

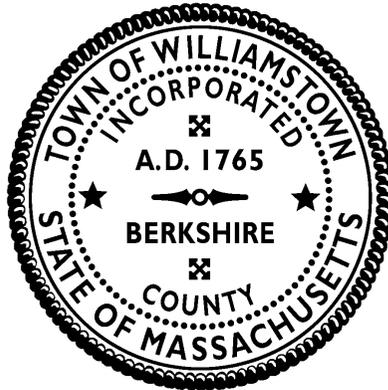
TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS



View from Stone Hill

2014
ANNUAL REPORT

TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN MASSACHUSETTS



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Department reports are for the calendar year 2014 unless otherwise
noted

Financial report covers the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014

Prepared by Debra Turnbull, Sarah Hurlbut

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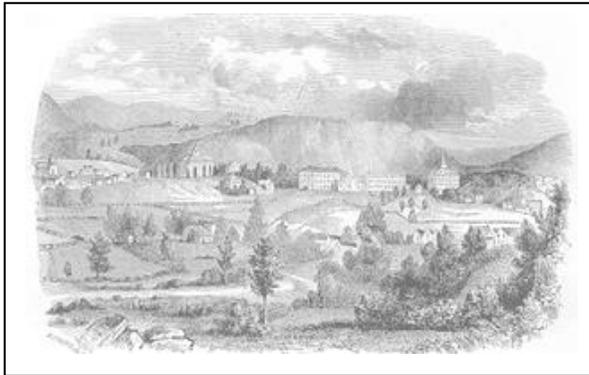
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COMMUNITY FACTS

Williamstown began in 1750 as a plantation known as West Hoosac. Lots were laid out and the town was slowly settled until the beginning of the French and Indian War in 1754. In 1765 the town was incorporated as Williamstown according to the will of Col. Ephraim Williams, who was killed at the Battle of Lake George in 1755. He bequeathed a significant sum to the town on the condition that it were named after him and started a free school. The school opened in October of 1791 with 15 students. The free school became Williams College in 1793 under a charter from the Commonwealth, becoming the second college to be founded in Massachusetts.



Elevation: 740 ft. above Sea Level **Area:** 46.86 Square Miles
Population: 7806 which includes approximately 2,000 Williams
College Student Body
Registered Voters: 4338 **Town Website:** www.williamstown.net

SCHOOLS

Public

Williamstown Elementary School
Mt. Greylock Regional High School
Charles H. McCann Vocational School
(Grades 9-12 North Adams)
Berkshire Arts and Technologies Charter School
(Grades 6-12 Adams)

Private

Pine Cobble (preK-9)
Buxton (Secondary)
Williams College

MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Williams College	Sweet Brook Nursing Care Centers
Williamstown Commons	Clark Art Institute
Williamstown Medical Associates	Williamstown Savings Bank
Town of Williamstown	Williams Inn
Mount Greylock Regional School District	

COVER STORY

THE NEW SAWYER LIBRARY



When the cornerstone of Stetson Library was laid in 1920, it was the epitome of the gentleman scholar’s study, with dedicated, separate space for books a primary consideration. An important part of the new building was the Chapin Library, an extraordinary collection of Americana and other rare English literary works donated by alumnus Alfred C. Chapin, which opened in 1923.

Designed in Georgian Revival style by Ralph Adams Cram, Stetson Hall was to be dignified but functional, “a structure which, for its size and importance, will rank with the finest college libraries in the country,” as reported in the June 1922 *Alumni Review*.

Today, Stetson has been restored to its original grandeur, its historic, two-story Reading Room now a 24-hour study space complemented by a gift of art, the scholar’s rock titled *Artificial Rock No. 77* by Zhan Wang. Stetson includes classrooms, a videoconference room, and, once more, faculty offices. Space formerly filled with book stacks has been opened up as a pathway to the library’s new construction, its nine stories of marble floors reused throughout the new building.

The original Sawyer Library, designed by Ben Weese and dedicated during the 1975 Convocation ceremonies, reflected teaching and learning styles of the day. Libraries then were designed around book collections, with individual study in mind.

The library’s 97,250 square feet had space for 489,500 volumes, 22 typing carrels, 13 listening stations, 12 microform viewers, and 825 seats for independent work—at desks and tables, in a lounge, and in its

iconic monkey carrels—designed to encourage concentration and long-term endeavors like the writing of research papers.

The new Sawyer Library is guided by the notion that education is fundamentally a social activity and that today’s teaching and learning are characterized increasingly by collaboration and by work that transcends traditional boundaries. A variety of spaces to support sustained, independent focus as well as group study permeates the building, and opportunities for social interaction—in exhibition areas, event spaces, a café, and an atrium—abound.

Today’s Sawyer Library, the heart of learning at Williams, is built with collaboration in mind and both ancient texts and modern technology close at hand.

Designed by Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, Sawyer Library integrates the college’s humanities and social sciences collections with its Archives, Chapin Library, and the Center for Educational Technology.

New construction rising four stories adds 131,704 square feet of space to historic Stetson’s 44,572 square feet, creating connections between old and new, across disciplines, and among students, faculty, visiting scholars, staff, and the local community.

Together with Hollander and Schapiro halls, the library provides a new and lasting home for the humanities and social sciences at Williams.

Sawyer Library’s design signals the building’s need to evolve as technology advances and the ways we teach and learn change in the future.

Flexibility is reflected throughout the building—in raised floors, open layouts, and movable walls and furniture—and an offsite, high-density storage facility will help ensure that no matter what shape their work may take in the future, students, faculty, and staff will be able to connect with each other and with resources—digital, print, ancient, modern—fostering the interactions that fuel knowledge and build community.

Environmental sustainability is central to the project, with a goal of meeting the standard for LEED Gold certification. Original materials—woodwork, chandeliers, metal shelving, marble floors—have been repaired, restored, and/or reused throughout the building. The design invites natural light and uses energy-efficient glass and sun screens on the building’s south face to reduce the need for cooling.

As it integrates spaces, departments, and roles, Sawyer Library is a nexus of collaborative learning and social interaction, uniting faculty, staff, and students in furthering the academic mission of the college.

Among its defining characteristics is the variety of study spaces throughout the building: carrels for quiet contemplation surrounded by soaring mountain views; glass-enclosed group work rooms; public computer stations; flexible lounge seating; benches, counters, and individual study booths; and the beautifully restored, 24/7 historic Stetson Reading Room, complete with its original oak tables and working fireplaces. The return of faculty offices to Stetson, meanwhile, brings professors fully into the daily life of the library.

Undergraduate libraries are teaching libraries, putting students in touch with collections and research resources, in the context of coursework. In addition to informal teaching spaces throughout the building, Sawyer features several dedicated classrooms, each accommodating a distinct pedagogy. The Sawyer instruction room is designed for active, student-centered learning. The Archives-Chapin instruction room allows for seminar-style teaching and exploration of primary sources. The Center for Educational Technology (CET) classroom is a hands-on computer lab.

The Research Services Study is designed for informal, small-group workshops. And the videoconferencing room extends the classroom experience, connecting faculty and students with counterparts worldwide.

Special spaces enable exploration and discovery, like the Chapin Galleries, which feature exhibitions from the Chapin's extraordinary collections of rare books, manuscripts, and materials from ancient times to the present. Others create new opportunities for connecting, like the CET's faculty collaboration rooms and the Research Commons and Circulation Atrium, where library staff provides research support.

And, of course, social interaction is an important part of the educational experience. On the first floor, the Forum and Café provide colorful, comfortable spaces to gather informally and to hold presentations, talks, or small-scale performances. Nearby, the Preston Room has been carefully re-installed as a home for current periodicals, with lounge and table seating. Together, the spaces—destinations in their own right—transform the idea of the library from quiet research facility to lively knowledge portal.

Among the educational treasures now gathered in Sawyer Library are the Chapin Library and College Archives & Special Collections, which, through exhibition, instruction, and research services, support Williams' liberal arts curriculum.

Established nearly a century ago by Alfred C. Chapin, Class of 1869, the Chapin Library possesses one of the most distinguished rare book collections of any American college or university. Its holdings—more than 60,000 volumes and 100,000 manuscripts, paintings, maps,

ephemera, and other items—include medieval and Renaissance manuscripts; some 100 works from the press of Aldus Manutius; Americana holdings that document the history of the Western Hemisphere, including Christopher Columbus' letter to the Spanish court announcing his discoveries of 1492, significant material on women's suffrage and the Civil Rights Movement, and the founding documents of the United States; Shakespeare folios and first editions by Chaucer, Woolf, and others; the Tours Gospels, circa 800 C.E.; and the double elephant folio edition of Audubon's *Birds of America*.

In the new Sawyer Library, the Chapin is realizing enhanced partnerships with the College Archives. The keeper of all of Williams' official administrative, legal, and historical documents, as well as a repository for non-official historical materials about the college and its community, the Archives is at once research center, unimpeachable historical source, and living memory of the college.

The Archives' holdings chronicle the development and growth of the college, including those fundamental functions of teaching and research and the activities of the student body and alumni. The Archives is a treasure trove of *Williamsiana*, diverse and voluminous materials that augment official documentation by providing through manuscripts, photographs, oral histories, and artifacts a richly textured story of Williams.

Within the department, Special Collections supports several topical collections acquired by the college, including those relating to William Cullen Bryant, the French and Indian War, and slavery and abolition in the U.S., as well as the libraries of the Philologian and Philotechnician societies, the Paul Whiteman Collection, and a Shaker Collection.

Now with dedicated exhibition galleries and beautiful research and study space, the Chapin Library and College Archives provide exceptional opportunities for learning and exploration.



The new Sawyer Library brings into being the Center for Educational Technology, which provides support for and promotes the use of multimedia and other technology in teaching and learning. This hub of creativity is home to instructional technologists and support specialists, the latest in technological resources, and spaces in which students and faculty can develop projects independently and together and explore the myriad ways technology can enhance their work.

The center includes half a dozen small project rooms and one larger one, where students and faculty can collaborate on multimedia projects. A fully equipped recording studio, complete with an audio booth and control room, as well as small editing studios and a music composition room, provide the opportunity to create high-quality productions. In the Faculty Collaboration Center, technologists and librarians provide resources and support to faculty interested in incorporating multimedia technologies into their teaching and research.

With its mix of instructional and project rooms and open work areas, the latest in technology (available for use on-site and off—the latter through the Equipment Loan Center), and expert staff who can now partner with librarians in assisting faculty and students, the Center for Educational Technology is well-positioned to provide the support and guidance for the increasingly important use of technology in scholarship.



Photos Courtesy of Williams College

CURRENT TOWN OFFICIALS

ELECTED OFFICIALS

SELECTMEN

Ronald Turbin, Chair	2016	Jane Patton	2016
Andy Hogeland	2017	Hugh Daley	2017
Thomas E. Sheldon	2015		

MODERATOR

Adam Filson	2016
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LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Geoffrey Heddon	2015	Mark Maniac	2016
Rebecca Ohm, Chair	2016	Katherine Myers	2016
Peter Mehlin	2016	Kathleen Schultz	2017
David Dewey	2017		

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Valerie Hall	2015	Christopher Jones	2015
Daniel Caplinger	2016	Richard Reynolds	2016
John Skavlem	2017		

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mark Reinhardt, Chair	2014 (State Appointed)		
Peter Mehlin	2016	David Mangun	2017
Joan Burns	2019		
Betty Anne LaBombard, Executive Director			

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Thomas Mahar	2015	James Gazzaniga	2016
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MT. GREYLOCK REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Colleen Taylor	2016	Gary Fuls	2016
Sheila Herbert	2016	Christopher Dodig	2018
Wendy Penner	2018	Richard Cohen	2018
Carrie Greene, Chair	2018		

PLANNING BOARD

Ann McCallum, Chair	2015	Elizabeth McGowan	2016
Chris Winters, Chair	2017	Carol Stein Payne	2018
Amy Jeschawitz	2019	Susan Schneski, Associate	2016

APPOINTED BY THE MODERATOR

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Paula Consolini	2015	Michael Sussman	2015
Charles Fox	2015	Elizabeth Goodman	2016
Susan Clark	2016	Elaine Neely	2016
Suzanne Dewey	2017	Dan Gendron	2017
Doris Karampatsos	2017		

APPOINTED BY THE SELECTMEN

AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

Leigh Short	2015	Dylan Stafford	2015
Van Ellet, Chair	2015	Craig Clemow	2015
Vivienne Jaffe	2015		

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST BOARD

Thomas E. Sheldon, Chair	2015	Richard DeMayo	2015
Stanley Parese	2016	Ruth Harrison	2016

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Beth Phelps, Chair	2015	Kim Wells	2015
Richard Haley	2015	Lisa DeMayo	2016
Bill Galusha	2016	Andrew Bernardy	2017
Sarah Gardner, Alt.	2015	Christopher Sabot, Alt.	2015
Leslie Reed Evans, Alt.	2015		

CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Vacancy	2014	Vacancy	2015
Vacancy	2016		

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Town Resident

Jeffrey Thomas	2017
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Other Representatives Designated by their Committees:

Philip McKnight (Conservation Commission), Chair
Linda Conway (Historical Commission)
Chris Winters (Planning Board)
Dan Gendron (Finance Committee)
Jane Patton (Parks Commissioner)
Peter Fohlin (Town Manager)
Mark Reinhardt (Housing Authority)

CONSTABLES

Andrew Bernardy	2015	Paul Yarter	2017
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CULTURAL COUNCIL of NORTHERN BERKSHIRE

Judith Ensign	2014	Jane Hudson	2015
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Jeff Thomas, Chair	2015	Fred Puddester	2015
Hugh Daley	2015	Andrew Hogeland	2015
Karen Lartin	2015	Stephen Sheppard	2015
Paul Harsch	2015	Thomas Loughman	2015
Tracy Baker	2015	Sandra Thomas	2015
James Art	2015		

FENCE VIEWERS

Marilyn Kirby	2017	Richard Ally	2015
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HOOSAC WATER QUALITY DISTRICT

Charles Schlesinger	2016	K. Elaine Neely	2016
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MOBILE HOME RENT CONTROL BOARD

Jack Nogueira, Chair	2016	John Luczynski	2016
David Levine	2017		

MT. GREYLOCK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Cosmo Catalano, State Appointed		Scott Lewis	2015
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MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Robert Kavanaugh	2016	Cherl Yarter	2017
Jeanne DiLisio	2017	Kris Kirby	2017

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING COMMITTEE

Jane Patton, Chair		John Notesley	
Scott McGowan		Shawn Godfrey	
Charles Fox		Ann McCallum	

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Mary C. Kennedy (D)	Town Clerk	Kurt Gabel (R)	2015
Mark Windover (D)	2017	Robert A. Jones (R)	2016

SIGN COMMISSION

Anne Singleton	2016	Tim Hamilton, Chair	2017
Stuart Armet	2018	Kathy Thompson	2019

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Tim Kaiser	2016		
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SPRUCES LAND USE COMMITTEE

Tom Hyde
Libby Bartels
Nicholas Wright
Leslie Reed-Evans
Jack Madden
Andy Hogeland
Dick Schlesinger
Lisa DeMayo

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Brian O’Grady 2015 (appointed by the Board of Selectmen Chair)

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Leigh Short 2015 Ryan Neathawk 2016
Andrew Hoar, Chair 2017 David Levine 2018
John Holden 2019 Lawrence Wright, Assoc. 2018
Jack Nogueira, Assoc. 2017 Keith Davis, Assoc 2019

APPOINTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER

1753 HOUSE COMMITTEE

Andrus Burr David Loomis Sarah Currie
Richard Babcock Henry Art Lauren Stevens
Marilyn Faulkner

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER AND INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS

Jacqueline Lemieux

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

David Westall William Barkin, Chair Thomas Elder

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Amy Jeschawitz, Appointed by Planning Board 2019
Roger Bolton, Alternate 2015

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Sarah Gardner 2015 Hank Art, Chair 2015
Bob Hatton 2015 Thomas V Ellet 2016
Nicholas Wright 2016 Philip McKnight, Chair 2017
Richard Schlesinger 2017 Sarah Foehl 2017

COUNCIL ON AGING

Brian T. O’Grady, Director
Jean Tyler 2015 Eugenia Smith 2015
Peter Mehlin 2015 Anne Jones 2016
Pamela Burger, Chair 2016 Martin Greenstein 2017
Franz Burnet-Gocht 2017 Patricia Picard 2017
Judith BomBardier 2017

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Peter L. Fohlin, Director

FOREST WARDEN

Richard Daniels

FORESTRY/ PEST CONTROL SUPERINTENDENT/TREE WARDEN

Robert E. McCarthy, Jr.

HEALTH INSPECTOR

Jeffrey C. Kennedy

BOARD OF HEALTH

Ronald Stant, Chair	2015	James Parkinson, MD	2015
Ruth Harrison	2016	Edwin Steubner, MD	2016
Marcia Tessier	2017		

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

William Barkin, Chair	2017	Barbara McLucas	2016
Patricia Leach	2015	Sarah Currie	2017
Linda Conway	2017		

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Kyle Johnson, Chief	Scott McGowan, Sergeant
Paul Thompson, Sergeant	David Lemieux, Sergeant

POLICE OFFICERS

John J. McConnell, Jr.	Preston Kelly
Shuan William	Scott Skorupski
Tania Hernandez	Michael Ziemba
Craig Eichhammer	Kevin Garner

SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER

David Sherman	Kyle Jolin
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POLICE DISPATCHERS

Bill Jennings	Paul Oleskiewicz
Christine Lemoine	Scott Sherman
David Sherman	Wayne Buckley
Kyle Jolin	Collin Shepley
Stephanie Mirante	Laura Tuper

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

William Cote	Linda Nichols
Rosella Cote	

SELECTMEN

Ronald Turbin, Chairman

May 2014 was an exciting month for our town. Two Selectmen, Jane Allen and David Rempell, who made great contributions to our town, chose to retire from the Board of Selectmen after many years of dedicated and valuable service. After a contested election with four good candidates, Andy Hogeland and Hugh Daley were elected as Selectmen. We are fortunate to have Andy and Hugh as members of the Board, along with Tom Sheldon and Jane Patton.

In Chairman Jane Allen's report in 2013, she highlighted the gift from Williams College of approximately four acres of land adjacent to Proprietor's Field and a collaboration of four entities to develop the property for affordable housing: The Berkshire Housing Development Corporation, the Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development, the Williamstown Elderly Housing Corporation and Higher Ground.

In July 2014, the Department of Housing and Community Development of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts approved the funding package for the affordable housing proposed for the donated property, now known as Highland Woods. The speedy approval by the Department of Housing and Community Development was unprecedented.

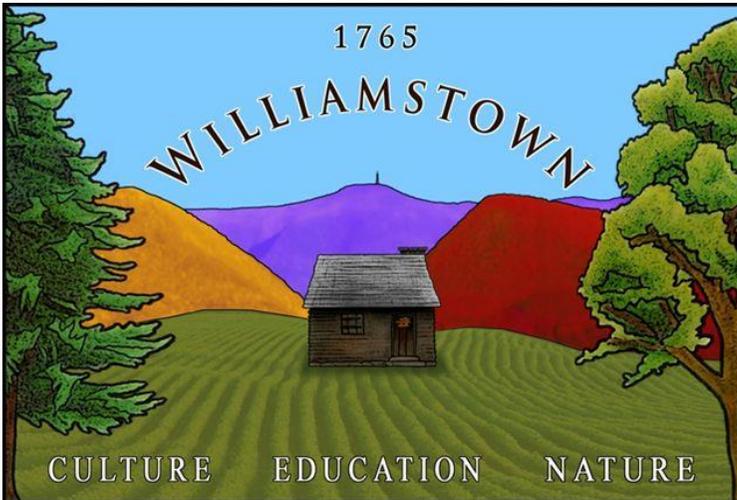
Enthusiastic thanks are owed to many individuals and committees, including our town manager, Peter Fohlin, and his staff, the Affordable Housing Committee, the Affordable Housing Trust and Higher Ground. Indeed, the Town of Williamstown should be congratulated for developing and obtaining approval of an affordable housing project in record time. Ground has already been broken for its infrastructure. Williams College must be thanked for its generosity. It is hoped that many of the future residents of Highland Woods will be town residents who were displaced by Tropical Storm Irene.

Hugh Daley, Andy Hogeland and Jane Patton spearheaded the formation of an Economic Development Committee. The purpose of this newly formed committee is to foster the economic growth of Williamstown, specifically, to encourage new investments in our town and encourage businesses to move to our beautiful town, an ideal setting to work and raise a family. Hopefully, economic growth will foster population growth, especially for young families with school aged children. The mandate of the Economic Development Committee is multifaceted. Not only is the goal to increase business opportunities in our town but to increase tourism. Furthermore, the infrastructure for economic development must be developed, such as broadband connectivity, so that families and individual who want to live in Williamstown and work remotely will have the necessary resources.

As a boost to economic and cultural development, earlier this year, the downtown area, which includes the dramatically expanded Clark Art Institute, was designated by the Commonwealth as a Massachusetts Cultural District. The Cultural District includes Spring Street and portions of Water Street. The new Cultural District will serve to draw more tourists to our downtown. There are now new and attractive signs in town advertising Williamstown as a Massachusetts Cultural District.

2014 also marked the realization that the potential of the Town's Simonds Road former landfill site as a solar electric generation facility will be realized. The Williamstown voters authorized the potential solar electric generation facility at the 2014 Annual Town Meeting. Subsequently, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued and ten responses were received. Our town manager selected a review team that recommended SolarCity and its partners as the developer of the facility. Once the generation facility is on line, the town will be purchasing energy credits generated by the facility. Ultimately, in addition to promoting renewable energy, the credits will save us millions of dollars over a twenty year period, in addition to the town gaining substantial real estate tax revenue.

As icing on the cake, this year the Board of Selectmen promoted and selected a town flag for our beautiful town. A number of submissions were presented for our review, including three imaginative and lovely submissions from Williamstown Elementary School. The Board selected the top two from the five terrific submissions. The artists collaborated and created a beautiful flag which was adopted by the Board of Selectman. Our flag will soon be displayed in the Great Hall of Flags of the State House and displayed in Town Hall.



I conclude this report with the bittersweet news that our Town Manager, Peter Fohlin, has announced his retirement after serving our town with dedication, incredible hard work and extraordinary success over fifteen years. We congratulate Peter on his well-deserved retirement and the opportunity he will have to enjoy some leisure time with his wife and work on exciting and valuable new projects. However, to say the least, he will be greatly missed. Williamstown was fortunate to have the best Town Manager in the Commonwealth at its helm for fifteen years.

The difficult task of recruiting a new Town Manager is now being undertaken by a Search Committee headed by Tom Sheldon and Jane Patton.

TOWN MANAGER

Peter L. Fohlin



I notified the Board of Selectmen on February 9 that I will be retiring on April 26 after fifteen years – the longest serving town manager in the town’s history. I expected to retire two years ago when I turned sixty-five, but “Irene” had other ideas. As I told the Selectmen in my retirement letter, most days it’s been the best job in the state.

The Town reached agreement with Morgan Management LLC to acquire The Spruces Manufactured Housing Community under a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant after Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. Irene was

such a devastating storm her name has been retired from the hurricane list. The process of relocating residents to decent, safe, and sanitary housing out of the floodway is nearly complete. Owner-occupants of the mobile homes are compensated for the appraised value of their displacement home under the Massachusetts Manufactured Housing Act plus the additional cost of their replacement home and relocation expenses under the federal Uniform Relocation Act up to \$22,500. As of this writing, twenty five of two hundred twenty five households remain in the park. At the conclusion of the process in 2016 the park will be closed and the land returned to its natural state.

The town has partnered with Women’s Institute for Housing and Economic Development and Berkshire Housing Development Corporation to create forty units of senior affordable housing at Highland Woods on Southworth Street. The land it sits on is leased from Williams College for seventy five years. The housing is expected to be available just in time for the closing of The Spruces.

The Cable Mills housing project on Water Street has finally started construction. Robert Kuehn first approached the town about converting the former General Cable to condominiums in 2002. Bob’s untimely passing on June 15, 2006 brought the project to a halt. The town owes a great deal to Bart Mitchell, president of Mitchell Properties and a Williams College alumnus, for rescuing the project. Twenty five potential developers evaluated the project after Bob’s death before twenty four of them walked away, leaving only Bart. Bart Mitchell persisted through the boom in construction costs of the early 2000’s, the bust of the credit markets in the mid 2000’s, and the maze of government regulations in the late 2000’s to finally break ground in 2014. Thank you, Bart.

The Town is involved in two open legal issues. The suit over the proposed Fox Woods development on Bee Hill Road filed by Charles Fox lingers. The suit does not present a significant legal or financial

exposure for the town as no monetary damages are sought. A bicycle accident on an elementary school field trip to Cape Cod resulted in a lawsuit in 2013 by a New Hampshire couple against the town for medical bills and compensation. The town is being represented by attorneys for the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association. The suit does not present a significant legal or financial exposure for the town.

Our management team has worked hard in recent years to put the town in a strong financial position. Unreserved Fund Balance (“free cash”) stood at zero most of the decade. Since 2010 our balance has increased from \$143,295 to \$1,426,936 at the end of FY2014. Prudent budgeting has increased our Unused Levy Capacity from \$158,554 to \$881,364 today. Our Stabilization Fund rests at \$859,694. The auditors have issued clean audited financial statements every year. All these factors contributed to raising the Town’s bond rating by Moody’s Investors Services from Aa2 to Aa1. Williamstown is the only community in Berkshire County, and the only one of our size in the Commonwealth, with an Aa1 rating. The value of this bond rating was demonstrated when the town was able to borrow \$3,292,961 for ten years at only 1.61%.

Town government will go through a major transition in the next few years as valued employees retire and new talent comes on board. We have lost over sixty years of knowledge and experience with the retirements of Highway Superintendent Scott Park, Building Commissioner Michael Card and Wire Inspector Sam Vince. All three have been dedicated town employees recognized statewide for their expertise. Town Accountant Donna Estes, DPW Director Tim Kaiser, DPW Superintendent Chris Lemoine, Principal Assessor William Barkin, and Town Clerk Mary Kennedy are all approaching retirement notwithstanding their youthful appearance. Thankfully some very talented people have joined us in Community Development Director Andrew Groff, Community Development Assistant Sarah Hurlbut, Building Commissioner Ryan Contenta, Local Inspector Rob Rosier, Assistant Treasurer Rachel Vadnais, Water/Sewer Technician Kirby Nichols-Cyr, and Assistant to the Town Manager Debby Turnbull. They are an exceptional crew. Your future is in good hands.

It can be hard to save dollars, but nickels and dimes can be found everywhere and they quickly add up to dollars. We share a Veterans Services Officer with North Adams, Adams, Florida, Clarksburg, and Savoy. Veterans can access services at offices in any one of the towns, but the cost to each town is minimized by our collaboration. Participation in purchasing consortia helps control electricity, natural gas, and motor fuel costs. We have over 52 kilowatts of solar panels installed on the elementary school, library, public works, and cemetery buildings, most of it paid for with Green Communities grant funds. Energy conserving system controls at the elementary school and water pump stations dramatically reduce operating costs. Lighting controls and

fixtures have been replaced at the elementary school and the Municipal Building to conserve energy and save money. More fuel efficient vehicles help to blunt the sharp rise in fuel costs. This year we entered into a municipal electric supply aggregation agreement with nine other Berkshire communities to purchase electricity at lower cost, not only for the towns but also for 13,958 residents and businesses. We are ready to construct a 1.8Mw solar photovoltaic installation at our former landfill, which will cut the town's electricity costs by sixty percent for twenty years. Small economies every day add up to large savings each year.

The next town manager will have plenty of work to do. Chief among his priorities will be the re-acquisition of the Blackinton section of town from North Adams. The map of Williamstown and North Adams clearly shows the rectangle where Blackinton protrudes into Williamstown. Williamstown sold Blackinton and its inhabitants to North Adams for \$3,000 in 1900. (See Chapter 262 of the Acts of 1900.) By purchasing Blackinton back from North Adams, we will have the supermarket we lost when Leo's closed on Spring Street, an in-town animal hospital, a pastaria, additional tax revenue, and prime real estate for economic development and affordable housing. Not to mention the opportunity to finally settle all airport disputes once and forever. Refunding the original purchase price in return for the Blackinton land seems fair, don't you think?

Please visit the Town web site at www.williamstown.net. There you will find minutes of the Board of Selectmen's meetings and the Town Manager's twice-monthly Town Manager's Reports. Contact information for all departments, office hours, the calendar of committee meetings, and voter registration information are among the many things found there. You can also pay tax bills, water/sewer bills, and motor vehicle excise tax bills on-line around the clock every day by check or credit card. Please subscribe to our bulletin in the lower left corner of the web site to receive announcements of timely interest.

In closing I would like to repeat a paragraph from my first town manager report in 2000.

We have laid a foundation during these first few months based upon five principles: Respect, Fun, Trust, Excellence, and "We Work For You." These principles work together and build upon each other to reinforce the level of service we work to provide. Respect for each other is the basic underpinning of our relationship with you, and our relationships with one another in the work place. Fun is a key element of our approach, for if we do not enjoy what we do we are unlikely to do it well. It is absolutely critical that we earn and maintain a high level of Trust between the townspeople and the town's employees, and among ourselves as well. Excellence in all that we do is the end product toward which we work every day. And most importantly, we try to never lose sight of the fact that "We Work For You", and we hope that our attitudes, performance, and smiles show our dedication to that principle.

Thank you to all who have emailed me or stopped by the Municipal Building to express your appreciation and thanks. Especially touching have been those people I had never met and whose names I do not know. We work for you. Thank you for having me.

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS

1753 HOUSE COMMITTEE

Lauren Stevens

The 1753 House finished up 2014 with an annual carol sing that attracted so many they had to take turns getting inside. Gail Burns organized the candle-lit event. Deborah Burns led the singing. David Loomis, Marilyn Faulkner and Lauren Stevens prepared the building and lighted the fire in the hearth. Hank Art donated the greens.

Previously David had continued repair of the benches. The structure remains in good condition, although replacing the shingles cannot be postponed too much longer.

Thanks to Sarah Currie and other board members, the building was open to guests seven days a week from June through Columbus Day. Some 500 signed in, including representatives from 36 states. The greatest numbers came from Massachusetts, New York and California.

Perhaps more galvanizing was the international contingent: 76 visitors from 23 countries: 34 from the British Isles, six from Canada, five from Australia, two from New Zealand, four from Germany and three from Israel.

Folk dropped by from Norway, France, Spain, Switzerland, Italy, Brazil, Belarus, El Salvador and China. In awe we ponder the route from Cote d'Ivoire, Zambia, Sierra Leone and Afghanistan to Williamstown.

Some of the names are mysterious until we remember that through-hikers on the Long Trail and Appalachian Trail assign themselves Trail Names. Plus, the Appalachian Trail Conference met at Williams College last fall. Hence, perhaps, Riffraff, Camel, Wicked Minor and D-Money. Then, too, the House was a hiding place for a geocache, which brought some people looking and, finally (7/20, Central New Jersey) finding.

The majority of comments express pleasure at the smell of balsam fir, often misidentified as "pine," for the loft was heaped with boughs. Many of the comments are one-word tributes, such as "awesome," "great," "amazing," "cool." Others are enthusiastic about the construction skills, although two quibble about the use of nails.

Several draw life lessons. '06 Through-hiker writes, "It makes us grateful for what we have." A man from Madrid writes, "The rain comes in at the windows, the wind, the cold. I'm so lucky to have the house I

have.” To which she with him adds: “I shouldn’t complain about anything at home.” And, from anonymous: “I am happy to be alive.”

Members of the ’53 House Committee are: Henry Art, Andrus Burr, Sarah Currie, Marilyn Faulkner, David Loomis and Lauren R. Stevens.

