

Concord Public Works
Director's Report
February 2025

HIGHWAY, GROUNDS, FLEET & CEMETERY

Highway

- **Winter Maintenance Update** – Concord Public Works crews have responded to seven winter weather events so far in the 2024/2025 season. Responses have included roadway treatments and snow plowing operations. A total of 11.5 inches of snow has been recorded to date. On Thursday, January 23rd, CPW crews completed snow removal operations in the business districts of Concord, Thoreau Depot, and West Concord.

- **Roadway and Sidewalk Maintenance** – The Highway & Grounds Division continues to complete roadway and sidewalk repairs within the public right-of-way. CPW has deployed roadway maintenance crews as weather allows. The crews have performed maintenance throughout the roadway network, prioritizing main roads and roadway hazards which have been identified by staff or reported by motorists. During the month of January, roadway and sidewalk maintenance was completed on the following roadways.
 - Buckmaster Drive
 - College Road
 - Cottage Street
 - Everett Street
 - Fairhaven Road
 - Fitchburg Turnpike
 - Hill Street
 - Main Street
 - Old Bedford Road
 - Old Marlboro Road
 - Old Road to Nine Acre Corner
 - Shagbark Road
 - Stow Street
 - Sudbury Road
 - Thoreau Street
 - Turning Mill Road
 - Upland Road
 - Williams Road

- **Sign Maintenance** – The Highway & Grounds Division continues to install new and replace existing roadway signage throughout Concord's roadway network. Sign work was completed in January on the following streets:
 - Adams Road
 - Nancy Road
 - Old Bedford Road

Grounds

- **Athletic Field and Open Space Maintenance** – The Highway & Grounds Division continued to monitor and inspect open space recreation areas for debris, such as branches and trash, which is removed as needed.
- **Rideout and Emerson Court Assessment:** Staff have worked closely with the Recreation Department to assist in the procurement of a third-party contractor, Activitas Inc. Who has been hired to perform professional court assessments and identify renovation options for future restoration of the Basketball and Tennis Courts at Rideout Park and Emerson Park. The scope of work is to determine various costs and life-cycle renovation strategies for existing court facilities at Rideout and Emerson Parks.
- **Public Shade Tree Maintenance** – In the month of January, CPW removed eight hazardous trees as part of the forestry maintenance program under the direction of the Tree Warden. In addition, trees in several other locations in town were deadwood pruned and trimmed. There was a heavy wind event on January 29th, during which multiple trees were downed. CPW staff worked through the rest of that week clearing the tree debris from the public right-of-way throughout Town.

Fleet

- **Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance**– The fleet maintenance team continues to maintain the Concord Public Works fleet to the highest level possible. Thirty repairs and nine preventative maintenance items were completed in the month of January.

Cemetery

- **Burial Information & Lot Sales** – During the month of January, two full interments and four cremation interments took place and five single grave lots, and one cremation lot were sold.

Solid Waste & Recycling

- **Curbside Collection Program Update** – CPW staff continue to support the rollout of the new Curbside Collection & Recycling program. In January, CPW Highway & Grounds crews continued to swap out 96-gallon recycling carts with 64-gallon recycling carts as requested by subscribers.
- **Compost Facility** – The compost site at 755 Walden Street, operated by the Highway & Grounds Division, opened on January 3rd, 4th, 10th, and 18th for another successful holiday light/Styrofoam recycling and Christmas tree chipping event. The compost site will reopen for the season in April, weather permitting.
- **MassDEP reporting** – Massachusetts’ municipalities are required to submit annual Recycling & Solid Waste Surveys to MassDEP by February 15th. The survey includes community solid waste and recycling data such as annual tons of solid waste and

recyclables collected in Concord each calendar year. The Recycling & Solid Waste Survey for calendar year 2024 is currently being compiled and will be submitted to MassDEP prior to the February 15, 2025, deadline.

- **Mattress Recycling** – Although the Compost Site is closed for the winter season, Concord residents can still schedule an appointment to drop-off their used mattresses or have them picked up. For details, please call Concord Public Works at 978-318-3240, or visit www.concordma.gov/mattress

- **Curbside Program Monthly Statistics**

Description	January 2025
Trash disposal-Tons	193.46
Single stream recycling-Tons	139.82
Percent recycled	42%
Number of Trash & Recycling Customers	3,765

Environmental Health & Safety

Training Programs: Training continues to be an ongoing focus for CPW employees. Communication sessions for Fire Prevention and Emergency Action Plan are set for February. Review and communication of the town’s Confined Space programs/inventory is being performed in conjunction with an 8-hour Confined Space course for employees.

CPW Training and Outreach

- Setting dates for Chain Saw user training
- Setting dates for Hand Fed Chipper user training
- Review of DLS recordkeeping requirements.
- Addressing Universal Waste policy and procedures.

