

***TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN,
MASSACHUSETTS***



***ANNUAL REPORT
-2022-***

**TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS**



**2022
ANNUAL REPORT**

*Department reports are for the calendar year 2022 unless otherwise noted
Financial report covers the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022
Prepared by Sarah Hurlbut, Claire Klammer, and Linda Sciarappa
Cover Photo: Courtesy of the Williamstown Police Department
Published by Becks Printing 2022
www.williamstownma.gov*

Land Acknowledgement:

We respectfully acknowledge that Williamstown stands on the ancestral homelands of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohicans, who are the indigenous peoples of this region. Following tremendous hardship after being forced from their valued homelands, they continued as a sovereign Tribal Nation, known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, which today resides in Wisconsin. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors past and present as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all.

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COMMUNITY FACTS



Prior to the 1750s the land now known as Williamstown was the home of the Mohicans, who are the indigenous peoples of this region. The current government of Williamstown began to take shape in the 1750s with the arrival of white settlers who founded a settlement known then as West Hoosac. 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
MountainOne Bank
Mount Greylock Regional School District

Williamstown Commons
Williamstown Medical Associates
Town of Williamstown
Williams Inn



CURRENT TOWN OFFICIALS



ELECTED OFFICIALS

SELECT BOARD

Hugh Daley, Chair	2023	Andrew Hogeland	2023
Jeff Johnson	2024	Jane Patton	2025
Randal Fippinger	2025		

MODERATOR

Elisabeth Goodman	2025
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LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Charles Bonenti	2024	Tim Cherubini	2024
Robin Lenz	2025	Tamanika Steward	2023
Micah Manary	2025	Bridget Spann	2025
Patricia Wilk	2023		

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Judith Bombardier	2025	Steve Dew	2024
John Kalapos	2024	Adrian Trabankino	2026

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Laila G. Boucher	2024	David Westall	2025
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MT. GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Julia Bowen	2024	Christina Conry	2026
Jose Constantine	2024	Curtis Elfenbein	2026
Carrie Greene	2026	Ursula Maloy	2024
Steven Miller	2026		

PLANNING BOARD

Peter Beck	2025	Alison Guess	2023
Stephanie Boyd, Chair	2023	Roger Lawrence	2026
Ken Kuttner	2027	Bruce McDonald, Alt.	2025

APPOINTED BY THE MODERATOR

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Suzanne Stinson	2025	Paula Consolini	2025
Melissa Cragg, Chair	2023	Charles Fox	2024
Molly Magavern	2025	Doris Karampatsos	2023
Elaine Neely	2025	Fred Puddester	2023
Michael Sussman	2024		

APPOINTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

Cheryl Shanks	2025	Daniel Gura	2025
Ruth Harrison	2023	Andy Hogeland, Chair	2023
Kayla Servin	2025	Robin Malloy	2025
Thomas E. Sheldon	2024		

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Brian Cole	2024	Averill Cook	2025
Bill Galusha	2024	Sarah Gardner, Chair	2024
Darryl Lipinski	2023	Christopher Sabot, Alt.	

CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Vacancy (3)

COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND RACIAL EQUITY

Andrew Art	2024	Randal Fippinger	2023
Ashley Shan	2023		2023
Shana Dix, Chair	2023		2024
Noah Smalls	2024		

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Joseph Finnegan (Town Resident)		Philip McKnight (ConCom)	
Nate Budington (Historical Commission)		Roger Lawrence (Planning Board)	
Melissa Cragg (Finance Committee)		Jane Patton (Parks Commissioner)	
Bob Menicocci (Town Manager)		Steve Dew (Housing Authority)	

CONSTABLES

Paul Yarter	2023	Andrew Bernardy	2023
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CULTURAL COUNCIL of NORTHERN BERKSHIRE

Cecelia Hirsch	2024	Michael Eagle	2025
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FENCE VIEWERS

Brian Renaud	2023	Richard Duncan	2023
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HOOSAC WATER QUALITY DISTRICT

Don Clark 2022 Rhon Ernest-Jones 2025

MOHAWK TRAIL WOODLANDS PARTNERSHIP

Hank Art 2025

MT. GREYLOCK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Cosmo Catalano, State Appointed Scott Lewis

MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Linda Brown, Chair 2025 Donna Denelli-Hess 2023
Kris Kirby 2023 Patrick Izidro 2025
Vacant 2025

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Nicole E. Beverly Town Clerk Kurt Gabel (R) 2024
Robert A. Jones (R) 2025 Mark Windover (D) 2023

SIGN COMMISSION

Timothy Cherubini 2024 Richard Duncan 2025
Anne Hogeland 2023 Anne Singleton, Chair 2026
Kathy Thompson 2025

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Nancy Nysten 2023

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Brian O’Grady Appointed by the Select Board Chair

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Keith Davis, Chair 2024 Andrew Hoar, Alt. 2024
Amy Jeschawitz 2025 David Levine 2023
Eunice Marigliano, Alt 2024 Robert Mathews 2024
Vince Pesce 2024



APPOINTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER

1753 HOUSE COMMITTEE

Hank Art	2023	Andrus Burr	2024
Vacant	2025	Marilyn Faulkner	2023
David Loomis	2024	Lauren Stevens, Chair	2024
Keith Davis	2024		

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER AND INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS

Jeffrey Kennedy
Police Chief Michael Ziemba
Officer David Jennings

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Thomas Elder	Chris Lamarre, Chair
David Westall	

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Roger Lawrence, Appointed by Planning Board	2023
Roger Bolton, Alternate	2023

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Hank Art	2024	Corey Campbell	2023
Tim Carr, Chair	2024	Philip McKnight	2023
Lauren Stevens	2023	Barbara Robertson	2025

COUNCIL ON AGING

Brian T. O'Grady, Director	Judith Bombardier	2023	
Geoffrey King	2025	Mary Jo Green	2024
Martin Greenstein, Chair	2023	Karen Kelly	2025
Elaine Keyes	2024	Patricia Picard	2023
Susan Puddester	2023	Edward Sedarbaum	2024

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Michael Ziemba, Police Chief

FORESTRY/ PEST CONTROL SUPERINTENDENT/TREE WARDEN

Robert E. McCarthy, Jr.

HEALTH INSPECTOR

Jeffrey C. Kennedy

BOARD OF HEALTH

Devan Bartels	2024	Ruth Harrison, Chair	2023
James Parkinson, MD	2024	Ronald Stant	2025
Edwin Steubner, MD	2023		

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Nate Budington, Chair 2023
Gabriel Perez 2023

Andrus Burr 2024
Patricia Leach 2024

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Michael Ziemba, Chief

POLICE OFFICERS

Craig Eichhammer
Tania Hernandez
Brad Sacco
Shuan William
David Jennings
Haley Sigsbury

Kevin Garner
John J. McConnell, Jr.
Scott Skorupski
Anthony Duprat
Kalvin Dziedziak

POLICE DISPATCHERS

Ryan Dubie
Laura Tuper

Christy Lemoine
Barbara Brucato

PART TIME DISPATCHER

Carter King

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

William Cote
Rosella Cote

Linda Nichols
Scott Parks



COVER STORY

The Police Department usually stays busy directing traffic around numerous events throughout the year. We were able to assist with Trick or Treat on Halloween and the July 4th parade as well as several other parade events. This year, in addition to more roaming patrols to keep the children safe while out trick or treating, Officer's Hernandez and Skorupski set up a location for handing out candy and small toys to all the children out that night. This event is yet another great way to interact with our community during happy times that are enjoyable for the officers just as much as it is for the children! The extra patrols assisted with traffic control and interaction with community members for successful events with no injuries or issues.

This year saw a dramatic increase in the amount of community events we sponsored and participated in. Thanks in part to the SPCP (Strengthening Police Community Partnerships) Council we were able to engage with the community and the youths for multiple kickball games in town throughout the summer. We also hosted another very successful National Night Out at the Spruces Park in August that drew hundreds of community members. The event was incredibly well attended, enough so that we look forward to hosting it again this year!

The event was sponsored and organized by Chief Ziemba through the Police Department as well as the North Berkshire Community Coalition and local community member Andrea Bryant. Many entities donated time, resources, and monies to make this event a success. The evening at the Spruces saw many local vendors, kids' games, demonstrations, tractor rides, hot dogs, hamburgers and ice cream. Police, Fire and EMS interacted with the community for the four-hour event that was a great way for the community to get to meet with each other and get to know local first responders at the same time.

When the weather got cooler, we switched to board game nights at the Harper Center that also were well attended. These events culminated with a Holiday Gathering at the Police Department in mid-December that saw roughly one hundred community members enjoying crafts, games, holiday themed decorations and food. The primary point of contact for organizing these events was Officer Tania Hernandez who did an outstanding job seeing these through successfully. We look forward to the events that she has on the horizon for 2023!

SELECT BOARD
Hugh M. Daley, Chair

As always, I like to be a little methodical in my review of the year.

First, let us give thanks. To all town employees, to all our volunteers, to every person in Williamstown who does their part to make Williamstown a great place to live. We see you. We know how hard you're working and we appreciate the effort. Our community is made better by the active participation of people like you!

Second, let us take stock. We've made substantial improvements in Town Government, bringing on Bob Menicocci as our new Town Manager and appointing Mike Ziemba as our new Police Chief. We're reviewing our Town Charter and updating our Comprehensive Plan. Private and public investments in our infrastructure are maintaining what we have and building for the future. It's a great time to invest in Williamstown!

Third, let us push forward. Progress is not always smooth and incremental. Sometime it's fits and starts. We must stay committed to improvement. We must stay committed to productive debate around priorities and budgets. We can be diverse but not divided. Change is not always easy, but it is essential for a vibrant community!

What we've gone through as a community left a mark; the pandemic, the police department, the impact of social media and zoom on public discourse. What we need now is to find that sense of community that comes from common experiences, common goals, and common action to achieve them. I highly recommend everyone "jump in". Volunteer, run for office, shop locally, wave at a police officer, say thank you to a teacher, help where you can. I hope every day, everyone can find a way to celebrate life in Williamstown. Our future is bright if we work together!

It has been a privilege to serve Williamstown. Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Hugh M. Daley
Chair, Selectboard
Williamstown, MA

TOWN MANAGER

Robert Menicocci, Town Manager

Much of the focus of this year was on the strengthening of town hall operations. Areas of opportunity were identified during the first six months of the year and presented to the town for approval at town meeting as part of the FY2023 budget. The remaining six months of the year have been spent implementing initiatives approved in the budget. Areas of action include:

Staffing

In order to improve the integrity and responsiveness of town hall, several positions were added. These include information technology, town clerk support and human resource positions. All three of these positions have been recruited and onboarded. In addition, the key senior position of the town's police chief which had been vacant for approximately two years was recruited for and filled.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The Williamstown Select Board recognized that town government has an obligation to ensure that its employees have the training they need to ensure that town services are delivered with an appreciation of the values of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), and that employees treat the public and each other in a way that upholds those values. A training program on resolving unconscious bias was offered to staff through Diversity Builders and all staff received this training and it will be incorporated into the onboarding of all new staff.

The town's work with DEI will continue through partnerships with the community and the town's DIRE committee to continue to improve town services through developing future budgets through an equity lens and improving the recruiting process to ensure equity.

Salary and Classification Study

The town has been working to ensure that its Charter and policies are up to date. To this end the town's human resource policies have been updated and as part of this effort the town funded a salary and classification study of its employees in order to make sure the classifications are up to date and consistent and that salaries are equitable.

A request for bids for this service was issued and a contract was awarded to GovHR, a national firm with extensive experience in providing this service. Work on the study is underway with completion expected in the spring of 2023 at which time changes may be requested as part of the FY2024 budget process.

Administrative Improvements

The town has begun a risk management evaluation process that will be adapted as part of an ongoing review policy each year. This will help ensure adequate controls in the town's processes and agreements are completed for all town business as appropriate. To that end, new agreements have been completed for the town's grant and community preservation disbursements

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS

1753 HOUSE COMMITTEE

Lauren R. Stevens

The 1753 House, the 70-year-old replica of the first houses built by settlers of European extraction in town, opened weekends from Memorial Day through Williams College Family Days in 2022 but, due to Covid concerns, did not host school groups or a winter carol sing. On Columbus Day or Indigenous People’s Day weekend, Field Park and the House were surrounded by signs indicating that the land was homeland to the Mohican People and that simply reciting a land acknowledgement was not enough. As with the previous year’s wrapping of the House, the point was to remind passers-by that people lived in the area prior to 1753.

For many years, the ’53 House has served informally as a place for visitors to the community to sign in. For that purpose, we keep a register on a table inside. Of our guests last season, 263 who entered the House decided to sign in, including 25 from Williamstown. The rest came from 27 states, plus DC, and seven countries. Of those, six Canadians signed in, whereas in 2021, none, no doubt due to border restrictions. The state that produced most guests was, not surprisingly, Massachusetts, followed by New York; then Vermont and Connecticut. Most of those from abroad came from Europe and South America.



One New Yorker commented that, having graduated (presumably from Williams College) in 1989, she was “finally going inside the ’53 House.” One visitor called it “affordable housing in Williamstown.” Another wrote, “lots of history and great pokes, too,” the meaning of pokes being obscure. “AeroDynamics” was probably an Appalachian Trail through-hikers handle.

A shout out to Sarah Currie who, having retired from the committee in May after many years of faithful service, nevertheless volunteered to open the House for weekends for a summer month.

Members of the 1753 House Committee: Henry Art, Andrus Burr, Keith Davis, David Loomis, Marilyn Faulkner and Lauren R. Stevens.

ACCOUNTANT
Anna Osborn

Town of Williamstown
Annual Report of Budgets and Expenditures General Fund
For the Year Ended June 30, 2022

Account	FY22 Budget	FY21 Encumbrance	Total Available	Year to Date Expended	FY22 Encumbrance	Balance
Appropriations - General						
Select Board	\$140,334.95	\$0.00	\$140,334.95	\$384,623.29	\$0.00	(\$244,288.34)
Sand Springs Recreation ATM Article	19,000.00	0.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	0.00	0.00
Community Preschool ATM Article	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	0.00
Town Manager	327,173.00	0.00	327,173.00	315,396.03	0.00	11,776.97
Town Counsel	55,000.00	0.00	55,000.00	71,555.92	0.00	(16,555.92)
Emergency Management	2,253.00	0.00	2,253.00	2,743.54	0.00	(490.54)
Insurance	163,467.11	0.00	163,467.11	172,519.00	0.00	(9,051.89)
Finance Committee	180.00	0.00	180.00	180.00	0.00	0.00
Town Accountant	246,370.82	17,420.00	263,790.82	258,741.99	9,863.62	(4,814.79)
Assessor	123,378.44	5,450.00	128,828.44	121,091.68	0.00	7,736.76
Treasurer-Collector Management	161,919.40	0.00	161,919.40	162,787.24	0.00	(867.84)
Information Systems	142,485.00	0.00	142,485.00	138,413.74	0.00	4,071.26
Town Clerk	76,105.00	0.00	76,105.00	72,103.08	0.00	4,001.92
Registrar of Voters	19,250.60	0.00	19,250.60	17,476.45	0.00	1,774.15
Employees Benefits	2,193,316.00	9,703.80	2,203,019.80	2,195,926.99	9,531.73	(2,438.92)
Conservation Commission	17,015.00	0.00	17,015.00	17,649.36	0.00	(634.36)
Agricultural Commission	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00
Planning Board	8,597.61	0.00	8,597.61	8,671.12	0.00	(73.51)
Recreation Study A21RS	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	0.00
Broadband Study A21BB	0.00	85,000.00	85,000.00	1,971.63	83,028.37	0.00
Broadband Study ATM FY18	0.00	5,811.37	5,811.37	5,811.37	0.00	0.00
Comprehensive Plan A22MP	100,000.00	0.00	100,000.00	71,537.25	28,462.75	0.00
Streetlight LED Conversion	265,000.00	0.00	265,000.00	222,458.96	42,541.04	0.00
Zoning Board	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	3,024.00	0.00	976.00
Historical Commission	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Community Development	300,754.53	1,908.64	302,663.17	283,623.59	0.00	19,039.58
Sealer of Weights & Measures	7,220.45	0.00	7,220.45	6,966.37	0.00	254.08
Health Department	85,187.05	0.00	85,187.05	84,163.36	0.00	1,023.69

Police Department	1,296,827.90	387.12	1,297,215.02	1,196,876.57	48.00	100,290.45
Dispatch Services	226,184.74	0.00	226,184.74	309,505.48	0.00	(83,320.74)
Animal Control Officer	3,452.00	0.00	3,452.00	1,100.93	0.00	2,351.07
Director of Public Works	169,061.26	25,650.00	194,711.26	149,345.36	39,890.00	5,475.90
Hart Landfill						
Engineering C22HL	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00	21,375.00	8,625.00	0.00
Hoosac River Bank Erosion Control						
C22HR	203,000.00	0.00	203,000.00	132,919.44	70,080.56	0.00
Facilities Management	190,126.57	11,475.69	201,602.26	176,558.15	13,571.39	11,472.72
Highway Department	1,219,574.68	454,476.58	1,674,051.26	1,264,334.04	412,414.52	(2,697.30)
Cluett Drain Replacement	0.00	73,547.22	73,547.22	0.00	73,547.22	0.00
Arnold Street Sidewalk Repair	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00
N. Hoosac Rd Stabilization						
Engineering	0.00	41,800.00	41,800.00	15,021.35	26,778.65	0.00
Hoxsey St - Mill & Pave	0.00	63,800.00	63,800.00	45,426.54	0.00	18,373.46
Longview Terrace - Mill/Overlay/Curb	0.00	147,943.81	147,943.81	147,943.81	0.00	0.00
ing Buxton Hill Rd - Mill/Overlay	0.00	7,128.02	7,128.02	7,031.58	0.00	96.44
Single Axle Dump Truck C22SD	178,000.00	0.00	178,000.00	0.00	178,000.00	0.00
Dump Truck/Plow/Sander	83,000.00	0.00	83,000.00	83,000.00	0.00	0.00
Sidewalk Plow	156,000.00	0.00	156,000.00	156,000.00	0.00	0.00
Snow and Ice Control	294,940.62	0.00	294,940.62	294,940.62	0.00	0.00
Streetlights	72,000.00	0.00	72,000.00	113,506.73	0.00	(41,506.73)
Parks and Cemetery	281,551.80	9,205.88	290,757.68	238,593.60	9,763.78	42,400.30
Linear Park Tennis Court Resurface	0.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00	0.00
Linear Park Pickleball Court	0.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	0.00	35,000.00	0.00
Fence Replacement	0.00	19,385.00	19,385.00	6,247.32	13,137.68	0.00
Sherman Burbank Chapel	3,725.00	1,000.00	4,725.00	7,045.66	0.00	(2,320.66)
Forestry Department	49,863.92	18,964.87	68,828.79	47,146.99	21,681.80	0.00
Recreation Department	17,659.00	0.00	17,659.00	15,514.08	0.00	2,144.92
Youth Center	77,000.00	0.00	77,000.00	77,000.00	0.00	0.00
Mental Health Services	81,000.00	1,074.00	82,074.00	34,979.35	47,094.65	0.00
Council on Aging	246,750.64	0.00	246,750.64	247,273.39	0.00	(522.75)
Veterans Benefits	95,750.56	1,538.00	97,288.56	78,438.73	0.00	18,849.83
Library	496,418.73	21,460.00	517,878.73	489,081.14	13,706.34	15,091.25
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
Repair Windows	0.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	0.00	35,000.00	0.00

Veterans Graves and Holidays	3,050.00	0.00	3,050.00	3,101.70	0.00	(51.70)
General Debt Service Mt Greylock	562,687.50	0.00	562,687.50	562,687.50	0.00	0.00
Regional School Northern Berk Vocational School	12,346,994.08	0.00	12,346,994.08	12,346,994.00	0.00	0.08
Chamber of Commerce	45,000.00	0.00	45,000.00	45,000.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers to other Funds	216,729.00	0.00	216,729.00	216,729.04	0.00	(0.04)
Reserve Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Appropriated - General	\$23,445,355.65	\$1,179,313.42	\$24,624,669.07	\$23,534,653.75	\$1,231,950.52	(\$141,935.20)
Tax Rate Assessments						
State Assessments	\$4,494.00	\$0.00	\$4,494.00	\$4,194.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
County Assessments	40,190.00	0.00	40,190.00	40,190.00	0.00	0.00
Other Assessments	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00
Total Tax Rate Assessments	\$94,684.00	\$0.00	\$94,684.00	\$44,384.00	\$0.00	\$50,300.00
Total General Fund	\$23,540,039.65	\$1,179,313.42	\$24,719,353.07	\$23,579,037.75	\$1,231,950.52	(\$91,635.20)

Town of Williamstown
Annual Report of Budgets and Expenditures Enterprise Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2022

Account	FY22 Budget	FY21 Encumbrance	Total Available	Year to Date Expended	FY22 Encumbrance	Balance
Appropriations - Transfer Station	\$252,848.67	\$0.00	\$252,848.67	\$204,872.72	\$0.00	\$47,975.95
Sustainable Materials Recovery	4,900.00	11,933.05	16,833.05	500.00	16,333.05	0.00
Compost Pilot	5,580.00	0.00	5,580.00	5,186.70	393.30	0.00
Transfers to OPEB Trust	188.33	0.00	188.33	188.33	0.00	0.00
Transfer to Reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Appropriations - Sewer Department	365,001.94	43,549.04	408,550.98	354,593.02	57,675.89	(3,717.93)
Cold Spring Pump Upgrades C12PU	0.00	23,283.50	23,283.50	7,253.69	0.00	16,029.81
Pump Station Upgrades C17PS	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	26,981.19	13,018.81	0.00
Pump Station Upgrades C18PS	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	2,481.32	0.00	37,518.68
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	0.00	40,000.00
South St Sewer Replacement C19SS	0.00	84,000.00	84,000.00	0.00	84,000.00	0.00

Cold Spring Pump Upgrades C20PS	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.00
South St Sewer Replacement C20SS	0.00	84,000.00	84,000.00	0.00	84,000.00	0.00
Inflow & Infiltration Reduction C21II	0.00	167,437.80	167,437.80	151,122.68	16,315.12	0.00
South Street Sewer Replacement C21SS	0.00	107,000.00	107,000.00	0.00	107,000.00	0.00
Mechanical Sewer Rodder C22SR	70,000.00	0.00	70,000.00	70,000.00	0.00	0.00
Cold Spring Rd Lift Stations C22LS	80,000.00	0.00	80,000.00	0.00	80,000.00	0.00
Inflow & Infiltration Reduction C22II	300,000.00	0.00	300,000.00	0.00	300,000.00	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 OPEB Trust	782.27	0.00	782.27	782.27	0.00	0.00
Transfers to Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hoosac Water Quality District	665,444.07	0.00	665,444.07	665,444.06	0.00	0.01
Appropriations - Water Department	628,021.82	10,000.00	638,021.82	663,676.35	21,325.61	(46,980.14)
Well 1 Decommissioning C15W1	0.00	19,677.00	19,677.00	0.00	0.00	19,677.00
Well #2 Rehab C17W2	0.00	120,000.00	120,000.00	0.00	120,000.00	0.00
GIS Water Map C17GS	0.00	16,941.50	16,941.50	3,620.00	13,321.50	0.00
Hoxsey St Mill/Pave/Water C21HS	0.00	33,215.73	33,215.73	9,251.46	0.00	23,964.27
Chlorine Analyzers C22CA	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00	9,310.00	5,690.00	0.00
SCADA System C22SC	17,000.00	0.00	17,000.00	15,903.37	1,096.63	0.00
Water Debt Service	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00
Transfers to General Fund	117,081.00	0.00	117,081.00	117,081.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers to OPEB Trust	2,300.36	0.00	2,300.36	2,300.36	0.00	0.00
Transfer to Reserves	343,000.00	0.00	343,000.00	0.00	0.00	343,000.00
Total Enterprise	\$2,999,367.46	\$916,037.62	\$3,915,405.08	\$2,392,767.52	\$995,169.91	\$527,467.65

Town of Williamstown
Annual Report of Revenues and Expenditures Special Revenue Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2022

Account	Balance 7/1/2021	Receipts	Total Available	Expended	Balance 6/30/2022
Special Revenue Funds					
Town of Williamstown					
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 Highway - Syndicate Stabilization Grant	0.00	43,019.74	43,019.74	43,019.74	0.00
Community Preservation Act Fund	5,243.80	0.00	5,243.80	0.00	5,243.80
Selectmen - Spruces HMG	336,914.98	391,600.23	728,515.21	366,970.30	361,544.91
Selectmen - COVID-19 CARES CvRF	71,194.74	0.00	71,194.74	25,341.25	45,853.49
Selectmen - COVID-19 FEMA	(132,541.06)	125,150.21	(7,390.85)	(7,390.63)	(0.22)
Selectmen - COVID-19 ARPA	(8,843.44)	8,843.44	0.00	0.00	0.00
Selectmen - Cable Technology Fund	383,671.99	722,103.53	1,105,775.52	218,318.97	887,456.55
Selectmen - Comm St Tree Restoration	244.71	0.00	244.71	0.00	244.71
Selectmen - Toxic Use Reduction Grant	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
Selectmen - RRA - Capital Projects	216.09	2,100.00	2,316.09	792.44	1,523.65
Selectmen - Solarize MA Program	2,451.69	0.00	2,451.69	0.00	2,451.69
ConCom - Wetlands Fees	3,105.67	0.00	3,105.67	0.00	3,105.67
ConCom - Consultant Fees	26,403.44	0.00	26,403.44	400.00	26,003.44
ConCom - Stone Hill Stewardship Grant	2,000.00	1,083.52	3,083.52	2,993.52	90.00
Forest Mgmt Planning Grant	2,805.00	0.00	2,805.00	0.00	2,805.00
Comprehensive Plan Gift	(18,904.00)	18,904.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mass Housing Ptrn Zoning Grant	0.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00
Planning Bd - DOT Comp Sts Priority Plan	650.68	0.00	650.68	0.00	650.68
RRA TNC Ride Assessment	(13,481.76)	0.00	(13,481.76)	0.00	(13,481.76)
Econ Develop - Bike Trail Gift	126.80	10.60	137.40	0.00	137.40
Econ Develop - Housing Needs Assessment	2,871.64	0.00	2,871.64	0.00	2,871.64
Econ Develop - Mohawk Bike Pedestrian Trail	0.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	6,994.97	8,005.03
Shared Streets Grant	(13,449.56)	22,923.65	9,474.09	17,272.12	(7,798.03)
Farmers Market Grant	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	18,490.63	6,509.37
	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	800.00	1,700.00