ACCOUNTANT

Donna Estes

ANNUAL REPORT OF BUDGETS AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING; JUNE 30, 2014

Account	Original Budget	Revised Budget	FY13 Encumber	FY13 Receipts	Total Available	Expended	FY14 Encumber	Balance
Appropriations - General								
Selectmen	6,866.00	6,866.00	0.00	0.00	6,866.00	3,229.08	0.00	3,636.92
Town Manager	226,667.00	226,667.00	0.00	0.00	226,667.00	217,412.39	0.00	9,254.61
Insurance	110,350.00	110,350.00	0.00	0.00	110,350.00	94,422.36	0.00	15,927.64
Finance Committee	785.00	785.00	0.00	0.00	785.00	176.00	0.00	609.00
Reserve Fund	75,000.00	75,000.00	0.00	0.00	75,000.00	0.00	0.00	75,000.00
Town Accountant	199,392.00	199,392.00	0.00	0.00	199,392.00	165,451.69	3,400.00	30,540.31
Assessor	142,187.00	142,187.00	4,830.00	0.00	147,017.00	140,599.68	6,416.42	0.90
Treasurer-Collector	178,772.00	178,772.00	0.00	0.00	178,772.00	162,372.30	0.00	16,399.70
Town Counsel	35,000.00	35,000.00	0.00	0.00	35,000.00	29,440.73	0.00	5,559.27
Management Information Systems	61,364.00	61,364.00	10,995.68	0.00	72,359.68	55,967.51	15,931.67	460.50
Town Clerk	83,423.00	83,423.00	0.00	0.00	83,423.00	80,691.65	0.00	2,731.35
Board of Registrars	16,601.00	16,601.00	120.00	0.00	16,721.00	11,982.34	0.00	4,738.66
Conservation Commission	10,725.00	10,725.00	0.00	0.00	10,725.00	10,670.59	0.00	54.41
Agricultural Commission	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	19.44	0.00	980.56
Planning Board	2,085.00	2,085.00	0.00	0.00	2,085.00	1,079.40	1,000.00	5.60
Zoning Board	3,900.00	3,900.00	0.00	0.00	3,900.00	2,876.05	1,000.00	23.95
Historical Commission	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	134.14	0.00	365.86
Chamber of Commerce	40,066.00	40,066.00	38,641.00	0.00	78,707.00	38,641.00	0.00	0.00
Facilities Management	184,827.00	184,827.00	0.00	0.00	184,827.00	175,088.65	97.00	9,641.35
Police Department	1,119,440.00	1,119,440.00	18,168.99	0.00	1,137,608.99	1,165,661.29	29.00	(28,081.30)
Police Station Design Development	160,000.00	160,000.00	143,295.00	0.00	303,295.00	15,800.00	305,495.00	(18,000.00)
Dispatch Services	180,166.00	180,166.00	0.00	0.00	180,166.00	132,333.80	1,329.10	46,508.10
Community Development	299,298.00	299,298.00	99.00	0.00	299,397.00	294,940.77	4,431.26	24.97
Sealer of Weights & Measures	6,650.00	6,650.00	0.00	0.00	6,650.00	6,328.88	0.00	321.12
Emergency Management	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
Animal Control Officer	19,808.00	19,808.00	0.00	0.00	19,808.00	18,426.29	176.00	1,205.71
Forest Warden	6,362.00	6,362.00	0.00	0.00	6,362.00	4,631.43	1,639.00	91.57
Director of Public Works	155,628.00	155,628.00	23,877.00	0.00	179,505.00	160,990.14	14,726.06	3,788.80
DPW Facility Photovoltaic System	0.00	0.00	9,206.49	0.00	9,206.49	1,347.50	7,858.99	0.00
Highway Department	1,188,980.00	1,188,980.00	354,851.72	0.00	1,543,831.72	1,065,951.56	440,088.39	37,791.57
Road and Culvert Repairs	45,000.00	45,000.00	0.00	0.00	45,000.00	45,000.00	0.00	0.00
Latham Street Culvert	122,000.00	122,000.00	193,302.79	0.00	315,302.79	315,302.79	0.00	0.00
Sidewalk & Curb Replacement - North & I	145,000.00	145,000.00	0.00	0.00	145,000.00	0.00	145,000.00	0.00
Water Street Sidewalk Replacement	0.00	0.00	88,596.00	0.00	88,596.00	13,678.75	74,917.25	0.00
McCauley Lane Drainage	43,254.00	43,254.00	0.00	0.00	43,254.00	0.00	43,254.00	0.00
Sidewalk Repair - Linden Street	32,000.00	32,000.00	0.00	0.00	32,000.00	31,413.78	0.00	586.22
Construction - No. Hoosac Road	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Replace 2002 Int Dump Truck	156,988.00	156,988.00	0.00	0.00	156,988.00	156,985.00	0.00	3.00
Replace 2001 Ford Dump Truck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Replace 1997 Volvo Loader	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Snow and Ice Control	166,863.00	166,863.00	0.00	0.00	166,863.00	325,212.70	0.00	(158,349.70)

Parks and Cemetery	263,147.00	263,147.00	31,637.44	0.00	294,784.44	243,795.82	21,859.75	29,128.87
Replace 2003 Chevrolet 4x4 dump Truck	0.00	0.00	6,561.00	0.00	6,561.00	0.00	6,561.00	0.00
Cemetery Roads Repair	0.00	0.00	1,199.21	0.00	1,199.21	0.00	1,199.21	0.00
Sherman Burbank Chapel	5,290.00	5,290.00	0.00	0.00	5,290.00	4,704.04	0.00	585.96
Forestry Department	42,905.00	42,905.00	0.00	0.00	42,905.00	30,523.78	12,337.00	44.22
Health Department	89,707.00	89,707.00	112.50	0.00	89,819.50	89,222.00	150.00	447.50
Council on Aging	239,933.00	239,933.00	6,203.00	0.00	246,136.00	216,668.39	6,203.00	23,264.61
Veterans Benefits	92,964.00	92,964.00	0.00	0.00	92,964.00	82,122.47	0.00	10,841.53
Library	503,975.00	503,975.00	180.75	0.00	504,155.75	499,118.03	4,585.00	452.72
Recreation Commission	11,410.00	11,410.00	2,400.00	0.00	13,810.00	13,349.84	0.00	460.16
Youth Center	68,563.00	68,563.00	0.00	0.00	68,563.00	68,563.00	0.00	0.00
Veterans Graves and Holidays	3,090.00	3,090.00	0.00	0.00	3,090.00	1,765.84	0.00	1,324.16
General Debt Service	465,955.00	465,955.00	0.00	0.00	465,955.00	461,645.22	0.00	4,309.78
Employees Benefits	1,059,087.00	1,059,087.00	121,909.03	0.00	1,180,996.03	1,063,663.59	113,181.91	4,150.53
Transfers to other Funds	175,500.00	175,500.00	0.00	0.00	175,500.00	175,500.00	0.00	0.00
Local Public Schools	5,494,774.00	5,494,774.00	40,231.00	0.00	5,535,005.00	5,490,114.52	44,890.48	0.00
Mt Greylock Regional School	4,559,872.00	4,559,872.00	0.00	0.00	4,559,872.00	4,559,872.00	0.00	0.00
Northern Berk Vocational School	267,523.00	267,523.00	0.00	0.00	267,523.00	265,658.00	0.00	1,865.00
Total Appropriated - General	18,570,667.00	18,570,667.00	1,096,417.60	0.00	19,667,084.60	18,210,546.22	1,317,822.69	138,715.69
Appropriations - Enterprise								
Transfer Station	179,730.00	179,730.00	4,532.00	0.00	184,262.00	155,463.20	5,077.41	23,721.39
Sewer Department	345,010.00	345,010.00	94,163.72	0.00	439,173.72	355,713.35	44,043.17	39,417.20
Pump Station repair	0.00	0.00	65,000.00	0.00	65,000.00	0.00	65,000.00	0.00
Pick-up Truck	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
Sewer Debt Service	124,488.00	124,488.00	0.00	0.00	124,488.00	97,479.33	0.00	27,008.67
Water Meter Replacements	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	0.00
Damaged Property Reimbursements	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Permit Compliance	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	28,450.30	21,549.70	0.00
Syndicate Road Sewer Lines	0.00	0.00	57,514.19	0.00	57,514.19	25,283.50	32,230.69	0.00
Ritter Sewer Line Gift	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Green River Stabilization Grant	82,219.00	82,219.00	0.00	0.00	82,219.00	82,219.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers to General Fund	10,512.00	10,512.00	0.00	0.00	10,512.00	0.00	0.00	10,512.00
Transfers to Reserve	614,419.00	614,419.00	12,503.23	0.00	626,922.23	626,921.87	0.00	0.36
Hooaac Water Quality District	614,729.00	614,729.00	56,858.00	0.00	671,587.00	580,569.63	19,035.24	71,982.13
Water Department	0.00	0.00	87,774.90	0.00	87,774.90	0.00	87,774.90	0.00
Main St Water Main Replacement	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Well 1 Rehabilitation	70,000.00	70,000.00	0.00	0.00	70,000.00	48,530.96	21,469.04	0.00
Arnold Street Water Main Replacement	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	0.00
Water Meter Replacements	193,177.00	193,177.00	0.00	0.00	193,177.00	168,454.69	0.00	24,722.31
Water Debt Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Damaged Property Reimbursements	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Replace 2005 Utility Van	96,823.00	96,823.00	0.00	0.00	96,823.00	0.00	0.00	96,823.00
Transfer to Reserves	117,081.00	117,081.00	0.00	0.00	117,081.00	117,081.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers to General Fund	2,578,188.00	2,578,188.00	378,846.04	0.00	2,957,034.04	2,566,166.83	296,680.15	294,187.06
Total Appropriated - General								

Tax Rate Assessments									
State Assessments	63,353.00	29,265.00	0.00	0.00	29,265.00	29,828.00	0.00	0.00	(563.00)
County Assessments	33,939.00	31,400.00	0.00	0.00	31,400.00	31,400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Assessments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,237.40	0.00	0.00	(5,237.40)
Total Tax Rate Assessments	97,292.00	60,665.00	0.00	0.00	60,665.00	66,465.40	0.00	0.00	(5,800.40)
Borrowed Funds									
Cemetery Building	0.00	0.00	1,778.55	0.00	1,778.55	0.00	0.00	1,778.55	0.00
Inflow and Infiltration	0.00	0.00	239,111.31	0.00	239,111.31	0.00	0.00	239,111.31	0.00
Well #1 Replacement	0.00	0.00	118,540.44	0.00	118,540.44	118,540.44	0.00	0.00	0.00
Phase II and Cole Field Landfill Closure	0.00	0.00	43,095.67	0.00	43,095.67	27,698.75	0.00	15,396.92	0.00
Total Borrowed Funds	0.00	0.00	402,525.97	0.00	402,525.97	146,239.19	0.00	256,286.78	0.00
Special Revenue Funds									
School Lunch Revolving Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	104,084.82	104,084.82	97,189.13	0.00	6,895.69	0.00
Highway Flood Control - Green River	0.00	0.00	474.60	0.00	474.60	0.00	0.00	474.60	0.00
Highway - Cole Ave Bridge	0.00	0.00	517.74	0.00	517.74	0.00	0.00	517.74	0.00
Highway - Linear Park Bridge	0.00	0.00	4,044.12	0.00	4,044.12	0.00	0.00	4,044.12	0.00
Highway - Syndicate Stabilization Grant	0.00	0.00	5,243.80	0.00	5,243.80	0.00	0.00	5,243.80	0.00
Highway - Chapter 90	0.00	0.00	(128,264.50)	133,608.50	5,344.00	5,344.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Highway - Roaring Brook Grant	0.00	0.00	6,575.96	0.00	6,575.96	0.00	0.00	6,575.96	0.00
School - SPED Professional Development	0.00	0.00	750.00	1,883.00	2,633.00	2,633.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
School - Title II - Math & Science	0.00	0.00	(11,943.11)	20,202.00	8,258.89	12,258.89	0.00	(4,000.00)	0.00
School - Early Literacy Gap	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
School - Quality Kindergarten Grant	0.00	0.00	6,130.08	31,130.00	37,260.08	37,260.08	0.00	0.00	0.00
School - Circuit Breaker	0.00	0.00	68,610.96	67,965.00	136,575.96	68,611.00	0.00	67,964.96	0.00
School - School Choice	0.00	0.00	270,230.97	239,774.00	510,004.97	308,434.60	201,570.37	0.00	0.00
School - Early Childhood - WEE	0.00	0.00	9,593.30	13,137.80	22,731.10	22,731.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
School - Title I	0.00	0.00	(55,193.04)	104,466.00	49,272.96	56,202.96	0.00	(6,930.00)	0.00
School - P.L. 94-142	0.00	0.00	(17,741.78)	95,025.00	77,283.22	95,685.49	(18,402.27)	0.00	0.00
School - ARRA Early Childhood SPED	0.00	0.00	1,798.65	0.00	1,798.65	1,798.65	0.00	0.00	0.00
School - ARRA Education Jobs Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
School - Race to the Top	0.00	0.00	(2,282.00)	3,278.00	996.00	728.19	267.81	0.00	0.00
CDBG Housing - Stearnsflim	0.00	0.00	15,650.40	0.00	15,650.40	0.00	0.00	15,650.40	0.00
Community Preservation Act Fund	0.00	0.00	403,851.10	318,581.65	722,432.75	307,896.65	414,536.10	0.00	0.00
Selectmen - Spruces HMG	0.00	0.00	0.00	673,150.25	673,150.25	1,241,984.39	(568,834.14)	0.00	0.00
Selectmen - Cable Technology Fund	0.00	0.00	5,874.71	0.00	5,874.71	0.00	0.00	5,874.71	0.00
Selectmen - Spruces Revolver	0.00	0.00	0.00	74,361.54	52,228.94	22,132.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
Selectmen - Affordable Housing - Phototech	0.00	0.00	(71,773.08)	0.00	(71,773.08)	4,595.14	(76,368.22)	0.00	0.00
Selectmen - Solarize MA Program	0.00	0.00	980.68	0.00	980.68	957.65	23.03	0.00	(0.00)
Town Clerk - Polling Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	844.77	3,866.00	4,710.77	0.00	0.00	4,710.77	0.00
County Dog Tax Refund	0.00	0.00	19,648.00	0.00	19,648.00	0.00	0.00	19,648.00	0.00
ConCom - Wetlands Fees	0.00	0.00	28,123.38	800.00	28,923.38	400.00	0.00	28,523.38	0.00
ConCom - Stone Hill Stewardship Grant	0.00	0.00	2,805.00	0.00	2,805.00	0.00	0.00	2,805.00	0.00

Econ Develop - FrnHA Exec Park	0.00	1,617.95	0.00	1,617.95	0.00	1,617.95	0.00	1,617.95	0.00
Econ Develop - Bike Trail Gift	0.00	5,416.15	0.00	5,416.15	0.00	5,416.15	0.00	5,416.15	0.00
Econ Develop - Canoe Access Facility Grant	0.00	5,500.00	0.00	5,500.00	0.00	5,500.00	0.00	5,500.00	0.00
Pub Property - LRS Oil Tank Grant	0.00	(2,787.50)	0.00	(2,787.50)	0.00	(2,787.50)	0.00	(2,787.50)	0.00
Pub Property - Damaged Property	0.00	750.00	0.00	750.00	0.00	750.00	0.00	750.00	0.00
Pub Property - Sale of Property	0.00	235,580.00	0.00	235,580.00	0.00	235,580.00	0.00	235,580.00	0.00
Pub Property - Green Community Grant	0.00	(38,183.96)	0.00	(38,183.96)	0.00	(38,183.96)	0.00	(38,183.96)	0.00
Pub Property - OATA	0.00	0.00	35,500.00	35,500.00	0.00	35,500.00	0.00	35,500.00	0.00
Police - Support Fund	0.00	30,018.96	2,930.00	32,948.96	0.00	32,948.96	0.00	32,948.96	0.00
Police - Drug Task Force	0.00	16,140.30	6,450.00	22,590.30	0.00	22,590.30	0.00	22,590.30	0.00
Police - Forfeiture Funds	0.00	9,086.10	2,562.00	11,648.10	0.00	11,648.10	0.00	11,648.10	0.00
Police - Defibrillator Gift	0.00	714.54	0.00	714.54	0.00	714.54	0.00	714.54	0.00
Police - School Resources Officer Gift	0.00	8,575.82	0.00	8,575.82	0.00	8,575.82	0.00	8,575.82	0.00
Police - Bullet Proof Vest Grant	0.00	3,084.50	0.00	3,084.50	0.00	3,084.50	0.00	3,084.50	0.00
Police - COPS Fast Grant	0.00	14,026.79	0.00	14,026.79	0.00	14,026.79	0.00	14,026.79	0.00
Police - Public Safety & Equipment Grant	0.00	436.97	0.00	436.97	0.00	436.97	0.00	436.97	0.00
Police - Damaged Property	0.00	1,770.44	0.00	1,770.44	0.00	1,770.44	0.00	1,770.44	0.00
Police - K9 Gifts	0.00	8,791.30	323.78	9,115.08	0.00	9,115.08	0.00	9,115.08	0.00
Police - E911 Training Grant	0.00	(11,406.89)	14,099.89	2,693.00	0.00	2,693.00	0.00	2,693.00	0.00
Police - E911 Communications Grant	0.00	(22,183.09)	33,338.20	11,155.11	0.00	11,155.11	0.00	11,155.11	0.00
Police - REACH Triad Grant	0.00	144.54	0.00	144.54	0.00	144.54	0.00	144.54	0.00
Police - Highway Safety Grant	0.00	10,320.48	0.00	10,320.48	0.00	10,320.48	0.00	10,320.48	0.00
Police - COPS MORE Grant	0.00	4,013.23	0.00	4,013.23	0.00	4,013.23	0.00	4,013.23	0.00
Forest Warden - Assist Firefighters	0.00	944.50	0.00	944.50	0.00	944.50	0.00	944.50	0.00
DIS - Damaged Property	0.00	31.17	0.00	31.17	0.00	31.17	0.00	31.17	0.00
Civil Defense - Emergency Management Gr	0.00	3,362.48	4,529.07	7,891.55	0.00	7,891.55	0.00	7,891.55	0.00
Civil Defense - Emergency Preparedness	0.00	1,775.17	0.00	1,775.17	0.00	1,775.17	0.00	1,775.17	0.00
Animal Control - Operations Gift	0.00	114.13	0.00	114.13	0.00	114.13	0.00	114.13	0.00
DPW - Damaged Prop	0.00	27,422.06	1,649.42	29,071.48	0.00	29,071.48	0.00	29,071.48	0.00
DPW - Irene - Luce Road Headwall	0.00	(5,254.36)	0.00	(5,254.36)	0.00	(5,254.36)	0.00	(5,254.36)	0.00
DPW - Irene - Protective Measures	0.00	2,110.41	0.00	2,110.41	0.00	2,110.41	0.00	2,110.41	0.00
DPW - Fed Snow & Ice	0.00	12,917.58	22,712.30	35,629.88	0.00	35,629.88	0.00	35,629.88	0.00
Parks - Litchfield Beautification Gift	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00
Parks - Damaged Prop	0.00	741.34	5,128.47	5,869.81	0.00	5,869.81	0.00	5,869.81	0.00
Parks - Sherman Chapel Gifts	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00
Forestry - Gift	0.00	1,689.50	0.00	1,689.50	0.00	1,689.50	0.00	1,689.50	0.00
Forestry - Damaged Prop	0.00	1,500.00	987.99	2,487.99	0.00	2,487.99	0.00	2,487.99	0.00
Health - MAAG - Right to Farm	0.00	384.78	750.00	1,134.78	0.00	1,134.78	0.00	1,134.78	0.00
Health - FRCoG-TURI	0.00	0.00	800.00	800.00	0.00	800.00	0.00	800.00	0.00
COA - Activity Fund	0.00	5,571.85	4,359.39	9,931.24	0.00	9,931.24	0.00	9,931.24	0.00
COA - Formula Grant	0.00	142.78	16,002.22	16,145.00	0.00	16,145.00	0.00	16,145.00	0.00
COA - Damaged Property Reimbursement	0.00	97.20	0.00	97.20	0.00	97.20	0.00	97.20	0.00
COA - CPR Grant	0.00	355.00	0.00	355.00	0.00	355.00	0.00	355.00	0.00
COA - Public Health Incentive Grant	0.00	40.80	0.00	40.80	0.00	40.80	0.00	40.80	0.00
COA - Incentive Grant	0.00	20.90	0.00	20.90	0.00	20.90	0.00	20.90	0.00
COA - Senior Comm. Nutrition Assess	0.00	150.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	150.00	0.00

Lib - Gifts for Books	0.00	12,445.24	2,557.00	15,002.24	8,442.96	6,559.28	0.00
Lib - Damaged Prop	0.00	4,239.29	461.78	4,701.07	0.00	4,701.07	0.00
Lib - LIG/MEG Grant	0.00	0.00	8,349.96	8,349.96	8,349.96	0.00	0.00
Lib - Operations Gift	0.00	3,154.74	40,878.00	44,032.74	58,940.36	(14,907.62)	0.00
Library - Revolving Fund	0.00	0.00	5,874.79	5,874.79	5,874.08	0.71	0.00
Recreation - Revolving Acct	0.00	3,600.39	0.00	3,600.39	0.00	3,600.39	0.00
Recreation - Skateboard Park Gift	0.00	436.59	0.00	436.59	0.00	436.59	0.00
Benefits - BHG Health Coordinator	0.00	2,518.83	2,000.00	4,518.83	1,867.10	2,651.73	0.00
School - Field Trips	0.00	1,862.53	1,149.75	3,012.28	184.50	2,827.78	0.00
School - 5th Grade Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
School - Outdoor Classroom Gifts	0.00	1,979.63	446.20	2,425.83	348.14	2,077.69	0.00
School - Computer Tech Gifts	0.00	143.80	545.00	688.80	500.00	187.80	0.00
School - Adventures in Learning Gifts	0.00	9,074.53	5,706.00	14,780.53	4,269.70	10,512.83	0.00
School - Health Materials	0.00	0.00	506.50	506.50	506.50	0.00	0.00
School - Sunrise Spanish	0.00	631.67	0.00	631.67	0.00	631.67	0.00
School - Library Books	0.00	20,456.51	2,284.00	22,720.51	509.92	22,210.59	0.00
School - PTO Educ Materials	0.00	16,547.10	5,896.02	20,243.12	9,150.36	11,112.76	0.00
School - Teacher Salary Gift	0.00	51,701.22	4,660.00	56,361.22	2,581.80	53,779.42	0.00
School - Music Gift	0.00	728.38	5,179.00	5,907.38	5,907.38	0.00	0.00
School - After School WISH Program	0.00	1,579.37	0.00	1,579.37	0.00	1,579.37	0.00
School - WESE Grants	0.00	0.00	19,835.51	19,835.51	16,340.46	3,495.05	0.00
School - 6th Grade Fund	0.00	5,625.76	25,277.15	30,902.91	25,339.01	5,573.90	0.00
School - Principal Gift	0.00	0.00	556.14	556.14	0.00	556.14	0.00
School - Green School Grant	0.00	18,586.72	0.00	18,586.72	15,858.91	2,727.81	0.00
School - Oil Tank Removal Grant	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00
School - Tuition	0.00	164,800.21	115,186.61	279,986.82	263,199.92	16,786.90	0.00
School - Summer School Tuition	0.00	1,059.42	0.00	1,059.42	0.00	1,059.42	0.00
School - Transportation Fees	0.00	484.81	0.00	484.81	485.00	(0.19)	0.00
School - Rental	0.00	49,750.83	9,666.25	59,417.08	4,884.03	54,533.05	0.00
Total Special Revenue	0.00	1,286,371.20	2,298,938.09	3,585,309.29	2,895,516.24	691,793.05	0.00
Trust Funds							
Margaret Lindley	0.00	2,460.27	12.36	2,472.63	0.00	2,472.63	0.00
Conservation Commission	0.00	6,902.06	556.02	7,458.08	0.00	7,458.08	0.00
Helen Renzi School	0.00	10,067.25	50.42	10,117.67	40.81	10,076.86	0.00
Sherman Bank	0.00	14,194.01	9,446.15	23,640.16	15,013.00	8,627.16	0.00
Torrey Woods	0.00	2,964.57	22.94	2,987.51	0.00	2,987.51	0.00
Alma Meyer	0.00	21,927.37	169.66	22,097.03	0.00	22,097.03	0.00
Perpetual Care - Principal	0.00	344,521.13	8,100.00	352,621.13	0.00	352,621.13	0.00
Municipal Scholarship	0.00	35,983.35	2,927.73	38,911.08	2,400.00	36,511.08	0.00
Library Annual Fund	0.00	86,751.39	35,318.95	122,070.34	26,587.28	95,483.06	0.00
Library Carpenter Fund	0.00	9,953.80	49.54	9,983.34	104.27	9,883.07	0.00
Stabilization Fund	0.00	829,465.00	30,219.05	859,684.05	0.00	859,684.05	0.00
Perpetual Care Income	0.00	6,153.98	1,889.75	8,043.73	3,000.00	5,043.73	0.00
Sale of Lots	0.00	23,286.86	950.00	24,236.86	0.00	24,236.86	0.00
Bullock Forest	0.00	107,083.64	828.53	107,912.17	0.00	107,912.17	0.00
Botsford - Library Trust	0.00	84,331.19	423.93	84,755.12	0.00	84,755.12	0.00
Botsford - House of Local History Trust	0.00	41,842.20	210.35	42,052.55	0.00	42,052.55	0.00
J.E. Bascom	0.00	10,948.06	55.03	11,003.09	0.00	11,003.09	0.00
C.D. Foster	0.00	1,904.03	9.57	1,913.60	0.00	1,913.60	0.00
West Lawn Cemetery	0.00	152,316.09	9,991.47	162,307.56	600.00	161,707.56	0.00
Affordable Housing	0.00	193,887.86	201,936.62	395,824.48	0.00	395,824.48	0.00
OP&B Liability Trust	0.00	0.00	150,041.00	150,041.00	0.00	150,041.00	0.00
Total Trust Funds	0.00	1,986,935.11	453,208.77	2,440,143.88	47,545.36	2,392,598.52	0.00
Total All Expenditures	21,246,147.00	21,209,520.00	5,151,095.92	2,752,146.86	29,112,762.78	23,730,479.24	4,955,181.19
							427,102.35

AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

Van Ellet, Chair

Years of work and deliberation by the Affordable Housing Committee came to fruition this year. Progress has been made on initiating the development of three projects: Highland Woods; Cable Mills; and the PhoTec site on Cole Avenue. Once completed, about 99 new affordable housing units will become available to Williamstown families and seniors. These new units represent a significant increase in the 147 units currently operational in town.

Substantial progress on the development of **Highland Woods**, a site which had been donated by Williams College, was the result of the combined, collective effort of Higher Ground, Williams College, town officials, the development team (i.e., Berkshire Housing Development Corporation and the Women’s Institute for Housing and Economic Development), and key state officials. The Select Board voted to accept a Community Development Block Grant to provide a bridge loan of \$315,000 for the project in May to get the work underway. It also made a commitment of \$2.85 million in June to help complete the financing package. This money was part of the \$6.1 million FEMA grant to the town to address the needs of this living at the Spruces who lost their homes in the flood of 2011. Final state funding was secured in August. As a result, groundbreaking took place on December 19th. According to DHCD’s Undersecretary Aaron Gornstein, who attended the ceremony, “You did it so quickly. I believe the application came in to DHCD in the spring of 2014. To think that we’re already in construction before the end of the year is probably a record for state government and for the commonwealth.” It is expected that Highland Wood’s rental units for Spruces residents and those 55 years of age and older will be ready for occupancy in January of 2016— in time for remaining residents of the Spruces to relocate before it closes for good.

The early part of the year was also spent finalizing an RFP to develop two town-owned sites that was finally put out for bid in February. The town received two responses that were evaluated by the AHC in March and April. One proposed the development of both sites under consideration—the town garage site on Water Street and the other site at **330 Cole Avenue**, commonly referred to as **PhoTec**. The second proposal was limited to the development of only the Cole St. location. After interviewing both development teams, the AHC made a recommendation to the Select Board in early April to award the contract to Arch Development Corporation from Boston, primarily because it proposed the development of both sites and would result in more affordable housing units (75). However, the Select Board decided on April 15th to award the final contract to the Berkshire Housing Development Corporation and the Women’s Institute to develop the Cole Street property, which will result in about 46 new units for low-

income families and other populations. Three long-standing members of the AHC resigned from the committee as a result of the Select Board's decision. Work on this project was put on hold for the rest of the year because of the developers' involvement in the Highland Woods project.

It should be noted that the town has worked tirelessly throughout the year to continue the support to residents of the Spruces. The town has been involved in helping residents transition to other housing, as well as preparing the property for closure in the near future. By the end of the year, sixty-two of seventy-three households had met with the town's Relocation Advisory Agent. At least 41 residents have already relocated; 24 households still need to identify future housing preferences. The town has distributed \$902,756.51 to 49 residents and tenants to compensate them for their losses and to help them relocate. This work will continue until the Spruces is closed in 2016.

Finally, the entire community was gratified to see work finally begin, after nearly ten years of delay, on the **Cable Mills** property on Water Street. The contractor started work on the 61-unit rental project in the fall, with final permits issued in December. Phase 1 of the Cable Mills property project will include 13 affordable housing units for those with incomes below 80% of the area median income (AMI). The project, which is supported by 1.5 million of the town's Community Preservation Act funds, is expected to be open in December of 2015.

Since it will take at least 3-4 years to complete the development of these projects that provide subsidies for moderate and low income populations, the development of even more subsidized housing is unrealistic at this time. Therefore, the AHC decided to take some time to rethink its mission and purpose. Starting in late August, the AHC has been in the process of revising its mission statement, as well as developing principles to guide its future deliberations and activities. Without abandoning its previous commitment to meet the affordable housing of the community, the AHC has decided broaden its work to look at the housing needs for the community as a whole, regardless of income—shifting its mission from “affordable housing” more to “housing that's affordable.” Given the demographics of the community, we are particularly concerned about the lack of an array of affordable housing options for seniors. We will be working closely with other key town committees, such as the Planning Board, to evaluate the town's housing needs, review ways to promote the development of needed housing, and develop a plan on how those needs can be addressed.

We would like to end this report, by again thanking all of the people in the community for their support on these important issues over the years. As noted, this year's achievements represent years of hard work, especially by the three members of the AHC who resigned: Cathy

Yamamoto, Charles Bonenti, and Cheryl Shanks. They deserve special recognition and thanks for their long commitment and accomplishments.

Van Ellet, Chair
Leigh Short, Vice Chair
Craig Clemow
Vivienne Jaffe
Dylan Stafford

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

Thomas Sheldon, Chairman



The Affordable Housing Trust was created by Town Meeting in 2012. In its second full year of operation, the Trust began to develop and implement programs and initiatives that grew out of its research and planning in the prior 18 months.

The Trust continued to meet at least monthly and achieved the following:

- Awarded the \$150,000 grant (approved in December 2013) to the Highland Woods project to construct 40 units of affordable rental housing for seniors and people with disabilities. The timing of the award helped the project's cash flow in the early phase of development and construction.
- Secured \$75,000 in Community Preservation Act funds from 2014 Town Meeting, building on \$400,000 in prior year grants.
- Created the Mortgage Assistance Program, which offers grants of up to \$15,000 to help moderate income families (at or below 100% of Area Median Income) purchase a home in Williamstown. The grant may be used for down payment, closing costs, private

mortgage insurance, tax/insurance escrow and necessary repairs. The program was developed in collaboration with the lending institutions and realtors in town. It is intended to balance other initiatives that create low-income rental housing by focusing on owner-occupied homes that are affordable to moderate income households. To be eligible an applicant must be a first-time homebuyer, or have lost a job and be seeking to relocate to Williamstown with a new job within 50 miles, or have been a resident of The Spruces mobile home park on 8/28/11.

- Developed an RFP to acquire a property in town (vacant lot or lot with a house) that could be developed or renovated to create additional affordable housing. If such a property is secured, the Trust will issue a second RFP to identify an entity such as Habitat for Humanity that could do the construction or renovation. Any such home would have a permanent deed restriction that limits ownership to households qualifying for low-income affordable housing (at or below 80% of Area Median Income)

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Beth Phelps, Chairman



Williamstown Agricultural Commission 2014 Annual Report

Purpose: The purpose of the Agricultural Commission is to support commercial agriculture and other farming activities in the Town of Williamstown. The Commission's duties include but are not limited to the following:

- Serve as facilitators for encouraging the pursuit of agriculture in Williamstown
- Promote agricultural-based economic opportunities in Town
- Act as mediators, advocates, educators, and negotiators on farming issues
- Work for the preservation of agricultural lands
- Advise the Town Meeting, Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Board of Assessors, or any other appropriate Town Boards on issues involving agriculture

The Agricultural Commission (AgCcom) also pursues all initiatives appropriate to creating a sustainable agricultural community.

Current Members: Beth Phelps (Chair), Andrew Bernardy, Kim Wells, Rich Haley, William Galusha, Sarah Gardner (Alternate), Leslie Reed-Evans (Alternate), and Topher Sabot (Alternate). Contact us at our new email address: agcomm@williamstown.net

Liaisons: The Williamstown Agricultural Commission works with the philosophy that good communication between the various Town boards, committees, and commissions is crucial to establishing a healthy relationship between the Town's key organizations and the farming community. To establish this communication, we have assigned liaison duties among the AgCom members and key Town organizations. They are:

- Select Board: Beth Phelps
- Zoning Board of Appeals: Rich Haley & Beth Phelps
- Conservation Commission: Sarah Gardner
- Board of Health: Kim Wells
- Williamstown Grange: Andy Bernardy
- Spruces Reuse Committee: Leslie Reed Evans
- Williamstown Farmers Market: Beth Phelps

Activities/Accomplishments:

- *Williamstown Farmers Market:* The AgCom received a grant of \$750 from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation to aid in hiring a market manager for the summer. Williams College provided an intern for the market manager position, who organized vendors every Saturday morning, arranged for live music, and managed social media for the farmers market. Vendors reported increased sales and patron participation in 2014. Produce vendors at the WFM now also accept WIC and elderly coupons.
- *Conflict Resolution:* Fairfields Dairy requested assistance in negotiating the termination of a gentleman's agreement made by the late Dan Galusha with MA Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW). The AgCom invited Andrew Madden, Western District Manager of Mass Wildlife to attend our March 24th meeting along with members of the Galusha family.

In February, Mass Wildlife had terminated an agreement with Fairfields Dairy that allowed them to farm 17 acres of the Green River Wildlife Management Area (GRWMA). Mass Wildlife intends to return those agricultural acres back to wild land. Although the Galusha Family understood that the agreement extended only through Dan Galusha's lifetime, the field had been prepared and the 2014 corn seed had been purchased for planting those acres before the letter came from Mass Wildlife officially ending their agreement. This would have presented a hardship because of the time and money already spent in preparing for the 2014 planting.

Mr. Madden gave some background and context regarding land management decisions made by the DFW. Their mandate is to protect biodiversity on a local, regional and statewide basis.

Any activities that fall within the overall biodiversity management goals must be justifiable from a wildlife management standpoint. They are under scrutiny by both state and federal government in how funding is used. Currently they hold approximately 25 license agreements on agricultural lands, mostly for delayed hay cutting. Their decisions for these lands are based on the best use of the land from a wildlife standpoint and in line with agency goals. The adjacent Green River Management area was acquired as riparian and shrub land habitat for species listed as threatened. These shrubby successional areas are the least numerous overall in Massachusetts. Although the Galushas left 10% of the corn crop standing for wildlife enhancement, at this time successional habitat is more desirable when looked at within the habitat type percentage throughout the Commonwealth.

Mr. Madden agreed to allow the Galushas to plant corn for 2014, but after harvest the Galusha's must seed the fields into cover crop. After thanking Mr. Madden for the compromise with Fairfields Dairy this year, the AgCom reiterated their disappointment in losing the agricultural acres to wildlife habitat after this growing season and desire that the state find a way to accomplish their goals without converting agricultural lands to other uses.

- Tom Brulé, Forestry and Wildlife Management Consultant, gave a presentation at the AgCom's May 1 meeting about habitat, following up its discussions on the conversion of the GRWMA ag land to habitat. Tom described the New England “recipe” for optimum wildlife habitat, based on National Forest Service data, as follows:
 - ✓ 10% open – fields, beaver swamp
 - ✓ 10% forest in seedling/sapling stage
 - ✓ 15% “pole” (young) forest
 - ✓ 50-55% saw timber
 - ✓ 5-10% large saw timber (> 18” DBH)

Tom believes the surrounding woodlands at the GRWMA are an option to develop into successional habitat. Selectively cutting 10 acres at a time from a larger parcel on a rotating basis is one management option. Reclaiming forest is very expensive - \$5000-\$60000 per acre. The AgCom proposed seeking out landowners with successional habitat, suggesting that, through grants such as the Landowner Improvement Program (LIP), it may be possible to find enough of the desired habitat that the GRWMA farmland parcel can continue to be farmed. In fact, the fields are early successional habitat and support crow, turkey, vole and larger mammals.

- *Other Conflict Resolution:* The AgCom has been asked to assist in several cases of livestock getting out and causing disruption with neighbors.
- *Liaison Highlights:* Kim Wells spoke to the Board of Health to make them aware of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV), a very fast-moving Corona virus which affects pre-weaned piglets with up to 100% fatality. It is passed in manure and affects sows with scouring, although they can develop immunity. It is not swine flu; it is not contagious to humans; and it does not affect the meat. The biggest impact is the loss of young stock leading to a gap in meat availability. Local pig raisers are implementing safe handling and transporting procedures and are working to educate truck drivers and slaughterhouses about these safe handling measures.
- *3rd Annual Farmers Dinner:* The AgCom hosted its Third Annual Farmer's Dinner for Williamstown and our neighboring farmers in Lanesborough, Hancock, and New Ashford. An enjoyable evening of farming fellowship was had by all.
- *Williamstown Farm Brochure and Map:* The brochure was designed to provide Williamstown's residents and visitors a listing of agricultural products and resources. Our map shows farms that are open for visitors and lists farmers who can be met by appointment only. The brochure also includes a matrix listing Williamstown farms and the products they offer. Questionnaires were sent to all Williamstown farmers requesting their data for inclusion in the brochure. The brochures are expected to be unveiled at the AgCom's Feb 10, 2015 meeting.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

William Barkin, Chairman

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59 specifically equates that fair cash value be the standard by which property is taxed. A comprehensive appraisal system, as well as constant monitoring of real estate market fluctuations is needed in order for the Board of Assessors to meet this statutory requirement.

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Bureau of Local Assessment granted approval of Williamstown's fiscal 2015 triennial certification on September 22, 2014. Analysis of real estate transactions from January 2012 through December 2013, as well as commercial income and expense data, were conducted during the revaluation. The results are that all property assessments were adjusted to reflect full and fair cash value as of January 1, 2014.

The completed reappraisal confirms that the total taxable valuation of the Town has decreased 6.9% since the last certification in fiscal 2012 from \$1,030,451,850 to \$958,916,300. The average single-family home value decreased 5.5% from \$376,400 on January 1, 2011 to \$355,600 on January 1, 2014.

The Board of Assessors maintains a property inventory of 2,830 real estate properties and 261 personal property accounts. We strive for 100% accuracy in our assessments. The abatement process allows the Board to view properties that may have errors on the property record card or exhibit market aberrations and thus produce inaccurate assessments. At the beginning of each year the Board conducts field inspections of all building permits issued in the prior calendar year to ascertain new growth.