Routine Environmental Compliance Activities

- S1 Vapor Recovery Program inspections (weekly) - no issues
- Above ground storage tank inspections (monthly) – no issues
- Fire extinguisher inspections at both 133 and 135 Keyes Rd (monthly) – no issues
- Maintenance of First aid supplies throughout CPW – on going
- Preparing Tier II Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory
- Update of CFD Flammables permit for 133/135 Keyes Rd & WWTP

Communications/Partnership

- Continued participation with the town's Risk Committee
- Continued assessment and development of efforts required to stand-up a CPW Safety Committee with plan to roll this out in early 2025

ENGINEERING

- **2025 Pavement Management Projects** – Engineering staff, during the November PWC meeting, gave a Road Program briefing and presented the Pavement Management philosophy, which outlined how and when streets get selected for resurfacing. Since then, Engineering staff have been analyzing the pavement condition data of the Town's Road network utilizing Streetscan's asset management software. This software aids in analyzing the pavement condition data to effectively select streets to be resurfaced that will yield the greatest benefit to the condition of the town's road network. In addition to pavement condition other factors are taken into consideration including utility needs, future projects, other town needs and budget. Once the list of streets is finalized Engineering will present the streets to the PWC as well as abutting residents.
- **2024 Pavement Management Projects** –
Phase I: The contract for the micro-surfacing and fog sealing project with Indus D/B/A Sealcoating Inc. will be executed over the winter for construction in 2025. This project is a continuation of CPW's pilot testing of pavement preservation techniques that started a couple of years ago. CPW Highway and Grounds conducted milling and filling of deteriorated areas on Old Bedford St in advance of the micro-surfacing work to be done in the spring.
Phase II: Lazaro Paving Corporation continued work last summer/fall on this project to rehabilitate approximately 5 miles of roadway in varying conditions including mill and overlays, and full road box reclamation. Lazaro completed the majority of the contracted work except for the milling and paving a portion of Laws Brook Rd which is now scheduled for the spring.
- **2023 Pavement Management Phase III** – This contract with Lazaro was for rehabilitation/reconstruction of approximately 6 miles of roads. Most of the streets under this project have been completed, including the milling and paving of Davis Court that was completed in November. The remaining outstanding work includes milling and paving two sections of Main St in West Concord. Engineering is working with Lazaro to get this work scheduled for the spring as the weather is no longer conducive to complete the work.
- **Barrett's Mill Rd Pavement** – The asphalt rubber pavement preservation applied to a portion of Barrett's Mill Rd under the 2022 pilot program on pavement preservation techniques has not held up well due to the traffic and made worse on the summer days with prolonged higher temperatures. Engineering has requested a quote from a paving

contractor to remove this piloted surface and restore the street with a more conventional pavement layer. Getting the repair done prior to winter was not successful and it will now be addressed in the spring.

- **Main St/Walden St Intersection Improvements** – Remaining work on this project includes the lighted bollards that have been ordered following their approval by the Historic District Commission. It is anticipated that they will be installed prior to spring. Also outstanding are the textured brick-like surface treatment that is to be installed within the crosswalks. Because this treatment is not recommended to be installed directly after final paving, nor in cooler temperatures, the contractor could not get it installed prior to winter. A recent issue was an emergency gas leak that occurred inside the intersection, and a portion of the new pavement was excavated to make the repair. There has been a second gas leak identified in the intersection and National Grid made the repair on February 4, 2025. Engineering is coordinating with National Grid to make a permanent repair prior to the installation of the crosswalk treatment. CPW hopes to have all work completed before the 250th events.
- **Silver Hill Comprehensive Infrastructure Improvements Project** – Phase I water infrastructure work has been completed as of the 2nd week of January. This was a month and a half beyond the original completion date following delays caused by utility conflicts and the need to remove ledge that was not anticipated at the start of the project. Commonwealth Construction was also able to complete the installation of roadway underdrains along a portion of Turning Mill Road and replacement of two deep sump catch basins. The remaining work includes reconstruction of Silver Hill Road from Monument Street to Turning Mill Road, Turning Mill Road, and Cressbrook Road and is scheduled for the spring of 2025. Phase II, consisting of water infrastructure improvements and road rehab for the remaining portion of Silver Hill Road is currently under design by Engineering’s consultant Wright Pierce and is anticipated to be complete in 2025.
- **Sign Inventory** – Engineering staff have been communicating with Streetscan to obtain a complete town wide inventory update of our traffic and parking signs within the public rights-of-way. This inventory is anticipated to include the location, type, and condition, of signs along with the signpost material. This inventory would be created using the existing survey data that was previously collected by Streetscan when they surveyed the Town’s roadway pavement condition in June 2024. Because StreetScan is in possession of the survey, they only need to complete the data processing and offer their services at a discounted cost. If the details of the deliverables can be finalized with Streetscan, it would be expected to obtain this data over the winter.
- **Transportation Planning and Evaluation** – The consultant, Stantec under their new engineering contract has developed asset management plans for the condition of the street pavement and sidewalk networks throughout town. They have submitted preliminary results on these plans that are being used to support a Tier III 5-year roads program “borrowing” request for consideration at the 2025 Annual Town Meeting. Stantec has also developed criteria for the selection of traffic and safety improvements

