

August 1, 2022 Town Administrator Update:

- Town Counsel and I met with the Department of Housing and Community Development representatives along with Megan McDonough from Habitat for Humanity to discuss Donna's concerns with the regulatory agreement between the state, Habitat and the town. The bottom line is that the state has templates they use for these types of agreements, which don't always mesh with a smaller town such as Conway. However, agreement was reached and we should have the final agreement document shortly from DHCD for signature. The Selectboard will have to annually verify that the homeowners still meet the criteria for owning the home, and the state will send me a sample letter which can be sent annually to the homeowners to meet this requirement.
- I'm pleased to announce the new domain name of 'conwayma.gov' for the town has been approved, and work is beginning on the website update as well. We will keep you informed as things progress and will be asking for feedback. Montague WebWorks and Roy Cohen will be doing a lot of work in the background for now.
- The Public Buildings Committee has kindly drafted a scope of work and designs for redoing the TSA shed, and I have reached out to DEP and FCSWMD about those modifications to the transfer station. Any work which is done there, and any new materials which are collected, need to be approved by DEP. Ron is also working on getting an estimate for the excavation and repair of the back lot, and Peter Jeswald has very generously offered to build the wood base for the donations shed for the cost of the materials. Jan Ameen of Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD) will be attending the selectboard meeting on the 29th to provide information and answer any questions the selectboard has about managing the transfer station, so please do plan to ask her lots of questions!
- The Public Buildings Committee have approved a contractor, Harold Eaton & Associates, to do the survey work at the old highway garage/new public safety building. Work should begin late this week or early next week.
- Ron and I met again with MEMA about the FEMA approved and granted pre-hazard mitigation project on Delabarre. After months of back and forth, the upshot is that the town cannot use GZA and expect to get reimbursed or use their services as match from this point on, due to the way federal procurement works, retroactively. Even though it was unknown at the time GZA was originally hired (2016) that this would become a federal project, and even though the contract with GZA included a provision for construction administration, because the process used to procure GZA was not done according to federal procurement law, they cannot be used going forward except on the town's dime. A very frustrating process to be sure. The town has also requested and expects to receive an extension on the grant until 8/1/24.