

***TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN,
MASSACHUSETTS***



***ANNUAL REPORT
-2020-***

*TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS*



*2020
ANNUAL REPORT*

Department reports are for the calendar year 2020 unless otherwise noted

Financial report covers the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020

Prepared by Roslyn Broch, Sarah Hurlbut

Cover Photo: Brian O'Grady

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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 be 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 only second college, following Harvard, 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: 4,840

Town Website: www.williamstownma.gov

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
Clark Art Institute
Williamstown Savings Bank
Williams Inn

Williamstown Commons
Williamstown Medical Associates
Town of Williamstown
Mount Greylock Regional School District



COVER STORY

2020 was a year of struggle, pain, and isolation. It seemed like every day presented new challenges and insurmountable obstacles: a global pandemic, political unrest, an ongoing reckoning of the uglier sides of our nation's past and present, mass unemployment, housing insecurity, the fear of "falling behind," the list goes on. But in the face of such devastation and panic, we were presented with an opportunity and a choice; we could either succumb to the despair and chaos or we could adapt, engage, and discover just how resilient we are.

In spite of lockdowns, quarantines, and restrictions, the world kept turning. As much as we wanted to slow everything down, we had to keep moving. We had to adapt quickly to new methods of living, working, and engaging with each other. Instead of meeting in restaurants or cafes, we ordered takeout and sat on porches. Instead of going into work, we set up offices at kitchen tables, propping laptops on top of books and boxes for that perfect video conference angle. When schools started remote learning to keep staff, students, and their families safe, we moved classrooms online and found new ways to teach and learn. Goods and services that we had come to rely on were moved online or to curbside. We may resent some or all of these adaptations, but we should also celebrate them as a testimony to our ability to adapt and survive in difficult times.

2020 was a year of increased participation and engagement in civic life. We voted early and by mail for local and national elections. We moved the Annual Town Meeting to Weston Field and came together safely as a community to make plans for our future. Our committees and boards were moved to Zoom and Willinet and they experienced record levels of participation. Some found this increased engagement to be enlightening and inspiring, and others found it troubling and exhausting. While dissent and discourse are the cornerstone of democracy and it thrives with an engaged, informed, and diverse population, it also thrives when we genuinely care about each other.

When members of our community were facing food insecurity, we stepped up with record donations of food and funds for our community food pantries. When local businesses were struggling to remain open, the community purchased gift certificates and shopped locally. When our neighbors had to remain inside their homes, food was dropped off on porches and greetings were exchanged through windows. We looked critically at our history and its impacts on our current society. We continued the perpetual process of making lasting positive changes for all current and future members of our community. As we progress with this level of engagement, it is important to have a vision of what we hope to build and understand how it impacts everyone in our community. We have proven successful many times over in adaptation, engagement, and resilience, but we often fall short in how we treat each other. Sometimes we forget about civility, patience, and compassion. Our community thrives when we remember why we care and why we do what we do.

As we go into 2021, many of the same challenges are before us. Flipping a calendar from December to January does not magically make all of our problems go away. It does not heal our wounds nor does it quell our grief. The pandemic continues to ravage the world and systems of oppression are certainly not going anywhere any time soon. While it is important to acknowledge our collective mourning and individual pain, we do not need to let it define us. What lessons have we learned this past year and what kind of legacy do we want to leave for the future? Let us define ourselves by our actions and by our intentions, not by our circumstances. We have survived thus far, now it is time to thrive.

Respectfully submitted,

Roslyn Broch
Assistant to the Town Manager

CURRENT TOWN OFFICIALS



ELECTED OFFICIALS

SELECT BOARD

Hugh Daley	2023	Andrew Hogeland	2023
Anne O'Connor	2021	Jane Patton, chair	2022
Jeffrey Thomas	2022		

MODERATOR

Adam Filson	2022
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LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Charles Bonenti	2021	Deb Dimassimo	2022
Karen Kowitz	2023	Micah Manary	2022
Peter Mehlin	2022	Bridget Spann	2022
Patricia Wilk	2023		

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Judith Bombardier	2025	John Kalapos	2024
Nancy LaValley	2022	Peter Mehlin	2021

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tim Rickert	2021	Davis Westall	2022
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MT. GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Julia Bowen	2024	Christina Conry	2022
Jose Constantine	2024	Curtis Elfenbein	2022
Carrie Greene	2022	Michelle Johnson	2024
Steven Miller	2022		

PLANNING BOARD

Peter Beck	2025	Dante Birch	2024
Stephanie Boyd	2023	Susan Puddester	2021
Chris Winters	2022	Bruce McDonald, Alt.	2022



APPOINTED BY THE MODERATOR

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Daniel Caplinger	2022	Paula Consolini	2022
Melissa Cragg	2023	Charles Fox	2021
Elizabeth Goodman	2022	Doris Karampatsos	2023
Elaine Neely	2022	Stephen Shepard, chair	2023
Michael Sussman	2021		

APPOINTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

Liz Costley	2022	Daniel Gura	2022
Anne O'Connor	2022	Stanley Parese	2022
Patrick Quinn	2022	Thomas E. Sheldon, Chair	2021

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Brian Cole	2021	Averill Cook	2022
Bill Galusha	2021	Sarah Gardner, Chair	2021
Darryl Lipinski	2023	Christopher Sabot, Alt.	

CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Vacancy (3)

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Joseph Finnegan (Town Resident)

Other Representatives Designated by their Committees:

Philip McKnight (Conservation Commission)
Linda Conway (Historical Commission)
Susan Puddester (Planning Board)
Melissa Cragg (Finance Committee)
Jane Patton (Parks Commissioner)
Jason Hoch (Town Manager)
Peter Mehlin (Housing Authority)

CONSTABLES

Paul Yarter 2020 Andrew Bernardy 2023

CULTURAL COUNCIL of NORTHERN BERKSHIRE

Cecelia Hirsch 2021 Sarah Sussman 2022

FENCE VIEWERS

Brian Renaud 2021 Tanya Tidmarsh 2021

HOOSAC WATER QUALITY DISTRICT

Elaine Neely 2022 Don Clark 2022

MOBILE HOME RENT CONTROL BOARD

David Levine 2021 John Luczynski 2021

MOHAWK TRAIL WOODLANDS PARTNERSHIP

Hank Art

MT. GREYLOCK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Cosmo Catalano, State Appointed Scott Lewis

MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Linda Brown, Chair 2022 Donna Denelli-Hess 2023
Kris Kirby 2023

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Nicole Pedercini (D) Town Clerk Kurt Gabel (R) 2021
Robert A. Jones (R) 2022 Mark Windover (D) 2023

SIGN COMMISSION

Timothy Cherubini 2024 Richard Duncan 2025
Anne Hogeland 2023 Anne Singleton 2021
Kathy Thompson 2025

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Tim Kaiser 2021

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Brian O'Grady Appointed by the Select Board Chair

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Keith Davis 2024 Andrew Hoar, chair 2022
Amy Jeschawitz 2024 David Levine 2023
Eunice Marigliano 2024 Robert Mathews 2024
Jane Nichols 2024 Vince Pesce 2021



APPOINTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER

1753 HOUSE COMMITTEE

Hank Art	2023	Andrus Burr	2021
Sarah Currie	2022	Keith Davis	2021
Marilyn Faulkner	2023	David Loomis	2021
Lauren Stevens	2021		

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER AND INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS

Jeffrey Kennedy
Mike Ziemba

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Thomas Elder	Chris Lamarre, Chair
David Westall	

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Alex Carlisle, Appointed by Planning Board	2021
Roger Bolton, Alternate	2021

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Hank Art, Chair	2021	Corey Campbell	2023
Tim Carr	2021	Philip McKnight	2023
Lauren Stevens	2023	Katie Wolfgang	2022

COUNCIL ON AGING

Brian T. O'Grady, Director		Judith Bombardier	2023
Pamela Burger, Chair	2022	Mary Jo Green	2021
Martin Greenstein	2023	Karen Kelly	2022
Elaine Keyes	2021	Patricia Picard	2023
Susan Puddester	2023		

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Jason Hoch, Director

FOREST WARDEN

Richard Daniels

FORESTRY/ PEST CONTROL SUPERINTENDENT/TREE WARDEN

Robert E. McCarthy, Jr.

HEALTH INSPECTOR

Jeffrey C. Kennedy

BOARD OF HEALTH

Devan Bartels	2024	Ruth Harrison	2023
James Parkinson, MD	2021	Ronald Stant, Chair	2022
Edwin Steubner, MD			

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Gerrit Blauvett	2022	Nate Budington	2023
Andrus Burr	2021	Sarah Currie	2023
Patricia Leach	2021		

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Scott McGowan, Sergeant	Paul Thompson, Sergeant
Michael Ziemba, Interim Chief	

POLICE OFFICERS

Craig Eichhammer	Kevin Garner
Tania Hernandez	John J. McConnell, Jr.
Brad Sacco	Scott Skorupski
Shuan William	Anthony Duprat, training

SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER

David Jennings
Kalvin Dziedziak

POLICE DISPATCHERS

Haley Sigsbury	Christy Lemoine
Laura Tuper	Barbara Brucato

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

William Cote	Linda Nichols
Rosella Cote	Scott Parks

SELECT BOARD

Jane Patton, Chair

2020 proved to be a year that will go down in history. In early January, we began hearing reports of a virus making its way into the US. Soon after, Covid-19 was a full-blown pandemic impacting the entire globe. By mid-March, the country, and Williamstown, was in lockdown. Schools were closed, grocery store shelves were empty, and wearing masks and gloves everywhere we went became the norm. The nation shifted to parents working from home while their children were remote learning. We were thrust into a world of Zoom calls and meetings, Facetiming with friends and family, and using hand sanitizer twenty times a day. Through it all, Williamstown rose to the occasion.

Town Hall (as well as local businesses) closed almost immediately, shifting all employees to working from home. All town services remained intact and barely skipped a beat. The team of town employees were dedicated and inventive. For example, they moved from direct sale of trash bags to trash tags that could be mailed. They shifted sales of both annual stickers and tags from inside the Tax Office to online with a fallback option for purchasing and billing on site. A new VOIP phone system was implemented allowing for email delivery of voicemail messages; an enhanced access service was provided for some employees allowing them to use personal cell phones to access the town phone system for outbound calling rather than issuing employees individual town phones. In the early days of Covid, conditions changed quickly and information and guidance from the state also changed rapidly requiring multiple daily decisions to adjust to changing conditions. We had two elections, one state and one national, and a town meeting to figure out, and I am thrilled to say all three were successful. Town meeting was postponed until August, and due to ongoing Covid constrictions, was held outdoors at the Lamb/Farley Field on the Williams campus. It was a lovely evening, made notable by the fact that we all realized we were participating in an historical event.

After several years of nearly flat budgets, the original budget had no tax increase. However, with the delay of Town Meeting, we moved to a 1/12 system of budgeting, meaning a new budget was created every month. The budget was reviewed line by line to adjust proposed expenditures without dramatically impacting operations. These ongoing adjustments, coupled with conservative estimates of likely revenues in the major loss areas, meant that as actual revenues outperformed the estimates, the Town was situated to replenish free cash for the coming year. In addition, the Town moved quickly to develop strategies to use FEMA and CARES act funds to address additional costs of operations due to COVID – most notably by developing an approach to work broadly within the programs to build capacity to effectively deal with Covid. The town's finances ended up in a far better position than we had feared.

In late May, George Floyd, a black man, was killed in Minneapolis by a white policer kneeling on his neck. The entire country became involved in a national outcry against violence against people of color. Williamstown was no different, with citizens expressing their concerns about racism in Williamstown. In response, the Select Board Town created the DIRE (Diversity, Inclusion and Racial Equity) advisory committee to create a space for residents to express their concerns and work together to recommend changes within the police department and town government to address those concerns and fears. In August, the town learned of an MCAD (Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination) complaint filed by a Williamstown Police Department Officer. This resulted in the residents, the Select Board, the Town Manager and the Chief of Police working to understand the complaints in the filing and address them as appropriate. The complaint generated significant town-wide discussions about racism and justice, and opened the community's mind to longstanding inequities. In early December, Chief Kyle Johnson decided that by stepping down, the residents and town government would be better positioned to make

the changes necessary to begin the process of moving forward.

In summary, Williamstown came through 2020 having experienced significant challenges and disruptions. Between a global pandemic and the crisis in the WPD, the residents, Town Hall and WPD employees and town government worked together every single day to do their level best to weather the literal and figurative storms thrown our way.

Submitted with gratitude,
Jane Patton
Chair, Select Board
2020-2021



REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS

1753 HOUSE COMMITTEE

Lauren R. Stevens

The small house in the middle of Field Park, raised with the methods and materials of the original houses in town as a temporary marker of the town's 200th anniversary, has once again been a beneficiary of the Community Preservation Act—while for all intents and purposes being closed due to COVID-19.

In 2012, CPA funded the reconstruction of the fireplace and chimney. In 2019, it paid for a roof replacement. In 2020 it sponsored two new signs.

The signs, facing traffic north and south of the House, identify it and explain the reason for its construction. At a Black Lives Matter rally on Field Park last Spring, one of the speakers noted that there were people in the area before settlers of European extraction. With the endorsement of the DIRE Committee, the '53 House Committee consulted with Mohican heritage officials, now moved to Williamstown, about the best language to enlarge the story the house tells. The Mohicans suggested: "Homelands of the Moh He Con Neew (Mohican Nation)." At first the idea was to add to the old signs; they turned out to be rotted, however, so new ones were ordered—and planted by the town highway crew.



To mark the installation, the building was open, with COVID restrictions, Friday after Thanksgiving. A family from New York State stopped. The father asked his young daughter what the sign said. She responded "Moh He Con Neew." The signs represent the town's public acknowledgement of people present before 1753 and still present.

Although we put in new greens, thanks to Dick Schlesinger, November 27 was the only time the building was open in 2020, whereas in other years it has welcomed visitors from Memorial Day to Williams' Family Days. Nor were there usual visits by school groups. The traditional carol sing had to be cancelled. We look forward to reopening the House in 2021.

Members of the 1753 House Committee are Henry "Hank" Art, Andrus Burr, Sarah Currie, Keith Davis, Marilyn Faulkner, David Loomis, and Lauren Stevens

ACCOUNTANT
Anna Osborn

Town of Williamstown
Annual Report of Budgets and Expenditures General Fund
For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

	FY20	FY19	Total	Year to Date	FY20	
Account	Budget	Encumbrance	Available	Expended	Encumbrance	Balance
Appropriations - General						
Select Board	18,900.00	3,500.00	22,400.00	17,540.91	3,500.00	1,359.09
Town Manager	228,169.99	33,106.95	261,276.94	268,639.07	3,911.18	(11,273.31)
Sand Springs Recreation ATM Article	19,000.00	0.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	0.00	0.00
Town Counsel	40,000.00	0.00	40,000.00	22,029.04	5,000.00	12,970.96
Emergency Management	2,253.00	0.00	2,253.00	2,228.00	0.00	25.00
Insurance	122,175.00	0.00	122,175.00	148,371.00	(4,945.00)	(21,251.00)
Finance Committee	776.00	0.00	776.00	180.00	0.00	596.00
Town Accountant	235,837.00	5,420.00	241,257.00	210,995.13	17,420.00	12,841.87
Assessor	118,667.60	22,250.00	140,917.60	113,974.06	6,800.00	20,143.54
Treasurer-Collector	200,737.85	0.00	200,737.85	179,952.26	101.50	20,684.09
Management Information Systems	130,773.18	19,416.58	150,189.76	135,448.05	10,982.49	3,759.22
Town Clerk	84,409.14	168.20	84,577.34	96,941.51	612.50	(12,976.67)
Registrar of Voters	20,140.59	0.00	20,140.59	14,709.58	0.00	5,431.01
Voting Machines	0.00	4,200.00	4,200.00	0.00	4,200.00	0.00
Employees Benefits	2,270,189.72	53,978.70	2,324,168.42	2,071,290.77	30,000.00	222,877.65
Conservation Commission	14,501.00	0.00	14,501.00	14,370.62	0.00	130.38
Agricultural Commission	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	115.95	0.00	884.05
Planning Board	2,725.00	0.00	2,725.00	1,179.80	0.00	1,545.20
Zoning Board	5,200.00	0.00	5,200.00	3,379.60	0.00	1,820.40
Historical Commission	700.00	0.00	700.00	0.00	0.00	700.00
Community Development	306,985.07	14,107.79	321,092.86	271,533.75	16,657.28	32,901.83
Sealer of Weights & Measures	7,075.74	0.00	7,075.74	6,694.35	0.00	381.39
Health Department	82,172.49	0.00	82,172.49	80,788.64	0.00	1,383.85
Police Department	1,190,379.27	191.00	1,190,570.27	1,198,431.91	0.00	(7,861.64)
Dispatch Services	213,244.52	0.00	213,244.52	211,759.16	0.00	1,485.36
Animal Control Officer	6,102.41	0.00	6,102.41	998.37	0.00	5,104.04
Forest Warden	9,668.27	0.00	9,668.27	7,563.88	0.00	2,104.39
Director of Public Works	180,321.26	37,725.18	218,046.44	233,506.36	9,437.89	(24,897.81)
Site Assessment Hart Landfill	0.00	19,250.00	19,250.00	19,250.00	0.00	0.00
Facilities Management	189,977.14	7,500.00	197,477.14	185,313.93	8,121.25	4,041.96
Town Hall Improvements	0.00	16,396.02	16,396.02	0.00	16,396.02	0.00
Highway Department	1,145,002.43	566,016.22	1,711,018.65	1,120,585.83	537,956.61	52,476.21
Cluett Drain Replacement	110,000.00	0.00	110,000.00	36,452.78	73,547.22	0.00
Candlewood Drive & Holly Lane	121,000.00	0.00	121,000.00	121,000.00	0.00	0.00
Elm Street Reclaim/Overlay	33,500.00	0.00	33,500.00	33,499.83	0.00	0.17
Hall Street Reclaim/Overlay	27,500.00	0.00	27,500.00	27,392.91	0.00	107.09
Luce Rd Drainage/Reclaim/Overlay	82,000.00	0.00	82,000.00	227.38	0.00	81,772.62
Linden St Reclaim/Overlay	33,500.00	0.00	33,500.00	33,499.91	0.00	0.09

Mechanics Bay Updates	21,000.00	0.00	21,000.00	20,881.68	0.00	118.32
Maple St Reclaim/Overlay	28,500.00	0.00	28,500.00	28,499.91	0.00	0.09
Arnold Street Sidewalk Repair	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	0.00
N. Hoosac Rd Stabilization Engineering	0.00	41,800.00	41,800.00	0.00	41,800.00	0.00
Bridges & Sand Springs Rd Paving	0.00	119,065.17	119,065.17	0.00	0.00	119,065.17
South Street Design	0.00	12,847.00	12,847.00	12,847.00	0.00	0.00
Luce Rd Drainage	0.00	144,783.43	144,783.43	144,783.43	0.00	0.00
Thornliebank Depth & Curb	0.00	34,501.90	34,501.90	0.00	0.00	34,501.90
Snow and Ice Control	173,940.50	0.00	173,940.50	263,802.28	0.00	(89,861.78)
Parks and Cemetery	272,808.46	16,306.76	289,115.22	221,039.89	17,792.90	50,282.43
Backhoe Parks Dept	125,000.00	0.00	125,000.00	91,647.93	0.00	33,352.07
Linear Park Tennis Court Resurface	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00	0.00
Linear Park Pickleball Court	35,000.00	0.00	35,000.00	0.00	35,000.00	0.00
Asphalt Road Improvements	0.00	1,199.21	1,199.21	0.00	1,199.21	0.00
Fence Replacement	0.00	19,385.00	19,385.00	0.00	19,385.00	0.00
Cemetery Record Cards	0.00	5,512.79	5,512.79	2,188.17	3,324.62	0.00
Sherman Burbank Chapel	4,525.00	0.00	4,525.00	2,645.78	0.00	1,879.22
Forestry Department	49,513.65	12,057.74	61,571.39	44,978.76	16,500.00	92.63
Recreation Commission	13,712.10	0.00	13,712.10	12,311.32	0.00	1,400.78
Youth Center	77,000.00	0.00	77,000.00	77,000.00	0.00	0.00
Council on Aging	235,401.60	359.97	235,761.57	229,130.07	3,011.00	3,620.50
Veterans Benefits	98,443.86	0.00	98,443.86	88,016.58	0.00	10,427.28
Library	482,275.19	4,679.35	486,954.54	456,387.41	21,861.87	8,705.26
Sidewalks & Parking Lot	0.00	12,183.42	12,183.42	0.00	12,183.42	0.00
Window Replacement	0.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00	0.00
Veterans Graves and Holidays	3,050.00	0.00	3,050.00	1,894.56	0.00	1,155.44
General Debt Service	591,888.00	0.00	591,888.00	591,887.50	0.00	0.50
Mt Greylock Regional School	12,113,764.00	0.00	12,113,764.00	12,113,764.00	0.00	0.00
Northern Berk Vocational School	323,311.00	0.00	323,311.00	321,397.00	0.00	1,914.00
Broadband Study	0.00	14,436.37	14,436.37	8,625.00	5,811.37	0.00
Chamber of Commerce	46,302.00	0.00	46,302.00	46,302.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers to other Funds	245,000.00	0.00	245,000.00	247,256.76	0.00	(2,256.76)
Reserve Fund	75,000.00	0.00	75,000.00	0.00	0.00	75,000.00
Total Appropriated - General	\$22,278,019.03	\$1,282,344.75	\$23,560,363.78	\$21,936,131.37	\$965,568.33	\$658,664.08
Tax Rate Assessments						
State Assessments	\$6,020.00	\$0.00	\$6,020.00	\$6,780.00	\$0.00	(\$760.00)
County Assessments	48,000.00	0.00	48,000.00	39,323.00	0.00	8,677.00
Other Assessments	156,178.16	0.00	156,178.16	6,178.16	0.00	150,000.00
Total Tax Rate Assessments	\$210,198.16	\$0.00	\$210,198.16	\$52,281.16	\$0.00	\$157,917.00
Total General Fund	\$22,488,217.19	\$1,282,344.75	\$23,770,561.94	\$21,988,412.53	\$965,568.33	\$816,581.08

**Annual Report of Budgets and Expenditures Enterprise Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2020**

	FY20	FY19	Total	Year to Date	FY20	
Account	Budget	Encumbrance	Available	Expended	Encumbrance	Balance
Appropriations - Transfer Station	\$201,805.43	\$8,868.50	\$210,673.93	\$178,136.74	\$8,783.50	\$ 23,753.69
Sustainable Materials Recovery	5,250.00	3,757.84	9,007.84	535.29	8,472.55	\$0.00
Transfer to Reserves	203.07	0.00	203.07	0.00	0.00	\$ 203.07
Appropriations - Sewer Department	376,966.56	41,171.73	418,138.29	577,168.91	45,180.04	(204,210.66)
Cold Spring Pump Upgrades C12PU	0.00	23,283.50	23,283.50	0.00	23,283.50	0.00
Pump Station Upgrades C17PS	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.00
Pump Station Upgrades C18PS	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.00
Sewer Camera Replacement C18SC	0.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	0.00	35,000.00	0.00
Cold Spring Pump Upgrades C19CS	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.00
South St Sewer Replacement C19SS	0.00	84,000.00	84,000.00	0.00	84,000.00	0.00
Mechanics Bay Updates C20MB	7,000.00	0.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.00	0.00
Cold Spring Pump Upgrades C20PS	40,000.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.00
South St Sewer Replacement C20SS	84,000.00	0.00	84,000.00	0.00	84,000.00	0.00
Sewer Debt Service	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00
Transfers to General Fund	82,219.00	0.00	82,219.00	82,219.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers to Reserve	23,000.00	0.00	23,000.00	0.00	0.00	23,000.00
Hoosac Water Quality District	671,277.42	0.00	671,277.42	671,277.42	0.00	0.00
Appropriations - Water Department	617,605.14	10,764.16	628,369.30	736,218.91	18,684.35	(126,533.96)
Well 1 Decommissioning C15W1	0.00	74,535.00	74,535.00	54,858.00	19,677.00	0.00
Well #2 Rehab C17W2	0.00	120,000.00	120,000.00	0.00	120,000.00	0.00
Maple Street Main Replacement C17MS	0.00	18,121.19	18,121.19	0.00	0.00	18,121.19
GIS Water Map C17GS	0.00	28,915.00	28,915.00	10,758.50	18,156.50	0.00
Walden St Water Main C19WM	0.00	52,170.75	52,170.75	23,776.20	0.00	28,394.55
Mechanics Bay Updates C20MB	7,000.00	0.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.00	0.00
Hoxsey/Main Water Main Replace C20MN	100,000.00	0.00	100,000.00	86,445.42	13,554.58	0.00
Water Debt Service	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00
Transfer to Reserves	272,627.46	0.00	272,627.46	0.00	0.00	272,627.46

Transfers to General Fund	117,081.00	0.00	117,081.00	117,081.00	0.00	0.00
Total Enterprise	\$2,656,035.08	\$620,587.67	\$3,276,622.75	\$2,552,475.39	\$638,792.02	\$85,355.34
Borrowed Funds - Sewer Department						
Inflow and Infiltration	\$0.00	\$187,442.07	\$187,442.07	\$135,993.13	\$51,448.94	\$0.00

**Annual Report of Revenues and Expenditures Special Revenue Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2020**

Account	Balance		Total		Balance
	7/1/2019	Receipts	Available	Expended	6/30/2020
Special Revenue Funds Town of Williamstown					
Highway Flood Control - Green River	474.60	0.00	474.60	0.00	474.60
Highway - Cole Ave Bridge	517.74	0.00	517.74	0.00	517.74
Highway - Roaring Brook Grant	6,575.96	0.00	6,575.96	0.00	6,575.96
Highway - Chapter 90	(52,578.24)	58,368.00	5,789.76	5,789.76	0.00
Highway - Syndicate Stabilization Grant	5,243.80	0.00	5,243.80	0.00	5,243.80
Highway - Linear Park Bridge	4,044.12	0.00	4,044.12	0.00	4,044.12
Community Preservation Act Fund	453,439.40	326,041.19	779,480.59	358,074.51	421,406.08
CDBG Housing - Steinerfilm	15,650.40	0.00	15,650.40	15,650.40	0.00
Selectmen - Spruces HMG	79,394.49	0.00	79,394.49	6,204.75	73,189.74
Selectmen - COVID-19 CARES CvRF	0.00	49,860.00	49,860.00	49,519.67	340.33
Selectmen - COVID-19 FEMA	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,085.07	(13,085.07)
Selectmen - Cable Technology Fund	5,874.71	0.00	5,874.71	5,605.00	269.71
Selectmen - Comm St Tree Restoration	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
Selectmen - Toxic Use Reduction Grant	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	632.40	367.60
Selectmen - WFM Emergency Response Grant	0.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.00
Selectmen - RRA -Capital Projects	2,451.69	0.00	2,451.69	0.00	2,451.69
Selectmen - Solarize MA Program	(315.60)	7,000.00	6,684.40	2,270.29	4,414.11
Comm Compact IT Grant	0.00	14,400.00	14,400.00	7,500.00	6,900.00
Town Clerk - Polling Reimbursement	25.66	443.52	469.18	0.00	469.18
ConCom - Wetlands Fees	27,203.44	0.00	27,203.44	400.00	26,803.44
ConCom - Stone Hill Stewardship Grant	2,805.00	0.00	2,805.00	0.00	2,805.00
Mass Housing Ptnr Zoning Grant	650.68	0.00	650.68	0.00	650.68
Planning Bd - DOT Comp Sts Priority Plan	(57,446.00)	167,847.00	110,401.00	123,882.76	(13,481.76)
RRA TNC Ride Assessment	0.00	114.40	114.40	0.00	114.40
Econ Develop - Bike Trail Gift	2,871.64	0.00	2,871.64	0.00	2,871.64
Econ Develop - Brownfield Grant	9,897.45	164,676.68	174,574.13	174,574.13	0.00
Econ Develop - MA Cultural Council	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00
Econ Develop - Mohawk Bike Pedestrian Trail	(358,539.19)	355,600.38	(2,938.81)	189,028.91	(191,967.72)
Econ Develop - Canoe Access Facility Grant	3,545.00	0.00	3,545.00	3,545.00	0.00

Pub Property - Green Community Grant	2,554.83	0.00	2,554.83	0.00	2,554.83
Police - Support Fund	42,342.96	10,700.00	53,042.96	78,187.04	(25,144.08)
Police - Drug Task Force	17,839.55	11,145.91	28,985.46	11,198.22	17,787.24
Police - Forfeiture Funds	15,420.46	0.00	15,420.46	0.00	15,420.46
Police - Defibrillator Gift	714.54	0.00	714.54	0.00	714.54
Police - Damaged Property	(0.00)	2,255.47	2,255.47	2,255.47	(0.00)
Police - K9 Gifts	7,247.20	0.00	7,247.20	489.92	6,757.28
Police - E911 Training Grant	0.00	5,681.00	5,681.00	5,810.00	(129.00)
Police - E911 Communications Grant	(10,004.47)	38,565.82	28,561.35	38,392.00	(9,830.65)
Police - REACH Triad Grant	144.54	0.00	144.54	144.54	0.00
Police - COPS MORE Grant	4,013.23	0.00	4,013.23	3,711.34	301.89
Police - Systems Improvement Grant	(250,000.00)	250,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Police - Bullet Proof Vest Grant	954.50	0.00	954.50	0.00	954.50
Police - COPS Fast Grant	14,026.79	0.00	14,026.79	14,026.79	0.00
Police - Public Safety & Equipment Grant	1,636.47	0.00	1,636.47	1,636.47	0.00
Inspection Services - Revolving Fund	244,032.60	91,600.17	335,632.77	65,000.00	270,632.77
Civil Defense - Emergency Management Grant	4,230.10	0.00	4,230.10	2,228.00	2,002.10
Civil Defense - Hazard Mitigation Grant	(6,614.46)	2,885.22	(3,729.24)	0.00	(3,729.24)
Animal Control - Operations Gift	164.13	0.00	164.13	0.00	164.13
Forest Warden - Assist Firefighters	(1,837.50)	1,837.50	0.00	1,953.00	(1,953.00)
DPW - Damaged Prop	(0.00)	33,554.50	33,554.50	7,914.77	25,639.73
Parks - Damaged Prop	0.00	8,030.26	8,030.26	8,030.26	0.00
Parks - Litchfield Beautification Gift	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Parks - Sherman Chapel Gifts	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00
Forestry - Gift	115.75	0.00	115.75	115.75	0.00
Forestry - Damaged Prop	2,487.99	0.00	2,487.99	2,487.99	0.00
COA - Activity Fund	7,269.14	3,931.00	11,200.14	3,100.05	8,100.09
COA - CPR Grant	180.00	0.00	180.00	0.00	180.00
COA - Elder Services Meal Grant	1,768.60	0.00	1,768.60	0.00	1,768.60
COA - Formula Grant	0.00	25,176.00	25,176.00	25,176.00	0.00
Library - Revolving Fund	2,225.57	1,321.12	3,546.69	220.67	3,326.02
Library - Museum Pass Gift	2,260.00	0.00	2,260.00	390.00	1,870.00
Library - Gifts for Books	6,275.18	1,312.29	7,587.47	0.00	7,587.47
Library - Damaged Prop	2,011.82	314.70	2,326.52	0.00	2,326.52
Library - Operations Gift	12,621.37	27,990.00	40,611.37	32,870.86	7,740.51
Library - LIG/MEG Grant	0.00	11,807.14	11,807.14	11,807.14	0.00
Library - Renovation Donations	16,919.76	86,932.30	103,852.06	42,877.12	60,974.94
Recreation - Revolving Acct	3,564.14	0.00	3,564.14	0.00	3,564.14
Recreation - Skateboard Park Gift	379.00	0.00	379.00	0.00	379.00
Benefits - BHG Health Coordinator	1,819.07	2,000.00	3,819.07	1,752.10	2,066.97
Special Revenue Funds-Borrowed Funds					
Cemetery Building	1,778.55	0.00	1,778.55	0.00	1,778.55
Total Special Revenue	\$304,878.16	\$1,774,391.57	\$2,079,269.73	\$1,330,538.15	\$748,731.58

*Annual Report of Revenues and Trust Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2020*

	Balance		Total		Balance
Account	7/1/2019	Receipts	Available	Expended	6/30/2020
Trust Funds					
Affordable Housing	\$25,111.04	\$76,150.08	\$101,261.12	\$81,224.00	\$20,037.12
Alma Morey	6,732.88	146.22	6,879.10	0.00	6,879.10
Botsford-House of Local History Trust	43,619.98	947.28	44,567.26	0.00	44,567.26
Botsford - Library Trust	71,863.80	1,560.60	73,424.40	0.00	73,424.40
Bullock Forest	114,366.11	2,170.03	116,536.14	11,718.06	104,818.08
C.D. Foster	2,025.72	43.99	2,069.71	0.00	2,069.71
Compensated Balances	259,965.77	200,076.14	460,041.91	174,578.10	285,463.81
Conservation Commission	3,964.58	79.07	4,043.65	0.00	4,043.65
Helen Renzi School	10,419.27	226.28	10,645.55	0.00	10,645.55
J.E. Bascom	11,648.03	252.96	11,900.99	0.00	11,900.99
Library Annual Fund	72,670.43	15,282.38	87,952.81	55,786.08	32,166.73
Library Carpenter Fund	10,168.11	220.82	10,388.93	0.00	10,388.93
Margaret Lindley	2,617.59	56.84	2,674.43	0.00	2,674.43
Municipal Scholarship	38,371.64	3,806.08	42,177.72	4,000.00	38,177.72
OPEB Liability trust	500,432.09	65,978.78	566,410.87	7,180.62	559,230.25
Perpetual Care Income	16,109.47	9,714.09	25,823.56	9,000.00	16,823.56
Perpetual Care Principal	402,211.13	3,570.00	405,781.13	0.00	405,781.13
Sale of Lots	28,346.86	430.00	28,776.86	0.00	28,776.86
Sherman Burbank	847,298.83	26,465.71	873,764.54	6,000.00	867,764.54
Southlawn Cemetery	0.00	5,066.93	5,066.93	0.00	5,066.93
Stabilization Fund	1,402,509.26	28,209.47	1,430,718.73	0.00	1,430,718.73
Torrey Woods	3,173.09	68.91	3,242.00	0.00	3,242.00
West Lawn Cemetery	201,506.97	12,064.19	213,571.16		213,571.16
Total Trust Funds	\$4,075,132.65	\$452,586.85	\$4,527,719.50	\$349,486.86	\$4,178,232.64
Annual Report of Revenues and Expenditures Capital Projects Fund					
For the Year Ended June 30, 2020					
	Balance		Total		Balance
Account	7/1/2019	Receipts	Available	Expended	6/30/2020
Capital Projects Fund					
Police Station	\$418,209.23	\$400,000.00	\$818,209.23	\$818,209.23	(\$0.00)

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

Thomas Sheldon, Chair

The year 2020 was unique for the Trust as it was for most people and organizations in the nation and beyond—a year of Zoom meetings, reconsidered priorities and emerging needs. The Trust used the flexibility that is inherent in its structure to respond nimbly to the new circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Trust's most significant initiative was to revisit an idea that had been discussed a few years ago: a program of emergency rental assistance, in this case for income-qualified Williamstown residents who were adversely affected by COVID-19's economic dislocations and faced eviction. This became the Williamstown Emergency Rental Assistance Program (WERAP). The Trust forged a relationship with Berkshire Housing and Development Corporation whereby BHDC would screen and qualify applicants for emergency rental assistance. BHDC had developed Highland Woods, was developing the Cole Avenue Apartments, and was a known and trusted partner. Although temporary aid programs from federal and state sources met some of the need, the Trust's WERAP made several grants by year's end from its Fiscal Year 2020 & 2021 funds.