and continues to examine key corridors to identify transportation improvement projects needed. CPW has been reviewing Stantec's submission in preparation for submitting the ATM article on the borrowing.

- **Main Street, Baker Avenue and Cottage Street Intersection Improvements** – The engineering design by Jacobs on the reconfiguration of this intersection and replacement of the obsolete signal system is proceeding as more positive feedback from impacted abutters were received just before the holidays. Staff had a productive meeting with Chase Bank and received verbal acceptance of the aerial easement on the TB Bank property. With verbal agreements in place with most of the abutters, Jacob's can advance the design to final. A meeting with the only abutter that involves a taking and giving of land is scheduled for February 7, 2025, to finalize what is proposed by the project. Staff will be working with legal counsel and the projects land surveyor to produce easement plans and documents for all abutters. A community at large meeting will be scheduled within the upcoming months. Engineering will post the more refined concept plan to a webpage that is under development once Jacobs has updated the plans based on the bank's feedback. Additional funding of \$450,000 for the project has been appropriated through ARPA for FY2025.

- **Stormwater Utility** – CPW and consultant, Weston and Sampson have been reviewing the steps necessary for establishing and approving a stormwater fee. Below are the key steps already taken and others identified for further action for establishing and implementing the rate:
 - Presented the stormwater budget, including capital and non-capital costs for fiscal years 2006 to 2035, at the PWC meeting on September 11, 2024.
 - Presented various stormwater fee structure options at the PWC meeting on October 9, 2024.
 - Presented the draft stormwater enterprise credit policy at the PWC meeting on December 18, 2024.
 - Finalizing the Concord Stormwater Enterprise Fund development package, including reports, forms, and processes, with plans to publish these on the stormwater web page by February 2025.
 - Conducting public outreach through April 2025, including presentations to the Finance Committee, League of Women Voters, Concord Bridge, and the Select Board.
 - Public hearing to finalize stormwater fee structures and credit policy at the May 2025 PWC meeting. Fee structures to be approved by the PWC will be conditioned to allow for adjustments commensurate with the budget approved at the annual town meeting.
 - Present the projected FY 2026 stormwater enterprise budget (operations and capital) for approval at the 2025 Annual Town Meeting in June.
 - Provided information and data to NISC, the same billing platform as Water and Sewer, and CMLP. NISC is preparing a proposal for the development of the billing for the stormwater utility which the Town hopes to contract for by February. The goal is to issue the first bills as soon as July 2025.

Staff will continue to add detailed tasks to these steps and set milestones within the anticipated schedule leading to the implementation of the stormwater utility.

- **Stormwater MS4 Permit** –The Engineering Division has begun work to meet the Year-7 requirements of the MS4 Permit, which must be submitted to both the EPA and MassDEP. The MS4 Permit mandates that the Town conduct wet weather sampling to identify potential illicit discharges caused by high groundwater or excessive runoff. Approximately 55 outfalls require sampling to complete this analysis, which must be finalized by June 30, 2028. Comprehensive Environmental Incorporated was selected for this project. Engineering is currently working on the contract to initiate wet weather sampling efforts for 2025.

Public outreach efforts are ongoing, in alignment with the Town’s objectives to educate residents about pollution mitigation. These educational messages will focus on reducing pollutants that contribute to surface water contamination within the Town.

The Concord Public Works team successfully collaborated with Thoreau Elementary, Alcott Elementary, and Willard Elementary Schools to deliver presentations and engage students in interactive discussions about the Town's water and stormwater system infrastructure. The scheduled sessions were successfully completed as follows: Alcott Elementary on January 9, Thoreau Elementary on January 16, and Willard Elementary on January 23.

The draft of the new MS4 permit was released by the EPA on November 22, 2024, and is now in the public comment period that ends on February 20, 2025.

