

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



Seated from left: Jeffrey S. Wieand, Chair; Elise F. Woodward, Clerk; Standing from left: Gregory P. Howes, Stanly E. Black, Carmin C. Reiss

General Business

The Board of Selectmen is the elected board responsible for the development and implementation of Town policy. It performs these functions by making recommendations to Town Meeting, implementing the decisions of Town Meeting, managing the by-laws and budget of the Town, monitoring and evaluating the annual goals and objectives of the Town Manager, making appointments to a variety of Town boards, committees and task forces, guiding the development and evaluating the performance of the Town's operating and capital budget, and acting as the authority for the granting of numerous licenses. The Board of Selectmen also represents the Town in a variety of roles with Federal, State, regional and other local government agencies. The Town Manager reports to the Board.

Virginia McIntyre completed her second term on the Board. In March, Carmin Reiss was elected to her first term as Selectman, joining Greg Howes and Stanly Black, both in their second terms. Following Town Meeting 2010, Jeff Wieand was elected Chair of the Board; Elise Woodward was elected Clerk.

The Board generally meets every other week on Monday evenings, with additional meetings as necessary. The Board uses a consent calendar to streamline routine and non-controversial matters such as gift acceptances and special licenses to increase the time available for substantive discussion. Meetings are open to all interested citizens and time is scheduled at each meeting to hear citizen comments. The meetings are broadcast live on cable television's community channel and regularly reported on by the *Concord Journal*. In 2010, meetings were also reported on by the Concord Patch www.concord.patch.com.

The Board met regularly this year with Carlisle officials and the Town's representative to the State legislature. A frequent topic of discussion was dealing with diminished State resources and local aid as a result of the continued weakening of the Massachusetts economy. To this end, the Board discussed the regionalization of services and schools with its neighbors, the elimination of unfunded State mandates, and the implementation of local option taxes.

In addition to its regularly scheduled meetings, the Board met with the Carlisle Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committees of Concord and Carlisle, and the Regional School Committee to coordinate planning for Fiscal Year 2012. The Board also convened a Coordination Meeting with Town boards and departments in early December to identify potential Warrant Articles for the 2011 Town Meeting.

Again this year, the Board and Town Manager established and coordinated their goals for 2010 (FY 2011): to maintain the community's financial stability and well-being, to promote near-term and long-range planning to maintain and enhance the Town's unique character, and to improve policy development and communication and enhance the quality of Town services. Notable among the objectives was the desire to avoid a proposition 2 ½ budget override, to engage the community in energy conservation measures and to reduce municipal energy consumption.

The Board heard regular reports from a number of ad hoc and standing boards and committees as well as from Town departments, and made and approved appointments to those volunteer groups.

Boards and Committees

Some important issues brought before the Selectmen this year included: continued planning for the future of West Concord through the West Concord Task Force, including potential formula business restrictions (through the Planning Board) and the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (through the Rail Trail Committee); review of the Town's continued participation in the Community Preservation Act; the potential acquisition of parcels for open space and agricultural land; the construction and repairs to Town roads and bridges; working with the State and neighboring towns on the Route 2/Crosby's Corner project and the redesign of the Route 2 Rotary (including modifications to Cambridge Turnpike); an inter-municipal agreement for advanced life support services; consideration of proposals to install ground-mounted solar generation facilities on Town-owned land; sustainable energy practices recommended by the Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee; first refusal rights on several 61A properties; Zone C residential restrictions; master plan and feasibility study work on the proposed reconstruction of Concord-Carlisle Regional High School; support of affordable housing initiatives including the Alexan development; and a ban on the sale of drinking water in plastic containers. Concord's 375th Birthday Celebration Committee prepared for a celebration in September 2010, and with significant support from citizens and local businesses hosted a weekend celebration including a parade, a ball, music and fireworks.

In April, Concord's voters gathered for the Annual Town Meeting. In four efficient evening sessions, 70 articles were considered and voted upon. Notable among them were: the passage of the Town and school budgets without an override; \$1,900,000 of funding of water supply and treatment improvements at Nagog reservoir and dam; \$1,300,000 funding for feasibility and schematic design services for improvements to the Concord-Carlisle Regional High School; \$600,000 of funding for CPS renovations; the approval of the

Town Meeting

Community Preservation Committee's funding recommendations, including \$500,000 for renovations to community housing at Peter Bulkeley Terrace and \$375,000 for renovations to the Fowler Library; authorization for a long-term lease of the former Emerson High School; land acquisition of the Marshall Farm and Scimone Farm; accepting Wetland By-Law regulations, and improvements to the Sign By-Law.

Gifts

In 2010, the Town received many gifts from local residents, charities and other organizations. Gifts in excess of \$500 are formally accepted by the Board of Selectmen. The Town is grateful for each and every gift. In 2010, the 375th Birthday Celebration was funded entirely through donations. In addition, the Selectmen accepted the following generous gifts: \$145,000 from Middlesex School for the construction of sidewalks on Lowell Road, \$50,000 from the Friends of CCFields to the Concord Playing Fields Gift Account, \$23,168 from the Concord Friends of the Aging to the COA Van Drivers Gift Account. There were donations of approximately \$24,200 from a number of sources to support the Concord Open Golf Tournament, the proceeds of which support Recreation Department summer camp scholarships, and numerous donations to the San Marcos Sister City account. The Community Chest donated approximately \$44,000 to a variety of community gift accounts and community service personnel and support for the Youth Services Coordinator position. Further, the Selectmen continued, for the fourth year, their Annual Appeal. This year's donations, unless otherwise directed, were administered by the Hugh Cargill Trust to help citizens pay their property taxes.

Acknowledgements

The Board wishes to thank Town Manager Chris Whelan, Deputy Town Manager Doug Meagher, Ruth Lauer, staff liaison, and the employees of the Town of Concord for their professionalism and efforts on behalf of the residents of Concord. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the hundreds of citizens who devote time and expertise to Concord's enterprise.