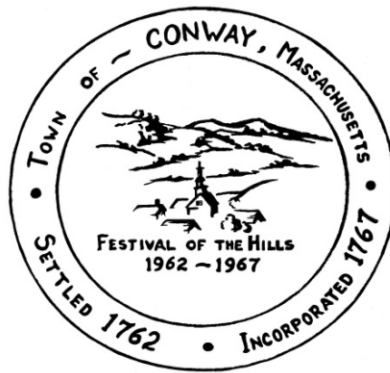


Town of Conway
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
2022 Annual Report



Fiscal Year 2022
July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Annual Report Dedication to Malcolm Corse

May 10, 1933 – December 30, 2022

Just about anyone who participated in town activities, attended town meeting, or frequented Baker's Store, knew Malcolm Corse. On occasion, he could appear a gruff, cantankerous old Yankee but those who knew him better, or worked with Malcolm on numerous town projects over the years, saw another side. They grew to appreciate his life-long dedication to family, community, and public service. They also learned he was a born storyteller, who would gladly share his knowledge of our town's history. Everyone who ever listened has Malcolm stories to recount.

Malcolm's own story began on the family farm on Shelburne Falls Road. He liked to relate how in his youth he would ride to town in the farm wagon on Saturday nights for shopping. Years later, in 1967, he used that same wagon in the town's 200th anniversary parade. Malcolm graduated from Arms Academy in 1952 and married Winona (Hathaway) in 1954. The couple lived in the house next to the post office and, years later, moved with their four children to the house Malcolm built on Truce Road. He spent most of his career as a heavy equipment operator and mechanic, working his way up and travelling extensively, even to such far away places such as East Germany and Mongolia.

In Conway, Malcolm pursued a life-long commitment to community, in both public and private capacities. Working with others, his efforts have left visible legacies around town. As a teenager in 1949, he was one of the volunteers who help dig our valued Conway Pool. He was a member of the United Congregational Church of Conway for over 60 years, having served at times as Deacon and custodian. Throughout his long life he was active in the Tri-County Coon Club, Conway Sportsman's Club, Conway Snowmobile Club, and President of the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts. He was a proud member of the Masons and a dedicated Shriner. It is thanks to Malcolm that a colorful cavalcade of Shriners' vehicles enlivened our 250th Anniversary parade.

In a public capacity, he served on the Festival of the Hills Committee for some time and in 1999 he was named to the Historical Commission. In 2002 he was appointed the Historical Commission's representative to the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Study Committee. After objectively considering the pros and cons, he saw the CPA's benefits to Conway and helped secure its passage at Town Meeting and subsequent town ballot. On occasion his voice at Town Meeting defending the CPA was much needed and effective. He remained a member of the CPA Committee, serving as Chair for the last few years until his health declined. The two red "Historic District" signs on either side of Rte. 116 in Conway center are yet another of his legacies, financed by a modest CPA appropriation in 2008 and installed by members of the Historical Commission. He also served on the Conway Board of Assessors from April 2008 until January 2022. Also serving on the Conway 250th Committee, Malcolm foresaw the need to start early on preparations for that event. Along the way, he cajoled volunteers to resurrect & repair that same old farm wagon from the 1967 parade in time for the upcoming 250th parade. Now donated to the town in safekeeping, let's hope a new generation proudly displays the wagon for the next anniversary.

With Malcolm Corse's passing we have lost a dedicated member of our community whose volunteerism, work ethic, and dogged persistence have made our small town a better place to live. We hope that his final legacy will be to inspire others to do the same.

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FAQs about Town Meeting

Frequently Asked at Town Meeting: What do the following terms mean?

The term...	Means....
dismiss an article	defeat it
postpone an article indefinitely	defeat it
take no action on an article	defeat it
lay the question on the table	kill or postpone a measure
table the question	kill or postpone a measure
move the previous question	cut off debate and vote on the issue at hand

MEETING SCHEDULES

Subject to change; please see postings at Town Hall or contact the Chair to confirm.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

First and third Wednesdays– 5:15 p.m., Town Hall
Administrative Assessor: Natalie Whitcomb, assessors@conwayma.gov, 369-4235 x5 Clerk hours:
Monday 2-5, Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 – 4:30,
Wednesday 9-2; Friday 8:30-1:00

BOARD OF HEALTH

2nd and 4th Mondays – 5:00 p.m., Town Hall
Chair: Kathy Llamas, bohchair@conwayma.gov

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

2nd and 4th Tuesdays – 6:00 p.m., Town Hall
Chair: Bruton Strange, concomm@conwayma.gov

CONWAY GRAMMAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

3rd Thursday – 7:00 p.m., CGS Library
Chair: Elaine Campbell, drekiwi@gmail.com, 413-369-8089

COUNCIL ON AGING

1st Wednesdays – 10:00 a.m., Town Hall
Chair: Patricia Lynch, patricialynch@earthlink.net, 369-4284

FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

2nd Wednesday – 7:00 p.m., FCTS

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

2nd Tuesday – 7:00 p.m., FRHS Media Center

PLANNING BOARD

1st and 3rd Thursdays – 7:00 p.m., Town Office
Chair, Beth Girshman, planning@conwayma.gov

SELECTBOARD

Alternating Mondays – 6:00 p.m., Town Hall; December-May, every Monday.
Chair: Phil Kantor, selectboard@conwayma.gov 369-4235 x3

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: 1st Saturday in June at the Conway Grammar School

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION: Thursday following Town Meeting, Town Hall

NATIONAL, STATE, AND REGIONAL OFFICIALS

UNITED STATES SENATORS

Ed Markey (D)

975 JFK Federal Building, 15 New Sudbury Street, Boston MA 02203, 617-565-8519
1550 Main Street 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103, 413-785-4610
215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, 202-224-2742
www.markey.senate.gov/contact

Elizabeth Warren (D)

2400 JFK Federal Building, 15 New Sudbury Street, Boston, MA 02203, 617-565-3170
1550 Main Street, Suite 406, Springfield MA 01103, 413-788-2690
309 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, 202-224-4543
www.warren.senate.gov/contact

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

Jim McGovern (D)

78 Center Street, Pittsfield MA 01201, 413-442-0946
300 State Street, Suite 200, Springfield, MA 01105, 413-785-0325
372 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, 202-225-5601
https://forms.house.gov/neal/webforms/contact_Forms.shtml

GOVERNOR

Maura Healey (D)

State Office Building, 436 Dwight Street, Suite 300, Springfield MA 01103, 413-784-1200
Massachusetts State House, Office of the Governor, 24 State Street, Room 280
Boston MA 02133, 617-725-4005; Toll-free in MA 888-870-7770
<http://www.mass.gov/governor/constituent-services/contact-governor-office>

REPRESENTATIVES IN THE GENERAL COURT

Senator Paul Mark (D)

Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden District
100 North St. Suite 4, Pittsfield, MA 01201, 413-464-5635
24 Beacon St., Room 109-E, Boston, MA, 02133, 413-344-4561
Paul.Mark@mahouse.gov

Representative Natalie Blais (D)

First Franklin District
PO BOX 450, Sunderland, MA 01375, 413-362-9453
24 Beacon St., Room 134, Boston, MA, 02133,
natalie.blais@mahouse.gov

FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Executive Committee, 12 Olive Street, Suite 2, Greenfield MA 0130
www.frcog.org, 413-774-3167

CONWAY OFFICIALS – ELECTED

ASSESSOR:

Russell French 2024
Roxanne Parent 2023
Natalie Whitcomb, chair 2025

BOARD OF HEALTH:

Jacqueline Choate 2024
Mathilde Hunting 2023
Kathy Llamas, chair 2025
Emily Sweet 2025
Devon Whitney-Deal 2023

BURIAL AGENT:

Laurie Lucier 2025

CONSTABLES:

Brian Blakeslee 2025
Ronald Hawkes 2025
James Recore 2025

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Jared Campbell 2025

CONWAY GRAMMAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Elaine Campbell, chair 2025
Jared Campbell 2025
Philip Kantor 2023
Michael Merritt 2023
Denise Storm 2024

MODERATOR:

James Recore 2023

TOWN CLERK:

Laurie Lucier 2025

PLANNING BOARD:

Susan Fentin 2023
George Forcier 2024
Beth Girshman, Chair 2023
William Moebius 2025
Jennifer Mullins 2024

SELECTBOARD:

Erica Goleman 2023
Philip Kantor chair 2024
Christopher Waldo 2025

TREE WARDEN:

Walter Goodridge 2023

CONWAY APPOINTED OFFICIALS

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

(no members currently)

BARN/ANIMAL INSPECTOR

Emily Sweet 2023
John Wholey 2023

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Bill Arduser 2025
Robert Armstrong 2024
Jonathan Barkan 2025
Ronald Hawkes 2024

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Robert Armstrong 2025
Seth Capista 2024
Roy Cohen 2024
Phyllis Craine 2025
Christopher Waldo (SB) 2025

CEMETERY COMMISSION:

Peter Freisem, chair 2023
John Harrison 2024
Stephen Jackson 2025

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Mikayla Reine, chair 2023
Geoffrey Baker 2024
Eileen Schnieder 2024
William McGloughlin 2025

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:

Aimee Anderson 2023
Jocelyn Forbush 2025
Donald Joralemon 2024
William Moebius 2024
Robert Nowak 2025
Carolyn Thayer 2024

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE:

Mary Costello 2025
Grace Larson, acting chair 2025
Brittany Nickerson 2025
Anthony Somers 2025
Bruton Strange 2024

CONWAY YOUTH SPORTS:

Michael Merritt 2023

COUNCIL ON AGING:

Gail Connelly 2025
Hank Hortsmann 2024

Patricia Kocot 2024
Patricia Lynch, chair 2025
Carolyn Thayer 2025
Margaret Tiley 2025
Robin Yerkes 2024

CULTURAL COUNCIL:

Ruth Bowman 2025
Theresa Carter 2025
Stein Feick 2024
Joan Haley 2024
Sophie Michaux 2024
Michelle Sanger, co-chair 2023
Kristen Strange 2025
Gayle Sullivan 2025

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT:

Amanda Herrmann 2023
Philip Kantor 2024

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Roy Cohen 2025
John Craine 2025
Thomas Donovan 2024
Rhyanna McLeester 2025
Alan Singer 2023

FOREST AND TRAILS COMMITTEE:

Suzanne Artemieff 2024
Deb Donaldson, co-chair 2024
Courtney Gilligan 2025
Cynthia Lawton-Singer 2025 (associate)
Priscilla Lynch 2023
Marilyn Webster 2024

FOREST WARDEN:

Robert Baker 2023

FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNTY ER DISPATCH:

Robert Baker 2024
Kenneth Ouimette 2024
Gemma Vanderheld 2024

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT:

Lynn Rubinstein 2023

FRANKLIN COUNTY TECH SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

John Pelletier 2024

FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

FRANKLIN REGIONAL ER PLANNING:

Robert Baker 2023

SIGN PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVE:

Ronald Sweet 2023

FCCIP REPRESENTATIVE:

Christopher Waldo 2023

OVERSIGHT BOARD:

Devon Whitney-Deal 2023

Jacqueline Choate 2023 (alternate)

FRED WELLS TRUST:

Kate French 2023

HIGHWAY FACILITIES COMMITTEE:

Walter Goodridge 2024

Hank Horstmann 2024

Peter Jeswald 2024

Kenneth Ouimette 2024

Ronald Sweet 2024

HISTORICAL COMMISSION:

Bill Burnett 2025

Carl Darrow 2024

Laura Nicholls-Shaw 2023

Yulia Stone 2023

Sarah Williams, chair 2024

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

Louise Beckett, co-chair 2024

Véronique Blanchard 2025

Susan Fentin 2025

Michael Haley 2025 (associate)

Kathy Llamas 2023

Patricia Lynch, editor 2023

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE:

Aimee Anderson 2024

Janet Chayes, chair 2024

Andrew Levchuk 2024

Mac McCoy 2023

Michele Turre 2024

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE:

Jim Bosman 2025

Harry Bovio 2025

Tanya Campbell 2025

Michael Merritt 2023

Julie Sweet 2024

Janice Warner 2025

UPPER PIONEER VALLEY VETERANS SERVICES:

Roger Goshea 2023

VETERAN'S GRAVE OFFICER:

Donald Graham 2023

WASTEWATER COMMITTEE:

Carl Nelke	2023
Michael Novak	2023
Joseph Strzegowski	2024

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:

Phyllis Craine	2024
Gary Fentin	2023
Erica Goleman	2024 (associate)
Peter Jeswald	2024
Andrew Levchuk	2024
Mark Silverman, chair	2024

BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

Agricultural Commission

No report was submitted for FY2022 from this Committee.



Board of Assessors

Although now almost at the end of FY2023, town reports are for the most recent completed fiscal year, FY2022 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022).

Fiscal Year 2022's tax levy to be raised from all sources to cover the town's expenses was \$7,595,183.44. However, the revenues from other sources totaled \$2,287,469.00, leaving the amount to be raised by taxes (levy) at \$5,307,714.44. Our total taxable base (real estate plus personal property), was \$295,694,398, for a FY22 tax rate of \$17.95, a decrease of \$0.78 or 4.16% from FY2021's \$18.73 rate. To look at it another way,

	<u>FY2021</u>	<u>FY2022</u>
Total town expenses	\$8,344,134.40	\$7,595,183.44
Other revenues	- 3,158,300.00	- 2,287,469.00
To raise from taxes	\$5,185,834.40	\$5,307,714.44
Town tax base	\$273,873,166	\$295,694,398
Tax rate	\$18.73	\$17.95
	Tax rate = amount to be raised / tax base / 1,000	

Conway's real estate market continued to improve in FY22 following the pandemic, with properties selling for increasingly higher prices and we had our first sale of over \$1,000,000 in Sept. 2021. New construction continued to be slow, with projects being gradually completed.

Most of the problems that were inherent in initially learning/using the new Tyler valuation system are now resolved, and they have been diligent in working with us on our many requests.

Our warrant article this year is the annual request to set aside the usual \$5,000 toward our next revaluation. Instead of having to pay for it all in one year, it has been our practice to partially fund it annually, in anticipation of the final cost. We hire professional appraisals of the hydroelectric plant, the large solar array on Main Poland Road and any residential property that will be outside the regular bounds of anything in this region. Our most recent revaluation/recertification was for FY2022 and the next will be for FY2027. Across-the-board adjustments are made to values annually if indicated by increasing market values – that adjustment was +6% on both land and structures for FY2022.

Malcolm Corse was elected to serve as an assessor in April 2008 and served until his retirement in January 2022. He participated in all aspects of the job and was especially valuable as our "ambassador", going out to all Conway residences to take new exterior photos. He enjoyed talking with residents, answering their questions about assessing and encouraging them to come to the office to learn more. His vast knowledge of Conway's past,

having been born here in 1933 and living here much of his adult life, added to our data and was always enlightening! He is truly missed.

Roxanne Parent was elected in June 2022 to fill the final year of Malcolm's unexpired term and brings public opinions and informative questions to the front.

The Assessors' section on the new town website at conwayma.gov has some general information, downloadable forms, and directions for access to our GIS website and property maps. As always, you are welcome to contact us with questions or concerns regarding the assessing process, your valuations on real estate, personal property, motor vehicles, personal exemptions, abatements or any other assessing matters.

Fiscal Year	Number of Single Family Parcels	Average Single Family Value	Average Single Family Tax Bill	Rank in State (of 351)	Conway's Tax Rate	Overlay Reserve
2010	592	\$300,939	\$3,948	148	13.12	\$65,334
2011	595	\$300,525	\$3,901	165	12.98	\$36,256
2012	597	\$295,141	\$4,194	152	14.21	\$36,336
2013	597	\$289,600	\$3,968	179	13.70	\$30,375
2014	596	\$281,368	\$4,412	156	15.68	\$27,100
2015	599	\$283,593	\$4,586	156	16.17	\$27,562
2016	609	\$282,937	\$4,719	160	16.68	\$56,959
2017	610	\$290,899	\$5,163	137	17.75	\$43,867
2018	612	\$283,050	\$5,236	146	18.50	\$19,475
2019	611	\$285,200	\$5,319	156	18.65	\$19,048
2020	610	\$287,613	\$5,396	161	18.76	\$29,332
2021	606	\$295,896	\$5,542	163	18.73	\$5,576
2022	600	\$314,514	\$5,646	179	17.95	\$68,937

Respectfully submitted,
 Natalie H. Whitcomb, Chair
 Russell A. French
 Phone: 369-4235, x5

Roxanne Parent
 Laurie Lucier, Clerk
 e-mail: assessors@conwayma.gov



Board of Health

Annual Report July1, 2021-June 30, 2022

Note: Last year, I did an annual review from January 2022 to December of 2022. This year, we are transitioning to Fiscal Year Reporting. Some of the information contained within will be a bit repetitive.

