



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Thomas J. Aspell, Jr., City Manager

DATE: July 15, 2022

SUBJECT: 2022 – 2023 City Council Priorities

Recommendation

Accept this report as to the current status of the City Council Priorities established on February 7, 2022.

Background

Members of the City Council met on February 7, 2022 to discuss and set priorities for the remainder of Calendar Year 2022, as well as for Calendar Year 2023.

Discussion

Listed below, are the accepted priorities, projects and ongoing initiatives; and their respective statuses as of June 30, 2022.

GOAL 1. BALANCED BUDGET ISSUES: FY 2023 and 2024

a) Eliminate Use of Fund Balance to Balance Budget

Status: During the 2021 tax rate setting, the City was able to reduce the FY 2022 budgetary use of fund balance by \$929,611 to \$820,589. As part of the FY 2023 Budget adoption, the City Council approved reducing the use of fund balance to \$375,000. City Administration intends to recommend further reduction in Use of Fund Balance to balance the budget, to zero, for the FY 2024 Budget proposal.

b) ARPA Strategy

Status: On March 14, 2022, City Council approved a supplemental resolution appropriating \$4,567,295 in ARPA funds as part of the Standard Revenue Replacement Option under the U.S. Treasury Final Rules for ARPA funds. The City received its first installment of \$2,283,647.65 in July 2021 and anticipates receiving the second installment in July 2022. The first installment was distributed to applicable City Funds for FY 2022. The second installment will be allocated as part of the FY 2023 and FY 2024 budget processes.

The General Services Department successfully obtained an ARPA grant in the amount of \$760,000 from the NH Department of Environmental Services to be applied towards a \$3.8 million facility refurbishment at the Hall Street Wastewater Treatment Facility.

The secondary clarifier replacement project is currently out for bid with results expected on July 13, 2022.

c) Health Insurance Costs

Status: The City has received a renewal on their medical insurance with a 10.25% rate increase driven by high cost claimants and the impact of COVID on the industry as a whole. This rate increase was negotiated from a proposed Not-to-Exceed rate of 14.9%. The new rates will go into effect for FY 2023. Also, for FY 2023, the City will pay 90% of the premium and the employee will pay 10% of the premium. This is a change from the 95/5% cost sharing over the last two years.

d) Grant Funding Opportunities

Status: City staff is currently working on a variety of grant funding opportunities.

The General Services Department has completed a grant application for approximately \$75,000 from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to offset, in part, the replacement of a 2001 Mack sludge hauling truck. In conjunction with the Information Technology Department, the General Services Department is also pursuing grant funds to enhance cybersecurity for the City's water and wastewater treatment facilities. The Wastewater Division has applied for grant funding for 10 infrastructure improvement projects through the NHDES' State Aid Grant and State Revolving Fund programs. Decisions on the applicable grants are expected by the end of December 2022.

The City is currently working on a Federal Aviation Administration Airport Terminals Program grant.

The Fire Department has been awarded \$47,368 in GOFERR Locality Equipment Purchase Program funds to purchase durable equipment to assist in placing a fourth ambulance in service. These funds will also be used to purchase a cardiac monitor/ventilator simulation system that will assist in advanced level EMS clinical training. A public hearing and a request for approval to accept and appropriate funds from this program will occur at the July City Council meeting. Requisitions for procurement of these items are in process.

The City Hazard Mitigation Plan update is underway using FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRICA) grant funds to hire a consultant along with an in-kind match of City employee time.

The Fire Department is still actively working with State officials to secure reimbursements for past COVID-19 related expenses by all City Departments through FEMA Public Assistance grants.

The Fire Department received 25 bicycle helmets through a *Safe & Active 2022* grant through the Injury Prevention Center at Dartmouth-Hitchcock. These will be distributed at no cost to community members by Fire personnel, beginning at the National Night Out event hosted by the Police Department. The Fire Department has also been awarded 12 life jackets from the Lifejacket Loaner Program through the Injury Prevention Center at Dartmouth-Hitchcock. These will be made available for

community members to borrow, at no cost, to improve water safety in the Merrimack River. Logistics for this program are currently in the planning phase.

