



SERVICES TO BUCKLAND IN 2023

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND LAND USE

- Held a pollinator habitat workshop with Buckland residents that will inform a Buckland Town Pollinator Action Plan.
- Assisted the planning board with preparing a floodplain overlay district zoning bylaw, which passed at a special town meeting.
- Assisted the town administrator with completing the FY23 MA Green Communities Annual Report.
- Assisted the town with securing a second round of action grant funding through the MA Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program. The project will fund river corridor mapping along Clesson Brook, conceptual designs for two resiliency projects, public education, and landowner outreach.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

- Conducted the annual student health survey to assess teen 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 school requirements 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 MTRSD.
- Provided eight Buckland children with summer camp scholarships through a Foundation for Community Justice mini-grant to improve youth health.
- Supported Buckland Mass in Motion Age-friendly workgroup on age- and dementia-friendly municipal planning initiative. With Mass in Motion funding, the workgroup purchased four resting pedestrian benches.
- Supported town officials with information and technical assistance on spending opioid settlement funds.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Assisted the Shelburne Falls Fire District and the Bridge of Flowers Committee with developing press releases and coordinating a public information session about the Bridge of Flowers improvement project to be undertaken in 2024.
- Coordinated monthly Shelburne Falls Village Task Force meetings through November.
- Provided assistance by drafting an update for the state on the outcomes of the Shelburne Falls Village Rapid Recovery Plan.
- Assisted with an EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessment program grant application for the former Buckland Highway Garage.
- Coordinated a site visit of the former Buckland Highway Garage by MassDevelopment's Brownfields staff.
- Supported municipal and Shelburne Falls business community engagement with the consultants conducting the Rural Downtown District Management Study, as funded by a state grant to FRCOG.
- Hosted a focus group with participants from The Senior Center to discuss digital equity issues to inform the Massachusetts Broadband Institute's draft State Digital Equity Plan.

SHARED MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- Buckland contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment, dog tags and licenses, vehicle fuel, elevator maintenance, and town fire alarm/school district fire extinguisher services. Staff also conducted a collective 5-year bid for student transportation encompassing 9 Franklin County School Districts, including the Franklin County Technical School.
- The Franklin County Cooperative Inspections program issued 100 building permits, 58 electrical permits, and 45 plumbing/gas permits, and 15 Certificates of Inspection for Buckland in 2023.
- 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, including presenting information on various topics and conducting follow-up communication.
- Buckland 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. A clinic at MTRS served 216 people and provided 295 doses of vaccine.
 - Hosted drop-in nursing hours at the Senior Center, serving 44 different people in 52 separate contacts.
 - Gave 259 Flu and 257 COVID vaccinations at drop-in nursing hours and home visits. Buckland residents received 16 vaccines, including 12 during home visits.
 - Completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance and reporting for communicable disease cases in district member towns, checking state infectious disease system daily and following up as required, including for 30 Buckland 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.
 - Trained to be Medicare insurance SHINE counselor and assisted 1 Buckland resident this year.
 - Began hosting district “Train the Trainer” events: The first taught community members to train peers to recognize and respond to opioid overdose.
 - Offered tick-bite prevention outreach by collaborating with the board of health to provide prevention materials and 5 permethrin “shoe spraying” events in West County, including one in collaboration with the Buckland BOH.
 - Through a district program and MA Department of Public Health subsidy, Buckland residents sought 7 low-cost tick tests, saving a value of \$210. Of the tested ticks, 15% were positive for the Lyme disease pathogen.
 - Assisted businesses, organizations, and individuals with our on-line public health permitting system; evaluated and made determinations on 59 applications for Buckland, and on an additional 14 applications for regional permits. Among these, inspectors reviewed 20 food and temporary food establishment applications, involving 22 inspections; 8 applications for short-term rental permits and 3 well applications; and conducted 2 pool inspections.
 - To enforce the Title-5 (septic) code for the town, inspectors conducted 16 soil evaluations for septic systems; reviewed 7 septic system plans, issued 2 local upgrade approvals and 6 septic installation permits, visited sites, conducted final installation inspections, and prepared certificates of compliance; witnessed 10 Title-5 inspections prior to property transfer.
 - Provided guidance to the Board of Health, and regularly attended board meetings.
 - Assisted Buckland businesses and residents with sanitary code compliance, and 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 Buckland public officials, staff, and residents attended, and the number in attendance.

Municipal Officials’ Continuing Education

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

Public Health & Community Awareness

- Age & Dementia-Friendly Community Conversation – 1
- Food Safety – 6
- Health Workforce Performance Standards/Credentials – 1
- NARCAN Trainer Certification – 1
- Opioid Overdose Response – 1

TRANSPORTATION

- Administered a MassTrails Grant for trail improvements and information kiosks on the Mohican-Mohawk Trail.
- Facilitated the design of kiosk panels at trailheads on the Mohican-Mohawk Trail.
- Helped advance Transportation Improvement Program roadway improvement project on upper North Street to better accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Engaged in contract to install Franklin County Bikeway wayfinding signs in spring 2024.
- Informed town regarding a MassDOT program, which provides municipal signs to alert drivers of the new Massachusetts law requiring cars to pass bicyclists at a distance of not less than 4-feet.