- **Drainage Improvements** – The following outlines drainage-improvement efforts made by the Engineering Division over the past couple of months:
 - Ripley Hill Road – Drainage issues were highlighted during the design of roadway improvements. An in-depth analysis by the Engineering team led to the development of drainage improvement plans. These plans include the addition of 5 leaching catch basins, 1 regular catch basin, 2 gutter inlets, replacement of the existing pipe that is blocked, and the installation of a perforated HDPE pipe. This work was not able to be completed this year and is expected to start in the spring 2025.
 - Turning Mill Road – A design by Wright-Pierce to address the flooding issues regularly experienced on Turning Mill Rd is incorporated in the Silver Hill Improvements project that is under construction. The design includes the installation of an underdrain, replacement of identified failing drainage structures, and a new street profile. This work was completed in December 2024, except for the amended road profile, which is scheduled to occur in spring 2025.
 - Church St. Parking lot – CPW Engineering has executed a contract with McClure Engineers for a project. This project, described further under Parking Lots will

include grading, drainage and improved stormwater management.

- **Petition for Temporary Repairs to Private Ways: Dover Street & Darton Street** – CPW continued to examine the most feasible and sustainable solution for the persistent flooding problems at the intersection of Dover St and Darton St. Questions on the petition process, ownership of the proposed drainage system, easements, and other items continue to be reviewed with Town Counsel. Using ARPA funds, consulting services were retained to develop the necessary plans and documents. CPW is expected to receive the concept plans and a preliminary cost estimate for review. A meeting with the abutters will be organized in the coming month to present the concept plans.

Engineering staff worked with legal counsel to review and prepare draft easement language which was presented and later signed by the owner of 20 Darton St and 4A Shore Drive. This easement may be necessary to enable portions of the proposed stormwater system to run along and through these properties. This easement is proceeding to the select board for acceptance

- **Landfill Gas and Water Monitoring** – State-mandated environmental monitoring of the capped landfill at 755 Walden Street is ongoing under a new three-year contract with OneAtlas. The Engineering team was informed by the consultant that several monitoring wells are missing and could not be located. A site visit was conducted with the consultant to verify the information provided by OneAtlas. Following the site visit, four wells remain unlocated. The Engineering team has contacted MassDEP for guidance on how to proceed. The only monitoring plan on record dates to 2005, necessitating an update to reflect the most current information. Once the list of all water and gas monitoring wells is finalized, the updated monitoring plan will be submitted to MassDEP, and further guidance will be sought for the next steps.
- **Baker Avenue Culvert Sinkhole** – The sinkhole has been stabilized and temporarily paved over to get through the winter. The consulting engineer, Wright-Pierce is performing the design of the permanent repair which includes the installation of a significant concrete structure to provide better access to the triple culvert system. Additionally, permitting and coordination with utilities and affected abutters will take place over the winter months to have the construction work begin next spring. A National Grid project to relocate a gas main that is within the sinkhole area will need to occur in advance of the culvert project. National Grid has informed Engineering staff that the plans are expected to be complete in the next few weeks.
- **Church Street and Conant Street Parking Lots Improvements** – The pavement in these parking lots needs repair. The design improvements aim to enhance accessibility and convenience for the community. CPW Engineering has executed a contract with McClure Engineers to develop a project on the Church St lot that

will improve the site layout, access and circulation routes, grading, drainage, and utility function. Additionally, the project will include enhanced stormwater management, landscaping, and the installation of EV charging stations. The plan is to finalize the design and prepare bid documents, with construction targeted to start late summer of this year. McClure Engineers conducted the site survey in January and is planning to perform soil borings. The concept plan for the project is expected to be received in late February. CPW Engineering will review the concept plans and share them with the abutters for comments.

- **West Concord MBTA Parking Lot Repairs** – A contract to perform intermediate repairs such as milling and filling of deteriorated pavement areas and crack sealing did not proceed because of the contractor’s inability to provide a warranty. The Engineering Division is preparing plans and bid documents for a pavement overlay to maintain the parking lot in acceptable condition until the Assabet River pedestrian trail and bridge project is constructed in the next 4-5 years. It is anticipated that the project will be added to the 2025 Pavement Management Project for bidding purposes.
- **Warner’s Pond I&M Plan** – A final draft of the Inspection and Maintenance (I&M) Plan for dam inspections, prepared and submitted by Pare Corporation, has been reviewed by the Engineering and Highway and Grounds Divisions, and comments have been provided. The purpose of this plan is to outline detailed schedules and procedures for routine maintenance and inspections, aimed at assessing and ensuring the structural integrity of the dams. Pare will incorporate the necessary changes and submit the final I&M Plan by February.
- **Warner’s Pond Task Force** – Engineering staff have been attending the Warner’s Pond Task Force monthly meetings and have been actively involved in reviewing and providing comments on the plans and studies completed.
- **Gerow Recreation Area** – The Town, consultant Greenman-Pedersen (GPI) and the contractor, Cole continue to review close out documents and processes related to the contract. Change orders related to recorded work scope changes have been executed. One item related to the survival of plantings installed last summer may remain open through this spring.
- **2025 Guardrail Project** – Engineering staff is reevaluating the Public Works Design and Construction Standards related to the Town’s guardrail standards. Staff will be presenting to the Public Works Commission during their March meeting to recommend changes to the guardrail materials used for guardrail replacement projects. Once a decision is made on the materials, bid documents will be finalized for the 2025 Guardrail Replacement Project. The guardrail locations selected for the project were based on Engineering’s priority list for improvement and is primarily focused on deterioration and traffic volume of the road the guardrail protects. Vehicle damage continues to be an expensive part of the guardrail replacement program. Additionally, Engineering staff continue to reassess the roadside safety program because of deficiencies in design and