Submitted by,
William Barkin, Chair

Williamstown Board of Assessors

Computations for Determining Fiscal 2014 Tax Rate

<i>Town Meeting Date</i>	<i>Total Appropriations Each Meeting</i>	<i>From Tax Levy</i>	<i>From Free Cash</i>	<i>From Other Available Funds</i>	<i>From Enterprise Funds</i>	<i>(Memo) Borrowing</i>
						0.00
<u>Totals</u>	<u>21,283,555.00</u>	18,043,355.00	310,000.00	18,013.00	2,912,187.00	<u>0.00</u>

Local Expenditures.....	\$ 21,344,220.00
Cherry Sheet Offsets & Other Amounts.....	620,468.83
Overlay.....	146,736.53
<i>Tax Rate Summary</i>	
1. Gross Amount to be Raised.....	22,111,425.36
2. Estimated Receipts and Available Funds.....	7,589,671.00
3. Net Amount to be Raised by Taxation.....	\$ <u>14,521,754.36</u>
4. Real Property Valuation.....	\$933,588,971
5. Personal Property Valuation.....	\$ 16,787,623
6. Total Property Valuation.....	<u>\$950,376,594</u>
7. Tax Rate	15.28
8. Real Property Tax.....	14,265,239.48
9. Personal Property Tax.....	256,514.88
10. Total Taxes Levied on Property.....	\$ <u>14,521,754.36</u>

Recap Abatements and Exemptions	Recap Motor Vehicle Commitments																																																							
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FOR A DETAILED REPORT SEE TREASURER'S SUMMARY

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Andrew Groff, AICP, Director / Planner

Michael Card, MCO, Building Commissioner

Ryan A. Contenta, CBO, Local Inspector

Jeffrey Kennedy, RS, Health Inspector

Samuel Vince, Inspector of Wires

John Haig, Inspector of Plumbing and Gas

Jacqueline Lemieux, Animal Inspector

Sarah Hurlbut, Administrative Assistant

We saw some big changes this year on the 3rd floor of the Municipal Building. Our long time Administrative Assistant, Kathy Thompson, retired in the spring. Kathy spent 14 years with our department and we wish her all the best in her retirement. Taking over Kathy's role is Sarah Hurlbut who joins us after many years of service at Williamstown Savings Bank. The other change many in town have noticed this year is our name. Formerly the Department of Inspection Services, we are now the Department of Community Development. Our new name represents the collaborative approach our department takes to all aspects of its responsibility. We are here to assist all members of the community throughout each stage of the development process. The Department partners three basic functions of town government that oversee development activities, the Building Officials, Board of Health and Health Inspector, and Planning and Land Use. All three basic functions of the Department work together to forward the goal of protecting both the town's built and natural environment to ensure a safe, healthy, and thriving Williamstown. The State Building Code, Board of Health Regulations, The Wetlands and Rivers Protection Acts, as well as the Town's Zoning Bylaw, Sign Bylaw and Subdivision Regulations are all enforced by the Department and the various volunteer community boards that the Department works with in order to achieve this goal. Below are reports from the Department's Building Officials and Planner. Reports concerning the many different Boards and Commissions the Department works with are separate from this report.

BUILDING OFFICIALS

Michael J. Card, Inspector of Buildings

Ryan A. Contenta, Local Inspector

Samuel Vince, Inspector of Wires

John Haig, Inspector of Plumbing and Gas

2014 saw Williamstown's Building Officials issue 533 Building Permits with an estimated construction dollar value of \$44,709,075. These range from small residential work such as replacement windows to new homes to major commercial construction projects. The Department continued to work closely throughout 2014 with Williams College and the Clark Art Institute on two of the largest projects in Williamstown's history, the

Stetson Library renovation and addition and the Visitor Exhibition and Conference Center project at the Clark Art. The year closed with both of these projects nearly complete. The public was able to enjoy the new galleries at the Clark grand opening on July 4 while work is still underway on portions of the Manton Building. Over at Williams College, the new Sawyer Library opened in time for the start of the academic year. Completion of the renovated and new living building, Kellogg House, and demolition of the 1975 Sawyer Library is expected in 2015.

Other major commercial work in town last year included the construction and completion of the new Weston Field complex on Latham Street. The new stadium opened in September with a resounding Eph victory over Bowdoin.

Major commercial projects also include two long awaited developments. The new 40 unit Highland Woods Affordable Housing project, and the long delayed Cable Mills redevelopment project which will create 61 units in an historic mill building on Water Street. In addition to these 6 housing units and new office space will be in a relocated Mather House on North Street. This marks the third time this historic structure has been moved in its history. It also made for one exciting day in November. Our staff worked closely with the building movers to ensure a successful day.



Residential renovations continued on pace in 2014 however only one permit for a new single family home was issued. Williamstown did continue to see a large number of solar photovoltaic installations installed in the community. There were 36 systems installed over the course of the year. This includes a large half megawatt system installed for Williams College off of Simmonds Road. This continues a trend began when Williamstown participated in the Solarize Mass Program. With 55 such system permits issued in 2013 we have now seen 91

installations in the past two years compared with 5 systems in the previous 5 years. Truly a remarkable development.

In addition to reviewing permit applications and plans and inspecting ongoing projects the Building Officials are responsible for performing annual reviews of certain public buildings throughout the community. 228 Buildings were inspected and received valid Certificates of Inspection in 2014. The Commonwealth requires that all establishments where alcoholic beverages are consumed to be inspected jointly by a Building Official and Fire Chief Pedercini. These inspections are done once a year and a valid inspection certificate is a requirement for an alcohol beverage license. This requirement helps to ensure your safety in the event of an emergency at any of the Williamstown's liquor license holding establishments.

Your Williamstown Building Officials are dedicated individuals who strive to ensure that the built environment of Williamstown is a safe place to live, work, and enjoy. We wish you all a happy and safe 2015.

Williamstown Community Development <i>Building Officials</i> Building and Trades Permits Issued 2014	
New Single Family Houses	1
New Multifamily Units	107
Solar Photovoltaic	55
Total Building Permits	533
Wire Permits	385
Plumbing Permits	164
Gas Permits	153

PLANNING AND LAND USE

Planner, Andrew Groff, AICP

The Planning and Land Use arm of the Community Development Department is responsible for the administration and enforcement for all of the land use regulations governing development in town and staff support for the Boards and Commissions that have permitting and regulatory responsibility for these laws and regulations.

A significant part of our work involves providing support to all members of the community who are investigating the possibility of changing how their land is used. When someone is researching potential development, whether the proposal is a small home addition or a large commercial building, the planner is generally the first town official you will see

when undertaking a project. It is our job to help citizens make sense of these laws and regulations and ensure the permitting process is simple, fair and equitable for all stakeholders of any size project.

In addition to assisting the public with navigating the maze of Massachusetts land use law our office is responsible for the staff support, including research, analysis, and GIS mapping capabilities to five of Williamstown's local boards and commissions. These capabilities also support many other initiatives ongoing in town including work on the Spruces Hazard Mitigation Grant project and work with the Public Works Department in planning for a future North Adams to Williamstown bike path. Both of these projects made significant progress throughout 2014. It is hoped that in early 2015 the town will be able to contract for design and survey work on the bike path and that summer 2015 will see continued cleanup work at the Spruces which our departments mapping capabilities will support.

The Boards and Commissions that we work with, along with a brief description of each board are;

- Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission is responsible for administration of the Massachusetts Wetlands and Rivers Protection Act (the "Wetlands Protection Act"), this legislation requires approval for activities that involve "digging, dredging, or altering" wetlands or areas near wetlands. The Commission also oversees the management of nine parcels of land owned by the Town which are dedicated to a variety of conservation and recreation goals. Meetings are held on second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. and are often preceded by site visits to assess field conditions for projects that are brought to the Commission through the Wetlands Act review process. The Planner attends all of the Commission's meetings to provide staff support and also acts as the Conservation Agent, handling enforcement and other day to day issues of the Commission.

- Historical Commission

The Historical Commission reviews projects for compliance with the Demolition Delay Bylaw. The Planner reviews and processes these applications. The Commission meets on Wednesdays, on an as needed basis.

- Planning Board

The Planning Board is an elected Board, responsible for overseeing the long term land use patterns of Williamstown through the Zoning Bylaw, Subdivision Rules, and Master Planning process. The Planner is responsible for the review of all of all plans and permit applications that come before the Board and ensures they are complete and distributed to all interested parties. The Planner also provides significant time in staff

support to the board. Working with individual members on research projects and possible zoning bylaw, and subdivision regulation amendments. The Planner is also responsible for the maintenance of the Board's official maps and frequently updates the Board on important legislation and other planning issues.

- Sign Commission

The Sign Inspector is responsible for reviewing all sign applications and may issue any sign which fully complies with the Sign Bylaw; any deviation from the bylaw requires Sign Commission approval. The Sign Inspector is also the enforcing authority under the bylaw. Fines may be assessed under the non-criminal disposition provisions of the Code of the Town of Williamstown. The Sign Commission meets the 4th Thursday of every month.

- The Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board (ZBA) hears and decides petitions arising from the application of the Williamstown's Zoning Bylaws. These petitions fall into four categories, Special Permits, Variances, Administrative Appeals, and Comprehensive Permits. The Planner is responsible for the review of all of the ZBA's permit applications and ensures they are complete and distributed to all interested parties. Ensuring completion can involve plan review meetings with project stakeholders and other town officials. The Board meets on the third Thursday of every month.

These are all brief descriptions of each Board's responsibilities; please see each individual Board's report for a more in-depth description of all the business the Boards, Commissions and the our department have been working on for the past year.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Jeffrey C. Kennedy, RS, Health Inspector

Although the numbers change from year to year, the narrative doesn't. It becomes important to keep the narrative because public health normally operates 'under the radar'; when things are going well, you're not supposed to notice. So, the narrative will remain primarily the same each year to remind residents of the function of the Health Inspector, and the Sealer of Weights and Measures.

Health inspection functions in Williamstown are mandated by State laws and regulations, and by local Board of Health regulations. The inspection and monitoring requirements are many, and include, but are not limited to, food establishments, bathing beaches, septic systems, private wells, housing, swimming pools, tanning facilities, refuse and recycling, manufactured housing communities, beaver control, recreational camps, and nuisances affecting the public health. The Health Inspector for the town holds licenses as a Registered Sanitarian, a Soil Evaluator, and a Septic System Inspector. All licenses

require a commitment for continuing education in the various aspects of their applicable disciplines. Registered Sanitarians are required to accrue 12 contact hours each year; Soil Evaluators and Septic System Inspector must accrue 10 hours every 3 years.

Did you know that over 10% of the boards of health in the United States are located in Massachusetts? Functions that in other states are handled at the state or county level are under the purview of local boards of health. Boards of health or their designated agents have the same responsibilities, and are required to perform the same duties no matter the size of their community. In rural western Massachusetts, boards and their agents do not have the luxury of specializing in certain aspects of a board of health's day-to-day responsibilities. They are general practitioners of public health. It's what makes public health in this side of the Commonwealth both interesting and challenging.

- In 2014 the Board of Health had 265 permits in its database.

Food Establishment inspections are performed on restaurants, cafeterias, dining facilities, bed and breakfasts, non-profit organizations serving an occasional meal for a fee or donation, and retail stores. Inspections look at food handling, facility infrastructure and equipment, and employee cleanliness and appearance. Efforts are made to work with the establishments to upgrade their facilities and improve practices, if needed, to insure patrons are getting a safe meal. New and upgraded establishments require that an application and plan are submitted for review. Schedules of all new equipment with specification sheets are also required.

- There are currently 86 (at the time of writing) establishments which undergo, at a minimum, annual or semi-annual inspection by the Health Inspector. Additional permits are issued to temporary establishments, which are inspected as needed. Food Establishment numbers are changing throughout the year, as some establishments close their doors and others try their hand at operating in the Town of Williamstown.
- A total of 140 inspections were conducted in 2014.

The Board of Health issues retail establishment licenses to individual vendors selling processed foods at a farmers' market. The Board of Health must assess the facilities available to the farmer's market, and prohibit any food-handling operation that cannot be safely performed. In addition, the Board of Health may prohibit the sale of certain food items if the items cannot be handled and maintained in accordance with 105 CMR 590.000 requirements.

- In 2014, the Board of Health issued 45 such licenses for various processed foods to be sold either at the Williamstown Farmers'

Market and/or the Williamstown Holiday Farmers' Markets.
These markets are inspected by the Health Inspector.

The Board of Health requires all rental units to have undergone an inspection within 12 months prior to occupancy by the current tenant. The units are inspected for compliance with 105 CMR 410.000 Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation, State Sanitary Code, Chapter II. Every unit that meets the standards is issued a Certificate of Compliance (CoC). Other conditions also apply, depending upon the length of tenancy. It appears that there was less tenant movement in 2014, therefore fewer inspections were performed. However various houses that are 'for sale' have been made rentals until such time as the dwelling is sold. In addition, complaint inspections, which are not part of the CoC database, were also performed, resulting in Orders to Correct being issued, and occasionally, filings in housing court.

- There are 791 dwelling units listed in the Rental Unit database. Some of these units may no longer be rental units through sale or conversion to condominium.
- 106 applications for inspection were received in 2014.

Every house without access to community water must have a private water supply approved by the Board of Health or its Agent. The Board requires that the proposed well is sited by a Professional Engineer or Registered Sanitarian to meet all safety setbacks, and is drilled by a Massachusetts registered well driller. Following drilling, water quality and quantity reports are submitted by the driller and/or property owner to the Board for review to determine that the supply is sufficient for the house, and meets chemical and bacterial standards. If all information is acceptable, a Certificate of Compliance is issued. A building permit for a new home will not be issued for homes on a private water supply until the Board issues a Well Certificate of Compliance. The Board of Health also requires most of this information for ANY well intended to supply water for ANY purpose. Many geo-thermal system wells have been permitted recently.

- Well permits issued in 2014 - 2.
- Total private wells drilled since 1992 regulation – 137

Every home without access to community sewer must have an on-site sewage disposal system that meets the requirements of 310 CMR 15.000, usually referred to as Title 5. Existing on-site systems must be inspected at time of sale or other title transfer, and failing systems or components must be upgraded to meet Title 5 standards. A new system starts with a soil evaluation (perk test) performed by a licensed Soil Evaluator and witnessed by the Board of Health. This insures that the on-site soils absorption system (leaching field) is correctly placed and

sized for the home it services. A Professional Engineer or Registered Sanitarian will submit a design plan to the Board for review. Following review, if the plan meets the provisions of Title 5, and if a properly trained and licensed installer is contracted by the property owner, a permit to construct is issued. Inspections are conducted throughout the installation process by the Board and the designer to monitor compliance with the design plans. Any changes to the plans must be approved by the Board prior to implementation. If the system is constructed properly, and certificates of construction compliance are received by the Board from the engineer and installer, a Certificate of Compliance is issued for the system. Upgrades of failed existing system components are also evaluated for Title 5 compliance prior to installation. The Board of Health requires that all installers working in Williamstown must have attended a training course recognized by the Berkshire County Boards of Health Association and have satisfactorily passed the given exam. In addition, the Board requires that all new or upgraded septic tanks have an effluent filter installed at the tank outlet. This helps prevent field loss through system clogging due to inattention. In 2014 the Board of health passed regulations (effective January 1, 2015) requiring that the agent of the Board of Health witness all septic system inspections. This will help insure a consistent standard in applying various provisions of the Title 5 septic regulation. The Board of Health is also requiring any inspections performed on vacant dwellings be re-inspected 6 months after occupancy. This will insure that a buyer has not purchased a dwelling with a system that would normally fail under regular use and was only issued a pass because it was not in normal operating mode.

If a Title 5 Septic System Inspection show that systems have a garbage grinder and/or a water softener discharging into the system, property owners are now informed by letter that their system is in noncompliance, and are instructed to remove the garbage grinder, and discharge the water softener to a drywell. Failure to do so could result in a damaged septic system requiring costly replacement or repair.

- Septic System permits issued in 2014 - 5
- Total Septic Systems in the Williamstown database – 572

Companies which haul septage are required to obtain permits from the Board of health in each town they serve. Haulers must keep a record of individual systems served, which is presented to the appropriate wastewater treatment plant. The plant forwards these records to the Board of Health, which keeps a database on how often each system is pumped. At times, these records will allow the Board to determine if an on-site system is functioning properly.

- Septage haulers permitted to operate in the Town of Williamstown – 6

The Board of Health from time to time examines all camps, motels, hotels, manufactured housing communities and cabins licensed by it and if, upon such examination, such camp, motel, hotel, manufactured housing community or cabin is found to be in an unsanitary condition, the Board may, after notice and a hearing, suspend or revoke such license.

- There are 11 motels, 2 hotels, and 2 manufactured housing communities in the Town of Williamstown.

Williamstown hosts many recreational camps for children each summer. Camps must meet the standards set down by the State in 105 CMR 430.000, Minimum Sanitation and Safety Standards for Recreational Camps for Children. Fortunately, most camps are operating on the Williams College campus, which has dormitories, dining facilities, and other infrastructure subject to periodic building and health inspections. The Board ensures that camp staff and counselors have undergone criminal and sexual offender record checks, that campers and staff have appropriate medical checks, that a licensed physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner is contracted as a health care consultant, and that adequate medical staff and equipment are available to meet the campers' needs.

- In 2014, 7 recreational camps for children were held in Williamstown. Most of these camps held multiple sessions throughout the summer.

All public and semi-public (motels, condominiums, clubs, schools, institutions, etc.) pools and hot tubs/spas are required to be inspected at least annually. Inspections look at the design and construction of the pool, safety equipment and communication devices, first aid equipment, and water quality. All public and semi-public pools are required to have a Certified Pool Operator and perform inspections and water chemical testing at prescribed intervals.

- In 2014, 24 permits were issued for public and semi-public pools and hot tubs.

Margaret Lindley Park has the only authorized public bathing beach in Williamstown. Beach bacterial sampling of the impoundment water at Margaret Lindley Park is periodically tested from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and has always showed excellent results, well within standards set by the state (No single *E. coli* sample shall exceed 235 colonies per 100 ml. and the geometric mean of the most recent five *E. coli* samples within the same bathing season shall not exceed 126 colonies per 100 ml). This facility continues to be very popular with many people in North Berkshire County. In 2013, torrential rain storms had caused the adjacent Hemlock Brook to overtop the banks at

Margaret Lindley, sending cloudy water into the swimming area. The swimming area was closed for several weeks while the water cleared. Additionally, work to repair damage upstream of the park caused an elevated bacterial count in the bi-weekly water sample. As the swimming was closed already, no one was affected by the high count. However, sampling of the beach water was increased to weekly, and will continue as weekly sampling for at least 2 years, to insure water integrity.

- In 2014 the geometric mean established for the last 5 samples taken was – 10.38

The Board of Health licenses and regulates through inspection the maintenance of safe and appropriate indoor air quality in ice skating rinks that utilize ice resurfacing equipment powered by combustible fuels which produce carbon monoxide or nitrogen dioxide and thereby protect the health, safety and well-being of the public.

- The Williams College Lansing Chapman Rink is inspected annually, usually during the Bay State Games. Although the rink is primarily serviced with an electric ice resurfacing machine, it is still licensed and inspected because the seldom used back-up resurfacer is propane powered.

The Board of Health also regulates nuisances and noisome trades, and may restrict and/or prohibit any trade or employment, nuisances, sources of filth, injurious odors and potentials for sickness, which may endanger the public health, safety, or welfare of the inhabitants of the Town of Williamstown. Many nuisance complaints are received anonymously by telephone, but still require follow-up and inspection.

Refuse haulers operating in the Town of Williamstown must be permitted by the Board of Health, and must offer recycling services.

- Number of permitted Refuse Haulers in 2014 – 9

Williamstown has joined the Berkshire County Public Health Alliance to coordinate public health efforts on a larger scale and to assist in planning and implementation of public health functions to smaller communities.

- Since 1995, the Health Inspector has assisted other communities throughout the county by providing technical and physical assistance to those towns without a full time health agent. Although still available to assist other Boards of Health, the Health Alliance will provide that assistance in the future.

The Board of Health also oversees the duties of the Animal Inspector. Dog Officer Jackie Lemieux is also the appointed Animal Inspector for

the Town of Williamstown. The Animal Inspector inspects the health and living conditions of livestock located in town, as well as investigating animal bite reports and processing or quarantine animal suspected of carrying rabies. She primarily operates under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 129, and reports her findings to the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. The Board of Health has authority under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 111 to license all stables and promulgate regulations for the keeping of animals. The Williamstown Board of Health has not set fees for stables, nor has it written regulations, preferring at this time to operate under its adopted guidelines for the proper keeping of livestock. The Health Inspector has worked with the Animal Inspector on various stabling and livestock issues in 2014, and will continue to take an active interest in livestock oversight and care.

The Town of Williamstown has a very pro-active and involved public health program; there is much expected in this town of 7000 +. The Health Inspector continues to use federal, state and local regulations in a reasonable manner to insure the spirit and intent of each are used for the general maintenance and improvement of the community's public health needs.

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Jeffrey C. Kennedy

The Health Inspector, beginning in 2011, has assumed the position of Sealer of Weights and Measures, passing both the written and field test portions of certification. Additionally, there is a continuing education requirement for Certified Sealers. The Sealer attends meetings twice a year in Marlborough. The meetings are hosted by the Massachusetts Weights and Measures Association.

The duties of the Sealer include:

Enforcement of, and compliance with, Massachusetts General Law chapter 98, sections 34 through 56D pertaining to weighing and measuring devices, including, but not limited to:

- Balances and Scales
- Weights
- Capacity Measures
- Liquid Measuring Devices
- Fuel Pumps
- Linear Measuring Devices

Collection of fees for each inspection performed, to be turned in to the Department of Inspection Services for deposit with the treasurer/Collector.

The accurate and timely submission of all reports required by state and local authorities.

Assuring all equipment is maintained and repaired, and that certification of weights and standards is accomplished when needed.

- In 2014, 52 gasoline and diesel pumps, 23 test weights and 22 scales were inspected and certified.

DOG OFFICER & ANIMAL INSPECTOR

Jacqueline Lemieux

Animal Inspections

The primary duty of the Animal Inspector has recently become rabies control in the domestic animal population. There are several angles which must be covered to accomplish this.

1. Domestic mammals which come in contact with, or are otherwise exposed to the rabies virus must first be assessed to determine severity of risk. Depending on the vaccination status of the domestic mammal involved, it will be either quarantined or destroyed. Be sure to send in the Notice of Exposure forms that are used for this type of quarantine at least once a month.
2. The Animal Inspector will be contacted by local veterinarians when a client presents an animal which may have had an encounter with a potentially rabid animal. Again, the severity of the situation must be assessed before determining the proper course of action.
3. Any domestic mammal which bites a human or another domestic mammal must be quarantined for a period of ten days to determine the risk of rabies transmission. Be sure to send in the duplicate copies of the Order of Quarantine form at least once a month. If you do not have any animal bites in a six-month period, please send in a letter to that effect.
4. The Animal Inspector must ensure that all animals (wild or domestic) which must be tested for rabies are captured and euthanized. The head must be removed, packaged properly and submitted to the State Rabies Lab for testing. (Any questions, call the Rabies Lab at (617) 983-6385 for copy of protocol.) This is not to say that the Animal Inspector must perform these tasks personally, but he/she must ensure that they are completed.

Municipal Animal Inspectors are also responsible for barn inspections. Depending on the city/town, this may be a light task or a lengthy one. Barn inspections are designed to:

1. Get a good census of the domestic animal population of the town
2. Be sure that all of the animals appear to be in good health and free from disease, and
3. Observe animal housing and ensure ample food and water are supplied.

Permission to inspect any premise upon which animals are kept is assured to Municipal Animal Inspectors under Section 7 of Chapter 129 of the MGL. Visits should be scheduled for normal business hours. If a conflict between the animal owner and the Inspector occurs, the Inspector may have a local police officer accompany him or her. If the problem persists, please call the Bureau of Animal Health (617) 626-1792,1795, or 1791.

The third duty of the Animal Inspector is to check ear tag numbers and date of arrival of cattle from out of state and to report this information on the Animal Inspector's copy of the Cattle and Llama Permit which is furnished to the Animal Inspector by the Department of Food and Agriculture.

Municipal Animal Inspectors may also be called to assist with other domestic animal disease quarantines in the event of an outbreak.

- In 2014, there were 5 submissions for rabies testing.
 - 0 were positive.
- In 2014, there were 20 quarantines for animal bites or scratches.
 - 11 of these were 10 day quarantine, 6 were 45 day quarantine and 3 were 6 month quarantine.
- In 2014, 5 animals were euthanized for rabies testing
- In 2014, 15 barns were inspected, containing a total of adults and young.
 - 129 beef, 674 dairy, 12 goats, 2 Sheep, 76 swine, 17 Llamas/Alpacas, 109 horses, 334 chickens.

Dog Officer

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 140, sections 136A – 175 details the duties and responsibilities of Dog Officers. The Dog Officer is also responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of the Code of the Town of Williamstown, Chapter 10, Animals.

Primarily, the Dog Officer responds to complaints of dogs running loose without restraint, nuisance dogs, and seeks enforcement for any

violations of the above named ordinances. The Dog officer can order the restraint and confinement of any dog found to be a nuisance or a danger, and can refer the matter to the Board of Selectmen for disposition in cases that require removal or destruction of a nuisance or vicious dogs.

- In 2014 the Dog Officer responded to 95 dog complaints, 10 cat complaints, 17 wildlife complaints, 20 farm animal complaints.

The Dog Officer is also responsible for the Town Dog Shelter.

- Making sure there is enough food and supplies on hand. Donations of dog food were made this year.
- The new MGL has dropped the holding period from 10 days to 7 days as of October 2012. 4 dogs were held for the 7 day required time period.
- Feeding, cleaning, walking dogs' daily and veterinary care if needed.
- 22 dogs were held at the shelter for various hours or overnight. 3 dogs were taken to the Berkshire Humane Society.

CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Christopher Lemoine, Superintendent

The department operates and maintains three cemeteries in Town: Eastlawn, Southlawn and Westlawn. The Town's flagship cemetery is Eastlawn which was established around 1850. A new section for gravesites was surveyed and laid out in 2010 adding 848 gravesites. The cemetery has a total of 1,463 unsold graves, averages 35 sales annually and has a life expectancy of 41 years. Southlawn cemetery has 576 unsold graves, averages 9 sales annually and has a life expectancy of 64 years. The oldest cemetery in town is Westlawn which dates back to the 1700's and has only a handful of useable gravesites left unsold. In total the Town has enough gravesites available for sale to last 43 years. Residents can purchase gravesites at a rate of \$450.00 each and can purchase as many graves equal to the amount of people living in the household at the time of purchase. Nonresidents need to request and obtain permission from the Board of Selectmen for lot purchases at a rate of \$900.00 per grave and are limited to a maximum of two graves. For information call 458-8657 between 7:30am and 4:00pm Monday thru Friday.

The department is responsible for the maintenance of seven public parks in town: the Elementary School athletic fields, the grounds around the Milne Library and the Municipal Building. Margaret Lindley Park is extremely popular in the summer swimming season thanks to the pond which is constantly replenished with crisp fresh water. The park is open sunrise to sunset year round and is staffed with a park ranger from mid-June to Labor Day. Another popular park in Town is Mount Hope Park which has grills for cooking and natural swimming holes in the adjacent Green River. If you are looking for playground equipment you will want to visit Linear Park accessible from Water Street, or Broadbrook Park off of White Oaks Road. All of the Parks in Town are open to the public free of any charges.

I thank the department staff for their consideration and diligence in keeping our public properties maintained, providing our patrons with clean, safe and fun places to enjoy.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT COMMITTEE

Philip McKnight, Chairman

The Community Preservation Act (CPA), adopted by the Town in 2002, permits Williamstown to address important community needs under the terms of the law, including:

- Acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic resources;
- Acquisition, creation, and preservation of open space;
- Creation, preservation, and support of affordable housing; and
- Acquisition of land for recreation and preservation of recreational resources.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts supplements funds that Williamstown raises directly through the CPA surcharge on real property taxes. The match was 100% for the first five years and then steadily declined as a direct result of the economic recession to a level as low as 25%. As a result of recent amendments to the CPA, there is every reason to believe that the match in future years will become substantially higher. The local Community Preservation Committee makes a recommendation to Town Meeting every year on how CPA revenues should be spent. The Committee's eight members consist of representatives from the Town's Conservation Commission, Finance Committee, Historical Commission, Housing Authority, Planning Board, Parks Commission, Town Manager, and an at-large community member.

The Committee held public information sessions and public meetings beginning in the fall in which applications were received and funding proposals were discussed. Ultimately, the following proposals were recommended for funding or other actions were taken by Town Meeting in May 2014 and were approved:

1. An amount of \$17,500 under the terms of the CPA, which funds will revert to the CPA if they are not expended by June 30, 2015, for historic resources purposes to fund a grant to the Williamstown Historical Museum to preserve, conserve, and exhibit carefully selected works of historical importance from their collection, and to perform ongoing curatorial research dedicated to the care of the collection;
2. To rescind Article 28 of the 2012 Annual Town Meeting which appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues, for community housing purposes under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$80,000 to fund a grant to Berkshire Housing Development Corporation and Williamstown Elderly Housing Corporation for the purpose of creating community housing at 118 Church Street, a/k/a Proprietors Fields, as shown on Assessor's Parcel 119-145;

3. An amount of \$68,000 under the terms of the CPA, which funds will revert to the CPA if they are not expended by June 30, 2016, from funds previously reserved for open space to fund a grant to Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation, contingent upon WRLF contributing an equal amount in cash or in kind, for the purpose of acquiring an agricultural preservation restriction on +/- 220 acres of Assessors parcels 206-69 and 207- 24 owned by James E. Galusha;
4. An amount of \$10,000 under the terms of the CPA to meet the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for FY 2015;
5. An amount of \$100,000 under the terms of the CPA, which funds will revert to the CPA if they are not expended by June 30, 2016, for community housing to fund a grant to Berkshire Housing Development Corporation for the purpose of creating senior housing at 85 Stetson Road, a/k/a "Highland Woods", as shown on Assessor's Parcel 119-1, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a grant agreement with Berkshire Housing Development Corporation outlining the purposes for and the conditions upon which these funds may be expended, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen or its designees to accept one or more deed restrictions on said property meeting the requirements of G. L. c. 184, § 31;
6. An amount of \$75,000 under the terms of the CPA for community housing purposes to be deposited in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund for the purpose of creating community housing; and
7. An amount of \$119,500 under the terms of the CPA from Community Preservation funds previously reserved for open space and an amount of \$113,500 from the Community Preservation Fund unreserved balance to be divided equally among affordable housing, historic preservation, and open space purposes to reduce the principal otherwise needed to be borrowed to fund the grant previously approved at the May 15, 2007 Annual Town Meeting to 160 Water, LLC at land known as Cable Mills located at 160 Water Street and shown as Assessors Parcel 121-91 under the terms of the grant agreement with 160 Water, LLC dated August 27, 2007 outlining the purposes for and the conditions upon which these funds may be expended.

In any given year the Committee anticipates receiving more worthwhile projects for consideration than can be responsibly advocated or funded. In addition, the Committee may choose to set aside certain amounts of available funds for future projects. Because of this, and to help guide its deliberations, the Committee has established a number of project investment criteria, which applicants must address, and encourages interested parties to read about the CPA and the investment criteria on the Town's website.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Philip McKnight, Chairman

The Conservation Commission is the citizen board responsible for administration of the Massachusetts Wetlands and Rivers Protection Act (the "Wetlands Act"). The Commission also oversees the management of nine parcels of land owned by the Town which are dedicated to a variety of conservation and recreation goals. Our meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. and are often preceded by site visits to assess field conditions for projects that are brought to the Commission through the Wetlands Act review process.

In 2014, the Commission acted on 21 Requests for Determination of Applicability of the Wetlands Act to proposed projects. We also acted on seven Notices of Intent applications for projects that clearly came under the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Act and for which we determined it was necessary to place Orders of Condition as to how the project would be undertaken and managed to ensure the protection of wetlands resources. We issued one Emergency Certification and three Certificates of Compliance.

This year the Commission completed the task of researching and developing the historical facts and the legal events behind its acquisition over the years of nine separate properties through Town Meeting action and otherwise in order to manage those properties in the best interests of the Town and its residents. This process began in the spring of 2013 with our consideration of a formal request by the Board of Selectmen to terminate the conservation protection status of the Lowry and Burbank properties in order to make them available for community housing purposes as a result of the flooding in 2010 at the Spruces property at the eastern edge of Town. After several months of hearings on the Board's request, its request was withdrawn. Nevertheless, the Commission continued and expanded its hearings to review the subject of how it obtained and then exercised control in each instance over all its properties.

In 2014 the Commission concluded its hearings and by unanimous vote created and filed in the land records office of the Northern Berkshire Registry of Deeds in Adams, MA, nine "Statement of the Conservation Commission" covering separately each of its properties, namely, Lowry, Burbank, Stone Hill, Margaret Lindley Park, Bloedel Park, Pine Cobble, Deans, Bridges Pond and Hunter. The Statements set forth the history, location, use and physical characteristics of each property and outlined the steps taken by the Town to acquire and then transfer each to the care, custody, management and control of the Commission. Finally, from the

facts developed during its hearings the Commission drew the conclusion in each Statement that the property was subject to the terms of Article 97 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, making it a “conservation” property entitled to all the rights, obligations and protection the law provides. Copies of the Statements are available on the Commission’s website at williamstown.net.

Current members of the Commission are Philip McKnight (chairman), Richard Schlesinger (vice chairman), Hank Art, Sarah Gardner, Bob Hatton, Sarah Foehl and Nick Wright. We again thank Andrew Groff (the Town Conservation Agent) for his dedicated and effective service to the Conservation Commission.

Previous Town Meetings have placed 9 Town properties in the care and custody of the Commission: The Stone Hill Woodlot, Margaret Lindley Park, The Hunter Lot, The Deans Lot, Bloedel Park, The Pine Cobble Lot, Bridges Pond, the Lowry Lot, the Burbank Lot. The latter two properties are currently used for agriculture under special use permits. In November 2012, we granted a Special Use Permit for Kim Wells to cut hay on the Lowry Lot until November 2015.

Current members of the Conservation Commission are Hank Art (Chair), Van Ellet (Vice Chair), Harold Brotzman, Tom Ennis, Sarah Gardner, Philip McKnight, and Richard Schlesinger. Andrew Groff serves as the Conservation Agent on behalf of the Conservation Commission and the Town of Williamstown Community Development Department.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Brian T. O’Grady, Director

Ah technology! Remember when the telephone would ring and you didn’t know who was on the other end so for better or worse you answered it? Today subsequent to the advent of caller identification technology we’re never fooled. We don’t have to answer the telephone if we don’t want to. Here at the Harper Center we answer the telephone. Every time it rings, no fooling. Providing information and referral services are a large part of what we do. And we do it well.

We get calls

Every day we receive telephone calls from all sorts of people from all over the place who are looking for help for someone-parent, grandparent, aunts, self. And yes, we do hear some of the strangest stories. The majority of these calls are service directed. Some of them warrant an actual face to face encounter so we arrange a meeting. Some of those meetings happen within the friendly confines of the Harper Center. Others indicate a visit somewhere in the community-hospital, nursing home or a person’s residence is the usual venues. We averaged over one hundred separate conversations every month last year. In fact, our Outreach Worker, Marion Quinn–Jowett visited 480 individuals last year concerning a whole range of topics from food stamps to home care. Oh, yes, insurance is a big topic as well. Our SHINE Counsellor Peg Jenks handled quite a few requests for assistance in navigating the strange world of health care insurance. As the population ages and the boomer generation begin to retire, this load has increased. Also the questions revolving around health care coverage have become increasingly complicated and this trend will likely continue for a long while.

Take people places

Queries about transportation are very popular as well. As the years pass, some of our neighbors have stopped driving, surrendered the keys and found that getting around becomes an issue. Many people have friends and relatives who are in need of a ride to the doctor, grocery store, physical therapist and even hairdresser appointments. They call and our van operators Kathy Vareschi or David Larabee help to make arrangements. But, as we all know, life can be challenging and as we all discovered last spring, even getting a ride to the doctor can be an adventure.

