

***TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN,
MASSACHUSETTS***



***ANNUAL REPORT
-2023-***

TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN MASSACHUSETTS



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Department reports are for the calendar year 2023 unless otherwise noted

Financial report covers the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023

Prepared by Linda Sciarappa and Laura King

Cover Photo: Courtesy of Ben Sosne

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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

Jeff Johnson, Chair	2024	Andrew Hogeland	2026
Stephanie Boyd	2026	Jane Patton	2025
Randal Fippinger	2025		

MODERATOR

Elisabeth Goodman	2025
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LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Micah Manary, Chair	2025	Tim Cherubini	2025
Robin Lenz	2025	Katy Evans	2026
Anna Halpin-Healy	2024	Bridget Spann	2025
Alexander Carlisle	2026		

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Judith Bombardier	2025	Steve Dew	2026
John Kalapos	2024	Adrian Trabankino	2026
Andrea Bryant	2028		

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, Chair	2025	Benjamin Greenfield	2024
Cory Campbell	2028	Roger Lawrence	2026
Ken Kuttner	2027	Paul Harsch, Alt.	2026

APPOINTED BY THE MODERATOR

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Suzanne Stinson	2025	Paula Consolini	2025
Melissa Cragg, Chair	2026	Charles Fox	2024
Molly Magavern	2025	Doris Karampatsos	2026
Elaine Neely	2025	Fred Puddester	2026
Michael Sussman	2024		

APPOINTED BY THE SELECT BOARD

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

Cheryl Shanks	2025	Daniel Gura	2024
Ruth Harrison	2026	Andy Hogeland, Chair	2026
Kayla Servin	2025	Robin Malloy	2025
Thomas Sheldon	2024		

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Brian Cole	2024	Averill Cook	2025
Bill Galusha	2024	Sarah Gardner, Chair	2024
Darryl Lipinski	2026		

CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Vacancy (3)

COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND RACIAL EQUITY

Andrew Art	2024	Randal Fippinger	2025
Ashley Shan	2025	Justine Beringer	2025
Shana Dixon, Chair	2025	Vacancy	2024
Noah Smalls	2024		

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Joseph Finnegan (Town Resident)		Philip McKnight (ConCom)	
Nate Budington (Historical Commission)		Benjamin Greenfield (Planning Board)	
Melissa Cragg (Finance Committee)		Jane Patton (Parks Commissioner)	
		Steve Dew (Housing Authority)	

CONSTABLES

Andrew Bernardy	2026	Vacancy	2026
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CULTURAL COUNCIL OF NORTHERN BERKSHIRE

Cecelia Hirsch	2024	Michael Eagle	2025
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FENCE VIEWERS

Vacancy	2024	Richard Duncan	2024
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HOOSAC WATER QUALITY DISTRICT

Russell Howard 2025 Hugh Daley 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 2026
Kris Kirby 2026 Justine Beringer 2025
Vacancy 2025

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Nicole E. Beverly Town Clerk Kurt Gabel (R) 2024
Robert A. Jones (R) 2025 Parvin Hajizadeh (D) 2026

SIGN COMMISSION

Timothy Cherubini 2024 Richard Duncan 2025
Anne Hogeland 2028 Anne Singleton, Chair 2026
Vacancy 2025

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Nancy Nysten 2025

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 2026
Eunice Marigliano 2024 Vacancy, Alt. 2024
Vince Pesce 2024 Vacancy, Alt. 2024



APPOINTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER

1753 HOUSE COMMITTEE

Hank Art	2026	Andrus Burr	2024
Vacancy	2025	Vacancy	2026
David Loomis	2024	Lauren Stevens, Chair	2024
Keith Davis	2024		

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER AND INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS

Ruth Russell
Police Chief Michael Ziemba
Officer David Jennings

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Thomas Elder
David Westall
Chris Lamarre, Chair

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Cory Campbell, Appointed by Planning Board 2024
Roger Bolton, Alternate 2024

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Hank Art	2024	Corey Campbell	2026
Tim Carr, Chair	2024	Philip McKnight	2026
Lauren Stevens	2026	Barbara Robertson	2025
Andrew Galusha	2024		

COUNCIL ON AGING

Brian T. O’Grady, Director		Rose Oliver	2026
Geoffrey King	2025	Mary Jo Green	2024
Martin Greenstein, Chair	2026	Karen Kelly	2025
Elaine Keyes	2024	Laurie Bank	2026
Susan Puddester	2026	Edward Sedarbaum	2024

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Michael Ziemba, Police Chief

FORESTRY/ PEST CONTROL SUPERINTENDENT/TREE WARDEN

Robert E. McCarthy, Jr.

