



TOWN OF CONCORD

Town Manager's Report

Week of: January 25, 2016

Concord Farm Receives Grant From MDAR

The Baker-Polito Administration announced matching grants totaling \$78,582 for 9 projects that will help beginning farmers grow or improve their farm operations through the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources' (MDAR) Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture (MEGA) Program. As one of the nine recipients, Concord's Barrett's Mill Farm will receive \$8,257 in funding for a greenhouse project.

MBTA Public Meeting January 28th, 6pm

In response to concerns regarding changes to the MBTA Commuter Rail schedule, the MBTA has scheduled a series of public meetings to address community concerns about the commuter rail schedule and MBTA fare increases. The public meeting with the MBTA will be held this Thursday January 28th from 6-8pm at the Concord Town House located at 22 Monument Square.

CCHS Parents Assoc. to Host Event on Parenting feat. Esteemed Author

Concord Carlisle Youth Services is proud to support Concord-Carlisle High School Parent Association in presenting esteemed author Julie Lythcott-Haims, author of *How to Raise an Adult*, on **Wednesday, March 16th at 7:00pm** in the CCHS Auditorium.

Recent studies suggest that kids with overinvolved parents suffer psychological blowback including anxiety, depression and self-harm. Julie Lythcott-Haims, former Dean of Freshman at Stanford University and best selling author of *How to Raise An Adult* shares her experiences and advice for parents of children of all ages highlighting ways in which overparenting harms children, parents and society at large. Julie offers practical alternative strategies that underline the importance of allowing children to make mistakes and develop resilience, resourcefulness and inner determination.

Registration is required. Reserve your seat at:
<http://bit.ly/cchspa-JLH>

Board/Committee Vacancies

Ever consider becoming a part of a board/commission/committee in your local government? The Town is looking for residents to fill positions on a variety of boards/commissions/committees.

If interested, please call (978) 318-3000, or find info online:
www.concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA_BOS/vacancies

Opportunities on Town Committees

Contact: (978) 318-3000

Two Concord Boards are seeking volunteers to fill open positions on important committees:

-The Select Board is seeking qualified candidates from the community, who represent a variety of backgrounds and interests, to fill open positions on the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

-In response to citizen concern over the loss of significant tree cover and large trees on properties that are clear cut before being developed, the Planning Board is appointing a Tree Preservation Subcommittee to review the scope of the problem and mitigation options.

-The Select Board is also seeking candidates for a Public Private Partnership Study Committee.

PayByPhone Coming to the West Concord Commuter Lot

Town Plans to Remove Honor Box Payment Option by the End of the Year

Contact: (978) 318-3290

The Town of Concord is introducing a new way for drivers using the West Concord commuter parking lot to pay for parking. The service, called PayByPhone, helps MBTA commuter rail customers in Concord more conveniently pay for parking using their mobile phone or Apple Watch. This service will be available beginning Wednesday, February 10, 2016 for commuters/customers who register for the PayByPhone service (either in advance of February 10th or any time after that date).



HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

RECREATION * SENIOR SERVICES * SOCIAL SERVICES

Veterans News

Contact (978) 318-3038

The Office received a call from a WWII Navy veteran requesting a new set of the military medals he had received during the war. The veteran also requested assistance filing for healthcare and Rx benefits via the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The veteran was assisted with both sets of VA forms.

The Office started looking into the costs of veterans grave flags for this year. Each year the Town purchases twenty gross of flags, which are placed on the graves prior to Memorial Day and then get “retired” on Veterans Day. The Town gets three sets of bids for this purchase and is reimbursed seventy five percent of the cost by the State.

A transportation request came to the Office from a recently returning veteran to Concord. The veteran doesn’t drive and was looking into options for transportation to the VA hospital in Bedford. The Office informed the veteran of his transportation options.

A new Chapter 115 financial benefit case was opened this week for a resident veteran. The veteran’s income was “over budget”, but he was eligible to receive reimbursement for his medical bills.

The Veteran Service Officer attended a luncheon at the Statehouse with local legislators. The luncheon is an annual event where the Service Officers meet with Legislators to discuss veteran related bills that are currently going through the legislature.

Community Services

Contact: Aileen Buford, (978) 318-3034 / abuford@concordma.gov

During the week of January 18-22, 2016, the Community Services Coordinator received 22 phone calls, 42 emails and had 5 home/office visits all related to requests for assistance or community resources. The requests related to food assistance, fuel assistance, payment of utility bills, housing issues, job searching, disability benefits, affordable legal advice, and budget assistance. During this week three first-time clients contacted the CSC.

Referrals for services were received from Concord Municipal Light Plant, Council on Aging, Concord Public Health Division, the Town Manager’s Office, Concord Recreation and Concord Public Schools. Referrals for resources were made to Hugh Cargill Trust, St. Vincent De Paul Society, Concord-Carlisle Community Chest, SNAP, SMOC, Good Neighbor Energy Fund, Regional Housing Office, MetroWest Legal Services, English at Large, Concord Housing Authority, Open Table & Minute Man Arc.

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)—assists individuals and families with funds to purchase food. You can apply in person, online or by mail to this program. Anyone interested in determining eligibility or applying for SNAP benefits, is a Concord or Carlisle resident, and is under the age of 60, please contact Aileen Buford, MSW.

