



SERVICES TO NEW SALEM IN 2023

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND LAND USE

- Worked with a town committee to begin an update to the 2004 New Salem Open Space and Recreation Plan, including survey distribution to residents.
- Met with the New Salem Planning Board to discuss possible options for changing town zoning bylaws to facilitate housing diversity and enable senior housing.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

- Conducted the annual student health survey to assess attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to RC Mahar Regional School District administrators on results from 218 Mahar students, representing 90% 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.
- Provided resources and direct technical assistance to students groups for advancing racial justice in schools to the district.
- Supported town officials with information and technical assistance on spending opioid settlement funds.
- Provided funding and technical assistance for the creation of the North Quabbin Public Health Collaborative, based in the Orange Health Department, to provide contact tracing and health education to the Town.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Provided assistance for the town's application 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

- New Salem contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment, fuel, elevator maintenance, fire alarm services, and dog tags and licenses. Staff facilitated a bid for a new generator in the fire department building, and conducted a collective five-year bid for student transportation encompassing nine Franklin County School Districts, including the Franklin County Technical School.
- The FRCOG Town Accounting program produced biweekly vendor warrants, and provided monthly budget reports to all officials and departments. Accountants certified Free Cash and submitted a Schedule A at year-end; assisted in completing the recap for tax rate submission; and customized, developed, and distributed reports for committees and departments.
- FRCOG staff organized and facilitated educational information meetings for members of town energy committees.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

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

Municipal Officials' Continuing Education

One-Stop Municipal Grants Information Session – 1

Planning, Conservation, and Development

Short Term Residential Rentals – 1

TRANSPORTATION

- Conducted an assessment and evaluation of drainage and erosion issues on Moosehorn Road.
- Examined stairs at the New Salem Town Offices for compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and assisted with completing an ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.
- Evaluated a sample of the municipally maintained gravel roads for stormwater and drainage issues to assist the FRCOG in creating an Unpaved Road Field Assessment Form.
- Participated in the US National Park Service's development of a foundation document for the New England National Scenic Trail.