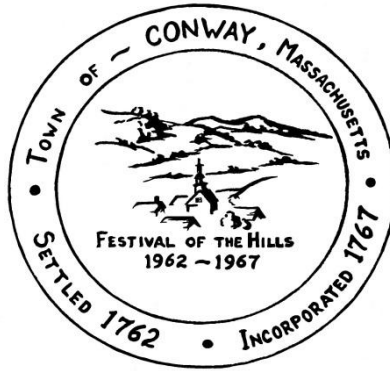


Town of Conway
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
2026 Annual Report



Fiscal Year 2025
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

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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– 3:00 p.m., Town Hall

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 Tuesday – 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: Erica Goleman, 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

REPORT OF ELECTED OFFICIALS 2025

SELECTBOARD:	Elaine Campbell	2027
	Erica Goleman	2026
	Christopher Waldo, chair	2028
BOARD OF ASSESSORS:	George Forcier	2026
	Russell French	2027
	Vacancy	
BOARD OF HEALTH:	Hazel Goleman	2028
	Kathy Llamas, chair	2028
	Regina McNeely	2026
	Daniel Sheff	2027
	Hanna Sherman	2026
BURIAL AGENT:	Laurie Lucier	2028
CONSTABLES:	Brian Blakeslee	2028
	Ronald Hawkes	2028
	James Recore	2028
FRS COMMITTEE:	Cecilia Van Driesche	2028
LOCAL SCHOOL COMM:	Elaine Campbell, chair	2028
	Jared Campbell	2028
	Victoria DeMaio	2027
	Philip Kantor	2026
	Vacancy	
MODERATOR	James Recore	2026
PLANNING BOARD:	Cheryl Case	2026
	George Forcier	2027
	Jeffrey Lacy	2026
	Lara Moebius	2026
	Joseph Strzegowski (non-res assoc)	2026
	William Zale	2027
TOWN CLERK:	Laurie Lucier	2028
TREE WARDEN	Walter Goodridge	2026

CONWAY APPOINTED OFFICIALS

AGRICULTURAL COMM:	Vacancy x 5	
ASST. TO ADMINISTRATOR:	Adam Reed	
BARN/ANIMAL INSPECTOR	Emily Sweet	2026
	John Wholey	2026
CABLE ADVISORY COMM:	Robert Armstrong	2027
	Jonathan Barkan	2028
	Vacancy x 3	
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:	Robert Armstrong	2028
	Roy Cohen	2027
	Phyllis Craine, chair	2028
	Christopher Waldo (SB)	2028
	Vacancy	
CEMETERY COMMISSION:	Peter Freisem, chair	2026
	John Harrison	2027
	Stephen Jackson	2028
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION:	Aimee Anderson (open space)	2026
	Louise Beckett (con comm)	2028
	George Forcier, chair (plan brd)	2027
	Henry Horstmann (hist comm)	2026
	Carolyn Thayer (coa)	2027
	Vacancy x 2	
CONSERVATION COMM:	Louise Beckett	2026
	Mary Kay Costello	2028
	Courtney Gilligan	2027
	Anthony Somers, chair	2028
	Jeanne Thomas	2027
COUNCIL ON AGING:	Gail Connelly	2028
	Hank Hortsman	2027
	Patricia Kocot	2027
	Kathy Llamas	2028
	Patricia Lynch, chair	2026
	Carolyn Thayer	2028
	Robin Yerkes	2027

REPORT OF APPOINTED OFFICIALS 2025 (continued)

CULTURAL COUNCIL:	Theresa Carter	2028
	Joan Gravel	2028
	Christine Kenneally	2028
	Erin McKeown	2028
	Sophie Michaux	2027
	Donna Sussek	2027
	Vacancy x 2	
EMERGENCY MGMT DEPT.	Heidi Flanders	
	Amanda Herrmann	
FCAT BOARD OF DIRECTORS:	Vacancy	
FINANCE COMMITTEE:	Roy Cohen	2028
	John Craine	2028
	Thomas Donovan	2027
	Rhyanna McLeester	2025
	Alan Singer, chari	2026
FOREST and TRAILS COMM:	Jill Craig	2028
	Deb Donaldson, co-chair	2027
	Courtney Gilligan	2028
	Jennifer Heilig	2027
	Cynthia Lawton-Singer (assoc.)	2028
	Priscilla Lynch	2026
FOREST WARDEN:	Robert Baker	
FR COMP ECONO DEV ADV:	Vacancy	
FR TRANSIT AUTHORITY:	Veronique Blanchard, rep	2026
	Erica Goleman, alternate	2026
FR COUNTY ER DISPATCH:	Robert Baker	
	Gemma Vanderheld	
FR CTY SOLID WASTE MGMT:	Vacancy	
FR CTY TECH SCHOOL COMM:	John Pelletier, rep	2026

REPORT OF APPOINTED OFFICIALS 2025 (continued)

FRCOG

COOPERATIVE PUBLIC HEALTH

OVERSIGHT BOARD:	Daniel Sheff	2026
	Kathy Llamas (alternate)	2026
COUNCILOR:	Erica Goleman	2026
	Christopher Waldo (alternate)	2026
ER RESPONSE COORD:	Robert Baker	2026
FCCIP REP:	Laurie Lucier	2026
REG. PLANNING BOARD:	Jeffrey Lacy	2026

FRED WELLS TRUST: Kate French

HISTORICAL COMMISSION:	Bill Burnett	2028
	Carl Darrow	2027
	Denise Dwelley	2026
	Henry Horstmann	2027
	Jane Recore	2028
	Yulia Stone	2026
	Sarah Williams, chair	2027

HOUSING COMMITTEE: Vacancy x 3

NEWSLETTER COMM:	Aimee Anderson	2026
	Louise Beckett, co-chair	2027
	Veronique Blanchard	2028
	Julia Carroll	2028
	Patricia Lynch, editor	2026

OPEN SPACE COMM:	Brian Allen	2028
	Aimee Anderson	2027
	Janet Chayes, chair	2027
	John Cordes	2028
	Mac McCoy	2026
	Michele Turre	2027
	Julia Washburn	2026

REPORT OF APPOINTED OFFICIALS 2025 (continued)

PARK, REC & TRAILS:	Jim Bosman	2027
	Tanya Campbell	2028
	Mark Gollehon	2026
	Michael Merritt	2026
	Julie Sweet	2027
	Janice Warner, chair	2028
	Vacancy	
PERSONNEL COMM:	Phyllis Craine	2028
	Stephanie Recore	2027
	Alan Singer	2026
PUBLIC BUILDINGS COMM:	Walter Goodridge	2028
	Christopher Herrmann	2027
	Peter Jeswald	2028
	Kenneth Ouimette	2027
	Ronald Sweet	2026
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE:	Beth Girshman	2028
	Josephine Lally	2027
	Lusia Stewart	2028
	Pamela Westgate	2028
	Liv Wyatt	2026
UPPER PV VETERANS SVCS:	Roger Goshea	2026
VETERAN'S GRAVE OFFICER:	Donald Graham	2026
WASTEWATER COMMITTEE:	Vacancy x 3	
WOODLANDS PARTNERSHIP:	Deb Donaldson	2026
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:	Phyllis Craine	2027
	Gary Fentin	2026
	Andrew Levchuk	2027
	Mark Silverman, chair	2028
	Vacancy	

Agricultural Commission

Not active.



Board of Assessors

No report.



Board of Health

Annual Report July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

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
- 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:

The Chair of the Conway Board of Health is Kathy Llamas (term through June 2028), the fellow members of the Board of Health are Hazel Goleman (term through 2028), Regina (Gina) McNeely (term through 2026), Daniel Sheff (term through June 2027), Hanna Sherman (term through June 2026). Emily Sweet (term through June 2024) The Board of Health Clerk is Laurie Lucier.

Title V and the work of our Health Agents:

This involves the approval and inspection of septic systems, water percolation which tests the rate at which the water drains through the soil which is relevant for any property without access to a municipal sewer system. Our Title V inspections and consultations were carried out by independent contractor, Carl Nelke, through December of 2024. He resigned as our agent effective December 31, 2024. Upon accepting his resignation, the Conway Board of Health added Title V services to our agreement with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG).

Carl Nelke performed 10 inspections, six perc tests and the Minutes reflect two discussions with people needing services. There was also a Compliance Inspection carried out by FRCOG in October of 2024.

FRCOG took over Title V inspections at the start of 2025. There were ten inspections indicated in the Minutes with one perc test. There were two food permits issued. FRCOG worked with the Conway Swimming Pool to prepare it for its summer opening. In addition, FRCOG did a housing inspection after two separate reports were received about inadequate housing. There was also discussion within the Board after some citizens reported an accumulation of trash along Academy Hill that was being offered as “free items”. The Cooperative Public Health Service began educating its members on Battery Storage in April of 2025. FRCOG paid for three members of our Board to attend the MAHB Conference.

Health and Wellness:

The Conway Board of Health is very fortunate to have two retired doctors to help us navigate through what can be a challenge for lay people. And it was a rather busy monitoring year for the Board of Health.

Here are some conditions that were monitored this year:

- Even though the COVID pandemic emergency response was declared ended in May of 2023, it remained one of the conditions the Board of Health reported on. The summer and holiday seasons brought surges and the rest of the year fluctuated from High to Low.
- Avian Flu also affected Wild and domestic flocks on a national level and by February there was concern that it could have reached an infection rate of pandemic proportion. Emily Sweet brought her knowledge to Conway people with chickens on reducing the risk to their flocks. Fortunately, there was no Avian Flu pandemic, and no cases were found in Conway.
- West Nile Virus fluctuated throughout the season and there were some positive cases reported in Hampden County and Greenfield but the risk in Conway remained low.
- EEE was first reported in early June of 2024, and it was predominantly found in the Southeast area of MA. For most of the year, the risk in Conway was low to remote.
- RSV, the Flu and Norovirus were also monitored.
- The warmer climate and milder Winters have made ticks a year-round problem.
- Measles presented itself on a national level with outbreaks in Texas and other areas. There were reports of measles in Worcester County, but no reports out of Franklin County.
- Drought conditions were a concern this year and the extreme temperatures both hot and cold affected us all – but there were no heating or cooling centers opened.

The Board of Health worked with the Selectboard and FRCOG regarding money from the Opioid Settlement Funds. Those funds support programs for Conway as well as a portion to support programs that are county wide. The Nursing Program which is on the first Friday of the month continued to serve the residents of Conway. They provide blood pressure, diabetes support and provide resources to a variety of health concerns. In October of 2024, a vaccine clinic was conducted. The nurses provided access to both COVID and the Flu shots. The Board of Health helped register those getting the vaccines.

There are not as many statistics to add to this report this year. Several of the reporting agencies were dismantled.

The Board of Health passed new Tobacco Regulations that were adopted on May 12, 2025 after a town hearing on the matter. The new regulation can be viewed on the Board of Health's webpage at www.conwayma.gov

Food Services and Inspections:

The Conway Board of Health has continued its partnership with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) for all Food Service Inspections. The temporary food permits for the 2024 Festival of the Hills, the 2024 inspection of the Conway Grammar School, and other food-related permits were issued by Carl Nelke.

Animal and Barn Inspections:

The Town of Conway has continued its contract with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office for our Animal Control needs.

John Wholey and Emily Sweet continued to share the responsibility of Barn Inspectors. While the Avian Flu was a concern of the Board of Health, Emily and her father met with residents that owned chickens and provided them with educational materials to reduce the probability of their flocks contracting the disease.

Education Undertaken:

There are ongoing educational opportunities for our Board. These include online workshops and meetings as well as in-person conferences and workshops. Some of the topics have been related to Opioid Settlement Funds, Housing, Battery Storage and Emergency Response as well as medical related issues.

The town is represented on FRCOG's Cooperative Public Health Oversight Board by Daniel Sheff and Kathy Llamas. Kathy continues to serve the Board as the CPHS Co-Chair. Throughout the year there were monthly online meetings of the MA Department of Public Health. We represent Conway as a member of the Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition (MAPHCO) and participate in monthly meetings as well as in-person seminars (weather permitting). As part of our commitment to the residents of Conway, members that have not completed training in the Foundations of Public Health continue to work through the course. There are FEMA classes available that expand our knowledge. Some members of our Board attended the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards Conference held in Northampton in the Spring of 2025. The Board has been meeting with the Emergency Management Department.

