



TOWN OF CONCORD

*Office of the Town
Manager*

Operational Status Reports and Departmental
Updates - For the week ending December 8,
2023

Police Department

Activity Log:

- Log items: 611
- Traffic enforcements: 53
- Motor vehicle stops: 61.
- Motor vehicle crashes and/or paper exchanges: 15
- Arrests: 4

Community:

- Lieutenant Landers assisted Temple Kerem Shalom with security for a Bat Mitzvah.
- Officers assisted with the traffic and security at the Hunt Gym, where Santa paid a visit when the annual tree lighting was cancelled due to weather.
- Lieutenant Landers attended a two-day course on Incident Command sponsored by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).
- Lieutenant Goldman met with the DEI Commission at the Town House.

Fire Department

The Concord Firefighter's Relief Association toy drive continues and is collecting toys at both stations through December 20th.

Calls for Service:

There were 107 responses during the week. E4 covered Sudbury station 3 during a fire at the Wayside Inn. Mutual Aid was provided 5 times and received 5 times.



FF Ian Ford completed his in-house training program and has been assigned to Group 4 while awaiting his entry to the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy.



Training

Training included hazardous material responses, technical rescue training simulating victims pinned under an object.

Assistant Chief Latta and Lieutenant Nichols attended training on the topic of electrical storage systems. The training was co-sponsored by the Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Federation of Building Officials.

Emergency Management

On December 6th, Assistant Chiefs Latta, Whitney, and Chief Judge attended a meeting in Arlington with representatives from Arlington, Lexington, Lincoln, Concord, and the National Park Service as part of the planning for the 250th anniversary of the revolution.

Council on Aging:

Concord Friends of the Aging hosted over 170 senior residents at a "Holiday Cheer Luncheon" at Nashawtuc Country Club on Dec. 6. Over 170 residents were treated to turkey with all the trimmings, live music, and spirited conversation. The "Friends" work collaboratively throughout the year to provide support and programs to Concord's age 60+ community and also help support the efforts of the Concord Council on Aging.



The sun-drenched room offered light and holiday dinner aroma.



Gai McKennitt was smiling all the way...



Dorothy Nuzzo (L) and lone Nauseda (L) caught up on neighborly news.



Joanne Dinardo (L) and Bonnie Walker (R) donned their holiday apparel.



Long time neighbors Faye Hayes (L) and Jerry Hurley (right) caught up with each other.



Nancy Wright looked as colorful as the tree.

Concord 250 Army Navy Tug of War:



Concord250 Dream Team: Gary Clayton, Joe Palumbo and I, along with Concord PD, Fire and CPW braved the cold and helped support the Army/Navy Tug of War at the North Bridge!
Over 100 attended this event and it was fun too!

Planning:

- **Zoning Board of Appeals** – At the November 28th public hearing, the Board heard a detailed presentation regarding the architecture and sustainability measures for the 292-294 Baker Avenue NOVO Riverside Commons Comprehensive Permit. The Board determined that it would seek an outside consultant peer review of the architecture. The public hearing was continued to January 11th at 7 p.m. At the January public hearing, the Applicant will be giving a detailed presentation on the vehicle circulation and traffic analysis. The meeting will be in-person at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center and by Zoom. Please check the agenda for the Zoom link. If you would like additional information regarding the project, please go to:
<https://www.concordma.gov/3385/NOVO-Riverside-Commons-Comp-Permit---292>
- **Planning Board** – At the November 26th meeting, the Board reviewed and finalized a comment letter to the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding the NOVO Riverside Commons Comprehensive Permit application. The Board discussed the technical memos from the consultant regarding the Zoning Bylaw Parking Requirements study and determined that they would not move forward with a Zoning Bylaw Amendment warrant article for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting (ATM), but instead would begin a more comprehensive look at the parking requirements in the Bylaw and have more public engagement in 2024 for the preparation of warrant articles for the 2025 ATM. The Board also determined that it would not move forward with an amendment to Zoning Bylaw Section 11.8 Site Plan Review for the 2024 ATM. The draft warrant articles to amend the Floodplain Conservancy District, the Residence B Zoning District to allow two-family dwellings by special permit, housekeeping changes to the Bylaw and the MBTA Communities Multi-family Zoning were all reviewed and further refined.

Library

- The Main Library welcomed the annual Gingerbread House. Dr. Resciniti baked 31 batches of gingerbread to construct this year's house which weighs approximately 150 pounds. It will be on display in the Rotunda at the Main Library through mid-January.
- The reference department answered 283 general reference questions in November and booked 189 meeting rooms for patrons. Staff assisted 108 patrons with technology questions and advised 3 patrons on their reading choices.



