



TOWN OF CONCORD

Town Manager's Report

Week of: February 22, 2016

Concord Police Sponsors Training at CCHS Regarding Veterans' Issues

On February 17 and 18 the Concord Police Department sponsored training provided by the Edith Norse Rogers Memorial Veteran's Hospital. The training took place at Concord Carlisle High School. In attendance were over two hundred First Responders including nearly all Concord Police Officers. The Officers learned about post deployment issues facing returning veterans, specifically, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and reintegration issues related to traumatic brain injuries, social impact and substance abuse. The First Responders were provided guidance to assist with recognizing and approaching people in crisis. In addition strategies were learned to identify warning signs of suicide and resources available through the Veteran's Administration and community treatment options. (the picture shows Chief Joseph O'Connor welcoming the attendees and introducing Lieutenant John Rocca of the Veterans Administration Police Department.



Concord Light Plant Presents to Concord Academy Class

Recently Concord Municipal Light Plant (CMLP) Assistant Director, Chris Roy, and Electrical Engineer, Jeff Cosgrove, were invited to speak to Concord Academy juniors and seniors about a vast array of topics ranging from the electric grid, the history of CMLP, career paths, how electricity is generated and the differences between a municipal utility and an investor-owned utility. Students also took a trip to CMLP's Substation 219. These activities were part of Concord Academy's Modern Engineering class taught by Kim Frederick. As part of the class, students will be asked to choose a topic and create a podcast that dives a little deeper into the subject. The material presented by Chris and Jeff will be options for further exploration via the podcasts.

Concord Fire Dept. (CFD) News

Contact:(978) 318-3488

After a lengthy promotional process, Firefighter Billy Nelson was recently promoted to Lieutenant, effective February 21, 2016. Lt Nelson became a firefighter in 2003 and is assigned to Group 2 Engine 4 at Station 2.

A big welcome aboard to new firefighters who started their careers with the CFD during the week of February 8th. Matt Avis and Michael Allain come to us as certified firefighters and are completing their initial orientation. They will be assigned to the ambulance (A3) in West Concord.

On February 14, CFD responded to a car fire on Davis Court. The car was found fully involved in fire with some minor extension to the adjacent building. The car was quickly extinguished and any minor fire extension taken care of.

On the night of February 14, Engine 4 and Ladder 1 responded with mutual aid to Arlington Street in Acton for a two alarm house fire.

During and following the recent extreme cold spell, CFD responded to many sprinkler and domestic water pipe breaks.

Concord Cares Program

Emergency Oil Disbursement Program

- Provides up to 75 gallons emergency fuel for Concord households in heating fuel crisis.
- Contact Community Services Coordinator for residents below age 60 at 978.318.3034
- Contact the Concord Council on Aging for residents age 60 and above at 978.318.3020

After hours, emergency need, contact Fire Dept. 978.318.3488 or Police Dept. 978.318.3400



HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

RECREATION * SENIOR SERVICES * SOCIAL SERVICES

Veterans News

Contact (978) 318-3038

The Office of Veterans' Services finalized quotes for the purchase veterans' grave flags for this year. The final price was \$.63 per flag with a purchase of 20 gross, \$.02 less per flag than last year. Concord will receive a 75% reimbursement from the State.

The Office received a call from the family of a deceased veteran who wanted to donate his uniform and other military equipment. The Office will "recycle" any equipment that is donated.

The office notified the State Fire Academy in Sudbury and the Concord Fire Officers of a State notification to lower municipal flags to half-staff immediately with the passing of US Associate Justice Antonin Scalia. Flags are to remain at half-staff until sunset on the day of interment.

The spouse of a deceased veteran misplaced her Town veteran benefit check. A "stop payment" was placed on the check and a new check issued.

The Office has been working with the Council on Aging assisting several veterans with issues on overdue unpaid real estate taxes, financial assistance with prescriptions, and obtaining military discharge papers for healthcare benefits.

The Office received a call from a resident stating that she received a call from an organization who claims to assist local veterans with donations. This unknown organization spoke to the resident as if they were friends but when the resident asked who they were, the reply was a name and address in Concord, both of which do not exist. The phone number that the call came from is in Auburn, MA. The scam asks residents to tape a check to their front door.

Community Services

Contact: (978) 318-3034

The Community Services Coordinator (CSC) continues to work with Concord residents under the age of 60 to assist with applying for SMOC Fuel Assistance and the Good Neighbor Energy Fund. Any Concord resident under the age of 60 interested in applying for fuel assistance please contact Aileen Buford, MSW for more information and to determine eligibility.

WINTER FUN FESTIVAL – FEBRUARY 27th –FREE EVENT Sponsored by the Concord Recreation Dept. at Emerson Playground from 1pm-5pm. This event includes a bon fire, ice skating, crafts, hot chocolate, snowshoe relay, movie @ 5pm in Hunt Gym. Other food available from various vendors for purchase.