The Parks and Recreation Department applied for two EDA Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation grants. The first one was for the Phase 2 build of Terrill Park, which includes an artificial turf field with lights, parking area, storage building, equipment and associated site work. The Terrill Park project is fully designed and permitted, and is “shovel ready”. The second grant was for the design, permitting and construction of the boardwalk section of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail, which would connect the built section at Terrill Park to the new cornfield section near Loudon Road. Unfortunately, the City was not awarded either grant.

In January 2022, the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) awarded the Abbot-Downing Society a Brownfields Technical Assistance Grant to complete a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment and Hazardous Building Materials Survey of the former Concord Stables located at 117.5 Warren Street. The City prepared the grant application on behalf of the Abbot-Downing Society. The cost of these assessments is being paid for entirely by the State. These studies will allow the City and Abbot-Downing Society to further refine the redevelopment strategy for the property, as well as position the project for future potential Brownfields Cleanup Grants from the US Environmental Protection Agency and NHDES to support redevelopment efforts.

GOAL 2. COMMUNITY-WIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES TO EXPAND TAX BASE

a) Bricks and Mortar

Status: The commercial construction at Exit 17, called Interchange Development, continues to progress. In March, the Planning Board conditionally approved 1,500 square feet for a restaurant, 2,750 square feet for retail, and 2,500 square feet for a credit union. This is in addition to the already approved Market Basket, State Liquor Outlet, and Wendy’s restaurant at the site. Market Basket has announced that it plans to open in mid to late August.

The Grappone Family received conditional approval from the Planning Board for a new Mazda dealership at 134 Manchester Street.

b) Zoning Rewrite

Status: Work continues on the final draft of Phase 1. Phase 2 public meetings were held virtually March 28-31, 2022. It is anticipated that staff will bring both phases to City Council at the same time for public hearing and adoption in late 2022.

c) Housing

Status:

- i. Former NH Employment Security Property: The City acquired the former NH Employment Security property from the State of New Hampshire on October 31, 2014. The property, which was comprised of two parcels totaling 0.78 acres, consisted of a 26,100 SF building and 73 parking spaces. On May 20, 2021, the City Council approved Resolution #9375, which authorized the City Manager to

enter into a Purchase and Sales Agreement with the John Flatley Company concerning sales and redevelopment of the former NH Employment Security property located at 32-34 South Main Street and 33 South State Street. The Purchase and Sales Agreement was executed on May 17, 2021, and subsequently amended on September 14, 2021 and January 11, 2022. The Developer plans to demolish the existing 26,100 square foot former office building and construct a new 80,000 square foot apartment building featuring 64 market rate units. The new development will have an assessed value of \$8 - \$10.24 million, and will generate \$215,000 - \$275,000 in property taxes annually. Due to governmental ownership, the property has been tax exempt since 1979.

On December 22, 2022, the City completed interior asbestos abatement at the property. The cost of abatement was \$320,000, of which \$200,000 (or 60%) was funded by a grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services.

On March 2, 2022, the Developer secured required variances and special exceptions from the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

On April 20, 2022, the Developer secured conditional site plan approval from the Planning Board for the project.

On June 9, 2022, the City sold the property to the Developer. The Developer has secured the property, and abatement of remaining hazardous building materials is scheduled to begin on July 5, 2022. Following abatement activities, demolition is scheduled to begin on or about August 1, 2022. It is anticipated that demolition will be completed in early September 2022.

The new apartment building is scheduled for completion in fall 2023.

- ii. Penacook Landing Phase 2: On September 18, 2019, the City sold 2.5 acres of the former Allied Leather Tannery site, located at 33-35 Canal Street, to the Caleb Development Corporation (Caleb) for redevelopment into a 54-unit housing project. Phase 1 was completed in October 2020. On October 28, 2021, Caleb was awarded \$467,844 in tax credits from the NH Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA) for Phase 2 of the project. On May 10, 2022, the NHHFA awarded a supplemental allocation of tax credits in the amount of \$20,322 for Phase 2. Phase 2 will feature 20 apartments (15 one bedroom and 5 two bedroom); 18 of which shall be affordable units reserved for income qualified households. The estimated cost of Phase 2 is \$5,514,800 (\$275,740/unit), of which \$4,149,077 will be financed by equity generated by the sale of tax credits for the project. On June 22, 2022, the City's Community Development Advisory Committee approved the Caleb Group's application to the City's Revolving Loan Fund Program for \$600,000 of permanent financing to support Phase 2. The financing package for the project includes funds from five different entities, including the City. Closing on the financing package, and start of construction, will occur in September. The project will be completed in fall 2023. Upon completion, Phase 2 will have an assessed value of \$1,615,000 and generate \$49,000 of property tax revenues for the community annually
- iii. Other: A 16-lot residential single-family subdivision was approved by the Planning Board for a parcel located at the intersection of Sewalls Falls Road and Abbott Road. Construction is imminent.

