

CONCORD PUBLIC WORKS

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION



from left: James A. Smith, Philip Swain, Cynthia W. Wood, Nick Pappas, Chair; Paul A. Mahoney

The Public Works Commission acts as the Town's road, water and sewer commissioners, and advises the Public Works Director in the Department's efforts to maintain and protect the Town's public works, utility and solid waste/recycling services. The Commission also advises the Town Manager, Planning Board and other Town officials and boards on matters that concern Town water and sewer service, drainage and roads. The Commission is also responsible for setting policy and rate schedules for water, sewer and solid waste services; for acting as an appeals board for right of way permits and water and sewer bills and for approving minimum standards for the final layout of Town roads.

The Public Works Commission also provides a forum for review of water, sewer and solid waste rates, the annual roads and sidewalk program, public street layout, and water and sewer extensions.

The ongoing activities of the Commission can be found on the web at www.concordma.gov

Highlights for 2010 included (in chronological order):

- An annual public hearing and Commission approval to revise curbside collection and disposal rates
- A Roads Program review, followed by a formal public hearing discussing the 2010 Roads Plan
- Participation by the Public Works Commission Chair in

the working group of the Natural Resources Commission on the Wetlands Bylaw Regulations that resulted in a vote and letter accepting terms of the Public Works Commission

- A Commission vote to recommend No Action on Article 38 – Revocation of the Community Preservation Act
- Presentations on the Roads Program and Nagog Pond Water Supply System Improvements were made at the Annual Town Meeting
- A public hearing and approval of the new water/sewer rates
- Commissioner Wood represented the Public Works Commission on the Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee
- A Sidewalk Extension and Maintenance Program review, followed by a formal public hearing discussing the Sidewalk Plan
- Approval of a water main extension on Bolton Street with conditions
- Approval of a common sewer service configuration for the Concord River Walk in accordance with Sewer Rules and Regulations.
- Approval of a State of Water Supply Conservation following an unusually high spike in seasonal water demand following the July 4th weekend, which significantly challenged Concord's available water supply
- Review of the proposed utility scale solar array installation at the Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Conditional approval of the Groundwater Conservancy District Zoning Bylaw requirements (a-d) for the Concord Country Club

The Commission continued to review the activities of Concord Public Works through monthly Director's reports and set aside time for public comment during each meeting.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Concord cemeteries are an important asset to the Town. Visitors, historians and residents use them as a window to the past, a pleasant place for solitude and contemplation, and a final resting place for many.

Concord cemeteries total about 55 acres. Maintaining these grounds in top condition requires the continued efforts of the Cemetery Division staff as well as other Public Works employees. The efforts of all are greatly appreciated.

Sleepy Hollow

Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies were held at Sleepy Hollow.

On-going maintenance/upgrade programs continued to be carried out at Sleepy Hollow: the tree management program continued to ensure the health, safety and aesthetics of the hundreds of trees within the grounds and a row of hedges was removed and replaced with raised garden beds in the oval at the Knoll.



Deborah Stoessel, Ruth Armknecht, Carole Cushing, Kathleen Winslow, Fred Macdonald, Chair

Renovation of the buildings at the Knoll was completed and the Cemetery Division is now operating from that one location. The renovation of the building opposite New Hill Gate was completed and is now being used by the Town Assessors Office.

Most sales of burial plots are for The Knoll section of Sleepy Hollow.

Statistics

During 2010, there were 78 interments at Sleepy Hollow: 38 were full burials and 40 were cremations. Of the interments, 44 were Concord residents. Lot sales for the year totaled 71 with 14 of these being sold to eligible former Town residents.

Friends of Sleepy Hollow

The Friends of Sleepy Hollow is a private, non-profit organization whose purpose is promoting the preservation, beautification and appreciation of the historic burial grounds in Concord. Additional information can be found at www.friendsofsleepyhollow.org.

The Friends' map of Sleepy Hollow, now in its second printing, highlights areas of historical interest and continues to be a valuable asset to the hundreds of visitors

who tour the grounds each year.

The Friends completed the refurbishment of a pre-Civil War cannon and Cemetery staff replaced it in its original location in Sleepy Hollow. A subcommittee edited a book, *Obituaries of Concord Luminaries* that included the original obituaries of 12 famous Concordians who are buried in Sleepy Hollow. Another successful community education breakfast was hosted and featured Leslie Wilson, Curator at the Concord Library. She spoke about the interactions of many of the people who were featured in the book.

CONCORD PUBLIC WORKS

ADMINISTRATION

Richard K. Reine,
Director

The Concord Public Works Team continues to focus on its principal mission to enhance the quality of life for those living, working or visiting the Town, and through sound management, innovation, teamwork and vision provide dependable, high quality, responsive public works and utility services, consistent with community values and at reasonable costs.

Protecting the Town's Infrastructure/Providing Essential Services

Concord Public Works (CPW) is comprised of four Divisions. These include two staff Divisions: Administration (including Recycling and Solid Waste Management) and Engineering and two line Divisions: Highway & Grounds (including Cemetery) and the Water & Sewer Division. The Department is responsible for planning and managing a large segment of the Town's infrastructure.

These assets include Concord's roads and roadsides; curbs and sidewalks; catch basins, storm drains, culverts and outfalls; traffic islands; guardrails; street signs and traffic signals; public shade trees and park trees; Town parks, playgrounds, ball fields, and recreation equipment; Town cemeteries; the Town's former landfill, including the earth products and snow storage facility; the public water supply including its storage, pumping, and distribution systems; the Town's sewer collection, pumping, and treatment systems; and CPW buildings and equipment.