HEALTH INSPECTOR

Ruth Russell

BOARD OF HEALTH

Devan Bartels	2024	Erwin Stuebner, MD, Chair	2026
James Parkinson, MD	2024	Ronald Stant	2025
Sandra Goodbody	2026		

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Nate Budington, Chair	2026	Andrus Burr	2024
Gabriel Perez	2026	Patricia Leach	2024
Dustin Griffin	2025		

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Michael Ziemba, Chief

POLICE OFFICERS

Craig Eichhammer	John J. McConnell, Jr.
Tania Hernandez	Scott Skorupski
Brad Sacco	Anthony Duprat, Sgt.
Shuan William, Sgt.	Kalvin Dziedziak, Sgt.
David Jennings	Haley Sigsbury
Ryan Dubie	

POLICE DISPATCHERS

Carter King	Christy Lemoine
Laura Tuper	Barbara Brucato

PART TIME DISPATCHERS

Melissa Rustin	Keiyara Thoresen
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ACCREDITATION MANAGER

Charles Chandler

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD

Rosella Cote	Linda Nichols
	Scott Parks





In Loving Memory

Julie Snow

SEPTEMBER 23, 1961 – DECEMBER 23, 2023

Julie devoted 22 years to the town hall's finance department, earning a promotion to assistant town accountant in 2018 after excelling as the head finance clerk. She seamlessly navigated roles, including assistant assessor, showcasing her mastery as a true jack of all trades. Julie's exceptional contributions were acknowledged in 2021 when she was named Employee of the Year. Despite a courageous six-year battle, she continued to work diligently until entering hospice three weeks before her passing. Her profound impact on the finance department and the entire town leaves a lasting void. Julie's unwavering dedication remains an inspiration to us all. Her dedication to the Town of Williamstown deserves recognition.

SELECT BOARD

Jeffrey Johnson, Chair

We began our year by making history when Williamstown welcomed our first woman moderator, Elisabeth Goodman, at the May 2023 town meeting. There have been many staffing changes in our municipality through retirement, resignation, and passings which will need to continue to be addressed by the Town Manager. We sincerely thank everyone who has worked in our municipality, and all the volunteers on our boards and committees. Below I have listed some of the highlights on what the town has been working on over the past year.

In June 2023, the Select Board held a retreat to develop goals for the 2023-24 cycle. Goals in the areas of affordable housing, community building, diversity, environment, finance, parks and recreation, property tax, short term rentals, and enhancing communication between our town boards and committees were identified as priorities. Carry over goals from the previous years included completing the work of the Charter Review Committee, and sorting through our conflicting dog leashing bylaws. We hope this list of goals will be a living document to help ensure the continuity of work for future board considerations.

In July 2023, the town officially took possession of the path from Syndicate Road to the Spruces Park. We were then tasked with officially naming the path with a desire to recognize and honor the indigenous peoples who first settled the area. In consultation with the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council, on August 14, 2023, the Select Board voted to officially designate the completed recreational project as the “Mohican Recreational Path”.

In September 2023, the Tax Classification Hearing was held after having on-going spirited debates regarding Residential Tax Exemption options in our town. The Select Board has continued to look for tax relief within the existing programs in the state and is in the process of developing warrant articles for consideration at the 2024 town meeting. On September 25, 2023, the DIRE committee submitted a Strategic Plan framework identifying, “priority areas and a rubric for creating consistent goals.” On October 16, 2023, Dr. Kerri Nicoll and LICSW Abby Reifsnnyder presented the final CARES report to the Select Board. With information from these documents, and the items noted in November’s finalized Comprehensive Plan, we are now poised to implement recommendations in the areas of diversity, inclusion, race, and equality in our town.

In October 2023, the Select Board voted to accept the final distribution from the Estate of Sarah Campbell McFarland used for the David & Joyce Milne Public Library. The Board heard a presentation from GovHR USA on the report for the Town of Williamstown, MA Employee Classification and Compensation Study. The Town Manager has been working on the recommendations from the study to ensure we are providing a competitive rate for our municipal positions consistent with other towns. The Town manager contract was renegotiated, and an amendment was signed on November 6, 2023 to extend the current agreement to June 30, 2025.

