

April 29th, 2024 Town Administrator Update:

Grants

Our FY25 Pine Hill Stormwater Improvement project MVP grant application was submitted on Friday, April 26th for \$603,120. The majority of that cost is for construction materials for public infrastructure stormwater management.

The FRCOG is submitting an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Community One Stop program on our behalf for culvert replacements for both the Emerson Hollow and second stream crossing upstream, to include improvements based on the new stream crossings regulations. The application comes out May 6th and is due June 5th, so I look forward to hearing back very soon from Community One Stop about this EOI. If we receive this grant, the information from the GZA hydraulic study will be instrumental, and also show our commitment to solving this climate related flooding impact.

Committees & Boards

Assessors

“RRG is Regional Resource Group, Inc., from Leominster, Dave Manzello, President. The fellow who will be coming to Conway and Whately is Steven Kacey from Amherst, He is in training now and Dave M. will be coming with him initially and Dave Burgess, former long-time head assessor in Amherst will also be working with him. I will be in the office for April 29 and 30 and then, as needed, in May and June as an independent contractor. There appears to be about \$1,900 left in the salary line of our budget to cover my hours in those two months. It’s convenient that Whately has also signed up with RRG so Steven will probably be covering our two towns. We are going to request that he be here in the office on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday mornings, as the most logical work around our Wed. night meetings. He will be in the office 8 hours a week – we hope to expand that to 12.”

We all met Steve Casey today, who will be working for Conway on behalf of RRG, and David Manzello who came to introduce himself. Hours are still not settled but will likely be Wednesday afternoons and Thursday mornings to coincide with the BOA meetings.

Finance

I am working with Alan Singer on the Finance Committee report to town meeting.

Our annual ARPA reporting has been submitted by Capital Strategic Solutions.

Miscellaneous & Webinars

Mike Feeney and his team from the Department of Public Health will be here on Friday to view the moisture issue in vault at town hall. He will then give us recommendations on how to proceed.

I attended the Rural and Western Mass conference this past Saturday in Northampton. Much attention was given to housing issues, especially in small towns like ours, and programs which are rehabing single family homes and then selling them for \$200,000 to low and moderate income families. I am working on finding out exactly which state agency is responsible for setting the EQV, or wealth assessment, of towns, and in speaking with folks at the conference found that ours is definitely not the only community concerned about this issue. Someone from DLS will be getting back to me.