**TA Update 11/25/19**

**Committees, Boards, etc.**

As you probably noticed, the surveys for electricity aggregation went out last week; you may have gotten them on Thursday. So far, we have received 80 responses out of 842 letters mailed, for a 9.4% response rate so far, which I consider excellent.

I’m working with Peter Martin, as chair of the Energy Committee, on the annual Green Communities report. UMass’s Clean Energy Center no longer has a Green Communities intern, so we’re having to enter the data in the Mass Energy Insight system ourselves. There’s a deadline of December 4 if we want to apply for any Green Communities grants during the next round, but the Energy Committee seems to have lost some motivation for seeking grants after the community solar project presented logistical problems beyond any local capacity to solve.

**Departments**

The special Town Meeting warrant is at the copiers and should be sent to the mail house tomorrow; they should be mailed this week, either Wednesday or Friday.

The Town Academy wrapped up with its seventh and final session this past Thursday, featuring the permitting bodies— the Conservation Commission, the Board of Health, the ZBA, and the Planning Board. We maintained an average of about 12 non-presenter attendees for the seven meetings, a larger turnout than I had expected, and received eight evaluation forms, all of which were positive. We gave out 20 of the 24 binders we had prepared, and at least three couples who attended only took one for both individuals, so the estimate of 24 was close. Finally, I’m pleased to say that the Town Academy has produced a volunteer for the Finance Committee and a possible EMT and/or firefighter. Since one of the purposes of the sessions was to stimulate interest in volunteering for Town activities, I’m happy we had some results there as well.

WGBH in Boston requested information on Conway’s host community agreements. We are not among those towns being sued, perhaps in part because we have no retailers, but also because we did not ask for more than the law indicated. In other press news, Dominic Poli from the Recorder asked for the special Town Meeting warrant, so I expect a story on that soon as well.

The Highway Superintendent and I met with FEMA and MEMA representatives this past Friday for a site visit to Delabarre Avenue. We also went over various other preparations for finalizing our grant proposal for bank stabilization. The next steps won’t be taken till January, but this represents substantially more progress than we’ve made in the past.

We have concluded our business with the Lisewski grant from the Guilford fund. All construction was completed and inspected, the lien is signed, and we expect to record it in the next couple of days.