Representatives to various Committees:

MAPHCO: Regina (Gina) McNeely/ Kathy Llamas, Alternate

CPHS: Daniel Sheff/ Kathy Llamas, alternate and Co-Chair

Conway Currents BOH submissions: Daniel Sheff and Hanna Sherman

These are the highlights of this year. Detailed minutes and regulations can be read on our webpage at www.conwayma.gov.

Respectfully submitted by: Kathy Llamas. Chair



Board of Registrars

{Registrars Report is based on Calendar Year
January 1 through December 31, 2025}

The Board of Registrars consists of four members, of which one is the Town Clerk by virtue of the office. The remaining members are appointed by the Selectboard for alternate three-year terms. This Board can be compared to an Election Commission in a city and the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth at the state level. The board must always contain, as nearly as possible, representatives of the two leading political parties, of no more than two members of each.

The Town Clerk carries out the functions of the Board of Registrars. These responsibilities include the conduct of elections and recounts, voter registration, compilation of the Annual Street List of Residents (the Annual Town Census), certification of signatures on nomination papers and petitions, and recording of Town Meeting attendance.

The Town of Conway Board of Registrars hereby reports that residents eligible to vote in Elections and Town Meetings in the year 2025 as of December 31, was 1,521. In the year 2025, there was one election, the Annual Town Election (6/12).

According to the Annual Town Census taken during the month of January, the Town's population was 1,857. Voter registration sessions were held as required by Massachusetts General Laws prior to Elections and Town Meeting.

The following Town Meeting(s) were held during the year 2025:

Annual Town Meeting – June 07, 2025

Special Town Meeting – December 6, 2025

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 at the Town Clerk's office. 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

No report.



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

currently consists of three members: Peter Freisem – Chair, Stephen Jackson, Jack Harrison). Members usually meet on the first Tuesday of each month. Cemetery Commission email is: **cemcomm@townofconway.com**

During the period July 1, 2024-June 30 2025, the Cemetery Commission worked on the following:

- By means of ground measurements and GPS assisted mapping, the commission has continued to develop a GIS data-oriented map for South Part Cemetery defining new burial lots for traditional burials and cremated remains burials.
- Consulted Town Counsel about revisions to Town Cemetery Guidelines and made updates to those guidelines as result.
- Researched & purchased special gravestone cleaning supplies.
- Researched a new supplier and purchased aluminum burial lot marking pins.
- Commission set up hard copy burial record files for storage in Town Hall.
- Facilitated a lot sale for a green burial in South Part Cemetery.
- Commission members handled inquiries from town residents who were interested in purchasing lots in a Conway cemetery.

Funds expended during FY25 for Cemetery Commission materials: \$374.72



Capital Improvements Planning Committee

No report.



Community Preservation Committee



Conservation Commission



Council on Aging

As in past years, the COA continues to advocate for Conway’s older adult residents. The COA’s goals for the coming year are to continue to support our ongoing programs and to develop new programs as needs for these are identified. Our work is supported by a grant from the state Executive Office of Aging and Independence and a town appropriation. In support of the state’s Mass in Motion program to promote age-friendly communities, three

COA members continue to belong to the town's Age-Friendly Conway Committee and work with other members to plan ways to ensure that older adults are well served in our community and can more easily age in place.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Ann Lynch, Chair; Carolyn Thayer, Treasurer; Gail Connelly, Hank Horstmann, Patricia Kocot, Kathy Llamas, Robin Yerkes

And that's the truth.



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 with an option to continue for a second term - potentially serving on the Council for a total of six consecutive years. 2025 Council members included Theresa Carter, Stein Feick, Joan Haley, Christine Kenneally, Sophie Michaux, Erin Mckeown, Donna Sussek, and Jane Roy Brown.

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 of Conway with affordable entertainment, education and opportunities for creative growth. Our priority is programming that includes local artists, individuals and groups and that directly benefits our town. We also strive to serve a wide range of age groups, from preschoolers to senior citizens.

For fiscal year 2025, we reviewed 41 proposals and awarded a total of \$6,150.00 to 24 grantees. We were pleased to support several quality Conway-centered proposals as well as programs outside of Conway that will benefit our citizens. We welcomed Erin Mckeown and Joan Gravel to the Council for FY25 and are currently seeking new members to join us. (conwayculturalcouncil@gmail.com)

Respectfully submitted, Donna
Sussek



Finance Committee

Alan Singer, **Chair**

John Craine - **Recording Secretary**

Roy Cohn – Member At Large

Rhyanna McLeester – Member At Large

FY '25 ended 6/30/2025 our Town end its fiscal year on solid financial footing: 1) free cash was certified at \$894,273 (10.8% of the FY '25 budget) versus \$612,613 (7.4% of the FY '24 budget) for the prior year. The general “rule of thumb” is for free cash to range anywhere from 3.0% to 5.0% of that year’s budget (the levy and appropriate portion). The ballooning in the value of Personal Property Assets for FY '25 by approximately \$10M over the five-year average for the period ended 6/30/2025 of \$7.1M resulted in Conway receiving a “windfall” of tax revenues. For FY '26 the estimated value of Personal Property Assets is \$.5M. Of course this is a guess, and one of the many challenges towns faces in setting the annual budget expenses without a clear picture of what total revenues could be.

On 11/6/2025 I had chance to testify before the MA Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Committee on the Study of Chapter 70 (State aid to the public schools) in my capacity as the Town of Conway as Finance Committee Chair. DESE commissioned a Chapter 70 study overseen by ten members, none of whom come from western MA. I find this very troubling. Did you know that DESE’s current calculations have our Town being classified as wealthy as the Town of Wellesley, MA when assessing local aid to our Conway Grammar School as well as our contribution to the Franklin Technical High School? That’s right, it’s true. For our Town, the average (per Zillow estimate as of 11/9/2025) has an average home value of approximately \$439,000 and the Town of Wellesley, MA has an average home value of approximately \$1,969,000. Our Town’s average tax bill to household income is 8.22% versus Wellesley, MA’s average tax bill to household income of 5.91%. The average tax bill of Wellesley exceeds our Town’s by over threefold. The DESE requires that towns in the Commonwealth of MA fund their public schools by a minimum of 59.1%. The Town of Conway, MA for FY '26 is projected to fund Conway Grammar School by nearly 80% - well above the State average. Many of the people representing their rural towns in western MA also testified and shared predicaments like ours.

On the Capital budget side, the Town continues to run solid balances in all six of its special stabilization funds: 1) General Stabilization; 2) Conway Grammar School Stabilization (with the balance available sufficient to pay for our new boiler system – though not a smart school system); 3) Ambulance Stabilization Fund; 4) the nascent Highway Dept. Stabilization Fund; 5) Fire Truck Stabilization Fund; and 6) the Capital Stabilization Fund. In addition, our Town continues to be well below reaching our levy limit – a position that positions us in good stead as compared to many of our neighboring towns.

As we complete the FY '26 (to end 6/30/2026) and look ahead to FY '27 to commence on 7/1/2026, our Town as with most municipalities throughout our Commonwealth of MA face significant, projected increases in healthcare costs that will well exceed our estimated percentage increase Full and Fair Valuation (i.e. our taxable property base). To put this in perspective, from FY '22 to FY '25 our Town’s Full and Fair Valuation has increased by 40.8% (from \$188.8M to \$265.7M). I share with you this disturbing fact – for FY '22 our Town received a total of \$1,096,753 in State Aid. For FY '25 our Town received a total of \$1,280,359 in State Aid. This represents a total increase of 2.07%. For this similar period, our nation’s inflation rate (i.e. GDP Deflator) increased by 10.8%. This means that when adjusting for inflation, our Town is now receiving approximately an 8% reduction in State Aid.

In closing, I welcome any and Town residents who are interested in filling our vacancy on the Finance Committee. We also wish our long-time Town Accountant, Michael Kociela well on his retirement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Singer, Chair

11/9/2025



Forest and Trails

The Forest & Trails Committee had a very busy, and productive year. In April we offered a well-attended tree ID class with environmentalist Chelsey Simmons from Berkshire Environmental Action Team. This was followed by a birding walk in May along the South River. Also, in May we participated in the Conway Grammar School Spring Fling.

We have continued to remove invasive plants around the grammar school property and improve the understory plantings with native woodland flowering plants. We also expanded the rustic “reading circle” for 20 students. In May we took advantage of a free state program called the Woodland & Watershed Regeneration Program for wildlife and pollinators. With the help of several volunteers, we planted 25 native trees and shrubs around the school grounds including Northern red oak, Swamp white oak, chokeberry, elderberry and hazelnut. To protect the new plantings, we asked Audubon to donate the caging they had used on a similar restoration project on the Conway Hills and they gladly complied saving the committee several hundred dollars. These new plantings were cared for throughout the summer with the help of the grammar school students.

In the fall we started the project of clearly marking the boundary of the Conway Town Forest. We also applied for, and were awarded, a grant from the Conway Cultural Council to install 2 trail cameras in the Fournier woods behind the school. With the grant we hope to bring in a wildlife ecologist to help integrate the sightings with the school curriculum.

The committee was delighted to welcome our newest member, Jill Craig and to bid farewell to our long-standing associate member, Cynthia Lawton-Singer. Her expertise will be missed.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Donaldson, Chair
Priscilla Lynch, Secretary
Courtney Gilligan
Jen Heilig
Jill Craig



Historical Commission

In 2025, the Historical Commission continued to support (seemingly to little effect) repair of the rusting 31-foot approach span to the historic Bardwells Ferry Bridge, over the Deerfield River, in advance of any longer-term state plans for the repainting and redecking of the 1882 iron-truss bridge itself.

As of the July, 2025 edition of the *Currents* newsletter, the reported status of the closed bridge was that bids for

some portion of necessary safety repairs and/or planned maintenance were scheduled to be requested by the state in October, 2026. In that *Currents* edition, we recapped some early history of the 1882 bridge's construction. We focused on reports about early disputes between Conway and Shelburne, to try to illustrate the difference between the 197-foot bridge itself and its short Conway-side approach span (which, as we understand it, is what has deteriorated since its full reconstruction in 1995, forcing the closure of the bridge by the state in August, 2023). We repeat that early *Gazette & Courier* newspaper reporting here:

Monday, September 3, 1883

"Inhabitants of Conway v. Inhabitants of Shelburne–

This was an action of contract to recover for one-half the cost and expenses of a wooden bridge, about 30 feet long with the abutment, at the Conway end of the new iron bridge at Bardwell's Ferry. The whole cost was \$585.50. There was also an account by Conway against Shelburne for repairs of \$50.13. It appeared by the agreed statement offered that in 1868 the County Commissioners ordered the [original, covered] bridge to be built by Conway and Shelburne jointly. They ordered the bridge from a pier to be built on a flat ledge on the Conway side to the Shelburne side, and that about 30 feet from that ledge, which was 27 feet below the level of the road, to the Conway bank, was to be built by the town of Conway as a bridge, or filled in, as they chose. Conway chose to build a 30 foot bridge. In 1882 the wooden bridge, 200 feet long, was blown into the river, and this new iron bridge built by the two towns. The town of Shelburne denied its liability to help rebuild the 30 foot bridge. The town of Conway then built it and now asks Shelburne to pay its one-half, on the ground that the Legislature of 1875 enacted that the two towns should jointly maintain and repair the bridge at Bardwell's Ferry. Judge Staples decided that the bridge mentioned in the Act meant the 200 foot wooden bridge that stood there when the act was passed and did not include the 30 foot bridge and gave judgment for the deft. The plff. appealed and the matter will be decided by the Supreme court in September. Conant & Conant for plff.; H. Winn for deft."

Monday, January 21, 1884:

"Conway vs. Shelburne.

A rescript has been filed in the office of the clerk of courts that settles the bridge controversy between the above towns in favor of the defendant. The amount at issue was the present sum of some \$326, and the future cost of maintenance of the structure in question. The case was tried at the last term of court and judgment given for the town of Shelburne. It went up on exceptions, but the judgment of the lower court is sustained, that is, not overthrown, as a majority of the Supreme Judges were not of the opinion that it should be overruled, the opinions in favor just equaling the opinions against - a tie. Conant & Conant for plaintiffs; Henry Winn for defendants."