All Boards of Health in the Commonwealth have been charged with protecting the public health of its citizens in the following areas.

- Disease prevention and control
- Oversight of transfer stations
- Title V enforcement for septage and refuse
- Title X enforcement of food service establishments
- Sanitary conditions of camps, swimming pools and beaches
- Sanitary living conditions in dwellings
- Animal Health

The Board of Health personnel:

In July of 2021, Kathy Llamas, agreed to join the Board of Health to fill in the unexpired portion of Carl Nelke's term. The Board of Health's Clerk, Ginny Knowlton spoke of her intention to resign her position as of September 11th, 2021. Later in September, Laurie Lucier was named the new Board of Health Clerk. In July of 2021, Jackie Choate was named the interim Chair of the BOH after Carl Nelke retired and became an independent contractor of Title V inspections. On September 13, 2021, Kat Llamas assumed the Chair effective immediately. On February 14, 2022, Emily Sweet was made a member of the Board, filling out the remaining term vacated by Véronique Blanchard after she became the Town Administrator.

I will group information into several general areas:

Title V: Involves the approval and inspection of septic systems and water percolation test which tests the rate at which the water drains through the soil which is relevant for any property with access to a municipal sewer system.

All our Title V inspections and consultations are carried out by Carl Nelke, acting as an independent contractor. In this fiscal year, there were 54 events that Carl reviewed with our Board of Health.

Health and Wellness:

As with most of 2020, the COVID pandemic took center stage of the attention of our Board of Health. At the start of the fiscal year, the Delta variant was the dominate strain, another the MU, variant had been detected but never was seen as a significant threat in comparison. When Omicron appeared in December, it remained the predominate strain for the rest of the fiscal year.

COVID transmission rates amongst the citizens of Conway varied significantly. Several months had no reported cases and at its height, we had 55 cases. Of course, these numbers do not account for home testing results or those who were asymptomatic. In August, Franklin County had the distinction of having the lowest positivity/case rate in the 14 counties of Massachusetts. In addition, Conway saw a high volume of Anaplasmosis in July of 2021 and there were some Massachusetts cases of the Avian Flu in April of 2022, but no cases were reported in Conway.

The VAX-BUS rolled into the area in November and made several appearances at schools. This simplified the vaccination and booster process to the many who attended these events.

Throughout this fiscal year, Jackie provided home visits to residents that were homebound, or could not risk their health to travel elsewhere to get their vaccines, boosters, or flu shots. At least four times this year, she visited eligible homes. She also did several pop-up Clinics, a Drive-by Clinic on the Pumpkin Hollow Common. Jackie and other members of the Board of Health participated in area Clinics that Conwayians attended.

Food Services and Inspections:

The Conway Board of Health has partnered with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to do all Food Service Inspections. Randy Crochier, who is the Health Agent from FRCOG worked with both Devon Whitney-Deal and Tilda Hunting to set up inspections. A letter was drafted to introduce the joint food inspection program to food related businesses. By the end of the fiscal year, all active businesses had been inspected as required and received their permits.

The Transfer Station:

The Transfer Station was run by the Board of Health from July 2021 until September of 2021. You can find information on the Transfer Station in its own report.

Animal and Barn Inspections:

Joe Colucci continues to be Conway's Animal Control Officer and our Animal and Barn Inspector. All reporting of his work is sent directly to The Department of Agricultural Resources and is confidential.

Education Undertaken:

There were several opportunities to increase knowledge of Board of Health matters. These came in the form of online workshops and seminars including Board of Health 101 as well as a seminar on Abandoned Housing. We attended People Helping People meetings, Roundtables and increased our knowledge of programs and statutes as they pertain to the Board of Health. We invited other Boards to share what they do to see how we can support their missions.

Submitted by: Kathy Llamas, Chair and members Jackie Choate, Tilda Hunting, Emily Sweet, Devon Whitney-Deal and Laurie Lucier, Clerk of the Board of Health



Board of Registrars

Board of Registrars {Registrars Report is based on Calendar Year January 1 through December 31, 2022} The Town of Conway Board of Registrars hereby report that residents eligible to vote in Elections and Town Meetings in the year 2022 as of December 31, was 1,439. In the year 2022, there were three elections, the Annual Town Election (6/9), the State Primary (9/6) and the State Election (11/8). Amongst the challenges set forth by the pandemic, the Board of Registrars and the Town Clerk were faced with the challenge of safely administering elections under the advisories set forth by the Elections Division and the State Board of Health.

Following the Annual Town Census taken during the month of January, the Town's population was 1,811. Voter registration sessions were held as required by Massachusetts General Laws prior to Elections and Town Meeting. In addition to certifying elections, the Board of Registrars certified nomination papers and signatures on petitions as required by law.

The following Town Meeting(s) were held during the year 2022:

Annual Town Meeting – June 04, 2022
Special Town Meeting – December 10, 2022

As required by MGL, all election results and actions taken at Annual and Special Town Meetings were permanently recorded in the Office of the Town Clerk. The Board would like to remind residents that election information including results, campaign finance reporting, and upcoming elections is available on the Town’s website. The Board of Registrars works in conjunction with the Office of the Town Clerk to comply with Massachusetts General Laws related to elections and voter registrations. If you have any interest in becoming a member of the Board of Registrars, please contact the Town Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted, Town of Conway Board of Registrars



Cable Advisory Committee

The Conway Cable Advisory Committee spent 2022 finalizing Conway’s renewal Comcast franchise agreement that will now be in place through February, 2031. We were seriously slowed down by the pandemic, by Comcast engineer retirements, and with our inability to reach an understanding between Conway and Comcast regarding an upgrade we wished to build. Our goals were to be able to broadcast live from the Town Offices and Town Hall, and to broadcast Conway’s Channel 15, our town bulletin board, from our server in Deerfield rather from the Town Office. For 25 years Ron Hawkes has been accepting event notices and inputting them into our aging character generator that you can watch on cable through Channel 15, but he hoped to retire from that task. By broadcasting it from the FCAT server, along with Channels 12 and 23, we could include recorded Conway meetings (selectboard, school committee, etc plus hearings and town meetings) as well as event notices. FCAT would take over programming this expanded Conway channel, and Comcast offered to upgrade the quality of this channel to High Definition. We are still working with FCAT on server upgrades to achieve High Def and the equipment they need to purchase to broadcast our content. I look forward to these improvements.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Armstrong



Cemetery Commission

In February 2020, the Town of Conway established a volunteer Cemetery Commission to oversee the management of the seven historic town-owned cemeteries within our borders. These cemeteries are: Boyden, Cricket Hill, Maynard Farm (Poor Farm), Poland, Pumpkin Hollow, Shirkshire, and South Part. NOTE: Two of our largest local cemeteries, Howland and Pine Grove, are privately managed. The Cemetery Commission consists of three members : Peter Freisem – Chair, Stephen Jackson, John Harrison). Members meet once a month. Cemetery Commission email is: cemcomm@conwayma.gov

In FY2022 the Cemetery Commission has worked on the following:

- Developed cemetery guidelines and pricing for future burials and burial lot sales.
- Established basic procedures for lot sales and record keeping through cooperation with Select Board and Town Clerk.
- Performed site visits to each of the seven town managed cemeteries to assess their current condition and to develop plans for accurate mapping of current burials and capacity of each.
- Begun developing a GIS mapping method for town cemeteries that will link data layers to mapped locations of existing and new grave sites. Pumpkin Hollow Cemetery was chosen as pilot project.

\$55.96 of town funds were expended during FY22 for supplies.



Capital Improvements Planning Committee

No report was submitted for FY2022 from this Committee.



Community and Economic Development Committee

No report was submitted for FY2022 from this Committee.



Community Preservation Committee

Conway's Community Preservation Committee was established to administer the Community Preservation Act, which is a tool that helps us conserve open space and historical sites, create affordable housing, and develop outdoor recreational facilities in town. Over the past 18 years, our Community Preservation Funds have supported over 30 locally nominated projects including, most recently, investment in low-income housing property, restoration of the Archibald MacLeish Stone House, and tree removal at the Howland and Pine Grove Cemeteries.

The Community Preservation Committee reviewed five project proposals this year and the Committee's recommended projects are included in the year's town warrant. In the coming year, we look forward to filing out our seven-member committee and to creating a community preservation plan, which is intended to guide the allocation of funds each fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted
Jocelyn Forbush, Chair



Conservation Commission

No report was submitted for FY2022 from this Committee.



Council on Aging

Every community throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a Council on Aging (COA), created by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs under Ch. 40, s.8B of the Massachusetts General Laws. Monies from a Formula Grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and a town appropriation underwrite the council's programs. The Conway COA is a group of volunteers who meet monthly to assess the needs of Conway's senior population and to plan programs to meet those needs.

As in past years, the COA continues to advocate for elders in the community. Chief among the council's concerns is the health of elders. A monthly foot screening continued to be held at Town Hall despite the pandemic. The nursing service also provides foot care in the home for persons who are housebound. A grant for FY2022 from the Fred W. Wells Trust contributed greatly toward our efforts to keep this program affordable. The council maintains a collection of durable medical equipment, which residents are welcome to borrow. . \

Two weekly yoga classes are offered—one a mat class, the other chair yoga for those less able. These have been conducted both in person at the library and on Zoom. A twice-weekly Healthy Bones and Balance class is held on Zoom (the participants' choice).. Each Monday from April through November a walking group takes easy walks around town. Conway seniors who live alone and/or have special needs are visited each month by a Triad officer. Van transportation for medical appointments and shopping trips is provided to Conway elders by the Shelburne Falls Senior Center.

After offering weekly grab-and-go meals throughout the worst of the pandemic, we returned to holding nutritious community meals twice a month at Town Hall, which also affords an opportunity for socializing. In warmer weather we held ice cream socials and picnic lunches in Memorial Park. Meals on Wheels delivers prepared meals to seniors who need this service seven days a week, at the same time serving as a wellness check.

Information on COA programs and on senior issues, concerns, and events is published each month in *Conway Currents*. The Senior Calendar provides a quick review of each month's activities.

The COA's goals for the coming year are to continue to support ongoing programs and to develop new programs to meet future needs. We anticipate the revival of our free home repair program for seniors. The Conway COA is grateful to the townspeople and the town for the support given to all seniors and for the use of Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Ann Lynch, Chair
Carolyn Thayer, Treasurer
Gail Connelly
Hank Horstmann
Patricia Kocot
Margaret Tiley
Robin Yerkes



Cultural Council

The Conway Cultural Council is a group of volunteers who oversee and administer a grant program funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC). Council members serve for three years and included, Michelle Sanger, Stein Feick, Gayle Sullivan, Ruth Bowman, Joan Haley, Sophie Michaux, Theresa Carter, and Kristen Strange. Grant funds are intended to benefit our community by supporting programs and events in the arts, humanities, and natural sciences. The Council meets in November/December to review grant applications and make funding decisions. Our goal is to fund programs and events that provide citizens with affordable entertainment, education, and opportunities for creative growth. Our priority is programming that includes local artists, individuals, and groups that directly benefit our town. We also strive to serve a wide range of age groups, from preschoolers to senior citizens. For fiscal year 2022, we reviewed 35 proposals and awarded \$5714.03 to 23 grantees. We were pleased to support several quality Conway-centered proposals as well as programs outside of Conway that benefitted our citizens such as the Mohawk Trails Concert Series, Silverthorne Theater, Great Falls Discovery Center, Pothole Pictures, and many others. We welcomed members, Theresa Carter, and Kristen Strange to the committee for FY22 and we are currently seeking new members to join us. (conwayculturalcouncil@gmail.com)

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Sanger



Energy Committee

No report was submitted for FY2022 from this Committee.



Finance Committee

The FY's '22 and '23 Town Budget increases were largely supported by either relief funds and/or very modest new growth in the face of very tame domestic inflation. For the FY '24 Town Budget planning cycle and beyond, things have changed: the new growth projected at not even 2% is well below the projected inflation rate and further relief funds are not expected.

The Town of Conway of MA, as with our fellow West County Hilltowns, is rapidly aging: well over one-third of the Town population is either aged 65 or older. Conway's average age (per US Census '20 American Community Survey) is 55.6 years, making Conway one of Franklin County's older towns. Conway's average household income at around \$90,000 coupled with an average house value well above \$300,000 means for most young people housing in Conway is unaffordable. What do these facts portend for Conway's future?

The MA Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services has recently unveiled a series of easy to use "dashboard" tools that are available to the public (<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/municipal-finance-trend-dashboard>). I highly encourage All to consider perusing this invaluable resource. From there, I encourage you to please share with the Finance Committee (mailbox located at Conway Town Offices) suggestions on how Conway can fuel new growth – other than just from property taxes. Please keep in mind that property taxation is

among the most regressive forms of public taxation as it essentially serves as a flat tax and especially burdens people who are lower and/or fixed income.

The MA Municipal Association (www.MMA.org) is the leading trade/policy advocacy group for town governance in the Commonwealth of MA. The Association of Town Finance Committees is an affiliate of the MMA and periodically publishes the Finance Committee Handbook, which outlines recommended best practices. Among the “rules of thumb” the Finance Committee handbook recommends is to only fund major capital purchases from new tax growth. I conclude by leaving you All with this question: how are we to fund our future Town budgets without having to continually rely on increasing property taxes?

Respectfully submitted,
Alan Singer, Chair



Forest and Trails

The Forest & Trails Committee has had an active year bringing our community closer to our wonderful public forest. As part of our mission to educate the public we hosted a walk to the Maynard Cemetery and the Old Town Farm in May with members of the Historical Commission and Historical Society. It was well attended. In September we invited Bill Moomaw to present a Zoom seminar on proforestation. Throughout the summer months we worked with Audrey Boraski from TerraCorps to map the trails at the Fournier property and neighboring lands and hope to have that posted soon. The town has also agreed to participate in a Municipal Vulnerability Action Grant. This grant has allowed us to upgrade our forest stewardship plans to reflect the impact of climate change and how best to help our forest remain resilient in the face of the rapidly changing climate.

Throughout the year we have continued to work closely with the Conway Grammar School implementing the generous grant we received from the Conway Cultural Council to develop a nature trail behind the school. Boundary signs were installed around the Fournier property to clearly designate the town land. In October a foot bridge was built over the outlet stream that allows access to the old ice pond. Points of interest that the sixth grade have identified will soon be marked by small aluminum signs. These signs will be linked by a QR code to information on the Forest & Trails web page on the town web site. Along with some trail maintenance, we have held several invasive removal work parties behind the school playground. This will be on going through 2023 and volunteers are welcome to join us. Look for announcements in the Conway Currents. We are very pleased to hear that several classes now utilize the trail and are learning about nature and their forest.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Donaldson, Co-chair
Marilyn Webster, Co-chair
Suzanne Artemieff, Secretary
Courtney Gilligan
Priscilla Lynch
Cynthia Lawton-Singer



Historical Commission

At the conclusion of 2022, the Historical Commission came to the end of an era, when we reluctantly said goodbye to Cynthia Bluh, through retirement, and Malcolm Corse - two longstanding members who'd each served on the Commission for more than twenty years.

Over the years, and in different capacities, Cynthia and Malcolm both contributed their time and talents in multiple public roles - town, school, and church - in the best traditions of the "pillars of the community" that they are and were.

Cynthia's been a pillar of both the Historical Society and the Historical Commission for decades, and retains an active interest in the history of the town and region. We hope to benefit again from her practical, no-nonsense approach, and light touch, at future events and gatherings. Malcolm - the original and only Historical Commission representative on the town's Community Preservation Committee - hoped to see the historic town garage in Burkeville (opposite Orchard Equipment/OESCO) renovated, and he initiated the recent restoration of the Town Hall cupola. Malcolm also played a significant role in the local celebration of the national bicentennial in 1976, and urged forward the planning for, and then participated in, the successful celebration of the town's 250th in 2017, particularly its parade - which featured a team of horses drawing his Flagg family sawmill-owned, Conway-made, historic Holcomb wagon.

