



TOWN OF CONCORD

Town Manager's Report

Week of: March 21, 2016

LAST CALL FOR DOG LICENSING FOR 2016 WITHOUT A LATE FEE

Contact: (978) 318-3080

The Concord Town Clerk reminds dog owners that 2016 dog licenses are available, and the deadline for licensing for 2016 without incurring a \$25 late fee is March 31st. All dogs six months of age or older must be licensed in Massachusetts. Licenses are issued on a calendar year basis—January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. Please do your dog (and your pocketbook) a favor and obtain a license this coming week. Licenses are available online at the Town website (www.concordma.gov – click online payments) or in person at the Town Clerk's Office, Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Dogs must have a valid rabies vaccination on file in order to be licensed. If the dog has been previously licensed in Concord, then we most likely have the rabies information on file. If you did not license your dog in 2015, you will be required to purchase a 2015 license as well as a 2016 license. For further information or to verify rabies vaccination status, please contact the Town Clerk's Office.

Library News

Contact:(978) 318-3488

On March 17, 2016 Kitty Smith, Technical Services Assistant, and Enid Boasberg, Branch Library Assistant (retired), received the Daughters of the American Revolution's Conservation Award for their roles as co-founders of the Concord Free Public Library's Concord Seed Lending Library.

Paige Zarganis Williar, mindfulness and peaceful communications coach, will host a "Find Your Way to Mindfulness" session on March 23rd @ 12pm - Main Library, Transcendental Alcove. Drop-ins welcome.

The Friends of the Concord Free Public Library will host Geoff Wisner, author of *Thoreau's Wildflowers*, at the Thursday Night Author Series on March 24, 2016 at 7:00pm in the Main Library's Periodical Room.

The Concord Free Public Library will be closed all day on Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016.

Special Town Election Set for April 14

Contact:(978) 318-3080

Concord's Select Board has called a Special Town Election for Thursday, April 14, 2016 to consider three ballot questions. The questions all ask voters to consider a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, §21C(k). The questions relate to Warrant Articles that are on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, as follows:

Ballot Question 1 – Concord-Carlisle Regional School District – Landfill Site Remediation (see also Article 14 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant)

Ballot Question 2 – School Transportation Facility – Supplemental Appropriation (see also Article 15 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant)

Ballot Question 3 – Minuteman Regional High School Building Project Approval (see also Article 18 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant)

The deadline for registering to vote for the Special Town Election is Friday, March 25th at 8:00 pm. Residents who are not currently registered to vote in Concord who wish to vote must be registered by the deadline. Residents may register to vote in person at the Town House on Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, or on March 25th until 8:00 pm. Registration may also be done online at www.RegisterToVoteMA.com or by mail. Mail-in registrations must be postmarked by the registration deadline. If you are unsure if you are registered, you may verify your voting status through a link from the Town Clerk's web page – www.concordma.gov – click "Elections & Voting" from the home page.

Polls will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm on Election Day, April 14th. If you will be away from Concord during polling hours, or are unable to get to the polls in person on Election Day due to physical limitations or religious beliefs, then you are eligible to vote via absentee ballot. Absentee ballots are available in person at the Town Clerk's Office during office hours (Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, and Friday, March 25th until 8:00 pm) or a ballot may be mailed to you upon receipt of a written request. The deadline for absentee balloting is Noon on Wednesday, April 13th.



HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

RECREATION • SENIOR SERVICES • SOCIAL SERVICES

Veterans News

Contact (978) 318-3038

A new resident to Concord contacted the office requesting assistance with Chapter 115 benefits while he is pursuing gainful employment. The veteran was notified of the information needed to be eligible for the benefit.

The Office of Veterans' Services alerted the State Fire Academy and the Concord Fire Department of a "half-staff" notification in the passing of former First Lady Nancy Reagan and Massachusetts State Trooper Thomas Clardy who was fatally struck on the Mass Pike during a traffic stop.

The Veteran Service Officer assisted several local veterans with payments of their supplemental health insurance, grave flags for deceased veterans, VA medical payments and local medical payments.

The families of two veterans were given assistance by the Veteran Service Officer filing somewhat complicated forms with the VA.

The Office also received a call about a missing American Flag in the Veteran Memorial Park in Concord Center. It appears that the weather destroyed the rope on the flag pole. It is in the process of being replaced.

Community Services

Contact: (978) 318-3034

During this week the Community Services Coordinator received 16 phone calls, 37 emails and had 2 home/office visits all related to requests for assistance. The requests were for housing payments, transportation options, utility bill payments, summer camp scholarship information, fuel assistance and food assistance.

The Community Services Coordinator attended the Youth Mental Health First Aid training held at the Ripley Building in Concord on March 18th, 2016 from 9am-4pm.

Anyone under the age of 60 who is interested in applying for Fuel Assistance, please contact Aileen Buford, MSW. The deadline for applications has been extended to May 13th, 2016. Email or call for eligibility requirements. 978.318.3034 or abuford@concordma.gov

Any Concord resident interested in applying for a Summer Camp Scholarship, please contact Aileen Buford, MSW at abuford@concordma.gov or 978.318.3034. Deadline to apply is April 25th.

The Garden Club of Concord offers a scholarship for undergrads and graduate students. Applications are due by April 15, 2016. For more information about the application process please contact: Sarah Newton at sarah.b.newton@gmail.com



CONCORD PUBLIC WORKS (CPW)
ADMINISTRATION • ENGINEERING • HIGHWAY & GROUNDS • WATER & SEWER

Contact: (978) 318-3206

Spring Restoration and Cleaning Activities

Prior to the March 21st snowfall, the below average annual snowfall and spring like temperatures has been very beneficial for CPW Highway and Grounds crews, allowing for an early start on many springtime tasks. Street sweepers have started the annual town-wide sweeping program with the initial focus on main roads. Repairs are being completed to lawn and curb areas that were damaged by plows during the winter due to non-frozen ground during initial plowing events. CPW Grounds Division crews have started the spring cleanup at athletic fields and have reinstalled soccer and tennis nets that were stored for the winter.

