

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments provides a variety of services and programming to the municipalities of Franklin County and to the greater Franklin County region. The FRCOG's 2016 Annual Report, which will be available in April of 2017 and on www.frcog.org shortly thereafter, will highlight our work over the past year. Specific services to the Town of Whately in 2016 included the following.

Administration and Special Projects

- Staff analyzed financial options available to the Town with regard to payment by American Tower Corporation for a permanent cell tower easement on Town-owned property.
- Whately participated in the regional sign-making program, sharing equipment with ten other towns in Franklin County.

Collective Bidding & Purchasing Program

- Whately contracted with the FRCOG to receive cooperative bid pricing for up to 24 different Highway Products and Services. Total estimated highway needs for FY17 is \$324,707.
- The Chief Procurement Officer issued a bid for Town Hall Reuse Design Services.

Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program

- Staff issued 115 building permits, 79 electrical permits & 58 plumbing/gas permits for Whately in 2016. Fifteen (15) Certificates of Inspection were issued.

Partnership for Youth

- Staff conducted a Teen Health Survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Frontier Regional School administrators on results from 258 Frontier students, representing 83% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant-writing and program planning.

Planning and Development Department

- Staff revised the schedules, brochures, and maps of the FRTA's Fixed Routes.
- Staff updated the Community Development Strategy for the town's CDBG application.
- Staff continued to work with the Town, MassDOT, and our local legislative delegation to advance reconstruction of Haydenville Road through the Franklin County Transportation Improvement Program.
- Staff conducted traffic counts as requested on Chestnut Plain Road (north and south of Haydenville Road), and on Haydenville Road.

Regional Preparedness Program

- Staff conducted quarterly contact drills and a site notification drill to test the *Frontier Emergency Dispensing Site Plan*.
- Whately entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the FRCOG to recognize the Multi-Agency Coordination Center as the official organization to assist them with emergency management needs.

Town Accounting Program

- Staff produced biweekly vendor warrants, and provided monthly budget reports to all officials and department heads.
- At year end, staff completed Free Cash certification, and Schedule A was submitted. In addition, staff provided assistance in completing the Recap for tax rate submission.
- Customized reports for committees and departments were developed and distributed.
- Staff assisted with the annual audit.
- All accounting data was accessible over a secure internet connection to a server at the FRCOG office. Staff completed backups daily and there was no unscheduled down time.

Workshops & Training

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops and training sessions that Whately public officials, staff, and residents attended and the number in attendance.

Cooperative Public Health Service

ServSafe/Choke Saver/Allergen Training Series — 1

Municipal Official Continuing Education Series

Commercial Scale Wood Heat & Air Quality Impacts — 2

Municipal Farmland Leasing and Protection — 1

Partnership for Youth

Advanced LifeSkills — 2 representatives of the Frontier Regional School District

Planning, Conservation, and Development

Historic House Care — 1

Regional Emergency Preparedness

Multiple Casualty Incident Exercise — 10

Hazardous Materials Exercise — 15

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

Active Shooter Symposium — 2

Medical Preparedness & Response to Bombing Incidents — 1