

March 18th, 2024 Town Administrator Update:

Grants

Allison Gage is working with the Open Space Committee and Pollinate Conway! to develop a plan to create a K-6 demonstration rain garden on town property under the current MVP grant. Once they have a recommendation for a site, this will be brought to the board for permission to begin.

Departments

Highway

Ron, Donna, and Zachary Feury from MassDOT and I are working on getting an article on the warrant concerning the new replacement bridge on North Poland Road, which will take the place of the current temporary bridge. The easements for the work have already been donated by the Burnett family members.

Transfer Station

Conway will be applying this year for an MassDEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) grant for a new swap shop through Jan Ameen, and I will set up a meeting with Ron and Jan up at the transfer station to discuss logistics and size. The Conway Mall is in great need of volunteers, and I would like to take the double posting board from town offices to put on the Mall including a whiteboard for volunteer signups. I will then purchase a single posting board for town offices, since that one doesn't get as much traffic and should be fine with a posting board that is half the current size.

Committees

Public Buildings

The bids for the public safety office building are due at 2:00 on March 20th, and the Public Buildings Committee will review the bids on the 21st to come to the board with a recommendation.

Miscellaneous

As Ron's supervisor, I am requesting a stipend be paid to Ron for his extraordinary work and extra time put in to keep the town's roads safe and passable after the July (and subsequent) floods. His actions on Adams Road alone have saved the town a huge amount of money; the contractor's estimate was for \$317,000 and would not have been able to be completed for another month (after Labor Day). In order to make sure emergency services could get through as soon as possible, Ron went in by himself and over the course of a weekend completed the work for less than \$40,000, saving the town at least \$277,000. And that is just one example of how Ron has saved the town money over the last 8 months. Ron put in 393 extra hours between July 2023 and the end of January 2024, which were all related to storm damage. If he were paid overtime, that amount would come to \$20,745.

I am requesting the board put this on the next agenda for a discussion on whether to award Ron a stipend, if so, what amount, and then to vote if a stipend is agreed upon.

Thank you for your consideration.