



TOWN OF CONCORD

Office of the Town Manager

Operational Status Reports & Departmental Updates

For the Week Ending March 24, 2023

General Administration

Pandemic Provisions

The House and Senate passed a compromise supplemental budget bill, which extends the following pandemic provisions:

- Allow remote and hybrid meeting options for public bodies through March 31, 2025
- Allow remote and hybrid participation options for representative town meetings through March 31, 2025
- Permit reduced quorums for open town meetings through March 31, 2025
- Extend the expedited outdoor dining permit process through April 1, 2024

Police Department

Activity Log March 16, 2023 – March 23, 2023

Log items	728
Traffic Enforcement	67
Motor Vehicle Stops	120
MV Crashes and/or Paper Exchanges	3
Arrests	4

Public Safety Response

Chief Mulcahy and Lieutenant Goldman attended an after action review with the members of the Concord Fire Department to discuss the CO2 leak at Newbury Court

Community

- Inspector Holsinger and Lieutenant Goldman attended a preliminary meeting of the Tough Ruck event with other public safety officials surrounding communities.
- Detective Paladino assisted CCHS administration as a participant on an interview panel.
- Lieutenant Goldman, Sergeant Manchuso and clinician Emily Black attended the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Commission's meeting at the Main Library.

Personnel

Detective Josh Bordenca began his new assignment in Support Services Division of the department.

Concord Free Public Library

Writer-in-Residence

The Concord Free Public Library (CFPL) and the Trustees of CFPL Corporation are delighted to announce their very first Writer-in-Residence George Jreije. Jreije is the Lebanese-American author of the *Shad Hadid* children's fantasy series as well as the upcoming graphic novel *Tarik's Bazaar Adventure*, all with HarperCollins. He has also written short stories published in collaboration with UNICEF. When not writing (or thinking about writing), he enjoys scouring the world for delicious food, messing with yoga poses, and connecting with eager readers. George can be found on Twitter and Instagram at @ByGeorgeJreije.



A panel of CFPL Corporation/Trustees, Library staff and others reviewed over 60 applications between Fall 2022 and Winter 2023, after which they presented the top applications to a review board of local celebrated authors for final decision. Jreije showed a clear passion for community involvement, including mentoring, leading workshops, and organizing writing retreats. This is just a taste of the offerings he will bring to the Concord community in his role as Writer-in-Residence.

The Concord Free Public Library Corporation has awarded a generous grant to fund the Writer-in-Residence, who will receive a stipend and will spend part of his fellowship in the Library writing as well as offering dynamic programming and creative mentorship to the community. Located in the beautiful, newly renovated part of the Library known as the Library House, the Writer-in-Residence office overlooks the Courtyard Workshop makerspace and the delightful Children's Garden. "We are thrilled to welcome our first Writer-in-Residence to continue Concord's illustrious literary tradition. We created a special space for this purpose during our recent Library expansion," said Sherry Litwack, President of the CFPL Corporation.

Jreije is expected to begin his tenure in mid-April. The public will be invited to a special welcome event. Stay tuned.

A Perpetual Invitation: 150 Years of Art at the Concord Free Public Library

March 24 - September 4, 2023

Concord Museum

Guided Tours of the Exhibition: March 31, 11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.



In honor of the Concord Free Public Library’s 150th Anniversary, the Concord Museum, the Concord Free Public Library, and the Concord Free Public Library Corporation’s William Munroe Special Collections have collaborated on this special exhibition featuring the Library’s art collection. Curators from the Concord Museum and the Library’s William Munroe Special Collection lead the guided tours of the exhibition. Featured objects include paintings by Washington Allston, N.C. Wyeth, May Alcott Nieriker, Charles Hovey Pepper, Alicia Keyes, and Elizabeth Wentworth Roberts, among other artists, as well as sculptures depicting noted Concord authors such as Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry David Thoreau, and Louisa May Alcott.

When establishing the Library in 1873, founder William Munroe envisioned a combined library and art gallery, with the goal of creating a public space where Concord residents could experience art and culture. Munroe aimed to offer artists, donors, and visitors a “perpetual invitation” to explore and expand the Library’s art collection.

The original architectural plans for the Main Library included an art museum annex but the space was never built. This exhibition is a unique opportunity for the public to view the Library’s collection in a single gallery space.

The exhibition also highlights Concord’s artist communities, local art collectors, the history of institutions promoting public access to works of art, and the stories of specific artists, including May Alcott Nieriker, Alicia Keyes, Elizabeth Wentworth Roberts, and others who have lived and worked in Concord.

A variety of public programs exploring Concord’s art and history will be presented at both the Museum and the Concord Free Public Library. See the [Calendar](#) for program information.

Planning & Land Management

Planning

- **Safe Routes to School Grant awarded:** Concord was awarded a Safe Routes to School grant for a set of Speed Feedback Signs to be installed in the Alcott Elementary school zone. The signs alert drivers that they are entering a school zone during school hours through flashing beacons and radar, which shows the driver how fast they are traveling while also collecting speed data. It is

expected that these signs will be installed prior to the start of the 2023-2024 school year helping students traveling to school by foot, bike, scooter, etc.

