

August 28th, 2023 Town Administrator Update:

- Adam and I are discussing having him become a notary public under the auspices of the town. The town would be responsible for the \$60 fee, and also paying roughly that same amount for 'Errors and Omissions' insurance.
- Adam has offered to switch workdays from Friday and work Saturdays in September from 9-noon to sell transfer station decals. Hours when decals can be purchased in September will be:

Monday-Thursday, 8:00-5:00, Friday 8-noon, Saturday 9-noon

- Jan and I have finalized the online payment system and online application for the new transfer station vehicle decals, which we begin selling this Friday.
- Mass DOT has graciously agreed to rebuild the four federally assisted roads for Conway; Main Poland, North Poland, South Ashfield and Williamsburg roads, in fact it looks like they may already be done with North Poland.
- I attended the Farm Tour at Natural Roots with US Representative Jim McGovern and spoke with him quickly about the Emergency Wetlands Protection program under NRCS in the USDA. The EWP program requires a 25% match from the town, and once a contract is signed, no prior expenditures are counted as match. Given that the town has to fix roads immediately after the emergency for public safety, I am asking him if the funds expended prior to a signed contract can count as match for EWP. We hope to hear this week about another inspection by the engineers for the roads identified: Shelburne Falls Road, Field's Hill, and the intersections of Upper Baptist, Baptist Hill and Pine Hill drainage issues.
- John Wholey called to talk about the Bardwells Ferry bridge closure and the impacts on him. All his hay is on the other side of the bridge, so this closure will mean that he will incur much great transportation costs while the bridge is closed. Many others in the area are similarly impacted with much longer travel times to Shelburne or Greenfield.
- We are still waiting to hear back from MESA about the emergency certificate to remove trees from the South River.