lifespan of existing guardrail systems in many parts of the town.

- **Harvey Wheeler Community Center Entrance Improvements** – Greenman-Pedersen (GPI), the designer of the repair project is finalizing bid documents to address the deteriorated basement entrance and the deficiencies of the main building entrance. The plan addresses the phasing of the work to be able to maintain continued safe access to the building during construction. A walkway that meets ADA compliance is proposed as an alternative to the stairs to connect pedestrians from the parking lot to the basement entrance and directly to Main St. The bid will be advertised in February with construction expected to begin this spring.

- **DPLM Project Reviews** – Engineering continues to perform reviews through an iterative process on application plans, calculations, and reports submitted for proposed developments and redevelopments in town. The more significant and complex private development projects are typically performed by third parties and paid for by the respective applicants. Also, Engineering staff certify that conditions of approval pertinent to CPW are satisfied. The projects that received significant engineering reviews include
 - 61B Walden Street – this is a project that is currently going through a preliminary subdivision approval where Engineering staff performed a preliminary review of the development. It is anticipated that the applicant will go forward with the Definitive Subdivision application once the design is complete. Staff have observed soil testing on site. The Definitive Subdivision Application with associated plans and calculations has been submitted and staff have reviewed and provided a comment letter to be Board.
 - 275 Forest Ridge Road, The Residences at Thoreau – This project is currently in the pre-approval phase. The peer reviewer has provided two comment letters, one related to the site and the other related to traffic impacts. Engineering staff reviewed and provided comments on both letters. It is anticipated that the applicant will revise the plan and provide more information in their documents. Staff will review any follow-up letters from the peer reviewer. Staff attended a working session with the applicant and Town departments to provide feedback on the project.
 - 1400 Lowell Road, Middlesex School Field House – Engineering staff provided comments in addition to those submitted by the peer reviewer in their two letters. The project was approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals and staff attended the preconstruction meeting.
 - 1200-1224 Main Street, Alpine Property Management Corp – This project has been approved by the NRC. The applicant will need to provide requested information pertaining to onsite drainage and easements for the Town to CPW Engineering prior to construction.
 - 300-310 Baker Avenue – This project is in the pre-approval phase and is required to provide parking for the NOVO Riverside Commons Development. This application was reviewed by the same peer reviewer who performed the NOVO Development peer review because of their familiarity with the site and the design. A comment letter has been submitted and reviewed by Engineering who produced additional comments. The applicant submitted a response to said letter

with revised plans and calculations and the peer reviewer reviewed the responses and provided a second comment letter that Engineering further reviewed.

- **Utility Coordination** – Engineering continues to provide utility coordination with private utility companies performing work within the Town’s rights-of-way (ROW). Monthly coordination meetings with National Grid are held because of the number of upgrade and pipe replacement projects on their capital plan as well as the extent of their leak repair program.

Each installation of new utility mains and appurtenances, extensions, upgrades, or replacements – underground and overhead within the public ROW requires Select Board approval of petitions for a Grant of Location (GOL) by the respective utility company. Engineering reviews the proposed project plans, coordinated with other Town interests and submits a comment letter to the select board prior to the scheduling of the public hearing.

The ongoing projects involving Grants of Location for utility projects and status include:

