

Standards for Wastewater Treatment Works and Indirect Dischargers Regulations, Concord is required to submit a formal Infiltration/Inflow (III) Control Plan to MassDEP's Division of Water Pollution Control. While Concord has a plan dating back to 2006 and performs many of the work outlined within such a plan, the plan had not been updated to comport with MassDEP's new format. As this plan is being reviewed and revised as part of broader and more comprehensive NPDES renewal process, Concord requested an extension for this administrative procedure.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations
Woodard & Curran, Inc. (Portland, ME) continues to operate the Concord Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), located off of Bedford Street. They are in the 4th year of a 10-year service contract. CPW's Water and Sewer Division continues to work closely with Woodard & Curran to ensure day to day operations and maintenance is performed in a quality manner. Within the past year, the facilities and associated equipment ran reliably

with and in accordance with state and federally issued permits.

Nanae, Japan

Alan Cathcart, Water/Sewer Superintendent, was honored to serve in a Concord delegation that traveled to Nanae, Japan, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Concord/Nanae Network (CNN). Over the past twenty years, this special sister city program has helped foster meaningful connections between hundreds of individuals from both communities - in a way that has been both professionally and personally enriching. Following this very special celebration, the delegation traveled to Sapporo, Japan, following in the footsteps of a fellow Concordian, one William Wheeler. Shortly after establishing Concord's first public water system (in 1874), William Wheeler ventured to the sparsely populated Japanese island of Hokkaido, at the request of the new Meiji Government, to help train the Japanese in industrialized agricultural principles that he had learned while attending the Massachusetts Agricultural College (what is now UMASS Amherst).

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Marcia Rasmussen, Director of Planning and Land Management

Mission

To guide the development and use of private and public lands within the Town of Concord in a manner that preserves and celebrates the unique character that is Concord.

Organization and Staffing

The Department is comprised of sixteen full-time and 8-10 part-time individuals within four distinct Divisions – Building Inspections, Health, Natural Resources and Planning. The range and extent of authority exercised by these Divisions is found in State Law and in the Town's bylaws.

The four Planning & Land Management Divisions provide staff support to the Town's regulatory boards and committees that address land use and development activities in the Town: the Board of Appeals, Board of Health, Natural Resources Commission, Planning Board and Historic Districts Commission. DPLM staff also provides support to the Comprehensive Long Range Plan Committee, Community Preservation Committee and Historical Commission, in addition to many other sub-committees and task forces that may be appointed to address specific issues from time to time, such as the Conservation Restriction Stewardship Committee, Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee and West Concord Advisory Committee. Staff also participates in regional groups such as the 13 communities that make up the MAPC-Minuteman Area Group on Inter-local Coordination (MAGIC), the Battle Road Scenic Byway Committee, the seven towns that participate in the Regional Housing Services Office and participation in the CHNA15 Partnership.

Building Inspector Laurie Livoli was promoted to Building Commissioner in January 2017. This past year, we also welcomed Senior Planner Heather Lamplough to the Planning Division and Assistant Local Inspector Ed Mullen as well as the return of Brian

Smith (as back-up Electrical Inspector) to the Building Inspections Division. Two part-time summer conservation crew members, Joseph Guerin and Justin Livoli, were hired in the Natural Resources Division to work on trails maintenance, signage improvements, and invasive species control of Town open space and conservation lands, and, with funding through the Town Manager's budget, Rangers Adam D'Agostino and Mark McCullough were hired for a third year to advise visitors and residents about restricted swimming in White Pond and undertake measures to address erosion at the Pond, in addition to monitoring land usage by dogs and other trail users at several conservation properties. The Planning Division hired Planning Intern Alec Wade in late spring, to assist with events for the Envision Concord: Bridge to 2030 planning effort and implementation of the parking management program. We also worked with Community Services staff to hire summer intern, Erica Chin whose position was funded through Massport's Community Summer Jobs Program.

This year marks the fourth year with Concord as the lead community in administering the Regional Housing Services Office (RHSO). RHSO offices relocated from 141 Keyes Road to 37 Knox Trail in the fall. The RHSO is staffed by four people: Elizabeth Rust is Program Manager, Dan Gaulin is Senior Housing Specialist, and Lara Plaskon and Elizabeth Valente are the two part-time Housing Specialists. The Regional Housing Services Office supports affordable housing activity (such as rental housing monitoring, assisting in re-sales, project development, WestMetro HOME activities, etc.) in seven communities including: Acton, Bedford, Burlington, Concord, Lexington, Sudbury and Weston.

Detailed reports on the regulatory activities of the various boards staffed by DPLM and additional information specific to the four Divisions are included elsewhere in this Annual Report.

Annual Sewer Report Summary

Sewer Statistics	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Assabet Pumping Station					
Total Pumped (million gallons)	88.09	74.47	73.85	78.67	78.31
Monthly Average (million gallons)	7.34	6.21	6.15	6.55	6.53
Daily Average (million gallons)	0.24	0.20	0.20	0.22	0.21
Lowell Road Pumping Station					
Total Pumped (million gallons)	312.64	258.44	272.02	341.13	322.92
Monthly Average (million gallons)	26.05	21.54	22.67	28.43	26.91
Daily Average (million gallons)	0.86	0.71	0.75	0.93	0.88
Bedford Street					
Total Pumped (million gallons)	6.18	5.80	5.48	5.23	
Monthly Average (million gallons)	0.51	0.48	0.46	0.44	
Daily Average (million gallons)	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	
Collection System					
Number of Service Accounts	1,869	1,866	1,851	1,834	1,832
Miles of Sewer Main	34.03	34.03	34.03	34.03	34.00
Main Pipe Inspected (lf.)	11,350	1,500	3,500	3,700	2,062
Main Pipe Replaced/Rehabilitated (lf.)	0	0	0	705	0
Rate per Unit (unit = 7.48 gallons)	\$.1141	\$.1119	\$.1086	\$.1055	\$.1014

BUILDING INSPECTIONS DIVISION

Laurie Livoli, Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer
 Ray Matte, Local Building Inspector
 Ed Mullen, Local Building Inspector
 Pat Sands, Assistant Local Building Inspector
 Tracy LaPierre, Administrative Assistant
 Bob Prescott, Electrical/Wiring Inspector
 James O'Reilly, Plumbing/Gas Inspector

The Building Inspections Division staff is comprised of four full-time and three part-time positions. Each staff person is strongly committed to pursuing consistent enforcement of the Zoning and Sign Bylaws, as well as the State Building code, which includes, but is not limited to handicap accessibility, structural integrity, fire safety, energy codes and many other regulations relative to public safety. The Inspections staff provides technical assistance to property owners, builders/developers, real estate professionals, Town boards and committees, as well as other Town departments. In addition to issuing building permits and conducting required onsite inspections, the Building Inspections staff spends an increasing amount of time reviewing subdivision proposals, special permits, site plans, variance requests, making zoning determinations and addressing zoning complaints. Staff also provides

review and comment to the Select Board for annual license renewals, which include licensing for alcohol and beverage facilities and livery licenses.

The Division issued 850 building permits in 2017, which is a 6.4 % decrease from the number of building permits issued last year. However, the overall construction value increased in 2017 to \$ 96.7 million (compared to \$84.7 million in 2016). This is an increase in the value of construction by 14.16%. Of this total, \$41,625,000 was for residential construction with \$55,075,000 in commercial work.

The value of “new residential dwelling units” built in Concord went from \$24.6 million last year to \$24.07 million in 2017. This new residential construction value represents forty-three new detached single-family homes. Of these forty-three new homes, twenty-eight or 53.5% were the result of “tear downs” (an act of demolishing a building, usually to build a new one on the same site)

In 2017, the issuance of Mechanical permits decreased by 13.1%, while the number of Electrical Permits increased by 15.1% and Plumbing/Gas permits increased by 18%. Overall, the total number of permits issued by the Building Inspections Division in 2017 was 2,928 (a 1.63% increase overall). The Division collected

# Permits Issued	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
New single family homes	41	30	29	55	38	51	43	39
Multi-family attached units	21	0	0	0	75	6	6	4
Additions/Alterations	644	686	631	770	759	866	760	719
Commercials	90	90	73	100	114	115	100	88
Total Building Permits:	796	806	733	925	873	1038	909	850
Electrical	642	745	730	933	907	751	865	996
Mechanical	-	26	70	91	119	122	108	93
Plumbing	424	470	487	480	546	478	542	534
Gas	320	340	382	416	443	391	428	433
Signs	30	41	35	54	68	62	29	32
Total all Permits:	2212	2428	2437	2899	2956	2824	2881	2928
Construction Value (Millions)	90.0	44.0	68.8	142.6	80.4	80.7	84.7	96.7
Permit Fee Revenue (\$)	955,212	554,211	809,045	783,883	1,015,370	991,099	927,555	1,224,460

\$1,224,460 total in permit fees in 2017 versus \$927,555 collected in 2016. This is a 32% increase over last year

Noteworthy projects completed and under construction this year include the following: Phase I of Black Birch Development was completed in the fall of 2017. This project consisted of 25 units and is a mixture of duplex and single family homes. Middlesex School is renovating the theater and constructing a new three-story visual arts addition. The Fenn School is constructing a new dining facility. The Concord Museum is constructing a new two-story building and renovating the interiors. A new building at the Mill Tarry complex will be the home of a new food market.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

James Smith, Chair
 John Brady, Member
 Stuart Freeland, Member
 Elizabeth Akehurst-Moore, Associate Member

The Zoning Board of Appeals is authorized by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A and is responsible for conducting public hearings and meetings for Special Permits and Variances as required pursuant to the Zoning Bylaw of the Town.

Having completed his term in May, Robert Sepucha left the Board in October. James Smith was appointed as a full member and elected as Chairman. The Board is currently in need of two additional associate members.

The Board conducted thirteen (13) public hearings and fourteen (14) public meetings in 2017, during which it considered thirty-seven (37) applications. Two (2) applications were withdrawn without prejudice at the request of the applicants. Thirty (30) Special Permits were granted. One (1) Variance was granted. One (1) amendment to a previously approved Special Permit was granted. Three (3) applications are pending. One (1) Special Permit application has been appealed. (Some of these applications included multiple activities; therefore, the activity totals below may exceed the number of applications.)

Zoning Board of Appeals Application Activities – 2017

Extend Zoning District Line	1
Additional Dwelling Unit	1
Educational Uses	1
Philanthropic Uses	2
Special Home Occupation	3
Fairs Bazaars, Antique Shows, Suppers, and Dances	3
Relief from Maximum Height Requirements	2
Relief from Maximum Floor Area Ratio	3
Dedication of Land	2
Change, Alteration or Extension of a Non-Conforming Use and/ or Structure	23
Increase Gross Floor Area by more than 50%	10
Work within the Flood Plain Conservancy District	2
Earth Removal	1
Work within the Groundwater Conservancy District	1
Relief from Parking Requirements	2
Personal Wireless Communications Facility	1
Planned Residential Development	2
Special Permit	36
Variance	1
Site Plan Approval (Associated with a Special Permit)	5

BOARD OF HEALTH

Ray Considine, Chair
 JoAnn DiNardo, RN (term expired in May 2017)
 Mark Haddad Esq.
 Alma Healey, RN (joined Board of Health in September 2017)
 Deborah Greene, MD

The Board of Health is responsible for the overall stewardship of the public health of Concord. It promotes, enacts, and enforces health rules and regulations in accordance with local bylaws and state law. There are five members of the Board, appointed for three-year terms by the Town Manager. In May, JoAnne DiNardo's six year term on the Board expired and she was replaced by new member Alma Healey, RN.

Regulations

As the public health regulatory entity for the Town, the Board continues to endorse measures that work to ensure the health and safety of Concord residents.

Substance use prevention was a main focus of the Board of Health in 2017. The Board is concerned with the rising problem of opioid abuse in Massachusetts. In conjunction with Health Division staff, the Board co-sponsored three public events on opioid awareness in 2017. Passage

of the November 2016 state election ballot referendum, Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana, has raised concerns over the coming legal sale of marijuana for recreational use. After much consideration, the Board voted to recommend to the Select Board that an article be placed on the 2018 Annual Town Meeting warrant and as a ballot question for a proposed bylaw to prohibit non-medical marijuana establishments in Concord.

As in previous years, the Board of Health continued to pursue efforts to curb youth access to tobacco and nicotine delivery products such as e-cigarettes. Flavored tobacco and nicotine delivery products, including fruit-flavored e-cigarettes (“vaping” devices) and small cigars, are increasingly marketed to youth. E-cigarettes have become very popular with young people and their use has grown dramatically in the last five years. Today, more high school students use e-cigarettes than regular cigarettes. These products have as much potential to cause addiction to nicotine as conventional tobacco products, and their long-term health effects are poorly understood. Concord Board of Health regulations adopted in 2014 prohibit the sale of tobacco products and nicotine delivery products (vaping devices and e-liquids) to persons under age 21. The sale of flavored tobacco and nicotine products are also prohibited. In 2017, the Board conducted a youth compliance check, in which persons under age 21 visit retail businesses and attempt to purchase tobacco or nicotine delivery products. During this check, none of the 14 licensed vendors sold tobacco products to the youth purchaser. These types of compliance checks are essential for ensuring compliance with the regulation to help reduce youth access to tobacco.

At 2016 Annual Town Meeting, voters enacted a Bylaw Prohibiting Polystyrene in Food Service Ware. The bylaw, which applies to all licensed food service establishments in Concord, prohibits the use of food service articles made of polystyrene and became effective January 1, 2017. The bylaw includes a provision for granting of a waiver in cases of undue hardship and the Town Manager designated the Board of Health as the town entity responsible for granting of the waivers. The Board held hearings at which it granted waivers to twelve (12) food establishments to allow continued use of specific food service articles made of polystyrene,

Mosquito Control

The East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project (EMMCP) conducts a program in Concord consisting of mosquito surveillance, larval mosquito control, ditch maintenance and public education. Abnormally low rainfall totals during the 2015-2017, espe-

cially during the extreme drought in 2016, resulted in lower than average mammalian biting mosquito populations. The Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health determined that there was a low eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) risk in Concord during the 2017 season. In August, the risk for West Nile virus (WNV) was raised from low to moderate after a positive mosquito pool was found. There were 2 residents in Middlesex County who contracted WNV in 2017.

The adult mosquito surveillance program monitored mosquitoes from 12 Concord trap collections during the season. Culex mosquitoes from 9 trap collections were sent to the State Public Health Laboratory. One tested positive for WNV.

Bacillus sphaericus, Bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis and methoprene were applied to 2,700 catchbasins to control Culex mosquito larvae, which are considered the primary vector of WNV. Applications of Bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis were made to control larvae in two acres of wetland areas.

Our ditch maintenance program helps improve ditch drainage by removing sand and sediment that builds up over time. Doing this improves water flow and therefore eliminates mosquito breeding areas. By Ursula Drive, 61 feet of ditch was maintained using an excavator and 180 feet of ditch was cleaned using hand tools.

The Project’s public education program is designed to develop awareness within the public and the private sectors as to their roles in mosquito control. The Project serves as a resource to residents, municipal officials and the local media on mosquitoes and mosquito borne diseases. A web page located at <https://sudbury.ma.us/emmcp/> provides residents with information on mosquitoes, control programs and related topics.

HEALTH DIVISION

Susan Rask, MS, RS, Public Health Director
Stanley Sosnicki, CEHT, Assistant Public Health Director
Gabrielle White, Public Health Inspector
Karen Byrne, Administrative Assistant

The Health Division enforces State statutes and regulations relative to the protection of public health, the control of disease, the promotion of sanitary living conditions, and the protection of the environment from damage and pollution. Environmental and san-

itary codes enforced by the Health Division include: onsite wastewater (septic) systems, food establishments, swimming pools, bathing beaches, recreational camps, indoor ice skating rinks, housing, and lead paint. Administrative staff is responsible for assisting with annual flu clinics, the rabies control program, administration of the Septic Betterment Loan Program, and the issuance of approximately 815 annual licenses/permits.

Regional Public Health Services

The Concord Health Division has provided inspectional services to the Town of Lincoln under a regional contract since 1996. Over the past several years, the program has evolved from providing limited inspectional services to the administration of public health programs within the Town of Lincoln. The Assistant Public Health Director and Administrative Assistant are the primary contacts for providing services in Lincoln. In 2017, this program generated nearly \$35,000 in additional revenue for the Town of Concord (approximately 550 hours of public health and inspectional/administrative staff support). Staff witnessed test holes on 20 sites, issued 29 septic permits, 16 food service permits, 31 catering permits, 11 well permits, 4 recreational camps, reviewed 16 building projects, 70 septic inspections and conducted 37 food service inspections.