Cynthia's New World heritage traces back to the earliest Old World (Tenney) arrivals in the Massachusetts Colonies and New Hampshire, which later extended to the Erie Canal in New York. She has an admirably-documented New England family history, whereas Malcolm's deep local ties and strong memories were usually shared orally. Malcolm grew up on a Conway dairy farm - the farm on Shelburne Falls Road last operated by Don, Thelma, and Barry Herzig (land located on Original Proprietor Lot 73, which was "improved" from 1773 to 1789 by Captain Jonathan Whitney, who sold to Daniel Newhall, Jr.) - when self-sufficiency remained not only an objective but a necessity, and a point of pride. Though raised on a farm, Malcolm had the opportunity to travel to far-flung corners of the world for work, and his experiences left him with an appreciation for a community's need for people, which those raised in more urban or densely-populated regions may overlook.

Two well-known members of the community stepped up in early 2023 to offer their services to the Historical Commission, and were appointed by the Selectmen to fill our open seats. We're grateful to be able to welcome new members Jane Recore (who worked hard on a Conway dairy farm in her youth, too, in a family of later, non-Yankee immigrants with some Native American heritage) and Henry ("Hank") Horstmann (a skilled tradesman, and busy volunteer in other local capacities).

In recognition of the significant milestone we reached in 2022, and to clarify a somewhat-confused record, we provide below some historical facts about the Commission.

The town's 7-member volunteer Historical Commission was created by 1973's (February) Annual Town Meeting. The Historical Commission's first six members (with one seat initially unfilled) were appointed by the Selectmen during the town's transition to a July 1-June 30 fiscal year (FY). The Historical Commission is responsible for conducting research ("*...shall conduct researches for places of historic or archeological value...*"), and otherwise acting "*...for the preservation, protection and development of the historical or archeological assets...*" of Conway (M.G.L., Chapter 40, Section 8D).

The names of those who've served on the Historical Commission are listed below. Members serve in staggered terms, or Classes, as indicated by the [1], [2], or [3]. The first Historical Commission appointees were assigned to two seats with initial 1-year terms (ending June 30, 1974), two seats with initial 2-year terms (ending June 30,

1975), and three seats with initial 3-year terms (ending June 30, 1976), all of which became 3-year terms upon renewal. (Class numbers thus refer to the initial length of a seat's term, which established its future years of rotation so as to create staggered terms for Commission members.) Historical Commission activity seemingly lapsed for a time prior to a FY 1979 Commission "vitalizing."

Previous Members, in Alphabetical Order

Barten, David (Early 2008-9/4/2013 [2])
Bigelow, Howard (7/1/1973-6/30/1975; [2])
Bluh, Cynthia (3-6/1996 & 10/1996-12/31/2022; [2] & [1])
Bond, Anne (6/1/1984-2/1990; [2])
Borton, Anthony ("Tony") (Late 2005-10/11/2007; [2])
Boyden, Barbara (7/1982-Late 1986; [3])
Clapp, Aili P. (7/1/1973-6/30/1983; [1])
Conant, John (7/1/1979-7/1986; [3])
Corse, Malcolm (10/1999-12/2022; [3])
Delap, Dennis (7/1/1990-12/31/1995; [1])
DiCarlo, Ella M. (Fall, 1986-11/1994; [3])
Dichter, Susan (1/1/1995-6/30/2003; [3])
Eldridge, Alice (1/1/1975-6/30/1978 & 7/1/1980-6/30/2005; [2])
Eldridge, George (7/1/1975-6/30/1976 & 7/1/1983-9/1996; [3] & [1])
Gadomski, Hope (7/1/1980-6/30/1982; [3])
Graves, Gladys (7/1/1973-6/30/1979 & 7/1/1979-6/30/1986; [3] & [1])
Grossmann, Walter (8/1988-3/30/1990; [1])
Gulick, Edward (7/1/1988-10/1992; [3])
Held, Doris (7/1986-6/30/1988; [3])
Klein, Vernabelle ("Sally") (7/1/1973-6/30/1978; [2])
Kreitner, Frederick J. (7/1993-6/30/2000; [3])
Landstrom, Elsie (7/1/1976-6/30/1979 [3])
Manwell, Eleanor R. (7/1/1979-6/30/1999; [3])
McIntosh, John ("Jack") (7/1990-3/13/1996; [2])

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Williams



Newsletter Committee

Conway Currents, the town-supported newsletter, was created in February of 2020. The monthly publication has a continuing mission:

- Give a creative voice to those who live in, work in, or have a familial connection to the Town of Conway.
- Connect the readers of Conway Currents to programs, services and social groups in the community
- Provide a vehicle for the town administration to communicate essential information to the residents of Conway.
- Give readers of Conway Currents an awareness of local businesses and services through articles of interest or when said businesses purchase advertising space.

Each month, residents of Conway are mailed copies of the newsletter. The newsletter, which can also be accessed on the Town of Conway's webpage. This now expands its reach far beyond its physical 37.9 sq. mile borders. Conway Currents is diverse: biographical content, a local history column, various articles and a column that highlight programs and services for our older citizens and updates and alerts of health-related issues are some of the principal columns. Other features include poetry, fiction, hobby news and opportunities to give service to the community can be found in nearly every issue. This year more than twenty-nine different advertisers utilized the newsletter. Conway Currents continues to experience both growth and interest.

Although we have about six regular contributors, our Committee is always on the search for new writers with ideas for content and look forward to their contributions in growing the newsletter. To reach out to Conway Currents, please e-mail us at: newsletter@conwayma.gov.

The staff of the newsletter includes:

Kathy Llamas, Chair

Louise Beckett, Vice-Chair

Véronique Blanchard, Treasurer

Patricia Ann Lynch, Secretary

Carol Jean Baldwin, Member.



Open Space Committee

Important progress was made protecting our natural resources last year and demonstrating activities townsfolks can apply to their own property.

Nearly 80 native trees and shrubs were planted at the South River Meadow along the river to enhance climate resiliency. This major project was enabled by a USDA Forest Service grant administered by the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership and the New England Forestry Foundation. They commissioned *A Place for Trees: Riparian Restoration in the Deerfield River Watershed* by graduate students from The Conway School. Our site was fortunate to be selected and the first implemented! It was "shovel ready" after the significant flood storage retention restoration completed in 2016 and subsequent extensive knotweed eradication. The plantings will provide more canopy in time to shade and cool the river. They'll stabilize the bank and prevent further erosion on this section which had been straightened. Open Space Committee members worked with the consultants fine tuning tree selection, location, purchasing and pickup. Holes were dug at flagged sites by Nick Potter. Then on May 26th scores of local volunteers with their tools planted, watered, and installed deer protection cages or tubes. Trees include Black Willow, Eastern Cottonwood, Blackgum, Tulip, Basswood, Red Maple, Silver Maple, Sycamore and Tupelo. Shrubs are Chokeberry, Silky Willow, Speckled Adler, Serviceberry, Spicebush, Steeplebush, Sweetgale, Peaked Hazelnut, White Meadowsweet and Winterberry. For several months Valdemar Anderson watered all the new plants using a solar pump and rain barrel. A matching grant was also secured from the state Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs. See <http://www.mohawktrailwoodlandpartnership.org/a-place-for-trees.html>: excellent explanations, graphics (and colors!) on the health and future prospects of our rivers and trees. It is important reading for all.

Bluebird Boxes at the Meadow benefited from new volunteer caretaker Katie Clarke Waddell. She monitors the boxes to ensure they're in good shape and available for bluebirds and tree swallows (not invasive house sparrows

which can kill baby bluebirds and swallows.) Katie recommends finding out more about becoming a bluebird landlord in your own backyard - a great national resource is michiganbluebirds.org. Many next generations of these beautiful insect eaters will be looking for new housing!

Great new volunteers mounted an amazing organizing effort applying their expertise to transform a neglected area in the center of town into a beautiful, beneficial native garden. *Pollinate Conway!* blossomed with financial and administrative support from the Open Space Committee to help implement the town's *Pollinator Action Plan*. The first site was in front of the Town Office. Plans were delineated (complete with a water collection system) and shared with the Selectboard. Despite an enthusiastic reception, aims were thwarted by a repair of the handicapped ramp and other complications. The second site was more successful: the Christmas tree island in front of the Library. The dogwoods and serviceberry were reinvigorated by extensive pruning and a mostly perennial border installed, mulched, watered and tended all summer. The Garden Club shared their treasury for individual plant labels and a beautiful sign by local artist Maggie Madole. A reception celebrated the lovely new garden and community camaraderie. Not long afterwards, all were rewarded by a monarch butterfly feasting there! Thank you Cayte McDonough, Cynthia Lawton-Singer, Kendall Clark and all the residents they recruited to help. Watch the Open Space Committee's website (<https://conwayma.gov/g/56/Open-Space-Committee>) for links to *Pollinate Conway!*'s plant list and design tips to renovate a garden of your own.

Birds Of Conway Meadows - May 15, 2022 YouTube was a well-attended presentation at the Town Hall by ornithologist Mara Silver. She explained habitat needs and the decline of bobolinks, kestrels, barn and bank swallows. However, opening barn windows, nest boxes and other activities (keep cats indoors!) help support them in many Conway locations. We're grateful to Franklin Community Access TV www.Frcat.tv for recording this event.

A citizen alerted us to problems caused by some folks not controlling their dogs at the South River Meadow. After careful deliberation, two new *Dogs must be Under Control at all times* signs were erected.

All these projects required lots of meetings and consultations. Special thanks to committee members: Michele Turre, Andy Levchuk, Mac McCoy and Aimee Anderson. We're sorry Steve Jackson had to resign; he made important contributions.

Our quest to protect native flora essential for pollinators, wildlife and humans necessitates curbing invasive Japanese knotweed, Japanese stiltgrass, oriental bittersweet, multiflora rose, barberry and garlic mustard. They are spread all over town and by waterways. They know no property boundaries. So while we focus on town-owned land, all who value our rural community should participate. There are now many successful invasive plant containment methods; we are happy to share this knowledge. Like weeding a flower or vegetable garden, annual diligence is important!

Janet Chayes, Chair



Parks & Recreation Committee

No report was submitted for FY2022 from this Committee.



Personnel Committee

No report was submitted for FY2022 from this Committee.



Planning Board

Meetings are held on the first and third Thursday evenings of every month at 7:00 p.m.

Meetings were held at the Town Hall until October, when we began to hold meetings remotely via Zoom. As is customary when business allows, the board reduced the meeting schedule to once a month in July and August of 2021.

Mission Statement: The Planning Board is responsible for drafting, amending and modifying zoning By-Laws, and granting Special Permits. It is charged with creating a Master Plan that forecasts the long-term needs of the town with respect to housing, land use, economic development, environmental concerns, services and facilities, conservation, and recreation. The Board will make studies, hold meetings, authorize technical research, prepare plans, and develop proposals with regards to the future needs of the town.

Membership from July 2021 through June 2022: Beth Girshman, Chair; Susan Fentin, George Forcier as of October 2021; Bill Moebius; Jennifer Mullins, Vice-Chair; Joe Strzegowski, Associate Member since 2020 when he retired as a full member.

From July 2021 through June 2022, the Planning Board attended the following trainings through Citizen Planner Training Collaborative fair, Defensible Land Use Decisions, Drafting Zoning Amendments, Adopting and Revising Rules and Regulations, Roles and Responsibilities of Planning and Zoning Boards; Special Permits and Variances continued to assess the Nexamp solar project, including the following issues:

Screening/Plantings and replacing the gravel drive with grass; Environmental concerns; Generator/Noise ‘harmonics’; Erosion/Washouts - with a Public Meeting on 10/26/21 worked with Kimberly MacPhee and consultants, Franklin Regional Council of Governments, regarding the possibility of creating a river corridor overlay district zoning.

Worked with FRCOG consultants on state-required floodplain district bylaw revision to bring before 2022 Town Meeting;

Revisions to Floodplain bylaw, Article 7: Public Hearing: April 21, 2022 voted on May 19, 2022 to recommend amendments to the Floodplain District Bylaw, Article 7 of the Town of Conway Zoning Bylaws.

Continued to monitor processes related to the special permit of Roaring Glen Farms, LLC. Held a Public Hearing for Modification of Special Permit with Conditions for Roaring Glen Farms, LLC on December 2, 2021.

Special Permit application from Vertex Tower Assets for wireless facility, 1356 Ashfield Road, Conway Planning Board members attended site visit and observed visibility testing held joint public hearing with Zoning Board of Appeals: May 10, 2022.

Planning Board public hearing continued to July 9, 2022

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Girshman, Chair



Public Buildings Committee

The Public Buildings committee was created by the Selectboard on February 7th, 2022, with the purpose of identifying and prioritizing current and future needs for existing and proposed Town-owned buildings. It will oversee the design, maintenance, and construction of building rehabilitation and new construction. It will present proposals requiring the approval of Town Meeting, and report progress and problems via the minutes of its meetings.

The committee is made up of five members:

Ron Sweet, Co-Chair, June 2023

Walter Goodridge, Co-Chair, June 2025

Chris Herrmann, member, June 2024

Kenneth Ouimette, member, June 2024

Peter Jeswald, member, June 2025

There had previously been a Town Hall Renovation committee, which was put under the new Public Buildings committee as a working group when the new committee was established. There is also a Public Safety Building working group under the Public Buildings committee.

Since the Highway Facility was completed and the Highway Department was able to move out of both the old Highway garage on 15 Ashfield Road, as well as out of the Town Offices at 32 Main Street, the Public Safety Building working group began discussions on how best to utilize the space in the old garage between the Fire, Police and Ambulance Departments. As discussions progressed, it was decided to look into the idea of adding an office building on the side of the existing garage, which could house offices for each of the departments as well as other necessary amenities such as a working shower, bathroom, and laundry. This addition would be connected to the existing building through a hallway at the rear of the buildings and thereby allow access for each of the departments to their own vehicle bays. It would also solve the problem of having handicapped accessible offices for each of the departments, which are currently housed in the upstairs of the Town Offices. Discussions and plans continue, and we hope to report more progress next year.

Respectfully submitted,
Véronique Blanchard
Acting clerk



Select Board

I am pleased to once again report that the state of the Town of Conway remains strong and fiscally healthy. Congratulations to all of us for emerging together from our lengthy pandemic trauma and for thriving and surviving despite the fact that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is in far too many respects an essentially unreliable partner.

Many thanks to my Selectboard colleagues Erica Goleman and Christopher Waldo with appreciation that we all work so well together and truly enjoy each other's company. And gratitude for our town administrator Véronique

Blanchard who has settled into her position nicely in her 2nd year with us, as well as her assistant, Adam Reed, who is also doing a fine job.

As for municipal accomplishments this has been the year where we focused on the rehabilitation of our public safety building on Rte 116. Thank you to our building committee of Walter Goodridge, Peter Jeswald, Ron Sweet, Ken Ouimette, Bob Baker and Véronique Blanchard for your constant toil and dedication and for overcoming every obstacle in your path and delivering to the Town a proposal for this project at this Town Meeting. This year also saw an emergency bridge closure on n Poland road, and the towns' all-of-government response which secured for us a temporary bridge replacement at no cost to taxpayers.

This year Conway is also part of the replacement of the Tennis/pickle ball courts at Frontier Regional School, and we will also be building our own pickle ball court on Shelburne falls road. If you are reading this and have not volunteered to serve in town government, please stop in town offices and let Véronique match your interests with our opportunities. This Town cannot function without volunteers. Thank you to all of you for your service to Conway.

I am honored to have been your Selectboard chair this past year, and here's wishing us all some joy, abundance and wisdom in the year to come.

With gratitude,
Philip Kantor, Selectboard Chair



Wastewater Committee

No report was submitted for FY2022 from this Committee.



Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) received two applications for Variances during 2019, a typical number for most years. Also, there were various inquiries about building and land projects which did not directly involve the Zoning Board of Appeals, but we were able to steer these residents in the correct directions.

The applications for Special Permits for clearances and for Variances underwent some revisions to make them clearer and more user friendly. (Applications may be found on the Town website on the Zoning Board of Appeals page.) The ZBA must follow certain requirements when it conducts hearings, including notification of residents who live near the subject property. Notification involves placing a legal advertisement in local newspapers. Because the cost for these ads has increased, the fee for Special Permit or Variance applications has increased and must now be paid in advance as part of the application process.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Silverman, Chair



DEPARTMENTS – ADMINISTRATION

Town Administrator

Covid continues to affect town functions, and the town purchased an OWL Meeting Pro in order to enhance the online zoom experience for committee meetings. The Conway Board of Health voted to lift the mask mandate as of February 28th. It was still recommended to wear a mask if one wished to, were unvaccinated, or had a compromised immune system.

One of the requirements of my job was to complete the training for the Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official (MCPPO) designation, which consisted of three classes; Public Contracting Overview, Design and Construction Contracting, and Supplies and Services Contracting. I completed all three classes and was awarded the MCPPO certificate on April 6, 2022.

