

February 27th, 2024 Town Administrator Update:

Grants

Rosalie Starvish of GZA, Nic Miller of Field Geology Services and Allison Gage and Kimberly Noake McPhee of the FRCOG met with me yesterday to further discuss the grant opportunities. After much discussion on different potential projects and which project fit with which grant, it was decided that putting together a 319 MassDEP grant application combining the hydraulic engineering, design and permitting phase along with the resident stormwater guide and demonstration for the Pine Hill/Upper Baptist Hill area made the most sense. The 319 grant covers a 2 ½ year span, with a one-time 1 yr extension allowed, and the current thought is that the application would combine both public and private infrastructure solutions, and would include:

- A hydraulic engineering study
- Infrastructure upgrades
- Homeowner stormwater management guide, demonstration and funding

If the Selectboard is interested in having GZA and the FRCOG pursue this application, they have requested that an initial meeting be scheduled with affected homeowners as soon as possible, per the email list I currently use, to explain the grant and see if the residents are willing to participate. The date of March 7th at 6:00 PM has already been vetted with the group, and the Selectboard, if willing, **could vote tonight on** approving moving forward with the grant exploration and the initial resident meeting. Residents would need to sign letters of support for the application itself.

I also met with Emma Sass of MVP to review the current plans for grant applications. The current grant will close out on June 30th, but the results will not be completed in time for a permitting phase application this year. MVP 2.0 will be coming out this fall, is a 2 year grant, and is also a requirement for being allowed to apply for future year grants. So we will finish up this year's grant, apply for MVP 2.0 in the fall, meanwhile beginning preparations for the FY26 grant round for the permitting of whichever two design projects are chosen through our current grant.

Departments

Information Technology

This week we are reviewing the IRP in-house and will be having a final meeting with the NuHarbor Team on the 8th.

Human Resources

The new Personnel Committee met last night for the first time. Phyllis Craine has been appointed chair, John Craine the clerk, and the committee met with Ron Sweet to discuss Highway Department needs. Also discussed was the question of salaries vs. stipends with Jan Warner, as there have been inconsistencies which Jan would like the Personnel Committee to explore and recommend changes on. The personnel handbook and bylaws were also discussed.

Transfer Station

No updates