As the Trust began 2021, we anticipated a much higher need for rental assistance as the year progressed which became a focus of the Trust's application for Community Preservation Act funding for FY22. The Trust also worked closely with the Town Manager to secure reimbursement for WERAP grants through CARES Act funds, thereby stretching the limited funding available for distribution in 2021.

The Trust also began planning for an analogous program of emergency mortgage assistance to help Williamstown residents who are income qualified and suffered loss of income due to the pandemic. Our aim was to launch the new program in early 2021.

Although the Trust had to suspend its highly successful Richard DeMayo Mortgage Assistance Program for first-time home buyers in order to deploy its limited funds to the WERAP, it still was able to make one grant in 2020. That was the twentieth such grant since the program's inception.

In other business, the Trust undertook an in-depth review of the 2013 "Ryan Report" which had analyzed housing needs in Williamstown. The intent was to assist town officials as they project what kinds of data needed to be collected in order to inform policy making in the area of housing affordability.

The Trust maintained regular contact with the Northern Berkshire Habitat for Humanity as it constructed an affordable house on a lot (at the corner of Cole Avenue and Maple Street) that the Trust had donated to Habitat. Their plan is to then construct homes on two other lots purchased and donated by the Trust.

Finally, the Trust began collaborating with the Diversity, Inclusion and Racial Equity Committee (DIRE) and other groups focused on the critical link between affordable housing, diversity and inclusion.

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Sarah Gardner, Chair

Purpose: The Agricultural Commission supports commercial agriculture and other farming activities in Williamstown, MA. The Commission's duties include but are not limited to:

- Serving as facilitators for farmers and farm enterprises;
- Encouraging the pursuit of agriculture in Williamstown;
- Promoting agricultural-based economic opportunities in Williamstown;
- Mediating, advocating, educating, and negotiating farming issues;
- Supporting the preservation of agricultural lands; and
- Advising town boards on issues involving agriculture.

2020 Commissioners: Sarah Gardner (Chair), Brian Cole, Averill Cook, Darryl Lapinski, William Galusha, Topher Sabot (Alternate).

Email address: agcom@williamstownma.gov

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Clark Art Institute Pasture: In February, the Commission discussed the situation of the Haley Farm cows in the pasture at the Clark Art Institute and wrote a letter to Clark Art in support of some changes to the arrangement that would improve the situation for the cows, the farmer and the Clark. These included pasture improvement, better fencing, and some compensation for the farmers for pasturing their cows there, which brings benefits to the museum and requires time and effort on the part of the farmers.
- Williamstown Farmers Market: The Commission invites the Williamstown Farmers Market board to a meeting each year for an update. The Agricultural Commission continues to provide financial support to the Williamstown Farmers Market for expenses such as membership in the Massachusetts Farmers Market Organization, for their liability insurance policy, and for their website platform.
- Zoning Bylaws: Farm Events: In response to requests from farms to be allowed to hold more on-farm events, the Commission discussed the history of the farm event bylaw and learned there have been no complaints since it was enacted. Farm events are an important source of income to farms. Therefore, the Commission prepared and submitted a proposal to revise the zoning bylaw, 70-7.2 Nonresidential development, to increase the number of weddings and family celebrations permitted on farms from 5 to 10 per year.
- Zoning Bylaws: Marijuana Cultivation: In 2020 the Planning Board voted on a zoning bylaw amendment to prohibit outdoor cannabis cultivation. In response, the Agricultural Commission brought forth a Citizens Petition to preserve the right to outdoor marijuana cultivation. Hearing concerns from the farming community about removing this opportunity, and hearing concerns from neighbors of a proposed outdoor grow permit application, the Agricultural Commission's bylaw language proposed to amend 70-3.3A and 70-3.3K of the zoning code with more restrictions and regulations to outdoor growing to ensure no negative impacts to neighbors. During 2020, the Commission had several meetings dedicated to the discussion of all aspects of marijuana cultivation and had several guest experts, including growers and officials from other Berkshire towns, as well as a student presentation on the feasibility of outdoor growing in Williamstown. The Commission worked with the Planning Board collaboratively to craft a bylaw for town meeting 2021 that allows for outdoor growing while ensuring neighbors are not negatively affected.
- Haley Farm: In August 2020, in response to ongoing concerns expressed by farmers in Williamstown about communications they had received from DCR about their lease, the Agricultural Commission wrote a letter to the Commissioner of the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation explaining the importance of the land to the farm and asking for clarity and explanation about the situation.

- Agricultural Preservation Restriction: In December 2020, the Commission discussed and wrote a letter of support for the William and Kelly Galusha Agricultural Preservation Restriction for their 17 acre parcel of prime farmland, to ensure that land resource remains permanently available for agriculture.
- Annual Farmers Dinner: For the first time in 9 years, the Agricultural Commission did not host its Annual Farmer Dinner at Sheep Hill due to Covid protocols. The Annual Farmer Dinner expects to return in fall 2021.



BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Christopher Lamarre, Chair

The Assessors are responsible for annually valuing real and personal property at its full and fair cash value as of the date of assessment of January 1. The "Mass Appraisal Approach" to value is the methodology assessors across the Commonwealth use when determining values for ad valorem tax purposes. The DOR's Bureau of Local Assessment defines Mass Appraisal as, "the use of standardized procedures for collecting data and appraising property to ensure that all properties within a municipality are valued uniformly and equitably". "It is the process of valuing a group of properties as of a given date, using common data, employing standardized methods and conducting statistical tests to ensure uniformity and equity in the valuations".

For FY2020 there were 2,529 residential parcels, 251 classified as commercial, 17 industrial and 124 personal property accounts for a grand total of 2,921 taxable parcels. The combined taxable value of the parcels and accounts was \$1,019,866,641, an increase of \$48,646,767 or 5.0% over the prior year value of \$971,219,874. As a percentage of the \$17,949,653 tax levy, the residential class paid 88.77% of the levy or \$15,934,231. Commercial & Industrial classes paid a combined 9.32% or \$1,672,138 while personal property accounted for 1.92% of the levy or \$343,284. Separate from taxable parcels there were 185 parcels classified as tax exempt with a value of \$460,035,100.

The tax rate is calculated by dividing the tax levy which is the amount of money to be raised to fund the budget (\$17,949,653), by the total value of taxable real and personal property (\$1,019,866,641). This produced a tax rate of \$17.60 per \$1,000 of value for FY2020, a decrease of ¢0.45 from the prior year. The median single-family home value of \$295,200 increased \$15,900 over the prior fiscal year median value of \$279,300. The median single-family tax bill, exclusive of the CPA surcharge and Fire District tax, increased \$155 from \$5,041 in FY 2019 to its current level of \$5,196.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the talented and professional staff of Town Hall for their unwavering support and dedication in providing the best possible services to the citizens of Williamstown. You are all an inspiration and model for how collaboration and teamwork lead to positive outcomes. I also extend my gratitude to Board of Assessors members Thomas Elder and David Westall for their knowledge and expertise in support of providing fair and equitable assessments.

Respectfully,

Christopher J. Lamarre, MAA

Chairperson

Williamstown Board of Assessors

Computations for Determining Fiscal 2020 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>CPA Funds</i>
5/21/2019	25,363,200	21,473,981	589,738.00	15,000.00	2,650,785	633,696.00
<i>Totals</i>	25,363,200.08	21,473,981.00	589,738.00	15,000.00	2,650,785.08	633,696.00

Local Expenditures.....	\$ 25,552,846.48
Cherry Sheet Offsets & Other Amounts.....	11,987.00
Overlay.....	129,493.40
<i>Tax Rate Summary</i>	
1. Gross Amount to be Raised.....	25,552,846.48
2. Estimated Receipts and Available Funds.....	7,603,193.60
3. Net Amount to be Raised by Taxation.....	\$ 17,949,652.88
4. Real Property Valuation.....	\$1,000,361,870
5. Personal Property Valuation.....	\$ 19,504,771
6. Total Property Valuation.....	\$1,019,866,641
7. Tax Rate	17.60
8. Real Property Tax.....	17,606,368.91
9. Personal Property Tax.....	343,283.97
10. Total Taxes Levied on Property.....	\$ 17,949,652.88

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, Community Development Director

Ryan Contenta, CBO, Building Commissioner

Travis Fachini, Local Inspector

Jeffrey Kennedy, RS, Health Inspector

Joseph Beverly, Inspector of Wires

Michael Lahey, Inspector of Plumbing and Gas

Sarah Hurlbut, Administrative Assistant

The Community Development staff are committed to public safety and community support, working 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 the Director, responsible for working with our land use and planning boards. Reports concerning the many different Boards and Commissions the Department works with are separate from this report.

Building Officials

Ryan Contenta, Building Commissioner

Travis Fachini, Local Inspector

Joseph Beverly, Inspector of Wires

Michael Lahey, Inspector of Plumbing and Gas

Williamstown's Building Officials issued 611 Building Permits with an estimated construction dollar value of \$28,623,954.97 for calendar year 2020. 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 the year with Williams College on various projects. This past year we have seen significant progress at Williams College on the North Science Center, the CDE Complex, Fort Bradshaw, and multiple new solar installations. One of the most exciting projects completed in 2020 was the CDE St. Anthony Hall. It was wonderful seeing this great historic building being so thoughtfully restored. Particularly noteworthy is the return of the cupola to the building for the first time in many decades. In non college work this year we were excited to see shovels in the ground at 330 Cole Ave where 46 apartments are being constructed. We also saw many single family home renovations and a couple very large homes built in town. Lastly, we watched from our own windows the long demolition process at the former Williams Inn which has since moved to Spring Street. This was the second building to have held the title "Williams Inn". We look forward to working with Williams on this important piece of land's next chapter.

2020 also presented many difficulties for our operations just as it has done for everyone else around the world with the presence of COVID 19. We had a shutdown of major construction in spring by Governor Baker followed by a successful reopening later in the year. While this did slow down progress the interim time allowed for procurement of PPE and development of safety protocols. All of which have been well adhered to in our community, keeping it safe throughout the year.

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. 151 Buildings were inspected and received valid Certificates of Inspection in 2020. The Commonwealth requires that all establishments where alcoholic beverages are consumed be inspected jointly by the Building and Fire Departments. These inspections are done once a year and a valid inspection certificate is a requirement for an alcoholic 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.

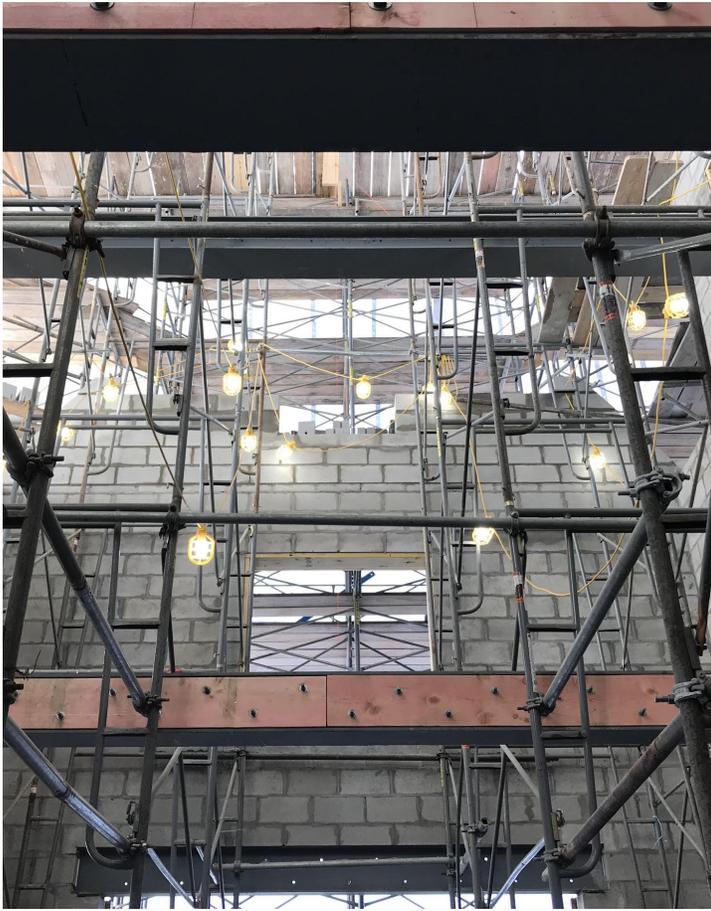
Another part of the Building Department's responsibilities is in Emergency Management. Natural disasters such as high winds, flooding, and heavy snow and ice can result in damage to buildings. This year, high winds caused multiple houses and accessory structures to be damaged by fallen trees. Unfortunately, fires are also a reality with any structure. A fire can cause minor damage such as smoke and soot to major structural damage. When damage to a structure happens, the Building Department and Fire Department work together with the property owner to assess the damage and help them to move forward with the repairs.

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 2021.

Building Department Photo Highlights 2020



North Science Center, underway



Fort Bradshaw Elevator Shafts



Return of the cupola to St. Anthony's Hall



Mt. Greylock School District Administration Building, under construction



Demolition of the "Second Williams Inn"



Mobilization and demolition under way at 330 Cole Ave. "the Photech Mill".

<i>Williamstown Community Development - Building Department Building and Trades Permits Issued 2020</i>	
New Single-Family Houses	3
Solar Photovoltaic	52
Total Building Permits	611
Wire Permits	284
Plumbing Permits	92
Gas Permits	114

Planning and Land Use

Community Development Director, 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.

A huge accomplishment that was wrapped up just prior to the start of the COVID pandemic was the completion of asbestos abatement work at 330 Cole Avenue. The Town, with the help of the US EPA and their funding was able to hire Ultimate Abatement Corp. to remove all the remaining hazardous materials from the remaining building at 330 Cole, preparing the way for Berkshire Housing Corporation to begin the construction of multiple units of affordable housing on site in May.

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 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. 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 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 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 (since 1995)

Although the numbers change from year to year, the narrative doesn't. EXCEPT FOR 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic became the primary consumer of time and energy for the Health Department. When the State and the country were locked down, we were out and about, working with people and businesses as the ever-changing rules and regulations on how to operate during a pandemic were promulgated and pushed out. It seems all other functions had to take a back seat to dealing with the lifestyle changes, and the myriad of calls and questions that COVID-19 engendered. Meetings (via Zoom and WebEx) became the staple diet of the Health Inspector. Increased cooperation with our colleagues in the County and with the Northern Berkshire Regional Planning Committee became the norm. Workload began with morning coffee upon awakening, and ended just as the lights were put out for sleep; then it started over again the next day. Weekends became Workends. Vacations and bereavement leave were set aside. Public Health everywhere was tested; we learned, we adapted, we overcame.

But, it becomes important to keep the standard 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 the resident 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.

Towards the end of 2017, the Board of Health began using (along with the rest of the Community Development Department) the Viewpoint™ online permitting system. All permit applications, with the exception of Tobacco Product Retailers, are now completed online. This has rendered the old database counting moot; therefore, accurate annual numbers will not be possible.

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 ensure patrons are getting a safe meal. New and upgraded establishments require that an application and plan are submitted for review. A schedule of all new equipment with specification sheets are also required.

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.

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. 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.

Due to the demands on the Health Inspector by the pandemic, the Board of Health suspended the rental housing pre-inspection program in September. Housing units must still comply with the applicable state and local regulations, but will only be inspected by complaint. Prior to the suspension 51 rental dwelling units were inspected.

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.

- 1 well permit was issued in 2020

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 ensures 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 2015, 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 ensure a consistent standard in applying various provisions of the Title5 regulation. The Board of Health is also requiring any inspections performed on vacant dwellings be re-inspected after occupancy. This will ensure that a buyer is not buying a dwelling with a system that would normally fail if used would be issued an inspection 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.

2020 Saw a great demand in the buying and selling of housing stock in Berkshire County.

- Title 5 Inspections witnessed in 2020 – 24
- Septic System permits issued in 2020 – 8

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. This year saw the closure of the old Williams Inn on Main Street, the opening of the new Williams Inn on Spring Street, and the opening of the Fairfield Inn by Marriot on Main Street.

- There are 11 motels, 3 hotels, and 1 manufactured housing community 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 healthcare consultant, and that adequate medical staff and equipment are available to meet the campers' needs.

- In 2020, only the Williamstown Youth Center held a recreational camp for children.

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 2020, 11 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. Due to the pandemic the MLP beach was not opened in 2020

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 regulations 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 2020 – 8

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.

The Board of Health also oversees the duties of the Animal Inspector. Towards the end of 2015, the Williamstown Police Department assumed the Animal Control responsibilities, and the Animal Inspector responsibilities related to domestic animals and rabies control. The Health Inspector remained the Animal Inspector responsible for Stables and Livestock.

The Town of Williamstown has a very proactive 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 ensure 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 Eastern Massachusetts. 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.

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

- In 2020, 72 gasoline and diesel pumps (including assisting the City of North Adams in inspecting the new Ashland Street Cumberland Farms), 10 test weights and 20 scales were inspected and certified.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT COMMITTEE

Jane Patton, Chair

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 action by Town Meeting in May 2020 and were approved during a virtual meeting as a result of the covid pandemic pursuant to regulations provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

1. An amount of \$75,000 under the terms of the CPA, which funds will revert to the CPA if they are not expended by June 30, 2022, to fund a grant to the Williamstown Affordable Housing Trust in unrestricted funds for initiatives and programs related to furthering affordable housing in Williamstown, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate, or take any other action in relation thereto, all in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee;
2. An amount of \$5,000 under the terms of the CPA to meet the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for FY 2021;
3. An amount of \$34,800 under the terms of the CPA, which funds will revert to the CPA if they are not expended by June 30, 2022, for open space purposes to fund a grant to Sands Springs Recreational Center, Inc., for building an accessory structure with ADA compliant bathrooms and a check-in station and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate and to authorize the Select Board to accept property interests as may be appropriate, or take any other action in relation thereto, all in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee
4. An amount of \$75,000 to fund a grant to the Town of Williamstown to conduct a study of potential sites and feasibility for new recreation fields and to authorize the Select Board to accept property interests as may be appropriate, or take any other action in relation thereto, all in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee.

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

Lauren Stevens, Chairman

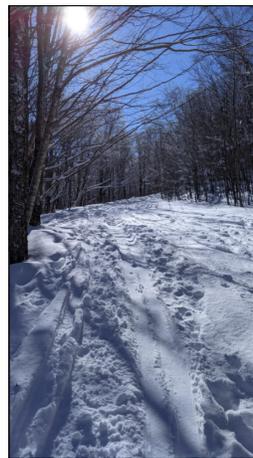
The Conservation Commission is the citizen board responsible for the management of Town owned conservation lands and for the administration of the Massachusetts Wetlands and Rivers Protection Act. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. Sites visits are often conducted prior to the public hearings so that the Commission members can better understand what is being proposed by the applicants, what specific wetland and river resources are in need of protection and how best to provide the protection. Despite the pandemic the Commission masked up and still got out in the field to help property owners determine project impacts on their water resources. We then, like all our town boards, utilized Zoom in lieu of or normal in person meetings.

Current members of the Conservation Commission are Lauren Stevens (Chair), Phil McKnight (Vice Chair), Henry Art, Tim Carr, Katie Wolfgang, and Cory Campbell. Andrew Groff serves as the Conservation Agent on behalf of the Conservation Commission and the Town of Williamstown Department of Community Development.

Previous Town Meetings have placed nine 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. The Commission is pleased to report that despite the challenges of the year we successfully extended our partnership between the Commission and the Rural Lands Foundation on trail maintenance on Town Lands. Dan Gura had a much more limited work ability as a one man socially distant trail crew this past summer but still made huge improvements on our town recreation lands, particularly at Berlin Mountain restoring the former camp site on the '33 trail. You also will notice the kiosks and maps we've placed at helpful locations around town for folks just starting out exploring the backwoods of Williamstown. This work is all about making our outdoor nature based recreational assets easier to navigate and more welcoming and accessible to all our friends and neighbors. We are looking forward to watching this partnership grow in the years ahead and hopefully Dan can get his trail crew back for '21.



Masked up for a socially distant site visit August 2020.



Skiers making use of the snow at the Berlin Mountain Recreation Area. December 2020.

COUNCIL ON AGING
Brian O'Grady, Director

Annual Report, annus horribilis 2020

Twenty Twenty started as normally as could be. Everyone returned from their December vacations in January happy and ready to roll into a new year. Throughout January and February, The Harper Center was full of people and activities. The three exercise and two balance classes had welcomed new members, the Tai Chi Introductory and experienced practitioners classes were full. The Yoga class numbers were exploding and we found ourselves having to limit class participant size and class size. We were talking about the need to add an additional class at some point later in the spring to accommodate the numbers. The Bridge players, bingo players, artists, coloring group and others met regularly. Our Reading buddies, 10 seniors and a class of kindergarteners met every other week to read and we were talking with some Williams Students about Spanish Lessons and computer help. Marion Jowett led the walking group through the nearby neighborhoods walking, taking and picking up trash, a double activity. Jackie had vans full of people going about on errands.

There were programs ready to be activated. Aging Mastery dates were being finalized, a spring pole walking effort was being lined up and there were two big concerts in the works, one was a special effort shared with other local agencies to have a big St Pat's bash on March 13th. We joked that it was going to be a Friday the Thirteenth to remember. Right...

We were all aware of this strange flu which was affecting people in China and Europe. It wasn't here and we really thought that perhaps it won't come to Massachusetts. Everything felt normal, activities continued but in late February and early March people started dropping out of classes and avoiding others. There were rumors that there would be wide spread closures and by the time Marion and I attended an MCOA/UCLA sponsored training to operate memory strengthening groups on March 11th, rumors were that everyone would close soon. Soon came within twenty four hours and everything was either postponed or mothballed until at least April 6th, or so we thought.

It seemed like the entire world came to a halt during the third week of March. When friends and neighbors at Williamstown Commons became ill, the entire concept of pandemic became real. Doors closed and people began isolating against the outside. Nobody knew what would happen or who would become sick next. As people began cloistering themselves, it became apparent that there would be a need for assistance for elder residents of Williamstown for essential supports including the delivery of food both prepared and groceries. Shortages of cleaning supplies, toilet paper and other sundries would be needed as well. We received a large supply of these materials courtesy of Williamstown Schools Superintendent Kim Grady which we delivered to Town elders as needed when we got them. The Schools also assisted in preparing and delivering hot meals to local families and elders as well. Eventually Marion, our WCOA colleague Carmel Kushi and I, began to deliver these meals from the Harper Center through the summer.

Early on it became apparent that masking would really help keep the plague at bay. Initially people had been reluctant to don masks, they were uncomfortable and just a bummer to think about. Eventually the need to mask up was enhanced by Governor's Orders. We began by recruiting volunteers to do grocery shopping for elders who were compromised and for whom it was not recommended that they go out to grocery stores. We engaged 11

volunteers who, along with COA staff, shopped weekly for approximately 50 individuals. We also utilized redirected grant funds to distribute several hundred dollars worth of grocery gift cards to extend the offer to other community members not participating in the meals delivery.

Twenty two other individuals volunteered their time and sewing skills to create cloth masks for distribution to the Williamstown elder community and were able to insure that every resident in senior housing in town had a couple masks on hand. We utilized grant funds to purchase more of these important items and handed these out too. We dispensed almost 1,000 masks throughout the community during the year and continue as we go along.

There had to be a medium for connecting with people and keeping everyone apprised regarding Covid actions by Governor Baker, openings, closings, COA activities, and Williamstown community opportunities so early on we started a daily blog we titled "Updates" wherein we reported on everything and anything from places to get out and walk to which restaurants were open for takeout. In the beginning of the siege, everything was in flux daily and we reported almost daily. Government Covid stimulus checks were a popular topic! As the weather warmed, people became familiar with the way to avoid the virus, and community activities began to stabilize so we needed to report less often. Soon we'll be writing about the vaccine and how to get it. That will be a story in it's own right.

Early in the pandemic we committed to keeping the van operating as we knew that elders would have places to go including grocery, eventually doctors appointments and medical therapies and treatments. Covid restrictions hold us to no more than 2 passengers at a time so we just decided to make as many trips as needed. Our primary driver, Jackie Lemieux, arranged the van schedule to meet the needs of individuals who needed to get out. There weren't that many initially but as the summer rolled around, everything picked up.

The weather was beautiful, everyone was coming out, with masks and social distance, but there were no coronavirus cases in Williamstown so people adapted to the new abnormal without difficulty. Of course, the Harper Center remained closed to all with the exception of those acquiring an appointment to come in. Sadly we weren't able to host cookouts and parties-usual summertime activities-a big loss, and among the biggest was Karyn's Annual High Tea. Oh, we strategized, schemed and talked around the issue of hosting our own "Big/Little" events including the Tea but it just wasn't working out. Eventually we settled for smaller activities, a French Toast Friday event as a small gathering and likewise for a Holiday Wreath Making day with Sarah Kline and Denise Vigna immediately came to mind.



There were massively successful outside activities as well. At the beginning of the pandemic we began to offer some of the physical activity classes, notably Jane Jezouit's main exercise classes and Mary Edgerton's Yoga classes live via zoom or recorded and shown on Willinet TV weekly. When the sun came out, so did we. The Yoga and Youlin's Tai Chi group met on the lawn behind the building, Jane reignited the Balance Class on the side patio. We couldn't do the main exercise groups, expiration spreads the virus and even though there weren't any reported

cases in Williamstown during the summer, safety first! We learned that being outside is great for the classes, something to consider going forward, and we had a historic first for the Williamstown Council on Aging; a real rain out! Rain washed out a couple activities for the first time ever in early July, one for the books!

Eventually, the warm weather ended and by October we brought the Tai Chi and Balance Classes inside with small groups. We divided classes into groups of no more than ten. Everyone has lots of space but it's just not the same is it? Still the coming of fall brought some opportunities. We worked with a cluster of Williams student athletes to arrange autumn leaf raking and yard clean up and we began our annual winter coat drive working with our friend Angela at NB Transport to collect coats for neighbors in need. We hosted small flu shot clinics for folks who didn't make it to the big one at Mt. Greylock.

In September, our principal Van Operator Jackie retired and relocated back to Maine from whence she came originally many years ago. Her family is there, her husband had recently retired from the WPD and was busy building a new home for them in Maine; there was no good reason for her to stay here. Best wishes to you!

In her absence, substitute operators David Larabee and Jake Jowett hopped into the breach and kept the wheels turning. We advertised a new teammate, conducted interviews and as this is made ready for release, have extended an offer to a new lead van operator. Of course the hoops he'll need to jump through in the form of training and medical exams will delay his full time operator status for a while. It's all part of the deals one makes when accepting a "free" van from the BRTA...

As the year ended, we began collecting names for the annual AARP Senior Tax Aide program. Disaster or not, the tax man calls, a bit of true normalcy eh?

So went 2020. Not a totally lost year, we discovered that as a community we can survive and thrive in spite of calamity without. Here at the Williamstown Council on Aging we are proud of the simple fact that we were always here, as usual, to help our friends and neighbors where and when needed. While many of our allies wouldn't go out into the community, wouldn't allow their staff to be a presence in the storm, we were here, in the shadow of a potentially lethal virus doing what we always do: Helping.