The Historical Commission's had no interaction with the state or contractors about the bridge since the letters of support we referenced in last year's annual report. Based on our experience with the long-sought renovation of the Burkeville Covered Bridge, the support of townspeople through a Town Meeting vote, or otherwise, and media coverage are important to bring attention and needed action at the state level to the neglected infrastructure needs of our rural area.

Speaking of the covered bridge, we've recommended to the Selectboard that the original contractor or a qualified consultant be hired to inspect its condition, now that a decade has passed since its re-opening. Some broken

overhead boards are in need of replacement, and, in general, recommendations for the future maintenance of the bridge seem advisable.

We bid a fond farewell to long-time Commission member and Secretary, Carl Darrow, when his latest term expired in 2024 and he relocated from town upon the loss of his lovely wife, Mimi. The Darrows were wonderful, hospitable caretakers of a restored historic home, and Carl had a remarkable workshop filled with historic print-making equipment and material in the accompanying barn. Carl continued to employ his own considerable skill in drawing, painting, and book-binding, as time permitted, and was also a gracious host and tour guide at Historic Deerfield's print shop. We sincerely miss Carl's gentlemanly presence and humor, and we thank him, on behalf of the town, for his decades of public service.

Several Commission members are likely to resume holding informal afternoon research sessions in the Town Hall on the fourth Friday of each month this April to October - sessions during which we welcome public inquiries. We also hope to conduct ongoing oral-history interviews during the nation's 250th anniversary year of 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Burnett, Willis ("Bill")
Darrow, Carl (HC member from 7/2003-6/2024)
Dwelley, Denise (Appointed 10/2023)
Horstmann, Henry ("Hank") (HC member on CPC, FY24-FY26)
Recore, Jane
Stone, Yulia
Williams, Sarah



Newsletter Committee

No report.



Open Space Committee

Habitat restoration at the Town’s **Bigelow Meadow** was a major focus. This 2.3 acre field off Cemetery Hill Rd. was gifted as permanent open space to benefit residents and wildlife. Although it was mowed annually, invasive plants – especially oriental bittersweet – took over, strangling out native grasses and wildflowers. The Committee evaluated options and gratefully accepted preliminary plans developed by local landscape designer Owen Wormser (AboundDesign.com). Abutters received regular communications about the activities and were encouraged to participate. A mowed walking path now welcomes all. The Committee invested in additional mowing to curb the invasives. And accepted plans for new native trees and shrubs which are being planted in phases.

Throughout this period we continued refining interpretative signs for installation at the **South River Meadow**. We monitored the health of the 75 new trees and shrubs and determined they were large enough so most protective cages were removed. Some additional mowing was contracted to improve river views and better enable

treatment of invasive plants. Age Friendly Conway members met with us again about installing a new bench with side bars and the request was ratified. Now three benches are stretched out along the walking path.

Open Space Preservation Priorities, one of the Committee's important missions, was a topic for one meeting and will continue to be addressed.

We continued support for the new native plant gardens designed and installed by *Pollinate Conway!* volunteers at the island in front of the Library and at Veterans Park. A seasonal part-time gardener is paid from our budget for watering and maintenance.

Open Space had a table at the Festival of the Hills in 2024 for the first time. It depicted our many goals: photos including kestrels and bluebirds thanks to our nest boxes; and displays of invasive and native plants. *Pollinate Conway!* folks helped staff the booth and explain why it matters.

(<https://conwayma.gov/p/160/Pollinate-Conway> offers cogent explanations.) A signup sheet at the festival table indicates many of our neighbors are interested in fostering native habitat. We offer free consultations! Email openspace@conwayma.gov.

Expenses from the General Fund totaled \$1700 for mowing at the South River Meadow, \$1200 for the gardener and \$200 for sign supplies. Town meeting endorsed allocating the former Small Cities grant to help implement the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan. From this \$1150 was spent mowing the Bigelow Meadow and \$54 for bird house supplies.



Parks & Recreation Committee

The Parks & Recreation Committee met on a monthly basis throughout FY2025 and continued its mission to provide recreational opportunities and community programming for Conway residents of all ages.

During the fiscal year, the Committee supported and hosted two successful community events. The first was a collaborative event with the Conway Pool Committee, for which Parks & Recreation contributed funding for food and music and provided assistance with event setup, parking coordination, and food preparation. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all, with an estimated attendance of approximately 100 residents. The second event was a National Pickleball Picnic held at the Conway Ballfield. This event was open to all Town residents and featured a community cookout with hamburgers, hotdogs, and a wide variety of homemade side dishes and desserts.

The Pickleball Court Project approved at the June 2024 Annual Town Meeting is progressing well. Court paving was completed in the fall of 2025. Painting and fencing are scheduled for completion in spring 2026, after which the Committee anticipates hosting a grand opening celebration.

The Youth Sports Program had another successful year, continuing to offer soccer, basketball, and baseball to Conway children as well as school choice students. The Committee extends sincere thanks to Youth Sports Director Tanya Campbell for her many hours of dedicated service in organizing and managing the program. FY2025 marks Tanya's final year in this role, and the Committee will be seeking a replacement.

Pickleball programming remains extremely popular, with more than 150 participants from Conway and surrounding communities. Play was accommodated across multiple venues, including the basketball courts, tennis courts, and indoor sessions at the Conway Grammar School during the winter months. Participants have been very generous in donating funds to help offset equipment and court-related expenses. The program also hosted several low-key tournaments focused on friendly competition. New players of all skill levels are always welcome.

Additional information can be found on the Town website under the Parks & Recreation page or on Facebook at "ConwayMAPickleball."

Ballfield maintenance in FY2025 included the installation of a tennis practice backboard. The Committee extends its thanks to town volunteer and handyman Clark Maynard, along with others who contributed funding to make

this improvement possible. Additional work included replacement of playground surfacing and the reopening of the storm drainage system behind the tennis courts. The Committee is grateful for the support and expertise of Town Highway Manager Ronald Sweet in completing these projects. Looking ahead, future projects include replacement of the wooden fencing on the east side of the ballfield, which was funded at the FY2025 Special Town Meeting in December. The Committee also continues routine replacement of recreational equipment such as basketballs, tennis balls, and rackets. The largest ongoing budget expense remains portable toilet service at the Grammar School and ballfield; this year, the units were upgraded to include handicapped-accessible facilities.



Personnel Committee

No report.



Planning Board



Public Buildings Committee

No report.



Sustainability Committee

Meetings are held on the second Thursday evening of every month, 5:30 – 7 p.m., at the Town Office building.

Mission statement: The purpose of the Conway Sustainability Committee is to help the Town identify, develop, implement, and manage programs and policies that equitably advance decarbonization and resilience to mitigate the negative impacts of the climate crisis and to protect and improve the health and prosperity of our community, economy and environment.

Membership FY 2025
Beth Girshman (chair)
Jody Lally
Sia Stewart (secretary)
Pam Westgate
Olivia Wyatt (co-chair)

Throughout FY 2025, members of the Sustainability Committee worked with Franklin Regional Council of Governments consultants to update the town of Conway's status as a Green Community. This enables the Town to apply for grants related to energy and cost saving measures. The Committee is also exploring the steps Conway might take toward earning a Climate Leader Community designation, which would open up access to additional state grants and support.

At the request of the Selectboard, the committee gathered information and made initial recommendations pertaining to the Town's 67 streetlights. FY 2025 recommendations included hiring Real Time Energy to conduct a field audit, inventory and reconciliation of existing streetlights.

A public information session was held in February 2025. The Sustainability Committee made final recommendations to the Selectboard for elimination of some town streetlights, purchase of fixtures and replacement of existing bulbs with LEDs, designed to increase quality of light, decrease unwanted light and save both energy and money.

Sustainability Committee members worked with the Town Administrator, Selectboard and Eversource towards having energy audits/scoping studies completed on town building(s) and the Grammar School.

The Sustainability Committee continues to discuss and research possibility of adding rooftop solar to town owned buildings

Submitted by Beth Girshman, Chair



Zoning Board of Appeals

In June 2024 - June 2025, there were no applications to the ZBA for either Variances or Special Permits. This is less than the typical number of cases for most years. Also, there were various inquiries about building and land projects which either could be resolved quickly, or that did not involve the Zoning Board of Appeals, but we were able to furnish information and to help steer these residents in the correct directions.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Silverman



DEPARTMENTS – ADMINISTRATION

Town Administrator

Administration & Finance

The town of Conway has an audit of the town's financials done every two years. This year Roselli & Clark performed our FY24 audit. In this audit there are suggestions given for improvements the town can make. I am

happy to report that most of the suggestions from the previous audit have already been achieved; there are very few new suggestions for FY24.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds have been fully obligated, with the remainder of the funds going to the creation of the new Public Safety Office building.

This was our first year of the new Senior and Veteran Tax Work Off program. The Selectboard approved five slots for a maximum of \$1,500 to be earned (100 hours at \$15 per hour) by qualifying seniors and veterans. In FY25 we had three applicants who worked on various projects for the town and were able to earn this new tax abatement on their FY26 taxes.

The Division of Local Services (DLS) provided Conway with both a five year financial forecast spreadsheet as well as a Financial Management Review.

Grants

In FY 25 the town administrative office applied for the following grants:

- Applied for and was **awarded** a MassWorks STRAP grant to install guardrails and pave 1000' of Shelburne Falls and repair/replace drainage infrastructure in the Upper Baptist, Baptist Hill and Pine Hill area; grant award amount **\$1,000,000.00**.
- **Municipal Vulnerability Planning (MVP) 2.0 grant.** Conway was awarded \$175,000 to work in conjunction with Ashfield on updating the MVP plans for both towns. This process is required to stay in the MVP program. This is a two-year project.
- **MVP FY26 grant.** The town was awarded **\$321,500.00** to design and permit a lowering of the floodplain at the former dam on the Manwell property. This project once seen to completion will help store water in the event of heavy rainfall to help protect properties as well as Conway center. This is a two-year project.
- Applied for a Massachusetts Office of Disability (MOD) grant in the amount of **\$24,321** for an updated self-evaluation of accessibility within the town; awaiting award announcement
- Cybersecurity awareness training through the Executive Office of Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS); **free**
- Annual Emergency Management Program Grant (EMPG) for **\$2,000**
- Applied for a Green Communities grant in the amount of **\$38,924** to retrofit the town's streetlights and changeover the bulbs to LED and dark skies compliant bulbs; awaiting award announcement.
- With assistance from the Federal Funds Infrastructure Office (FFIO) at the state, we submitted a Federal PROTECT grant to work on stabilizing three embankments along Shelburne Falls Road. Unfortunately that grant was then removed from the Federal options.
- Declined previous FEMA/EMMA grant for Delabarre Avenue. This work will now be done by the town at the same time as the MassWorks STRAP grant work.

Boards & Committees

Board of Health This year the Board of Health, which is in charge of expending the Opioid settlement funds, voted to purchase five defibrillators. Three are to be in emergency vehicles with one each for town hall and town offices.

Council on Aging / South County Senior Center The director of the South County Senior Center kindly included Conway in a grant application, which provided 50 iPads to be given to Conway seniors. A lottery was held and then classes were given to teach recipients how to use an iPad.

Mass in Motion/Age Friendly Conway

This committee became an official town committee on July 1st, 2024 per vote of the Selectboard. Age-Friendly Conway receives state money annually through the FRCOG which can be used on any activities related to ensuring Conway is more connected socially, more physically active and any other activities which will increase the health and well-being of Conway residents. Some of the items the committee has used their funds on are new tables and padded chairs for town hall for use by seniors at their lunches and other functions, and to pay for the annual Senior Social (aka Senior Prom) held at Field Memorial Library.

Festival of the Hills. Town meeting voted to have the Festival come back under the town. A home rule legislation request was submitted and the town is awaiting the outcome from the legislature.

Departments

Information Technology. Our longtime IT provider Roy Cohen of NetVantage Associates will be retiring his accounts, so the town needs to find a new IT vendor. An IT working group was created to research IT vendors, receive and review proposals. After reviewing six vendors, it was decided to contract with Sourcepass beginning in FY26.

State Engagement

I am a member of the Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts (STAM), a member of the Community Climate Advisory Committee and a member of the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) policy committee on Energy and the Environment. I also completed my Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official (MCPPO) training. This was my second training and must be completed every three years.