Awareness and prevention of tick-borne illnesses continues to be a priority. Lyme disease is among the most commonly reported communicable diseases in Concord, and two other tick-borne diseases, anaplasmosis (HGA) and babesiosis, are emerging concerns. In 2017, the Health Division continued to work cooperatively with the surrounding towns of Acton, Bedford, Carlisle, Lincoln, Sudbury, Wayland, Westford and Weston in the Middlesex Tick Task Force to deliver educational programs on tick borne illnesses.

Public Health Initiatives--Substance Use Prevention

2017 brought increasing public health concern around the use of opioids, the impending legalization of marijuana, and recent increases in teen use of e-cigarettes (vaping). Substance use prevention became the major focus of the Health Division and Board of Health in 2017. Toward this end, the Health Division coordinated a number of community outreach and public education events in 2017:

- Risks and Impacts of the Opioid Crisis: A Presentation for Concord Seniors, presented by District Attorney Marian T. Ryan; who discussed a county-wide initiative to educate senior citizens on how to properly manage their prescription medications, keep medication safe from theft, properly dispose of unused or expired medication, and identify signs of drug addiction in loved ones.
- How to Administer Narcan--Community Training presented by Carly Levy, MPH, CPH, Director, Master of Public Health Program, MCPHS University.
- Opiates, Vaping, Addiction and Our Kids: A Primer for Parents. Presented by Jon Cohan, CADC. who spoke on how addiction works in the adolescent brain (including addiction to e-cigarettes) and the risks addiction poses; how parents can talk to their children about drugs; warning signs; and how to get help. This program was coordinated by the Center for Parents and Teachers, a key Healthy Concord partner, who has co-sponsored a number of community public health education programs.
- Creation of a brochure titled What is Vaping?, information for parents about increasing teen use of vaping devices. The brochure was distributed to parents through the Concord Public Schools, the Concord-Carlisle Youth Services Coordinator, the Center for Parents and Teachers and a local pediatric medical practice.

Health Director Susan Rask, in conjunction with Concord-Carlisle Youth Services Coordinator Jennifer Clarke, undertook a Community Substance Use Assessment project. The assessment will research available public health and public safety data on substance use of all types in Concord and Carlisle. Data relating to use of opioids and misuse of prescription medications in all ages, and youth use of marijuana and alcohol is being gathered. Both quantitative and qualitative data will be collected. The data will be synthesized to create a clear picture of the extent and nature of substance use in Concord and to develop a narrative that can be used to engage with stakeholders and the public in moving forward with substance use prevention efforts. This project was made possible through grant funding from MDPH Community Health Network Area15 (CHNA15).

Emergency Preparedness

In 2017, the Health Division continued to work with the Concord Emergency Management Agency (CEMA), the Concord Council on Aging, Massachusetts Department of Public Health Region 4A, and Emerson Hospital to

enhance community emergency preparedness. Concord hosted a Region 4A Medical Reserve Corps training, How to Administer Narcan, at which eight new Medical Reserve Corps volunteers were recruited.

Concord maintains a plan, in compliance with MDPH requirements, for dispensing of medication (vaccines or pharmaceuticals) in an emergency. Concord's primary Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) is the Concord-Carlisle Regional High School. The EDS plan was updated in 2016 for use of the new CCHS building.

Permits & Licenses

The Health Division issued the following licenses in 2017 and collected \$ \$150,977.87 in permit fees: 216 Food Service/Retail Food (including farm stands, school cafeterias (private & public), food banks, churches, caterer operations, residential retail kitchens, mobile food trucks, bed & breakfast establishments); 14 Tobacco Sales; 129 Permits to Keep Farm Animals; 4 Bathing Beaches; 28 Swimming Pools; 58 Hazardous Material Storage/Usage; 2 Motels; 17 Recreational Camp Sites; 22 Day Camp Programs; 1 Tanning Facilities; 53 Registered Title 5 Inspectors, 53 Disposal Works Installers; 24 Septic Haulers; 15 Rubbish Haulers; 1 Body Art Establishment; 4 Body Art Technicians; 4 Funeral Directors; 2 Funeral Homes; 104 On-Site Sewage Disposal Permits; 223 Building Permit Reviews; 7 Beaver Permits and 21 Well Permits

Public Health Nursing/Communicable Disease Control

Under a contract with the Health Division, Emerson Hospital Home Care provides nursing services for coordination and staffing of the annual influenza vaccination clinics, telephone and home visits to patients, and investigation of reported cases of communicable diseases. The cases of communicable diseases are reported to the Health Division for inclusion in statistical reports prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for epidemiological purposes. This confidential information is maintained by the public health nurses and Administrative Assistant and routed to MDPH for appropriate follow-up action through the MAVEN (Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network).

Public health nursing services were expanded to 12 hours per week in 2017. Urvi Agarwalla, RN began employment in May 2017 as the public health nurse and geriatric nurse at the Council on Aging. Public

health nursing efforts in 2017 were focused on public health emergency preparedness, prevention of communicable disease, and substance use prevention and education.

Influenza Vaccine Distribution & Clinics

The Health Division sponsored its annual seasonal influenza clinic for Concord Seniors at the Harvey Wheeler Center on October 20, 2016. Emerson Hospital Home Care nurses administered vaccine to 131 participants. Vaccine continues to be readily available from primary care physicians and local pharmacies throughout the year, therefore, cities and towns have seen attendance to these public clinics decrease; but, senior flu clinics allow public health departments to continue to serve the most at-risk population who may not be able to take advantage of those other venues.

The Town of Concord, through its Health Division, also sponsored a Seasonal Influenza Clinic for Town Employees on October 5, 2016. Emerson Hospital Home Care administered 81 doses of vaccine to Town Employees during this clinic.

Sanitary Housing Inspections

The Assistant Public Health Director is responsible for conducting inspections for compliance with the State Sanitary Code, 105 CMR 410.000, Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation. Health Division staff conducted 8 housing inspections and spent a significant amount of time working with tenants and property owners to resolve several complex housing situations.

Wastewater Permitting Program

Onsite Sewage Disposal/Building Reviews for Title 5 & Town Sewer

The Assistant Public Health Director oversees the onsite wastewater management (septic system) program in the Health Division. In 2017, the Division issued 104 permits for construction and/or alteration of septic systems, reviewed 223 building permit applications for regulatory compliance, and witnessed percolation tests and soil evaluations for 98 properties. The Assistant Public Health Director conducted approximately 326 onsite inspections for compliance with Title 5.

Septic System Betterment Loan Program

The Community Septic System Betterment Loan Program is administered by the Health Division Administrative Assistant.

In 2009, Concord Town Meeting approved a loan/debt

Communicable Disease

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Amebiasis	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Babesiosis	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	2	7	0	2
Calicivirus/Norovirus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Campylobacter	4	3	4	6	6	5	8	7	10	6	5
Cryptococcus	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cryptosporidia	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	2
Dengue	-	-	-	1	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
E. Coli	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0
Ehrlichiosis	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Encephalitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enterovirus	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Giardia	1	4	3	2	4	2	0	2	2	6	0
Haemophilus influenzae	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis B	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis C* **	6	19	68	23	5	2	10	33	20	6	8
H1N1 Influenza	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HGA	0	0	5	8	1	1	0	2	5	4	7
Legionnaire's Disease	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
Lyme Disease	29	84	48	46	11	7	11	17	9	58***	0
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningitis	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pertussis	3	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	2
Rocky Mtn Spotted Fever	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salmonella	3	5	4	4	3	2	12	2	5	7	5
Shiga Toxin producing organism	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Shigella	1	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Streptococcal Pneumonia	2	2	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
Type B Streptococcus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	2
Tuberculosis	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Nile Virus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Yersiniosis	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vibrio										1	0
Zika										1	0
Non-specified influenza										7	9

*All cases previous to 2011 included MCI Concord; MDPH now records those totals separately

** Results for 2016 include 1 town resident and 5 MCI prisoners

*** All 58 2016 cases were suspected cases with none confirmed or probable

authorization for \$2,000,000 borrowing authorized to be carried out by the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust (MWPAT) for the purpose of continuing to fund the Septic Betterment Loan Program. Concord property owners can borrow up to \$30,000 at two percent (2%) interest, to be paid back as a betterment-lien over 10 years. In 2017, \$300,000 was committed to residents to offset costs for onsite sewage disposal expenses through the loan program. To date a total over a million dollars has been expended from the 2nd loan.

Assistant Karen Byrne works very closely with local engineers, septic installers and other Town Departments to actively promote this program and will continue to do so in 2018. The Town is very fortunate to be able to offer this type of financial assistance to its residents to alleviate some of the unexpected financial burdens or stressors that may come with dealing with a failed onsite sewage system.

Food Protection Program

The Public Health Inspector conducts risk based inspections of all Food Service Establishments. Food Establishments range from complex meal service in full service restaurants, hospital and school kitchens to convenience store packaged food sales. In 2017, Concord said a fond farewell to La Provence but welcomed Karma, an Asian-fusion restaurant in its place. Bondir Concord also closed and was replaced by Fiorella's. Michael's, Vincenzo's, Country Kitchen and Walden Rehabilitation were also closed in 2017. Several new food service establishments are under review and expected to open in 2018.

Food Inspections & Temporary Food Events

Temporary Food Event applications are reviewed by staff to identify and address any potential food safety risk factors that could impact the public health. During 2017, 56 Temporary Food Events/Catered Events were permitted, including Patriots Day Festivities, Chamber of Commerce Spring/Fall Festival, the Memorial Day and Fourth of July Parades, and the Fall Agricultural Fair.

Recreational Camp Program

The Public Health Inspector reviewed 20 programs which meet the definition of "recreational camp" and which served 4365 campers in Concord. Programs were reviewed for compliance with the regulatory requirements of 105 CMR 430.000: Minimum Standards For Recreational Camps For Children: background checks on staff, health records, trained personnel, medical protocol, and safety checks on all facilities with high risk activities such as ropes courses are reviewed and inspected. There are 15 sites which either host their own camp programs and/or serve as a rental location to "out of town" programs. In recent years, the Health Division has encountered a growing number of summer youth programs that are exempt from licensure because they operate for less than five days in a two-week period and therefore do not meet the regulatory definition of a recreational camp. These programs are not inspected or licensed by the Health Division and do not necessarily meet the regulatory requirements of a recreational camp. Residents who have a question regarding whether a summer youth program is licensed and inspected may call the Health Division for this information.

2017 Food Service/Retail Permits	
39 Retail Food Permits	14 Delicatessens in Retail Establishments
53 Food Service Operations	6 Nursing Homes/Assisted Living
10 Farm Stands	1 Hospital/In-patient Kitchen
9 Public School Cafeterias	4 Private School Cafeterias
7 Religious Organizations	2 Community Assistance Food Groups
1 Food Bank	1 Home for Aged Community
1 Sporting Event Food Service	5 Seasonal Operations
3 Mobile Food Trucks	2 Bed & Breakfast Establishments
12 Caterers Base of Operations	1 Daycare with Food Service
1 Food Processors	4 Rental Hall Kitchens
7 Frozen Ice Cream/Desserts	3 Residential Retail Kitchens
	11 Milk/Cream Permits

Bathing Beach Program

The Health Division continued its contract with G&L Laboratories to provide services for collection and analysis of bathing beach water samples. A new semi-public beach, the Dover St. Beach Association, was licensed, and tested weekly using a composite sample with the White Pond Associates beach. The other two semi-public beaches, Silver Hill Association and Annursnac Hill Association, were also sampled weekly during the 2017 season. Samples are taken weekly, from Memorial Day through Labor Day, for compliance with 105 CMR 445.00, Minimum Standards for Bathing Beaches. Forty eight (48) water samples were collected from the 4 beaches over a 16 week time period. There were no beach closures during the 2016 season due to bacterial levels exceeding acceptable limits for bathing beach waters.

There was a single closure of Whites Pond for a visible blue-green algae bloom observed prior to the July 4th weekend. While there were small algae blooms present throughout the summer, no other closures were mandated.

Swimming Pools

There are 14 sites in Concord which hold recreational pool permits, the newest pool being located at the Marriot Residence Inn which opened in 2017. There are currently 4 general purpose pools, 14 lap pools, 6 children's pools, 3 special purpose pools and 1 diving

well. The Public Health Inspector conducts water tests at each pool as well as monitors safety equipment and trained personal for each site.

Animal Permits

The Public Health Inspector serves as the Town's Animal Inspector. Recent years have demonstrated a growing trend for keeping of backyard animals. The number of permits for keeping of animals has more than doubled in the past five years: 129 permits were issued in 2017, compared to 48 in 2009. The Public Health Inspector conducted annual site visits at 132 permitted properties to inspect for sanitary conditions, health of animals and prevention of odors and pests from proper manure storage/removal.

Rabies Control Program

During 2017 there were 8 domestic animals (dogs & cats) quarantined by either the Concord Health Division or Animal Control Officers (Boardman Animal Control Services) due to contact with potentially rabid animals. Nine (9) domestic animals were quarantined and followed by Dog Officer because of animal bites to humans. Rabies tests were conducted on three (3) potentially rabid animals (2 bats and 1 cat). None of the animals tested positive for the rabies virus.

At the Health Division's Annual Rabies Clinic in March 2017, Concord Animal Hospital veterinarians administered the rabies vaccine to 19 dogs and 8 cats.

2009-2017 Animal Census Information

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Chickens	716	1056	1368	3211	3418	2903	973	538	973
Horses	166	164	163	182	171	119	146	154	163
Cattle	217	243	178	255	220	180	199	186	226
Rabbits	70	78	112	200	0	100	8	10	0
Goats	17	10	13	21	21	7	11	12	41
Geese/Ducks	23	29	38	37	46	35	52	20	44
Guinea Hens	14	9	8	7	7	12	5	5	3
Quail	-	-	-	-	-	30	40	62	50
Sheep	10	15	1	4	14	12	4	22	31
Beehives	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Llamas	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donkeys	2	2	3	2	6	5	5	0	9
Turkey	5	7	8	57	57	2	0	0	0
Pigs	12	10	2	15	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1,256	1627	1894	3991	3960	3405	1443	1009	1540

EMERSON HOSPITAL HOME CARE SERVICES

Judith Labossiere, MBA, BSN, RN, ACHCE
Executive Director, Emerson Hospital Home Care

Emerson Hospital Home Care is a Medicare/Medicaid Certified, Joint Commission accredited, provider of home health services in Concord, as well as 29 surrounding cities and towns. The mission is to deliver high quality, safe, and cost effective services to our patients. These services include skilled nursing, physical, occupational, and speech therapy, home health aide services, and medical social work, totaling 34,761 visits during FY2017.

Home Care provides services in any place that a patient calls home. We accept referrals for services from a diverse referral population including; hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, physician offices, and referrals from patients with a physician's order for care. Members of the community can contact our office directly for skilled services for themselves or family members.

Emerson Hospital Home Care provides community health, education, and communicable disease follow up in accordance with our Board of Health contracts. Our contract with the Town of Concord also allows Home Care to make home visits to qualifying individuals who have no source of payment to cover our services. This remains an important aspect of our work with the Board of Health. Home Care also coordinates closely with Concord Council on Aging to promote health and wellness to seniors through lectures and other programs. The influenza vaccination program serves both residents and employees of the Town of Concord. Please see the attached spreadsheet for data from flu clinics and communicable disease follow up. Emerson Hospital Home Care has just started a Private Duty component (Emerson at Home). Emerson at Home provides a variety of services that are available through private pay options. These services are available when a person no longer meets the requirements for care through their skilled insured services. More information is available by calling 978-287-8300. As a partner in the provision of care, Emerson Hospital Home Care plays an integral role in the organizations focus on enhancing the care of the growing elderly

population in the communities we serve. Participating as one of the pilot states in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services Value Based Purchasing Pilot, our continuous focus on quality outcomes is integrated into all aspects of our care. This includes a focus on care driven outcomes as well as patient satisfaction. At all levels of care we are committed to working together with the community partners to achieve a high level of patient satisfaction.

Emerson Hospital Home Care looks forward to a continued partnership with the Board of Health and other community organizations as we continue our commitment to care for the residents of Concord.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES INSPECTIONS

The function of the Weights and Measures official is to safeguard the public in matters involving the commercial determination of "quantity" and ensure that whenever merchandise or service is bought or sold, that honest weights and honest measures are delivered, and that fraud, carelessness or misrepresentation of such transactions are eliminated. The accuracy of all weighing and measuring devices used for sale to the public are inspected, sealed or condemned as required. Inspections are conducted at all gasoline and diesel dispensing devices (pumps), home heating (fuel oil) delivery trucks, scales used at supermarkets, delis, meat/seafood markets, retail checkout counters, farm stands, pharmacies, and any other facility using a weighing or measuring device for sale of product. Bar Code pricing devices (scanners) are also inspected for accuracy and proper operation. State law requires that scanners be inspected once every two years for businesses with three or more electronic checkout systems. Scanners were inspected in 2016 and all were in compliance. On alternating years, scanners are verified if the Health Department is contacted via a complaint and/or a new device is installed.