- National Grid’s 475-806 Monument Street GOL request. Plans have been revised and awaiting CPW final review.
 - National Grid’s 150 Lexington Road upgrade of their gas main is complete. National Grid provided the final restoration of the pavement in the work area in December 2024.
 - National Grid’s 4 - 195 Thoreau Street GOL request. Awaiting National Grid’s plan revisions due to moratorium streets.
 - National Grid’s Main Street GOL requests from Edgewood Road to Winslow Street. Awaiting National Grid’s plan revisions due to moratorium streets.
 - National Grid’s GOL Request for Crescent Road, Hosmer Road, Garland Road, Wilson Road, Nashoba Road. Staff prepared a comment letter for this project and the public hearing was held on September 9, 2024, where the GOL was approved.
 - National Grid’s 1-28 Sudbury Road request. Awaiting National Grid’s plan revisions due to work proposed on moratorium streets.
 - National Grid’s 21-92 Old Bridge Road, Main Street, Cottage Street GOL request. Awaiting CPW’s initial review.
 - National Grid’s 3-46 Pond Street GOL request. Awaiting CPW’s initial review.
 - National Grid’s Simon Willard was approved by the Select Board and construction started in November 2024.
 - Comcast’s 86 Baker Ave GOL request. Staff prepared a comment letter to the Select Board, and the GOL was approved by the Select Board on 1/6/2025.
- **Right-of-Way/Driveway Permitting** – Permit season remains closed for the season and will open again on or about April 1, 2025, pending weather conditions. Last construction season, Engineering processed 103 right-of-way and 74 driveway permits. Now that the Winter Moratorium is in place for work taking place within the Right of Way,

Engineering is only reviewing requests for emergency work, which consists mostly of emergency gas and water leaks. In addition, Engineering received a request from a private contractor to conduct an excavation within the Virginia Road right-of-way for an underground electric service to supply power to an EV plane charger. Because this work is driven and funded by the goals and initiatives of the Federal Health and Human Services Department and had a deadline for work to be completed by January 31, 2025, staff allowed this work in the street to be conducted and completed by the deadline. The contractor is responsible for returning in the spring, when temperatures are more conducive for paving, for permanent restoration of the roadway and shoulder.

- **Parking Meter Removal Project-** K. B. Aruda Construction Inc. is under contract to remove 103 parking meter posts on several streets throughout the town and restore the surfaces (asphalt, concrete sidewalks, or grass). The parking meter post removal and surface restoration on Commonwealth Ave, Church Street, and Thoreau Street have been completed. The project was originally scheduled to be completed by the end of February but with freezing temperatures affecting the curing of concrete, the remaining work on Walden Street, Main Street, and Hubbard Street has been extended for completion by March 31.

FACILITIES

Staffing:

- The Division anticipates filling two long-standing vacancies, HVAC Tech and Building Custodian, in the very near future. The HVAC Tech candidate has accepted an offer and is in the process of going through the final pre-employment screening. The new custodian has been hired and is scheduled to report to work on Feb 10th.

Building Structures:

- **Police and Fire - Station 1 (Walden Street)** – Renovations and upgrades to the 3rd floor meeting room has been completed. Awaiting details from IT and CFD to locate and install 6-7 large format video monitors in preparation for the 250th events.
- **Police and Fire - Station 1 (Walden Street)** – Impacts of the water leak (from a plumbing failure within a restroom) identified on New Years Eve have been evaluated with plans for significant restoration in the works. Temporary repairs have been made with air quality testing results to be issued shortly. This will inform any additional needs before moving forward with more permanent repairs.
- **Rideout Park Fieldhouse** –No scheduled work until spring season
- **Gerow Recreation Park Restrooms** – No scheduled work until spring season
- **Beede Recreation Center** –
 - Pool Area - A site visit with structural engineer was recently conducted to better understand a concern identified on the high walls surrounding pool areas. Findings to be issued within the next several months.
 - Additional damage was identified on the walk – corroded columns, failed building sealing etc. that will need to be addressed asap in addition to the structural work.

- **Barrett’s Mills Farmhouse:** Annual HVAC PM servicing was completed for the structure this past month using third-party service providers.

Building Systems:

Preventative Maintenance:

- HVAC:
 - Ongoing heating issues as are typical for the winter months

Non-Routine Facilities Repairs/Replacements

- **Public Works (133/135 Keyes Road)**
 - Reviewing current space utilization in both building office areas based on expanding managerial and administrative needs with goal of accommodating needs over next 5-years. Expectation is CPW will have new facilities after this.
 - Preparing construction documents to go out to bid to repair roof issues at 133,135 and salt shed at the Keyes Road campus this summer. There is adequate cap funding existing dedicated to this repair.

Seasonal Restroom Service Needs:

- Seasonal rest room facilities closed on October 15 as is standard. Water shut off and locations winterized, some minor repairs will occur as time allows. Plan to re-activate in April.

Operations and Support of Town-Wide Functional Activities:

- Assisting in the ongoing task related to space planning and relocation of town departments as illustrated in the 2020 Master Plan.

Sustainability/Energy Updates:

- Concord received a MassEVIP grant in the amount of \$67,727.40. This will cover 60% of the total cost for 5-dual head level 2 charging stations at the CPW campus. The town’s contribution is \$46,697.00 that will utilize existing cap funding. These station will provide adequate charging capabilities for current and future fleet needs as CPW and DPLM expand the number of EV vehicles in our fleet.
- Staff continue to work with the Sustainability Director as the Town is exploring the possibility of engaging with an “ESCO” (Energy Service Company) to provide overall turnkey energy and efficiency updates town wide.
- Staff is also reviewing possible Green Community projects to further assist in reducing energy costs and GHG emissions.