I was also invited to present at the Governor’s Resilient Mass Climate Summit in Boston on March 27th. My presentation focused on the damages incurred by Conway during the floods of 2023 and suggestions for streamlining culvert replacements.

Respectfully submitted,
Véronique Blanchard
Town Administrator and Conway resident



Town Clerk

{Town Clerk’s Report is based on Calendar Year –
January 1 through December 31, 2025}

Historically, the position of Town Clerk dates to biblical times when clerks were often considered scribes or scholars. Their writings became the official records of the period. Today the Town Clerk continues as the official record keeper for the town and records all official business conducted at Town Meetings and elections and provides a wide variety of services to the public as well as local, state, and federal governments. The Town Clerk is also the Records Access Officer under the Public Records Law effective January 1, 2017. The major functions of the Town

Clerk's Office are spelled out over 73 chapters and 400 sections of the Massachusetts General Laws as well as local Town By-Laws. Other responsibilities include records management, Burial Agent, registration and certification of vital statistics, voter registration licensing, compilation of the Annual Census and Street/Voting Lists, Board of Appeals and Planning Board decisions, and the most complex – those relating to elections and Town Meeting. The State Ethics Commission's enabling act of 2009 which required city and town clerks to provide municipal employees, including elected and appointed officials, with an annual summary of the Conflict-of-Interest Law, instructions on how to complete the mandatory online training requirements biannually, and dissemination of the Open Meeting Law. Part of this legislation, the revision of the Open Meeting Law, requires municipal clerks to post meeting notices and agendas of all committees and boards at least 48 hours prior to the meeting exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

The Town Clerk is often considered the core of local government, serving as the central information point for residents. The Town Clerk's Office serves as Commissioners to Qualify Oath of Office for the Commissions Division of the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth and, until January 1, 2012, as licensing agents for the Division of Fish & Wildlife. From July 2000 until May 2011 the Town Clerk's Office served as the local Passport Agency for the U.S. Department of State.

The number of Town Meetings and elections varies from one year to the next, ranging from one Town Meeting and one Election to multiple Town Meetings and Elections (not including any specials called by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the Selectboard). The Annual Town Election is held on the first Thursday following the Annual Town Meeting. 2025 had only one election opposed to four in 2024; and two Town Meetings, the Annual Town Meeting in June, and a Special Town Meeting in December.

The population for the Town of Conway according to the 2025 Annual Town Censes was 1,857.

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.

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

2025 Marriages Recorded in Conway

- February 1 Seth David Bilkay and Rebecca Ariel Lawson of Conway
Married in Conway, MA
- February 14 Christopher James Dupras and Hannah Marie Staelens of Conway
Married in Shutesbury, MA
- June 21 Brian Paul Diggins and Melanie Lynn Burt of Conway
Married in Newburyport, MA
- July 5 Tristan Johnnie McLaurin and Sonia Marlena Reilly of Brooklyn, NY
Married in Conway, MA
- July 24 Colin John Mettey and Danielle Shae Manna of Conway
Married in Conway, MA
- September 10 Nicholas Shantann Meyer and Alexis Arcaro of Conway
Married in Conway, MA

2025 Deaths Recorded in Conway

- March 4 Cynthia Racicot, Age 62
Disposition at Merrimack Cremation Service, Merrimack, NH
- March 14 John D. Pearsall, Age 79
Disposition at Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
- March 24 Jon D Clark, Age 83
Disposition at Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
- April 10 James K. Allyn, Age 75
Disposition at Village Hill Cemetery, Williamsburg, MA
- May 7 John James Masson, Jr., Age 92
Disposition at Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
- May 8 Kathleen J. Bennett, Age 79
Disposition at Hillcrest Park Cemetery, Springfield, MA
- 2024 Deaths Recorded in Conway (continued)**
- May 25 Danielle G Lochhead, Age 79
Disposition at UMASS Chan Medical School, Worcester, MA

May 25	Lynne Coffin Prince, Age 86 Disposition at Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA
July 17	Andrew Eugene Desquin, Age 50 Disposition at Ker Phaneuf, Brattleboro, VT
October 14	Jimmie Dale Moore Age 89 Disposition at Hillcrest Park Crematory, Springfield, MA
October 16	Richard Miller McKelvey, Age 65 Disposition at Cheshire Family Crematory, Troy, NH
December 22	David Robert Damon, Age 74 Disposition at Springfield Crematory, Springfield, MA

2024 Town Meetings and Elections

There were many voting law changes implemented by the Commonwealth in 2022. This has increased the workload for the Town Clerk's office regarding elections. Vote-by-Mail and Early Voting hours have been made law for State Elections going forward and also will be available for our local elections.

I would like to thank my Election Warden and Election Clerk, Katherine Whitcomb, and Margaret Kennedy, along with all our poll workers for their dedication and hard work. I also wish to thank our elections workers and constables for their help in making sure all the elections and Town Meetings run smoothly.

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 town meetings and elections were held and the total number of registered voters in the Town of Conway reported per election in 2023 is as follows:

Presidential Primary – March 5, 2024
Registered Voters: 1484 / Voter Turnout: 36%

Annual Town Caucus – March 20, 2024
Registered Voters: 1484 / Voter Turnout: 1.8%

Annual Town Meeting – June 1, 2024
Registered Voters: 1484 / Voter Turnout: 9.6%

Annual Town Election – June 6, 2024
Registered Voters: 1484 / Voter Turnout: 36.7%

State Primary – September 3, 2024
Registered Voters: 1513 / Voter Turnout: 20%

State Election – November 5, 2024

Registered Voters: 1513 / Voter Turnout: 86.5%

For the calendar year of 2025:

Dogs Licensed – 420

Business Certificates held – 69

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; notary public services; 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.

Under normal circumstances, the Town Clerk’s Office, which is oriented to serving the public, is open Monday 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Tuesday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Wednesday 8:30 am to 1:00 pm, and Thursday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, or by appointment, or by chance.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie L. Lucier
Conway Town Clerk



Transfer Station

Report for fiscal year 2025; July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

Below is a comparison of the first four years’ budget for the transfer station.

Line items	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
Hrly Emp Attendants	\$42,000	\$43,260	\$45,800	\$34,000
TS Manager				\$17,600
Total Salaries	\$42,000	\$43,260	\$45,800	\$51,600
Inspections		\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
FCSWMD Admin	\$7,859	\$7,982	\$8,133	\$8,551
Telephone	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
Contracted Services	\$22,700	\$18,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
Trash Hauling	\$45,000	\$12,251	\$12,675	\$14,000
Bulky Waste hauling and tip fee		\$20,368	\$21,997	\$16,000
Recycling Hauling		\$16,254	\$17,554	\$19,000
Trash Tipping	\$40,000	\$41,078	\$42,537	\$40,000
Haz Waste Coll	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$4,500	\$4,500

Springfield MRF Fee	\$15,000	\$0	\$18,627.65	\$18,000.00
Compost		\$5,000	\$6,120	\$6,500
Scrap Metal Hauling		\$3,816	\$3,205	\$4,500
Other Supplies (new in FY25)				\$1,000
Uniforms	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$500
Total Expenses	\$138,359	\$135,048	\$148,148	\$139,851
TOTAL	\$180,359	\$178,308	\$193,948	\$191,451

Conway bag sticker program

The purpose of this program is to help reduce the amount of trash coming in to the transfer station. In FY23 Conway had 383 tons of trash. In FY25 we had 320. That’s a drop of 63 tons, so clearly the program is working!

FY25 tonnages were as follows:

- Trash – 320 tons
- Bulky – 65 tons
- Metal – 38 tons
- Paper Recycling – 82 tons
- Container Recycling – 70 tons
- Electronics – 3,670 pounds

OESCO created and installed a new ramp for the container recycling rolloff, and it is working so much better than the wooden one, which was failing and unsafe.

The gate and fence were also damaged, and were repaired this year. The repaving of the asphalt pad was also put out to bid and will be completed in FY26. The Transfer Station Attendant’s shed will also be insulated and some repairs made in FY26.

The Conway Mall has been struggling to stay open due to a lack of volunteers. It is also difficult for volunteers in the colder weather because there is no heat in the building. Conway applied for and received a Sustainable Materials Recovery Program grant for \$6,000 a new swap shop building to house the Conway Mall, which will also be installed in FY26.

Respectfully submitted,
Véronique Blanchard

Town Administrator and Transfer Station Department Head



Treasurer

The treasurer’s office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am to 3pm.

Banking

Prudent investing in the US treasuries and CDs continued increased levels of interest earnings this year. We use Rich Rogers as a long-term investment manager. Rich is currently using Pershing/Cetera and has helped us protect our long-term investments while capitalizing on return for over 20 years. Our investments are limited by the approved state list which can keep us from higher returns that the public may experience but also keep losses at a minimum. The market experienced a moderate increase, and we were able to improve our returns.

General Fund interest earnings							
2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
130,788	87,482	51,466	10,179	15,493	27,377	16,646	8,614

Long term investment return							
2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
8.1%	5.94%	2.01%	(0)	6.57%	3.39%	2.82%	-0.55%

Long Term Investments	Balance 7/1/24	Deposit Withdraw	Interest Earned	Realized Gains /Losses	Advisor Fees	Balance 6/30/25	market Value 6/30/25
830 Stabilization	236,237	50,000.00	12,052.05	4,961.69	(832.48)	302,418.19	329,951.08
831 Amb Stabilization	233,987	100,000.00	13,333.54	5,652.09	(920.55)	352,052.49	376,641.02
832 Capital Stabilization	299,496	(85,000.00)	10,798.25	3,972.50	(747.19)	228,519.64	261,911.77
834 G Schl Stabilization	231,235	-	10,020.88	3,973.97	(692.60)	244,537.09	263,544.76
835 Fire Truck Stabilization	207,286	100,000.00	11,922.90	5,092.67	(823.04)	323,478.55	339,541.62
Subtotal	1,208,241	165,000	58,128	23,653	(4,016)	1,208,241	1,571,590

Trust Funds

811 C S Boyden	73,335	-	3,347.56	1,327.54	(231.37)	77,779.08	88,039.65
813 Guilford Fund	907,040	200.00	40,753.14	16,162.16	(2,816.69)	961,338.61	1,071,842.96
814 G. Howland	9,773	-	470.65	186.65	(32.53)	10,397.54	12,377.78
815 A & E Boice Germain	19,429	-	858.99	340.65	(59.37)	20,568.94	22,591.36
816 Whiting Street Fund	22,287	-	990.88	392.95	(68.49)	23,602.31	26,059.49
817 S.F. Howland	11,728	(467.10)	515.20	204.95	(35.76)	11,945.02	13,357.33
818 Sale Of Lots	12,336	-	548.07	217.35	(37.88)	13,063.07	14,414.12
819 M & M Germain	480,433	(11,520.00)	22,005.31	8,693.09	(1,521.31)	498,089.84	572,972.14

820 M B Germain	26,688	-	1,217. 43	482.80	(84.15)	28,304.27	32,017.90
821 M H Germain	27,839	-	1,534. 58	608.56	(106.07)	29,876.39	40,358.63
822 J. Boyden	9,795	-	435.01	172.51	(30.08)	10,372.02	11,440.58
823 Tanner	516	-	23.92	9.48	(1.66)	548.20	628.98
824 DO Paul	17,024	-	756.68	300.07	(52.29)	18,028.37	19,900.42
825 C & F Field	12,509	-	555.77	220.40	(38.41)	13,246.33	14,616.62
826 W E Tucker	1,033	-	47.83	18.97	(3.30)	1,096.47	1,257.90
827 E C Glazier	516	-	23.92	9.48	(1.66)	548.21	629.00
828 S Bradford	516	-	23.92	9.48	(1.66)	548.21	629.00
829 Emory Field	1,033	-	47.84	18.97	(3.30)	1,096.54	1,257.98
838 E.M. Chase Fund	829	-	35.35	14.02	(2.44)	875.90	929.78
	1,634,65						
Subtotal	9	-11,787	74,192	29,390	(5,128)	1,634,659	1,945,322
380 Com Pres Fund	1,485,96	0	158,957	67,837	25,758	(4,581)	1,733,931
							1,864,132
840 OPEB	132,674	20,000	3,271	7,344	(214)	163,074	174,122
Investment Grand Total	4,461,53	4	332,170	203,42	7	86,145	(13,940)
							4,739,904
							5,555,166
						Total Cash	10,187,75
							3