Police - Support Fund	(19,564.08)	8,252.75	(11,311.33)	418.48	(11,729.81)
Police - Drug Task Force	10,813.60	13,148.21	23,961.81	24,749.39	(787.58)
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	2,273.21	2,273.21	0.00	2,273.21
Police - K9 Gifts	5,977.30	300.00	6,277.30	405.95	5,871.35
Police - E911 Training Grant	(1,419.00)	5,473.00	4,054.00	4,054.00	0.00
Police - E911 Communications Grant	(21,439.69)	45,038.08	23,598.39	38,392.00	(14,793.61)
Police - COPS MORE Grant	301.89	0.00	301.89	0.00	301.89
Police - Bullet Proof Vest Grant	0.00	4,675.00	4,675.00	0.00	4,675.00
Inspection Services - Revolving Fund	305,906.21	51,719.40	357,625.61	61,217.13	296,408.48
Civil Defense - Emergency Management Grant	2,002.10	0.00	2,002.10	2,002.10	0.00
Civil Defense - Hazard Mitigation Grant	(1,078.47)	0.00	(1,078.47)	0.00	(1,078.47)
MVP Municipal Vulnerability	(36,688.31)	36,688.31	0.00	140,514.52	(140,514.52)
Animal Control - Operations Gift	164.13	0.00	164.13	164.13	0.00
Open Space & Recreation	0.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	4,230.96	15,769.04
Parks-Damaged Property	0.00	479.00	479.00	0.00	479.00
Parks - Litchfield Beautification Gift	1,789.83	0.00	1,789.83	0.00	1,789.83
Parks - Sherman Chapel Gifts	50.00	50.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
COA - Activity Fund	8,546.78	3,876.25	12,423.03	3,811.24	8,611.79
COA-MCOA Direct	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,581.15	(7,581.15)
COA - Elder Services Meal Grant	1,635.73	0.00	1,635.73	0.00	1,635.73
COA-Matter of Balance	0.00	1,250.00	1,250.00	80.00	1,170.00
COA - Formula Grant	11,592.72	25,176.00	36,768.72	13,458.99	23,309.73
Veterans COLA	0.00	3,318.00	3,318.00	3,318.00	0.00
Library - Revolving Fund	4,037.34	481.00	4,518.34	0.00	4,518.34
Library - Museum Pass Gift	545.00	0.00	545.00	440.00	105.00
Library - Gifts for Books	12,521.35	1,623.95	14,145.30	9.93	14,135.37
Library - Damaged Prop	2,431.52	313.25	2,744.77	0.00	2,744.77
Library - Operations Gift	10,812.66	29,300.00	40,112.66	24,544.20	15,568.46
Library - LIG/MEG Grant	14,297.98	14,034.83	28,332.81	19,811.00	8,521.81
Library - Renovation Donations	42,721.52	16,257.56	58,979.08	28,755.66	30,223.42
Library-McFarland Estate Gift	0.00	264,000.00	264,000.00	0.00	264,000.00

Recreation - Revolving Acct	2,776.86	0.00	2,776.86	0.00	2,776.86
Recreation - Skateboard Park Gift	82.05	0.00	82.05	0.00	82.05
Benefits - BHG Health Coordinator	1,362.18	2,000.00	3,362.18	1,500.00	1,862.18
Special Revenue Funds-Borrowed Funds					
Cemetery Building	1,778.55	0.00	1,778.55	0.00	1,778.55
Total Special Revenue	\$1,037,367.86	\$1,977,966.72	\$3,015,334.58	\$1,073,462.14	\$1,941,872.44

**Town of Williamstown
Annual Report of Revenues and Expenditures Trust Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2022**

Account	Balance 7/1/2021	Receipts (net of unrealized loss)	Total Available	Expended	Balance 6/30/2022
Trust Funds					
Affordable Housing	\$100,998.29	\$222,186.30	\$323,184.59	\$140,719.55	\$182,465.04
Alma Morey	6,952.85	(349.82)	6,603.03	0.00	6,603.03
Botsford-House of Local History Trust	45,045.01	(2,266.37)	42,778.64	0.00	42,778.64
Botsford - Library Trust	74,211.48	445.26	74,656.74	0.00	74,656.74
Bullock Forest	90,861.83	515.54	91,377.37	10,000.00	81,377.37
C.D. Foster	2,091.90	(105.25)	1,986.65	0.00	1,986.65
Compensated Balances	285,418.22	134,118.70	419,536.92	120,841.63	298,695.29
Conservation Commission	4,087.01	(205.63)	3,881.38	0.00	3,881.38
Helen Renzi School	10,561.41	(531.38)	10,030.03	0.00	10,030.03
J.E. Bascom	12,028.58	(605.20)	11,423.38	0.00	11,423.38
Library Annual Fund	33,762.86	29,041.00	62,803.86	21,626.15	41,177.71
Library Carpenter Fund	10,286.34	61.72	10,348.06	0.00	10,348.06
Margaret Lindley	2,703.11	(136.00)	2,567.11	0.00	2,567.11
Municipal Scholarship	41,733.32	611.91	42,345.23	3,000.00	39,345.23
OPEB Liability Trust	706,226.28	(60,042.43)	646,183.85	0.00	646,183.85
Perpetual Care Income	12,728.49	2,528.77	15,257.26	9,704.00	5,553.26
Perpetual Care Principal	423,881.13	4,898.63	428,779.76	0.00	428,779.76
Sale of Lots	30,476.86	553.50	31,030.36	0.00	31,030.36
Sherman Burbank	864,284.64	5,181.76	869,466.40	15,000.00	854,466.40
Southlawn Cemetery	5,121.23	(257.66)	4,863.57	0.00	4,863.57
Stabilization Fund	1,266,004.01	(41,912.59)	1,224,091.42	421,000.00	803,091.42
Torrey Woods	3,276.77	(164.87)	3,111.90	0.00	3,111.90
West Lawn Cemetery	225,342.00	(2,473.44)	222,868.56	0.00	222,868.56
Total Trust Funds	\$4,258,083.62	\$291,092.45	\$4,549,176.07	\$741,891.33	\$3,807,284.74

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

Andy Hogeland, Chair

The current members of the Trust are Daniel Gura, Ruth Harrison, Andy Hogeland (Chair, and representing the Select Board), Robin Malloy, Kayla Servin, Cheryl Shanks, and Tom Sheldon.

Since its creation in 2012, the Williamstown Affordable Housing Trust has developed several programs to respond to the affordable housing needs of Williamstown. Those responses have included:

- Supporting the development of Highland Woods and its 40 units of affordable rental housing, some of which became the homes of former residents of The Spruces.
- Purchasing three building lots and contracting with Northern Berkshire Habitat to build permanently affordable houses on them. The first is now occupied and the second is underway.
- Creating the Richard DeMayo Mortgage Assistance Program which has enabled 21 Williamstown families to obtain their first homes.
- Helping fund the Ryan Report which studied housing needs in Williamstown.
- Developing programs of rental assistance and mortgage assistance for income-qualified households which have been adversely affected by COVID-19.

In 2022, the Trust has continued to work on the following initiatives:

- Continued support of the Williamstown Emergency Rental Assistance Program (WERAP) and the Williamstown Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (WEMAP). Both programs are administered by Berkshire Housing Development Corporation. WERAP was developed in mid-2020 and has provided 23 grants to aid 18 income-qualified Williamstown families hurt financially by the pandemic (a few families have received more than one grant). WEMAP was created in 2021 to provide similar help to Williamstown homeowners and has awarded 2 grants so far.
- Additional DeMayo Mortgage Assistance Program grants to prospective first-time homeowners in Williamstown. The primary impediment to applications is the paucity of housing stock in Williamstown that is within reach of families at or below the Area Median Income. 21 grants have been made to Williamstown residents under this program.
- Support of the Habitat Summer Street project. As the Habitat homes are being finalized at the Maple and Cole sites, Habitat has indicated it will be turning its attention to development of the Summer Street lot that the Trust bought several years ago.
- Support of the Grange property proposal. The Grange project, which would provide four affordable housing units out of a total of 16 units, is still early in its permitting stage. We may use our funds to assist the buyers of the affordable units.
- Initial conversations with Williamstown Rural Lands about possible collaboration on projects to use land for both agriculture or open space and housing.
- Property Tax Relief. At the Trust's December 21, 2022 meeting, it agreed to propose to the Select Board a warrant article to provide further property tax relief to homeowners with limited income and assets. The proposal was presented at the Select Board's January 9, 2023 meeting. The Town currently allows a limited property tax exemption for homeowners over age 70 so long as their income and assets are below certain levels. The statutory basis for this exemption is called 41C; the statutory reference is MGL c. 59, section 5, Clause Forty-first C. The statute allows these eligibility requirements and the amount of the exemption to be expanded by vote of Town Meeting, within

limits set out in the statute. In addition, Clause 41D of the statute allows the limitations on income and assets to be modified annually based on the CPI, as determined by the US Department of Labor. The Affordable Housing Trust, at its meeting of December 21, 2022, supported the expansions of the eligibility requirements, the increase in the exemption and the tying to annual increases in the CPI. These adjustments would aid the most economically challenged homeowners in our town.

- **Housing Support.** The Trust received a request from BHCD to assist a formerly homeless person in obtaining furniture needed to help them remain in a housing placement. Without furniture, the person might have lost the housing. The Trust agreed to the request and funded \$1,755 in assistance. To date, the trust has funded \$116,000 in assistance under the WERAP/WEMAP programs.
- **Coordination with other AHTs.** During this period, a member of the trust made a presentation on its programs and history to the recently formed Pittsfield AHT. Another member had similar discussions and tour with a representative of the Stockbridge AHT. Both efforts were for the sharing of practices to support affordable housing across Berkshire County. A county-wide meeting of AHTs is scheduled for March 2023.

We look forward to working in 2023 to continue a variety of efforts to advance access to housing by individuals with challenging economic conditions and to have more affordable options for housing in Williamstown.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Hogeland, Chair

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Sarah Gardner, Chair

Email: agcom@williamstownma.gov

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;
- Welcoming and supporting new farmers in the community;
- 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 agricultural issues and policies.

2022 Commissioners: Sarah Gardner (Chair), Brian Cole, Averill Cook, Darryl Lapinski, William Galusha, Christopher Sabot (Alternate).

Email address: agcom@williamstownma.gov

Activities/Accomplishments:

- **Rural Residence Zoning Proposal:** The Commission held several meetings to discuss the Planning Board's proposal to upzone the Rural Residence zone. The Agricultural Commission took a public

position and wrote a letter of opposition (February 2022) to the Planning Board, explaining how their proposal to upzone the Rural Residence zone to allow for higher density housing lots of 1.6 acres would threaten the town's farms and farming future. The Commission stated that this proposal would promote the suburbanization of the town's rural areas and increase the value of farmland making it more expensive for farmers to keep farming, and thereby facilitate the loss of farms. The Commission supports housing and other forms of development in the General Residence zone and the commercial zones.

- The Commission also wrote a letter of opposition to the Planning Board's rural upzoning proposal to the Select Board (July 29).
- Comprehensive Plan Meeting: The Commission met with Resilience Design, the Town Planning Consultants on April 14, to explain the situation faced by farms in Williamstown, outlining the threats to farms, such as the development pressure from second home buyers, the high demand for rural estate homes, and the concomitant criticism of farm practices that often accompanies rural gentrification. The Commission explained how planning and zoning can help protect the town's farms and farmland for future generations.
- Farmland Protection Event (May 11): The Commission co-hosted with American Farmland Trust, a farmland protection event for farmers and farmland owners, with dinner and 7 speakers representing state government, statewide land trusts, Farm Credit East, and other farmland service and planning agencies and organizations.
- Farmland Preservation: The Commission continued to support permanent protection of working farmland and to that end publicly supported protection of the farmland on 0 Oblong Road, which continues to support Sweetbrook Farm's beef and maple operation and was historically part of that farm.
- Grant Support: The Commission wrote letters of support for Williamstown farms applying for state grants.
- Farmland: The Commission continues to work with the Mass Dept of Agricultural Resources to identify farmland that is eligible for farmland protection.
- Williamstown Farmers Market: The Commission collaborates with the Williamstown Farmers Market (WFM) and invites them to meetings for regular updates. The Commission provided financial support (\$750) to the WFM.
- Annual Farmers Dinner (Nov. 14): The Agricultural Commission hosted its Annual Farmer Dinner for all farmers, farm workers and staff in November 2022.



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.”

In FY 2022, there were 2,924 taxable parcels and accounts of which 2,530 were classified as residential, 253 as commercial and/or mixed-use, 12 industrial parcels and 129 taxable personal property accounts. The taxable value of all parcels and accounts was \$1,102,420,124, an increase of \$63,064,093 or 6.1% over the prior year value of \$1,039,356,031. As a percentage of the FY 2022 tax levy of \$18,652,949, the residential class paid 88.78% or \$16,560,523 of the levy. Commercial & Industrial classes paid a combined 8.97% or \$1,673,215 and personal property accounted for 2.25% of the levy or \$419,211. Separate from taxable parcels there were 198 parcels classified as “tax exempt” having a combined value of \$549,226,500.

The tax rate is calculated by dividing the tax levy (\$18,652,949), or the amount of money to be raised to fund the budget, by the total value of taxable real and personal property (\$1,102,420,124). This yielded a tax rate for FY 2022 of \$16.92 per \$1,000 of value, a decrease of ¢0.38 from the prior year. The median single-family home value of \$328,300 increased \$22,900 over the prior year’s median value of \$305,400. The median single-family home tax bill, exclusive of the CPA tax and Fire District tax, increased \$272 from \$5,283 to \$5,555 in FY 2022.

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

Respectfully,
Christopher J. Lamarre, MAA
Chairperson

WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Computations for Determining Fiscal Year 2022 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>
6/9/2021	26,646,943	22,018,623	781,729.00	445,704.00	2,968,887	432,000.00
<i>Totals</i>	26,646,943.00	22,018,623.00	781,729.00	445,704.00	2,968,887.00	432,000.00

Local Expenditures.....	\$ 26,808,000.78
Cherry Sheet Offsets & Other Amounts.....	44,684.00
Overlay.....	101,767.63
<i>Tax Rate Summary</i>	
1. Gross Amount to be Raised.....	26,808,000.78
2. Estimated Receipts and Available Funds.....	8,155,052.28
3. Net Amount to be Raised by Taxation.....	\$ 18,652,948.50
4. Real Property Valuation.....	\$1,077,644,076
5. Personal Property Valuation.....	\$ 24,776,098
6. Total Property Valuation.....	\$1,102,420,124
7. Tax Rate 16.92	
8. Real Property Tax.....	18,233,737.77
9. Personal Property Tax.....	419,210.73
10. Total Taxes Levied on Property.....	\$ 18,652,948.50

Recap Abatements and Exemptions

Abatements

Real Estate	\$ 7,744.97
Personal Property	\$ 2,023.77

Exemptions

Clause 41C	\$ 3,000.00
Clause 22, 22E	17,600.00
Clause 17D	1,750.00
Clause 37	1,312.50
Clause 42	0.00
Clause 18	0.00

Total..... \$ **33,431.24**

Recap Motor Vehicle Commitments

	<i>Calendar Year</i>	<i>Valuation</i>	<i>Excise</i>
<i>Commitments</i>			
6	2021	\$ 1,568,729	\$ 4,137.10
1-3	2022	\$ 26,539,802	\$ 648,253.82
4-6	2022	\$ 4,677,976	\$ 71,721.78
<i>Totals</i>		\$ 32,786,507	\$ 724,112.70
<i>Abatements</i>			
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Excise</i>	
	199	\$ 20,981.03	
<i>Totals</i>		\$20,981.03	

FOR A DETAILED REPORT SEE TREASURER'S SUMMARY

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

In August 2022, the Select Board established an advisory committee, the Charter Review Committee (CRC), to review the Town Charter. The members are:

Andy Hogeland, co-chair	Jeff Johnson, co-chair	Joe Bergeron	Mary Kennedy
Nate Budington	Anne Skinner	Jeff Strait	

Williamstown's government structure is established in a combination of State laws, the Town Charter, several Town bylaws, and by Town Meeting votes that may not be reflected in the bylaws. There has been no comprehensive review of the structure of Town government since at least 1956 when the Charter was adopted. The Select Board initiated this review with the goal of reviewing the structure of Town government, analyzing the effectiveness of that structure and, if areas for improvement are identified, to make recommendations for changes.

The review will include the Charter, relevant state laws, town bylaws and past town meeting votes that establish the current structure. The review includes discussions of how well the structures are working and identify options for modifying the structure that might improve the functions of government. The charter review process seeks to comprehensively review the town's current charter and to recommend changes to ensure Williamstown's government meets the current and anticipated needs of our residents and is responsive to the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Areas for discussion should include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- Type of town meeting – open or representative
- Selection of town board and committee members – which elected; which appointed; and by who?
- Selection of town hall personnel - which elected; which appointed; and by who?
- Size of boards and committees, length and staggering of terms, which positions cannot be held by same person
- Division of authorities between Town Manager and Select Board
- Budgeting and finance processes
- Consideration of new provisions, such as for referendums, recalls and periodic reviews of government structure
- What structures should be in Charter (requires legislature to change) versus in bylaws (no legislature involvement).
- What should Charter continue to say about relationship to Library Trustees, Fire District and (former) school committee

The CRC members were named and commenced work in September 2022. In its first few meetings during 2022, it developed a public outreach process and heard from a consultant, the Collins Center, on common issues encountered during charter review processes. Surveys to town residents and to board and committee members are being finalized as of early 2023 and expected for release in March 2023. The goal is to have a draft report with any recommended changes by the end of January 2024, followed by further public outreach during February-April 2024, and to have the final report and any recommended changes ready for inclusion in the warrant for the May 2024 Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Hogeland and Jeff Johnson, co-chairs

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

Claire Klammer, 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 oversees development activities including the Building Officials, Board of Health, Health Inspector, Planning, and Land Use. These basic functions of the Department work together to forward the goal of protecting 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 511 Building Permits with an estimated construction dollar value of \$47,198,363.63 for the calendar year 2022. These range from small residential work such as replacement windows to new homes to commercial construction projects. The Department continued to work closely throughout the year with Williams College on various projects. This past year Williams College renovated and began new construction for the Davis Center. We also saw many single-family home renovations and construction of the River Run Loft condominiums.

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. 135 Buildings were inspected and received valid Certificates of Inspection in 2022. 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 ensure your safety in an emergency at any 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 2023.



Construction of Williams College Davis Center, the first modern mass timber building in Williamstown.

<i>Williamstown Community Development - Building Department Building and Trades Permits Issued 2022</i>	
New Single-Family Houses	13
Solar Photovoltaic	43
Total Building Permits	511
Wire Permits	291
Plumbing Permits	94
Gas Permits	84

PLANNING AND LAND USE

Andrew Groff, AICP, Community Development Director

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 supporting all community members 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.



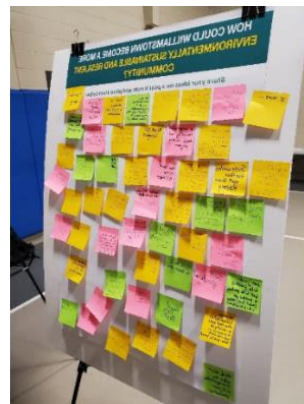
October open house at the Williamstown Youth Center

We are involved in many different aspects of community life in Williamstown and some exciting initiatives were underway in 2022. The most exciting of these is the continued work on a new Town Plan. The last Town Plan was released in 2002 and has been a key part of leading the community's growth and direction over the past 20 years. We're underway with the Planning Board, an 11-person steering committee, and a wonderful consulting team led by Steve Whitman of Resilience Planning and Design of Plymouth, New Hampshire. This process, *Envisioning Williamstown 2035*, is meant to be inclusive of all members of our community and to build consensus on the direction of our community over the next decade plus. Much of the background work on the plan was completed with the release of a Comprehensive Existing Conditions Report for the Town. We also saw the start of an extensive community outreach process with a well-attended open house at the Youth Center in October. We also were pleased to work with four Williams students on driving additional outreach to local student, senior, and low-income populations.

Looking ahead into 2023, all of this information will be used to help our team craft a vision of the future for Williamstown. Stay tuned for additional opportunities to engage with this process and give your feedback on this future vision in the spring!



Getting feedback from WES Students



Comments left at October open house

In addition to this exciting work on *Envisioning Williamstown 2035* we continue to work daily with our elected and appointed land use boards and commissions. Those groups 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 brought to the Commission through the Wetlands Act review process. The Planner attends all the Commission’s meetings to provide staff support and 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 as needed.

- 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 ZBA 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 our department have been working on for the past year.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Jeffrey C. Kennedy, RS, Health Inspector (since 1995)

This will be my last annual report as the Health Inspector for the Town of Williamstown. By the end of summer, I will have retired, and a younger, smarter inspector will be sitting in this chair (because it does not make sense to hire someone older and dumber.)

I became Health Inspector in the spring of 1995 with a degree in food science and a background of many years as a U.S. Army Food Inspector. As a Food Inspector I worked in slaughterhouses, retail food stores, food production plants, and large food storage warehouses. If a person ate it, I inspected it. I could candle eggs, grade produce, grade beef sides, inspect retail stores and production plants. Those years taught me to complete a required mission in the simplest, quickest way possible, under the guidance of the appropriate regulations and standards. A moral compass (rather than a moral weathervane) governed the way I performed my duties. I used the same fundamentals as Williamstown's Health Inspector.

As the narrative below shows, a Health Inspector does not just 'inspect restaurants' (a phrase I hear constantly and consistently when I tell people what I do.) The job is multi-faceted, and challenging, governed by the regulations in force, and the inspector's professional conduct and ethics. Many times, over the years, I have had to communicate to others (looking for public health related solutions to personal circumstances) that not everything is a public health problem, and that perception does not equal reality. People are concerned about situations that affect them personally and can be unhappy when they are told that the laws, regulations, and standards are not applicable in their situation. Public Health inspection requires a great deal of social work, especially when two parties wish you to be Solomon, to act on their behalf and solve their conflict. It can be physically, mentally, and emotionally draining. That is what a Health Inspector signs up for.

My 28 years in Williamstown has allowed me to raise my family and allowed my wife to homeschool our two sons. I have worked with a wonderful Board of Health over the years comprising many great individuals with a consistent, realistic approach to Public Health. Some are not with us anymore, but I am honored to have worked with them all.

I appreciate the opportunity given to work in Williamstown. Most of all I appreciate the many wonderful people in the Town Hall I have worked with over the years. My current group of coworkers in the Municipal Building are kind, dedicated, fair-minded professionals. They are a work family, and I will miss them all.

I wish the Town and its citizens peace, health, and success in the coming years.

Although the numbers change from year to year, the narrative does not. It becomes important to keep the narrative because public health normally operates 'under the radar;' when things are going well, you are 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™ (now OpenGov) online permitting system. All permit applications 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 be submitted for review. A schedule of all the 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 the tenancy. However various houses that are 'for sale' have been made rentals until such a 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.

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.

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 are 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 must have a Certified Pool Operator, perform inspections, and water chemical testing at prescribed intervals.

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 and the tri-state area.

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

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

Williamstown has joined the Berkshire County Public Health Alliance to coordinate public health efforts on a larger scale and to help plan and implement 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.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT COMMITTEE

Philip R. McKnight, 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 2022, and they were approved by majority vote:

1. An amount of \$5,000 under the terms of the CPA to meet the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for FY 2023, all in accordance with the application submitted to and recommended by the Community Preservation Committee;
2. An amount of \$100,000 under the terms of the CPA 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;
3. An amount of \$400,000 under the terms of the CPA to fund a grant to 250 Water LLC to be used for the construction of no less than twenty-seven (27) units of deed restricted affordable housing, all at land known as Cable Mills located at 160 Water Street and shown as Assessor's Parcel 121-91, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a grant agreement with 250 Water LLC outlining the purposes for and the conditions upon which these funds may be expended, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen or its designees to accept one or more deed restrictions on said property meeting the requirements of G. L. c. 184, Section 31, 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 \$50,000 under the terms of the CPA, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2024, to fund a grant to The Store at Five Corners Stewardship Association, Inc., for historic preservation purposes with respect to the existing Store at Five Corners, 6 New Ashford Road, Williamstown, MA, 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;

5. An amount of \$50,000 under the terms of the CPA, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2024, to fund a grant to the Williamstown Meetinghouse Preservation Fund, Inc., to renovate and preserve in the future the structure known as the Meetinghouse, currently owned by First Congregational Church of 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 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 Community Preservation Committee website.

2022 Community Preservation Committee Annual Report

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION – COMMITTEE EXPENSES Article XXXX. To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2023 Community Preservation budget, and to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2023 estimated annual revenues the sum of \$5,000 to meet the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2023 or take any other action in relation thereto.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION - CABLE MILLS Article XXXX. To see if the Town will vote to borrow and appropriate or transfer from available funds under the Community Preservation Act for the purposes of creating and supporting affordable community housing the amount of \$400,000 to fund a grant to 250 Water LLC to be used for the construction of no less than twenty-seven (27) units of deed restricted affordable housing, all at land known as Cable Mills located at 160 Water Street and shown as Assessor's Parcel 121-91, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a grant agreement with 250 Water LLC outlining the purposes for and the conditions upon which these funds may be expended, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen or its designees to accept one or more deed restrictions on said property meeting the requirements of G.L. c. 184, Section 31, or take any other action in relation thereto.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION - AFFORDABLE HOUSING Article XXXX. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2023 estimated annual revenues, for affordable housing purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$100,000 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.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION - HISTORIC PRESERVATION Article XXXX. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2023 estimated annual revenues under the Community Preservation Act the sum of \$50,000, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2024, to fund a grant to The Store at Five Corners Stewardship Association, Inc., for historic preservation purposes with respect to the existing Store at Five Corners, 6 New Ashford Road, Williamstown, MA, 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.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION - HISTORIC PRESERVATION Article XXXX. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2023 estimated annual revenues, for historic preservation purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$50,000, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2024, to fund a grant to the Williamstown Meetinghouse Preservation Fund, Inc., to renovate and preserve in the future the structure known as the Meetinghouse, currently owned by First Congregational Church of Williamstown, 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

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tim Carr, Chair

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.

Current members of the Conservation Commission are Tim Carr (Chair), Cory Campbell (Vice Chair), Henry Art, Lauren Stevens, Andrew Galusha, Barbra Robertson, and Phil McKnight. 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. 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.

The Commission mainly focuses on working through issues with individual projects seeking wetland permits, but during the past year the Commission worked diligently to be more inclusive of its original mission in its entirety. In reviewing its enabling legislation, the Commission established two non-quorum working groups, one focused on issues of land and land conservation and a second focused on the protection of water resources. The land and water task forces take time to look into specific issues and

concerns facing each one of these primary responsibilities of the Conservation Commission and report back to the full commission for action. This past year the land group recommended supporting conservation of farmland on Oblong Road, and the water group looked closely into a possible municipal wetlands' bylaw. We hope to work more on these issues in 2023.



COUNCIL ON AGING
Brian O'Grady, Director

We have finally emerged from the darkness of the Covid restrictions, and we are going full speed ahead once more! All the programs we had previously are up and running, the phones rang off the hook again and it took us a bit of time to get here. As we write this, we still have not seen all the people who populated this place prior to Covid, some folks are still concerned about the random pop-up surges occurring here and there, we understand-we are here when you need us.

As always, one of our primary functions is to provide information and referral, and we do this extensively. These calls vary from topic to topic, from mundane to urgent. There are inquiries about transportation needs, food, and leisure time activities. We have fielded calls on housing availability, home care for homebound or limited elders, insurance counseling, food shopping assistance and help with electronic devices of all kinds. You name it, we've heard it. This year the major theme was once again Covid related; booster shot and home test availability. We had two very small local spikes which led to calls from locals looking for the vaccine and test kits. It was clearly not as frenzied as it was the year before but, having been subjected to the pandemic experience, most folks wanted to play it safe. We ended up hosting four booster clinics, later combined with seasonal flu clinics during the year. We also gave away about 1,000 home test kits during the year. They were extremely popular.

Along these same lines, Sarah Kline, our COA Outreach person, was involved with referring, directly ending a hand, or otherwise providing valuable assistance to approximately 1,300 Williamstown seniors in 2022. This number is about one third of the calls for all information we received in 2022. Carmel Kushi, our Administrative Assistant, was a frequent recipient of these calls as well. Busy, busy, busy!