Coming quickly, there will be wide spread vaccinations and it will be better. We'll work and play together soon and we have big plans as we head into a brighter time in 2021. Get ready, here we go!

This report is dedicated to the memory of two good friends we lost along the way. Margaret Odell, a longtime President of the Friendship Club of Williamstown, former member of the Board of Directors of the Williamstown Council on Aging and a great COA volunteer left us in June at 93 years young.

In January, as this report was readied for transmission, Hedy Lipez Burbank, our SHINE Volunteer and great friend was lost to Covid on January 10th. She had beaten some other health issues during 2020 only to fall to a virus which should have been better managed from Washington. We will miss you both forever.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian O'Grady, WCOA Director

DAVID & JOYCE MILNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Pat McLeod, Library Director

www.milnelibrary.org

49,567 Items circulated. 2019 - 123,916

73,515 Items owned

5,557 Active card holders

20,673 Interlibrary loans. 2019 - 28,257

When the Covid pandemic forced us to close last March, thousands of books, DVDs and CDs were out on loan. Municipal offices, public schools, museums, even Williams College closed. How were we to function?

Responding to state guidelines, staff were sent to work from home while the library director and custodian remained at the library to monitor its upkeep and coordinate planning with state library officials and other Williamstown departments.

Public entry and book returns were suspended and the facility rigorously sanitized. We crafted email newsletters to help patrons make use of online resources and stay in touch with staff. Planning meetings, no longer possible in person, were conducted via video.

Coincidentally, a donor-supported renovation of the large Community Room beyond the periodicals section, that began before the pandemic hit, was completed with contractors working in isolation. Plans for renovating the reference, young adult, and public computer spaces, also through donor support, are now underway.

As state reopening guidelines were established over the year, staff returned to the library on a rotating basis, book returns resumed and curbside loan pickup became available in July.

With the return of cold weather in October, we shifted gears to begin vestibule service. Patrons are allowed to enter the building lobby one at a time to pick up loans from a staff member behind a Plexiglas screen. All of our practices and logistics were approved by the town Health Inspector and we continue to function in this capacity to date.

We look forward to the time when we can welcome you all in person again within our friendly, resource-filled library.





Vestibule service

Outside our walls

With the public not being able to come into the building, the staff were able to supply the following from our website with hard work and innovative ideas:

- eBooks - eBooks, eAudiobooks and digital graphic novels are available through the OverDrive website and app, as well as the Libby app. Milne patrons are able to borrow eBooks from the CWMARS digital collection, as well as 7 other networks in the state of Massachusetts using the "Partner Libraries" feature. Individuals have the option to stream this content or download it to their device for use offline. Milne patrons checked out 14,793 eBooks and eAudiobooks in 2020, up from 11,188 in 2019.
- Magazines— Milne patrons are able to access digital magazines through OverDrive and RBDigital, which offers an extensive collection of titles that range from The New Yorker to specialized crafting magazines. As of early 2021, the RBDigital magazine collection will be transitioning to OverDrive/Libby.
- Entertainment—Patrons have unlimited access to films and television shows via IndieFlix and Acorn TV on the RBDigital platform. This content is available on demand and can be streamed in a browser or on a smart TV.
- Education— Transparent Language (also available through the RBDigital platform) enables patrons to learn over 100+ languages and dialects through interactive speaking, listening, reading, and writing exercises.
- Online databases - Milne patrons have access to a comprehensive collection of Gale databases that span topics such as science, history, law, and literature. "Gale in Context" provides digestible information appropriate for elementary school and middle school students. Patrons are also able to search full-text articles from the New York Times and Boston Globe.
- Video tutorials - Staff developed video tutorials to teach patrons how to place holds for curbside pickup, as well as how to access eBooks, eAudiobooks, movies, and television shows with Overdrive, Libby, and

RBdigital. Staff also educated patrons on the option to sign up for a Boston Public Library eCard, which provides access to even more on-demand content through Hoopla, Kanopy & other platforms (available for all Massachusetts residents and employees).



- Staff vlogs - The staff hosted videos of what they were reading, Shelf Radar featuring new cookbooks, fiction, nonfiction, a spotlight on a new employee, and more.
- Weekly email blasts - A fun and informative e-newsletter is available every Friday. You can sign up from the Milne Library website and view the last ten editions on our homepage. The newsletter informs patrons about library programs, services, resources, and collections in addition to featuring new titles, award-winners, and tie-ins to relevant current events. The goal of the newsletter is to encourage patrons to engage with all that the library has to offer.
- Adult Summer Book Bingo took place for the second year in a row (July-August). Book Bingo provides patrons with the opportunity to shake up their reading habits by fulfilling different categories, such as “read a book about the immigrant experience” or “listen to an audiobook.” Chapter Two Books generously donated gift cards to be used as prizes for Book Bingo and Read on the Move.
- Dewey Dare took place for the first time during October. Patrons were “dared” to read a nonfiction book during the month, as many individuals are “afraid” that nonfiction will be dry compared to fiction titles. Participants were entered in a raffle for the chance to win Chapter Two Gift Cards.

Librarians can assist you with any digital service you would like to use. Just give us a call.

Buildings and Grounds

The Library Trustees in 2019 established a Building & Grounds Committee to bring community involvement and transparency to library building projects. In 2020, the committee offered valuable oversight on the renovation, made possible by a generous donor, of the large community room beyond the former periodicals section. Designed by local architect Ann McCallum, who donated her services, its new lighting, carpeting, furnishings, wall colors, and birch trees mural by Williams College artist Douglas Paisley create a striking, high-ceiling space for reading, study and special events.

Other renovations-in-progress saw public-access computers moved from the young adults room into the former periodical space to allow teens a welcoming, redesigned, social space of their own. The reference area is also being reconfigured and refurnished to function more efficiently for staff and be more welcoming to library users. Both of these projects are possible through private donor support, including that of the Friends of the Milne Library. Community members of the Building & Grounds Committee are Timothy Cherubini, Keenan Chenail, Andrea Malone, Alex Reczkowski, and Charles Bonenti, chairman.



Adult Programming

The year began with a full winter programming schedule, which included continued regular meetings as well as one-time events. The recipe potluck group met monthly, and a four-week chair yoga session took place in February. Blind Date with a Book occurred for the second year in a row, with higher participation than in 2019. Other events included a writing workshop, a meditation series, a cooking class and a tree identification workshop. Two spring musical events were cancelled due to the pandemic and our months-long closure, but may be rescheduled when we open to the public again.

In June, a simpler line-up of programs was organized for the summer, including chair yoga again and two “passive” (self-run) programs that encouraged patrons to read and win prizes. Book Bingo took place for the second year in a row and provided readers with a bingo form filled with reading categories to complete. “Read on the Move” was a new and experimental idea. Patrons could fill out a log with audiobook titles, minutes of listening time and distance walked to create excitement about audiobooks and physical movement, which seemed appropriate in a pandemic year. Finally, our first Zoom presentation/program was an author talk given by a Williams professor about recounting the history of Native Americans in the Northeast.

The Fall of 2020 did not include any programming but a great deal of planning was done for programming in 2021.

Our website and Facebook page list upcoming events and programs, and in these pandemic times, an increasing number have been shared on Willinet as well.

Children's Department

Of course, like everything else this past year, the pandemic affected everything we do in the children's room at the library. When the library closed to the public in the spring, it became clear that whatever plans we had for Summer Reading needed to be revamped. It seemed like most kids were struggling with so much screen time in remote school. It was also not certain when we would be allowed to go out and about and mingle with other folks. So our usual summer plans turned by necessity into a virtual program - packets of activities containing a wide range of ideas that anyone could pick and choose from, fun things to do around the house, using whatever craft supplies, resources and other elements to create some fun distractions for an hour, or an afternoon. The activities were structured around our theme for the year, which was called Imagine Your Story, focusing on fairy tales and fantasy. These activity packets were posted on our website for anyone to access online, with some paper copies also available for pickup at the library once we started offering curbside services. Our hope was that we were able to provide some ideas for family fun in what was otherwise a somewhat difficult and strained time.

As the library started offering more of our services through curbside pickup, we reached out to the teachers in town to make sure they had the resources they needed to get their jobs done. We also worked with individual families and parents to get them resources and fun reading for their kids as needed.

As we are now approaching the one-year mark of when we shut down last spring, we definitely miss seeing all the kids of Williamstown - and can't wait until we are fully open and can see you again!!

Young Adult Services

2020 was a challenging year for us. Although we held several programs during the February break, including the always popular WilliNet project, we were unable to host much programming for Summer Reading because of the pandemic. A workshop held over Zoom was well attended and we had handouts available at our curbside takeout once that opened, but we all missed the regular interaction with "our" kids and teens.

Our main focus has been filling requests from parents and teachers; selecting brand new books on various topics of interest or just filling a bag with old favorites for comfort. It's not a real substitute for browsing the shelves, which many people have told us they miss, but we hope it helps at least somewhat to foster a sense of normalcy at a time when nothing is as it was. We've also worked hard to keep our collection current, adding some new books for younger readers about life in a pandemic, and keeping up with the many popular series of fiction and graphic novels.

We're also using this time to renovate the Teen space; installing more shelving and furniture and also sorting the collection by genres to make it more browseable. We're very happy to be giving the teens a space of their own finally, and look forward to seeing what they make of it.

The Friends of the Library

Established in 1989, the Friends is a volunteer organization with a 14-member board, which supports and promotes Williamstown's public library in collaboration with library staff and the elected Board of Trustees. Money raised through an annual Membership Campaign and the sale of used books is put toward library collections, adult and youth programming, technology and equipment upgrades, staff development opportunities, and out-of-the-ordinary building projects.

Gently used books donated by the community are collected at the Friends Donation Center in the rear of the library to be sold at Chapter Two Books on Spring Street or through online selling initiatives. After being “on hold” mid-March through June 2020, in midsummer volunteers resumed sorting books at the library and filling shifts at Chapter Two Books, now in its third year of operation with a reduced “open to the public” schedule.

Thanks to the community's support through annual memberships, book donations and purchases at Chapter Two, the Friends are able to generously support the library's non-operational needs. This year's commitment to the library totaled \$60,000 and funded: adult, children and young adult collections; computer and technology upgrades; programming for all age groups; professional development opportunities for staff; and contributions to Community Room renovations.

The Friends board meets monthly on 3rd Wednesdays at 4:30 pm except in July and August. New volunteers and potential board members are always welcome to learn more about the Friends.

The Library Board of Trustees

With all of the challenges presented by the pandemic over this past year, the library trustees have appreciated the tremendous work of the library director and the library staff to assist the public in accessing the library's print and digital resources while prioritizing the health and safety of all. The trustees are thankful for the ongoing generous support of the Friends of the Library, which has funded both renovations to the physical space and enriching programs for the public. The trustees have been updating library policies and trustee bylaws, supporting the renovation of the community room, and preparing to update the young adult room. We thank the public for the generous contributions to the Trustees' Annual Appeal, which allows us to update and improve the library's physical space, thereby enhancing the experience of the patrons. We look forward to a time when we may safely welcome the public back into the building. For now, we hope that the public continues to borrow items via the vestibule service and to utilize the amazing collection of digital resources that the library makes accessible to our community.

Current slate of the Board of Trustees:

Bridget Spann – Chair
Peter Mehlin – Treasurer
Karen Kowitz

Charles Bonenti – Vice Chair
Pat Wilk – Friends Liaison

Micah Manary - Secretary
Deb DiMassimo

COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND RACIAL EQUITY

The Williamstown Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Racial Equity was created in the summer of 2020 and held its first meeting on July 27, 2020. The Williamstown Selectboard established the committee following a nationwide call to examine how race has influenced disparate lived experiences for our community members' personal and professional lives. The Committee, known by its acronyms "DIRE" and "DIRECOM", is charged to provide actionable recommendations that help improve the Town's advancement of inclusiveness, diversity, and equity for all its residents. The Selectboard intends to make Williamstown a safer and more inclusive community; DIRE played a pivotal role in moving toward this goal in 2020. DIRECOM is a nine-member committee. Its members are Bilal Ansari, Andrew Art, Gina Coleman, Aruna D'Souza, Drea Finley, Jeffrey Johnson, Mohammed Memfis, Kerri Nicoll, and Jane Patton. Memfis has served as the committee's inaugural steward.



Photo Credit: <https://www.willinet.org/municipal-meetings/dire/>

The committee's work started with establishing transitional working groups to explore three primary themes: asset-mapping, policies and procedures, and community engagement. Much of its initial work revolved around our Town's police department and its need for improved policies, practices, and culture, as well as the need for remediation of its historical identity. DIRECOM has aimed to be a visible and accessible committee, allowing robust public comments after each meeting. Though initially meeting each week, the committee revised its schedule to meet every first and third Monday of the month. Our committee's discussions have covered public safety, housing affordability, disability accessibility, sexuality & gender-based experiences, and age.

DIRECOM submits annual reports to the Williamstown Select Board about its work. The DIRECOM website serves as a public repository by cataloging important information and materials and the committee's resolutions and information requests. DIRECOM has passed five resolutions—all of which are publicly available:

- 2020-0001 was passed to recommend the Town to re-evaluate whether Williamstown's official documents and historical markers present an accurate and respectful acknowledgment of the Mohican people and a recognition of the relations of colonization; and where applicable, to

update and revise those documents and historical markers that fail to meet the aforementioned qualities; and to be guided by the preferences and suggestions of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians people when undertaking such revisions and updates.

- 2020-0002 was passed to advise the Select Board's response to a federal civil complaint against the Town alleging serious acts of sexual assault and harassment, workplace discrimination, and intolerance on the basis of race and religion.
- 2020-0003 was passed to recommend that the Williamstown Police Department update its ADM 4.01 policy, Professional Standards and Internal Investigations, which was not consistent with the law of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- 2021-0001 was passed to commend Town residents who united to acknowledge the harmful racist history of a racially restrictive covenant in their neighborhood and to recommend the Select Board to support the passage of a Massachusetts bill that streamlines the complex legal process for expunging racist language from restrictive covenants throughout the Commonwealth.
- 2021-0002 was passed to recommend the Select Board to release, as public records, the town's investigation and findings regarding the allegations in the Complaint involving sexual assault, sexual harassment, multiple workplace acts of discrimination and intolerance on the basis of race and/or religion, and other acts of inequity by employees of the Town of Williamstown, or if no such investigation and findings have been made, that the Select Board hire an independent investigator to determine the facts involving these allegations in the Complaint and issue a timely public report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Stephen Sheppard, Chair – Melissa Cragg, Vice Chair

The members of the Finance Committee serving during 2019 were: Dan Caplinger, Paula Consolini, Melissa Cragg, Charles Fox, Elisabeth Goodman, Doris Karampatsos, Elaine Neely, Michael Sussman, and Stephen Sheppard.

In May of 2020, Adam Filson, Town Moderator, appointed Dan Caplinger to fill a position on the Town Finance Committee expiring at the end of the Annual Town Meeting in 2022. The vacancy arose due to the retirement of Susan Clarke. On behalf of the Finance Committee we thank Susan for her years of dedicated service to the Town, and welcome Dan to the Committee. We look forward to many years of collaboration. We are happy to embark on the coming year at our full statutory strength of nine members.

The past year was an extremely unusual one on account of the Coronavirus pandemic, which struck the world and country early in the year and compelled the end of face-to face meetings in March 2020, as the Finance Committee was nearing the end of normal budget deliberations.

The budgetary impacts of the pandemic were significant, and some readjustment in the proposed expenditures and anticipated revenues were required. On authorization from the Governor's office, Town Meeting was delayed until August 18, 2020. This enabled the Town Manager to make necessary revisions to the budget, and the Finance Committee held public meetings by Zoom teleconference to consider and examine the revisions. Committee meetings were held in May, June and July to discuss various financial challenges to the Town.

The Finance Committee recommended and the Annual Town Meeting approved on August 18, 2020 appropriations to fund Town services in the amount of \$8,187,055 for fiscal 2021. The fiscal year is July 1, 2019 through June 30 of the next calendar year. The appropriations approved for fiscal year 2021 are an increase of 0.3% compared to 2020.

The Town had an unused or excess levy capacity¹ of \$2,685,238 as of February 19, 2021. This is the amount above the 2.5% cap on any annual budget increase. Any increase above the 2.5% cap and the unused levy amount would require an override vote. Moody's Investors Service assigned an Aa1 bond rating to the Town of Williamstown in 2021. The Town has maintained this bond rating for at least the past 3 years. The Town was last reviewed by Moody's in November of 2020.

The table following contains the breakdown of appropriations approved to fund Town services at the Annual Town Meeting in August 2020, along with comparison amounts from the previous fiscal year:

Table 1: Appropriations approved at Town Meeting on August 18, 2020

Function	FY 20	FY 21	Change
Executive	\$289,323	\$301,204	4.1%
Administration & Finance	\$3,183,706	\$3,139,534	-1.4%
Inspection Services	\$420,359	\$431,391	2.6%
Public Safety	\$1,419,394	\$1,428,378	0.6%
Public Works	\$2,029,801	\$2,007,704	-1.1%
Human Services	\$819,171	\$878,845	7.3%
Total	\$8,161,754	\$8,187,055	0.3%

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Chris Lemoine, Director

Craig Clough, Highway Superintendent

This year started off as any other year. The Highway crew was out plowing the streets, the Cemetery and Parks department was helping with snow removal and carrying out interments, the Transfer Station operating as usual, nothing out of the normal. The plan for the Public works was to get through the winter months then transition into spring and summer work as soon as the weather permitted. This plan included the resurfacing of a few roads, chip sealing and crack sealing of other roads and general repair where needed.

Then the month of March came and all the plans we had in the Public Works came to a halt. The Town, and the whole world was entering into uncharted territory. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic the Public Works implemented sanitation and social distancing guidelines and exercised a new on site schedule for the Public Works employees by having one week on and one week off, staggering two crews within each department while maintaining availability to respond as needed. All crews returned to standard hours of operation in mid May. This presented a challenge when it came to maintaining the town's infrastructure. The 110 public roads, public buildings, grounds and everything involved with them quickly integrated with our new way of life. The public works crews transitioned from operating equipment and routine town maintenance to cleaning and disinfecting equipment, vehicles, offices and common areas on a daily basis. I am sure you know the rest of this story.

Once fully staffed the Public Works Department jumped right into the work that was now backed up. The Highway crew immediately started to repair the gravel roads as usual after the winter thaw. This year was not as bad and mud conditions were tolerable. This year only 524 tons of gravel stone mix was used on the gravel roads compared to 4800 tons the year before.

During the winter Highway Department personnel continued remediation of the Hart's Landfill in South Williamstown. To date, over 39 tons of mixed steel has been removed, 87 tires, several tons of bricks and blocks, trees and brush, etcetera. In December of 2020, the engineering firm of CDM Smith, on behalf of the Town of Williamstown, performed additional test pits under conditions requested by MassDEP which purpose was to identify delineation of the horizontal limits of landfill waste. CDM Smith has reported that the site contains 4.64 acres of waste consisting mainly of glass bottles, cans and ash and that the waste does not appear to be adversely affecting the environment. The updated Comprehensive Site Assessment Report has been filed with MassDEP. As part of the Towns ongoing efforts, the Highway Department will continue to remove and properly dispose of surficial debris.

The Department of Public Works has also completed MassDEP recommendations for corrective action at the other three Town owned closed landfills. These recommendations are compiled by a Mass DEP representative and a third party engineering inspector on a bi-annual basis.

The only road project completed in town this year was the milling and overlay of Spring Street, Bank Street and part of Latham Street. These three streets were slated to be overlaid in the year 2021 but because the pandemic created such a large reduction in pedestrian and vehicle traffic, it was decided to perform the work in 2020 . Normally it would have been a large logistical challenge to complete this project but with everyday life on hold, the opportunity was available to complete the job quickly and safely.

When summer came, the Public Works crew was able to get back to some routine maintenance of the town infrastructure. Line painting was done all around town. Signs were fixed and guardrails repaired. A couple dozen storm drains were repaired all around town. Patching of potholes took some extra time this year as most businesses were shut down that supply us with the materials to accomplish these smaller but important tasks. The gravel roads were reshaped and the ditches were cleaned. The electric company, in conjunction with the Tree Warden - Bob Macarthy, cut down problematic trees all around town. The Highway Department followed behind and picked up the logs that will be used to heat the Public Works building. Several driveway aprons were replaced on Luce Road after the completion of paving. The list goes on and on...

There were a couple of strong storms that came through the town late summer into early fall causing a dozen trees to come down and block several roads. The Highway crew responded in usual fashion and had the town roads opened up in just a few hours. The following cleanup took almost a month.

In the second week of October the Highway Department assisted in the completion of Hoxey Street project by paving the excavated section of road. Completion of the Hoxsey Street paving is scheduled for 2021.

The Highway Department took delivery of a new 2020 Ram 5500 series dump truck with sander and plow.

In addition to the new truck, we have a couple new employees. Joshua Bellinger joined us in late September and Garret Wood joined us at the end of November. The new hires are replacing two long time highway employees Michael Haley and Robert Sweet. Both Michael and Robert worked in the highway department for over 33 years each. We thank Michael and Robert for their dedication and service to the Town of Williamstown.

The Cemetery and Parks Department has a new Foreman, Justin Olansky. Justin started out with the Highway Department and decided to make the move to foreman when the position became available. He is responsible for the grounds maintenance of the Towns three cemeteries, the Elementary School, Town Hall, Field Park, Blodell Park, Margaret Lindley Park, Broadbrook Park, assist other departments with roadside mowing, reservoir mowing, snowplowing, tree removal, and emergency response. He has proven to work well with families and funeral directors during times of grief and quickly learned to understand and update the cemetery records software. Justin has merged into the position seamlessly.

In calendar year 2020, the Water Department completed the water main replacement and upgrades on Hoxsey Street from the intersection with Main Street south to the intersection of Walden Street by replacing a six inch cast iron with an 8 inch ductile main to facilitate the demands of the new Williams College Science Building. Two hydrants on Hoxey Street were also replaced during the upgrade. This new line was removed from an eight inch main running East to West on Main Street and connected to the larger twelve inch main along the same route. Most likely due to the mild temperatures from January through April of 2020, the Water Department needed to replace only a total of 5 water main breaks which is below the annual average. Water mains were only flushed once in 2020 due to restrictions set forth by MassDEP regarding drought conditions experienced in the later part of the year. After the water main flushing, the Department replaced several leaking hydrants. All of the Towns 375

hydrants are in proper working condition, inspected and recorded monthly. Any defects detected during inspections are properly addressed.

The Sewer Department has implemented an Inflow and Infiltration Study, (I/I) beginning in 2020 to evaluate whether I/I is currently elevated in the Town of Williamstown. The sewer collection system comprises approximately 40 miles of sewer mains and 5 pump stations. The last I/I study was conducted in 2002. The scope of work is being performed by DPC Engineering under the requirements of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Phase 1 of the study is nearly completed and consisted of reviewing previous studies, installing flow monitoring meters, and performing manhole inspections within the collection system. The flow monitoring began in January of 2020 and completed in June. The system was divided into 15 sub areas with meters set up at each sub area outlet. The purpose was to isolate smaller sewersheds for data collection and identify problem areas. Reports are being prepared for MassDEP to determine if the Town is within established guidelines. Phase 2 of the study is underway with the field work completion of the system smoke tests to be followed by sonar testing in 2021.

The Public Works Department has kept moving along throughout the pandemic and will continue to do so at it's best ability. We have a great crew and hope all of them stay healthy and safe.

We hold hope for a better and more productive 2021.



HISTORICAL COMMISSION

2020 Annual Report

The Commission acted upon the following items in 2020:

January 2020

(1) The Williamstown Historical Commission began the year with the selection of a new chair and vice chair. Linda Conway was voted chair and Gerrit Blauvelt was voted vice chair.

(2) The Historical Commission discussed increased dialogue with Williams College regarding whether the demolition of the Williams Inn might yield artifacts from the early years of settlement in Williamstown as the West Hoosac Blockhouse once occupied the site.

(3) Town resident, Patrick Quinn, requested that the commission invite Chris Skelly, the Director of Local Government Programs from the Massachusetts Historical Commission, to speak about establishing local preservation districts. The Historical Commission reached out to Mr. Skelly, but the pandemic postponed any plans for a visit in 2020.

October 2020

(4) The Williamstown Historical Commission welcomed new member Nate Budington.

(5) Chair Linda Conway stepped down from the Historical Commission to serve as chair of the Williamstown Historical Museum.

(6) Gerrit Blauvelt was voted as chair.

(7) Discussion about the site of Williams Inn continued as Sarah Currie reached out to Williams College about excavation. They indicated that they would keep an eye out for artifacts though the ground has been heavily disturbed by the previous construction of the Williams Inn.

(8) Gerrit Blauvelt suggested that the Historical Commission begin a project to look into improving the inventory of historic properties in Williamstown.

December 2020

(9) In conformance with the Code of the Town of Williamstown Section 24-4.B, Demolition Delay Bylaw, the Historical Commission reviewed a request for Predetermination from Bill Allen to decide if the single-family home located at 22 Birch Lane was not preferably preserved.

(10) 633 NW Hill Road- In conformance with the code of the Town of Williamstown Section 24-4 B, Demolition Delay Bylaw, the Williamstown Historical Commission reviewed the following requests for Predetermination from Sydeney Smithers, Trustee of the Mason Family Nominee Trust, to decide if all existing structures on the property are not preferably preserved. Charlie LaBatt and William Bonnet from Guntlow and Associates, representing the owner. The structure would be razed with plans for a new residence to be built in four to five years. After discussion, Nate Buddington motioned for the commission not to invoke any delay in the demolition of the dwelling; Gerrit Blauvelt seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

(11) The Historical Commission appointed Nate Budington to serve on the Community Preservation Committee.

(12) Andrew Groff reported that not much of the Williams Inn site was excavated during the demolition and it would make sense to reach out to Williams College when a future project begins.

(13) Further discussion occurred regarding an inventory of historic properties and linking MACRIS data to existing town data.

HOOSAC WATER QUALITY DISTRICT

Bradley O. Furlon, Chief Operator/District Manager



Hoosac Water Quality District
667 Simonds Road
Williamstown, Mass. 01267
Tel. 413-458-8423 Fax 413-458-5016
hwqd@hoosacwaterqualitydistrict.com

Annual Report to Williamstown & North Adams: Fiscal Year 2020

District Commission

Donald Clark, Chairman - Williamstown
Timothy Lesarbeau, Vice Chairman - North Adams
K. Elaine Neely, Secretary - Williamstown
Michael Canales, Member/ Treasurer - North Adams

Chief Operator - Assistant Chief Operator

Bradley O. Furlon, Chief Operator/District Manager
Mark J. DePonte, Assistant Chief Operator

Narrative

The Hoosac Water Quality District (District), which serves the Town of Williamstown and the City of North Adams, treated a total of 1,379,415,000 gallons of raw sewage during Fiscal Year 2020, which represents a decrease in flow of 223,765,000 gallons as compared to Fiscal Year 2019. In addition, the District treated 552,512 pounds of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and 771,329 pounds of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) in FY 2020.

Some key highlights of FY 2020 were:

- All District personnel, which include six licensed wastewater operators and two emergency licensed 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 monthly, which outline all actions being taken to ensure complete compliance.
- May through August, District personnel continue to clear, inspect and maintain the District's interceptor and manholes from North Adams to the plant in Williamstown.
- District personnel worked with MSA Safety Technicians to update and calibrate the plant's gas detection systems equipment & meter quarterly in confined space areas throughout the facility.
- During September 2019 through February 2020, the District along with DPC Engineering, LLC of Longmeadow, MA contracted with Burke Construction of Adams to replace the complete wood

structures and metal roofing on four compost curing buildings 32 feet wide by 75 feet long.

- The District along with DPC Engineering, LLC of Longmeadow, MA also contracted with Green Mountain Pipeline Services of Bethel, VT in October 2019 to reline 2 sections of the District's sewer interceptor line. This work consisted of relining 36" and 48" pipes with a fiberglass liner. The project was completed by April of 2020.
- In March of 2020, the Coronavirus Pandemic affected the District's operations as well as many other facilities; however the District was well prepared with an abundance of PPE supplies on hand for employees' safety. The District's crew was split to only 4 persons working every other week from the normal crew of 9 employees. One employee was on medical leave at this time. Additionally, all sampling requirements and discharge data were well within permitted limits even with the reduced staff. Scheduled maintenance on equipment was completed as it was needed.
- Since 1983, the District's compost facility continues to produce Type I compost as defined by the MADEP. Approximately 4,757 yards of final compost was produced in FY20. Type 1 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 continues to grow. The District's website, www.hoosacwaterqualitydistrict.com, gives an in depth description of the operations of the treatment facility. 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,



Bradley O. Furlon
Chief Operator/District Manager

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT 2020
School Year 2019-2020
Kimberley Grady - Superintendent
Mary A. MacDonald - Principal
Jacob N. Schutz - Assistant Principal

Current Superintendent 2020-2021: Jason P. McCandless
Current Principal 2020-2021: Jacob N. Schutz
Current Assistant Principal 2020-2021: Colin Shebar

All aspects of the 2020 Academic Year were permanently interrupted in March 2020 by the COVID-19 pandemic when the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in collaboration with Governor Baker closed public schools. Academic and social programming as we knew it was changed.

Fostering students' academic engagement and social-emotional security during this unprecedented time was Mount Greylock Regional School's priority. Faculty and administration committed to developing programs that supported the diverse needs of all students and families. A Remote Learning Plan was drafted in consideration of the academic goals of students, guidance from the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the District's Core Values, and the reality that families were navigating new and frequently traumatic changes to the structure of their lives.

The Remote Learning Plan articulated the dynamics of teaching and learning and the vehicles to be used while the school buildings were closed. MGRS remains fortunate to have significant resources provided through the Williams College Fund to support online learning, including training for faculty and staff who have learned to use these resources effectively. Mount Greylock committed to supporting students and adults as they adopted this new approach to education. The goal was to create learning experiences that deepened skills and provided enrichment.

When planning remote learning experiences teachers focused on the quality of the learning for students, understanding that the regular school day could not be replicated and instructional strategies and assessment methods needed to shift. Teachers provided instruction live using Zoom and recorded lessons; office hours were established to provide additional support. Canvas, a learning management system already in use, was adopted widely, although some teachers chose to teach using Google assets exclusively. Paraprofessionals participated in classes to support learning. Chromebooks, materials, and other resources were distributed to students; the school's library continued to operate with selections made available for pick up.

Co-curricular programming, too, was altered as in-person practices, rehearsals, and events were canceled. However, student organizations, including but not limited to Student Council, Students Organizing Change, the Gender Sexuality Alliance, as well as myriad athletic teams sought opportunities to meet via Zoom. The connections fostered a normalcy critical during this period and provided a valuable means of assessing student engagement and overall social-emotional well-being. Instagram accounts grew in

number with various organizations looking for ways to promote and connect their work. In particular, Greylock Plays, a series of student-managed concerts was reorganized and shared through @GreylockArts, an Instagram account created by Eva Myers and Sam Tucker-Smith to curate student performances as well as students' visual art.

Graduation exercises culminate the Mount Greylock student experience; despite the restrictions created by COVID-19, the class of 2020 was celebrated with a two-part event including a Zoom evening of speeches and slideshows followed by a "drive-through" distribution of diplomas, scholarships, and awards. With the escorts from police and fire departments from Hancock, Lanesborough, and Williamstown, new graduates were paraded through the communities that make up the district and cheered by relatives, friends, and enthusiastic townspeople. The parade was so well-received that it may become a staple of graduation celebrations.