Cyber security has risen to the top of concerns for municipalities across the country. I applied for and was awarded a training through the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS) which began in January of 2022. The training helps employees learn how to spot phishing attacks, and also teaches best practices for securing sensitive information. The training will run through the calendar year.

I created a website working group to review options for a new website platform. The town had been using WordPress, which has many capabilities and is quite inexpensive. However, there is no training provided through the program as it is simply a platform to use. The neighboring towns all use either Montague WebWorks or CivicPlus, so all three options were explored. After several months of presentations and demonstrations by WebWorks and CivicPlus it was decided to contract with WebWorks, who are not only locally based in Montague but also provide ongoing technical support and are the less expensive option.

We mourn the passing of long-time town counsel John ‘Jack’ H. Fitz-Gibbon, who passed away suddenly in April. The Selectboard has appointed Donna MacNicol of MacNicol & Tombs in Greenfield as new town counsel. Attorney MacNicol was introduced at the June 4th annual town meeting, and has proven to be incredibly helpful and knowledgeable.

At the annual town meeting in 2021, the town authorized the purchase of 69 Main Street, which has been identified as of importance to flood mitigation efforts. The town spent six months negotiating with the owners; unfortunately no agreement could be reached. In 2022 town meeting then authorized the eminent domain taking of an easement on the back lot 69 Main Street for purposes of flood mitigation. Unfortunately the town’s application for a Municipal Vulnerability Program grant to begin work on the back lot was unsuccessful this fiscal year, but another application will be sent in next fiscal year to continue the flood mitigation efforts in Conway center.

Boards and Committees

I requested of the Selectboard the creation of two new committees. The first was the Community & Economic Development Committee, whose creation was approved on September 27, 2021 and the Public Buildings Committee, approved on February 7th, 2022. In this fiscal year three committees had no members; Personnel, Energy and the Agricultural Commission.

Departments

Laurie Lucier, our Town Clerk, has also taken on the role of clerk to the Board of Health and clerk to the Board of Assessors. She moved her Town Clerk office from the Town Offices back room to the Town Hall Assessors office in November. She now works 40 hours a week, therefore is able to keep the Town Hall open daily. My hours are daily as well, which means that now both Town Hall and the Town Offices are open 5 days a week. Fridays tend to be half days.

The Selectboard approved, on my recommendation, that regular staff members no longer be re-appointed annually. My reasoning was that all town employees are at will employees anyway, and it seemed redundant, as well as a little rude, to keep re-appointing them annually. All other committee and board appointments will continue to be appointed as normal.

Finance

The Town of Conway became eligible for up to \$166,813 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds in May of 2020. These funds were provided on a reimbursement basis, which was complicated by the fact that three town administrators had worked on submitting reports; Tom Hutcheson, interim town administrator Ross Perry and myself. Conway spent a total \$134,189.77 on covid related expenses from March of 2020 through October of 2021. Most of these funds were spent on personal protective equipment for both the town and grammar school, with some for contact tracing through the FRCOG. The reimbursements were submitted and the account closed out by the end of the fiscal year.

The Town of Conway received \$559,852 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in October of 2021. ARPA funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and spent by December 31, 2026, and the Selectboard is in charge of allocating these funds. The first expenditure of \$1,800 in January was for covid rapid tests which the town then made available to staff and departments such as Ambulance and Fire. The selectboard then approved using \$118,766.64 of the funds to cover sick time buy backs for Grammar School employees. Funds were then allocated to drill a new well for the old Highway garage, provide software for both the Treasurer's and Clerk's offices, hire Capital Strategic Solutions to help manage the reporting of ARPA funds, and pay for the town's new website. As of June 30, 2022 there is \$406,300.59 left to allocate.

In April 2022, Conway was awarded \$213,043.25 in funding for the Winter Recovery Assistance Program, also known as WRAP. The WRAP award was in addition to normal Chapter 90 monies, and will help with road repair. The town's award amount is based on its 64 road miles, and this formulation is different and more beneficial to Conway than the Chapter 90 calculations.

Conway has sent in the settlement participation forms for both the Distributors and J & J Opioid settlement funds.

For FY22's budget season, I decided to create a large excel spreadsheet with each individual budget as a separate tab, and link them all to another tab to create Article 2 for the warrant. To my mind, this creates more transparency in the town budget, as each line is broken out and the amounts shown. This budget spreadsheet is available for viewing online under the Town Administrator's home page and will be updated annually.

Respectfully submitted,

Véronique Blanchard
Conway Town Administrator & Resident



Town Clerk

MISSION STATEMENT: To be a reliable provider of information and quality services to the community and its residents; we strive to work cooperatively and in coordination with all departments, boards, and committees to maintain and achieve established goals of the Town while complying with state and local statutes as well as the Town Bylaws. We are dedicated to the preservation of all the Town of Conway's past, present and future documents, and vital records to the benefit of all residents and future generations. We respect the right to vote and will assure that all elections are conducted in a fair and open manner providing equal access to all citizens. This office will promote public confidence and good will by providing the highest level of courteous and efficient service to ensure transparent governance, and to uphold the highest degree of integrity. Notary public and Justice of the Peace Services are provided to the public.

The population for the Town of Conway according to the 2022 Annual Town Censes was 1,735.

As the Chief Election office of the Town of Conway, the Town Clerk serves as the liaison office of the Board of Registrars and maintains voter registrations and all materials related to elections. The Town Clerk is responsible for coordinating and administrating all local and State elections. The following elections were held and the total number of registers voters in the Town of Conway reported per election in 2022 is as follows:

Annual Town Election – June 9, 2022 Registered Voters: 1460 / Voter Turnout: 25%
State Primary – September 6, 2022 Registered Voters: 1461; Voter Turnout: 31%
State Elections – November 8, 2022 Registered Voters: 1473; Voter Turnout: 73%

As required by Massachusetts General Laws, minutes of the Annual Town Meeting, Special Town Meetings, and all election results are certified by the Town Clerk and are permanently recorded in the Town record books.

The Office of the Town Clerk offers many services on a walk-in basis to residents, such as, issuing marriage licenses; dog licenses; certified copies of birth, marriage, and death certificates; voter registration; absentee ballot applications; and raffle and bazaar permits. In addition, the Office of the Town Clerk serves as the filing/clerical office for the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the filing office for the Planning Board. Residents can also obtain Town Meeting warrants, sample ballots for elections, annual reports and the annual street list (\$10) in our office.

During the calendar year of 2022, the following were issued: Dog Licenses – 369 individual, plus 4 kennel licenses Business Certificates – 14 VITAL RECORDS

Number of Recent Births Recorded in Conway

For reasons of privacy, names of children are no longer published in the town report.

MALE – 3 / FEMALE – 6

2022 Deaths Recorded in Conway

March 4 Eugene V. Povirk, Age 73 Disposition at Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA

April 2 John L. Harris, Age 83 Disposition at Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA

June 2 David Scott Barker, Age 63 Disposition at Cheshire Family Crematory, Troy, NH

July 3 Ann Elizabeth Scheer-Forcier, Age 69 Disposition at Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA

July 27 Patricia Anne Jamrog, Age 83 Disposition at Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA

August 4 Joseph Frank Schiappa, Age 84 Disposition at Hillcrest Park Cemetery, Springfield, MA

September 9 Peter Hanas, Age 95 Disposition at Holy Ghost Ukrainian Cemetery, Whately, MA

September 13 Elizabeth D. Hubbard, Age 60 Disposition at Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA

October 1 Rudolph A. Herzig, Sr., Age 73 Disposition at Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA

October 26 Michael Pierre Campbell, Age 55 Disposition at Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA

November 8 John L. Rioux, Age 87 Disposition at Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA

November 18 Mary Jane Nelson, Age 87 Disposition at Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA

2022 Marriages Recorded in Conway

April 22 Paul R. Sabin of Ashfield and Susan E. Atherton of Buckland Married in Buckland, MA

June 12 Timothy Johnson O'Brien of Conway and Erin Lee Phillips of Conway Married in Conway, MA

June 24 Ian Michael. Ursprung of Whately and Leanne Marie Kieras of Whately Married in Whately, MA

June 24 Drew Holland Chapman of Conway and Kylie Nilan Angell of Conway Married in Amherst, MA

July 2 Neo A. Savarese of Milford, NH and Katelyn M. Provencher of Conway, MA Married in Conway, MA

October 1 Geoffrey Lawrence Baker of Conway and Mikayla Alayne Reine of Conway Married in Conway, MA

October 15 Matthew Carlson of S. Deerfield and Angela Rose Self of Conway Married in South Deerfield, MA

October 16 James Francis Ackerman of Conway and Brandene Calie Gagnon of Conway Married in Conway, MA

November 26 David Alan Mako of S. Deerfield and Helen Michele Kittredge of S. Deerfield Married in Amherst, MA

December 31 Bradley Tyler Loncar of Conway and Katelyn Loraine Shallcross of Conway Married in Shelburne, MA



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Conway, Massachusetts

Annual Town Meeting

June 4, 2022

AT A LEGAL TOWN MEETING of the inhabitants of the Town of Conway qualified to vote in town affairs, convened at the time and place and for the purpose specified in the warrant, 125 voters were checked at the door and issued electronic voting clickers for the purpose of voting. Tammy Bennett and Sarah Newman served as checkers. The meeting was called to order by the Moderator James Recore, and it was unanimously voted to dispense with the formality of having the warrant read by the Town Clerk. The following actions were taken by those persons in attendance:

ARTICLE 1: Voted that Town Meeting accept the town reports as printed in the Town Annual Report.

ARTICLE 2:

Section A: Voted that the Town approve line items 114 through 900 of Article 2 as presented in the warrant, for a subtotal of **\$2,655,670**.

Section B: Voted that the Town approve line items 300A and 300B of Article 2 as presented in the warrant, for a subtotal of **\$2,086,307**.

Section C: Voted that the Town approve line items 310A, 310B and 310C of Article 2 as presented in the warrant for a subtotal of **\$1,571,659**.

Section D: Voted that the Town approve line items 320A, 320B and 320C of Article 2 as presented in the warrant for a subtotal of **\$183,261**.

Section E: Voted that the Town approve line items 330A and 330B of Article 2 as presented in the warrant for a subtotal of **76,344, and a total in Article 2 of \$6,573,331**.

DEPT #	DEPARTMENT NAME	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023 REC.*	FY22 – 23 CHANGE
114	MODERATOR	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$0
122	SELECTBOARD	\$2,900	\$8,500	\$6,500	-\$2,000
131	FINANCE COMMITTEE	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$0
132	RESERVE FUND	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0

135	TOWN AUDITS	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$0
141	ASSESSORS	\$10,690	\$12,008	\$12,075	\$67
141	ASSESSORS WAGES	\$49,114	\$61,511	\$60,002	-\$1,509
145	TREASURER-COLLECTOR	\$17,898	\$17,783	\$20,919	\$3,136
145	TREASURER-COLLECTOR WAGES	\$60,337	\$63,391	\$66,531	\$3,140
150	TOWN ADMINISTRATION	\$16,000	\$18,700	\$20,600	\$1,900
150	TOWN ADMINISTRATION WAGES	\$98,787	\$106,380	\$92,040	-\$14,340
151	LEGAL	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$11,000	\$1,000
159	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	\$34,431	\$37,586	\$42,242	\$4,656
161	TOWN CLERK	\$6,150	\$7,750	\$7,750	\$0
161	TOWN CLERK WAGES	\$34,513	\$37,500	\$40,382	\$2,882
162	REGISTRARS	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,700	\$200
163	ELECTIONS	\$8,100	\$14,300	\$9,600	-\$4,700
170	OPEN SPACE	\$3,100	\$3,100	\$3,100	\$0
171	CONSERVATION COMMISSION	\$853	\$803	\$807	\$4
172	AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$0
175	PLANNING BOARD	\$1,850	\$2,150	\$2,250	\$100
176	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$0
190	PERSONNEL COMMITTEE	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$0
192	BUILDING MAINTENANCE	\$59,600	\$59,600	\$73,500	\$13,900
192	BUILDING MAINTENANCE WAGES	\$17,833	\$0	\$0	\$0
193	TOWN INSURANCE	\$84,710	\$85,419	\$89,053	\$3,634
210	POLICE	\$18,050	\$18,775	\$19,975	\$1,200
210	POLICE WAGES	\$110,620	\$116,220	\$119,707	\$3,487
220	FIRE	\$36,005	\$39,805	\$42,005	\$2,200
220	FIRE WAGES	\$36,673	\$39,600	\$41,697	\$2,097
231	AMBULANCE	\$22,400	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
291	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$4,225	\$4,225	\$4,250	\$25
292	ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER	\$3,010	\$3,110	\$3,110	\$0
294	TREE WARDEN	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$0
422	HIGHWAY	\$256,000	\$256,000	\$260,800	\$4,800
422	HIGHWAY WAGES	\$260,781	\$304,873	\$312,883	\$8,010
423	SNOW & ICE	\$103,000	\$103,000	\$103,000	\$0
423	SNOW & ICE WAGES	\$19,830	\$20,834	\$21,459	\$625
433	TRANSFER STATION	\$0	\$0	\$135,048	\$135,048
433	TRANSFER STATION WAGES	\$0	\$0	\$43,260	\$43,260
491	CEMETERY	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$0

512	BOARD OF HEALTH	\$165,131	\$164,559	\$17,992	-\$146,567
512	BOARD OF HEALTH WAGES	\$60,469	\$63,833	\$22,423	-\$41,410
541	COUNCIL ON AGING	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0
543	VETERANS	\$10,743	\$11,485	\$11,245	-\$241
630	PARKS, RECREATION & TRAILS	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$0
635	FOREST & TRAILS	\$0	\$0	\$400	\$400
650	TOWN NEWSLETTER	\$0	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0
691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$0
710	DEBT SERVICE	\$80,021	\$81,077	\$52,133	-\$28,944
751	DEBT SERVICE INTEREST	\$23,025	\$21,072	\$19,119	-\$1,953
752	SHORT TERM INTEREST	\$1,650	\$1,650	\$100	-\$1,550
830	FRCOG (Town Nurse under Board of Health)	\$56,474	\$56,716	\$56,590	-\$126
900	EMPLOYEE COSTS	\$710,227	\$715,857	\$726,161	\$10,304
	TOTAL	\$2,548,053	\$2,653,025	\$2,655,760	\$2,735

300A	GRAM SCH OPERATING	\$1,868,752	\$1,945,554	\$2,016,647	\$71,093
300B	GRAM SCH TRANSPORT	\$83,520	\$80,689	\$69,660	-\$11,029

310A	FRONTIER REG OPERATING	\$1,473,565	\$1,477,649	\$1,532,073	\$54,424
310B	FRONTIER TRANSPORTATION	\$38,734	\$41,148	\$26,759	-\$14,389
310C	FRONTIER CAPITAL ASSESSMENT			\$12,827	\$12,827

320A	FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL	\$91,432	\$68,814	\$169,670	\$100,856
320B	FCTS TRANSPORTATION	\$2,943	\$2,969	\$7,049	\$4,080
320c	FCTS CAPITAL ASSESSMENT	\$6,698	\$6,228	\$6,542	\$314

330A	OTHER TECHNICAL SCHOOLS	\$18,500	\$39,000	\$49,344	\$10,344
330B	OTHER TECH SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION	\$12,700	\$23,400	\$27,000	\$3,600

FY 21 to 22: 178,814 2.90%	GRAND TOTAL for Operating Budget:	6,165,362	6,344,176	6,573,331	FY 22-23 229,155 3.49%
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**Unanimously approved by the Selectboard and Finance Committee*

ARTICLE 3: Voted that the Town transfer \$82,000 from the Grammar School Capital Stabilization Fund to the general fund for **capital expenses of the Conway Grammar School.** *(Two-thirds vote.)*

ARTICLE 4: Voted that the Town transfer \$52,000 from free cash to the **Conway Grammar School capital stabilization fund**.

ARTICLE 5: Voted that the Town approve setting the salaries of elected officials as provided by M.G.L. c. 41, section 108 to be made effective from July 1, 2022, as presented in the budget

ARTICLE 6: Voted that the Town transfer \$150,000 from free cash to the **Capital Improvements Stabilization Fund**.

ARTICLE 7: Voted that the Town approve the creation of a new **Fire Truck Stabilization Fund**.

ARTICLE 8: Voted that the Town transfer \$100,000 from free cash into **to the Fire Truck Stabilization Fund**.

ARTICLE 9: Voted that the Town transfer \$7,400 from free cash to the general fund for **two portable speed radar detectors**.