**Allocation of Funds by Bank Accounts
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025**

*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 7/1/2024	Activity	Interest Earned	Balance 6/30/2025
Unibank	Payables	546,891	(546930.21)	\$39.16	\$0.00
Unibank	Payroll	10,074	(10076.51)	\$2.97	\$0.00
Unibank	SCH Payables	25,881	(25891.62)	\$10.37	\$0.00
Greenfield Coop	Payables	0	40850.96	\$45.79	\$40,896.75
Greenfield Coop	Payroll	0	107844.89	\$9.02	\$107,853.91
Greenfield Coop	SCH Payables	0	10000.34	\$13.50	\$10,013.84
Subtotal		582,846	-424,202	121	158,765

General Fund					
LIQUID INVESTMENTS	Description	Balance 7/1/2024	Activity	Interest Earned & Net Gain	Balance 6/30/2025
Adams Community Bank	MM	76,942	(77000.00)	\$855.24	\$797.10
ESB	MM	1,013,116	(767000.00)	\$4,596.79	\$250,712.53
GSB	General	47,621	14607.47	\$11.26	\$62,239.44
Greenfield Coop	MM	0	672906.31	\$19,858.91	\$692,765.22
Salem Five	Salem5 MM	215,462	(200000.00)	\$6,582.70	\$22,044.64
Unibank	Amb	5,829	(679.05)	\$86.12	\$5,236.28
Unibank	Bond Proceeds	4,964	(4427.51)	\$32.25	\$568.41
Unibank	MM	208,818	(124354.02)	\$887.72	\$85,351.23
Unibank	RD	26,704	(26719.46)	\$15.91	\$0.00
Unibank	School Lunch Receipts	999	(999.34)	\$0.13	\$0.00
Unibank	Unipay Deputy	10,743	(10745.67)	\$2.89	\$0.00
Unibank	Unipay School	8,946	(8952.01)	\$6.19	\$0.00
Unibank	Unipay Tax	20,287	153575.37	\$77.77	\$173,940.51
Unibank	Unipay Treas Recpts	13,298	8357.15	\$20.53	\$21,675.66

Subtotal		1,653,727	(371430.76)	33,034	1,315,331
TERM INVESTMENTS	description	Balance 7/1/2024	Activity	Interest Earned	Balance 6/30/2025
GSB	CD flex	1,829	(1829.54)	\$0.65	\$0.00
Unibank	CD 7 day	66,623	(67347.65)	\$724.16	\$0.00
Bartholomew and Co	General Fund	2,783,858	207336.58	\$97,710.74	\$3,088,905.35
Subtotal		2,852,310	138159.39	98,436	3,088,905
Special Revenue Accounts					
LIQUID INVESTMENTS	Description	Balance 7/1/2024	Activity	Interest Earned & Net Gain	Balance 6/30/2025
M&T Bank	SSRP	54,136	0.00	\$58.62	\$54,194.79
Unibank	CC	1,130	(70.00)	\$9.06	\$1,069.37
Unibank	Planning Board Consulting	13,957	(14.22)	\$160.13	\$14,103.06
GSB	Student Activity	867	(648.49)	\$0.00	\$218.58
Subtotal		70,091	(732.71)	228	69,586
Grand Total		5,158,974	(658,206)	131,819	4,632,587

Debt

Debt Schedule								
Description	Initial Loan Amt	Term	Remaining Term	July 1, 2024 Beginning Balance	FY2025 New Debt	FY2025 Retirement	FY2025 Interest PD	June 30 2025 Ending Balance
Highway Garage	988,000	15 yr	10yr	658,000	0	66,000	17,007	592,000
Paving	170,000	3 yr	0yr	55,000	0	55,000	1,705	0
Total	1,158,000			1,026,000	0	121,000	18,712	592,000

Tax Liens and Possessions

Tax Liens are being addressed regularly. There were no new foreclosures or sales in FY2025

Tax Title Balance				
Description	Balance 7/1/2024	Additions	Payments and Adjustments	Balance 6/30/2025
Real Estate	95,412	36,342	11,561	120,194
Community Preservation fund	1,166	680	144	1,703
Total	96,579	37,022	11,704	121,896

Tax Possessions				
Description	Balance 7/1/2024	FY 2025 Foreclosures	FY2025 Sales	6/30/2025
Bardwells Ferry Rd; Map 405, lot 8 and 9	7,798			7,798
Main Poland Rd; Map 415 Lot 28	3,834			3,834
Total	11,632			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 an 8% rate increase in 2025.

Town Health insurance Expenditures

year	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
expense	504,721	457,198	428,346	419,555	433,118	420,858	409,674	412,220
expense change	10.39%	6.74%	2.10%	-3.13%	2.91%	2.73%	-0.61%	5.61%
rate change	8.00%	6.00%	4.60%	0.00%	-2.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4.70%

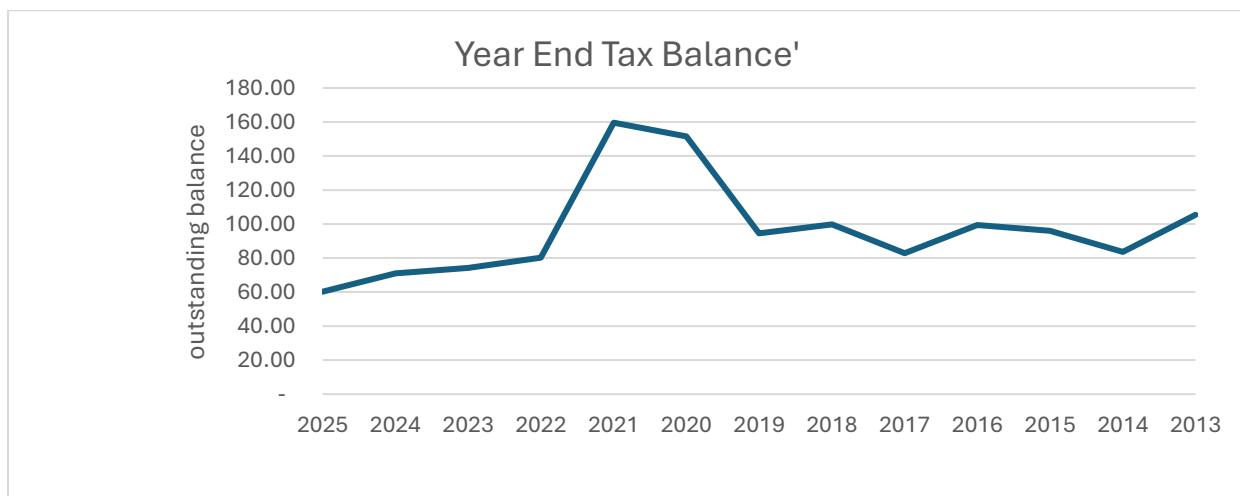
Respectfully Submitted,
 Sean MacDonald
 Treasurer/Tax Collector



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.

Row Labels	balance 07/01/2025	Sum of Additions	payments and adj	balance 06/30/2025
2017 to 2022 Pers Tax	607	-	-	607
2017 to 2022 Excise Tax	7,835	-	(3,517)	4,318
2017 to 2022 Real TAX	-	-	-	-
2023 Excise TAX	4,119	-	(1,992)	2,127
2023 Real TAX	2,511	-	(2,511)	-
2024 Excise TAX	16,244	23,351	(35,361)	4,233
2024 Pers TAX	166	-	-	166
2024 Real CPA	554	-	(554)	-
2024 Real TAX	38,109	-	(37,968)	141
2025 Excise TAX	-	264,367	(246,225)	18,142
2025 Pers TAX	-	791,851	(791,335)	516
2025 Real CPA	-	114,078	(113,750)	327
2025 Real TAX	-	5,152,468	(5,123,912)	28,556
Grand Total	70,144	6,346,114	(6,357,126)	59,132



Respectfully submitted by Sean MacDonald, Treasurer & Tax Collector



Accountant

No report.



DEPARTMENTS – PUBLIC SAFTEY

Ambulance

As the country has moved into what has been called the “Post Pandemic” phase of COVID-19, the fallout of the pandemic is and will remain for a long time. The medical field has undergone many changes in policy and procedures as well as the mental and physical health of all responders. There will be lasting effects for years to come. Conway is no different in that case. Conway Ambulance has had changes and difficulties to overcome. Our ambulance typically responds to about 120 calls for assistance each year. Over the last few years, we have seen a steady increase in 911 calls, resulting in increased needs for mutual aid support from the surrounding towns, as well as an increase in our budgetary costs.

Conway Ambulance continues to work and train closely with the Fire and Police Departments. Earlier this year we completed CPR recertification for all members of the Ambulance and Fire Departments, and we will be having our annual 1st responder training in the new year.

Through the generosity of the townspeople and our donations account we had purchased several “File of Life” packets. They are available at several town offices, as well as from the Ambulance directly. Please contact me, the police chief or fire chief if you would like one.

As EMT’s we are required to complete several hours of continuing education training to maintain our certification, as well as our state ambulance licensing.

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 anyone 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 Franklin County Sheriff’s Office in partnership with the Towns of Buckland, Colrain, Gill, Heath, Monroe, Northfield, and Shelburne join to create the Franklin County Regional Animal Control program to provide

Full-time services to these towns. Since its inception, the Franklin County Regional Animal Control program has expanded to provide these services to (20) towns in Franklin County, with the Towns of Deerfield, Montague, Shutesbury, Warwick, and the City of Greenfield joining the program in 2025.

During 2025, ACO Gower departed our agency. ACO Sonn was transition to fulltime and we added (2) additional full-time officers Hillary Szteliga and Kyle Sweeney.

During 2025, Franklin County Regional Animal Control logged 1173 total events for service between January 1st and December 31st 2025

Calls for Service:

- 🐾 **70 – Animal Bite Reports.**
- 🐾 **643 – Animal Complaints or Concerns.**
(Domestic, Livestock, and Wildlife)
- 🐾 **120 – Investigations.**
- 🐾 **175 – Found or Lost animals.**
- 🐾 **35 – Inspections.**
- 🐾 **101 – Assistance to other agencies.**
- 🐾 **29 – Hearings, Meetings or Trainings.**

**Note: The above does not represent all the calls that where received, this only highlights to majorities.*

Breakdown of calls by

Town:

🐾 Bernardston:	<u>56</u>
🐾 Buckland:	<u>46</u>
🐾 Charlemont:	<u>27</u>
🐾 Colrain:	<u>49</u>
🐾 Conway:	<u>36</u>
🐾 Deerfield:	<u>106</u>
🐾 Gill:	<u>54</u>
🐾 Greenfield:	<u>425</u>
🐾 Heath:	<u>47</u>
🐾 Leyden:	<u>19</u>
🐾 Leverett:	<u>45</u>
🐾 Monroe:	<u>7</u>
🐾 Montague:	<u>233</u>
🐾 New Salem:	<u>35</u>
🐾 Northfield:	<u>75</u>
🐾 Shelburne:	<u>56</u>
🐾 Shutesbury:	<u>21</u>
🐾 Warwick:	<u>13</u>
🐾 Wendell:	<u>29</u>

In the spring of 2025 with the

we

email at If you Falls

Heather Hillary

assistance of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter and local veterinarians Rob Schmidt and Jaimie Remillard were able to host rabies clinics in Greenfield and Heath. Anyone with Animal Control questions or issues can contact us by **animalcontrol@fcsso-ma.us** or by phone at **413-774-7340 x2**. have an urgent or immediate situation, please contact the Shelburne Regional Communications Center at **413-625-8200**.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kyle Dragon, Lead Regional Animal Control Officer
Sonn, Regional Animal Control Officer
Szteliga, Regional Animal Control Officer
Kyle Sweeney, Regional Animal Control Officer*



Emergency Management

No report.



Fire Department

No report.



Police

No report.

DEPARTMENTS – PUBLIC WORKS

Highway

No report.



Tree Warden

No report.