Speaking of outreach, we were the recipient of a successful Incentive Grant application to Massachusetts COA at the beginning of 2022. The idea was to raise awareness of our programming as well as to conduct community surveys to ask our friends what they thought they'd like to see for programs going forward. We worked with Ash Belle at the Williams CLiA program and Williams students Ivy Dang and Niko Wolfe to

design the community survey. We offered paper copies in house, sent the link electronically to everyone on the mailing list and made it available via the municipal website. We also did a target direct mailing to community members we knew would respond. We were told by our respondents that there was a major interest in learning how to utilize electronic devices, laptops, cell phones, etc. Exercise and fitness classes were highly rated, crafts and music opportunities were highly rated. Some people had never heard of us or knew what we were doing. Those folks have all been contacted by one means or another and a few of those individuals have been added to the mail list.

We provided materials to create commercial advertising for our programs to be shown between shows at the Images. Lots of folks who went to Images told me that they had seen our advert, so it worked! We collaborated with Matt Toomey at Spectrum to create a 30 second piece featuring local Williamstown personalities active with us here at Harper to be broadcast multiple times daily across most of Berkshire County. You know what? Everyone, well, maybe not everyone, but many folks commented on it and told us who they knew in it. Several of our sister organizations asked for the contact information we had so they also could do their own, what fun! And it brought new people into Harper.

Considering the demand for technical assistance, we were lucky to find two Williams students to assist us- Monika Bhaskar and Abby Vieira-who recruited others to create a program we call "Tech Tutoring"- an effort that matches students with technological knowledge with elders looking for assistance with specific devices. The program has been a tremendous success and has been designed to function for many years to come.

Transportation remains a definite need, and we can meet most local transport needs during the year. The van traveled just under 10,000 miles, and those are mostly Williamstown to North Adams or Adams and back trips. We have occasionally traveled to Southwestern Vermont in Bennington as well. The majority of our trips are life sustaining, that is medical or food shopping oriented. Those trips are the priority for us. But there is more to life than these things, right? Our van operator Rick Andrews schedules monthly lunch excursions and brings people to local restaurants to eat and have fun. Frequently people with cars will meet up with their friends who rode the van for a fun social afternoon. Folks enjoyed the bright lights, caroling, and cheers one evening in December. Trips to local hair salons are also popular, as are rides to visit friends and family nearby. For people who do not have a car, we are a good weekly option.

Jane Jezouit, an extraordinary lead exercise teacher, who led classes here left us in May, relocating to Chicopee to be closer to family. Jane was a mainstay here at Harper dating back to 2011 and left many admirers and friends behind. We were very fortunate to find an able successor to Jane when Amanda Bayliss arrived in August. We never missed a beat, or a stretch as Karyn O'Toole and Judy Fitzgerald filled the gap until Amanda started. Very few classes were missed. Youlin Shi continues to teach Tai Chi weekly and has been adding new people to the trainee roster often. Tai Chi is an exercise form originally devised as a fighting tool for Chinese monks a couple thousand years ago. It's a valuable tool in the battle to keep people on their feet and prevent falls. There are some interesting studies documenting this. Speaking of falls, Sarah and Janica Paquette from Sweetwood offered two Matter of Balance classes, one here at Harper, the other for the residents of Sweetwood last year.

A very popular activity is Yoga, in person here and via the wonders of zoom. Mary Edgerton, our lead Yoga teacher, offers 3 classes weekly here at Harper meeting on Monday and Friday in person and Wednesday exclusively via zoom. The zoom component has allowed us to reach people who don't come out in winter and those who are wintering in warmer climates as well. She was supported by Sherry Lashway who volunteered to lead classes outside on the lawn after the weather improved.

We hosted the AARP Tax Aide program for the 25th time in 2022 and, as everyone was coming out from under Covid restrictions, we were rather busy. Add to this by factoring in neighbors from other local communities whose capacity to assist with taxes was limited by staffing, and we had quite a crowd keeping

our Tax Aide Coordinator Geoff King and his crew busy. We added another day of service to meet the expanding need.

We continued to provide access to the Elder Services Grab and Go food program and the Food Banks Brown bag programs as well.

We offered many other educational and recreational opportunities in 2022 as well. Here are a few:

- Expressed concerns around Identity theft and fraud led to seminars on the topic. We hosted Elliott Greenblott and members of the Berkshire County District Attorney's office, including the DA, Andrea Harrington, offering advice and information on avoiding being scammed.
- Jennifer Munoz led another series of successful Aging Mastery classes in the spring. This class is on hiatus in 2023 but will return in March 2024.
- Sarah and I were certified as master trainers for the UCLA Longevity Centers Memory class, a program designed to help folks with minor difficulties remembering day to day “things”-lost car keys, etc.-and develop memory strategies which will be helpful tools for years following the class, This is slated to be offered for the first time in January 2023.
- Sarah and friends including Alberta McCarthy, spent a considerable amount of time in the late summer recruiting agencies to participate in a Wellness Fair (which ultimately featured 19 agencies) and many visitors who came here and benefited from the collected expertise of representatives from those agencies.
- We host Coffee Hours every Friday at 9:00, coffee, cake and conversation. Join us!
- Karyn O’Toole once again curated High Summer, complete with goofy hats, and Winter Teas, enjoyed by all! I’ve lost count of the actual number of these events, but I assure you that it’s more than twenty-five events...
- For folks with an artistic inclination, Ghetta Hirsch provides instruction here at Harper on Tuesday mornings. In September 2022, the class organized and presented an art exhibit showing the works members of the class created. It was a major success and we’re hoping to replicate that in the fall of 2023.

We continue to add opportunities to our strong base of existing programs and are happy to meet new people wanting to join us. We’re located at 118 Church Street in Town, across from the Williamstown Elementary School. Stop by. Oh, while you’re at it, join our mailing list to keep abreast of activities here at the Harper Center.

This report is dedicated to the memory of Lynn Hood who left us in January 2023. She was the Director of the Williamstown Council on Aging from 1987 to 1998 and leaves many friends and former colleagues behind. You are missed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brian O’Grady
Williamstown Council on Aging Director

DAVID & JOYCE MILNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Pat McLeod, Library Director

www.milnelibrary.org

100,128 Items circulated
70,089 Items owned
199,852 downloadable items available
6,187 Active card holders
24,751 Interlibrary loans

It was an exciting year for the Library from beautiful updates to our spaces, to memorable in-person events, to innovative programming, and more. With the Teen Room renovation completed, we moved onto the Reference & Technology Services area. The reference area was the next in a succession of renovations and it was reconfigured and furnished to function more efficiently for staff and be more welcoming to library users. This space serves as an information desk, Interlibrary loan processing area, a place to get help with your digital resources on your mobile devices, cataloging and the ever-popular “Word of the Day” Board that is updated daily. This project was possible through private donor support, including that of the Friends of the Milne Library.



The Library also participated in a new event called the Berkshire Library Fall Crawl. Twelve Berkshire County libraries gave out passports that were stamped when a library user visited another library. There were prizes and a way to visit virtually. This was our first time trying this, and maybe next year we will have double the number of libraries to visit.

We have welcomed back many magazines located in our Community Room. In order to help narrow the digital divide, the distribution of Wi-Fi hotspots continues to students, educators, and their families to ensure that our community remains engaged and informed.

Looking to the future, we are proud that the Library is experiencing a time of unique opportunity to explore new and innovative delivery models to adapt to our ever-changing environment. The Milne Public Library Strategic Plan in 2023 was completed after a survey was delivered to over 3,000 recipients (both online and in paper format). Approximately 290 individual responses plus another 260 from the elementary and high school students were received. This Strategic Plan has a 5-year horizon and will help guide the needed services, programs, staff needs, building improvements and contains many goals and objectives for the library to include and implement. It is available on our website's front page at www.milnelibrary.org.

In partnership with the town and under the supervision of our Buildings & Grounds Committee (Charles Bonenti, Keenan Chenail, Craig Clemow, Robin Lenz, and Thomas Parker), we have hired Centerline Architects of Bennington, VT, to conduct a facilities conditions assessment. The primary goal of the conditions assessment is to identify deficiencies and code compliance issues within the town-owned library building and to prioritize repairs and renovations over the next five years and beyond.

We are extremely appreciative of our Library staff and volunteers who work diligently to provide exceptional service and resources to our customers. We are fortunate to be supported by the incredible work carried out by the Friends of the Milne Library.

Outside our walls (Beyond visiting the Library)

Digital Circulation and Use

Libby:

- Patrons can borrow eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines from the CW MARS collection, as well as from other networks in the state of Massachusetts.
- 19,050 borrows in 2022
 - (compared to 16,258 in 2021)
- 124 new users
 - (compared to 121 in 2021)

Hoopla:

- Patrons have access to eBooks, audiobooks, comics, magazines, graphic novels, television shows and music through Hoopla, all instantly with no holds.
- 969 borrows in 2022 (compared to 325 between June and December of 2021)
- 61 new users (compared to 63 in 2021)

Kanopy:

- Kanopy provides on-demand streaming of a huge catalog of films, television series and documentaries, from classic cinema, foreign film, The Great Courses, to Kanopy Kids.
- This service is new to our library, starting March of 2022.
- Patrons have borrowed 946 titles.
- 149 new users

Overdrive Advantage

We enrolled in Overdrive Advantage in May, allowing us to purchase titles that benefit the CW MARS cooperative collection as a whole and allows our patrons first shot at popular titles. We have since purchased a total of 70 titles consisting of eBooks and audiobooks that are either requested by our patrons, have a large number of holds placed on by our patrons, or noteworthy titles that aren't in the CW MARS catalog at all.

Newsletter

2,647 patrons receive our weekly newsletter. On average, 45% of these patrons open the newsletter every week - that is 1,191 weekly readers.

Adult Programming

In 2022, we again scheduled programming for four seasonal periods: winter, spring, summer and fall. We hosted more in-person programs than in both 2020 and 2021, and more programs overall. We had quite a varied selection of programs throughout most of the year, in addition to a few repeat presenters. Our most popular program, Raptor Conservation, featured live rescue birds of prey and attracted people of all ages. Other well-received in-person programs included Gentle Yoga and Chair Yoga, a college essay-writing workshop, Mindful Journaling with a local poet, a scarf-dyeing workshop, Berkshire Cottages, night sky stargazing with a solar filter, a Lincoln Memorial anniversary presentation about the sculptor of the monument and a folk-pop concert. All of the most popular programs were, coincidentally, provided by local presenters.

We also hosted two reading challenges, Blind Date with a Book in February, and Book Bingo in the summer. These are “passive” programs, in which patrons can participate independently by coming into the library,



but no meetings take place. Blind Date with a Book occurred for the fourth year in a row with a slight increase in participation. We also distributed Book Bingo cards for adults over the summer and experienced a slight drop in participation from the previous year.

The library also participated in several community-wide events: ArtWeek Berkshires and Climate Preparedness Week, both in September. We hosted a pastel drawing workshop for ArtWeek. Climate Preparedness Week attracted more attendees than in 2021, and included several talks, a “walk’n’talk” about edible plants on library grounds, and the MassSave launch event for Williamstown in collaboration with The Town of Williamstown and Williamstown’s COOL Committee.

We also hosted a number of virtual programs. Most of these were in collaboration with other Massachusetts libraries and consisted of gardening workshops and women’s history issues. Other virtual presenters included a Medicare informational talk and quite a few natural history talks.

We list upcoming events and programs on our website, newsletter and Facebook page, and on print flyers in the building and also at various places in town. We also share our schedule with the local Chamber of Commerce, and post events on iBerkshires, the Front Porch Forum and in The Berkshire Eagle.

The Friends of the Milne Public Library supported all paid programming for the library, namely fees and stipends for presenters. In addition, several programmers received Massachusetts Cultural Council grants to cover the costs of their programs.



Scarf-dyeing workshop

Children’s Department

January 2022 started out with the worrisome news about a new COVID variant which caused us to cancel in-house programming for the month. In February, we tried introducing kids to “Blind Date with a Book” by a different name, with minor success. Much more popular were the “Grab & Go” card-making craft kits. In April, we coordinated with Adult Services for the Poet-Tree; many inspirational photos were taken home, but few returned. The Soapmaking and Glass Art workshops, however, brought in large crowds. We are so glad that people like making things with us!

In June we resumed our school visits to tell kids about the summer reading program. We saw approximately 400 students at WES over three days and handed out event calendars for all our programming in July and August. We saw a remarkably high level of enthusiasm for our new approach to how prizes were to be distributed (a raffle system) and at the end of the summer we counted over 1000 raffle tickets during the drawing.

Our summer programming was a mix of presenters and performers, craft workshops, and our usual Saturday Storytimes. By far the best-attended event was “Animal World Experience,” which drew a huge audience (well over a hundred) to our back courtyard to see some unusual critters including a coatimundi and an albino boa constrictor. A couple of very lucky people even got to hold the boa! With the purchase of a licensing contract from Swank Entertainment, we were able to offer movie screenings on Saturday

afternoons, kicking off with “1776” and including many Disney and Pixar favorites. And we had a great deal of success with passive programming; each week a new treasure hunt took kids all over the building in search of a stuffy named Dragon (who was also one of our most-sought-after raffle prizes), and a new set of “Five Questions” was available at our “I Spy” collage poster. According to our best estimates, we had nearly 300 participants for just those two activities.

Our Halloween party at the end of October was extremely well attended; we featured escape-room-type puzzles for kids, tweens, and teens, and several hands-on projects like treat bags to decorate, bookmarks to color and laminate, and pop-up Halloween scene cards. We took careful note of which kinds of treats ran out first, so we will have more for next year.

Changes in the Children’s Room this past year include an ongoing project to use genre stickers to identify the middle-grade fiction, which seems to be useful in helping kids find new books to read. We are also building our collections of picture books and longer fiction in languages other than English (currently including Spanish, German, and Mandarin; we hope to include French soon).

We continue to strive to curate and build a collection that reflects the best children’s literature has to offer, and to do so in a way that engages our patrons of all ages and backgrounds.



Caption: We made a new friend.

Young Adult Services

2022 began with a resurgence of the Covid Delta variant. There was no in-house programming in the early parts of the year though we did create Grab & Go valentine card kits and wrapped new book offerings for *Blind Date with a Book*.

In April, we featured a poetry project for Adults & Teens and another for the Children’s Department. The theme was Photo-Inspired Poetry, and 73 kits went home! Poems that were returned were added to the website blog post and to our “Poet-Tree”, a life-sized tree created with a collage of cardboard and paper leaves on display as you head towards the Teen Room. This tree has been a part of the seasonal passive programs and is currently holding the *Winter Wishes* of our patrons!

Throughout the year we have continued to offer Family Drop-In events for all ages with art projects such as glass suncatchers, cabochon key rings, soapmaking, watercolor workshops and recycled cardboard sculptures. Summertime was filled with programming including our Summer Reading Program. Thirty teens signed up to log their reading and event participation and earn raffle tickets for prizes that ranged from gift cards to local business to Bluetooth ear pods. Our Halloween party was a hit with kids from toddlers to teens, we had over 122 people stop by throughout the day! Teens participated in an escape room and created clay calaveras in honor of Día de los Muertos. In December we created one-of-a-kind laminated bookmarks with washi stickers, collage paper and tassels.

We are starting to see new groups of teens using the Teen Room as a place to do homework or hang out with friends. Passive programming such as origami animals and *Create a Comic* templates have been very popular as have changing monthly book displays. We look forward to seeing our vibrant and energetic teen community grow in the upcoming year.



Poet-tree



Bookmark workshop

The Friends of the Library

We're happy to report that 2022 was a banner year for the Friends. We were able to contribute significant funds for important library needs, including:

- Collections of books and non-print materials for all ages
- Programs for children, teens, and adults
- Staff support and professional development
- Computer upgrades and technological resources
- Furnishing, equipment, and special renovation projects

Our funds come almost entirely from two things: sales of gently used donated books and contributions from our membership. We thank the whole community for their support!

The donated books are collected and sorted in the distribution center at the back of the library by a staff of several dedicated volunteers headed up by Virginia Sheldon. The volunteers cull through the books and sort them by the best potential sales outlets for each book, the top three channels being eBay, Amazon, and Chapter Two Books.

Raising funds for the Milne Public Library depends on keeping and growing Chapter Two Books, our treasured community bookstore. This warm and welcoming space is full of beloved books in transition from one reader to another. Both by donating and buying, you keep us going.

Chapter Two Books is also a wonderful Spring Street location to feature books of topical or seasonal interest. This photo taken by Craig Clemow, a Friends of the Library board member and store volunteer, shows a display featuring books related to the February holiday of Presidents' Day. Displays change often and keep the store current and engaging.



The Friends are pleased that the store and the other sales channels are proving sustainable, and we are working hard to ensure we can continue to raise significant funds for the library in the years ahead!

Board of Trustees

This past fall, the Trustees approved our updated strategic plan (accessible on the library’s website) and now have started to work with the library director to implement its goals. We are thankful for the creative and committed work of the Strategic Plan Committee (Pam Art, Liza Barrett, Charles Bonenti, Maggie Clark, Debby Dane, William Densmore, Patricia McLeod, Kirsten Rose, and Patricia Wilk). We appreciate the extensive input from our community members regarding what they would like to see happen at the library, which informed our vision for the library’s future. In partnership with the town, we have hired Centerline Architects to conduct a facilities conditions assessment. The primary goal of the conditions assessment is to identify deficiencies and code compliance issues within the town-owned library building and to prioritize repairs and renovations over the next five years and beyond.

We continue to submit quarterly reports to the town in accordance with Article 37 and a DEI committee composed of trustees, Friends of the Library, and staff meets quarterly to share resources and ideas for training, education, and programming with the goal of making the library as welcoming and as accessible as possible for everyone in our community.

The trustees continue to systematically review and update all library policies. This past October, the Trustees voted to create a Finance Advisory Committee to advise the Board in meeting its fiduciary responsibilities and to actively build and preserve the financial resources necessary to support the accomplishment of the Library’s mission, both for the short and the long term.

Thanks to the initiative and organizational energy of community member Judy Ensign, the trustees are working with a committee to plan for the 150th celebration of the library, which is in 2024.

Generous financial support from the Friends of the Library and individual donors assisted with renovation projects, staff development opportunities, programming for children, teens, and adults, technology upgrades, and additions to the collection. Public contributions to the Trustees Annual Appeal support our work to constantly improve the library’s services for our town.

Current slate of the Board of Trustees:

Bridget Spann – Chair	Charles Bonenti
Timothy Cherubini – Vice Chair	Robin Lenz
Pat Wilk – Secretary	Tamanika Terry Steward
Micah Manary – Treasurer	

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Melissa Cragg, Chair – Fred Puddester, Vice Chair

Members of the Finance Committee serving during calendar 2022 included Dan Caplinger, Paula Consolini, Melissa Cragg, Charles Fox, Elisabeth Goodman, Doris Karampatsos, Elaine Neely, Fred Puddester, and Michael Sussman. Work during 2022 focused on preparation of the fiscal year 2023 operating and capital budget covering the period from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Work also began on creating a better understanding of capital budgeting needs for the Town for the next five years. A presentation called “Finance 101: Demystifying Town Finances” was prepared which tries to explain town finances and benchmarks. It is posted on the Finance Committee page of the town website.

At the Annual Town meeting held on May 17, 2022, the Finance Committee recommended and the town approved appropriations totaling \$24.171 million, a 3.8% increase over the prior year.

	<u>Fiscal Year 2022</u>		<u>Fiscal Year 2023</u>		<u>YOY</u>
	<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Change</u>
Executive	323,916	1%	483,042	2%	49.1%
Administration and Finance	3,285,482	14%	3,494,723	14%	6.4%
Community Development	424,275	2%	446,494	2%	5.2%
Public Safety	1,526,465	7%	1,625,746	7%	6.5%
Public Works	2,187,550	9%	2,353,246	10%	7.6%
Human Services	<u>922,970</u>	<u>4%</u>	<u>910,542</u>	<u>4%</u>	<u>-1.3%</u>
Subtotal General Gov't	8,670,658	37%	9,313,795	39%	7.4%
Education	12,637,545	54%	13,175,773	55%	4.3%
Debt Service	562,688	2%	557,688	2%	-0.9%
Finance Committee Reserve	0	0%	75,000	0%	Infinite
Miscellaneous Adjustments	<u>196,452</u>	<u>1%</u>	<u>173,045</u>	<u>1%</u>	<u>-11.9%</u>
Total Operating Budget	22,067,343	95%	23,295,300	96%	5.6%
Capital Budget	650,000	3%	494,815	2%	-23.9%
OPEB Funding	46,729	0%	50,000	0%	7.0%
Nonprofits	191,000	1%	196,000	1%	2.6%
Comp. Balance Reserve	150,000	1%	50,000	0%	-66.7%
Finance Committee Reserve	175,000	1%	0	0%	-100.0%
Classif. and Wage Study	0	0%	35,000	0%	Infinite
Stabilization Fund	<u>0</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>Infinite</u>
Total Budgeted		100		100	
Expenditures	23,280,072	%	24,171,115	%	3.8%

The fiscal year 2023 budget includes \$113,527 in severance expenses associated with a former employee, increase in budgeted salary for Town Manager (+\$30,000), recreating the Finance Director slot with the current Town Accountant (+\$22,000), addition of Information Technology Specialist and a part-time assistant to the Town Clerk (+79,000), and the engagement of a Public Safety Accreditation Manager (+\$23,000). Normal cost of living adjustments, new labor contracts, and other inflationary increases were also included. Mitigating these increases in part was a lower-than-normal level of capital expenditures, mostly related to equipment for Public Works. This is expected to return to normal levels next year. Mitigation was also provided by lower funding for various reserves (Compensated Balance Reserve and net change in Finance Committee Reserve). Happily, the town voted to fund a classification and wage study for \$35,000 and added \$50,000 to its Stabilization Fund, the first addition after several years of reduction.

The Town has an unused levy capacity of \$2,373,394 under the Proposition 2.5 limit as of May 2022. The town continues to enjoy a strong Aa1 credit rating on its long-term debt from Moody's Investor Services.

Elisabeth Goodman was elected Town Moderator last spring; she was replaced on the FinComm by Mary Magavern. Dan Caplinger recently resigned from the Finance Committee and was replaced by Suzanne Stinson. We welcome Mary and Suzanne. Beth and Dan have made important contributions to the Committee's work with penetrating questions, special project work, and their own unique perspectives. We thank both.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
Craig Clough, Superintendent

The Williamstown Highway Department maintains 66.54 miles of roads and 16 miles of sidewalks. In addition to the roads and sidewalks, the Highway department maintains the stormwater system which consist of drainpipes, culvert pipes, and over 600 storm drains and manholes, also many roadside ditches. All of this is maintained by 8 employees daily. In addition to the storm water system and roadways, there are countless signs all about the town that the crew maintains as well.

Ice was the most common type of precipitation this winter. One notable storm in February was winter storm Landon that dropped ½ inch of ice on Williamstown causing power outages and many trees down. Tree branches hung so low it made traveling roads hazardous as the limbs hit the vehicles. Power was lost to 1,500 residents this day. The rest of winter brought 40.5 inches of snow, 2.5 inches of freezing rain and 2 inches of sleet. The crew responded to 39 hazardous weather conditions after normal working hours for a total of 1,225 hours of snow and Ice removal in addition to their normal working hours.

The Highway Department accepted delivery of a new one-ton dump truck this year. The Town was very lucky to receive this truck as the supply chain has made it nearly impossible to order and receive a new vehicle in a timely manner. An example of the supply chain breakdown is: the Town ordered a single axel dump truck back in August of 2021 and the dealership has still not taken delivery as of January 2023. After the dealer receives the vehicle, it then gets sent to an upfitter for the dump body, plow, sander and other additional addons needed. This usually takes a few weeks but now may take up to a few months in today's world. So, in reality it can take up to 2 years to receive a new vehicle after ordering, maybe longer. This will now cause a backlog on replacing our aging fleet and can have a major impact on how and when to replace. A challenge in the least sense.

Cole Avenue received two sets of solar powered crosswalk signals at School Street and Church Street intersections. Numerous other signs have been added around town to help bring visibility to areas of concern. Street lines were painted in early spring and crosswalks were painted as well.

The Highway Department reconstructed the retention basin located on Longview Terrace. Reconstruction consisted of removing the outflow pipe and resetting to proper grade which will now lower the level of the retention basin to original levels. The basin itself was then dredged to remove sediment that has collected over the years. The original cat tails growing in the basin were saved and replanted to quickly establish growth. The inlet to the basin was removed and lowered to original specifications to complete the reconstruction. The Highway crew did an excellent job in reconstructing the basin and hit all specifications required by engineering.

As I do every year, I would like to thank the Highway Department crew for providing the Town of Williamstown with excellent service and for going above and beyond when needed.

WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT

David M Caron, Superintendent
Water/Sewer Dept.

The Water & Sewer Department maintains approximately 39 miles of water main and 41 miles of sewer main for the town. Maintenance includes the following:

- Clearing of right-of-ways
- Fire hydrant maintenance & repair
- Bi-Annual flushing of the water distribution system
- Leak detection & pressure checks on the water distribution system

- Annual inspections of both residential & commercial water services
- Bi-annual testing of backflow prevention devices
- Daily chemical injection pump inspections
- Sewer manhole inspections & repair
- Daily inspections of sewer pump stations
- Sewer line cleaning & repair throughout the year
- Quarterly chemical treatment of the sewer pumpstations for grease control.

In 2022 the Water Department repaired 16 water main breaks, 11 residential water services and 4 water main gate valves. A complete replacement of a gate valve was required at Field Park due to a broken stem. After the flushing of the water mains in October was complete, the department had to repair 4 fire hydrants due to worn-out or broken parts. Due to the age of a fire hydrant on Cold Spring Road, the replacement with a new hydrant was also required. One of the largest projects of the year took place at our municipal well head #3 during the annual inspection of the well efficiency. The inspection was contracted to Weston & Sampson Well & Pump Services out of New Hampshire. During the well motor's performance test, replacement was required after the tests were complete. Once Weston & Sampson pulled the pump and motor for a closer inspection, it was discovered that the pump had three large holes that were beyond repair, replacement of both the pump and motor were necessary, and a cleaning of the well casing was the new recommendation during the replacement process.

In 2022 the sewer collection system brought its own set of issues. The staff responded to several plugged sewer calls throughout the town, some of these plugs were caused by an over-abundance of roots in the sewer pipes that could be cleared with the sewer rod machine, others were misaligned joints that had effect on the normal flow of sewage, these types of blockages could be cleared with the vacuum/jet truck. The department staff also did 3 spot repairs to the sewer mains in town due to cracked or broken pipe.

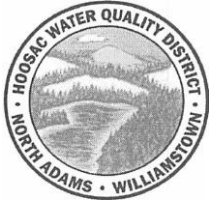
The department purchased a new sewer tractor camera this year, this camera allows us to better understand the condition of the sewer lines and to help prevent a disaster before it happens.



Cold Spring Road pressure sewer received a few upgrades this summer, the upgrades included complete rehab of 8 lift stations connected to the sewer system. These upgrades included replacement of all galvanized discharge piping inside and outside the tank, the inside was replaced with stainless steel piping/hardware along with new floats and electrical wiring. All work was completed by the department staff except for the electrical wiring, that work was contracted to Rickert Electric.

I welcome Hunter Wick to the water/sewer department. Hunter was hired in October and has been a great addition to our staff, bringing a strong mechanical background with water and sewer experience. I would also like to thank my entire water/sewer staff for the continued hard and dedicated work they perform throughout each year. The work of the staff in Williamstown is what keeps the water and sewer systems operating as efficiently as possible.