CATCH Neighborhood Housing has submitted a plan to the Planning Board for 48 units of affordable housing to be located at 303 Sheep Davis Road.

d) Economic Development Website Update

Status: In October 2021, InvestConcordNH.com, the previous Economic Development web site, was archived due to significant price increases and a lack of updating during COVID-19. City staff is currently making improvements to, and reorganizing, the economic development portion of the main City website to make it more accessible, informative, accurate, and engaging. It is expected that this process will be completed in the first quarter of FY 2023.

e) Downtown Business Investment

Status: Staff continues to encourage downtown investment and communicate with pertinent property owners.

f) Outdoor Dining/Food Trucks

Status: The Ad-Hoc Outdoor Dining Committee developed a final outdoor dining policy, which was presented and adopted at the March 14, 2022 City Council meeting. This new policy includes several clarifications to the application process, design standards, and the implementation of a \$3 per square foot usage fee on City property (i.e., sidewalks, public squares, etc.) and a fee of \$1,000 per parking space encumbrance per dining season. The dining season will run from April 15, 2022 to November 15, 2022. The committee subsequently forwarded a revised Peddler's ordinance and a new policy for food trucks operating throughout the City, which was approved in May.

g) Fees/Rent Analysis

Status: The Ad-Hoc Fee Committee has met with and completed its recommendations for the Parks & Recreation Department. The proposed fee changes will be submitted to City Council in July for public hearing and action in August. Additionally, the Committee met with the Community Development Department on June 27, 2022, and will continue its discussion through the beginning of FY 2023.

GOAL 3. PUBLIC SAFETY WORK

a) Fire Stations and Police Station Analysis

Status: The Fire Department will begin long-term planning discussions with City Administration soon, based on results of the recently completed ESCI Station Location Study. This study, along with the H.L. Turner Group Building Assessment reports, will be shared with the Public Safety Advisory Board. The Fire Department buildings continue to incur increased expenses for maintenance and replacement of aging systems.

The Police Department recently underwent a Building Assessment conducted by the H.L. Turner Group. The report generated from this assessment outlined many building deficiencies, safety issues, and spatial needs, both short- and long-term. This assessment also outlined possible options for remodeling of the current building and/or constructing a new building. The Police Department has well outgrown the functional

capabilities of its current building. The building, as it stands, now would fall short of many police accreditation standards. The building itself could certainly serve as an asset for the City as part of the City Hall Complex, however, the days where it can serve as Police Headquarters have passed and improvements or replacement have become imperative.

The Police Department shared the results of the H.L. Turner Group Building Assessment with the City Administration and City Council on May 9, 2022. Chief Brad Osgood; along with Gerard Blanchette and Doug Proctor, from the H.L. Turner Group; briefed the City Council on the report and the current status of the Police Department building. This conversation focused on both the anticipated maintenance needs of several key components of the building, as well as how the Police Department has outgrown the physical size and layout of the building. It was discussed that the current Police Department is nearly 50 years old and does not meet the needs of a modern professional policing facility.

b) Enhance Emergency Management Services

Status: The Fire Department has filled 13 of the currently allotted 14 Advanced EMT (AEMT) labor grade positions that were approved by City Council in December 2021. This mid-cycle approval was granted to increase the availability of Advanced Life Support (ALS) available on medical calls. This has improved delivery of clinical care to patients, and assists in reducing the high workload previously shouldered solely by the paramedics.

