

# Town Manager's Report Monday, October 17, 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:** Plastering and painting were completed this week. Finish work to continue.

**Apparatus:** The new ladder truck is due into Greenwood Fire Apparatus in the early to mid-November timeframe. Modifications will then be made before delivery, which is anticipated for the end of December or early January.

**Emergency Management:** Fire and Public Works staff attended the FEMA applicants briefing for Hurricane Irene reimbursement last week. That process will officially start very soon. Our application should be somewhat simpler than many in the past because we are being reimbursed for our preparedness efforts and have no large rebuilding projects.

There was an interagency meeting last Wednesday concerning the next phase of the Starmet Superfund project, slated to begin in late fall. This phase will include a careful "de-construction" of all buildings and appropriate removal of debris. Represented at the meeting were: EPA, EPA's contractor de maximis, inc., Fire, Police, Public Works, CMLP, and Public Health. Action Items included various planning/coordination needs that will be taken care of shortly, including awareness/operational training as needed for applicable Town staff. This promises to be a well-coordinated effort.

## **LIGHT DEPARTMENT**

**Concord Light Receives Grant Funding:** At their recent board meeting, the American Public Power Association (APPA) awarded Concord Light a \$26,000 grant. The grant, submitted to APPA's Demonstration of Energy-Efficient Developments (DEED) Program, will fund a project to be conducted in Concord this heating season to identify ways to keep energy prices down by providing "best in class regulation" to the New England power Grid, reducing energy demand, and monitoring local line voltage to identify potential issues with on electric distribution system.

Concord Light is partnering with VCharge, a Rhode Island company, on this pilot which will marry VCharge's software and hardware with Concord Light's Smart Grid network. Concord

Light's goals for this pilot project are to work with VCharge and 26 volunteer homeowners, who have electric thermal storage (ETS) heating systems, to provide grid regulation by turning the ETS units on and off as the Grid requires. With VCharge's innovative technology, Concord's Smart Grid network and twenty six of Concord Light's ETS heating customers, Concord Light hopes to improve the monitoring of distribution voltage problems, reduce energy demand, and improve grid reliability through a more responsive application of Grid regulation.

**Spruce Mountain Wind:** As previously reported, Concord Light will soon be purchasing energy from wind as the project at Spruce Mountain located in Woodstock, Maine is nearing completion. Concord Light's share of the output is approximately six million kilowatthours per year or 3% of our energy needs. The price of 9.925 cents per kilowatthour, for capacity and energy over the next fifteen years has been agreed to and CMLP's share will be approximately 9% of the output or about 6 million kilowatthours per year. Currently all the foundations are in place, and tower sections have been installed on 8 of the 10 bases. All the supplies and parts have arrived locally in Maine and are within 10 miles of the site. All the turbines are slated to be fully erected and assembled by 10/31. The project will undergo commissioning in November, and is expected to be commercial around Thanksgiving.

## **PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT**

### **Health Division**

**Developing Public Health Nursing Services:** Public Health Director Susan Rask and DPLM Director Marcia Rasmussen continued discussions with COA Director Ginger Quarles about the need for public health nursing services and enhanced programs for disposal of household sharps and unused medications. As a result of these discussions, proposals for both nursing and sharps collection services have been put in the COA and Health Division's FY 13 budget requests for consideration. As part of the conclusion of the MWPHN Planning Grant, Susan Rask participated with the towns of Acton, Stow, Lincoln and Maynard to discuss how the towns might cooperate in sharing nursing services. The group will begin monthly meetings to develop a plan for moving forward.

### **Building and Inspections Division**

**Demolition Delay bylaw triggered at 1641 Main Street:** The initial project approved for Concord Riverwalk PRD in March 2010 called for conversion of the historic Damon House at 1641 Main Street into two dwelling units. With construction underway in the summer of 2010, the developer was issued an "after the fact" permit (because construction had started prior to approval by the Building Division), which provided for tenant separation and roofing and interior work only. The developer then went beyond the original approved scope of work and beyond what appeared to be more than 50% of the structure. The Building Division staff requested a determination by the architect of record showing an analysis of the building, which was submitted this week along with a request for an amendment of the building permit. The Building Commissioner denied the request to amend and sent a letter to the Historical Commission alerting them to the proposed demolition, as required under the

Demolition Delay bylaw. The Historical Commission has scheduled a site visit for October 16, and will hold a public hearing in late October or early November.

### **Natural Resources Division**

**Old Calf Pasture:** New England Wildflower Society (NEWFS) continued its efforts treating and removing buckthorn at Old Calf Pasture last week with the assistance of DNR staff and volunteers. The group successfully removed ½ acre of buckthorn from the property. Additional volunteers are welcome for this invasive species control effort on Tuesday October 25 and Wednesday, October 26 from 10am to 3pm. Anyone interested in assisting with this endeavor can join by contacting the Division of Natural Resources at 978.318.3285.

### **Planning Division**

**Housing:** The Concord Housing Foundation asked Director Rasmussen to review a draft survey for distribution to residents whose houses and properties are located in the Residence B district, in follow up to the discussions this past spring regarding the zoning bylaw amendments for the Residence C district. That survey should be distributed next week, with responses requested to be returned by November 21.

**Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase 2B (Route 2 Crossing):** Director Marcia Rasmussen and BOS liaison Carmin Reiss attended a meeting in Boston with MassDOT and Acton representatives to review further developed plans for a bridge crossing Route 2; considering a skewed alignment that follows the existing right-of-way and a perpendicular alignment that will require right-of-way easements from the Dept. of Corrections. The issues revolve around the cost of the bridges, impacts to wetland resources and what the bridge will look like. A public outreach meeting will be scheduled later this fall to review the work to date.

### **POLICE**

**Community Services:** On Saturday, October 15, officers assisted with Drop Off / Swap Off Day. Officers reported a good turnout and no incidents at the event. They also reported that traffic moved efficiently around the event.

On Sunday October 16, officers assisted with the annual Crop Walk. A good turnout was reported and no issues occurred with the event.

Beginning October 17, National School Bus Safety Week begins. Officers from the Department, like officers nationwide, will monitor school bus operations and target any individual(s) who might try to pass a school bus that has its flashing red lights on.