Curbside Solid Waste and Recycling Invoices / Solid Waste Barrel Stickers Available

The spring 2016 barrel stickers are now available for sale at the Town House and retail establishments for the upcoming subscription period of April 1, 2016 – September 30, 2016. The spring curbside fee invoices are due March 25th. Please feel free to call (978) 318-3240 with any questions.

Spring Business Recycling Collection Event

The spring 2016 business recycling event is scheduled for Friday, April 1st, from 9 AM -12 PM. The event will be held at the 300 Baker Ave. parking lot. Concord Public Works partners with the Chamber of Commerce for this collection as well as Normandy Real Estate Partners who provide the use of their facility for this event. The vendors at this year's collection are Complete Recycling Solutions (CRS) and Doc Shredding Corp. These events are a great opportunity for Concord businesses to properly dispose of old computers, printers, fax machines, other electronics, and fluorescent light bulbs. Businesses can pre-register by calling Complete Recycling Solutions at (866) 277-9797. For additional information contact Concord Public Works at (978) 318-3240 or visit www.concordma.gov.

Department of Planning & Land Management (DPLM)
BUILDING INSPECTION • PLANNING • NATURAL RESOURCES • BOARD OF HEALTH • ZONING

Natural Resources Division

Contact: 978-318-3285

Natural Resources Commission (NRC) meeting of March 16: The NRC heard the following matters: the continued Notice of Intent (NOI) for Concord Public Works to replace culverts in Sleepy Hollow cemetery; an NOI for 1266 Lowell Road to bring a portion of the property back into agricultural production; and an Amended NOI for construction of a pool, pool house and other landscape amenities at 415 Lowell Road. Minor tree removal projects were approved for 367 Thoreau Street, 24 Off Harrington Road, and 155 Old Bedford Street.

New applications received this week for the March 30th NRC meeting include: a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for the Concord Land Conservation Trust to install three deer exclosures in Wright Woods for research purposes; an RDA for the MBTA to perform vegetation management; an NOI for 920 Sudbury Road to raise and reconstruct a well house; and an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation for 40 Squaw Sachem Trail to confirm the wetland delineation.

Building Inspections Division

Contact: (978) 318-3280

Monitoring AirBNB for short term rentals: Concord Building Inspections Division staff continues to monitor the AirBNB website for houses/rooms in Concord being advertised for short term rentals (that is for less than a 30-day period). Zoning enforcement letters are being sent out to property owners when such properties are identified.



Department of Planning & Land Management (DPLM)
BUILDING INSPECTION • PLANNING • NATURAL RESOURCES • BOARD OF HEALTH • ZONING

Planning Division

Contact: (978) 318-3290

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase 2B Plans available on line: MassDOT Project Manager Sreelatha Allam provided the 25% design plans and reports for BFRT Phase 2B (the bridge over Route 2 that will connect the Acton and Concord portions of the trail). These plans have been posted on the Town's website at:

http://concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_Freeman/index. See "Additional Links" for the 'Phase 2B 25% Design Info' button and click on the button, which will take you to the list of plans.

Floor Area Ratio to be considered at 2016 Annual Town Meeting: In response to comments and concerns raised by Town residents, the Planning Board has been investigating ways to address the trend toward demolition of smaller homes that are then replaced by significantly larger homes believed by many to be out of character with established neighborhoods. The Board has submitted a zoning bylaw amendment which proposes to implement a Floor Area Ratio requirement in the residential zoning districts, found under Article 42 in the warrant for Town Meeting. At public meetings over the past year, the Board heard various issues, concerns and questions about the Article. The Board has developed a Frequently Asked Question Fact Sheet to answer some of these questions prior to Town Meeting; the fact sheet is available on line at: http://concordma.gov/pages/concordma_news/0236B813-000F8513.

Zoning Board of Appeals Site Visit to 269 Sudbury Road: On March 16th, ZBA members conducted a site visit to 269 Sudbury Road to view the property that is the subject of an application to demolish the existing house and build a new house that is more than 50% greater than the gross floor area of the existing structure. The Board will be discussing this application further at the April 14th meeting. Plans are available on the Zoning Board of Appeals web page under Meeting Documents.

Permitting Guide final draft available for review: The Planning Division has been working with other Town departments and a consultant to prepare a permitting guide that provides information about the permitting process for development projects large and small. The final draft is now available for review on the Planning Division's website at: http://concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_Planning/index. Please click on the button under the "Additional Links" section to view the draft Permitting Guide. Comments are due by Friday, April 15th.

Septic system permitting: 8 septic design plans reviewed, 6 septic permits issued and 2 denied with design changes requested. 3 Deep test holes witnessed; 16 septic field inspections. 13 Building Reviews and 3 Sewer Reviews completed.

Health Division

Contact: 978-318-3275

Food Service: 5 food service re-inspections in Lincoln (Concord works cooperatively with the Town of Lincoln to provide inspectional services).

Other: 1 housing inspection completed. 1 well permit issued. 1 beaver removal permit issued.

Concord Board of Health: At its March 15 meeting, the Board of Health discussed Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 45 Bylaw Prohibiting Polystyrene in Food Service Ware. The Board reached a consensus to take a position of No Action on Article 45 as written.