The Town of Concord contracts with the Massachusetts Division of Standards (DOS) through the Concord Health Department. The Health Department Administrative Assistant and DOS Inspectors work closely together to coordinate and ensure that any complaint received by a consumer is addressed in a timely manner as well as ensuring that proper invoic-

ing and payments are received by the Town. In 2017, inspections were performed at 51 establishments throughout Concord: 143 gasoline meters; 90 weighing scales, and 19 fuel delivery trucks. The Health Department invoiced \$6,970.00 in Weights & Measures fees in 2017.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Judith R. Zaunbrecher, Chair
Jeffrey W. Adams
Gregory E. Higgins
Lynn G. Huggins
Charles D. Poutasse



Board Members Judy Zaunbrecher, Lynn Huggins, Chip Poutasse, Greg Higgins, Jeff Adams

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and staff are responsible for the overall stewardship of the natural resources of the Town, and the establishment of Town environmental policy in conjunction with the Select Board and Town Meeting. The NRC administers the state Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40), the Rivers Protection Act (MGL Chapter 258 of the Acts of 1996) and accompanying regulations (310 CMR 10.00), and the Concord Wetlands Bylaw and Regulations. The NRC also plays an important role in open space planning pursuant to its authority under the Conservation Commission Act (MGL Chapter 40 Section 8c).

Wetlands Protection Act:

The majority of Commission and staff time is dedicated to administering and enforcing state and local wetland regulations. The NRC held 22 meetings to review permit applications, which included 41 Notices of Intent, six Abbreviated Notices of Resource Area

Delineations, and 19 Requests for Determinations of Applicability, for a total of 66 new applications. The NRC closed out many completed projects, issuing 30 Certificates of Compliance and one Partial Certificate of Compliance. Division staff reviewed 23 Administrative Approvals for very minor projects including limited tree and invasive species removal. There were two appeals in 2017: an ANRAD at 790 Barretts Mill Road to confirm wetland resource area boundaries and a proposed cell tower at Middlesex School. The wetland delineation at 790 Barretts Mill was resolved. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued a Superseding Order of Conditions upholding the NRC's decision approving the cell tower; this decision was further appealed to the DEP's Office of Appeals and Dispute Resolution and an adjudicatory hearing will be held in early 2018.

Projects of interest reviewed by the NRC this year include the reconstruction of Cambridge Turnpike, a proposed subdivision on Keuka Road, and a number of ANRADs for future developments including 1075 Lowell Road, 1440/1450 Main Street, 430 Old Bedford Road, and 1861 Sudbury Road.

Dogs on Conservation Land:

Due to increased dog activity on conservation lands, and conflicts between dogs, wildlife, and other trails users, the NRC held a public hearing and nine public meetings to consider leash restrictions on some conservation lands. After extensive study, discussion, and public feedback, the Commission voted to require leashing at Punkatasset Conservation Land. Seasonal leash restrictions at agricultural fields on conservation lands were also discussed, in addition to continuing the seasonal leash restriction at Mattison Field to protect nesting bobolink and the leash restriction at White Pond Reservation. The NRC also adopted new rules for dogs on conservation land. A brochure and other educational materials will be developed in 2018.

Conservation Restrictions:

The Natural Resources Commission accepted two new Conservation Restriction's (CRs) covering approximately 53 acres: a 46.68-acre CR at 28X Ball's Hill Road associated with the October Farm Riverfront acquisition that occurred in 2016; and a 6.31-acre CR associated with the Black Birch development on Forest Ridge Road. Both CRs provide for public access and other significant public benefits.

NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

Delia R. J. Kaye, Natural Resources Director
Lori A. Capone, Natural Resources Assistant Director
Karen T. Bockoven, Administrative Assistant

Natural Resources Management

In addition to providing technical and administrative support to the Natural Resources Commission, Division staff are responsible for the stewardship of approximately 1,400 acres of Town conservation land (including White Pond Reservation), maintaining over 26 miles of trails, and mowing 84 acres to maintain trails and open meadows. Natural resources management also includes staff support to three NRC active subcommittees, as well as coordinating with other local and regional stewardship initiatives.

Community Preservation Act

After bids came in higher than initially estimated, additional funds were sought to implement a substantial slope restoration project at White Pond. If funded, this project will commence in the summer of 2018. Permits for this work were obtained this year.

Old Calf Pasture

Division staff oversaw the eighth year of invasive species control at Old Calf Pasture, in part with funding received through Community Preservation Act funds awarded in 2013 and 2016. New areas of invasive glossy buckthorn were treated by the New England Wildflower Society, expanding the areas of improved habitat for native flora and fauna, including the rare Britton's violet. A violet count in 2017 indicates that the rare violet population, one of the largest in the state, is flourishing.

Rangers

Adam D'Agostino and Mark McCullough served as Rangers this summer to patrol White Pond, and educate the public on erosion control and swimming restrictions. This year's Ranger responsibilities were expanded to also include observations on land usage by dogs and other trail users at several conservation properties. Small, distinct algae blooms were observed at White Pond this summer but they did not develop into the significant blooms seen in 2015. Rangers worked with other Division staff to reinforce temporary slope restoration measures implemented at White Pond in 2015, and removed invasives from the White Pond Reservation.

Conservation Crew

Joseph Guerin and Justin Livoli joined the Division this summer to perform trail maintenance, remove invasive vegetation, and conduct general maintenance on conservation lands throughout Town. The Crew continued the hand pulling efforts to remove the invasive aquatic water chestnut from Macone Pond, Warner's Pond, and Hutchins Pond, and continued the cooperative effort with US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Conservation Land Conservation Trust, and the Town of Lincoln to remove water chestnut from Fairhaven Bay and the Sudbury River. For the sixth consecutive summer, the aquatic weed harvester was not needed on the Sudbury River and Fairhaven Bay, a testament to the vigilant efforts of previous mechanical harvesting efforts between 2001 and 2011 and continued hand pulling efforts. The crew also replaced, repaired, and/or repainted conservation land signs and kiosks, and maintained and constructed new boardwalks along seasonal trails. With the assistance of Jim Macone, the crew constructed and installed a new kiosk at the Lowell Road boat launch.

Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area

Division staff continued working with other towns, organizations, and individuals in the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers (SuAsCo) watershed to develop strategic regional plans for invasive species management in the watershed, and to promote collaborative approaches to achieve these priorities. This year Concord partnered with the Organization of the Assabet, Concord, and Sudbury Rivers, land trusts, and other municipalities to implement a five year regional Water Chestnut Management Plan.

Conservation Restriction Stewardship Committee

The CRSC continued to assist the Division of Natural Resources with its land management responsibilities of the 80 plus parcels with Conservation Restrictions that have been granted to the Town by monitoring their care and condition. Committee members performed monitoring visits on 28 parcels, reviewed three new CRs (October Farm Riverfront, Black Birch, McGrath Farm), and updated or wrote five new Baseline Documentation Reports. Current members are Kathryn Angell, David Bell (Chair), John Ferguson, Mary Ann Lippert, Catherine Perry, and Neil Ryder.

Heywood Meadow Stewardship Committee

The Heywood Meadow Stewardship Committee con-

tinues in its mission to preserve and protect Heywood Meadow. This year, five goats were brought to the meadow for three weeks in an effort to control woody invasive species along the woodline, a marginally effective effort but very popular with the public. More conventional removal of invasives along the fringe of the woods continues with good success. A large tulip tree, generously donated by the Der family, was planted by Hartney Greymont on Arbor Day, who also donated time to tree pruning as part of their Arbor Day gift to the Town. The Conantum Garden Club and David and Susan Clark donated three new bluebird boxes, installed by David Clark, to encourage nesting bluebirds. Finally, wildflower seeds were broadcast on the west Meadow to increase bloom. The network of Meadow paths receives frequent use. Members are Lola Chaisson, Mary Clarke, Susan Clark (Co-Chair), Joanne Gibson (Co-Chair), Nicole Kelly, Stan Lucks, Murray Nicolson (Clerk), Bev Miller, and Sandy Smith.

Trails Committee

Significant trail development was completed in two new conservation areas. A quarter mile of new trails offers peaceful views of wetlands along the northern boundary of October Farm Riverfront. The new Baptist Brook property south of Annursnac conservation land features surprisingly rugged views above a hemlock ravine overlooking Baptist Brook that can also be experienced from trails along the water's edge. In the Annursnac section, new trails through the previously inaccessible western portion allow a loop walk that includes two brook crossings and a walk along the side of Annursnac Hill. The Town is grateful for the gracious agreement of a land owner in providing a trail easement through private property, linking the Baptist Brook and Annursnac properties, a combined area of 143 acres with 1¼ miles of new trails through varied terrain and natural habitat. Trail guides were prepared for the new properties.

Trail upgrades and maintenance are always ongoing. At the Old Rifle Range, a 38-foot section of deteriorated retaining wall was replaced along the eroded main trail, with further rehabilitation planned. With Japanese knotweed nearly eradicated at the West Concord Park trailhead heat-tolerant plantings were placed around the kiosk to enhance the beauty of the entrance at Conant Street, with many more plantings planned for 2018.

Being vigilant of trail needs and correcting obstructions to assure walkers' access is a never ending task handled by stewards and Committee members. To recognize their effort, a Steward Appreciation social event was hosted by Committee member Carlene Hempel. Committee members include Spencer Borden, David Clark, Carlene Hempel, Jonathan Keyes, Ken Miller, Peter Siebert, and Bob White (Chair).

Conservation Land Use Permits

A total of 23 permits were issued to various groups using Town conservation land for wetlands training, drag hunting, and for a Canoe for Clean Water event. Permits were also issued to the Musketaquid Arts and Environment Program for the Art Ramble, temporary art installations at Hapgood Wright Town Forest from several artists that were on display again this summer.

Farming and Community Gardens

Agricultural Farming Agreements

The Division continues to work with local farmers to retain land in agriculture, overseeing 15 agreements over 200 acres of actively farmed land.

Marshall Farm

In addition to the successful operation of Marshall Farms, operations were expanded this year to include a portion of the Rogers land which yielded much more than expected (pumpkins, watermelon and over 500 bunches of sunflowers). On the main farm property, three older greenhouses were retired (some were 40 years old) and new, more efficient greenhouses are being erected.

McGrath Farmstead

Barrett's Mill Farm completed their fourth growing season at the McGrath Farmstead and their second season farming the parcel at 41A Barretts Mill Road. The farm received organic certification in 2017 for all crops grown on the main farmstead. Crops grown at the 41A parcel will be eligible for organic certification in 2019. During this season, crops were grown on 11.5 acres, with 3 acres left fallow in cover crop. Of the 11.5 acres in fruit, vegetable, and flower production, about 1.25 acres were in perennial crops (asparagus, blueberries, gooseberries and rhubarb, as well as some perennials for attracting pollinators).

Produce was sold to the general public through the

farm store, which is open five days a week during the growing season, as well as to 243 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and Barrett's Bucks (farm store credit) members. The Pick-your-own Flower CSA served 26 members and the Late Fall CSA was expanded from 3 weeks to 4 and grew from 29 members to 51 members. Barrett's Mill Farm's commitment to increasing access to fresh produce continued with weekly vegetable donations to Open Table and the Boston Area Gleaners. In addition, Barrett's Mill Farm donated a CSA membership to Minute Man Arc and offered discounted CSA memberships to 7 households receiving SNAP benefits. The farm also participated in several community activities, including the Ag Day Farmers' Market, hosting a spring Open House, a "Touch a Tractor" event with the Concord Family Network, and a farm tour as part of the annual Food, Farm and Garden Fair.

The major capital investment for the 2017 season was installing a 500 foot deep bedrock irrigation well, funded from jointly by the Town and a grant awarded to Barretts Mill Farm from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources.

Thoreau Birthplace

Gaining Ground, a non-profit farm that grows food for hunger relief with the help of volunteers of all ages and abilities, farms the land at the Thoreau Birthplace and adjacent Massport land. This season the farm donated 33% more produce than ever before, totaling over 80,000 pounds of organic produce to thirteen food pantries, meal programs, and direct donation markets in Lowell, Boston, and surrounding Metro West communities. The increase in production is attributed to a



Gaining Ground Community Garden at the Thoreau Birth House

successful transition to no-till farming practices, which focus on soil fertility and biology, as well as the construction of a second hoop house that gives an earlier start in the spring and later distributions into the fall. Staff worked alongside 2,500 volunteers throughout the season, with volunteers involved in all aspects of farm operation. Gaining Ground continues to be part of the New England tradition of sugaring, and in February and March, the snowy winter made for a short but productive season. The farm put up 200 buckets in Concord and finished 35 gallons of syrup.

Community Gardens

The long standing tradition of the organic community gardens continues to thrive under the helpful guidance of volunteer coordinators Terry Marzucco, Rebecca Sheehan Purcell, and Michelle Wiggins at the Hugh Cargill Community Garden, Dale Clutter, Trish Ng, and India Rose at the East Quarter Farm Community Garden, and Brenna Roth Lindsay at Cousins Community Garden. Carol Aronson, Mark Del Guidice, Mary Hartman, and Joe Sleczeck provided guidance for the new Rogers Community Garden. Coordinators assign garden plots, coordinate annual meetings and cleanups, and offer guidance to gardeners to produce beautiful and bountiful harvests.

The East Quarter Farm (EQF) growing season was very productive and after last year's drought it was a relief to have a good water supply throughout the summer. Many vegetables grew abundantly including tomatoes, squash, kale, cabbage, eggplant, carrots, beans, and onions and the mild fall weather allowed an extended harvest of herbs, flowers and vegetables. The communal berry bushes did very well this year and were especially delicious. Overall it was a very fulfilling year and the EQF gardeners received many health benefits including organic food, exercise, and a peaceful refuge from the stresses of daily life.

The Hugh Cargill Community Garden (HCCG) land has been farmed since its donation to the Town by Hugh Cargill in 1793. Originally used to benefit the nearby poor farm, it has evolved to serve all interested residents. This year, the garden had a great mix of novice gardeners planting their first seeds, experienced gardeners who have been with HCCG for more than 35 years, and everything in between. For the first time in recent memory, a half dozen plots were unclaimed; these were cover cropped to build up soil health and

fertility for future use. A good balance of sun and rain this year resulted in lush gardens. Photographers, university students, artists, and chefs regularly visit the garden and join fellow gardeners in finding inspiration in the garden's tranquility.

In its second year of operation, Rogers Garden continued to add new gardeners to its roster. The 2017 season had 25 individuals and/or families enjoy the plentiful sun and serenity that Rogers offers near the shores of the Assabet River in West Concord. Efforts to enhance the soil with organic matter and rock removal continued, resulting in many plots with bumper crops of flowers, potatoes, squash, tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants.

Environmental and Educational Activities

The Division continues to sponsor the longstanding tradition of early morning Conservation Coffees on the first Tuesday morning of most months at 7:30 a.m. These lively and stimulating gatherings of citizens, conservation organization representatives, and federal, state, and local officials provide an interesting and effective forum to exchange information, ideas, and concerns about conservation and the environment.

The Division continues to host an annual spring migratory bird walk, led by Peter Alden. This popular walk, generally held on the second Saturday in May, brings together local birders to welcome the return of many colorful migrants back for the season or on their way to more northern breeding grounds, as well as observe resident birds in a variety of habitats.

The NRC continues to support Dr. Bryan Windmiller's research and headstarting efforts on the Blanding's turtle, a threatened species with a population at Great Meadows which he has studied in depth since 2003.

PLANNING BOARD

Robert Easton, Chair
 Matt Johnson, Vice Chair
 Kristen Ferguson, Clerk
 Burton Flint
 Gary Kleiman
 Allen Sayegh
 Brooke Whiting Cash

Marcia Rasmussen, Director
 Elizabeth Hughes, Town Planner
 Nancy Hausherr, Administrative Assistant

The Planning Board's authority is contained in MGL Ch. 41 "Improved Methods of Municipal Planning" and MGL Ch. 40A "The Zoning Act". The Board is responsible for making rules and regulations relating to subdivision control, initiating Zoning Bylaws, holding public hearings on all Zoning Bylaws submitted to the Select Board, evaluating various developments through Site Plan Review, revising and updating the Comprehensive Long Range Plan, and from time to time making studies of the resources and needs of the Town. Additional responsibilities are found in the Town Bylaws and the Town Charter.