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL ENROLLMENT and STAFFING

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

School Year/ Grade	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Grade 7	108	90	94	123	92
Grade 8	93	103	90	90	131
Grade 9	89	89	94	79	85
Grade 10	86	100	82	88	77
Grade 11	90	84	93	84	84
Grade 12	78	93	82	87	84
SP	2	3	5	5	4
TOTAL:	546	562	540	556	557

Data above reflects enrollments as counted by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, where district and school profiles report students physically enrolled in a school.

EDUCATIONAL AND SUPPORT STAFFING (Full-Time Equivalents)

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Administrators	1.98	4.92	4.97	3	2.98
Instructional Staff	45.87	44.57	45.49	45.67	46.07
Instructional Support Staff	3.55	3.51	3.54	3.54	3.86
Paraprofessionals	16	18	18	17	15
Medical/Health Services	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL:	68.4	72	73	70.21	68.91

Data above reflects FTE by Job Classification as reported to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Previous professional development efforts focused on student and staff accessibility to technology positioned Mount Greylock to effectively transition to hybrid and remote learning models. As the school-wide 1:1 Chromebook program and subscription to Google assets and the Canvas learning management system evolved into a primary means of instruction and assessment, faculty examined pedagogy. Edulastic, an online assessment tool, that supports instant views of student learning and growth, in addition to organic Mount Greylock and community professionals provided necessary technological, pedagogical, and relational support throughout this herculean effort to transition teaching and learning into a digital realm.

Social-Emotional Learning and an effort to increase staff understanding of students' mental health needs also direct professional development offerings. Mount Greylock's conscious effort to expand diversity and inclusivity has brought in speakers and workshops to address implicit bias and work on expanding the numbers of underrepresented stories and authorial voices present in the curriculum. Curriculum-focused professional development continues to be provided to members of each department; in Mount Greylock's continuing effort to individualize instruction, accompanying curriculum work were reviews of instructional practices to best reach specific types of learners.

Williams College provided two programs for teachers. Spanish teachers worked with professors to explore language acquisition research and strategies with an eye on curriculum development and instruction. Various administrators and teachers worked with Dr. Khyati Joshi, director of the Institute for Teaching Diversity and Social Justice, in a series of intensive workshops for Northern Berkshire County educators sponsored by the Center for Learning in Action.

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

Mount Greylock's new building design put the Library Media Center at its heart. During the school year, the space was transformed in multiple ways. The collection was expanded to include substantial titles from diverse authors and about diverse experiences, addressing, race, gender, sexuality, ability, and socio-economic circumstances. The LMC became a site for book groups, writing clubs, and tutoring support. Senior teaching assistants and a community volunteer helped to reorganize the space and

prepare the increase in titles for borrowing. Collaborations with teachers grew, and circulation more than quadrupled.

STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS 2019 - 2020

Mount Greylock students continue to receive recognition for academic achievements.

Note - The COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on the 2019-20 school year. Data reported below may have been affected by the pandemic. Please keep this in mind when reviewing the data, and take particular care when comparing data over multiple school years.

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS 2.0):

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education did not administer Spring 2020 MCAS for the 2019-2020 school year due to the cancellation of state assessments and school closures related to COVID-19.

Aptitude Tests: 81% of the senior class took the new SAT, achieving a test average of 1189. The state average is 1112 and the national average is 1059. Approximately a dozen members of the senior class took the ACT, earning an average score of 26.9. The state average is 25.5, while the national average is 20.7.

Scholarship: In 2019-20, Mount Greylock had two National Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar, 20 AP Scholars with Distinction, five AP Scholars with Honor, and 21 AP Scholars. Six seniors earned honors as National Merit Commended students; one Semi-Finalist. 29 students – both juniors and seniors – were inducted into the National Honor Society after completing a rigorous application process and demonstrating their commitment to the pillars of the NHS: scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

Four-Year Graduation Rates: In the annual Massachusetts report on the percentage of students graduating with four years of attendance from 2016-2019, Mount Greylock achieved an 82% adjusted graduation rate. Eighty percent of the 84 graduates of the Class of 2020 planned to continue their education by enrolling in four- and two-year college programs; others will pursue the military or join the workforce. The 2020 class headed to myriad colleges and universities including: Bentley College, Berkshire Community College, Boston College, Brandeis University, Bryant University, Carleton College, Clark University, Colorado State University, Fairfield University, Framingham State University, Hamilton College, Ithaca College, MCLA, McGill University, Middlebury College, New England College, Nicholas College, Oregon State University, Pitzer College, Providence College, Reed College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rochester Institute of Tech, Siena College, Simmons College, Skidmore College, Smith College, Springfield College, St. John's University, St. Lawrence University, University of Hartford, University of Massachusetts Amherst, University of New Hampshire, University of Vermont, UCLA, Westfield State University, Williams College, Yale University.

OUTREACH & SERVICE

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 communities. The group led by students Grace Hunt, Claire Burrow, and Eve LeBarron kicked off the year with an initiative at Williamstown Food Pantry. Each year the group votes to select which community organizations they would like to send their raised funds to. This year, the students chose the Berkshire Food Project and the Development and Community Relations at Berkshire Medical Center.

At American Legion Boys and Girls State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical with city, county, and state governments operated by the students elected to the various offices. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus, and recreational programs. For many years Mount Greylock student participants have built leadership skills, examined democratic values, and practiced civic engagement at this program, however, due to the extenuating circumstances related to the 2020 program was canceled.

Mount Greylock continues to participate in Project 351, a state-sponsored program to unite 8th graders from across the Commonwealth to commit to service. Mount Greylock sends robust teams of students to both the Berkshire County's Anti-Defamation League Peer Leadership training and the Berkshire County Leadership Summit. The Ambassadors for 2019-2020 were Julia DeChaine, Jenner Kittle, Lily McDermott, and Vincent Welch. In collaboration with the Williams College Center, members of the ModelUN planned to host a conference for other schools in April.

The MIAA Student Ambassadors (Jayden Johnson, Seth Schultheis and Brooke Phelps) representing Mount Greylock, hosted a Socktober Event during the fall athletic season raising over \$300 and 250 pairs of socks for a local shelter.

Parent Donna Narey continues to organize middle and high school students for PALS (Promoting Acceptance and Learning through Sports) to work with differently-abled elementary and middle school children. The club meets on Sundays for swimming, kickball, bowling, and more. More than 20 students have volunteered.

EXTENSIVE ARTS PROGRAM

Mount Greylock offers a variety of visual arts and media courses for students to express themselves and explore ideas through drawing, painting, ceramics, stained glass, and photography. This year all material, equipment, and tools were prepared, organized, and packaged for movement to students' home studios (albeit a kitchen table, living room rug, bed, or basement). Individual cell phones took the place of our professional Canon cameras in photography and video editing courses.

THRIVING MUSIC PROGRAM

GreylockPlays showcases student and faculty talent during 25-minute, in-school concerts; these student-produced concerts were held in the school's foyer, which has remarkable acoustics.

Students Michael Faulkner, Oscar Low and Ava Simon represented Mount Greylock in the Western District Music Festival at UMass in January. Michael and Oscar qualified for an All-State Music Festival audition in January, with hopes to participate in the rehearsals and concert at Boston's Symphony Hall.

2007 Mount Greylock alumni, Nandi Plunkett of Half Waif returned to the school stage to share both her talent and experiences in the music industry.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

There were seventeen different non-athletic co-curricular activities offered during the 2019-2020 school year, including performing arts opportunities, leadership opportunities, language associations, publications, community service groups, and other organizations designed to get Mount Greylock students

involved. Over 235 students (approximately 43% of the school) took advantage of at least one of these opportunities.

The school newspaper, The Echo, continued to maintain the school's online news at greylockecho.mgrhs.org and also produced three printed editions during the year. A group of seniors worked diligently all year to create the 100 page school yearbook with news stories, photographs, and events from the year.

Mount Greylock Off-Season Athletic Training (MGOAT) was once again a success with 95 participants working afterschool to stay physically fit or prepare for an upcoming athletic season.

The Mechanical Mountie Robotics Team finished fifth during their FIRST Robotic Competition in early March.

In November 2019, a cast and crew of 42 middle and high school students performed *The Tempest* in the newly remodeled Mount Greylock Auditorium with help from Shakespeare & Company directors, Tom Jaeger and Liliana Macaronei. Following local performances, the Mount Greylock cast joined students from ten other local high schools to present the 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, *Anything Goes* directed by MG teacher Jeff Welch, was performed for three days in late February. Band teacher Lyndon Moors directed the Student Pit Orchestra for the performances, while Jean Kirsch coached vocal performances and Ann-Marie Rodriguez choreographed. There were 52 student performers and tech crew members that worked for two months to prepare for the show.

STUDENT ATHLETE SUCCESS

Mount Greylock student athletes continue to excel both athletically and academically while representing their school well throughout Berkshire County. Of the 11 Varsity Programs hosted by the school able to compete, all earned MIAA Academic Excellence Honors during the 2019-2020 athletic seasons. Gold Honors were given to the 9 teams with an overall team GPA above 3.0; Silver Honors were awarded to the two teams 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. Even without the Spring Athletic Season, there were still 351 students at Mount Greylock who participated on a fall or winter school athletic team, accounting for 56% of the total enrollment.

Six Mount Greylock athletes were honored by the Berkshire Eagle as being the MVP of their respective sport for the fall and winter programs: Mitch Jezouit (soccer defense), Col McDermott (nordic), Clara McWeeny (soccer), Kate Swann (cross country), Finn Welch (soccer), and Jackie Wells (co-nordic). Additionally, there were two coaches honored for being the coach of the year for their programs: Blair Dils (soccer) and Hiram Greene (nordic).

Multiple students were invited to attend various MIAA events and ceremonies. Delaney Babcock, Elizabeth Dupras, Hannah Gilooly, Oscar Low, Seth Schultheis, Mathew Sorrell, and Fiona Williams were selected to attend the MIAA Sportsmanship Summit at Gillette Stadium. The Berkshire County Athletic Directors hosted the ninth annual Berkshire County Leadership Summit on December 10th, 2019. Mount Greylock attendees included Henry Art, Elizabeth Dupras, Finn Ellingwood, Jayden Johnson, Carolyn Jones, Col McDermott, Derek Paris, Joshua Polumbo, Emma Sandstrom, Mackenzie Sheehy, Kate Swann, and Parker

Winters. In addition, Gabriella Alvarez, Delaney Babcock, Hannah Gilooly, Brooke Phelps, Ben Prescott, Ceira Schwarzer, Brayden Smith, Mia VanDeurzen, and Anna Welch led individual breakout sessions at the event.

Fall 2019:

The Cross Country Running Teams continue to be strong. The Girls Team earned another Berkshire County North victory while the Boys Team placed 3rd at the County Race in late October. The Girls team placed 2nd and the Boys Team placed 6th at the MIAA Western Massachusetts Championships. Top Finishers included Kate Swann(2) and Grace Malone(4). With the 2nd place finish, the Girls Team earned a spot in the MIAA State Championship Race and became finalists with another 2nd place finish. Kate Swann placed 3rd in the State for Mount Greylock.

The Golf Team finished their regular season 9-6 which qualified them for the Western Mass Tournament. Students Alexander Axt, Cayden Conry, Ben Prescott, Owen Petropulos, Paul Roeder, and Brayden Smith traveled to Pittsfield Country Club for the Western Mass Championship placing 7th. Nicole Overbaugh participated in the Women's Western Mass Golf Championship in Springfield and placed 10th.

The Drury/Mount Greylock Cooperative Football Team was a success. Drury Administration and Coaching Staff were incredibly accommodating and helpful throughout the season, even hosting a contest at Mount Greylock and wearing Mountie Red and Greylock G's to support our student-athletes. Six Mount Greylock students traveled to Drury for the season. The team finished the regular season 5-3 and just missed a playoff spot.

The Girls Soccer Team finished their regular season 12-4-2 earning a 6th seed in the MIAA Tournament. They placed second in Berkshire North, their highest rank in recent years. The team ended their season as MIAA Western Massachusetts Quarter-Finalists.

The Boys Soccer Team went undefeated in Berkshire County North (8-0) and finished their tough regular season schedule 13-2-1 earning the #1 Seed in Western Mass. The team ended the season as Western Massachusetts Finalists in the MIAA Tournament.

The Unified Basketball Team finished their second season as a program and participated in 6 contests and a final Western Massachusetts Jamboree. The team competed against Wahconah Regional, Granby, Northampton, and Chicopee Comprehensive. There were 23 members of the program. The team earned the MIAA Team Sportsmanship Award in recognition of outstanding demonstration and commitment to the ideals of sportsmanship.

The Volleyball Team team finished the regular season 13-6 and received a #5 seed in the Post Season Tournament. The team finished their season as MIAA Western Massachusetts Semi-Finalists.

Winter 2019-2020:

The Nordic Ski Teams continued their success as the Boys Team earned a first place finish and the State Title with top performances by Col McDermott(4), Corban Miller (13), Foster Savitsky(T15), and Owen Tucker-Smith(T15). The girls also had a successful season finishing in 2nd place as State Finalists! Top racers included Annie Miller(9), Brandi Gill(10), and Jackie Wells(12).

The Wrestling Team finished 15th in the MIAA Western Mass Championship. Students Jack Rosier and Ty Lepicier placed 4th in their respective weight classes qualifying them for the MIAA Divisional State Championships. Jack finished 5th and therefore qualified for the MIAA All-State Championships.

The Boys Basketball Team earned the #9 seed in the MIAA Tournament and finished the season as MIAA Quarter-Finalists. Senior Toby Foehl accomplished the 1,000 point milestone early in the season and finished his career as the second-highest scorer in Mount Greylock history with 1,203 points.

The Girls Basketball Team qualified for the MIAA Western Mass Tournament for the first time since the 2017 season. Finding themselves at 5-10 with five games left of the season, the team had to win the last five games to qualify. The Mounties earned the #11 seed and unfortunately fell to #6 seed Granby in the first round of competition.

The Cooperative Hockey Team including five students from Mount Greylock just missed out on the MIAA Tournament this season finishing with a 4-11-4 record.

Spring 2020:

The Spring 2020 Athletic Season was canceled due to safety concerns.

SUPPORTIVE PARENTS AND A DYNAMIC COMMUNITY

Parents and community volunteers continue to support the many activities and programs offered at Mount Greylock. The industrious and passionate athletic booster clubs and co-curricular organizations, including Friends of the Arts and the MGPTO, provided year-round support through fundraising, providing transportation, and onsite support. A dynamic School Council worked actively with school administrators to assess and plan for the needs of all students.

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. These three institutions have also been very generous in offering their athletic facilities and fields for Mount Greylock contests during the final stages of the building project.

The partnership between the Williams Center at Mount Greylock (WC@MG) and the school continues to thrive. It supports numerous programs and initiatives, which develop and grow each year. Mount Greylock's relationship with the Williams Center impacts programs in writing, research, math, science field trips, the performing arts, Project Lead the Way, Spanish Language Lunch Program, Model United Nations. Critical help comes from Williams students who provide after-school academic support and mentoring programs.

Mount Greylock students benefited from working with guest artists visiting Williams who also made a trip to the regional school or invited students to collaborate and learn with them at the '62 Center for Theatre and Dance. Faculty and staff also offered their expertise as guest speakers for a variety of classes and GreylockTalks, the monthly speaker series modeled on TEDTalks.

LEARNING MORE

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

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE CULTURAL COUNCIL

Cecilia Hirsch and Sally Sussman, Williamstown representatives

The Northern Berkshire Cultural Council had a delayed grant cycle in FY21, with grant awardees from FY20 being given the option to re-apply for funding of the same projects. The deadline was extended and proposals were reviewed in February 2021 rather than November 2020. The total awards distributed was \$71,972.

While most of the projects funded benefit the entire Northern Berkshires, the following have a more direct impact in Williamstown either by being located in town or serving many town youth.

Images Cinema - Fresh Fest Online - \$1,000

St. John's Episcopal Church - St. John's Concert Series - \$1,500

Hoosic River Watershed Association - Riverworks 2021- The Mohicans and the Hoosic - \$1,500

Unsilent Night: Northern Berkshire (on site at Clark Art) - \$1,000

Bernice Lewis: Ukulele workshops and Festival - \$1,000

Shakespeare and Company: Fall Festival 2021 - \$2,000

Gregory Maichack (at Milne Public Library): Jean-Francois Millet's Dandelions: How to Pastel Paint - \$536

Williamstown Theatre Festival: Community Works - \$2,500

Serving some additional Williamstown youth:

Roots Teen Center: reCREATE - \$3,000

Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter Public School - Creative Leaders in Residence Program - \$3,000

IS183 Art School: Professional Development for North County Educators - \$1,000

Marney Schorr: Arts in Recovery for Youth - \$2,000

Hilltown Families: Hilltown Families Suggests - \$400



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 2020 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:

Respect for self, others, and the learning environment promotes a positive learning experience for all students.

Effort- is demonstrated through an applied work ethic that includes punctuality, improvement, and a determination to succeed.

Accountability- develops personal responsibility for both behavior and learning.

Communication facilitates collaboration, promotes self-advocacy, and develops positive relationships.

Honor- requires students to act with integrity, honesty, positivity, and empathy for others.

McCann continues to offer high quality vocational and academic education. The faculty and staff prides itself on meeting the needs of all of our learners as the best practices in teaching and education are constantly being developed and refined. Our vocational programs are updated annually to the latest industry-recognized techniques and equipment. Academic programs consistently implement updated and relevant material for their disciplines. The support from our member towns is integral in creating this culture of learning which is reflected in our students' accomplishments.

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

The Class of 2020 became the seventeenth class in a row to attain 100 percent competency determination on the MCAS tests. Thirty members of the Class of 2020 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 116 2020 graduates saw 58% continue their education in a variety of colleges and universities, 38% enter the workforce and 4% proudly enter into military service.

We were fortunate to be able to award 116 diplomas to the class of 2020 during our outdoor commencement ceremony on August 6, 2020.

The 2020 MCAS exams were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The class of 2022 will take the MCAS exams during their junior year. The district will deliver the exams in accordance with DESE guidance.

GRADE 10 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	
PERFORMANCE LEVEL	2019
EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS	2%
PASSING	96%
NOT MEETING EXPECTATIONS	2%

GRADE 10 – MATHEMATICS	
PERFORMANCE LEVEL	2019
EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS	0%
PASSING	94%
NOT MEETING EXPECTATIONS	6%

GRADE 10 - SCIENCE AND TECH/ENG					
PERFORMANCE LEVEL	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
ADVANCED	11.3%	24.5%	26.1%	13.7%	16.0%
PROFICIENT	63.7%	61.8%	51.3%	53.3%	56.0%
NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	23.4%	10.9%	20.1%	30.6%	25.0%
FAILING	1.6%	2.7%	1.7%	2.4%	3.0%

The McCann Athletics program continues to enjoy success in the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association. Our programs enjoy healthy participation numbers and our student athletes continue to represent our school admirably. The girls' soccer team claimed the State Vocational Small School Division Championship Title in a thrilling game versus Blue Hills Regional Vocational School on the Williams College soccer field. All spring sports were unfortunately cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our continuous facility improvement program allowed us to remove asbestos floor tile and renovate eight classrooms, two offices and two faculty rooms, renovate three more bathrooms, and install new air-handling units in several locations. The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic necessitates additional sanitizing and HVAC challenges which will be evident during FY21.

The integration of new educational technology continues to be our priority. We used our Perkins Grant to continue our upgrade of educational software, purchase iPads for technical instructors to provide on-the-spot analysis of student progress, and replace hand tools in our carpentry, electrical, and metal fabrication departments. We also received a Skills Capital Grant of \$150,000.00 which enabled us to add a CNC waterjet machining center for our advanced manufacturing department and a CNC programmable vertical band saw and a CNC plasma cutting machine for our metal fabrication department.

Community service projects continue to provide our students with excellent opportunities to display their technical skills while exhibiting the passion and commitment to support their community. Our SkillsUSA students' community service included the "Buddy Walk of the Berkshires", placing flags on veterans' graves, assistance with the weekend Meals on Wheels, a Christmas "giving tree" for young residents of the Louison House, and several fundraisers for PopCares.

McCann continued its ongoing participation in SkillsUSA, a national organization of more than 300,000 members working to ensure America has a skilled workforce. McCann is a 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. At the 2020 SkillsUSA district competition, McCann students earned 20 gold medals in 3-D visualization and

animation, additive manufacturing, architectural drafting, automated manufacturing technology, carpentry, internetworking, restaurant service, sheet metal, technical computer applications, technical drafting, web design, and welding at the high school level; cosmetology (over 500), dental assisting and medical assisting at the postsecondary level. Sixteen silver medals were awarded in 3-D visualization & animation, additive manufacturing, architectural drafting, automated manufacturing technology, carpentry, customer service, industrial motor control, sheet metal, and technical drafting at the high school level; cosmetology (over 500), dental assisting and medical assisting at the postsecondary level. Eleven bronze medals were also earned in 3-D visualization and animation, architectural drafting, automated manufacturing technology, carpentry, and technical drafting at the high school level; cosmetology (over 500), dental assisting and medical assisting at the postsecondary level. Although this year's state and national SkillsUSA competitions were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are incredibly proud of our competitors!

Business Professionals of America (BPA) is the leading career and technical student organization for students pursuing careers in business management, office administration, information technology and other related career fields. The organization's activities complement classroom instruction by giving students practical experience through application of the skills learned at school. BPA is contributing to the preparation of a world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills. At the 2020 BPA State Leadership Conference held in Framingham, MA, McCann students received a total of fifteen awards in Finance, Business Administration, Management Information Systems, Digital Communication and Design, and Management, Marketing and Communications. McCann BPA members earned three 1st place and three 3rd place awards at the SLC in March. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the National Leadership Conference scheduled for May 6-9 in Washington, D.C. was cancelled.

Project Lead the Way is the leading provider of rigorous and innovative Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education programs in schools across the United States. Students enrolled in the program take as many as four courses above and beyond their graduation requirements. Since its inception in 2005, over 60% of participating students - over one hundred - have become eligible for 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, seven students achieved this eligibility. Three instructors gained additional certifications, one each in the areas of Principles of Engineering, Civil Engineering and Architecture, and Aerospace Engineering.

Once again our advanced manufacturing sophomores and juniors received high accolades in the Manufacturing Advanced Center Workforce Innovative Collaborative, MACWIC, certification testing with 14 sophomores achieving Level I certification, one of whom received a challenge coin for achieving 85% or better in each of the five categories, while 3 juniors achieved Level II certification with two receiving a challenge coin for achieving 85% or better in each of the four categories. Seniors were not tested last year and no one was able to take the exams for a second time due to the COVID-19 closure. 39 of the 42 eligible advanced manufacturing technology students have earned Level I credentials and 9 of the 25 eligible students have earned the Level II certification. Our information technology students were unable to take the CompTIA IT Fundamentals certification exam due to the examinations being cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our business technology students were unable to test in IC3, Internet and Computing Core Certification, or any of the MOS, Microsoft Office Specialists, certifications for Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, or Outlook because of the COVID-19 pandemic closing of schools in March.

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 principles and incorporates technology in this process to ensure maximum benefit for all of our programming. At the end of the fiscal year we returned \$165,000.00 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.

Our Massachusetts Board of State Examiners of Electricians 8 module (600 hour) journeyman electrical program continues to expand with over 78 electricians completing modules in 2019-2020 while 17 completed the master electrician program.

FY20 Budgeted Revenues	Budget	Actual
City & Town Assessments		
Municipal Minimum	\$3,067,978.00	\$3,067,978.00
Capital	\$47,719.00	\$47,719.00
Transportation	\$165,000.00	\$165,000.00
Municipal Assessment	\$537,654.00	\$537,654.00
Ch. 71 Transportation	\$275,000.00	\$354,723.00
Ch. 70 General School Aid	\$4,829,906.00	\$4,805,496.00
Tuitions	\$635,560.00	\$714,043.51
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$5,910.00	\$25,137.49
State Bonus Aid	\$0.00	\$11,976.00
Total Revenue Received	\$9,564,727.00	\$9,729,727.00
Member City & Town Transportation Refunds		(\$165,000.00)
	\$9,564,727.00	\$9,564,727.00

Source	Grant	Amount
(Federal Entitlement)		
Fed	Sped IDEA	\$124,001.00
Fed	Title I	\$102,240.00
Fed	Title II A	\$15,733.00
Fed	Title IV	\$10,000.00
Fed	Perkins	\$65,228.00
Fed	Postsecondary Perkins	\$2,213.00
(Federal Grants Other)		

REAP		\$38,844.00
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(State Grants)

Workforce Skills Capital Equipment		\$150,000.00
MassHire Berkshire: Connecting Activities		\$1,000.00
MassHire Berkshire: Advanced Manufacturing		\$20,000.00
MassHire Berkshire: Welding		\$20,000.00

(Competitive/Private)

Private	Olmsted	\$5,000.00
Private	BHG Wellness	\$2,000.00
Private	Project Lead the Way	\$10,000.00
Private	MASS Cultural Council	\$650.00
Private	General Dynamics for PLTW & Steam	\$4,000.00
Private	Adams Community Bank for Graduation	\$2,500.00

TOTAL GRANTS		\$572,409.00
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NORTHERN BERKSHIRE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
www.nbswmd.com

Town of Williamstown For Calendar Year 2020

District Wide Data: 842.97 tons of paper, glass, cans, and plastic were recycled. The Town of Williamstown recycled 167.71 tons of paper and 145.58 tons Co-mingle. District Wide Recycling Services, MSW (Trash) 2,048 tons, Demo/Bulky recycling 649-ton, Scrap Metal Recycling 290 tons generating revenue back to the Towns of \$19,053. Congratulations to all the member Towns residents for increasing your recycling from last calendar year. The Textile Recovery recycling program District wide had an increase as well and collected 79,425 pounds of textiles. Thank you for keeping from the waste stream and donating. The town's Transfer Station again this year rated Excellent in your MassDEP Third Party inspection. Congratulations to Transfer Station attendants and town officials!

The District contracted with Clean Harbors Environmental for a one-day Hazardous Waste Collection that was held on August 22, 2020, at the Adams DPW Yard. This location is central to the residents of thirteen member towns and we appreciate the Town of Adams for allowing NBSWMD the use of the property for that day. Residents from every member town—155 households and several Town Departments in all—took advantage of the opportunity to dispose of Hazardous Chemicals in a safe way. The cost for this one-day event was \$10,150; Peace of mind for residents—Priceless! Thank you to Town of Adams Commissioner Edward Driscoll, Commissioner of Clarksburg Carl McKinney, Commonwealth Community Service Program and Adams Police Department for help at our much-needed collection. The NBSWMD has changed the paint collection program to mainstream the collection and maximize our dollars. Oil-based paint is collected at the Comprehensive Household Hazardous Waste Collection. Latex Paint is no longer accepted as it is not a hazardous material. We continue to educate residents on drying latex and proper disposal or donating if the product is usable. Next Our HHW collection will be held April 24, 2021, Town of Adams DPW yard. Please view under www.nbswmd.com, Under Special Collections.

The district has six Universal Waste Product Sheds for district member towns to utilize, funded throughout the years by MassDEP. The cost of recycling is allocated from the district's yearly budget. This program has increased with the amount of collections and there are sheds at the Adams, Cheshire, Hinsdale, Peru, Windsor, and Williamstown transfer stations. Next Level for Recycling Inc. (NLR) is the designated facility for the district's recycling of Universal Waste products. To stay in compliance with MassDEP all sheds must be cleaned and packed for shipping on a yearly basis. Each town generates a Waste Manifest which is filed in the district office. Thanks again to all who make this program a success. This program is also maintained by each town's transfer/recycling center attendants; thank you. The district recycled 917 LBS. Of various size Fluorescent lamps, 1088 LBS Mixed batteries, 503 LBS Non-PCB Contaminated Ballasts, 25 Gallon Containers of Mercury Devices (such as Thermostats and Thermometers) at a cost of \$4,655. We continue with outreach and education in assisting our communities in converting their households and Businesses to LED lighting. Please check with your local Community Action Council or Mass Save program. Your Utility Company can assist with this information regarding Energy Audits.

The District, with town volunteers, held annual Bulky and Electronic waste collection days in Adams, Clarksburg, and Lanesborough. The special collection events are open to all residents of the thirteen member towns. Total material collected at Adams: 14,230 pounds of electronics, 7.05 tons of scrap metal, and 5.61 tons of furniture, etc. Total collected at Lanesborough: 6,120 pounds of electronics, 1.99 tons of scrap metal, and 1.51 tons of furniture, etc. Total collected at Clarksburg: 3,600 pounds of electronics, 2.56 tons of scrap metal and 1.51 tons of furniture, etc. Thanks to our volunteers: Joe Szczepaniak, Paul Howcroft, Selectman Bush, Clarksburg, and Lanesborough DPWs. The District had 3

extraordinarily successful Bulky Waste Collection events. The schedule for 2021 can be found on our website (under special collections) and flyers will be available at the transfer stations as soon as dates are finalized. These collections are held in the months of June, September, and October.

On April 11, 2020, the District offered with ProShred, a paper shredding event; held at the Town Hall in Lanesborough. There was no cost for residents to utilize this collection, we generated 4,8000 PDS of shredded paper. The collection promotes recycling and helps combat identity theft. Many Towns residents had the opportunity to safely shred paper Documents.

Please view our website for events and information/resources on recycling programs.

- Kickoff to Earth Day/Month
- Saturday April 24, 2021 Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Town of Adams DPW yard
- Saturday, May 8, 2021, Town of Williamstown Transfer Station Shred Fest Paper. ProShred
- The District has been in discussion with Williams College Environmental Studies about conducting a comprehensive study on a Pilot Project to promote Food Waste reduction. The 2 Models will offer curbside and drop off at the Transfer Station. With possible support from the Cool Committee and Casella Waste Systems Inc., we hope to offer this in the upcoming year.
- July 2021, Town of Hinsdale TS kick off promoting our subsidized Earth Machine
- Program (home composting units). Diverting food waste into Compost. More collections will be offered, www.nbswmd.com under special collections.

This year NBSWMD program coordinator, Linda Cernik, filed grant applications and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection awarded "Small Initiative Grants" of \$500.00 to 3 towns in the District and \$1,500.00 to NBSWMD. The Commissioners voted to pool the grants for a shared purchase of 100 (80) Gallon Earth Machines (home composting units), various outreach materials, and to organize special collection events by the community and schools and hold Community Paper Shredding days and HHW collection events. The approved shared purchase will be a benefit to all the member towns and residents. There were ten towns in the district that received MassDEP Recycling Dividends Program. Each of the member towns contributed \$500.00, with NBSWMD contribution of \$1,500.00 for shared purchase.

The Towns of Adams, Cheshire, Florida, Hancock, Hinsdale, Williamstown, Windsor, and Savoy were again recognized and awarded funds under the MassDEP Recycling Dividends Program. The District is proud to announce two newcomers receiving Recycling Dividends Program: towns of Monroe \$2,800 and Peru \$3,150 This program awards points for achievement. Awards for the District member towns: Adams \$5,950, Cheshire \$4,550, Florida \$3,500, Hancock \$3,500, Hinsdale \$4,900, Savoy \$4,550, Williamstown \$4,900, and Windsor \$4,550. Towns of Clarksburg, Lanesborough and New Ashford were awarded Small Scales Awards of \$500 and NBSWMD \$1,500. Total grant dollars awarded to NBSWMD: \$45,350 district wide. This is an increase of 30% from last year's grant awards. Congratulations, we did it as a team, thank you! The funds are reinvested to promote recycling education, new equipment, or projects. All the towns increased their RDP Grant Awards from last calendar year. My goal is to help all the towns achieve RDP Grant awards. Each year the criteria to achieve RDP Award requires additional data and recycling requirements. This coming grant cycle, all towns must certify that their school system is contracted with a Hauling Company which provides recycling. This data was captured in our Solid Waste and Recycling Data Surveys submitted January 2021 for all 13 member towns.

