



TOWN OF CONCORD

Office of the Town Manager

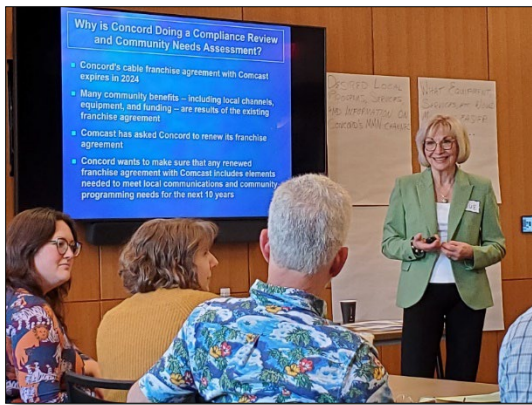
Operational Status Reports & Departmental Updates

For the Week Ending May 12, 2023

General Administration:

Cable Franchise Renewal

Every ten years, Concord negotiates a renewal of the cable franchise agreement with its cable television provider, Comcast (Xfinity). The Town, Minuteman Media Network (MMN) (the Town's TV studio), and the PEG Access Advisory Committee (Committee) hosted three in-person focus groups to gather input about Concord's community media needs and interests, on May 10 & 11, 2023.



Consultant Sue Buske, Buske Group facilitates the focus group discussion

These meetings allowed interested community members to learn about the Comcast franchise renewal. The Committee wants your opinions and ideas about cable TV and community media services that should be available in Concord as part of any new franchise agreement. Please complete the survey at the link. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Concord-Survey>



Community Survey Flyer with QR Code

Economic Vitality

Economic Vitality Manager Mimi Graney has been familiarizing herself with the Concord community by attending commission and board meetings with particular attention to Economic Vitality, the West Concord Junction Cultural District, and the 250th Committees. She has been engaging with local organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and Concord Business Partnership. Mimi has been meeting with town staff and receiving primers on important local infrastructure such as water and sewer, electricity and regulatory issues. Upcoming priorities include building a business database, working on food truck permitting, and exploring individual business districts on-foot to introduce herself to brick-and-mortar business owners.

Police Department

Activity Log:

- Log items: **617**
- Traffic enforcement: **57**
- Motor vehicle stops: **51**
- Motor vehicle crashes and/or paper exchanges: **14**
- Arrests: **1**

Community:

- Officers Brady and Fitzgerald successfully completed the two-week NEMLEC Motorcycle Operators school held in Lowell, MA. Both officers will now be utilizing the department motorcycles as part of their regular patrols.
- Officers assisted with "Bike/Walk/Roll to Thoreau School." This had one of the biggest turnouts ever, with over 100 bikes, 10 scooters and 50 walkers.
- Officers LaCure and Olansky completed COBWEB bicycle officer school.
- Chief Mulcahy received a request from the Concord Middle School seeking assistance with several students' Civics projects. Several officers are assisting the students as a resource, by working with them, and answering questions that they have related to the topic they have been assigned to.
- Det. Paladino and Emily Black attended the Mass Juvenile Police Officers Association School Safety Conference on May 9 and 10 in Norwood
- Lieutenant Landers and Officer McGonagle celebrated Concord resident Peter Orlando's birthday, presenting him with a Concord police Department 150th anniversary coin.
- Sergeant Rennie attended Patrol Tactics training to instruct officers of the department.



CPD with the NEMLEC motorcycle unit

Council on Aging:

- The Council on Aging reminds everyone that MAY is Older Americans Month! The COA knows that *aging is unbound* so we explore diverse aging experiences and think how our Town can combat stereotypes. Join us in promoting flexible thinking about aging – and how we all benefit when older adults remain engaged, independent, and included.
- Baseball Talk by Herb Crehan – In-Person "What was Johnny Pesky Really Like?" Monday, May 15th at 2:00 PM.



Herb Crehan has been interviewing and writing feature articles on former Red Sox stars for the team's official program and alumni magazine for 27 seasons, and he has been speaking to Councils on Aging for

almost as long. Over the years the question he has been asked most frequently is “What was Johnny Pesky really like?” Join us on Monday, May 15th at 2:00 PM for Herb’s presentation, featuring eight of your favorite former Red Sox players from the 1940s to the 21st century. He will share his insights about each player and include colorful stories about his interviews. He will leave plenty of time for your questions.

- The Indigenous People of Musketaquid and Concord – In-person Presented by Joe Palumbo and Amy Cole Tuesday, May 16th from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM.

Town of Concord licensed guides, Joe Palumbo, and Amy Cole, are on hand to discuss the indigenous people of Concord. For over 10,000 years the Indigenous people of the land knew this area as Musketaquid, the land between the grassy rivers. This talk explores the history of the first people and how they lived in a land of abundance, seeking to keep and foster balance with the natural world. What happened when cultures collided after European fur traders and English settlers arrived will be discussed, as we examine how those events shaped the world of the Indigenous people of Massachusetts today.

Planning & Land Management:

Health

- Public Health Nursing- 1 Positive Hepatitis-C Case, 1 positive Tuberculosis-B case. Mental Health First-Aid training offered by Great Meadows Public Health Collaborative staff at the Concord Council on Aging.
- The summer season is upon us! Pool inspections have begun, and many summer camp applications are currently under review. The Concord Food Truck ordinance was approved at Town meeting and Health Division staff have been working with the Town Manager’s office and the Planning Division on defining the best possible way to handle permitting Trucks and complying with the Zoning bylaw.
- A part-time sanitary inspector position has been posted and the Health Division is looking to fill the position as soon as possible.

