

March 31st & April 7th, 2025 Town Administrator Update:

Boards & Committees

Town Clerk – there are very few people running for open positions. As of today, the following positions have no candidates: Board of Assessors, Board of Health and Planning Board.

Open Space – the committee is interested in making use of a Small Cities special revenue fund for Open Space projects. Mike and I have tried researching the background on this fund and cannot find anything definitive as to its purpose and allowable expenses, although it is likely associated with CDBG funds. Therefore any appropriation or redirection of this fund, for any purpose, would have to go on a warrant article. The current fund balance is \$43,419.58.

Public Buildings – met on Thursday, April 3rd to review the three quotes received. MapleRow Farm, our current contractor, put in the low quote, and the committee voted to recommend accepting their quote.

Departments

Highway – Ron and I had meeting with GZA to talk about the work on Pine Hill, and with MEMA to talk about the upcoming work on Delabarre Avenue. There are still two unfilled positions in Highway, the Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Technician and the Clerk.

Grants updates

On Friday, April 4th Conway submitted two grants; one to the Green Communities Act for \$47,551 for converting our streetlights to LED and \$330,300 for the FY26 MVP grant to complete work on the river corridor, lower the floodplain at the Manwell property and continue research on the town owned property at the covered bridge. The FRCOG and GZA did most of the background work and applications for the town.

Miscellaneous

I presented at the Governor's ResilientMass Climate Summit on the 27th on the Inland Flooding panel. Most of my presentation was focused on the damages incurred in Conway and suggestions for streamlining culvert replacements.

I was at the 'Beacon Hill in the Berkshires' event last Saturday. It was well attended and a very productive conversation of municipal officials speaking their minds about issues which affect them. Of interest was a great deal of conversation about culverts and small stream crossing standards bridges.

I have ongoing meetings with the FRCOG on priority legislation for rural towns, the legislative committee for STAM and the Community Climate Advisory Committee.