

# Town Manager's Report Monday, May 23, 2011

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

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

## **FIRE**

**Station 1 Renovation:** The Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee last week voted to recommend Town Manager approval of a Fire Department request for an additional, modest expenditure of Sawyer Trust funds (\$16,040 for insulation and plumbing, and \$1,500 for A/C design) toward completion of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor offices and ADA-compliant restroom facility. Combined with available ADA-related and Town-wide Building funds, this will aide in completion of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor renovations not included in the recently completed Fire Station improvement project.

## **HUMAN SERVICES**

**Beede Center Closure:** The Beede Center was recently approached by a marketing firm for Coca Cola with a rare opportunity for some widespread exposure for the Center, while also generating revenue for the Enterprise's fund balance. While it will be rare to do so for other than necessary facility maintenance/repairs, the decision was made to close the Center for one day – Tuesday, May 17 - in order to accommodate Coca Cola's request. Widespread notice was sent out to all members about a week in advance. On the day of the closure, Coca Cola did a photo shoot of hopeful Olympic swim & dive athletes in action. It is expected that these athletes (and the interior of Beede) will be used in "still shots" in Coca Cola commercials, and that "action shots" may also appear in commercials if the athletes are successful in the 2012 Olympics. Even with the potential advantages in terms of new member marketing, the Beede Center was able to generate a \$15,000 fee for the one-day closure. It is a testament to the quality of our facility that it was selected above others for such a high-profile, national advertisement.

## **LIGHT DEPARTMENT**

**Smart Grid:** The fiber construction contractor has completed 5 of 6 Optical Network Terminal (ONT) installations for our Smart Grid gateways in the Phase 1 deployment area. The last gateway should be completed early next week and was delayed because of a complex underground network feed of the fiber drop cable.

Along with this work, line crews have installed 23 EcoNets in Phase 1. An additional 100 EcoNets should be received next week of the newer Street Light Adapter Version (SL). 25

of these will be installed in the Phase 1 Smart Grid deployment area to complete the wireless infrastructure so that customer conversions can begin.

The Smart Meters for Phase 1 and customer installation materials such as junction boxes and wall plates will also arrive next week. The arrival of this material will allow us to start the customer conversion scheduling process.

The fiber network construction continues to progress in Phases 2 through 4. The focus is on underground construction and fiber splicing in these phases. Aerial construction is near complete at this point.

**Solar Power Purchase Program:** Concord Light has received a response to a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) inviting companies to submit their qualifications to provide services to our electricity customers who wish to participate in the Town's Solar Power Purchase Program. Vendors will install solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on the rooftops or grounds of interested residents and businesses, and will own and maintain the systems over the long term. The residents and businesses who host the systems will pay a small down payment on the PV system, and will purchase the electricity that it supplies to their home or business for an affordable rate that stays fixed over the long term. The program is designed for residents and businesses who wish to generate some of the electricity they use from a renewable source, but have been deterred from installing a solar PV system on their property due to the high upfront cost of purchasing a system outright. SunRun Inc. responded to the RFQ. Concord Light will evaluate SunRun's compliance with the minimum qualifications for vendors who wish to provide these services to Concord Light customers. If SunRun is selected as the program vendor, the program is scheduled to launch in late summer. Customers who wish to be notified when the program is launched are encouraged to send an email to [jaceti@concordma.gov](mailto:jaceti@concordma.gov).

## **PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT**

### **Planning Division**

**Sustainable Concord Coffee:** Last week, Planning staff attended the Sustainable Concord Coffee at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center to hear a presentation by Sarah James, from the Institute for Eco-Municipality Education and Assistance, on her book "The Natural Step for Communities: How Cities and Towns can Change to Sustainable Practices". Ms. James outlined four sustainability objectives: (1) reducing greenhouse gas emissions and dependency on fossil fuels, (2) reducing synthetic chemicals and pesticides, (3) reducing encroachment on nature, and (4) meeting human needs fairly and efficiently.

**Solar Siting Committee:** The Solar Siting Committee met Friday morning to review their notes and rankings of the properties visited on May 6. They then reconsidered the entire list of parcels to make sure that no potential parcel is overlooked, then ratified or updated the rankings (A-E) designated at a prior meeting. The meeting concluded after the Committee brainstormed an outline of their report to the Board of Selectmen; each member was given a section to draft before their next meeting on June 3. At the next meeting, the Committee will

discuss outreach to and input from the various Town departments responsible for each parcel before finalizing the report.

**MAGIC meeting in Bedford:** The Minuteman Area Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC) met in Bedford on Thursday to discuss a variety of topics including potential Sustainable Communities projects for grant submittals later this summer and the MAGIC position on the latest Transportation Improvement Program projects. The Crosby Corner and Cambridge Turnpike projects, along with the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phases 2A and 2C, will be included in a comment letter to the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization.

### **Health Division**

**Walden Grille:** The Health Division staff continues to spend an inordinate amount of time working with the owners and staff of this establishment to bring this facility into full compliance with the Food Code. Staff conducted an inspection on Saturday, May 14 to determine whether an order to close this establishment could be lifted. Upon re-inspection, staff allowed the restaurant to open because significant progress had been made on both the physical repairs and the sanitary conditions.

At the Board of Health meeting on May 17, the Walden Grille owner and his attorney were given a Consent Agreement prepared by staff (reviewed by the Town Manager and the Board of Health) which will require the facility to adhere to certain conditions. The Board directed Walden Grille to return a signed copy of the agreement to the Health Division no later than Tuesday, May 24.

**Annual Pool Inspections:** The Public Health Inspector has begun the annual pre-operational inspections to ensure that the semi-public and public swimming pools will be ready to open for Memorial Day. Although it was a dreary and rainy start to the week, several facilities were already in full compliance. The remaining inspections are slated for next week.

### **Building and Inspections Division**



**Longview Meadow (formerly Alexan) 40-B project:** Work continues on the 350 unit 40-B rental project off of Old Powder Mill Road in West

Concord. Almost all the foundations are in except the water treatment plant building. In the area of the water treatment foundation the excavating contractor discovered a cache of buried stumps and debris directly under where the new foundation has to be placed. This buried material is being set aside and tested so that the new foundation may be placed on new compacted soils.

**85-97 Lowell Road, Trails End Cafe:** This week the Building & Inspections Division staff reviewed plans to expand the seating of the new Trails End Café at 97 Lowell Road. The owner is proposing to add ten (10) outside seasonal seats adjacent to the café and next to the Keyes Road parking lot entrance.

## **POLICE**

**Operational Services:** On Tuesday May 17, officers took several reports of larcenies from motor vehicles in West Concord. Officers then received information from Maynard Police that they had similar crimes which occurred in their town during the same time frame. It was also learned that Maynard had made an arrest in their case. Officers completed their investigation and determined that the same subjects were involved in the Concord breaks. Charges have been taken out against the subjects involved.

On Tuesday May 17, Officers identified a possible drunk driver at approximately 1:30PM in the afternoon. Officers completed their investigation and subsequently arrested the subject.

On Saturday May 21, Officers identified and arrested two suspected drunk drivers at approximately 2:00AM. The first arrest came as a result of a report by other motorist that indicate that the operator was "all over the road" and struck a curb several times. The second arrest came as a result of the officer's own observations.

**Community Services:** On Saturday May 21, Officers assisted with the moving of the Robbins House from 324 Bedford Street to Monument Street.

Compliance checks of liquor establishments begin this week.

**Administrative Services:** On Wednesday May 18, two Concord officers attended the Mothers Against Drunk Driving ceremonial breakfast, at Devens, where they were presented with certificates for their efforts in combating drunk drivers in 2010.