

March 10th, 2025 Town Administrator Update:

Departments

Board of Assessors

A property inspector from RRG has begun a review of properties in town. Last Wednesday was the first day of inspections and he plans to return at the end of March or early April.

Transfer station: the FY26 vehicle decals have been ordered, and the current cost for recycling at the Springfield MRF is \$28.26/ton (the base fee is \$103.21, from which revenue is subtracted). Also, the bulky still has not been emptied since January 2nd, and Jan Ameen reports that our hauling costs are down both because the compactors are being filled to a higher psi and also because of the tandem pulls.

Grants updates

1. MVP 2.0 – Conway and Ashfield were awarded \$175,000 for work on updating our plan and creating a pilot project. Town administrator Paul McLatchy III and I will be working on this together; Conway is the lead town.
2. MVP FY26 – the team, which includes Nic Miller, the FRCOG and GZA met on March 5th to discuss the RFR and next steps. GZA and the FRCOG are taking the lead in pulling together the anticipated budget and you have the letters to go out to the landowners tonight in front of you.
3. Green Communities – application deadline April 4th. The Sustainability committee is taking the lead and we are working with Eversource, FRCOG and RTE to finalize the grant application on the acquisition and switch to LED for our streetlights.
4. MassWorks – we are still working on finalizing the budget and contract with MassWorks.
5. PROTECT (Federal) – On hold awaiting information from the Federal Government; hopefully this will be reposted this spring. If so, we are in good shape to apply.
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 was due today.
8. EOTSS Cyber Security Awareness grant for calendar year 2025. Adam and I have taken the training and will be starting up soon.
9. Pre-Hazard Mitigation grant (FEMA/MEMA) on Delabarre Ave. Postponed but will be starting this construction season in conjunction with the work on Upper Baptist, Pine Hill and Baptist roads.
10. Firewood bank (ongoing) there is a group talking about joining with Buckland, and DCR is helping. There was a meeting on Friday at the FRCOG, which included Sean Mahoney and Anne Gobi, with folks across the state talking about best management practices and sharing information on these programs.

Miscellaneous

- Meeting with Energy & Environment policy committee MMA
 - I am now a member of this policy committee with MMA. Our first meeting was introductory, but I am grateful for the opportunity to weigh in on these policies which will have an impact on Conway.
- Meeting with FRCOG Municipal Advocacy committee
 - I am hoping for permission to post new website link in Currents, on the website, Facebook and also email to all boards/committees the link below. The FRCOG has subscribed to MassTrack, a private company which tracks and organizes all proposed legislation. The Municipal Advocacy Advisory Committee met last week to discuss next steps and the priorities put forth by the 5th Wednesday meetings. Embedded in the FRCOG's link are talking points for each of the bills introduced. I think having this information at hand for all of us, residents included, will make it much easier to track and respond to or comment on upcoming legislation.
 - <https://frcog.org/project/rural-muni-leg-agenda-25-26/>