

## October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 Town Administrator Update:

- Work on Community Transit Grant Program update: the grant requests the following information;
  - Respond to unmet local or regional transportation need
  - Coordinate with partners across sectors to build on – not duplicate – existing transportation options
  - ***Include riders in project planning, design, implementation, and evaluation***
  - Prioritize transportation for older adults and people with disabilities while offering unused seats to the general public

In order to gather this information together into a comprehensive grant application, I recommend either asking the Age Friendly Conway/Mass in Motion working group to discuss the grant, or creating a short term working group for this purpose. I have spoken with Jennifer Remillard of South County Senior Center, and they will be applying for this grant as well. It may make sense to work together if possible. I have also downloaded the FRCOG [Coordinated Public Transit plan](#), and below is a link to programs which seem to already exist for Conway residents.

<https://massridematch.org/regional-list/?key=CONWAY&pg=1>

Next steps include speaking with FRTA to make sure they can and do provide the services listed above, and again with Jennifer Remillard. With permission of the selectboard, I would also like to approach the Mass in Motion working group to help identify riders and discuss local transportation needs.

- Work on Firewood bank grant update: the grant application requests the following information:
  - ***A count of committed volunteers***
  - ***Plan for how to recruit new volunteers***
  - Liability waiver form (template provided)
  - Mission statement
  - Outreach/education plan for advertising to the community
  - ***Current equipment list***
  - ***List of safety equipment***
  - Plan for ensuring health & safety by using a moisture meter and seasoning wood, and how long can wood be seasoned before being delivered
  - Plan for safety training (template provided)
  - ***Plan for wood distribution***
  - ***Cord production and number of households served estimate***
  - ***Timing of distribution***
  - ***System for choosing who gets the wood***
  - ***System schedule; how many months per year will it operate?***
  - Budget (template provided)

My understanding is there is currently one Conway resident willing to help with this program. I recommend recruiting a working group to develop the plan per the list above, and having that group work in conjunction with myself, Ron Sweet and Walter Goodridge. One concern which was previously mentioned is that the wood collected by the highway department is by and large not suitable for home wood stove use, so there is the question of where this firewood would be obtained.

- I will be away at the annual STAM meeting on Thursday, and at a cyber conference at PVPC Wednesday morning.
- Paul McLatchy and I have been discussing again the potential of a shared clerk of boards and committees position with Ashfield. The current thinking is to have Ashfield and Conway enter into a shared services agreement with Ashfield the lead community, and have this person clerk for each towns' Conservation Commission, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. There is currently money in the budget for this position in Conway, and I am working with our boards and Ashfield on a job description.
- Saturday's Harvest Meal, paid for through the MVP grant and organized by Allison Gage of the FRCOG, was a huge success. Roughly 100-130 people came through to share food and information about the grant, as well as work with the stream table which was borrowed from Umass. The stream table allows one to change how water flows to see how water acts when barriers are either put in the path intentionally or by nature. The next MVP events will be a river walk with Nicolas Miller on November 18<sup>th</sup> (rain date the 19<sup>th</sup>) and a talk in January. Ashfield residents will be invited to participate in both those events.
- As of today, deficit spending for road repair is \$203,614.47. Ron expects to spend another \$315,000 by December 31<sup>st</sup>, for a total of \$519,000.
- With the board's permission, I would like to post on the town website the need for new Festival of the Hills board members. 4 of the 5 board members resigned within the last few weeks, each for various reasons, and Pixie Holbrook is now the last board member. If anyone would like to join the board, they should contact Pixie at [pjholbrook1@gmail.com](mailto:pjholbrook1@gmail.com).