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 in the Community Services Department at 978.318.3034 or abuford@concordma.gov

Open Table: New venue, new day, new time -- SUDBURY/MAYNARD locations:

Free Community Dinner – Tuesdays at 6:00pm at Sudbury Methodist Church 251 Old Sudbury Rd, Sudbury

Food Pantry – Monday evenings from 5:00pm – 7:00pm at the Coolidge School on Bancroft Street in Maynard

CONCORD LOCATION & TIMES REMAIN THE SAME—

Thursdays at First Parish Church on Lexington Road in Concord –Pantry 4:30-6:30pm with dinner at 5:30pm.



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

Contact: (978) 318-3206

Cold Weather Planning for Water and Sewer Piping

During the recent “deep freeze” experienced over the President’s Day holiday weekend, the CPW Water/Sewer Division received six different “emergency” water service trouble calls – all associated with frozen water pipes or meters. If you have not already, please remember to check around your home or business for areas where water supply lines are located in unheated areas. This may include the basement, crawl space, attic, garage, and under kitchen and bathroom cabinets. Both hot and cold water pipes in these areas should be insulated.

President’s Day Winter Storm Emergency Response

CPW crews were faced with another complex winter weather event on the night of Monday, February 15, 2016. Snow began falling in the Concord area around 7:00 PM and slowly transitioned to freezing rain around 11:00 PM before changing to all rain and tapering off in the morning. The multiple types of precipitation can pose significant challenges for winter maintenance operations; especially the timing of plowing and applying treatment to the roads. Supervisors continuously monitored the roads and weather throughout the night and adjusted the operation accordingly to optimize the efficiency and effectiveness of the response.

Walden Street Landfill Closure Report

A two-year report, which summarizes the ground water testing and soil gas monitoring results as well as other landfill closure activities performed at the landfill during the two year period, 2014-2015, was prepared by the CPW Solid Waste Division and submitted to MassDEP on February 10, 2016 in compliance with State requirements. MassDEP requires two-year reports for all MA closed landfills.

2016-2018 Pavement Markings Contract

Bids for the 3 year renewable pavement markings contract were opened on Friday February 19th. The apparent low bidder was Hi-Way Safety Systems of Rockland, MA. The project’s bid timeline is developed to ensure the painting of the parade route can be completed prior to Patriots’ Day.

Church Street/Commonwealth Avenue Traffic Calming Bumpouts & Plaza

The CPW Engineering Division resumed conceptual design of the roadway and park improvement project in late February. The anticipated scope for the project includes the installation of new bump outs, creation of sitting plaza between Twin Seafood and Concord Teacakes, storm water improvements, and improvements to Mandrioli Park. CPW will meet with members of the West Concord Advisory Committee and the West Concord Green Thumbs to review the project’s conceptual drawings to gain feedback and input prior to finalizing for construction.



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

Health Division

Contact: 978-318-3275

Septic system permitting: 4 septic design plans reviewed with 3 septic permits issued and 1 denied with request for design changes; 1 septic variance requested and reviewed; 1 Certificates of Compliance issued. 2 Deep test holes witnessed; 1 septic field inspection. 1 Building Review completed. 4 letters of non-compliance issued to owners of Innovative/Alternative sewage treatment systems in Lincoln that are not in compliance with operation and monitoring requirements.

521 Virginia Rd: Design plans were received and are under review for upgrade of the septic system at 521 Virginia Rd., which will serve the proposed school to be operated by the Guild for Human Services.

Food Service: Plan review for commercial kitchen application, New Life Church, 221 Baker Ave. 2 reinspections of Concord Provisions, 75 Thoreau St., for build out of renovated/expanded commercial kitchen which is under construction. Site inspection of Papa Razzi, 768 Elm St., to review new organic waste recycling program on site. Consultations with event organizers and food vendors for permitting of two Temporary Food Events to be held at the Thoreau Club: Chefs Challenge to benefit the Acton Food Pantry and Miracle League Casino Night.

Other inspections: 1 housing inspection and 1 extension to correct current violations granted. 1 complaint investigation regarding lifeguard safety protocols at a semi-public swimming pool.

Emergency Dispensing Site for Medical Countermeasures in a public health emergency: Health Division staff met with Emergency Management Director Mark Cotreau and school staff at the new CCHS building to plan for use of the building as the Town's site for dispensing of medication or vaccines in the event of a public health emergency.

Septic Betterment Loan Program: There has been a flurry of interest in this program in recent weeks, with 10 application packets being mailed to interested residents in the past month, and 3 completed applications returned to begin the loan process. Residents are reminded that the Town offers loans of up to \$30,000 to help offset some of the costs associated with the replacement of a failed septic system. The septic betterment loans are offered at a two percent (2%) interest rate, to be paid back over 10 years. The loan is secured as a betterment assessment against the property. To qualify, applicants must provide proof that the existing septic system has failed a Title 5 inspection and file the report with the Board of Health. For an informational packet or more details, please contact Karen Byrne at the Concord Health Division, (978) 318-3275.