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 2022

District Commission

Timothy Lescarbeau, Chairman– North Adams
Rhon Ernest-Jones, Vice Chairman – Williamstown
Barbara Murray, Secretary – North Adams
Donald Clark, Member/ Treasurer – Williamstown

Chief Operator – Assistant Chief Operator

Bradley O. Furlon, Chief Operator/District Manager
Frank Richardson, 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 1,694,339,500 gallons of raw sewage during Fiscal Year 2022, which represents an increase in flow of 526,596,500 gallons as compared to Fiscal Year 2021. In addition, the District treated 587,666 pounds of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and 831,853 pounds of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) in FY 2022.

Some key highlights of FY 2022 were:

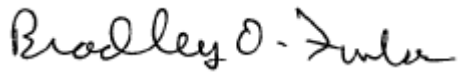
- The District, which includes six licensed wastewater operators, has not had any permit violations in over 20 years. Even with severe hydraulic overloads from rain and storm events, the District personnel work tirelessly to ensure that all requirements and parameters of the District’s Consent Decree and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit are met. The District facility continues to produce effluent better than the standard set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP). Reports are submitted to EPA and MADEP monthly, which outline all actions being taken to ensure complete compliance.
- Fiscal year 2022 continued to challenge the staff at the District with two additional employees retiring, causing the District to lose two licensed operators. By the end of FY 2022 new employees were hired to bring the District to full staff. To date, new hires are licensed operators giving the District six fully licensed operators.
- The District employee's completed multiple in-house capital improvements in FY 2022. This consisted of rebuilding 3 - 150 hp main influent pumps, purchasing and installing 6 - compost fan units and installing a Hach CL-17 total chlorine analyzer. Also, District personnel worked with J.H. Maxymillian Engineers and Supervisors as they constructed a shared use path through

Williamstown on top of the District's 48" interceptor sewer line.

- Since 1983, the District's compost facility continues to produce Type I compost as defined by the MADEP. Approximately 4,325 yards of final compost was produced in FY22. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradley O. Furlon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bradley O. Furlon
Chief Operator/District Manager

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

2021-2022 School Year

Dr. Jason P. McCandless - Superintendent

Jacob N. Schutz - Principal

Colin Shebar - Assistant Principal

Mount Greylock Regional School's commitment to innovation and fostering all students' academic engagement and social-emotional security. The pandemic, and the abrupt shift to remote and hybrid learning, required a dramatic shift in Mt. Greylock's teaching strategy. Resources were reallocated to develop new student programs and support systems, and professional development for teachers was expanded and re-envisioned. This important pivot was accomplished thanks to the substantial contributions and support from the towns of Lanesborough and Williamstown.

In 2020-21 Mount Greylock continued to review academic programs and teaching materials in math, science, social studies, and foreign language with an eye on aligning curriculum to state standards, revising scope and sequence, and updating materials. The district's enhanced commitments in support of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Access (DEIBA) focused on key initiatives that addressed curricular and resource gaps, professional development, and co-curricular opportunities.

In 2021-22, building upon the previous year's work and taking the lead from the MG School Council's School Improvement Plan, the district focused on two primary targets:

1. To continue prioritizing DEIBA for the entire Mt. Greylock Regional School District community. Consistent DEIBA-focused activities and learning that included students, staff, and the broader school community allowed the district to incorporate community-based feedback into decisions that now impact curriculum, instruction, and programming.
2. To strengthen and incorporate effective new teaching and learning methods, platforms, and schedules that emerged during hybrid and remote learning. Reviewing the academic schedule and scheduling practices highlighted limitations we are now addressing. Essential professional development for faculty and staff on expanded modules within PowerSchool has led to a more flexible and proactive approach benefiting students and teachers.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional development efforts focused on the Canvas learning management system as a primary means of instruction and assessment; faculty continued to examine pedagogy.

Curriculum-focused professional development continued 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.

Various administrators and teachers continued work 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.

The Student Support Team Meetings (SST) continue to use a Response To Intervention (RTI) and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) approach to collaboratively and proactively create intervention plans. These plans address the instructional, behavioral, socio-emotional, and learning needs of students who need adequate progress. The SST is a general education problem-solving process in which designated team members and parents/guardians discuss evidence obtained through formative and summative assessment to plan for the next steps. The Response to intervention (RTI) process enables educators to target research-based instructional support for a student's area/s of specific needs as those needs become apparent. The SST meeting is a pre-referral meeting to determine the appropriateness of evaluating Special Education Eligibility if the interventions proposed do not elicit progress and the presence of a disability is suspected. The SST process and RTI procedures are not intended to impede any necessary referrals for consideration of eligibility under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504. Our goal is to educate the student in the least restrictive environment continually. If at any time, a teacher, counselor, administrator, or other professional staff member suspects that the student's difficulties are attributable to a disability, the student should be evaluated. Suppose a parent/guardian at any time requests an assessment. In that case, the district will either honor that request or notify the parent/guardian of their due process rights within the IDEA, or Section 504, as applicable. Mount Greylock Regional School utilizes the SST Meeting as a first step in responding to a parent's request for evaluation.

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

The Library Media Center is the heart of the school. Collaborations with teachers continue to grow, and the LMC is a popular site for independent study and cooperative learning. The LMC hosted numerous clubs, including book clubs, writing clubs, and community service clubs, and is the home site for the Williams Center at Mt Greylock writing center and after-school tutoring programs.

After pivoting to entirely virtual programming during the pandemic, the Williams Center @ Mount Greylock programs resumed fully *in-person* during the 2021-22 school year. The **Afterschool Tutoring** program met on Monday and Thursday afternoons in the MG library, where 8-10 Williams students provided homework tutoring/mentoring to 10-15 middle school students daily. The **Sunday Virtual Tutoring** program continued to meet the needs of 5-10 HS students every Sunday, primarily offering support in STEM classes. Williams Writing Fellows were stationed in the library four days a week during Directed Study to offer "drop-in" writing support for the **College Essay** (and any classroom essays), helping nearly 100 students over the year. MG also hosted seven Williams Fellows who provided **Classroom Support** in HS English, HS biology, and all levels of academic support classes.

The WC @ MG continued to offer after-school clubs at MG in 2021-22. The **Creative Writing Club** met weekly after school, and the **Greylock Multicultural Student Union**, under the new mentorship of Williams students, met bi-weekly and helped start a junior GMSU at Lanesboro Elementary. The MG GMSU traveled to LES several times after school to work with the elementary students. WC @ MG also added a NEW club in 2021, the **Diverse Books Club**, which attracted over 25 members who met with Williams leaders and MG Librarian Liza Barrett in the evening every other month for dinner and book discussions in the MG library.

During **Williams' Winter Study**, MG hosted Williams' senior Hippolito Vazquez, who assisted in various classrooms, shadowed administrators, and presented a Greylock Talk on the college search process and his journey to Williams. Several other Williams students provided Greylock Talks during the 2021-2022 year on farming, sustainability, and global issues. Overall, it was an exciting year for the WC @ MG. We returned to in-person programming, added a popular new club, and supported our MG students' academic and social-emotional wellness.

STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS 2021 - 2022

Mount Greylock students continue to receive recognition for academic achievements.

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS 2.0):

Massachusetts implemented computer-based testing across all disciplines this year. 10th graders took MCAS exams in English and Math; 74% earned scores of meeting or exceeding expectations in English, and 67% earned equivalent scores in mathematics. 60% of 7th and 8th graders were meeting or exceeding expectations in English; 48% were achieving the same level in math. Science 8 exam scores revealed that 52% of 8th graders achieved or exceeded expectations.

Aptitude Tests: The average SAT score achieved by the 12th-grade class was 1199. The state average is 1184, and the national average is 1060.

Scholarship: In 2021-22, Mount Greylock had four National Merit Commended Students. There were 49 AP Scholars; 17 with Distinction and ten with Honor. Twenty-nine students – 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 2017-2021, Mount Greylock achieved a 97.75% adjusted graduation rate. All 71 graduates of the Class of 2022 planned to continue their education by enrolling in four- and two-year college programs. Others will pursue the military or join the workforce. The 2022 class headed to various colleges and universities, including Bates College, Bennington College, Berkshire Community College, Boston University, Bowdoin College, Bryant University, Connecticut College, Dickinson College, Duke University, Elms College, Endicott College, Framingham State University, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Mass. Maritime Academy, Mt. Holyoke College, Michigan State University, New York University, Northeastern University, Quinnipiac University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Roger Williams College, Russell Sage College, Skidmore College, Smith College, University of

Massachusetts Amherst, University of Massachusetts Boston, University of California LA, University of Maine, University of Maryland, University of Tennessee, University of Vermont, and Williams College.

OUTREACH & SERVICE

At American Legion Boys and Girls State, participants are exposed to a franchised citizen's rights, privileges, duties, and responsibilities. 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, choruses, and recreational programs. For many years Mount Greylock student participants have built leadership skills, examined democratic values, and practiced civic engagement in this program. Williamstown American Legion Post 152 sponsored Mount Greylock representatives at the Stonehill College conference, including *Shamis Barnes, Williams Marsh, Eliot Louis, Alton McIntosh, Arthur Greenfield, Krish Sharma, and Cailean Fippinger.*

Mount Greylock continues participating in Project 351, a state-sponsored program to unite 8th graders across the Commonwealth to commit to service. Representing the various towns surrounding Mount Greylock in the 2021-2022 virtual Project 351 sessions were *Ava Charbonneau (Lanesborough), Kiera Kristensen (Lanesborough), and Krishiv Malhotra (Williamstown).* Mount Greylock continues to grow and expand our relationship with Berkshire County's Anti-Defamation League.

Committed families continue to organize middle and high school students for PALS (Promoting Acceptance and Learning through Sports) to work with differently-abled middle and high school students. PALS pair students with developmental disabilities from all three Mt. Greylock Regional Schools with high school students to engage in sports.

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. Student work is on display in units throughout the first floor. It has been curated for shows at the Norman Rockwell Museum, local libraries, and the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art.

Mount Greylock's success is inextricably tied to its ability to support the growth of the whole student. We are proud to offer a diverse program of performing and visual arts and arts-based co-curricular selections to help students spark and expand their creativity and sense of imagination.

We are delighted to showcase the talents of our performing and visual artists. We are delighted to host our usual concerts, plays, and musicals again. We also encourage families and friends to visit the various regional art shows where our students' work is exhibited.

Parent organizations and community partners have generously supported our arts program, and Mount Greylock faculty and students are deeply grateful. Community support is critical, particularly when energies and attention are stretched thin.

THRIVING MUSIC PROGRAM

In the 2021-2022 school year, the Mount Greylock Music Department presented a Fall Showcase Concert, Winter Concert, and Spring Concert with their large Choral, Orchestra, and Band ensembles. Mrs. Vinette and Mr. O'Connell assembled interested students after school to start the inaugural season of the Mount Greylock Jazz Band, which performed in the Winter and Spring Concerts. To top off all the student's achievements, our chorus, orchestra, and band participated in the Great East Festival at Six Flags, where each of our ensembles received honors. In June, the Middle School ensembles performed for a packed audience at the elementary schools. This outreach is an important part of rebuilding the music community after the effects of Covid. Thankfully, the efforts of our MS ensembles are reaping positive results in increased participation in the music programs. Lastly, our music students offered their time and talent to our community by marching in the Memorial Day parades and our Mount Greylock Graduation Ceremonies.

Orchestra, band and chorus ensembles continued to share their love of music with the wider school community at "GreylockPlays," a short 25-minute concert at the start of school.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

After a challenging year with some restrictions for afterschool programming, Mount Greylock students had the opportunity during the 2021-2022 school year to participate in various organizations and events after the school day.

There were eighteen different non-athletic co-curricular activities offered during the 2021-2022 school year, including performing arts opportunities, leadership opportunities, school publications, and other organizations designed to get Mount Greylock students involved. There were approximately 215 students (40% of the school) who were able to take advantage of an afterschool program.

The newspaper, *The Echo*, maintained the school's online news at greylockecho.mgrhs.org and produced multiple printed editions throughout the year, including "*The Greylock Eggplant*," the annual April Fool's spoof issue. A group of 25 students worked diligently to create the school yearbook with news stories, photographs, and events from the year. Additionally, the 2021-2022 school year saw the return of "*Gemini*," the literary magazine that started in the early 1970s.

Mount Greylock students had the opportunity to participate in a mock election organized by Register*Educate*Vote (REV). The ballot that was sent out was a slightly abbreviated version of the ballot for the 2022 National and State elections that took place in November. The Greylock Multicultural Student Union traveled to Lanesborough Elementary School once a month during the spring to hold a joint meeting with the elementary students to improve cultural awareness in both school communities and create an easy transition for students between organizations.

Shakespeare & Company returned to Mount Greylock with school performances of "*A Midsummer Night's Dream*" in mid-November, followed by a performance at Tina Packer Playhouse as part of the Fall Festival of Shakespeare. While the performances at Mount Greylock were open to the (masked) public, the number of attendees was limited, and priority was given to the performers' family and friends and the school faculty and staff. The Fall Festival was streamed into families' homes to help keep the students and community safe.

Our students continued to brave the pandemic's potential setbacks in March to stage their first in-person musical theater production since 2020. Thirty-five student actors and crew members, including student accompanist Samuel Tucker-Smith, worked with faculty members Jeffrey Welch and Jacqueline Vinette to mount a production of Ian Fleming's "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang." Three performances played to (lightly, responsibly packed, and masked) enthusiastic audiences from the school and wider community.

The final performance of the school year was C.S. Lewis's *"The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe,"* directed by James Barry. This was one of the largest Spring Drama groups in years, with 25 Mount Greylock students getting involved on stage or working on lights and sound. A recording of all three student performances was made available to the performers and their families.

STUDENT-ATHLETE SUCCESS

The Mount Greylock athletic program continues to be strong and, more importantly, a great opportunity for the students. Student-Athlete participants benefit from an enriched educational experience and are provided with lifelong and life-quality learning experiences. Participation helps with organizational skills, dealing with pressure, and handling the successes and disappointments in competition, all the while enhancing the student's achievement of educational goals. While there were still a few restrictions for spectators until February during the 2021-2022 school year, the number of students participating in at least one athletic program remained at 60% of the school population.

Unified Sports in Berkshire County continues to grow. During the fall basketball season, three Berkshire County Teams competed (Mount Greylock, Pittsfield, and Wahconah) against each other during the season and against multiple Pioneer Valley Teams during the postseason Jamboree. The 2021-2022 school year marks the first year that Mount Greylock offered a Unified Track Program in the spring. The small group from Mount Greylock traveled to compete against Wahconah, Pittsfield, Northampton, and Chicopee throughout the spring and will continue to compete during the Spring 2023 season.

During the 2021-2022 athletic season, the team sports (baseball, basketball, lacrosse, soccer, softball, and volleyball) in Berkshire County became a part of the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference (PVIAC). This was already the case for football and ice hockey. While this created more travel for teams, the change also allowed for a more competitive regular season for teams across the County, helping to retain athletes in many sports for our smaller schools. During this transition, Berkshire County schools aimed to keep as many rivalry games as possible. The individual sports (cross country, golf, ski, swim, tennis, track & field, and wrestling) continue to be part of the Berkshire County Athletic Conference.

In addition to league changes, the 2021-2022 school year was the first year of the new Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Statewide Tournament for team sports, with some small changes for individual sports. The new tournament structure helped address gender equity concerns, kept like-sized schools in the same division throughout the tournament, created an equal path to the finals for all teams, and ensured that the seeding and qualifying methods were the same for all schools across the state.

This new tournament eliminated the traditional "*Western Mass*" events, which had previously been something for the Mount Greylock Teams to strive for and compete in. The Athletic Directors in District 1

came together to create a new regional tournament to keep the tradition of Western Mass and provide athletes with a positive tournament experience with competitive balance. Schools in the region were placed in a "Class" based on their enrollment. The top teams in each class then competed in the new Western Mass Tournament. Mount Greylock thrived during the first year of the new regional and statewide tournament.

Fall 2021

Mount Greylock Teams started the school year strong. The Girl's Country Team earned a Sectional (3C) and State (D3) Championship. The Boys Cross Country Team placed 4th in Sectionals (3C) and 16th in the State (D3). After a strong regular season, the Golf Team placed 3rd in the Western Massachusetts Championships. The Girls' and Boys' Soccer Teams competed in the Western Massachusetts Finals, finishing 2nd, and both teams qualified for the MIAA State Tournament (D5). The boys' team had a "Final Eight" State appearance. After an undefeated league season, the Volleyball Team competed in the "Final Four" of the MIAA State Tournament (D5). Mount Greylock was once again the guest school in the Drury Football Co-op, and the team had an undefeated regular season, narrowly missing out on the State Tournament.

Winter 2021-2022

The winter season is the smallest at Mount Greylock, with only Basketball, Nordic Skiing, and Wrestling hosted at the school. In addition, seven students from Mount Greylock were guests of the Drury High School Hockey Team. The Wrestling Team finished 10th in Western Mass, and the Boys and Girls Basketball Teams qualified for the State Tournament by being ranked among the top 32 schools in their division. The Nordic Ski Teams continue to be a great opportunity for younger athletes to join a program and a great chance for our more experienced skiers to shine! The Boys' Team earned another MIAA State Championship, and the Girls' Team finished 3rd. *Quinn McDermott* earned an individual State Championship during the event, an amazing accomplishment.

Spring 2022

The spring season went late into June as the Mount Greylock Baseball team earned their first-ever State Championship (D5) in school history. The season included no-hitters for our senior pitchers and wins with no hits made (though great defense played) by Mount Greylock batters! The team also earned a Western Mass Championship on their way to the statewide tournament. The Girls Lacrosse Team earned their first Western Mass Championship with the newly created tournament event and entered the *Final Eight* in the MIAA State Tournament (D4). Seven students from Mount Greylock competed on the Hoosac Cooperative Team for Boys Lacrosse and, after an undefeated season, qualified for the MIAA Tournament. Both Tennis Teams also qualified for the new statewide tournament. The Greylock Softball Team was young but performed well at regional and state tournaments. They ended with a top-16 finish in the State Tournament (D5). The Boys' Track & Field Team repeated as Western Massachusetts Champions and earned 4th place at MIAA States. The girls earned an 18th-place finish at the same meet.

Leadership and Athletic Honors

To ensure students remained safe and to keep students in school as much as possible, some formal leadership events and award ceremonies did not occur. The MIAA offered two events in the spring that Mount Greylock students were able to benefit from. The following students were selected and attended the MIAA Sportsmanship Summit held at Gillette Stadium: *Seamus Barnes, Lily Catelotti, Matteo Chang, Lainey Gill, Lucy Igoe, Caleb Low, Lily McDermott, Quinn McDermott, Daniel Warren, and Vincent Welch*. In May, the MIAA hosted an event run by Core Trainings entitled "Preparing Students for Leadership and

Life” at Hoosac Valley. *Ainsley Abel, Bryn Angelina, Thomas Art, Maggie Brody, Ben Dingman, Ezra Holzapfel, Judge Martin, Owen Petropolus, Effie Skinner, and Molly Sullivan* were selected to attend to represent Mount Greylock.

SUPPORTIVE PARENTS AND A DYNAMIC COMMUNITY

Parents and community volunteers continue supporting the many activities and programs at Mount Greylock. The dynamic and passionate athletic booster clubs and co-curricular organizations, including Friends of the Arts and the Parents4Greylock, provided year-round support through fundraising, providing transportation, and onsite support. [Parents4Greylock \(P4G\)](#) is an umbrella group replacing a traditional PTO, started in 2021, which aims to “Partner, Participate, Provide and Promote.” P4G seeks to support family involvement in various school and community initiatives. 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.

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL

STUDENT ENROLLMENT and STAFFING

2020-2021

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22
Grade 7	90	94	123	92	77	102
Grade 8	103	90	90	131	87	84
Grade 9	89	94	79	85	116	77
Grade 10	100	82	88	77	89	103
Grade 11	84	93	84	84	73	84
Grade 12	93	82	87	84	87	74
SP	3	5	5	4	3	3
TOTAL:	562	540	556	557	532	527

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)t

	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22
Administrators	4.92	4.97	3	2.98	3	3
Instructional Staff	44.57	45.49	45.67	46.07	47.26	47.36
Instructional Support Staff	3.51	3.54	3.54	3.86	3.83	3.87
Paraprofessionals	18	18	17	15	21	20
Medical/Health Services	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL:	72	73	70.21	68.91	76.09	75.23

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

LEARNING MORE

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

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
James Brosnan, Superintendent

Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District
 McCann Technical School
 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District, McCann Technical School, students, faculty and staff continued their record of noteworthy accomplishments in fiscal year 2022 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 2022 was the nineteenth class in a row to attain 100 percent competency determination as designated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Competency determination for the class of 2022 was modified as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and certified through an attestation of a four-year course-completion requirement. 104 graduates of

the class of 2022 saw 49% continue their education in a variety of colleges and universities, 49% enter the workforce, and 2% proudly enter into military service. The graduation class was able to have an in-person commencement ceremony on its regularly scheduled day, June 1, 2022.

GRADE 10 – ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS			
PERFORMANCE LEVEL	2019	2021	2022
EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS	2%	9%	4%
PASSING	96%	82%	94%
NOT MEETING EXPECTATIONS	2%	9%	2%

GRADE 10 – MATHEMATICS			
PERFORMANCE LEVEL	2019	2021	2022
EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS	0%	2%	0%
PASSING	94%	83%	94%
NOT MEETING EXPECTATIONS	6%	15%	6%

GRADE 10 – SCIENCE AND TECH/ENG			
PERFORMANCE LEVEL	2019	2021	2022
ADVANCED	16.0%	NA	14%
PROFICIENT	56.0%	NA	49%
NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	25.0%	NA	32%
FAILING	3.0%	NA	5%

There were no MCAS tests in 2020 and no science and tech/Eng MCAS in 2021.

2021-2022 saw the full return to sports seasons throughout the year. Covid-pandemic measures were in place for indoor sports but students were fully engaged in a complete slate of athletic offerings. The values of teamwork, personal fitness, healthy competition, and school spirit were welcomed back by the school community and the student athletes represented the school well.

Our continuous facility improvement program allowed us to remove asbestos pipe covering and replace our heating and air handling equipment in the gymnasium and locker rooms, upgrade bathroom exhaust fans and

replace additional heating units in the building. We upgraded electrical systems in the gymnasium and the IT and CAD departments. We installed new security fencing on the athletic fields and installed new equipment in the culinary department.

The integration of new educational technology continues to be our priority. We used our Perkins Grant to continue our upgrade of software in all of our technical areas. We installed replacement servers and new cabling throughout our network and expanded our Wi-Fi network to accommodate additional computers and Chromebooks. We received a Skills Capital Grant of \$96,403.00 enabling us to replace welders and add a robotic welding system for our metal fabrication program. We installed Smartboards in our CAD, AMT and IT programs.

McCann continued its ongoing participation in SkillsUSA, a national organization of more than 331,000 members working to ensure America has a skilled work force. 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. The 2022 SkillsUSA district competition was held virtually at McCann in accordance with the school's policies and the SkillsUSA guidance. McCann students earned thirteen gold medals in 3-D visualization and animation, additive manufacturing, architectural drafting, carpentry, cosmetology, dental assisting, medical assisting, sheet metal, technical drafting and web design. Fourteen silver medals were awarded in 3-D visualization and animation, additive manufacturing, carpentry, CNC milling, commercial baking, cosmetology, dental assisting, medical assisting, restaurant service, sheet metal, technical drafting and welding. Fourteen bronze medals were also earned in 3-D visualization and animation, additive manufacturing, architectural drafting, commercial baking, cosmetology, culinary arts, customer service, dental assisting, medical assisting, technical drafting and web design. The 2022 SkillsUSA state competition was held in Marlborough, MA. McCann students earned five gold medals in 3-D visualization and animation, sheet metal, cosmetology and dental assisting. Three silver medals were awarded restaurant service, sheet metal and cosmetology. The gold medal winners advanced to The National Leadership & Skills Conference in Atlanta, GA in June. 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 BPA State Leadership Conference (SLC), McCann BPA members earned one 1st place, two 2nd place, three 3rd place, two 4th place, and one 5th place award at the SLC in March. McCann students competed in finance, business administration, management information systems, digital communication and design, and management, marketing and communications. Four students traveled to Dallas, TX for the National Leadership Conference in May.

McCann students continued to excel in receiving industry-recognized credentials through their vocational programs. Six of our culinary arts seniors received their American Culinary Federation credentials and a culinary arts sophomore won the silver medal at SkillsUSA district competitions. The vast majority of the business technology students earned their certifications in a number of Microsoft Office programs including Access Expert, Excel Associate, and Word. Information technology students obtained their cyber-security certifications and all of our sophomores school-wide earned their OSHA-10 certifications. Industry-recognized credentials such as these are prevalent in all of our vocational programming and offer our students a competitive advantage when entering the workforce.

Advanced Manufacturing Technology students continued to excel as evidenced by their performance on the MACWIC exams. MACWIC is an industry-recognized credential that provides students with certifications demonstrating their proficiency in the manufacturing industry. 12 of our underclassmen received level 1 certification and 16 of our upperclassmen received level 2 certification.

Fourteen of our information technology sophomores achieved certification in Cybersecurity Essentials, and nine received the TestOut Certified PC Pro certification while eighteen of our freshmen attained the Cybersecurity Essentials certification.

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 \$114,503.00 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 64 electricians completing modules in 2021-2022.

FY22 Budgeted Revenues		Budget	Actual
City & Town Assessments			
Municipal Minimum		\$3,268,863.00	\$3,268,863.00
Capital		\$21,670.00	\$21,670.00
Transportation		\$188,150.00	\$188,150.00
Municipal Assessment		\$507,037.00	\$507,037.00
Ch. 71 Transportation		\$261,000.00	\$375,503.00
Ch. 70 General School Aid		\$5,316,141.00	\$5,316,141.00
Tuition		\$737,642.00	\$737,642.00
Miscellaneous Revenue		\$8,386.00	\$8,386.00
Total Revenue Received		\$10,308,889.00	\$10,495,011.00
Member City & Town Transportation Refunds			(\$114,503.00)
		\$10,308,889.00	\$10,308,889.00
Source	Grant	Amount	
(Federal Entitlement)			
Fed	Sped IDEA	\$136,877.00	
Fed	Title I	\$140,524.30	
Fed	Title II A	\$18,823.00	
Fed	Title IV	\$10,000.00	
Fed	Perkins	\$76,805.00	
Fed	Postsecondary Perkins	\$3,979.00	
Fed	ESSER II	\$318,281.10	
Fed	ESSER III	\$67,466.96	
Fed	MyCap	\$4,800.00	
Fed	CVTE Admissions	\$30,000.00	
Fed	ARP Sped	\$30,295.00	
(Federal Grants Other)			
REAP		\$33,549.35	
(State Grants)			
	Workforce Skills Capital Equipment	\$96,403.00	
	MassHire Berkshire: Connecting Activities	\$2,000.00	
	MassHire Berkshire: Advanced Manufacturing	\$20,000.00	
	MassHire Berkshire: Welding	\$20,000.00	
	FY22 Foundation Reserve	\$2,300.00	
(Private)			
Private	Olmsted	\$5,000.00	
Private	BHG Wellness	\$2,000.00	
Private	General Dynamics	\$2,000.00	
Private	Gene Haas Foundation (AMT)	\$3,500.00	
		TOTAL GRANTS	\$1,024,603.71

JAMES J. BROSNAN
Superintendent

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 Comprehensive Planning process. Currently, the 5-member Board is chaired by Stephanie Boyd and includes: Peter Beck (vice-chair), Allison Guess, Ken Kuttner (BRPC representative) and Roger Lawrence (CPC representative). Ken Kuttner was elected in May 2022, and Allison Guess was appointed in November to the seat vacated by Dante Birch.

