

June 30th, 2025 Town Administrator Update

Departments

Highway: Corrine Mann has been working diligently to get the town buildings clean. Beginning tomorrow the highway staff can begin working on the Pine Hill neighborhood.

Information Technology: Sourcepass is still working with me and Roy on getting all the information they need to make a smooth transition come July.

Police Department: Chief Bates has another candidate interested in becoming a part time police officer.

School: Darius, Bill Hildreth, Pam Westgate, Liv Wyatt and I did a walk-through and discussion on future energy needs at the Grammar School. It turns out that the boilers may well last us quite a while longer, so other than needing a second pump for the second boiler (one was replaced earlier) that should be fine. Two other capital needs discussed were getting a BMS – building maintenance system – which will likely cost \$200-\$250k, and repairs to the concrete front area. Sustainability will look into getting the same grant for CGS that Deerfield Energy committee got for Deerfield Elementary to cover the cost of the BMS. Bill was able to access the septic without moving the shed, and all seems good there. Ron did some parking lot paving repairs.

Transfer Station: The gate has been repaired and works very well. Ron will be doing work on the Conway Mall project in July, and hopefully Aaron Foster will be repairing the TSA shed in July as well. Town counsel has the draft contract for Taylor Landscaping for the excavation work, so once that is back to the Selectboard it can be signed and work can begin. Mark Popham did his well testing work for us last Wednesday.

Grants updates

MVP 2.0 The deadline for RFP submissions is July 9th. Conway as lead town has received the \$75,000 for the first part of the grant program.

MVP FY26 – Awaiting award news hopefully this month. This is the grant application for the work on lowering the old dam.

EOTSS – I have postponed the start of this grant training until after the switch to Sourcepass has been completed, likely to begin phishing and other training in August.

MOD (Massachusetts Office on Disability) – Awaiting award information for the ADA self-evaluation.

MassWorks – DONE!

LifePath grants – Phil will be working on these forms.

Mass in Motion – I have put in the invoices for FY25's grant to the FRCOG; FY26's grant paperwork should be coming soon.

PROTECT GRANT – The Federal Funds Infrastructure Office (FFIO) emailed me last week to say there might be another grant avenue for reinforcing the Shelburne Falls Road embankments and I hope to speak with them about that this week.

Miscellaneous

The announcement in Braintree on Wednesday last week was for the [Mass Ready Act](#). Several Western Mass folks were in attendance, including Ben Clark of Clarkdale who spoke to the crowd. I was invited because of my involvement with both the Community Climate Advisory Council and MMA's Energy and Environment committee.

The STAM meeting was excellent, as usual!

Town counsel has the personnel handbook which EANE reviewed with me and the Personnel Committee and will hopefully be getting it back to us shortly for Selectboard review and approval.