The movement of an ambulance company from the Manor Station to the Central Station on March 20, 2022 has had the desired result of better aligning Advanced Life Support response times with national standards (NFPA 1710) in the areas of the City with the highest call volume. As expected, Wards 1, 2 and parts of 10, have seen increased ambulance response times. The additional overtime funds approved by City Council are being used to upstaff Engine 5 with an additional member to ensure Advanced Life Support is available from Engine 5 while awaiting an ambulance. Engine 5 has not dropped below the Advanced Life Support level since this move.

The Fire Department is actively recruiting four new Firefighter/Paramedics to staff the fourth ambulance that was approved in the FY 2023 budget. Progress is on track to meet the goal of having this unit in service by October 1, 2022. This may prove to be challenging due to the fact that there are two other open Firefighter/Paramedic positions within the Department, making a total of six Firefighter/Paramedic vacancies that need to be filled. When in service, the additional ambulance will be placed at the Manor Station. This will return the Manor to its previous apparatus and staffing profile.

The Fire Department has participated in joint training with the Parks & Recreation Department to stimulate an emergency drowning response. This allowed both agencies to practice together and optimize the patient care interface between the life guards and Fire Department personnel.

GOAL 4. RECREATIONAL/CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES, PARKS AND CEMETERIES

a) Library, Pools, Arena, BMGC, Trails, MRGT, Recreation Programming

Status: For the finale of National Poetry Month in April, the Concord Public Library held a Haiku Hike. Patrons were led on a leisurely walk around White Park and learned about haiku, a traditional form of Japanese poetry. Then, they got to write and share their own haikus about Concord in the springtime.

Later in the spring, a NH Fish and Game Wildlife Steward gave a presentation at the United Church of Penacook on Understanding Bobcats in New Hampshire.

In May, the Library virtually hosted Andrew Vietze, a Baxter State Park Ranger and author, who told of his adventures in the wilds of the Katahdin region.

The Concord Public Library partnered with New Hampshire Audubon to connect patrons to a five-part webinar, which was held in February 2022, on the Peregrine Falcon in New Hampshire. Attendees learned the history of the bird, its stages of life, conservation efforts, birding tips and more.

The Parks & Recreation Department's 2022 Spring Brochure came out in early February for programs and activities to be held between March 1st and early June. The Department's Summer Camp Guide came out in mid-March. This summer, the Department will bring back all of its specialty camps (soccer, field hockey, dance, Learn to Row, Concord TV, etc.). Similar to last summer, the Department will also run its traditional all-day and nature camps.

The Parks & Recreation Department is coordinating the design and permitting of the cornfield section of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail. The City has hired VHB, of Bedford, for the design and permitting for this section of trail.

The Parks & Recreation Department started advertising for summer lifeguard positions in January, with the goal of opening all seven outdoor pools this summer. The Department typically needs to hire just over 40 lifeguards to open all pools. Once again this year, the Department paid the class registration fee for applicants to take the American Red Lifeguard class (value \$380). However, by mid-June, the Department was only able to hire enough lifeguards to open four pools.

In the FY 2022 Capital Improvement Plan, there were funds appropriated for court restoration at Rollins Park (\$135,000), Trolley Stop repoint at White Park (\$90,000), and stand-alone pickleball courts at Rolfe Park (\$90,000). The court projects were completed in early June. The Trolley Stop at White Park began this spring and should be completed by Fall 2022. In addition, the FY 2022 budget included funds for a pond restoration project at White Park (\$210,000), for which the City is under contract with VHB to create a plan and required permits. Also funded were road repairs at Blossom Hill Cemetery (\$80,000). These projects should be completed before the end of November.

b) **Terrill Park, Kiwanis Park, Skate Park, Penacook Riverfront, Monkey Around Playground, Cemeteries, Recreational Corridor**

Status:

- i. Canal Street Riverfront Park: In 2004, the City held a design charrette for the purposes of soliciting public input concerning redevelopment of the former Allied Leather Tannery complex at 23-25 Canal Street. As part of that exercise, the community expressed a strong desire to develop a new public riverfront park at the Tannery property to support future redevelopment of the site, as well as revitalization of Penacook Village.

