

February 10th & 18th, 2025 Town Administrator Update:

Boards & Committees

Assessors: Staff hours have changed and are now 8-4 on Wednesdays.

Departments

Information Technology: Erica, Roy and I have been meeting with Sourcepass as a potential new Managed Service Provider for the town. We hope to have an updated estimate within the next week or two for review by the Selectboard.

Town Clerk: The Town Clerk has been working with the Board of Health on obtaining "tick removal kits" and other separate tick removal supplies. Tick "keys" will be mailed out with each dog license; tick "forks" will be available for residents for free (in my office) along with tick identification cards. Once received, complete kits (tweezers, magnifier, alcohol wipes, bandages and zip locks for the removed ticks) will be available for licensed dog owners for a limited time.

Transfer Station: Jan Ameen and I are working on a new Conway Mall shed, to be paid for with both the DEP grant funds as well as revenues from the transfer station. Hometown Structures is where we are looking, at a 14' x 30' wooden shed.

We currently have job postings up on the website for a part-time police officer, an on-call transfer station attendant, the highway department clerk and very shortly the treasurer position.

Grants

1. MVP 2.0 – application sent in jointly with Ashfield; awaiting award.
2. MVP FY26 – RFR comes out at the end of February and current plan is to apply for design and permitting funding to lower the floodplain near the covered bridge and replace the culvert on Main Poland Road with a stream crossing standards bridge.
3. Green Communities – application deadline April 4th.
4. MassWorks – \$1 million awarded and completing paperwork for next stage. Work includes repairs to Shelburne Falls Road and the Pine Hill area infrastructure.
5. PROTECT (federal) – the application deadline February 24th, and I am working with FFIO, FRCOG and GZA. At our meeting on Friday I was informed that the PROTECT grant has been taken down from the federal website. The hope is that this is simply to change some wording in the grant application (likely wording on economic justice and/or DEI references) and then it will be reposted. Donald Gardner is my lead contact now and he will keep an eye on the grant to see if it is reposted. If not, they have already completed most of the application and will be ready to look at other sources of funding for this project on Shelburne Falls Rd. Estimate is for \$348,000. The team helping has put in for match funding from the state in order to make the grant more competitive.
6. MOD – for a LULA lift for town hall; application due May 1st
7. Hazard Mitigation Plan update (FEMA funding)– 1st application filled out, second step due March 10th.
8. EOTSS Cyber Security Awareness grant for calendar year 2025.

Miscellaneous

- Jonathan Boschen of FCAT stopped by to look at our equipment for the channel 15 board which Ronnie Hawkes used to keep updated. He also has recommendations for equipment upgrades to our OWL system which he says will be of much better quality and will also be able to be used when we transition to town hall for our meetings. He will be getting me those recommendations and will be asking for authorization to use PEG funds for these upgrades.