

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



*Seated from left: Virginia McIntyre, Stanly E. Black, Chair;
Standing from left: Gregory Howes, Elise Woodward,
Jeffrey Wieand, Clerk*

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.

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*. For three afternoons, the Board held "office hours" for citizen comments. Few citizens attended these additional opportunities for discussion.

The Board met regularly this year with Carlisle officials and the Town's representative to the State legislature. A frequent topic of discussion was how to deal 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.

Again this year, the Board and Town Manager established and coordinated their goals for 2009. Chief among them was the desire to avoid a budget override. As a result, the Town's budget to be presented at the 2010 Town Meeting will, for the second year in a row, show no increase.

The promotion of energy conservation in the private and public sectors was also among this year's goals. In response, the Town House was refitted with new storm windows and electricity consumption was reduced significantly at the town offices at 141 Keyes Road.

The Board sent letters of support to the Local Initiative Program to assist in funding for residential construction at Finigan's Way and Alexan Concord.

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.

Some important issues brought before the Selectmen this year included: the ongoing construction and completion of the new Willard School; review of the Town's continued participation in the Community Preservation Act; the planning and completion of new playing fields; long-term planning for wastewater treatment; the potential acquisition of parcels of open space and agricultural land; the construction and repairs to Town roads and bridges, including repaving on Route 62 and repair of Nashawtuc, Pine Street and Flint bridges; working with the State and neighboring towns on the Route 2/Crosby's Corner project and the redesign of the Route 2 Rotary; acceptance of several conservation restrictions and easements at the Nashoba School, Finigan's Way and the Tyler land; continued planning for the future of West Concord through the West Concord Task Force and the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail through that committee. Two new Town working groups were established to review and consider changes to the Town's Sign Bylaw and prepare for a celebration of the Town's 375 Birthday in 2010. The Board also approved a new collective bargaining agreement with the Dispatchers' Union and actively supported the transfer of prison land to the CHDC for affordable housing.

Lastly, the Board considered alternate sources of revenue, such as payments in lieu of taxes by non-profit organizations, meals and hotel room taxes, a local option income tax, and consideration of property tax options such as the residential exemption.

On April 27, Concord's voters gathered for the Annual Town Meeting. In three efficient evening sessions, 57 articles were considered and voted upon. Notable among them were: the passage of the Town and school budgets without an override; \$4,500,000 of funding for the Light Plant's deployment of Smart Grid; the approval of a Town wetlands bylaw; \$600,000 of funding for CPS renovations; \$750,000 of funding for Concord-Carlisle Regional School District improvements; the approval of the Community Preservation Committee's funding recommendations, including \$500,000 for renovations at Peter Bulkeley Terrace; authorization for a long-term lease of the former Emerson High School; and authorization to request the Town's representatives to the State legislature to request the imposition an excise tax on certain plastic bags and an expansion of the Massachusetts Bottle Bill to include all non-carbonated beverage containers.

Boards and Committees

Town Meeting

Gifts

In 2009, 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. Some of the larger gifts in 2009 are as follows: The Selectmen accepted the very generous gift of \$50,000 from the Friends of CC Fields to the Concord Playing Fields Gift Account. There were donations of approximately \$23,000 from a number of sources to the Fire Department and Local Emergency Planning Committee as well as \$49,000 to support the Concord Open Golf Tournament the proceeds of which support Recreation Department summer camp scholarships. The Community Chest donated \$32,000 to a variety of community gift accounts and community service personnel. The Willard Parent Teacher's Group donated \$3,000 to the memorial tree planting program. Middlesex School presented the Town with a \$25,000 gift for energy efficiency improvements and the Nashoba Brooks School donated a garage valued at \$35,000 to Public Works for the cemetery. The Rotary Club of Concord donated \$1,200 for the Police Department community service gift account. Further, the Selectmen continued, for the fourth year, their Annual Appeal. This year's donations, unless otherwise directed, will be administered by the Hugh Cargill Trust to help citizens pay their property taxes.

Proclamations

As usual, the Selectmen acknowledged Community Chest month, Concord Public Works week, Public Power week, United Nations Day, and the Holocaust Remembrance Day. In addition, the Board recognized 5 new Eagle Scouts, returning Veteran Mark Merlino, the 50th anniversaries of the Council on Aging and the Concord Band and resolutions regarding bottle bill legislation and placing a tax on plastic bags.

Acknowledgements

The Board would like to thank Town Manager, Chris Whelan and the employees of the Town of Concord for their efforts on behalf of the residents of Concord. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the hundreds of volunteers that make Town government in Concord a pleasure to serve.



Selectmen Gregory Howes presenting Colonel Mark Merlino with a proclamation acknowledging his service to the community and the nation after his return from deployment in Iraq.



Board of Selectmen participating in the Annual Flag Retirement at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery with Gold Star Mother Mary Emerson