In 2012, the City acquired additional property at 5-11 Canal Street to support future development of the park. As part of marketing efforts conducted for the Tannery site in 2008 and in 2015, the City commissioned various conceptual site plans for the former Tannery complex, which included a new riverfront park.

In conjunction with the sale of the portion of the Tannery site located at 35 Canal Street to the Caleb Development Corporation for the Penacook Landing housing project, in September 2020, the City retained a 1.53-acre parcel with approximately 500 feet of frontage on the Contoocook River for the future riverfront park.

As part of the FY 2022 budget, the City Council appropriated \$110,000 of impact fees for design and permitting of the Canal Street Riverfront Park. On November 5, 2021, a Request for Qualifications and Experience was issued to engage a design team for the project. Proposals were received on December 10, 2021. On February 11, 2022, the firm of GPI was selected for the project. Contracts with GPI were executed on March 25, 2022.

On April 11, 2022, the City Council approved Resolution #9449, which authorized the City Manager to apply for up to \$500,000 in Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants to support the project. A site visit with LWCF staff occurred on May 11, 2022.

On April 15, 2022, a kick off meeting for the project occurred with GPI. The kickoff meeting also involved meetings with Chief's Restaurant and Briar Hydro Associates (both about the project site). On May 19, 2022, additional meetings were held with the remaining two site abutters (Day Properties and the Caleb Group), as well as the City's Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee. On June 9, 2022, the City Council approved the FY 2023 Budget, which included \$1,247,729 for the Canal Street Park. An additional \$500,000, which is associated with the pending LWCF grant application, was asterisked in the budget and will be appropriated at time of grant award.

On June 22, 2022, the City, in partnership with the Penacook Village Association, held a community forum to discuss four (4) concept plans for the park. Feedback from this session will be digested over the summer and used to craft a final concept plan for the park.

- ii. Monkey Around Playground: The Parks & Recreation Department continues to work with the Friends of White Park on their fundraising efforts. In May, the Friends held a cornhole tournament with food trucks to raise money for the playground replacement. On April 11, 2022, the City Council authorized the City Manager to apply for up to \$400,000 of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants to support the project. A site visit with LWCF staff occurred on May 11, 2022. If the project is selected to move into the grant application phase, the formal grant application will be due late Fall 2022, and the City will find out the status of its application by spring 2023.
- iii. Kiwanis Riverfront Park: City staff, working with the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee, the Everett Arena Advisory Committee, Concord Crew and the new Skate Board group appropriated design funds in the FY 2023 Capital Improvement Plan. All groups realize that before any improvements are made, there should be an approved Parks Master Plan to follow.

GOAL 5. ENHANCED COMMUNITY EVENTS/ARTS

a) Promote Community Events with Community Partners

Status: Community events continue to be shared through a variety of City channels, including the City Manager's newsletter and social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram). The City's Public Information Officer continues to work with the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce and Intown Concord on coordinated community outreach.

During this reporting period, the City issued permits for 30 events (some happening in the first quarter, others later this year) including political rallies, road race, an Arts Market, and the Rock 'n Race.

The Parks & Recreation Department started scheduling the parks in mid-February for use in 2022. All youth and adult sports leagues will have regular seasons. The Department also started issuing permits for special events held in City parks. Some of the special events that are already scheduled include: SouperFest, an Arts Market in Rollins Park, UNH Law School Graduation at White Park, several 5k road races, Making Strides at Memorial Field, and a Multicultural Festival at Keach Park. The Department is once again hosting several baseball and softball tournaments this spring and summer. The Department also worked with Overcomers Refugee Services to host the first Umuganda Event at Keach Park on June 25th.

The Parks & Recreation Department partnered with Intown Concord to run a new special event: EGGsellent Adventures, which was held at Rollins Park and Bicentennial Square on April 9th.

The Parks & Recreation Department secured sponsorship from the Walker Lecture Fund to add a Sunday morning Concert in the Park series that will be held at White Park this summer and fall. The Department also booked all bands for their annual summer outdoor concert series. The concert series was announced in May when the main summer/fall brochure came out.

