



Town of Concord

Town Manager's Operations Report

2025 Volume 11/June 6, 2025

General Administration

Town Meeting

Concord's 2025 Annual Town Meeting concluded at the Concord Carlisle High School (CCHS) on Wednesday, June 4, 2025. A total of 494 voters participated in the first night of Town Meeting on June 2, 2025. The second night of Town Meeting was attended by 403 citizen legislators. On June 4, 2025, a total of 518 voters checked in for the third and final night of Town Meeting.

Town Meeting included several key approvals. Electronic voting, utilizing clickers rented from Meridia Interactive Solutions, was implemented for most votes after its initial approval. Both the FY26 town and school budgets received approval, as did funding for the new amenity building at the high school. A zoning article, proposed by the New England Deaconess Association (NEDA), was passed, establishing a Continuing Care Retirement Community Overlay District. This allows for a comprehensive range of housing, services, healthcare, hospitality, and wellness options at a single location, supporting older individuals or couples who wish to "age in place." This approval paves the way for NEDA to advance to the public planning process for the expansion of Newbury Court. Additionally, a citizen-initiated petition for a home rule petition to ban SGAR rodenticides was approved and will now proceed to the state legislature. For a complete overview of all actions taken, please refer to the [2025 Town Meeting update](#).

Take the [2025 Annual Town Meeting survey](#) to provide feedback on Town Meeting.

Human Resources

Congratulations to our April **GEM** Lottery Award winner Ebony Sodl from the Health Department! For **G**oing the **E**xtra **M**ile, in balancing the daily work of the office along with the demands of the 250th needs and planning, Ebony will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate to a local business to enjoy. Follow this link to learn more about the GEM Program: [Town of Concord \(concordma.gov\)](https://www.concordma.gov)



If you know someone who has gone the extra mile and deserves recognition, nominate them! [GEM-Form \(concordma.gov\)](https://www.concordma.gov) Completed forms can be submitted to Magnolia Begley, mbegley@concordma.gov

Department of Planning and Land Management (DPLM)

Health Division

May has been a busy month for the Health Division as we prepare for summer recreation, beach and pool inspections as well as water quality testing, including:

- Reviewed camp applications and started scheduling inspections.
- Scheduled pool inspections to prep for the summer season.
- Renewed Food Establishment Permits and Keeping of Animal Permits.
- Completed beach inspections and issued seasonal permits.
- Weekly beach water quality testing began the week of May 19, 2025.

Results will be available at the end of each week on the state's <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/interactive-beach-water-quality-dashboard>

Health Community Outreach

Health Division staff participated in several outreach activities to residents and employees. Health Staff supported a table at the Employee Benefits & Wellness Fair on April 29 with mental health resources, sunscreen, tick education, and much more. The Public Health Nurse also gave a talk at the COA on May 22 to provide education on ways individuals can protect themselves from the diseases ticks and mosquitoes can carry.

May was Mental Health Awareness Month, and the Health Division worked to promote the importance of mental health and resources to support it, including an Adult Mental Health

First Aid Training at the Main Library on May 24, promoting the Concord Community Clinician, and a flyer drafted by Concord Behavioral Health Collaborative's Communication Subcommittee and the Great Meadows Public Health Collaborative.

Additionally, yellow tulips bloomed outside of Beede Swim and Fitness Center and the COA as part of a partnership with the Health Division and Emerson Health to support the Yellow Tulip Project. The project aims to smash the stigma associated with mental illness, build community, and remind people that there is help and hope for those living with mental health



conditions. While the tulip blooms have come and gone, the importance of mental health remains, as does the need to support connections to mental health resources. See <https://emersonhealth.org/wellness-resources/behavioral-health-resources/>.

Civic Concord Podcast

Mental Health Awareness Month wrapped up with the 2nd episode of the Civic Concord podcast with an interview with Health Director Melanie Dineen and Concord Public Nurse Moira Carter discussing mental health resources and awareness. New episodes of the [Civic Concord podcast](#) will be released on a regular basis and feature topics of town interest.



Natural Resources Division

Natural Resources Commission

The Natural Resources Commission is scheduled to meet on June 11th. Nine new applications were received including a Notice of Intent (NOI) for invasives species management in the Sudbury River, a NOI for additions to a single family home at 252 Lexington Road, a NOI for additions to a single family home at 90 Nimrod Drive, three NOI's for a subdivision at 874 Barretts Mill Road, a NOI for additions to a single family home at 104 Phillip Farm Road, a NOI for demolition and construction of a single family home at 182

Southfield Road, and a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for site improvement at Thoreau Elementary School.

