

February 9, 2026 Town Administrator Update

Boards, Committees and Departments

IT

The migration continues; all the firewalls and management machines have been installed. I just received from Sourcepass instructions for having all staff migrate their files to OneDrive which is required before we can migrate everything to SharePoint.

Community Aggregation

Bob Armstrong and I met with Colonial to discuss the unexpected electric rate increases in our community aggregation due to DASI. (see tonight's agenda)

Grants

MVP FY26. Kimberly Noake McPhee is retiring from the FRCOG in mid-February. Kimberly has been integral to the River Corridor process for the past ten years, and there is no one at the FRCOG who can take her place within our current grant timeframe. The team has met and GZA is prepared to take on the work, so they have updated budget and we are working with MVP to finalize this change as quickly as possible. The Selectboard will need to sign revised contracts with the state, GZA and the FRCOG, and we hope to have this all accomplished by March 1st so the work which needs to conclude by June 30th can continue. The Planning Board is still on board for River Corridor bylaw work, although it has not yet been decided whether the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Appeals will handle the process.

Sen. Mark \$75,000 earmark; Shelburne Falls Road. I have met with Beth Giannini and Megan Rhodes of the FRCOG who have suggested that we apply for the LEAP program, a new technical assistance grant program through MassDOT. The ultimate goal is to get the work along Shelburne Falls Road onto the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program), which usually takes a long time. Thankfully the FRCOG is involved with approving towns to be considered in the queue for this funding, and working with them from the beginning of this project will mean we should have an easier time making sure all details are done properly. Based on their advice I have submitted the survey application for LEAP to start the process, and they have already reached out to MassDOT District 1 about this important project.

USDA \$700,000 earmark; new Fire Truck. I met with Anne Correia of USDA to review next steps in the process. I will need to fill out an application which will move the funds from the Department of the Treasury to the USDA, which will then be 'housed' under Conway's ID number.

MOD ADA grant for ADA self-evaluation: the Institute for Human-Centered Design held the public meeting on Thursday at the town hall. Only two members of the public attended, so the meeting also doubled as our kick-off meeting. IHCD did our last self-evaluation in 2018, so they will be going through those documents and updating them, and also offering a lot more help with suggestions for making outdoor recreation more accessible. There is a company called [All Out Adventures](#) which has ties to Conway through one of our residents, and the thought was perhaps they could be persuaded to come to the Festival of the Hills to showcase their equipment, perhaps in the South River Meadow to show how they could make it more accessible to the public. Next steps are to have their staff come to our buildings and open spaces, including the town forest behind the Grammar School. Forest & Trails will be involved, as will our Board of Health.

Suffolk University Human Resources; I have my last class this Friday and can say that it is an excellent class and well worth it.