Board of Health meeting of February 16th: The Board of Health discussed Town Meeting Article 45, Bylaw Prohibiting Polystyrene in Food Service Ware, in particular the amount of effort and staff time that might be required to enforce the bylaw if it is passed at Town Meeting. The Board reviewed results of groundwater monitoring conducted at the new artificial turf field at CCHS; all organic chemicals and metals were below detection limits in these samples. The Board reviewed the results of the most recent round of sampling for lead in water fixtures at several Concord schools; all schools' results were within acceptable limits for lead. The Board approved preliminary septic betterment lien assessments for 215 Fairhaven Hill Rd., 109 Minuteman Dr., and approved a final betterment lien for 118 Wright Rd.

- GPI and CPW-Engineering responded to one of the owners of 30 and 40 Beharrell Street about their concerns about access to the rear of the buildings that abut the State R.O.W./future rail trail and parking facility and how it will be provided.

Historic Districts Commission (HDC) meeting of February 11: The HDC reviewed two continued, and four new, applications for changes in the Historic Districts. The Commission approved Certificates of Appropriateness for the installation of a trellis at 52 Bow Street and the installation of a USS Concord Bell memorial at 12 Main Street (the two continued applications) and for lighting at 169 Lowell Road; signage at 83-91 Main Street; signage at 45 Walden and lighting, paint colors, garage doors and gutters at 427 Lowell Road. The Commission's next meeting will be Thursday, February 18.



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 meeting of February 17th: The NRC heard the following matters: the continued Notice of Intent (NOI) for MassDOT to construct the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail; the continued NOI for Mill Brook Tarry for the Commission to consider the construction of an elevated parking deck over the isolated vegetated wetland in the Mill Brook Tarry Plaza; the continued NOI for 68 Cambridge Turnpike to construct a garage; and a new NOI for 144 Nashoba Road to reconstruct the existing driveway and landscape the property. The Commission also heard and approved a Minor Modification for the Middlesex School for site modifications to the Campus/Music Center. A Minor Modification for 163 Lindsay Pond Road to install an irrigation well was not approved.

New applications received this week for the March 2nd NRC meeting include: an NOI for the Minute Man National Historic Park to reconstruct the parking area at 955 Lexington Road; an NOI for Concord Public Works to construct a footbridge and retrofit a culvert at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery; and a Request for Determination of Applicability for the Wright Farm Condominium Association to conduct invasive species management.

Planning Division

Contact: (978) 318-3290

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail: 100% design plans were received and will be posted on the Town's website the week of February 22nd; received email confirmation that the Federal Categorical Exclusion was approved, which allows the right-of-way process to move forward.

Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) 'First Mile/Last Mile' grant: Received the proposed Work Description from CTPS in 1) identifying ways to improve or expand the existing network of trails and streets for bicyclists and pedestrians; 2) evaluate the potential for first- and last-mile transit connections; and, 3) identify potential improvements in amenities for people arriving at commuter rail stations on foot or by bike. Planning staff is reviewing the work description to provide guidance on next steps.

Zoning Board of Appeals meeting of February 18th: The ZBA voted to adopt the Planning Board's recommended Planned Residential Development Moderate Affordable Eligibility Guidelines. Concord has made a significant effort to create housing restricted to moderate income households through the provisions of Zoning Bylaw (ZBL) Section 10. Planned Residential Development (PRD), based on the local need for more moderately priced housing. In the ZBL, moderate income households are defined as households earning over 80% to 150% of the Area Median Income (AMI). With input from the Regional Housing Services Office, the Concord Housing Development Corporation, the Concord Housing Foundation, and the Planning Board, these eligibility guidelines provide prospective developers with information on the Town's expectations for a PRD project. It allows the developer to factor this information into their project proposal from the beginning, thereby reducing the potential for issues during the public hearing process.



Finance Department

Contact: (978) 318-3090

2016 MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAX BILLS ISSUED ON FEBRUARY 16th

The Registry of Motor Vehicles has provided all Massachusetts municipalities the data necessary to issue the first commitment for calendar year 2016 motor vehicle excise tax bills. The information appearing on the bills is provided to the Registry of Motor Vehicles by the Insurance Company that insures the vehicle.

Over 14,200 motor vehicle excise tax bills for the 2016 bill year have been mailed to persons garaging a vehicle in the Town of Concord. The bill for the full year is owed to the municipality where the vehicle is garaged on January 1, 2016. The due date for payment of the excise tax bills to be received at the Town House is March 9, 2016. In accordance with state law, postmarks cannot be considered as timely payment. Late payment is subject to additional fees and interest charges by law.

The motor vehicle excise tax is assessed at a rate of \$25.00 per thousand dollars of taxable value. The value is based on the manufacturer's list price of the vehicle for the model year as according to the N.A.D.A. Blue Book. This starting value is then depreciated yearly up to the 5th year – according to a schedule set forth in state law - and the excise tax calculation each year is based on the depreciated value. It is not based on the actual original purchase price or on the current market value.

DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE:

Year prior to model year	50%
Model Year	90%
Second year	60%
Third Year	40%
Fourth Year	25%
Fifth Year and each year thereafter	10%

Owners of vehicles registered in late calendar year 2015 or after January 1, 2016 will be issued 2016 excise tax bills as information is forwarded to the Town from the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Tax bills issued for vehicles newly registered during the calendar year receive a tax bill in which the full year bill is prorated based upon the number of full and partial months remaining in 2016.