

# BOARD OF SELECTMEN



*Stanly E. Black, Jeffrey S. Wieand, Clerk  
Elise F. Woodward, Carmin C. Reiss, Chair; Steven Ng*

## General Business

The Board of Selectmen is the elected board responsible for the development and implementation of Town policy. It performs these functions by sponsoring Town Meeting Warrant articles and making recommendations to Town Meeting, implementing the decisions of Town Meeting, managing the bylaws 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 budgets, 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.

Elise Woodward completed her first term on the Board, and in March was re-elected to a second term. Steven Ng was also elected to the Board in March for his first term. Jeffrey Wieand and Stanly Black continued their second terms on the Board, and Carmin Reiss continued in her first term on the Board. Following Town Meeting, the Board elected Carmin Reiss as Chair and Jeffrey Wieand as Clerk.

The Board continued its practice of meeting at 7:00 pm on Monday evenings, every other week, with additional meetings as necessary. To allow greater time for consideration of more substantive matters, the Board employs a consent calendar for routine and non-controversial matters such as gift acceptances and special licenses. Meetings are open to all interested Concord citizens and, at regular meetings, time is scheduled for the Board to hear citizen comments. Copies of supporting materials for meetings of the Board are posted on the Town website. CCTV records the Board's meetings and broadcasts live on Concord's local access cable channel. The *Concord Journal* and Concord Patch, [www.concord.patch.com](http://www.concord.patch.com), both regularly report on the Board's meetings.

The Board met regularly with Carlisle officials and the Town's representative to the Mas-

sachusetts House of Representatives, and was in communication with the Town's State Senator. The challenge of managing budgets and tax burdens in a persistently weak economy remained a central focus of discussion. Other topics of discussion included plans for the new Concord-Carlisle Regional High School building, school bus issues, the operation and capital expenses of Minuteman Regional Vocational and Technical High School and local option tax alternatives.

In September, the Board convened a fiscal coordination planning meeting for Fiscal Year 2014 with the Concord Finance Committee and representatives of Concord Public Schools, the Concord and Regional School Committees and the Carlisle Board of Selectmen. In December, the Board convened a Coordination Meeting of Town boards and departments to identify and begin discussion on potential Articles for the 2013 Town Meeting Warrant.

As in prior years, the Board and the Town Manager established and coordinated their goals for Fiscal Year 2013. This year, the Board introduced ten over-arching values and guiding principles, including "Effective, Responsive and Transparent Governance," "Fiscal Responsibility and Financial Stability/Sustainability" and "Maintaining a high level of Town service to Concord citizens."

The Board continued its practice of hearing regular reports from a number of boards and committees as well as from Town departments, and made and approved appointments to those volunteer groups. Reports heard by the Board included the Concord Municipal Light Plant, Public Works Department, Planning Board, Fire Department, Board of Registrars, Agricultural Committee, Concord Housing Development Corporation, Historic Districts Commission and the Town Information Technology Department.

## **Boards and Committees**

Notable issues taken up by the Board this year included: support for the Concord-Carlisle Regional High School building project; adoption of municipal health plan changes per MGL c. 32B; sponsoring creation of the Concord Cultural District; implementation of the Town Meeting vote on the ban of the sale of water in single-serving plastic bottles; consideration of remote participation by members of Town boards and committees; soliciting and reviewing proposals for utility scale solar power generation on the former landfill site; revising and updating the Town's Committee Handbook; negotiating and completing the acquisition of 51 Laws Brook Road; accepting conservation restrictions at 35 Macone Farm Lane and 445 Lowell Road; support for exterior renovations to the Town House; discussion of the potential acquisition of parcels for open space, agricultural, and municipal purposes, including the W.R. Grace property at 214Y Main Street; re-signing the Town's Sister City agreement with Nanae, Japan and entertaining a delegation from Nanae to celebrate the event; support for creation of Homes on Elm Local Initiative Project; lease agreement for Junction Park; amendments to the ALS Ambulance Service and Regional Housing Consortium agreements; attention to proposals for renovations for Minuteman Regional Vocational and Technical High School; letters regarding matters such as cuts in MBTA services; numerous pole petition, gas main petition, liquor and victualler license hearings; and evaluation of the performance of the Town Manager.

## **Notable Issues**

In April, Concord voters assembled for the Annual Town Meeting to take action on forty-eight Warrant Articles, as well as a Special Town Meeting to take action on eight articles. Of note, Town Meeting voted to: approve Town and School budgets without any override; authorize borrowing of \$950,000 for the Town's 2013 road program; authorize borrowing

## **Town Meeting**

of \$675,000 for renovation of Concord Public Schools; authorize borrowing of \$700,000 for renovations at Police-Fire Station 1; authorize the borrowing of \$4,400,000 for expansion of the Light Plant Forest Ridge substation and warehouse; approve the expenditure of \$1,105,226 in Community Preservation Funds; approve the acquisition of the W.R. Grace property; approve the lease of the former landfill for utility solar power generation; and several changes to the zoning bylaw.

### Special Town Meeting

In the midst of the Annual Town Meeting, Concord voters assembled for a Special Town Meeting to consider eight Warrant Articles. Among other actions, Special Town Meeting voted to acquire a parcel of land at 51 Laws Brook Road, form a citizen committee to study school bus transportation, and to establish and fund a high school debt stabilization fund.

### Gifts

The Town was fortunate to receive numerous gifts from residents, charities and other organizations. The Town is grateful for each and every gift. The Board of Selectmen formally accepts all gifts in excess of \$500. The Board accepted, among many others, the following generous and appreciated gifts: numerous gifts for the Concord Open Golf Tournament and Recreation Department summer camp scholarships; \$50,000 from the Friends of Concord-Carlisle Fields for the fields maintenance account; \$7,700 from Concord-Carlisle Youth Baseball and Softball to the Ripley baseball field account; \$2,000 in memory of Ann and Jack Flynn to the conservation land management account; \$22,000 from CIP MCRT Long View Meadows LLC to the fire communications gift account; \$5,000 from the Friends of Sleepy Hollow to the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery gift account; \$2,500 from Jill Appel and Beat Lehmann and \$2,000 from REUSIT Inc. to the West Concord Junction Park water fountain gift account; and several gifts from Community Chest, including \$5,000 to the Concord Cares fund for emergency heating oil; \$25,655 to the Youth Coordinator gift account, \$25,904 to the Council on Aging gift account and \$25,078 to the Community Services Coordinator gift account.

### Acknowledgements

The Board wishes to thank Town Manager Chris Whelan, Deputy Town Manager Doug Meagher, Staff Liaison Ruth Lauer, and all of the employees of the Town of Concord for their professionalism and dedication in serving the residents of Concord. We also wish to acknowledge and thank the hundreds of citizen volunteers willing to devote their time and skill to Town affairs and without whom the Town simply could not function.

*MGL Chapter 42 requires that every five years the Selectmen must locate and mark with paint the boundary monuments of the Town. This is called Perambulating the Boundaries. The penalty for failing to do this task is a fine of \$20. In Concord, the assistance of staff is vital to confirm the locations using GPS technology to enable the Board's bushwhacking expedition to the sites, often deep in the woods.*