At Town Meeting 2022, the Planning Board presented 10-warrant articles. The Board took several proposals to the Annual Town Meeting.

Article 38 - clarifying the purpose of the zoning chapter, passed. Planning Board vote 5-in favor, 0-abstained, 0-opposed

Article 39 - removing BA approval for duplexes, passed. Planning Board vote 4-0-1

Article 40 - removing barriers to small multi-unit housing in GR, referred to committee. Planning Board vote 4-0-1

Article 41 - removing barriers to small multi-unit housing in RR2, referred to committee. Planning Board vote 3-0-2

Article 42 - allowing dwelling units above non-conforming existing business, passed. Planning Board vote 5-0-0

Article 43 - removing barriers to small scale multi-unit homes, referred to committee. Planning Board vote 4-0-1

Article 44 - reduction of lot dimensions in GR, referred to committee. Planning Board vote 4-0-1

Article 45 - reduction of lot dimensions in RR2, referred to committee. Planning Board vote 3-0-2

Article 46 - utility extension, referred to committee. Planning Board vote 3-0-2

Article 47 - allowing hotels to be converted to assisted living facilities, passed. Planning Board vote 5-0-0

Since June 2022, The Planning Board has been working to prepare proposed bylaw amendments for the Town Warrant, develop the Comprehensive Plan, and explore longer term options. It is important to note that the Planning Board is not authorized to make changes to the Town's code but can only present proposals to Town Meeting, the decision-making authority. The Board has also prepared supporting documents to explain the rationale and impact of the proposed articles.

2022-23 Initiatives

The Planning Board is working on several initiatives that intended to support the needs of a diverse, equitable and inclusive community:

1. *Preparing a bylaw proposal that addresses short-term rentals in Williamstown*

As more rental units are being used for short-term rental units, there is potential lack of rental housing. Williamstown has fewer rental units per capita than surrounding communities and rents are higher.

The goal of the proposed bylaw is to increase the availability of long-term rental housing through reducing short-term rentals operated by out-of-town corporations while simultaneously allowing Williamstown residents to benefit from short-term rental opportunities. Increasing the availability of rental units may help those with lower income find suitable housing. The Planning Board prepared a draft warrant article to regulate short term rentals.

The Select Board is currently considering whether or not and when to bring this article to Town Meeting.

2. *Preparing a bylaw proposal to allow manufactured housing in all residential zones in Williamstown*

Manufactured (mobile) housing is significantly cheaper than stick-built housing. Currently manufactured housing is only permissible in a Mobile Home Community. This proposed bylaw would allow any landowner to install a manufactured house as primary residence or as a detached Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) on any residential lot by right. This housing type may be particularly effective in rural areas.

The Planning Board expects to bring this issue to Town Meeting 2023.

3. *Preparing a bylaw proposal to allow 3 and/or 4-unit housing by-right in the General Residence zone*

In an effort to increase the supply and diversity of housing types in Williamstown, the Planning Board is proposing to allow 3 and/or 4-unit housing by-right in General Residence on all residential lots. Currently large lots and special permits are required. This article allows for and removes some regulatory barriers to creating lower priced rental units.

The Planning Board expects to bring this issue to Town Meeting 2023.

4. ***Preparing a bylaw proposal to reduce lot frontage requirements for residential lots in the General Residence zone***

In an effort to allow the construction of more housing, the Planning Board is proposing to reduce the frontage requirements from 100 ft to 66 ft in the General Residence zone. This article may result in smaller lots that are lower priced or at least allow for a few more building lots in the center areas of Town.

The Planning Board expects to bring this issue to Town Meeting 2023.

5. ***Developing a long-term community vision through the Comprehensive Plan***

The Planning Board is required by Massachusetts General Law to periodically conduct a Comprehensive (Master) Plan. The Planning Board assembled a committee of 11 people that represent a wide variety of views and interests and with wide-ranging life experiences to provide guidance on the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

Committee Members: Justin Adkins, Peter Beck (co-chair), Stephanie Boyd (co-chair), Susan Briggs, Melissa Craig, Don Dubendorf, Sarah Gardner, Dan Gura, Susan Puddester, Tanja Srebotniak, and Huff Templeton.

By law the Comprehensive Plan is required to address Economic Development; Housing; Land Use, Parks, Open Space and Recreation, Cultural and Historic Resources, Transportation, Housing; Public Facilities and Services. **Sustainability and community resilience and diversity, equity, and inclusion** have been identified as overarching frameworks for the Envisioning Williamstown 2035 Comprehensive Plan. Unlike the previous 2002 Master Plan, these topics will be foundational in this new Plan.

To effectively plan for the future, the community must be good stewards of its natural and built environment; address global challenges, like climate change, with local actions; and be an inclusive community that provides opportunities for existing and future residents. Because these topics can be viewed through the lenses of many aspects of community life, from transportation to economic development, to natural resources, they will be explored and addressed in areas of the plan.

An excerpt from the Existing Conditions report:

- “Williamstown’s commitment to becoming a more equitable and inclusive community represents an opportunity to make equity a guiding principle in policy development, infrastructure investment, capital improvement planning, and in local governmental processes and initiatives. This will help address issues that underserved and marginalized communities face including lack of transportation, secure and affordable housing options, food access, social and recreation opportunities, and the need for other support services.
- This desire to integrate equity into the Comprehensive Plan builds on a formal commitment the town has made through the passing of Articles 36 and 37. This was an important first step the town has made as it works towards becoming a more inclusive community that celebrates diversity and provides equitable opportunities for all. Aspects of diversity, equity, and inclusion that are observed through the analysis of existing conditions in the following sections focus on the following:
 - Highlights populations in Williamstown that have historically been marginalized and underserved in land use and community planning.
 - Identifies some of the preliminary needs’ community members of different ages, races, ethnicities, abilities, sexual orientation, genders, income levels, and others may have and that could be addressed through the Comprehensive Plan.
 - Summarizes some of the work that the town and other community groups have undertaken to make Williamstown more equitable and inclusive as a community.”

The Planning Board meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM and the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. We encourage the public to attend our meetings as we explore, understand and improve the present and future land uses of Williamstown.

WILLIAMSTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Michael Ziemba

Mission Statement

What we exist to accomplish is at the core of our mission statement. A mission statement allows us to maintain direction, eliminate complacency and remain focused on our goals and objectives.

“The mission of the Williamstown Police Department is to protect and serve our community by enhancing the safety and quality of life for all through education, problem solving and enforcement.”

Agency Values

The value statement informs the community of the manner in which we will conduct our business and deliver services. It is at the core of who we are and serves as our moral compass. Even if we err, we will have the courage to acknowledge our mistake and act in a way that ensures it will not happen again.

“Entrusted with the authority to maintain the public peace, the Williamstown Police Department strives to adhere to five core values. These values provide the guidance and direction for the fair treatment of everyone in our community.”

- **Professionalism**

Our conduct and demeanor display the highest standard of personnel and organizational excellence. As a professional organization, the “Law Enforcement Code of Ethics” guides us.

- **Integrity**

We are committed to the highest standards of honesty and ethical conduct, which are the cornerstones of our profession. We will uphold the public trust and our commitment to our core values.

- **Respect**

We recognize the authority we hold and will treat others as we would like to be treated. We will faithfully, and without bias, honor our obligations to the community.

- **Dedication**

To the organization, each other, our families, and the citizens we serve and having an unquestionable work ethic.

- **Excellence**

There is always room for improvement and the search for improvement leads to excellence. We aim for excellence in everything we do.”

Police Chief Michael Ziemba

The Police Chief oversees the operations of the Police Department which includes the Police Officers and the Dispatchers in the Dispatch Center. We are a regional PSAP or Public Safety Answering Point for E911 calls, one of only four PSAPS in the county.

All these employees are hard-working, dedicated professionals. Williamstown is extremely 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 members of this department endure these changes and embrace them with open arms, welcoming new techniques in policing and resisting complacency.

I consider this agency to be part of my family and I care about and respect each and every one of them for collectively helping to make this town safe. In the year 2023, your Police Department looks forward to continuing to listen to community input, having transparency and finding new ways to address the concerns of the community we serve.

We look forward to the new year as we continue to proceed on the path to accreditation by updating policies and procedures and utilizing a new informative website and social media site while we strive for more levels of transparency and accountability. All while continuing to engage with the community we serve. Along with the above stated initiatives, we will see the implementation of the Body Worn Cameras in the coming months after being awarded a state grant to assist with the purchase and implementation of the project.

One of the duties of the Police Chief is not only to be the team leader from within the agency, but also the face of the department externally to the public. No function is too big or small. In a town such as Williamstown, the Chief may be in the Office one day working on administrative tasks, but answering patrol calls the next or answering the phone in Dispatch.

We still offer our Training/EOC 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” or at williamstownmapolice.com.

Administration / Personnel:

Chief: Michael Ziembra

Accreditation Manager/Analyst: Charles Chandler

Sergeant: Paul Thompson (retired)

Detective: Calvin Dzedziak

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

Dispatchers: Laurie Tuper, Barb Brucato, Christy Lemoine, Haley Sigsbury, Ryan Dubie, John Daub (Part Time Dispatcher), Carter King (Part Time Dispatcher)

Custodian: Jim Blair

Intern: Emileigh Pause

Staffing:

The POST (Police Officer Standards and Training) Committee and the Police Reform Bill has brought welcome changes and certifications to policing that will continue to professionalize police services across the state.

In 2022, we saw our part-time officers eliminated due in part to the new Police Reform Bill requirements. The two existing part time officers attended the MPTC (Massachusetts Police Training Council) full time academy, filling existing vacancies in the department. At the time of this report, former Dispatcher, now Student Officer Haley Sigsbury is in the full-time academy to fill the remaining vacancy in the department.

Many staffing changes in the department over the last two years have continued to keep the department operating below full capacity staffing levels, but the return to full staff should be complete by Spring of 2023. Much of our recruitment efforts involve communication through specialty schools and universities that have students interested in internships with police departments. Several of our existing full time staff members were former interns that desired to work for our department after their school experience with us. Currently, we have one intern from Smith Vocational School in Northampton, Ms. Emileigh Pause.

In December of 2022, Chief Ziembra was officially named permanent Police Chief after serving in the Interim role for two years.

Dispatch:

Our Police Department is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Aside from Police dispatch and handling walk-in reports, 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 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 2022, the Department received/returned **18,052** calls on the business lines and another **4,306** calls on the emergency or 911 lines.

There were 11,665 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>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
911 ABANDONED CALLS	105	88	83
911 TEST CALLS	75	78	83
911 WRONG NUMBER CALLS	129	241	109
911 TRANSFER CALL	50	52	66
911 OVERFLOW - ADAMS	3	3	1
911 HANG UP CALL	102	89	88
911 SILENT CALLS	52	113	99
911 OVERFLOW – NORTH ADAMS	9	36	41
ABANDONED MV	3	5	3
ALARM – BURGLAR	150	173	182
ALARM – OTHER	22	9	26
AMBULANCE CALL – WILLIAMSTOWN	985	1,099	1,212
AMBULANCE CALL – HANCOCK	43	38	54
AMBULANCE CALL – MUTUAL AID	4	8	5

AMBULANCE CALLS – NEW ASHFORD	11	10	4
AMBULANCE CALL - NORTH ADAMS	29	8	9
AMBULANCE CALLS – POWNAL	10	4	1
AMBULANCE TRANSFERS	310	237	300
ANIMAL BITE	16	19	13
ANIMAL CONTROL	266	258	259
ALARM PERMITS ISSUED	3	3	46
ALARM PERMIT RENEWALS	108	123	71
ANNOYING PHONE CALLS	10	15	11
ASSAULT	8	17	15
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – DPW	48	47	54
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – FIRE	74	61	45
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – MGRSD	7	5	11
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	164	225	202
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – RMV	13	2	3
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – POLICE	114	99	127
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – UTILITY	46	57	73
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – WCSS	11	12	28

ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – REPO	3	4	4
BREAKING & ENTRY	4	3	3
B.O.L.O.	74	110	71
BUILDING CHECK	3,638	2,454	3,433
BURGLARY	0	1	2
DISTURBANCE	129	137	111
DISABLED MV	77	87	72
DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE	16	30	20
ESCORT / TRANSPORT	4	5	11
FINGERPRINTING	28	30	39
FIRE DISPATCH – WILLIAMSTOWN	220	296	243
FIRE DISPATCH – MUTUAL AID	4	8	9
FIREARMS OFFENSE	0	1	3
FOREST WARDEN DISPATCH	31	16	13
ILLEGAL DUMPING	10	9	6
JUNK MOTOR VEHICLE	5	0	1
K-9 REQUEST – WILLIAMSTOWN	3	6	3
K-9 REQUESTS – OTHER AGENCY	5	7	10

LARCENY	50	52	60
LICENSE TO CARRY	83	50	58
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION	1	1	1
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE	100	102	92
MISSING PERSON	11	14	12
MOTOR VEHICLE LOCKOUT	84	87	79
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT	150	150	211
MOTOR VEHICLE STOP	748	774	690
NARCOTICS INVEST	1	2	4
NOISE COMPLAINT	35	28	24
PARKING COMPLAINT	17	28	62
PERSONNEL COMPLAINT	1	7	1
PROPERTY DAMAGE	9	17	10
PARKING CHECK	632	347	397
POWER OUTAGE	6	4	4
RECORDS REQUEST	161	260	331
FOUND / LOST PROPERTY	78	66	130
PUBLIC SERVICE	74	193	198

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT	3	36	57
RECOVERED STOLEN MV	0	0	1
ROAD CONDITIONS	134	102	139
SERVE RESTRAINING ORDER	6	19	19
SEXUAL OFFENSES	13	13	3
SUDDEN DEATH	5	3	6
SECTION 12	15	16	64
SHOPLIFTING	1	8	3
SUSPICIOUS MOTOR VEHICLE	158	103	120
AUTO THEFT	1	1	1
SOLICITING	4	38	58
SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION	3	8	0
SPEED TRAILER ASSIGNMENT	6	2	4
SYSTEM TROUBLE	7	9	11
SERVE SUMMONS	23	13	18
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	322	265	306
THREATS / HARASSMENT	36	50	70
TRAFFIC CONTROL	335	528	498

TRAFFIC COMPLAINT	190	194	215
TRESPASS	14	23	25
UNWANTED GUEST	13	17	30
VANDALISM	21	24	24
VIOLATION RESTRAINING ORDER	5	9	5
SERVE WARRANT	4	8	8
WELL-BEING CHECK	129	158	123
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE:	10,921	10,213	11,665

2022 CALLS FOR SERVICE BY SHIFT:

<u>SHIFT</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CALLS</u>
Days / 7am to 3pm	6,999
Evenings / 3pm to 11pm	3,100
Nights / 11pm to 7am	1,566
Total Calls for Service	11,665

Criminal Charges/Arrests/Protective Custody/Incident Reports:

The Police Department issued to court one hundred and nine (**109**) arrest reports against people for various criminal activity throughout the year 2022. Five (**5**) adults were placed into Protective Custody. Many calls for service require much more than a simple log note entry into our Records System. These types of calls are assigned an incident number where Officers can provide a more detailed narrative as to what occurred. In 2022, two hundred and sixty-eight (**268**) incident reports were generated. ALL of these report types are submitted quarterly to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS):

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 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 2022, the Police Department responded to one hundred and twenty (**120**) motor vehicle crashes.

<u>CRASH ACTIVITY SUMMARY</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
FATAL MV CRASHES	1	1	0
CRASHES INVOLVING PEDESTRIANS / CYCLISTS	6	1	3
TOTAL MV CRASHES:	150	120	182

<u>TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
CRIMINAL MOTOR VEHICLE VIOLATIONS	104	95	89
CIVIL MOTOR VEHICLE VIOLATIONS	85	38	72
WARNING MOTOR VEHICLE VIOLATIONS	754	844	660
TOTALS VIOLATIONS:	944	977	919
TOTAL MOTOR VEHICLE STOPS:	748	774	690

<u>PARKING ENFORCEMENT</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
HANDICAP ZONE	1	0	0
PROHIBITED AREA	15	6	24
DOUBLE PARKING	0	0	1

ALL NIGHT PARKING	246	340	652
WITHIN 10' OF FIRE HYDRANT	1	0	1
ACROSS PRIVATE DRIVE / ROAD	2	0	1
WITHIN 20' OF INTERSECTION	0	1	0
UPON CROSSWALK / SIDEWALK	1	1	2
WRONG DIRECTION OR MORE THAN 12" FROM CURB	10	4	26
SNOW & ICE REMOVAL	1	0	0
OVERTIME PARKING	189	0	95
TOTAL PARKING TICKETS:	466	352	804

- **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 a minimum of 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 2022 included: Crimes in Progress; Bias Related Crimes; Legal Updates; CPR, AED, and First Responder; De-Escalation Techniques; Handling Mental Health Emergencies and Cultural Competency; Domestic Violence; Emergency Medical Dispatch; Customer Service; Suicide Intervention; CJIS; Firearms Training.

Most of these training opportunities were held on site in our training room where we can 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.

Chief Ziemba received instruction in Animal Control issues to maintain certifications as an Animal Inspector/Animal Control Officer. Eight (8) hours of continuing education each calendar year is required to maintain this status. Officer David Jennings also maintained certification as an Animal Control Officer.

We also conduct training within the Police Department and 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 as well as the use of the Taser. In addition to the In-Service trainings and certifications, the following are some of the specialized trainings that were able to be attended:

January

- Dispatcher Lemoine recertified as a Communications Training Officer
- Officers and Dispatchers completed training on Crimes in Progress and Suicide Intervention
- Officer Duprat recertified in Emergency Medical Dispatch
- Dispatcher Brucato recertified in Criminal Justice Information Systems Security Policy/Procedures

February

- Det. Dziejziak recertified in CPR
- Dispatcher Lemoine certified in Call Assessment and Quality Assurance Standards
- Dispatcher Brucato recertified in Emergency Medical Dispatch
- Accreditation Manager Chandler recertified in Criminal Justice Information Systems Security Policy/Procedures

March

- Officers were recertified in Taser
- Officers recertified for CPR and First Aid Techniques
- Dispatchers Daub and Dubie as well as Det. Dziejziak completed training on Crimes in Progress and Suicide Intervention
- Dispatchers Brucato, Lemoine and Sigsbury recertified in CPR
- Dispatcher Tuper recertified as a EMT Paramedic

April

- All department staff completed training for Diversity and Cultural Competency for Law Enforcement
- Officers Jennings, Sacco, Duprat and Det. Dziejziak recertified for use of the Breath Test Machine
- Det. Dziejziak recertified in use of RADAR equipment
- Officer Sacco certified as an Axon Taser Instructor

May

- Chief Ziemba and Officer Jennings were reappointed as inspectors of animals
- Officer Duprat and K9 Shelby recertified in Tracking and Trailing techniques, and certified in Article Searches
- Dispatcher King certified in CPR
- Chief Ziemba certified in background investigations for police applicants
- Chief Ziemba recertified for use of the Breath Test Machine
- Dispatcher Daub completed FEMA training for Incident Command Systems for Expanding Incidents

June

- All Officers requalified with department issued firearms
- Officer McConnell recertified for use of the Breath Test Machine
- Officer Sacco certified as an Enhanced ALICE Instructor

July

- Officer William trained on Buccal DNA collection
- Det. Dziejziak certified in background investigations for police applicants
- Chief Ziemba trained in redacting records
- Officer Hernandez recertified for use of the Breath Test Machine
- Chief Ziemba and Officers Skorupski, Eichhammer, Duprat, Hernandez, William, McConnell, Sacco and Dispatcher Tuper recertified in Criminal Justice Information Systems Security Policy/Procedures

August

- Dispatcher Lemoine recertified in Emergency Medical Dispatch
- Dispatcher Dubie completed training for Diversity and Cultural Competency for Law Enforcement
- Det. Dzeidziak in Criminal Justice Information Systems Security Policy/Procedures

September

- Officers Skorupski and Eichhammer recertified for use of the Breath Test Machine
- Chief Ziemba trained in Executive Develop in POST
- Officer Duprat and Det. Dzedziak were certified as Field Training Officers
- Officer Sacco requalified with department issued firearms as an instructor
- Dispatcher Lemoine certified as a Criminal Justice Information Systems Local Agency Security Officer

October

- Officer William and Chief Ziemba attended training in Body Worn Cameras
- Officers William and Sacco and Det. Dzedziak trained in crime scene and fingerprint processing
- Officer Jennings and Dispatcher Sigsbury recertified in Emergency Medical Dispatch
- Officers Garner and William recertified for use of the Breath Test Machine
- Chief Ziemba completed training in Executive Development about Budgeting
- Officer Sacco attended training regarding Firearms Instruction and Legal Updates

November

- Dispatcher King certified in Next Generation 911 technology and Emergency Medical Dispatch
- Det. Dzedziak completed training on Mass Gatherings, Human Trafficking, Cultural Competency, and De-escalation and Use of Force
- Officer Sacco completed training in Suicide Prevention
- Officer Jennings recertified for use of the Breath Test Machine
- Dispatcher King completed training on Unconscious Bias
- Chief Ziemba completed training in Executive Development about Grant Writing and Body Worn Cameras
- Dispatcher Lemoine was recertified as a Communications Training Officer

December

- Dispatcher King was certified in Public Safety Telecommunications
- Chief Ziemba completed training in Executive Development about Labor Relations
- Officer Jennings and Garner recertified in Criminal Justice Information Systems Security Policy/Procedures
- Intern Pause certified in Criminal Justice Information Systems Security Policy/Procedures

- **Grants:**

In early 2022, the following grant money was awarded to the Department to be used for the 2022 fiscal year. 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	\$21,427.32

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Equipment Grant	Operations Center Equipment	\$2,700
Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety	Body Worn Cameras	\$18,941.80

- **Specialized Assignments:**

While each officer serves in both the patrol and dispatch roles as their primary function, some are given specialized assignments to enhance their 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, Interim Chief Ziemba fills the role of Animal Inspector while both Ziemba and Officer David Jennings are certified Animal Control Officers.

- **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, eleven (11) 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.

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

Officer Anthony Duprat and K-9 Shelby have proven to be an effective team, with many calls for service requesting their service and consistent training logged to date.

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 as well as National Night Out. They also participate in annual MPTC Police Academy instruction/presentation to new recruits, explaining the entire process for utilizing a tracking dog in the field.

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.

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 start of Williamstown's K-9 program, there were no grants 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 Western Massachusetts. Bloodhounds are renowned for their scent tracking ability, and this is Shelby's only responsibility. Shelby has also proven to be a great bond between law enforcement and the community as she is a very friendly dog who loves attention.

- **School Safety: 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.

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, we have assisted with drills and training in North Adams, Adams, Florida, Lanesborough and Hancock Schools. Officers 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 to stay current with national responses, Sacco 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. Sacco is also certified in ALERRT, a similar program to ALICE.

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.

- **Field Training Officers**

Training is an essential element for effective policing in the 21st Century. Laws in the Commonwealth are constantly being created or updated while technology rapidly advances in the criminal justice system. The police department is mandated by law to receive forty (40) hours of In-Service training yearly. However, your police department recognizes

the significance of progressive instruction and strives to meet the measures of a contemporary law enforcement agency to serve our community best.

One fundamental change in 2022 was the certification of field training officers (FTO) within our department. K9 Officer Anthony Duprat and Detective Kalvin Dziedziak became the department's first two FTOs after completing the certification program hosted by the Massachusetts Police Training Council (MPTC) employing the nationally accepted "San Jose Model." While the police academy provides new officers extensive training on basic competency to perform the job, a notable gap remains between classroom exercises and real-world police work. Our certified FTOs will train new officers for our department and the community's needs while acting as mentors, coaches, and evaluators in an intensive one-on-one 12-week program. All newly hired officers of the Williamstown Police Department must successfully complete the FTO program to continue employment with the department. Our FTOs will provide daily and weekly reports to the Chief of Police throughout the entire training program assessing the trainees' performance.

- **Programs**

The Police Department continued its Community Policing approach throughout 2022 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 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 can also 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. We were able to assist with Trick or Treat on Halloween and the July 4th parade as well as several other parade events. This year, in addition to more roaming patrols to keep the children safe while out trick or treating, Officer's Hernandez and Skorupski set up a location for handing out candy and small toys to all the children out that night. This event is yet another great way to interact with our community during happy times that are enjoyable for the officers just as much as it is for the children! The extra patrols assisted with traffic control and interaction with community members for successful events with no injuries or issues.

This year saw a dramatic increase in the amount of community events we sponsored and participated in. Thanks in part to the SPCP (Strengthening Police Community Partnerships) Council we were able to engage with the community and the youths for multiple kickball games in town throughout the summer. We also hosted another very successful National Night Out at the Spruces Park in August that drew hundreds of community members. The event was incredibly well attended, enough so that we look forward to hosting it again this year!

The event was sponsored and organized by Chief Ziembra through the Police Department as well as the North Berkshire Community Coalition and local community member Andrea Bryant. Many entities donated time, resources, and monies to make this event a success. The evening at the Spruces saw many local vendors, kids' games, demonstrations, tractor rides, hot dogs, hamburgers, and ice cream. Police, Fire and EMS interacted with the community for the four-hour event that was a great way for the community to get to meet with each other and get to know local first responders at the same time.

When the weather got cooler, we switched to board game nights at the Harper Center that also were well attended. These events culminated with a Holiday Gathering at the Police Department in mid-December that saw roughly one hundred community members enjoying crafts, games, holiday themed decorations and food. The primary point of contact for organizing these events was Officer Tania Hernandez who did an outstanding job seeing these through successfully. We look forward to the events that she has on the horizon for 2023!

- **Department of Justice Program:**

In July of 2021 Chief Ziembra contacted the DOJ (Department of Justice) requesting to participate in their program of Strengthening Police and Community Relations. This endeavor is an effort to continue to open communication and dialogue with the community we serve, answering questions and providing transparency. All who live and work in the community will be welcomed to participate.

After many meetings, the event was held in early March of 2022. It was attended by roughly eighty community members and was a great day of dialogue, problem solving and perspective sharing. The process was methodical and purposeful on the part of DOJ as they follow a structured program they have used in many communities. Several key topics of concern/improvement were identified. Roughly a dozen of the attendees volunteered to sign up for the after-action group to meet with the Police Chief and other department members to implement and discuss the concerns. That group was identified as the SPCP Council.

In July of 2022, the SPCP Council began monthly meetings where a process was established for their role. Since then, many topics have been addressed and explained with much action taken. The group continues to meet and do the work that ultimately results in a better functioning police department and stronger community relationships. I'm thankful for the community members that have agreed to spend their time on this endeavor and look forward to the continued work on this front.

- **Hub Initiative:**

We are excited to participate in and help launch a coordinated group of professional service providers that will assist community members that are struggling on multiple fronts. Officer Brad Sacco is the liaison to this group. This effort is hopefully the start of many new alliances to assist people in our community that need it. Below is a quote from Amber Besaw, the Executive Director for Northern Berkshire Community Coalition.

*Good afternoon,
I am reaching out to you with a personal invitation for you and your organization to join nbCC and other community stakeholders in a project aimed at helping at-risk community members within our northern Berkshire region.*

In 2020, nbCC reconvened community stakeholders from the areas of mental health, substance abuse and addiction related services, the justice system, as well as other human service organizations for a follow up meeting to the 2017 Sequential Intercept Mapping, Community Justice Workshop. In the December 2020 Zoom meeting, stakeholders came together to give updates, changes, and current needs for north Berkshire. As a part of this conversation, it was documented that the number 1 identified priority was a "regular meeting of key community partners to discuss high-risk individuals". It was with this as the catalyst, nbCC reached out to Dan Cortez at the Chelsea Police Department to learn more about the Hub Model and the work being done in that community. Dan presented to a small group of community

stakeholders and nbCC made the decision to move this model forward in our community, as a response to what we had learned in our December meeting. Below are links to online resources to help describe the work in Chelsea and what the Hub model is.