On November 27, 2023, the Board heard a presentation on Remedy Hall; a non-profit entity who provides items free of charge to address urgent needs in a warm, bright space where all can feel welcome. Founder, Andi Bryant, states, “Remedy Hall’s heartfelt mission is to provide individuals and families experiencing great hardship with basic everyday personal care, hygiene items, and basic life necessities. We embrace dignity as our core value which rises above all else as we seek to help those in need by enhancing basic need goals.”

In January 2024, the Select Board voted in support of a resolution of Paint Stewardship legislation consistent with our Net Zero Carbon goals. On January 22, 2024, the Select Board heard a presentation on

the final report from the Charter Review Committee. Currently the Committee is in the process of developing warrant articles based on the findings detailed in the report. Once this Charter Review Committee has completed its work, the Select Board will look to develop a Bylaw Review Committee. Open discussion public meetings were scheduled with the Planning Board (January 8, 2024) and Finance Committee (January 22, 2024), which have proven to be successful with ensuring better communication within town government.

In late January 2024, the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Green Communities Division informed the Town we were awarded \$196,300 for the projects proposed in the Town of Williamstown's Green Communities Competitive Grant application. In February 2024, COOL Committee members, Nancy Nysten and Wendy Penner, the primary individuals who worked on this grant, presented an update on the work of the Net Zero Task Force. They will continue to lead in the development of the town's Climate Action Plan with goals for the task force to adopt in April, and to share a summary document available at May's Town Meeting.

The dog leashing requirement for parks and our existing bylaws have continued to be discussed due to a lack of clarity. During both meetings in February 2024, the Board heard public comments on different ideas to assist in finding a solution to this issue. Some board members walked the grounds with the Town Manager to develop an initial proposal as a starting point for further discussion. The Board is poised to continue to work on finding a solution for all citizens, with a clear understanding of the rules for the Mohican Recreational Path and Spruces Park. These discussions will continue with the goal to include a space for both on and off leashing for dogs, as well as general park space for our citizens.

In February 2024, the Select Board approved a MOU for the New England Mountain Bike Association, Inc. to fund raise for renovations at the public skate park. There are other potential recreational items, such as a fitness space and basketball court, which are also being looked at to enhance the entire area at the skate park. The Select Board is currently obtaining survey information to assist in the creation of a Short-Term Rental bylaw for the town with plans to further discuss the findings in March 2024.

In closing, we need to hear from more people to provide feedback on what they want for our town. There is a need for more volunteers for town committees/boards, as we continue to be lacking the voice of the 18–50-year-old demographic and people of color. We need to continue to work on ways to make town meetings more accessible to our citizens, as continually a small percentage of our registered voters are making the major decisions in our town.

We have completed our studies, reviewed our reports, and have finalized our Comprehensive Plan. Williamstown, it is now time to get to work with making the changes identified through the extensive outreach and surveys conducted over the past few years.

Much more to come!

Submitted respectfully with gratitude,
Jeffrey L. Johnson, Jr.
Chair, Select Board

TOWN MANAGER

Robert Menicocci, Town Manager

This fiscal year saw the completion of the CARES Report and the Comprehensive Plan - two major projects that will serve as important tools in setting the town's priorities and strategic vision for the upcoming years.

The Williamstown CARES (Community Assessment Research) Project was initiated in 2020 and its purpose was to develop a thorough understanding of perceptions of community safety and wellbeing in order to provide recommendations to the Town for aligning policies and practices with community needs. Through an extensive interview process, the report identified nine key findings resulting in the following recommendations:

- Focus on communication through working with a government-community communications specialists to develop a comprehensive and dynamic communication network.
- Commit to intentional community-building by establishing a community center that will serve as a space where community members can gather and interact across generations, professions, neighborhoods, and other demographic differences.
- Develop support systems for individual and collective wellbeing by examining and investing in new ways to enhance access to health care, affordable housing, and other basic services.
- Create a community safety review committee to review the role of policing in Williamstown by examining evidence-based possibilities for innovation that align with residents' desires for safety and wellbeing.

The town is currently in the process of exploring funding possibilities to begin this work and establishing a working group to address these recommendations.

The Comprehensive Plan, *Envisioning Williamstown 2035*, was completed this fall and was written to be accessible to a variety of users and easy to navigate depending on an individual's interests or priorities. The plan provides a summary of where the community is today and highlights the Town's opportunities and challenges looking into the future. The plan introduces four planning themes which are:

- Distinct and Diverse
- Stewardship and Services
- Welcoming and Connected
- Character and Place

Each theme includes community driven priorities and touches on the many topics typically addressed including land use, housing, transportation, natural resources, the local economy, and others that bring these components together in a way that breaks down the traditional planning silos and encourages holistic and collaborative approaches to implementation.

