

June 1, 2026 Town Administrator Update

Boards, Committees & Departments

Age-Friendly Conway / Mass in Motion The FRCOG had some extra funds to spend so I signed a contract for our Age-Friendly committee to receive an extra \$1,000. These funds were spent on stacking chairs with armrests for the town hall.

Highway – The FRCOG highway materials bid requests are ready for Ron to fill out. Milling has occurred in the Pine Hill area and grading and paving should happen fairly soon. Ron is also looking in to the grader purchase through state contract; it should be ready in 6-9 months and they have graders which Ron can rent in the meantime.

Parks & Recreation - The pickleball requote package became available May 27th and is due June 11th. So far I have received two requests for the packet.

Grants

MOD – We hope to have this wrapped up by the June 15th Selectboard meeting for presentation to the board.

MVP 2.0 – The core team has selected a seed project as follows:

Neighbor-to-neighbor community resilience network

1. Communication network to provide mutual support
2. Activate community spaces to connect people through events
 - Ways to connect people in person, making the network “visible”. Basic connection, social activity. Variety, educational presentations related to climate resilience that are also fun

Purposes:

- Bridge divides between groups
- Emergency preparedness
- Response during emergencies
- Day-to-day social and basic needs support
- Educational component (flood management, invasives, etc)

How the money could be used (\$100,000 between the two towns):

- Coordinator (but could be someone in the towns already working on this). This person would build on networks already in place; conduct a listening tour of all of the groups; help organize and pull people into the process. Figure out how best to divide up the districts/neighborhoods. Conduct research on models.
- Communication software and design, for example, an app
- Event costs, such as stipends, food, building rental, etc.

I believe this project could bridge many departments in town which are already working on strengthening community support and outreach.

Streetlights/Green Communities – still awaiting revised Purchase & Sales agreement from Eversource which outlines sale of just streetlights, not the poles.

Meetings

- Rural affairs re: state budget and ballot initiatives. There was a presentation on the effect the [ballot initiative](#) on lowering the tax rate from 5% to 4% would have on the state budget and as a result, on local budgets.
- Sen Paul Mark: I spoke with Senator Mark about the proposed solar array application and sent he and his staff information about the proposal. The Senator has worked with at least two other communities on drafting home rule moratorium language for town meetings.
- Energy affordability bill with microgrid – I will be speaking more with Josie Alhberg of the MMA about this bill, which initially included the right for power to cross over right-of-ways but which has been taken out of the latest version. This right would be important to maintain if Conway ever develops any microgrids in town.
- RPP – the FRCOG is directing the review and update of the Rural Policy Plan. <https://frcog.org/2026-ma-rural-policy-plan-feedback-sessions/>. There are nine chapters to be reviewed. I will not attend them all, but so far have

attended the water and sewer, land use, and housing sessions and will be attending the transportation and municipal sustainability sessions.

Please let me know if you would like me to investigate a grant for creation of sidewalks around the 'mile walk' from Main Street to Shelburne Falls Road across Reeds Bridge and back up Elm Street.