

Fiscal Year 2017 Narrative

Department: Planning and Conservation

1. What do you want the Selectmen, Finance Committee and public know about what you've done in Fiscal Year 2015 and Fiscal Year 2016 (to date)?
 - Closed on sale of 26-28,30,34 East Main Street Millers Falls and Montague Center School to private developers under the Commercial Homesteading Program that guarantees a total private investment of approximately \$3,000,000 into the rehabilitation of vacant historic properties, the creation of 27 new living units, and 4 commercial spaces in Montague.
 - Provided project coordination, permitting, procurement, and grant management to implement 3 important public works projects totaling \$1,009,000 in value. The projects were funded primarily by grants secured by the planning department (Local cash contribution was only \$180,000 for all three projects):
 - \$384,000 Avenue A Streetscape Phase I Improvements (new streetlights and sidewalk improvements)
 - \$353,000 Millers Falls Road Soil Stabilization Project
 - \$272,000 Unity Skate Park
 - Planned for solar development at the Sandy Lane Landfill. Solicited proposals and awarded development rights to private firm to construct a 6.4 MW project to generate \$5.3M in lease revenue plus taxes to the Town over the life of the project
 - Administered 5th Year of Green Communities Program
 - The RiverCulture program closed out its 9th year. Secured state and local funding for an additional two years of programming in FY 16 and FY17.
 - Managed the implementation of Battle of Great Falls Study with a \$60,000 grant from the National Park Service Battlefield Protection Program.
 - Received a \$352,750 Massworks Infrastructure Program grant to construct a 30 space public parking lot in Turners Falls for 2016 construction.
 - Received a \$9,000 DCR Recreational Trails Grant to improve public access to Dry Hill Cemetery in 2016.
 - Finalized 2015 Montague Housing Plan with Technical Assistance from FRCOG
 - Worked with FRTA to install a new bus stop at Third Street. Advocated for Town's interests in the FRTA's compressive service analysis process which involved preserving and improving route 32 to Amherst.
 - Served as Town's liaison to Regional Pipeline Advisory Committee, provided technical assistance to the Board of Selectmen in advancing pipeline policy and protecting Montague's interests.
 - Liaison to the Broadband Committee which has been working closely with the MassBroadband Institute to implement a last mile solution to unserved households in Montague.
 - Municipal lead for Senior Center Feasibility Study that identified a budget, program and feasible sites for a new Senior Center in Montague. Process involved significant community outreach.
 - Worked with Planning Board to overhaul Site Plan Review section of the Montague Zoning Bylaws
 - Conducted a downtown tree inventory for use by DPW with assistance from FRCOG

2. Please explain any significant changes in your budget for Fiscal Year 2017, including any staff changes (if that impacts your budget).

None

3. Is there anything specific or new that you plan to accomplish in Fiscal Year 2017 with the level-services budget you've requested?

No

4. Is there anything you'd like to ADD to your level-services budget for Fiscal Year 2017? If so, describe what it is, what it would cost, and the benefit to the town.

I would like to add \$4,000 for a graduate-level planning intern. If I go through the UMass Planning program, they will match the funds. The intern will assist me with special planning/conservation projects such as Dry Hill Cemetery Trail Access, Canal District Revitalization, and preparing for an update to the 1999 Montague Comprehensive Plan.

5. What are your plans for improvements and projects for the next five years?

- **Develop Sandy Lane: Build DPW, Solar and limited industrial development**
- **Canal District Revitalization Strategy: Prepare Strathmore and RR Salvage for redevelopment, Access improvements**
- **Downtown Streetscape Improvements: extend lighting, ADA improvements, and repair planters.**
- **Implement Broadband strategy for un-served segments of Town**
- **Advance Senior Center Planning**