

# Town Manager's Report Tuesday, September 12, 2011

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

*Below is a summary of some of the activities of Town departments during the past week:*

## **CONCORD PUBLIC WORKS (Rich Reine, Public Works Director)**

### **CPW - Administration, Engineering, Highway/Grounds, Solid Waste & Recycling, Water & Sewer**

**Sidewalk Program** - Project Contractor Allied Paving worked on the Lowell Road sidewalk during the week of September 5<sup>th</sup>. The work includes loam & seed and cleanup of recently paved areas and base gravel installation to the project limits.

**Roads Program** - Project contractor Lazaro Paving and utility subcontractor Fenton and Sons conducted a preconstruction meeting August 25<sup>th</sup> with CPW's Water & Sewer and Engineering Division's to review project timelines and construction inspection coordination for the 2011/2012 Roads Program. The project began the week of September 5<sup>th</sup> with water main replacement work within the Hubbard/Willow/Fielding/Union neighborhood. CPW's Water & Sewer and Engineering Division's conducted a neighborhood outreach preconstruction meeting within Hubbard/Willow/Fielding/Union neighborhood on September 1<sup>st</sup> to outline the anticipated project construction impacts with the abutting residents.

**Monument Street Retaining Wall** - The project's bid opening was completed on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The apparent low bidder is Tasco Construction with a bid price of \$527,590 which includes the full wall repair. The project is funded through the CPA as well as Chapter 90 State aid. The project construction is anticipated to begin March/April 2012 which will allow for project submittal review over the fall/winter and avoid construction within the Hutchins Farm harvest season.

**GIS Program:** As part of the initial wrap-up for Task 1-Needs Assessment of the GIS Strategic Planning project, project consultant AppGeo will conduct a GIS Workshop to continue some of the project discussions in a larger group setting and begin presentation some of the initial findings of the needs assessment process. The Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday September 7<sup>th</sup> at training room at the Police/Fire Station.

**Junction Park** - The CPW Engineering Division with the assistance of the Park and Tree Division is working to complete the in-house design of the park rehabilitation project for a September bid. CPW received approval from OAR and Intel to redirect Assabet River recharge funds previously obtained for the Church Street Parking Lot Pervious Pavement Project for the park. The rehabilitation project's design utilizes Low Impact Development techniques including the installation of a new porous paver system, bio- retention area retrofit to treat the adjacent parking lot drainage and an overall reduction of impervious surfaces. Additionally, the project will also include

improvements to the landscaping and park furniture. The project's current 75% design will be presented at the September Public Works Commission meeting.

**Route 2A Water Pump Station Upgrade Project** - The Bid Opening was postponed from September 1st to September 8th as a number of interested contractors had reported administrative challenges including ongoing power outages attributed to the aftermath of Hurricane Irene.

**Longview Meadow Project** - CPW's Water Division has been working closely with site utility contractor to charge and disinfect all water main installed to date. Building services have not yet been activated.

**Sleepy Hollow Cemetery/Route 62 Flooding Mitigation** – Concord Public Works (CPW) received permit approval from the State of Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species program to address a blocked culvert within a Priority Habitat. This blockage has resulted in a flooding condition in the Moore's Swamp/Sleepy Hollow Cemetery/Route 62 vicinity. CPW staff will take steps to lower the existing water level utilizing a series of pipes acting as siphons. This work will take place over the next several weeks. The drawdown is expected to be done slowly and with minimal impacts to properties.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT (Mark Cotreau, Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director)**

**Station 2 renovation:**

The Station 2 (WC) Cupola CPA project bids are due on September 15<sup>th</sup>. We expect to proceed quickly once a contractor is chosen.

**September 11 observation:**

On September 11 at 10am the CFD conducted a short remembrance ceremony at Station 1. The ceremony was a fitting remembrance of those affected by September 11<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to CFD Chaplain Murray and Group 2 who worked hard to make the ceremony a success!