ARTICLE 10: Voted that the Town transfer \$27,762 from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved Fund for a **partial payment for Ambulance Department operational expenses**.

ARTICLE 11: Voted that the Town transfer \$60,000 from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved Fund into the **Ambulance Stabilization Fund**.

ARTICLE 12: Voted that the Town transfer \$5,000 from free cash to the general fund for **ongoing ambulance training**.

ARTICLE 13: Voted that the Town transfer \$3,600 from free cash to the general fund for **Ambulance Department 800 MHz Emergency Pagers**.

ARTICLE 14: Voted that the Town transfer \$18,000 from free cash to the general fund for **Fire Department 800 MHz Emergency Pagers**.

ARTICLE 15: Voted that the Town transfer \$20,000 from free cash into the **OPEB Trust Fund**.

ARTICLE 16: Voted that the Town transfer \$13,867 from free cash to the general fund for **partial debt service for the Highway Garage**.

ARTICLE 17: Voted that the Town transfer \$10,000 from free cash to the tax title revolving account to **assist the treasurer in collecting delinquent taxes**.

ARTICLE 18: Voted that the Town transfer \$10,000 from free cash to the general fund **compensated absences account**.

ARTICLE 19: Voted that the Town transfer \$5,000 from free cash to the general fund to **provide for the testing of diseases in mosquitos**.

ARTICLE 20: Voted that the Town pass over the article: “that the Town vote to transfer \$7,984 from free cash to the general fund to pay **for software development for data management modules for the Town Clerk**.”

ARTICLE 21: Voted that the Town transfer \$5,000 from free cash to the general fund as a partial contribution for **future revaluation work**.

ARTICLE 22: Voted that the Town transfer \$5,000 from free cash to the general fund as a **partial contribution to replenish the Grant Match and Administration Account**.

ARTICLE 23: Voted that the Town transfer \$2,775 from free cash to the **Field Library** to help ensure its accreditation.

ARTICLE 24: Voted that the Town authorize the Treasurer to spend up to \$5,000 from the **Medicaid Revolving Fund** to pay related reimbursement fees.

ARTICLE 25: Voted that the Town **authorize the Selectboard to request special legislation allowing Chief Kenneth Ouimette to serve on the Police Department after age 65** until the date of his retirement or until his non-reappointment.

ARTICLE 26: Voted that the Town **authorize the Selectboard to request special legislation allowing Randall Williams to serve on the Police Department after age 65** until the date of his retirement or until his non-reappointment.

ARTICLE 27: Voted that the Town allow the Selectboard **to apply for, accept, and expend** state, federal and other grants which do not require a town appropriation or town meeting approval.

ARTICLE 28: Voted that the Town authorize the Selectboard to acquire by eminent domain a **permanent easement** for flood control, public safety, removal of the berm, other municipal purposes related to the South River Flood Resiliency Project and other municipal purposes over the following described parcel: A portion of the property at 69 Main Street, Assessors Tax Map 102 Lot 2.1 owned by South River Trust, John R. Evans, Trustee, that portion of the property lying southerly of the current South River location consisting of 4.3 acres more or less, Franklin County Registry of Deeds Book 2867, Page 169. *(Two-thirds vote.)*

ARTICLE 29: Voted that the Town appropriate, or reserve for later appropriation, monies from the **Community Preservation Fund** as listed in the warrant, with each item considered a separate appropriation.

A: \$63,850 from the Community Preservation Fund, specifically from the Unbudgeted Reserve Account, for grant matching and/or for costs and expenses for land acquisition, rights of way, easements and related costs and expenses for two unnumbered, unbuildable parcels along Shelburne Falls Road, owned by Judith Waldo and the heirs of Mary Boeh, and for a portion of 69 Main Street owned by South River Trust all for flood remediation, public safety, and general municipal purposes; *(two-thirds vote)* and

B: \$42,388 to the Historical Society for the Archibald MacLeish Stone House renovation project [Historic Resources Reserve account]; and

C: \$21,000 to the Cemetery Trustees for Howland and Pine Grove for removal of hazardous trees from the Howland Cemetery [Budgeted Reserve account]; and

D: FY 2023 Annual Revenue:

10% to the Community Preservation Historical Resources Reserve; (\$9,471.64)

10% to the Community Preservation Community Housing Reserve; (\$9,471.64)

10% to the Community Preservation Open Space Reserve; (\$9,471.64)5% from FY 2021 Annual Revenues for Administration of the Community Preservation Committee (\$4,735.82); and the remainder to the Community Preservation Budgeted Reserve (\$61,565.69).

ARTICLE 30: Voted that the Town authorize the Selectboard to forward the citizen’s petition on the Fair Share Amendment to local legislators.

ARTICLE 31: Voted that the Town amend its General Bylaws on the Form and Conduct of Town Government, The Town Meeting to read as follows:

Section 1: The ANNUAL TOWN MEETING for the election of Town Officers shall be considered the adjournment of the Town Meeting and shall be on the following Thursday after Annual Town Meeting each year.

(Amended – Special Meeting – 17 Oct 2011)

Section 2: All business of the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING to be held on the first Saturday in June.

(Amended – Annual Meeting – 5 June 2021)

ARTICLE 32: Voted that the Town amend its General Bylaws on LEGAL to read as follows:

Section 4: The Selectboard may annually appoint a member of the Bar who is in good standing, to serve as Town Counsel for the term of one year from the first day of July following annual Town Meeting, and until his successor is appointed and enters upon the performance of his duties. They shall likewise fill any vacancy in said office for the unexpired term and may employ special counsel to assist said Town Counsel whenever, in their judgment necessity therefor arises.

(Amended – February 1974)

ARTICLE 33: Voted that the Town amend its General Bylaws by adding a new section to establish and authorize revolving funds for use by certain Town departments, boards, committees and agencies or officers, as set forth in the warrant.

ARTICLE 34: Voted that the Town amend its General Bylaws by replacing the word ‘council’ with ‘counsel’ as referenced in the bylaws.

ARTICLE 35: Voted that the Town amend its Protective (Zoning) Bylaws by adopting a new Article 7: Floodplain District which would replace existing Article 7 Section 71: Floodplain District & Section 72 Development Regulations with a new Article 7, Sections 711-7115 as set forth in the warrant.

(Two-thirds vote.)

At 3:30 p.m., the meeting adjourned until Thursday, June 9, 2022, to the Town Hall between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., to bring in their votes for:

- One member of the Selectboard for three years;
- One Assessor for three years;
- One Assessor for one year;
- Two members of the Board of Health for three years;
- One member of the Frontier Regional School Committee for three years;

Two members of the Local School Committee for three years;
 One member of the Planning Board of two years;
 One member of the Planning Board for three years;
 Three Constables for three years;
 Town Clerk for three years;
 Moderator for one year.

Respectfully submitted,
 Laurie L. Lucier Town Clerk



Transfer Station

Report for Fiscal Year 2022; July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

On September 27th, 2021, the Selectboard and Board of Health met jointly to discuss the idea of having the Selectboard be officially in charge of managing the transfer station. The Board of Health made that request of the Selectboard, and the Selectboard accepted management of the transfer station. On the same day, three new transfer station attendants were hired, Tim Fisk, Fredric Brown, and Troy Lucier, who joined previously appointed attendant Jeff Clairemont. Longtime attendants Leland Gray and Jim Allyn both retired from the transfer station. They are missed and the town was very fortunate to have them at the helm for so long.

The funds for managing the transfer station had been incorporated into the Board of Health budget in the past. The Town Administrator and Board of Health clerk worked to tease out which line items were for the Board of Health and which were for the transfer station, and a new budget was developed, account 433, specifically for the transfer station. Additional lines were added so that it can be clearly seen what is expended for both hauling and disposal or recycling of the many materials collected. The budget below shows the newly added lines, which are the ones with no amounts listed. Some of the new lines, such as inspections, compost and uniforms, had been previously paid for under line 380, Contracted Services, under the Board of Health budget, and have been split out for clarity.

<u>433 - Transfer Station*</u>		FY 2022*
		Budget
001-433-5100-000-111-0	Hrly Emp TSA	\$42,000
TOTAL SALARIES		\$42,000
001-433-5400-000-290-0	Inspections	
001-433-5400-000-322-0	FCSWMD Admin	\$7,859
001-433-5400-000-340-0	Telephone	\$300
001-433-5400-000-380-0	Contracted Services	\$22,700
001-433-5400-000-400-0	Trash Hauling	\$45,000
001-433-5400-000-401-0	Bulky Waste hauling and tip fee	
001-433-5400-000-402-0	Recycling Hauling	

001-433-5400-000-403-0	Trash Tipping	\$40,000
001-433-5400-000-404-0	Haz Waste Coll	\$7,500
001-433-5400-000-405-0	Springfield MRF Fee	\$15,000
001-433-5400-000-406-0	Compost	
001-433-5400-000-408-0	Scrap Metal Hauling	
001-433-5400-000-502-0	Uniforms	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$138,359
TOTAL		\$180,359

**department moved from the Board of Health to the Selectboard in FY22*

The transfer station is required to have two inspections, a third-party transfer station inspection, and a biannual wood waste landfill inspection. Fuss & O'Neill performed the landfill inspection, which includes well monitoring, on November 13, 2021, and Jan Ameen of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District performed the third-party transfer station inspection December 6, 2021. Both reports are sent in to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Because the transfer station is located on top of a closed wood waste dump, unfortunately the blacktop at the back of the transfer station keeps sinking, creating depressions which both retain water and create a hazard. These depressions have been excavated and re-filled in the past, and will have to be done again in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

Véronique Blanchard
Town Administrator



Treasurer

Treasurer office hours by phone and email are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am to 3pm.

Debt

Debt Schedule								
Description	Initial Loan Amt	Term	Remaining Term	July 1, 2021 Balance	FY2022 New Debt	FY2022 Retirement	FY2022 Interest PD	June 30, 2022 Balance
Fire Truck	\$151,000	5 yr	0	\$30,000		\$30,000	\$897	\$0
Highway Garage	\$988,000	15 yr	13	\$922,000		\$66,000	\$20,175	\$856,000
Paving	\$170,000	3 yr	3	\$170,000		\$0	\$0	\$170,000
Total	\$1,309,000			\$1,122,000	\$0	\$96,000	\$21,072	\$1,026,000

Tax Liens and Possessions

Tax Liens are being addressed regularly. There were no new foreclosures in FY2022 and no sales of any tax possessions.

Tax Title Balance				
Description	Balance 6/30/2021	Additions	Payments and Adjustments	Balance 6/30/2022
Real Estate	\$107,654	\$97,740	\$58,153	\$147,242
Community Preservation fund	\$1,344	\$1,577	\$ 996	\$1,925
Total	\$108,998	\$99,317	\$59,149	\$149,166

Tax Possessions				
Description	Balance 6/30/2021	FY 2022 Foreclosures	FY2022 Sales	Balance 6/30/2022
Bardwells Ferry Rd; Map 405, lot 8 and 9	\$7,798	\$0	\$0	\$7,798
Main Poland Rd; Map 415 Lot 28	\$3,834	\$0	\$0	\$3,834
Total	\$11,632	\$0	\$0	\$11,632

Health Insurance

We are members of the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust. The trust rates are compared annually to the Massachusetts Group Insurance Commission benchmark and remain to be the better option for the town and employees. There was a 2% rate decrease in 2022.

Actual Expense:

year	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
expense	\$419,555	\$433,118	\$420,858	\$409,674	\$412,220	\$390,315
increase	-(3.13)%	2.91%	2.73%	-(0.61)%	5.61%	12.27%

Banking

Earning General Fund Banking Interest continues to be challenging, but returns are expected to increase during FY23. We used Adams Community Bank and Salem Five Credit Union for holding most of the general fund money and transfer it out for expenses as needed. They are both FDIC and DIF insured. We use Rich Rogers as a long-term investment manager. Rich is currently using LPL Financial and has helped us protect our long-term investments while capitalizing on return for over 15 years. Our investments are limited by the approved state list which can keep us from higher returns that the public may experience, but also keeps losses at a minimum. Rich's experienced attention to our account kept our losses at a minimum during this volatile market phase.

General Fund interest earnings					
2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
\$10,179	\$15,493	\$27,377	\$16,646	\$8,614	\$6,329

Long term investment return					
2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
-1.89%	6.57%	3.39%	2.82%	-0.55%	1.77%

Long Term Investments

Fund Name	Beginning Balance 7/1/2021	Deposits	Withdrawals	Interest Earned	Realized Gains/Losses	Market Value Ending Balance 6/30/2022
Ambulance Stabilization	\$159,173	0	0	\$2,315	\$1,052	\$162,540
Capital Stabilization	\$253,037	0	\$(70,000)	\$3,416	\$1,672	\$188,125
G Schl Stabilization	\$280,675	0	\$(37,000)	\$3,943	\$1,855	\$249,473
Stabilization	\$258,715	0	0	\$3,763	\$1,709	\$264,187
Subtotal	\$951,600	\$ 0.00	(\$107,000)	\$13,437	\$6,288	\$864,325
A & E Boice Germain	\$18,064	0	0	\$263	\$120	\$18,447
C & F Field	\$11,628	0	0	\$169	\$77	\$11,875
C S Boyden	\$77,518	0	\$(7,900)	\$1,063	\$487	\$71,168
D O Paul	\$15,826	0	0	\$231	\$105	\$16,161
E C Glazier	\$480	0	0	\$7	\$3	\$490
E.M. Chase Fund	\$771	0	0	\$11	\$5	\$788
Emory Field	\$959	0	0	\$14	\$6	\$979
G. Howland	\$18,189	0	\$(9,282)	\$230	\$121	\$9,258
Guilford Fund	\$842,006	615.56	0	\$12,246	\$5,563	\$860,431
J. Boyden	\$9,105	0	0	\$133	\$61	\$9,298
M & M Germain	\$511,142	0	\$(43,485)	\$7,247	\$3,353	\$478,259
M B Germain	\$24,794	0	0	\$361	\$164	\$25,319
M H Germain	\$93,938	0	\$(69,398)	\$1,104	\$621	\$26,265
S Bradford	\$480	0	0	\$7	\$3	\$490
S.F. Howland	\$11,946	0	\$(587)	\$173	\$79	\$11,611
Sale Of Lots	\$11,467	0	0	\$167	\$76	\$11,711
Tanner	\$480	0	0	\$7	\$3	\$490
W E Tucker	\$959	0	0	\$14	\$6	\$979
Whiting Street Fund	\$20,719	0	0	\$302	\$137	\$21,158
Subtotal	\$1,670,471	\$616	(\$130,652)	\$23,750	\$10,992	\$1,575,175

Comm Pres Fund	\$1,290,823	\$31,385	(\$217,667)	\$17,079	\$7,997	\$1,129,617
OPEB	\$65,240	\$20,000	\$0	\$1,025	\$432	\$86,697
Grand Total	\$3,978,134	\$52,000	(\$455,320)	\$55,291	\$25,709	\$3,655,814

**Allocation of Funds by Bank Accounts
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022**

*Please note that these are bank balances only and do not include 4th quarter transfers to/from the general fund. See accountant report for current figures

General Fund					
INTEREST BEARING CHECKING	Description	Balance 7/1/2021	Transfers	Interest Earned	Balance 6/30/2022
Unibank	Payables	\$320,749	(309,252)	\$33	\$11,530
Unibank	School Payables	\$12,312	(2,853)	\$2	\$9,463
Unibank	Payroll	\$8,244	2,417	\$4	\$10,665
Subtotal		\$341,305	(\$309,687)	\$39	\$31,658

General Fund					
LIQUID INVESTMENTS	Description	Balance 7/1/2021	Transfers	Interest Earned & Net Gain	Balance 6/30/2022
Adams Community Bank	Money Market	\$2,275,296	\$2,061	\$9,628	\$2,286,985
Easthampton Savings Bank	Money Market	\$52,174	\$300,000	\$114	\$352,289
Greenfield Savings Bank	General	\$7,943	\$38,177	\$5	\$46,125
Salem Five	Money Market	\$0	\$250,000	\$86	\$250,086
Unibank	Money Market	\$102,528	\$14,642	\$18	\$117,188
Unibank	Ambulance Ret	\$22,988	(\$19,383)	\$2	\$3,607
Unibank	Tax Collections	\$123,214	(\$121,640)	\$16	\$1,590
Unibank	Deputy Tax Collections	\$6,869	\$6,819	\$1	\$13,689
Unibank	Bond Proceeds	\$623,515	(\$387,893)	\$61	\$235,682
Unibank	Unipay School	\$5,988	\$16,184	\$2	\$22,174
Unibank	Remote Deposit	\$118,329	(\$18,249)	\$37	\$100,117
Unibank	Treas Receipts	\$4,493	(\$3,287)	\$1	\$1,207
Unibank	School Lunch	\$948	\$50	\$0	\$998
Subtotal		\$3,344,284	\$77,481	\$9,969	\$3,431,734

TERM INVESTMENTS	description	Balance 7/1/2021	Transfers	Interest Earned	6/30/2022
Greenfield Savings Bank	CD Flex	\$206,496	(\$62,900)	\$171	\$143,767
Salem Five	CD Flex	\$0	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000
Subtotal		\$206,496	\$187,100	\$171	\$393,767

Special Revenue Accounts					
LIQUID INVESTMENTS	Description	Balance 7/1/2021	Transfers	Interest Earned & Net Gain	Balance 6/30/2022
Unibank	Cultural Council	\$4,071	(\$1,357)	\$1	\$2,714
Greenfield Savings Bank	Student Activity	\$2,802	(\$2,745)	\$0	\$57
Peoples United Bank	Septic Repair	\$54,018	\$0	\$5	\$54,024
Unibank	Planning Board	\$17,903	(\$4,235)	\$2	\$13,671
Subtotal		78,794	(\$8,338)	\$8	70,465
Grand Total		3,970,879	(\$53,443)	\$10,187	\$3,927,624



Tax Collector's Report

Tax Collector hours by phone and email are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am to 3pm. Taxpayers can make their payments online, by mail or in person. Our collection software offers many online options for paying or viewing bills. You can retrieve a report for all taxes paid in a prior year for filing your income taxes at www.conwayma.gov. Feel free to contact our office for any questions or concerns you may have. Collections are in line with prior years and all efforts (per Mass General Law) are being made to collect on delinquent accounts.