In March, Northern Berkshire Health collapsed and took with it the North Adams Regional Hospital. The sudden loss of our local hospital and its affiliates including the VNA and Hospice of Northern Berkshire, the wound clinic, all the NARH based inpatient and surgical functions and outpatient clinics were massively disruptive for a period of time. Williamstown seniors, who were used to acquiring care locally, were

suddenly in the uncomfortable position of travelling a distance for some aspects of care. The short smooth ride from the Harper Center and other points about town to the NARH was gone and we were faced with the prospect of serious disruptions, especially in the transportation area. This COA swiftly realized that we were not alone in this dilemma and joined a coalition with our sister COAs in Adams and North Adams, community agencies Berkshire Rides, Community Action and Elder Services of Berkshire County to respond to the problem. This partnership paid off with a grant from Adams Community Bank that enabled the transport expenses to the Pittsfield and Bennington Hospitals for seniors to be covered. Since those rather tense days in the spring, some of the functions at the former NARH have returned and short trips are back, hopefully to stay!

Speaking of travel, Kathy also handles our grocery shopping efforts including facilitating weekly home-bound delivery and several weekly trips to local grocery stores. How would you get to the store if you didn't have a car? You'd call us and we'd help.

We know housing too

We have our fair share of inquiries about housing availability. Callers are looking for apartments, housing subsidies, low income loans, assistance with utility payments. We have a pretty decent data-base from which to reply. And if we don't know an answer, someone will and we'll find it!

Speaking of housing, Tropical Storm Irene has been gone for more than three years now but the effects of her visit linger. The resulting publicity from that catastrophe illuminated the need for increased senior affordable housing units in Williamstown. We have invested quite a bit of time advocating for the creation of new housing here in Williamstown with our friends from Higher Ground, Berkshire Housing and the Williamstown Affordable Housing Committee. These partnerships were a great success with the ground breaking for Highland Woods in November 2014 which is slated to produce 40 new units of mostly senior housing. We're all pleased to see very tangible fruits of this effort and are thankful for the outpouring of support from our community for this project!

Since Irene blew through Williamstown, we've been helping with the fallout from that event in as many ways we can. Whether it has been weekly meetings at Town Hall with the Spruces team, helping individual residents along the path to new housing or keeping the Williamstown connection alive for those who have moved away, we've always been here. The recovery effort isn't over yet but there is light at the end of the tunnel!

Technology advances have put a whole world literally at the fingertips of seniors who have come to realize that there is a new way to communicate with grandchildren, manage bank accounts, pay bills and read the newspaper. Some of our calls are related to a desire to learn how to use a computer and gain access to the internet and all it offers. We have four high speed computers, totally accessible to the public and available for use. Our computer instructor, Elaine Keyes, has helped all sorts of people with computing; new learners, folks looking for skill enhancement, experienced users with new programs or program operations.

Health and Exercise

As awareness that exercise is an integral part of overall wellness, we have expanded our program to offer opportunities at life enhancing activity. Twice weekly Mary Edgerton leads gentle yoga classes and Karyn O'Toole and Jane Jezouit are our exercise leaders in three weekly classes while Youlin Shi teaches the ancient art of Tai Chi twice each week. These programs come courtesy of a grant from the Massachusetts Office of Elder Affairs.

Swimming is a complete aerobic activity and we are fortunate to have access to a great pool thanks to our friends at Williams College where a group of seniors swim laps weekly. And here at Harper, we have a weekly walking group lead in the neighborhood stomp by our own Marion. In the coming year we'll be creating a newer line of physical activities. Watch for them!

There is always more to health and well-being than and we have offered lots of opportunities to come in and participate in classes and games which are good for happiness. We have hosted nutritionists, doctors, physical therapists, psychologists, nurses and naturalists. We have had conversations on topics ranging from avoiding falls to Alzheimer's disease, from proper nutrition to hearing. We offered informational month long seminar series with Maria Connors from Elder Services including "My health, My Life" and "Matter of Balance". Anything to keep people happy and on their feet. And speaking of which, there are once monthly foot care clinics with Serena Merrill who has become an adopted member of our extended family. Then there is the monthly blood pressure screening with our friends from Sweetbrook. We call it "Magic Cookie Day"...

Food and Nutrition

Of course there is food. We've worked with Elder Services or produced an average of **5000** meals annually as an event offering or as part of the congregate lunch program. Most of these meals meet, or exceed USDA recommendations for nutritional content. Want to come for lunch? Pat Picard is the meal site manager, call her and she'll be happy to help. OK,

Pepperoni Pizza is not on the USDA list but it's good for the soul and that's important too.

We are also partners with the Foodbank of Western Massachusetts in their efforts to battle food insecurity. Each month we deliver "Brown Bag"- a monthly offering of fresh seasonable fruits and veggies, commodities and shelf stable foods to multiple Williamstown households. Interested? Pick up the telephone and call us. We'll tell you all about it.

Bridge, Art, Bingo, Crafts Anyone?

Of course there are other activities to help mind and body stay healthy. Jackie Toomey has lead an oil painting class here for over 20 years. In October we held our second annual art exhibit which was well attended and lots of fun. Friendship Club President Maggie Guiden has led a group of knitters, quilters and sewers in several efforts to help others and in the past year it was blankies, quilts and lap robes for sick children thru Project Linus and lap robes and quilts for the BVNA to pass to patients in need. It feels good to give back doesn't it?

There are the weekly Bridge sessions which are really a mind exercise if you think about it, and actually so is Bingo-you do have to pay attention to multiple numbers at the same time. We've had actors acting, multiple musical groups performing, participated in oral history sessions, and had breakfast events outside on the terrace. We mentored another group of Reading Buddies with Erin Callahan's class at WES. I think this is our 15th year!

Tax Assistance

Getting your taxes filed on time can be a source of happiness as well. Pim Goodbody and the AARP Tax Aide volunteers are here in the winter to help seniors and younger folks get it done on time. This program has become increasingly popular and is free folks!

We're Here in case you need us!

And yes, we still manage the Daily Telephone Reassurance program. Since this program was activated eleven years ago, we were able to respond to ten separate program participants who had fallen and were actually injured requiring treatment. The great news is that there were no falls or injuries this year.

One more note; when you do call us, the first voice you hear will likely be our own Heather DeMarsico, secretary, blogger and poster maker. It's her work you see on our advertising posters and on the Facebook page. Say "Hi" when you call!

So what can we do for you? Need some information about available home care services? A ride to the grocery store? A File of Life for your

refrigerator? Pick up the telephone and call us. 458.8250. Someone will answer it.

This report is dedicated to all those individuals who volunteer for the Council on Aging here in Williamstown. Whether your contribution is daily, weekly or monthly, our programs would be greatly diminished without you.

DAVID & JOYCE MILNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Pat McLeod, Library Director

www.milnelibrary.org

140,267 Items circulated
107,861 Items owned
6,805 Active card holders
61,627 User visits
254 Meeting room reservations
3,535 e-Book, e-audio and e-video downloads
31,647 Interlibrary loans

Meeting the Changing Needs

On any given day the library opens its doors to welcome users of all ages. We strive to be a vital community center and experienced a record breaking 61,627 visits last year, more than any municipal building in Williamstown.

No longer the sleepy traditional place that supplied books, newspapers and some movies, the Milne Library boasts a robust multi-media collection. Thanks to the accelerated growth of technology in the past decade, the library now carries every format you can imagine. For lifelong learning, research, recreation, entertainment and personal growth, you now have multiple access points to find what you are looking for. Books, music, audio CD's, DVD's and now virtual resources that you can download from our website, the sky is the limit to find what you need.

Without walls, our catalog, and all items throughout the Commonwealth and beyond, is accessible anytime via interlibrary loan from the comfort of your home, office or dorm.

People say they can find everything on Google and “who needs libraries?” Well, libraries have an excellent counter-point to this:

- Google is information junk food – no quality assurance or authoritative editorials
- Google tracks your activity and advertises to your wants and searches
- One piece of software can't get you everything
- Google is democratized – every list of returns are ranked not by relevance but by sponsored ads; a librarian will find the relevant resources
- The library is an objective arbiter, with authoritative information and data that has been juried
- Librarians are better than a search engine, they play a guiding, mentoring role
- Librarians are the bedrock of good research and service

When a tiny super computer resides in three out of four pockets or purses, how can a public library make people feel more informed, entertained and connected? The next big thing isn't out there; it is in all of us. With the raw materials available at the library, our role is simple; to be a community connector. With the pace of technological advances, the library works hard to supply the needs of our users, both young and old. We are available to help you download free books, audiobooks, videos, and magazines to your mobile devices. Do not forget our newly enhanced Wi-Fi capabilities throughout the building and grounds, and join us on our new Facebook page to find out what is going on at the library on a daily basis.

The Friends of the Library fundraising activities in 2014 contributed \$20,873 towards renovations in the Children's Room. They also funded an additional \$16,255 for new library materials in the adult and children's collections, replacement PC's for the staff and public and they funded the entire Summer Reading Program and all performances and workshops. The Friends also funded professional development opportunities for our staff to learn new skills and network with their peers. Their funding also paid for annual subscriptions to Ancestry.com and the Early Literacy workstation in the Children's Room. This year, however, created a situation that will leave the Friends without a space to sort and store materials for the book sale after April. Their lease was not renewed for the Southworth St. House and Williams College needs that property back for residential uses. They are currently working with an architectural and engineering firm to evaluate the library basement to determine if they could renovate the space to meet code requirements. We could not possibly provide the services we offer to the public without the hard work of our dedicated volunteers in the Friends. For more information about the Friends, please visit their website and become a member.

Milnelibraryfriends.org

Youth Services - Kirsten Rose We've had a busy year in the children's department this past year. 41,561 items circulated from the children's department (including books, movies, audiobooks, music and toys) and we had 2,165 attendees at our programs. Our theme for Summer Reading was Fizz Boom Read! and we had lots of fun exploring the world of science and learning, including some great presentations by Williams professors. We have a chess club that meets regularly, with the help of a college student chess-player, and regularly have some spirited chess games going on.

Perhaps the most visible changes are to the furniture and set-up of the area. Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Library and the Alice Shaver Foundation, we got new desks, including a beautiful new circulation area, as well as new chairs for parents and children to sit in for reading to each other and some new shelving.

Our collection continues to grow, and we are always on the lookout for the next great thing that kids will love. If you have suggestions, please let us know.



New Circulation desk, carpeting, shelving, chairs, and a computer table makes the Children's Room look amazing!

Young Adult Services – Helen Olshever In 2014 we enriched the YA collection with many new and exciting books, including fiction, non-fiction and graphic novels. We've also started developing a video game collection, including games for XBOX 360, PS 3 & 4, and Wii and WiiU. These have been circulating very well. In order to keep updating our collection and creating space on the shelves, we have also weeded out older and less popular materials. The YA shelves are now very full, all in the name of keeping a current and vibrant collection in a rather small space.

We presented quite a few hands-on programs for the teens and tweens. During the winter we hosted a theater improvisation program, and coordinated "Get Animated," a program which was presented by

WilliNet. In the spring “Robots on the Run,” came to the library, instructing teens in building a simple robot, and during the summer, we presented a week-long Graphic Novel workshop, a painting event with “Progressive Palette,” and an additional program with WilliNet, helping teens to create their own YouTube videos. We had good participation in the summer reading program, with lots of good books read, and many prizes received by participating readers. We kept on hand multiple copies of the Mt. Greylock required summer reading books, so that they could be readily available to the teens.



“Progressive Palette” program

Adult Programs

- Financial Planning and Investment seminars
- Book Discussion Groups
- French Club
- Caregiver Workshop
- Food Writing Forum
- Our “Books on Wheels” delivery program continues, staffed by a Library volunteer who delivers books to patrons who could not get to the Library

English as a Second Language (ESL) We continue to act as a satellite classroom for ESL classes for MCLA. Two days a week students attend

3 hour classes to help them learn English, function in their workplaces and ideally have enabled a few immigrants to attain citizenship.

Goodwill Industries of the Berkshires and Southern Vermont are a new partnership this year. They help the Friends by removing the books that are not selected for the Book Sale and are able to sell or recycle those donations. Now the library has a Goodwill truck in the parking lot of the library every 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month. They will take just about everything and the library also has a large bin for donations to Goodwill inside the front lobby. This partnership creates opportunities for individuals in the Berkshires to find and build skills, attain jobs, and support new beginnings.

Remember, librarians never go home – the library never sleeps with our digital branch open 24/7 at www.milnelibrary.org

You can access from our Digital Café which now includes:

- E-books for the Kindle, Nook, iPad or any tablet or e-reader
- Digital audiobooks to listen to on your digital devices
- Online language learning with over 100 languages and English as a Second Language called Transparent Language
- Downloadable videos
- Online full text journal articles and newspapers. Access to an extensive collection of useful databases
- April 1, 2015 fifty online magazines will be added to our digital services

All of these are available for your PC, laptop, e-reader, tablet, or smart phone.

The Library Board of Trustees The fundraising for the Trustees Fund was very successful, raising \$34,360 from 357 households. The Trustees Fund supported 30 hours per week for the Buildings and Grounds attendant, plantings for the front garden, and software for the Master Plan survey. A new Master Plan is underway to survey the community and help direct our future programs and services for the next 5 years.

Current slate of the Board of Trustees:

Rebecca Ohm – Chair

David Dewey – Vice Chair

Mark Maniak

Peter Mehlin – Treasurer

Kathleen Schultze – Secretary

Geoffrey Hedden – Facilities

Katherine Myers – Friends Liaison

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Andrew Hogeland, Chair, and Elaine Neely, Vice Chair for 2014

The following citizens served on the Finance Committee during 2014: Andrew Hogeland, Paula Consolini, Suzanne Dewey, Charles Fox, Dan Gendron, Elizabeth Goodman, Doris Karampatsos, Elaine Neely, and Michael Sussman.

- The Finance Committee recommended and the Annual Town Meeting on May 20, 2014 approved a budget of \$21,833,132 for Fiscal Year 2015 (July 2014 – June 2015). The voted appropriations are an increase of 2.6% over the appropriations of FY 2014. Community Preservation had an unusual increase as funds from reserves were appropriated for Cable Mills to meet obligations without borrowing. Adjusting out the Community Preservation appropriations the year to year increase would be a modest 1.3%. Our Town Employees and Town Manager are to be commended for their economical allocation and use of Town funds and their abilities to maximize the value of each dollar spent on behalf of our Town. Williamstown currently has an unused levy capacity of \$883,386 (an amount we could, if we chose to do so, use to increase our taxes without an override vote); a free cash balance of \$1,426,936; a stabilization fund of \$859,684; and a Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund of \$225,000. Total Town debt is at a historic low of 0.45 cents per \$1,000 valuation.

A breakdown of appropriations approved at the Annual Town Meeting on May 20, 2014 is as follows:

Budget Category	FY 2014	FY 2015	% Change
General Government	\$6,727,674	\$6,900,333	+2.6%
Williamstown			
Elementary School	\$5,494,774	\$5,632,143	+2.5%
Mt. Greylock Regional			
High School	\$4,559,872	\$4,724,775	+3.6%
McCann Vocational			
High School	\$267,523	\$292,610	+9.6%
Sewer Department	\$1,094,429	\$1,186,526	+8.4%
Water Department	\$904,729	\$813,374	-10.1%
Transfer Station			
Department	\$179,730	\$170,886	-4.9%
Capital Projects	\$744,242	\$801,980	+7.8%
Debt Service	\$457,955	\$445,338	-2.8%
Community			
Preservation	\$334,000	\$605,070	+81.2%

FinCom Reserve Fund	\$75,000	\$75,000	0.0%
Stabilization Fund	\$25,000	-0-	-
100.0%			
Chamber of Commerce	\$40,066	\$39,824	-0.6%
Youth Center	\$68,563	\$70,273	+2.5%
Police Station Design	\$160,000	-0-	-
100.0%			
Post Employment Benefits			
Liability Trust Fund	\$150,000	\$75,000	-50.0%
Total	\$21,283,557	\$21,228,062	+2.6%

FOREST WARDEN

Richard F. Daniels, Jr.

In 2014, the Forest Warden's Department issued burn permits from January 15 through April 30th. Some Agricultural burn permits were issued at other times throughout the year, weather permitting. The department investigated smoke complaints and checked on permitted fires to insure compliance as well as extinguishing illegal fires. On more than one occasion, a response was needed to fight an out of control fire and perform a rescue involving an injured or lost hiker. The Department issued one hundred eighty-nine (189) burn permits and responded to twenty-five (25) calls for service. A breakdown of these calls for service is as follows:

- 11 - Smoke complaints
- 4 - Illegal contents / no permit issued
- 2 - Rescue calls for lost/injured hikers
- 6 - Out of control fires
- 60 - Questions about burning and having camp fires.

As was the case over the past couple of years, this season was dry and windy at times making it difficult to issue burn permits due to safety. The state, as well as the local department, had red flag days which meant no outdoor fires of any kind.

The Williamstown Forest Wardens attended Fire Prevention Day in October as well as participating in Williamstown's Annual July 4th Parade. We also participated in the Rowe, MA Home Town Parade.

All members train regularly, completing CPR/AED and First Responder training as required. One Department member is certified as National Red card; two (2) others are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) and one (1) is a Paramedic.

The Forest Wardens Department Received a grant from The Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant 2014 for \$1060 to purchase new Wildland Turnout Gear for all the members.

Forest Wardens Personnel

Forest Warden
Deputy Wardens

Richard F. Daniels Jr.
Michael Daniels, Military Leave
Marcus Bottesi Jr.
Peter Niemeyer
Kevin O'Mara
David Larabee
Morissa Daniels
Kevin Jolin
Erika O'Mara
Dawn Daniels

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Chris Lemoine, Superintendent

The most extensive and noticeable project that took place during the 2014 season was the milling and paving of North St, Main St, and the Town owned section of Cold Spring Road. Mass DOT Chapter 90 State Aid funded 70% of the \$472,000 project, with the remaining 30% coming from the Towns capital improvement funds. The project entailed the milling and paving of 17,560 square yards of roadway, the installation of 1,270 feet of granite curbing, manhole and catch basin repair, thermoplastic striping and traffic markings.

A portion of the Towns Highway Department spent the construction season at the Spruces Mobile Home Park working on the demolition of bituminous asphalt driveways and mobile home concrete pads. Of the 225 total sites, 110 have been removed.

The Highway Department crew paved 2.3 miles of roadway in the 2014 season. The roads involved were upper Henderson Road from the intersection of Brook Road to the Vermont line, Brook Road, and White Oaks Road. All these roadways will be chip sealed in 2015 leaving a durable and cost effective improvement. The lower section of White Oaks also had the sidewalk replaced.

Select roads in town were maintained with fiber reinforced rubberized crack filler and sealer. These included Adams Road, Cole Avenue, Longview Terrace, Luce Road, Southworth Street, Stratton Road, and the Williamstown Elementary School parking lots.

The Public Works Department purchased a new asphalt reclaimer. Using old asphalt from our stockyard, we will convert it into usable patching material for our roadways, saving money and recycling. The reclaimer had a purchase price of \$36,580 with the cost fully funded through the Massachusetts Rapid Road Recovery Program. We are anxious to put this new tool to work.

Other road projects accomplished were the replacement of culvert pipes on Bee Hill Road, Hill Province, Hopper Road and Luce Road. Repair or replacement of catch basins on Bridges Road, Bulkley Street, Cold Spring Road, Spring Street and Stetson.

A new water well was drilled at Margaret Lindley Park supplying fresh water to the bathhouse and bathroom facilities. A new water heater, toilets and sinks were installed. The bathhouse was painted inside and out. New lighting was installed. This was a long awaited improvement to a very popular park.

The interior of the Towns police department received a fresh coat of paint and a new roof was installed at the water pump station located at 548 Main Street.

As I come to a conclusion, I find myself thinking about all the other aspects of our daily grind here in the Department of Public Works and it always make me feel fortunate to be surrounded by a group of dedicated workers who really do care about the service they provide to the Town. They have my full respect.



HISTORICAL COMMISSION

William Barkin, Chairman

The commission acted on several items in 2014. They are as follows:

In conformance with the Code of the Town of Williamstown *Section 24-4.B, Demolition Delay Bylaw*, the Williamstown Historical Commission reviewed a number of requests for predetermination in order to decide if the following specific structures were preferably preserved

The first being 220 South Street:

Ms. McLucas commented that the residence seems to not have major historical significance. Ms. Conway noted this house was part of the Doughty Estate at one point in time. James Art, attorney representing the owners, agreed and added that the house is only visible from the golf course and is on a landlocked parcel. The dwelling was recently purchased by James Lee and his wife in April of this year, owners of 218 South Street across the right-of-way drive. The purchase was due to their apprehension of what a new owner might do to the property owing to the close proximity of both homes. Attorney Art further explained the state of disrepair of the current structure. He noted that an underground oil tank was removed along with extensive contaminated soil. Mr. Art voiced the Lees' concern surrounding oil vapor entering the home through a cracked foundation. He also stated that not all of the soil contamination was able to be removed. He expressed his concern that the home would also need to be connected to the municipal sewer system if it were to be used again and that in itself would be cost prohibitive. Ms. Currie asked about documenting the building before the demolition occurs. Attorney Art stated that this would be acceptable.

Ms. Currie moved that the Commission find that the building is not preferably preserved with the condition that the Commission be permitted to document the interior and exterior of the structure prior to demolition. Mr. Wong seconded. The motion was carried by majority. Ms Conway recused herself from voting due to the fact she is an abutter to the property.

The next items for the commission's consideration were: 31 Belden Street; 955 Main Street; 54 Stetson Court; 66 Stetson Court.

The work to be done at 31 Belden Street was the removal of an old porch in disrepair and the installation of a new porch. There was no one present representing the petitioner. Andrew Groff, town planner, stated to the commission members that his conversations with the builder indicated that the new porch would be identical in style and footprint to the old porch. That being said, Ms. Conway moved to allow the

applicant to go forward with the demolition without any delay imposed by the commission. Mr. Wong seconded. Vote was carried unanimously.

For the application of 955 Main Street a/k/a Weston Hall, Jason Moran from Williams College was in attendance to explain the work proposed. He stated the college wanted to remove a thirty year old one story addition in the rear of the building and construct a new two story addition with a larger footprint of approximately 3,000 square feet. Mr. Moran said they would like to start construction this November. Discussion ensued. Of note, Ms. Conway inquired as to what the new structure would look like. Mr. Moran responded that Architectural Resources of Cambridge would be looking to compliment the new building to the main structure of Weston Hall. With that, Ms. Conway moved to allow the applicant to go forward with the demolition without any delay imposed by the commission. Ms. Currie seconded. Mr. Wong recused himself as he is a faculty member of the college. Vote was carried by majority.

For the applications of 66 & 54 Stetson Court, known respectively as Mather House and Harper House, Ms. Rita L. Coppola-Wallace, from Williams College was in attendance to explain the work proposed. Ms. Coppola-Wallace stated that the intension of the college was to demolish both structures and construct a new 22,000 square foot student residence on the parcel.

She also said that the college anticipated that the new building will complement the existing neighborhood aesthetic. She went on to say it would be a 60 bed dormitory; Bascom House would become a dorm while Agard House is currently a dormitory. She said Williams was looking into developing a student housing area with a true neighborhood feel.

With regard to Mather House, Ms. Coppola-Wallace affirmed the college was working with a local business man (subsequently known as Vincent Guntlow) to move Mather House to another site – there were no plans to move Harper House. She said the college wants to move Mather House in October of this year. If Mr. Guntlow's plans fall through the college has no alternate arrangement. Ms. Conway asked, what was the viability of moving Harper House. Ms. Coppola-Wallace responded by stating the cost would be prohibitive – where Mather will cost the college \$250,000 to move, Harper would be around \$750,000 and the institution does not want to take on the expense of moving Harper for that sum.

Ms. Currie asked if the college would be interested in broadening the search to move Harper House to the rest of the community. Ms. Coppola-Wallace said that that would be agreeable. Ms. Currie also asked if she could be allowed to document the buildings for the

Williamstown Historical Museum before any move and/or demolition takes place. Ms. Coppola-Wallace said that would be fine.

Mr. Barkin said if the commission votes to delay demolition, that three month delay ending November 25, 2014 would allow more time to possibly find a person or persons to move Harper. After a more discussion, Ms. Currie moved to impose the three month delay in demolition of both house with the stipulation that any one of the houses may be moved in that three month period. Ms. Conway seconded. Mr. Wong recused himself as he is a faculty member of the college. Vote was carried by majority.

The next item for the commission's consideration was 221 Park Street. Jeremy Broadwell, a general contractor, representing the applicants Eric and Stacy Cochran, owners of 221 Park Street, cited many difficulties in saving the structure from demolition. He said there were many attempts by the owner to give the house away for free to anyone who would move it. Mr. Broadwell said he collaborated with a number of builders to possibly relocate the house on to possible building lots around town. He stated that given the size, there would be a considerable portion of the house that would need to be removed in order to move the structure to nearby streets, thus making the move economically infeasible. He explored the ability to rent the property for the owners. An inspection of the interior of the house demonstrated that the cost of removing the considerable amount of lead needed to meet a lead abatement certificate in order to rent the property proved to be cost prohibitive. When asked by commission members the price to move and set the house in another location, Mr. Broadwell cited a figure of \$400,000. Ms. Conway asked if giving the house away for free was ever advertised – he said no. After further discussion, Ms. McLucas moved to impose a one month delay in demolition of the house instead of three months, as outlined in the Code of the Town of Williamstown *Section 24-4.B, Demolition Delay Bylaw* with the stipulation that the owners would advertise in the Berkshire Eagle and online internet news outlet iBerkshires, that the house was free for taking if one were to move it. Ms. Conway seconded. Ms. Currie recused herself as she has a business relationship with Mr. Broadwell. Vote was carried by majority.

The commission reviewed and voted unanimously to accept the revised historic preservation restriction by and between 160 Water LLC (the Cable Mills property) and the Town of Williamstown.

Mr. James Art presented to the commission members the revised Historic Preservation Restriction by and between 160 Water LLC (Cable Mills) and the Town of Williamstown. He asked that the WHC review and vote on acceptance of the revision and sign the letter of acceptance as did the Board of Selectmen. The signatures were needed to allow developer Mitchell Properties to move forward with financing on the

renovation of the mill buildings into apartments. After a brief overview and some discussion, the commission reviewed and voted unanimously to accept the revised historic preservation restrictions.

The last item for the commission's consideration came from Mr. Shaun Garvey, Project Manager at Williams College on plans of the College to repair, restore, and renovate the dormitory known as Spencer House on Main Street. He asked the commission for a letter supporting such plans. Mr. Barkin informed the members and Mr. Garvey that the bylaws governing the Historical Commission do not grant the commission any authority to opine interior renovations on historical structures; only exterior work. That being said, the commission voted to authorize the chair to send a letter to Mr. Garvey supporting the exterior work to be performed on Spencer House.

At the end of the December 12, 2014 public meeting, Ms. Currie asked if the commission would send a letter to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) supporting funds needed for the restoration of the Proprietors Book. All were in favor of said action. The commission unanimously voted to authorize the chair to send a letter to the CPC.

Submitted,
William Barkin, Chairman

HOOSAC WATER QUALITY DISTRICT
Bradley O. Furlon, Chief Operator/District Manager

District Commission

Timothy Lescarbeau, Chairman- North Adams
K. Elaine Neely, Vice Chairman-Williamstown
Michael Canales, Secretary-North Adams
Charles Schlesinger, Member/Assistant Treasurer-Williamstown

Chief Operator -Assistant Chief Operator–Treasurer

Bradley O. Furlon, Chief Operator/District Manager Mark J.
DePonte, Assistant Chief Operator
John R. Gaffey, Treasurer

Narrative

The Hoosac Water Quality District (District), which serves the Town of Williamstown and the City of North Adams, treated a total of 1,431,744,000 gallons of raw sewage during Fiscal Year 2014, which represents an increase in flow of 131,573,000 gallons as compared to Fiscal Year 2013. In addition, the District treated 628,357 pounds of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and 790,234 pounds of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) in FY 2014.

Some key highlights of FY 14 were:

- The District's Capital Improvement Project, which started in July 2013, was close to 85% complete by the end of FY 2014. This consisted of replacement of 4 compost fan buildings with all associated wiring, Flow Meter Building ventilation and gas detection upgrades, replacement of the polymer system for pressing operations, gas detection and ventilation upgrades in the plants headwork's, PLC upgrades, a new compost mixing truck and paving of the final compost storage area. The remaining 15% of the project to be completed consists of the replacement of two Secondary Clarifier mechanisms which will be completed by the end of September 2014.

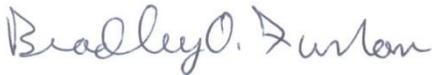
- District personnel, which include six licensed wastewater operators, continue to work tirelessly to ensure that every requirement included in the Consent Decree and NPDES permit is fulfilled. Reports are submitted to EPA and DEP regularly, which outline all actions being taken to ensure complete compliance.

On September 27, 2013, as a new requirement of the District's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, the District submitted the first phase of its Collection System Operation and Maintenance Plan to both EPA and DEP.

- Since 1983, the District's compost facility continues to produce Type I compost as defined by the MADEP. About 4,638 yards of final compost was produced in FY14. During FY14, compost was made available to individual members of the local communities; however, the bulk of the compost was sold throughout the state of Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut and Vermont by a contracted vendor.
- Public interest in the District's facility is becoming more frequent. The District now has a website, www.hoosacwaterqualitydistrict.com, which gives an in depth description of the operations of the treatment facility. Additionally, tours are given regularly to local college students, local grade school students and the general public.

As always, we look forward to the challenges each year presents to us and remain committed to keeping our communities clean and safe.

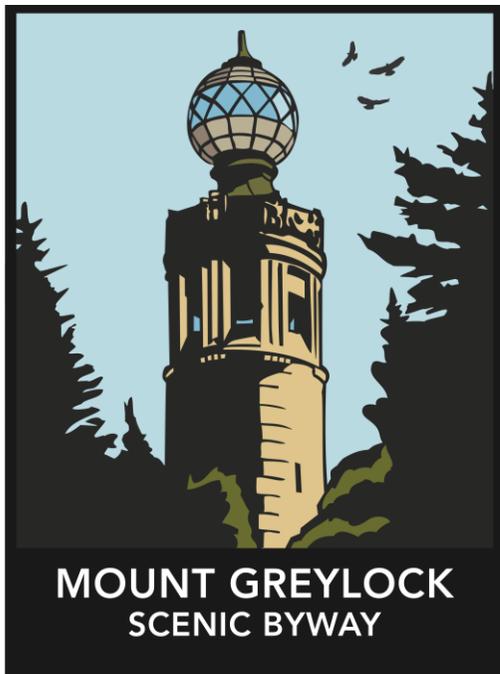
Respectfully submitted for the District,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bradley O. Furlon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Bradley O. Furlon
Chief Operator/District Manager

MOUNT GREYLOCK ADVISORY COUNCIL

Cosmo Catalano



The Mount Greylock Advisory Committee met on the following dates in 2014:

January 23rd

May 1st

October 23rd

Topic addressed included:

- Installation of secondary gates at Jones' Nose and Sperry Campground. These gates will allow road access to the lower areas of the Reservation when road conditions on the upper areas are not suitable for vehicular travel. Gates to be installed in 2015 work season.
 - BRPC-designed signs for Scenic Byways (including Mt Greylock) will be installed this coming spring (locally, on Rt 2 in North Adams)
- New DCR Regulations (CMR's) were implemented to consolidate management of various Divisions, including Mass Parks and the MDC.
 - North Adams members of the Council expressed concern regarding condition of road surface and woodlands in Notch Rd/Reservoir Road area at north entry to Reservation. No resolution to this issue was forthcoming, much of this area is outside of the Reservation boundary.
 - North Adams is in the process of applying to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to become an "AT Community". AT Community program helps tie community social, land use and recreational goals to the Appalachian Trail.
 - In October, town Resident and long time (now retired) DCR employee, Bob Hatton requested that the large (4ft x 8ft) map he created for use at Sperry Campground be preserved. Reservation managers said they had no place to display this map and it was not in keeping with their current visitor management practices. Physical space at trailhead kiosks is limited, and paper maps that visitors can carry with them are considered more effective. The Council's consensus was that Bob's map was a valuable piece of Mt Greylock history, and efforts should be made to conserve it. John Dudek, lessee of Bascom Lodge will look for suitable space at the Lodge when it re-opens in 2015.
 - Bascom Lodge continues to see improvements to its physical plant. A regular schedule of room rehabilitation is underway, as well as improvements to the bathrooms, heating and ventilation systems. A new exterior stairway planned for 2015 will increase use options for the south porch.

- State-wide DCR awards were presented to the Thunderbolt Ski Club for Historic Stewardship and the Appalachian Mountain Club’s Massachusetts A.T. Management Committee for Shared Stewardship.
- Two DCR management changes occurred in 2014: Alex Gillman was appointed Mt Greylock Supervisor, and Jude Stull is the new Visitor Services Supervisor. Several positions on the Reservation are still unfilled due to reductions in State funding.
- Estimated visitor attendance for 2014 was 173,711—down slightly from last year.
- The Memorial Tower at the summit will begin a 2 year renovation to mitigate damage from harsh weather conditions. Expected reopening will be summer of 2016. No interruption of visitor access to the summit area is expected.
- Fees for parking at the summit will increase in 2015: \$5 for Mass residents, \$6 for out of state. Camping fees will be \$8 and \$10 respectively. Lifetime Senior Passes, formerly free, will be \$10. Current Lifetime Pass holders will continue to enjoy free access.

Below is a current Council roster of Town and State Appointees:

Mindy	Chapman	North Adams
Ed	Carman	Lanesborough
Karmen	Field-Mitchell	Cheshire
Tim	Herrmann	Adams
Scott	Lewis	Williamstown
Ken	McInerney	Secty, New Ashford
Colton	Phelps	New Ashford, alternate
Steve	Blazejewski	V, Chair, Adams
Cosmo	Catalano	Chair, Williamstown
Mike	Coyne	Pittsfield
Stan	Kopala	Adams
Blair	Mahar	Savoy
Joe	Rogge	Adams

Official minutes of all MGAC minutes are available upon request, or at the Mass Parks website.

Respectfully submitted,
Cosmo Catalano, Chair

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

School Year 2013-2014

STUDENT ENROLLMENT 581 FACULTY AND STAFF 101.2*

Rose P. Ellis—Superintendent

Mary MacDonald—Principal

Jacob Schutz—Assistant Principal

Mount Greylock continued to move forward to support students with a rich curricular and co-curricular program. In addition to course from the Program of Studies, eligible students enrolled in courses at Williams College, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and Berkshire Community College. Mt. Greylock launched two student-directed programs: GreylockTalks, biweekly talks from local experts on topics ranging from coastal erosion to the Arab Spring, and GreylockPlays, a quarterly concert series showcasing the musical talents of high school students and occasionally faculty members. More students began to work with faculty and local experts to craft independent study projects. Other areas of success include:

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

For the second year in a row, Mt. Greylock achieved Level One status based on the student performance on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System exams. An increased number of students taking AP exams along with a composite of stellar scores earned the school a place on the National AP Honor Roll.

WILLIAMS COLLEGE

Continued to be supported by the Williams College Fund for Mt. Greylock grant for 21st Century teaching/learning, faculty professional development and the advancement of technology. This generous gift, available through June 2017, has significant school-wide impact. The Williams Center at Mt. Greylock brought more than 50 college students, teaching and writing fellows, into classrooms, laboratories and after-school tutoring programs.

CORE VALUES AND BELIEFS

Students, faculty and community members worked collaboratively to review and revise the core values and beliefs regarding teaching and learning in 2014. The conversations resulted in a new set of Academic and Social/Civic Expectations for the school.

Academic Expectations

All members of the Mount Greylock Community will:

- Read, write, speak and listen effectively and thoughtfully
- Solve problems creatively
- Demonstrate global awareness
- Pursue knowledge with initiative and curiosity

Civic and Social Expectations

All members of the Mount Greylock Community will:

- Engage as responsible local and global citizens
- Make informed, healthful decisions
- Appreciate diverse perspectives

Further, the community refined “The Greylock Way” to underscore the importance of the values of integrity, responsibility and perseverance.

ENHANCED COMMUNICATION

In collaboration with the Tri-District Schools and Central Office, the school chose a new webpage content management system, and with the input of the community of users, began to develop a more sophisticated web presence.

