



Town of Concord

Operations Report

2025 Volume 3/February 7, 2025

General Administration

Update: Cell Tower Project at 755 Walden Street

The Concord Landfill, located at 755 Walden Street, has been designated as the preferred site for a new cell tower following the approval of Article 38, *Citizen Petition: Citizen Support for a New Cell Tower Located at the Landfill*, at the 2024 Town Meeting. This location previously housed an AT&T tower in the early 2000s, which was removed around 2003-2004. Improving cell service in Concord is a key goal of the Select Board for Fiscal Year 2025, and the establishment of a new tower at this site aligns with the town's efforts to enhance connectivity and address coverage gaps.

In October 2024, the Town issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking a qualified provider to construct and operate a new cell tower at the site. Three proposals were received in January 2025 from American Tower, Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, and Wireless Edge Towers. A selection team appointed by the Town Manager carefully reviewed the proposals based on the criteria outlined in the RFP. After a thorough evaluation, Wireless Edge Towers was selected as the most advantageous proposal. The Wireless Edge Towers submission demonstrated superior technical expertise, a strong track record with similar projects, and a well-documented plan to accommodate at least five major wireless carriers. Additionally, Wireless Edge expressed a commitment to working closely with the Town to refine specifications and ensure the project meets local needs.

On February 5, the Town Manager formally notified Wireless Edge of their selection. The next steps in the process include finalizing a lease agreement and an application to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a special permit. The Town will continue to provide updates as the project progresses.

Concord250

The 2025 Patriots Day Parade on Saturday, April 19 is a little over eight weeks away. Town Staff and 250 Committee members continue to meet regularly to finalize details for the weekend and other Concord 250 related events. A drone show is planned for the evening of the 19th and a group is also working on family friendly activities between the parade and the drone show.



Community members and others can find out about Concord250 related

events and logistical details by signing up for [Concord250 - Stay Connected notifications](#).

Health Division

Community Health Updates

Public Health Nurse Moira Carter, along with interns, has been continuing work on the 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), analyzing data and putting together a summary report. Moira has also been busy distributing COVID-19 at-home tests to the Council on Aging (COA), Libraries, and Emergency Assistance Shelter to ensure easy access for residents. Tests are also available at the Health Department Office at 141 Keyes Road.

Moira continues to collaborate with Emerson's Mental Health Working Group and recently partnered with the COA to give a talk on mental health awareness. She's also supporting the "Yellow Tulip Project," which focuses on reducing stigma around mental health and connecting residents with resources. Keep an eye out this spring for yellow tulips blooming at the Beede Center and COA as part of this initiative. On top of all that, Moira attended MEMA's "Before Help Arrives" training to support preparedness efforts ahead of Concord's 250th celebration.

Behind the Scenes: Health Department Staff

The rest of the Health Department team has been focused on a range of projects. Staff are comparing Concord's permit fees with those of surrounding towns, updating local tobacco retailers on the new Tobacco-Free Generation bylaw, and coordinating food vendor permits for the upcoming 250th celebration. The team is also completing Incident Command System (ICS) training to strengthen emergency preparedness.

In addition, staff have been involved in the Concord Behavioral Health Collaborative meetings and working to finalize the septic system at the new middle school.

Economic Vitality

Food Safety Training

This program is presented by the Economic Vitality and Health Divisions with training led by Berger Food Consulting. There are a total of three trainings scheduled: 2/1, 2/11, and 3/4. The training proved to be very popular and the next two classes are fully enrolled with 34 students each.



Participants include staff of local businesses, members of churches, and members of social clubs that frequently host programming where food is served. The training is a manager level certification in food safety and allergen awareness. The Massachusetts food code now requires all food establishments to have a certified manager on site at all times. This training adds capacity to local businesses and various venues to host events and other programming.

The Food Safety Equipment grant program deadline was last Friday and applications are now being processed. Two types of grants will be awarded to over a dozen groups — to farm stands and to businesses who will be serving food at the 250th and other events.

Town Engineer

Main street/Baker Ave/Cottage Street Intersection Traffic Signal

The traffic signal control cabinet at the intersection was struck and damaged by a motor vehicle on Thursday morning and disabled the signal operations entirely. The Highway and Grounds Division put out temporary stop signs on the Baker Ave and Cottage St approaches as well as warning signs on Main St. CPW's signal maintenance contractor (Electric Light) determined that the signal cabinet and controller could not be repaired and placed the signal lights on flashing yellow for the Main St approaches and flashing red for

Baker Ave and Cottage St approaches while a new controller cabinet was being acquired and installed. The pedestrian crossing signals were not operable as well during this time. Considerable traffic backups and delays on Cottage St and Baker Ave were observed during the rush hour times. A new controller cabinet was installed and the signals were back in operation at the end of day, Friday. The Town will be pursuing the recovery of costs from the insurance of the vehicle involved. It should be noted that the damaged traffic box is one that was painted decoratively by an artist last year under a program sponsored by the West Concord Junction Cultural District Committee.

Main Street - National Grid's Gas Leaks

This past week, National Grid completed a repair on Main St near the Walden St intersection. However, there appears to be another leak in the area which will make it the third gas leak since Main St was repaved last fall. It is regrettable that National Grid did not seize the opportunity to upgrade their gas infrastructure when CPW Engineering notified them of plans and schedules for the intersection and street paving projects. Engineering continues to work with National Grid on final street restoration requirements and timing for the locations of the leaks with the hopes that the work will be completed before the 250th events. The paving at the Walden St intersection needs to be completed with enough curing time for the installation of the patterned crosswalks.

