



## SERVICES TO CHARLEMONT IN 2023

### CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND LAND USE

- Provided technical assistance to the Charlemont Planning Board regarding potential zoning changes related to subdivisions and housing.
- Assisted the town administrator with completing the FY23 MA Green Communities Annual Report
- 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.

### COMMUNITY HEALTH

- Conducted the annual student health survey to assess attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Reported to Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD) administrators on results from 101 Mohawk students, representing 81% 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 MTRSD administration and staff to implement Restorative Practices school climate improvements.
- Provided training, materials, and technical assistance for the evidence-based PreVenture substance use prevention and mental health promotion program in the school district.
- Provided three Charlemont children with summer camp scholarships through a Community Health Improvement Plan Foundation for Community Justice mini-grant to improve youth health.
- 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 funding and facilitation support to the Mary Lyon Foundation for the creation of the West County People Supporting People Network, which hosted a resource fair to bring the county's healthcare and human service agencies to West County.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Supported town's request for local digital equity planning services from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, and began working on the eight-town Franklin County Cooperative Digital Equity Plan.

### SHARED MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- Charlemont contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment, heating and vehicle fuel, fire extinguisher services, and dog tags and licenses. Staff facilitated a construction bid for deck repairs to Long Bridge, along with a collective 5-year bid for student transportation encompassing 9 Franklin County School Districts, including the Franklin County Technical School.
- The FRCOG Cooperative Inspections program issued 83 building permits, 43 electrical permits, 24 plumbing/gas permits, and 11 Certificates of Inspection for Charlemont in 2023.
- Charlemont is a comprehensive member of the Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS), a regional health district based at the FRCOG. CPHS staff:
  - Facilitated COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics between state mobile vendors, local schools and senior centers. Clinics in CPHS towns served 726 individuals and provided 1075 doses of vaccine, including at Hawlemont Elementary clinic that served 66 people and provided 97 doses of vaccine.
  - Hosted drop-in nursing hours at Charlemont Federated Church Senior Lunches and Good Neighbors monthly, serving 87 different people in 168 separate contacts.
  - Gave 259 Flu and 257 COVID vaccinations at drop-in nursing hours and home visits. Charlemont residents received 40 vaccines, including 11 during home visits.

- Completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance and reporting for communicable disease cases in district member towns, checking state online disease tracking system daily and following up as required, including 35 Charlemont 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.
- Began hosting district “Train the Trainer” events: The first taught community members to train peers to recognize and respond to opioid overdose. Presented a similar community training on how to identify and respond to an overdose in collaboration with a local library.
- Supported Franklin County Age- and Dementia- Friendly Communities initiative by working with the steering committee, subcommittees, and community partners to write and publish a five-year action plan in response to local priorities identified from the needs survey data.
- Provided guidance to the Board of Health, and regularly attended meetings.
- Offered tick-bite prevention outreach by providing educational materials and co-hosting 7 permethrin “shoe spraying” events with boards of health, including one in Charlemont.
- Through a district program and MA Department of Public Health subsidy, Charlemont residents sought 14 low-cost tick tests, a saving value of \$490. Of the tested ticks, 8% were found to be positive for the Lyme disease pathogen, and 8% for the Babesiosis disease pathogen.
- Assisted businesses, organizations, and individuals with the CPHS on-line public health permitting system, evaluating and making determinations on 76 applications for Charlemont and on an additional 14 applications for regional permits. Among these, inspectors reviewed 21 food establishment and 5 temporary food establishment permit applications, requiring 30 inspections; licensed and inspected 2 short-term rental units; inspected 3 campgrounds /mobile home parks and 2 pools; and reviewed 3 well applications.
- To enforce the Title-5 (septic) code for the town, inspectors conducted 7 soil evaluations for septic systems; reviewed 8 septic system plans, reviewed 4 local upgrade requests, issued 2 local upgrade approvals and 6 septic installation permits, visited sites, conducted final installation inspections, and prepared certificates of compliance; witnessed 9 Title-5 inspections prior to property transfer.
- Continued to oversee and inspect the installation of a new large septic system at the Berkshire East Ski Area to serve Charlemont in an effort to issue the required certificate of compliance.
- Assisted Charlemont businesses and residents with sanitary code compliance, responded to, and managed multiple housing cases with varying degrees of complexity.

## TRAINING AND EDUCATION

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

### Emergency Preparedness

- Firefighter Fire Response – 1
- K-9 Life Support Certification – 1

### Municipal Officials’ Continuing Education

- One-Stop Municipal Grants Info Session – 1

### Public Health & Community Awareness

- Beaver Trapping Permitting – 1
- Cannabis Regulatory Updates for Municipalities – 1
- Food Safety – 6
- State Tobacco Updates – 1
- USDA Rural Development Grant Info Session – 1

## TRANSPORTATION

- Administered a MassTrails Grant for trail improvements and information kiosks on the Mohican-Mohawk Trail.
- Facilitated the design of trailhead kiosk panels for the Mohican-Mohawk Trail.
- Participated in the Northern Tier Rail study to examine the feasibility of passenger rail service connecting North Adams, Greenfield, and Boston.
- Conducted traffic counts by town request on Avery Brook Road, Burnt Hill Road, Legate Hill Road, and South River Road.
- Engaged in a contract to install Franklin County Bikeway wayfinding signs in spring 2024.
- Completed a summary of the results of the Charlemont Electric Vehicle Charging Station Survey.
- Conducted a survey of truck drivers at the Shunpike Rest Area and compiled a report of results.