The Board met twenty-one times in 2017. In addition to their regular meetings, four public hearings were held. One public hearing was for Zoning Bylaw amendments to be considered by Annual Town Meeting. One was a joint public hearing with the Zoning Board of Appeals for a Definitive Subdivision Plan and Special Permit Planned Residential Development application filed by Keuka Road LLC. One public hearing was to consider the draft rules and regulations for the recently enacted Tree Preservation Bylaw. After an initial public hearing session in November, this public hearing was continued to January, 2018. One public hearing was for an amendment to the conditions of a 1990 Definitive Subdivision Plan "Forest Ridge" and a 1999 Definitive Subdivision Plan for 35 Forest Ridge Road.

Members, John Canally and John Cratsley ended their terms and the Board welcomed new members Burton Flint and Kristen Ferguson.

Residential development

Fourteen "Approval Not Required" (ANR) plans were

submitted to the Board for endorsement. Seven of these plans approved changes of lot lines that did not create additional lots. Three endorsed plans created four additional lots. Four plans, submitted in December, will be reviewed in January, 2018.

In February, the Board granted approval with certain waivers and conditions, of a four-lot Preliminary Subdivision Plan for 12.48 acres off Keuka Road.

In April, an eleven-unit Definitive Subdivision Plan/Planned Residential Development was filed by Keuka Road LLC and later, in October, was withdrawn by the Applicant without prejudice.

In June, the Board made a positive recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 16-unit age restricted Alternative Planned Residential Development, Black Birch Phase II at 275 Forest Ridge Road.

In November, a four-lot Definitive Subdivision Plan for parcels on Keuka Road was filed by Keuka Road LLC. A public hearing is scheduled for January 23, 2018.

Commercial, institutional and other development

Seven Site Plan/Special Permit applications received affirmative recommendations to the Zoning Board of Appeals in 2017:

- Fenn School, 498 Monument Street
- The Umbrella Community Arts Center, 40 Stow Street
- 63 Virginia Road, work in the Flood Plain Conservancy District
- 17 Laws Brook Road
- 462 Thoreau Street, work in the Groundwater Conservancy District
- 47 Warner Street, work in the Flood Plain Conservancy District
- 35 Forest Ridge Road & 2250 Main Street, Minute Man ARC

Two Site Plan/Special Permit applications are still under review by the Board for a recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals. These are the applications for Caffe Nero Americas at 55-57 Main Street and 317 Garfield Road, where the Applicant seeks to divide land into two or more building lots so that one or more building lot(s) contains reduced frontage, lot width, lot area and/or side and rear setback for the purpose of preserving an existing historically significant structures or dwellings.

In May, an amendment to Site Plan Approval granted in 11/9/99 was approved for the Thoreau Club/ Camp Thoreau parking lot at 275 Forest Ridge Road.

In June, Site Plan Approval with conditions was granted to Concord Academy for a proposed renovation and addition to the Bradford House dormitory on campus.

Zoning amendments and Town Meeting actions

For the 2017 Annual Town Meeting, the Planning Board sponsored five Zoning Bylaw amendment warrant articles, one General Bylaw, and recommended affirmative action on two citizen petition Zoning Bylaw articles, all of which passed. These were:

- An article to amend Site Plan Review for Religious Uses, Educational Uses, and Child Care Facilities to correct a discrepancy in an amendment to this Section of the Zoning Bylaw, approved by Article 37 at the 2016 Annual Town Meeting, between the opening paragraph and the actual wording of the Bylaw under subsection (e).
- An article to amend Professional Office to add “real estate broker” to the definition of persons having a professional office, thereby prohibiting a real estate office from locating on the first floor of buildings in the West Concord Village District only.
- An article to amend Nonconforming Single and Two-Family Residential Structures to make the method of measuring the gross floor area of a residence under Section 7.1.5 consistent with Section 6.2.13, maximum floor area ratio, and insert a new subsection (d) “extension of a structure by more than 50% is based on the aggregate of all expansions undertaken within a consecutive 5 year period”.
- An article to amend Residential Uses to correct a discrepancy in an amendment to this Section of the Zoning Bylaw, approved by Article 35 at the 2016 Annual Town Meeting, between the opening paragraph of the article and the actual wording of the sentence added at the end of the paragraph; and change the measurement in Section 4.2.2.1 from “volume” to “gross floor area” for consistency with other sections of the Zoning Bylaw.
- An article, Marijuana Establishment Temporary Moratorium, to institute a moratorium until July 1, 2018 on marijuana establishments (allowed by enactment of a 2016 state law) in order to give the Town sufficient time to engage in the planning process and enact bylaws in a manner consistent with sound land

use planning goals and objectives.

- An article, Tree Preservation Bylaw, to amend the Town’s General Bylaws to require residential property owners to protect trees within a defined setback area of a lot during significant demolition and/or construction activity and, if trees are removed from the setback area, require property owners to either plant replacement trees or pay fees to a Town Tree Fund for planting elsewhere in Town.

- A citizen petition article Alternative Planned Residential Development Preliminary Site Development and Use Proposal to determine whether the Town would vote pursuant to Section 10.3.4 of the Zoning Bylaw to approve Phase II Black Birch Alternative Planned Residential Development Site Development and Use Proposal for Lot 4A and Parcel A Forest Ridge Road (Parcel 2970-1-5) dated 9/12/16, revised 12/20/16, as filed with the Town Clerk and Planning Board for a 16-unit over age 55 residential development.

- A citizen petition article Release of Residential Restriction Applicable to Lot 4A and Parcel A Forest Ridge Road to determine whether the Town would vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into an agreement to release Lot 4A and Parcel A Forest Ridge Road from a certain Easement and Restrictive Covenant Agreement dated September 19, 1990 and agree that said Lot 4A and Parcel A may be used for residential purposes as a primary use.

Other Actions

Reviews of draft language for potential Zoning Bylaw amendments were held at several of the Board’s meetings in anticipation of submitting potentially ten Zoning Bylaw amendment warrant articles for the 2018 Annual Town Meeting.

In addition the Board:

- Developed goals and objectives for 2017 – 2018
- Devoted time at several meetings to discuss the important work and objectives of the Comprehensive Long Range Plan Committee and the ongoing development the Town’s Comprehensive Long Range Plan Update including providing feedback for the Committee’s consideration
- Granted the release of the a 2002 Performance Guarantee for Blue Heron Way
- Held a discussion to give guidance to Select Board prior to their adoption of a Tree Bylaw Fee Structure relating to the enacted Tree Preservation Bylaw

- Held a public hearing on the Draft Tree Preservation Bylaw Rules and Regulations for adoption (ongoing)
- Wrote a letter in support of the Town’s Efficiency and Regionalization Grant

- Appointed members to the West Concord Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the Planning Board and attended the WCAC Annual Open House in May

- Discussed, but took no position on Article 49, submitted by citizen petitioner, Charles Phillips, for Annual Town Meeting

- Recommended to the Select Board a Community Preservation Committee Planning Board appointee
- Reviewed 2017 Community Preservation Act Applications for recommendations to the Community Preservation Committee.

- Made a recommendation to the Select Board regarding a Notice of Intent under M.G.L. Ch. 61A Section 14 to sell and convert use at 1767 Lowell Road

- Selected the Town Planner as the Planning Board’s representative to the Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC)

- Endorsed some lot releases, accepted a Restrictive Covenant, and a Performance Guarantee for the Monsen Farm Subdivision

- Reported to the Public Works Commission in favor of the petition for the acceptance of Monsen Road Extension as a public way

- Approved a Form H, for the proposed new street name, Jeff Adams Way, for the private entrance drive on the campus of the Fenn School

- Discussed the detention basin for the Black Horse Place development

- Discussed the Recreational Marijuana Law, including a temporary moratorium extension and potential marijuana establishment articles related to Zoning Bylaw Section 4.8.3

- Authorized the use of an outside consultant pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 44, Section 53G regarding the review of stormwater design submitted for Keuka Road Definitive Subdivision Plan

- Elected officers

The Board appoints members to the West Concord Advisory Committee and nominates members for the Community Preservation Committee and Historic Districts Commission. Members of the Planning Board serve on the following regional committees: MAGIC (Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination) and HATS (Hanscom Area TownS) and participate on other Town Committees by providing

liaisons to the Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee, West Concord Advisory Committee, Community Preservation Committee, and Comprehensive Long Range Plan Committee.

Tree Preservation Subcommittee

The Tree Preservation Subcommittee which was formed in 2016 submitted a Final Report and Recommendation to the Planning Board. The Planning Board after consideration of the Report and its recommendations moved forward with the submittal of a general bylaw warrant article, Tree Preservation Bylaw, which passed at the 2017 Annual Town Meeting. In May, after Town Meeting, the Board expressed appreciation to the members of the Subcommittee for their work and efforts and, per the charge, dissolved the subcommittee.

West Concord Advisory Committee (WCAC)

The West Concord Advisory Committee (WCAC), a subcommittee of the Planning Board with seven regular and two associate members, serves as a resource for the Planning Board by providing input to developers and property owners as well as the Board when plans and concepts are proposed for development, renovation, circulation, etc. in West Concord. Village business owners and also residents in and around the West Concord Village use the WCAC as a sounding board for ideas to communicate to Town administration as well as to pose questions they have. All members of the WCAC also have liaison responsibilities with other Town boards and committees and report back about issues related to the Village and its surrounding neighborhoods.

The WCAC worked on several initiatives in 2017. Those included:

- Review of the proposed Junction Village affordable housing development. Our January meeting included a detailed presentation on the proposal including extensive public input. The committee submitted specific comments to the Planning Board. Committee members worked closely with Concord Housing Development Corporation and town staff to plan and seek funding for improvements on the publicly accessible open space associated with the development.
- Support for completion of a new outdoor seating area at the corner of Church Street and Commonwealth Avenue. Committee members worked with

town staff to engage two local artists to complete a mural on the Twin Seafood building and plan a grand opening event. The committee continues to work with town staff and business owners to plan for acquisition of outdoor furniture.

- Reviewed Town Meeting warrant articles and expressed support for CPC funds for improvements at Rideout Park, a zoning bylaw amendment addressing the definition of professional offices, and the new tree bylaw.
- Reviewed and commented on a proposed redevelopment at 17 Laws Brook Road. Committee members agreed that the proposal would improve the lot while retaining a variety of housing styles and sizes in the village.
- Discussed ways to increase connections to the Assabet River. Members pursued the concept of walking trails along the river, canoe and kayak launches, and a RiverFest event to celebrate the importance of the Assabet River and Nashoba Brook to the history and culture of the village.
- Hosted a spring Open House inviting the community to participate in a Q&A with town staff representing Planning, Public Works, and Recreation Departments. The open house was attended by approximately 80 members of the public.
- Reviewed and commented on plans for renovation of Rideout Park. The committee worked closely with representatives of Concord-Carlisle Youth Baseball and the Recreation Department to finalize the layout of fencing.
- Supported open space protection in West Concord. Committee members worked with town staff to pursue protection of a critical parcel on Warner's Pond. Committee members helped to arrange and host site visits for town staff and board members and discussed appropriate potential uses for the site. A request for funding was approved by the Community Preservation Committee.
- The committee reviewed and provided comments on the Concord Long Range Plan and members participated in several public discussions of the plan.
- Discussed potential routes to link the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail with the Assabet River Rail Trail in South Action and the Reformatory Branch Trail in Concord center.
- Continued outreach through a Facebook page and a Twitter account to encourage participation and information exchange.

The WCAC finished the year with plans to work on a number of projects in 2018, including organizing a focus on arts in West Concord, developing a standard palette for street furniture in the village, building connections to waterways in the village, and partnering with the Recreation Department to host summer evening musical events in the Harvey Wheeler Community Center parking lot.

PLANNING DIVISION

Marcia Rasmussen, Director of Planning & Land Management
Elizabeth Hughes, Town Planner
Heather Lamplough, Senior Planner
Nancy Hausherr, Administrative Assistant
Heather Carey, Administrative Assistant

The Planning Division continues to provide professional and administrative staff support to multiple standing boards and committees including: the Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board, Historic Districts Commission, Historical Commission and Community Preservation Committee. Planning Division staff coordinated the town staff review of all development proposals that were submitted for regulatory approval to the aforesaid boards and committees. Planning Division staff also assisted the Community Preservation Committee with its plan updates, application process and funding distribution. This year the Division continued to provide staff support to the Comprehensive Long Range Plan Committee, the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee and the West Concord Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the Planning Board. Planning staff participated in the Battle Road Scenic Byway Task Force, the HOME Consortium and Regional Housing Services Office. The Division's agenda includes initiatives in the area of open space protection, affordable housing production, traffic and transportation planning, economic development guidance, historic resources protection, public facilities planning, development regulation creation and sustainable practices.

Town Planner Elizabeth Hughes provided professional support to the Planning Board and the Board of Appeals. In addition to shepherding the plan review process for all development proposals submitted to the Planning Board and Board of Appeals. Elizabeth

worked with the Planning Board on the presentation of Zoning Bylaw amendments and a new Tree Preservation Bylaw at the 2017 Annual Town Meeting (all of which passed), the development of nine warrant articles for the 2018 Annual Town meeting and the drafting of the new Tree Preservation Bylaw Rules & Regulations.

Administrative Assistants Nancy Hausherr and Heather Carey continued to provide exceptional support to the numerous residents and applicants dealing with a range of questions and issues, as well as, all of the boards, committees and Division staff.

Senior Planner Lara Kritzer ended service with the Town in March after 9 ½ years and in July, the Planning Division welcomed Heather Lamplough as the new Senior Planner. Heather provides professional support to the Historic Districts Commission (HDC), Community Preservation Committee (CPC) and Historical Commission. Heather has provided valuable support to the Historical Commission on the review of 9 applications under the new Demolition Review Bylaw; accepting and reviewing CPA funding applications to the Community Preservation Committee, and; preparation of a warrant article for the Historic Districts Commission for the extension of the Hubbardville District.

Director Marcia Rasmussen continued to provide project oversight of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase 2C project, which was finally under construction in 2017; working with Town Counsel and the State to acquire State land adjacent to the Trail for the construction of a small parking lot, and; coordinating with State agencies and design consultant Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. on the design/construction plans for Phase 2B (the bridge over Route 2) that will be advertised for construction in the fall of 2019. Marcia continued coordinating implementation of the 2013 Parking Management Plan, working with town staff from Finance, Police, IT and Public Works.

Marcia and Elizabeth continue to provide support to the Comprehensive Long Range Plan Committee as they move forward with the update to the Town's Long Range Plan – Envision Concord; Bridge to 2030.

The Planning Division was supported by two interns in 2017. Alec Wade provided support to the Director

on the implementation of the Parking Management Plan and assisted with the public outreach and kick-off event for the Comprehensive Long Range Plan. Erica Chin, an intern funded through the Massport Summer Jobs Program, created the Historical Points of Interest Tour Guide, a self-guided walking map of fifteen of the most famous places in and around Concord Center.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Dee Ortner, Chair (Select Board Appointee)
 Terri Ackerman, Vice Chair (Select Board Appointee)
 Barbara Pike, Secretary (Select Board Appointee)
 Gregory Higgins, Treasurer (Natural Resources Commission Appointee)
 John Cratsley (Select Board Appointee)
 Linda Escobedo (Concord Housing Authority Appointee)
 Burton Flint (Planning Board Commission Appointee)
 Peter Ward (Recreation Commission Appointee)
 Diann Strausberg (Historical Commission Appointee)

The Community Preservation Committee had a busy year in 2017 with an increasingly competitive application process and major changes in the CPA program at the State level. At Concord's 2017 Annual Town Meeting, the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) recommended that \$1,560,340 in CPA funds be appropriated for projects involving community housing, historic preservation, open space, and recreation. These funding recommendations were later approved without alteration by the 2017 Annual Town Meeting as noted below:

Community Housing Projects:

- Town of Concord - \$18,000 for the Town's participation in the Regional Housing Services Office, an inter-municipal organization which provides professional housing staff for the administration of the affordable housing programs in Concord and six neighboring communities.
- Town of Concord - \$350,000 towards the development of an 83 unit, fully affordable assisted living complex on former State land in West Concord, with 43 units available at deeply affordable levels. The Concord Housing Development Corporation is working with the Grantham Group, on this development.

Historic Preservation Projects:

- Umbrella Community Arts Center - \$101,000 for Phase II of the Umbrella Community Arts Center's window res-

toration project. This year funds will be used to restore the remaining 42 original wood windows on the ca. 1929 former high school while improving the building's energy efficiency by installing wall insulation and double paned glass in the restored windows.