Tax Year	Type	Beginning Balance	New Commitments	Payments & Adjustments	Ending Balance
2022	MV TAX	0	241,623	228,649	12,974
2022	PERS TAX	0	394,156	393,711	445
2022	REAL CPA	0	98,495	97,131	1,364
2022	REAL TAX	0	4,929,076	4,877,136	51,940
2021	MV TAX	17,170	24,627	37,002	4,795
2021	PERS TAX	447	0	447	0
2021	REAL CPA	2,333	0	2,164	169
2021	REAL TAX	111,316	435	109,195	2,556
2020	MV TAX	1,851	0	973	878
2020	PERS TAX	679	0	375	304
2020	REAL CPA	-9	0	-9	0
2020	REAL TAX	19,319	0	19,319	0
2019 and prior	MV TAX	4,775	0	728	4,047
2019 and prior	PERS TAX	1,686	0	890	796
	Grand Total	159,568	5,688,410	5,767,710	80,269

Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Warner
Treasurer/Tax Collector



Accountant

**TOWN OF CONWAY
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND BALANCE REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2022**

Fund	Fund Description	Fund Balance July 1, 2021	Revenue	Expense	Fund Balance June 30, 2022
215	Mass. Highway Chapter 90	(334,816)	532,876	(293,824)	(95,764)
231	Ambulance Reserve for Rcpts	108,575	31,236	(24,841)	114,970
232	Dog Revolving Fund	10,573	6,262	(2,047)	14,789
233	Recreation Revolving	1,828	0	0	1,828
234	Tax Title Revolving	(401)	4,170	(7,015)	(3,247)
237	Conservation Wetlands Fund	7,711	959	(264)	8,406
238	Sports Revolving	6,852	7,795	(8,495)	6,152
240	Medicaid Revolving Fund	59,631	(53,514)	(1,118)	5,000
245	Conway Currents Newsletter	393	483	0	876
252	Insurance proceeds	1,262	14,382	(15,522)	122
255	MIIA Risk Management Grant	(2,000)	0	0	(2,000)
265	Council on Aging Grants & Gifts	25	1,800	(1,800)	25
271	Conservation Donations	2,088	0	0	2,088
272	Fire Donations	4,437	1,275	0	5,712
273	Police Donations Fund	5,503	1,050	0	6,553
275	Planning Board Consulting C.44 S.53g	13,093	6,802	(5,888)	14,008
277	Ambulance Donations	11,124	3,835	(200)	14,759
278	Cricket Hill Rd-ATM Apr '05 A11	20,450	0	0	20,450
282	Sale of Real Estate C.44, S.63	84,695	0	0	84,695
283	U. S. Flag Fund	517	50	0	567
284	Historical Commission	534	150	0	684
285	Holiday Tree Fund	1,300	0	0	1,300
286	Fitzgerald Bridge-STM 8/15/83	931	0	0	931
287	Covered Bridge	401	0	0	401
288	Youth Fund	844	0	0	844
289	Delabarre	800	0	0	800
290	Highlands Initiative	883	0	0	883
291	USDA/NRCS Grant	4,001	0	0	4,001
292	Septic Loan Paybacks	75,110	5	0	75,115
293	Peg Access/Broadband	63,977	27,740	(16,579)	75,139
294	Extended Polling Hours	4,290	0	0	4,290
296	Forest & Trails Gift Fund	223	500	(55)	668
297	Public Utility Surcharge	4	0	0	4

380	Community Preservation Act	1,349,496	166,181	(323,400)	1,192,276
403	Dare Grant-Police	3,814	0	0	3,814
404	Comm Policing Grant	2,216	0	(437)	1,778
405	Bulletproof Vest Grant	825	0	0	825
406	Watch your Car Grant	700	0	0	700
412	Council on Aging Grant	1,786	6,000	(4,889)	2,897
414	Library State Aid	15,355	3,817	(6,000)	13,173
415	Cultural Council	4,214	5,001	(7,150)	2,064
416	Small Cities Grant	43,848	0	0	43,848
419	COVID19 Emergency Expenses	(6,844)	26,935	(8,353)	11,738
421	Master Plan Grant	595	0	0	595
422	DCR Fire Grant	179	0	(2,000)	(1,821)
425	Transfer Station Revenue	6,185	957	0	7,142
426	Recycling Dividend Program FCSWMD	7,877	2,800	(1,355)	9,323
428	FRCOG Multi town	13,750	0	0	13,750
431	Municipal ADA Improvement Grant	2,688	0	0	2,688
432	Community Compact Grant w/FRCOG	100,000	0	(4,696)	95,304
435	Bridge Academy Police Training	0	2,400	0	2,400
439	ARPA COVID-19 Fund	98,022	181,904	(24,492)	255,435
502	School Choice	434,087	310,365	(190,733)	553,720
503	REAP Grants	0	33,625	(33,586)	38
504	ESSER III GRANT	0	6,000	(6,000)	0
505	SPED Assist	(540)	23,626	(23,086)	0
506	Wings Program	274,447	275,744	(327,843)	222,348
507	Grant Funded Teachers Stipends	0	32,384	(32,384)	0
509	Erate Reimb School	196	0	0	196
511	Child/Adult FDC	2,123	0	0	2,123
512	Rural School Aid	0	8,151	(4,366)	3,785
514	Summer Wings program	10,027	8,831	(6,710)	12,148
519	School Coronavirus Prevention	1,365	0	(1,365)	0
525	Esser II Grant	0	61,877	(61,877)	0
551	After School Program	37,436	36,070	(45,192)	28,314
552	Early Childhood Tuition	34,309	68,770	(48,661)	54,418
553	School Lunch	17,193	141,775	(47,614)	111,354
555	Student Activities Fund	3,292	4,228	(6,973)	547
556	Wellness Grant	244	0	0	244
557	Moves and Grooves	1,505	1,175	(765)	1,915
558	Fournier School Fund	2,822	0	0	2,822
730	Highway Garage STM 12/9/2019 Art. 14	559,880	0	(496,340)	63,540
735	Shelburne Falls Rd Paving 6/5/21 A6	0	170,000	(39,188)	130,812
811	Sumner Boyden Trust	82,818	(1,432)	(6,400)	74,986
812	Cemetery Perpetual Care	25,917	0	0	25,917
813	Guilford Trust	929,277	(17,986)	416	911,706
814	G. Howland Trust	19,850	(3)	(9,282)	10,565

815	A & E Boice/Germain Fund	19,601	(386)	0	19,216
816	Whiting Street Fund	22,613	(442)	0	22,171
817	S.F. Howland Trust	13,080	(235)	(587)	12,257
818	Sale of Lots	12,508	(245)	0	12,263
819	M & M Germain	570,696	(9,213)	(42,260)	519,224
820	M. B. Germain	27,799	(529)	0	27,270
821	M. H. Germain	103,141	877	(69,398)	34,619
822	Joshua Boyden	9,927	(194)	0	9,733
823	Arabelle Turner	546	(10)	0	536
824	D O Paul	17,269	(338)	0	16,931
825	C & F Field	12,683	(248)	0	12,435
826	W E Tucker	1,092	(20)	0	1,072
827	E C Glazier	546	(10)	0	536
828	S Bradford	546	(10)	0	536
829	Emery Field	1,093	(20)	0	1,072
830	General Stabilization Fund	286,348	(5,521)	0	280,827
831	Ambulance Stabilization	173,826	(3,397)	0	170,430
832	Capital Stabilization	275,970	147,507	(220,000)	203,477
834	Grammar School Stabilization	295,959	29,547	(71,000)	254,506
838	Edith Moore Chase	806	(16)	0	790
840	OPEB	68,641	17,777	0	86,419
891	Off Duty Police Detail	5,570	27,579	(30,119)	3,030
892	Firearm ID Cards	900	2,188	(2,550)	538
894	Fire Dept Fees	350	2,280	(2,230)	400
896	Town Clerk Fees	636	0	0	636
897	BOH Consulting Fees	4,190	5,095	(5,105)	4,180
898	Deputy Collector	457	2,384	(2,426)	415
Total Fund Balances		6,162,584	2,361,451	(2,594,044)	5,929,991

**TOWN OF CONWAY
GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS
FISCAL YEAR 2022**

General Fund Revenue Budget to Actual Summary:

	Budget	Revenue	Balance
Personal Property Taxes	391,502	395,299	(3,797)
Real Estate Taxes	4,880,477	4,886,318	(5,841)
Tax Title/Liens Redeemed	0	58,153	(58,153)

Motor Vehicle Excise	190,000	256,489	(66,489)
Penalties & Interest on Taxes	9,650	16,579	(6,929)
Fees	25,000	113,560	(88,560)
Licenses & Permits	1,000	2,493	(1,493)
Intergovernmental	877,167	880,948	(3,781)
Earnings on Investments	7,700	10,179	(2,479)
Miscellaneous Revenue	0	1,558	(1,558)
Transfers From Other Funds	315,841	315,841	0
Total Revenue	6,698,337	6,937,416	(239,079)

General Fund Expenditure Budget to Actual Summary:

	Budget	Expenditures	Encumbrances	Balance
General Government	691,386	534,398	57,830	99,158
Public Safety	306,005	260,732	16,040	29,233
Education	3,899,877	3,806,726	91,691	1,460
Public Works	1,589,796	726,719	848,540	14,537
Health & Human Services	259,292	213,679		45,613
Culture & Recreation	25,226	15,208	7,789	2,229
Debt Service	118,722	118,213		509
State & County Assessments	95,036	98,528		(3,492)
Pension & Fringe Benefits	715,857	683,026		32,831
Transfer to Other Funds	204,000	204,000		0
Total Expenses	7,905,197	6,661,230	1,021,890	222,077



DEPARTMENTS – PUBLIC SAFTEY

Ambulance

As our country is beginning to move into a post COVID stage, the challenges that are facing EMS have not really changed. While we are all a little more relaxed, there are still many new protocols and actions that have come out of the pandemic and there is still a heightened concern for future waves. EMS is also now learning and see what some of the long-term effects of COVID will be, there has been an increased number of symptoms and illnesses that potentially are related, it is an always changing environment for EMS.

There continues to be a nation-wide staffing shortage in many fields, and Western Mass and EMS have not been spared. Small departments like ours have and will continue to provide the best care possible.

We typically respond to around 100 calls for help annually, due to the nature and confidentiality of our work we cannot disclose the types of calls, but rest assured, we will do our duty to the best of our ability, regardless of the type of call. The pandemic has certainly been an added stress to us all, but with the support of each other we have persevered.

Conway Ambulance continues to work and train closely with the Fire and Police Departments, and as group size restrictions lessened, we were able to resume more regular trainings and classes. We recently completed our yearly session of First Responder training for the Fire Department, several EMT's assisted with that training. As EMT's we are required to complete several hours of continuing education training to maintain our certification, as well as our state licensing. This year we were able to go back to some in person classes, while still having the online option available.

The ambulance remains at a critical low for EMT's, and we are actively seeking anyone interested in becoming certified, or already certified. Please contact me at 413-369-4235 or ambulance@conwayma.gov for more information.

To be trusted with the care of another person is a truly humble and rewarding responsibility, and I urge everyone able, to dedicate some portion of your time, in any capacity, to helping your fellow citizens and neighbors.

On behalf of myself and my fellow EMT's, I thank you for trusting us with your emergency medical needs and we look forward to serving you for another year.

Gemma VanderHeld, Director-Conway Ambulance



Animal Control

In 2019, the Towns of Buckland, Colrain, Gill, Heath, Monroe, Northfield, and Shelburne join in partnership with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office to create the Franklin County Regional Animal Control program to provide full-time services to these towns.

During 2022, the Regional Animal Control Program welcomed the Towns of Bernardston, Conway, Leyden, and New Salem. With the addition of these (4) towns, the Regional Animal Control Program now provides Animal Control Services for (12) Towns. We also welcomed the addition of a part-time Animal Control Officer (Judie Garceau) to the program.

During 2022, Franklin County Regional Animal Control logged 693 calls for service between January 1st and December 31st 2022.

Calls for Service:

- 🐾 21 call(s) for animal bites investigations.
- 🐾 21 call(s) for animal welfare checks.
- 🐾 147 call(s) for animal complaints.
- 🐾 84 call(s) regarding found animals.
- 🐾 15 call(s) for inspections.
- 🐾 16 call(s) for sick or injured animals.
- 🐾 50 Mutual Aid Requests.
- 🐾 45 Hearings, Meetings or Trainings.
- 🐾 11 Animal Surrenders.

**Note: The above does not represent all the calls that where received.*

Breakdown of calls by Town:

🐾 Bernardston:	<u>40</u>
🐾 Buckland:	<u>53</u>
🐾 Charlemont:	<u>29</u>
🐾 Colrain:	<u>74</u>
🐾 Conway:	<u>5</u>
🐾 Gill:	<u>55</u>
🐾 Heath:	<u>48</u>
🐾 Leyden:	<u>15</u>
🐾 Monroe:	<u>2</u>
🐾 New Salem:	<u>29</u>
🐾 Northfield:	<u>72</u>
🐾 Shelburne:	<u>56</u>
🐾 Other*:	<u>215</u>

In the spring of 2022 with the assistance of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter and local veterinarians Amy Rubin and Amy Tuominen we were able to host rabies clinics in Turners Falls and Heath. We have also worked with local food pantries to keep them stocked with pet food for residents in need, if you are struggling to obtain food for your dog or cat, or know of a pantry in need of pet food. Please reach out. Anyone with Animal Control questions or issues can contact us by email at animalcontrol@fcso-ma.us or by phone at **413-774-7340**. If you have an urgent or immediate situation, please contact the Shelburne Falls Regional Communications Center at **413-625-8200**.

Respectfully Submitted, Kyle Dragon, Lead Regional Animal Control Officer,
 Judie Garceau, Part-Time Regional Animal Control Officer

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REGIONAL DOG SHELTER

The Franklin County Sheriff’s Office Regional Dog Shelter has been in operation since 2012. The shelter was started by Sheriff Christopher Donelan who saw the need in the community for a dog sheltering facility and is currently the only brick and mortar dog shelter in Franklin County. As of this date, the dog shelter provides services to 23 of the 26 Franklin County towns. During the course of 2022, the Regional Dog Shelter logged 190 canine intakes, (164 where brought in as strays, and 26 where Surrendered, Transferred or Returned to our facility) 102 where returned to their owners; 74 where adopted into new fur-ever homes; and 11 where transferred to another facility to better meet their specific needs. While we are primarily a dog facility with the addition of the Sheriff’s Office Regional Animal Control Position the shelter assisted in the holding and transfer of 18 felines. At this time, the shelter does not have the capability to process cat adoptions, therefore all felines are transferred to an appropriate agency. Working with the Community: Food Pantries: If you are struggling to feed your pet, or know of a food pantry that could use dog/cat food please let us know! Rabies Clinics: In 2022, the shelter partnered with (2) local veterinarians to sponsor rabies clinics in Turners Falls and Heath. Dog Licensing: Some Town Clerks have granted the ability for the shelter to issue a dog license for a dog that is brought in and not licensed. As Massachusetts General Law requires every dog be licensed and vaccinated for rabies before it can be released from the shelter. This ability has drastically reduced the time that an owned dog must stay at the shelter, if it was unlicensed upon intake. Volunteers: Volunteers are essential to the smooth operation of the shelter, without them, we would not have the success that we have today. Donating over 6,167 hours in 2022, volunteers helped with Daily Kennel Chores, Foster Homes, Event Staffing and providing Enrichment specific to each dog’s needs. We are always in need of new volunteers, if you are interested in joining our volunteer team; please check out the volunteer application on our website. Did you know? The overall average length of stay for a dog at our kennel is 30 days? During this time, all their costs and care are covered by the Friends of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter.