Planning

- Bruce Freeman Rail Trail paving completed! The Contractor for the BFRT bridge over Route 2 completed paving the final portion of the trail, which included the bridge and continued west to TeamWorks in Acton. A final site walk to prepare a “punch list” of items to be corrected, repaired, or completed is scheduled for next week with the hope the list can be finished by the end of the month.
- MBTA Communities Zoning initiative: The Town received a grant for technical assistance to work with a consultant team to determine potential locations around the two commuter train stations and whether these locations are compliant with the requirements of the MBTA Communities Act. The consultant team from Horsely-Witten visited the West Concord train station and Thoreau Depot train station areas on Thursday to gain an understanding of existing conditions and met with Planning staff and GIS staff to coordinate an exchange of information.

Natural Resources

- Natural Resources Commission: Seven new applications were received for the May 17th Natural Resources Commission meeting including a Notice of Intent (NOI) for construction of an All Persons Trail at Mass Audubon’s Brewster Woods property; a NOI for removal of a septic system and installation of a sprinkler system at 461 Old Bedford Road; a NOI for invasive aquatic vegetation management at 1024 Main Street (Concord Greene); a NOI for installation of water service at 1075 Lowell Road; an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) to confirm wetland delineation at 555 Hugh Cargill Road; an ANRAD to confirm wetland delineation at 1266 Monument

Street; and a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) to install a new generator at 27B Park Lane.

- Warner's Pond: The Alternatives Analysis Report for Warner's Pond is complete. and is published. The report evaluated Modified Dredging, Dam Removal, and No Action as alternatives to restore the ecological health and recreational capacity of the system and recommends dam removal as the Preferred Alternative. The second community meeting to review the Alternatives Analysis Report is scheduled for May 23, 7:00 pm, in person at the Harvey Wheeler Center and virtually by Zoom.
- Spring Mowing: Land Manager Will Holden has begun mowing smaller fields and meadows on conservation land that require walk behind brush hog work. Mowing has been done at October Farm Riverfront and the Punkatasset Preserve ski slope. Regular trail and parking lot area seasonal mowing on conservation lands will begin in late May when the summer conservation crew comes on board.



Spring mowing

Library

Reference Services

- Reference staff answered 270 general reference questions in April and booked 130 meeting rooms for patrons. Staff assisted 89 patrons with technology questions and advised 12 patrons on their reading choices. One patron used the department's notary service.
- We had several interesting programs this month, including a PowerHouse presentation, in which Alice Finn of PowerHouse Assets gave a talk about investing, and a panel of three young adult authors, who spoke about their book *Ab(solutely) Normal: Short Stories That Smash Mental Health Stereotypes*. In addition, the library collaborated with Be Well Be Here, COAR, and Carlisle DEICAC to present *Stories of Us* (live storytelling) at the library. The presenters were introduced by Radio Host Harry Harding.
- For this month's Cookbook Club participants made southwestern recipes. The Tuesday book discussion group discussed *This Side of Paradise*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald.
- The library and Be Well Be Here co-hosted several mindfulness programs in April, including the weekly Thursday morning meditation, two lunchtime meditations and a walking meditation to celebrate Earth Day.

Youth Services

Teen Lounge

- Teen Dungeons and Dragons has entered a new era: campaigns are now completely run by teens! We even made our own dungeon maps.

- Izzy Martino, CCHS sophomore, won the Teen Poetry Contest with her poem "Thoreau Street."
- During Spring Break, teens made personalized keychains, framed magazine collages, and carved rubber stamps.
- The Teen Board Game Advisory Board continued to gain members and became obsessed with a new game: Karak.

Children's Library

- The Youth Services team had a fun April in the Children's Library with several special programs for Vacation Week including our inaugural LEGO Explorers program which was attended by over 50 kids!
- We also welcomed Avery Indermaur from Gaining Ground Farm for a special program where kids learned about seeds and pollinators and made their very own bird feeders.
- We closed out the week by welcoming back patron and staff favorite programmer Margaret McCandless for her Theater Improv workshop. By the end of the workshop, she had helped even the shyest kids feel comfortable enough to participate!
- Toward the end of the month, Milldam Preschool walked over to the library for a visit with Millie the Duck and to join Beth for Crafty Tuesday. Beth and superstar volunteer Karen Pettyjohn led Beth's regular crafters **and** over twenty preschoolers from Milldam in making (and sailing!) their very own sailboats.

Fowler Library

- With warming weather, many Fowler programs moved outside in April, including Craft Lab, storytimes, Preschool Play, and Messy Fun.
- Ricardo Rosales led his popular monthly Musical Morning in Spanish and English on April 1.
- Laurie Engdahl kicked off the April vacation week with a Saturday watercolor workshop for teens and adults.
- Fowler hosted a third annual Seed Starting Workshop led by Jess Myles of Codman Community Farms, supporting our Seed Lending Library.
- Creating Take and Makes for bike nameplates, Fowler supported the Department for Transportation and Mobility with their Bike Share relaunch.
- Arts and Crafts Club with Art for All, English Conversation Circle, and Stitch Circle continue to meet weekly, attracting faithful crowds.
- Book-a-Mystery discussed *The Woman in the Library* by Sulari Gentill, and Fowler Afoot made a triumphant return, discussing *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean during National Library Week. Afternoon Tea Book Club, now run by members, had a full house to discuss *Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting* by Claire Pooley.
- Girls Who Code met in the Workshop to continue creating their "Trash-ion Show," incorporating wearable, codable technology into clothing they are making to support environmentalism.

- Working with the Library's Green Team, Fowler staff created a Poet-tree and gave out nature journals in the lead up to the native tree seedling giveaway for Arbor Day.