

TOWN OF CONCORD
Office of the Town Manager

Operational Status Reports & Departmental Updates - Week Ending April 14, 2023.



General Administration

Town staff met with staff from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Skeo, an agency contracted by the EPA to provide guidance and technical resources. The purpose of the meeting was to receive information about the resources and assistance that will be available to guide the 2229 Main Advisory Task Force.



Police Department

Activity Log

Log Items	589
Traffic Enforcement	53
Motor Vehicle Stops	54
MV Crashes/Paper Exchanges	10
Arrests	4

Community

- ✚ Sergeant Timothy Landers was sworn in as a new Lieutenant of the department.
- ✚ Acting Sergeant Michael Bordenca was sworn as a permanent Sergeant of the department.
- ✚ Officers assisted with the Meriam's Corner commemoration of the Battle of 1775.

Fire Department Calls for Service.

The fire department responded to 75 calls for services. Several of those calls required numerous agencies to assist us. We had a motor vehicle accident on Route 2 that required the use of extrication tools along with equipment to stabilize the car. There was a brush fire off Lowell Road that burned approximately 1 acre. Mutual aid was provided by Hanscom and Carlisle. Concord Fire also provided mutual aid to Maynard's 2 alarm fire. The fire extended into the attic and Engine 4 and Ladder 1 responded.

- ✚ There was a swearing-in ceremony for Captain Keith Cotoni and Lieutenant Todd Niemi.



- ✚ Fire Prevention conducted (13) Commercial and Residential Inspections storage tanks.
- ✚ Underground Storage Tank (UGST) Removal Inspection:
 - ✚ 156 Prairie St – an empty, disused 2,000-gallon underground oil tank was removed from under the driveway in front of this residence. Most of these have been removed in recent years but some are still out there. The required permit was issued for the removal, and the tank was observed to be intact with no evidence of leaking or soil contamination. The contractor cleaned the residual oil from within the tank and transported the vessel to an approved tank disposal yard.

Library

General

The library's exhibition at the Concord Museum was highlighted in a *Boston Globe* article, "In Concord, the art of celebrating an anniversary" on April 6th. The reviewer, Mark Fenney, covers photography, film, and the arts. With the *Globe* since 1979, he was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize in feature writing in 1994 and won a Pulitzer Prize for criticism in 2008. The article is available from the library's [online Boston Globe database](https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/04/06/arts/concord-art-celebrating-an-anniversary/) and the globe's website:

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/04/06/arts/concord-art-celebrating-an-anniversary/>

The exhibition is up through Labor Day weekend, when the art will return to the library in time for the October 1st anniversary celebrations.

Reference Services

- ✚ Popular programs in March included the Tuesday Book Discussion Group, in which patrons discussed *Manhattan Beach*, by Jennifer Eagan, and the weekly Thursday Morning Meditation. In addition, the library hosted an author talk with Kew Kwan Lei, author of *The Girl Who Taught Herself to Fly*. For the Cookbook Club, participants made Spanish recipes from Chef Omar Allibhoy.



- ✚ On March 29, the library partnered with the Concord Land Conservation Trust, the Natural Resources Division, the Concord Pollinator Health Advisory Committee and the CCHS Green Team to present a talk on the conservation of Native Pollination Systems with Dr. Robert Gegear. The event was very popular with an attendance of 90 enthusiastic participants. (Photos by Laura Mills)



Youth Services

Teen Lounge

- ✦ The Teen Dungeons and Dragons group grew in membership in March, and they have begun testing out new dungeons to explore after the close of their last campaign. The Board Game Advisory Board also continues to meet weekly and recommend new board games for the library collection.
- ✦ Later in March, college-bound students and their parents learned how to navigate the college admissions process and stand out among record numbers of applicants. Program facilitators also helped participants take steps to reduce stress around the admissions process.
- ✦ Finally, thanks to the excellent teamwork between the Library and Town Facilities Departments, two brand new book displays were set up in front of the Teen Lounge!

Children's Library

- ✦ In March, CFPL celebrated Women's History Month with a StoryWalk at the Main Library featuring *Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13*, a biography by Helaine Becker of NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson.
- ✦ With the warm weather making a brief appearance toward the end of March, Beede and Books proved a popular draw this month and had record-setting attendance of 15 for Storytime before kids hopped in the pool!
- ✦ We brought March to a close by making Nature Poetry Collages to be featured in local farm Gaining Ground's Poetry Walk entitled "Poetry on the Farm."
- ✦ The Children's Library team has also completed a major refresh of the Children's Nonfiction and Fiction sections!

Fowler Library



- ✦ In March, the Fowler Library ushered in spring, restocking the Seed Lending Library, now celebrating its tenth year. One seed packing party focused on flowers and vegetable seeds, donated, or purchased with support from the Friends of CFPL. A special second seed packing party was for the native seed library pilot, a partnership with the Concord Land Conservation Trust, the Natural Resources Division, and the Pollinator Health Advisory.
- ✦ Further supporting sustainability, the CCHS Green Team led two programs for elementary-aged children to celebrate Earth with support from library staff and

the Thoreau PTG. Participants started nature journals and planted native seeds for cold stratification.