193	65	13	34	3	2	69	4	541	3	88	26	25	
Cows	Beef	Goats	Sheep	Swine	Llamas	Horses	Donkeys	Chickens	Turkeys	Waterfowl	Gamebirds	Rabbits	Other



Emergency Management

We give thanks to Mother Nature for a relatively quiet year for Conway’s Emergency Management. We did attend remote training sessions and regional meetings via Zoom. We also had a very productive meeting in Ashfield with that town’s EMD, Selectboard, and our state MEMA representatives regarding the important and badly needed safety upgrades to the Ashfield Lake Dam as well as the establishment of agreed upon procedures in

the event of a failure of that Dam. We also had multiple meetings with our state MEMA Region III local coordinator Chris Marsden, and we were pleased to bring to Conway our state MEMA communications coordinator Mike Girard to diagnose radio issues and perform radio upgrades at our designated Emergency Operations Center and shelter (Conway Grammar School) and alternate EOC (Fire Dept Auxiliary building).

Please take a moment and make sure that you and your loved ones are signed up for Conway’s Emergency Alert System. There is a link to sign up for this vital system directly on the home page of the Town website at conwayma.gov. This town alert system will notify you in the format or devices of your choosing about any town wide safety emergency, health emergency, or specific issues at the Transfer station that would result in significant inconvenience. The town does not share with anyone the information you provide in registering for this alert system.

A special thanks for the fine emergency management work done this year by the Assistant EMD Amanda Dunnell as well as the Town Administrator Véronique Blanchard.

Philip Kantor
Emergency Management Director



Fire Department

To the citizens of Conway I hereby submit my Forty Third annual report of the Fire Department. This past fiscal year our department responded to 62 calls consisting of

MVA Accidents	4	
Smoke/co	8	
Chimney Fires	5	
Woodland Search	1	
Ambulance Assistance	4	
Mutual Aid	6	
Wires Down	20	
Structural Fires	2	1-Barn 1House
Misc. Calls	12	

This past year people behaved themselves and we had no river rescue. We had only one woodland search. Our department is still practicing covid restrictions on all calls. We have received our new 800 mhz radios and portables. This year we received a \$6,000 VFA grant to purchase new brush fire turnout gear and equipment. This grant was a 50/50 only costing the town \$3,000. At the time of this report, we have 22 Firefighters and 7 Junior Firefighters.

I would like to thank the citizens, firefighters and juniors for their support throughout the year.

Yours First in Fire Safety
Robert Baker, Fire Chief



Police

No report was submitted for FY2022 from this Committee.

DEPARTMENTS – PUBLIC WORKS

Highway

The major areas of responsibility that are under the jurisdiction of the Highway Department: Maintenance of Public Ways, Snow and Ice, Buildings and Grounds, Highway Facility and Equipment Maintenance. Our goal is to take a full view of our environment to foresee issues and resolve them. This approach helps us compile a running itemization of projects based on priority and allows us to utilize our budget in the most cost-efficient way

Maintenance of Public Ways

The Highway Department is responsible for over 60 miles of roads here in the Town of Conway. The maintenance of our roadways is continuous, due to the ever-changing conditions, and requires frequent monitoring. Maintenance activities typically consist of pothole repair, roadside brush mowing, tree trimming, cleaning catch basins, street sweeping, stormwater system repairs, storm cleanup, emergency repairs, pavement markings, ditch and culvert maintenance in the Town's district.

2022 Summary of Projects Performed

- Pavement Restoration-North Poland Road
- Paving and Chip Seal- Shelburne Falls Road
- Chip Seal-Mathews Road
- Reclamation and Binder-South Shirkshire Road (North End) and Old Cricket Hill (to transfer station)

Again, we used about 6,000 yards of gravel to maintain our unpaved roads.

2022 Issue Identified

Highway Departments throughout Massachusetts are coping with critical staffing shortages and struggling to fill their positions.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 413-369-4696 or email me directly at highway@conwayma.gov.

I would like to thank the residents for their continued support and the Highway Department crew for their dedicated work and dedication to the Town.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ron Sweet
Highway Superintendent



Tree Warden

No report was submitted for FY2022 from this Committee.

DEPARTMENTS – SCHOOLS

Conway Grammar School

CONWAY SCHOOL REPORT

Elaine Campbell, Chair
Conway School Committee
Conway, MA 01341
Dear Ms. Campbell:

I respectfully submit the 2022 Annual Report for the Conway Grammar School:

CONWAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Elaine Campbell, Chair	2025
Michael Merritt, Vice Chair	2023
Denise Storm, Secretary	2024
*Philip Kantor, Member	2023
Jared Campbell, Member	2025

**Representative to Frontier Regional School Committee*

ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent of Schools	Darius Modestow
Director of Business Administration	Shelley Poreda
Director of Special Education	Karen Ferrandino
Director of Elementary Education	Lara Ramsey
Director of Early Childhood	Kimberly McCarthy
Director of Instructional Technology	Scott Paul
Director of School Facilities	William Hildreth
Director of Food Services	Geoffrey McDonald
Principal	Kristen Gordon

SUPPORT STAFF

Executive Assistant to Superintendent	Jennifer Shumway
Administrative Assistant (SPED)	Penny Smiarowski
Administrative Assistant/Facilities	Mary Jane Whitcomb
Receptionist/Early Childhood Assistant	Sarah Butler
Payroll Specialist, FRS/Union #38	Brenda Antes
Accounts Payable/Bookkeeper	Michelle Melnik
Grants Accountant	Stephan Shepherd
Secretary to Principal	Lora Hanas

CONWAY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

ENROLLMENT - OCTOBER 1, 2022

Grade	Resident Students	School Choice Students	Tuition-In Students	Total
PK	10	0	7	17
K	8	4	0	12
1	6	8	0	14
2	9	6	0	15
3	10	8	2	20
4	10	5	1	16
5	5	10	3	18
6	11	8	1	20
TOTAL	69	49	14	132

Union #38 Teacher Salary Schedule

Effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

STEP	B	B+15	M	M+15	M+30	CAGS
3	\$45,969	\$47,404	\$48,884	\$50,415	\$51,990	\$53,535
4	\$47,404	\$48,884	\$50,415	\$51,990	\$53,616	\$55,162
5	\$48,884	\$50,415	\$51,990	\$53,616	\$55,291	\$56,837
6	\$50,415	\$51,990	\$53,616	\$55,291	\$57,015	\$58,560
7	\$51,990	\$53,616	\$55,291	\$57,015	\$58,796	\$60,341
8	\$53,616	\$55,291	\$57,015	\$58,796	\$60,635	\$62,181
9	\$55,291	\$57,015	\$58,796	\$60,635	\$62,529	\$64,075
10	\$57,015	\$58,796	\$60,635	\$62,529	\$64,482	\$66,027
11	\$58,796	\$60,635	\$62,529	\$64,482	\$66,496	\$68,042
12	\$60,635	\$62,529	\$64,482	\$66,496	\$68,576	\$70,121
13	\$62,529	\$64,482	\$66,496	\$68,576	\$70,723	\$72,269
14	\$68,447	\$70,515	\$73,056	\$75,253	\$78,233	\$79,793
20	\$70,571	\$72,679	\$75,272	\$77,514	\$80,554	\$82,116

Nature's Classroom Teacher: One hundred dollars (\$100) per day of attendance by a teacher.

Workshop Presenters: \$30 per hour of presentation and reimbursement for reasonable expenses.

Tutoring Rate: \$33.00 per hour.

Head Teachers: \$1,500.

Placement on Step 20 occurs when a teacher has completed 19 years as a teacher in Union #38.

Mentors: \$500 per each new teacher, \$250 for second-/third-year teacher, \$250 for each additional teacher being mentored, to a maximum of three (3) in any year.

The Town of Sunderland currently pays 60% of the health insurance premium contribution, with the eligible employees who elect to participate in the Town offered health insurance paying the remainder 40% of the health insurance premium contribution.

UNION #38 INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS' SALARY SCHEDULE
CONWAY, DEERFIELD, SUNDERLAND, WHATELY

2021-2022	
Step 1	\$14.85
Step 2	\$15.36
Step 3	\$15.87
Step 4	\$16.39
Step 5	\$16.90
Step 6	\$17.41
Step 7	\$17.94
Step 8	\$18.45
Step 9	\$18.97
Step 10	\$19.52

UNION #38 EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT NURSES, LPN, COTA, SLPA & PTA

2021-2022	
Step 1	\$24.42
Step 2	\$25.47
Step 3	\$26.51
Step 4	\$27.55
Step 5	\$28.59
Step 6	\$29.63
Step 7	\$30.68
Step 8	\$31.73
Step 9	\$32.79
Step 10	\$33.80



FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL

	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
* Robert Halla, Chair, Whately	2023
William Smith, V. Chair, Whately	2025
Christopher White, Secretary,	2025
Olivia Leone, Member, Deerfield	2024
* Philip Kantor, Member, Conway	2023
* Mary Ramon, Member, Deerfield	2023
* Keith McFarland, Member, Sunderland	2023
Melissa Novak, Member, Deerfield	2023
Lyn Roberts, Member, Sunderland	2023
Damien Fosnot, Member, Deerfield	2025
Jared Campbell, Member, Conway	2025

*Representing the local Elementary School Committees for a one-year term.

Regular meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, in the Media Center, Frontier Regional School, South Deerfield, Massachusetts at 6:00 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent of Schools	Darius Modestow
Director of Business Administration	Shelley Poreda
Director of Student Services	Karen Ferrandino
Director of Secondary Education	Sarah Mitchell
Director of School Facilities	William Hildreth
Director of Instructional Technology	Scott Paul
Director of Food Services	Geoffrey McDonald

SUPPORT STAFF

Executive Assistant to Superintendent	Jennifer Shumway
Administrative Assistant (Special Ed.)	Penny Smiarowski
Administrative Assistant/Facilities	Mary Jane Whitcomb
Receptionist/Substitute Coordinator	Sarah Butler
Payroll Specialist, FRS/Union #38	Brenda Antes
Accounts Payable/Bookkeeper, FRS	Donna Lloyd
Treasurer	Michael DeBarge
Grants Accountant	Stephan Shepherd
SIS Data Specialist	Megan Donovan
Network Administrator	Stuart Dusenberry
Information Technology Specialist	Keith VanBuren

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL

George Lanides
Scott Dredge
Roberta Reiter
Deb Mason
Kelly Blanchette
Michelle Russell
Mary Lapinski

Principal
Assistant Principal
Principal's Secretary
School Secretary
Special Education Secretary
Attendance Secretary
Guidance Secretary

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL
ENROLLMENT - OCTOBER 1, 2022

Grade	Conway	Deerfield	Sunderland	Whately	School Choice	Tuitioned In	Total
7	13	33	28	5	35	0	114
8	14	36	12	13	30	1	106
9	9	29	24	6	25	1	94
10	15	38	11	10	27	0	101
11	12	28	14	5	41	0	100
12	8	36	16	6	25	0	91
SP	0	3	2	1	3	1	10
Total	71	203	107	46	186	3	616

UNIT A SALARY SCHEDULE

2021-2022

STEP	Bachelors	Masters	M+30	CAGS/DOC
0	\$45,337	\$47,522	\$50,199	\$52,710
1	\$47,6747	\$49,587	\$52,099	\$54,703
2	\$49,652	\$51,706	\$54,064	\$56,767
3	\$50,875	\$55,623	\$56,099	\$58,903
4	\$52,655	\$55,623	\$58,158	\$61,066
5	\$54,035	\$57,446	\$60,342	\$63,359
6	\$56,361	\$59,279	\$62,334	\$65,449

7	\$57,847	\$61,161	\$64,343	\$67,559
8	\$59,379	\$62,702	\$67,248	\$70,608
9	\$62,333	\$66,265	\$70,236	\$73,748
10	\$65,601	\$70,105	\$73,318	\$76,986
11	\$66,690	\$72,689	\$76,702	\$80,537
12	\$69,281	\$75,375	\$79,452	\$83,425
13	\$70,320	\$76,505	\$80,643	\$84,675
*20	\$71,320	\$77,505	\$81,643	\$85,675
**25	\$72,320	\$78,505	\$82,643	\$86,675

**Placement on Step 20L occurs when an individual has completed 19 years of service as a Frontier Regional School faculty member.*

***Placement on Step 25L occurs when an individual has completed 24 years of service as a Frontier Regional School faculty member.*

FRONTIER REGIONAL

UNIT C INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS SALARY SCHEDULE

2021-2022

Step	HOURLY RATES		
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
		2%	2%
*2	\$14.57	\$14.87	\$15.16
3	\$15.09	\$15.39	\$15.70
4	\$15.57	\$15.89	\$16.20
5	\$16.10	\$16.42	\$16.75
6	\$16.59	\$16.93	\$17.26
7	\$17.14	\$17.48	\$17.83
8	\$17.61	\$17.97	\$18.33
9	\$18.15	\$18.51	\$18.88
10	\$18.67	\$19.05	\$19.43
11	\$19.20	\$19.58	\$19.98

Unit C Educational Support Nurses

Step	HOURLY RATES		
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
	1%	2%	2%
1	\$23.47	\$23.94	\$24.42
2	\$24.48	\$24.97	\$25.47
3	\$25.48	\$25.99	\$26.51
4	\$26.48	\$27.01	\$27.55
5	\$27.48	\$28.03	\$28.59
6	\$28.48	\$29.05	\$29.63

7	\$29.49	\$30.08	\$30.68
8	\$30.50	\$31.11	\$31.73
9	\$31.51	\$32.14	\$32.79
10	\$32.49	\$33.14	\$33.80



Frontier Regional School Superintendent

As Superintendent of the Frontier Regional and Union #38 Schools, I am pleased to submit the 2022 Superintendent’s Annual Report on behalf of the dedicated teachers and administrators of the district. Frontier Regional and Union #38 schools continue to serve our communities by providing excellent public education with an ongoing focus on meeting the individual needs of students.

Opening Statement

This September, after over two years of Covid restrictions, our students, staff and families enjoyed a refreshingly normal start to the school year. Although Covid-19 is still with us, the stress it caused has diminished and we are pleased to have returned to pre-Covid programming in our schools.

I am grateful for the ongoing support of our families and communities during this time. Despite the distractions and inconveniences the pandemic created, our dedicated faculty and staff inspired students to remain focused on learning and students persevered in their academic efforts. The experience of the last three years has confirmed my belief that our schools are strong and get better every year. I look forward to a successful completion of the current year and to continuing to serve our communities and schools.

In Service,
Darius Modestow,
Superintendent of Schools

Overview

Frontier Regional School opened in 1954 in the town of South Deerfield, Massachusetts. The school includes students in grades 7 through 12 with an enrollment of 616 students. This is an increase of 6 students from the October 1, 2021 enrollment figures of 610 students.

The class of 2022 had 92 graduates; 62% planned to attend a four-year college, 15% a two-year college, 1% plan to attend vocational schools, 0% planned on a post-grad year, 0% will enter military service, 4% will take a gap year, 9% plan to enter the labor market, and 9% plans are unknown. This is different from previous years. There were 98 graduates in the class of 2021: 69% planned to attend a four-year college, 18% a two-year college, 2% vocational schools, 2% military, 1% prep school, 7% planned to enter the labor market and 1% plans were unknown.

Curriculum and Professional Development

Frontier Regional

Members of the Frontier Regional school community are involved in a number of initiatives and professional development experiences to expand the support and opportunities available to students.

