



SERVICES TO NORTHFIELD IN 2023

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND LAND USE

- Assisted the energy committee with completing the FY23 MA Green Communities Annual Report and analyzing town energy use.
- Provided technical assistance related to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing of the Northfield Mountain pumped storage and the Turners Falls dam hydroelectric projects, resulting in a signed recreation settlement agreement.

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 (PVRSD) 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 admin and staff to implement Restorative Practices school climate improvements.
- Supported town officials with information and technical assistance on spending opioid settlement funds.
- Provided six Northfield children with summer camp scholarships through a Community Health Improvement Plan, Foundation for Community Justice mini-grant to improve youth health.

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, for which Northfield is the lead community.
- Supported municipal and Northfield Center business community engagement with the consultants conducting the Rural Downtown District Management Study, as funded by a state grant to FRCOG.
- Presented to the select board materials prepared for use in soliciting community input on potential future reuse of the fire station, an inventory of Main Street commercial properties, a commercial façade-improvement program report, and a visitor-center research memo.
- Met with the new municipal staff to review planning services and provide information.
- Presented at a meeting of the Northfield Economic Development Advisory Committee in September to review planning services and provide information.

SHARED MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- Northfield contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment, heating and vehicle fuel, elevator maintenance, fire alarm and fire extinguisher services, and dog tags and licenses. Staff also assisted with a Collective 5-year bid for Student Transportation encompassing nine Franklin County School Districts, including Pioneer Valley Regional School District.
- Organized and facilitated educational information meetings for members of town energy committees.
- Northfield is a public health nursing program member of the Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS), a health district based at the FRCOG. CPHS staff:
 - Hosted drop-in nursing hours at the Senior Center and Squakheag Village, serving 41 different people in 88 separate contacts.
 - Gave 259 Flu and 257 COVID vaccinations at drop-in nursing hours and home visits. Among these, Northfield residents received 46 vaccines, including 11 home visits.
 - Completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance and reporting for communicable disease cases in district member towns, checking state disease reporting system daily and following up as required, including 75 Northfield 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.
- Facilitated COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics between state mobile vendors and local schools and senior centers, including one at Pioneer and one at the Northfield Senior Center. These two clinics served 110 individuals and provided 177 doses of vaccine.
- Hosted a “shoe spraying” clinic with the Board of Health as part of tick-bite prevention outreach: served 11 people and sprayed 14 pairs of shoes.
- Provided dementia education to members of public at the library and to the COA before starting memory café.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

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

Emergency Preparedness

- Child Assessment, Recognition, & Stabilization – 1
- Firefighter Fire Response – 1
- K-9 Life Support Certification – 7

Planning, Conservation & Development

- Environmental Protection Grant Info Session – 1

Municipal Officials' Continuing Education

- Selectboard 101 – 1
- One-Stop Municipal Grants Info Session – 2

TRANSPORTATION

- Engaged in contract to install Franklin County Bikeway wayfinding signs in spring 2024.
- Conducted traffic count on Highland Avenue.
- Participated in the National Park Service’s development of a Foundation Document for the New England National Scenic Trail.
- Completed summary report for electric vehicle station survey in the town of Northfield.