- Concord Public Works - \$300,000 to complete the final phase of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery Roadway and Stone Wall Improvements with road reconstruction, stone wall repairs, and drainage improvements throughout the historic ca. 1855 site. This work preserves the historic landscape by correcting erosion damage, upgrading stormwater management systems, and repairing/replacing failing roads and pathways.
- Concord Museum - \$170,000 to replace obsolete mechanical and electrical systems in the museum's original ca. 1930 Little building. This work will create a stable physical environment to ensure the long term preservation of the Museum's permanent collection of nationally significant, Concord-based artifacts.
- Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House, Inc. - \$100,000 to preserve the interior features and fixtures of the nationally significant ca. 1690s structure by replacing its failing temperature and humidity control systems with a new environmentally sustainable system.
- Concord Home for the Aged - \$15,000 to complete a Historic Structure Report for the Timothy Wheeler House, a ca. 1750/1851 Greek Revival structure, which has served as the home for this organization since its founding in 1887.

Open Space Projects:

- Concord Children's Center - \$6,000 to replace nine trees in the Natural Playscape that were destroyed during the August 2016 tornado and install a new accessible pathway between the Concord Integrated Preschool's playground and the Natural Playscape.
- Town of Concord - \$120,000 to be placed in the Open Space Reserve Fund.

Open Space and Recreation Projects:

- Town of Concord Division of Natural Resources - \$19,340 for survey and engineering services to design and permit a replacement footbridge for Chamberlin Park in Concord Center. The existing bridge links the Park on Lowell Road with the Keyes Road parking area and crosses the Millbrook and its surrounding wetlands.

Recreation Projects:

- CIPS Parent Group and Concord Children's Center

- \$105,000 to construct a new universally accessible playground at the Ripley School. The Playground is intended to be a community resource that complements the Natural Playscape, playing fields, and Gowing's Swamp access already located on this site.

- Town of Concord Recreation Department - \$46,000 to augment the ongoing restoration of Rideout Playground in West Concord by constructing a new picnic pavilion on the site. The entire project is intended to update and diversify the current recreational amenities in West Concord and address recommendations made in the 2014 Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan.

Administration:

- Town of Concord - \$180,000 to contribute to the land acquisition project fund, a reserve fund established to insure that funding is available when needed for future land acquisitions.
- Town of Concord - \$30,000 for administration of the CPA.

In addition to the funding recommendations noted above, the CPC worked closely with funding recipients and the Finance Department throughout 2017 to ensure that the reimbursement process went smoothly and efficiently and that completed projects were closed in a timely manner. Over the summer months, the CPC completed its annual update of the Community Preservation Plan, refining its application processes, and holding informational meetings in June and September for potential applicants. At the end of September, the Committee received 11 new applications for 2018 Annual Town Meeting funding. As in previous years, the nearly \$2.7 million in CPA funds requested far exceeded the just over \$1.4 million in CPA funds which is estimated to be available for distribution. From October through December, the CPC has been working to better understand these projects in order to make its recommendations for the 2018 Annual Town Meeting. A recommendation to allocate \$1,861,038 in CPA funds to 11 projects will be included in a warrant article for the 2018 Annual Town Meeting.

The CPC received its lowest State match yet, 17.2%, for the upcoming year. With the addition of 11 new communities to the program, including Boston and Springfield, the CPC anticipates that the State's funding match will continue to drop in the future.

COMPREHENSIVE LONG RANGE PLAN

John Boynton, Member-at-Large (Clerk)
 Margaret Briggs, Concord Municipal Light Plant
 James Bryant, Member-at-Large
 Jane Hotchkiss, Select Board ex-officio
 Peter Hunter, Recreation Commission
 Wally Johnston, School Committee
 Gary Kleiman, Planning Board (Co-Chair)
 Barron Lambert, Member-at-Large
 Barbara Morse, Concord Housing Development Corporation
 Sharyn Lenhart, Council on Aging
 Nick Pappas, Public Works Commission
 Wade Rubenstein, Member-at-Large
 Elise Woodward, Historical Commission (Co-Chair)
 Judith Zaunbrecher, Natural Resources Commission



Team members from CivicMoxie, the Long Range Plan consultant group, gather public input on the sidewalk by Monument Square during lunchtime.

The Comprehensive Long Range Plan Committee of the Town of Concord completed 2017 midway through the planning process to date and to describe the process to come.

In an effort to integrate the Town's sustainability principles into the planning process, the Envision Concord plan will be based on the American Planning Association's Sustaining Places: Best Practices for Comprehensive Plans standards, which rely on several principles, processes and attributes. This approach has enabled a

far more dynamic, vibrant and participatory development process relative to past plans and the Committee believes will result in a more integrated and holistic plan in the near future.

The Committee has adopted a planning timeline organized into three phases including (1) data gathering, (2) analysis and (3) plan development by working with the consultant, CivicMoxie. The analysis phase will conclude in February 2018 and the final Plan will be issued for public comment in June 2018.

Data Gathering

The data gathering phase has concluded after an extensive period of collecting input through public comments on the committee's website, attending public outreach events, interviews, focus groups, surveys, workshops, and other public outreach/input processes. Turning to the analysis phase of the project, it is an opportune time to review what the committee has heard. The six APA principles were detailed in a series of articles in the Concord Journal over the summer (see Appendix E) and will be woven throughout the analysis process. With respect to the data gathering phase, it is worth reflecting for a moment on one of the APA processes specifically: authentic participation. The Committee has made tremendous effort to reach out to as many segments of our Town community as possible. The following statistics provide some perspective on the extent of outreach efforts undertaken and additional details on specific outreach events are listed at the end of this report.

Statistics:

- 32 Committee meetings since appointments by Select Board
- 477 unique comments posted on Envision Concord website
- 1,022 respondents to Town Survey with special section on long-range plan, 458 responses to Envision Concord survey, 133 participants in intercept survey
- More than 60 participants in each of the two public workshops
- 21 Town boards/committees responded in writing to the Committee representing a full membership of approximately 105 individuals on those committees
- 19 people attended the Public Hearing held on November 16 at Willard School

After collecting and assembling data for more than seven months, the Committee is now excited to turn to

the task of analyzing the data to shape the vision and goals for the future of our community. We will continue to seek public input for that conversation, but are not seeking to merely develop a "wish list." Rather, we will seek to frame potential opportunities as optimized solutions that span all Town sectors and municipal functions. In order to "kick off" that process, in late October and early November, the committee held a set of listening sessions around two or three themes at a time. These included:

1. Culture and History/Economic Viability and Vitality
2. Housing/ Open Space and Natural Resources/Land Use
3. Transportation and Infrastructure/Housing/Social Services
4. Town Character/Culture and History/Diversity
5. Sustainability Goals and Policies/Town Resources

As the Analysis Phase began, the Committee held a Public Hearing on November 16, 2017 to more widely gather public input and reaction to "What We've Heard".

Analysis and Plan Development

The majority of the effort for the Committee in the first four months of 2018 will include Visioning conversations, and integration of themes gathered from the public input, listening sessions and the thoughtful contributions from Town Board and Committees. This information will be used to develop the framework for the implementation plan that will address optimal opportunities for Concord's future decision-making. To find optimal solutions to the many issues raised will not be easy, but utilizing the rich public input already received, the committee will start by better defining the vision of a future Concord in 2030. Based on that vision, we will explore ideas embracing the spirit of the American Planning Association (APA) principles. This means looking at potential opportunities to simultaneously achieve numerous goals on multiple fronts that will improve livability, sustainability, economic vitality, health and equity in a spirit of regionalism.

The multiple appendices to this report are intended to provide the Select Board and the public with an understanding of what is most valued and cherished about Concord by those who live, work and visit here, as well as what various constituencies in Town are seeking in order to provide a basis for building a plan to sustain

those values and characteristics well into the future. Appendices:

<http://concordma.gov/1863/Current-Meeting-Nov-16th-Public-Hearing->

- Appendix A: Envision Concord Committee Correspondence Log
- Appendix B: CLRP Committee Draft APA SWOT analysis summary
- Appendix C: Preliminary Town of Concord Key Demographic and Economic Conditions and Trends Memo to Envision Concord Committee – 6/21/17
- Appendix D: Town of Concord Senior Management Team meeting summary – 7/27/17
- Appendix E: Six Envision Concord Commentaries based on American Planning Association Comprehensive Plan Standards for Sustaining Places Six Principles – Aug. – Sept. 2017
- Appendix F: Public Event Slides – 3 Parts – 10/21/17
- Appendix G: Focus Group Sessions Summary – 11/01/17
- Appendix H: Concord Commissions and Board SWOT Comments Summary – 11/06/17
- Appendix I: Envision Concord Survey Results Summary – 10/25/17

HISTORIC DISTRICTS COMMISSION

Commission Members:
Mark Giddings, Chair
Nea Glenn, Vice Chair
Justin King, Secretary
Dennis Fiori
Terry Gregory

Associate Commission Members:
Luis Berrizbeitia
Kate Chartener
Satish Dhingra
Peter Nobile
Melinda Shumway

The Historic Districts Commission (HDC) is charged with "the preservation and protection of buildings, places and districts of historic or literary significance" within Concord's six local historic districts - the American Mile, Barrett Farm, Church Street, Hubbardville, Main Street, and Monument Square/North

Bridge. Concord's Historic Districts Act (Chapter 345) was one of the first such bylaws in Massachusetts when it was passed in 1960, and over the intervening years the HDC has worked diligently to preserve the Town's unique historical and architectural character by encouraging the retention of original building materials and the advancement of new elements that are in keeping with the character of each District.

As part of its mandate under the Historic Districts Act, the HDC regularly reviews applications for changes to exterior features which are visible from a public way or place and issues Certificates of Appropriateness for their approval. In 2017, the HDC held 22 regularly scheduled public meetings at which 103 new applications for Certificates of Appropriateness were reviewed. The Commission issued 98 Certificates of Appropriateness and one Certificate of Non Applicability. Five of these Certificates of Appropriateness were for extensions of existing Certificates and five were for modifications to previous approvals. Two applications were denied a Certificate of Appropriateness, and three applications were continued to an HDC meeting in 2017. The Commission also conducted thirteen official site visits during the year.

In addition to conducting project reviews, the Commission reviewed one request for demolition of a historic dwelling on a major thoroughfare in the American Mile Historic District. The Commission conducted site visits and reviewed both the history of the structure and its impact on the historic streetscape before ruling that it could be replaced with a new structure. The Commission will continue to work with the builder into 2018, as construction of the new dwelling progresses. The HDC strives to work closely with the Town and residents of the Historic Districts to find a balance between maintaining the historical and architectural character of some of Concord's most important streetscapes and the present day needs of today's homeowners.

Commission Member Mark Giddings served as Chair over the last year with Nea Glenn serving as Vice-Chair and Justin King as Secretary. The Commission bid goodbye to Dennis Fiori whose seven year tenure on the Commission came to an end on December 31, 2017. The Commission also mourned the passing of Commissioner Satish Dhingra in November, whom had served on the Commission for the past four years.

Both of their hard work, enthusiasm and expertise will be greatly missed. The HDC anticipates beginning the New Year with a new appointee, Abigail Ruetters, serving as the New Associate Member nominated by the Concord Free Public Library. The Commission will be continuing its work to fill the one vacant position in 2018.

The following is a list of applications by category (a single application may involve several categories):

- Addition - 7
- Bike Rack - 2
- Deck/Porch - 5
- Demolition - 1
- Doors - 7
- Dormer - 2
- Fencing - 11
- Garage - 2
- Garage Doors - 5
- Handrails - 1
- Lighting - 10
- Mailbox - 1
- Monument - 1
- New Construction - 1
- Outdoor Seating (Benches, Picnic Tables, etc.) - 1

- Paint Colors - 8

- Paving (Including Driveways and Patio Areas) - 7

- Ramp - 1
- Renovation/Alteration - 4
- Roofs/Gutters/Roof Guards/Chimneys/Vents - 4
- Shed - 5
- Siding - 1
- Signage - 10
- Site Improvements - 5
- Stone Walls - 7
- Windows - 15



Old Calf Pasture Conservation Land Brittons Court

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Commission Members:

Electa Tritsch, Chair
 Claire Gauthier
 Andrew Koh
 Nancy Nelson
 Diann Strausberg

Associate Members:

Robert Gross
 Melissa Saalfield



Melissa Saalfield, Robert Gross, Diann Strausberg, Claire Gauthier, Nancy Nelson, Andrew Koh, Electa Tritsch (Chair)

The Concord Historical Commission (CHC) welcomed a number of new members and had a busy year in 2017.

Ball Benson House and Barn Project

In 2016, the CHC began working with the Town to develop a plan for reconstruction of the Ball Benson house and Barn, two 18th century timber frame struc-

tures rescued from demolition and stored by a private citizen several years ago, until a new use and location could be found. In 2016 the Town reached out to the Commission about the possibility of reconstructing one or both of the buildings. Since then the Commission has been working with the Planning Division and a consultant to research the former buildings and to evaluate the feasibility of the buildings' reconstruction. Five possible sites have been identified and we will proceed to investigate reconstruction function and funding possibilities when the consultant report is received and evaluated in the near future.

Concord's Annual Preservation Awards Program

Following the second successful Concord Preservation Awards this June, nominations have been solicited for projects completed between 2012 and 2015 in a range of historic preservation fields, with awards to be presented biennially in the future. This past year a total of six projects were recognized for excellent work in the areas of Landscape Preservation, Sensitive Addition/Alteration, Adaptive Reuse, and Proper Restoration/Rehabilitation.

House Marker Program

The CHC reviewed and approved four historic house markers for buildings located at 26 Elm Street, 57 Lowell Road, 214 Monument Street, and 454 Monument Street.

Archaeology Program

In 2014, the CHC began working with Brandeis University to develop a multi-year cooperative archaeological survey project. In 2016, the Program finished its first year of onsite work at Barrett Mill Farm and moved into the study phase of the project. As part of their curriculum in 2016-17, Brandeis students have been cataloguing and interpreting the artifacts recovered to date. Due to bad weather conditions during the field school season, investigation of the Farm was put on hold this year but will resume during the Fall of 2018.

Demolition Delay Bylaw

The CHC received nine applications for Demolition Review in 2017. Two of these structures (86 Prairie Street, 387 Sudbury Road) were found to be Historically Significant and required a public hearing. At the public hearing, both structures were determined to be

"Preferably Preserved" and demolition was delayed one year from the date of application. Three earlier delays approved in 2016 (20 Elsinore Street, 23 Garfield Road, 24 & 30 Elsinore Street) expired in 2017.

Community Preservation Act Project Reviews

The CHC reviewed three applications submitted for review in the Historic Preservation funding category of the Community Preservation Act, to be voted on at the 2018 Annual Town meeting. Projects included the repointing of the brick exterior of the Corinthian Lodge on Monument Square; accessibility improvements at 51 Walden Street; and systems upgrades at the Concord Museum.

State and National Register Program Reviews

The CHC continued to review projects this year as part of their wider responsibilities concerning Section 106 Federal funding and other government-mandated reviews of proposed projects with potential impacts on local historic sites and structures. These include the Crosby's Corner/Middlesex Turnpike project and the proposed Old Manse 'visitor center' proposal.

The Commission welcomed Nancy Nelson as a full Member to the Commission, and two new associate members, Robert Gross and Melissa Saalfield, in July. The CHC looks forward to continuing work on all of these projects in 2018.

BRUCE FREEMAN RAIL TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Kent Carlson, Co-Chair
 James Lyon, Co-Chair
 Gretchen Roorbach
 Suzanne Knight
 John Soden

The purpose of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee (BFRTAC) is to advise the Select Board and Town Manager on matters concerning the design, development, and long-term maintenance of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail in Concord.

Phase 2A (Acton, Westford & Carlisle)

Construction continues on this section of the trail in Westford, Carlisle and Acton. MassDOT reports that

the project was 62% complete at the end of December 2017. Anticipated construction completion is spring 2018.

Phase 2B (Trail and Bridge over Route 2 – Acton & Concord)

Greeman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI) is under contract to continue engineering and design work on Phase 2B, which includes preparing the 75% Design plans while addressing comments from the 25% design through final construction drawings and specifications. A Public Information meeting will be held after the 75% design submittal. \$350,000 in additional funding to complete the Phase 2B design is being provided by the State. Construction funding has been postponed for one year to FFY19, due to an increased construction estimate. Construction of Phase 2B is expected to begin in 2020.