The waste stream continues to evolve, and our programs will continue to evolve as well. Our efforts in the coming year will be aimed at expanding locations for collecting textiles; Compost Distribution Program; Pilot Program with Williams College. Creation of new CHARM Center; waste reduction; keeping cost down, Kickoff to Earth Day/Month; HHW Collection April 24, 2021; and Community paper Shred Fest scheduled May 8, 2021, expanding our "Green Team" collaboration with our district's local schools,

outreach and education.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Shawn Wright, Amy Broderick and Connor Doherty, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Trial Court, Office of Community Corrections. Over 168 hours of volunteer time were given to the member towns in the district. Your help—with HHW events, packing our Universal Waste Sheds, helping with special events, packing the boxes for pickup, organizing the Town of Hinsdale's Swap Shop, monthly cleaning, and organizing the Town of Williamstown's Book Shed—is greatly appreciated. There are so many benefits from the sheds at the transfer stations. Many treasures can be found. Thank you all for a great year and partnership. We look forward to working with you in 2021!

To the residents of the member towns: Thank you for your continued support in recycling and waste reduction. Your dedication is what makes the Northern Berkshire community a beautiful place to call home! Stop by your town's Swap Shop located at the Transfer Stations in: Hinsdale, Savoy, and Windsor; there are treasures to be found!

Thank you all for a great year, with challenging times we stuck together to make it all possible. The District thanks all Board of Commissioners, Transfer Station/Recycling Attendants, contracted haulers Casella Waste Systems INC, Sayers Scrap Recycling, Bob's Tires, Next Level Recycling, Clean Harbors Environmental, and our textile recycling collections vendors.

Reuse~ Recycle~ Rethink~ Donate and Recycle whenever Possible.

Linda Cernik, NBSWMD Program Coordinator

Timothy Kaiser, Board of Commissioner



PLANNING BOARD

Stephanie Boyd, Chair

The Planning Board is an elected Board, responsible for overseeing the long term land use patterns of Williamstown through the Zoning Bylaw, The Subdivision Control Law, and Master Planning process. Following the May 2020 Town Election, the Board is composed of five members: chair Stephanie Boyd, Dante Birch (Berkshire Regional Planning representative), Peter Beck, Susan Puddester (Community Preservation Committee representative), and vice-chair Chris Winters. Peter Beck replaces Alex Carlisle who served on the board in 2020 from Jan to May.



The Planning Board did not meet March to June of 2020 due to restrictions associated with Covid-19. The Board reconvened in July 2020 to prepare for the August Town Meeting. The Planning Board hosted its first virtual public hearing in July on Zoom.

At the Town Meeting, held outdoors at Weston Field, the proposal to make improvements to the regulations related to land use associated with cannabis, including details regarding indoor growing of cannabis, failed. As did a proposal put forward as a Citizen's Petition related to outdoor growing of cannabis.

The board had also presented a proposed amendment that created new rules for long and common driveways, primarily to improve access for emergency vehicles and reduce neighborhood disputes which failed to pass at Town Meeting.

The board's bylaw related to non-conforming lots passed. These regulations brought the Town code into compliance with case law.

Since September, the Board has been focused on research and redrafting of the cannabis regulations. The goal of the Board is to bring a comprehensive reform proposal forward in 2021 that will reflect the needs of all interested groups surrounding issues of marijuana establishments, in particular cannabis cultivation.

Finally, we want to take this opportunity to remind all our friends and neighbors that throughout 2021 the Planning Board will be meeting the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM. We encourage the public to attend and discuss land use issues of Williamstown, and the implications for our future growth, protection of our resources, and support for our community.

WILLIAMSTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT
Acting Police Chief Michael Ziemba

One of the many duties of the Police Chief is to be the team leader from within the agency, but also the face of the department externally to the public. The Police Chief leads the Police Department and Dispatch as well as the Forest Wardens and the School Crossing Guards. All of these employees are hard-working, dedicated professionals. Williamstown is very fortunate to have these professionals in these incredibly trying times not only locally but also across the country. Every aspect of the policing profession changes what seems like almost daily. The men and women of these respective departments endure these changes and embrace them with open arms, welcoming new techniques in policing and resisting complacency.

In the year 2021, your Police Department looks forward to continuing to listen to community input, facilitating transparency and finding new ways to address the concerns of the community we serve. Other goals for the coming year are finding a new permanent Police Chief, further updating policies and procedures, creating a new informative website and starting the accreditation process. All this while continuing to engage with the community we serve.



Our first full year in the new Police Station has allowed us to settle into the building. We still offer our Training/EOPS Room (during non-Covid times) as a community meeting space should any groups desire to take advantage of this.

Follow us on Facebook as "Williamstown Police Department, Massachusetts".

Pandemic Issues: In response to the global coronavirus pandemic the Police Department was forced to limit or suspend many services while learning to adapt with the addition of PPE (personal protective equipment). While we continued to maintain normalcy as far as responding to immediate calls for service, any calls for service that could be handled by phone or email were done just that way, thus limiting human contact. In an effort to keep our employees and the public safe, we limited access to interior sections of the station, keeping only the main entrance and lobby off of Dispatch open to the public.

We had to tailor or suspend at times the fingerprinting process and issuing of LTC's to limit the amount of close human contact between individuals.

We also pulled back on minor or less important traffic and parking enforcement issues during the pandemic so as to limit hand to hand exchange of documents during these times. While all complaints were still addressed and serious issues handled immediately, less urgent issues were not pressed.

When responding to calls for service, we encouraged people to meet us outside in the open air instead of going into their homes. All of these above listed changes may have gone unnoticed by some, but our yearly statistics show that changes were made as we've had a significant drop in our yearly call volume.

All of these extra safety measures have helped us to this point and thankfully, we have had no exposure to the virus and we hope to continue that trend.

Administration / Personnel:

Lieutenant (currently Acting Chief) Michael Ziemba

Sergeants: Scott McGowan, Paul Thompson

Officers: Kevin Garner, Tania Hernandez, Craig Eichhammer, John McConnell, Shuan William, Scott Skorupski, Brad Sacco, and Anthony Duprat

Dispatchers / Reserve Officers: Laurie Tuper (Dispatch), David Jennings (Reserve), Calvin Dziedziak (Reserve), Christy Lemoine (Dispatch), and Haley Sigsbury (Part-Time Dispatch)

Custodian: Arthur Kittler

Crossing Guards: Bill Cote, Rosella Cote, Linda Nichols

Scott Parks (Part-time)

Forest Warden: Rick Daniels

Deputy Wardens (Volunteer): Luke Ames, Christopher Beaumont, Marcus Bottesi Jr., Dawn Daniels, Morissa Daniels, Kevin Jolin, David Larabee, Peter Niemeyer, Erika O'Mara, Kevin O'Mara, & Nicole Pedercini

Our department saw many changes this year regarding staffing:

January: Part Time Dispatcher Michael Strizzi left the department to attend the Police Academy for the Bennington Vt Police Department where he is now serving as patrol officer.

October: Sgt David Lemieux retired from the police department after 32 years of service.

November: Part-time Dispatcher William Jennings resigned after 20 years of service.

December: Chief Kyle Johnson retired after 28 years of service. Haley Sigsbury was also hired as a part-time Dispatcher.

Dispatch:

Our Police Department is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Aside from Police and Forest Warden dispatches, we also dispatch for Williamstown Fire and Northern Berkshire EMS, as well as serving as the after-hours point of contact for both the Department of Public Works and the State Department of Transportation

Calls for service are generated through Dispatch in a variety of ways: they can be personnel initiated via the radio or the cruiser's Mobile Data Terminal (MDT), a person can simply walk-into the station requesting assistance, or they may come in through phone calls to the business, emergency or 911 phone lines. In 2020, the Department received/returned 77,289 calls on the business lines and another 4,147 calls on the emergency or 911 lines.

There were 10,921 calls for service requiring some sort of action and are listed below by Call-Type category and are then broken down by shift:

<u>CALLS BY CATEGORY</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
911 ABANDONED CALLS	34	38	105
911 TEST CALLS	73	81	75
911 WRONG NUMBER CALLS	194	121	129
911 HANG UP CALL	58	56	102
911 SILENT CALLS	28	13	52
911 OVERFLOW – NORTH ADAMS	1	8	9
ABANDONED MV	2	2	3
AIRCRAFT INCIDENT	0	2	0
ALARM – BURGLAR	177	174	150
ALARM – OTHER	4	10	22
AMBULANCE CALL – WILLIAMSTOWN	1,593	1,281	985
AMBULANCE CALL – HANCOCK	95	73	43
AMBULANCE CALL – MUTUAL AID	16	13	4
AMBULANCE CALLS – NEW ASHFORD	13	15	11
AMBULANCE CALL - NORTH ADAMS	21	12	29
AMBULANCE CALLS – POWNAL	26	5	10
AMBULANCE TRANSFERS	848	736	310
ANIMAL BITE	18	16	16
ANIMAL CONTROL	293	327	266
ALARM PERMITS ISSUED	5	3	3

ALARM PERMIT RENEWALS	134	116	108
ASSAULT	20	18	8
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – DPW	69	60	48
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – FIRE	87	82	74
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – MGRSD	36	22	7
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	58	26	164
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – RMV	10	15	13
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – POLICE	75	98	114
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – UTILITY	53	49	46
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – WCSS	21	27	11
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – REPO	6	9	3
BREAKING & ENTRY	8	26	4
B.O.L.O.	83	104	74
BUILDING CHECK	3,225	4,147	3,638
BURGLARY	0	2	0
DISTURBANCE	121	120	129
DISABLED MV	100	124	77
DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE	13	23	16
ESCORT / TRANSPORT	17	13	4
FINGERPRINTING	54	35	28
FIRE DISPATCH – WILLIAMSTOWN	238	275	220
FIRE DISPATCH – MUTUAL AID	4	6	4
FORGERY	1	0	0
FIREARMS OFFENSE	0	1	0
FOREST WARDEN DISPATCH	30	29	31
ILLEGAL DUMPING	4	4	10

IMMIGRATION DETAINER REQUESTS	0	0	0
JUNK MOTOR VEHICLE	0	1	5
JUVENILE OFFENSES	6	2	0
K-9 REQUEST – WILLIAMSTOWN	7	3	3
K-9 REQUESTS – OTHER AGENCY	8	4	5
LARCENY	98	84	50
LICENSE TO CARRY	108	85	83
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION	12	23	1
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE	178	179	100
MISSING PERSON	23	7	11
MOTOR VEHICLE LOCKOUT	116	120	84
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT	256	197	150
MOTOR VEHICLE STOP	1,698	2,361	748
NARCOTICS INVEST	7	3	1
NOISE COMPLAINT	69	50	35
PARKING COMPLAINT	38	39	17
PERSONNEL COMPLAINT	3	2	1
PROPERTY DAMAGE	17	18	9
ANNOYING PHONE CALLS	15	10	4
PARKING CHECK	1,802	1,719	632
POWER OUTAGE	14	11	6
PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST	229	156	161
FOUND / LOST PROPERTY	111	110	78
PUBLIC SERVICE	97	86	74
PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT	43	34	3
RECOVERED STOLEN MV	1	0	0

ROAD CONDITIONS	180	187	134
ROBBERY	1	0	0
SERVE RESTRAINING ORDER	12	10	6
SEXUAL OFFENSES	9	25	13
SUDDEN DEATH	6	6	5
SECTION 12	20	17	19
SHOPLIFTING	3	4	1
SUSPICIOUS MOTOR VEHICLE	270	228	158
AUTO THEFT	1	1	1
SOLICITING	4	10	4
SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION	9	11	3
SPEED TRAILER ASSIGNMENT	8	12	6
SYSTEM TROUBLE	8	23	7
SERVE SUMMONS	102	80	23
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	332	270	322
THREATS / HARASSMENT	44	38	36
TRAFFIC CONTROL	881	860	335
TRAFFIC COMPLAINT	231	253	190
TRESPASS	21	26	14
UNWANTED GUEST	23	20	13
VANDALISM	15	22	21
VIOLATION RESTRAINING ORDER	0	4	5
SERVE WARRANT	11	4	4
WELL-BEING CHECK	144	141	129
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE:	15,305	15,973	10,921

2020 CALLS FOR SERVICE BY SHIFT:

<u>SHIFT</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CALLS</u>
Days / 7am to 3pm	5,824
Evenings / 3pm to 11pm	3,510
Nights / 11pm to 7am	1,587
Total Calls for Service	10,921

Criminal Activity:

The Police Department applied for one hundred and thirty-four (134) criminal charges against sixty-seven(67) adults, and nine (9) criminal charges against two (2) juveniles in 2020. An additional two (2) adults were placed into Protective Custody. The following is a breakdown of offense types based upon the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS):

<u>OFFENSES BY NIBRS CODE:</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
FORCIBLE RAPE / SODOMY	2	4	0
FORCIBLE FONDLING	0	0	0
ROBBERY	1	0	0
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	2	5	3
SIMPLE ASSAULT	16	15	7
INTIMIDATION	8	3	3
ARSON	0	0	0
BREAKING & ENTERING / BURGLARY	9	7	12
SHOPLIFTING	3	4	1
THEFT FROM A BUILDING	8	4	5
THEFT FROM A MV	0	11	0
ALL OTHER LARCENIES	64	60	24
MV THEFT	0	2	3
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY	21	0	0
LARCENY BY FALSE PRETENSE	8	8	3

CREDIT CARD THEFT	2	1	0
IMPERSONATION	1	0	3
HACKING/COMPUTER INVASION	1	0	0
EMBEZZLEMENT	1	0	0
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	3	2	1
PROPERTY DESTRUCTION / VANDALISM	17	30	26
NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	13	3	5
INCEST	0	0	0
STATUTORY RAPE	4	0	1
PORNOGRAPHY / OBSCENE MATERIAL	2	0	0
WEAPONS VIOLATIONS	0	1	1
BAD CHECKS	0	1	1
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	6	0	1
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	13	7	9
DRUNKENNESS	17	15	2
FAMILY OFFENSES (NON-VIOLENT)	0	0	0
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	8	18	2
TRESPASS	2	5	0
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	56	63	31
TRAFFIC OFFENSES / TOWN BYLAWS	136	163	86
TOTAL	424	432	229

Traffic Enforcement:

Traffic enforcement is a portion of the Police Department's duties. The town has approximately eighty-six (86) miles of public roadways, with the major routes being State Routes 2, 7, and 43. Specific traffic complaints are received regularly at the Police 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 vehicles in a specific section of town. To assist in strategizing enforcement in these specific areas, the Police Department deploys a speed monitoring trailer to record the number of vehicles, speed, direction and time of day to allow for a more specific enforcement action. These trailers also serve as a deterrent as well by displaying both the posted road speed and the vehicle's speed, and then flashing red when the posted speed is exceeded. In addition to the mobile trailers, we also have two (2) permanent speed monitoring signs installed on Route 43 (Water Street and Green River Road); two (2) signs on School Street and two (2) signs on North Hoosac Road.

In 2020, the Police Department responded to 150 motor vehicle crashes.

<u>CRASH ACTIVITY SUMMARY</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
FATAL MV CRASHES	1	1	1
CRASHES INVOLVING PEDESTRIANS / CYCLISTS	5	7	6
TOTAL MV CRASHES:	249	197	150

<u>TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
CRIMINAL MOTOR VEHICLE VIOLATIONS	157	185	104
CIVIL MOTOR VEHICLE VIOLATIONS	234	297	85
WARNING MOTOR VEHICLE VIOLATIONS	1718	2348	754
TOTALS VIOLATIONS:	2,109	2,830	944
TOTAL MOTOR VEHICLE STOPS:	1,698	2,361	748

<u>PARKING ENFORCEMENT</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
HANDICAP ZONE	10	5	1
PROHIBITED AREA	99	107	15
DOUBLE PARKING	1	4	0
ALL NIGHT PARKING	391	388	246
WITHIN 10' OF FIRE HYDRANT	0	5	1

ACROSS PRIVATE DRIVE / ROAD	4	1	2
WITHIN 20' OF INTERSECTION	3	10	0
UPON CROSSWALK / SIDEWALK	8	2	1
WRONG DIRECTION OR MORE THAN 12" FROM CURB	13	16	10
SNOW & ICE REMOVAL	1	4	1
UPON BRIDGE OR APPROACH	0	1	0
OVERTIME PARKING	1,134	1,125	189
TOTAL PARKING TICKETS:	1,664	1,668	466

<u>NON-MOTOR VEHICLE CITATIONS</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
CIVIL POSSESSION OF ONE (1) OUNCE OR LESS OF MARIJUANA	6	4	1
UNLICENSED DOG	0	1	0
DOG RUNNING AT LARGE	18	15	5

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 Police 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 Berkshire County Chiefs of Police Association, or online through various agencies such as the Municipal Police Training Committee, Massachusetts State Police or the Municipal Police Institute. Mandated topics in 2020 included: Police Survival; Animal Cruelty Investigations; Defensive Tactics; Legal Updates; CPR, AED and First Responder; Communication and De-Escalation Techniques; Suicide, an Unwanted Risk.

These training opportunities were held on site in our training room where we are able to host multiple dates and invite surrounding law enforcement agencies to participate and network, also allowing many to attend while on shift to reduce overtime costs.

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

Lt. Ziemba received instruction in Animal Control issues to maintain certifications as an Animal Inspector. Eight (8) hours of continuing education each calendar year is required to maintain this status.

We also conduct training within the Police Department, as well as for other agencies, with our own staff functioning as instructors. Within the department, Officer Brad Sacco instructs the annual qualifications of handgun & long gun at the firearms range. In addition to the In-Service trainings and certifications, the following are some of the specialized trainings that were able to be attended:

January: All employees completed their mandated Conflict of Interest Laws for Municipal Employees course & exam.

All Officers completed Defensive Tactics Training as well as CPR/First Responder

Lt. Ziemba attended "Animal Cruelty Investigations" an online course that instructs investigators what to look for when dealing with these types of issues.

February: All Officers completed their Taser Training

April: All Officers completed Legal Update

May: All officers qualified with their duty weapons and patrol rifles on May 29

July: Officer Anthony Duprat graduated the Fulltime Police Academy

September: Officer Brad Sacco attended a Firearms Instructor Legal Update Course

October: All Officer's completed the semi-annual firearms training course

November: Officer Sacco was re-certified as a Firearms Training Instructor. All Officer's completed In-Service training online with topics "Suicide, an Unwanted Risk" and "Communication and De-Escalation Tactics"

Grants:

In 2019, the following grant money was 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.

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
State 911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Support	Dispatch Equipment & Personnel Costs	\$38,392.00
State 911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Training	EMD Training	\$19,506.72

Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant through the DCR Bureau of Forest Fire Control	GPS Units & Telescoping Tower Lights	\$3,906.00
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Forest Warden:

In 2020, the Forest Warden Department issued burn permits during the open season from January 15 - April 30th. Agricultural burn permits may be issued year round as the weather permits. Burn Permits are issued for brush 3" in diameter or smaller. Grass, hay, leaves, stumps & trash are never allowed to be burned. The Department investigated smoke complaints and checked on permitted fires for regulation compliance and extinguished all illegal fires.

Throughout the year, the Department investigates outdoor smoke complaints, extinguishing any illegal fires. The Department also assists with wilderness rescues. In 2020, 195 burn permits were issued and members responded to 31 calls for service (See following).

- Outdoor Fires: 4
- Smoke/No Permit/Illegal Contents Complaints: 20
- Lost/Injured Person Rescue: 5
- Mutual Aid Calls: 2

Twenty-six phone calls regarding questions about burning and camp fires were also taken throughout the year.

Like in the past couple of years, the season was dry and windy at times making it difficult to issue permits safely. The state as well as the local department had red flag days which meant no outdoor fires of any kind.

Williamstown had no out of control fires this year but did respond to a mulch fire and a small brush fire that were put out prior to our arrival. Both of these occurred at local businesses due to people throwing lit cigarettes into the mulch surrounding the buildings. Two unattended campfires, one under the Moody bridge and one on the Sarah Tenney Trail had to be extinguished.

The Wardens responded to five rescue calls. Some of these call types were: a hiker not feeling well, a hunter who fell out of his tree stand and people lost while hiking. There were no injuries sustained during any of the rescues which are difficult at times based on the rugged terrain of our area.

The Wardens responded twice to Pownal VT for Mutual Aid assistance with brush fires.

The Forest Wardens Department Received a grant from The Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant 2020 for the amount of \$3,906.00. This grant pays half of the cost of 3 Telescoping lights and 2 Garmin GPS Units equipped with tracking devices.

Specialized Assignments:

While each officer serves in both the patrol and dispatch roles as their primary function, some are given specialized assignments to enhance our role in public safety. The specialized assignments often require additional specialized training and allow the officers to work regularly with other agencies to further hone their skills. In return, the department fosters relationships that work seamlessly when additional resources and manpower are needed from outside agencies.

- Animal Control:

All officers respond to the various animal calls received within the year and enforce the Town Bylaws as they apply to dogs & cats. Oftentimes, callers are redirected to private pest control companies for nuisance wildlife calls as the Department is not authorized to relocate any wildlife. Dogs and cats with possible rabies exposure through bites or wounds of an unknown origin are viewed and quarantined as required by law. To maintain a level of consistency, Lt. Ziemba fills this role of Animal Inspector.

- Berkshire Law Enforcement Task Force (BLETF): Officer Shuan William

While assigned to the BLETF-DEU (Digital Evidence Unit), Officer Shuan William has assisted in numerous investigations with the BLETF, along with the downloading of cell phones & similar electronic devices (tablets/gps). The information that has been gained from these data extractions have helped law enforcement significantly strengthen the criminal cases they were derived from.

Since the implementation of the DEU eight (8) years ago, a growing number of towns from Berkshire County, along with the patrol barracks of the Massachusetts State Police, have taken advantage of having a Digital Evidence Unit in the county. DEU members have assisted in numerous investigations by assisting other police officers in authoring and obtaining the necessary search warrants in order to be granted permission to search these electronic devices for evidence of a crime.

- Investigations: Sergeant Scott E. McGowan

The Town of Williamstown is a safe community that allows people to enjoy a very high quality of life to live, work and visit. However, as with all communities, Williamstown is not immune to crimes and the persons that commit them. To devote the necessary resources when serious incidents are reported to the Department, Sergeant Scott McGowan was appointed the Police Department's investigator in 2007 and continues in that role today. McGowan still covers patrol functions but as the investigator, he is also tasked with maintaining specific investigative certifications.

Many incidents reported to the Department throughout the year can be handled while on a regular patrol. Other, more serious incidents require uninterrupted attention, and as this happens, McGowan's regular shifts are backfilled by others so he can focus on the investigative task(s) at hand.

To assist with these investigations, Officer Calvin Dziedziak has begun to assist with these. He has also started to attend specific investigative training to offer further training and techniques.

- K-9 Program: Officer Anthony Duprat and K-9 Shelby

2020 saw a change to the Williamstown K-9 Unit. Lt. Mike Ziemba started the K-9 Program here in Williamstown in 2004 with his first dog K-9 Blue followed by his second dog, canine Daisy. Upon graduation from the Police Academy, Lt. Ziemba passed the leash to Officer Anthony Duprat and K-9 Shelby to take over the program. Duprat was able to secure a rescued bloodhound from Tennessee that was donated to the department for tracking and trailing purposes. Duprat immediately started training with Shelby who has proven to be a great tracker. This new team will serve the area for years to come and we are very happy to have them both onboard!

The Williamstown K-9 team is generally requested to respond to multiple calls for service in and around Williamstown. Several scenarios that may require the use of the K-9 for a search are: suspects that have just committed a crime and fled on foot; persons who have indicated that 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 informative presentations on the role and use of the K-9 to school children of varying ages, presentations and question and answer sessions and demonstrations at various local parades and block parties.

Training is a constant process for the K-9 Unit which, on average, logs many hours each month. Most training is done locally, in different scenarios, and in varying communities. Many times, training time is also spent with the Pittsfield Police Department, Adams Police Department and other local departments that benefit from a K-9 program. The training sessions are led by retired Police Officer Dwane Foisy who is 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 Police Department and have acquired one of their own. 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 area municipalities have been awarded these grants and now have K-9 Units trained to respond to calls for service, providing a larger resource of K-9 responses, easing the burden on the existing K-9 Units in the area.

To date, the new K-9 Units have selected either a Shepherd or Malinois canine, focusing training on tracking, article and/or narcotics detection and/or a patrol dog, leaving Williamstown's Shelby as the only bloodhound in all of Western Massachusetts. Bloodhounds are renowned for their scent tracking ability, and this is Shelby's only responsibility. Shelby's day-to-day care and expenses are the sole responsibility of K-9 Handler Duprat. Medical expenses are supported by donations from the community.

- School Safety: Lt. Michael Ziembra and Officer Brad Sacco

Under normal circumstances, patrols are directed to the area of the Williamstown Elementary, Pine Cobble and Mt. Greylock Regional High School, and the surrounding streets during the commutes to and from school. Because of COVID and the school closures this year, limited school safety presence was needed. Any instruction we assisted with regarding lockdown scenarios was simply reminders via Zoom remotely. We look forward to a time when we can reconnect with the teachers and students in person.

While Williamstown is a safe community, the Police Department has dedicated much time to planning and preparing for a variety of emergency scenarios. While we hope these tragic events that occur across the

nation never become a reality here, training for them is unfortunately a necessity. Keeping the schools safe is a team effort and would not be possible without the full cooperation and communication between several agencies. These agencies consist primarily of educators and administrators of the Williamstown Elementary School, Mount Greylock Regional High School and Pine Cobble School, and the Williamstown Police Department. Neighboring agencies also play a vital role in school safety as well. The Massachusetts State Police, North Adams Police and Lanesborough Police also assist and participate in our drills on a regular basis as their respective agencies would be called to respond if an event were to occur. In turn, Lt. Ziemba and Officer Sacco have assisted with drills and training in the North Adams, Adams, Florida, Lanesborough and Hancock Schools. Officer's from each agency that are assigned to the school safety initiative communicate with and update each other on a regular basis regarding any changes/advancements in the schools.

To fully understand the topic of school safety and in an effort to stay current with national responses, Lt. Ziemba was certified several years ago as an instructor for the ALICE (Alert. Lockdown. Inform. Counter. Evacuate.) curriculum, a nationally recognized program designed to educate and instruct Law Enforcement responses to active threats within the schools. Officer Sacco also obtained this certification in 2018 and assists Lt. Ziemba with presentations and drills.

This training is fact and statistics based and encourages a whole new way of addressing threats within the school; a drastic departure from the formerly accepted practices of simply locking students and staff into classrooms. The program also encourages attendance by school personnel and allows for law enforcement and school staff to take the curriculum practices back into the school for dissemination to the rest of the staff for implementation. This program, while more specifically designed for schools, can be adapted for most businesses, and can be presented by the Police Department upon request.

Williams College, Williamstown Elementary School, Mount Greylock Regional High School, Williamstown Youth Center, Pine Cobble School, Williamstown Commons, Sweet Brook Care Center and Images Cinema have also received this training presentation.

Programs

The Police Department continued its Community Policing approach throughout 2020, 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. 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.

- **A Safer Williamstown:**

This program allows the Police 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 Police 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. Officer Sacco performs all License To Carry (LTC) and Firearms Identification Card (FID) applications and renewals. This is generally done between 8AM - 2PM. Residents should call first to check availability.

The issuance of the FID or LTC by the Police Department has been expedited by the Police 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. It 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.

- Community Events/Planning:

The Police Department usually stays busy directing traffic around numerous events throughout the year. Due to COVID issues, the only large event that was allowed to take place was Trick or Treat on Halloween. Multiple patrols assisted with traffic control and interaction with the children for a successful night with no injuries or issues.

Due to Covid issues, the annual ROPES weeks were also cancelled this year.

- Lock Box Program:

Special attention is focused on the senior citizens of Williamstown such quality of life issues, crime prevention measures and identity thefts and scams. One such initiative continued in 2020 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.

- Noise Abatement Program:

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 collaboration 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.

- Prescription Disposal:

The Prescription Drop Box is now located outside of the Police Station entry door and it continues to be a valued tool for the community. The drop box is available 24/7 to the community as a safe alternative to dispose of unwanted, unused and expired medications.

* SHARPS ARE NOT ACCEPTED *

TOWN CLERK/BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Nicole E. Pedercini, Town Clerk

Robert A. Jones, Registrar

Mark Windover, Registrar

Kurt Gabel, Registrar

2020 was my first year as Town Clerk and it was quite the year. I never thought I would see a national pandemic, never mind during the start of my career as Clerk. I want to thank everyone that supported me and continues to support me through my journey. My one-year anniversary just passed in January, 2021 and I look back on the changes the Clerk's Office went through due to the pandemic and I am proud. Massachusetts has never experienced mail-in voting and we did it not once but three times. The elementary school gymnasium was transformed three times into a socially distant polling place. Town Meeting was held outside for the very first time. Thank you all again for welcoming me and I hope 2021 runs just as smoothly.

~Nicole



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, records vital records and issues certified copies, provides notary public services, oversees employee and board members compliance with the Conflict of Interest law, and serves as the Public Records Officer.

Total Registered Voters as of December 31, 2020 – 4,840

Democrat	2,323
Republican	266
Unenrolled	2,227
Green Rainbow	2
Libertarian	0
United Independent Party	5
Socialist	1
American Independent Party	1
Pirate Party	1
MA Independent Party	1
Green Party USA	1
Working Families	2

Dog Licenses Issued – 2020

Male	30
Female	21
Neutered Male	241
Spayed Female	270
Kennel License (4 dogs)	0
Kennel License (10 dogs)	0

Net Value of Licenses	\$3,160.00
Late Fees (none due to Covid-19)	\$0.00
Gross Value of Dog License	\$3,160.00

Vital Records Recorded in 2020

Births	17
Marriage Intentions	47
Marriage Licenses	44
Deaths	104

Documents and Permits issued in 2020

Business Certificates	34
Raffle Permits	1
Certified Birth Certificates Issued	67
Certified Marriage Certificates Issued	70
Certified Death Certificates Issued	453

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION JUNE 23, 2020

SELECTMEN (3 YEAR) (2)	PREC. 1	PREC. 2	PREC. 3	TOTAL
BLANKS	101	48	92	241
HUGH M. DALEY	214	108	264	586
ANDREW S. HOGELAND	251	115	269	635
WRITE INS	8	3	3	14
TOTAL	574	274	628	1476
LIBRARY TRUSTEE (3 YEAR) (2)	PREC. 1	PREC. 2	PREC. 3	TOTAL
BLANKS	89	55	81	225
KAREN E. KOWITZ	240	110	277	627
PATRICIA L. WILK	243	109	269	621
WRITE INS	2	0	1	3
TOTAL	574	274	628	1476
PLANNING BOARD (5 YEAR) (1)	PREC. 1	PREC. 2	PREC. 3	TOTAL
BLANKS	11	6	6	23
ALEXANDER M. CARLISLE	123	59	125	307
PETER LEWIS BECK	152	72	183	407
WRITE INS	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	287	137	314	738
HOUSING AUTHORITY (5 YEAR) (1)	PREC. 1	PREC. 2	PREC. 3	TOTAL
BLANKS	46	29	45	120
JUDITH M. BOMBARDIER	240	107	268	615

WRITE INS	1	1	1	3
TOTAL	287	137	314	738
HOUSING AUTHORITY (4 YEAR) (1)	PREC. 1	PREC. 2	PREC. 3	TOTAL
BLANKS	54	28	58	140
JOHN FREDERICK KALAPO	231	108	255	594
WRITE INS	2	1	1	4
TOTAL	287	137	314	738
HOUSING AUTHORITY (2 YEAR) (1)	PREC. 1	PREC. 2	PREC. 3	TOTAL

**TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
FISCAL YEAR
JULY 1, 2020 to JUNE 30, 2021
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 Farley-Lamb Field in the Weston Athletic Complex, Latham and Meacham Streets, in said Williamstown on TUESDAY, THE EIGHTEENTH DAY OF AUGUST 2020 AT SEVEN O'CLOCK P.M. for the following purpose:

To act on all Articles of this warrant.

