*Departments*

DOR’s Division of Local Services has published the House version of the cherry sheets, which raise the assessments to Conway by about $23,000, almost all for charter school charges (we get virtually nothing in charter school receipts). The Senate bill will come out next, and then the conference figures, and finally a budget signed by the Governor, so there’s a long way to go yet. The change is all on the school side, but it is a substantial change the Town would have to cover.

An elm tree has been delivered to the Pumpkin Hollow common as part of the Greenfield Savings Bank donation, though the enthusiasm with which the project was taken on resulted in imperfect communication regarding timing and roles among all relevant parties. I believe I have managed to smooth over some potential rough areas and that it will be successfully planted soon.

The Highway Department has received a note regarding the sorry state of the sign for the Town Hall and is working on a combination of refurbishment of the sign and replacement of the post. I have noted that the Town Office sign is also in need of attention.

I’ve been working through the logistics of the transition to a new Town Clerk based on information from the current Town Clerk. I believe everything is straightened out; we’ll have the current Town Clerk swear in the Moderator and a Justice of the Peace swear in the new Town Clerk.

In other news regarding the current Town Clerk, staff would like to propose a retirement party for the Town Clerk, on Thursday, May 23, from 5 – 7 p.m. at the Conway Inn. This is the official date of her retirement. I will add that she expects to continue in a consulting role through this fiscal year and in FY 2020 as well, as well as remining clerk to the Board of Health.

The meeting for the Public Employees Committee to review the health care plan changes is set for Thursday, April 23. There’s still quite a bit of paperwork after that, but I hope that they will vote to accept the changes, after which we should be back on track in terms of deadlines. We notify eligible members of the changes, and since we’re in an open enrollment period, they can join or move if they like. Of course, this is always the budgetary challenge—not knowing the result of open enrollment before setting the budget—but luckily our Treasurer has an excellent sense of change from year to year and so we have never had any serious problems.

The Town Report should be mailed Friday, which means people should have by Monday at the latest, or two weeks before Town Meeting.