



SERVICES TO WENDELL IN 2023

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND LAND USE

- Helped the Wendell Energy Committee complete the FY23 MA Green Communities Annual Report.
- Helped the open space committee finalize the Wendell Open Space and Recreation Plan, which was approved by the MA Dept. of Conservation Services. Wendell is eligible for DCS grants through 2030.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

- Conducted the annual student health survey to assess teen 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 student groups for advancing racial justice in schools to the Mahar school district.
- Supported town officials with information and technical assistance on spending opioid settlement funds.
- Provided seven Wendell 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 request for local digital equity planning services from the MA Broadband Institute, and began work on the eight-town Franklin County Cooperative Digital Equity Plan.

SHARED MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- Wendell contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment, heating and vehicle fuel, fire alarm services, and dog tags and licenses. Staff facilitated an invitation for bids for the highway barn roof and a request for qualifications/ proposals for drilling and well installation and monitoring in preparation for landfill closure; and a collective 5-year bid for student transportation encompassing 9 Franklin County School Districts, including Wendell Public Schools.
- FRCOG staff organized and facilitated educational meetings for members of town energy committees,
- 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 provided funding for the creation of the North Quabbin Public Health Collaborative, based in the Orange Health Department.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

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

Emergency Preparedness

K-9 Life Support Certification – 2

Municipal Officials' Continuing Education

Selectboard 101 – 1

One-Stop Municipal Grants Information Session – 1

Planning, Conservation & Development

Short Term Residential Rentals – 2

Public Health & Community Awareness

Age- and Dementia-Friendly Community Talk– 2

Beaver Trapping Permitting – 2

Cannabis Regulatory Updates for Municipalities – 1

Food Truck Permitting –1

TRANSPORTATION

- Completed an inventory and assessment of culverts on all town-maintained roads.
- Continued participation in the Northern Tier Rail Study to examine the feasibility of passenger rail service connecting North Adams, Greenfield, and Boston.
- Engaged in contract to install Franklin County Bikeway wayfinding signs in spring 2024.
- Provided assistance to facilitate the Route 2 Task Force.
- Participated in the National Park Service's development of a foundation document for the New England National Scenic Trail.