**Emergency management:**

We have received our initial request for monies expended for Hurricane Irene. We will forward same to MEMA/FEMA for appropriate reimbursement. This process will be ongoing.

**Unusual emergency responses:**

No unusual responses this week.

**Starmet Superfund Site Clean-up:**

This week we met with Starmet Superfund project officials to discuss coordination issues between EPA, site contractors and town's officials as we near the next phase of work which is the dismantling of the buildings at 2229 Main Street. We discussed emergency planning, communications with the town officials and public, security, contingencies etc. Work schedule is a bit tentative but should begin sometime this fall and last for 2-3 years. I am confident we have and will continue to plan adequately for this project, which the EPA expects to cost \$70 million.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT (Barry Neal, Chief of Police)**

### **Operational Services:**

**On Wednesday September 7, Officers responded to a motor vehicle crash on Commonwealth Ave near MCI-Concord. Upon arrival officers determined that the operator of the vehicle had a serious leg injury and they rendered first aid. After conducting an investigation, officers determined that the operator was impaired and should not have been driving. Officers subsequently arrested the operator at Emerson Hospital and charged her with second offense drunk driving.**

**On Friday September 9, 2011, Officers responded to Emerson Hospital for a 12 year old patient that was out of control. Officers determined that the 12 year old had assaulted a nurse that was on duty. After making certain that the 12 year old was secure and receiving treatment, officers filed a report which included charging the 12 year old with two counts of assault and battery.**

### **Community Services:**

**On Saturday September 10, 2011, Officers assisted with Agricultural Day. Officers reported a good turnout with no issues reported.**

### **Administrative Services:**

**On September 19, 2011, the Department will be welcoming in its newest member, Michael Bordenca. He comes to this agency after having worked in different roles in Lexington and Carlisle. Michael will be a welcome addition to the Department.**

## **DEPARTMENT of Planning & Land Management (Marcia Rasmussen, Director)**

### **Health Division**

- **Mosquitoes/West Nile Virus:** Massachusetts's first 2011 human case of West Nile virus has been diagnosed in a Middlesex County resident. We continue to receive reports that WNV-positive mosquitos are being found in nearby towns, including Acton and Wayland. To date, no WNV-positive mosquitos have been found in Concord. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health reminds residents that September is the month when people in the state are most likely to fall ill with the mosquito-borne disease. Risk for infection with the mosquito-borne viruses, WNV and EEE, will continue until the first hard frost, usually sometime in October. State health officials recommend that people avoid being outdoors during peak mosquito biting hours from dusk to dawn; wear long sleeves, pants, and socks when outdoors; and apply insect repellent. People should also drain standing water outside their homes and install or repair screens.
- **Tick Borne Illnesses:** On Sunday October 2, Dr. Tom Mather, a nationally recognized expert on ticks, will present a talk on Lyme disease and other tick borne illnesses; recognizing symptoms of tick borne diseases; and tick bite prevention strategies. The presentation will be held at the Brooks Auditorium, Lincoln School, Ballfield Rd. in Lincoln at 3:30 pm.

### **Building and Inspections Division**

- **Lindsay Pond Road determination:** The Building Inspections Division issued a building permit this week for a new lot fronting on Lindsay Pond Road. This lot was created by the Planning Board approving a division of the existing large lot by the Approval Not Required (ANR) process. Neighbors to this lot on Lindsay Pond Road are concerned that a building permit has been issued based on their assumption that there was a deed restriction on all of the Lindsay Pond Road sub-division lots that prohibited any new lots from being created and any additional new homes built; until July 20, 2020. The building permit to build the new home was only issued after the Building Inspection Division was presented with evidence

by the permit holder's attorney, that all such deed restrictions automatically expire after 50 years (unless renewed) and that the 50-year legal restriction had in fact passed and no renewal had occurred.

- **Concord Lumber applications (see photo below):** The Concord Lumber Company has started the review process with town boards, allowing them to rebuild their storage building that collapsed this past winter under heavy snow loads. Before a building permit can be issued for this re-construction work, the Concord Lumber site must be reviewed and receive approval from the Natural Resources Commission, Historic Districts Commission, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals.



