

Town Manager's Report Monday, July 18, 2011

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

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

FINANCE

Health Insurance Reform: Minuteman Nashoba Health Group is scheduling steering and full board meetings to begin the process of plan design review in light of the recently enacted reform. We will all be waiting, of course, for the required promulgation of rules and regulations from the Governor, so more will be reported on this in the future.

FIRE

Station 1 Renovation: Materials are beginning to arrive in order to finish the last few rooms on the first floor in connection with the recent floor 2 renovation. Work will commence shortly and we estimate approximately 6-8 weeks to complete the construction.

Apparatus: Our second-line ambulance (A1) has returned from the body shop and is now back in service. We have returned the trade-in (white ambulance) to Greenwood after being allowed to hold onto it for a few weeks until A1 returned.

EMS: The Concord Fire Department is participating in an innovative study involving a new type of CPR called Cardio Cerebral Resuscitation (CCR). State regulatory authorities have approved this program because it has initially shown dramatically improved survival rates. CFD members will complete training this week, and are very excited about the lifesaving potential of this program.

Emergency Management: On July 19, Concord Emergency Management will be participating in a Public Health Region 4A-sponsored Tabletop exercise in Carlisle. The drill will involve our response to a hurricane coming up the East Coast.

PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

Planning Division

Planning Board: Last Tuesday night, the Planning Board discussed the proposed West Concord Advisory Committee Charge, and was divided 3 in favor and 2 opposed on whether a Committee, if formed, should be an entity of the Town.

Solar Siting Committee: Friday morning, the Solar Siting Committee met to review their draft report and the presentation to the Board of Selectmen on July 25. So far they have received a handful of comments regarding the Executive Summary that was distributed to department heads and Board/Committee chairs, and intend to incorporate these comments into a revised report. The Committee also discussed the format of their public hearing in September, which could include an open house/fair with exhibits, a method for collecting comments, a formalized presentation, and a public comment period.

Community Food Project: Town residents and staff from DPLM will be attending a preliminary meeting of community stakeholders on Monday, July 25 to discuss the upcoming Conway School of Landscape & Design's Community Food Project, which will focus on Concord during the coming fall and winter.

506 Old Bedford Road: DPLM Planning and Inspections staff and the Town Engineer met with the developer and consulting team to discuss the landscape plans and the construction schedule/scope of work for third-party inspections of stormwater/groundwater-related issues by Beals and Thomas. The Developer hopes to begin demolition of the house and greenhouses and obtain a right-of-way permit in the next week.

Health Division

Walden Grille: An inspection was conducted on July 14 by the Public Health Director and Health Inspector. 7 violations which may pose an imminent health hazard were found at the time of inspection and the restaurant was ordered to immediately correct these violations. Four other less critical violations were found and the restaurant was given until July 18 to correct these violations. The Board of Health was notified of this situation. Non-criminal citations will be issued for these violations and Walden Grille will be ordered to appear at a Board of Health hearing.

Building and Inspections Division

Concord Riverwalk - 1st Unit Ready to Occupy: The first cottage at Concord Riverwalk "cottage community" was issued a Certificate of Occupancy this week. This is the first of thirteen units that are being developed on this site. Over 50 percent of the cottages have been sold to date. All of the homes in the Riverwalk development are built with energy-saving features such as: super-insulated wall and roof assemblies and high-efficiency HVAC systems. All of the units will be pre-wired/pre-plumbed for photo-voltaic solar energy panels as well as solar hot water.

Dino's Restaurant opens again: Dino's Kouzina & Pizzeria opened again for business this week after being closed for four years (since a lightning strike in May 2007 started a fire where the buildings burned to the ground). The original Dino's owners returned to open and operate the restaurant.

Natural Resources Division

6A Harrington Avenue: Onyx Transportation removed the concrete slabs at the Rogers land last week and is in the process of demolishing the former farmworker housing. A

contract for remedial services was negotiated this week and TMC is expected to begin work on Thursday July 21. In order to meet a condition of the Purchase and Sale Agreement, all remedial work must be completed by August 8, 2011.

Water Chestnut Harvest: The DNR Conservation Crew completed another successful year of harvesting water chestnut from the Sudbury River and Fairhaven Bay, with assistance by CPW to haul loads to the Recycling Facility. The yields were much lower than in previous years, and DNR staff will be meeting with the Town of Lincoln, the Concord Land Conservation Trust and US Fish and Wildlife later in the year to discuss future harvesting efforts. With lower yields, the population of water chestnut may be manageable by hand harvesting in successive years.

POLICE

Operational Services: On Tuesday July 12, officers responded to 160 Walden Street for a report of a stolen safe. Detectives also responded to process the scene, which included an interior office being broken into, where the safe was removed from. Detectives are following up with interviews and several leads.

On Friday July 15, officers responded to a Concord Greene address for a domestic disturbance involving a father and son. After an investigation that followed up with interviews on Saturday July 16, officers determined that the incident did not involve criminal charges. Officers made several referrals to other agencies including the Department of Children and Family Services. We continue to see an increase in parent-children domestic violence incidents.

On Sunday July 17, officers responded to a motor vehicle crash that damaged a telephone pole on Old Marlboro Road. After conducting their investigation, officers determined that the operator was negligent and should have his license status reviewed. A notice was sent to the Registry of Motor Vehicles to review this operator's ability to drive safely.

Community Services: On Sunday July 1, the Department assisted the Charles River Wheelmen bike program with their annual bike ride from Concord. There were no reported incidents during the event.

Sidewalk Sale: The Department has been preparing for the upcoming "Sidewalk Sale," in Concord this coming Saturday, July 23, from 10am – 4pm. Officers will be assigned to the area for the day to assist with traffic, monitor crowds and be of assistance as needed. Electronic sign notifications will be in place to inform motorists of road closures during the event.