[Chelsea Hub](#)
[KFL&A Hub Model \(scroll down to find the video\)](#)

You and your organization are key to the successful development of this initiative and taking our community coordination and support of at-risk community members to the next level in northern Berkshire. We hope that you will join this effort and be a part of making an even greater impact in our region. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

- **Reform:**

Continual training on our policy reform has been ongoing since December of 2020. This process involves adapting each policy to our agency (from an already accredited agency) and then formatting it for review by the entire department. Each policy is then acknowledged and signed off on to ensure accurate accountability from every member.

We have incorporated roughly one hundred (100) of the new policies into our department, phasing out older outdated versions for the modernized model that will ultimately allow us to follow through on the accreditation process. It is anticipated that the policy update will continue to streamline operations with best practices as we approach the next phase of the accreditation process.

We have transitioned to more documentation, more accountability and more detailed record keeping, following State mandates for Internal Affairs documentation and reporting. This adds transparency and ownership to the professional standards we are implementing.

- **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 2022 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 Round-Up:**

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. Beverly, Town Clerk

Robert A. Jones, Registrar

Mark Windover, Registrar

Kurt Gabel, Registrar

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, 2022 – 5,021

Democrat (D) – 2,274

Republican (R) – 236

Unenrolled (U) – 2,486

Libertarian (L) – 10

Conservative (A) - 1

United Independent Party (CC) – 5

Socialist (S)– 1

American Independent Party (Q) – 1

Pirate Party (X) – 1

MA Independent Party (O) – 1

Green Party USA (G) – 1

Working Families (Z) – 3

Other (FF) - 1

Dog Licenses Issued – 2022

Male	52
Female	44
Neutered Male	205
Spayed Female	247
Kennel License (4 dogs)	0
Kennel License (10 dogs)	0

Net Value of Licenses	\$ 3,412.00
Late Fees	\$ 110.00
Gross Value of Dog License	\$ 3,522.00

Vital Records Recorded in 2022

Births	12
Marriage Intentions	43
Marriage Licenses	42
Deaths	101

Certificates & Certified Copies Issued per Request in 2022

Business Certificates	28
Certified Birth Certificates Issued	61
Certified Marriage Certificates Issued	76
Certified Death Certificates Issued	506

**TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
FISCAL YEAR
JULY 1, 2022 to JUNE 30, 2023
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Berkshire, ss:

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

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Williamstown qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet at Williamstown Elementary School, 115 Church Street, in said Williamstown on TUESDAY, THE TENTH OF MAY 2022 at SEVEN O'CLOCK A.M. for the following purpose:

To bring their votes to the election of officers for the election of all Town Officers
The polls will be opened at 7:00 o'clock A.M. and will close at 8:00 o'clock P.M.
And furthermore to meet at Williamstown Elementary School, 115 Church Street, on TUESDAY, THE SEVENTEENTH DAY OF MAY 2022 AT SEVEN O'CLOCK P.M. for the following purpose:

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

Minutes from May 17, 2022:

Town Meeting was opened by Moderator, Adam Filson at 7:06PM. A motion was made from the floor by Alison Case to adjourn and reconvene Town Meeting at June 14, 2022, 7PM at Mt. Greylock's gymnasium due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Voters did not feel safe at the Williamstown Elementary School gymnasium because they believe it is too small for a large crowd and has poor ventilation. This motion was seconded. Masks were mandated by court order for May 17, 2022 due to a temporary restraining order filed by Janice Loux of 1195 Green River Road in Williamstown in Berkshire Superior Court in the morning of May 17, 2022. The temporary restraining order was filed against the Town of Williamstown and specifically against the Moderator - Adam Filson, Town Clerk - Nicole Beverly, Interim Town Manager – Charles Blanchard, Health Inspector – Jeffrey Kennedy and Select Board Members – Andrew Hogeland, Hugh Daley, Jane Patton, Jeffrey Johnson and Wade Hasty. Judge Hogan denied the temporary restraining order to restrict Town Meeting from taking place on May 17, 2022 but did mandate masks for Town Meeting. Tony Boskovich proposed to amend the motion to holding Town Meeting before May 24, 2022 at Mt. Greylock but motion was ruled out of order due to not knowing Mt. Greylock's availability. A standing vote was taken on the original motion and passed by majority vote, 149 in favor and 49 against. Town Meeting will reconvene on June 14, 2022 at the Mt. Greylock gymnasium. Town Meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm by the Moderator.

243 registered voters checked into Town Meeting on May 17, 2022 which is 4.9% of registered voters.

Minutes from June 14, 2022:

Proceeding: Moderator Adam Filson opened the Annual Town Meeting at 7:03 PM on June 14, 2022 at Mt. Greylock Regional Schools' gymnasium. This meeting was Adam Filson's last meeting as Town Moderator. Elisabeth (Beth) Goodman will take over in 2023. Beth is the first female Moderator in Town history.

Andrew Hogeland represented the Select Board as Chair.

Melissa Cragg represented the Finance Committee as Chair.

Peter Beck represented the Planning Board as Vice Chair. Due to the delay of Town Meeting to June 14th, Chris Winters, former Chair, had cycled off the Planning Board.

Jane Patton represented the Community Preservation Committee.

Anne Skinner, presented the League of Women Voters Town Employee Award to Kenneth McAlpine of the Department of Public Works.

The Moderator announced the recipient of the Scarborough, Solomon & Flynt Community Award - Anne O'Connor.

Three hundred and twenty-seven (327) registered voters checked into Town Meeting which is 6.7% of registered voters.

•
ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICERS
•

Article 1. To choose two Select Board members, each for a three-year term; four Library Trustee members, each for a three year term; one Planning Board member for a five year term; one Moderator for a three year term and one Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School Committee member for a three year term. *The election occurs on May 10, 2022 after this document has gone to press. Election results are posted on the town website www.williamstownma.gov.*

•
REPORTS OF TOWN COMMITTEES
•

Article 2. 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.

Proceeding: The Select Board Chair moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 2. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 2 passed unanimously.

TO APPLY UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE TO REDUCE THE TAX RATE

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance to reduce the tax rate, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance to reduce the tax rate.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Town customarily applies excess receipts and unused appropriations of the previous fiscal year (Unreserved Fund Balance a/k/a "Free Cash") to reduce the tax rate.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, 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. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 3 passed unanimously.

APPROPRIATION FOR DEBT SERVICE

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$675,388.50 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 Outstanding 7/1/22</i>	<i>FY2023 Principal and Interest</i>
Elementary School	2005	3	\$ 585,000	\$213,700.00
Police Station	2018	16	\$4,160,000	\$343,987.50
Cable Mills	2015	3	\$ 330,000	\$117,700.00

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$557,687.50 from taxation and \$117,700 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund.

The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Each of the above items is a bond issue the Town has committed to repay over the number of years remaining as indicated.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$557,687.50 from taxation, \$117,700 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 4 passed unanimously.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$1,120,815 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>
Hart Landfill - Engineering Services	Public Works	\$ 91,600
Front St - Mill/Pave/Curbing	Highway	\$ 69,800
John St - Mill/Pave/Curbing	Highway	\$ 48,800
Manning St - Mill/Pave/Curbing	Highway	\$ 51,400
Brook Rd Overlay	Highway	\$ 86,000
Pickup 4x4	Facilities	\$ 48,000
Pickup Double Cab	Parks	\$ 54,000
Commercial Mower	Parks	\$ 18,000
Energy Efficient Lighting	Library	\$ 27,215
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>\$ 494,815</i>
Replace Tractor Camera	Sewer	\$ 85,000
Hoosac River Bank Stabilization/ Sewer Line Relocation	Sewer	\$ 210,000
Simonds Rd Lift Station Rehab	Sewer	\$ 70,000
4x4 Utility Body & Crane (50%)	Sewer	\$ 58,000
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>\$ 423,000</i>
Cleaning Wells 1A, 3	Water	\$ 105,000
Rattlesnake Reservoir Mechanical Rehab	Water	\$ 40,000
4x4 Utility Body & Crane (50%)	Water	\$ 58,000
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>\$ 203,000</i>
Total Capital		\$ 1,120,815

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$494,815, that \$423,000 be transferred from Estimated Sewer Receipts and that \$203,000 be transferred from Estimated Water Receipts.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 1.

Public Works, Highway, Facilities, Parks and Library items are funded by Unreserved Fund Balance a/k/a "Free Cash" transfers. Sewer and Water Department items are funded by user fees.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$494,815, that \$423,000 be transferred from Estimated Sewer Receipts, and that \$203,000 be transferred from Estimated Water Receipts. The Moderator declared article 5 passed by majority vote.

SEWER DEPARTMENT

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Sewer Receipts the sum of \$1,263,881.10 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.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,163,881.10 from Estimated Sewer Receipts and the sum of \$100,000 from Sewer Fund Unreserved Fund Balance.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The sewer rate will increase from the FY22 rate of \$2.55 to \$3.31 for FY23. This is a \$.76 increase. The HWQD rate will increase from the FY22 rate of \$3.40 to \$4.21 for FY23 This is a \$.81 increase. The Sewer Department is an Enterprise Fund. All expenses related to the operation of the department are paid by user fees rather than taxation.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,163,881.10 from Estimated Sewer Receipts and the sum of \$100,000 from Sewer Fund Unreserved Fund Balance. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 6 passed unanimously.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Water Receipts the sum of \$698,058.52 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.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$670,058.52 from Estimated Water Receipts and the sum of \$28,000 from Water Fund Unreserved Fund Balance.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The water rate will increase from the FY22 rate of 3.70 to \$3.85 for FY23. This is a \$.15 increase. The Water Department is an Enterprise Fund. All expenses of the Department are paid by user fees, not taxation.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$670,058.52 from Estimated Water Receipts and the sum of \$28,000 from Water Fund Unreserved Fund Balance. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 7 passed by majority vote.

WATER RATE

Article 8. 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 \$3.85 per 100 cubic feet of water as fixed by the Select Board at their meeting of April 11, 2022 to be effective July 1, 2022, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to approve a municipal water rate of \$3.85 per 100 cubic feet.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

This is an increase of \$.15 from the previous year

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to approve a municipal water rate of \$3.85 per 100 cubic feet. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 8 passed by majority vote.

WATER PUMP STATION UPGRADE

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$2,500,000.00 from the Water Fund Unreserved Fund Balance for the redevelopment of Well #2 and the upgrade of the Pump Station and Chemical Feed Buildings and structural improvements including insulation, floor replacement, roofing, weatherproofing and process improvements including the replacement of well pump, motor, variable frequency drive and controls, chemical feeder systems, analyzers, controls and electrical service to buildings.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

This project has been anticipated for several years with the Water Unreserved Fund Balance built up to the current level of \$3.2 million for this work.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$2,500,000.00 from the Water Fund Unreserved Fund Balance. Wendy Penner asked about the efficiency of the new pump station due to passing the net zero resolution at the 2021 Annual Town Meeting. DPW Director, Chris Lemoine explained the new water pump station will be 60% more efficient than the current one. The current pump station was installed in 1963. There being no further discussion, the Moderator declared article 9 passed unanimously.

TRANSFER STATION DEPARTMENT

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts or other available funds the sum of \$252,837 or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the Transfer Station Department, including costs of public trash removal or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$232,837 from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts and \$20,000 from general taxation.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Transfer Station is an Enterprise Fund.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$232,837 from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts and \$20,000 from general taxation. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 10 passed unanimously.

CHAPTER 90 HIGHWAY FUNDS

Article 11. 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.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Chapter 90 funds are distributed by the State for approved highway projects. The Town is required to spend the money before being reimbursed by the state. Since the Town cannot spend money it does not have, this article authorizes the Treasurer to borrow money in anticipation of receiving the Chapter 90 reimbursement from the Commonwealth.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 11. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 11 passed unanimously. Just after the vote, I was approached by a voter who stated she was voting against the article and the Moderator didn't see her. She didn't speak and raised her card only. The Moderator was informed and voters were then reminded they must say "aye" or "no" in addition to raising your voter card.

TO FUND OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds the sum of \$50,000 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.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$46,500 from Unreserved Fund Balance; that \$2,400 be appropriated from Estimated Water Receipts; that \$900 be appropriated from Estimated Sewer Receipts; and that \$200 be appropriated from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts to the OPEB Trust Fund.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Last year's appropriation of \$50,000 continued the process to put the Town on a pay-as-you-go basis for Other Post-Employment Benefits, primarily health insurance for retirees. This funding is important to maintain our Aa1 bond rating.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$46,500 from Unreserved Fund Balance; that \$2,400 be appropriated from Estimated Water Receipts; that \$900 be appropriated from Estimated Sewer Receipts; and that \$200 be appropriated from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts to the OPEB Trust Fund. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared article 12 passed unanimously.

APPROPRIATION TO COMPENSATED BALANCES RESERVE FUND

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$50,000 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.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$50,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance to Compensated Balances Reserve Fund.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

This appropriation sets aside funds to meet our legal obligation to pay accrued employee benefits upon separation from the Town's employment.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$50,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance to Compensated Balances Reserve Fund. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 13 passed unanimously.

APPROPRIATION TO STABILIZATION FUND

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$50,000 to the Stabilization Fund.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$50,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance to the Stabilization Fund.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

This appropriation starts to replenish funds that have been used from the Stabilization Fund over the past few Fiscal Years.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$50,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance to the Stabilization Fund. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 14 passed unanimously.

REVOLVING FUND SPENDING LIMITS

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to set annual spending limits for revolving funds for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, under the provisions of MGL 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

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to set annual spending limits for revolving funds for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law chapter 44, §53E½. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 15 passed unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$9,313,794.56 or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, and for charges, expenses and outlays of the several Town Departments, namely:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2022</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2023</u>
Executive	\$323,916.00	\$483,042.28
Administration and Finance	\$3,285,482.37	\$3,494,723.49
Community Development	\$424,274.64	\$446,494.42
Public Safety	\$1,526,464.64	\$1,625,746.29
Public Works	\$2,187,550.49	\$2,353,246.49
Human Services	\$922,969.93	\$910,541.59
Total	\$8,670,658.07	\$9,313,794.56

The Finance Committee recommends by a vote of 8 - 1 - 0, the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$9,089,790.56 from taxation; that \$117,081 be appropriated from Estimated Water Receipts; that \$82,219 be appropriated from Estimated Sewer Receipts; that \$9,704 be appropriated from Cemetery Perpetual Care Trust Fund; and that \$15,000 be appropriated from the Sherman Burbank Memorial Trust.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article with appropriations as shown above by a vote of 4 - 1.

The General Government appropriation is a 7.4% increase over the current year.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$9,089,790.56 from taxation; that \$117,081 be appropriated from Estimated Water Receipts; that \$82,219 be appropriated from Estimated Sewer Receipts; that \$9,704 be appropriated from Cemetery Perpetual Care Trust Fund; and that \$15,000 be appropriated from the Sherman Burbank Memorial Trust. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 16 passed unanimously.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RESERVE FUND

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$75,000** for the Finance Committee Reserve Fund, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee recommends by a vote of 8 - 1 - 0, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 for the Finance Committee Reserve Fund.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 1.

The Reserve Fund is established under G.L. c. 40 § 6 to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures authorized by the Finance Committee.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 for the Finance Committee Reserve Fund. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 17 passed by majority vote.

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$12,853,354.95 or any other sum, being Williamstown’s share of the Mount Greylock Regional School District FY23 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>FY2022</i>	<i>FY2023</i>
Operating Assessment	\$11,315,860.08	\$11,817,421.95
Capital Assessment	\$ 1,031,134.00	\$ 1,035,933.00
Total Assessment	\$12,346,994.08	\$12,853,354.95

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,853,354.95 from taxation.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Williamstown assessment is a combined budget of the Elementary School and Mount Greylock Regional School due to regionalization. The capital assessment includes debt repayment for the high school renovation as approved in March 2016, and excluded from the levy limit. This bond was for a term of 30 years. The portion of operating assessment attributable to

Williamstown Elementary School is \$5,924,127.86 and the portion attributable to Mount Greylock Regional School is \$5,893,294.09.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,853,354.95 from taxation. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 18 passed unanimously.

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$322,418 or any other sum, being Williamstown’s share of the Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District FY23 budget, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$322,418 from taxation.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

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

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$322,418 from taxation. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 19 passed unanimously.

FUNDING FOR CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION STUDY

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$35,000 from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance to conduct a comprehensive compensation and classification study to ensure internal and external pay equity; and to provide consistency between departments with regard to comparable pay ranges.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$35,000 for the Classification and Compensation Study.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The recently completed Human Resources Audit strongly recommended that this study be done since the last time Williamstown conducted one was in 1998. The D.I.R.E. Committee endorses this recommendation since it will help reach the Town’s goal for equity in the workplace.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$35,000 for the Classification and Compensation Study. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 20 passed unanimously.

WILLIAMSTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 6A to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$50,000 for the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce to advertise the Town’s resources, advantages, and attractions, in accordance with the application submitted to the Finance 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.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$50,000 for the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The appropriation for the Chamber of Commerce is intended to promote tourism.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$50,000 for the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce. Amy Jeschawitz confirmed the dollar amount requested is based on a percentage of hospitality and meals tax and asked if the \$50,000 is the cap. Ms. Cragg, as Chair of the Finance Committee, confirmed this is the cap. Dan Caplinger asked if there was any formal grant agreement that was entered into. The Select Board did not know the answer to this question. Dan pointed out he was asking because the language in the warrant for this article was similar. Susan Briggs, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce stated a formal agreement was not entered into last year, but the Chamber and the Town did discuss each expenditure. There being no further discussion, the Moderator then declared article 21 passed by majority vote.

WILLIAMSTOWN YOUTH CENTER

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$77,000 for the Williamstown Youth Center to provide youth recreation services, in accordance with the application submitted to the Finance 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.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$77,000 to support the Williamstown Youth Center.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Youth Center appropriation is unchanged from the current year.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$77,000 to support the Williamstown Youth Center. Dan Caplinger asked if there was any formal grant agreement that was entered into. The Moderator asked if there was anybody in attendance from the Youth Center to answer this question and there was not. There being no further discussion, the Moderator then declared article 22 passed by majority vote.

SAND SPRINGS RECREATIONAL CENTER

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$19,000 for the Sand Springs Recreational Center to provide recreation services for Williamstown residents, in accordance with the application submitted to the Finance 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.

The Finance Committee recommends by a vote of 8 - 1 - 0, the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$19,000 to support Sand Springs Recreational Center.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 3 - 2.

The Sand Springs appropriation is unchanged from the current year.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$19,000 to support Sand Springs Recreational Center. Dan Caplinger asked if there was any formal grant agreement that was entered into between the Town and Sand Springs. Interim Executive Director of Sand Springs, Geraldine Shen stated what was done in the past beginning in 2018 when she was Executive Director of Sand Springs. She stated an application was submitted to the Town on what Sand Springs would do with the

funds and once the funds were received Sand Springs reported back to the Town on the steps outlined in the application. This application had terms and conditions as well as a supplemental letter. Natalia Romano proposed an amendment to require a quarterly update on the terms and conditions. The motion to amend failed by insufficient vote. The Moderator then declared article 23 passed by majority vote.

WILLIAMSTOWN COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$50,000 for the Williamstown Community Preschool to provide preschool services for Williamstown residents, in accordance with the application submitted to the Finance 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.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$50,000 to support Williamstown Community Preschool.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Community Preschool appropriation is unchanged from the current year.

Proceeding: The Chairman of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$50,000 to support Williamstown Community Preschool. Dan Caplinger asked if there was any formal grant agreement between the Town and the Preschool. Katherine Myers spoke as a Member of the Preschool Board and stated she was not sure if such agreement had been made but assumed it had because the Preschool would not have been able to receive the funds without it. Hugh Daley, Vice Chair of the Select Board spoke up and informed us he received a text from Interim Town Manager Blanchard stating draft grant agreements have been prepared and they are awaiting the authorization of these articles at Town Meeting. He also stated he was not sure if grant agreements had been executed in previous years as he was not here then. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator then declared article 24 passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-COMMITTEE EXPENSES

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2023 Community Preservation budget, and to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2023 estimated annual revenues the sum of \$5,000 to meet the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2023 or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 1.

Proceeding: Jane Patton, as the member representing the Community Preservation Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2023 Community Preservation budget, and to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2023 estimated annual revenues the sum of \$5,000 to meet the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2023. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 25 passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-AFFORDABLE HOUSING (CABLE MILLS)

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to borrow and appropriate or transfer from available funds under the Community Preservation Act for the purposes of creating and supporting affordable community housing the amount of \$400,000 to

fund a grant to 250 Water LLC to be used for the construction of no less than twenty-seven (27) units of deed restricted affordable housing in perpetuity, consisting of no fewer than eight of which at 30% and nineteen of which at 60% of Area Median Income, all at land known as Cable Mills located at 160 Water Street and shown as Assessor's Parcel 121-91, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a grant agreement with 250 Water LLC outlining the purposes for and the conditions upon which these funds may be expended, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen or its designees to accept one or more deed restrictions on said property meeting the requirements of G. L. c. 184, Section 31, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Community Preservation Committee recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 6 - 1 - 0

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Proceeding: Jane Patton, as the member representing the Community Preservation Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to borrow and appropriate or transfer from available funds under the Community Preservation Act for the purposes of creating and supporting affordable community housing the amount of \$400,000 to fund a grant to 250 Water LLC to be used for the construction of no less than twenty-seven (27) units of deed restricted affordable housing in perpetuity, consisting of no fewer than eight of which at 30% and nineteen of which at 60% of Area Median Income, all at land known as Cable Mills located at 160 Water Street and shown as Assessor's Parcel 121-91, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a grant agreement with 250 Water LLC outlining the purposes for and the conditions upon which these funds may be expended, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen or its designees to accept one or more deed restrictions on said property meeting the requirements of G. L. c. 184, Section 31, or take any other action in relation thereto. There was discussion on this article. This article was then called to question which passed by supermajority vote. A voice vote was taken on the article and the Moderator declared article 26 passed by majority vote. After the meeting, a question was raised pertaining to the quantum of vote for the article. The Moderator then changed his declaration of the vote to be passed by supermajority. This change is based on a review of a video recording of the meeting.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2023 estimated annual revenues, for affordable housing purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$100,000 to fund a grant to the Williamstown Affordable Housing Trust in unrestricted funds for initiatives and programs related to furthering affordable housing in Williamstown, in accordance with the application 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, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 0 - 1.

Proceeding: Jane Patton, as the member representing the Community Preservation Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2023 estimated annual revenues, for affordable housing purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$100,000 to fund a grant to the Williamstown Affordable Housing Trust in unrestricted funds for initiatives and programs related to furthering affordable housing in Williamstown, in accordance with the application 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, or take any other action in relation thereto. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 27 passed by majority vote.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-HISTORIC PRESERVATION (STORE AT FIVE CORNERS STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION, INC.)

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2023 estimated annual revenues under the Community Preservation Act the sum of \$50,000, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2024, to fund a grant to The Store at Five Corners Stewardship Association, Inc., for historic preservation purposes with respect to the existing Store at Five Corners, 6 New Ashford Road, Williamstown, MA, 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.

The Community Preservation Committee recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 3 - 0.

The Finance Committee recommends by a vote of 5 - 3 - 1 the adoption of this article.

The Select Board recommends against the adoption of this article by a vote of 0 - 2 - 3.

Proceeding: Jane Patton, as the member representing the Community Preservation Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2023 estimated annual revenues under the Community Preservation Act the sum of \$50,000, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2024, to fund a grant to The Store at Five Corners Stewardship Association, Inc., for historic preservation purposes with respect to the existing Store at Five Corners, 6 New Ashford Road, Williamstown, MA, 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. A motion was made on this article to call the question which passed by supermajority vote. A voice vote was taken on the article and the Moderator declared article 28 passed by majority vote.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-HISTORIC PRESERVATION (WILLIAMSTOWN MEETINGHOUSE PRESERVATION FUND, INC.)

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2023 estimated annual revenues, for historic preservation purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$50,000, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2024, to fund a grant to the Williamstown Meetinghouse Preservation Fund, Inc., to renovate and preserve in the future the structure known as the Meetinghouse, currently owned by First Congregational Church of Williamstown, 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.

The Community Preservation Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Finance Committee recommends by a vote of 6 - 1 - 2 the adoption of this article.

The Select Board gives no recommendation on this article by a vote of 2 - 2 - 1.

Proceeding: Jane Patton, as the member representing the Community Preservation Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY 2023 estimated annual revenues, for historic preservation purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$50,000, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2024, to fund a grant to the Williamstown Meetinghouse Preservation Fund, Inc., to renovate and preserve in the future the structure known as the Meetinghouse, currently owned by First Congregational

Church of Williamstown, 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. The Moderator then declared article 29 passed by majority vote.

**SPECIAL LEGISLATION FOR CHARTER AMENDMENT-
TOWN MANAGER RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT AND PRIOR OFFICE RESTRICTION**

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to petition the General Court for special legislation to (a) remove the requirement that the Town Manager must be a resident of the Town and/or (b) remove the prohibition preventing any current town official from being appointed the Town Manager; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court which are within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition; or take any other action in relation thereto.

The petition for special legislation shall take substantially the following form:

An Act Amending the Town of Williamstown Home Rule Charter

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 11 of the charter of the town of Williamstown, which is on file in the office of the archivist of the commonwealth, as provided in section 12 of chapter 43B of the general laws, is hereby amended by striking the third sentence of said section which reads, "He need not be a resident of the town or of the commonwealth when appointed, and shall not, during the 12 months prior to his appointment, have held any elective or appointive office in the Town of Williamstown, other than the office of Assistant Town Manager, if any."

SECTION 2. Section 11 of said charter is hereby amended by striking the fourth sentence of said section which reads, "The Town Manager shall be a resident of the town during the term of his office." and inserting in place thereof, "The Town Manager need not be a resident of the town during the term of his/her office."

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 1.

Proceeding: Andrew Hogeland, Chair of the Select Board moved this article and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 30. There was a little discussion on this article and after a vote was taken the Moderator declared article 30 passed by majority vote.

**SPECIAL LEGISLATION FOR CHARTER AMENDMENT-
GENDER-NEUTRAL WORDING**

Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to petition the General court for special legislation establishing a gender-neutral Town Charter by replacing the terms: 1) "Board of Selectmen" with "Select Board"; 2) "Selectman" with "Select Board Member"; 3) "Selectmen" with "Select Board Members"; and 4) "Chairman" with "Chair", in each and every instance in which said terms appear; and to replace all gendered terms with gender-neutral terms, without changing the meaning of said terms; or to take any action related thereto.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Proceeding: Andrew Hogeland, Chair of the Select Board moved this article and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 31. Natalia Romano presented an amendment. She suggested in part 4 to change "Chair" to "Chairperson". This amendment passed by majority vote. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator declared article 31 as amended passed by majority vote.

