

December 4th, 2023 Town Administrator Update:

Grants

MVP The River Walk and Watershed Tour was a great success, with about 35 people from Conway and Ashfield in attendance. We also had someone from Senator Elizabeth Warren's office who joined the tour. The Greenfield Recorder wrote an article as well; so we've had a lot of positive attention! The second progress report has been sent in to the state, and next steps are planning the talk to be given at the Conway Grammar School lunchroom either January 20th or 27th.

Firewood bank I spoke with Heather Butler of Buckland, and their program is not yet up and running. However, she did start the firewood bank in Athol, and said they worked with Eversource to ask for the culled wood to be given to the town. The highway department would then chip the brush and then the rest of the wood was split for the bank. I need to get back to her with a few more questions. I also spoke with Dawn Scaparotti from Goshen, who told me that their wood bank is sporadic and depends upon the availability of wood being harvested at the Tilton Town Farm when it needs to be managed. The wood is then split by volunteers and made available through the Hilltown Food Bank.

Departments/Committees

Transfer station

Recycling costs have gone down as the market improves.

I contracted with Braman Pest Management who laid out the mouse bait traps, 20 in all, per our DLS order, and I then submitted our response to the citation with photos of the traps in situ. Evan Marshall of DLS got back to me the next day with our 'case closed' letter, stating that the town has fulfilled the requirements of the citation. I was told by Braman not to clean the areas inside the sheds until a month or two has passed, so as not to disturb the mice's normal patterns. They will inform me when it's good to clean.

Financial

Department Heads have been sent their budget request forms, due back to my by January 8th.

July Floods

We await information about the passage of the supplemental budget bill for \$15 million, and then information about how much money will be going to which municipalities.

Special Town Meeting

The warrant and voter's guide have been mailed, and we have the warrant, voter's guide, motions, Town Meeting Time motions explanation and town bylaws ready as handouts. Ten special town meeting signs have been placed strategically around town (thank you Chief Bates!) as well as at the transfer station and in front of town offices.