- Reference staff members moved the graphic novels from the lobby to their new home in the Media Room, making room for a new community resources display in the rotunda. Staff created two lobby displays in November, which included memoirs and books featuring Native Americans, in celebration of Memoir Writing Month and National Native American Heritage Month.
- The reference department partnered with a number of local organizations in November to co-host programs in the Goodwin Forum. Programs included Town Meeting with the League of Women Voters (LWVCC) with 82 participants, LWVCC First Fridays (50 participants), and Concord Prison Outreach for a panel discussion on humane incarceration with state representatives (45 participants). The library also partnered with Concord for Ukraine for a presentation on “Why Does Victory in Ukraine Matter? - a talk by Professor Serhii Plokyh” (106 participants), and with Concord’s 250 committee for a panel discussion on Concord and the Vietnam War, featuring author Elise Lemire and three Vietnam veterans (50 participants). In addition, the library partnered with Brian Rosborough for a talk on planting 250 trees around Concord (76 participants). The talk featured tree expert Peter Del Tredici, a Senior Arborist and Research Scientist at the Arnold Arboretum.
- Other programs in November included the weekly Thursday morning meditation (average of 26 participants), the Tuesday Book Discussion group (17 participants), in which the group discussed *Northanger Abbey*, by Jane Austen, and the monthly Cookbook Club (12 participants), in which the group made sweet and savory pies.



- The Workshop saw its biggest month yet with more than 125 tools loaned to the public during Open Maker Hours!
- November programs included Melt & Pour Soap Making, Concrete Cast Coasters, Embroidered Mushrooms, and Card-Making with the Cricut.
- Just in time for the colder months, the Workshop has expanded its lending collection of crochet hooks and knitting needles to include sizes smaller than a millimeter and as large as an inch!

Sustainability:

Concord Climate Acton Network

- The Sustainability Director was recently invited to join a meeting of the Concord Climate Action Network (ConcordCAN) at the Trinitarian Congregational Church to give a presentation and discussion on 'Electrifying Concord through Policy and Practice'. The presentation covered current priority areas for sustainability in Concord, including building and transportation electrification (residential, commercial, and municipal) and the decarbonization of Concord's electricity supply. The presentation and following Q&A session was fueled by coffee and pastries, including topics such as EV charging and food composting.

MAPC 'Envision' Process Workshop for Police/Fire Relocation

- A meeting of internal stakeholders was recently held to explore the ['Envision' framework](#) for the assessment of potential future relocation sites for Police/Fire facilities in Concord. Envision is a tool for identifying sustainable, resilient, and equitable approaches during the entirety of a building or other infrastructure project through identifying and rating project elements within 5 categories (quality of life, leadership, resource allocation, natural world, and climate & resilience). The framework provides a flexible system of criteria and performance objectives to aid decision makers and help project teams identify sustainable, resilient, and equitable approaches during the planning, design, and construction that will continue throughout the project's operations, maintenance, and end-of-life phases. Facilitators from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) led the workshop as a final contract task related to efforts to successfully update Concord's Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2022. Following the stakeholder discussions at the workshop, MAPC completed the Envision worksheets for each of the three potential relocation sites (Walden Street, West Concord, and the Courthouse). Although the workshop was a high-level exercise designed to better understand the Envision assessment criteria and process it showed promise as a useful for considering a wide range of infrastructure projects through the lenses of sustainability and resilience.

Green Advisory Council Meeting – Sen. Jamie Eldridge

- On November 18th the Sustainability Director was invited by Sen. Jamie Eldridge to give a presentation about Concord's current sustainability efforts at one of the Senator's 'Green Advisory Council' events in Acton, MA. These events are intended to provide a forum for Sen. Eldridge's constituents to learn about his legislative efforts in support of addressing sustainability, climate change impacts, and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as to hear from constituents about their concerns, ideas, and efforts to advance sustainability in their own communities. The event also included a presentation from Acton's Sustainability Director, and a Q&A session to share and discuss sustainability issues within the region.

MA Building Code Training Sessions

- The first of two-building code professional development training sessions for industry stakeholders was held on Dec. 5th in Acton and included over 30 participants. These training sessions are a coordinated effort offered to developers, builders, architects, inspectors, and other relevant professionals who work in Concord, Acton, and Lexington. The three-hour session was led by PSD Consulting, a training vendor provided by the State via the MassSave program. Topics included an overview of the

2023 updated Stretch Residential Building Code, including mandatory requirements and additional efficiency packages, and Solar Ready and EV Ready requirements. The goal of the training sessions is to improve the literacy of the stakeholders regarding recent changes in the building codes, including the Opt-in Specialized Stretch Code adopted by Concord, Acton, and Lexington earlier this year that will become effective on January 1, 2024. The second training session on additional building code topics will be held on December 12th in Lexington.

Water Resources

- **Concord Water Resources Public Forum:** On December 5th, Concord Public Works and the Sustainability Division hosted a Water Resources Public Forum to discuss the current state of Concord's drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater management and infrastructure. CPW Director Alan Cathcart and several consultants working with the Town shared the challenges and opportunities surrounding the Town's water resources through the lenses of customer service, regulatory requirements, capital investments, environmental risks, and climate change impacts. Approximately 65 participants learned about the efforts underway to strategically plan for the future of water in Concord, including the development of an Integrated Water Resources Plan and a conceptual proposal for a stormwater utility. Residents took advantage of the opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts on the various topics covered. The presentations and Q&A were recorded and can be accessed on the Minuteman Media Network YouTube channel [here](#).