**GENERAL AND ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT-
GENDER-NEUTRAL WORDING**

Article 32. To see if the Town will vote to amend the General and Zoning Bylaws of the Town to replace the terms: 1) “Board of Selectmen” with “Select Board”; 2) “Selectman” with “Select Board Member”; 3) “Selectmen” with “ Select Board Members”; and 4) “Chairman” with “Chair”, in each and every instance in which such terms appear; and to replace all gendered terms with gender-neutral terms, without changing the meaning of said terms; and further, to authorize the Town Clerk to make non-substantive, ministerial revisions to ensure that grammar, gender, and numerical issues in related text are revised to properly reflect such change in title; or to take any action related thereto.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Proceeding: Andrew Hogeland, Chair of the Select Board moved this article and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 32. Because the Planning Board has not held the required public hearing on amending the Zoning Bylaws with gender-neutral terms, the Select Board recommends the adoption of this article with the exclusion of the phrase “and Zoning” in the first line. A motion was made by Michael Miller to amend the article in part 4 to change “Chair” to “Chairperson” as was done in article 31. The vote on the amendment passed by majority vote. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator then declared article 32 as amended, passed unanimously.

SPECIAL LEGISLATION FOR TWO ADDITIONAL SECTION 15 WINE AND MALT LICENSES

Article 33. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation to allow for two additional alcoholic beverages licenses for the sale of wine and malt beverages to be drunk off the premises or take any other action related thereto.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 2 - 1 - 2.

Proceeding: Andrew Hogeland, Chair of the Select Board moved this article and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 33. The Moderator declared article 33 passed by majority vote.

SPECIAL LEGISLATION FOR ADDITIONAL SECTION 15 ALL ALCOHOLIC LICENSE

Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation to allow for an additional alcoholic beverages license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk off the premises or take any other action related thereto.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 1.

Proceeding: Andrew Hogeland, Chair of the Select Board moved this article and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 34. The Moderator declared article 34 passed by majority vote.

REVISION TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND SECTION 6-1 OF THE BY-LAWS

Article 35. To see if the Town will vote to revise Section 6-1 of the Bylaws of the Town of Williamstown by adding the bold, italics language below or take any action in relation thereto.

§ 6-1 Purpose.

The purpose of the Williamstown Affordable Housing Trust shall be to provide for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in the Town of Williamstown for the benefit of low- and moderate-income households *and for the funding of community housing, as defined in and in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws chapter 44B. Without limiting the foregoing, such purposes shall include the acquisition, creation, preservation and support of community housing.*

The purpose of the proposed revisions to Section 6-1 are to make clear that the Williamstown Affordable Housing Trust Fund has the full range of powers and authorities available to it under its enabling statute, M.G.L. c 44, Section 55C; and to make clear it likewise is authorized to accept Community Preservation Act funds for the full array of statutory purposes available under the Community preservation Act, M.G.L. c44B, Section 5(b)(2).

The proposed revision to Section 6-1 of the Town Code adds a phrase from M.G.L. c 44, Section 55C to the end of the first sentence of §6-1; and adds a new, second sentence to §6-1 using the language of M.G.L. c44B, Section 5(b)(2).

M.G.L. c 44, Section 55C is the enabling statute for municipal affordable housing trust funds. It is the statute by which the Williamstown Affordable Housing Trust Fund was created. The phrase to be added to the first sentence of §6-1 incorporates the full language of Chapter 44, Section 55C subsection (a), second sentence, which reads:

*“The purpose of the trust is to provide for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in municipalities for the benefit of low and moderate income households and **for the funding of community housing, as defined in and in accordance with the provisions of chapter 44B.**”*

*The proposed new, second sentence of §6-1 is taken directly from the Community Preservation Act, M.G.L. c Chapter 44B, Section 5(b)(2), which gives the Community Preservation Committee the authority to make recommendations to Town Meeting: “**for the acquisition, creation, preservation and support of community housing**”.*

The Affordable Housing Trust Fund Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 0 - 1

Proceeding: Andrew Hogeland, Chair of the Select Board moved this article and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 35. The Moderator declared article 35 passed by majority vote.

REVISION TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND SECTION 6-2.B OF THE BY-LAWS

Article 36. To see if the Town will vote to revise Section 6-2.B of the Code of the Town of Williamstown by deleting the language shown below with a strikethrough line, and by adding the language in bold italics or take any action in relation thereto.

§ 6-2 Composition and tenure of Trustees.

B. Composition. One of the Trustees shall be a member of the Board of Selectmen, ~~one a member of the Williamstown Affordable Housing Committee,~~ and ~~three~~ **four** to ~~five~~ **six** residents who would bring to the Trust relevant experience and expertise, such as in real estate, housing, banking, fundraising, or the like. Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the Board of Selectmen from appointing the Town Manager as an ex-officio additional member, without the power to vote.

The members of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund board currently are also appointed members of the Affordable Housing Committee, making reference to the Affordable Housing Committee a redundancy. Prior to their appointment to the Affordable Housing Committee, that committee had been dormant for several years.

The Affordable Housing Trust Fund Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 0 - 1.

Proceeding: Andrew Hogeland, Chair of the Select Board moved this article and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 36. The Moderator declared article 36 passed unanimously.

REVISION TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND SECTION 6-3.A OF THE BY-LAWS

Article 37. To see if the Town will vote to revise Section 6-3.A of the Code of the Town of Williamstown by adding the bold, italics language below (new subsections 13 and 14) or take any action in relation thereto.

§ 6-3 Powers of trust.

A. Powers. The powers of the Board, all of which shall be carried on in furtherance of the purposes set forth in this act, shall include the following powers, subject to the limitations set forth in § 6-3B:

- (1) To solicit and accept grants, gifts, devices, and bequests, or otherwise acquire real or personal property.
- (2) To invest any of the Trust property in such manner as they may deem advisable without being limited as to the kind or amount of any investment.
- (3) To sell and exchange any real personal property or any interest therein for such consideration and upon such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.
- (4) To join with others in the acquisition of real property or any interest therein.
- (5) To borrow money and mortgage or pledge any part of the Trust estate assets and issue notes or other indebtedness.
- (6) To join with others in borrowings, mortgages and pledges, and to guarantee and become surety on obligations of others in transactions in which the Trust has an interest.
- (7) To execute, as lessor or lessee, leases, including for terms expiring after the possible expiration of the Trust.
- (8) To restore, construct, repair and maintain buildings and to make other improvements and establish such reserves as they deem necessary therefor.
- (9) To pay, compromise or adjust all obligations incurred and rights acquired in the administration of the Trust.
- (10) To obtain advice of counsel and to rely thereon.
- (11) To employ such other persons, agents, staff, brokers, managers, accountants, or advisors as they may deem advisable and to pay reasonable compensation and expenses, apportioning same between income and principal as the Board deems advisable; and
- (12) To execute, acknowledge, and deliver all such contracts, deeds, mortgages, leases, discharges, and partial releases of mortgages or other instruments as they may deem advisable in the course of the administration of the Trust.
- (13) To engage in all Community Preservation Act (M.G.L. Chapter 44B)-eligible activities.***
- (14) To execute a grant agreement that includes all Community Preservation Act (M.G.L. Chapter 44B)-eligible activities.***

Proposed subsection (13) is to match the proposed amendments to Section 6-1. Proposed subsection (14) is recommended by the Massachusetts Housing Partnership's Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Operations Manual (11/15).

The Affordable Housing Trust Fund Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 0 - 1.

Proceeding: Andrew Hogeland, Chair of the Select Board moved this article and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 37. The Moderator declared article 37 passed unanimously.

PLANNING BOARD- CLARIFICATION OF PURPOSE

Article 38. 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 §70-1.2 Purposes by adding the following underlined language.

The purposes of this chapter are to promote the health, safety, convenience and general welfare of the inhabitants of the Town of Williamstown; to promote a diverse and affordable mix of housing types; to protect and conserve the value of property within the Town; to preserve and increase the beauty and amenities of the Town; to conserve, insofar as possible,

natural conditions and to secure safety from fire, congestion or confusion, by encouraging the most appropriate uses of land within the Town in accord with the objectives expressed in Section 2A of Chapter 808 of the Acts of 1975 and the provisions of Chapter 40A of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Zoning is the primary tool that regulates land use which, in turn, can influence housing diversity and affordability. Since housing is a critical land use issue it seems important to be explicit about that in the purpose section of the zoning bylaws.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends Town Meeting adopt this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Proceeding: Peter Beck, Vice Chair of the Planning Board moved this article and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 38. The Moderator declared article 38 passed unanimously.

PLANNING BOARD - REMOVING BARRIERS TO DUPLEXES

Article 39. Amend §70-3.3.A.1 Residential Uses by removing footnote 2 (which requires a Zoning Board finding for new construction) from the by-right approval for Two Family Dwellings in RR2.

Amend §70-4.2.E.(1) by deleting “(1) New (not converted) two-family dwellings must have lot area equaling 50% more than that required at that location for a single-family dwelling”, and then renumbering the remaining section.

The first section of this proposal would remove a footnote that modifies the by-right nature of duplexes in the RR zone by calling for the ZBA to make an extraordinary finding of “no health, safety, or congestion problems” – a finding that is not required of the same type of dwelling in the General Residence Zone.

The second section of this proposal eliminates a requirement that new two-unit homes in all zones must have 150% of the required lot area of single unit homes. Since accessory dwelling units (detached or internal to existing home) do not require larger lots, this article will clarify and improve consistency of existing regulations.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends Town Meeting adopt this Article.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 0 - 1.

Proceeding: Peter Beck, Vice Chair of the Planning Board moved this article and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 39. The Moderator declared article 39 passed by supermajority.

PLANNING BOARD-REMOVING BARRIERS TO SMALL SCALE MULTI-UNIT HOMES IN GENERAL RESIDENCE

Article 40. Amend §70-3.3.A.1 Residential Uses, Use Table, by inserting the bold and underlined use and permissions;

	RR1	RR2 RR3	GR	LB	SG	VB	PB	LI
§ 70-3.3A Principal uses (See § 70-3.3B for accessory uses.)								
RESIDENTIAL USES <i>Single-family dwelling</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
<i>Two-family dwelling</i>	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
<u>Three- & four-family dwelling</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
<i>Detached accessory dwellings [See § 70-7.1D]</i>	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No

Amend §70-9.2 by adding the following;

DWELLING, THREE-FAMILY

A detached structure containing three dwelling units.

DWELLING, FOUR-FAMILY

A detached structure containing four dwelling units.

This proposal will allow Three and Four Unit Buildings in our General Residence Zone by right. These buildings are neighborhood scale and already exist in our community in multiple neighborhoods including South Street, Cole Ave, Southworth St, and Hoxsey St. These were built pre war before zoning came into effect and have been an accepted part of the fabric of Williamstown for years. This change will allow these “missing middle” housing types to be constructed again. They are at present allowed as “other multi family” and permissible only via special permit.

The Planning Board recommends Town Meeting adopt this Article by a vote of 4 to 1.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 1.

Proceeding: Peter Beck, Vice Chair of the Planning Board moved this article and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 40. Ken Kuttner made a motion to refer articles 40-41 and 43-46 back to committee (Planning Board). This motion was ruled out of order. Ken then revised the motion to refer article 40 back to committee which was allowed. Another motion was made after lengthy discussion to call the question. The motion to call the question passed by supermajority vote. The Moderator then declared the motion to refer article 40 back to committee then passed by standing majority vote of 176 in favor and 98 opposed.

PLANNING BOARD-REMOVING BARRIERS TO SMALL SCALE MULTI-UNIT HOMES IN RURAL RESIDENCE

Article 41. Amend §70-3.3.A.1 Residential Uses, Use Table, by Changing from No to Yes² the permission category for “Three and Four Family Dwellings” in the Rural Residence 2 & 3 Zoning Districts.

The change will also permit the types of housing units discussed in Article 37, three and four unit buildings, in the Rural Residence 2 & 3 Zones with a “finding” from the ZBA required of “no health, safety, or congestion problems”.

The Planning Board recommends Town Meeting adopt this Article by a vote of 3 to 2.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 3 - 2.

Proceeding: Peter Beck, Vice Chair of the Planning Board moved this article and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 41. Natalia Romano made a motion to refer articles 41 and 43-46 back to committee. Another motion was made after lengthy discussion to call the question. The motion to call the question passed unanimously. The Moderator then declared the motion to refer articles 41 and 43-46 back to committee then passed by standing majority vote of 181 in favor and 68 opposed.

PLANNING BOARD - DWELLING UNITS ABOVE NONCONFORMING BUSINESSES

Article 42. 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 §70-3.3.A.1 Residential Uses by changing the approval for “Dwelling units located above the first story of a nonresidential use” from NO to BA in the GR & RR2 / RR3 district columns.

This article will allow apartments to be built on upper floors of business uses in our residential zones. A prominent example of a business in a residential zone would be the Store at Five Corners.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends Town Meeting adopt this Article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Proceeding: Peter Beck, Vice Chair of the Planning Board moved this article and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 42. The Moderator declared Article 42 passed unanimously.

PLANNING BOARD - REMOVING BARRIERS TO SMALL SCALE MULTI UNIT HOMES

Article 43. 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 §70-7.1.G by increasing the allowable number of units to 24 from 16.

Amend §70-7.1.G by deleting sections §70-7.1.G.1(a), 1(b), & 1(f), and renumbering the remaining sections as necessary.

Amend §70-7.1.G.2(a) by reducing the distance a parking space is required to be from a building to 20 feet from 30 feet.

Amend §70-7.1.G.2(c) by reducing the distance required between buildings within a development from 40 feet to 30 feet.

Amend §70-7.1.G.3(a) by reducing the required amount of open space per unit to 1,000 SF from 1,500 SF and deleting the following language; (1,000 square feet for elderly developments under § 70-7.1E)

Amend §70-7.1.G.4 by deleting (c) floor area requirements.

This proposed amendment will remove special lot size and other dimensional requirements from multifamily developments of up to 24 units in the General Residence Zone. At present a building of 5 units requires over an acre of land. This will be reduced to the current zone-specific minimum lot size but remain controlled by the number of parking spaces and the amount of required open space per unit in the development. All these developments will remain only permissible through a Special Permit granted by Williamstown's Zoning Board of Appeals.

The Planning Board recommends Town Meeting adopt this Article by a vote of 4 to 1.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 1.

Proceeding: This article was referred back to Committee (Planning Board) by the motion and vote of article 41.

PLANNING BOARD- REDUCTION OF LOT DIMENSIONS, GENERAL RESIDENCE

Article 44. 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 § 70-4.3 Dimensional Schedule by replacing the struck through language with the underlined.

§70-4.3 DIMENSIONAL SCHEDULE

District	Min. Lot Area	Min. Lot Frontage (feet) [1]	MINIMUM YARDS (FEET)			Max % Bldg Cov.	Min % Open Sp.
			Front ²	Side	Rear		
General Residence	10,000 SF	100	30	15	15	20	-
	<u>6600 SF</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>		

This proposed amendment reduces the lot sizes, frontages, and yard requirements, in the General Residence District by approximately one third. Many of our existing neighborhoods including Lower Cole Avenue, Haley Village, Colonial Avenue & Berkshire Drive, and portions of the White Oaks could not be built under today’s rules requiring 100 feet of frontage and 10,000 sf of lot area. This proposal will allow these neighborhoods to evolve as they once did prior to zoning and will allow additional housing opportunities within other areas in an incremental manner that will not be out of character from our existing built environment

The Planning Board recommends Town Meeting adopt this Article by a vote of 4 to 1.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

Proceeding: This article was referred back to Committee (Planning Board) by the motion and vote of article 41.

PLANNING BOARD- REDUCTION OF LOT DIMENSIONS, RURAL RESIDENCE 2

Article 45. 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 § 70-4.3 Dimensional Schedule by replacing the struck through language with the underlined.

§70-4.3 DIMENSIONAL SCHEDULE

District	Min. Lot Area	Min. Lot Frontage (feet) [1]	MINIMUM YARDS (FEET)			Max % Bldg Cov.	Min % Open Sp.
			Front ²	Side	Rear		
Rural Residence 2	2-1/2 Acres³	150	50	25	25	-	50
	<u>1-2/3</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>		

This proposed amendment reduces the lot sizes, frontages, and yard requirements, in the Rural Residence 2 District by approximately one third, thereby opening up more rural land to residential housing development.

The Planning Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 3 to 2.

The Select Board may make a recommendation on this article at the Town Meeting.

Proceeding: This article was referred back to Committee (Planning Board) by the motion and vote of article 41.

PLANNING BOARD- UTILITY EXTENSION

Article 46. 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 §70-8.4 (D)(1)(a) by rewriting the existing language as follows by deleting the struck through and replacing with the underlined.

Providing adequate water, sewerage and drainage for this location should pose no unusual public problems, and ~~preferably would not result in~~ taking into the Board’s consideration any utility extension past undeveloped parcels.

This proposed amendment would allow the Zoning Board of Appeals to take under consideration the effects of extending utilities but would remove the suggestion that they look unfavorably on any such application to extend municipal water or sewer service.

The Planning Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 3 to 2.

The Select Board may make a recommendation on this article at the Town Meeting.

Proceeding: This article was referred back to Committee (Planning Board) by the motion and vote of article 41.

PLANNING BOARD- ASSISTED LIVING

Article 47. 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 (1) “Principal uses” (Residential uses) to change from No to BA in all zoning districts to allow conversion of hotels and nursing homes into Assisted living residences.

	RR1	RR2 RR3	GR	LB	SG	VB	PB	LI
§ 70-3.3A Principal uses (See § 70-3.3B for accessory uses.)								
<i>Assisted living residence</i>								
New construction or conversion of existing building (See § 70-7.1F.)	No	BA	BA	No	BA	No	No	No
Conversion of existing hotel, motel or nursing home (See § 70-7.1F.)	No BA	No BA	No BA	No BA	No BA	No BA	BA	No BA

This proposed amendment allows a developer to convert a former hotel or motel to an assisted living facility. This is currently not allowed. Williamstown has several under-utilized hospitality properties on the market today and a regional shortage of elderly housing options with on-site services. An example of a motel converted to assisted living can be seen in nearby Lanesborough on Route 7 across from the Town Hall & Mobil Gasoline Station.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends that Town Meeting adopt this article.

The Select Board may make a recommendation on this article at the Town Meeting.

Proceeding: Peter Beck, Vice Chair of the Planning Board moved this article and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 47. The Moderator declared article 47 passed unanimously.

CITIZENS PETITION - RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE FAIR SHARE AMENDMENT

Article 48.

WHEREAS, Massachusetts needed new investments in our transportation and public education systems even before the COVID-19 pandemic, and those investments are needed more than ever to lift our economy into an equitable and long-lasting recovery;

WHEREAS, the best way to help working families and rebuild a strong economy for us all is to make sure that we have quality public schools for our children, affordable public higher education, and a reliable transportation system; and

WHEREAS, for Massachusetts to compete against other regions around the nation and the globe, we need modern, reliable transportation: safer roads and bridges, public transportation that works, and safe ways to walk and bike around town¹; and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts has hundreds of structurally deficient bridges as well as overdue road repair and replacement projects; and

WHEREAS, students need a well-rounded education, founded on a rich and varied curriculum that includes science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), music, art, and athletics; and

WHEREAS, major investments in public education are needed to help students recover academically, socially, and emotionally from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, tuitions and fees at our public colleges and universities are among the highest in the country, forcing many students to take on enormous debt just to receive a degree; and

WHEREAS, new state revenue is necessary to rebuild crumbling roads and bridges, improve our public schools from Pre-K through college, expand access to vocational and technical training, invest in fast and reliable public transportation, make public higher education affordable again, and expand opportunities for healthy walking and bicycling; and

WHEREAS, wealthy Massachusetts residents saw their investments grow during the pandemic while working families struggled, and Massachusetts' wealthiest residents should pay their fair share to support our communities and grow our economy.

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Town of Williamstown supports the proposed Fair Share Amendment that would create an additional tax of four percentage points on annual income above one million dollars and dedicate the funds raised by this tax to quality public education, affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges, and public transportation.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 4 - 1.

Proceeding: Jim Mahon moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 48. This resolution will appear on the state ballot on November 8, 2022. Jim is working to get the fair share amendment adopted on the local level as other towns have done such as North Adams and Lee, MA. Amy Jeschawitz called the question and the motion was passed unanimously. The Moderator then declared article 48 passed by majority vote.

CITIZENS PETITION - "PUBLIC OFFICIAL STIPENDS"

Article 49.

Where as:

serving on Town Boards and Committees may create additional expenses such as childcare and meal preparation; and residents with higher household income can better afford such additional expenses; and

diversity among public officials makes government stronger; and

fewer barriers may increase the likelihood of residents from all income levels willing to serve on Town Boards and Committees; and

the current General Services Administration per diem travel meal and incidental expenses for Berkshire County is \$64; and

40 percent of \$64 is \$25.60

Therefore, be it resolved that:

The Town of Williamstown pay a stipend in the amount of forty percent of the General Services Administration per diem travel meal and incidental expenses for Berkshire County for each open meeting attended, unless a written request declining the stipend is received, to all members of Williamstown Boards and Committees.

The Select Board vote to recommend the adoption of this article failed by a vote of 1 in favor and 4 against.

Proceeding: Huff Templeton moved and it was seconded as amended, the Town vote to adopt article 49. Huff made an amendment before moving the article by adding the language "for a period of three years" to the last sentence in the last paragraph. The new paragraph reads: The Town of Williamstown pay a stipend in the amount of forty percent of the General Services Administration per diem travel meal and incidental expenses for Berkshire County for each open meeting attended, unless a written request declining the stipend is received, to all members of Williamstown Boards and Committees, for a period of three years. This article was called to question. After a standing count was taken, the Moderator declared this article failed due to insufficient vote of 42 in favor and 89 opposed.

Adjournment

Motion: There being no further business before the Town a motion was made, and seconded to adjourn the 2022 Annual Town Meeting. Following unanimous voice vote, the Moderator declared the meeting adjourned at 11:28 PM.

A true copy, attest:

Nicole E. Beverly

Nicole E. Beverly
Town Clerk

Williamstown Select Board

Date: April 11, 2022

Andrew Hogeland, chair
 Hugh Daley, vice chair
 Wade Hasty

Jane Patton
 Jeffrey Johnson

Approved by roll call vote at noticed Hybrid meeting of Select Board, April 11, 2022.

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

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

Berkshire, ss:

April 14, 2022

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

Randal Gaster
 Constable

4-14-22
 Date



ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION MAY 10, 2022				
SELECTBOARD (3 YEAR) (2)	PREC. 1	PREC. 2	PREC. 3	TOTAL
JANE PATTON	353	117	451	921
BILAL ANSARI	280	99	298	677
RANDAL FIPPINGER	349	112	420	881
WRITE INS	9	3	7	19

BLANKS	165	45	168	378
TOTAL	1156	376	1344	2876
MODERATOR (3 YEAR) (1)	<i>PREC. 1</i>	<i>PREC. 2</i>	<i>PREC. 3</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
ELISABETH GOODMAN	481	143	533	1157
WRITE INS	2	4	4	10
BLANKS	95	41	135	271
TOTAL	578	188	672	1438
LIBRARY TRUSTEE (3 YEAR) (4)	<i>PREC. 1</i>	<i>PREC. 2</i>	<i>PREC. 3</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
MICAH MANARY	320	96	382	798
BRIDGET SPANN	408	116	450	974
TIMOTHY CHERUBINI	234	56	278	568
ROBIN LENZ	272	88	353	713
HALE POLEBAUM-FREEMAN	169	63	273	505
WRITE INS	5	8	3	16
BLANKS	904	325	949	2178
TOTAL	2312	752	2688	5752
PLANNING BOARD (5 YEAR) (1)	<i>PREC. 1</i>	<i>PREC. 2</i>	<i>PREC. 3</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
CARIN DEMAYO-WALL	183	76	293	552
KENNETH KUTTNER	387	108	374	869
WRITE INS	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	8	4	5	17
TOTAL	578	188	672	1438
NO. BERK. VOCATIONAL SD (3 YEAR) (1)	<i>PREC. 1</i>	<i>PREC. 2</i>	<i>PREC. 3</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
DAVID WESTALL	493	148	542	1183
WRITE INS	2	1	2	5
BLANKS	83	39	128	250
TOTAL	578	188	672	1438

TREASURER / COLLECTOR*Rachel Vadnais, Treasurer*

Treasurer's Receipts		
For the year ending June 30, 2022		
Department	Description	Amount
<u>Tax and Excise</u>		
Treasurer-Collector	Personal Property	\$418,521.42
Treasurer-Collector	Real Estate Tax	\$18,137,109.96
Treasurer-Collector	Motor Vehicle Excise	\$714,226.81
Treasurer-Collector	Interest on Property Tax	\$26,426.99
Treasurer-Collector	Interest on MV Excise	\$3,906.98
Treasurer-Collector	Interest on Tax Liens	\$24,581.33
Treasurer-Collector	Tax Liens & Foreclosures	\$95,192.69
Treasurer-Collector	Payments in Lieu of Tax	\$86,324.94
Treasurer-Collector	Meals Tax	\$184,346.43
Treasurer-Collector	Hotel and Motel Tax	\$792,475.26
Treasurer-Collector	Community Preservation-State Match	\$114,880.00
Treasurer-Collector	Community Preservation Surcharge	\$275,406.80
Treasurer-Collector	Cannabis Local Option Excise	\$341,363.25
Total Tax and Excise		\$21,214,762.86
<u>Utility Charges</u>		
Sewer Department	Sewer Charges	\$1,219,320.17
Water Department	Water Charges	\$1,115,001.00
Landfill Department	Landfill Payments	\$33,605.12
Landfill Department	Landfill Stickers	\$98,400.00
Landfill Department	Landfill Bags	\$69,530.00
Total Utility Charges		\$2,535,856.29
<u>Other Charges for Services</u>		
Cemetery	Cemetery Interments	\$14,200.00
Police	Off-Duty Fees	\$156,842.50
Total Charges for Services		\$171,042.50
<u>Fees</u>		

Assessor	Fees	\$-
Community Development	Fees	\$1,305.00
Cemetery Department	Perpetual Care	\$4,850.00
Conservation Commission	Fees	\$4,035.31
Council on Aging	Fees	\$7,088.00
Energy Credits	Fees	\$7,605.12
Health Department	Fees	\$8,074.00
Highway	Fees	\$3,032.50
Historical Commission	Fees	\$-
Library	Fees	\$794.25
Landfill Department	Fees	\$2,921.50
Planning Board	Fees	\$1,295.00
Police Department	Fees	\$6,832.50
Police Department	Dispatch Services	\$67,843.46
Selectman	Fees	\$350.00
Treasurer - Collector	Cannabis Host Impact Fee	\$348,440.00
Sealer of Weights	Fees	\$500.00
Town Clerk	Fees	\$5,798.20
Treasurer - Collector	Fees	\$49,605.21
Insp Services-Revolver	Fees	\$51,719.40
Sewer Department	Fees	\$636.00
Town Manager	Fees	\$791.00
Water Department	Fees	\$7,443.75
Zoning Board	Fees	\$925.00
Total Fees		\$581,885.20
<u>Licenses and Permits</u>		
Community Development	Licenses and Permits	\$236,935.51
Health Department	Licenses and Permits	\$18,067.50
Highway	Licenses and Permits	\$1,900.00
Police Department	Licenses and Permits	\$2,420.00
Selectmen	Licenses and Permits-Liquor Licenses	\$28,985.40
Selectmen	Licenses and Permits	\$2,006.00
Sign Commission	Licenses and Permits	\$1,015.00
Town Clerk	Licenses and Permits	\$3,966.00
Total Licenses and Permits		\$295,295.41
<u>State Government - State Aid</u>		

