

**Town Manager Update Report**  
**June 3, 2016**

I have one item to share with you this afternoon. Please see below.

You may remember that back in April I informed you that Town Planner Will Johnston planned to submit a grant proposal to MEDEP for an opportunity related to culvert replacement to enhance fish passage and storm resiliency. The thought behind the submission being that if we can replace one of our older culverts and enhance fish passage at the same time, it's a win – win. The culvert selected for the grant application was the culvert under the Morse Road at Brandy Brook. This decision was made after consulting with the grant program officer, the Public Works Director, and others. My understanding is that this culvert was prioritized by the grant program because it's replacement would open up approximately one mile of upstream habitat. It is currently a "hanging" culvert. It's also undersized.

We've received notification from ME DEP that New Gloucester has been awarded a \$95,000 grant for replacement of the Brandy Brook culvert. This grant represents the entire estimated project budget. There is no Town match requirement. I understand that a commitment has also been secured from The Nature Conservancy for unanticipated project budget overages up to \$20,000.

While this particular culvert still has a few years of life left, we believe it was last replaced in the 1980's. Replacing it now with grant funds will save the Town money during the final phase of the Morse Road project (Promise Lane to Route 100).

Staff is still working on a proposed project schedule and we have not yet seen a draft agreement from the state. Once these details have been sorted, we will be bringing this opportunity to the Selectmen for consideration of acceptance.

This was a competitive opportunity, many of the applications were not funded. Thanks to the Town Planner for identifying and applying for this opportunity, and to Ted Shane for his teamwork with Will and assistance with the project!

A brief note: as the future Steven's Brook project is assumed to involve dam replacement or repair, my understanding is that it is not eligible for this funding opportunity.

Have a great weekend!