Warner's Pond Task Force

The Warner's Pond Task Force met on May 22nd and voted to pursue recommending a recurring pond management plan and formulation of a Warner's Pond Management Committee to the Natural Resources Commission. A final recommendation is being drafted for a vote at the next Task Force meeting which will be held in mid-June and is expected to be the final meeting of the Task Force.

Land Management

Two seasonal Conservation Crew staff began on May 19th and May 27th. Both are returning from last season and have completed the first rounds of mowing at 28 conservation land properties across the Town. Mowing will continue through the summer to maintain trails and they will be working on a variety of other land management projects including invasive plant removal and conservation land sign replacements. The annual garlic mustard pull concluded on May 26th and as of May 29th 60 bags have been picked up and disposed of by Town staff.

Planning Division

Assabet River Multi-use Bridge Project

The Planning Division is excited to report that MassDOT has approved the Bridge Type Selection Worksheet for the Assabet River Multi-use Bridge. What does this critical milestone mean? The Bridge Type Selection Worksheet is the culmination of the project development phase. Alternative bridge types, locations, and alignments are reviewed, and a recommendation of a preferred bridge alternative is made by the Town's consulting engineering firm. MassDOT reviews this report to concur with the recommendation of the consulting engineer. Considerations include feasibility, overall project goals, and cost. MassDOT also confirms the preliminary design is sound and complete enough to move towards final design. Now that the MassDOT State Bridge Engineer has granted his approval, the project can proceed to the 25% Design Submission.

Zoning Board of Appeals

At the May 8th meeting, the ZBA approved a special permit at 20 Damon Street to allow the construction of a second story addition over the existing front porch, which would extend the legal non-conforming 19.5' front setback to 19.2' and a special permit at 32 Lowell Road to allow the construction of various additions to the dwelling totaling 946 sq. ft that will extend the

legal nonconforming 5.8 ft. side yard setback on the western property line to 5.6 ft. and extend the legal nonconforming 7ft. side yard setback on the eastern property line to 8.9 ft. and grant relief to exceed the maximum FAR by 324 sq. ft. The Board continued to June 12th an application at 77 Walden Street to allow the construction of a deck with 4 footings within the 100-year floodplain that requires 1.82 c.f. of fill.

Historic Districts Commission & Historical Commission

The Historical Commission and Historic Districts Commission continues to have working sessions nearly every Friday morning on the development of a new Historic Preservation Plan for Concord. The plan will support the integrated, cross-disciplinary approach of Concord's community plan Envision Concord, Bridge to 2030 (2018), furthering Town-wide goals with preservation tools.

The Historical Commission also submitted feedback to MCI Concord Advisory Committee, including a detailed memorandum recommending undertaking an MCI-Concord/West Concord Historic Context Study to support community visioning, interpretation, heritage tourism and community preservation efforts, with a new focus on the cultural history of disenfranchised populations and social justice issues and themes manifest in the fabric of West Concord.

Concord Free Public Library

Sustainability Newsletter

The Climate Corner Newsletter is a quarterly publication by the Concord Free Public Library's Staff Green Team designed to inform the public of the efforts and progress the Library is making towards its current Sustainability Plan. Some highlights from the newsletter include upcoming events such as the Friends Annual Book Sale and Pollinator Week, as well as some helpful book titles for kids and adults regarding sustainability. Check out the latest issue from Spring 2025 here:

<https://concordlibrary.org/learn/sustainability/climate-corner>

Tourism

Revolutionary Valley

On Wednesday June 4th at our Annual Conference, tourism unveiled a new Brand - Now named Revolutionary Valley, with a tag line of Step into History, Stay for More. Revolutionary Valley represents 21 Cities and Towns and is a wonderful opportunity for Concord to partner with our neighbors to spread all the amazing happenings in our town! Here is the new Logo as well as our Table at the Conference and a fun photo of Beth Williams and Sandhya Iyer (Lexington partner) in our Concord 250 wooden cutout!



We were also pleased to recognize three Grant recipients from Concord- Discover Concord Magazine, The Robbins House, and Concord250



Council of Aging

Lounge 250 event

The final Lounge 250 event sponsored by the Rotary Club of Concord was held at the COA on May 27th. DJ Zip Zipfel (DJ from the WAAF days) was on hand, and prom pictures were taken. Hors d'oeuvres and mocktails were served making for good reminiscing and fun.



Resident Paul Boutros was crowned King of the 2025 Senior Prom (pictured with spouse, Irene) and crowned and sashed by Dan Petitt.



Detective and long-time friend to Concord seniors, Derek Rodriguez, visited the COA to talk about the latest scams targeting age 60+ residents. Derek offered warnings, tips and strategies that prove useful in the scamming-age.