***Includes Tri-District Staff.**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Increased training/development opportunities for all teachers with a focus on enhancing science, history, and the integration of digital technology.

BUILDING PROJECT

The Massachusetts School Building Authority brought Mt. Greylock into the pipeline to explore a building project. Both Williamstown and Lanesborough unanimously approved the funds to support a feasibility study during a vote at their respective annual town meetings.

MAINTENANCE

Ongoing efforts to improve/maintain cleanliness, safety, and physical appearance of building.

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT and STAFFING

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

YEAR	TOTALS	7	8	9	10	11	12	SP
13-14	581	104	93	87	89	94	112	2
12-13	565	91	87	92	92	117	82	4
11-12	585	90	91	88	116	89	107	4
10-11	602	90	105	120	94	106	80	7

EDUCATIONAL AND SUPPORT STAFFING (Full-Time Equivalents)

Faculty	50.4
Specialists (Nurse and Technology)	3.6
Special Education Teachers and Professional Support Staff	7.2
Paraprofessionals	16.8
Custodians/Cafeteria	10.04
TOTAL	88

STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS 2013-2014

Mount Greylock students continue to receive recognition for high academic achievements.

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS): Mount Greylock Level 1 School:

In the spring of 2014 the students at Mount Greylock were administered the MCAS and maintained the success seen in previous years in all categories. Most notable was the continued closing of gaps in performance between students in high needs categories and the aggregate; this accomplishment, along with the composite scores in all tested subjects resulted in the LEVEL ONE status. The composite average score across grades 7, 8, and 10 for the English/Language Arts exam indicate that 92% of our students performed at the advanced or proficient levels; this figure considers that 100% of 10th graders scored at those levels. Students from the same grades performed well on the mathematics test with a composite average score of 75% of all students performing at advanced or proficient; 97% of 10th graders scored at these levels. Students in grades 8 and 9 who were administered the Science and Engineering/Technology tests realized an average composite score of 62%, up 2% from the previous year.

Scholastic Aptitude Test: A high percentage (87%) of the senior class took the SAT, achieving a three-test average of 1634. The state average is 1556 and the national average is 1497. The tests include Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing.

Scholarship: In 2013-2014, Mount Greylock had one National Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar, 17 AP Scholars with Distinction, 9 AP Scholars with Honor, and 12 AP Scholars. Six students, Miranda Bucky, Geff Fisher, Zavi Sheldon, Heather Tomkowicz, Derek Wood and Aaron Ziemer, earned honors as National Merit Commended students; one student, Caleb Raymond, earned honors as a National Merit Finalist; and one student, Steven O'Brien, Jr., received the National Merit Award—James E. Casey Scholarship.

Four-Year Graduation Rates: In the annual Massachusetts report on the percentage of students graduating with four years of attendance from 2010-2014, Mount Greylock had a notable 100% graduation rate. Diplomas were given to 114 students of the Class of 2014. Ninety-one percent of the graduates planned to continue their education by enrolling in college. The 2014 class headed to 40 different colleges and universities including: *Brown University, Carleton College, Colorado College, New York University, Skidmore College, University of Chicago, University of Michigan, Williams College, Tufts University, The George Washington University, Western New England University, University of Massachusetts—Amherst, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, and Berkshire Community College.*

OUTREACH

The Middle School program, Students Organizing Change (SOC), organizes and sponsors dances, arranges community service projects and looks for ways to reach out to our school and greater communities. Last school year, SOC collected 433 items for a local food pantry, donated many bags of jeans for the national “Teens for Jeans” drive, raised \$1000 for the Mine Foundation, and donated to many causes including Mt. Greylock’s

Safe After Prom, the middle school picnic at Grafton Lake, the 7th grade field trip to New York City's American Museum of Natural History and the 8th grade trip to Lowell's Tsongas Industrial History Center.

The Great Day of Service in spring found Mount Greylock high school students working beside Williams College students for the second year to clean out debris from the surrounding woods, weeding gardens, spreading mulch and hauling trash. Kaatje White organized this effort with the support of Jessica Casalinova, Becky Green, Nichole Russell, Shannon Babcock and Jesse Wirtes.

THRIVING PERFORMING ARTS

As is typical at Mount Greylock Regional School, the Performing Arts calendar showcased a variety of events. After a collaboration in the "Get Acquainted" concert, the middle and high school students each performed winter and spring band, orchestra, and choral concerts under the guidance of our Music Department Faculty of Lyndon Moors, Band Director, Ouisa Fohrhaltz, Orchestra Director, and Kate Caton, Choral Director. Members of the orchestra and band as well as the chorus also provided support at various school functions, including graduation.

Our high school choir auditioned and was selected to participate in WGBY's Together in Song Series, which included many Massachusetts choirs of all categories.

For three weekends in January, LES, WES and MG collaborated on the first Tri-District Choral Festival, which included 30 students from our three district schools along with Pine Cobble and Hancock School. Thanks to the support of the Friends of the Arts and the Williams Community Fund, this choral project which included singers from grades 4-9, was very well received. Kate Caton, Jackie Widun and James Bergin were the three collaborators of the project and Evelyn Mahon, teacher's assistant for the middle school choir, was a featured conductor.

In the spring, our musical theatre ensemble was invited to participate in WGGB's High School Showdown, and performed their musical revue for a welcoming audience at both Sweetwood and St John's Episcopal Church in Williamstown.

In addition to competitions, our students provided instrumental and choral support for student theater productions, school community meetings and graduation.

Mount Greylock student musicians competed for places in the Regional and State Music Festivals. Schuyler Fohrhaltz-Burbank, Taylor Fohrhaltz-Burbank, Eric Hirsch and Mercer Greenwald participated in the Western Mass Senior District Music Festival in January. Students participating in March's Junior District Music Festival included Dagny Albano, Rachel Bisson, Serena Chow, Zephie Gollin, Karen McComish, Jesse Cohen, Sophie Jones, Mae Burris-Wells, Aaron Kleiner and Matthew Kleiner. Schuyler Fohrhaltz-Burbank was selected to perform at the All-State Music Festival in Boston's Symphony Hall. In addition to competitions, our students provided instrumental and choral support for student theater productions, school community meetings and

graduation. In April, our high school band performed with Ben Jaffe (Class of 2003) and his band honeyhoney in an Arts Invasion workshop and evening concert.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

There were 18 different non-athletic co-curricular activities offered during the 2013-2014 school year, including performing arts opportunities, leadership opportunities, language associations, publications, community service groups, and other organizations designed to get Mount Greylock students involved. More than 220 students took advantage of at least one of these opportunities.

In the beginning of the school year, the PEP Club organized a School Spirit Week and a PEP Rally. Students showed their pride, sang, danced, and had the chance to talk about their teams and organizations. They also helped advertise large events at the school and had “Random Days of Spirit” throughout the year to keep students united and supporting each activity. The Junior Classical League (JCL) hosted the annual Kick-Off event with 400 students from all over Massachusetts. The event features large Catapults, Ballista, and Certamen Competitions. The Spanish Club held monthly recipe and food competitions to promote and teach students about the Spanish culture.

Multiple students created and edited *The Echo*, the student-organized school newspaper each month for the community to read, and other students worked diligently all year to create the 100 page school yearbook with news stories, photographs, and events from the year. The Middle School Outing Club was a huge success. Monthly activities run by Junior, Thomas Schoorlemmer were well attended and created the desire to offer an Outing Club for the Mount Greylock High School students in 2014-2015.

In November 2013, a cast and crew of 40 middle and high school students produced *King Lear* on the Greylock stage with help from directors, Josh McCabe and Kiki Bertocci. Following on-campus performances, the Mount Greylock cast joined students from ten other local high schools to present the 25th Annual Fall Festival of Shakespeare, a weekend of multiple high school Shakespeare performances on the stage of Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, MA. Students rehearse for two months and attend various classes with other local high school performers at Shakespeare & Co. focusing on stage combat, movement, technical theater and performance.

The high school musical, *Guys & Dolls*, directed by MG teachers Jeff Welch, Lyndon Moors, and Kate Caton was performed for two days in early March. Due to needed renovations, the 40 student performers and tech crew as well as the 12 members of the Pit Orchestra had the extraordinary opportunity to perform on the Williams College Main Stage at the '62 Center for Theater and Dance.

The Spring Drama, *Dearly Departed*, performed by 16 Mount Greylock students at the Lanesborough Elementary School Gymnasium was a hit. Additionally, an after school theater program specifically for middle school students was offered in the spring. Twelve students signed up for the program and performed a piece of their own creation on the role of the media in mid-May. This program will be offered again in the spring of 2015.

The Friends of the Arts, a parent organization, generously supported this middle school program.

The Friends of the Arts held their annual Food of Love Festival at the Williams Inn. Students from Mount Greylock performed select Shakespearean scenes and read sonnets, while guests enjoyed a sumptuous buffet of chocolate desserts. Funds raised at this event help support the Fall Shakespeare Festival and art student trips to MassMoCA.

VISUAL ARTS EXHIBIT

MASS MoCA organized its fourth annual Teen Art Invitational Exhibit in collaboration with high school art teachers and artists in the northern Berkshires to bring local students' artwork to the public. The show is professionally curated and juried. Mount Greylock students garnered Certificates of Excellence, which were accompanied by one-year family memberships to MassMOCA and one Grand Prize, which included \$200 in addition to the family membership. Further, Mount Greylock's Fine Arts Department was awarded \$900 for its level of participation. Visual Arts teacher Jane-Ellen DeSomma and Photography teacher Mike Powers supported this event.

Student participants included: Kevin Aliberti *Certificate of Excellence*, Kyle Alvarez, Cara Betti, Brianna Chilton, Nico Clarke, Carter Cummings, Alex Delano *Certificate of Excellence*, Harrison Dilthey *Certificate of Excellence*, Jessica Ferry, Sophie Gerry, Sydney Gurek *Certificate of Excellence*, Michele Gingrus, Kelsey Hadley, Thomas Kelly, Krystal Lewis, Abigail Little, Junior Lopes *Certificate of Excellence*, Rosemarie Mele *Grand Prize, Certificate of Excellence*, Amanda Quinn, Anya Sheldon *Certificate of Excellence*, Zavi Sheldon, Emma Whitney, Hope Willis *Certificate of Excellence*, Paige Willis.

Musical entertainment at the exhibit was provided by the Grizzlies, a band composed of Mt. Greylock students, Jake Kobrin, Sam Kobrin, Colby Masse and Joey Gais.

THE WILLIAMS CENTER AT MOUNT GREYLOCK

The partnership between the Williams College Center (WC) at Mount Greylock and the school continues to thrive. It supports myriad programs and initiatives, which develop and grow each year. Mount Greylock's relationship with the Williams Center impacts programs in writing, research, math, hands-on science, the arts, and after-school homework help. Notable among these initiatives are collaborative efforts by college students and high school English teachers to support student writing in many English classes and through online assistance.

In December of 2013, the Williams' math faculty again hosted a creative and innovative opportunity for Mount Greylock 10th graders. MathBlast, in its fourth year, is a series of real-life math workshops taught by Williams faculty; it is organized to excite students about the world of math.

An independent study program in Mandarin was launched for interested students. Devised by a Williams professor, the program included two days a week of tutorial

support from Williams College Asian Language majors. In addition, the Williams Center continued its support of the high school chemistry program by hosting four labs for Advanced Placement students. Field research was conducted in 8th grade and biology classes with the guidance and support of Williams faculty and staff. Mt. Greylock students benefited from working with guest artists visiting Williams who also made a trip to the regional school. Faculty and staff also offered their expertise as guest speakers for a variety of classes; they held discussions in English classes and supported onsite research on Pontoosac Lake.

Throughout the year, more than 50 college students worked with middle school and high school students in after-school tutoring sessions at the school. Mount Greylock greatly values its higher education partner—Williams College.

STUDENT ATHLETE SUCCESS

Mount Greylock student athletes continue to excel both athletically and academically while representing their school well throughout Berkshire County. Of the 21 Varsity Programs hosted by the school, 20 earned MIAA Academic Excellence Honors during the 2013-2014 athletic seasons. Gold Honors were given to the 19 teams with an overall team GPA above 3.0, while Silver Honors were awarded to the team with a team GPA of 2.5-3.0. Approximately half of the Mount Greylock student-athletes each season maintained a GPA above 3.5 while actively participating on their athletic team. There were 376 students at Mount Greylock that participated on a school athletic team this year, accounting for 66% of the total enrollment. Seven Mount Greylock athletes were honored by WBEC as being the MVP of their respective sport: Michael McCormack and Sarah Stripp (lacrosse), Jenna Phelps (track & field) Nyein Soe (tennis), Will Nolan and Grace Smith (Nordic) and Emily Kaegi (cross country). Multiple students were invited to attend various MIAA events and ceremonies. Lucy Barrett, Taylor Carlough, Sam MacWhinnie and Carter Stripp were selected to attend the MIAA Sportsmanship Summit at Gillette Stadium. Mackenzie Flynn, Rosemarie Mele, Emily Greb and Melina Sfakianaki were honored at the National Girls and Women in Sports Day convention at Faneuil Hall. Maggie Rorke and Michael McCormack were selected by the MIAA to attend the New England Student Leadership Conference at Stonehill College. The Berkshire County Athletic Directors hosted the third annual Berkshire County Leadership Summit on December 10th, 2013. Mount Greylock attendees included Jake Benzinger, Taylor Carlough, Calvin Filson, Jake Foehl, Sam MacWhinnie, David Majetich, Michael McCormack, Charlotte Rand, Haley Reinhard, Thomas Schoorlemmer, Grace Smith and Hope Willis. Miranda Voller was in charge of her own session on School Spirit during the Summit. Middle School students Marley Buffis, Aleya Capadona, Emma Polumbo, Margo Smith, and Abigail Wiseman attended a Leadership for Ladies event.

Fall 2013: Six of the seven fall athletic teams participated in an MIAA Tournament event. Both Mount Greylock Cross Country Teams won Western Mass Championship Titles qualifying to compete in the State Championship Meet in which both teams placed 10th. The 2013 Title is the third consecutive Western Mass Championship for the boys' team. Emily Kaegi placed first in the girls event to become the Western Mass Champion, Carter Stripp placed 2nd for the boys while Thomas Kirby placed 4th. The Football Team

was a Division IV Semi-Finalists. Both the Girls' Soccer Team and the Volleyball Team performed well and became Western Mass Quarter-finalists. The Boys' Soccer Team progressed to the Western Mass Finals.

Winter 2013-2014: The Nordic Ski Teams continued their success as the boys' team won their 4th straight Massachusetts State Title, and the girls placed 2nd. At the State Meet Will Nolan(4), Grace Smith(5), Jake Foehl(5), Matthew Wiseman(6), Jake Kobrin(10), Caleb Raymond(11), and Ian Culnane(13) all placed in the top 15. The Alpine Ski Team sent Ryan Kuhn to the State Championship race. The Wrestling Team placed third in the Western Mass Team Championship. Devin Pelletier(1), Johnny Colon(1), Jude Rorke(2), Travis Hilchey(2), CJ Lillie(3), and David O'Brien(3) placed in the top 4 in their weight class qualifying them for the State Meet. At the State Meet, Devin Pelletier placed 1st, Johnny Colon placed 2nd, and Travis Hilchey placed 3rd in their respective weight classes. The Cooperative Hockey Team won the Western Mass Championship and became State Finalists. Mount Greylock student Dan Flynn played a key role in the team's success. The Cooperative Swim Team was undefeated in Berkshire County and placed 9th at the State Championship. Four Mount Greylock students (Emma Whitney, Julia Whitney, Elizabeth Bernardy, and Elizabeth Bartlett) qualified for and competed in the Massachusetts State Meet. The Girls Basketball Team was a Western Mass Quarter-Finalist.

Spring 2014: Seven of the eight spring athletic teams qualified for the MIAA Tournament. Both the Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse Teams did this in third season as Varsity Programs at Mount Greylock. The girls' team was 1st in Western Mass and finished as a Central/West Quarterfinalist. The boys' team was the Central/Western Mass Champion and State Semifinalist. Michael McCormack was named to the US Lacrosse All American Team, and broke the Massachusetts State Record for points per season. The Girls' Track Team placed 14th in the Central/Western Mass Championship Meet and the Boys Track Team placed 26th. Top finishers include Emily Kaegi (2nd in 2mi), Jenna Phelps (2nd in Pentathlon), Carter Stripp (5th in mi), and Tom Kirby (5th in 2mi). Emily and Jenna qualified for the Massachusetts State Meet. The Boys Tennis Team played in the Western Mass Championship Match and the Girls' Tennis Team became Western Mass Semi-finalists. The Boys Baseball Team was Western Mass Quarterfinalists.

SUPPORTIVE PARENTS AND A DYNAMIC COMMUNITY

Parents and community volunteers continue to support the many activities and programs offered at Mount Greylock. There was a successful and well-organized "After Prom 2014" event held for the graduating class and their guests. The industrious athletic booster clubs and extra-curricular organizations, including Friends of the Arts and the PTO, provided year-round support through many on-site fundraisers.

The *SEE* Distribution Committee selected ten applications to receive funding for projects and programs over the next year. A total of \$12,639 was made available from the John Allen Fund and SEE Fund to support proposals submitted by faculty and parents.

Community organizations and business partners opened their doors to allow Mount Greylock students to job shadow and complete internships and school-to-work programs.

Williams College, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and Berkshire Community College provided opportunities for Mount Greylock students to enroll in credit-bearing courses. MCLA offered cross-registration at no cost for students who took Honors Statistics with Luke Polidoro at Mount Greylock. Polidoro, who also teaches at MCLA, worked with Monica Joslin, Dean of Academic Affairs, to make this credit-bearing opportunity become possible.

Community members are invited to stay apprised of Mount Greylock events and accomplishments by visiting the revised and expanding Mount Greylock website at www.mgrhs.org or follow Twitter accounts, @MGMounties and @AthleticsMG.

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE CULTURAL COUNCIL

Judy Ensign and Jane Hudson, Williamstown Representatives

After meetings in the fall of 2014 to select applications for review, the Northern Berkshire Cultural Council met in December to award grants for 2015. From a total of 94 applications from individuals, schools and organizations to fund projects in the 11 communities served by the NBCC, applications were funded from a total budget of \$66,871, and \$20,150 or roughly 30%, was awarded to Williamstown proposals. The following were recipients:

Equus Therapeutic, Horsemanship/Riding Sessions for School Groups
Michael Williams, Billstock, Williamstown's Music Festival
John Root, Edible Perennial Gardening, Landscaping
Mt. Greylock Regional High School, Fall Festival of Shakespeare
Pine Cobble School, Cirque Diva
Bernice Lewis, Fifth Annual Ukulele Festival
Northern Berkshire Chorale, Copeland and Bernstein
Alicia Luhrssen, Exploring the Rural Lands of Williamstown
St. John's Episcopal Church, Summer Noontime Concert Series
Williamstown Rural Lands, Sheep to Shawl Festival
Hoosic River Watershed Assoc., Riverworks 2015
Steve Damon, Music for Seniors
Destination Williamstown, Northern Berkshire Online Trail Guide
Tony Pisano, Apparitions, Ms. Wicker, Squirrel Lady
Williamstown Historical Museum, History Booklet
Images Cinema, Bright Young Things
Robert Sheer and Paul Green, The Spirit of Jewish Music

Barrington Stage Playwright mentoring
Shakespeare & Co., Shakespeare in the Courts

Respectfully submitted by,
Jane Hudson, NBCC Council Member for Williamstown

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

Timothy Kaiser, Commissioner

Calendar Year 2014 was another year of success in the proper disposal or recycling of materials in our member towns.

Based on pounds recycled per capita (ppc), first place for recycling was Windsor with 123 ppc, second place was Hancock with 121 ppc and third place was Peru with 94 ppc. Overall, recycling tonnage was up in 2014 for the first time since 2010.

The District has contracted with PSC/Stericycle for a one-day hazardous waste collection to be held on May 30, 2015. It will be located at the Adams DPW Yard at 92 North Summer Street in Adams. This location is central to the residents of our twelve member towns and we appreciate the Town of Adams allowing us the use of the property for that day. Pre-registration is necessary. Please check the website at www.nbswmd.com to see the list of acceptable items and to register. You can also call the District Office at 413-743-8208.

Seven paint collections were held from June until the end of September. We shipped out 825 gallons of latex paint, 932 gallons of oil-based stains, varnishes and paint, and three 30 gallon drums of spray paint. In addition to this, residents took for reuse approximately 88 gallons of various paints and stains. Special thanks to Toni Alizio, Mickey Biagini, Mace Donahue, Rick Salvi and Henry Stockman for their volunteer efforts and hard work.

Paint collections for 2015 are:

Apr 25	Cheshire Transfer Station	8 am – 5 pm
May 9	Williamstown Trans. Station	8 am – 3 pm
Jun 6	Williamstown Trans. Station	8 am – 3 pm
Jun 13	Hinsdale Transfer Station	9 am – 4 pm
Jun 27	Cheshire Transfer Station	8 am – 5 pm
Aug 8	Williamstown Trans. Station	8 am – 3 pm
Aug 15	Hinsdale Transfer Station	9 am – 4 pm
Aug 29	Cheshire Transfer Station	8 am – 5 pm
Sep 12	Williamstown Trans. Station	8 am – 3 pm
Sep 19	Hinsdale Transfer Station	9 am – 4 pm
Sep 26	Cheshire Transfer Station	8 am – 5 pm
Oct 3	Williamstown Trans. Station	8 am – 3 pm

Items accepted: Oil-based paints, stains, varnishes, sealants, latex paint, spray paint, artists' paints, turpentine, paint thinner.

Fluorescent bulbs and mercury thermostats may be brought to any transfer station. Clarksburg and New Ashford residents may bring them to their town offices. In 2014, the District shipped for recycling 833 bulbs. The Adams collection site for bulbs will re-open on May 2, 2015.

The District, with town volunteers, held bulky and electronic waste collection days in Adams, Clarksburg, Lanesborough and Savoy. Thanks to Ed Driscoll, Jeff Snoonian , John Duval, Cam Alibozek, John Sebastino, Peter Barrow, Zack Wright, Carl McKinney, Joe Szczepaniak, Hank Sayers, Bob Ericson & Son, Michael Donahue and Toni Alizio. The schedule for 2015 is listed on our website.

NBSWMD filed grant applications and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection awarded “Small Initiative Grants” to Adams, Cheshire, Florida, Hancock, Hinsdale, Peru, Savoy, Williamstown and Windsor. The amounts are based on population and range from \$500 to \$750 to be used for improvements to the transfer stations or education and outreach. The District was awarded \$1500 under the same program.

Cheshire, Williamstown and Windsor were recognized and awarded additional funds under the Mass. DEP Recycling Dividends Program. This program awards points for achievements. Cheshire and Windsor received \$1200 to further enhance their recycling and solid waste programs. Williamstown was awarded \$1400.

The waste stream continues to evolve and our programs will continue to evolve as well.

Waste not, want not,

Sandy Totter
NBSWMD Program Coordinator

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

James Brosnan, Superintendent

The Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District, McCann Technical School, students, faculty and staff continued their record of noteworthy accomplishments in fiscal year 2014 and this report highlights some of these accomplishments.

Our mission is to graduate technically skilled, academically prepared, and socially responsible individuals ready to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Our mission and educational philosophy are implemented by adhering to the following core values:

Communication strengthens partnership development and teamwork.

Achievement is attained through a strong work ethic.

Respect from all guarantees a safe learning environment.

Ethics ensure a dedication to honesty and integrity.

During the last eighteen years we have witnessed a dramatic transformation in vocational technical education especially in our application of technology and STEM subjects. We are very proud of the academic and technical achievement of our students and as each succeeding class raises the bar of accomplishment, the next class seeks to surpass it. The integration of our technical and academic curriculum has prepared our graduates well for their future and we appreciate you, our member communities, for your support in making it happen.

The accomplishments of our students reflect the McCann culture of learning:

Two of our automotive technology students finished in the top 8 in the Massachusetts Ford AAA Competition.

Two of our information technology students qualified for the CISCO Netrider National Competition.

Eleven metal fabrication students competed in the Notch Pipe Welding Competition.

The Class of 2014 became the eleventh class in a row to attain 100 percent competency determination on the MCAS tests.

Twenty-eight of the Class of 2014 earned the prestigious John and Abigail Adams Scholarship awarded through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for their academic record and MCAS achievement.

Our 101 2014 graduates saw 76% continue their education in a variety of colleges and universities, 20% enter the workforce and 4% proudly enter into military service.

The results of the spring 2014 MCAS test once again echoed the continuous progress of our students through their dedication and that of our terrific faculty. Once again McCann posted solid scores highlighted below.

GRADE 10 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS					
PERFORMANCE LEVEL	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
ADVANCED	11%	14%	21%	15%	17%
PROFICIENT	61%	73%	67%	76%	77%
NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	25%	13%	11%	8%	6%
FAILING	2%	1%	0%	1%	1%

GRADE 10 - MATHEMATICS					
PERFORMANCE LEVEL	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
ADVANCED	30%	41%	33%	35%	44%
PROFICIENT	35%	37%	42%	39%	29%
NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	32%	20%	23%	17%	24%
FAILING	3%	3%	3%	9%	3%

GRADE 10 - SCIENCE AND TECH/ENG					
PERFORMANCE LEVEL	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
ADVANCED	9%	11%	9%	13%	19%
PROFICIENT	51%	64%	54%	53%	52%
NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	28%	22%	30%	24%	27%
FAILING	12%	3%	7%	9%	2%

The McCann Athletics program continues to enjoy success in the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association. Our girls and boys soccer teams claimed league championships in the 2013-2014 academic years. The football team contended in the Western Massachusetts final-four in 2013 and has a solid core of returning players for the 2014 season. The boys’ basketball team competed in the semi-finals of the State Vocational Tournament. Most notably, McCann received the Walter Markham Memorial Award from the Boston Globe for “overall excellence in high school athletics.” This award was given for having the highest winning percentage across all sports in our division across the state.

The integration of educational technology into our programs continues to be a priority. We received a donation of Siemens' manufacturing design software that allowed our manufacturing students to access the most modern of industry standard software packages. The value of this donation is in the millions of dollars. Our recently renovated library added 70 laptops for student research and we expanded our bandwidth to accommodate more distance learning and communication applications. The addition of new computer numerical control machines with advanced Fanuk control systems ensured that we are able to meet the training standards of the Massachusetts Advanced Manufacturing requirements.

Community service projects continue to provide us with an excellent opportunity to allow our students to exhibit their skills and support community activities. The installation of a playground storage shed for the Cheshire Elementary School involved CAD and carpentry students. Our culinary students continue to support a number of area events including the Relay for Life and numerous county organizations. Our metal fabrication students made bicycle racks for the City of North Adams and a wind scoop for the Environmental Police ATV trailer while our carpentry students completed repairs to the Clarksburg police station roof. Our National Honor Society students created a GA-GA pit for the Clarksburg School playground. Our Skills USA students volunteered in the Plunket School playground project and in other activities at the school.

For the past 13 years our students have participated in SkillsUSA, a national organization with more than 300,000 members. It is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. McCann is 100% member of SkillsUSA which has provided the opportunity for our students to earn scholarships, tools for their trade, opportunities for employment and awards in recognition of their accomplishments. Our secondary and postsecondary students have earned 22 gold medals at the national competitions including the 2013 national gold medal winner in sheet metal. At the 2013 SkillsUSA state competition McCann high school students earned gold medals in sheet metal and postsecondary students in dental assisting and medical assisting. Silver medals were awarded to high school students in automated manufacturing technology and postsecondary students in dental assisting and medical assisting. Bronze medals were awarded to high school students in automated manufacturing technology and postsecondary students in medical assisting. Two high school students were elected to serve as state officers.

Business Professionals of America, BPA, is the leading CTSO (Career and Technical Student Organization) for students pursuing careers in business management, office administration, information technology and other related career fields. The mission of Business Professionals of America is to contribute to the preparation of a world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills. The Workplace Skills Assessment Program (WSAP) prepares students to succeed and assesses real-world business skills and problem solving abilities in finance, management, IT and computer applications. Students from our business and information technology departments have been participating in BPA since 2005. During this time, our students have earned numerous awards at state competitions and have qualified for the National Leadership Conference every year. McCann students have

received awards at the State Leadership Conferences in finance, business administration, management information systems, digital communication and design, and management marketing communication events. Impressively, McCann has continued to achieve finalist placements at the National level and most recently had a student elected to national office.

Project Lead the Way is the leading provider of rigorous and innovative Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education curricular programs for middle and high schools across the U.S. Students enrolled in the program take as many as 4 four courses above and beyond their graduation requirements. Since its inception over 60% of participating students - over one hundred - have become eligible for between 3 and 9 transcripted college credits through Rochester Institute of Technology or New Hampshire Technical Institute as a result of their performance on the national engineering examination. In last year's PLTW cohort, 15 students achieved this eligibility.

The success of our student body continues to be measured by our 100% competency determination, high career placement, high college matriculation rate and technical expertise in national skills competitions.

The district continues to operate on sound financial management principals and incorporates technology in this process to ensure maximum benefit for all of our programming. At the end of the fiscal year we returned \$76,100.00 of unused transportation monies to our communities. The district continues to search out grants to support our educational funding to improve instructional services and vocational equipment.

We completed the renovation of our library which has created an open and technologically modern facility for our students and staff to conduct their research. We added laptops and other electronic reading devices and built a separate long distance learning center allowing for our students to connect globally with universities and companies simultaneously. We added new CNC milling machines and upgraded our internal network. We also completed our new softball field which will be available for play in the spring of 2015.

The Career Vocational Technical Education, CVTE division of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, DESE, in conjunction with the Office of School Accountability conducted a Coordinated Program Revue, CPR during the fall. The results of this audit confirmed that we were not only compliant in all areas but received noteworthy accolades for some of our best practice programming.

During the past two years five of our faculty participated in the CVTE, DESE Vocational Curriculum Frameworks initiative which completed the revision of our 44 curriculum frameworks and the supporting career readiness, business and safety standards. This was a herculean task and we are proud of the significant contributions made by participating faculty members.

FY14 Budgeted Revenues	Original	Actual
City & Town Assessments		
Municipal Minimum	\$2,620,589.00	\$2,620,589.00
Capital	\$112,500.00	\$112,500.00
Transportation	\$208,964.00	\$208,964.00
Municipal Assessment	\$97,967.00	\$97,967.00
Ch. 71 Transportation	\$175,000.00	\$246,459.00
Ch. 70 General School Aid	\$4,617,441.00	\$4,607,441.00
Tuitions	\$624,802.00	\$636,733.63
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$10,177.00	\$9,386.37
State Bonus Aid		\$3,500.00
Total Revenue Received	\$8,467,440.00	\$8,543,540.00
Member City & Town Transportation Refunds		(\$76,100.00)
Misc. Revenue Balance to Surplus E & D		(\$0.00)
A/P Assessment Payable (Received in July)		\$0.00
	\$8,467,440.00	\$8,467,440.00

Source	Grant	Amount
(Federal Entitlement)		
Fed	Sped IDEA	\$111,977.00
Fed	Title I	\$139,841.00
Fed	Title II A	\$19,162.00
Fed	Perkins	\$67,294.00
Fed	Postsecondary Perkins	\$2,755.00
(Federal Grants Other)		
	REAP	\$35,838.19
	Perkins Instructional Equipment & Supplies	\$46,000.00
	SP Voc Skills Training	\$10,000.00
(State Grants)		
	Advanced Manufacturing Grant	\$20,000.00
	BCC Advanced Manufacturing Grant	\$3,560.62
	MA Cultural Council	\$2,115.00

(Competitive/Private)

Private	Olmsted	\$4,300.00
Private	BHG Wellness	\$2,000.00
Private	BCREB: Connecting Activities	\$1,500.00
Private	City of Chicopee Nurse Grant	\$3,000.00
Private	Target – Taking Care of Education	\$58.25
Private	SABIC	\$13,000.00
	TOTAL GRANTS	\$482,401.06

PLANNING BOARD

Ann McCallum, Chairman



The Planning Board is an elected Board, responsible for overseeing the long term land use patterns of Williamstown through the Zoning Bylaw, Subdivision Rules, and Master Planning process. Comprised of five members the Board is chaired by Ann McCallum, with additional members; Richard DeMayo, Patrick Dunlavey, Elizabeth McGowan, and Chris Winters.

In 2012 the Board embarked on several initiatives to improve the zoning bylaw. The Board worked with farmers in Williamstown to expand allowable uses on agricultural properties, eventually bringing proposals from a local farm before town meeting to allow for parties and small concerts on farms. The Board also focused on housing by looking at the impacts of allowing accessory dwelling units on single family properties. This proposal was also brought to town meeting and is now part of the town's zoning bylaw. Planning Board members have continued this work of making sure Williamstown's zoning laws are working to create the kind of community Williamstown residents want to live in. The Board has spent considerable time revisiting longstanding issues involving the Tourist Business Zoning District. Additionally the Board has been pursuing other bylaw amendments aimed at making the bylaw easier to use and more consistent with existing land use patterns. The Board is looking forward to bringing these proposals forward at the 2013 Annual Town Meeting.

The Board has also been hard at work revisiting the 2002 Master Plan. This document and its associated Action Plan are being closely reviewed by the Board to identify any out dated aspects of the plan and other information that must be updated. The Board is

continuing this process throughout the remainder of 2013. The Planning Board will be meeting the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM to discuss these and other important issues. We encourage the public to attend and discuss the present and future land use patterns of Williamstown, and how we grow, protect, and manage the fabric of our community.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Kyle J. Johnson

The Police Chief oversees the Police Department, the Communications Section and the Forest Warden Department. These three departments are made up of a group of hard-working, dedicated professionals. Williamstown is very fortunate to have these professionals, and I would like to start this report by personally thanking them for their continued hard work, dedication and professionalism that they display each and every day. I would also like to thank the Community as well for their continued support of these departments.

The duties of the Police Chief include not only Chief's functions, but he is also responsible for all administrative functions within the department, as well as covering vacant patrol and dispatch shifts as needed.

Administration / Personnel

Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Haight left the Department in the spring of 2014. That position remains unfilled with the Police Chief absorbing most of those duties.

Stephanie Mirante joined the Department in the spring of 2014 as a part time Dispatcher in the Communications Section, after successfully completing the internship program with the Department. She then advanced to full time status in July, replacing Scott Sherman, who left to pursue other employment. Scott retains part-time status with the department, still serving in both Police and Dispatcher roles. Stephanie is working towards her Reserve Police Officer certification and is currently enrolled in the Reserve Police Academy. The Department also welcomed Laurie Tuper and Christine Lemoine as part-time Dispatchers. Tuper brings over twenty (20) years of Dispatching experience from the North Adams Police Department (NAPD), and Lemoine has been a full time Dispatcher for the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) since June of 2011.

Communications Section

Our Communications Section of the Police Department is the heart and soul of the Department. These are the people behind the scenes, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, simultaneously performing a multitude of tasks and never getting the credit they truly deserve. The Communications Section is a State of Massachusetts Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), monitoring eight (8) Emergency 911 lines, three (3) standard emergency lines, and four (4) business phone lines. The Communications Section dispatches for the Williamstown Police, Williamstown Fire, Village Ambulance, and the Williamstown Forest Warden as well as serving as the after-hours point of contact for both the Department of Public Works and the State Department of Transportation. The Communications Section also dispatches mutual aid requests for police, fire and EMS outside of Williamstown as well as monitoring any persons held in custody in either of the holding cells.

Calls for service come into the Communications Section in a variety of ways. They can be personnel initiated via the radio or mobile computer, such as a patrol conducting a traffic stop or a building check; walk-ins such as a License to Carry (LTC) application or fingerprinting, as well as the standard phone calls to the business, emergency or 911

phone lines. In 2014, the Communications Section logged 13,891 calls for service, not including the everyday general business calls that do not amount to a call for service.