Proceeding: Moderator Adam Filson opened the Annual Town Meeting at 7:05 PM outside at Farley-Lamb Field (Weston Field Athletic Complex) at Williams College.

Jeffrey Thomas represented the Select Board as Chairman.

Stephen Sheppard represented the Finance Committee as Chairman.

Susan Puddester represented the Planning Board as a Committee Member.

Chair, Stephanie Boyd could not attend due to quarantining.

Jane Patton represented the Community Preservation Committee as Chairman.

The Moderator announced the recipient of the Scarborough, Solomon & Flynt Community Award - Tom Sheldon.

Three hundred and sixty (360) registered voters checked into Town Meeting.

The Moderator stated Town Meeting will be using the Consent Agenda process again this year. The process was adopted in 2018.

Please see the following explanation of the Consent Agenda:

Warrant articles on a Consent Agenda are exceptions to the general process of Town Meeting. The Chairs of the Select Board and Finance Committee, Moderator, Town Clerk, Treasurer and Town Manager identified, for Town Meeting consideration, those articles they believe should generate no controversy and can be properly voted without debate. These articles are put on the Consent Agenda to allow motions under these articles to be acted upon as one unit and be passed without debate. At the call of the Consent Agenda, the Moderator will read out the numbers of the articles, one by one. If one or more voters object to any particular article being included in the Consent Agenda, they say "hold" in a loud voice when the number is called. The article will be removed automatically from the Consent Agenda and restored to its original place in the Warrant, to be debated and voted under the usual manner. After the calling of the individual items in the Consent Agenda, the Moderator will ask for a motion that the voters pass all items remaining *as a unit* on one vote. Use of the Consent Agenda process makes the Town Meeting more efficient by speeding up the handling of non-controversial items.

The Consent Agenda will be taken up as the first order of business at the commencement of the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2020.

The Moderator asked "Is there a motion the Town take articles 1 through 17 out of order and that they be "passed by consent **in accordance with the Motions shown on the Consent Agenda noted in the warrant** " The Chairman of the Finance Committee so moved, and it was seconded. There were no holds on Articles 1 through 17 and in turn they passed unanimously.

REPORTS OF TOWN COMMITTEES

Consent

Article 1. To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Select Board, the Town Manager, and all other officers and committees, and act thereon.

Motion: Moved that the Town vote to approve the reports of the Select Board, the Town Manager, and all other officers and committees. Article 1 considered and approved under the Consent Agenda.

TO APPLY UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE TO REDUCE THE TAX RATE

Consent

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance to reduce the tax rate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion: Moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$250,000 from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance to be used to reduce the tax rate. Article 2 considered and approved under the Consent Agenda.

APPROPRIATION FOR DEBT SERVICE

Consent

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$691,488 or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, or take any other action in relation thereto.

<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Year Borrowed</i>	<i>Years Left</i>	<i>Total Payment Balance end of FY2020</i>	<i>FY2021 Principal and Interest</i>
Elementary School	2005	5	\$1,055,600	\$225,700
Police Station	2018	18	\$6,152,150	\$341,488
Cable Mills	2015	5	\$589,600	\$124,300

Motion: Moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 from taxation, \$124,300 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund and \$316,788 be appropriated from the Unreserved Fund balance to pay interest and maturing debt. Article 3 considered and approved under the Consent Agenda.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
Consent

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$1,165,200 or any other sum, for the following capital expenditures, or take any other action in relation thereto.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Hoxsey Street-Mill & Pave	Highway	\$64,200
Baxter Road-Mill/Overlay/Curbing	Highway	\$49,000
Longview Terrace-Mill/Overlay/Curbing	Highway	\$149,000
Buxton Hill Road-Mill/Overlay	Highway	\$82,000
International Single Axle Dump Truck	Highway	\$180,000
Repair Rotted Windows	Library	\$35,000
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>\$559,200</i>
Inflow & Infiltration Reduction	Sewer	\$300,000
Ford F150 4x4 (50%)	Sewer	\$23,000
Ford Transit Connect Van	Sewer	\$33,000
South Street Street Sewer Replacement	Sewer	\$107,000
Rebuild Rear Boom (50%)	Sewer	\$10,000
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>\$473,000</i>
Hoxsey St Water Main Replacement	Water	\$100,000
Ford F150 4x4 (50%)	Water	\$23,000
Rebuild Rear Boom (50%)	Water	\$10,000
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>\$133,000</i>
Total Capital		\$1,165,200

Motion: Moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$379,200 from taxation; that \$180,000 be transferred from the Stabilization Fund, that \$473,000 be transferred from Estimated Sewer Receipts and that \$133,000 be transferred from Estimated Water Receipts. Article 4 considered and approved under the Consent Agenda.

SEWER DEPARTMENT

Consent

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Sewer Receipts the sum of \$1,113,039 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.

Motion: Moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$726,356 from Estimated Sewer Receipts and the sum of \$386,683 from Sewer Fund Unreserved Fund Balance. Article 5 considered and approved under the Consent Agenda.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Consent

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Water Receipts the sum of \$923,831 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.

Motion: Moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$816,629 from Estimated Water Receipts and the sum of \$107,202 from Water Fund Unreserved Fund Balance. Article 6 considered and approved under the Consent Agenda.

WATER RATE

Consent

Article 7. 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 \$3.70 per 100 cubic feet of water as fixed by the Select Board at their meeting of March 9, 2020 to be effective July 1, 2020, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion: Moved that the Town vote to approve a municipal water rate of \$3.70 per 100 cubic feet. Article 7 considered and approved under the Consent Agenda.

TRANSFER STATION DEPARTMENT

Consent

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts or other available funds the sum of \$239,955 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.

Motion: Moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$234,955 from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts and \$5,000 from Transfer Station Unreserved Fund Balance. Article 8 considered and approved under the Consent Agenda.

CHAPTER 90 HIGHWAY FUNDS

Consent

Article 9. 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.

Motion: Moved that the Town vote to adopt this article. Article 9 considered and approved under the Consent Agenda.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RESERVE FUND

Consent

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$150,000 for the Finance Committee Reserve Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion: Moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance for the Finance Committee Reserve Fund. Article 10 considered and approved under the Consent Agenda.

TO FUND OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Consent

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds the sum of \$40,000 to 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.

Motion: Moved that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$33,763 from Unreserved Fund Balance, \$3,341 be appropriated from Estimated Water Receipts, \$2,376 be appropriated from Estimated Sewer Receipts, and that \$520 be appropriated from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts to the OPEB Trust Fund. Article 11 considered and approved under the Consent Agenda.

APPROPRIATION TO COMPENSATED BALANCES RESERVE FUND

Consent

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$150,000 to the Compensated Balances Reserve Fund, established under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 13D, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion: Moved that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$150,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance to Compensated Balances Reserve Fund. Article 12 considered and approved under the Consent Agenda.

REVOLVING FUND SPENDING LIMIT

Consent

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to set annual spending limits for revolving funds for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law chapter 44, §53E½.

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Expend	Revenue Source	Use of Fund	Spending Limit
Inspection Services	Building Commissioner	Inspection Fees: Gas, Plumbing, Electrical	Salaries/ Expenses	\$75,000
Public Library	Library Trustees	Fees and Fines	Supplies, Services and Equipment	\$25,000

Motion: Moved that the Town vote to set annual spending limits for revolving funds for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law chapter 44, §53E½. Article 13 considered and approved under the Consent Agenda.

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Consent

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$274,522 or any other sum, being Williamstown's share of the Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District FY21 budget, or take any other action in relation thereto.

	<i>FY2020</i>	<i>FY2021</i>
Minimum Contribution/Assessment	\$303,813	\$254,834
Transportation Assessment	\$7,425	\$4,719
Capital Assessment	\$12,073	\$14,968
Total	\$323,311	\$274,522

Motion: Moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$274,522 from taxation. Article 14 considered and approved under the Consent Agenda.

WILLIAMSTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Consent

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 6A to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,332 for the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce to advertise the Town's resources, advantages, and attractions, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion: Moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,332 for the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce. Article 15 considered and approved under the Consent Agenda.

WILLIAMSTOWN YOUTH CENTER

Consent

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$77,000 for the Williamstown Youth Center to provide youth recreation services, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion: Moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$77,000 to support the Williamstown Youth Center. Article 16 considered and approved under the Consent Agenda.

SAND SPRINGS RECREATIONAL CENTER

Consent

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,000 for the Sand Springs Recreational Center to provide swimming and recreation services for Williamstown residents, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion: Moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,000 to support Sand Springs Recreational Center. Article 17 considered and approved under the Consent Agenda.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$8,187,054.71 or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the several Town Departments, namely:

Motion: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 18. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 18 passed by majority vote.

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$12,113,423 or any other sum, being Williamstown's share of the Mount Greylock Regional School District FY21 budget, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Note: This is an Omnibus Budget, i.e. Town Meeting may vote only a total amount.

	<i>FY2020</i>	<i>FY2021</i>
Operating Assessment	\$10,750,110	\$10,801,659
Capital Assessment	\$1,363,654	\$1,311,764
Total Assessment	\$12,113,764	\$12,113,423

Motion: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 19. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 19 passed unanimously.

BROADBAND STUDY

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$85,000** for the purposes of paying costs associated with undertaking a study of the feasibility of expansion of broadband service including market conditions, cost, operations, and technical considerations, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 20. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 20 passed by majority vote.

MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to take all necessary and appropriate action to establish and to maintain, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 164 of the General Laws and in accordance with the rules, regulations and orders of the Department of Public Utilities and the Department of Telecommunications & Cable, a municipal lighting plant for all purposes allowable under the laws of the Commonwealth, including without limitation the operation of a telecommunication system and any related services, or to take any other action relative thereto.

This is the first step of a multi-meeting approval process. A Municipal Light Plant is the form of government organization used by towns that provide their own broadband service. If Williamstown decides that entering this market is viable and appropriate, then a subsequent Town Meeting will be asked for the second enabling vote to create the Light Plant. Further action by future Town Meeting would be necessary to fund and organize such an operation if it were to be approved. A second meeting to consider this article cannot happen sooner than two months from now and no longer than thirteen months from now.

*This is a **ballot vote** and requires $\frac{2}{3}$ voting in the affirmative.*

Motion: The Chairman of the Select Board moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 21. The Town Manager explained voting yes tonight allows the Town to be on a path to move forward with the municipal light plant. There would be another ballot vote at a different town meeting in the future in order to proceed with the municipal light plant and keep it on the table. The ballot vote was collected and 271 voted in favor of article 21 and 9 opposed for a total of 280 voters for this article. Article 21 carried by the required $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – COMMITTEE EXPENSES

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2020 Community Preservation budget, and to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2021 estimated annual revenues the sum of \$5,000 to meet the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2021 or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion: The Chair of the Community Preservation Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 22. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 22 passed by majority vote.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2021 estimated annual revenues, for affordable housing purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$75,000 to fund a grant to the Williamstown Affordable Housing Trust in unrestricted funds for initiatives and programs related to furthering affordable housing in Williamstown and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion: The Chair of the Community Preservation Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 23. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 23 passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – RECREATION

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2021 estimated annual revenues, for recreation purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of **\$34,800**, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2021, to fund a grant to Sand Springs Recreational Center for building an accessory structure with ADA compliant bathrooms and a check-in station in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the organization upon such terms and conditions as may be appropriate and to authorize the Select Board to accept property interests as may be appropriate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion: The Chair of the Community Preservation Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 24. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 24 passed by majority vote.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – RECREATION

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds, for recreation purposes, the sum of **\$75,000**, to fund a grant to the Town of Williamstown to conduct a study of potential sites and feasibility for new recreation fields in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, and to authorize the Select Board to accept property interests as may be appropriate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion: The Chair of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 25. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 25 passed by majority vote.

BIKE PATH

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by purchase, gift and/or eminent domain and on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems appropriate, the fee to and/or permanent and temporary easements in, on and under the parcels of land located on Cole Avenue, Stetson Road, and North Street and shown on a plan of land entitled "Plan of Easements to be Acquired by the Town of Williamstown, Williamstown, Massachusetts Berkshire County", dated November 22, 2019, prepared by Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, as said plan may be amended, for recreational trail purposes, including, without limitation, for the construction, installation, inspection, improvement, maintenance, repair, replacement and/or relocation of trails, rights of way, access ways, sidewalks, ramps, drainage, utilities, slope, grading, landscaping, and construction, and for any and all other uses and purposes incidental or related thereto; and to transfer for and/or dedicate to the foregoing purposes in perpetuity those portions of the Town-owned parcels of land shown on said plan as "Parcel BP-6" through and including "Parcel BP-9", "Parcel TWLR-4", "Parcel TWLR-5," "Parcel TWLR-7", and "Parcel TWLR-8", and any other permanent easement areas as may be shown on said plan; and, further, to authorize the Select Board to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the foregoing purposes; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Motion: The Chairman of the Select Board moved , and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 26.

Roger Lawrence made the following amendment which was seconded, to delete the words "and/or eminent domain" from the first sentence and add the word or after purchase so that the article would read "To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by purchase **or** gift and on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems appropriate, the fee to and/or permanent and temporary easements in, on and under the parcels of land located on Cole Avenue, Stetson Road, and North Street and shown on a plan of land entitled "Plan of Easements to be Acquired by the Town of Williamstown, Williamstown, Massachusetts Berkshire County", dated November 22, 2019, prepared by Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, as said plan may be amended, for recreational trail purposes, including, without limitation, for the construction, installation, inspection, improvement, maintenance, repair, replacement and/or relocation of trails, rights of way, access ways, sidewalks, ramps, drainage, utilities, slope, grading, landscaping, and construction, and for any and all other uses and purposes incidental or related thereto; and to transfer for and/or dedicate to the foregoing purposes in perpetuity those portions of the Town-owned parcels of land shown on said plan as "Parcel BP-6" through and including "Parcel BP-9", "Parcel TWLR-4", "Parcel TWLR-5," "Parcel TWLR-7", and "Parcel TWLR-8", and any other permanent easement areas as may be shown on said plan; and, further, to authorize the Select Board to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the foregoing purposes; or to take any other action relative thereto.

The amendment was carried by majority vote. There being no further discussion, the Moderator then declared article 26 carried by the required $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote.

TRANSFER OF LAND TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR ENDANGERED PLANT PROTECTION

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Select Board for the purpose of conveyance to the Conservation Commission for conservation and passive recreation purposes under G.L. c. 40, §8C, the care, custody and control of the parcel of land shown on Assessors Map 110 as Parcel 18, containing 7.1 acres, more or less, and being a portion of the premises described in an instrument recorded with the Berkshire (North) District Registry of Deeds in Book 1302, Page 1019, which parcel shall be dedicated to the foregoing purposes in perpetuity and be subject to the provisions of Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion: The Chairman of the Select Board moved , and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 27. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 27 carried by the required $\frac{2}{3}$ supermajority vote.

DOT BRIDGE REPLACEMENT EASEMENTS - ROUTE 2

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the care, custody, and control of portions of the Town-owned property located at 605 Main Street and identified by the Assessor as Parcel 341/121.0-0088-0000 from the Select Board for cemetery purposes to the Board of Selectmen for cemetery purposes and for the purpose of conveyance, which portions are approximately shown on sketch plan entitled "Route 2 – Green River Bridge Project", on file with the Town Clerk, and to authorize the Select Board to grant to the Commonwealth permanent and temporary roadway, sidewalk, utility and such other easements as may be necessary or convenient for the purpose of repairing, improving, and/or reconstructing Main Street and/or the bridge over Green River, on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems in the best interest of the Town, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Motion: The Chairman of the Select Board moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 28. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 28 passed by supermajority vote.

AUTHORITY FOR THE SELECT BOARD TO ENTER INTO CERTAIN EASEMENTS

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to grant non-exclusive access, utility, roadway, sidewalk and other easements on portion or portions of Town property wherever located, provided that said easements do not encumber more than 10,000 square feet or 10% of the area of any particular property, whichever is larger, on such terms and conditions as the Board deems appropriate, and, if applicable, to transfer the care, custody and control of said portions to the board or officer currently having custody of said property for the purpose for which it is held and to the Select Board or the purpose of granting said easements, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proceeding: The Moderator noted a typographical error in the second to last line of the paragraph. The word or is used instead of for. The line currently states "to the Select Board or the purpose for granting said easements, or take and action." That sentence should read "to the Select Board for the purpose of granting said easements, or take any action."

Motion: The Chairman of the Select Board moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 29 as corrected.

Roger Lawrence made the following amendment which was seconded, to add the word "town" between particular and property on line 4 of the paragraph. The article would read "To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to grant non-exclusive access, utility, roadway, sidewalk and other easements on portion or portions of Town property wherever located, provided that said easements do not encumber more than 10,000 square feet or 10% of the area of any particular town property, whichever is larger, on such terms and conditions as the Board deems appropriate, and, if applicable, to transfer the care, custody and control of said portions to the board or officer currently having custody of said property for the purpose for which it is held and to the Select Board or the purpose of granting said easements, or take any other action in relation thereto."

The amendment was carried by majority vote. There being no further discussion, the Moderator then declared article 29 carried by the required $\frac{2}{3}$ supermajority vote.

LEASE FORMER DOG POUND SITE FOR COMMUNITY SOLAR

Article 30: To see if the Town of Williamstown will vote to authorize the Select Board to lease all or a portion of Assessor Parcel 127-146, the site of the former Dog Pound located at 673 Simonds Road, for solar array purposes, for a term of up to 30 years under terms and conditions satisfactory to the Select Board, and to grant such utility, access and other easements on said property as may be necessary or convenient for the purpose of serving said solar facility, or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion: The Chairman of the Select Board moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 30. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 30 passed by majority vote.

ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT – NON CONFORMING 1 & 2 FAMILY STRUCTURES

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown as follows, (changes underlined, removals struck through, other text is already existing within the zoning bylaw) :

§ 70-1.4 **Nonconformance.**

- A. Applicability. Except as herein provided, provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the following:
- (1) Lawfully preexisting structures and uses. Structures and uses lawfully in existence prior to the effective date of the provision in question.
 - (2) Prior building permit or special permit. Structures and uses lawfully begun under a building or special permit issued prior to the first publication of notice of the required public hearing by the Planning Board on the applicable zoning bylaw or amendment, provided that such construction or use is commenced within six months after the issuance of the permit, and in the case of construction, completed within two years thereafter.
 - (3) Dwelling change.
 - (a) The alteration, extension, structural change, or reconstruction of a lawfully preexisting nonconforming single or two-family dwelling, provided that such alteration, extension or structural change does not increase the nonconforming nature of such dwelling.

(b) For the purpose of this section, the following activities are deemed not to increase the nonconforming nature of the dwelling. Such changes are permitted by right, subject to the issuance of a building permit:

[1] Interior alterations, structural and nonstructural.

[2] Extensions which do not violate the dimensional requirements of the underlying zoning district.

[3] Extensions that do not extend closer to a property line than the existing non conforming structure.

(4) Nonconforming lots.

(a) Pre Existing lots. Nonconforming lots recorded in the Registry of Deeds and lots shown on a plan endorsed by the Planning Board under the Subdivision Control Law^[1] are not subject to later adopted provisions, to the extent and as provided by MGL C. 40A, § 6.

(b) Reestablishment of nonconforming lot (infill housing).

[1] A legally created nonconforming lot not qualifying for the above Section 6 exemptions may be separated in ownership from adjacent lots and then developed for a single-family residence, if authorized on special permit granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

[2] Decision on a special permit for such separation and building shall be based upon the following, rather than the more general criteria of § **70-8.4D**. Such special permit shall be granted if the Board determines that each lot will have access and utility service comparable to that serving nearby developed premises, and no congestion or health or safety limitations would be created by development, subject to such conditions as the Board may impose, which conditions shall include that any subsequent construction shall provide yards of dimensions no smaller than those prevailing in the vicinity.

B. Alteration of nonconforming structures. Any nonconforming structure may be altered, provided that the Zoning Board of Appeals grants a special permit, following its determination that the alteration is not substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood, applying the criteria of § **70-8.4D**. A special permit is not required for any nonconforming structure whose only nonconformity is height and whose use is exempt, within the meaning of MGL c. 40A, § 3. **[Amended 5-18-1999 ATM, Art. 29]**

C. Extension of nonconforming structures and uses.

(1) Structures. A nonconforming structure may be extended, provided that:

(a) The extension complies with the dimensional requirements of the chapter of the underlying zoning district, and

- (b) The Board of Appeals grants a special permit following its determination that the extension is not substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood, applying the criteria of § 70-8.4D.
 - (c) A special permit is not required for any nonconforming structure whose only nonconformity is height, and whose use is exempt, within the meaning of MGL c. 40A, § 3. [Added 5-18-1999 ATM, Art. 29]
- (2) Single ~~or Two~~-family dwelling. A nonconforming single ~~or two~~-family dwelling which does not comply with (a) yard requirements, or (b) building requirements, may be extended provided that ~~(i) with respect to yard requirements, such extension does not increase the degree of the nonconformity, and (ii) with respect to either proposed extension,~~ the Zoning Board of Appeals grants a special permit following its determination that such extension would not be substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood than the existing dwelling, applying the criteria of § 70-8.4D. [Added 5-15-2001 ATM, Art. 22[2]]

The Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) of Massachusetts in 2011 began interpreting the sections of MGL Ch. 40A-6 more expansively as they relate to nonconforming single and two-family homes. Over the past decade the courts in Massachusetts have continued to uphold this interpretation. In January 2019 a case in Brookline firmly solidified this more expansive interpretation of MGL Ch. 40A-6 which sets a minimum floor for rights local zoning must extend to non conforming 1 & 2 family properties. This amendment brings our local bylaw into alignment with current case law and extends those minimum rights as the courts have directed.

Motion: Planning Board Member, Susan Puddester moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 31.

Roger Lawrence made the following amendment which was seconded, to delete the word structure in section 3.B.(3) under Dwelling change and replace it with dwelling. Section 3.B.(3) would now read:

[3] Extensions that do not extend closer to a property line than the existing non conforming dwelling.

The amendment was carried by majority vote. There being no further discussion, the Moderator then declared article 31 passed by supermajority vote.

ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT – REGULATION OF LONG AND COMMON DRIVEWAYS

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown as follows:

Amend 70-5.2.A by renumbering the existing 5.2.A(2) to 5.2.A(4) and adding the following section as a new 5.2.A(2) through (3)

(2) Driveways. All driveways shall be constructed in a manner ensuring reasonable and safe access from the public way serving the premises to within a distance of 100 feet or less from the building site of the structure on the premises, for all vehicles, including, but not limited to, emergency, fire, and police vehicles and shall comply with the following;

- a. Distance: Driveways are limited to 500 feet in length. A driveway longer than 500 feet may be permitted by Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals following a determination that the driveway will provide adequate access for emergency vehicles.
- b. Grade: For driveways longer than 100 feet. Maximum grade of a driveway may not exceed 12%. A driveway exceeding 12% maximum grade may be permitted by Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals following a determination that the driveway will provide adequate access for emergency vehicles.
- c. Surfacing: For driveways longer than 100 feet. Driveways shall have a surface adequate for emergency vehicle access, constructed of concrete, asphalt, paving stone, gravel, or other hard material.
- d. Width: Any driveway seeking a Special Permit to exceed 500 feet in length shall be a minimum width of 10 feet.
- e. Clearance: Any driveway longer than 100 feet shall have an overhead clearance of at least 15 feet.
- f. Special Permit Requirements. In hearing Special Permit petitions in association with this chapter, in addition to the general criteria of 70-8.4, the Zoning Board of Appeals shall seek comment from the Fire Chief and Chief of Police regarding emergency access through the proposed driveway.

(3) Common Driveways. Common Driveways for up to 3 primary structures and no more than 6 dwelling units are permissible by right. A common driveway servicing more than 3 primary structures and more than 6 dwelling units may be permitted by Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

- a. Limit on Units and Structures: No common driveway shall serve more than 5 primary structures and no more than 8 dwelling units.
- b. Construction Standards: All common driveways shall comply with the driveway standards of 70-5.2.A(2) for distance, grade, and surfacing, and shall additionally maintain a traveled way width of 12 feet, with adequate pullouts for opposing vehicles, for all sections of driveway serving more than one structure. These standards may be waived by Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals following a determination that the driveway will provide adequate access for emergency vehicles.
- c. Right of Access: When applying for a building permit for a new dwelling unit serviced by a common driveway the applicant shall demonstrate that, through easements, restrictive covenants, or other appropriate legal devices, the maintenance, repair, snow removal, and liability for the common driveway and common right of access, shall remain perpetually the responsibility of all private parties, or their successors-in-interest, relying on said common driveway for access.
- d. Frontage Restriction: All lots served by a common driveway shall have the required amount of lot frontage on a street as defined by this chapter. No common driveway shall be considered a street as defined by this chapter.
- e. Special Permit Requirements. In hearing Special Permit petitions in association with this chapter, in addition to the general criteria of 70-8.4, the Zoning Board of Appeals shall seek comment from the Fire Chief and Chief of Police regarding emergency access through the proposed driveway.

In Williamstown, many single family homes are constructed with long driveways. Our emergency responders have become increasingly concerned about their ability to navigate these driveways safely. This proposal responds to this concern. It will not impact driveways less than 500' in length.

It also clarifies the legality of common driveways in our community. This type of long rural driveways can service two or more homes and have been allowed for decades as "customarily accessory" to single family homes.

Motion: Planning Board Member, Susan Puddester moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 32.

Jane Swift made the following amendment which was seconded, to delete Section (3) and to renumber 5.2.A(4) to 5.2.A(3). Motion to amend the article by deleting Section (3) passed by majority vote. A motion was made to refer article 32 as amended back to the Planning Board for further study. This motion passed by majority vote.

ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT – MARIJUANA REGULATION REFORM

Article 33: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown as follows:

Amend §70-3.3A by deleting the current marijuana related use categories (struck - through) and changing the following use designations (underlined);

ZONING DISTRICTS	RR1	RR2 RR3	GR	LB	VB	PB	LI	SG
§ 70-3.3A PRIMARY USES								
(2) BUSINESS USES								
Marijuana retail	No	No	No	No	No	BA	No	BA
Marijuana production facility	No	BA	No	No	No	No	BA	No
<u>Marijuana Cultivator (See §70-7.2K)</u>								
<u>Indoor Cultivation</u>	No	<u>No</u>	No	No	No	BA	BA	No
<u>Outdoor Cultivation</u>	No	<u>No</u>	No	No	No	No	<u>No</u>	No
<u>Marijuana Product Manufacturer</u>	No	<u>No</u>	No	No	No	BA	BA	No
<u>Marijuana Retailer</u>	No	No	No	No	No	BA	No	BA
<u>Marijuana Testing Facility</u>	No	No	No	No	No	No	<u>Yes</u>	No

Amend §70-9.2 by deleting the definitions for MARIJUANA PRODUCTION FACILITY, MARIJUANA RETAILER, and MARIJUANA TESTING FACILITY and adding the following:

MARIJUANA CULTIVATOR - An entity licensed to cultivate, process and package Marijuana, and to Transfer Marijuana to other Marijuana Establishments as defined by 935 CMR 500, but not to Consumers.

MARIJUANA CULTIVATOR, INDOOR - An indoor cultivator means one that cultivates the growth of marijuana plants within a building through use of artificial light. An Indoor Marijuana Cultivator shall be entirely enclosed in a building and activity therein shall not be visible to a public way or adjacent properties. All indoor cultivators shall use artificial ventilation and filtering equipment to minimize the impact of odors on surrounding properties.

MARIJUANA CULTIVATOR, OUTDOOR - An outdoor cultivator means one that cultivates the growth of marijuana plants outside of a building or in a structure that is unconditioned through the exclusive use of natural light.

MARIJUANA PRODUCT MANUFACTURER - An entity licensed to obtain, compound, blend, extract, infuse or otherwise make or prepare a Cannabis or Marijuana Product. Process and package Marijuana or Marijuana Products and to Transfer these products to other Marijuana Establishments, but not to Consumers.

MARIJUANA RETAILER - An entity licensed to purchase and transport Cannabis or Marijuana Product from Marijuana Establishments and to Transfer or otherwise Transfer this product to Marijuana Establishments and to sell to Consumers.

MARIJUANA TESTING FACILITY - An entity licensed to test marijuana and marijuana products, including certification for potency and the presence of contaminants, in accordance with applicable Massachusetts General Laws.

Amend §70 by enacting a new §70-7.2K

K. Marijuana Cultivators. Indoor Marijuana Cultivators, Marijuana Product Manufacturers, and Marijuana Testing Facilities shall be allowed in accordance with § 70-3.3, Use Regulation Schedule and shall abide by the following development standards. Outdoor Cultivation is not permitted.

- (1) Emissions and Odor Control and Mitigation: A detailed plan to control and mitigate odors or measurable emissions of any kind from exiting the proposed facility using the Best Available Technology must be submitted. The plan must include Design and Specifications of all filtration technologies and equipment proposed to be implemented along with an action plan addressing the response to any emissions that may occur during the operation of the facility. If emissions or odors occur at any time during the ongoing operations of a duly licensed facility then the Indoor Marijuana Cultivators, Marijuana Product Manufacturers, or Marijuana Testing Facilities will immediately correct such condition and inform the permit granting authority in writing of the measures taken to mitigate.
- (2) Renewable Energy Requirements: Indoor Marijuana Cultivators shall be required to integrate roof or ground mounted solar photovoltaic systems or an alternative renewable energy technology to provide for at least 25 percent of the energy needs of the facility. The Zoning Board of Appeals may modify or waive this requirement based on site conditions.

- (3) Expert Review: In reviewing an application for Indoor Marijuana Cultivator special permit, the Zoning Board of Appeals reserves the right to hire an independent consultant(s) with experience in evaluating marijuana cultivation facilities on behalf of municipalities and whose services shall be paid for by the applicant(s).
- (4) Indoor Marijuana Cultivators shall comply with Article V - Development Standards.
- (5) Indoor Marijuana Cultivators shall be subject to §70-8.2 Development Plan Review.

Amend §70-8.2.A by adding the following line (6);

- (6) Creation of, or substantial alteration to, an Indoor Marijuana Cultivator.

The Planning Board proposed and Town Meeting passed regulations governing marijuana related land uses in 2017 to respond to the passage of a 2016 ballot initiative legalizing recreational marijuana products. These were passed prior to the formation of the Commonwealth's Cannabis Control Commission and the promulgation of that Commission's regulations. This proposal aligns our bylaw with those regulations and provides applicants with additional requirements for setbacks, screening, lot area, performance for growing facilities. These standards will help our Zoning Board of Appeals evaluate proposals. This proposal will also ban the commercial growing of all recreational and medical marijuana outdoors in Williamstown.