The Police Department continues to foster its positive relationship with the community through a number of initiatives and events that Department personnel attend and sponsor. Since the beginning of 2022, the Department has worked closely with the schools in both the Concord School District and Merrimack Valley School District. The D.A.R.E. Program was presented in both school districts and the Department's School Resource Officers are actively involved at Concord High School, Merrimack Valley High School, and Merrimack Valley Middle School. Additionally, Liberty, the Department's comfort dog, makes frequent visits to the schools in the area.

Since the beginning of the year, members of the Police Department have conducted active shooter trainings, as well as safety presentations to businesses and community groups, and also presented fraud education classes to the elderly and to a local bank. The Department works closely with the New American community and assisted the New American Scholars with their "Students Helping Students" program. This program is designed to promote area high school students assisting and tutoring New American and refugee students who have recently settled in the Concord area. This program also extends beyond the classroom and assists in other areas of life which may be difficult for those new to the country. The Department also took part in the unveiling of the Keach Park mural. The Department is working with the Overcomers Refugee Services to plan youth mentoring and educational meetings.

The Police Department held a "Coffee with a Cop" event at Brothers Cortado. The Department has also started scheduling R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) classes again. There are currently three classes scheduled.

The Police Department has begun planning for the 2022 National Night Out event, which is the largest event coordinated by the Police Department. This highly successful event promotes crime and drug prevention awareness, generates support and participation in local anti-crime programs, strengthens neighborhood spirit, and promotes police community partnerships.

The City of Concord participated in Intown Concord's Market Days. The Human Resources Department shared a table with the Fire Department, who conducted its "Fill the Boot" MDA fundraiser. The Human Resources Department brought all current job openings for review, as well as job interest cards for those "shopping" for a new career. It was a great opportunity to be part of the celebration and provide information to Market Days attendees.

Human Resources Department representatives co-chaired two committees with the Human Resources Association Greater Concord organization; one pertaining to Marketing and one for Community Relations. As part of this organization, the City of Concord sent several subject matter experts to participate in the Concord Regional Technical Center's annual Interview Fair for students.

GOAL 6. SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

a) Energy: LED Street Lights

Status: Approximately 95% of the street lights have been converted to LED. Supply chain issues delayed the remaining lights, with the contractor finally being able to re-start in Concord the last week of June. This project is anticipated to save the City in excess of \$600,000 over the next ten years.

b) Diversity

Status: The Concord Fire Department currently has three female Firefighters and continues to see an increase in the amount of qualified female applicants.

c) Workforce & Housing (Homelessness)

Status: Over the past 24 months, the Penacook Landing multifamily development added 34 units of workforce housing in downtown Penacook and CATCH added 42 units on Village Street. Penacook Landing Phase 2 should start construction on an additional 20 units in September, as discussed in Section 2.c.ii. of this report.

Dakota Partners and the Tamposi Brothers have both advised that they plan to move forward with their respective workforce projects (at least initial phases) this year. Dakota's project on Langdon Avenue would add 192 units at build-out. The Tamposi Brothers development project is projected to build 123 units.

During this reporting period, two additional workforce developments have been tentatively identified, although they have not yet submitted a formal Planning Board application. If they move forward, these projects – combined – would add another 138 units of workforce housing.

The Concord Coalition to End Homelessness has also been working diligently on its Housing First model, recently securing Zoning Board of Adjustment relief for a project at 120 Pleasant Street.

On May 23, 2022, the Concord Monitor announced that it had entered into a purchase and sales agreement with New England Family Housing concerning the sale of 95 acres for development. According to their article, the project may include approximately 120 affordable housing units, as well as another 532 +/- market rate housing units. New England Family Housing is currently undertaking its due diligence for the transaction.

d) Essex Hydro

Status: An agreement was reached with Essex Hydro to enter into a long-term Net Metering Agreement for a portion of their renewable energy generation. The agreement received full approval by the Public Utilities Commission, and the start date for Net Metering was June 1, 2022. The first payments are expected by the City in July for FY 2023.

e) Renewable Energy

Status: The City continues to work towards finding partners on renewable energy projects that are in the best interest of the City of Concord and will help achieve the City's renewable energy goals.

f) Trees, Urban Canopy

Status: The Sustainable Tree Program was maxed out and is now taking names for a waiting list for spring 2023.