WATER & SEWER DIVISION

Outreach

- **Drought Status:** In January 2025, following several weeks of snow and rain, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary declared that the Northeast region was downgraded from a Level-3 Critical Drought to a Level-2 Significant Drought. The Drought

Management Task Force met on Thursday – February 6th, 2025. As of the writing of the Director’s Report, the EOEEA Secretary has not yet issued an updated drought status for the Commonwealth.

- **Concord 5th Graders – Water Resource Education:** Working with the Concord Public Schools Department’s Elementary School Science Coordinator, Water & Sewer and Engineering Division Staff visited all 5th grade classes within the Concord Public School system (~230 students, across Thoreau Elementary, Alcott Elementary and Willard Elementary schools) to provide special water resources presentation. This annual outreach opportunity provides students with an introduction to local water resource issues - touching upon water resources protection (including stormwater management and “unflushables”), the fundamentals of public water system infrastructure, and drinking water quality and conservation awareness.

Regulatory Updates

- **EPA Issues Draft Sewage Sludge Risk Assessment for PFAS:** On January 14, 2025, EPA released its draft Sewage Sludge Risk Assessment for PFOA and PFOS (two chemicals that fall under the umbrella of ‘PFAS’). The purpose of the risk assessment is to help inform whether PFOA or PFOS may be present in sewage sludge in levels that pose a risk to public health or the environment. EPA’s risk assessment is designed to describe such risks based on certain biosolids disposal methods: land application, surface disposal, and incineration, all methods currently employed by Massachusetts wastewater treatment facilities. Based on the results, EPA found that draft risk estimates exceed the agency’s acceptable human health risk in many of these scenarios.

The draft risk assessment is **not** a rule and **does not** compel action by states, however EPA uses sewage sludge risk assessments to help evaluate whether risk reduction actions, including regulation, are warranted to protect those who may be exposed to elevated risks from sewage sludge use or disposal.

- **MassDEP – NPDES and Residuals Program, Wastewater PFAS Sampling:** On January 21, 2025, MassDEP announced a contract award to the engineering consulting firm Tighe & Bond for PFAS testing of all Massachusetts publicly-owned treatment works (POTWs). Tighe & Bond will collect influent, effluent and sludge residuals samples, as part of DEP’s ongoing efforts to characterize PFAS in wastewater.

Water Quality

- **Routine Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting:** Staff continue to perform routine water quality monitoring activities for regulatory compliance and treatment optimization at all operating stations and throughout the distribution system. There are no resulting water quality exceedances to report.

Water/Sewer Main & Service Activities

- **Water Infrastructure Improvements Project - Silver Hill Road Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements Phase 1:** The Project contractor, Commonwealth Construction & Utilities, Inc. (CCUI), of Watertown, MA, completed the installation of the new 8” ductile iron watermain early January. The total length of installed main was approx. 3,553 LF. CCUI then proceeded with transfer of services from the old main to the new main. In Spring 2025, CCUI will complete drainage improvements, paving work and loaming and seeding (restoration).
- **Water Infrastructure Improvements Project - Silver Hill Road Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements Phase 2:** In late January 2025, the Town’s consultant (Wright-Pierce) provided “final draft” plans for Water & Sewer Division and Engineering Division review and comment. Phase 2 is intended to be publicly bid in Spring 2025, for Summer and Fall 2025 construction.
- **Sewer System Maintenance Activities:** In January, operations crews jetted approximately 3,340 L.F. of sewers on at various streets in Town. This jetting/cleaning is performed to reduce risks of potential flow obstructions attributed to settled debris while removing build-up on the walls of the sewer pipe.

Water Main/Service Leaks and Sewage Overflow

- **Cottage Lane:** In the early morning hours on January 31st, the Division was alerted to a possible water leak in the area of Cottage Lane near Main Street. A water main break on the 8-inch cast iron water main (installed 1951) was confirmed by Division personnel, and the main was successfully repaired by installing a wrap-around clamp. The main break event coincided with Concord Fire Department response to a fire at #36 Cottage Lane, and the break location was near to the end hydrant in front of #52 Cottage Lane.