Motion: Planning Board Member, Susan Puddester moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 33. Mrs. Puddester then moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to refer article 33 back to the Planning Board. Motion to refer back to the Planning Board for further study failed by a vote of 162 opposed, 130 in favor.

Anne Hogeland made the following amendment which was seconded, to change the outdoor cultivation box by changing the word "No" under RR 2 and RR 3 to "BA". This means a Board of Appeals permit. Also, under the use category, marijuana cultivator, outdoor adding the words "up to 5,000 square feet" at the end of the sentence. The paragraph would now read:

"MARIJUANA CULTIVATOR, OUTDOOR - An outdoor cultivator means one that cultivates the growth of marijuana plants outside of a building or in a structure that is unconditioned through the exclusive use of natural light up to 5,000 square feet."

This amendment passed by majority vote. Article 33 as amended then failed by lack of supermajority, 156 in favor, 106 opposed.

CITIZEN'S PETITION FOR PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENT

Article 34:

The Town of Williamstown voted at Town Meeting in 2017 by overwhelming majority (207-36) to approve zoning revisions to allow for recreational marijuana establishments in two zoning districts in town: Planned Business and Southern Gateway. The bylaw also allows for outdoor marijuana cultivation, as regulated by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission. Since then, one such retailer, Silver Therapeutics, has begun operating and two more are planned. Marijuana sold in legal dispensaries must be grown in Massachusetts.

In 2020, the Williamstown Planning Board voted to overturn the right to outdoor marijuana cultivation, while creating rules for indoor cultivation. The Agricultural Commission, representing the Williamstown farming community, unanimously supports the continued right to outdoor marijuana cultivation, which can

be a financially profitable crop to help support farming operations. (Outdoor cultivation, in which the plants grow in soil and are watered by rain, is less expensive, less energy intensive and less of a financial investment, than indoor cultivation.)

The proposed amendment continues to allow limited outdoor marijuana cultivation on a small-scale. The amendment addresses the concerns that residents voiced about the proposal for an outdoor growing operation on Blair Road. It separates growing from residences and restricts it to our rural agricultural zones. The proposed bylaw limits the size of the canopy to 50,000 square feet, half the size of what is allowed by the state; it restricts growing to parcels over 5 acres in Rural Residential zones, the property line setback is 75 feet and 500 feet from any residential structure, screening and odor dispersal plans are also required. Licenses are granted through a special permit process, given the public a chance to voice concerns. These town regulations are in addition to those established by the Commonwealth, including the 500-foot buffer around K-12 schools. Mapping of the zones and restrictions shows a limited number of locations in town where growing would be allowed. Licenses are granted through a special permit process, given the public a chance to voice concerns.

To see if the town will amend Sec. 70-3.3A by allowing for outdoor cultivation in designated zones, and Amend Sec. 70-7.2K by deleting the existing and replacing with the following:

Amend §70-3.3A by allowing outdoor cultivation in designated zones.

ZONING DISTRICTS	RR1	RR2 RR3	GR	LB	VB	PB	LI	SG
§ 70-3.3A PRIMARY USES								
(2) BUSINESS USES								
<i>Marijuana Cultivator (See §70-7.2K)</i>								
Indoor Cultivation	No	No	No	No	No	BA	BA	No
<u>Outdoor Cultivation</u>	<u>BA</u>	<u>BA</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>BA</u>	<u>No</u>

Amend §70-7.2K by deleting the existing and replacing with the following:

K. Marijuana Cultivators. Indoor and Outdoor Marijuana Cultivators shall be allowed in accordance with § 70-3.3, Use Regulation Schedule and shall abide by the following development standards.

1. Indoor Marijuana Cultivators as defined by 70-9, shall abide by the following development standards.
 - a. Odor Control and Mitigation: A detailed plan to control and mitigate odors or emissions of any kind from exiting the proposed facility, using the Best Available Technology must be submitted. The plan must include Design and Specifications of all filtration technologies and equipment proposed to be implemented along with an action plan addressing the response to any emissions that may occur during the operation of the facility. At any time during the ongoing operations of a duly licensed facility, if emissions or odors occur, then the Marijuana Cultivator will immediately correct such condition and inform the permit granting authority in writing of the measures taken to mitigate.

b. Renewable Energy Requirements: Indoor Marijuana Cultivators shall be required to integrate roof or ground mounted solar photovoltaic systems or an alternative renewable energy technology to provide for at least 25 percent of the energy needs of the facility. The Zoning Board of Appeals may modify or waive this requirement based on site conditions.

c. Expert Review: In reviewing an application for Indoor Marijuana Cultivator special permit, the Zoning Board of Appeals reserves the right to hire an independent consultant(s) with experience in evaluating marijuana cultivation facilities on behalf of municipalities and whose services shall be paid for by the applicant(s).

(2) Outdoor Marijuana Cultivator: An outdoor cultivator as defined by 70-9, shall abide by the following development standards.

a. Lot Area Requirement: All Outdoor Marijuana Cultivators shall be located on 5 or more acres.

b. Setback Requirements: All Outdoor Marijuana Cultivator shall locate the canopy area of the facility, as defined by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission, at least 75 feet from property lines and 500 feet from any residential structures, not in common ownership with the applicant, in existence at the time of the operator's application to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a special permit.

c. Screening: All secure area fencing as required by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission shall be screened from the public way and neighboring properties by site appropriate native vegetation. All applicants shall submit a screening plan. The Zoning Board of Appeals may waive this requirement if topography or other site considerations produces adequate screening.

d. Lighting: All Outdoor Marijuana Cultivators shall meet the security requirements of 935 CMR 500 without the use of overnight visible outdoor lighting. Visible lighting on site shall be limited to that necessary to provide safe egress from buildings and parking and shall be of full cut off Type 3 fixtures as defined by 70-5.4(D). All applicants shall submit a lighting plan as defined by 70-5.4(D) of this chapter to the Zoning Board of Appeals as part of their application.

e. Odor Dispersal Plan: All Outdoor Marijuana Cultivators shall utilize Best Available Technology which may include vegetative buffers to mitigate cannabis plant odors. Applicants shall submit a detailed odor dispersal plan to the Zoning Board of Appeals as part of their application.

f. Expert Review: In reviewing applications for Outdoor Marijuana Cultivator special permits the Zoning Board of Appeals reserves the right to hire an independent consultant(s) with experience in evaluating marijuana cultivation facilities on behalf of municipalities and whose services shall be paid for by the applicant(s).

g. Tiers and Licenses: The maximum allowable area of cultivation is 50,000 sq. ft., or Tier 6, as defined by the Cannabis Control Commission.

The Planning Board voted 3 in favor to 2 opposed, to recommend Town Meeting adopt this article.

The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend Town Meeting amend the citizen's petition to harmonize the language in the petition to bring it in line with the work the Planning Board has previously done on marijuana land uses.

The Select Board voted to recommend against Town Meeting adopting the article 3 - 1 - 1 and urges the proponents to work with the Planning Board to bring a proposal to the next town meeting.

Motion: Planning Board Member, Susan Puddester moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to refer article 34 back to the Planning Board for further study.

Anne Hogeland made the following amendment which was seconded, in the designated zones box in the last row, under the title Outdoor Cultivation, the phrase "on a farm defined by chapter 46" should be added. The title would now read: Outdoor Cultivation, on a Farm Defined by Chapter 46. Also, under the zoning district RR 1, the letters "BA" would be removed and word "No" would be added. Additionally, under section 2(g) - Tiers and Licenses: 50,000 would be changed to 5,000 square feet and Tier 6 would be changed to Tier 1. The new sentence would read: "Tiers and Licenses: The maximum allowable area of cultivation is 5,000 sq. ft., or Tier 1, as defined by the Cannabis Control Commission." The motion to amend passed by majority vote, 131 in favor, 90 opposed.

Brian Cole of the Agricultural Commission moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to postpone indefinitely. This motion failed by a vote of 122 opposed, 109 in favor.

Article 34 as amended then failed by lack of a supermajority, 122 in favor, 104 opposed.

CITIZEN'S PETITION FOR PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENT

Article 35: To see if the town will amend 70-7.2H (4) by increasing the allowable number of farm events (weddings and family celebrations) per year from six to ten as enumerated below:

h. Weddings and family celebrations on farms. Weddings and family celebrations on farms (the "events") are allowed as indicated in §70-3.3, Use Regulation Schedule. The purpose of this bylaw is to provide an option to farms of sufficient size in order to promote the sustainability of farming, the enhancement of our community and the preservation of open space. Such uses shall comply with the following:
[Added 5-15-2012 ATM, Art. 31]

- (1)The events may only be held on farm property which qualifies as a farm as defined by the Right to Farm Bylaw, Chapter 46, §46-2 of the Code of the Town of Williamstown.
- (2) The side, front and back setbacks for the event must be no less than 100 feet.
- (3) There shall be no electronically amplified sound at events except between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.
- (4) The maximum number of events per calendar year, per farm shall not exceed ~~six~~ ten events.
- (5)The Board of Appeals may approve such events for a multiyear period of time, revocable subject to the applicant complying with the provisions of this section, and any other conditions established by the Board.

The Agriculture Commission supports this bylaw revision because events on the farm generate income for farmers when it is difficult to generate income from agriculture. Weddings and events on farms create more opportunity for farmers to earn revenue, and this important source of income helps support their agricultural operations and their farmland, and the pastoral open landscape that defines Williamstown's character and heritage.

Motion: Planning Board Member, Susan Puddester moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 35. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 35 passed unanimously.

CITIZEN'S PETITION "NOT IN OUR COUNTY PLEDGE"

Article 36: "Not in Our County Pledge" Petition to the Williamstown MA 2020 Town Warrant

Whereas, the Town of Williamstown is committed to providing equality, access, and opportunity for all its residents, and believes in the vital importance of a diverse community; and *Whereas*, a national call for racial justice has necessitated the affirmation of the Town's commitment to the ideals of equity and inclusion, particularly concerning the effort to assure the safety of black-identifying people of color; and *Whereas*, the Town of Williamstown wants to be a welcoming community and a safe and enjoyable place of residence for people regardless of background,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that

1. The Town of Williamstown and its representatives are fully committed to upholding the following Not in Our County Pledge:

As an institution, organization, or local business, we commit to working together with our constituents, employees, employers and stakeholders to create a safer, more integrated Berkshire County. As an organization we respond with best intention and practices to not stay silent in the face of intolerance or hate based on race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, country of origin, ability or any other factor. We work to acknowledge, address and act in response to all forms of intended or unintended exclusion, hate, bigotry, intolerance and bullying. We pledge to renew our commitment to this work every day and to respond to all incidents in a timely, collaborative manner.

2. The Town of Williamstown, as well as its representatives and agencies, will report a representative and unbiased picture of any and all hate, exclusion, or intolerance they may witness as being directed towards an individual or group based on any of the above demographics. They have the responsibility to uphold the values of justice and inclusion, and therefore pledge to combat and speak out against any infractions to the above pledge.

Motion: Huff Templeton moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 36. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 36 passed unanimously.

CITIZENS PETITION "EQUITY"

Article 37: "Equity" Petition to the Williamstown MA 2020 Town Warrant

Whereas, urgent structural change is vital in the effort for an equitable and welcoming Williamstown; and, *Whereas*, it is of utmost importance that all community members are enfranchised regardless of personal identity; and, *Whereas*, the level of accessible housing in Williamstown can determine the socio-economic, and in some cases racial diversity of the town; and, *Whereas*, education and training can successfully be used to undo remnants of structural oppression,

Therefore, be it resolved that

1. The Town of Williamstown recommends that fellow Williamstown boards, committees, and agencies, in particular the Planning Board, critically reexamine and continue to create their policies and practices according to a commitment to accessible living.
2. The Town of Williamstown asks boards and committees to reflect on areas including housing and zoning and make changes that actively allow for a town more supportive of a wide array of racial and economic backgrounds.
3. The Town of Williamstown encourages such bodies to heavily consider community input, especially from traditionally marginalized groups, both directly during meetings and in collaboration with the recently instantiated Race and Equity Advisory Committee, or similar name.
4. The Town of Williamstown commits to providing equity training for Town employees and public office holders. The training should prioritize trainees who interact with the public. The training should include information on local instances of structural racism and should prioritize strategies to serve traditionally marginalized and under-represented people. It should emphasize breaking down systemic inequities in our community rather than personal conduct and personal bias.

Quarterly reports should be shared with the Race and Equity Advisory Committee and community members to address progress towards the above goals. These reports should include types and vendors of equity training and policies and procedures created to advance access for traditionally under-represented groups.

Motion: Huff Templeton moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 37. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 37 passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: There being no further business before the Town a motion was made, and seconded to adjourn the 2020 Annual Town Meeting. Following unanimous voice vote, the Moderator declared the meeting adjourned at 10:49 PM.

A true copy, attest:

Nicole E. Pedercini
Town Clerk

TREASURER / COLLECTOR

Rachel Vadnais, Treasurer

<i>For the year ending June 30, 2020</i>		
<i>Department</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Tax and Excise</i>		
Treasurer-Collector	Personal Property	\$ 330,348.63
Treasurer-Collector	Real Estate Tax	\$ 17,347,476.19
Treasurer-Collector	Motor Vehicle Excise	\$ 677,738.85
Treasurer-Collector	Interest on Property Tax	\$ 26,915.50
Treasurer-Collector	Interest on MV Excise	\$ 1,672.11
Treasurer-Collector	Interest on Tax Liens	\$ 1,255.08
Treasurer-Collector	Tax Liens & Foreclosures	\$ 11,429.81
Treasurer-Collector	Payments in Lieu of Tax	\$ 3,291.52
Treasurer-Collector	Meals Tax	\$ 165,635.01
Treasurer-Collector	Hotel and Motel Tax	\$ 446,981.15
Treasurer-Collector	Community Preservation-State Match	\$ 59,974.00
Treasurer-Collector	Community Preservation Surcharge	\$ 257,734.63
Treasurer-Collector	Cannabis Local Option Excise	\$ 223,448.49
Total Tax and Excise		\$ 19,553,900.97
<i>Utility Charges</i>		
Sewer Department	Sewer Charges	\$ 1,163,015.97
Water Department	Water Charges	\$ 1,004,913.16
Landfill Department	Landfill Payments	\$ 28,122.80
Landfill Department	Landfill Stickers	\$ 64,825.00
Landfill Department	Landfill Bags	\$ 39,850.00
Total Utility Charges		\$ 2,300,726.93
<i>Other Charges for Services</i>		
Cemetery	Cemetery Interments	\$ 18,000.00
Police	Off-Duty Fees	\$ 126,099.70
Total Charges for Services		\$ 144,099.70
<i>Fees</i>		
Assessor	Fees	\$ -
Community Development	Fees	\$ 2,160.00
Cemetery Department	Perpetual Care	\$ 3,570.00
Conservation Commission	Fees	\$ 4,026.79
Council on Aging	Fees	\$ 3,716.62

Energy Credits	Fees	\$ 15,192.81
Health Department	Fees	\$ 10,244.00
Highway	Fees	\$ 5,017.50
Library	Fees	\$ 1,321.12
Landfill Department	Fees	\$ 7,429.30
Planning Board	Fees	\$ 300.00
Police Department	Fees	\$ 13,050.70
Police Department	Dispatch Services	\$ 62,995.28
Selectman	Fees	\$ 350.00
Treasurer - Collector	Cannabis Host Impact Fee	\$ 136,347.00
Sealer of Weights	Fees	\$ 241.60
Town Clerk	Fees	\$ 5,598.00
Treasurer - Collector	Fees	\$ 21,061.19
Insp Services-Revolver	Fees	\$ 91,600.17
Sewer Department	Fees	\$ 2,728.00
Town Manager	Fees	\$ 859.50
Water Department	Fees	\$ 6,298.55
Zoning Board	Fees	\$ 1,521.25
Total Fees		\$ 395,629.38
<i>Licenses and Permits</i>		
Community Development	Licenses and Permits	\$ 139,980.63
Health Department	Licenses and Permits	\$ 24,525.53
Highway	Licenses and Permits	\$ 6,150.00
Police Department	Licenses and Permits	\$ 3,267.50
Selectmen	Licenses and Permits-Liquor Licenses	\$ 30,335.00
Selectmen	Licenses and Permits	\$ 2,502.00
Sign Commission	Licenses and Permits	\$ 753.50
Town Clerk	Licenses and Permits	\$ 3,649.00
Total Licenses and Permits		\$ 211,163.16
<i>State Government - State Aid</i>		
Treasurer-Collector	Veterans Services	\$ 56,955.00
Treasurer-Collector	Abatement Reimbursement	\$ 1,014.00
Treasurer-Collector	State Owned Land	\$ 159,386.00
Treasurer-Collector	Chapter 90	\$ 58,368.00
Treasurer-Collector	Lottery	\$ 1,017,014.00
Treasurer-Collector	CARES---Covid 19 Supprt	\$ 49,860.00
Total State Aid		\$ 1,342,597.00

<i>State Government - Grants</i>		
Treasurer-Collector	Assist Firefighters Grant	\$ 1,837.50
Treasurer-Collector	Com Compact IT	\$ 14,400.00
Treasurer-Collector	Cultural Council	\$ 6,000.00
Treasurer-Collector	Municipal Vulnerability	\$ 7,000.00
Treasurer-Collector	Mohawk Bike Trail	\$ 355,600.38
Treasurer-Collector	E-911	\$ 44,246.82
Treasurer-Collector	PDMC-Hazard Mitigation	\$ 2,885.22
Treasurer-Collector	Police-Drug Task Force	\$ 11,145.91
Treasurer-Collector	Police Systems Improvement	\$ 250,000.00
Treasurer-Collector	Polling Re-imbusement	\$ 443.52
Treasurer-Collector	Library Title LIG/MEG Grant	\$ 11,807.14
Treasurer-Collector	Council on Aging - Formula Grant	\$ 25,176.00
Treasurer-Collector	Sustainable Materials Recovery Grant	\$ 5,250.00
Treasurer-Collector	Mass DOT-Complete Streets	\$ 167,847.00
Treasurer-Collector	Brownfield Grant-Photech	\$ 164,676.68
Treasurer-Collector	RRA TNC Ride	\$ 114.40
Treasurer-Collector	Solarize MA	\$ 7,000.00
Total State Grants		\$ 1,075,430.57
<i>Fines and Forfeits</i>		
<i>Commonwealth</i>		
Police Department	Court Fines	\$ 9,087.75
Total Fines and Forfeits	Parking Tickets	\$ 15,980.00
		\$ 25,067.75
<i>Sale of Assets</i>		
Cemetery	Sale of Lots	\$ 430.00
DPW	Sale of Vehicles	
		\$ 430.00
<i>Interest Income</i>		
<i>Treasurer-Collector</i>		
Treasurer-Collector	Investment Interest	\$ 222,774.18
Total Interest Income	Trust Interest	\$ 45,913.37
		\$ 268,687.55
<i>Gifts and Contributions</i>		
Council on Aging	Donations & Fundraisers	\$ 3,931.00
Library	Operations Gifts	\$ 27,990.00
Library	Books	\$ 1,312.29
Police Department	Contribution - General	\$ 10,700.00
Police Department	Contribution - Williams College	\$ 400,000.00
Town	Health Coordinator	\$ 2,000.00

Library	Renovations	\$ 86,932.30
Total Gifts and Contributions		\$ 532,865.59
<i>Payroll and Insurance</i>		
Payroll Deductions		
Payroll Deductions	Federal Withholding	\$ 487,931.72
Payroll Deductions	Medicare Withholding	\$ 127,369.42
Payroll Deductions	State Withholding	\$ 229,612.84
Payroll Deductions	Retirement Withholding	\$ 404,091.30
Payroll Deductions	Health Insurance	\$ 1,408,522.27
Payroll Deductions	Life Insurance	\$ 10,166.45
Payroll Deductions	Dental Insurance	\$ 75,741.36
Payroll Deductions	Other Withholdings	\$ 145,848.91
Total Payroll and Insurance		\$ 2,889,284.27
<i>Fund Transfers</i>		
Transfers between Funds		\$ 199,300.00
Total Fund Transfers		\$ 199,300.00
<i>Miscellaneous</i>		
Miscellaneous	OPEB Fund	\$ 50,000.00
Miscellaneous	Sherman Burbank Trust Distribution	\$ 15,000.00
Miscellaneous	Williamstown Scholarship Fund	\$ 2,994.69
Miscellaneous	Compensated Balance Transfer	\$ 195,000.00
Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous Trust Contributions	\$ 9,130.26
Miscellaneous	Library Annual Fund	\$ 13,812.00
Miscellaneous	Reimbursement for damages	\$ 44,154.93
Miscellaneous	Westlawn/Sherman Burbank Contributions	\$ 11,360.01
Miscellaneous	CPA to Affordable Housing Trust	\$ 75,000.00
Miscellaneous	Sale of Timber ``	\$ 70,241.93
Total Miscellaneous		\$ 486,693.82
Total Receipts		\$ 29,425,876.69

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 many 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 Town is imperative. In 2020, Veterans' Agent Stephen Roy processed \$70,251.74 in benefit claims without a single penny rejected by the Commonwealth - funding which would've otherwise been a liability to the community. Many widows and 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 wonderful, the unfortunate truth of the matter is America continues to recover and meaningful employment opportunities are extremely scarce in our area for folks with advanced military training which often doesn't transition to civilian jobs. 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 many 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, Savoy, Cheshire, Lanesborough, and Dalton. 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 Friday afternoons from 1:00 – 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Roy
Director of Veteran Services

WILLIAMSTOWN ELEMENTARY
2019-2020 Academic Year

Superintendent: Kimberley Grady
Principal: Joelle Brookner
Assistant Principal: Elea Kaatz

Current 2020-2021 Superintendent: Jason P. McCandless
Current 2020-2021 Principal: Kristen Thompson
Current 2020-2021 Assistant Principal: Cindy Sheehy

Guiding beliefs identify the core values of the Williamstown Elementary School:

We believe...

- Every child has the right and potential to learn;
- In inspiring and nurturing children to care about and contribute to their world;
- All children deserve to have high expectations set for them and the support to achieve them;
- In commitment to professional growth for our faculty and staff;
- Parents and community play a critical role in education;
- All members of our school community need to feel safe;
- It is important to have built-in systems that support, implement and evaluate innovations;
- In respecting and fostering unique and diverse learning and teaching styles;
- In a curriculum that is coordinated and consistent, flexible and challenging to meet the needs of every learner;
- Mutual respect, honesty, and responsibility are vital to a healthy learning environment;
- It is the responsibility of the educational community to anticipate the changing needs in society and to evaluate and adopt the best educational practices.

WILLIAMSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT and STAFFING 2019-2020
STUDENT ENROLLMENT

School Year/Grade	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
PreK	28	29	32	12	16
Kdg	64	47	56	59	38
1	61	74	58	62	56
2	54	60	72	57	61
3	55	54	58	72	58
4	74	56	56	62	68
5	61	72	52	55	60
6	56	59	74	57	52

TOTAL:	453	451	458	436	409
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Data reflects enrollments as counted by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, where district and school profiles report students physically enrolled in a school.

**EDUCATIONAL AND SUPPORT STAFFING (Full-Time Equivalents)
2019-2020**

Administrators	2
Instructional Staff	40.2
Special Education Teachers And Professional Support Staff	4.67
Paraprofessionals	20
Medical/Health Services	1
TOTAL:	67.87

Data reflects FTE by Job Classification as reported to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Social-Emotional Learning: Social-Emotional learning continued to be a main focus for Williamstown Elementary. The School Improvement Plan guided the work of offering a variety of training for staff and experiences for students. Staff worked on Mindfulness with Dana Asby (Director of Innovation & Research Support at the Center for Educational Improvement and Education Coordinator of the New England Mental Health Technology Transfer Center), discussions around LGBTQ+ with Kelly Heck (MSW, Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker), and worked to expand the Choose to Be Nice core values schoolwide (Respect, Kindness, Acceptance, Teamwork, Honesty, Responsibility, Friendship, Compassion, Patience, Courage, and Justice). All school assemblies introduced each value as a springboard for classroom conversations. In the fall, we updated the progressive response rubric for grades 3-5. We introduced a school social worker position to support crisis management, services with students, and support with unexpected daily needs. A Professional Learning Network of teachers participated in a trauma-informed book group using Happy Teachers Change the World.

Williams Center for Learning in Action Partnership: Science Fellows, Reading and Math Buddies continued to penetrate throughout the building and across all grade levels. Recess Buddies continued to offer support for socio-emotional development during lunch and recess for students in all grade levels; Recess Buddies were particularly helpful during multiple indoor recess days caused by inclement weather conditions. Classroom Helpers continued to be positive on both the part of the teachers and students; strong rapport in many pairings, as well as between Classroom Helpers and WES students. Some Classroom Helpers are paired with the same teacher across multiple years, leading to strong professional development and mentorship. Big Sibs expanded from 2 students at the end of spring 2019 to 11 students paired with little sibs and two waiting to be paired at the time of the pandemic closure of WES and Williams College. Hopkins Forest field trips for Grades 4, 5, and 6 in the fall of 2019 led by Williams student outdoor educators and Drew Jones, Hopkins Forest Caretaker directly addressed MA grade-level science standards. Adventures in Learning supported students in the month of January to provide after-school enrichment programming.

Words Are Wonderful: 22nd Annual Words Are Wonderful Week with visits from author/illustrator Jarrett J. Krosoczka and Brian Pinkney. The Literary Character Parade was spectacular, as usual, with students and staff dressing up as their favorite character, book, or vocabulary word. The WES PTO hosted a Book Fair, Word Games afternoon, TV Studio Production Field Trip @Willinet Studio, Community Readers, Pizza Dinner, and finally The Berkshire Theatre Group at the '62 Center. The BTG put on the show Magic Tree House: Pirates Past Noon, an

adaptation of the fourth of Mary Pope Osborne's award-winning fantasy adventure books from the Magic Tree House book series. Many thanks to all of our WAW volunteers and organizers!

COVID Closure: March 13, 2020 was the last day of in-person learning. Teachers and paraprofessional staff worked to support students in the time of Emergency Remote Teaching. Chromebooks were distributed to students. All-school assemblies were conducted remotely and shared out via video, weekly vlogs were shared out to all of our WES families, and finally, 6th grade graduation occurred via a committed staff caravan led by our WES van.

WILLIAMSTOWN HOUSING AUTHORITY

35 Adams Road

Williamstown, Massachusetts 01267

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

The Williamstown Housing Authority administers a total of 145 units of subsidized housing, both rental assistance and conventional units. This includes: 30 elderly apartments, Meadowvale, on Adams Road, 82 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 17 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.

WILLIAMSTOWN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Linda Brown, Chair

The Williamstown Municipal Scholarship Committee oversees the granting of scholarships to residents of Williamstown who will be attending accredited colleges or vocational/technical schools. The scholarships are intended to support residents' educational goals, enhance their skills, or prepare them to re-enter the workforce.

The residents of Williamstown, through tax-deductible donations, fund these scholarships, which are issued by the town treasurer to the attending college in advance of the fall semester. Donations can be submitted to the town treasurer's office, or made alongside property tax payments.

This year, the committee was pleased to award a scholarship towards a local resident's continuing education, and we look forward to supporting more Williamstown students in the future.

Scholarship applications are available on the town's website, or from the town treasurer, by November 1st each year. Scholarship awards are decided in mid-January.

Committee members include Jeanne Dilisio, Linda Brown, Donna Denelli Hess, Kris Kirby

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WILLIAMSTOWN HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Annual Report to the Town 2020

A Remarkable Year

The Williamstown Historical Museum has persevered as the world experienced a challenging year. The first two months of 2020 were spent carrying out our regular activities such as welcoming visitors, collection maintenance and digitization, research and research assistance, program presentation, and exhibit preparation.

As the world faced the pandemic the WHM temporarily closed its doors to all but staff members in March. Work carried on remotely, and the museum engaged with the public through regular social media posts and emails. Gail Burns worked diligently on the museum's social media initiatives and presented a spring and summer series. The spring series featured a historical site marker tour, looking at several historic sites in town. The summer series surveyed the history of woman suffrage and some of the local suffragists and female elected officials in town, along with a history of the League of Women Voters. Each full series can be found on the Williamstown Historical Museum website.

In 2020, the WHM started to present programs virtually, as webinars, to great effect. The museum has been able to reach a wider audience through its online programming because audience members participate in programs from the comfort of their homes, anywhere in the country. The WHM is grateful for its continued partnership with WilliNet. Videos of WHM programs can be viewed from the WHM website, the WilliNet website and on WilliNet channel 1302.

The museum reopened to visitors in July with COVID safety protocols in place. Through the second half of 2020 the museum was open to drop-in visitors on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and by appointment for those wishing to carry out research or visit outside of normal open hours. Tourism was understandably light in the Berkshires in 2020, and the visitors who arrived at the WHM were grateful for our open doors and the welcoming faces of our volunteers.

Broadening and Recentering the Collection and our Knowledge of the Past

The museum acknowledges the need to direct activities to recognize and remedy the absence and erasure of stories from and about non-white residents and other underrepresented populations. To this end, the museum revised its mission statement in July and is working to include the voices and histories of those whose stories are so very valuable to local history, but which have not been told. The museum's work and collection will broaden in the years to come. We are grateful for the work done so far in this area by community members and we invite residents to share their stories and carry out research to expand our knowledge of the diverse histories of all residents.

Revised WHM Mission and Supporting Statements

The purpose of the Williamstown Historical Museum is to promote interest in the history of the Williamstown area by collecting, cataloging, and preserving items of historical significance, and to increase the public's knowledge of Williamstown's past through educational exhibits, programs, events, research, publications, and any other functions which further this purpose. The Williamstown Historical Museum is committed to collecting and sharing the stories of all of the residents of this area across the centuries.

The WHM Collection

The museum's collection consists of items dating from early history in the region through the present day, and the collection is always growing. The museum encourages all residents and museum members to share their stories, make suggestions about areas of research and program presentation, and participate

in the museum's activities so a broader understanding of the history of Williamstown can be gained and shared. We need your help to ensure that everyone is represented, and we hope you will contribute to the diversity of the collection by sharing your story, your thoughts, and artifacts related to the town's history. Thank you for your investment in your town.

Land Acknowledgement

"It is with gratitude and humility that we acknowledge that we are learning, speaking and gathering on the ancestral homelands of the Mohican people, who are the indigenous peoples of this land. Despite tremendous hardship in being forced from here, today their community resides in Wisconsin and is known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors past and present as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all."

COVID Experience Survey

Everyone has a story to share about their experience with COVID-19. This historic time will be of interest to people carrying out research in the future. If you wish to share your story, you are invited to fill out our "Williamstown Community Reflections on COVID-19" survey that was prepared by volunteer Margaret Sutton this summer. Please email the museum at sarah@williamstownhistoricalmuseum.org for a link to the survey.

Historic Barn Preservation Project

The museum has embarked on a special project to preserve the iconic Dolan-Jenks barn, currently located on Green River Road. The barn was donated to the museum and will be disassembled, restored, and reassembled on the grounds of the WHM, which will bring new life to a barn that is over 170 years old. The prospect of opportunities to connect with the past while engaging with the present is inspiring. On the grounds of the WHM the barn will be available for visitors to learn more about the town's agricultural past and the methods of construction used in previous centuries.