Treasurer-Collector	Veterans Services	\$55,239.00
Treasurer-Collector	Abatement Reimbursement	\$25,050.00
Treasurer-Collector	State Owned Land	\$173,708.00
Treasurer-Collector	Chapter 90	\$43,019.74
Treasurer-Collector	Lottery	\$1,049,318.00
Treasurer-Collector	CARES---Covid 19 Supprt	\$133,993.65
Treasurer-Collector	ARPA	\$721,983.67
Total State Aid		\$2,202,312.06
<u>State Government - Grants</u>		
Treasurer-Collector	Forest Management	\$18,904.00
Treasurer-Collector	Com Compact IT	\$-
Treasurer-Collector	Cultural Council	\$-
Treasurer-Collector	Housing Needs Assessment	\$15,000.00
Treasurer-Collector	Municipal Vulnerablity	\$36,688.31
Treasurer-Collector	Mohawk Bike Trail	\$22,923.65
Treasurer-Collector	E-911	\$50,511.08
Treasurer-Collector	PDMC-Hazard Mitigation	\$-
Treasurer-Collector	Police-Drug Task Force	\$13,148.21
Treasurer-Collector	Police- Bullet Proof Vests	\$4,675.00
Treasurer-Collector	Police Systems Improvement	\$-
Treasurer-Collector	Open Space & Recreation	\$20,000.00
Treasurer-Collector	Polling Re-imbursement	\$-
Treasurer-Collector	Library Title LIG/MEG Grant	\$14,034.83
Treasurer-Collector	Council on Aging - Formula Grant	\$25,176.00
Treasurer-Collector	Sustainable Materials Recovery Grant	\$4,900.00
Treasurer-Collector	Shared Streets	\$25,000.00
Treasurer-Collector	RRA TNC Ride	\$10.60
Treasurer-Collector	Solarize MA	\$-
Total State Grants		\$250,971.68
<u>Fines and Forfeits</u>		
Commonwealth		
Police Department	Court Fines	\$4,260.00
Total Fines and Forfeits	Parking Tickets	\$4,140.00
		\$8,400.00
<u>Sale of Assets</u>		

Cemetery	Sale of Lots	\$550.00
DPW	Sale of Vehicles	
		\$550.00
<u>Interest Income</u>		
Treasurer-Collector	Unrestricted Investment Interest	\$60,386.51
Treasurer-Collector	Special Revenue Investment Interest	\$1,433.29
Treasurer-Collector	Trust Interest	\$7,828.34
Treasurer-Collector	Investment Interest Net of UNREALIZED LOSS	\$(163,775.96)
Treasurer-Collector	Trust Interest Net of UNREALIZED LOSS	\$(20,055.23)
Total Interest Income		\$(114,183.05)
<u>Gifts and Contributions</u>		
Council on Aging	Donations & Fundraisers	\$5,126.25
Library	Operations Gifts	\$29,300.00
Library	Books	\$1,623.95
Police Department	Contribution - General	\$8,552.75
Town	Health Coordinator	\$2,000.00
Library	Renovations	\$16,257.56
Library	Sarah MacFarland Gift	\$264,000.00
Comprehensive Plan	Williams College	\$50,000.00
Total Gifts and Contributions		\$376,860.51
<u>Payroll and Insurance</u>		
Payroll Deductions		
Payroll Deductions	Federal Withholding	\$552,601.06
Payroll Deductions	Medicare Withholding	\$145,244.22
Payroll Deductions	State Withholding	\$252,694.60
Payroll Deductions	Retirement Withholding	\$414,326.30
Payroll Deductions	Health Insurance	\$1,344,681.31
Payroll Deductions	Life Insurance	\$9,861.85
Payroll Deductions	Dental Insurance	\$63,679.01
Payroll Deductions	Other Withholdings	\$173,372.85
Total Payroll and Insurance		\$2,956,461.20
<u>Fund Transfers</u>		
Transfers between Funds		\$199,300.00
Total Fund Transfers		\$199,300.00

Miscellaneous		
Miscellaneous	OPEB Fund	\$50,000.00
Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous Trust Distribution	\$445,704.00
Miscellaneous	Williamstown Scholarship Fund	\$2,695.93
Miscellaneous	Compensated Balance Transfer	\$150,000.00
Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous Trust Contributions	
Miscellaneous	Library Annual Fund	\$28,772.50
Miscellaneous	Reimbursement for damages	\$2,752.21
Miscellaneous	Westlawn/Sherman Burbank Contributions	\$9,397.50
Miscellaneous	Dissolution Higher Ground-Affordable Housing Trust	\$20,879.37
Miscellaneous	CPA to Affordable Housing Trust	\$200,000.00
Miscellaneous	To Transfer Station	\$20,000.00
Miscellaneous	Compost Pilot	\$5,580.00
Miscellaneous	Toxic Use Reduction- Bee Grant	\$2,100.00
Miscellaneous	Farmers Market	\$2,500.00
Total Miscellaneous		\$940,381.51
Total Receipts		\$31,619,896.17

VETERANS SERVICES

Stephen Roy, Veterans 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 United States 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 face. 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 2022, Veterans' Agent Stephen Roy processed \$50,747.94 in benefit claims without a single penny rejected by the Commonwealth - funding which would have 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 have come home. While this is a 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, New Ashford 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

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Keith Davis, Chair

The Zoning Board of Appeals is comprised of 5 members and 3 alternate members. Serving on the Board in 2022 were Andrew Hoar; Chairman, Keith Davis, David Levine, Robert Mathews, and Vince Pesce. Alternate Members are Amy Jeschawitz, and Eunice Marigliano. Towards the end of 2022 we also had some changes in membership, long time chair Andrew Hoar stepped back and swapped positions with Amy Jeschawitz and Keith Davis was elected chair. The Board meets the third Thursday of every month to hear and decide petitions arising from the application of the Williamstown's Zoning Bylaws. These petitions fall into four categories:

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

Any application for any of these four types of permits requires the Board to place advertisements in the local newspaper, *The Berkshire Eagle*, and notify all abutters of the subject property of the time and date of the public hearing on an application by postcard. This process ensures that all neighbors of a proposed project have a chance to voice any concerns regarding a proposal. If you ever receive a post card notifying you of a permit request in your neighborhood the folks in the Community Development Department at Town Hall are very helpful and can explain any questions you might have about an application or the process in general.

The Zoning Board received only 9 requests for hearings in 2022, a very low number compared to the recent past. Out of these 7 were special permit applications, all were approved and one was withdrawn by the applicant. There was also one appeal from Williams College associated with the Davis Center project and one variance for a home addition on Petersburg Road. Both projects were also approved by the Board. The bulk of the Board's time was spent on an application for a rehabilitation facility in the former Sweetbrook Nursing Home. After several hearings, the Board approved the request in August.

WILLIAMSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2021-2022 Academic Year

Superintendent: Dr. Jason McCandless

Principal: Cindy Sheehy

Assistant Principal: Travis Poirot

WILLIAMSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2022

2021-2022 Academic Year

Superintendent: Dr. Jason McCandless

Principal: Cindy Sheehy

Assistant Principal: Travis Poirot

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 2021-2022

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

School Year/Grade	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-2021	2021-2022
PreK	32	12	16	11	27
Kdg	56	59	38	36	56
1	58	62	56	37	41
2	72	57	61	55	45
3	58	72	58	54	63
4	56	62	68	60	60
5	52	55	60	66	61
6	74	57	52	57	69
TOTAL:	458	436	409	376	422

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)

2021-2022

Administrators	2
Instructional Staff	33
Special Education Teachers And Professional Support Staff	13.66
Paraprofessionals	22
Medical/Health Services	1
TOTAL:	71.66

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

Social-Emotional Learning: Social-Emotional learning continues to be a main focus for Williamstown Elementary. A sensory hallway was installed in the main corridor to provide students with an interactive path to develop motor skills and encourage self regulation and positive self talk. Staff engaged in learning opportunities, through continued professional development, focused on diversity, equity and inclusion with Dr. Khayti Joshi as well as ongoing gender identity/LGBTQ+ training with child psychologist, Dr. Chris Overtree.

Williams Center for Learning in Action Partnership: Classroom helpers were welcomed back after a year long absence due to COVID. Classroom helpers provide support to both teachers and students and enrich the learning experience. This year included a tremendous increase in Williams College students working as recess helpers. Recess helpers monitor, supervise and encourage students while promoting social emotional growth. They build relationships with students while having fun engaging in outdoor and indoor activities. This year also brought the continuation of Zoom Around the World, a series of virtual assemblies designed by college students to share diverse cultures with elementary school students. In a collaborative effort with Lanesborough Elementary School, students learned about the geography, culture and history of Kazakhstan, Turkey and Mexico. Lastly, Adventures in Learning supported students in the month of January to provide after-school enrichment programming.

Words Are Wonderful: The 23rd Annual Words Are Wonderful Week began with virtual visits from author/illustrator duo Matthew Swanson and Robbie Behr. The Literary Character Parade was inspiring as usual, with students and staff dressing up as their favorite character, book, or vocabulary word. The WES PTO hosted a Book Fair and participated in a school-wide Read-A-Thon, encouraging students to increase their reading minutes both at home and at school.

Many thanks to all of our WAW volunteers and organizers!

COVID Update: Students and staff returned to school full time with both updated mask and distancing protocols. Students and staff participate in weekly pooled COVID testing as well as the new Test At Home program, allowing families to opt in to receive at home COVID tests biweekly.

WILLIAMSTOWN HOUSING AUTHORITY

35 Adams Road

Williamstown, Massachusetts 01267

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

The Williamstown Housing Authority administers 145 units of subsidized housing, both rental assistance and conventional units. This includes: 30 elderly apartments, Meadowvale, on Adams Road, 76 units of federally subsidized Section 8 rental assistance, 8 units of family housing at Cole Ave and Stetson Road, 8 units for people with special needs at 45-47 Adams Road, and 23 state funded project based rental vouchers. The Housing Authority office is located at Meadowvale, 35 Adams Road.

We are presently accepting on-line applications for elderly and family housing at www.publichousingapplication.oed.state.ma and at www.affordablehousing.com for the Section 8 federally funded rental assistance program.

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 Linda Brown, Donna Denelli Hess, Kris Kirby

APPENDICES

➤ **WILLIAMSTOWN FIRE DISTRICT**

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WILLIAMSTOWN FIRE DISTRICT



Williamstown Fire District

2022 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 2022 annual meeting took place on Tuesday, May 24, 2022. 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

David R. Moresi, Chair
Lindsay Neathawk, Vice Chair
Joseph P. Beverly
John J. Notsley
Michael Alex Steele

Craig A. Pedercini, Chief
Corydon L. Thurston, Treasurer (retired)
Billie Jo Sawyer, Treasurer (current)
Paul Harsch, Moderator
Sarah Currie, Clerk and Records Access Officer
34 Water Street
(413) 458-8113

The Williamstown Fire District had a productive year. The Prudential Committee met monthly, on the fourth Wednesday of the month using a hybrid meeting format, both at the fire station and online. 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 and on the calendar on the fire department website. Most meetings are also recorded and can be viewed on WilliNet. The District thanks WilliNet for presenting the meetings.

The District's annual meeting was held on Tuesday, May 24, 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. Joseph P. Beverly was elected to the Prudential

Committee for a three year term and Michael Alex Steele was elected to the Prudential Committee for a three year term.

Elected Prudential Committee members and term expirations are Joseph P. Beverly 2025, David R. Moresi 2024, Lindsay Neathawk 2024, John J. Notsley 2023, and Michale Alex Steele 2025. At the Prudential Committee meeting on May 25, 2022, David Moresi was elected chair of the committee, and Lindsay Neathawk was elected vice-chair. Their service as chair and vice-chair began on July 1, 2022. The district is grateful to John Notsley for his service as chair of the committee. Appointed officials of the Williamstown Fire District in 2022 include Corydon L. Thurston, Treasurer, who resigned on November 1, 2022 and Billie Jo Sawyer, who was appointed in October. The district thanks Cory for his many years of service and for his continued support of the district. Paul Harsch 2023 serves as moderator for the District. Sarah Currie serves as Clerk and Records Access Officer for the district.

At the annual meeting, the district voted to appropriate \$25,000 for a Reserve Fund. The district also voted to raise the compensation (stipend) paid to each elected member of the Prudential Committee to \$1,000.00 annually, to mitigate economic barriers and increase opportunities for a more diverse balance of residents seeking to serve the district on the Prudential Committee. The district also voted to raise and appropriate \$70,000 to be used in the "Design Fund" by the district for the study, engineering, project management, architectural services, or other costs, including legal and processing fees, associated with the ongoing analysis, planning and design work necessary to prepare for the construction of a new fire house at 562 Main Street. The district also voted to appropriate \$120,000.00 to purchase and fit-up a replacement four wheel drive pumper brush truck, equipped for off-road operations with enhanced wildland fire suppression capabilities, for use by the Forest Warden. The district voted to appropriate \$70,000 from the Stabilization Fund to purchase and fit-up a replacement 4 X 4, rapid response command vehicle for use by the Fire Chief. It was also voted to appropriate \$10,000 to support grant preparation and matching requirements and it was voted to appropriate \$10,000 for firefighter gear and personal protection equipment for firefighters. The district also voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000 to be placed in the Stabilization Fund.

The fire district continued to work diligently to plan for a new fire station and the Building Committee and the Community Advisory Committee were active in 2022.

Building Committee

The Building Committee is composed of seven voting members and one non-voting position, five members have positions with the Fire Department, three members are community volunteers, and one member (non-voting) position is reserved for the town manager. The Building Committee is chaired by Elaine Neely. Other members of the Building Committee include Don Dubendorf, Ryan Housman, Jim Kolesar, David Moresi, John Notsley, Mike Noyes, and Craig Pedercini. Town Manager, Robert Menicocci, serves as a non-voting member.

The Fire District Building Committee aims to provide for the community a facility that meets the operating and safety needs of our firefighters for more than the next 50 years and advances the town's and the commonwealth's goal of attaining net-zero carbon emissions, and to do so at the best possible lifetime cost.

At monthly meetings, the committee recommended an architectural team, owner's project manager, and other consultants to the Prudential Committee.

Specifically, the Committee did the following:

- Proposed to proceed with an estimate and pricing for the project,
- Reviewed design schedule and update,
- Reviewed solar design proposals,
- Reviewed schematic design construction estimate,
- Recommended purchase of solar panels rather than leasing,
- Reviewed architectural plans,
- Recommended hiring a communications consultant,
- Reviewed budgets and construction schedule,
- Reviewed sustainable aspects for the building,
- Recommended geotechnical work on the site,
- Recommended hiring ILFI (International Living Futures Institute to certify the building.)

Community Advisory Committee

The Williamstown Fire District's Community Advisory Committee was established in 2020 to provide access to and input from the community at large. Five community members provide a broad range of individual perspectives to the committee. While the committee has no authority per se, it can make recommendations to the Fire District as well as support (or not) decisions by the Fire District and/or Prudential Committee. The Community Advisory Committee is chaired by Jeffrey Thomas. Members of the committee include Markus Burns, Theresa Sawyer, Susan Schneski, and Larry Smallwood. Fire Chief Craig Pedercini attended all the meetings as well.

In 2022, the committee examined several aspects of Fire District operations and was kept apprised of progress on the new fire station. Meeting agenda topics included building project updates and review of the project design with the architect, the department's website, staffing, and equipment, as well as the current facility, and call responses. The committee looks forward to continuing its work.

Outreach - Chief

The fire department continues its outreach to the community. In August, the fire department participated in National Night Out which was sponsored by the Williamstown police department. On Saturday October 29th, the fire department held its annual Fire Prevention Open House from 10am to 2pm. The national theme for 2022 was "Fire won't wait, plan your escape." The event was well attended by our community members, parents and their children. We even had visitors from out of state stop in. Information on preventing home fires and how to safely escape from your home during a fire was the conversation of the day. Apparatus and equipment were on display and firefighters were there to answer any questions from both the young and old alike. As part of the open house, the department set up a display of the proposed new fire station. Visiting community members and any other interested parties were encouraged to take a look at the proposed station and ask questions. Our last event of the year was held on Halloween, during trick or treat hours. This has become an annual event for the fire department. Firefighters positioned themselves at strategic locations in town, where an extremely large number of children were out trick-or-treating, and distributed glow sticks with the hope of ensuring better

visibility so our children enjoyed a safe Halloween.

Staffing

The fire district hired one new member in 2022. We welcome Andrew Giarolo to the department. Currently, the district has 26 firefighters and 6 deputy forest wardens.

Grants

The fire district applied for the FY22 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant through the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Department of Fire Services. Following the review process, the fire district was then awarded \$12,795.35. The district purchased the following equipment: cribbing and wedges used for vehicle extrication and other types of rescues, a battery operated positive pressure ventilation fan, an ice/fresh water rescue deployment craft, a cold water immersion suit with helmet and a couple minor pagers. This equipment has already been put to use in the field. The district also applied for \$120,000.00 through the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) program for the purchase of the new brush truck. Unfortunately, we did not make the final round.

Training

2022 was a busy year for training. We had just hired 8 new firefighters, six of which were Williams College Students. In the spring, a basic six day firefighting program was conducted at the fire station, which was held on Saturdays. On the sixth Saturday, the new recruits went to Granby, MA for their live burn training day. Multiple fires were lit throughout the morning and into the afternoon in Granby's burn building. Everything the firefighters learned over the past five Saturdays was now being put to use. What a great job they all did!

The fire academy provided classes to the firefighters such as Fire Behavior on the Fire Ground, Basic Pumps, Fire Attack, Flash Over using the States live burn simulator and Self-Contained Breathing using the States Maze Trailer. Firefighter/School teacher John Kalapos graduated from the fire academy's Firefighter I/II program, which ran for thirteen weeks and required approximately three hundred hours of training. Congratulations John! The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) conducted a two evening seminar on basic wildland fires.

In-house training is conducted on Monday evenings. A few of the topics covered were ropes and hauling systems, ladders, search and rescue using self-contained breathing apparatus, hydrants (wet and dry), ventilation techniques, advancing hose lines, review of truck equipment and its use, tanker operations (dumping, drafting and pumping), vehicle extrication, chimney fires and tower operations. The members of the fire district continue to maintain their first responders certification, CPR/AED training. Twenty five members of the fire district participated in ice water rescue practical evolutions, six of which were members of the forest warden's department. The Forest Warden held training on the operations of the brush trucks and went over all their equipment and its purpose.

Noteworthy calls

On February 10th the fire department responded to a structure fire at 551 Henderson Road. The call came in at 10:07 pm, the dispatcher reported it as being a garage fire. The water supply in that area was limited which meant calling in mutual aid from the Pownal Fire Department and the Clarksburg Fire Company. Pownal Fire responded a tanker and an engine company to the fire ground and Clarksburg responded a tanker to the fire ground and an engine company to Williamstown's station to cover the rest of the town for the duration of the incident.

The fire had already vented itself through the roof upon arrival of the fire department. The 2,664 square foot structure was constructed out of concrete masonry units (CMU), the roof was wood framed with asphalt shingles. A few of our new members, including Williams College students, fought their first fire from an exterior position. Williamstown and Pownal firefighters battled the blaze for approximately an hour before it was deemed under control at 11:08 pm. The State Fire Marshal was called in to assist in the investigation as to what caused the fire. The area of origin was being focused around a wood stove which was burning at the time. Upon conclusion of the fire investigation, it was determined that the chimney liner failed causing the roof structure to ignite. The total time involved with the fire including getting all equipment back in service was approximately 5 hours.

On December 13th at 11:46 am, the fire department responded to 4 New Ashford Road, The Store at Five Corners, for an activated fire alarm. When firefighters from engine W2 and Car 4 (Asst. Chief Daniels) arrived on scene, they immediately detected a burning odor as they approached the building. Lt. Leinbaugh (W2) spoke to Baya, a Steward of the Building Association who met the fire department in the parking lot. Mr. Baya stated that some insulation was burned while their plumber was trying to thaw a potential frozen pipe with a heat gun. Lt. Leinbaugh was directed to the first floor rear hallway of the building which was adjacent to the bathrooms and where the incident occurred. Lt. Leinbaugh found a few ceiling openings in the drywall which were previously cut by the plumber. While investigating above the ceiling, Lt. Leinbaugh discovered more burned insulation, a charred wooden ceiling joist and a few melted electrical wires. The fire department removed more of the ceiling in order to gain better access to assess the damage and look for fire extension. The breaker to the burned wires was found in the electrical panel just inside the store on the east wall and it was turned off. Another breaker had already tripped and was left that way. Although the fire appeared to be out and in an effort to keep water damage to a minimum, rags were soaked with water and applied to the burned structural area to assure nothing would reignite. This minor structure fire had the potential of turning into a major disaster.

The fire department provided mutual aid on eleven occasions. Eight were for structure fires and three for motor vehicle accidents. Williamstown's W4 Tanker responded to Hancock for the purpose of providing water for two barns that were burning during the same incident. W4 provided 7,800 gallons of water to the fire. In a separate incident, the department was called to Hancock for standby status. In March, Williamstown was one of several fire departments

requested to respond to the Town of Adams to assist them with a structure fire on Summer Street. Engine W2 and a crew of fighters responded while the remaining department members stood by in Williamstown's station. Mutual Aid was provided to our neighbors over the border in Pownal VT to assist them with five structure fires throughout the year. Engine W2 and Tanker W4 responded each time with full crews respectively while Williamstown maintained a crew of firefighters in their own station.

Firefighters responded to a total of twenty four motor vehicle accidents, 21 in Williamstown, four of which involved motorcycles, 2 in New Ashford and 1 in Pownal VT. Extrication of the parties involved was required on a few of these incidents. Firefighters also provided medical care and assisted the Northern Berkshire EMS.

The fire department responded to 10 calls for natural gas odors/leaks throughout the year, of which four went unfounded, while six were confirmed leaks. The most notable was on August 9th when a reported gas leak was called in by a construction worker. It was reported that there was a gas leak at the Main Street Bridge (route 2) which was under construction. The dispatcher stated that the gas company was notified. The Fire Chief was first to arrive on scene and quickly observed this was no small leak. An equipment operator working for Northern Construction, the company doing the bridge work, caught the end of a two inch gas line with his excavator causing the leak. For safety reasons, the fire department shut route 2 down from the Cole Avenue intersection to just east of the cemetery. The gas company was quick to arrive on scene and started the process of shutting down the leak. The police department was also notified and assisted the fire department with closing down the road. Police officers put out road closure signs and redirected traffic around this section of route 2. The road was closed for approximately 45 minutes while the gas company stopped the leak and allowed some time for ventilation of the area. The gas company also checked the nearby homes for gas readings and no issues were found. Once everything was safe the road was opened back up to traffic.

227 Incident Calls:

Structure Fires - 2, Dumpster Fires - 1, Railroad Track -1, Lawn Mower Fire - 1, Gasoline Spills/Leaks - 2, Brush Fire - 5, Outside Fire Complaints - 2, Illegal Outside Fire - 2, Electrical Burning Odor/Seized Motor - 3, Electrical/Transformer/Pole/Tree/Wires down - 4, Motor Vehicle Accidents - 21, Natural/Propane Gas Odor/Leaks - 10, Stalled Elevators - 1, Water Issues/Broken Pipes/Flooding Basements - 7, Carbon Monoxide Alarms - 27, Rescues Lost Person - 2, Public Assist - 1, Activated Fire Alarms Including Sprinkler Systems - 89, Assisted Resident's with Alarm System - 18, Smoke/Good Intent Calls - 10, Assisted NBEMS - 7, Mutual Aid Calls: Structure Fires - 8, (5 Pownal VT, 2 Hancock and 1 Adams), Mutual Aid MVA - 3 (1 Pownal and 2 New Ashford)

Business as usual remains the same with the day to day operation of conducting regular inspections of public and private schools, restaurants, theaters, motels, inns and nursing homes. The fire department remains busy with plan reviews and inspections of new construction. The

fire chief and building commissioner continue to work closely together throughout the year while performing inspections of fire alarms, sprinkler systems and liquor license renewals.

199 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, floor refinishing.

Forest Warden's Report

For the year of 2022 the Forest Wardens Department issued the Town burning permits from January 15th through May 1st as well as Agricultural permits year-round. The Department issued 222 permits, and responded to 12 calls, 1 small fire of smoldering mulch, 1 small out of control brush fire and 7 illegal or smoke complaint calls. They responded to a report of a lost hiker who found their way out of the woods just as the warden's were getting ready to enter. The Forest Warden's Department assisted the Fire Department with a dumpster fire and helped search for three missing kids who were reported to be kayaking in the Hoosac River and were later found and unharmed. The Warden answered 89 phone and email requests regarding outdoor burning. The season was somewhat dry but we were able to issue permits most days.

Williamstown did an online burning permit trial which was successful and will be continued in 2023. To get your permit go to: www.bcburnpermits.com. If you have questions or problems you can still call the Forestry office 413-458-5695 during the hours of 8:00am and 12:00 noon. This program only runs during the burning season dates of January 15th – May 1st. If you are doing Agricultural burning during off season you will have to call.

The department applied to the 2021 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant (VFA) which is a 50-50 matching grant. The department was awarded \$2,789.87. We purchased 6 Collapsible rakes, 4 Firefighting Pick & Shovel tools and 12 sets of Wildland Turnout Gear.

The Forest Wardens train monthly in Fire Suppression and Vehicle Maintenance. All Wardens are trained as First Responders including CPR/AED. The Wardens have also been trained in "Stop The Bleed". They maintain their certification with annual refreshers taught by EMS instructors. For the second year in a row all wardens took the Ice Water Rescue class with the Fire Department. Everyone is trained to the Awareness level and a few others have trained to the Technician level which allows them to go into the water.

The department participated in the 4th of July parade and assisted the Fire Department with the Town Fireworks. We also attended the National Night out.

2022 Report of the Williamstown Fire District Treasurer:

Williamstown Fire District

FY 2022

July 1, 2021

RECEIPTS:

Town of Williamstown (Taxes collected)	\$600,828		
Williams College	\$29,751		
Inspection Fees	\$5,980		
Interest Income	\$2,375		
Miscellaneous	\$2,527		
Donations	\$255	<u>\$641,716</u>	\$641,716

EXPENSES

Audit		\$9,000	
Berkshire County Retirement		\$35,544	
Communications		\$6,689	
Debt Service		\$0	
Dispatch		\$71,017	
Education and Training		\$18,927	
Forestry Department		\$7,059	
Insurance		\$42,832	
Legal		\$7,687	
Maintenance & Operation		\$83,232	
Outreach & recruitment		\$3,875	
Pay of Firemen		\$48,541	
Salaries		\$123,583	
Services & Supplies		\$11,826	
Utilities		\$10,851	
Water Rents		\$1,650	
Total Operations Article 5			(\$482,313)

Other Articles

Stabilization	Article 6	FY '22	\$60,000	
Grant Match	Article 8	FY '18	\$3,583	
Communication	Article 8	FY '18	\$1,525	
Main St Property	Article 10	FY '20	\$17,426	
Grant Match	Article 8	FY20	\$5,000	
PPE/Uniforms	Article 20	FY20	\$2,500	
Tanker Truck	Article	FY21	\$622	
Station Design	Article 6	FY21	\$15,224	
Grant Match	Article 9	FY21	\$2,241	
OPM Grant	Article 6	FY21	\$57,907	
				(\$166,028)
				(\$648,341)

Income / Expense	NET Balance	June 30, 2022	(\$6,625)
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Stabilization Fund	July 1, 2021	\$383,290
Additions		\$60,000
Interest		<u>\$802</u>
Fund Balance	June 30, 2022	\$444,092

Billie Jo Sawyer, Treasurer

*Subject to Audit Adjustment