- ✚ Master knitter Lizzie Upitis taught a three-class series for beginning knitters. She invited all participants to join Stitch Circle, which grows weekly in numbers and conviviality.

Council on Aging

Please meet *Louisa May Alcott*. She is a new resident at the COA, and she purrs, meows, rolls over, wags her tail in her very animal-tronic way. Devices like *Loulou* offer comfort too and can reduce anxiety for older residents. Loulou is usually found in the COA lounge, her medical needs can be taken care of with a screwdriver, and she costs little, in fact nothing, to feed. Concord senior residents are tickled to have Loulou.



Planning and Land Management

Natural Resources

- ✚ **Pollinator Plant Kits:** Division staff worked with an enthusiastic group of volunteers to transplant 300 plants into 30 pollinator kits for both dry and moist sites. Plants were purchased with a generous Garden Club grant and consist of wild columbine, wild bergamot, silverrod, heartleaf Alexander's, mountain mint, and New England aster. Plants were selected to have continuous nectar sources for pollinators throughout the season. The kits will be distributed to the public on April 22, at the Emerson Umbrella, as part of the Earth Day festivities.



- ✚ **Punkatasset Improvements.** Final sign-off was given to an upcoming Eagle Scout project to install five water bars at Punkatasset Preserve. The Boy Scout worked with Division staff this winter to assess trail conditions along a 400-foot stretch of trail that has historically suffered from water control issues, resulting in a gullied and eroded trail. Three existing rotted water bars will be replaced and two additional will be installed in accordance with grade recommendations for a trail of this slope and condition. The water bars will result in reduction of trail erosion and gullyng, less muddy conditions, and better vehicle access into the property for staff and emergency personnel.

Planning

- ✚ Bruce Freeman Rail Trail 2B bridge: During a project update meeting on Wednesday, the contractor believes that work on the bridge can be completed by Wednesday, May 31st. An anti-graffiti coating is being applied to the cedar fence this week, landscaping is expected to be installed over the next two weeks, and paving is scheduled for Monday, May 8th – weather permitting. There will be a final site walk after the asphalt has been installed and a punch list prepared of any final items to be repaired or completed.
- ✚ Housing Roundtable: All of the groups interested in and promoting affordable housing in Concord (Concord Municipal Affordable Housing Trust, Concord Housing Development Corporation, Concord Housing Foundation, Concord Housing Authority, Select Board, Planning Board and Regional Housing Services Office) participated in a roundtable discussion on Wednesday, April 12th. 45 people attended the hybrid meeting to learn of the various projects and tasks underway as identified in the 2022 Housing Production Plan (24 action items).

Economic Vitality & Tourism

- ✚ On Tuesday April 11th, Tourism Manager Beth Williams along with representatives from the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area and Concord250 hosted *Yankee Magazine* Travel Editor Kim Knox Beckius to discuss plans for the Concord250 celebration with a focus on our upcoming Podcast Series, which will feature untold or little-known stories of the American Revolution. Kim will be covering Concord in several ways over the next few months.
- ✚ The Visitor Center will be open Patriot's Day from 8am to 4pm. We will also have a table outside by the Main Street sign with information for all visitors and residents.
- ✚ Walking tours will be offered during the week of April 18-21 for families at 10am and the Daily tour at 1pm.

Public Health

- ✚ The Public Health Nurse is following up on a few possible cases of TB and the Mumps case has been reopened by the State.
- ✚ White Pond water sampling: The Public Health Division was informed by consultant Nancy Leland that she would not be available to conduct water sampling analysis at White Pond this year. We are working with Nancy to get appropriate staff training on water sampling, analysis, and data interpretation.
- ✚ Online permitting: Work continues with PermitEyes to improve the Form S and Form C on-line experience for both staff and residents.
- ✚ The Concord Middle School Septic System was permitted.
- ✚ Work is moving forward to get the summer camp and pool inspections scheduled and ready for permitting/opening.

Department of Public Works

Engineering Division:

- ✚ Illicit Discharge and Detection Elimination (IDDE) Training – Several CPW operations, maintenance and engineering staff attended training on IDDE relative to stormwater outfall discharges as required by the Town's MS4 permit regulated by Mass DEP and the Federal EPA.
- ✚ Roadway Pavement Markings – The Patriots Day parade route restriping began on Tuesday, April 4th and continued for two additional nights, Sunday April 9th, and Wednesday April 12th. All longitudinal and transverse markings are expected to be repainted prior to the parade. Coordination between CPW, Concord Police, and the Town's striping contractor K5 Corporation are on-going to complete high traffic volume locations surrounding the route prior to the parade. Additional striping is planned for the remainder of the town throughout the construction season.

Facilities

- ✚ Rough plumbing is complete, and wiring has begun at 2nd Floor Town House renovation.
- ✚ Repaired Emerson Playground flagpole light.
- ✚ Emergency drain cleaning at Main Library.
- ✚ Spring landscape clean-ups are underway.
- ✚ Set-up patio tent at Beede Center.
- ✚ Plumbing and AHU repairs at Beede Center.