Phase 2C (Concord)

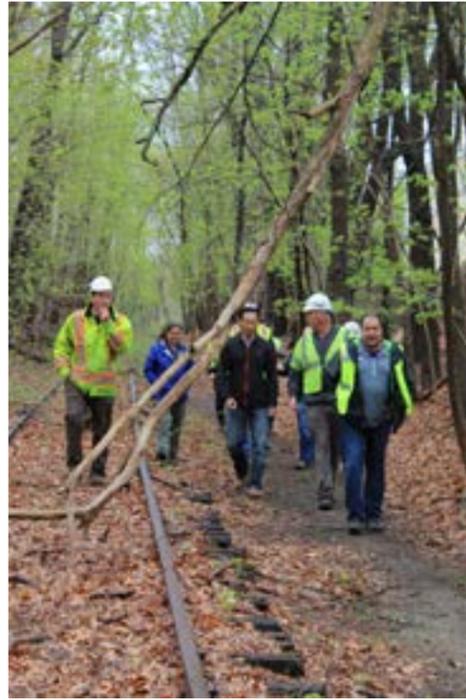
The construction bid package was awarded by MassDOT to D.W. White. A groundbreaking celebration was held on Friday, July 14 in West Concord, which included local and state dignitaries. Great progress has been made including installation of the Assabet River Bridge, the Powder Mill Road culvert and base course of asphalt to name a few. Construction is expected to begin again in spring 2018, with anticipated construction completed spring 2019. Please remember that the BFRT is closed until construction is completed.

Phase 2D (Sudbury)

The Phase 2D 25% design submission was sent to MassDOT in September and a Design Public Hearing will be held once the design team has addressed the comments. Sudbury Town Meeting voted for \$330,000 in funding for the 75% design. In May, the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) voted to include Phase 2D on the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for 2022.

The BFRTAC continued its collaboration with representatives of the Concord Historical Commission, and Natural Resources Commission to develop interpretive signs for the trail. Draft designs have been forwarded to the State for fabrication and installation during construction.

The BFRTAC/WPAC (White Pond Advisory Committee) continues to work towards the common goal of designing the best trail possible, while balancing the



Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye with representatives from D.W. White Construction and MassDOT reviewing trees and wetlands along the trail

environmental concerns around White Pond. Signage suggestions have been submitted, and long-term stewardship discussions are ongoing.

Several Town Meeting 2017 Articles were approved authorizing the Select Board to approve necessary right of way deed easements over town-owned land for the BFRT. In September 2017, the Advisory Committee requested an additional \$100,000 in funding from the Community Preservation Act (CPA), which was reduced to \$40,000 by the Community Preservation Committee for consideration by the 2018 Annual Town Meeting.

The BFRTAC worked with the Planning Division to get a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document posted about the trail on the Town Website.

The BFRTAC continues to work with the Concord Journal to write and publish several articles to raise overall awareness of the upcoming Phase 2C construction and Phase 2B design work.

WHITE POND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In 2017 the White Pond Advisory Committee was assigned by the Select Board to rewrite the charter for our committee as our existing charter was from 1976. Items mentioned were not applicable to current situations at White Pond and also that charter included references to items unknown to us.

As we meet once a month, we worked over a number of months to get to a document that satisfied the committee. It was submitted to the Select Board through our liaison, Alice Kaufman. We met before the Select Board to discuss the rewrite and awaited the Select Board's reply.

Monday, Jan. 8, 2018 we will meet again with the Select Board to review revisions that were made to our document by Marcia Rasmussen, Town Planner, and Delia Kaye, Head of Natural Resource. After which, we look forward to a completed new committee charter.

Another document the committee worked on in 2017 is Advice to Homeowners on Construction in the Watershed. Of course any structural changes that take place within the pond watershed area go through the regular oversight of the Building Inspector and all Concord applicable laws, but for years, White Pond Advisory Committee has been tasked with also reviewing all structural change plans and reporting our decisions to the Building Inspector.

Mr. Minty, former Building Inspector, instigated this step some years ago as the committee would have a more local view of the area. The White Pond Advisory Committee's concern with structural changes is in how these changes would affect the watershed environment. Our concern is with runoff, adequate control of runoff, protection during construction from debris, changes in trees, plantings, and encouraging use of native plants. Our aim is to encourage good stewardship of the pond's fragile environment and help educate homeowners in ways to achieve this. Marcia Rasmussen reviewed our efforts and helped improve the document.

In 2017, the ESS Group (ESS) finished their water/environs study of White Pond and its surroundings. They drew up a detailed erosion control plan that hopefully will be implemented in the near future with the Natural Resource Commission.

White Pond has erosion problem areas as the pond has very steep sides, a common configuration for a kettle pond. ESS's plans include reconstructing existing stairs to correct water runoffs causing erosion, use mats that plantings will grow through to mitigate soil runoff, replanting bare areas, and fencing to direct foot traffic away from sensitive areas.

As the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail will pass across one end of White Pond, the committee has had a liaison attending all their meetings which has been greatly helpful to our committee in keeping us informed of the phases of construction, future scheduling of work, decisions on rules, signage, etc. The liaison was also able to report our committee's actions to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Committee, which has been helpful to them. In 2017, for the third year, White Pond took part in the EPA Citizen Science Program Cyanobacteria Work Group run by Hilary Snook, EPA Lab, North Chelmsford. This past year, White Pond was also included in a study of 20 bodies of water in RI, MA, and NH that was run by Nancy Leland, limnologist, and Professor Jim Haney, University of New Hampshire who is also working with the EPA Cyanobacteria group. The chief concern of all of these professionals is Cyanobacteria's blooms, toxicology, causes, and other aspects of the bacteria. Working with them, White Pond had the availability of finer testing equipment and reported results.

2017 was the third year White Pond experienced Cyanobacteria blooms throughout the year. However, White Pond had fewer closings of the pond in 2017 than there were in 2015 or 2016. There was a full closing over the July 4th weekend and a day of closure in late June. The pond still had many blooms from spring to fall, the last one being December 4th, but they were quick blooms in small areas and did not require closing the pond to use.

There is an imbalance of elements in White Pond that are causing the proliferation of blooms. We know from the ESS report that soil runoff is a cause and phosphorus leaching from the sediment in the deepest depths also contributes to this imbalance.

The Natural Resource Commission and ESS have had talks about a future ALUM (aluminum sulfate) treatment in White Pond to help mitigate the phosphorus situation. An ALUM treatment can help with the over-

abundance of phosphorus by precipitating it out of the water column and sealing the sediment against future leaching. This treatment could alleviate the Cyanobacteria blooms.

The committee was very grateful that the Natural Resource Commission continued the ranger program. They have been a huge help and made a great difference in the safe use of the pond and its environs. We look forward to the ranger program continuing especially when the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail becomes operational in the White Pond area next year.

This year, our committee will work on researching a solution on a known problem of erosion and pollution to the pond, the boat launch area at the Plainfield Road end of the pond. Serious erosion happens as water cascades down the blacktop road during heavy rains, overwhelms the catch basins at the bottom, and enters the pond pushing soil out into the pond.

This year, the Town spread rough stone at the end of the blacktop and down the shore. It helped to lessen this erosion but the long blacktop drive needs more work done to really mitigate the situation.

Our committee has started researching the state fish stocking program. We want to make sure that the program is not contributing to the degradation of the pond due to the choice or amount of fish stocked. This is ongoing research with no conclusions at present. White Pond continues, as it has for the last 3-4 years, to be at a very low water level. Being a kettle pond, it fills by the water table and underground sources. The drought of the last few years has contributed to this lower level.

The committee will continue in our dedication to the stewardship of White Pond so that all can enjoy its peaceful beauty.

CONCORD LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

Concord Land Conservation Trust Trustees:

Joan D. Ferguson, Chairman
John M. Stevens, Jr., Secretary
Pauline Cross Reeve, Vice-Chairman
Jeff Wieand, Treasurer
Lynn G. Huggins
Frederic H. Mulligan
Gordon H. Shaw, Trustee Emeritus

Concord Open Land Foundation Directors:

Thomas C. Tremblay, President
F. Robert Parker, Treasurer
Lynn G. Huggins,
Secretary John G. Bemis
Nancy A. Nelson

The Concord Land Conservation Trust (CLCT) (P.O. Box 141, Concord, MA) is a tax exempt, 501(c)(3) charitable organization established in 1959. Our membership and the properties that we own are open to all. CLCT's mission is to conserve the natural resources of Concord and the Town's traditional landscape of woods, meadows and fields. Its programs complement other conservation efforts of the town, state and national governments. The Land Trust works closely with its affiliate, the Concord Open Land Foundation. The major highlight of 2017 was the acquisition of Hartwell Meadow, a 5.3 acre hayfield located on Lowell Road at the boundary between Concord and Carlisle. The preservation of this parcel helps maintain the historic landscape of northwest Concord, a productive agricultural area from the 17th to the 20th century. The property also provides the opportunity for trail connections to the upper Spencer Brook valley, where CLCT has been conserving open space for over 40 years. By acquiring Hartwell Meadow and continuing to have it hayed or put in some other farming use as time and demand suggests, we have added to the significant commitment that Land Trust members and neighbors have already made to the natural landscape of this area.

Hartwell Meadow was the first property that CLCT

purchased by exercising the right of first refusal (ROFR) under Chapter 61A, the agricultural land tax. By enrolling their farmland in Chapter 61A, the prior owners of Hartwell Meadow received reduced property taxes and also gave the town the ROFR, i.e. the right to match a bona fide offer to purchase. When the owners notified the town that they had received an offer to purchase the land for \$775,000 for a residence, CLCT asked the Select Board to assign the ROFR to us. Once that was done, we had 90 days to raise the funds. Thanks to generous donations from members and neighbors, we were able to meet the deadline and permanently preserve Hartwell Meadow.

As in past years, the Land Trust organized seasonal walks on several of our properties to encourage their use by our membership. A highlight of these was our spring walk in the Wright Woods led by one of the deer hunters to whom the Land Trust gives permission to bow hunt. The attendees were fascinated to see denning areas and antler scrapes and to learn about deer behavior and the damaging effects of large herds on the woodland ecosystem. This year, we continued our partnership with the Musketaquid Program for the Arts and Environment by sponsoring some of its 'Wild Walks'. Members and others helped maintain and improve our properties through volunteer and service projects to improve trails and remove invasive plants.

Following on the heels of last year's acquisition of the 80-acre October Farm Riverfront, CLCT and the town followed through on commitments made at the time of the purchase including placing the property under Conservation Restrictions, setting property bounds, marking and mapping trails and preparing plans for a small gravel parking area. In celebration of the protection of this remarkable property, the Land Trust held its annual meeting at October Farm Riverfront.

The Land Trust is a largely volunteer organization with a volunteer board, supported by annual membership donations. We are ably assisted by a property manager and an office manager, both part-time; the latter works out of a small office on Sudbury Road.

The Land Trust is grateful to the many residents of Concord who have been so generous in donating land, conservation restrictions on land and the funds nec-

essary to acquire and maintain conservation land. We are privileged to live in a town that places such a high value on maintaining a balance of land uses characteristic of the traditions of a New England town. Our properties are available to the public for hiking, skiing and picnicking. We hope that all Concord residents enjoy the open space that so many people have helped to preserve.

**Concord Land Conservation Trust
Statement of Activities
September 30,2017 and 2016**

	2017	2016
<u>Revenue and Support</u>		
Membership dues	\$125,649	\$140,563
Contributions	1,052,701	3,011,731
Rental income	10,061	10,061
Trail guide fees	60	202
Investment income, net	142,667	104,148
Total revenue and support	1,331,138	3,266,705
<u>Expenses</u>		
Program services		
Salary and wages	34,143	39,422
Property maintenance	15,691	34,292
Demolition of building	-	33,335
Education studies	200	4,250
Insurance	7,241	6,946
Printing and postage	4,589	5,181
Professional fees	-	4,233
Payroll taxes	2,612	3,023
Organizational dues	1,100	1,075
Office rent and utilities	2,358	2,098
Annual meeting and events	2,508	322
Other	903	-
Support Services		
Salary and wages	17,234	16,313
Bad debt	13,604	-
Printing and postage	2,613	5,345
Office rent and utilities	4,715	4,935
Professional fees	7,837	10,268
Payroll taxes	1,847	1,786
Office supplies and services	789	1,310
Telephone	1,189	1,073
Real estate taxes and other taxes	5,104	9,425
Bank and credit card fees	5,624	643
Conference fees and training	-	162
State filing fees and other taxes	510	930
Fundraising Expenses		
Salary and wages	8,617	7,462
Office rent and utilities	2,358	2,098

**Concord Land Conservation Trust
Statement of Activities
September 30,2017 and 2016**

Office supplies and services	850	850
Payroll taxes	659	571
Printing and postage	329	199
Total expenses	145,224	197,547
Increase (decrease) in net assets	1,185,914	3,069,158
Net assets at beginning of year	30,104,216	27,035,058
Net assets at end of year	\$31,290,130	\$30,104,216

**Concord Land Conservation Trust
Statements of Financial Position
September 30, 2017 and 2016**

	2017	2016
<u>Assets</u>		
<u>Current assets</u>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$273,747	\$767,285
Investments	2,249,837	1,883,700
Promises to give - net - current	121,500	2,262,033
Prepaid expenses	4,077	4,060
Total current assets	2,649,161	4,917,078
<u>Non-current assets</u>		
Promises to give - net - long-term	33,810	252,330
Land - held as open space	28,538,242	24,833,419
Prepaid land costs	33,719	9,593
Deposits	39,350	100,600
Total non-current assets	28,645,121	25,195,942
Total assets	\$31,294,282	\$30,113,020
<u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>		
<u>Current liabilities</u>		
Accrued expenses	\$1,510	\$4,362
Accrued payroll	2,642	4,442
Total current liabilities	4,152	8,804
<u>Net assets</u>		
Unrestricted net assets	2,122,643	1,954,656
Temporarily restricted net assets	550,013	394,703
Permanently restricted net assets	28,617,474	27,754,857
Total net assets	31,290,130	30,104,216
Total liabilities and net assets	\$31,294,282	\$30,113,020

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Members:

Dudley Goar, Chair
Lise Holdorf, Clerk
Brian Cramer
Steve Verrill
Emily Wheeler
Associate Members:
Happy Goethert
Jo-Ann Lovejoy

The Concord Agriculture Committee provides a forum for matters of interest to farmers in Concord. It also advises the Concord Select Board about how the town can best support farming in Concord, and serves as a nexus for outreach efforts by the Concord agricultural community to communicate with the wider public. This year the committee was fortunate to add a new associate member, Jo-Ann Lovejoy.

After a relatively mild winter, the 2017 growing season started out cold and wet. Although there were not any late frosts, the weather stubbornly refused to warm up, and early plantings of heat-loving crops like tomatoes and basil suffered and sulked in the cool damp weather, resulting in a later than usual tomato season for most local growers. Constant rain during the spring led to some flooding and some fields laying wet. When things did finally start to warm up and dry out, crops flourished. Periodic rain through much of the summer meant that most farms did not need to irrigate anywhere near as much as the previous season, though a lack of precipitation late in the season meant that some growers were irrigating later into the fall than usual. Most Concord farms enjoyed a delayed but ultimately successful season, with lots of productive, high-quality crops. A long, slow cool down in the fall allowed for extended harvest of fresh crops and extended sales of storage crops--all in all a very good year for Concord farms and their customers.

Unfortunately, the town lost another farm this year, Crooked Row Fields, when its principal farmers, Karl Goethert and Elena Colman, took positions at area community farms. Crooked Row Fields farmed the town-owned Rogers land. The loss is significant because it comes after the loss in 2016 of First Root Farm and its principal farmer, Laura Sackton. Both farms were relatively new to Concord. Their loss is viewed by

the Committee as an indication of the difficulties faced by new farms and young farmers in Concord.

Joint Meeting of Area Agricultural Committees

This year Verrill Farm hosted the first two joint meetings of local town agricultural committees, one in January and one in April. Members of committees from Concord, Carlisle, Lincoln, and Sudbury attended. The purpose of these meetings was to acquaint committee members from with each other, and to explore topics of mutual interest. The January meeting was a “get acquainted meeting” that involved a brainstorming discussion of issues that are of concern to each committee. The April meeting focused on the topic of farm succession planning, and featured a guest speaker, Jon Jaffee, a specialist in this area. Both meetings were well attended, and the general feeling of the Concord Agriculture Committee members who attended was that they were very constructive, and should occur on a regular basis.

Public Forum— ‘Meet Your Farmers’

The committee hosted another forum at the Harvey Wheeler Center in West Concord on the evening of March 21st, and approximately fifty individuals attended. This year the topics were ‘Why I Became a Farmer,’ and “What It’s Like to Be A Farmer in Concord Today.” A panel of four farmers discussed these topics and then answered questions from the audience.

