



# TOWN OF CONCORD

*Office of the Interim Town Manager*

## Operational Status Reports & Departmental Updates

*For the Week Ending January 28, 2022*

### Department of Planning & Land Management

#### Health Division

- **Mask Mandate:** At its meeting on January 25, the Board of Health concluded that the Mask Mandate would remain in effect as the Covid-19 positivity incident rate per 100,000 remained well above 20, the threshold which had been determined as a Public Health Rationale for the mandate. The Board will next consider the Mandate at the meeting tentatively scheduled for February 15.
- **Mask Waiver Update:** After consulting with Board of Health, the Director of Planning and Land Management and Health Department Staff determined that no waivers from the Covid-19 Public Health Mandate of the Town of Concord, Board of Health (effective 12/28/21) are justified at this time. The case counts from the previous weeks remain significantly high; the Board of Health reiterated that they will not consider any requests until the regularly scheduled Board meeting on February 15 and the following conditions are met: “a significant decline (trend) in the 14-day average daily incidences in Concord (below 20) as reported by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health OR the Level of Community Transmission data from the CDC for Middlesex County is no longer categorized as “High” over a consecutive four-week period”
- **Covid 19 Vaccination Clinic:** Another successful vaccination clinic was held at CCHS on January 25. Public Health Nurse Tricia McGean reported the clinic ran smoothly with attendees rarely waiting more than 5 minutes. Purple Shield staff were able to vaccinate about 350 people, ages 4-70+.

#### Economic Vitality & Tourism

- **Concord Art Association:** This week we launched a new partnership with Concord Art to help celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In March, a new tour will be launched tentatively called the Women of Concord Art which will run on Fridays in March (also Women’s History Month). The tour will begin at Concord Art with a private viewing and talk, followed by stops at the Town House, Albright Art, and other galleries in Concord Center and conclude at the Concord Free Public Library.
- **Introductory meetings** are planned over the next two weeks with 2 major bus tour companies, Road Scholar and EF Educational Tours.

#### Natural Resources Division

- **Natural Resources Commission meeting of January 19:** The NRC heard the following projects:
  - a Notice of Intent (NOI) to dredge accumulated sediment from Warner's Pond, dewater sediments, dispose of sediments in an upland location, and improve the Warner’s Pond boat access off Commonwealth Avenue;
  - an NOI to replace an existing concrete walkway and install new water and sewer connections at 152 Commonwealth Avenue; and
  - a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) to install a drywell at 394 Monument Street.
  - The Warner’s Pond improvements project was continued to 2/26 and
  - the concrete walkway replacement project was continued to 2/2 to allow additional information to be submitted.

- Projects at 821 Strawberry Hill Road, 77 Westford Road, 777 Virginia Road, and 394 Monument Street were approved. In addition, the NRC discussed updating the NRC's tree mitigation policy to provide consistency with the Tree Preservation Bylaw.
- New projects that will be reviewed for the February 2 meeting include: a RDA to construct a roofed porch, deck, and patio at 1679 Lowell Road, and an NOI to replace an existing septic system at 2112 Main Street.
- **Trail Updates:** Land Manager Will Holden has been making GIS trail data improvements this month in collaboration with GIS Analyst Jill Moonheron. Improvements have been made to trails at Punkatasset Preserve, Old Rifle Range, October Farm Riverfront, Cousins Field, Baker Ave Boat Launch, East Quarter Farm Community Garden, and Thoreau Farm. These data improvements come in the form of corrections to trail locations and the addition of newly constructed trails. In certain instances, new GPS data was collected in field to ensure accuracy. In response to these improvements, three new trail maps for kiosks have been printed and installed at kiosks for public use.
- **Community Garden Presentation:** Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye, joined by Conservation Agents from two other communities, presented a Community Garden workshop to members of the MA Association of Municipal Conservation Professionals. The discussed focused on establishing new community gardens, managing existing gardens, installing pollinator meadows, and potential grant funding.