Restorative Practices

Social emotional well-being and academic success for all students continue to be a focus in the ongoing efforts to recover from the impact of the pandemic. Towards that end faculty and support staff participated in workshops

and the implementation of a restorative practice model of student support. Restorative practices is a whole school teaching and learning approach that encourages positive relationships and repair to others and the community when an individual's actions cause harm. The model uses restorative circles to allow students to be seen and heard as a member of a classroom community.

Culturally responsive teaching and learning

Recognizing and valuing all learners in our school community continues to be a focus of professional development. Faculty are working to implement the five pursuits of culturally and historically responsive teaching outlined by Ghody Muhammad: identity, skills, intellectualism, criticality, and joy. A presentation by Liza Talusan provided faculty with a framework of practical strategies for creating an inclusive classroom community through the model outlined in her book *The Identity-Conscious Educator*.

Project Based Learning

The social studies department engaged in a professional development series to transform the social studies classroom into an environment where students engage in learning projects that allow them to connect with historical content.

Innovation Pathways

Frontier was designated an Innovation Pathways School. Innovation Pathways are programs within Massachusetts high schools that are designed to connect students to industry sectors that are in demand in the regional and state economy. Frontier is partnering with a number of community organizations and businesses to offer students an opportunity to be exposed to careers in the healthcare and social services and advanced manufacturing and engineering industries. Some of our partners include: Baystate Medical, Community Health Care Center, Pelican Industries and hosts of other businesses that are offering our students internship opportunities as well as providing guest speakers for industry related courses that are offered at Frontier. Grant funding support allowed for the implementation of the IP program, with funding available to purchase equipment for the hands on training components of this program.

My Career and Academic Plan (MYCAP)

A development team of faculty and administrators is engaged in the planning process to implement the MYCAP program. *My Career and Academic Plan* prepares students for college, career and civic readiness. The MyCAP process engages students in authentic postsecondary planning through a continuum of learning focused on the individual student's interests, skills and talents. Frontier students will collect representative work samples in a portfolio during their courses at Frontier. The portfolio will allow students to collect important information for later presentation to colleges or employers as they transition from Frontier to post graduation education or work environments.

Staff:

Retired Faculty: Lisa Winter, School Nurse; Sandra Spiewak, Speech/Language Pathologist; William Benoit, Technology Education Teacher; Karen Ziomek, Guidance Counselor;

Faculty Resignations: Kristin McLaughlin, Science (MS); Carolyn Eddy, Special Education Team Leader; Kelly Wilkerson, Special Education Teacher, Karen Johnston, Physical Therapist

New Faculty: Reina Dastous, School Nurse; Daniel Murphy, Woodshop/Fab Lab Teacher; Casey Gavin, Occupational Therapist; Sigal Kadden, Guidance Counselor; Rema Mills, Speech/Language Pathologist; Axel Anderson, English (HS); Danielle Manna, Science/Math; Sarah Crawford, Special Education Team Leader;

Kristine Bourque, Special Education Teacher; Grant Bialek, Restorative Practice Coordinator, Sarah Berger, Physical Therapist

Special Thanks

We are pleased to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of Frontier Regional School Committee Members: **Chair Robert Halla, Vice Chair William Smith, Secretary Christopher White, Members Mary Ramon, Lyn Roberts, Philip Kantor, Keith McFarland, Damien Fosnot, Olivia Leone, and Melissa Novak.** I look forward to continuing our work together.

Thank you to the citizens of our four towns for being supportive of public education and our wonderful schools.

Respectfully submitted,
Darius E. Modestow
Superintendent of Schools



FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The FRCOG provides planning services, programming, and advocacy to all Franklin County municipalities. Our municipal service programs – Collective Purchasing, Cooperative Public Health, Cooperative Inspection, and Town Accounting – are available to any municipality. The Community Health programs provide substance use and chronic disease prevention; the Planning Department assists with local planning and larger regional projects; and the Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Programs prepare and train first responders and health officials.

The following pages list services specific to Conway.

Climate Resilience and Land Use

- Assisted the planning board with finalizing and adopting a flood plain overlay district zoning bylaw in accordance with the new model prepared by the MA Flood Hazard Management Program, so the town maintains eligibility for the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Began working with the planning board to draft a river corridor overlay district.
- Completed an update to the Conway Open Space and Recreation Plan, approved by the state in March 2022.
- Drafted a National Water Quality Initiative Watershed Assessment for the South River to identify potential sources of nonpoint source pollution. Met with several landowners in the watershed to understand resource concerns on their land and brainstorm ways USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service programs could assist.

Community Health

- Conducted a Teen Health Survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Frontier Regional School administrators on results from 224 students, representing 71% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant writing and program planning.

- Provided resources and direct technical assistance for advancing racial justice in schools to the Frontier school district.
- Provided training, materials, and technical assistance for the new, evidence-based PreVenture substance use prevention and mental health promotion program in the school district.
- Provided coaching on restorative practices in the Frontier Regional School District.
- Provided funding and facilitation support to the Mary Lyon Foundation for the creation of the West County People Supporting People Network, which met quarterly to bring together providers from the county's healthcare and human service sectors with community stakeholders in West County. Members of the Conway Board of Health are regular participants.

Economic Development

- Coordinated the creation of the Deerfield River Outdoor Recreation Study, the Deerfield River Connectivity Project Report (which provided information on how WiFi connectivity could be improved at key river access locations), the Upper Connecticut River Public Safety Map, and signage to identify emergency take-out areas along the upper sections of the Deerfield River.
- Met with the Town Administrator to discuss the municipality's priority town projects seeking funding.

Shared Municipal Services

- Conway contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment; school district fire extinguisher services; and dog tags and licenses.
- The Cooperative Inspections program issued 85 building permits, 47 electrical permits, 55 plumbing/gas permits, and 5 Certificates of Inspection for Conway in 2022.
- The Town Accounting program produced biweekly vendor warrants, and provided monthly budget reports to all officials and department heads. Accountants assisted in completing the recap for tax rate; completed Free Cash certification and Schedule A submission at year-end; and customized, developed, and distributed reports for committees and departments. They assisted with the annual audit, if necessary. All accounting data was accessible over a secure internet connection to a server at the FRCOG office, and backed-up daily.
- Staff completed a feasibility study for a shared Conservation Commission Agent based on a survey of 9 participating towns. The study included options for a shared Conservation Commission Agent, a draft job description, a draft inter-municipal agreement, and the survey results.
- Conway is a member of the CPHS, a regional health district based at the FRCOG, which accomplishes all of the town's public health work, except septic system oversight, carried out by the board of health. CPHS staff:
- Facilitated COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics between state mobile vendors and local schools and senior centers. Clinics served over 1,000 individuals in West County, including many Conway residents. Additionally, nurses gave 363 Flu and 548 COVID vaccinations at CPHS Walk-in Wellness hours, vaccination clinics, and home visits. Among these, Conway residents received 156 vaccines.

- Completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance/contact tracing and reporting for communicable disease cases in district member towns, including 212 Conway cases, 186 of which were COVID-19.
- Collaborated with local libraries, Better Life Partners, and other local recovery groups on a West County community training on how to identify and respond to an overdose.
- Hosted Walk-in Wellness nursing hours at Town Hall: saw 75 different residents for a total of 160 separate visits.
- Offered sharps collection and box exchange in collaboration with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District at all CPHS Walk-in Wellness hours: 118 boxes were exchanged.
- Supported the Franklin County Age- and Dementia- Friendly Communities initiative by participation on the steering committee, enrolling 5 new towns, conducting a survey of needs and 4 focus groups for early 2022, and gathering participants for work groups to identify priorities from survey results. Conway is a participant in the initiative.
- Offered tick prevention materials and help for 11 residents who received low-cost tick tests through a district program, valuing \$330. Of Conway ticks tested, 33% were positive for the Lyme Disease Pathogen, and 9% each for the Babesiosis and Anaplasmosis pathogens.
- Provided guidance and training to Conway Board of Health members serving as the town's agents.
- Assisted businesses with the on-line permitting system, and provided technical support for annual permit applications.
- Conducted 8 retail food inspections, licensed and inspected 7 temporary food vendors, and responded to housing complaints. Permitted and inspected 17 annual and temporary permits.
- Licensed and inspected 1 short-term rental unit.

Training and Education

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops, roundtables and training sessions that Conway public officials, staff, and residents attended, and the number in attendance.

Municipal Officials' Continuing Education

State Funding for Western MA – 1
 Town Administrator Roundtable (qtrly) – 1
 Highway Superintendents Roundtable – 1

Planning, Conservation & Development

Shelburne Falls Village Summit – 1
 Diversifying Rural Housing Opportunities – 2
 Small Town Housing -- 2

Public Health & Community Awareness:

The Att'y General's Housing Renewal – 3
 Three-In-One Food Safety Training – 1
 Public Health Roundtable (monthly) –

Additionally, staff organized and facilitated educational information meetings for members of town energy committees, including presenting information on various topics and conducting follow-up communication.

Transportation

- Administered a MassTrails grant for trail improvements and information kiosks on the Mohican-Mohawk Trail. Facilitated the design of kiosk panels at trailheads.
- Created a map showing detour routes and time/distance due to the closure of a North Poland Road bridge.
- Completed planning and pre-implementation work for the installation of Franklin County Bikeway Wayfinding signs.
- Conducted traffic count on Route 116 at Deerfield town line.

Franklin County Cooperative Public Health Services

Services to Conway – 2022

The Town is a comprehensive member of the CPHS, a health district based at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. CPHS staff provide professional support to the Board of Health for all public health issues other than septic code enforcement work, which continues to be provided by former BOH member Carl Nelke. Other neighboring towns sharing the same public health staff include Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leyden, Monroe, Rowe, and Shelburne, and the nursing-only towns of Ashfield, Erving and Northfield. The Town's regional staff include Program Manager Randy Crochier, Health Agent Kurt Schellenberg, Public Health Nurses Lisa White and Meg Ryan, and Epidemiologist/Health Educator Maureen O'Reilly. CPHS activities in Conway on behalf of the Board of Health during 2022 included:

- Facilitated COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics between state mobile vendors and local schools and senior centers. These clinics served over 1,000 individuals in West County, including many Conway residents. Additionally, the Public Health Nurses gave 363 Flu and 548 COVID vaccinations at CPHS Walk-in Wellness hours, vaccination clinics, and home visits. Among these, Conway residents received 156 vaccines.
- Completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance/contact tracing and reporting for communicable disease cases in district member towns, including 212 Conway cases, 186 of which were COVID-19.
- Partnered with local libraries, Better Life Partners, and other local recovery groups on a West County community training on how to identify an overdose and what to do.
- Hosted Walk-in Wellness nursing hours at Town Hall: saw 75 different Conway residents for a total of 160 separate visits
- Offered sharps collection and box exchange in collaboration with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District at all CPHS Walk-in Wellness hours: 118 boxes were exchanged.
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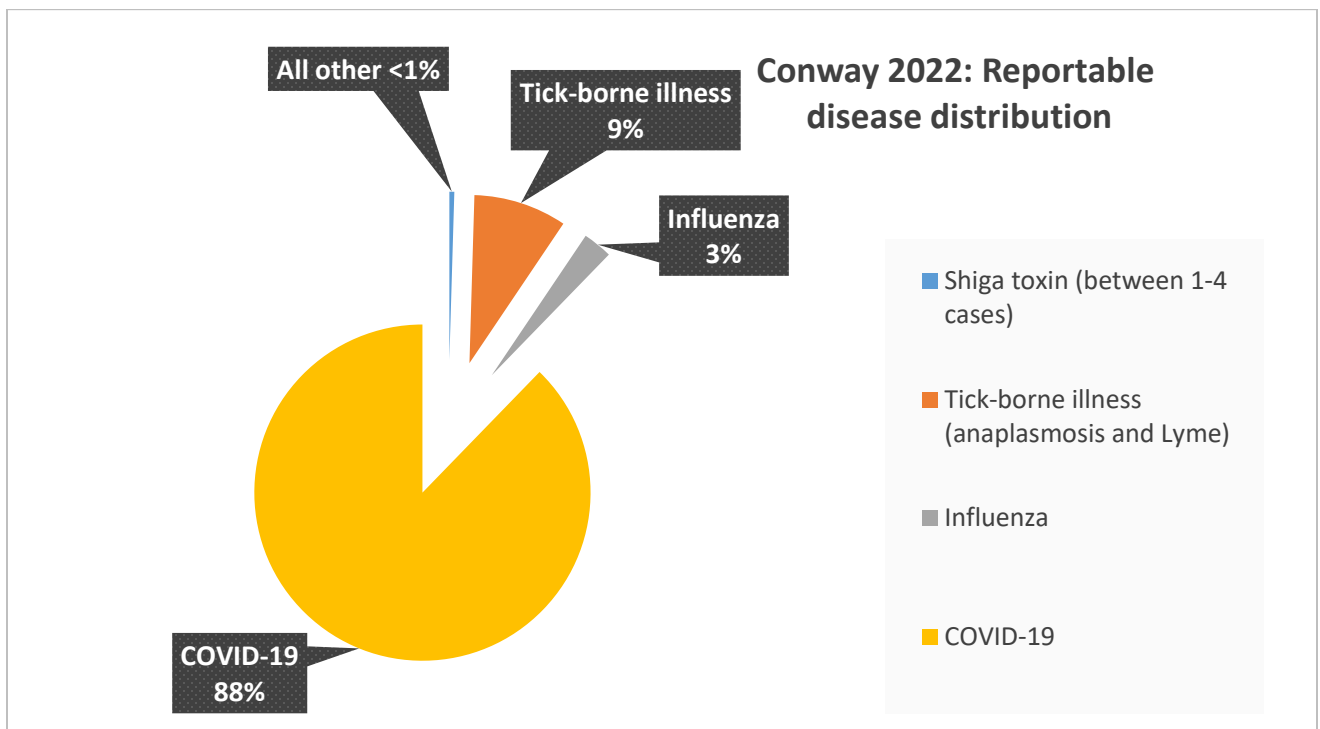
- Offered tick prevention materials and help for residents accessing tick tests. 11 Conway residents received low-cost tick tests through a district program, value of \$330. Of ticks tested in Conway, 33% tested positive for the Lyme Disease Pathogen, and 9% each for the Babesiosis and Anaplasmosis pathogens.
- Provided guidance and training to Conway Board of Health members serving as agents for the Town.
- Assisted businesses with the on-line permitting system, and provided technical support for annual permit applications.
- Conducted 8 retail food inspections, licensed and inspected 7 temporary food vendors, and responded to housing complaints. Permitted and inspected 17 annual and temporary permits.
- Licensed and inspected 1 short-term rental unit.

In addition, FRCOG staff:

Provided funding and facilitation support to the Mary Lyon Foundation for the creation of the West County People Supporting People Network, which met quarterly to bring together providers from the county's healthcare and human service sectors with community stakeholders in West County.

We thank the residents of Conway for the opportunity to serve them and look forward to working closely together to improve the health of the community in the coming year!

Conway's representatives to the CPHS Oversight Board in 2022 were Jackie Choate and Kat Llamas, Board of Health members. For more information about the Board or the health district, visit www.frcog.org



Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

The Solid Waste District was formed in 1989 to help Franklin County towns manage all aspects of their solid waste – recyclables, organics, hazardous waste, wastewater treatment sludge, and trash. We continue to provide assistance to twenty-one member towns through administrative support, professional consultation, trainings, and outreach to residents and businesses.

A review of recycling tonnage for 2022 shows a decrease of 200 tons of recycling compared to 2021. District residents recycled just over 2,500 tons of paper and containers. The recyclables were processed at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility and sold, primarily to domestic companies, to be recycled.

We returned to holding our Clean Sweep bulky waste collections in 2022 with events in May and October. Events were held at Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Northfield highway Garage, and Whately transfer station. The May event was the first one held since October 2019 due to the pandemic. Combined, the events served almost 600 households and collected over 60 tons of bulky waste, scrap metal, appliances, electronics, propane tanks, tires, and other items.

We held our annual household hazardous waste collection in September 2022 at Greenfield Community College and Orange transfer station. This event allows residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, automotive products, pesticides, and other toxic products. A total of 374 households participated in this event. Residents have access to other hazardous waste collection events in the Pioneer Valley.

We applied for and received grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection worth \$101,400 for District towns. This grant funding is a result of a town's successful waste management infrastructure.

If you have questions about District programs, call us at 413-772-2438 (MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 TTY/TDD), visit our website at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org or visit us at 117 Main St. in Greenfield.

Jan Ameen - *Executive Director*
Terry Narkewicz, Shelburne - *Vice-Chair*

Chris Boutwell, Montague - *Chair*
M.A. Swedlund, Deerfield - *Treasurer*