- **Historic Preservation Grant awarded:** The Massachusetts Historical Commission awarded a \$25,000 matching grant to the Town of Concord for a Historic Preservation Plan (Community Preservation funds, to be voted at the 2023 Annual Town Meeting, provide the match). The projected start date is July 1, 2023.
- **Planning Board meeting of March 21:** The Planning Board voted to recommend to the Zoning Board of Appeals approval of a Special Permit and Site Plan with conditions for a 2,367 sq. ft. second story addition and relief from parking and parking design standards at 59 Walden Street. The Board voted to endorse an Approval Not Required Plan to allow the conveyance of 13,966 s.f. of area from 349 Harrington Ave. to 337 Harrington Ave. The Board opened the public hearing and heard a presentation on a Site Plan application to allow modification to parking layout for a new restaurant at 794 Elm Street, with the public hearing continued to April 11. The Board heard a presentation for a Special Permit with Site Plan Review to demolish the existing Coleman Gallery and construct a 2,593 sq. ft. addition to an existing 7,349 sq. ft. nonconforming structure and relief from parking at 37 Lexington Road/Concord Art Association. Discussion on the application was continued to April 25 for the Applicant to address concerns and completion of a review of the Applicant's traffic and parking study by an outside consultant so the Planning Board can make a recommendation to the Board of Appeals. The ZBA will open the hearing on this application at the May 11 meeting.
- **E-permitting updates:** The Town Planner met with Building Inspections, Fire Department and CMLP staff to discuss the creation of a new on-line building permit application and updates to the existing on-line electrical permit to specifically address solar and battery energy storage systems.
- **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail:** The Friends of the BFRT held a meeting this week for all communities along the trail to discuss the rules and regulations that have been adopted by all communities and to identify additional common issues of concern. The completion date for Phase 2B construction (the bridge over Route 2) has been extended to July 2023 to allow final landscape planting and bench installation, additional chain link fence installation, and asphalt pavement for the Acton portion of the trail. A grand opening date will be determined in April.

Economic Vitality & Tourism

- The **Concord History with a Chocolate Twist** tour concludes this weekend with another sellout. There were 14 tours, serving over 100 people with a net over \$2,000 for this tour alone. Retail partners report that on average 25% of tour attendees purchased items in their stores.
- The **new Concord Visitor Brochures** have arrived and are available at all hotels, the Concord Visitor Center, and most major Concord attractions. The points of interest are currently being translated into 6 languages and will soon be available on www.visitconcord.org and in print.

Natural Resources

- Warner's Pond Alternatives Analysis Report:**
 Following the well-attended first community meeting earlier this month, the Warner's Pond consultant is finalizing the Alternatives Analysis Report that will evaluate three alternatives to improve the ecological health and recreational capacity at Warner's Pond. The first alternative considers removal of the Warner's Pond dam, the second contemplates a modified dredging approach that dredges portions of the pond and creates wetlands within the pond, and the third is the No-Action alternative. For each of the three alternatives, the anticipated positive and negative effects will be evaluated, as well as regulatory feasibility, construction considerations, project costs, and timelines. The Alternatives Analysis Report will also analyze the results of a community survey distributed last month. Over 250 responses were received for the survey. The Alternatives Analysis Report will be published in mid-April.



- Punkatasset Preserve and Land Management Tractor:**
 Infrastructure improvements were completed at the Punkatasset Preserve trailhead where Land Manager Will Holden and Trails Committee Chair Bob White installed two new gate posts and a new mutt mitt dispenser post, replaced three rotted telephone posts, along with signage updates. Kiosk replacement is planned at this trailhead for later this year. Additionally, the Division had its land management tractor delivered this week. As mentioned in last week's update, tractors are the single most important tool in conservation land management.



Building Inspections

- Permits and Inspection numbers:** Since March 2, 2023, the Building Inspections division issued 70 building permits, 47 electrical permits, 44 plumbing permits, and 28 gas permits. Building Inspections staff also conducted 80 building inspections, 80 electrical inspections and 95 plumbing and gas inspections.
- Response to Fire Dept. Requests:** Building Inspectors and the Plumbing Inspector responded to requests from the Fire Department to address a carbon monoxide leak at 80 Deaconess Road. Building Inspectors and the Electrical Inspector responded to another Fire Dept. request for 54 Baker Ave. Extension for an electrical fire in the duct work.

Health

- Concord Public Health Nurse Katie Mayer is working with the Great Meadows Health Collaborative to deliver an adult Mental Health First Aid Course, which is set for May. This will include COA staff and Town employees.
- The Concord-At-Risk group met (police, health, COA, social services) to discuss specific needs on active cases in the community.
- The Concord Behavioral Health Collaborative will meet again on April 4 to continue work on Mental Health and prevention.
- **Summer is around the Corner** and Health Division staff are actively receiving summer recreational camp permit applications. In preparation for spring, Environmental Health Inspector Mike Funaiole is taking the Certified Pool Operator Course.

Facilities

- Demolition began on the Town House second floor office renovation.
- The Hearing Room was also set up and broken down for the Honored Citizen ceremony.
- Installed retractable electric cord to feed trucks at Station 2.
- Reworked cubicle furniture at Police Station.