Water & Wastewater Pumping Stations

- **White Pond Well (04G) - Well Cleaning & Redevelopment:** In January 2025, the contracted service provider, F.G. Sullivan Drilling Co., out of Lancaster, MA, performed well capacity testing, cleaning and inspections of the well, and mechanical components of the well pump, and provided preliminary assessment of the well’s mechanical components. The well pump bowls assembly was found to require significant repairs or replacement. The Division is soliciting furnish & deliver prices on a new replacement well pump bowls assembly, for installation and final well capacity testing. The project is anticipated to be completed in late February/early March, in advance of warm-weather high water demand.
- **Nagog Pond Filtration Plant and Intake:** Consultant engineers Environmental Partners (EP) continues to perform construction administration services following the failed intake

rehabilitation project by contractor D&C. Currently, EP is exploring other options to address the intake pipe rehabilitation. These options will then be presented to the Town for review. In July 2024, Project Evaluation Form (PEF) application was submitted to MassDEP Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program for the Nagog Pond WTF Project inclusive of PFAS treatment and Rt. 2A water mains improvements.

- **Pilgrim Road Sewage Lift Station – Emergency Generator:** A contract has been awarded to Kraft Power Corporation (Woburn, MA) for the installation of an emergency generator at the Pilgrim Road Lift Station. The generator was delivered on October 31st and is expected to be installed in February 2025, weather permitting.
- All other water and wastewater facilities are presently in active operation or standby ready, with normal inspections and preventive maintenance (PMs) ongoing.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

- **Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (‘CWMP’) and Capacity:** The Town executed a services agreement with Weston & Sampson Engineers (WSE) in May 2024 for wastewater management and planning support services. Their work will include:
 - Reviewing existing and future wastewater capacity conditions and needs, coordinating with the Department of Planning and Land Management on planning/housing initiatives.
 - Re-assessment of potential options to add wastewater capacity to the community (including the review and evaluation of MCI Concord’s WWTF) providing strategic level review of options and associated planning-level costs.
 - Provide preliminary recommendations to move forward with capacity initiatives.
 - In addition, WSE will also review the need to update or modify the current Sewer Improvement Fee (‘SIF’).

Weston & Sampson have led ongoing planning discussion meeting with CPW and DPLM representatives concerning the potential assignment of the MCI Concord WWTF with specific consideration of Town-wide wastewater capacity needs.

- **Contract Operations:** Staff continued to manage the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) contract operations, including tracking and analyzing monthly data, oversight of contract obligations, preparing and attending monthly meetings, tracking, and assisting in the planning of necessary equipment repair and other capital improvements, and monitoring of septage hauling activities.
- **Capacity Update:** The NPDES NetDMR reporting periods of November 2024, December 2024 and January 2025 are summarized below:

NPDES NetDMR Reporting Period	Period Average Flow	12-Mo. Rolling Ave., Ending the Reporting Period
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November 2024	0.76 MGD	1.10 MGD (down 0.04 from Oct.)
<i>November 2023</i>	<i>0.92 MGD</i>	<i>1.03 MGD</i>
December 2024	0.89 MGD	1.06 MGD (down 0.04 from Nov.)
<i>December 2023</i>	<i>1.350 MGD</i>	<i>1.15 MGD</i>
January 2025	0.83 MGD	0.99 MGD (down 0.07 from Dec.)
<i>January 2024</i>	<i>1.670 MGD</i>	<i>1.19 MGD</i>

Staff are pleased to report that the 12-month rolling average flow at the Wastewater Treatment Plant continues to be below the Town’s 1.2 MGD NPDES Permit limit. Following wetter than average spring and early summer, the late summer, fall and winter weather has been relatively dry, reducing the influence of wet-weather I/I into the sewer system, and lowering the 12-month rolling average metered plant effluent.

In addition, an extensive I/I Control Plan was developed to control inflow and infiltration into the Town’s sewer system. In June 2024, the Division received a new proposal from Weston & Sampson to re-start a sewer system investigation program (interrupted in 2021 by COVID-19 and shortage in Staff). The new proposal scope has the following goals:

- Completing the flow isolation in the areas not done during Phase 1.
 - Updating the Phase 1 Report by compiling the flow isolation data, MH inspection data (to be conducted by Town Staff), sewer database, and GIS layer.
 - Conducting camera inspections of the remaining subareas (total of 11 areas) not included in Phase 1.
- **Wastewater Treatment Facility – Roof Replacement:** The contract for the replacement of a section of the plant’s roof (above the CoMag building extension) was awarded to Greenwood Industries (of Worcester, MA), in May 2024. The project suffered a significant delay when the roof panels (the main project building material) were scheduled for a late delivery from the manufacturer due to supply backorder. The expected delivery date for the roof panels is March 3rd, 2025. Demolition of the old roof and installation of the new will be scheduled following the delivery of the panels.
 - **Sewer Improvement Fund (SIF):** There have been no recent changes to the SIF Chart submitted with the February 2021 report, which tracks requests for sewer uses that will increase approved flows to the Plant. Currently, WSE has been tasked with reviewing the need to update or modify the current Sewer Improvement Fee (‘SIF’).