### **Building Inspections Division**

- **Zoning Board of Appeals** meeting of January 13, 2022, the following items were heard and voted:
  - GRANTED the renewal of a special permit for 1 year under sections 4.3.1, 4.3.4, 5.4.5, and 11.6 of the Zoning Bylaw to the Old Manse for large outdoor events over 50 people at 269 Monument Street.
  - GRANTED a special permit under sections 4.2.2.2, and 11.6 of the zoning bylaw for a 880 square foot Additional Dwelling Unit at 53 Hubbard Street.
  - GRANTED a special permit under sections 4.2.2.2, and 11.6 of the zoning bylaw for a 792 square foot Additional Dwelling Unit at 258 Prairie Street.

### **Planning Division**

- **Planning Board meeting of January 25<sup>th</sup>:** A majority of the Board voted in favor of co-sponsoring with the Historical Commission the submission of a Scenic Roads Bylaw warrant article for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting. The Board also voted to submit warrant articles for an amendment to the Zoning Bylaw to provide a grandfather provision for additional dwelling units, include the Thoreau Depot Business District in the Formula Business Bylaw, and new provisions for the Thoreau Depot Business Zoning District. Middlesex School gave a presentation on a Site Plan Review application for the construction of 4 additional units of faculty housing. The public hearing was continued to 7 p.m. on February 8<sup>th</sup> to allow additional time for Town staff to review revised plans and information.

---

### **Department of Public Works**

---

- **Shared Streets and Spaces Municipal Grant, Summer 2021** – After waiting for months for the delivery of the remaining pieces of equipment, the contractor, Electric Light Company finally completed the planned pedestrian and bicyclist safety improvements projects along Old Marlborough Road. The improvements include the installation of two rapid flashing beacons with automatic detection for bicyclists on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail at Williams Road as well as

retrofitting the existing flashing beacons with the automatic detection at the Old Marlborough Road trail crossing, the installation of new solar powered radar speed feedback signs and the replacement of school zone flashers with radar feedback at the Concord Middle School.

- **Hydrant Winterization:** CPW operations personnel continued to perform winter storm response cleanup activities including hydrant winterization activities which includes post snow event clearing, inspection of barrels and dewatering to reduce chance of having them freeze up and be rendered inoperable in the event of an emergency.

---

## Human Services

---

### Senior Services

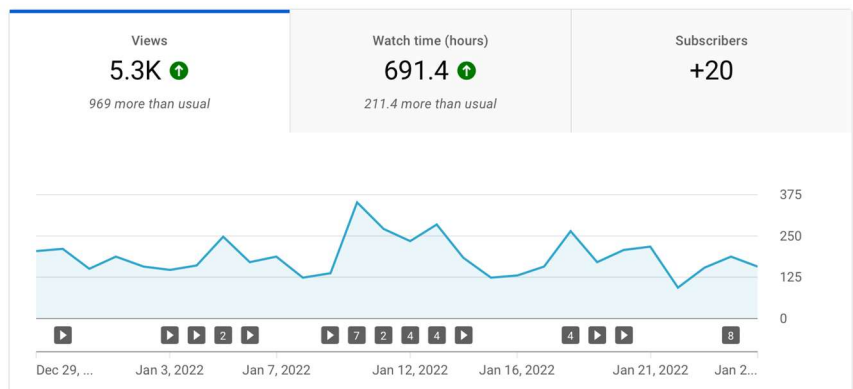
- **Programming:** The COA is starting an eight-week course entitled “Great Decisions” which is America’s largest discussion program on world affairs. The Lions Club will sponsor a “Grab and Go” Italian lunch on Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be an in-person heart healthy presentation by a registered dietitian on Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at the COA and the ever-popular ‘Ask a Pharmacist’ program will take place on Wednesday February 23<sup>rd</sup> by appointment. Lastly, the Genealogy group is resuming in February after nearly a two-year break
- **Medical:** Podiatrist, Dr. Dan Seligman will be at the COA on Monday, February 14. Appointments required. The Caregiver Support group will meet by Hybrid (both in person and zoom) on Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:30-Noon. The next six-week session of Meditation on Zoom begins on February 17<sup>th</sup> from 4pm. Sign-ups required

