CRS) and Doc Shredding Corp. These events are a great opportunity for Concord businesses to properly dispose of old computers, printers, fax machines, other electronics, and fluorescent light bulbs. Businesses must register by April 2nd.

2015/2016 Roads Program

In evaluating the timing for all work commitments for the 2015 construction season, it was determined that the 2015/16 Roads Program, which will include significant water main replacement work, should be bid as two staggered projects to maximize the timing of the construction season. The two bids will rehabilitate approximately 7 miles of roadway, replace approximately one mile of water main pipe and include significant storm water rehabilitation. Specifics on the bids are below:

Phase I Bid - The first roadway bid was initially planned to just include the pavement rehabilitation of the Southfield/Riverdale neighborhood, which received water main improvements in 2014. Two other areas were added to the bid, the Fitchburg Turnpike culvert replacement and the water main replacement on Deacon Haynes. Both project add-ons will include significant pavement rehabilitation work. Phase I will rehabilitate approximately three miles of roadway. CPW Engineering Division finalized the design and bid documents to support a March 25th advertisement date and an April 10th bid opening. Construction for Phase I is tentatively scheduled to begin in May.

Phase II Bid - The second phase of the roads program bid of the 2015 construction season is still in development and proposes to rehabilitate approximately four miles of roadway and replace approximately 0.78 miles of water main on Old Marlboro Road and Hunter's Ridge Road. The roads selected for the program include Barrett's Mill Road (Lowell Rd to Strawberry Hill Road), Liberty Street, Estabrook Road (Liberty Street to Cedar Way), Powder Mill Road (Plainfield Road to Stone Root Lane), Old Marlboro Road, Hunters Ridge Road and Jennie Dugan Road. Neighborhood outreach meetings for all Phase II streets are scheduled for the week of March 30th to support April 8th Public Hearing at the Public Works Commission. Design will resume after the April PWC Roads Program Hearing. The Phase II bid opening is targeted for June and construction would tentatively begin in early July.

* POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS *

BRISTOL, R.I., March 27, 2015- The Justice System Training and Research Institute at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I., in partnership with the New England Association of Chiefs of Police, recently recognized Sergeant Kevin P. Monahan of the Concord, MA Police Department for the successful completion of the "Command Training Series: First Line Supervisor Course," a two-week comprehensive training program for police supervisory personnel.



PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Health Division

Septic system permitting: 10 building reviews to determine adequacy of septic system for residential expansion; 5 sewer reviews; 15 file reviews with customers at the counter; approx. 80 phone inquiries answered. 3 inquiries about septic betterment loans.

Food service: 1 routine inspection; 3 re-inspections; 1 Pre-operational inspection at CCHS for food service operation permitting. 1 plan review for renovation at Concord Provisions; 2 consultations with facilities under renovation. 1 Complaint investigation. 4 temporary food permit inquiries. Provided guidance/support to 3 facilities participating in the organic waste recycling/composting program.

Other: 2 housing complaints; 1 nuisance complaint. 1 possible rabies exposure in a domestic animal. Provided guidance to Chair of Agricultural Committee regarding rules and regulation for farms, including animal regulations, farm stands, retail markets and value added products.

Historic Districts Commission:

The HDC met on March 19th at which time the Commission reviewed and approved one new application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for new signage at 89 Main Street. The Commission also held a public meeting to discuss the proposed New Construction policy. After making additional revisions to the text, the Commission will vote on the policy at the April 23rd meeting. The Commission also reviewed several requests for visibility determinations for changes within the District, discussed the photos to be used in the updated design guidelines, and agreed to meet jointly with the Historical Commission at their April 9th meeting.

Planning Division: With recent updates of the Planning Division fees, staff is now preparing to update all Division applications to make them more efficient, effective and user friendly. This will also include converting each of the applications into a form that can be completed on-line.

Assabet River Restoration at Damonmill: Natural Resources Division staff is working with OARS staff to prepare a grant application for funding an assessment study and preliminary engineering plans that will allow removal of the Damonmill Dam and control any stormwater runoff. These grant funds will also allow establishment of a bacteria monitoring program in the 6.4-mile segment of the Assabet River in Acton and Concord to assess when and whether the bacteria impairment has been resolved. It is anticipated that this assessment and plans will be an important step towards restoring aquatic habitat connectivity and the designated uses of the Assabet River at this location.

Building Inspections Division

Oxbow Road resident returns: A single family residence on Oxbow Road was re-inspected and allowed to be re-occupied once the snow and ice load was removed from the roof structure.

Gaining Ground: The Building Inspections office is in discussions with representatives of Gaining Ground regarding the construction of a new barn on the Town-owned property located behind the Henry David Thoreau birth house at 341 Virginia Road.

