



Town of Montague
Department, Board, Committee, Commission
BUDGET NARRATIVE

FY 20

Complete this form electronically! Be clear and concise!

Department: Planning and Conservation Submitted by: Walter Ramsey

1. Please describe and provide the rationale for any substantial changes in your FY20 line item budget submission.

No substantial changes in FY20

2. Did you receive funding for any special articles in FY19? What is the status of those expenditures/investments?

No

3. Did you receive funding for a discretionary account in FY19? What have you purchased to date, at what cost? Looking forward in FY19, what do you expect to purchase at what cost?

No

4. To-date in FY19, has your department experienced any notable successes, such as improving or providing new programs or services, or implementing new technologies? If so, please describe.

The Planning Department has been implementing the transition of RiverCulture into a creative economy program that benefits the wider town. The Cultural Coordinator is an important and integrated part of the Planning and Conservation Department.

The Planning and Conservation Department has (unofficially) assisted the Building Department to assume the technical assistance responsibilities of supporting Zoning matters and the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Building Department is in transition and the planner has the expertise to lend. We may consider formally integrating this service into the planning department in the near future.

5. Are there challenges to your department's ability to meet its goals and objectives that are due to its FY19 operating budget? If so, offer your recommendation(s) for improving the situation.

Staff hours are the biggest limitation to what the Planning and Conservation Department can accomplish. This cannot be improved without a substantial change to the budget or the structure of the department- none of which are proposed at this time.