Two trees were planted at White Park on Arbor Day.

The Tree Committee did a reconnaissance of the neighborhoods in Penacook slated for paving next year, and identified 31 potential tree planting locations. General Services will review the locations to determine if these locations are feasible, and then the committee will start public outreach in Penacook, asking these residents if they are willing to plant a tree in their front yard.

Five street trees were planted along the street frontage of Maple Grove Cemetery using budgeted funds from the Conservation budget.

The Tree Committee set up a booth at the Farmer's Market for three weeks in June to educate residents about proper tree planting techniques and the Sustainable Tree Program.

GOAL 7. TRANSPORTATION

a) I-93, Storrs Street, Stickney Avenue

Status:

- i. I-93 Project: In December, at the request of the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT), the City Manager, Deputy City Manager for Development, and the City Engineer met with NHDOT senior leadership to discuss concerns the City had with NHDOT's I-93 preferred alternative. These included the impact of the State's improvements at Exit 13 at the Manchester Street intersection with Old Turnpike Road; the State's proposed elimination of the Exit 14 northbound on-ramp and the project's impact on the Merrimack River Greenway Trail; and Stickney Avenue and the proposed Storrs Street extension. NHDOT leadership were receptive and committed to reviewing these concerns and following up with the City. In June, the NHDOT presented City staff with responses to City concerns. City staff will be following up with the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) and the City Council.

b) Merrimack River Greenway Trail (MRGT)

Status: In March 2021, the City filed an application for TAP grant funds to support the development of a rail trail on a 1.9 mile section of the Northern Line between Sewalls Falls Road and the Town of Boscawen. PanAm Systems provided a letter of support for the City's application.

On July 7, 2021, the City entered into a Purchase and Sales Agreement with PanAm Systems/Northern Railroad for a 5.6+/- mile discontinued segment of the Northern Main Line located between Horseshoe Pond Lane and the Contoocook River, as well as a 0.5 mile section of the Concord-Claremont Line located between Horseshoe Pond Lane and the Smokestack Center on McGuire Street.

On October 18, 2021, the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) invoked the State's Right-of-First-Refusal (ROFR) for the Northern Line, in accordance with RSA 228:60-b. As such, the City's Purchase and Sales Agreement with PanAm automatically terminated upon the State's enactment of its ROFR. The State enacted its ROFR, as the Northern Line has been designated for a potential future high-speed rail corridor to connect Boston to Montreal. As such, the City and NHDOT entered into negotiations

concerning a potential partnership between the City and the State, which would allow the Merrimack River Greenway Trail to move forward while simultaneously protecting the State's interests relative to the high-speed rail corridor. These negotiations were successful and, on May 9, 2022, the City Council approved Resolution #9463, which authorizes the City Manager to enter into the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) negotiated between the City and NHDOT. Said agreement will be presented to the Governor and Executive Council pending final negotiation of a purchase and sales agreement between Pan Am and the NHDOT. Upon execution of the MOA between the City and NHDOT, the NHDOT shall assign the purchase and sales agreement to the City, following which the City shall complete its due diligence and acquire the property.

Following completion of due diligence, the City terminated the Purchase and Sales Agreement for the Concord-Claremont Line on October 25, 2021 due to title concerns.

The City was awarded a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant to build a section of the trail from Loudon Road south along the Merrimack River. This section of trail (approximately 4,000 feet) is currently under design and permitting, and the grant will help build this section of trail. The LWCF grant does require a 50% match, which the Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail has indicated they will help fundraise for.

In February 2022, the Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail, in partnership with the City, applied for an allocation of Community Development Investment Program (CDIP) tax credits from the NH Community Development Finance Authority for the portion of the project located between Terrill Park and Loudon Road. Unfortunately, the funding application was not successful.

c) **Airport Terminal**

Status: On January 27, 2022, the City held an Airport Listening Session where the consensus among the attendees was to move forward with a new terminal. At the February 24, 2022 Airport Advisory Committee meeting, the committee unanimously recommended the City Council authorize staff to apply for an FAA Airport Terminal Program grant. This program would provide potential funding for the relocation and construction of the Concord Municipal Airport's terminal building, with only a 5% match required. At the March 14, 2022 City Council meeting, the Council authorized the City Manager to apply for this grant. The City is awaiting and hopes to receive a decision on this grant by the end of July 2022.

