

March 24th, 2025 Town Administrator Update:

I will be out of the office this Thursday and Friday while I attend the Resilient Mass Climate Summit at UMass Boston.

Last week I had meetings with the newsletter & personnel committees, GZA, RTE, Rural Affairs, and attended the Navigating Public Records and Open Meeting Law webinar. I also finished my MCPPO classwork.

Grants updates

1. MVP 2.0 – Our new Equity Partner for MVP 2.0 is Caitlin Marquis. Caitlin has extensive experience working in (and living in!) Western Mass. Emma Sass (our MVP regional rep) will take the lead on helping to set up our intro meeting between her, Caitlin, Conway and Ashfield. At that meeting we'll go over some logistics and talk about the first steps of the process including hiring a Planning Vendor and starting to build out our Core Team. **Equity Partners** - Every municipality or region in the MVP 2.0 Program is paired with an Equity Partner. The Equity Partners are hired by the State directly (municipalities will not be responsible for paying the Equity Partners). The Equity Partner works closely with the Planning Vendor and the Core Team, and helps provide coaching and guidance on things like understanding social vulnerability, inclusive engagement, and measuring the equity impacts of projects.
2. MVP FY26 – the letters to landowners have gone out, and Nic Miller of Field Geology Services will be here on the 24th to lead the discussion with any interested residents.
3. Green Communities – the team met with Real Term Energy (RTE) on Thursday to get the results of their Industrial Grade Audit (IGA) for Conway. Allison Gage fo the FRCOG will be filling out the application on behalf of the town.
4. MassWorks – we are still working on finalizing the budget and contract with MassWorks.
5. MOD – for a LULA lift for town hall; application due May 1st. After getting an update from Evan George of MOD on this program it was made clear that applying this year for a planning grant to do an update to the town's self-evaluation plan would be necessary to put us in good standing to then apply the following year for a project grant, which would be the LULA lift.
6. EOTSS Cyber Security Awareness grant for calendar year 2025. Adam and I have taken the training and will be starting up in May.
7. 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. Ron and I have a meeting scheduled with MEMA on Thursday, April 3rd.