



## SERVICES TO BERNARDSTON IN 2023

### CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND LAND USE

- Held a workshop for communities involved in the Franklin County Regional Pollinator Action Plan, including Bernardston, to share stories and lessons learned about expanding town pollinator habitat.
- Briefed the planning board on options to regulate the mapped river corridors for the Fall River, Dry Brook, and Mill Brook.
- Worked with the planning board to update the Bernardston Open Space and Recreation Plan, to be completed in 2024.
- Prepared a memo summarizing known short-term rental numbers in Franklin County, revenues for towns that have opted in to the lodging tax, and existing bylaws across the state related to short-term rentals. Towns can use that info to develop policies and bylaws, if desired.
- Created a scope of work to assist in applying for a grant to conduct a Bernardston Housing Production Plan.

### COMMUNITY HEALTH

- Conducted the annual student health survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Pioneer Valley Regional School (PVRS) administrators on results from 90 Pioneer students, representing 64% 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.
- Worked with PVRSD administration and staff to implement restorative practices school climate improvements.
- Supported town officials with information and technical assistance on spending opioid settlement funds.
- Worked with town officials to recruit residents to fill out the Massachusetts Community Health Survey, to better understand local needs and encourage state investment in improving health outcomes.
- Provided 4 Bernardston children with summer camp scholarships through a CHIP Foundation for Community Justice mini-grant to improve youth health.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Met with the new town administrator to review FRCOG Planning services.

### SHARED MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- Bernardston contracted with FRCOG for collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment.
- The FRCOG Cooperative Inspections program issued 125 building permits, 93 electrical permits, 47 plumbing/gas permits, and 11 Certificates of Inspection for Bernardston in 2023.
- The FRCOG Town Accounting program produced biweekly vendor warrants, and provided monthly budget reports to all officials and departments through the end of fiscal year 2023. Bernardston continues to have access to historical accounting data through the FRCOG's MIP software.
- Bernardston is a member of the CPHS, a regional health district based at the FRCOG, which accomplishes all of the town's public health work, except septic system oversight (carried out by a separate agent to the board of health). CPHS staff:
  - Facilitated COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics between state mobile vendors and local schools, libraries, and senior centers. Clinics in CPHS towns served 726 individuals and provided 1075 doses of vaccine, including a Bernardston Senior Center clinic that served 59 people and provided 93 doses of vaccine.
  - Hosted drop-in nursing hours at the Senior Center and Stratton Manor, serving 53 different people in 98 separate contacts.
  - Gave 259 Flu and 257 COVID vaccinations at drop-in nursing hours and home visits. Bernardston residents received 43 vaccines, including 28 during home visits.

- Completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance and reporting for communicable disease cases in district member towns, checking state infectious disease system daily and following up as required, including for 63 Bernardston cases.
- Offered sharps collection and box exchange in collaboration with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District at all drop-in nursing hours: 69 boxes exchanged.
- Provided guidance for town board of health members and regularly attended meetings.
- Assisted businesses, organizations, and individuals with the CPHS on-line public health permitting system; evaluated and made determinations on a total of 54 applications for Bernardston, and on an additional 14 applications for regional permits. Among these were 26 food and 16 temporary food establishments permit applications, involving 37 on-site inspections; 4 short-term rental permit applications; and 2 beaver-trapping permit applications.
- Responded to health- and safety- related housing complaints.
- Offered tick-bite prevention outreach by collaborating with the board of health to provide prevention materials and 7 permethrin shoe-spraying events districtwide, including one at the senior center.
- Hosted a “Train the Trainer” event at which community members learned to train their peers to recognize and respond to opioid overdose.
- Presented a community training on how to identify and respond to an overdose in collaboration with a local library.
- Trained to be Medicare insurance “SHINE” counselor and assisted 1 Bernardston resident, over 3 visits.
- Provided guidance to the board of health and regularly attended board meetings.

## TRAINING AND EDUCATION

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

### Emergency Preparedness

- K-9 Life Support Certification – 1
- Assault and Battery Response – 2

### Municipal Officials’ Continuing Education

- Selectboard 101 – 2

### Public Health & Community Awareness

- Beaver Trapping Permitting – 1
- Food Safety – 3
- Healthy Living for Brain & Body – 10
- Restorative Practices – 4

## TRANSPORTATION

- Discussed various Geographic Information System (GIS) software application options and training for town staff.
- Created a GIS map of all unpaved roads within the town.
- Engaged in a contract to install Franklin County Bikeway wayfinding signs in spring 2024.
- Conducted traffic counts by town request on Brattleboro Road and Church Street.