

April 3rd, 2023 Town Administrator Update:

- I am very sad to have to announce that Louise Beckett has given me her resignation letter for the position of Assistant to the Boards & Committees. Louise has been a highly skilled and highly valued member of our team, and she will be sorely missed. She has agreed to continue on until the end of the fiscal year.
- Last week I attended meetings with the Conservation Commission in our continued hearing on the Notice of Intent; the Community Preservation Committee, at which they approved the \$45,000 grant match for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program grant application; and the Public Buildings committee, which approved the scope of work provided by Vreeland Design Associates. I also attended the meeting with Sean Mahoney from DCR to discuss how a wood bank might work in Conway, and the Capital Improvements Planning committee meeting directly after.
- I spoke with Susan Waite, Municipal Assistance Coordinator of MassDEP to discuss logistics for setting up a Repair Café in town. Mostly what we discussed are liability and safety issues. I will put together a proposal for the Selectboard to consider and review at a future meeting.
- I created a proposal on how to sell permit stickers at town hall and not at the transfer station, making use of our new drop box for those who cannot get to town hall during working hours. If the board approves this plan, every resident will need to provide their vehicle registration so we can copy down the license plate number on to the permit sticker.
- On Saturday I attended the Western and Rural Massachusetts meeting put on by MMA, which featured Rep. Blais, Sen. Comerford, and Lieutenant Governor Karen Driscoll. The main topic of conversation was their list of legislative priorities (see attached), and the main questions from the audience concerned the formulas for Chapters 70 & 90. I did ask the Lieutenant Governor to also please look into how the wealth of a community is initially determined, since Conway's wealth is greatly skewed by a few wealthy residents. This results in Conway being considered too wealthy to be eligible for grant aid by most programs.
- Last but not least, we held our ribbon-cutting thank you ceremony on Tuesday for Francisca Heming of District 1, MassDOT, Rep. Blais and Sen. Mark, thanking them for all their help in facilitating the incredibly rapid installation of the temporary bridge on North Poland Road. This time the weather held off for us, and it was a very well attended event.
- I plan to take off this Friday, April 7th.