The plan includes an implementation framework that will bring will be used over the next decade and includes a matrix of actions organized under the four planning themes and information on how to best organize, prioritize, and track the implementation of *Envisioning Williamstown 2035*. This will help inform and guide Williamstown's future policy changes, capital improvement planning, infrastructure investments, and other initiatives over time. Together, the whole community can commit to a dedicated implementation effort and work to make the vision of Williamstown's future a reality.

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS

1753 HOUSE COMMITTEE

Lauren R. Stevens



The 1753 House celebrated its 70th birthday in 2023 with the revival of the '53 House Sing, which had taken a COVID break. The event attracted some 30 people, who gathered around a fire in the building's fireplace the evening of Winter Solstice to sing seasonal carols.

The House opened weekends and holidays from Memorial Day through October 2023. The 320 people who chose to sign in to the visitors' book hailed from 26 states and nine countries. One was Shannon Holsey, President of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohican Indians. The House signs, in Field Park on either side of the building, redone in 2020, were the town's first positive, outdoor recognition of an indigenous presence. Another visitor described himself as a homeless veteran. Another noted that "My mom was young when this was built."

In recent years two former members of the Committee have continued to open the House, Sarah Currie and Marilyn Faulkner, with the help of Carl Faulkner. The Committee is grateful. Those two committee positions have not yet been replaced.

For the first time since COVID, the House hosted students, 35 plus adults from Brayton Elementary School in North Adams. The group was divided in two, half staying on the bus while Dave and Lauren interpreted the building and how it was constructed. Then the students switched off. They next took the bus to the Williamstown Historical Museum.

The 46th annual—minus three COVID years—'53 House Sing was held on a relatively mild, snowless evening. Lauren and Andy provided a fresh supply of greens for the loft. Gail Burns organized the event, providing song books and candles—individuals were requested to bring electric lights for safety reasons. Provisions on Water Street provided hot, mulled cider and cups. Dave lit and tended the fire. Deb Burns led the singing. The return of this tradition felt good.

Note that, like the House, the town is heading for a big anniversary in 2028. In addition, the '53 House looks forward to its new neighbor, the Williams College Museum of Art, which is in the planning stage.



Dave Loomis, Chair; Henry Art, Andrus Burr, Keith Davis, Lauren Stevens

ACCOUNTANT

Anna Osborn

Town of Williamstown
Annual Report of Budgets and Expenditures General Fund
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Account	FY23 Budget	FY22 Encumbrance	Total Available	Year to Date Expended	FY23 Encumbrance	Balance
Appropriations - General						
Select Board	\$163,027.28	\$0.00	\$163,027.28	\$125,719.97	\$10,000.00	\$27,307.31
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	277,490.00	0.00	277,490.00	279,262.56	125.00	(1,897.56)
Compensation Study	35,000.00	0.00	35,000.00	9,240.00	25,760.00	0.00
Town Counsel	56,733.60	0.00	56,733.60	70,566.12	0.00	(13,832.52)
Emergency Management	2,525.00	0.00	2,525.00	4,745.64	0.00	(2,220.64)
Insurance	198,119.90	0.00	198,119.90	174,623.25	0.00	23,496.65
Finance Committee	180.00	0.00	180.00	184.00	0.00	(4.00)
Town Accountant	284,687.29	9,863.62	294,550.91	291,934.96	0.00	2,615.95
Assessor	127,274.82	0.00	127,274.82	119,093.38	0.00	8,181.44
Treasurer-Collector	166,850.78	0.00	166,850.78	164,669.76	0.00	2,181.02
Management Information Systems	204,785.00	0.00	204,785.00	207,444.05	3,056.85	(5,715.90)
Town Clerk	96,067.30	0.00	96,067.30	93,171.69	0.00	2,895.61
Registrar of Voters	21,750.60	0.00	21,750.60	24,944.46	0.00	(3,193.86)
Employees Benefits	2,395,007.80	9,531.73	2,404,539.53	2,328,151.91	0.00	76,387.62
Conservation Commission	24,219.00	0.00	24,219.00	22,859.94	0.00	1,359.06
Agricultural Commission	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
Planning Board	9,805.93	0.00	9,805.93	8,172.09	0.00	1,633.84
Recreation Study A21RS	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	0.00
Broadband Study A21BB	0.00	83,028.37	83,028.37	0.00	0.00	83,028.37
Comprehensive Plan A22MP	0.00	28,462.75	28,462.75	28,462.75	0.00	0.00
Streetlight LED Conversion	0.00	42,541.04	42,541.04	3,295.23	0.00	39,245.81
Zoning Board	4,200.00	0.00	4,200.00	2,255.40	0.00	1,944.60
Historical Commission	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	298.80	0.00	701.20
Community Development	311,207.90	0.00	311,207.90	304,513.01	50.00	6,644.89
Sealer of Weights & Measures	7,548.16	0.00	7,548.16	7,283.09	0.00	265.07
Health Department	87,513.43	0.00	87,513.43	85,350.66	0.00	2,162.77
Police Department	1,404,034.28	48.00	1,404,082.28	1,366,669.05	0.00	37,413.23
Dispatch Services	221,712.01	0.00	221,712.01	254,094.76	0.00	(32,382.75)
Director of Public Works	200,538.00	39,890.00	240,428.00	147,534.27	10,738.00	82,155.73
Hart Landfill Engineering C22HL		8,625.00	8,625.00	8,625.00	0.00	0.00
Hart Landfill Engineering C23HL	91,600.00	0.00	91,600.00	9,875.00	81,725.00	0.00
Hoosac River Bank Erosion Control C22HR	0.00	70,080.56	70,080.56	14,699.40	55,381.16	0.00
Facilities Management	207,172.97	13,571.39	220,744.36	207,811.58	480.30	12,452.48
4x4 Pickup C23PU	48,000.00	0.00	48,000.00	0.00	48,000.00	0.00

