

Town Manager's Report Monday, January 20, 2014

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

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

FIRE

Firefighter/EMT Hiring Process Update: Round 3 oral boards were held Thursday and Friday. 11 of an original 137 applicants remain in the process. Chief Cotreau hopes to forward a recommendation for a conditional job offer to the Town Manager sometime in the next 2 weeks. The open position is a result of the recent retirement of Lt. Ed Conlin

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Building Inspections Division

Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee: John Minty met with Jill Appel, Chair of the Concord Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee; they discussed lessons learned with the recent 160 + solar panel site installations. They also talked about the "stretch energy code" and possible implementation of a new energy code.

New Planned Residential Development (PRD) Proposed for Commerford Road: John Minty met with the developer's representative to review their Board of Appeals application to build 22 new detached single-family dwellings under Concord's Planned Residential Development bylaw. This project will need to be reviewed by the Planning Board and Natural Resource Commission for recommendation to the Board of Appeals for their approval. The Board of Appeals will be the permit granting authority. The application and supporting documentation is expected to be submitted by January 31.

Health Division

Tobacco Control: Tobacco compliance checks were conducted on Saturday, January 11, 2014. Two minors, sixteen years old, supervised by the Mystic Valley Tobacco Control Program Coordinator, visited all 16 tobacco vendors in Concord. None of the tobacco retailers sold tobacco products to the underage youth. In all of the 16 stores, the clerk asked for an ID and refused to sell cigarettes, small cigars, and e-cigarettes to the minors. The Concord Board of Health and Health Division staff would like to thank the retailers of Concord for helping to reduce youth access to tobacco. Because nicotine is such an addictive substance, it is important that kids never start smoking. We appreciate that our

local retailers not only comply with federal, state and local regulations but also understand the importance of helping to reduce youth access to tobacco.

Concord Board of Health member Alan Woodward, M.D., who serves as Chair of the Executive Committee of Tobacco Free Mass, attended an event at the White House on Friday, January 14 recognizing the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Surgeon General's first comprehensive report on the dangers of smoking and tobacco. At this event, Acting Surgeon General Dr. Boris Lushniak released the 2014 Surgeon General's report which significantly expands the list of illnesses that cigarette smoking has been proven to cause. These include diabetes, colorectal and liver cancers, ectopic pregnancy, vision loss, tuberculosis, rheumatoid arthritis, impaired immune function and cleft palates in children of women who smoke. At this meeting, the Surgeon General and other health officials who spoke urged everyone to redouble tobacco control efforts in order make the next generation tobacco free. The 2014 Surgeon General's Report can be found at: <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/>

Bats and Rabies: The Health Division was contacted by a resident who had awoken to find a bat in her bedroom. A 5 month-old puppy in the home had also interacted with the bat. MDPH guidelines recommend that when a bat is found in a sleeping area, whether there is evidence of human exposure or not, that the bat be tested for the rabies virus. Bats must also be tested when they come into direct contact with a domestic animal. Karen Byrne, Administrative Assistant, guided the resident through the proper procedures for submittal of the bat, which was sent to the MDPH State Laboratory for testing and was determined to be negative for rabies. In 2013, the Health Division submitted eleven samples to the state laboratory from animals potentially exposed to the rabies virus as follows: 7 bats, 1 cat, 2 dogs and 1 skunk. None of the animals from Concord tested positive for the rabies virus; however, a bat collected in Lincoln by Health Division staff was found to be positive for rabies.

Planning Division

Community Preservation Committee: The CPC met on Monday, January 13, to review their recommended projects and any conditions/requests for further information that would be needed as part of the project. The Committee plans to vote on the final draft language at their February meeting, after which it will be distributing any potential conditions to the applicants for review. The Committee also voted against using Remote Participation for CPC Meetings, reviewed the general presentation process for the Finance Committee Public Hearings, and discussed the status of previously funded projects, including the recent completion of the cupola restoration at the Emerson Umbrella.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee: The BFRT Advisory Committee submitted a series of questions asked by the public to DPLM Director Marcia Rasmussen, who is working with the Town Manager to prepare a "Frequently Asked Questions" response. Director Rasmussen also attended the BFRT Advisory Committee meeting on Thursday night to discuss updates on Phases 2A, B and C for the Rail Trail and discuss

changes in the communications process (all correspondence will now go to the Planning Office).

Recreation Department's Strategic Planning Effort: Director Rasmussen participated in the Recreation Dept. staff's public outreach efforts on Thursday by attending the staff input session. Assistant Director Laura Lunig scheduled various meetings for consultant Barbara Heller with individual and small group stakeholders throughout the day on Thursday and Friday and reported that 30 people attended the evening public outreach session that was open to all residents.

MAPC-MAGIC Semi-Monthly Meeting: Thursday's MAGIC meeting focused on regional transportation planning efforts. Staff from the Boston Region MPO provided updates on the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), the Community Improvement Programs and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The MAGIC members attending the meeting discussed ideas that would benefit regional transportation efforts to include in a letter of interest (for the UPWP) and a letter of support for the TIP.

Regional Housing Services Office: Concord has participated in the RHSO for the past three years and will host this office beginning in July 2014. Town Planning staff met with the RHSO staff on Friday to discuss the status of current housing initiatives (including rental monitoring, deed riders, self-certification for ownership units, updates to the State's Subsidized Housing Inventory, etc.) along with early planning for the transition from Sudbury to Concord.

Natural Resources Division

Heywood Meadow Stone Wall: This week the Division was advised of a motor vehicle accident over the holidays which destroyed or damaged a 25-foot section of the newly restored wall on Lexington Road at Heywood Meadow. Staff is pursuing restoration of the wall and reimbursement for the damages. Work on the wall is intended to be undertaken in the next several weeks.