#### Natural Resources Division

- **Natural Resources Commission:** At the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Natural Resources Commission issued Orders of Conditions for the following: a landscaping project at 25 White Avenue; demolition and reconstruction of a single family house at 17 White Avenue; reconstructing a retaining wall at the South Bridge Boat House; and replacing the Fairyland Pond culvert in the Town Forest. The Commission also issued a Negative Determination of Applicability to construct a driveway at 189/191 Conant Street and a Positive Determination of Applicability for the reconstruction of a retaining wall at 65 College Street. The NRC also approved a minor modification to the US Fish & Wildlife for ditch dredging and habitat improvements at Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge.

- **Emerson-Thoreau Amble (photo):** Solid Earth Technologies, with the assistance of Jim Macone and Conservation Crew, worked diligently through the rains we received this week to install twelve helical piers for the two bridges on the Emerson-Thoreau Amble. The helical piers will provide the foundation for the new bridges with minimal environmental impact. The helical piers are long squared galvanized steel shafts piercing one or more 12-inch split disks, or helixes. Using a portable generator, they were twisted 11 to 15 feet into the ground, with the welded-on helixes acting like screw threads. The bridges are to be constructed in the next few weeks.

The Conservation Crew also began flagging a new trail from Heywood Meadow to the new bridge over the Mill Brook on the Emerson House land. The trail location will be verified with the Emerson Association prior to its being cut.

- **Heywood Meadow Wall Reconstruction:** Natural Resources staff completed the bid package for the historic stone wall reconstruction on the east side of Heywood Meadow, between Heywood Street and the gunhouse. Proposals to restore this historic dry laid stone wall are now being accepted until September 28, 2011. The contract is expected to be awarded in early October with construction to occur this fall.

- **Warner's Pond Watershed Management Plan:** The consultant for the Warner's Pond Management Plan has completed the plant mapping at Warner's Pond, one of the components of developing a management plan. They found that the herbicide treatment for the invasive milfoil and fanwort conducted as part of



the mitigation for the dam replacement was most effective in the northern and eastern sections of the pond. The plants in the central and southern portions of the pond were not impacted by the treatment, probably because the water flows in the channel between the islands are too fast to allow much herbicide contact time. No new invasive species were found during the surveys. The consultant will be presenting their findings to the NRC at the October 5<sup>th</sup> NRC meeting.

### Planning Division

- **Solar Siting Committee:** On Thursday, the Solar Siting Committee met to discuss additional outreach efforts and the format for their Open House on September 14<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center. Senior Planner Julie Vaughan has prepared large maps of each site, with potential areas for solar outlined, that will be used to gather feedback. There will also be a standard comment form for people to opine on each site and/or on the merits of solar in general, and Committee member Dan Gainsboro will be bringing a solar panel. The Committee would like the Open House to be a discussion revolving around competing land uses, the need for energy independence, and the ins and outs of solar technology.
- **Community Preservation Committee:** The CPC hosted an informational meeting last night for all potential applicants for CPA funding at the upcoming 2012 Town Meeting. The Committee heard proposals from approximately nine potential applicants, the majority of which would fall under the category of Historic Preservation. The CPC gave general comments on applications and encouraged applicants to begin the process of meeting with any applicable boards or commissions as early as possible. The CPC will be accepting applications for CPA funding until 4:00 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 28 and will begin their review of projects at their next meeting on Thursday, Sept. 29.
- **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail:** Continued coordinating information from BFRT Advisory Committee Chair Judy LaRocca and BOS liaison Carmin Reiss to prepare a memorandum to MassDOT as follow up to the August 24<sup>th</sup> Phase 2B bridge layout and design meeting. The memorandum was submitted to MassDOT Project Manager David Shedd on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, a kick-off meeting on the design for Phase 2A and 2C will be held next Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> in Boston.