Nourish Festival

Committee member Emily Wheeler represented the committee at this day-long festival held at the Harvey Wheeler Center on July 15th. Nourish was a collaboration between the Umbrella and the Boston Food Bank for the purpose of raising money to support hunger relief. The theme of the festival was the nexus of food and art.

Ag Day/Farm and Garden Fair/Stone Soup Dinner

Concord’s annual celebration of local agriculture began on September 9th with the 12th annual Ag Day, a once-a-year farmers market held in Downtown Concord on the Milldam with the participation of about ten Concord farms and about a half dozen local organizations. The Ag Day is one part of the larger Food, Farm and Garden weekend. Tours of local gardens followed the Ag Day market, and the weekend was capped off by guided tours of many participating local farms on Sunday afternoon. The following Sunday saw

the 10th annual Stone Soup Dinner, a farm-to-table event on a town-wide scale, with the participation of local farms and chefs. The Stone Soup Dinner serves as a fundraiser for various Concord agricultural projects.



Annual AG Day in Concord Center

The Food, Farm, and Garden Fair and the Stone Soup Dinner enjoyed good weather, and as in past years were well attended. Follow up discussion in the committee concerning the Food, Farm and Garden Fair weekend concerned ways to improve advertising in order to attract people from outside the immediate area, improving coordination and division of labor among the various groups that participate in the weekend activities, and conducting fundraising activities to help defer costs.

Long Range Plan Submission and Farmer Housing

The committee submitted comments to the Long Range Planning Committee for inclusion in its Long Range Plan to be issued in 2018. The submission discussed the importance of agriculture to Concord both historically, and as part of its present-day appeal; outlined the challenges and threats to farming; and discussed possible solutions. Some of the more significant challenges include obtaining and maintaining viable farm sites given the many requirements for a successful farm operation; educating the public about the value of local farms and farm stands; and making affordable housing available to farmers.

New Food Safety Regulations

The new federal Food Safety Modernization Act (“FSMA”) and its implementing regulations were a topic of concern this year. The FSMA does not apply

at this time to some smaller farms, as defined by total amount of annual sales. However, for non-exempt farms, the FSMA presents a major change in farming regulations from facilities and equipment to training and daily inspection of employees. Extensive additional record keeping, wildlife and pet exclusion from fields, water testing, ability to track produce back to specific plots, and increased worker training are some of the aspects of the new law.

CONCORD HOUSING AUTHORITY

Linda Escobedo, Chair

Todd Benjamin

Rick Eifler

Edward Larner

Hester Schnipper

The primary mission of the Concord Housing Authority(CHA) is to develop and administer an adequate supply of rental housing for the elderly, disabled, and families of low and moderate income in Concord. Our goal is to provide decent, safe and affordable housing opportunities to improve the quality of life for these individuals and families as well as promote economic self-sufficiency and long-term stability. The goals of the CHA are consistent with the Town’s historical commitment to foster a heterogenous and integrated community.

The Concord Housing Authority(CHA) was established in 1961 under M.G.L. Section 121.B as a local municipal agency for providing low income housing and is subject to state, federal and local regulations. The CHA is governed by a Board of Commissioners, four of whom are locally elected and one of whom is a state Appointee.

The CHA operates 225 subsidized units in both Public Housing and Section 8 programs and currently serves more than 375 people. Our State/Federal Family and elderly units are scattered throughout the Town in over 20 locations. Tenant turnover rates for CHA units remain low and waiting lists for available units remains high, translating into lengthy times for the next unit availability.

Several large capital improvement projects have recently been completed or are currently in the construction or design phase.

With the financial support of Community Preservation Committee, West Metro HOME Consortium, the State of Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), and the Town's Affordable Housing Fund, the final construction phase of the Peter Bulkeley Terrace (PBT) building project was completed and the CHA welcomed four new residents in July 2017.



In 2017, the CHA completed PBT Phase 2 adding four more units of affordable housing for elderly/disabled at Peter Bulkeley Terrace. This project was made possible with funds from Town of Concord Community Preservation Act (CPA), the West Metro HOME Consortium, Town of Concord Affordable Housing Fund, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

DCHD sustainability initiatives have made it possible to install energy efficient boilers at Everett Gardens Expansion (EXP) and CHA's residential group home as well as air source heat pumps in eight apartments in Everett Gardens (EG) and the CHA office. Other capital improvements to our public housing have included window and door replacements in both state and CHA owned family housing. We look forward to beginning

DHCD funded projects this spring that include parking lot and sidewalk paving, a new roof at EG, and a major electrical upgrade at the EXP. Federally funded projects will include various upgrades and renovations to family units.

The CHA continues to update units at turnover; installing new kitchens, flooring and hot water heaters in family and elderly units with a focus on accessibility by converting tub surrounds to walk-in showers at some units in the EXP.

CONCORD HOUSING FOUNDATION

Charles Phillips, President
Nancy McJennett, Treasurer
Barbara Powell, Clerk
Steve Carr
Tom Conway
Holly Darzen
Frank Feeley
Terry Rothermel
Win Wilbur

Since 2001, the Concord Housing Foundation (CHF), a private, non-profit, volunteer organization, has fought to keep Concord more affordable. We have raised over \$700,000 for seven affordable housing developments so far.

Currently, the CHF has pledged to raise up to \$200,000 as part of the Town of Concord's contribution to Junction Village, an affordable assisted-living complex planned for West Concord by the Concord Housing Development Corporation (CHDC). The CHDC received essential Town support and a financial commitment at the 2017 Annual Town Meeting, and has begun the lengthy process of seeking state funding.

Despite our successes, it has become clear to us that the Town needs a sustainable financing mechanism to preserve and expand its affordable housing stock. An article on this subject brought to the 2017 Annual Town Meeting narrowly failed to pass, but a Town committee was created to study the issue and return to the 2018 Annual Town Meeting with a more comprehensive plan. The CHF will continue to be involved in

this process and in helping to develop housing policy for the Comprehensive Long Range Plan.

The Foundation's newsletter, The Concord Housing News, is usually published in the spring and fall. The newsletter reports on topics related to affordable housing, including the current activities of the Concord Housing Authority, the Concord Housing Development Corporation, the CHF, and housing issues at Town Meeting.

The CHF is supported by an Advisory Board whose members meet semiannually with the Directors for advice and comment.

CONCORD HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

James Burns
Jerry Evans
Barbara Morse
Phil Posner
Lee Smith
Amir Viskin

The Concord Housing Development Corporation (CHDC) is a non-profit corporation established by a special act of the Massachusetts Legislature in August 2006, as a successor entity to the Concord Housing Trust, and the Concord Affordable Housing Committee before that.

All Board members are appointed by the Select Board, and are volunteers and Concord residents. The CHDC works under the charge developed by the Concord Select Board to investigate and implement alternatives for the provision of affordable housing for persons of low, moderate and middle income and others whose needs may be identified from time to time in the Town. The corporation works closely with all Town boards, Committees and Departments to support the Town's goal of housing diversity.

In the last 11 years, the CHDC has made great strides towards its mission. The CHDC has constructed and sold eight income-restricted units in a mixed income housing development (Lalli Woods, located on Elm Street), contributed funds to a lower level of affordability for several new housing units, allowing them to be

counted on the town's subsidized housing inventory (SHI), and preserved the affordable housing restrictions on several units at Emerson Annex by purchasing, renovating and reselling the units.

The CHDC has also continued its Small Grants Program, which helps low to moderate-income residents of Concord make repairs to their homes to improve health and safety. The Small Grant Program has two grant cycles with maximum grant amounts of \$5000. The grants are awarded based on availability of funds and the health and safety justifications of the requests. Further information regarding the CHDC Small Grant Program is available on the Town website or from the Town Planning Office.

In 2017 the CHDC continued on its Junction Village development initiative. The CHDC owns a 12-acre property on Winthrop Street, known as Junction Village, which was given to the CHDC by the Commonwealth specifically for affordable housing and open space purposes. The current plans include a residential development proposal for 83 units of permanently restricted affordable assisted living, developed and managed by the Grantham Group, and an open space passive recreation area protected by a conservation restriction. Both complex efforts are in process: the comprehensive permit was issued for the residential component as well as significant local funding approved at the 2017 Town Meeting. Planning and design efforts for the Open Space Master Plan are underway. The development requires the award of state subsidies before construction can begin. This process is expected to take two years.

The CHDC is an important part of Concord's housing "family", collaborating with the Concord Housing Authority and the Concord Housing Foundation to promote affordable housing in Concord and increase housing diversity. Concord remains an expensive town in which to live, and the need for affordable housing remains constant. We will continue to seek out and support responsible additions to the Town's affordable housing inventory to help maintain and increase our housing diversity. The CHDC is well positioned to advance Concord's housing agenda, and looks forward to new initiatives and activities.

The Board typically meets on the second Tuesday of each month, with meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the Town's website. Interested residents are welcome to attend a meeting and get a sense of how the Board operates.

2229 MAIN STREET OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Paul Boehm
Ray Bruttomesso
Board of Health representative Deborah Farnsworth
Len Rappoli
Pam Rockwell
Fred Seward
Judith Zaunbrecher
Select Board liaison Steven Ng

The 2229 Main Street Oversight Committee was formed to monitor the cleanup at the site previously occupied by defense contractor Starmet, formerly Nuclear Metals, Inc. (NMI). This site was put on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) national priorities list in 2001 and is now a Superfund site. The EPA has completed the building removal action, so at this point, the covered building slabs, construction trailers, sampling well-heads, and fences are the only structures that remain at the site. In 2017, the most pressing issues at the site were the remediation of organics in the water, and initial discussions about redevelopment planning at the site.

Previous testing determined that 1,4-dioxane, had moved off the site and was heading under the Assabet River, in the direction of Acton's drinking water wellfield. In 2017, EPA authorized the site contractor to begin pumping and discharging water between the Starmet site and the drinking water wellfield, and this system began operation in September. This system will protect Acton's drinking water with hydraulic control, but does not meet the risk based cleanup levels specified in the Record of Decision (ROD) issued on September 30, 2015. At meetings and hearings throughout 2017, committee members expressed concern that water discharged into the river needs to meet the more protective standard that EPA developed because organic farms in Concord use the water that has travelled downstream from the site for irrigation and other towns draw drinking water from the river. The committee is pleased to report that EPA has approved a

sulfate-based oxidation system to remove 1,4 dioxane from the water before it is discharged in the river. The design will include filters and reaction vessels housed in a small building on the Acton side of the river, and can be expanded if there is a need for additional wells in Concord if the data from the first year of operation shows a need for further treatment to protect the Assabet River.

While EPA has been focused on protecting Acton's drinking water this past year, the committee is anxious to make sure that the removal of contaminated soil and the sequestration of hazardous materials that leach into the groundwater proceed in a timely fashion. This requires that parties responsible for the cleanup sign a consent decree to fund the remediation. In 2015, Concord Town Meeting voted to allow the Select Board to take ownership of the property at 2229 Main Street, and the Committee believes it is in the Town's best interest that the remediation of this property proceeds quickly. EPA has pointed out that having a clear owner of the property would speed up the remediation. Having redevelopment plans in hand would make the final remediation design process more efficient.

The 2015 Special Town Meeting article specified that the EPA must publish its Record of Decision that the property would be cleaned up to a residential standard, and that the Town would hold a public hearing before the property at 2229 Main Street would be taken. The Record of Decision published in September 2015 does specify that the soils at the site will be remediated to a residential standard. The Committee believes that that the best way to ensure that the remediation proceeds quickly is for the Town to hold a public hearing, to carefully investigate and negotiate to ensure that the Town will not be liable for any of the remediation costs or responsibility, and to take ownership of the property as soon as possible.

In 2017, the Committee also wrote detailed comments for the Comprehensive Long Range Planning Committee to be sure that the resources at the site are part of Concord's future plans. Possibilities for future use of the site include solar arrays, recreation buildings, truck or bus parking and maintenance, housing, outdoor recreation, or even a transportation hub. The Committee is also concerned that the Comprehensive Long Range Plan will not be developed quickly enough to provide input to the remediation design process, and

that the Concord Planning Division needs to develop a reuse plan for the site. The Committee issued a Town Meeting Warrant Article to encourage taking ownership of the property immediately and to allocate funds for a redevelopment plan in 2018.

The Committee also spent time investigating a new EPA program that identifies Superfund sites that could benefit from intense action. Committee member Paul Boehm has been corresponding with EPA officials about whether the remediation process at the 2229 Main Street site could be accelerated if it were added to this Expedite Superfund Emphasis List. He updated the Concord Select Board in November. The Committee plans to continue investigating this opportunity in 2018.

Here is a summary of the EPA Record of Decision that affects the redevelopment of the site in Concord: Currently depleted uranium in surface soils near building slabs, and in groundwater deep below the surface is confined to the 2229 Main Street property, and moves slowly, so EPA has ample time to ensure that the uranium never moves off the site.

- all contaminated soils up to a 10 foot depth will be dug up and removed from the site,
- a large mass of depleted uranium extending deep below the old holding basin which is the source of groundwater contamination will be chemically sequestered so that it will not leach into groundwater,
- the source will be surrounded by a waterproof barrier like concrete or bentonite,
- soils will be cleaned up to an extremely protective interpretation of the residential cleanup level (a final uranium level of 2.3 parts per million that contributes a human health risk of less than 1 in a million),
- and contaminated soils will be shipped to a proper mixed waste disposal area and not buried at the site.

Once the remediation of the uranium at the site begins, it could theoretically take less than five years, so the uranium remediation might be completed and the site could be redeveloped before the volatile organic chemicals have been eliminated from the groundwater. The proposed plan also requires that funds will be set aside to test for and prevent vapors from affecting future buildings at the site before the groundwater remediation of volatile organic chemicals from the groundwater is complete.

More information about the 2229 Main Street cleanup can be found at the following websites. The committee does not have control over the content of these sites:

- www.nmisite.org is the website created by the contractor de maximis inc. It includes a list of the current activities at the site, including data and maps from the sampling that has been completed and pictures of the building removal. There are also links to the EPA Record of Decision and feasibility study.

- More information from the EPA about the 2229 Main Street Superfund site can be found online at <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/nmi>

HANSCOM AREA TOWNS COMMITTEE

In 1988, the Hanscom Area Towns Committee was established to coordinate the policies and activities of the four towns that contain Hanscom Field (Bedford, Concord, Lexington, Lincoln) in their relationships with the major organizations that operate in the Hanscom Field area including: the U.S. Air Force, the National Park Service, Massport, MIT Lincoln Laboratory, and private corporations. Selectmen representatives from each town comprise the committee with participation from Planning Board and at-large representatives. Since 2001, Selectmen representing the four towns serve on both HATS and HFAC for continuity. The Environmental Subcommittee assists with review of environmental impacts associated with airport activities. Hanscom's mission has been focused on development and procurement of electronic systems that support the national defense. The four HATS towns have shared interests in maintaining Hanscom as a viable base for regional economic reasons and continue to participate in community-focused activities at HAFB. The towns also share the interest in having no commercial or cargo flights, and in diminished noise in the region. There may be opportunities for regional collaboration in environmental initiatives, including noise and traffic.

Massachusetts Military Asset and Security Strategy Task Force Update

HATS continued to participate in the working group of the Lt. Governor's Taskforce to support all military installations in Massachusetts. HATS formalized the

communities' interest in maintaining proactive communication with the task force and with elected State and federal legislators.

Massachusetts Military Assets Task Force Executive Director, John Beatty, provided an update on the Task Force's efforts over the past year. Continued success with support from the Commonwealth and surrounding communities was noted.

Hanscom Field

Amber Goodspeed, Massport, updated the committee on activities at Hanscom Field. Acquisition of the Navy hangar deemed surplus has been slow in progressing. Hangar 24 construction has been continuing throughout the year. Massport has initiated the 2017 EPIR for the airfield and is currently in data gathering phase of the process. Aviation activity has been consistent year over year with slight drops in noise level readings and neighborhood complaints.

Transportation Updates

Except for the 4 towns paying close attention to the Rte. 128 overpass work that has been occurring in the 4 HATS communities, it has been relatively quiet on the transportation front.

Massachusetts Port Authority CEO, Tomas P. Glynn presented to HATS the state of Massport. The implementation of the Strategic Plan 2014 is ongoing. Logan Airport is responsible for some 85% of the authority's \$680 million budget with almost 1300 employees.

This growth has produced its own challenges as well. Terminal and parking capacity needs to be expanded. Worcester airport has also seen its share of growth, with increased flights by over 80% and approaching 400,000 passengers. Dr. Glynn made it clear to point out that this growth will not have an impact on the general aviation mission at Hanscom Field. Massport also has some 7,000 workers at the port of Boston. The cruise terminal is growing from 15 to 150 ships each year. The seafood industry continues to see strong growth. Massport Real Estate has been very successful in the seaport area as well

HATS committee hosted a visit by the State legislators who represent the 4 HATS communities. State representatives Kenneth Gordon (21st Middlesex), Thomas Stanley (9th Middlesex), Jay Kaufman as well as State Senator Mike Barrett updated the Committee on activities at the State House.