SMOC Fuel Assistance – Any Concord resident under the age of 60 who is interested in applying for SMOC Fuel Assistance, please contact Aileen Buford, MSW for an informational packet and eligibility requirements. Eligibility is based on household size and income.

Good Neighbor Energy Fund – available to any Massachusetts resident who, because of temporary financial difficulty, cannot meet a month’s energy expense. Income for the prior twelve months must fall between 60 and 80 percent of the State’s median income levels. For eligibility requirements and program details please contact Aileen Buford, MSW.



Department of Planning & Land Management (DPLM)
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Health Division

Contact: 978-318-3275

Septic system permitting: 1 septic permit issued; 3 septic permits denied with changes requested from design engineers; 2 Certificates of Compliance issued. 2 Deep test holes witnessed; 5 septic field inspections. 1 letter of non-compliance issued.

Food Service: Diverse activities included:

Met with students and staff at CCHS to provide guidance on developing an organic waste recycling program at CCHS.

Consultation with Mass Dept. of Public Health food safety staff and seafood specialist for guidance on reduced oxygen packaging of fish sold at retail without proper labeling of a potentially hazardous product.

Build-out inspections of temporary enclosure to allow Concord Provisions to remain open for business during construction/renovation of their commercial kitchen.

In conjunction with the restaurant's food safety consultant, performed a joint inspection to verify compliance with a HACCP plan for reduced oxygen packaging of meats at Woods Hill Table.

Board of Health meeting on January 19: The Board received an update from Deborah Farnsworth, liaison to the 2229 Main St. Committee, on site remediation activities; assessed a final betterment lien for 299 Nashoba Rd. under the Town's septic betterment program; and considered language for precautionary signage which may be placed at the artificial turf fields and other playing fields in the Town. The Board agreed on draft language for the signs which will be forwarded to the Town Manager and School Committee for further discussion.

Planning Division

Contact: (978) 318-3290

First-mile/Last-mile Grant from CTPS: Director Marcia Rasmussen and Town Planner Elizabeth Hughes met with the Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) to discuss the scope of work for Concord's "first-mile/last-mile" connections study. The Town's grant proposed three different ideas to be studied: 1) Whether there are alternative ways to deliver Concord resident commuters to and from their homes rather than by personal vehicle, allowing some of the dedicated commuter spaces near Concord Center to be available later in the day for people who only occasionally want to use the train and/or out-of-town commuters; 2) Consider ways to improve resident's access to the BFRT to encourage alternative modes of travel, and; 3) Consideration of a pedestrian bridge over the Assabet River (perhaps parallel to the existing railroad bridge) or providing a shuttle service from the Baker Avenue/Baker Avenue Extension Industrial Park to West Concord Village and exploring which of these alternatives (or other possibilities) would be beneficial to the Town for future planning purposes. In the next two weeks, CTPS will be developing a scope of work that outlines what elements of these three ideas CTPS staff can assist with.

Solar Field Project on former W.R. Grace site: On Tuesday, January 19, Town Staff from DPLM, Public Works, Fire Department and the Concord Municipal Light Plant met with the development team for the solar field project on Town-owned land (formerly W.R. Grace). The project manager informed staff of their hope to file the Site Plan Application with the Planning Board next week to be heard at the February 23rd meeting. The goal is to have a Site Plan decision by the end of March. Town Staff outlined the permitting requirements and information they would need to evaluate the project and provide recommendations to the Planning Board in order to expedite the process.

Historic Districts Commission (HDC) meeting of Thursday, January 21: The HDC reviewed one continued and one new application for changes in the Historic Districts. The Commission approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of a new greenhouse at the Barrett's Mill Farm, 449 Barrett's Mill Road. The Commission also continued their review of an application for trellises at 52 Bow Street to allow time for a site visit next week. The Commission also met with Annette Bagley of the Concord Historical Commission to learn about their new Preservation Awards Program, and with representatives of 55 Estabrook Road to discuss the changes made in the design of their approved stone wall. The Commission's next meeting will be Thursday, February 11.



Department of Planning & Land Management (DPLM)
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Natural Resources Division

Contact: 978-318-3285

Natural Resources Commission (NRC) meeting of January 20th: The Commission heard the following matters: the continued Amendment Request for 310 Lexington Road for site modification and a new Notice of Intent (NOI) for the demolition and reconstruction of a single family house at 874 Elm Street. The Commission also discussed site modifications for the proposed temporary cell tower at Middlesex School. New applications received this week for the February 2nd NRC meeting include an Amendment Request from Middlesex School for modifications to the temporary cell tower and site restoration. Other matters that will be heard on February 2nd include the continued NOI for Damonmill Dam for tree removal and dam repairs; the continued NOI for the construction of a 22-unit subdivision at 140 Commerford Road; and the continued NOI for construction of a garage at 68 and 18 Cambridge Turnpike Road.

Farmland Proposals: Six proposals were received this week to lease the agricultural land at 41A Barretts Mill Road (on the corner of Barretts Mill Road and Strawberry Hill Road) and four proposals were received to farm the land at 6A Harrington Avenue. The NRC will evaluate the proposals and make a recommendation to the Town Manager at their February 2nd meeting.



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