2014 Calls for Service by Shift:

Shift	Calls
Days / 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.	7263
Evenings / 3 p.m. to 11 p.m.	4167
Nights / 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.	2461
Total Calls for Service	13891

CALLS BY CATAGORY	2012	2013	2014
911 ABANDONED CALLS	74	60	66
911 TEST CALLS	73	61	65
911 WRONG NUMBER CALLS	77	27	25
911 HANG UP CALL	44	21	35
911 SILENT CALLS	11	20	14
911 OVERFLOW – ADAMS	16	4	2
911 OVERFLOW – NORTH ADAMS	7	23	32
ABANDONED MV	1	0	1
ALARM – BURGLAR	199	196	167
ALARM – OTHER	32	23	3
AMBULANCE CALL – WILLIAMSTOWN	1449	1340	1494
AMBULANCE CALL – HANCOCK	134	121	138
AMBULANCE CALL – MUTUAL AID	26	17	35
AMBULANCE CALLS – NEW ASHFORD	10	9	15
AMBULANCE CALLS – POWNAL	59	77	69
AMBULANCE TRANSFERS	1203	1295	1188
ANIMAL CONTROL	307	281	317
ALARM PERMITS ISSUED	7	10	25
ALARM PERMIT RENEWALS	118	153	164
ASSAULT	14	17	5
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – DPW	77	63	66
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – FIRE	94	104	134
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – MUNICIPAL	4	6	10
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	54	39	61
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – RMV	10	2	2
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – POLICE	98	84	84
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – UTILITY	52	19	57
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – WCSS	26	13	26
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – REPO	2	3	5
BREAKING & ENTRY	19	36	27
B.O.L.O.	88	56	64
BOMB SCARE	0	0	1
BURN PERMIT	60	38	51
COMPUTER CRIMES	0	3	1
BUILDING CHECK	3706	3019	2387

DISTURBANCE	67	122	107
DISABLED MV	122	129	117
DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE	37	25	29
ESCORT / TRANSPORT	18	17	9
FIRE DISPATCH – WILLIAMSTOWN	272	324	280
FIRE DISPATCH – MUTUAL AID	6	7	7
FORGERY	0	1	1
FINGERPRINTING	71	46	80
FOREST WARDEN DISPATCH	46	33	25
GENERAL INFO	95	155	64
ILLEGAL DUMPING	11	8	6
JUVENILE OFFENSES	3	0	2
K9 REQUEST – WILLIAMSTOWN	13	7	3
K9 REQUESTS – OTHER AGENCY	16	20	9
LARCENY	195	213	143
LICENSE TO CARRY	94	135	67
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION	25	14	16
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE	175	188	182
MISSING PERSON	18	17	11
MV LOCKOUT	130	154	151
MV ACCIDENT	175	215	228
MV STOP	2498	1673	1618
NARCOTICS INVEST	32	31	56
NOISE COMPLAINT	53	44	57
PARKING COMPLAINT	48	48	39
PERSONNEL COMPLAINT	3	0	5
PROPERTY DAMAGE	11	16	14
ANNOYING PHONE CALLS	18	30	14
PARKING CHECK	1608	1404	1549
POWER OUTAGE	16	13	12
PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST	166	106	152
FOUND / LOST PROPERTY	139	133	144
PUBLIC SERVICE	116	92	87
PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT	33	33	38
ROAD CONDITIONS	112	159	156
RAPE	4	2	0
SERVE RESTRAINING ORDER	22	19	20

SEXUAL ASSAULT	12	5	18
SUDDEN DEATH	6	9	5
SECTION 12	30	29	19
SHOPLIFTING	0	0	2
SUSPICIOUS MV	284	254	297
AUTO THEFT	0	1	1
SOLICITING	3	7	5
SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION	3	1	5
SPEED TRAILER ASSIGNMENT	9	4	4
SYSTEM TROUBLE	59	30	17
SERVE SUMMONS	109	109	106
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	332	407	409
THREATS / HARRASSMENT	62	45	42
TRAFFIC CONTROL	46	117	221
TRAFFIC COMPLAINT	232	267	228
TRESPASS	33	28	20
UNWANTED GUEST	21	14	12
VANDALISM	28	20	20
VIOLATION RESTRAINING ORDER	1	10	3
SERVE WARRANT	10	12	14
WELL-BEING CHECK	95	79	109
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE:	16012	14321	13891

Criminal Activity:

The Department took five hundred ninety-six (596) criminal charges against one hundred twenty-one (121) individuals in 2014. Of these individuals, seven (7) were juveniles. An additional thirty (30) individuals were held in Protective Custody. The following is the category breakdown of criminal charges based upon the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS):

<u>OFFENSES BY NIBRS CODE:</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
KIDNAPPING / ABDUCTION	0	0	1
FORCIBLE RAPE / SODOMY	7	3	2
FORCIBLE FONDLING	0	1	0
ROBBERY	1	1	0
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	4	13	1
SIMPLE ASSAULT	27	36	17
INTIMIDATION	13	18	10
ARSON	0	0	1
BURGLARY / BREAKING & ENTERING	39	67	32
SHOPLIFTING	2	0	2
THEFT FROM A BUILDING	66	76	57
THEFT FROM A MV	0	4	0
ALL OTHER LARCENIES	97	118	90
MV THEFT	3	0	1
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY	5	3	0
LARCENY BY FALSE PRETENSE	8	6	15
EMBEZZLEMENT	0	4	1
CREDIT CARD THEFT	1	0	1
IMPERSONATION	0	0	1
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	1	5	2
PROPERTY DESTRUCTION/VANDALISM	45	41	46
NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	29	51	49
STATUTORY RAPE	3	2	0
PORNOGRAPHY/OBSCENE MATERIAL	2	0	2
WEAPONS VIOLATIONS	0	2	3
BAD CHECKS	14	9	4
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	10	23	10

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	10	11	13
FAMILY OFFENSES (NON-VIOLENT)	0	2	0
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	34	29	28
TRESSPASS	8	17	8
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	43	57	59
TRAFFIC OFFENSES	176	142	140
TOTAL CRIMINAL CHARGES	648	741	596

Training

Training is a very important element for effective policing. Laws are constantly being created or updated, and technology is rapidly advancing in the world of law enforcement. There is a delicate balance between staying current, and sometimes even ahead of these changes, while working within the strict confines of a budget. The department recognizes the importance of training, and every year all officers receive forty (40) hours of state mandated In-Service training through classroom sessions conducted by the Pittsfield Police Department, or online through various agencies such as the Municipal Police Training Committee, Massachusetts State Police or the Municipal Police Institute. Mandated topics in 2014 included: Legal Updates, Use of Force and Defensive Tactics, CPR, First Responder & AED and Response to Bombings.

All Williamstown Police Officers are also certified Dispatchers, so therefore, all officers and civilian Dispatchers are mandated by the state to also receive sixteen (16) hours of In-Service training in the Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) field.

We also conduct training within the Department with our own staff functioning as instructors. These include handgun, long gun (Sgt. David Lemieux and Officer Kyle Jolin) and electronic weapons qualifications (Sgt. Lemieux). In addition to the in-service trainings and certifications, the following are some of the specialized training that was able to be attended:

JANUARY:

All officers and dispatchers received eight (8) hours of mandatory (16 hours annually) EMD certification training on January 9 or 10, 2014. *Protecting Law Enforcement Responders* was hosted by our Department at The Orchards Hotel and conducted by PowerPhone. An additional forty (40) officers and dispatchers from around Berkshire County also participated. Training fees and over-time costs were reimbursed through the State 911 Training Grant.

On January 27, Sgt. Paul Thompson attended a National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) workshop presented by the Massachusetts State Police (MSP) and held at the North Adams Police Department (NAPD). The Department is required to submit NIBRS statistics monthly to MSP, who in turn, report the State’s numbers to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) annually.

FEBRUARY:

On February 21, five members assigned to the day shift attended Active Shooter training hosted by the North Adams Police Department and instructed by the Berkshire County Special Response Team. Chief Johnson, Sgt. McGowan and Officers Hernandez, Ziemba and Shepley received four (4) hours of classroom and four (4) hours of live scenario training. To make the training as real as possible, officers fired, and were fired upon, with Simunition, actual live rounds comprised of dyed soap “bullets”. The training was held inside the Conte Middle School.

APRIL:

All officers received two (2) hours of training in the Emergency Vehicles Operation Course (EVOC). The Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) sent an instructor to the Department to provide 1-1/2 hours of classroom and another 15-30 minutes on a driving simulator. Main points of the training were defensive driving, emergency driving and pursuit driving.

Chief Johnson, Sergeants Thompson and Lemieux, and Officers Garner, Hernandez, Eichhammer, William, Kelly, Ziemba and Jolin recertified as Breath Test operators on April 28 at the Dalton Police Department. These certifications are valid for three (3) years.

Sgt. McGowan attended a seminar on Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention, & Treatment sponsored by the Berkshire County Kids Place and held in Pittsfield. This full day multidisciplinary conference about the prevention of, and the response to, child abuse and neglect spoke to a target audience of professionals working within the areas of medical, legal, law enforcement, social work, mental health, education, emergency response, and community based services and organizations.

MAY:

The K9 team attended the annual North American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA) training and certification seminar in Amherst on May 19 – 21.

JUNE:

Chief Johnson attended a management training seminar from June 1 – 6. Topics included: Leadership, Communication and Vision; Employment Contracts for Chiefs and Command Staff; Handling Employee Discipline; Public Records Update; Preventing or Responding to Ethics Claims; Conducting Internal Affairs Investigations; Maternity Leaves; Investigating and Responding to Discrimination Claims; Handling Work-Related Injury Claims; Management Rights; Handling Officer-Involved Domestic Violence and Shootings and Firearms Licensing Issues.

SEPTEMBER:

K9 Officer Ziemba attended a two-day class on A.L.I.C.E. training (Alert. Lockdown. Inform. Counter. Evacuate.) in Pittsfield on August 20 & 21, and is now certified to teach the training to school or business administrations. A.L.I.C.E. is the new national standard for school safety, and affords other options in addition to lockdowns.

All officers completed their annual firearms training, qualifying in handgun, long gun and conducted electrical weapons.

OCTOBER:

Sgt. Lemieux attended a one day seminar in Marlborough on Firearms Legal Updates.

NOVEMBER:

Sergeants Lemieux and Thompson attended a four hour block on Traffic Incident Management (T.I.M.), sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MaDOT). Training topics included: Fundamentals of TIM & terminology; Notification and scene size-up; Safe vehicle positioning; Scene safety; Special considerations; Traffic management; Command responsibilities; Clearance & termination. Statistics show that every three (3) days a public works employee is struck and killed in a roadway work zone; on average a towing professional is killed every six (6) days; over the last 24 years, 278 police officers have been struck and killed, and each year, an average of five (5) firefighters are killed in "struck by" incidents.

GRANTS

In 2014, the following grant monies and/or equipment were awarded to the Department. In most instances, the grants come with specific rules regarding implementation and they generally do not allow their use to supplant any portion of the operating budget.

Source	Purpose	Amount
State 911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Support	Dispatch Equipment & Personnel Costs	\$25,892.00
State 911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Training	EMD Training	\$19,974.00

Programs & Assignments

The Department continued its Community Policing approach throughout 2014, and will do so well into the future. Community Policing is a style of police work that puts heavy emphasis on partnering with the community and problem solving as many issues as possible that threaten to erode the quality of life within the community. A large emphasis is placed on the smaller, less obvious issues to help establish ways of dealing with them before they can become a source of erosion to the quality of life for the residents and visitors of our community. This is known as the "Broken Windows" theory. If a broken window is not fixed, then adjacent windows will be broken until the facade of the entire building is eroded. However, if this first window is maintained, the temptation to break other windows is reduced, and the building will stay intact. The "Building" in this theory is the community. Everyone knows that crimes such as drug offenses, assaults and larcenies are violations of the law and dealing with these issues falls under standard police work. The Community Policing philosophy tackles the smaller issues that tend to lead up to these more serious crimes in an effort to prevent them from occurring altogether.

- Community Events Planning

The Department stays busy directing traffic around numerous events throughout the year. These include the Williams College Graduation and the Alumni Parade on Main and Spring Streets, the annual Holiday Walk on Spring Street, Memorial and Independence Day Parades, Cal Ripken Parade, and numerous fund-raising road races that occur on town streets.

- A Safer Williamstown

This program allows the department to issue an informational brochure to all residents that apply for and receive either a Firearms Identification Card (FID) or a License to Carry (LTC) a firearm. The brochure focuses on safe gun storage, gun safety rules, and important points of law. Through a partnership with Project Child Safe, the Department is also able to distribute gun safety locks, free of charge, to all residents. Anyone in need of gun safety locks should call or stop by the Williamstown Police Department.

The issuance of the FID or LTC by the department has been expedited by the department implementing MIRCS (Massachusetts Instant Record Check System). MIRCS is a program implemented through the Criminal History Systems Board for online instant record checks, photos and fingerprinting for firearms licensing applicants and improves efficiency in the licensing process by confirming data and fingerprint identification immediately. This system allows for an electronic application process to reduce the delays caused by forwarding paper applications by mail. Sergeant Lemieux is trained to administer and process all applications, and generally new applicants and renewals can be performed between 4:00PM and 10:00PM when Sergeant Lemieux is on duty. Residents are encouraged to call just prior to coming to the station to check his availability.

- Prescription Round-Up

The Prescription Drop Box located in the police station lobby continues to be a valued tool for the community. The Department took in approximately 161 pounds of pills, ointments and liquid medications throughout the year in the drop box. The drop box is available 24/7 to the community as a safe alternative to dispose of unwanted, unused and expired medications.

All needles and sharps must be placed into the approved Bio-Hazard container located adjacent the drug drop box in the lobby. We can also accept needles and sharps in medically approved Bio-Hazard, sealed containers. We cannot accept needles and sharps in homemade containers like coffee cans, milk containers or laundry detergent bottles.

- Noise Abatement Program

The Noise Abatement Program has worked efficiently for the last nine years. This program partners the Police Department with Williams College Campus Safety & Security, Williams College administration representatives, landlords who rent to off-campus students and the students themselves. The purpose of this collaborative is to make students aware of the quality of life issues within their neighborhoods and how they can help maintain them and still have a college related social life.

Referred to as the “Three strikes program” by some students, this project advises students about the consequences of repetitive police response to off campus housing and the consequences to tenants and property owners. This program is coordinated by Williamstown Police Sgt. Paul Thompson and Williams College Director of Security David Boyer.

- Lock Box Program

Through the partnership with the Council on Aging, special attention is focused on the senior citizens of Williamstown. This partnership focuses on quality of life issues, crime prevention measures and identity thefts and scams. One such initiative continued in 2014 included the purchase of numerous Lock Box units that are utilized to secure a spare key at an individual’s home. In the event that a person may be locked inside their residence and is in need of emergency care, responding officers and/or emergency personnel can access the key from the Lock Box and make entry without causing any damage to the residence.

- Intern Program

The Williamstown Police Department continues to welcome students from high schools and colleges that have visions of pursuing a career in criminal justice. The intern program allows the students to shadow both the patrol and communications section to observe as well as experience where possible, the job first hand. In 2014, a student interned from Springfield Community College.

Juvenile Resource Officer

The Department continues to work closely with Mt. Greylock Regional High School, Williamstown Elementary School, and Pine Cobble School in both a supportive and educating role. This includes the teaching of DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) where 2014 saw the graduation of twelve (12) students from the Pine Cobble School. Officer Tania Hernandez also serves as a senior counselor for two weeks of summer ROPES (Respecting Other People; Encouraging Self Esteem) camp sponsored by the Williamstown, North Adams, Adams, Clarksburg and Cheshire Police Departments, North Adams and Florida Fire Departments, North Adams and Village Ambulance, North Adams School System, as well as the Berkshire County District Attorney’s Office. During 2014, approximately 210 youths attended and completed the ROPES camps with 46 residing in Williamstown.

Court

Court Officer Michael Ziemba works closely with the Northern Berkshire District Court and the Juvenile Court system to assist in the disposition of civil violations and the prosecution of criminal cases. Officer Ziemba works with both courts on a daily basis submitting paperwork, reviewing probable cause statements and signing complaints for issue. All criminal charges must be reviewed with the Clerk Magistrate to ensure probable cause is established for each charge sought. Once the complaint is issued, it may be held at the Clerk Magistrates level for a specific length of time under certain strict conditions and later dismissed if all of the specific conditions are met. A first time

offender charged with a non-violent crime is a candidate for this diversion-type program. Other cases are forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution. Other court duties include monthly show-cause hearings determining responsibility involving civil motor vehicle infractions, along with the delivery of summonses to witnesses, victims and defendants. Detailed recording keeping and data entry into the Department's record keeping system are also important functions of the Court Officer.

Investigations

The Town of Williamstown is a safe community that allows for people to enjoy an excellent quality of life to work and live. Unfortunately however, Williamstown is not immune from crimes or the persons that perpetrate them.

Sergeant Scott McGowan is responsible for handling the Department's investigations when incidents require uninterrupted attention. Sergeant McGowan continues to maintain certifications for specific investigations which are also critical for courtroom testimony and in some instances, required. Many of the incidents reported to the Williamstown Police Department throughout the year require this level of service. The attention that these felony cases require makes it difficult for a duty patrol officer to accomplish while handling the typical calls for service that the Department receives on a daily basis. In 2014, Sergeant McGowan handled a variety of incidents including one hundred forty three (143) larceny incidents, twenty seven (27) breaking & entering reports, and nineteen (19) sexual assaults. 2014 also saw the advancement of many other cases through the criminal justice system.

Additionally in 2014, Sergeant McGowan testified at Grand Jury hearings which resulted in criminal charges being forwarded.

Fortunately 2014 saw a decline in significant property and theft offenses, with the exception of a series of breaking and entering's that occurred in late October. During that time, nine (9) businesses and three (3) residences were broken into over a one (1) month period. During the investigation, Sergeant McGowan was able to obtain both search and arrests warrants for an involved individual, and during the search of the residence, Sergeant McGowan not only located some of the reported stolen property, but property from previously reported incidents along with locating stolen property where the victims were unaware their possessions were even missing.

Berkshire Law Enforcement Task Force (BLETF)

During 2014, while assigned to the BLETF, Officer William assisted in numerous investigations ranging from Narcotic Violations, Murder, Sexual Assault, Child Pornography and Violent Crimes. William is also a Digital Evidence Officer and was assigned the task of downloading over 100 cellular telephones and similar electronic devices such as GPS and Tablets. The evidence gained from these extractions has helped various law enforcement agencies present stronger cases.

On May 15, 2014, members of the BLETF, along with the assistance of the Massachusetts State Police – Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section, executed an arrest warrant for a violent fugitive living at his Henderson Road residence. After taking the fugitive into custody, members of the BLETF also executed a search warrant for

narcotics violations. Numerous charges came from this investigation and are currently pending in Berkshire Superior Court.

(This is the same individual, referenced in the 2013 Town Report – BLETF September 05, 2013)

On July 10, 2014, after a three (3) month long investigation, the BLETF executed a search warrant for Narcotics (Heroin) at a motel in Williamstown. This raid was able to take three (3) low level heroin dealers off the street. The three (3) dealers would move from motel to motel on a regular basis in hopes of eluding law enforcement. Approximately 100 bags of heroin and nearly \$800.00 cash was seized.

(All three dealers have subsequently pled out their cases in Northern Berkshire District Court, and are serving their sentences ranging from Probation to 2 years of House of Correction incarceration.)

On October 29, 2014, the BLETF received information about an individual who was arrested at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) in North Adams, Ma. This individual was in possession of a firearm, while being heavily intoxicated and making threats. Due to specific information that was relayed, BLETF secured this person's residence, located in Williamstown. The appropriate search warrants were obtained, and officers seized six (6) more firearms, along with over 1000 rounds of ammunition. A search warrant was also served on the individual's vehicle. Another large amount of ammunition was also seized from the vehicle.

(This case is currently working its way through Berkshire Superior Court.)

K-9 Program

The Williamstown K-9 Unit, Officer Michael Ziemba and canine Daisy, were requested to respond to multiple calls for service in and around Williamstown requiring tracks to be performed for suspects that had just committed a crime and fled on foot, persons who had indicated they wished to harm themselves and walked away, persons fleeing from a motor vehicle crash or stop, and lost or missing persons. Even in instances where a specific subject is not located, the tracks for suspects may provide vital information where evidence is found along the track, or ending in certain locations where motor vehicles were used to remove the suspect from the area.

The K-9 Unit also participated in public service events which covered a range of topics from numerous informative presentations on the role and use of the K-9 to school children of varying ages, informative presentations and question and answer sessions, demonstrations at various local parades and block parties, and presentation of D.A.R.E. awards to students graduating from the program.

Training is a constant process for the K-9 Unit which, on average, logs approximately 12 hours each week. Most training is done locally in different scenarios in varying communities, usually in Adams, Williamstown or Lanesborough. Many times, training time is also spent with the Pittsfield Police Department and Berkshire County Sheriff's Department, both of which have K-9 Units and a certified Police K-9 Master Trainer.

Many local communities have recognized the benefit of having a certified K-9 Unit as part of the department and have acquired same. At the inception of Williamstown's K-9 program there were no grants that were offered to assist with expenses and startup costs, but that has now changed. Many local municipalities now have K-9 Units trained and responding to calls for service thus providing a greater coverage and a larger resource of K-9 responses, easing the burden on the existing K-9 Units in the area. Officer Ziembra has assisted with some of these new K-9's and their handlers by providing guidance as they start their respective programs.

To date the new K-9 Units have selected either a Shepard or Lab canine, focusing training on tracking, article and/or narcotics detection and/or a patrol dog, leaving Williamstown's Daisy as the only bloodhound in all of Western Massachusetts. Bloodhounds are renowned for their scent tracking ability, and this is Daisy's only responsibility.

Daisy's day-to-day care and expenses are the sole responsibility of K-9 Handler, Officer Ziembra. Medical expenses are supported entirely by donations from the community.

Traffic Enforcement

Traffic enforcement is a significant portion of the Department's policing duties. The town is comprised of approximately eighty-six (86) miles of roadways, with the major routes being State Routes 2, 7, and 43. When officers are not answering calls or completing paperwork, they are conducting enforcement on all roadways. Of the 1618 traffic stops conducted in 2014, these routes saw a majority of the enforcement:

Route 2 (Taconic Trail & Main Street): 562 stops; Route 7 (New Ashford & Cold Spring Roads, North Street and Simonds Road): 414 stops; Route 43 (Hancock & Green River Roads and Water Street): 243 stops. North Hoosac, Bridges and Sand Springs Road corridor: 272 traffic stops.

Specific traffic complaints are received regularly at the Department. As cell phone technologies advance with improved reception, more motorists are calling to report the improper operation of other motorists. When possible, patrols are directed to these areas in an attempt to locate the specific motor vehicle. A second type of complaint commonly received is when a resident or group of residents in a specific neighborhood report speeding motor vehicles in a specific section of town. To assist in strategizing enforcement in these specific areas, the Department deploys the speed monitoring trailer to record the number of vehicles, speed, direction and time of day to allow for a more specific enforcement action. This trailer also serves as a deterrent as well by displaying both the posted road speed and the vehicle's, and then flashing red when the posted speed is exceeded. Two permanent speed monitoring signs were donated to the Town in 2013 and installed on Route 43 (Water Street and Green River Road) to also serve as a deterrent to speeding motorists.

In 2014, the department responded to two hundred twenty-five (225) motor vehicle crashes. Fortunately, most of these crashes were minor in nature and many occurred in parking lots or during on- street parking. From the more significant crashes, forty-one

(41) persons reported being injured and sadly there was one (1) fatality from a crash on our roadways. Our thoughts and prayers are with those involved.

<u>CRASH ACTIVITY SUMMARY</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
FATAL MV CRASHES	1	2	1
PERSONAL INJURY CRASHES	21	26	41
CRASHES INVOLVING PEDESTRIANS	2	4	1
TOTAL MV CRASHES:	175	215	225

<u>TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
CRIMINAL MV VIOLATIONS	155	134	135
CIVIL MV VIOLATIONS	313	277	284
WARNING MV VIOLATIONS	2413	1633	1601
Total Traffic Violations Issued	2881	2044	2020

TOTAL MV STOPS	2498	1673	1618
PARKING TICKETS ISSUED	2411	2127	2266

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING STUDY COMMITTEE

Jane Patton, Chair

March 5, 2015

Public Safety Building Study Committee Update

Unfortunately, there is not a lot of progress to report, although we have made some inroads in the past couple of months.

The Lehovec property remains the property we feel is the most suitable to house a combination police and fire facility. Initially, the estate was not willing to allow the geo-technical soil testing necessary to determine if the property meets federal requirements for a public safety facility. The family has recently agreed to consider the testing, and we are in the process of negotiating the details so we can proceed with the testing – once obtained, we will move forward

If the testing proves the site is suitable, the committee will meet and determine next steps. If it isn't suitable, the committee will meet and we may have to shift the focus to a police facility only as the challenge for a combined facility is there are only one or two other parcels that *might be* large enough, while there are a few more options large enough to house a police station only.

I hope to have answers on whether we will receive approval from the Lehovec estate to move forward with the geo-technical soil testing in the next week or so.

SIGN COMMISSION

Timothy Hamilton, Chairman

The Town of Williamstown Sign Commission is tasked with administering the Code of the Town of Williamstown, Chapter 53, Signs (the Sign Bylaw), consistent with the character and appearance of the area for which the sign is requested. Signs may be of a permanent nature, (for new businesses, institutions or activities) or may be temporary for specific events or functions. Current Sign Commissioners are: Chair Timothy Hamilton, Anna Singleton, Stuart Armet, Lindsay Neathawk, and Kathy Thompson.

The Sign Inspector can issue any sign which fully complies with the Sign Bylaw; any deviation from the bylaw requires Sign Commission approval. In granting Special Permits, the Commission has wide discretion in what will be allowed or modified in the application. The Sign Inspector is the enforcing authority under the bylaw. Fines may be assessed under the non-criminal disposition provisions of the Code of the Town of Williamstown.

The Sign Bylaw, in its introduction, states:

- A. The Williamstown envisioned under this chapter is one with major patterns of use and general appearance little changed from today, but with greater opportunities within the community for a broader range of diversity of citizens and businesses; a town not only undamaged by change but made better through it.
- B. Economic growth appropriate to Williamstown's character is actively sought, not as an end to itself, but as a means of broadening the diversity of opportunity in Williamstown, in mm supporting a rich and diverse community life and population. There is room enough for all the development which realistically the town can expect to experience without the defacing of its special assets and places, including both natural and man-made features, mini vistas and historic monuments.
- C. The basic form of Williamstown is that of a classic New England town, with a strong central village sharply contrasting with and benefiting from the openness of the surrounding lands. The present arrangement works well for almost everyone. It provides wonderful living possibilities within easy walk of both central services and open lands. It organizes development in an easily serviced way. It creates a visually rich and satisfying community character.
- D. There is little doubt Williamstown residents intend the policies of the Sign Commission to enhance these qualities. Such conflicts within the community as the Sign Commission may encounter should be reconciled with this public vision in mind. It is instructed to use incentives and rewards wherever possible, as a way of implementing sign policy. However, the following guidelines are intended to be as clear and unambiguous as possible:
 1. The primary function of on premise signs is to index the environment to tell people where they can find what. Selling is a subordinate purpose.
 2. Signs should be expressive of the individual proprietor's identity.

3. Signs should be appropriate to the type of activity to which they pertain.
4. Signs should be compatible with the visual character of the area surrounding them. Carved signs are compatible in all areas, and this chapter encourages their use.
5. Signs should be legible in the circumstances in which they are seen.

Using its discretion, consistent with the bylaw, the Commission seeks to follow these guidelines in rendering its decisions.

In 2014, 117 sign permits were issued either by the Commission or its Sign Inspector, Andrew Groff. Out of these permits 30 were for permanent signage and 87 were for temporary signs. These include permits for sandwich board signage on Spring and Water Streets during the tourist season. This was the result of a bylaw change proposed by the Commission and the Chamber of Commerce and passed at 2014's Annual Town Meeting.

TOWN CLERK/BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Mary Courtney Kennedy, Town Clerk (Democrat)

Robert A. Jones, Registrar (Republican)

Mark Windover, Registrar (Democrat)

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION MAY 13, 2014

SELECTMEN	PREC. 1	PREC. 2	PREC. 3	TOTAL
BLANKS	79	23	90	192
HUGH DALEY	326	99	281	706
GARY FULS, JR	123	31	161	315
ANDREW HOGELAND	373	118	314	805
JACK NOGUEIRA	48	11	51	110
WRITE INS	1	0	1	2
TOTAL	950	282	898	2,130
WMST. ELEM SCHL COMMT	PREC. 1	PREC. 2	PREC. 3	TOTAL
BLANKS	97	28	76	201
JOHN SKAVLEM	375	112	372	859
WRITE INS	3	1	1	5
TOTAL	475	141	449	1,065
LIBRARY TRUSTEE	PREC. 1	PREC. 2	PREC. 3	TOTAL
BLANKS	213	55	205	473
DAVID DEWEY	377	116	363	856
KATHLEEN SCHULTZE	358	111	329	798
WRITE INS	2	0	1	3
TOTAL	950	282	898	2,130
PLANNING BOARD	PREC. 1	PREC. 2	PREC. 3	TOTAL
BLANKS	123	39	103	265
AMY JESCHAWITZ	351	102	345	798
WRITE INS	1	0	1	2
TOTAL	475	141	449	1,065
HOUSING AUTHORITY	PREC. 1	PREC. 2	PREC. 3	TOTAL
BLANKS	133	44	123	300
JOAN BURNS	336	96	323	755
WRITE INS	6	1	3	10
TOTAL	475	141	449	1,065

Kurt Gabel, Registrar (Republican)

The Town Clerk’s office serves as the repository of vital records for the town; conducts all activities related to the Annual Street Listing, voter registration, elections and town

meeting, administers oaths to all public officials, issues dog licenses, provides notary public services, oversees employee and board members compliance with the Conflict of Interest law, and serves as the office of record for an assortment of public filings.

Total Registered Voters as of July 1, 2014 – 4,631

- Democrats – 2,124
- Republicans – 337
- Unenrolled – 2,148
- Green Rainbow -9
- Libertarian –12
- Socialist - 1

Dog Licenses Issued – 2014

Male	34
Female	22
Neutered Male	347
Spayed Female	372
Kennel License (4 dogs)	0
Kennel License (10 dogs)	1

Net Value of Licenses	\$4,323
Late Fees	\$ 620
Gross Value of Dog License	\$ 4,943

Vital Records Recorded in 2014

Births	24
Marriage Intentions	47
Marriage Licenses	47
Death	147

Documents and Permits issued in 2014

- Business Certificates -53
- Fuel Storage Registration -20
- Raffle Permits – 1
- Marriage Licenes – 47
- Certified Birth Certificates Issued -61
- Certified Marriage Certificates Issued – 58
- Certified Death Certificates Issued - 814

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
FISCAL YEAR
JULY 1, 2014 to JUNE 30, 2015
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Berkshire, ss:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Williamstown, in the County of Berkshire.

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Williamstown qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet at Williamstown Elementary School, 115 Church Street, in said Williamstown TUESDAY, THE THIRTEENTH DAY OF MAY 2014 at SEVEN O'CLOCK A.M. for the following purpose:

To bring their votes to the election of officers for the election of all Town Officers

The polls will be opened at 7:00 o'clock A.M. and will close at 8:00 o'clock P.M.

And furthermore to meet at Williamstown Elementary School, 115 Church Street, on TUESDAY, THE TWENTIETH DAY OF MAY 2014 AT SEVEN O'CLOCK P.M. for the following purpose:

To act on all Articles of this warrant, except Article 1, which has been acted upon at the above meeting for the election of officers.

Proceeding: Moderator Adam Filson opened the 2014 Annual Town Meeting at 7:10 PM in the gymnasium of the Williamstown Elementary School, 115 Church Street. Four hundred thirty six (436) registered voters checked into the meeting.

Jane Allen represented the Board of Selectmen as Chair, and Andrew Hogeland represented the Finance Committee as Chair.

Chairman Allen read the names of the Committee and Board members who have terms expiring in June and thanked them for their service to the Town.

Chairman Allen announced that the Massachusetts Cultural Council approved Williamstown as the newest Cultural District in the State. The designation will allow the town to use signage and to take advantage of marketing opportunities to promote cultural offerings and events in Williamstown.

The Moderator announced the recipients of the following awards:

Community Chest Volunteer Award – John Craig

League of Women Voters Town Employee Award – Veterans Agent Stephen Roy

Faith Scarborough Award – Dr. Erwin A. Stuebner, Jr.

ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICERS

Article 1. To choose two Selectmen for three year terms; one Elementary School Committee (K-6) member for a three year term; two Library Trustees for three year terms; one Planning Board member for a five year term; and one Housing Authority member for a five year term.

REPORTS OF TOWN COMMITTEES

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Board of Selectmen, the Town Manager, and all other officers and committees, and act thereon.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Board of Selectmen moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt Article 2. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 2 carried by unanimous voice vote.

TO APPLY UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE TO REDUCE THE TAX RATE

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of **\$341,000** from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance to reduce the tax rate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$ 341,000 from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance to be used to reduce the tax rate. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 3 carried by unanimous voice vote.

APPROPRIATION FOR DEBT SERVICE

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds, the sum of **\$445,338** or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, or take any other action in relation thereto.

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Year Borrowed</u>	<u>Years Remaining</u>	<u>Initial Principal</u>	<u>FY2015 Principal and Interest</u>
DPW Garage	1997	3	\$1,800,000	\$103,400
Landfill Closure	1997	2	215,000	15,750
Sherman Chapel Repair	2001	5	132,800	8,243
Landfill Closure	2005	6	150,000	12,500
Elementary School	2005	11	\$4,200,000	\$305,445
				\$445,338

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$437,095 from taxation, and that \$8,243 be appropriated from the Sherman Burbank Memorial Fund to pay interest and maturing debt. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 4 carried by unanimous voice vote.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds, the sum of **\$6,900,333** or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the several Town Departments, namely:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2014</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2015</u>
Executive	\$268,558	\$276,771
Administration and Finance	1,860,462	1,878,576
Community Development	433,673	473,624
Public Safety	1,305,968	1,351,609

Public Works	2,019,050	2,045,235
Human Services	839,963	874,518
Total	<u>\$6,727,674</u>	<u>\$6,900,333</u>

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$6,682,377 from taxation; that \$117,081 be appropriated from Estimated Water Receipts; that \$82,219 be appropriated from Estimated Sewer Receipts; that \$3,000 be appropriated from Cemetery Perpetual Care Trust Fund; and that \$5,290 be appropriated from the Sherman Burbank Memorial Trust.

Since the printing of the warrant the amount for Public Safety for Fiscal Year 2015 has been changed to \$1,346,018 and the amount for Community Development for Fiscal Year 2015 has been changed to \$468,849 , with the total for Fiscal Year 2015 being \$6,889,967. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 5 carried by unanimous voice vote.

LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS (GRADES K-6)

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of **\$5,632,143** to pay charges, expenses and outlays of the School Department for the ensuing year or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,632,143 from taxation to pay charges, expenses and outlays of the School Department. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 6 carried by unanimous voice vote.

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of **\$292,610** or any other sum, being Williamstown’s share of the Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District 2014-2015 fiscal budget, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$292,610 from taxation to pay Williamstown’s share of the Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District 2014-2015 budget. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 7 carried by Unanimous voice vote.

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of **\$4,725,539** or any other sum, being Williamstown’s share of the Mount Greylock Regional School District 2014-2015 fiscal budget, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,725,539 from taxation, being Williamstown’s share of the Mount Greylock Regional School District 2014-2015 fiscal budget. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 8 carried by unanimous voice vote.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of **\$801,980** or any other sum, for the following capital expenditures:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Gale Road Phase 1 – Drainage/Overlay	Highway	\$281,980
Arnold Street – Sidewalk Replacement	Highway	25,000
North Hoosac Road – Stabilization	Highway	43,000
Ford F450 Dump Truck	Highway	62,000
Milne Library – Parking Lot & Sidewalks	Library	125,000
Pick-up Truck	Community Development	24,000
Water Meter Replacement	Water/Sewer	50,000
Pick-up Truck	Water/Sewer	26,000
Well #1 Decommissioning	Water	75,000
Mill Street Main Replacement	Water	90,000
		\$801,980

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$560,980 from taxation, that \$203,000 be raised and appropriated from Estimated Water Receipts, and that \$38,000 be raised and appropriated from Estimated Sewer Receipts. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 9 carried by unanimous voice vote.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RESERVE FUND

Article 10 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$75,000** for the Finance Committee Reserve Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 for the Finance Committee Reserve Fund. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 10 carried by unanimous voice vote.