Paul Regan, executive director, MBTA Advisory Board and updated the committee on MBTA activities Mr. Regan said the Legislature has approved a \$2 billion MBTA budget. New legislation covering the MBTA's Fiscal Control Board charges it with reducing costs by \$75 million. The board's goal is to modernize and achieve budget efficiencies. Besides fares and local assessments, revenue sources include a percentage of the sales tax and a \$185 million special appropriation. The authority still has an \$85 million structural deficit.

HATS held our annual roundtable session to discuss Local Traffic Management with all four Committee Town Public safety and public works departments, as well as regional transportation with Town planners and regional transportation service groups. HATS welcomed Installation Base commander Col. Roman Hund. Col. Hund presented the state of Hanscom AFB and its role in the Life Cycle Management Center with the 66th Air Base Group. Hanscom AFB continues to serve and grow as the Center of Acquisition and Technology Development; There has been excellent progress in the development of the Vandenburg gate renovations as the base continues to grow and welcome other Federal agencies (Army Corp of Engineers as well as the Defense Contract Management Agency) to the base.

For more information, please visit the website at: <http://www.hanscomareatownscommittee.com>.

HANSCOM FIELD ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Hanscom Field Advisory Commission (HFAC) was established in 1980 by the Massachusetts legislature and is comprised of representatives of Concord, Bedford, Lexington, and Lincoln, and other nearby towns; aviation-related interests and businesses; citizen groups; and the U.S. National Park Service. Its role as an advisory commission has primarily focused on review of issues of land use, noise and transportation at Hanscom Field. It also provides a forum for communications among the surrounding towns, the users of the airfield, Massport and the FAA in matters pertaining to Hanscom Field.

The HFAC acknowledges the benefits to the local economy that activities at Hanscom provide and continues

to advocate for no commercial flights and no cargo flights at Hanscom. Massport continued to monitor aircraft noise and activity levels at Hanscom Field and reported the results of this monitoring to HFAC monthly. Improved methodologies for analysis of flight activity and noise reports include Noise Exposure contours for Day-Night Average Sound Levels (DNL), and a metric called EXP to distinguish civilian noise from military noise and to estimate changes in noise levels at Hanscom.

Comparisons between 2016 and 2017 monthly activity show that overall flight activity increased approximately 6% more than in 2016. Military operations increased slightly in 2016-2017, as compared to 2015. Noise disturbance reports continue to decrease each year since 2009. Military flights with high noise levels now comprise less than 1% of the activity at Hanscom. In November, the 2016 Annual Noise Report was published and presented to HFAC. The report showed a decrease of 4.5% in annual civil operations. Both publications are available on the Massport website: <http://www.massport.com> Massport reported on-going progress on funded capital projects including vegetation management, obstruction removal, continued the implementation of the Wildlife Hazard Management Plan, website improvements, and storm water infrastructure upgrades. Boston MedFlight began Hangar 12A in early 2017. Demolition began in the Spring, and held their groundbreaking ceremony on June 7. By December Exterior Metal panels are being installed. In response to increased demand for corporate hangar space, Massport has been developing an RFP for new hangar opportunities. An Environmental Assessment of the site is being prepared as well. Solicitation Document is currently under review and may be released in 2018. Massport applied to the GSA and the FAA to acquire the Navy Property; they are still waiting on the deed to the Navy Parcel and expect transfer of the property in 2018. The 2017 ESPR update process has begun; 2017 shall be the data collection year with the ESPR being published in 2018. Request for quotes were released in July and HMMH was selected. MEPA scoping was accomplished by September 2017. Public scoping session with MEPA and the FAA were held in October. The Secretary of Environmental Affairs issued the Certificate establishing the scope for the 2017 ESPR on November 16th. As of December 2017 – the year long technical analysis has been initiated.

MBTA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wayne H. Miller

As the Concord representative on the MBTA Advisory Committee, I attended Committee meetings during 2017 and fielded questions and service issues from Town citizens.

Among the issues that Town citizens had in 2017 were disability access at the Concord Center station, schedules that unfairly penalize Concord and Lincoln compared to farther out towns, especially during the evening commute, and too long trains that keep the crossing gates closed on Sudbury Road for an unreasonable length of time during off-peak hours.

I brought all of these concerns to the attention of the Committee's Executive Director, who passed them along to the MBTA. Unfortunately, none of them were addressed by the MBTA during 2017.

METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL: MINUTEMAN ADVISORY GROUP ON INTERLOCAL COORDINATION (MAGIC)

The Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC) includes the towns of Acton, Bedford, Bolton, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Hudson, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, Maynard, Stow, and Sudbury. MAGIC is a subset of the 101 cities and towns that are represented by the regional planning agency – the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). MAGIC was established as a growth management committee in 1984 and has become a respected voice in regional decision-making, focusing on transportation, the environment, energy, open space, affordable housing, economic and community development, and legislative issues.

MAGIC held six regular business meetings in 2017. Highlight meeting topics included the following:

- MPO Transportation Planning & Projects discussion
- Kelley's Corner, Acton presentation
- MAGIC Regional IT Services project presentation

- MAGIC FY 2017 Work Plan discussion
- MAGIC Special Assessment Funds to priority projects allocation
- AARP Age Friendly presentation

MAGIC held five special events in 2017: a “Mill and Main” Tour in Maynard, the Annual Legislative Breakfast, a Regional Age-Friendly Planning Forum hosted by Acton and Boxborough, a Benfield Farms tour in Carlisle, and a hike through Memorial Forest Reservation in Sudbury.

MAGIC communities make a voluntary annual contribution to a Special Assessment Fund, to increase the region’s capacity to pursue projects of regional interest. In its FY 2017 and FY 2018 Work Plans MAGIC allocated its special funds to support three regional projects: MAGIC Climate Resiliency Project; MAGIC Stormwater Partnership; and MAGIC Regional IT Services project.

ESTABROOK WOODS ACCESS STUDY COMMITTEE

The Estabrook Woods Access Study Committee was appointed in April of 2016 and charged with considering how to address the increased pressure for adequate and safe parking for the use of Estabrook Woods trails, to review other impacts from increased visitor use, and to make recommendations to the Select Board. Our Committee was discharged in December of 2016, after our final report was submitted to the Select Board. The report was discussed at length by the Select Board in January of 2017.

Land is protected in the Estabrook Woods as the result of an unusual collaboration with Harvard University, which established a 670 acre woodland preserve for education, research, and habitat protection in the 1960’s. In support of Harvard’s teaching and research in the environmental sciences, zoology, ecology, and animal behavior, landowners around the preserve voluntarily and permanently gave up the right to develop their land while promising to preserve and steward the land for conservation.

Thus, permanent conservation restrictions are held on hundreds of acres of land owned by Concord and Carlisle landowners, as well as the Towns of Concord

and Carlisle, the land trusts of Concord and Carlisle, and the Trustees of Reservations. The public is granted access to some, but not all of this land.

In recent years, increased public use of the Estabrook Woods has led to conflicts over parking, dogs, and vandalism, as well as confrontations between owners and visitors.

In fulfilling our charge, our Committee set out a goal of recommending actions that would help balance three objectives: stewardship of the Woods for conservation, education and research; respecting the interests of landowners; and welcoming the public.

Our committee was appointed by the Select Board quite purposefully to represent different points of view. Our differences led to spirited disagreements, but also to a shared consensus on many ideas.

We held two well attended public hearings, one in June of 2016 to solicit ideas and the second in October of 2016 with the purpose of presenting preliminary recommendations for public comment. Following the second public hearing, the Committee amended its preliminary recommendations and took a final vote. In the end, most of our recommendations were supported by the full Committee; however, in one very important area -- that of how much parking to provide in certain locations -- we did not reach unanimous agreement.

Our recommendations included the following themes: First, to educate the public about the unique nature of the Estabrook Woods.

Due to misunderstandings and misinformation, some visitors to the Woods assume that they are entering a public park or a dog park. They don’t understand the purpose of the Woods nor the rights and responsibilities of private landowners. We recommended that the Town and landowners work together to post informational signs that educate visitors about the unique nature, ownership, and purpose of the Woods, and that the same information be made more available on various websites.

Second, to foster observance of guidelines that promote mutual respect.

It was clear to the Committee that too many visitors fail to treat the Woods, landowners, and other users with courtesy and respect. There have been clear cases of conflicts between owners and visitors, incidents of vandalism and trespass, failure to keep dogs under control, and too much dog waste left along the trails.

The Committee suggested a number of common courtesies that the community and landowners could embrace, including a limit of no more than two dogs per person, dogs being under the owner’s control at all times, dogs being on leash in parking areas and until well into the Woods, packing out all dog waste, and the prohibition of commercial dog walking. We recommended that landowners and the community embrace these guidelines, and work together to post signs and work with the police department, animal control officer, and natural resources division to encourage observance of these common courtesies.

Third, to resolve legal uncertainties regarding rights of public access at the end of Estabrook Road. The Town and Estabrook Road landowners have opposing legal opinions regarding the rights of the public to access the unpaved portion of Estabrook Road. Town Counsel’s opinion is that the public has the right to access, while landowners believe that they control access rights and expressly grant permission for the public to use the trail upon certain conditions. Uncertainty over this issue made it very difficult for our committee to propose solutions to some of the issues that led to the creation of our committee. Long-term resolution of these issues will require clarity and agreement on the underlying issues of rights and access.

Fourth, we recommended changes and improvements to parking at several locations in order to welcome visitors while providing safety, security, stewardship, and no undue burden on a single neighborhood.

Perhaps not surprisingly, deciding on how much parking to recommend, and where, was the one area where the committee did not reach unanimous agreement. Our lack of consensus mirrors the lack of consensus in the community as shown in our correspondence file. Stakeholders in Estabrook Woods need to work together. As we completed our work as a Committee, it was clear that many things remained unresolved and the conversation would continue under the leadership of the Select Board. Comments and suggestions are still

coming from residents of Concord and Carlisle. And there is much to understand and resolve with important Estabrook partners: Harvard University, the Town of Carlisle, the Concord and Carlisle Land Trusts, The Trustees of Reservations, Middlesex School, and many significant landowners. Their interests and their partnership are critical to the ongoing stewardship of the Woods.

RIVER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL OF THE SUDBURY, ASSABET, AND CONCORD WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

Sarah Bursky, NPS Community Planner
Elissa Brown, Concord Representative



Egg Rock at the convergence of the Assabet and Sudbury Rivers

The Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic Rivers are this area’s local nationally-designated and protected rivers. In 1999, eight towns, including Concord, and numerous partners worked together to have 29 miles of the Assabet, Sudbury, and Concord Rivers designated by Congress as a Wild and Scenic River. Just 20 miles west of Boston, this designation recognized the exceptional character of the river, and ensures that it will be enjoyed for generations. The “SuAsCo” Wild and Scenic River has been protected as a Partnership River, which means that local communities lead the effort to care for it, working closely with state and federal governments. The River Stewardship Council (RSC) is the group coordinating these efforts. Meeting monthly to work to cooperatively manage Federal dollars and local programs, this group is made up of representatives from the eight towns along the

Wild and Scenic River, as well as OARS, Sudbury Valley Trustees, the MA Department of Environmental Protection, National Park Service, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Council helps support local partners through funding from the National Park Service (and Congress) for science, policy, land protection, and environmental education. Every year the program funds land protection efforts by Sudbury Valley Trustees and water quality monitoring by OARS watershed association. These two critical programs ensure that open space along the rivers will be protected into the future, and that we protect clean water for drinking, fishing, and swimming. The MA Audubon River Schools Program is funded to support elementary and middle-school students getting out on the River. The RSC also supported control of invasive species on the rivers by supporting the small grant program of the SuAsCo Cooperative Invasive Species Management Association (CISMA).

In addition, a total of \$24,260 in community grants directly benefit watershed communities by supporting a number of diverse and exciting local projects. In Concord, these have included the cardboard boat race held during our annual Riverfest celebration, Wild and Scenic Signs on all three rivers at road crossings and a Wild and Scenic information sign at the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail crossing of the Assabet River. Other projects included contributing to Concord Land Conservation Trust's protection of the 80-acre October Farm Riverfront in Concord, diadromous fish restoration on the Concord River by Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust which could impact fish populations upstream all the way to Framingham, research by MA Rivers Alliance on communication efforts during times of drought, and a new kiosk along the river in the Town of Bedford.

This year the Council also began an update to the River Conservation Plan. Drafted in 1994, this document brought communities and local, State, and Federal organizations together around the best strategies to protect the River resources in this region. At that time, water quality was one of the most pressing issues. Now, with more invasive species, growing development, extreme weather patterns causing increase drought and stormwater runoff, and climate change, as newer

threats, the plan is in need of an update. We included some thoughts on these matters in our comments to Concord Envision and this fall and winter Council representatives will present more detailed information about our plan to the Natural Resources Commission and Select Board, and we welcome your involvement and input!

The Council also strives to keep up with scientific and ecological research along the rivers. This year we funded a study of mussel species found in the Saxonville and Wayland stretches of the Sudbury River through local researcher and ecologist Ethan Neadeau of Biodiversity Draws.

Finally, on June 17th and 18th, we hosted the 16th annual RiverFest weekend. Over 1,000 people attended this year's 40 plus walks, talks, paddles, and kids' events around the watershed. Concord events included a cardboard boat race, a bike around the rivers, and a nature walk with Peter Alden; all well-attended events. There are many ways to get involved in the work of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Wild and Scenic River. We meet monthly in Sudbury at the Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge and our meetings are open to the public. This year in particular we welcome your input into our Wild and Scenic Conservation Plan update. To be in touch, find us online at www.sudbury-assabet-concord.org.

SCHOOLS

CONCORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Heather Bout, Chair
Johanna Boynton, Vice Chair
Dan Conti
Robert Grom
Wally Johnston

The Concord Public Schools continue to enjoy strong support from Concord citizens, which empowers the teachers and administrators to deliver high-quality education to every child in the community. The residents of Concord place a high priority on education and that allows the schools to maintain high achievement levels, hire and support excellent teachers, utilize updated curriculum and appropriate technology, and to provide students with a safe and healthy environment.

Mission and Core Values

Members of the School Committee use the vision articulated in the District's mission statement and core values to guide decisions. The mission of the Concord Public Schools and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School District is to educate all students to become independent lifelong learners, creative thinkers, caring citizens, and responsible contributors to our increasingly diverse global society. The core values are: academic excellence, empathic and respectful community, professional collaboration, educational equity, and continuous improvement. In addition, the School Committee and Administration set annual goals for student achievement and instruction, learning environment, professional collaboration, communication and community engagement, as well as for infrastructure and operations.

Enrollment

Concord Public Schools (CPS) serves 2088 students in grades PK-8. CPS experienced an increase of 16 students in FY18. Over the last five years, the enrollment has varied between a high of 2,152 (FY13) and a low of 2,072 (FY16).

The Superintendent and School Committee carefully monitor enrollment projections as well as other factors that could impact enrollment such as new housing projects and pre-school enrollment levels.

Student Achievement and Activities

The School Administration and School Committee focus on improving student learning. Teachers and Administrators work hard to ensure an appropriate educational experience and learning environment for each student. The district uses a variety of assessments to monitor student progress, and details of student learning and achievement are provided in the Superintendent's Report. The district continues efforts to integrate technology into the daily curriculum as one of many tools that enhance teaching and learning, with teachers exploring new strategies and serving as mentors to each other. The School Committee supports these efforts by providing resources through the school budget.

The level of student engagement in the learning process, the appropriate use of available tools to enhance teaching and learning, and the interdisciplinary aspect of learning activities is exciting to see and is further validation of the importance of the work being done in our schools.

There are robust music and arts programs in Concord schools and all students receive music and art instruction. Most students participate in supplemental music programs for orchestra, band, and chorus that are offered in grades four through eight. Activities beyond the school day extend the learning experience for students in a multitude of areas that enhance academic studies including athletics, the arts, technology, games and student interest groups. Outside organizations such as the Concord Education Fund and the Parent Teacher Groups (PTGs) fund many of these activities. Concord Public Schools are extremely fortunate to have teachers, parents and citizens who facilitate and support these opportunities for students.

Appreciation for Superintendent Rigby's Service to CPS

Superintendent Diana Rigby retired at the end of her contract on June 30, 2017. Members of the School Committee thank Ms. Rigby for her many years of service to the Concord, Carlisle and Boston students and families and wish her well in all her future endeavors.