



2013 CONCORD ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

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PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION



*Seated from left: Philip Swain, Arthur Fulman, Nick Pappas, James Smith,
Chair*

(Photo Credit: Anna Trout)

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 Town Meeting, 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 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 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 throughout

the year on the web at www.concordma.gov
(<http://www.concordma.gov>)

Highlights of the Commission's activities for 2013 include (in chronological order):

- Approved and supported the water main extension for Monsen Rd.
- Conducted numerous meetings to discuss the solar project at the Landfill.
- Conducted numerous meetings to review the Sleepy Hollow culvert replacement.
- Discussed Historic District Commission review of sidewalk program and curb ramp installations.
- Reviewed of Cambridge Turnpike construction plans including conducting a public meeting on December 11.
- Conducted a public hearing and approved revised curbside collection and disposal rates.
- Approved the relocation of a drainage easement at 201 Independence Rd.
- Approved Right-of-Way, Driveway Permit and Life Cycle Maintenance fees.
- Discussed Town Meeting preparations regarding Article 12 (Sale of Conservation Restriction – Former Landfill Site); Article 13 (Concord Public Schools – Use of Capital Needs Stabilization Fund for Transportation Infrastructure); Article 40 (Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Public Service Corporation Overlay District). Commissioner Smith presented Articles 12 and 13. Commissioner Swain presented Article 24 – Road Repair Revolving Fund Expenditures.
- Conducted a Roads Program briefing, followed by a formal public hearing discussing the 2013/2014 Roads Program.
- Conducted the Water and Sewer Rate public hearing and approved the 2013 rate schedule.
- Expressed appreciation to Cynthia Wood for her hard work for two terms on the commission.
- Reviewed and approved appeal of Water & Sewer Division denial of a Title 5 sewer flow increase for parcels Mill Brook Tarry with specific conditions.

- Conducted a public hearing, reviewed and approved a Sewer Improvement Fee rate increase.
- Declared a State of Water Supply Conservation on July 18 and rescinded same on October 9.
- Approved a drainage easement amendment for 54 Nancy Rd.
- Reviewed and approved an appeal of a CPW Water and Sewer Division denial of request for an increase in Title 5 sewer flow for 50 Beharrel St. with conditions.
- Conducted a public hearing and approved a Water Main extension waiver for 150 Barnes Hill Rd.
- Conducted a public hearing and approved an application for water and sewer main extensions along Cottage Lane.
- Conducted a public hearing and approved an application for water main extension along Squaw Sachem's Trail (#80).
- Reviewed and accepted sidewalk petitions for Old Stow and Sudbury roads.
- Reviewed the Sign Management Program.
- Reviewed the Wastewater NPDES Permit Appeal.
- Conducted a public hearing and approved an application for a water main extension along Old Mill Rd. (#80).
- Discussed the Dog Bylaw revision.
- Discussed and prepared for Dec. 4 Special Town Meeting regarding Knox Trail property.

The Commission and Concord Public Works continue to focus on their joint goal of promoting greater community involvement in Concord Public Works projects and programs. This deliberate strategy has resulted in greater responsiveness to all stakeholders and positive project outcomes. Examples of these efforts include neighborhood on-site meetings for large infrastructure improvement projects, and the Cambridge Turnpike Improvement Project outreach program and several public hearings and meetings. In addition, the Director continues to review the activities of Concord Public Works through the monthly Director's report and the Public Works Commission sets aside time for public comment during each meeting.