d) **Sidewalks: Maintain/Recondition**

Status: The Planning Board continues to require sidewalks on most site plans. In instances where construction of a sidewalk may be premature or inappropriate (no connection within any reasonable distance), the Planning Board has instituted a "fee in lieu" policy. Under this approach, a fee commensurate with the cost to construct sidewalk would be assessed to applicants seeking site plan approval. The funds generated from this fee would be used to support City sidewalk construction in the future. A resolution establishing this reserve in trust account will be forthcoming to City Council.

e) **Projects: Langley Parkway, McKee Square**

Status:

- i. McKee Square (CIP #31): The McKee Square intersection improvement was approved in FY 2023 for a traffic assessment and design/engineering, and FY 2024 construction. Preliminary options for this work include a roundabout and a signal alternative. Staff will work with its engineering consultants on developing and scheduling meetings with the public and stakeholders.
- ii. Langley Parkway (CIP #40): This project has been removed from the CIP.

ONGOING INITIATIVE 1. FORMER TANNERY SITE/PARK

Status: Updates about this project are addressed in Goal 2(c) and 4(b) of this report.

ONGOING INITIATIVE 2. ENHANCED NEIGHBORHOOD STREET PAVING PROGRAM

Status: Continental Paving started the project in April and continues on the project with a completion date of early November. Some streets have already been completed. See below for the status of each street.

- Curtice Avenue: Reclaim completed.
- Foster Street: Reclaim completed.
- Granite Avenue: Reclaim completed.
- Prospect Street: Reclaim completed.
- South State Street, from Pleasant to Clinton Street: Reclaim began on June 27th.
- South Street, from Pleasant to Clinton Street: Reclaim began in May and finish paving will occur in late July or August.
- Capitol Street: Cold Plane/Overlay to begin on July 5th, for completion in mid-August.
- Centre Street, from Main to Union Street: Cold Plane/Overlay to begin on July 5th, for completion in mid-August.
- Green Street: Cold Plane/Overlay to begin on July 5th, for completion in mid-August.
- North State Street, from Pleasant to Court Street: Cold Plane/Overlay began on July 5th, for completion in mid-August.
- Park Street: Cold Plane/Overlay to begin on July 5th, for completion in mid-August.
- Pleasant Street, from Main to Spring Street: Cold Plane/Overlay began on July 5th, and the intersection sign work will be coordinated with the paving. Completion date for finish paving will be late August or early September.
- School Street, from Main to Spring Street: Cold Plane/Overlay began on July 5th, for completion in mid-August.
- Warren Street, from Main to Spring Street: Cold Plane/Overlay began on July 5th, for completion in mid-August.

ONGOING INITIATIVE 3. BRIDGES

Status: The NH Department of Transportation agreed to add an additional \$14 million in State bridge aid to the Loudon Road bridge project to accommodate a wider bridge with a 14' multi-use path. This renovated bridge will provide a critical connection for the

Merrimack River Greenway Trail from east to west, and will also be safer for all cyclists and pedestrians, as well as improve the angle of the bridge today as it intersects with Ft. Eddy Road. The City and NHDOT are planning to begin design work shortly.

ONGOING INITIATIVE 4. TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Status: The Information Technology (IT) Department is currently supporting the Wastewater and Water Treatment Plants in applying for grants related to the cybersecurity and access to control systems throughout the enterprise. This includes working with the Federal Environmental Protection Agency on auditing and creating an action plan for calendar years 2022 and 2023 to improve securing and updating our access controls.

The IT Department has also hired a Network Security Engineer in a highly competitive market. This position will be the basis of designing and implementing a long-term action plan to review, update, and manage cybersecurity across our various systems, while also creating governance procedures over our internal data access.

The City's Munis migration continues with the expectation to go live with its online permitting module, Energov, in the summer of 2022. Lastly, the spring of 2022 marked the beginning of training and migration to the Munis Tax module, with an expected go live target of Spring 2023, thus completing the conversion from our legacy software packages, New World Systems and Munismart.