TO FUND OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of **\$75,000** to be placed in the Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, established under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 32B, Section 20, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$75,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance to the OPEB Trust Fund. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 11 carried by unanimous voice vote.

WILLIAMSTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote pursuant to G.L. c. 40 § 6A to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$39,824** for the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce to advertise the Town's resources, advantages, and attractions, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$39,824 for the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce to promote tourism. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 12 carried by unanimous voice vote.

WILLIAMSTOWN YOUTH CENTER

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$70,273** for the Williamstown Youth Center to provide youth recreation services, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,273 to support the Williamstown Youth Center to provide youth recreation services. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 13 carried by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC LIBRARY REVOLVING FUND

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote pursuant to G.L. c. 44 § 53E½, to authorize the use of a revolving fund for the purpose of purchasing library supplies, services, and equipment, which fund shall be credited with receipts from all fees and fines collected under the authority and direction of the Library Trustees, such expenditures not to exceed Twenty-Five Thousand (\$25,000) Dollars, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt Article 14. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 14 carried by unanimous voice vote.

SEWER DEPARTMENT

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Sewer Receipts the sum of **\$1,186,526** or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the Sewer Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,126,526 from Estimated Sewer Receipts and the sum of \$60,000 from Sewer Fund Unreserved Fund Balance to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the Sewer Department. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 15 carried by unanimous voice vote.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Water Receipts the sum of **\$813,374** or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, and for

charges, expenses and outlays of the Water Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$763,374 from Estimated Water Receipts and the sum of \$50,000 from Water Fund Unreserved Fund Balance to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the Water Department. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 16 carried by unanimous voice vote.

WATER RATE

Article 17. To see if the Town will, in accordance with § 7, Chapter 606 of the Acts and Resolves of 1941, vote to approve a municipal water rate of **\$3.79** per 100 cubic feet of water as fixed by the Board of Selectmen at their meeting of April 15 to be effective July 1, 2014, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Board of Selectmen moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to approve a municipal water rate of \$3.79 per 100 cubic feet. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 17 carried by unanimous voice vote.

TRANSFER STATION DEPARTMENT

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts or other available funds the sum of **\$170,886** or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the Transfer Station Department, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$140,886 from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts and the sum of \$30,000 from the Transfer Station Unreserved Fund Balance to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the Transfer Station Department. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 18 carried by unanimous voice vote.

CHAPTER 90 HIGHWAY FUNDS

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from Chapter 90 funds that are, or may become, available to the Town during the fiscal year for Capital Projects, and to authorize the Treasurer to borrow such amounts in anticipation of reimbursement by the Commonwealth, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt Article 19. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 19 carried by unanimous voice vote.

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BORROWING

Article 20. To see if the Town will approve the \$850,000 borrowing authorized by the Mount Greylock Regional School District, for the purpose of paying costs of The Feasibility Study for Mt. Greylock Regional Middle School and High School, 1781 Cold Spring Rd, Map #302, Lot 3 (Parcel ID 341/302.0-0003-0000.0) Williamstown, MA 01267, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), said amount to be expended at the

direction of the School Building Committee. These costs include Owner's Project Manager Services, Architect/Design services (to execute the study), Owner Cost Estimate, engineering, hazmat, wetlands, and other studies deemed necessary.

The MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any Study costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities. Any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA for the Study shall be as set forth in the Feasibility Study Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA.

Proceeding: Carrie Greene, Chairman of the Mount Greylock Regional School Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town approve the \$850,000 borrowing authorized by the Mount Greylock Regional School District, for the purpose of paying costs of The Feasibility Study for Mt. Greylock Regional Middle School and High School, 1781 Cold Spring Rd, Map #302, Lot 3 (Parcel ID 341/302.0-0003-0000.0) Williamstown, MA 01267, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended at the direction of the School Building Committee.

Carrie Greene elucidated this is not a vote for the building; rather it is for the feasibility study. The study is reimbursable by the State at a rate of 53.32%. The estimated cost for the study for Williamstown will be approximately \$148,000 and \$98,000 for Lanesborough and Mount Greylock will contribute \$150,000 from their money. Mount Greylock will take out the bond, but both towns must vote to authorize the debt. The building option will come much later to the voters of Williamstown and Lanesborough. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 20 carried by unanimous voice vote.

HANDICAPPED PARKING BY-LAW

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to approve the addition of a Handicapped Parking Bylaw, Chapter 28 to the Code of Williamstown, or take any other action in relation thereto.

CHAPTER 28

HANDICAPPED PARKING

Section 28-1.- Parking Prohibited No person shall allow, permit or suffer any motor vehicle or trailer to stand or park, whether on public or private property, within parking spaces designated as reserved for vehicles issued handicapped or disabled veteran number plates or for vehicles transporting handicapped persons and displaying special parking identification issued through the Chief of Police or as reflected in MGL C. 40, §21(23) or in such a manner as to obstruct a curb ramp designated for use by handicapped persons as a means of egress to a street or public way.

Section 28-2. – Penalty The penalty for violation of this bylaw shall be \$100, provided, however, that nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting the removal, in accordance with the provisions of MGL C. 266, §120D, of any vehicle which is in violation of this bylaw.

Section 28-3. - Enforcement This bylaw shall be enforced by Town of Williamstown Police Department. This bylaw may be enforced through the noncriminal disposition method provided in MGL C. 40, §21D. For purposes of noncriminal disposition, the enforcing persons shall be those town officials set forth in this section of the bylaw and the specific penalty shall be as provided in Section 2 of this bylaw.

Section 28-4 - Liability of owner If any unauthorized vehicle is found in violation of the provisions of this Handicapped Parking bylaw and the identity of the driver cannot be determined, the owner or the person in whose name such vehicle is registered shall be held prima facie responsible for such violation.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Board of Selectmen moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt Article 21. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 21 carried by unanimous voice vote.

NON CRIMINAL DISPOSITION BYLAW AMENDMENT

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Noncriminal Disposition bylaw, known as Chapter 1, Article II of the Code of the Town of Williamstown, by adding the following to the list of by-laws and regulations listed in Section 1-4B (2), or take any other action in relation thereto.

Handicapped Parking Bylaw	First and subsequent offenses
\$100	

And to change Section 1-5 regarding bylaw name and enforcing official for Chapter 28 to read as follows:

Bylaw	Enforcing Official
Handicapped Parking Bylaw (Chapter 28)	Police Dept.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Board of Selectmen moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt Article 22. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 22 carried by unanimous voice vote.

SENIOR TAX WORK-OFF PROGRAM

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to accept M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 5K allowing for a “Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program” effective July 1, 2014, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Board of Selectmen moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt Article 23. Following a short discussion, the Moderator declared Article 23 carried by majority voice vote.

FORMER EMPLOYEES COMPENSATED RESERVE FUND

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to accept M.G.L. c. 40 s. 13D authorizing the establishment of a reserve fund for the future payment of accrued liabilities for compensated absences due any employee of the Town upon termination of the employee’s employment, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt Article 24. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article

24 carried by unanimous voice vote.

AUTHORIZE LEASE OF LAND FOR GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATION

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Manager, in the name and behalf of the Town, to execute a lease for 13 +/- acres of land constituting the capped landfill at the Transfer Station, located at 675 Simonds Road owned by the Town, to be leased by a commercial solar developer for installation and operation of solar photovoltaic facilities for electric generation, for periods of up to 25 years upon such terms and conditions as determined by the Town Manager including a Power Purchase/Net Metering Agreement (“PPA/NMA”); or take any other action relative thereto.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt Article 25. Following a short discussion, the Moderator declared Article 25 carried by majority voice vote.

AUTHORIZE PILOT FOR GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATION

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 59 § 38H, to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate and enter into a structured tax agreement with the lessee/operator of the solar photovoltaic energy generating facility to be developed at the Williamstown Transfer Station property, located at 675 Simonds Road, upon such terms and conditions as the Town Manager shall deem to be in the best interest of the Town; or take any other action relative thereto.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt Article 26. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 26 carried by unanimous voice vote.

CPA – COMMITTEE EXPENSES

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2014 Community Preservation budget, and to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (**\$10,000**) to meet the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2015, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: Mark Reinhardt, member of the Community Preservation Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2014 Community Preservation budget, and to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to meet the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2015. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 27 carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – OPEN SPACE

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate from Community Preservation funds previously reserved for Community Preservation Fund

Open Space Reserves the sum of Sixty Eight Thousand Dollars (**\$68,000**), which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2016, which funds shall be granted to Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation by the Board of Selectmen pursuant to a grant agreement that sets forth the terms of the grant, contingent upon WRLF contributing an equal amount in cash or in kind for the purpose of acquiring an agricultural preservation restriction on +/- 220 acres of land, which land is identified as Assessors parcels 206-69 and 207-24 and owned by James E. Galusha, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: Mark Reinhardt, member of the Community Preservation Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from Community Preservation funds previously reserved for Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserves the sum of Sixty Eight Thousand Dollars (**\$68,000**), which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2016, which funds shall be granted to Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation by the Board of Selectmen pursuant to a grant agreement that sets forth the terms of the grant, contingent upon WRLF contributing an equal amount in cash or in kind for the purpose of acquiring an agricultural preservation restriction on +/- 220 acres of land, which land is identified as Assessors parcels 206-69 and 207-24 and owned by James E. Galusha. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 28 carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues, for the purpose of preserving historic resources under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Dollars (**\$17,570**), which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2015, which funds shall be granted to the Williamstown Historical Museum by the Board of Selectmen pursuant to a grant agreement that sets forth the terms of the grant, to preserve, conserve, and exhibit carefully selected works of historical importance from their collection, and to perform ongoing curatorial research dedicated to the care of the collection, all in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: Mark Reinhardt, member of the Community Preservation Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues, for the purpose of preserving historic resources under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Dollars (**\$17,570**), which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2015, which funds shall be granted to the Williamstown Historical Museum by the Board of Selectmen pursuant to a grant agreement that sets forth the terms of the grant, to preserve, conserve, and exhibit carefully selected works of historical importance from their collection, and to perform ongoing curatorial research dedicated to the care of the collection, all in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 29 carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – COMMUNITY HOUSING

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to rescind the vote taken under Article 28 of the 2012 Annual Town Meeting to appropriate the sum of Eighty Thousand Dollars (**\$80,000**) from the Community Preservation Fund, which sum was to be granted to Berkshire Housing Development Corporation and Williamstown Elderly Housing Corporation for the purpose of creating community housing at 118 Church Street, a/k/a Proprietors Fields, as shown on Assessors Parcel 119-145, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: Mark Reinhardt, member of the Community Preservation Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to rescind the vote taken under Article 28 of the 2012 Annual Town Meeting to appropriate the sum of Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000) from the Community Preservation Fund, which sum was to be granted to Berkshire Housing Development Corporation and Williamstown Elderly Housing Corporation for the purpose of creating community housing at 118 Church Street, a/k/a Proprietors Fields, as shown on Assessors Parcel 119-145. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 30 carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – COMMUNITY HOUSING

Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues, for community housing purposes under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (**\$100,000**), which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2016, which funds shall be granted to Berkshire Housing Development Corporation by the Board of Selectmen pursuant to a grant agreement that sets forth the terms of the grant, for the purpose of creating senior affordable housing at 85 Stetson Road, a/k/a “Highland Woods”, as shown on Assessors Parcel 119-1, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept one or more affordable housing restrictions on said property meeting the requirements of G. L. c. 184, § 31, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: Mark Reinhardt, member of the Community Preservation Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues, for community housing purposes under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2016, which funds shall be granted to Berkshire Housing Development Corporation by the Board of Selectmen pursuant to a grant agreement that sets forth the terms of the grant, for the purpose of creating senior affordable housing at 85 Stetson Road, a/k/a “Highland Woods”, as shown on Assessors Parcel 119-1, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept one or more affordable housing restrictions on said property meeting the requirements of G. L. c. 184, § 31. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 31 carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – COMMUNITY HOUSING

Article 32. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues, for community housing purposes under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (**\$75,000**) to be deposited in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund for the purpose of acquiring, creating,

preserving, and/or supporting community housing, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: Mark Reinhardt, member of the Community Preservation Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues, for community housing purposes under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) to be deposited in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund for the purpose of acquiring, creating, preserving, and/or supporting community housing. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 32 carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – CABLE MILLS

Article 33. To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 27 of May 15, 2007 Annual Town Meeting, pursuant to which vote Community Preservation funds were to be granted to 160 Water, LLC for the purposes and under the conditions set forth in a grant agreement with 160 Water, LLC pertaining to land known as Cable Mills, located at 160 Water Street and identified as Assessors Parcel 121-9, to change the sources of the funding specified therein as follows: to reduce the borrowing authorized under said vote by Two Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$254,500), and to substitute such funds by transferring and appropriating the sum of One Hundred Nineteen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (**\$119,500**) from Community Preservation funds previously reserved for Open Space and the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$135,000**) transferred from the Community Preservation Fund unreserved balance which \$135,000 is to be divided equally among affordable housing, historic preservation, and open space purposes , or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: Mark Reinhardt, member of the Community Preservation Committee recommends the Town vote to amend the vote taken under Article 27 of May 15, 2007 Annual Town Meeting, pursuant to which vote Community Preservation funds were to be granted to 160 Water, LLC for the purposes and under the conditions set forth in a grant agreement with 160 Water, LLC pertaining to land known as Cable Mills, located at 160 Water Street and identified as Assessors Parcel 121-9, to change the sources of the funding specified therein as follows: to reduce the borrowing authorized under said vote by Two Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$254,500), and to substitute such funds by transferring and appropriating the sum of One Hundred Nineteen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$119,500) from Community Preservation funds previously reserved for Open Space and the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$135,000) transferred from the Community Preservation Fund unreserved balance which \$135,000 is to be divided equally among affordable housing, historic preservation, and open space purposes.

Jeffrey Thomas, a member of the Community Preservation Committee explained the article by stating that due to a 2007 town meeting vote, the town is committed to \$1.5 million for the Cable Mills project. In FY15, we have the opportunity to set aside some money that would allow the town to borrow less in order to meet that **commitment**. Following a short discussion, the Moderator declared Article 33 carried by majority voice vote.

SIGN BY-LAW AMENDMENT – DOWNTOWN SANDWICH BOARDS

Article 34. To see if the Town of Williamstown will vote to amend the Sign By-Law, §53 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown as follows:

1. Amend § 53-4.1.E to add the wording underlined below:

§ 53-4.1.E Portable and wheeled signs, except as temporary signs, as provided for in Article VII of this chapter.

2. Add a new § 53-7.5. as follows:

§ 53-7.5. Village Business District Portable Signs.

Temporary portable a-frame or sandwich board type signage is permitted in the Village Business Zoning District upon receipt of a Special Permit from the Sign Commission subject to the following:

A. Number and timing.

- (1) There shall be one permit for this signage type issued per establishment per year.
- (2) The signs shall be allowed only between May 1 and November 1.
- (3) Signs may be placed at the commencement of business hours and shall be removed at close of business, each day for the duration of the permit.

B. Location.

- (1) The signs are allowed at establishments within the Village Business Zoning District as defined by Ch. 70 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown.
- (2) All signs must be placed completely within private property.
- (3) No sign may obstruct a public sidewalk, way, or other means of egress.

C. Design

- (1) Sign face may not exceed 24” x 36”, total size may not exceed 27” x 48”.
- (2) Sign must be a dark background.
- (3) Sign must be framed by wood or a similar material.

Proceeding: Anne Singleton, member of the Sign Commission moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt Article 34. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 34 carried by majority voice vote.

ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT – SELF-STORAGE

Article 35. To see if the Town will vote to Amend § 70-3.3.A(2) by adding the following table row:

ZONING DISTRICTS	RR1	RR2 RR3	GR1	LB	VB	PB	LI	SG
(2) BUSINESS USES								
<i>Self – Storage</i>	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO

Amend § 70-9.2 by adding the following definition:

SELF STORAGE: A building containing separate storage spaces, which may be of various sizes, leased or rented on an individual basis. The storage spaces may be accessed either internally or externally and shall be secured.

Proceeding: Chris Winters, Chairman of the Planning Board moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt Article 35. Chairman Winters delivered the favorable report of the Planning Board in support of the article. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 35 carried by majority voice vote.

ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT – WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS

Article 36. To see if the Town will vote to Amend § 70-3.3.A (1) by deleting the following:

ZONING DISTRICTS	RR1	RR2 RR3	GR	LB	VB	PB	LI	SG
§ 70-3.3A PRINCIPAL USES (See § 70-3.3B for accessory uses.)								
(1) RESIDENTIAL USES								
<i>Telecommunications (See § 70-7.2F)</i> [Added 5-19-1998 ATM, Art. 25]								
Teleports	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Facilities	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP
Towers	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP

Amend § 70-3.3.C by adding the following:

ZONING DISTRICTS	RR1	RR2 RR3	GR	LB	VB	PB	LI	SG
§ 70-3.3.C OTHER USES								
<i>Telecommunications (See § 70-7.2F)</i> [Added 5-19-1998 ATM, Art. 25]								
Teleports	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Facilities	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP
Towers	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP
Eligible Facilities Request	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Amend § 70-7.2.F(6) by deleting the following:

No tower or personal wireless service facility shall be erected, constructed or installed without first obtaining a special permit from the SPGA. One or both of two kinds of special permits are required:

And replacing with the following:

No tower or personal wireless service facility shall be erected, constructed or installed, excepting work that is determined to be an Eligible Facilities Request as defined by this

bylaw without first obtaining a special permit from the SPGA. One or both of two kinds of special permits are required:

Amend § 70-9.2 Terms Defined by deleting the following:

MAJOR MODIFICATION OF AN EXISTING FACILITY -- Any change or proposed change in power input or output, number of antennas, change in antenna type or model, repositioning of antenna(s), change in number of channels per antenna above the maximum number approved under an existing special permit. [Added 5-19-1998 ATM, Art. 25]

And adding the following;

ELIGIBLE FACILITIES REQUEST – A request for a modification of an existing tower or personal wireless service facility that involves collocation of new transmission equipment, removal of transmission equipment, or replacement of transmission equipment which does not substantially change the physical dimensions of the tower or personal wireless service facility.

MAJOR MODIFICATION OF AN EXISTING FACILITY -- Any change or proposed change to any existing tower or personal wireless service facility that will result in a substantial change to the physical dimensions of the tower or personal wireless service facility.

Proceeding: Chris Winters, Chairman of the Planning Board moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt Article 36. Chairman Winters delivered the favorable report of the Planning Board in support of the article.

There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 36 carried by unanimous voice vote.

ZONING BY LAW – EXPANSION OF PLANNED BUSINESS (ROUTE 7 NORTH)

Article 37. To see if the Town will vote to amend The Zoning Map entitled “Town of Williamstown – Zoning Districts” by extending the existing Planned Business Zoning District to include the following parcels which are presently zoned General Residence; Assessor’s Parcels 135-2 & 18, 126-91, 52, 51, & 40, as well as the approximately 3 acre portion of Parcels 126-90 & 46 which is to the south of the Broad Brook that is currently zoned General Residence.

Proceeding: Chris Winters, Chairman of the Planning Board moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt Article 37. Chairman Winters delivered the favorable report of the Planning Board in support of the article.

There being no discussion, the Moderator declared Article 37 carried by unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made, and seconded, to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared the Annual Town Meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

And you are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof in four or more public places, as well as the United States Post Office within the Town.

Hereof fail not and make return of this Warrant, with your doings to the Town Clerk on or before the time set for holding said meeting.

Signed: Jane B. Allen, chairman
David Rempell
Jane Patton
Thomas Sheldon
Ronald Turbin

Williamstown Board of Selectmen

Berkshire, ss:

April 17, 2014

I hereby certify that I have posted attested copies of the above Warrant in four public places in the Town of Williamstown, and the Post Office at least seven days before said Annual Town Election and Town Meeting. Signed/Paul Yarter, Constable

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Courtney Kennedy CMMC

Town Clerk

TRANSFER STATION

Chris Lemoine, Superintendent

The Williamstown Transfer Station is open Tuesday thru Friday from 7:30am to 3:30pm and on Saturday from 7:00am to 3:00pm. The station is a user fee based operation which is not funded by taxation. Revenue generated from refuse and demolition remains stable. Recycled material creates no revenue and with volume going up so is the cost of hauling it away.

Refer to the total volumes that follow:

352 tons of unrecyclable refuse; down 1%

87 tons of demolition; down 4%

223 tons of recycled paper; up 9%

95 tons of recycled glass-metal-plastic; up 4%

Other services provided at the station are containers for old electronics such as computers, monitors, televisions, radios, microwaves, etc., and mercury disposal such as thermostats, fluorescent tubes and CFL bulbs.

As always there will be a hazardous waste collection day in 2015 to properly dispose of old paint and other household chemicals. The date will be set by the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District and posted at the station.

Notable this year were the improvements made to the stations roadway with an expanded surface and overlay of the asphalt area. No longer will you find broken up asphalt, or will you walk through mud to utilize containers, all in the interest of safer vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Station attendant Jason Maynard continues to keep the entire facility organized and clean.

Transfer Station access stickers and refuse bags are available at the treasurer's office in Town Hall. Refuse bags are also available at the Stop and Shop supermarket.

Call 458-5159 with questions pertaining to the Transfer Station.

TREASURER / COLLECTOR

Janet Saddler, Treasurer / Finance Director

**STATEMENT OF DEBT
JUNE 30, 2014**

	Date Authorized	Amount Authorized	Amount Issue	Inside Limit	Outside Limit	Principal 07/01/13	Principal Paid	Interest Paid	Principal 06/30/14
Long Term Debt									
\$2.175 Million Bond-Issued Aug 15, 2001									
Town Garage	5/19/92	1,800,000	1,800,000	Inside Limit		375,000	95,000	8,400	280,000
Landfill Phase I	7/25/95	217,000	215,000	Outside Limit		40,000	15,000	750	25,000
Landfill Closing	5/17/94	140,000	50,000	Inside Limit		0	0	0	0
Well # 1	11/15/09	892,000	892,000	Inside Limit		460,000	140,000	9,600	320,000
		3,049,000	2,957,000			875,000	250,000	29,063	625,000
\$3.325 Million Bond-Issued Aug 15, 2001									
Sewage System	5/23/89	145,000	75,700	Inside Limit		0	0	0	0
Cemetery Building	5/23/89	108,500	38,800	Inside Limit		0	0	0	0
School Remodeling	5/23/89	281,000	128,500	Inside Limit		0	0	0	0
Water Standpipe	6/18/91	3,804,000	1,289,100	Outside Limit		0	0	0	0
Water Mains	6/18/91	122,000	33,900	Outside Limit		0	0	0	0
Sewer Inflow & Infiltration	5/15/01	1,156,000	1,156,000	Inside Limit		387,660	73,410	5,629	314,250
Chapel Borrowing	3/30/99	200,000	132,800	Inside Limit		46,740	8,840	1,047	37,900
Sewer Main-Spring Street & Gale Road	5/18/99	267,000	257,000	Inside Limit		90,600	17,150	1,290	73,450
Water Main-Spring Street	5/18/99	219,000	213,200	Outside Limit		75,000	14,200	1,680	60,800
		6,302,500	3,325,000			600,000	113,600	9,646	486,400

TREASURER'S RECEIPTS
For the Year Ending;
JUNE 30, 2014

Department	Description	Amount
<u>Tax and Excise</u>		
Treasurer-Collector	Personal Property	257,458.28
Treasurer-Collector	Real Estate Tax	14,187,813.01
Treasurer-Collector	Motor Vehicle Excise	658,370.60
Treasurer-Collector	Interest on Property Tax	48,083.90
Treasurer-Collector	Interest on MV Excise	3,031.24
Treasurer-Collector	Interest on Tax Liens	2,963.27
Treasurer-Collector	Payments in Lieu of Tax	13,283.35
Treasurer-Collector	Meals Tax	149,293.25
Treasurer-Collector	Hotel and Motel Tax	406,250.54
Treasurer-Collector	Community Preservation-State Match	108,760.00
Treasurer-Collector	Community Preservation Surcharge	208,482.28
Treasurer-Collector	Community Preservation Surcharge Interest	73.67
Total Tax and Excise		16,043,863.39
<u>Utility Charges</u>		
Sewer Department	Sewer Charges	1,136,525.50
Water Department	Water Charges	1,123,598.91
Landfill Department	Landfill Payments	18,708.85
Landfill Department	Landfill Stickers	78,472.00
Landfill Department	Landfill Bags	66,662.25
Total Utility Charges		2,423,967.51
<u>Other Charges for Services</u>		
Cemetery	Cemetery Interments	22,300.00
Police	Off-Duty Fees	145,649.36
School	Cafeteria Receipts	63,997.45
Total Charges for Services		231,946.81
<u>Fees</u>		
Community Development	Fees	9,083.80
Cemetery Department	Perpetual Care	8,100.00
Conservation Commission	Fees	1,890.17
Conservation Commission	Wetlands Fees	800.00

Council on Aging	Fees	12,024.38
Dept of Public works	Fees	49.00
Health Department	Fees	12,091.10
Highway	Fees	3,140.50
Historical Commission	Fees	80.00
Library	Fees	5,874.79
Planning Board	Fees	605.00
Zoning Board	Fees	1,870.00
Police Department	Fees	12,629.20
Police Department	Dispatch Services	45,041.50
Sealer of Weights	Fees	321.80
Sign Commission	Fees	125.00
School	Rental - Custodians	9,666.25
School	Tuition	115,186.61
Spruces Revolver	Fees	74,361.54
Town Clerk	Fees	6,760.99
Town Manager	Fees	1,260.50
Treasurer - Collector	Fees	30,780.61
Landfill Department	Fees	7,205.44
Sewer Department	Fees	3,525.00
Water Department	Fees	16,385.41
Total Fees		378,858.59
<u>Licenses and Permits</u>		
Community Development	Licenses and Permits	123,265.83
Gas Inspector	Licenses and Permits	4,695.00
Health Department	Licenses and Permits	17,596.50
Plumbing Inspector	Licenses and Permits	10,030.20
Police Department	Licenses and Permits	4,812.50
Selectmen	Licenses and Permits-Liquor Licenses	33,958.75
Selectmen	Licenses and Permits	2,967.50
Sign Commission	Licenses and Permits	4,158.05
Town Clerk	Licenses and Permits	4,936.00
Wiring Inspector	Licenses and Permits	118,617.67
Total Licenses and Permits		325,038.00
<u>State Government - State Aid</u>		
Treasurer-Collector	Veterans Services	54,609.00
Treasurer-Collector	Snow and Ice	22,712.30
Treasurer-Collector	Abatement Reimbursement	26,970.00
Treasurer-Collector	State Owned Land	122,236.00

Treasurer-Collector	Chapter 70	919,376.00
Treasurer-Collector	Lottery	826,641.00
Treasurer-Collector	Federal Lunch Reimbursement	34,816.18
Treasurer-Collector	State Lunch Reimbursement	5,271.19
Treasurer-Collector	School Choice	239,774.00
Treasurer-Collector	Circuit Breaker	67,965.00
Treasurer-Collector	Urban Development Excise	27,138.00
Treasurer-Collector	Municipal Medicaid	46,778.40
Treasurer-Collector	Charter School	10,935.00
Total State Aid		2,405,222.07
<u>State Government - Grants</u>		
Treasurer-Collector	WESE Grant	19,835.51
Treasurer-Collector	Tech Assistance	2,930.00
Treasurer-Collector	Chapter 90	133,608.50
Treasurer-Collector	Right To Farm	750.00
Treasurer-Collector	Toxic Use Reduction Initiative	800.00
Treasurer-Collector	Green Communities	35,500.00
Treasurer-Collector	SPED Program Improvement	1,883.00
Treasurer-Collector	DOE - Title I	104,466.00
Treasurer-Collector	DOE - Title II Math Science	20,202.00
Treasurer-Collector	DOE - P.L. 94-142	95,025.00
Treasurer-Collector	DOE - Early Childhood Wee Grant	13,137.80
Treasurer-Collector	DOE - Quality Kindergarten Grant	31,130.00
Treasurer-Collector	E-911	47,438.09
Treasurer-Collector	Police-Drug Task Force	6,686.14
Treasurer-Collector	Polling Re-imbusement	3,866.00
Treasurer-Collector	Library Title LIG/MEG Grant	8,349.96
Treasurer-Collector	Emergency Management Grant	4,529.07
Treasurer-Collector	Council on Aging - Formula Grant	16,002.22
Treasurer-Collector	Spruces Hazard Mitigation Grant	673,150.25
Treasurer-Collector	Race To The Top	3,278.00
Total State Grants		1,222,567.54
<u>Fines and Forfeits</u>		
Commonwealth		
Police Department	Court Fines	15,707.50
Total Fines and Forfeits	Parking Tickets	31,980.00
		47,687.50
<u>Sale of Assets</u>		
Cemetery		

DPW	Sale of Lots	950.00
Total Sale of Assets	Sale of Fixed Assets	300.00
		1,250.00
<u>Interest Income</u>		
Treasurer-Collector		
Treasurer-Collector	Investment Interest	40,201.49
Total Interest Income	Trust Interest	7,266.23
		47,467.72
<u>Gifts and Contributions</u>		
Police Department	Contribution - General	6,450.00
School	Principal	556.14
School	Adventures in Learning Gifts	5,706.00
School	Health Materials	506.50
School	School PTO Educational Materials	3,896.02
School	Library Books	2,284.00
School	Field Trips	1,149.75
School	5th and 6th Grade Fund	25,277.15
School	Teacher Salary	4,660.00
School	Computer Tech Gifts	545.00
School	Outdoor Classroom	446.20
School	Music	5,179.00
Council on Aging	Donations & Fundraisers	4,359.39
Library	Operations Gifts	40,878.00
Town/School	Health Coordinator	2,000.00
Town	Books	2,557.00
Town/School	K-9	323.78
Total Gifts and Contributions		106,773.93
<u>Payroll and Insurance</u>		
Payroll Deductions		
Payroll Deductions	Federal Withholding	818,688.71
Payroll Deductions	Medicare Withholding	226,307.20
Payroll Deductions	State Withholding	374,852.81
Payroll Deductions	Retirement Withholding	724,534.68
Payroll Deductions	Health Insurance	1,554,557.11
Payroll Deductions	Life Insurance	34,887.19
Payroll Deductions	Dental Insurance	91,260.16
Payroll Deductions	Other Withholdings	280,100.62
Total Payroll and Insurance		4,105,188.48
<u>Fund Transfers</u>		

Transfers between Funds		
Total Fund Transfers		199,300.44
		199,300.44
<u>Miscellaneous</u>		
Miscellaneous	OPEB Fund	150,000.00
Miscellaneous	Sherman Burbank Trust Distribution	18,558.53
Miscellaneous	Williamstown Scholarship Fund	2,749.96
Miscellaneous	Cemetery Perpetual Care Distribution	9,000.00
Miscellaneous	Affordable Housing Trust Distribution	200,000.00
Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous Trust Contributions	44,378.00
Miscellaneous	Reimbursement for damages	8,227.66
Total Miscellaneous	Stabilization Distribution	25,000.00
		457,914.15
Total Receipts		
		27,997,046.13

VETERANS SERVICES

Stephen Roy, Veteran's Agent

The Williamstown Office of Veteran Services is directly responsible for providing veterans' benefits under Chapter 115 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the US Department of Veteran Affairs at the Federal level. These important programs provide a great variety of resources and financial assistance to eligible veterans and their dependents. The veterans of our community who are disabled, homeless, unemployed or suffering from the trauma of war with nowhere else to turn can find relief in the services provided by the Office of Veteran Services.

Accurate bookkeeping and 100% approval of all submitted claims to the Department of Veteran Services (DVS) in Boston continues to be a priority in this time of financial insecurity which all of our communities are facing. The Office of Veteran Services can assure full reimbursement to the Town of Williamstown under the guidelines of 108 CMR § 13.02 (3). Consequently, the need for meticulous recordkeeping and guaranteed reimbursement by the Commonwealth to the City is imperative. In 2014, Veterans' Agent Stephen Roy processed \$65,975.41 in benefit claims without a single penny rejected by the Commonwealth - funding which would otherwise be a liability to the community. Many veterans have been saved from homelessness, hunger and despair by these funds.

With the drawdown in America's foreign engagements, many service members are coming home from Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. While this is a wonderful, the unfortunate truth of the matter is America continues to recover from the recession and meaningful employment opportunities are extremely scarce. Worse, many soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines come home greatly challenged due to the horrific effect of war on the human psyche. The Office of Veteran Services assists a great number of veterans with filing claims through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This intimidating (and time consuming) process is extremely difficult to accomplish successfully; without assistance nearly all claims would otherwise be denied by the VA.

We assist veterans in acquiring the correct documentation, proper completion and submission to the appropriate entity. Other services provided include, but are not limited to, educational/employment assistance, dependency and indemnity compensation, alcohol/drug rehabilitation, housing assistance, referrals, and close contact with funeral homes and cemeteries to ensure all veterans' graves are properly honored. The Veterans' Office also serves as a depository for hundreds of thousands of documents and important records of historic value to the sons and daughters of Williamstown in secure archives.

VSO Roy maintains a very dynamic and flexible schedule serving the veterans of not only the Town of Williamstown but the City of North Adams, Adams, Williamstown, Clarksburg, Florida and Savoy. The Veterans' Agent often makes special appointments and house calls to the sick, bedridden or elderly who cannot easily make it to the Municipal Building to process documentation. The Williamstown Office of Veteran Services is staffed Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 – 3:30 PM.

WATER AND SEWER

Edward Rondeau, Superintendent

During the last year we continued our work on Arnold St by completing the installation of 19 service lines to the homes. Each home was given a new 1" copper water service and equipped with a Town owned shut off, located at the property line. Older installation standards had most of these properties, which are multi-family served by either 3/4" or in some cases 1/2" water lines for up to four housing units in one building. We chose to upgrade them to modern standards and replace them with 1" copper, which should provide the individual tenants with greater volume, while still maintaining steady usable water pressure. Following the completion of Arnold St. project the Department dove right into a similar project on neighboring Mill St. where we commenced to install approximately 650' of new 8" ductile iron main, which we will finish installing in the spring of 2015. The total project is 900' of water main, installation of two new water hydrants and renewal/ upgrade of all the water services. The existing water main on Mill St. lies directly against the homes and is not only inadequate for fire protection; it also is deficient in feeding the homes, of which almost all are multi-family. Due to its current location it is also extremely difficult to work on for repair purposes. The new main is located in the middle of the street and the individual Town owned property shut off valves will be set per our rules and regulations at the property line.

This year the Department repaired seven water main breaks, and replaced twenty one water services. In addition we repaired nine water services and installed a total of six new water hydrants.

WILLIAMSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WILLIAMSTOWN-LANESBOROUGH SCHOOL UNION 71

*Combined Student Enrollment: 644 Faculty/Staff: 130.5**

2013-2014

Superintendent—Rose Ellis, Ed.D.

Principal—Joelle Brookner

Williamstown Elementary is a school of excellence and here is a sampling of ongoing programs and initiatives:

CURRICULUM: State-of-the art curriculum development in reading, writing, mathematics with hands-on learning in a well-stocked science lab.

STAFFING: Experienced and highly dedicated teachers, support staff and principal.

ACHIEVEMENT: Grades 3rd through 6th consistently score high on MCAS in reading, math and science.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Continued tradition of high quality, job-embedded training for staff.

TECHNOLOGY: 21st Century tools aligned with teaching and learning in the digital age.