DEPARTMENTS – SCHOOLS

Conway Grammar School

CONWAY SCHOOL REPORT

Elaine Campbell, Chair
Conway School Committee
Conway, MA 01341

I respectfully submit the 2025 Annual Report for the Conway Grammar School:

CONWAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Elaine Campbell, Chair	2028
Victoria DeMaio, Secretary	2027
*Philip Kantor, Member	2026
<i>Jared Campbell, Member</i>	2028

*Representative to Frontier Regional School Committee

ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent of Schools	Darius Modestow
Director of Business Administration	Shelley Poreda
Director of Student Services	Karen Ferrandino
Director of Education, Elementary Focus	Lara Ramsey
Director of Early Childhood	Maren Law
Director of Instructional Technology	Scott Paul
Director of School Facilities	William Hildreth
Director of Food Services	Patrick McCarthy
Principal	Kristen Gordon

SUPPORT STAFF

<i>Executive Assistant to Superintendent</i>	<i>Raquel Chlosta</i>
<i>Administrative Assistant (Student Services)</i>	<i>Penny Smiarowski</i>
<i>Administrative Assistant/Facilities</i>	<i>Mary Jane Whitcomb</i>
Receptionist/Early Childhood Assistant	Sarah Butler
Payroll Specialist, FRS/Union #38	Joshua Whitcomb
Accounts Payable/Bookkeeper	Michelle Melnik
Grants Accountant	Stephan Shepherd
Secretary to Principal	Lora Hanas

**CONWAY GRAMMAR SCHOOL
ENROLLMENT - OCTOBER 1, 2025**

SCHOOL Conway Grammar PRINCIPAL Kristen Gordon

Grade	#	Resident students	#	Tuition-In students	#	School Choice students	#	Total
PreK		12		3				15
Sub Total		12		3		0		15
K		9				8		17
1		19				5		24
2		9				8		17
3		9		1		5		15
4		7		1		10		18
5		10				8		18
6		12		3		7		22
K-6 Subtotal		75		5		51		131
PreK-6 Total		87		8		51		146

**Union #38 Teacher Salary Schedule
Union #38 Teachers
Effective July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026**

NEW	B	B+15	M	M+15	M+30	M+45
1	53,957	55,646	57,384	59,180	61,029	62,734
2	55,646	57,384	59,180	61,029	62,931	64,637
3	57,384	59,180	61,029	62,931	64,897	66,602
4	59,180	61,029	62,931	64,897	66,926	68,632
5	61,029	62,931	64,897	66,926	69,017	70,724
6	62,931	64,897	66,926	69,017	71,173	72,878
7	64,897	66,926	69,017	71,173	73,396	75,102

8	66,926	69,017	71,173	73,396	75,692	77,396
9	69,017	71,173	73,396	75,692	78,062	79,768
10	71,171	73,394	75,686	78,053	80,497	82,257
11	73,391	75,683	78,047	80,488	83,009	84,824
12	75,548	77,832	80,637	83,061	86,350	88,073
13	79,028	81,389	84,292	86,803	90,208	91,956

Nature’s Classroom Teacher: One hundred dollars (\$100) per day of attendance by a teacher. **Workshop Presenters:** \$53 per hour of presentation and reimbursement for reasonable expenses. **Tutoring Rate:** \$45.00 per hour. **Head Teachers:** \$2,500. **Mentors:** \$750 per new teacher, \$500 for second-/third-year teacher, \$500 for each additional teacher being mentored, to a maximum of three (3) in any year. The Town of Conway currently pays 70% of the health insurance premium contribution, with the eligible employees who elect to participate in the Town offered health insurance paying the remaining 30% of the HMO health insurance premium contribution. The Town of Conway 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 remaining 40% of the PPO health insurance premium contribution.

UNIT C INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS SALARY SCHEDULE
2025-2026

STEP	IA	IA B	IA SP	IA SP B
1	\$21.58	\$22.08	\$24.66	\$25.16
2	\$22.13	\$22.63	\$25.29	\$25.79
3	\$22.71	\$23.21	\$25.95	\$26.45
4	\$23.33	\$23.83	\$26.66	\$27.16
5	\$23.97	\$24.47	\$27.39	\$27.89

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT NURSES, LPN, COTA, SLPA & PTA

STEP	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
1	\$27.42	\$28.11	\$28.81
2	\$28.53	\$29.24	\$29.97
3	\$29.63	\$30.37	\$31.13
4	\$30.74	\$31.51	\$32.30
5	\$31.84	\$32.64	\$33.45

6	\$32.95	\$33.77	\$34.62
7	\$34.06	\$34.91	\$35.78
8	\$35.18	\$36.06	\$36.96
9	\$36.29	\$37.20	\$38.13
10	\$37.37	\$38.30	\$39.26

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
CONWAY GRAMMAR SCHOOL
FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL**

District Mission Statement

Building dynamic learning communities, one student, one teacher, one family at a time.

District Vision Statement

Vibrant, collaborative, engaging, and inclusive learning communities promoting the growth of every student.

Superintendent's Message:

It is my honor to present this year's annual report to the towns of Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately. This report serves not only as a reflection of our schools' accomplishments, but as a testament to the shared commitment our communities make each year to public education.

This year is defined by both progress and pressure. While we continue to expand student opportunities and strengthen academic programming, we do so in an environment of fiscal constraint and increasing student needs. Through collaboration, careful stewardship of resources, and a clear strategic vision, our schools remain strong and forward-focused.

Frontier Regional School:

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 598 students. This is an increase of 5 students from the October 1, 2024 enrollment figures of 593 students.

The class of 2025 had 91 graduates; 59% planned to attend a four-year college, 24% a two-year college, 3% plan to attend vocational schools, 0% planned on a post-grad year, 0% will enter military service, 1% will take a gap year, and 12% plan to enter the labor market. This is different from previous years. There were 94 graduates in the class of 2024: 52% planned to attend a four-year college, 23% a two-year college, 1% vocational schools, 4% military, 0% will take a gap year, and 19% planned to enter the labor market.

Staff: We are pleased to announce the addition of Maren Law as Director of Early Childhood who replaced Kimberly McCarthy, and Joshua Whitcomb as Payroll Specialist who replaced Brenda Antes

Retired Faculty: Brian Delaney, Special Education Teacher

Faculty Resignations: Andrew Rup, Special Education Teacher

New Faculty: Elizabeth Keller, Special Education Teacher

Special Thanks

We are pleased to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of Frontier Regional School Committee Members: Chair Melissa Novak, Vice Chair Olivia Leone, Secretary Jessica Corwin, Members Bob Halla, Bill Smith, Mary Ramon, Philip Kantor, Keith McFarland, Damien Fosnot, Diane Curtis, and Cecilia Van Drischel. I look forward to continuing our work together.

Frontier Regional School

Frontier continues to deepen its commitment to preparing students for a rapidly changing world. Frontier earned designation as an Innovation Pathways School in fall 2022 from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Innovation Pathways are specialized programs within Massachusetts high schools that prepare students for high-demand industry sectors aligned with regional and statewide workforce needs. Through grant funding, Frontier launched the IP program and secured resources to equip hands-on learning spaces and technical training components.

Now in its fourth year, the program continues to grow as students enroll in pathways including Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering, Health Care and Social Assistance, Global Studies, Criminal Justice, Computer Science, and Business. Coursework emphasizes experiential learning, offering opportunities to work in our state-of-the-art fabrication lab, earn CPR and First Aid certification, develop skills in CAD and related technologies, and engage in simulated accounting applications. Upon completing their pathway coursework, students participate in internships with local businesses and health care organizations, gaining real-world professional experience.

State grant funding has allowed Frontier to expand both programming and student supports. The addition of a Family Outreach Coordinator has strengthened communication and family engagement, while continued funding for an AmeriCorps service member has supported the implementation of restorative practices, helping to build a positive and accountable school culture. Grant resources also enabled the addition of an extra counselor to expand mental health support. Looking ahead, Frontier plans to broaden course offerings through participation in a statewide “Campus Without Walls” initiative, providing students with expanded access to specialized programs beyond our building.

This year, Frontier educators engaged in a wide range of professional learning experiences designed to strengthen instruction, student support, and school culture. Faculty participated in workshops focused on preventing sexual violence through early education, anti-bias and gender-inclusive practices, anti-bullying strategies, and restorative circle approaches. Staff also took part in book studies and facilitated discussions centered on student mental health, science instruction, and inclusive practices.

In addition, teachers deepened their instructional expertise through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), department-based analysis of MCAS and PSAT data, and collaborative work connected to the district’s Portrait of a Graduate. Professional development also included training in artificial intelligence tools, generative AI applications for education, and mentor support strategies, ensuring that educators are equipped with innovative tools and data-informed practices to support student learning and growth.

At the same time, this year required difficult financial decisions. A 25% reduction in anticipated rural aid funding, combined with a 61% increase in health insurance costs over the past two years, significantly impacted our operating budget. In order to maintain reasonable assessment growth for our member towns, Frontier made the deliberate decision to reduce staffing positions and lower overall operating expenditures. These reductions were not taken lightly. They reflect a careful balancing of fiscal responsibility with our commitment to maintaining strong academic programming and student supports.

Despite these financial pressures, student well-being continues to be central to our mission. Restorative practices are now embedded into the culture of the school, strengthening relationships and improving how conflicts are resolved. Our expanded social-emotional learning efforts, including structured programming and additional support personnel, have enhanced our ability to respond to student needs with care and professionalism.

From a facilities standpoint, we remain focused on long-term stewardship of the building. This year, the fire alarm system replacement was completed, significantly upgrading the safety and protection of the facility. Looking ahead, the next major capital project will be the reconstruction of the parking lot. The lot has reached a point where patching and short-term

repairs are no longer sufficient to address deterioration. The School Committee has worked to structure this project so that the majority of the cost will be covered through School Choice revolving funds, minimizing the financial impact on taxpayers while ensuring the safety and functionality of the campus for years to come.

Conway Grammar School:

Enrollment & School Choice: The October 1, 2024 enrollment for Conway Grammar School totaled 146 (PreK-6) students. This is a decrease of 7 students from the October 1, 2024 (PreK-6) enrollment figures of 153 students. Of those 146 (PreK-6) students, 51 were School Choice students. This is a decrease of 1 student from the October 2024 (PreK-6) School Choice enrollment figures of 52 students.

Staff: We are pleased to announce the addition of Maren Law as Director of Early Childhood who replaced Kimberly McCarthy, and Joshua Whitcomb as Payroll Specialist who replaced Brenda Antes

Faculty Resignations: None

Faculty Retirements: Jo Cyr Muttu, Speech Language Pathologist; Elizabeth Walton, Physical Therapist, Mary Dacyszyn, Reading Interventionist; Elizabeth Walton, Physical Therapist; and Sue O'Reilly, Early Childhood Teacher

New Faculty: Karli Guimond, Special Education Teacher; Katherine Scarbrough, Physical Therapist; and Lauren Schattin, Speech Language Pathologist

Special Thanks: We are pleased to acknowledge the dedication of Conway School Committee members Chair Elaine Campbell, Vice Chair Jared Campbell, Secretary Victoria DeMaio, and Member Philip Kantor. The members of the Committee work tirelessly on behalf of the children in Conway. Together, I look forward to working with this group to continue to strive for the best educational experience for our students.

Conway Grammar School & Union #38 Elementary Schools:

The development of Union 38's 2025-26 professional learning is guided by a review of multiple data points and surveys of educators. We identified key priorities that align with the District Strategic Plan and focused on areas of student well-being and academic rigor.

Early Childhood and Preschool Professional Learning

Preschool teachers and related service providers participated in a ten-hour training on, *The Ten Building Blocks for Early Childhood Regulated Classrooms*, led by Chrissy D'Agostino. Spread across several workshops, this program provides a neuroscience-based framework for structuring early learning environments that support self-regulation, emotional literacy, and relational safety. Topics covered included rhythm and predictability, co-regulation, sensory supports, emotional validation, and relational repair. These strategies aim to help create classrooms where children can thrive emotionally, socially, and cognitively.

Literacy Instruction Initiatives

Classroom teachers, special education liaisons, and reading specialists dedicated six weeks to professional learning focused on recent shifts in literacy instruction, particularly writing. Educators had various course options, including *ThinkSRSD for Writers*, *The Writing Revolution*, *Pathways to Proficient Writing*, a book study, and a PLC. At the conclusion of the six weeks, teachers gathered to share key takeaways and to develop guiding principles for the district's writing instruction.

