



SERVICES TO COLRAIN IN 2023

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND LAND USE

- Provided technical assistance to the Colrain Planning Board about master planning.
- Held a pollinator habitat workshop with residents that will inform a Colrain Town Pollinator Action Plan.
- Assisted the town coordinator with completing the FY23 MA Green Communities Annual Report.
- Continued to develop an assessment system for dirt road storm water runoff, with recommended best management practices. Work included testing the efficacy of the system, using Colrain as a pilot community.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

- Conducted the annual student health survey to assess attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff 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 admin/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 MTRSD.
- Supported Colrain Mass in Motion Age-friendly workgroup on age- and dementia-friendly municipal planning initiative. With Mass in Motion funding, the workgroup purchased two picnic tables for outdoor space at the library.
- Provided 5 Colrain 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

- Coordinated regular check-in meetings of local and state stakeholders to discuss wastewater-processing needs for the Colrain Sewer District.
- Assisted the Colrain Sewer District with a successful MA Rural and Small Town Development Fund application to support interim wastewater disposal and an engineering study for a long-term solution.
- Prepared a site profile for the Barnhardt property featured at the FRCOG's exhibitor table at the Western Mass Developer's Conference in Springfield in October.
- 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

- Colrain contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment; heating and vehicle fuel; and dog tags and licenses. Staff also conducted a collective 5-year bid for student transportation encompassing 9 Franklin County School Districts, including the Franklin County Technical School.
- Organized and facilitated educational information meetings for town energy committees.
- Colrain is a comprehensive member of the Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS), a 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.
 - Hosted drop-in nursing hours at Griswold Memorial Library, serving 29 different people in 35 separate contacts.

- Gave 259 Flu and 257 COVID vaccinations at drop-in nursing hours and home visits. Colrain residents received 17 vaccines, including five 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 46 Colrain cases.
- Offered sharps collection and box exchange in collaboration with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District at all drop-in nursing hours: 69 boxes were exchanged.
- Began hosting a “Train the Trainer” event: The first taught community members to train their peers to recognize and respond to opioid overdose. Presented a second, similar community training in collaboration with a local library.
- Offered tick-bite prevention outreach by providing five permethrin “shoe spraying” events in West County, and tabling with tick borne disease-related materials at Colrain’s Fix-It Day.
- Through a district program and MA Department of Public Health subsidy, Colrain residents sought 11 tick tests. Of the ticks tested, 19% were positive for the Lyme disease pathogen and 10% were positive for the anaplasmosis pathogen.
- Trained to be Medicare insurance SHINE counselor and assisted 2 Colrain residents this year.
- Assisted businesses, organizations, and individuals with the CPHS on-line public health permitting system; evaluated and made determinations – following inspection, if required – on a total of 72 permit applications for Colrain, and on an additional 14 applications for regional permits. Among these were 6 food establishment and 2 temporary food establishment applications, involving 14 inspections; 3 short-term rental units; and 4 well permit applications.
- To enforce the septic code for the town: conducted 14 soil evaluations for septic systems; reviewed 17 septic system plans, reviewed 5 requests for local upgrades, issued 4 local upgrade approvals and 8 septic installation permits, visited sites, conducted final installation inspections and prepared Certificates of Compliance; witnessed 17 septic inspections prior to property transfer.
- Provided oversight and guidance to the board of health to work through and approve needed variances to septic and state sanitary code, to allow a longstanding, private, and never permitted, family-style campground to operate legitimately.
- Assisted Colrain businesses and residents with sanitary code compliance.
- Responded to and managed multiple housing cases with varying degrees of complexity.
- Continued to work with stakeholders related to the closing of the Barnhardt plant and the impacts on the 26 housing units currently or formerly served by the factory’s sewer treatment plant.
- Provided guidance to the board of health, and regularly attended meetings.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

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

Emergency Preparedness

- Advanced Medical Life Support – 2
- Child Emergency Assessment & Stabilization – 1

Public Health & Community Awareness

- Age and Dementia-Friendly Community Talk – 1

Municipal Officials’ Continuing Education

- Selectboard 101 – 2

TRANSPORTATION

- Conducted traffic counts on Greenfield Road and Jacksonville Road.
- Completed MA Complete Streets Funding Program Prioritization Plan and prepared an implementation application for a project on River Street.
- Evaluated the municipally maintained gravel roads for storm water and drainage issues to assist in creation of the FRCOG Unpaved Road Field Assessment Form.
- Engaged in a contract to install Franklin County Bikeway wayfinding signs in spring 2024.
- Created an on-line registration map for Earth Day clean up on local roads.