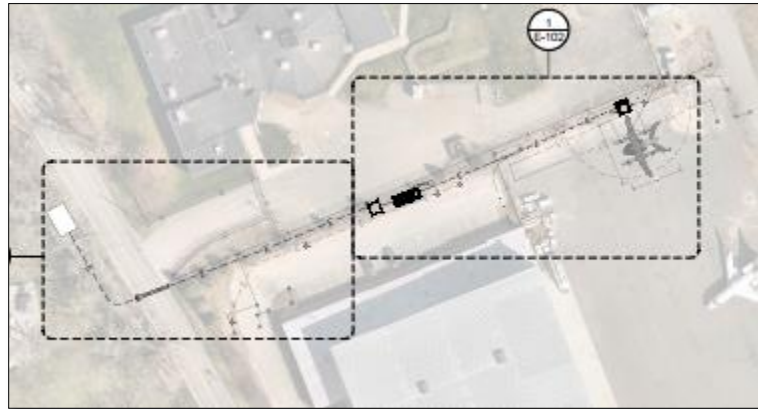
Virginia Road Trench for Beta Technologies

CPW worked to expedite the laying of electrical conduits in Virginia Road to help Beta Technologies implement its high speed electric charger project at the Hanscom Field Airport. Beta wrote: *"This project is part of our aircraft charging network expansion contracted with the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the purpose of which is to support the enhancement of public health preparedness by creating new aero-mobility solutions for distributing Medical Countermeasures (MCM). These network locations are in close proximity to pre-identified major medical facilities."* CPW recognized the regional benefits of this project and in order for Beta to meet its obligations to DHHS, CPW agreed to issue a road opening

permit during its winter permit shutdown period. CMLP will continue to work with Beta to energize the system.

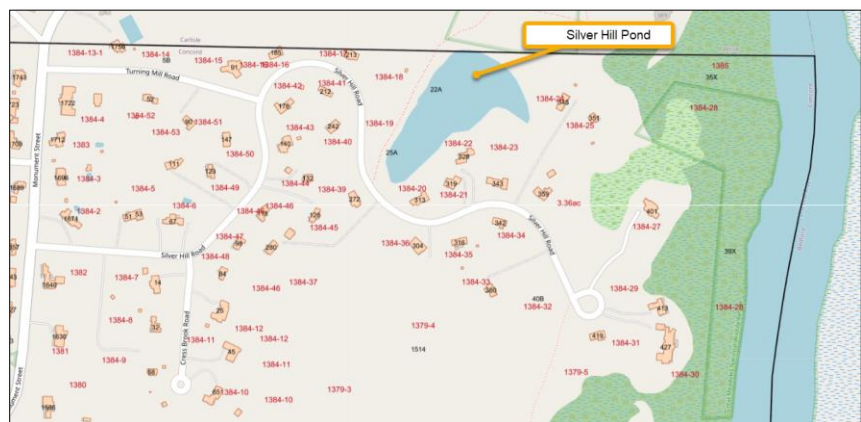
Parking Meter Removal

The contractor, K.B. Arruda Construction, has removed all the meter posts on Thoreau St, Commonwealth Ave, and Church St. Concrete restoration of the holes in the sidewalk has started but is being hampered by freezing temperatures. The concrete work will continue on the warmer days in the week of February 3rd but the removal of the remaining approximately 60 % of the meter posts which are in the downtown area may not occur until the end of March when less freezing is expected. Traffic cones have been placed to mark the locations where the sidewalk needs to be restored.



Silver Hill Rd Neighborhood Improvement Project

All the work related to the replacement of water main, service pipes and hydrants in the 1st phase of this neighborhood project has been completed. The pipe trenches are temporarily paved to get through the winter. Remaining drainage work and road reconstruction will resume in the spring. The design of the 2nd phase of the project is being finalized and will go through permitting by the Natural Resources Commission before going out to bid. CPW Engineering will be meeting with neighborhood residents who are interested in discussing the water quality in the Silver Hill Pond.



Fire Department

Calls for Service

From January 23 to February 6, the fire department responded to a total of 209 calls. Including a 2-alarm fire on Cottage Lane at approximately 11:30 pm on January 30th. There were no injuries. Mutual aid was received from Acton, Bedford, Sudbury, Lincoln, Lexington, Wayland, Weston, Boxborough, and Hanscom fire departments as well as PRO EMS.

Staff

Lieutenant Will Rolfe attended a two-week course, January 12 – 24 at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The course, Command and Control of Fire Department Operations at Natural and Manmade Disasters, is part of a series of Command-and-Control courses designed to prepare incident commanders to manage various types of incidents.



Department of Fire Services Grant received

Concord fire was awarded just over \$15,000 for equipment. The grant is for water rescue equipment, an inflatable boat, and fire gear.

Fire Prevention

Open burning season has started, and the fire prevention division has been managing that permitting process. Fire prevention has been busy with inspections and reviewing fire protection system plans. The Concord Middle School project is nearing completion and last week fire prevention conducted the first two inspections of several needed for fire protection equipment.

Police Department

Calls for Service

Thursday January 30th thru Wednesday February 5th, 2025

- LOG ITEMS: 553
- TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT: 52
- MOTOR VEHICLE STOPS: 64
- MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES AND/OR PAPER EXCHANGES: 9
- ARRESTS: 1

Personnel News

Tim McGonagle was sworn in as the departments' newest Sergeant.