These initiatives were largely funded by the Early Literacy Consortium Grant, which supports partnerships between elementary schools and teacher preparation programs. Union 38 is part of the Pioneer Valley Early Literacy Consortium (PVELC), working alongside Northampton Public Schools, Smith College, and Mount Holyoke College. PVELC will host a literacy conference at Smith College in March, featuring a keynote from the *Melissa and Lori Love Literacy* podcast, along with workshops led by Union 38 educators.

Other Grant-Funded Professional Learning

In addition to literacy initiatives, other grant-funded professional development opportunities include:

EPA/MWEE Grant through Hitchcock Center for the Environment: Teaching teachers to lead hands-on science and engineering lessons for kindergarten and fourth-grade teachers in areas of animal adaptations (K) and erosion control (4).

Farm to School (FRESH Grant): Supports teachers in learning how and why to integrate agriculture, food science, and farm studies into student learning.

Early Literacy Consortium Grant: Making it possible for classroom teachers to adopt the new 2025 version of the *EL Language Arts* resource, offering more developmentally appropriate materials and updated literature selections.

Professional development extends beyond classroom teachers. Art and music educators have explored self-determination theory to foster student creativity and intrinsic motivation. Physical education teachers developed an inclusive unit called Nitro Ball, emphasizing cooperative strategies and accessible skill development. School psychologists engaged in professional study and are preparing to deliver child safety lessons in grades K, 2, and 4.

The district also maintains annual anti-bias education training for all staff, including orientation for new employees. This year, an optional workshop on Cultural Humility was offered through the Women of Color Health Equity Collective in Springfield. Additional learning opportunities included partnerships with the Smith College Museum of Art, the Eric Carle Museum, and statewide conferences focused on literacy, mathematics, and identity-centered instruction.

This year at Conway Grammar School, several targeted capital improvements were completed to maintain safe and efficient operations. The video surveillance system was replaced to enhance building security. Two circulation pumps for the boiler system were replaced to improve heating reliability and energy efficiency. In addition, a new convection oven was installed in the kitchen, supporting daily meal preparation for students.

Looking ahead, our next priority is the continued replacement of aging classroom carpeting. Older carpeted floors are being upgraded to vinyl plank flooring with area rugs, improving durability, cleanliness, and long-term maintenance. Funding is being requested this year to complete three additional classrooms as part of a multi-year flooring replacement plan.

Our schools are more than buildings; they are community anchors that shape the future of Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately. I want to express sincere appreciation to our Selectboards, Finance Committees, School Committees, and town administrators for their partnership and thoughtful engagement during a difficult budget cycle. Public education is a shared responsibility, and continued dialogue among our communities is critical to maintaining strong schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Darius E. Modestow,

Superintendent of Schools

FRONTIER REGIONAL

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT CONWAY GRAMMAR SCHOOL FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL

District Mission Statement

Building dynamic learning communities, one student, one teacher, one family at a time.

District Vision Statement

Vibrant, collaborative, engaging, and inclusive learning communities promoting the growth of every student.

Superintendent's Message:

It is my honor to present this year's annual report to the towns of Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately. This report serves not only as a reflection of our schools' accomplishments, but as a testament to the shared commitment our communities make each year to public education.

This year is defined by both progress and pressure. While we continue to expand student opportunities and strengthen academic programming, we do so in an environment of fiscal constraint and increasing student needs. Through collaboration, careful stewardship of resources, and a clear strategic vision, our schools remain strong and forward-focused.

Frontier Regional School:

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 598 students. This is an increase of 5 students from the October 1, 2024 enrollment figures of 593 students.

The class of 2025 had 91 graduates; 59% planned to attend a four-year college, 24% a two-year college, 3% plan to attend vocational schools, 0% planned on a post-grad year, 0% will enter military service, 1% will take a gap year, and 12% plan to enter the labor market. This is different from previous years. There were 94 graduates in the class of 2024: 52% planned to attend a four-year college, 23% a two-year college, 1% vocational schools, 4% military, 0% will take a gap year, and 19% planned to enter the labor market.

Staff: We are pleased to announce the addition of Maren Law as Director of Early Childhood who replaced Kimberly McCarthy, and Joshua Whitcomb as Payroll Specialist who replaced Brenda Antes

Retired Faculty: Brian Delaney, Special Education Teacher

Faculty Resignations: Andrew Rup, Special Education Teacher

New Faculty: Elizabeth Keller, Special Education Teacher

Special Thanks

We are pleased to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of Frontier Regional School Committee Members: Chair Melissa Novak, Vice Chair Olivia Leone, Secretary Jessica Corwin, Members Bob Halla, Bill Smith, Mary Ramon, Philip Kantor, Keith McFarland, Damien Fosnot, Diane Curtis, and Cecilia Van Drischel. I look forward to continuing our work together.

Frontier Regional School

Frontier continues to deepen its commitment to preparing students for a rapidly changing world. Frontier earned designation as an Innovation Pathways School in fall 2022 from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Innovation Pathways are specialized programs within Massachusetts high schools that prepare students for high-demand industry sectors aligned with regional and statewide workforce needs. Through grant funding, Frontier launched the IP program and secured resources to equip hands-on learning spaces and technical training components.

Now in its fourth year, the program continues to grow as students enroll in pathways including Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering, Health Care and Social Assistance, Global Studies, Criminal Justice, Computer Science, and Business. Coursework emphasizes experiential learning, offering opportunities to work in our state-of-the-art fabrication lab, earn CPR and First Aid certification, develop skills in CAD and related technologies, and engage in simulated accounting applications. Upon completing their pathway coursework, students participate in internships with local businesses and health care organizations, gaining real-world professional experience.

State grant funding has allowed Frontier to expand both programming and student supports. The addition of a Family Outreach Coordinator has strengthened communication and family engagement, while continued funding for an AmeriCorps service member has supported the implementation of restorative practices, helping to build a positive and accountable school culture. Grant resources also enabled the addition of an extra counselor to expand mental health support. Looking ahead, Frontier plans to broaden course offerings through participation in a statewide “Campus Without Walls” initiative, providing students with expanded access to specialized programs beyond our building.

This year, Frontier educators engaged in a wide range of professional learning experiences designed to strengthen instruction, student support, and school culture. Faculty participated in workshops focused on preventing sexual violence through early education, anti-bias and gender-inclusive practices, anti-bullying strategies, and restorative circle approaches. Staff also took part in book studies and facilitated discussions centered on student mental health, science instruction, and inclusive practices.

In addition, teachers deepened their instructional expertise through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), department-based analysis of MCAS and PSAT data, and collaborative work connected to the district’s Portrait of a Graduate. Professional development also included training in artificial intelligence tools, generative AI applications for education, and mentor support strategies, ensuring that educators are equipped with innovative tools and data-informed practices to support student learning and growth.

At the same time, this year required difficult financial decisions. A 25% reduction in anticipated rural aid funding, combined with a 61% increase in health insurance costs over the past two years, significantly impacted our operating budget. In order to maintain reasonable assessment growth for our member towns, Frontier made the deliberate decision to reduce staffing positions and lower overall operating expenditures. These reductions were not taken lightly. They reflect a careful balancing of fiscal responsibility with our commitment to maintaining strong academic programming and student supports.

Despite these financial pressures, student well-being continues to be central to our mission. Restorative practices are now embedded into the culture of the school, strengthening relationships and improving how conflicts are resolved. Our expanded social-emotional learning efforts, including structured programming and additional support personnel, have enhanced our ability to respond to student needs with care and professionalism.

From a facilities standpoint, we remain focused on long-term stewardship of the building. This year, the fire alarm system replacement was completed, significantly upgrading the safety and protection of the facility. Looking ahead, the next major capital project will be the reconstruction of the parking lot. The lot has reached a point where patching and short-term

repairs are no longer sufficient to address deterioration. The School Committee has worked to structure this project so that the majority of the cost will be covered through School Choice revolving funds, minimizing the financial impact on taxpayers while ensuring the safety and functionality of the campus for years to come.

Conway Grammar School:

Enrollment & School Choice: The October 1, 2024 enrollment for Conway Grammar School totaled 146 (PreK-6) students. This is a decrease of 7 students from the October 1, 2024 (PreK-6) enrollment figures of 153 students. Of those 146 (PreK-6) students, 51 were School Choice students. This is a decrease of 1 student from the October 2024 (PreK-6) School Choice enrollment figures of 52 students.

Staff: We are pleased to announce the addition of Maren Law as Director of Early Childhood who replaced Kimberly McCarthy, and Joshua Whitcomb as Payroll Specialist who replaced Brenda Antes

Faculty Resignations: None

Faculty Retirements: Jo Cyr Muttu, Speech Language Pathologist; Elizabeth Walton, Physical Therapist, Mary Dacyszyn, Reading Interventionist; Elizabeth Walton, Physical Therapist; and Sue O'Reilly, Early Childhood Teacher

New Faculty: Karli Guimond, Special Education Teacher; Katherine Scarbrough, Physical Therapist; and Lauren Schattin, Speech Language Pathologist

Special Thanks: We are pleased to acknowledge the dedication of Conway School Committee members Chair Elaine Campbell, Vice Chair Jared Campbell, Secretary Victoria DeMaio, and Member Philip Kantor. The members of the Committee work tirelessly on behalf of the children in Conway. Together, I look forward to working with this group to continue to strive for the best educational experience for our students.

Conway Grammar School & Union #38 Elementary Schools:

The development of Union 38's 2025-26 professional learning is guided by a review of multiple data points and surveys of educators. We identified key priorities that align with the District Strategic Plan and focused on areas of student well-being and academic rigor.

Early Childhood and Preschool Professional Learning

Preschool teachers and related service providers participated in a ten-hour training on, *The Ten Building Blocks for Early Childhood Regulated Classrooms*, led by Chrissy D'Agostino. Spread across several workshops, this program provides a neuroscience-based framework for structuring early learning environments that support self-regulation, emotional literacy, and relational safety. Topics covered included rhythm and predictability, co-regulation, sensory supports, emotional validation, and relational repair. These strategies aim to help create classrooms where children can thrive emotionally, socially, and cognitively.

Literacy Instruction Initiatives

Classroom teachers, special education liaisons, and reading specialists dedicated six weeks to professional learning focused on recent shifts in literacy instruction, particularly writing. Educators had various course options, including *ThinkSRSD for Writers*, *The Writing Revolution*, *Pathways to Proficient Writing*, a book study, and a PLC. At the conclusion of the six weeks, teachers gathered to share key takeaways and to develop guiding principles for the district's writing instruction.

These initiatives were largely funded by the Early Literacy Consortium Grant, which supports partnerships between elementary schools and teacher preparation programs. Union 38 is part of the Pioneer Valley Early Literacy Consortium (PVELC), working alongside Northampton Public Schools, Smith College, and Mount Holyoke College. PVELC will host a literacy conference at Smith College in March, featuring a keynote from the *Melissa and Lori Love Literacy* podcast, along with workshops led by Union 38 educators.

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Respectfully submitted,

Darius E. Modestow,

Superintendent of Schools



FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The Town, along with the other member towns of Ashfield, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leyden, Monroe, Northfield, Rowe, and Shelburne, is served by the Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS), a health district based at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. CPHS provides professional support to the Conway Board of Health for all public health issues. The following sections describe activities undertaken by CPHS staff, in 2025, in addition to their regular participation in Conway Board of Health meetings. Conway's representatives to the CPHS Oversight Board in 2025 were Kat Llamas and Daniel Sheff. CPHS staff look forward to working with them, other members of the Conway Board of Health and residents to improve the health of the community in the coming year. For more information, see <https://frcog.org/project/cooperative-public-health-service>.

