



TOWN OF CONCORD

Town Manager's Report

Week of: June 4th, 2018

Special Election June 12, 2018

A Special Town Election will be held on June 12th to vote on 1 question which is a bylaw to prohibit non-medical marijuana establishments in Concord. A "yes" vote on this question would prohibit any marijuana establishment, as defined in chapter 94G, section 1 of the General Laws, from operating in Concord. A "no" vote disapproves the bylaw, meaning the prohibitions described would not take effect in Concord. For more information please visit: <http://concordma.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=450> or visit concordma.gov/TownClerk



Special Town Election

VOTE!

JUNE 12, 2018

Question 1: Bylaw to prohibit non-medical marijuana establishments in Concord

POLLS OPEN 7AM – 8PM

More information: <https://bit.ly/2IGE5NI>

Jazz Fest

The Middlesex Jazz Festival at Concord Center will be taking place this Saturday, June 9th beginning at 1pm. The festival features four 20 piece Big Bands and five smaller jazz ensembles. Join Concord Recreation, local businesses, and music enthusiasts during this great event!

For more information please visit <http://www.middlesexjazzfest.org/>



Annual Library Book Sale

Congratulations to the Friends of the Concord Public Library who raised \$23,474 at the Annual Book Sale surpassing their best fundraising efforts to date! What a great community event and what an accomplishment.

Public Works Updates

Recycling Market Update

The recycling market has been the focus of a number of news stories and articles since China's "National Sword" policy went into effect earlier this year. China's National Sword Policy banned certain recyclables from being exported to China and imposed a much stricter contamination level for bales / loads of recyclables that are exported to China. It has been estimated that prior to China's National Sword Policy, more than 50% of the world's recyclable mixed paper and plastics were shipped to China. This is no longer the case. Currently, no recyclables are being shipped to China from the US (China recently suspended inspections/certificates for all US recyclables through June 4, 2018).

This has had an adverse effect on the recycling markets, and prices for commodities such as paper, plastic, glass, etc. have steadily declined over the past several months. According to MassDEP, "Chinese Government restrictions on imports of recyclable commodities have had dramatic effects on recycling in Massachusetts, across the country, and around the world."

Some recycling contractors (both US and international) have found it challenging to find markets for recyclables that were previously shipped to China, and now have an excess of stockpiled recyclables. As mentioned in a recent New York Times article (<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/29/climate/recycling-landfills-plastic-papers.html>), officials in some states, including Massachusetts, have "granted waivers so that unmarketable materials can be sent to the landfill."

In Massachusetts, the MassDEP is authorized to issue disposal waivers for recyclables to haulers and MRFs (material recovery facilities a.k.a. recycling facilities), only when no other options are available. The Town's recycling contractor, Waste Management Inc., informs Concord Public Works that they do not have the need to apply for disposal waivers for recyclables currently, as they're able to ship commodities for recycling both domestically and internationally. The recyclables collected on the Town's curbside program continue to be recycled as in the past.

While a number of communities have experienced higher recycling costs since China's "National Sword" policy went into effect, Concord's recycling costs for commingled recyclables collected on the Town's curbside program have remained stable as the Town's contract with Waste Management has fixed pricing for commingled recyclables (\$31 per ton currently). The Town is presently paying \$35 per ton for paper collected on the curbside program, in accordance with the paper revenue-share / cost provision in the Town's contract with Waste Management. Some MA communities are paying significantly more for recycling.

Dual stream recycling programs like Concord's typically have a lower contamination rate than single stream recycling programs. One result is that dual stream recyclables – especially paper, can be more marketable / easier to move than single stream recyclables. Fortunately, the Town's strategy to maintain our dual stream program, in the face of pressure to convert to single stream, is paying further dividends for now in this down market.

Concord Public Works greatly appreciates the hard work and effort made by Concord's Curbside Recycling Program customers and will continue to closely monitor the recycling markets in the weeks and months ahead.

Concord Public Works Bike Giveaway

Concord Public Works will be hosting its 3rd annual bicycle giveaway event for Concord residents on Wednesday, June 20th, at the Public Works Facility located at 133 Keyes Road from 4 PM - 7:00 PM, on a first arrive, first choose basis. The bike giveaway will include bicycles that were collected at the 10/14/17 and 5/5/18 Drop Off events. An official, no cost pass is required to receive a bike.

Residents may pre-register and obtain a limited availability pass to attend the event beforehand by contacting Concord Public Works at (978) 318-3240 beginning on June 5th at 9:00 AM. Based on the availability of bicycles, residents may also obtain a pass at the event, however, CPW anticipates high interest in this event and urges residents to obtain their pass early. Residents will be admitted to select their bicycle based on order of arrival with a valid pass at the Keyes Road facility. The inventory includes both adult and children's bicycles and is a great opportunity to further Concord's practices of environmentally sustainable activities and acquire a bicycle at no cost to Concord residents. Any bicycles that remain after the event will be donated to non-profit organizations.

Lowell Road Milling and Paving Update

Contractor Lazaro Paving, finished milling the pavement on Lowell during the week of May 28th and crews were Friday raising drainage castings and gate boxes. This work will be completed Monday, weather permitting.

During the week of June 4th Lazaro Paving is scheduled to install the top course of pavement on Lowell Rd from Barrett's Mill to Westford Road beginning on Thursday, June 7th. This work is anticipated to take place over two days with paving commencing at 9:00 AM each day. Please note, construction time may be extended to a 6:00 PM stop time and this schedule is highly weather dependent. On a related note, sub-contractor, Fenton and Son, will begin to mobilize to inspect the area and begin installing erosion control requirements for the drainage work planned on Assabet Ave.