IPADS: I Pads for staff to enhance their classroom instruction and support innovative teaching.

STUDENT MORNING NEWS PROGRAM: Web-based programming developed by 6th grade students with guidance from their teachers – viewed by all PK-6 classrooms, hosted on the school’s web page and aired weekly on Willinet.

MANDARIN: Instruction in world language starting in pre-kindergarten -- now in its fourth year.

ENRICHMENT: On-going student experiences designed to stretch learning: Shakespeare, Words Are Wonderful, 6th Grade Musical, Orchestra/Band Concerts, Grand Tradition Piano Concert, Adventures in Learning, Geography Bee, Renzi Award, 6th Grade Spirit Committee, Learning Buddies.

WILLIAMSTOWN YOUTH CENTER: Continually growing partnership with the Youth Center on the grounds of WES -- expanding opportunities for our students.

*Includes Tri-District staff.

**WILLIAMSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT and
STAFFING 2013-2014**

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

YEAR	TOTALS	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
Ratio 13-14	439	1:12 36	1:17 50	1:17 50	1:17 67	1:19 58	1:17 52	1:22 65	1:20 61
Ratio 12-13	438	1:11 34	1:18 54	1:16 63	1:18 55	1:16 48	1:21 64	1:20 60	1:20 60
Ratio 11-12	416	1:15 29	1:16 65	1:16 48	1:15 46	1:19 56	1:19 57	1:20 59	1:19 56
Ratio 10-11	407	1:11 33	1:16 47	1:16 48	1:15 58	1:18 54	1:21 62	1:18 55	1:17 50
Ratio 09-10	426	1:11 35	1:15 45	1:19 56	1:19 56	1:20 60	1:19 58	1:16 49	1:22 68

EDUCATIONAL AND SUPPORT STAFFING (Full-Time Equivalents)

Grade-Level Teachers PK-6	24
Specialists (Music, Art, Library, PE, Nurse, Reading, World Language and Technology)	9.6
Special Education Teachers And Professional Support Staff	7.3
Paraprofessionals	26.6
Custodians/Cafeteria	7.1
TOTAL	75

**WILLIAMSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS 2013-
2014**

Changing of the guard...

Congratulations to WES teachers Carolyn Agostini, Mary Johnson, Harriet Neiman, Jeanne Roy and Lisa Shannon, who retired at the end of the school year. Combined, they gave over 175 years of love and instruction to children in their classrooms.

Spirited WES...

November 1, 2013 marked Williamstown Elementary's first **First Friday Spirit Day**. Led by the newly formed 6th grade Spirit Committee (mentored by WES teachers Betsy Reali and Margot Sanger) with the goal of showcasing our love for our school, each *first Friday* of the month brought with it a variety of special events including, but not limited to, *First Friday* morning welcome serenades by the school's orchestra and all-school assemblies.

In addition, students across all grades participated in our contest to design a new school logo to represent our mascot, the wise WES superhero owl and our motto, *Using our powers for good*. Over 200 students participated and 12 finalists were anonymously presented to faculty and staff, who voted for their favorite. The design submitted by 5th grader, Alice Glab, was selected in an extremely close faculty/staff vote as our new WES logo. Congratulations and thank you to Alice Glab, as well as finalists: Luca Lash-St.John (2nd grade), Erika Bolton (3rd grade), Zoe Armet, Inez Higgiston & Livia Morales (4th grade), Mariko Bolton, Jacob Crosby, Alice Glab & Alexander Scott (5th grade), and Miriam Bakija, Libbie DeGraff, and Julia Donati (6th grade).

WES Reads...

In February, WES students and staff participated in the national *Read the Most from Coast to Coast* challenge. In order to celebrate and encourage a love of reading, WES students and staff, some with the help of their 5th and 6th grade buddies, took time to “drop everything and read” together at the same time during the school day. Students then took an Accelerated Reader (AR) quiz to document their efforts and join their peers across the country trying to break the record for the number of AR quizzes in a single day. WES students logged 565 Accelerated Reader quizzes that day! Thank you to School Librarian, Susan Lynch, and Technology Coordinator, Tom Welch, for leading the charge on our reading/AR challenge!

‘Intentional’ Parenting: Critical Issues for Parents’ Consideration Now

Nationally renowned expert, **Maria Trozzi**, visited the Tri-District for an interactive and enlightening evening conversation with parents about the new stresses of parenting our children today and evidence-based strategies for building resilience. Trozzi’s refreshing and honest approach focused on useful strategies that are often counter-intuitive for dedicated parents, but lead children to master the coping skills that promote resilience.

Maria Trozzi is a nationally recognized speaker to audiences when crisis challenges all of us (Columbine, Ground Zero, Katrina) and to professional and parent audiences interested in strategies that promote the mastery of coping skills throughout the developmental life of their child. She is an assistant professor of developmental pediatrics at Boston University School of Medicine, Director of the Good Grief Program at Boston Medical Center, author of *Talking With Children About Loss* (Penguin-Putnam), and consultant to hospitals nationwide. At the request of the Pentagon, Trozzi lectures regularly to service members and wives of the Navy Special Warfare. A frequent contributor to both national print and electronic media, appearing on CBS *The Early Show*, *Good Morning America*, *What Every Baby Knows*, and elsewhere. A Boston native, she maintains a clinical practice dedicated to family resilience.

WILLIAMSTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

School Committee members for the 2013-2014 school year included: Valerie Hall, Chairperson, Christopher Jones, Vice-Chair, John Skavlem, Dan Caplinger, and Richard Reynolds. WES is fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers advocating for our students and school community.

WILLIAMSTOWN HOUSING AUTHORITY

Betty Ann LaBombard, Executive Director

35 Adams Road

Williamstown, Massachusetts 01267

Tel: 413 458-8282 Fax: 413 458-9698

The Williamstown Housing Authority administers a total of 150 units of subsidized housing, both rental assistance and conventional units. This includes: 30 elderly apartments, Meadowvale, on Adams Road, 97 units of federally subsidized Section 8 rental assistance, 8 units of family housing at the corner of Cole Avenue and Stetson Road, 8 units for people with special needs on Adams Road, and 7 state funded rental vouchers. Our office is located at Meadowvale, 35 Adams Road.

We are presently accepting applications for elderly and family housing. However, our Section 8 Federally funded rental assistance program waiting list is closed at the present time, due to the number of applicants.

The members of the Williamstown Housing Authority are: Mark Reinhardt – Chairman and State Appointee, Peter Mehlin - Vice Chairman, Joan Burns and David Mangun. The Executive Director is Betty Ann Labombard.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Andrew Hoar, Chairman

The Zoning Board of Appeals is comprised of 5 members and 3 alternate members. Serving on the Board in 2014 were Andrew Hoar; Chairman, John Holden, David Levine, Ryan Neathawk, and Leigh Short. Alternate Members are Keith Davis, Jack Nogiuera, and Larry Wright.

The Board meets the third Thursday of every month to hear and decide petitions arising from the application of the Williamstown's Zoning Bylaws. These petitions fall into four categories:

- VariANCES** seek relief from the requirements of the Bylaws due to particular circumstances that are unique to a property.
- Special Permits** seek permission for uses or changes allowed under the Bylaws under certain conditions. These permits allow the Board to permit important projects while protecting neighborhoods from adverse impacts.
- Administrative Appeals** seek relief from a decision made by the Zoning Enforcement Officer.
- Comprehensive Permits** seek permission to circumvent certain local zoning laws to construct affordable housing under the authority of Massachusetts General Law Ch. 40B.

Any application for any of these four types of permits requires the Board to place advertisements in the local newspaper, *The Berkshire Eagle*, and notify all

abutters of the subject property of the time and date of the public hearing on an application by mail. This process ensures that all neighbors of a proposed project have a chance to voice any concerns regarding a proposal. If you ever receive a post card notifying you of a permit request in your neighborhood the folks in the Community Development Department at Town Hall are very helpful and can explain any questions you might have about an application or the process in general.

The Zoning Board received 27 requests for hearings in 2014, an increase from the previous year and the most since 2008. There were 23 requests for Special Permits with 22 approved and 1 denied.

2014 saw the Board approve many important and long awaited projects. A Comprehensive Permit was approved for Berkshire Housing Development Corp and the Women's Institute for Housing for a new 40 unit building behind the existing housing at Proprietor's Field. This project is one of utmost importance as the community needs these new affordable housing units to meet demand due to the impending closure of the Spruce Mobile Home Park. Another exciting project approved by the board is the long awaited Cable Mills renovation. This project was first approved in 2004, revised in 2007, and then had its approvals expire when stalled due to the financial crisis. This past February the project proponents returned with the 2007 application and the Board approved it once again with some minor amendments. Construction on the mill should be ongoing throughout 2015. In terms of new developments the final highlight of 2014 was a rarely seen type of project. A request to modify site plan requirements from Vince Guntlow in order to place the historic Mather House on a property off of North Street. Following a somewhat contentious public hearing process the building was moved in two separate pieces from Stetson Court to its new home over the course of an entire day in late November.

The Board found itself closing the book on two large and long awaited ongoing projects in 2014. Two permit applications for the Stetson Sawyer Library at Williams College were reviewed. This project was originally approved in 2006 as a phased project. Phase 1 included completion of the library, Phase 2 included the new Kellogg House, and Phase 3 involved the demolition of the 1975 Sawyer Library and construction of a new green. In the original approval it was decided that the College would return to the Board to finalize the site plans for each phase. This was done in August 2014 and finalized in early 2015. The completion of the project will occur in two phases first in summer 2015 and finishing up in summer 2016.

Similar site plan revisions were submitted by the Clark Art Institute for their major expansion project. These were also approved and the Clark opened to the public on July 4. With lots of things happening in Williamstown as 2014 closes out we're looking forward to all the proposals the community will present to us in 2015.

Appendices

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WILLIAMSTOWN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Annual Report 2014

Highlights of the Year

2014 was a year of growth and focus for the Williamstown Historical Museum. Some of our highlights this year included a grant in the amount of \$17,571 in CPA funds, voted on by the town at the June town meeting, to support a project for the preservation, conservation, and exhibition of several carefully selected works of historical importance from the collection of the Williamstown Historical Museum, and for ongoing curatorial research dedicated to collections care. With this funding we had several historic photos, two ledgers from a Hopkins furniture and funeral home, a longtime Spring Street business, and a tilt-top tea table conserved at the Williamstown Art Conservation Center. In addition an 18th century canteen from our collection was x-rayed by the WACC to determine what might lie inside the canteen, causing a rattling sound when the artifact is moved. The x-ray determined that there are at least two objects within the canteen, and we look forward to the community viewing the x-ray to help us guess what might be inside. In 2015 we will work on an exhibit to tell these stories of these artifacts in an exhibit that is set to open in the summer of 2015.

With the CPA grant funding we are continuing curatorial research dedicated to collections care with the assistance of Laura Staneff who is helping us put together a Collections Preservation Plan and assessing our photographs collection to provide us with more information about the processes used for the photos and how they can best be preserved. We take our job as custodians of the town's artifacts seriously and we work with specialists in the field of preservation so that we can keep our valuable material history safe.

In addition to the grant for the conservation of the objects noted above, we also received \$1,000 from the Fund for Williamstown of the Berkshire Taconic Foundation and \$750 from the Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire to put together a booklet that will help tell the story of the artifacts we conserved and why conservation is important. For this project we look forward to working with community members and local junior high and high school students to help us research these special pieces of Williamstown's history.

Another highlight of the year included the continuation of our strategic planning process. A dedicated group of board members worked diligently to articulate a list of strategic goals that will be developed further into an action plan with accompanying metrics, and finally into an implemented set of steps that help our organization serve our community to the best of our ability. The goals we established are listed here and address six areas of focus:

IN SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION

1. The WHM will take as its foremost goal the preservation and presentation of the history of Williamstown for this and future generations.

2. The WHM will become a vibrant community resource -- a history center -- connected to multiple constituencies, serving as a repository of memory and framework for viewing today.

IN SUPPORT OF A PERMANENT LOCATION

The Williamstown Historical Museum will endeavor to best utilize space in its current location, and possibly additional satellite locations.

BUILDING A STRONGER, VOLUNTEER-DRIVEN ORGANIZATION

1. The WHM Nominating Committee will continue to recruit Board members who wish to be fully engaged in the realization of our mission and the attainment of our strategic goals.

2. The Williamstown Historical Museum will cultivate a volunteer service group to strengthen the museum. The Board will designate a task force to spearhead this effort.

BECOMING A MORE ACTIVE, COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION

1. The WHM will expand its collaborative work with K-12 students and teachers to create unique and compelling programs for that foster an appreciation of our town's history.

2. The WHM will make progress and become more relevant in the region by building mutually beneficial relationships with other entities, including but not limited to: regional historical societies, Williamstown Historical Commission, Williamstown Community Preservation Committee, local businesses, local schools and colleges, senior centers, news outlets, WilliNet, and the Chamber of Commerce.

3. The WHM will identify and explore new opportunities to showcase its programs, exhibitions, and preservation efforts.

CARING FOR THE COLLECTION AND ARCHIVES

The WHM will assess and evaluate its current collection, addressing, in particular, issues of preservation, conservation, exhibition, and storage.

SUSTAINABILITY

The WHM, working toward long-term sustainability, will seek new ways to advance the museum's mission while also, and importantly, striving to generate increased revenue through the development of the museum's fundraising capacity across all platforms including, but not restricted to, memberships, annual donations, grants, and sponsorships.

Starting in the fall of 2014 three Williams College students worked at the WHM to help us in a number of areas. One intern provided a valuable service by assisting with our digital cataloging project; logging in new donations and storing them in our collections storage area. Another intern started a project to help us build our social media presence and our aim is to activate this program in June of 2015 after she completes her research. Our third intern is working on a project to determine how we can digitize and make our scrapbook, ledger and journal collection viewable online.

Our online catalog of images from our collection continues to be a popular resource for researchers and people interested in our town's visual and cultural history. By visiting this link you too can research the past: <http://williamstown.pastperfect-online.com>.

Exhibits

Our orientation exhibit *From Wilderness to Williamstown* which details Williamstown's rich history continues to draw positive feedback from visitors. People are always impressed by the wealth of information contained on the walls and within the vignettes throughout the exhibit. It often takes a few visits for everything to sink in!

Our rotating exhibits this year included *Big Days in a Small Town*, curated by Dustin Griffin and *100 Years in White: The 1914 Renovation of the First Congregational Church*. The "Big Days" exhibit featured photos and memorabilia from important town wide events and the changes that took place in these celebrations over the years. Some of the featured celebrations included the Fourth of July, Williams College Commencement, and the Williamstown Grange Fair. "100 Years in White" looked at the First Congregational Church's recladding and interior renovation from a neo-Romanesque brick structure from the 1860s to a white, single steeple classical New England church. The brick from the original structure still lies beneath the white siding!

Outreach and Public Programs

In addition to exhibits, public programs are another way we fulfill our mission of making town history accessible to the public. In 2014 our programs included *Take the Trolley* by John Hyde featuring information about Williamstown's trolleys; *Maple Sugaring* by Andy Bernardy who discussed the history of maple sugaring and answered many questions from the audience; *The Trail of a Williamstown Family* by Louise Dudley and Judith Wilson about the Smedley-Foote family; *The 1746 Attack on Fort Massachusetts* by Dustin Griffin and *One Hundred Years in White: The 1914 Renovation of the First Congregational Church* by Moira Jones in conjunction with her exhibit opening. We are fortunate for our partnership with WilliNet. We film programs whenever possible where they can be seen on WilliNet. Our programs are also available online on our website and at the WilliNet website.

In addition to our regular programs we worked on a collaborative project with the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation to carry out a series of "Living History Days" where our members were able to participate in the reconstruction of an articulated sled used for wood hauling that was given to WRLF by Hank Flynt and his family.

Our cabaret and silent auction fundraiser, *March in the Valley*, was held at The Orchards Hotel and featured music by Ron Feldman on cello and Elizabeth Morse on the harp. Howie Levitz, playing the keyboard, provided additional musical entertainment while several talented students of Kathleen Carbone sang standards and favorites. The entertainment was not limited to music. Steve Lawson performed a lively and humorous reading that all enjoyed.

Education

Visits by the Williamstown Elementary School third grade classes were enhanced again this year by Education Coordinator Dick Steege's pre-trip activities in the classroom. Dick continues to work as a liaison between the museum and teachers in an attempt to increase the use of material from our collection in the classroom. Primary Resource Packets are available for teachers interested in delving into local history; a valuable

jumping off point for investigating primary documents and how they can inform us about history.

An interested and active education committee started working on a project to get high school students involved by working on our booklets noted above. We are looking forward to engaging students in local history.

Research Assistance

Our resources are utilized not only for education and public programs, but also in responding daily to the many inquiries for genealogical assistance, house history research, student research, professional research, information for our own exhibits and programs, as well as for programs and visits arranged by request for other community groups. Our director, Sarah, and our primary genealogy researcher, David Primmer, responded to approximately 40 requests in 2014 ranging from requests about the Sloan family from the Five Corners area of South Williamstown to inquiries about the original architect on the Cable Mill building currently under construction.

Nuts and Bolts

Maintaining our collection of historical resources is a time-consuming operation. In 2014 we received 144 gifts of artifacts from 23 donors, 14 of them from first-time donors. Most of the gifts consisted of multiple items, increasing our collection by more than separate items that required sorting, evaluating, cataloguing, and processing. Our part-time staff member works approximately 22 hours a week. In 2014 this was supplemented by our three Williams College FWS students who contributed about six hours per week during the semester. Our ongoing work and many special projects were possible only with more than 1,000 additional hours generously donated by our faithful volunteers. Volunteer docents fill 2 hour slots most mornings and afternoons at the museum, David Primmer spends between 1-4 hours researching each genealogical query that we receive, and our board members spent approximately 200 hours organizing programs, events and fundraisers.

A Broad Constituency

While we would expect our resources to serve primarily a local constituency, many people from elsewhere who have connections to Williamstown visit, as increasingly do tourists to the area. The majority of visitors are from the geographic area between Williamstown, Pittsfield, Adams, and Bennington, but others come from eastern Massachusetts and neighboring New York and Connecticut, and still others from further afield. In 2014, our small museum's guestbook contained signatures from 28 states and from other countries including Canada, England, Pakistan, and Germany.

We Must Be Doing Something Right

The kind words of our visitors show us that our work is important and should continue!

“What a wonderful collection of historic artifacts. Just grand.”

“Always fun!”

“Discovered by accident. Very Nice!”

“Found help in the research for a photo.”

“Well organized, informative. Just delightful!”

WILLIAMSTOWN YOUTH CENTER

David Rempell, Executive Director

Michael Williams, Assistant Director

This past year has been very meaningful for the Youth Center community. We continue to enjoy the advantages that our new facility provide and explore the additional opportunities that it provides. Before I provide some of the highlights of the past year and speak to some new initiatives, let me repeat the mission statement of the Williamstown Youth Center:

The Williamstown Youth Center is committed to nurturing the educational, recreational, social and emotional well-being of the youth and families in Williamstown and surrounding communities through quality programs for all.



I would suggest that given the complexity of what children encounter in our present society, this mission has never been more important. It is also important to note that there are many stakeholders in the success of the Youth Center. Of course, our primary focus is the children and families in our community. The Williamstown Elementary School, Mt. Greylock Regional High School and the other preschools and schools in our area are also dependent upon the success of our “out-of-school time” programming. Employers are also stakeholders, as attractive and successful youth services can help attract businesses and employees to the community. In addition, local institutions that train young men and women to work with children, such as Williams College and MCLA, have a vested interest. In other words, we are all in this together.

As mentioned above, this has been a remarkable year at the Youth Center. Our most noted activity, the After-School Program, continues to grow in both participation and offerings. During the current school year our participation has increased by approximately 25%. This is in addition to the jump that we predicted and experienced

when we moved into our new facility. As we continue to emphasize homework assistance, we also offer daily art activities, strategic board games, gross motor activities, a game room with pool, ping pong, foosball, etc., and a media center for technology activities. Most importantly, we strive to provide a supportive and well-supervised environment for children. Every afternoon children meet with their “group leaders” and select from a variety of options for each thirty minute period. In this manner we are able to provide a child-centered program that recognizes that children deserve a variety of activities after a full-day of school. Of course, no afternoon would be complete without our nutritious snack and meeting.

During vacation weeks and summertime, the Youth Center provides full-day programs. Our eight week summer camp program includes many trips to local recreational and educational venues. We also collaborate with other organizations to enrich the program. For example, this past summer included programming with Vermont Voltage Soccer Academy and Sand Springs Recreational Center. We plan to enhance these collaborations in the future, as we also reach out to other organizations.

During the school year many members of our community volunteer their time to help us provide programs in many sports. Offerings include volleyball, soccer, basketball, swimming, track and field, etc. Our sports philosophy states that the most important objectives for young athletes are to have fun, improve playing skills, be responsible team members, and learn to love to play.

As most members of the community are aware, the Youth Center has always issued financial aid to families. The financial situation of a family will never prevent children from attending our programs. For various reasons, some parents have not approached the Youth Center for assistance; this resulted in the children not attending our After-School Program. Now that we have a facility that can successfully serve so many more children, we have been working with the elementary school teachers to identify children who would greatly benefit from our program and whose parents have not registered them. Based upon these recommendations, the Youth Center then takes the initiative to contact these families to invite the children to join the program. Then, based upon financial need, “awards” are presented to these children so that they can attend. This program is working well and will expand.

On Sunday, February 1st, the Youth Center facilitated the 12th annual Snowfest celebration. We are extremely grateful to Williams College for the use of the field house and skating rink for the event. Snowfest provides a vast assortment of activities for children and families. Many students from Mt. Greylock Regional High School and Williams College provide assistance. The proceeds from Snowfest help support the operating budget of the Youth Center and allow us to continue to provide needed scholarships to children. To enhance our net income from the event, a number of local organizations helped sponsor the event. Our sponsors included: Adams Community Bank, Colonial Pizza, Countryside Landscape and Design, Inc., Donovan & O’Connor, LLP, Gajda, Arnold & McConnell, Goodwill Industries of the Berkshires and Southern Vermont, Greylock Bowl & Golf/Mingo’s Sports Bar and Grill, Greylock Federal Credit Union, Hops & Vines, Ira Lapidus, D.M.D., Mad Macs, Inc., Main Street Hospitality Group, Mountain Home Landscape, Pera Bistro, Print Shop Williamstown, Sand Springs

Recreational Center, True North Financial Services, Vermont Voltage Sports Club, The Williams Shop and Williamstown Physical Therapy. As these organizations supported the children in our community, I hope that you will support them.

Another new initiative that was accomplished during the past year was the creation of a new strategic plan. This plan will guide the work of the Youth Center for the next several years. The Planning and Organizational Committee of the Board of Directors wrote the plan with input from the entire Board and staff. We all look forward to using the plan as a means to continue to improve the operations of the Youth Center. Members of the Board of Directors during the past year include Dave Armet, President, Duffy Judge, Vice-President, Russ Howard, Treasurer, Madeline Levy, Secretary, Kevin Bopp, Weng-Him Cheung, Kim Kuster, John McAlister, Marc McDermott, Nolan Pratt, Matt Sheehy, and Tom Welch.

Every day, when members of the Youth Center community walk into our new facility, we are reminded of the incredible support of our community. It is exciting to note how we have grown and flourished since we moved into 66 School Street. We receive major support each year from the Williamstown Community Chest and Town of Williamstown. Williams College and the Williamstown Elementary School provide space for many of our programs. Our generous donors, volunteer coaches, etc. help make us who we are. We are a better community because of this support for the Williamstown Youth Center. Thank you!



WILLIAMSTOWN FIRE DISTRICT



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

The Fire District would like to start its annual report by acknowledging J. Paul Dube for his 29 years of dedicated service as the Clerk, Treasurer and Moderator. Paul decided not to run in 2013 so that he could spend more time at home enjoying his retirement with the company of his wife Marlene.

As Clerk and Treasurer Paul kept the district well organized by maintaining the minutes and keeping an exceptional eye on the budget. As Moderator, Paul ran the Town Fire District meetings in an orderly and proper manner. He may even hold the record for the shortest Town Fire District meeting, under ten minutes. There are many tasks that the Clerk and Treasurer have that often go unnoticed. The reason for this is because Paul knew and did his job well.

One undertaking that not many realize was the writing of the Annual Fire District Report. I'm sure many of you enjoyed the format that went along with the Districts report; every year was a different theme. Paul was responsible for making that happen however he did have a little help. The Fire District would also like to acknowledge Marlene Dube, Paul's wife who has been the silent partner and the creative writer of the Annual Fire District Reports for as many years.

2014 PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Williamstown Fire District is an independent governmental entity created by a 1912 act of the Legislature. The District is governed by a board of three commissioners elected at the District's annual meeting customarily on the fourth Tuesday in May at which time the District also sets its budget and its tax levy for the following year. All registered voters of Williamstown are entitled to attend the annual meeting at the District firehouse on Water Street.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

Edward B. Briggs
John J. Notsley
Edward M. McGowan

Corydon L. Thurston, Clerk and Treasurer
Craig A. Pedercini, Chief
34 Water Street
(413) 458-8113

The Fire District would like to recognize Firefighters Patrick Banks and William Bowen who have resigned due to new jobs which required them to relocate elsewhere. Thank you for your dedicated service and contribution to the community.

The Fire District has a dedicated staff of 24 firefighters of which one is currently on military leave. Michael F. Daniels has been a firefighter since July 2005 and joined the US Army in February 2011. Michael is a Sergeant and a Medic and served in Afghanistan for 8 months during 2014. He is now stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington. Thank you for your service.

The district's 24 firefighters continue to train on Monday nights. The in house training consists of every aspect of firefighting including vehicle extrication. Firefighters also keep up on State mandated requirements such as First Responders, CPR/AED and Hazardous Materials. Other types of training which firefighters participated in this year were taught by The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and were as follows: Pumps and Hydraulics, Protective Breathing/Search and Rescue, Structural Firefighting, Rope Rescue Operational, Hazardous Materials Operations Level, Fire Code Orientation, Public Safety Responses to Bombing Incidents and Fire Officer II.

Firefighters John Manley, Patrick Banks, William Bowen, Lucas Ames and Erryn Leinbaugh completed a Firefighter I/II program put on by the Berkshire County Fire Chief's Association. The program consisted of over 200 hours of classroom and practical training.

The District responded to 244 calls in the year 2014, a few of which are mentioned in greater detail. On January 29th the fire department was called to the US Post Office for a suspicious package. The package was reported to be beeping. Based on the initial information the fire department evacuated the Post Office as well as the adjacent buildings. Thirty minutes after the initial call, the Police and Fire department with the assistance of Williams College Security determine the beeping package was only a game sent to one of the students at the college.

On March 16th a fire alarm coming from an Art Gallery/Apartment building proved to be a saver. A calling party from the building who was alerted by the fire alarm told the 911 dispatcher he could smell smoke. Firefighters arrived on scene to a sounding fire alarm and tenants standing outside who had evacuated the building. The firefighters searched the upper floors where the tenant said he could smell smoke and quickly determined it had to be coming from the Art Gallery located below or the basement. Entering the Galerie Reynard, firefighters found smoke filling the room. A smoldering towel which was placed up against a door to an adjacent restaurant was found to be the cause.

Firefighters in air packs placed the smoldering towel and a floor mat which was under the towel into a metal container and removed it from the building. The floor mat had a large hole burned through it and the hardwood floor had been scorched. Water was used to cool the burn in the floor and the building had to be ventilated. Firefighters checked the second and third floor for carbon monoxide before allowing the tenants back into the building. The fire department determined the cause of the fire to be from two energized wires that were lying on the floor near the towel. Earlier that evening, the owner needed to move a Plasma Glass Art display so he disconnected the two wires that were plugged into it and placed them on or near the towel which was on the floor behind the table. The two wires were connected to a specially constructed high voltage power supply which was plugged into a timer set to come on at approximately 6pm. The wires were close enough to each other that when they became energized they began arcing off of each other causing the towel to start smoldering, eventually burning a hole through the floor mat and scorching the wood floor. Although this was accidental it could have been catastrophic.

The fire department responded to two chimney fires in 2014 as well as two pellet stove fires. One of the chimney fires was problematic in that the chimney flue became plugged with creosote and didn't allow the woodstove to vent off. This causes smoke, gases and heat to build up in the flue eventually catching fire. Chimney flues are designed for venting off heated gasses and smoke, not for supporting a fire.

On two other occasions the fire department was called out to respond to a report of smoke in the house coming from the pellet stove. In one case the fire department found a good amount of ground pellet dust burning behind the stove in the area of the auger. At the second call, firefighters discovered a smoldering fire in the hopper and around the auger area. Both pellets stoves were removed from the homes. Each house had to be ventilated due to the smoke and carbon monoxide build up. The fire department cannot stress enough the importance of keeping your wood burning appliance and chimney flue clean. Burning well-seasoned, dry hardwoods will help to reduce your chances of a chimney fire. Pellet stoves require weekly cleanings.

On September 10th and October 31st the fire department responded to two kitchen fires. Both fires started on top of the stove when a burner was accidently turned on and in each case the stove top was being used as a storage place for combustibles. The fire department has been in multiple homes in the last few years and has found this to be a common problem, especially with our elderly. People are using their stove tops and ovens for storing combustibles such as paper and plastic items. The people involved in these two incidents were very lucky to have a home to go back to. The ramification to them and their neighbors around them could have been devastating.

On November 13th the fire department responded to a report of a riding lawn mower fire. The resident was using the riding mower to mulch his leaves. The leaves lodged themselves in and around the hot motor and exhaust pipe which was hot enough to start them on fire and eventually catching the mower itself on fire.

On December 29th the fire department responded to a garage fire on Henderson Road. The daughter of the homeowner was at the house taking care of five children when she discovered the fire and had her brother who was also at the house call 911. The five children and three adults who were at the home were able to get out safely. The garage was an eight hundred square foot two stall structure with an addition attached to it. The garage was 50 to 75 percent involved when firefighters arrived on scene. It was fifteen feet away from the owner's two story wood framed home. Firefighters used 3500 gallons of water from three different engines before a water supply was established at a nearby pond. Eight hundred and fifty feet of four inch hose was laid from the pond to the fire ground to supply water to the fire engine. Pownal, VT and Clarksburg Fire departments were called to assist the Williamstown Firefighters. The initial blitzing of the 3500 gallons of water was enough to save the owners home. A State Fire Marshal and an Electrical Investigator were called in to assist the fire department with finding the cause. It was determined that the cause of the blaze was from a chimney fire. The owner had a wood stove in the addition that heated his home and garage. The extreme heat given off by the chimney fire caused the flue tiles and cement blocks to crack allowing the fire to get to the wood framing of the structure. Firefighters did a great job and no one was injured.

Firefighters responded to twenty six motor vehicle accidents in 2014. Out of those, four required extrication. Our firefighters train many hours a year in vehicle extrication to become proficient when an emergency arises. This was the case when firefighters rescued three people from a silver Honda that had slid off the road and crashed into a utility pole snapping it in two. The passenger side of the vehicle took the impact trapping the passenger in the front seat. Firefighters and members of Village Ambulance removed the driver of the vehicle and the passenger in the back seat who were not trapped. In order to remove the third passenger, firefighters had to remove the roof of the vehicle.

One cold winter morning, the fire department assisted Village Ambulance with removing a driver from a jackknifed tractor trailer. The vehicle was attempting to drive his truck up the north bound lane of the Moody Bridge when he discovered it was a sheet of ice. The tractor trailer slid sideways shutting the road down for a period of time. The driver had sustained injuries and members of Village Ambulance were unable to remove him from the vehicle. Firefighters had to remove the driver's door in order to get the driver out.

On another occasion, the Williamstown and Lanesborough Departments assisted the New Ashford Fire Department with a two car motor vehicle accident with entrapment. The drivers of each vehicle were trapped inside. Lanesborough firefighters worked on extracting one of the drivers out of their vehicle while the Williamstown firefighters extricated the other driver out of their vehicle. In both operations the driver's door had to be removed and the dashboards had to be pulled away from the drivers. Great teamwork by all the firefighters from each department made it a smooth rescue.

Unfortunately not all accidents turn out the way you would like them to. This was true of an incident that occurred at the intersection of route 7 and route 43 (Five Corners) where a passenger car was struck by a tour bus killing the driver of the passenger car. Police, Firefighters and EMS worked for multiple hours that late afternoon while the road was closed down for five hours.

In 2014 the fire department was also involved with rescuing an injured hiker, searching for a lost hiker and a missing person. The fire department also assisted the Police with an over turned water craft in a neighboring pond.

Total calls consisted of : Structure Fires – 2, Chimney Fires – 2, Lawn Mower Fire – 1, Cooking Fire (contained) – 4, Attempt to Burn/Arson – 3, Trash/Dumpster Fire – 2, Brush Fires – 1, Illegal Outside Fires – 2, Fires- Electrical/pole/tree/wires down -11, Burning Odor/Electrical – 4, Mutual Aid Structure Fires/Standby – 1 (North Adams), Bomb Scare – 1, Motor Vehicle Accidents – 26 (4 with extrication), Natural/Propane Gas Calls – 12, Gasoline/Oil Spills/Odor – 4, Oil Burner Problems – 2, Activated Fire Alarms – 104, Activated Sprinkler Alarms – 3, Carbon Monoxide Investigations – 22, Smoke/Good Intent Calls – 20, Smoke Removal – 1, Rescues – 4 (3 lost hiker) (1 water), Tree on House – 1, Elevator Rescue – 2, Water Issues/Flooding Basements – 7, Station Coverage Storm Detail – 2

Chief Pedercini conducted regular comprehensive inspections of all public and private schools, restaurants, motels, inns, theaters, and nursing homes. Inspections of fire alarms

and sprinkler systems were performed in all structures built or remodeled during the year. 220 permits were issued for Smoke/CO Detectors, Smoke/CO Installations, LPG, Torch, Tank Removals, Oil Burners, Tank Truck Inspections, Hood Suppression, Floor Refinishing, Fire Protection Systems, Fire Reports, Fireworks and Fuel Tank Storage Elected officers of the Williamstown Fire District include Corydon L. Thurston as Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer of the District. His term expires in 2015. Elected Prudential Committee members and term expirations are Edward M. McGowan, 2015, Edward B. Briggs, 2016 and John J. Notsley, 2017.

Appointed officers are Chief Craig A. Pedercini, First Assistant Engineer Robert E. Briggs, Second Assistant Engineer Michael E. Noyes, Third Assistant Engineer Richard F. Daniels, and Fourth Assistant Engineer Daniel J. Bryant

WILLIAMSTOWN FIRE DISTRICT FY 2014

Report of the Treasurer*

JULY 1, 2013 - BALANCE ON HAND IN TREASURY \$699,524.75

RECEIPTS:

Town of Williamstown (Taxes collected)	501,462.77	
Williams College	26,509.86	
Inspection Fees	6,243.00	
Interest Income	2,231.44	
Miscellaneous	0.37	
Donations	325.00	\$536,772.44
	-----	-----
		\$1,236,297.19

EXPENSES

Audit	8,000.00
Berkshire County Retirement	29,172.00
Communications	20,133.81
Debt Service	0.00
Dispatch	46,168.13
Education and Training	13,613.90
Insurance	47,824.83
Legal	11,461.19
Maintenance & Operation	56,373.93
Pay of Firemen	46,223.90
Salaries	87,880.33
Services & Supplies	8,000.00
Street Lighting	81,542.28
	165

Utilities		6,681.75	
Water Rents		1,650.00	
Total Operation	Article 5		\$464,726.05
Stabilization	Article 6		\$42,000.00
Site Cost FY '11	Article 8		\$6,370.90
Site Cost FY'13	Article 10		\$8,986.63
			(\$513,096.95)
June 30, 2014 Balance on Hand		-----	----- \$723,200.24
Stabilization Fund	7/1/2013		\$368,619.70
Additions			\$42,000.00
Interest			\$1,151.92
Fund Balance June 30, 2014		-----	\$411,771.62