Zoning Enforcement re: Airbnb: Acting on a zoning complaint from a local Inn, the Building Division staff started zoning enforcement action on 7 property owners in Concord who appear to be renting rooms out in their homes using the airbnb.com web site.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail: MassDOT has agreed to fund a \$550,000 amendment to the design contract for revisions resulting from changes to the alignment of the rail trail through West Concord. An additional design amendment to relocate the trail to eliminate a permanent easement at Concord Park Assisted Living, integrate access to the Beharrell Street alignment and completion of NEPA forms required as part of the 25% design work will be the responsibility of the Town (\$21,018). Design consultant Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. anticipates submitting the 75% design plans (not including two bridges and one culvert) by the end of April/beginning of May for review by MassDOT and the Town. Borings for the Powdermill Road culvert will be done by MassDOT consultants and have been preliminarily scheduled for the week of April 20th. The Town also received notification that MassDOT Rail Division has contracted with an engineering firm to undertake chain link fence installation on two bridges in Concord to prevent pedestrian access (one bridge located immediately south of Route 2 over the Nashoba Brook and the second bridge over the Nashoba Brook immediately north of the West Concord commuter parking lot); wetlands delineation and design will be done this spring.



Human Services Divisions

Community Services

Aileen Buford, MSW: abuford@concordma.gov

The Community Services Coordinator received 64 emails, 20 phone calls and had 4 office visits all related to assistance requests. Requests were made for assistance with finding temporary and permanent housing, transportation issues, food assistance, fuel assistance, utility bills, health insurance and summer camp and extra-curricular activities scholarship money.

To resolve issues and provide referrals, the Community Services Coordinator collaborated with the Concord Council on Aging, Concord Police Department, Concord Housing Authority, the Concord Public Library, Elder Affairs Protective Services, Hugh Cargill Trust, St. Vincent De Paul Society, Open Table, Concord Carlisle Community Chest, Mass Health, First Parish Church, SMOG Fuel Assistance, SNAP and SMOG housing.

The Good Neighbor Energy Fund

program is still available to assist families who qualify. Concord residents under the age of 60 can contact Aileen Buford, MSW 978.3108.3034 abuford@concordma.gov for more information and an application.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITY:

W. CONCORD: A lottery will be held for eight affordable housing units at Brookside Square, a new development under construction on Beharrell Street in West Concord. The project is expected to be completed this summer. The affordable housing lottery application deadline is May 5. **An Information Session was held on Monday, March 30, 2015 at the Concord Town House, 22 Monument Square at 7:00 pm.** Application packets and additional information is still available on the Town's website at: www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_Planning/Affordable%20Housing%20Information. For further information on these units and the lottery process, please contact Karen Margolis at 978-639-3373. at Housing@sudbury.ma.us.



The Recreation Department is still enrolling for Fitness classes held at 105 Everett, the Hunt Recreation Center and the Ripley Gym. The Spring session begins on March 30 and runs through June 20. Call the Recreation Department for more information at 978-369-6460 or visit our website.

Concord Free Public Library

April Author Talk: Join us on Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the Main Library Periodicals Room to hear author Dr. Joseph L. Andrews talk about his latest book *Literary Concord Uncovered*, which provides an introductory overview of Concord's classic authors and their publications. It explores some of the secrets that enabled these brilliant American Authors to write their pioneering works that include Henry Thoreau's *Walden*; Ralph Waldo Emerson's "Self Reliance" and "Nature;" Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*; Nathaniel Hawthorne's *Scarlet Letter* and *House of Seven Gables* and Margaret Fuller's *Women in the Nineteenth Century*.

A Concord resident, Dr. Joseph L. Andrews is a physician, author, Founding Director of Concord Guides Walking Tours, and author of *Revolutionary Boston, Lexington and Concord: The Shot's Heard 'Round the World!*

Concord Reads about Abraham Lincoln

The Concord Reads series of events concluded on 3/24 with a talk given by Peter Lovis of the Concord Cheese Shop. His talk focused on cheese production and varieties during the era of President Abraham Lincoln. Lovis spoke about and distributed samples for 5 types of cheeses. The presentation concluded with a sampling of local honey covered walnuts. 22 people attended this enjoyable presentation. We appreciate Peter Lovis taking time to be a part of Concord Reads, as well as Tom Caldwell from Northeast Numismatics whose program on coin collecting drew 20 people earlier in the month.



Music from the Library

Music from the Library will conclude the season at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at the Main Library with a concert featuring the Janus Trio performing music by Paul Lansky, Jason Treuting, David Lang and others. Free admission.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. on 3/28.

Prepare to Plant your Garden

The Concord Seed Lending Library will present *It's All About the Soil* with Ben Barken of Home Harvest on Monday, April 6, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Fowler Branch Library, 1322 Main Street in Concord. All are welcome to attend.

VETERANS SERVICES

The office of Veterans' Services was relatively quiet this week. In the beginning of the week, a local resident inquired about a forwarding address of a Concord veteran who had moved away. The later part of the week was spent helping veterans' families with financial assistance planning regarding their loved ones final arrangements.