**A disposable surgical style face mask giveaway will take place on Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-11:00AM in the COA parking lot. The COA is encouraging seniors to order their 4 free at home Covid test kits by visiting [www.covidtests.gov](http://www.covidtests.gov) or calling 800-232-0233**

### PEG Division

- Special Town Meeting, held last week on Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> was a success. A special thanks for the Minuteman Media Network team for their efforts in an unprecedented set of circumstances.
- MMN staff are currently working on several non-government projects including a violence prevention video for the high school and a season-long movie piece regarding Agriculture in Concord.
- MMN typically sends three ‘live’ zoom meetings a week to the cable channel including the Concord and Carlisle Select Boards, the Joint School Committee and Concord’s Finance Committee.
- The MMN YouTube analytics for the quarter were gathered and the station is currently boasting over 800 subscribers. It appears that the live and recorded offerings of MMN’s YouTube is also a ‘hit’ with the community as see in the graphic on page 3; more than 5,200 people tuned into MMN via YouTube last week alone. Great job to that team for keeping the community entertained and informed.

#### Your channel got 5,269 views in the last 28 days



---

## Information Technology & Municipal Broadband Services

---

- The Concord IT Department wishes to offer thanks and praise for the dozens and dozens of people who contributed to the logistical success of last week's Town Meeting. The Clerk's Office, Town Manager's Office, MMN, and volunteers were fantastic and really set the stage for a very smooth process for everyone involved.
- The department continues to work on the phone system upgrade, which will likely happen in March. A News and Notices will be sent including details of any expected outages during the final stage of the project. Resources will prioritize minimizing downtime for public safety departments.
- The GIS Department continues to work on the Census and re-precincting project. The data received from the state must be turned around in 10 days, which includes a list of any discrepancies between our Master Address Table and their data.
- The Town is in the process of utilizing cloud services to replace three on-site virtual servers.
- We continue to work and support the FY23 budget process and the planning of the Annual Town Meeting in May.

---

## Facilities, Parks & Playgrounds

---

### Sustainability

- Concord's newest effort – community composting will launch next week, February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Drop off locations will be located at the Beede Center and outside of the 55 Church St./Harvey Wheeler Center in the Parking lot.
- Participation in the program is for Residents ONLY and [Requires residents to register](#) so they may receive a code to unlock the bin.
- Commercial entities are encouraged to seek their own curbside option through a private vendor
- Municipal staff are also going to participate; Sustainability Director, Amanda Kohn is coordinating drop-offs and pick-ups with staff from the facilities division.
- Questions regarding the program should be directed to Amanda at: [akohm@concordma.gov](mailto:akohm@concordma.gov) or to the general mailbox at: [compost@concordma.gov](mailto:compost@concordma.gov)
- Additional Information can be found on the Town website -- [Town's two new pages](#) – under *Food Waste Drop Off & Curbside Compost*.



The graphic features illustrations of various vegetables: a green onion, a green bell pepper, a green tomato, a green cucumber, and a bunch of green asparagus. The text is white on a grey background.

**COMMUNITY  
FOOD  
COMPOST  
DROP OFF BIN**

**WHAT:** A food composting pilot program for Concord residents.

**WHERE:** Beede Center and 55 Church Street Town Offices behind Harvey Wheeler Community Center

**WHEN:** Launches February 1st

**HOW:** Register today at:

[concordma.gov/  
foodcompost](http://concordma.gov/foodcompost)

Questions? Contact [compost@concordma.gov](mailto:compost@concordma.gov)