The Town's Health Agent Team

Randy Crochier, Kurt Schellenberg, Jasmine Ward, Maureen O'Reilly, JJ Prusak and Liz Jacobson-Carroll

- **Improving Food Safety:** For Conway, reviewed 17 food establishment permit applications for restaurants, schools, local organizations, home kitchens, food trucks and/or events, including Festival of the Hills. During a nationwide recall of infant formula, assisted district businesses in interpreting and complying with official guidance. Offered a low-cost food safety training class (ServSafe® and Choke Saver with use of EpiPen® and Narcan®) for food-serving establishment workers throughout the region.
- **Protecting Water Quality** through enforcement of Title 5 (septic system) code: Reviewed and acted on 57 applications related to septic systems, including system inspections related to property ownership transfers, soil evaluations (perc tests), system design, construction, and repair. Inspected installations prior to issuing certificates of compliance. Permitted installers and waste haulers. Also permitted the drilling of 5 wells, reviewed potability reports, and issued well certificates of compliance.
- **Protecting Children and Visitors:** In Conway, inspected the Community Swimming Pool. Reviewed applications for 5 short-term rental units. Throughout the region, conducted numerous inspections and site visits at 12 camps serving over 1,400 children. Along with public health nurse colleagues, worked to ensure compliance with the state code for recreational camps for children.
- **Ensuring Housing Safety:** Responded to numerous housing safety complaints throughout the CPHS district, working to resolve dangerous living situations for vulnerable people including older adults, disabled people, children, and veterans. Addressed non-functioning bathroom facilities, lack of heating, hoarding issues, chronic moisture leading to mold, rodent infestation, and the presence of lead paint in houses with children. Worked with residents and owners, Housing Court, and supportive services.

The Town's Public Health Nurses

Lisa White and Meg Ryan

- **Vaccine Access:** Public Health Nurses gave 288 Flu and 285 COVID vaccinations at drop-in nursing hours, and home visits throughout season, including 85 vaccines to Conway residents.
- **Connections to Healthcare:** Served as a resource for residents and provided monthly drop-in nursing hours at Conway Town Hall, serving 74 different people in 107 separate contacts. Services included blood pressure, other health screenings, assistance addressing health concerns, and where appropriate, home visits. Made 34 home visits to Conway residents through the year. Offered sharps collection and box exchange in collaboration with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. 63 boxes were exchanged. Provided SHINE Medicare insurance counseling to 30 CPHS residents, including Conway residents.
- **Communicable Disease Management/Epidemiology:** Completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance and reporting for reportable disease cases, checking state infectious disease reporting system daily and following up as required. Of 57 communicable diseases reported in Conway in 2025, 60% were tick-borne, 32% respiratory, and 2% were enteric (gastrointestinal), and 2% were other.
- **Age- and Dementia-Friendly Community planning:** Attended Mass In Motion workgroup meetings. Continued to support the regional Age and Dementia Friendly initiative as member of steering committee. Provided regional training on Ageism and Reframing Aging, attended by Conway residents.
- **Reducing Impact of Opioids:** Worked with the town to address the devastating impact of opioids in the community by: hosting an opioid listening session to hear how residents impacted by the opioid crisis recommend spending settlement funds; supplying 11 naloxone cabinets in the district, distributing naloxone (Narcan), and supporting the BOH and Select Board to spend Opioid Settlement funds proactively to support those in need. Provided training on Narcan use to Hilltown Food pantry board volunteers, attended by Conway residents.
- **Tick-Borne Disease:** Collaborated with the board of health to provide prevention materials and 3 permethrin shoe-spraying events. Through a district program Conway residents sought 24 low-cost tick tests, a saving value of \$840. Of the tested ticks, 37% were positive for the Lyme disease pathogen, 21% for the Babesia pathogen and 17% for the anaplasmosis pathogen.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Prepared for possible mosquito borne disease outbreaks by serving as town's arbovirus coordinator, monitoring weekly mosquito disease data reports from the state and providing regular updates to the town.
- **Public Communication:** Provided a monthly newsletter with updates to pertinent public health topics, CPHS services, events, trainings, local data, and relevant epidemiological analyses. Provided public health topics for town/COA/library newsletters.

The FRCOG provides planning services, programming, and advocacy to all Franklin County municipalities. Our municipal service programs – Collective Purchasing, the Cooperative Public Health District, the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program – are available to any municipality. The Community Health Department gathers data and works to improve the factors that impact health in the region; the Planning Department helps municipalities plan for the future regarding transportation, livability, economic development, climate resilience and land use, while also working on regional-scale projects as well; the Emergency Preparedness Programs prepare and train first responders and local officials.

We report on highlights of regional effort and impacts each year with our organizational annual report; recent year's reports can be found at <https://frcog.org/publications/frcog-annual-report/>. The 2025 Annual Report will be available by March 2026. The most extensive list of current and past projects and services can always be found at the FRCOG web site.

The following pages list services specific to Conway.

Climate Resilience, Land Use, and Housing

- Assisted the Conway Open Space Committee with an application for a Biodiversity Grant through the MA Dept. of Fish and Game to plan for more work at South Meadow and complete plantings at the Bigelow Meadow property. Award decisions are due out in early March 2026.
- Continued work with the Conway Planning Board to draft a river corridor overlay district.

Community Health

- Conducted the annual student health survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Frontier Regional School District (FRSD) administrators on results from 213 students, representing 74% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data is valuable for grant writing and program planning. The 2025 survey includes the Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA).
- Met with school district administrators and staff to present their individual district's 2025 survey results, share custom written reports, provide assistance with interpretation and ad hoc analyses, and discuss how the district might use their survey results.
- Supported Frontier Regional High School in obtaining supplies and furnishings for Restorative Practice room.
- Collaborated with the district's restorative practices coordinator on implementing Restorative Practices school climate improvements.
- Supported Frontier Regional High School in obtaining training for students and technical assistance for staff on reducing/addressing microaggressions and bias and improving school climate.
- To help the Town meet mandated Massachusetts workforce standards, staff mentored and provided training opportunities to CPHS public health inspectors who serve Conway. They gave technical assistance, reviewed documents, developed and distributed job aids, maintained resource and lending libraries, and taught multi-session courses leading to certification.
- Supported Conway Mass in Motion Age-friendly workgroup on age- and dementia-friendly municipal planning initiative. The workgroup organized a Senior Social Party in June, attended by nearly 80 people, installed a bench along a popular walking path, and purchased chairs for public meetings as well as kitchen items for senior meals.

- Provided tailored technical assistance and support to the Board of Health for the passage and implementation of local tobacco regulations.

Shared Municipal Services

- The FRCOG Cooperative Inspections program issued 110 building permits, 57 electrical permits, 53 plumbing/gas permits, and 5 Certificates of Inspection for Conway in 2025.
- Conway is a member of the CPHS, a regional health district based at the FRCOG, which conducts all of the town’s public health work. CPHS staff:
 - Staff gave 288 Flu and 285 COVID vaccinations at district drop-in nursing hours , at Town Hall, and home visits. Conway residents received 85 vaccines at these visits.
 - Hosted drop-in nursing hours at Town Hall serving 74 different people in 141 separate contacts.
 - Made 34 home visits to Conway residents.
 - Attended the CFCE of Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional School District Trinity Church Playgroup monthly, connecting with 24 west county parents in 54 contacts.
 - Staff provided screenings referrals and vaccines to 48 west county residents in 131 client contacts at Hilltown Churches Food Pantry.
 - Completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance and reporting for cases in district member towns, checking state infectious disease system daily and following up as required, including for 63 Conway cases.
 - Provided SHINE Medicare counseling to 30 CPHS residents including Conway residents.
 - Provided naloxone (Narcan) throughout CPHS towns through trainings and distribution through 11 community naloxone cabinets.
 - Reviewed a total of 90 Conway permit applications, including 6 for short-term rental properties, 8 for food establishments, and 57 related to septic systems.
 - Supported town events through 9 temporary food inspections at Festival of the Hills.
 - Responded to complicated health- and safety-related housing complaints in Conway and worked with owners, occupants, Housing Court, and community resources to resolve them.

Training and Education

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops, roundtables, and training sessions that were offered to public officials, staff, and residents of all Franklin County municipalities during 2025.

Municipal Official Continuing Education Series

- State contracts & Available Services -- MA Operational Services Division
- Selectboard 101
- Highway Program Roundtable
- Accessory Dwelling Unit Presentation

Planning, Conservation & Development

- Resilient Watershed Association Tour/Training

Healthy Youth Partnership

- Active Bystander Training
- Youth Substance Misuse Prevention

Emergency Preparedness & Response, Homeland Security

- EMS Preparedness Conversation
- WRHSAC De-escalation Training
- SkyWarn Training (REPC)

Public Health & Community Awareness

- Age-Friendly Symposium
- Dementia Friendly Communities

- Dementia and Aging Awareness
- Understanding Aging and Dementia
- Anti Age Bias
- SHINE Presentation
- Narcan Training
- Budget Advocacy Workshop
- Legislative Advocacy workshop
- ServSafe Training
- BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) Safety Workshop
- Mass in Motion
- Addressing Hate in Schools and Communities
- CHNA (Community Health Needs Assessment) Overview

Transportation

- Provided assistance determining next steps to support the completion of improvements to Shelburne Falls Road.



FCAT

2025 was an extremely productive year for Frontier Community Access Television. With the Covid Pandemic behind us, the operations and focus of the station has pretty much returned to normal. Throughout the year, FCAT was responsible for documenting and sharing Frontier school functions, local government and other community events in our four South County Towns.

In the area of Conway town government, FCAT's role served as archiving, recording and live streaming different meetings that took place throughout the year. While the town currently utilizes an owl and zoom for hybrid access, FCAT currently records the meetings for the town due to some technological and audio related issues. In 2026, FCAT will be working with the town to find and make technology upgrades for the Zoom/Hybrid meetings which will address these issues. Other coverage FCAT oversaw was the recording of the Conway Annual Town Meeting and the Special Town Meeting.

In the area of school related events and educational programs, FCAT had several exciting ventures in this area. For Frontier events, FCAT covered the seasonal concerts, stage plays, the graduation ceremony, around 80 sporting games and most importantly was involved with the production of the Telethon. (The Telethon raised \$6,000 for the school and \$600 was donated to FCAT, which will be put towards our school programs). All Frontier related shoots utilize both FCAT staff and Frontier middle and high school student volunteers. In addition, Kevin Murphy and several students also participated in Noho Open Media's "Crowdsource Cinema" as part of FCAT's summer kids program. The movie chosen for this year was "Matilda" (1996), and Mr. Murphy's students reenacted a scene from the movie. This experience gives students hands on experience working on a professional set and allows them to see what goes into making a narrative film. Speaking of narrative films, another exciting accomplishment, and new chapter for FCAT was the release of a student film FCAT was involved with. In April of 2025, FCAT premiered "Averted" at the Greenfield Garden Cinemas, to an almost fully seated auditorium. "Averted" was produced and directed by Frontier Student Connor Mabiuis through the station in the summer of 2024, and post production was completed in 2025. Another milestone for FCAT in 2025 was the introduction of the "Chris Collins Memorial Scholarship" that was given to two graduating Frontier Students in 2025, Tyler Wolkowicz and Mason Smith. Both students received a \$500 award to thank them for their volunteer work on FCAT school/student related projects. In addition to work for the high school, FCAT also started a new

college internship program for UMass students in the Autumn of 2025. The role of the internship is to give students professional experience working on video productions, and in return they are paid a weekly \$20 gas stipend and also receive college credit. The program worked very well in Autumn and FCAT plans to continue offering the internship program in the Winter/Spring and Autumn of 2026.

Along with Government and School functions, FCAT was also involved with the coverage of several community events, concerts and lectures. It's worth noting also that the station started working on several documentary projects for the community to stir up interest in the South County area. FCAT's Production Assistant Sarah Wentworth began working on a Conway history documentary this past Autumn. Jonathan Boschen produced three ten minute municipality documentaries to show various behind the scenes topics of our towns. Two of these videos were tours of the Tilton Library construction, and also another video on the Sunderland Water District called "The Sip of Progress". Throughout 2026, Boschen is planning on completing other similar types of videos as a means to stir up interest in our community and local municipalities, one of which will be a behind the scenes of FCAT.

This upcoming year of 2026 will be an exciting time for the station. Along with continuing to serve our communities, the station will be celebrating its 20th anniversary. While it's good to reminisce on the past and reflect on our accomplishments, the focus of the station will of course be our future, and the next twenty years. Along with the 20th anniversary celebration in January, FCAT will be involved with educating our community on the importance of Community Media and what is involved behind the scenes, such as funding. Overall this will be a very productive and important year for the station.

JONATHAN BOSCHEN
FCAT GENERAL MANAGER