The Dolan-Jenks barn is significant because it is a surviving member of an ever-dwindling group of early- and mid-19th century barns. Without preservation, it will deteriorate and will be lost. This striking building is memorable and was used to support agriculture, transportation, and daily life in the first century after Williamstown's settlement. Its layout is unique, and the barn has a story that should be told. By adding it to the WHM collection, the building will become a public asset, making it possible to educate the community about an array of topics ranging from traditional construction skills used in this and similar buildings to the natural history of the region, connecting the barn's 45' wooden beams with the trees and landscape of the 1800s. The Dolan-Jenks Barn Preservation Project falls within the museum's mission to preserve and promote the history of Williamstown. The barn is expected to provide increased visibility for the museum, growth in membership, and financial stability for the organization.

This preservation project is intended to improve the quality of life for residents of Williamstown by providing opportunities for engagement in activities and exhibits related to the town's agricultural and architectural past, thereby enhancing connection to the town and community. Opportunities for interpretation about the life of the barn, its owners, the environment and culture in the 1800s, and agriculture in Williamstown abound and will be of value to current-day residents who are interested in gaining a deeper understanding of the town, particularly, its agricultural history.

Exhibits

In November, the museum, in cooperation with members from the Northern Berkshire Suffrage Centennial Coalition, opened an exhibit commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment. The exhibit features a brief history of woman suffrage in Williamstown along with brief biographies of notable local women. The exhibit can also be found online on the Williamstown Historical

Museum website.

The museum's permanent exhibit contains interesting vignettes looking at different time periods and trends throughout Williamstown's history. There will be updates to the exhibit in the coming years as more is learned about the history of the region.

Audiobook Recording

The museum continued its audiobook recording project. Before the pandemic required a pause of recording activities, several chapters of Williamstown the First 250 Years were recorded by various residents. There are still opportunities for recording and, as 2021 progresses and virus dangers abate, recording will pick up again. If you are interested in recording for this audiobook project, please contact the museum. The recording will be available online, for free to all. Thanks to the Fund for Williamstown, a fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, for funding the purchase of recording equipment for this project.

Outreach and Public Programs

There was a single in-person lecture in 2020. Dusty Griffin presented a lecture titled, "13 Galusha Farms: 1798- 2020" in February. In October, the museum hosted its first online lecture, "The Chadwells of Williamstown," presented by Dustin Griffin. To find lectures online, please visit the WHM or WilliNet websites.

The history book group continues to meet, in an online meeting format, on the first Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. All community members are invited to participate in these monthly meetings. Please contact the museum to learn more.

Research Assistance

The WHM receives many inquiries for assistance with genealogical research, house/building history research, and student and professional research. Visitors are encouraged to carry out their own research in the Flynt Research Room with assistance provided by volunteers and staff. Out of town research requests are filled by volunteer researchers, David Primmer. David received and worked on about one request a month. In 2020, requests focused on genealogical inquiries, though other inquiries focused on questions about homes and organizations. This year, Williams College students researched topics ranging from the Berlin Mountain Ski Area to the White Oaks.

Nuts and Bolts

In 2020 the WHM continued to receive donations of items related to Williamstown's history from donors. Cataloging of these items continues with the assistance of volunteers and an intern, Kendall McGowan, who began work with the museum in late 2020. At times, donors wish to keep the original photo or document, but want to share the item with the museum and community. In these cases, the item can be scanned, and added to the museum's online collection. Community members are encouraged to contact the museum if they think they have an item that they wish to donate to the museum or have us scan for them.

The Williamstown Historical Museum's online catalog contains images and information about items in the collection. The catalog is an ever-expanding and popular resource for researchers and people interested in Williamstown's visual and cultural history. By visiting this link, you may research Williamstown's past: <http://williamstown.pastperfectonline.com>.

The museum's part-time staff member works 20 hours a week and was assisted throughout 2020 by a

dedicated group of regular volunteers. As a volunteer driven organization, the contributions of time and energy by board members and community volunteers is crucial to our work. Generous volunteer greeters cover two hour shifts during WHM open hours, allowing the museum to provide its exhibits and research resources to walk-in visitors on a regular basis. Volunteers also carry out research, work on cataloging the collection, and assist with planning and exhibit preparation work. The museum functions smoothly because of the work of volunteers who come from a range of backgrounds, but who are all interested in serving their community. Thank you WHM volunteers! New volunteers are welcome and we invite you to learn more about volunteering by emailing sarah@williamstownhistoricalmuseum.org.

Please come visit, either online or in person to learn more about Williamstown's history! We are located in the historic schoolhouse at 32 New Ashford Road, near the Five Corners. You can reach us online at www.williamstownhistoricalmuseum.org. We look forward to seeing you soon!

WILLIAMSTOWN YOUTH CENTER

Williamstown Youth Center 2021 Town Report

Introduction

The Board of Directors and Administration of the Williamstown Youth Center are pleased to report that even in this challenging year the WYC continues to provide essential support for Williamstown families.

With the onset of the pandemic, the WYC shifted its focus to directly supporting the remote-learning models of the Williamstown Elementary School. Since July, the WYC has been open to students during out-of-school times, providing families with a safe, well-supervised space for children while parents are working. More recently, we have resumed recreational programming in compliance with all state and local COVID-19 safety guidelines.



As always, town and other institutional and individual support has allowed us to keep our program fees affordable for just about any family budget, and to provide financial assistance to any family in need.

While our focus has been on remote learning this year, we continue to explore more opportunities for collaboration with other community partners. Last year, we set out to develop programming with the North Adams-based Roots Teen Center. This year, that goal has been achieved; Roots now

offers a coding program through the WYC.

As we move towards spring, we will intensify our efforts to assist families looking for recreational opportunities, either by providing the programming ourselves, or by connecting families with other local groups, such as Cal Ripken Baseball, Berkshire Bruins Hockey, and the Williamstown Soccer Club, to name but three examples.

The WYC administration is overseen and supported by an active Board of Directors. Current members are:

David Armet, Board President

Duffy Judge, Board Vice President

Matthew Sheehy, Board Treasurer

Amanda Bayliss, Board Secretary

At-large members Yasmin Wilkinson, Andrew Art, LaTasha Turner, Melody Fisher, Candice Constantine, Thomas Elder, and Robert Livingstone.

Program Descriptions

Our current program primarily focuses on academic support for WES learners. We are hopeful for a return to our regular programming, potentially as soon as the start of our fiscal year (July 1). The following is a description of what we are doing now, as well as what we hope to start this summer.

Remote Learning

Our remote learning support program consists of small learning pods of students organized by grade and cohort, in both the morning and afternoon. Once a week, we are open for a full-day program, when the school has a full-remote learning day. WYC staff assist students with many aspects of out-of-school learning. We coordinate closely with WES administrators and teachers to maintain student learning during this long period of hybrid learning. The WYC upgraded our internet service and purchased PPE and other equipment to ensure COVID-19 safety while children are in our building.

Everyone who comes to our building is screened before they are allowed to enter. We maintain an electronic database of all responses to facilitate contact tracing in the event of local positive COVID-19 test results.

After School And Before School Programs

During normal times, these two programs have the highest total registrations and participation rates. They are the two offerings that have the greatest impact on supporting our families.

Before March of 2020, our total After School enrollment was approximately 49% of the total enrollment of WES, while our average daily attendance of 100 was over 25% of this number. 35 children in the After School Program (about 25% of total enrollment) for the spring semester of 2020 received some form of financial aid. The number for our summer program was higher still. The After School Program is licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care and meets its requirements to operate. We apply for re-licensure every two years and we are subject to snap observations on a regular basis.

The WYC also operates a Before School Program from 7am to 8:30am each weekday. Kids join the group for a light breakfast, games, and homework help before the school day begins.

Full-Day Programs

Every summer, the WYC runs eight weeks of summer camps, from 8am to 5:30pm each weekday. The summer camp schedule includes two afternoons a week at Margaret Lindley Pond in Williamstown, two field trip days to regional organizations including museums and outdoor recreational venues, and a variety of collaborations between local sports clubs and swimming facilities.

Additionally, the WYC is open during school vacation periods, snow days, and professional in-service days at WES.

Sports, Recreational, and Arts programs

The WYC uses local athletic facilities at Williams College and WES, as well as our own gym, for many of its sports programs, including a learn to skate program, basketball for kindergarteners through 8th graders, soccer club, weekly skiing lessons at Jiminy Peak, swimming lessons, track and field, cross country, and lacrosse for all school-age children. Parents, high school, Williams College and MCLA coaches and students, and Youth Center staff all provide instruction.

Art instruction is incorporated into our After School Program daily offerings. Outside play, including Nordic



skiing and snowshoeing when weather permits, is encouraged year-round.

The Williamstown Youth Center programs are open to all children in Williamstown and surrounding communities. About 80% of the children enrolled in WYC programs since July are Williamstown residents.

Guiding Philosophy

The WYC continues to adapt to reflect our belief that families need us to do more than simply facilitate team sports. The past eleven months have highlighted the important role we play as a community institution. The WYC has never been more necessary. Given our established reputation and our continued strong partnerships with other local organizations, we are uniquely positioned to be not only a direct service provider, but also a reliable source of information and resources for families (particularly those who are new to the area) who need help navigating activities for their kids. We are always looking for new ways to expand partnerships or to work with new organizations to offer a wider range of programs and reach a greater number of families.

Thank you for this opportunity to share the important work we are doing with you.

WILLIAMSTOWN FIRE DISTRICT

2020 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 five commissioners elected on a rotating basis on the same day as the District's annual meeting. The 2020 annual meeting took place on Tuesday, June 30, 2020. At the annual meeting, the District sets its budget and its tax levy for the following year. All registered voters of Williamstown are entitled and encouraged to attend the annual and monthly meetings at the District firehouse on Water Street or any other location designated by the commissioners and advertised as such.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

Edward B. Briggs
Edward M. McGowan
Richard C. Reynolds
David R. Moresi
John J. Notsley

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

The Williamstown Fire District had an active year. The Prudential Committee met monthly at the Fire Station for the first quarter of the year. In April, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, it was necessary for the Prudential Committee to shift gears and meet online for its regularly scheduled monthly meetings which continued throughout the remainder of the year. Prudential Committee meetings are public meetings and community members are welcome to attend. Meeting notices and login information for online meetings can be found on the town calendar. Online meetings are also recorded and can be viewed on Willinet.

The Fire District's annual meeting was held on Tuesday, June 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the Williamstown Elementary School. Voting for elected positions within the Williamstown Fire District took place before the annual meeting, from 4 - 7 p.m. John Notsley was elected to the Prudential Committee for a three year term and Paul Harsch was elected moderator for a three year term.

At the annual meeting, it was voted to appropriate funds from the District's stabilization fund to purchase a 2,600 gallon tanker truck to support the Fire Department fleet for enhanced rural fire suppression capabilities. This tanker truck will provide critical water supply to the fire ground where there are no fire hydrants available. Delivery of the tanker truck is expected in 2021.

Elected Prudential Committee members and term expirations are Edward M. McGowan 2021, David R. Moresi 2021, Edward B. Briggs 2022, Richard C. Reynolds 2022, and John J. Notsley 2023. In October, John Notsley stepped down as Chair of the Prudential Committee, a position he held for over 25 years and Richard Reynolds was elected chair. Edward B. Briggs continues to serve as Vice-Chair. Thank you to John for his excellent work as Chair and congratulations to Richard! Appointed officials of the Williamstown Fire District include Corydon L. Thurston, Treasurer, and Sarah Currie, Clerk.

The WFD continues its work to pursue the recommendations set forth in the 2019 organizational assessment carried out by Municipal Resources, Inc. The ranking of officers was one such recommendation that was voted into effect by the Prudential Committee in June. Chief Craig A. Pedercini's title did not change, while other current officers' titles were revised to the following: Deputy Chief Robert E. Briggs, Assistant Chief Michael E. Noyes, Assistant Chief Richard F. Daniels, and Assistant Chief Daniel J. Bryant.

In September, in preparation for planning for a new firehouse, two committees were created. A Building Committee, chaired by Elaine Neely, was created to assist with the planning for the new firehouse. Members of the committee include Don Dubendorf, Ryan Housman, Jim Kolesar, Mike Noyes, David Moresi, Ed Briggs (non-voting), and Jason Hoch (non-voting). The committee will be responsible for tactical planning, building requirements, and other duties that may arise. The second committee created was a Community Advisory Committee (CAC). This committee will review needs, assessments, data, plans, and recommendations for the Prudential Committee and the Building Committee. The CAC will gather community input, engage key stakeholders, and help communicate needs, priorities, and plans. The CAC is chaired by Jeffrey Thomas, and members include Markus Burns, Carin DeMayo-Wall, Michael Rodriguez, Christina Sanborn, Susan Schneski, and Larry Smallwood. Thank you to all community members participating in these important new committees. Community Advisory Committee and Building Committee meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend meetings, which have been held online because of the pandemic. Meeting notices can be found on the town calendar and meetings are recorded and can be viewed on WilliNet.

Outreach and engagement are an important part of the work done by the department. While regular community events such as our annual Open House and awareness programs were curtailed due to the pandemic, the department was able to help ensure our children enjoyed a safe Halloween through a new program. Members of the department were positioned at strategic locations in the parts of town that see large numbers of children trick-o-treating and distributed glow sticks.

The fire district hired five new members and had one member resign in good standing. In February, Will Titus and Grant Gattuso, both Williams College students, were welcomed into the department while three local residents, Dante Birch, John Kalapos and Christopher Gleason were also brought on board. Logan Friedman, a Williams College senior who has been in the department since his freshman year, has graduated. The fire district would like to thank Logan for his service and wish him the best.

The fire district applied for six grants and were awarded four in 2020. In January, a Washer-Extractor Equipment Grant became available from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Department of Fire Services. The Fire District applied and received \$5,000 to purchase a Washer Extractor which is used to clean firefighter's turnout gear (personal protective equipment). Since the washer extractor has been installed, it has been getting a lot of use.

The fire district participated in four regional grants through the Assistance to Firefighter Grant program (AFG), which is through the federal government. Fire departments in the Northern Berkshire County area applied as a group and received a grant for new firefighter personal protective equipment (PPE). A set of PPE includes a structural firefighting coat, pants, boots, helmet, 2 pairs of gloves, and 2 fire protective hoods. We purchased \$21,370 worth of PPE and the district's cost was \$2,137. It costs the district approximately \$2,800 to outfit one firefighter. Per the National Fire Protection Association and States standards, the PPE is good for ten years before it should be replaced.

Covid-19 has brought on many challenges. At first, the required medical PPE was difficult to obtain and once it was made available, we found it to be extremely costly. Thanks to a second AFG that was made

available, the Berkshire County Fire and EMS departments applied for a medical PPE grant, with Pittsfield being the host. Williamstown received \$1,570 worth of PPE which included safety goggles, gloves, shoe covers, disposable masks, gowns and special filters that can be worn with our facemasks. The fire district's cost was \$157. The fire district participated in a third AFG for the purchase of disinfectant equipment and cleaners. The grant was awarded towards the end of the year and we are waiting for delivery of the equipment.

The fourth AFG was for radio equipment. It would have replaced everyone's aging portable radios. Unfortunately, this grant was denied. The regional group will be reapplying in 2021. Our fifth AFG was for the purchase of a new fire pumper truck. This grant made it through several reviews before it was finally denied.

The technology in rescue equipment is constantly changing and this year the fire district purchased two new tools: a state of the art battery operated Amkus cutter and a spreader. These tools are used during times when extrication of someone is needed, mainly for motor vehicle accidents. We also purchased two new battery operated light towers. The cutter and spreader were used within days of putting them on the truck for a motor vehicle accident. The light towers have been used multiple times since their purchase.

In May of 2020 the fire district received approval from the voters at its annual fire district meeting to purchase our first tanker. The fire district is very excited about this new piece of apparatus. It is a Firovac Tanker and it will carry 2,600 gallons of water. It was ordered in September after the bids were opened. The vehicle cost is \$380,000. The fire district is expecting the tanker to be delivered sometime between April and May of 2021.

Training for the fire district has been a challenge in 2020. Covid-19 has put a huge damper on how we can meet, go to fire calls and train. Unfortunately, all the training that was scheduled in Berkshire County with the Department of Fire Services was cancelled, much like everything else nationwide. However, in January of 2020 firefighters were able to train on 4 or 5 separate occasions at the old Williams Inn on Main Street. The building was set to be torn down in the spring and we took advantage of the college's offer to use it for training. Firefighters practiced search and rescue in full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA's), ladder work, rescues out of a 2nd story window, roof ventilation and forcible entry by way of breaching walls and locked doors. Firefighters from our surrounding communities (Pownal, Clarksburg, Hancock and New Ashford) were also invited to train with us. In February, on the advice of medical professionals we took a break from training in order to social distance and keep our firefighters healthy so they could respond to emergency calls. In the months to come we learned how to respond in a safe and professional manner. Masks are required at all calls and in the fire station. As the weather became nicer, firefighters did get together and train outside using masks and social distancing as best we could. The truck room became the training room and trucks were put outside. As positive tests for Covid-19 increased in our community and the county, the fire district once again paused its training. The district is happy to report no firefighters contracted the virus during 2020. Williams College student, Will Titus, completed his Firefighter I in his home state of New Jersey over the summer and received his Pro Board Certification. The 200 plus hour program took up most of his summer. Will also completed his EMT certification. Grant Gattuso, our other new Williams student also completed his EMT certification in the fall. Congratulations Will and Grant for a job well done. Firefighters took advantage of training online and completed courses which include: IS 100 Introduction to Incident Command System, IS 200 Basic Command System for Initial Response, IS 700 Introduction to the National Incident Management System and IS 800 National Response Framework, An Introduction.

The District responded to 208 calls in the year 2020, some of which are mentioned in more detail. The fire district responded to 9 structure fires in 2020. The first call was January 1st, New Year's Day at 2:50 am. The call was reported as a kitchen fire on Luce Road with people still in the building. Chief Pedercini and Asst. Chief Noyes arrived on scene within 4 minutes and found a male party out on the front lawn with police officer Craig Eichhammer. Officer Eichhammer told the fire officers everyone was out of the building. Asst. Chief Noyes entered the home and reported the fire appeared to be out but as a precaution, firefighters brought in a charged hose line. The home was ventilated with a fan to remove the smoke. The fire started on top of the stove and extended to the cabinets and ceiling above; the damage was extensive.

There were two other people in the home besides the male party. A female and her 7 year old daughter who were both sleeping in their bedrooms. The female party woke up to the smell of smoke and discovered the fire. She yelled "fire" to the male party, who was her guest, as she went back to the bedroom to get her daughter. They escaped out the back door and went to the neighbor's house. The male party got up and ran to the kitchen and found the stove exhaust hood and cabinets on fire. He removed the jacket he had on to attempt to smother the fire. Not being able to put the fire in the hood out, he then physically knocked the hood off the wall and took it out back and threw it on the lawn.

Police Officer Craig Eichhammer, who was first to arrive on scene, stated that he found the front door open and ran in yelling to see if anyone was inside. The male party yelled back "I'm here"! Eichhammer went to the kitchen and found the man on his knees and elbows. Eichhammer asked him if he was injured and he replied no. Eichhammer then helped him to his feet and took him outside. The male party was treated by NB EMS for smoke inhalation, a 2nd degree burn on the left side of his forehead and 1st degree burns on his left upper extremity. He was transported to the hospital where he spent the night. Six smoke detectors were checked in the home and all but one were missing batteries. The one that did have batteries had one of them installed backwards so it did not work either. The cause of the fire was from unattended cooking. The male party left a glass pot with vegetable oil in it on the back burner with the burner on. He went in the other room and forgot about the burner being on and fell asleep. The high heat caused the vegetable oil to flash, igniting it. The fire then spread to the hood igniting the grease in the filters then extended up to the wooden cabinets.

On January 19th the fire department was called out to Roaring Brook road for a highway plow truck that went off the road, leaving the driver trapped inside. The response was slow due to bad weather conditions and the location of the incident. Over the radio, the fire department heard police officers who were on scene requesting help. Chief Pedercini requested mutual aid from New Ashford and Hancock to respond to the scene with manpower. Chief Pedercini arrived on scene and found a town dump truck with a plow upside down in the Roaring Brook. The vehicle had slid off the road and down the embankment. Police officers and EMS personnel were tending to the driver, trying to keep his head out of the cold water. Once fire apparatus arrived on scene, firefighters lowered an extension ladder down over the embankment into the river for better access. Additional firefighters went down to assist police and EMS with extricating the driver from the vehicle. A hauling system attached to a Stokes basket was rigged up. Firefighters then deployed the Stokes basket onto the ladder and working with police and EMS were able to get the Stokes basket across the brook to the driver's location. Firefighters, police and EMS all worked together to get the driver into the Stokes basket and strapped in. A roof ladder was placed across the brook to act as a bridge for the Stokes basket. It was a difficult task but all emergency personnel working together carefully got the driver over to the makeshift bridge. As the driver was guided across, firefighters up on the road took up the slack on the hauling system. Once across the brook and onto the extension ladder, firefighters hauled the driver up the embankment with EMS at the foot of the ladder guiding the Stokes basket. Once the driver was back up to the road, firefighters placed him in an ambulance. EMS treated him

for hypothermia as well as any injuries. As soon as the patient was stable, the ambulance transported him to the hospital.

The morning of June 4th the fire department was called out to Torrey Woods Road for a report of a barn fire. The owner of the property called 911. While firefighters were responding, no time was wasted calling for mutual aid for tankers from Pownal, VT, Hancock, Lanesborough and Clarksburg. Engine companies (pumper trucks with manpower) were also requested from Pownal, Clarksburg, New Ashford and Lanesborough. Pownal Valley, VT was requested to stand by in the Williamstown station to cover the town for other calls.

Williamstown Engines W2, W1 and W3 responded to the scene. Engine W3 ran a supply hose line from the fire ground to the water source (corner of Torrey Woods and Oblong) and set up for drafting, supplying the fire ground with water. W2 and W1 went to the scene and set up for an exterior attack on the fire. Williamstown's manpower was limited until Mutual Aid began to arrive. In total, 42 firefighters were involved. Firefighters fought in a defensive mode and in just a little over 1 ¼ hours had the fire under control. During the fire, a propane tank adjacent to the barn began to leak so H. A. George was called in to stop the leak and remove the two tanks.

The barn was a total loss and had collapsed into its foundation, creating an issue with being able to fully extinguish all the fire. The property owner called Marc J. Bottesi to help. Marc arrived with his excavator and worked with firefighters, pulling debris out of the barn until everything was completely extinguished. The mutual aid departments were all released and approximately five hours after the start of the fire Williamstown firefighters cleared the scene and returned to the station, relieving Pownal Valley. Firefighters spent the next hour and a half cleaning all their equipment and trucks, getting everything back in service. Police Lt. Ziembra and Sgt. McGowan also responded to the fire scene after hearing the call on the radio. Both officers assisted the fire department with setting up water supply operations and other miscellaneous tasks needed to support fire suppression efforts. Thank you Lt. Ziembra and Sgt. McGowan. The fire was accidental and was started by the homeowner while using a torch to burn off old glue on a copper fitting. He was doing the job on a workbench that had caught fire due to a flammable liquid that had spilled earlier.

The month of December was also busy with eighteen calls which included four fires. On December 22nd the fire department responded to a pellet stove fire. Chief Pedercini arrived on scene and found Police Officer Tanya Hernandez exiting the home with a fire extinguisher. Officer Hernandez said the fire appeared to be out but there was a lot of smoke still in the house. Apparently while waiting for the fire department to arrive, one of the homeowners successfully extinguished the fire but there was still extensive damage to the room as well as smoke damage to the entire home. A malfunction with the pellet stove allowed the fire to escape the stove and set the wall behind it on fire, eventually rolling across the ceiling. Firefighters remained on scene taking down part of the ceiling to look for fire extension. Thankfully, no one was injured and everyone made it out, including the family dogs and cats.

On the morning of December 23rd, the fire department responded to a report of a smoldering heating element in the wall. When firefighters arrived, they found smoke coming up through the floor and out from a wall adjacent to the radiator in the bathroom of a 2nd floor apartment. There was also an exterior door in the bathroom leading to a fire escape. We later learned that there was actual flame visible but the occupants knocked it down using snow and a fire extinguisher. Firefighters had to open up the floor using a chainsaw designed for that purpose. The ceiling below was also cut into for better access. A charged hose line was brought around to the backside of the building and up the fire escape to extinguish the remaining smoldering wood. The structural framing under the floor was lightly charred from the fire. It was determined that careless disposal of a cigarette was the cause of the fire.

The same day just two and a half hours after the bathroom floor fire, the fire department was called out again for a confirmed structure fire on Hoxsey Street. A plume of black smoke could be seen from over a mile away. Mutual aid was requested by a responding officer through dispatch for an Engine company from North Adams and Pownal, VT to respond to the scene and for an Engine company from Clarksburg to respond to Williamstown's station for coverage. Engine W2 arrived on scene and firefighters pulled a hose line off and advanced it through the front door. Two construction workers, Robert K. Czerwinski and Brian Teal, who had been working across the street on the North Science Center and are firefighters from other communities, jumped in and offered their assistance. Robert, who is on the Richmond Fire department, helped drag a 4 inch supply hose up the street to a fire hydrant. Brian, Fire Chief with the Poestenkill Fire Company in NY, temporarily pumped W2 while the first crew started their initial attack. The Williamstown firefighters and fire district would like to thank Robert and Brian for their assistance that morning. Engine W1 came in and stopped at the hydrant to connect the 4 inch line. A second line was stretched to the side entrance of the house leading into the kitchen where the fire was the heaviest. Firefighters then began knocking down the major part of the fire. When North Adams firefighters arrived on scene they were assigned to back up the two crews on the hose lines. Pownal firefighters arrived on scene and assisted with other tasks. Within 20-30 minutes of the initial call, firefighters began to gain control over the fire. Firefighters then overhauled the burned areas to ensure that all fire had been extinguished. North Adams and Pownal fire were cleared from the scene. Williamstown firefighters returned to the station relieving Clarksburg from stand by. The fire was found to have originated behind the refrigerator at the floor level. The compressor showed signs of electrical damage around the relay and electronics. The cause of the fire was determined to be from the refrigerator. Three Williams College seniors lived in the off campus residence but none of them were home at the time as they had all left for the holidays.

On December 25th the fire department was called out for a kitchen grease fire. When firefighters arrived they found the fire had been extinguished by police officer Calvin Dziedziak, who was out patrolling when the call came over the radio. Officer Dziedziak used the extinguisher from his patrol car to knock down the fire. The owner was heating up vegetable oil in a pan and had the heat on too high when it flashed. The fire extended up to the hood and the kitchen cabinets over the stove causing damage to both. No one was injured. Power to the stove and hood were turned off until an electrician could check it out.

The fire district provided mutual aid to Pownal, Vt. on six occasions; four of those were for structure fires which include responding to the Green Mt. Race Track twice. On September 16th, Williamstown sent two pumpers and the tower truck to assist the Pownal Fire department with an all night structure fire at the race track. W3 was used to draft water from the river a half mile away while W2 and Tower 1 doused the building with water all through the night. Seven firefighters worked between 10 and 12 hours at the fire while six firefighters were on standby in the Williamstown station. The following afternoon four Williamstown firefighters went back to the racetrack to assist Pownal firefighters with a rekindled fire using Tower 1, while three firefighters stood by at the station. The operation took 4 hours.

There were seven calls for the fire department to respond to natural gas odors throughout the year. Two went unfounded while five were confirmed leaks. Firefighters would identify the extent of the hazard and manage it until Berkshire Gas personnel arrived. The Berkshire Gas Company in each case has always been quick to respond.

The fire department responded to 97 activated fire alarms, 16 of those calls were for assistance with fire alarm issues. Chief Officers responded to 19 carbon monoxide alarm calls. In many cases, smoke detectors can be activated by dust. Other detectors were found to have low batteries or the service life of the detector expired. Proper upkeep and maintenance can prevent false alarms, check the devices manual

for instructions on how to maintain it. The fire department is available and willing to visit any residence to answer questions regarding smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

The Williamstown Fire District had another successful year through the strong support and dedication from people and organizations throughout our community. We would like to especially thank Williams College and the town of Williamstown for their on-going partnership.

208 Calls:

Structure Fires - 9, Chimney Fires - 1, Cooking Fire - 3, Passenger Vehicle Fire – 3, Boiler/Furnace Issue – 1, Gasoline Spills/Leaks – 2, Unauthorized Burning - 2, Electrical Burning Odor Issues – 5, Electrical/Transformer/Pole/Tree/Wires down – 8, Mutual Aid Structure Fires – 4 (Pownal VT), Mutual Aid Brush Fires – 1 (Pownal), Mutual Aid Chimney Fire – 1 (Pownal), Motor Vehicle Accidents – 13, Natural/Propane Gas Odors – 2, Natural/Propane Gas Leaks – 5, Extrication Rescue - 1, Water Issues/Broken Pipes/Flooding Basements – 7, Carbon Monoxide Alarms – 19 (1 with CO levels), Search for Lost/Injured Persons/Rescues – 2, Activated Fire Alarms Including Sprinkler Systems – 97, Malicious/Mischievous Alarms – 2, Smoke/Good Intent Calls - 20

Chief Pedercini conducted regular inspections of public and private schools, restaurants, theaters, motels, inns and nursing homes. Building construction has kept the fire department busy with inspections. The fire chief and building commissioner work closely together throughout the year while performing inspections of fire alarms, sprinkler systems and liquor license renewals. The housing construction at 330 Cole Avenue has been moving right along. In December of 2020 Williams College was winding down on the completion of Fort Bradshaw and the North Science Center.

243 permits were issued for smoke/co detectors, liquid propane gas, tank removals, oil burners, tank truck inspection, fire protection system, fuel tank storage, hot works, fireworks, hood suppression systems, fire reports and fuel dispenser replacement.

2020 Report of the Treasurer:

Williamstown Fire District		FY 2020	
	Balance	July 1, 2019	\$850,347
RECEIPTS:			
Town of Williamstown (Taxes collected)	\$548,533		93.83%
Williams College	\$27,920		4.78%
Inspection Fees	\$5,335		0.91%
Interest Income	\$2,295		0.39%
Miscellaneous	\$0		0.00%
Donations	\$550	\$584,633	0.09%
	<hr/>	<hr/>	\$584,633
EXPENSES			
Audit	\$8,000		1.64%
Berkshire County Retirement	\$31,775		6.53%
Communications	\$7,384		1.52%
Debt Service	\$0		0.00%
Dispatch	\$65,724		13.51%
Education and Training	\$1,596		0.33%
Insurance	\$48,128		9.89%
Legal	\$1,796		0.37%
Maintenance & Operation	\$72,723		14.95%
Pay of Firemen	\$32,586		6.70%
Salaries	\$103,441		21.26%
Services & Supplies	\$16,230		3.34%
Street Lighting	\$91,761		18.86%
Utilities	\$5,274		1.08%
Water Rents	\$1,650		0.34%
Total Operations Article 5		\$488,068	
Stabilization Article 7 FY '20	\$50,000		
Matching Grant Article 8 FY '13	\$2,137		
Communication Article 8 FY '17	\$3,072		
Main St Property Article 10 FY '20	\$4,680		
		\$59,889	
		<hr/>	(\$547,957)
	Balance	June 30, 2020	\$887,024
Stabilization Fund			
	July 1, 2019	\$639,991	
Additions		\$50,000	
Interest		\$7,226	
Fund Balance	June 30, 2020		\$697,217
	Balance	June 30, 2020	\$1,490,338

**Subject to Audit Adjustment*

Corydon L Thurston, Treasurer