Highway Department	1,281,798.28	412,414.52	1,694,212.80	1,157,107.31	86,701.77	450,403.72
Cluett Drain Replacement	0.00	73,547.22	73,547.22	2,985.00	70,562.22	0.00
N. Hoosac Rd Stabilization Engineering	0.00	26,778.65	26,778.65	21,035.00	0.00	5,743.65
Single Axle Dump Truck C22SD	0.00	178,000.00	178,000.00	178,000.00	0.00	0.00
Manning Street - Mill/Pave/Curb	51,400.00	0.00	51,400.00	51,400.00	0.00	0.00
John Street - Mill/Pave/Curb	48,800.00	0.00	48,800.00	48,800.00	0.00	0.00
Brook Road Overlay	86,000.00	0.00	86,000.00	66,034.66	19,965.34	0.00
Front Street - Mill/Pave/Curb	69,800.00	0.00	69,800.00	55,823.64	13,976.36	0.00
Snow and Ice Control	308,266.40	0.00	308,266.40	308,266.40	0.00	0.00
Streetlights	35,000.00	0.00	35,000.00	80,003.31	0.00	(45,003.31)
Parks and Cemetery	306,381.54	9,763.78	316,145.32	271,912.00	310.26	43,923.06
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	13,137.68	13,137.68	12,550.00	0.00	587.68
Double Cab Pickup	54,000.00	0.00	54,000.00	0.00	54,000.00	0.00
Commercial Mower	18,000.00	0.00	18,000.00	12,274.52	5,725.48	0.00
Sherman Burbank Chapel	4,350.00	0.00	4,350.00	4,341.78	0.00	8.22
Forestry Department	50,000.00	21,681.80	71,681.80	62,568.40	9,113.40	0.00
Recreation Department	18,005.70	0.00	18,005.70	21,789.00	76.61	(3,859.91)
Youth Center	77,000.00	0.00	77,000.00	77,000.00	0.00	0.00
Mental Health Services	30,500.00	47,094.65	77,594.65	17,000.00	30,094.65	30,500.00
Council on Aging	257,040.37	0.00	257,040.37	249,931.82	0.00	7,108.55
Veterans Benefits	96,940.63	0.00	96,940.63	72,228.05	0.00	24,712.58
Library	522,860.59	13,706.34	536,566.93	542,711.21	0.00	(6,144.28)
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
Lighting	27,215.00	0.00	27,215.00	11,207.36	16,007.64	0.00
Veterans Graves and Holidays	3,200.00	0.00	3,200.00	0.00	0.00	3,200.00
General Debt Service	557,687.50	0.00	557,687.50	557,687.50	0.00	0.00
Mt Greylock Regional School	12,853,354.95	0.00	12,853,354.95	12,853,355.00	0.00	(0.05)
Northern Berk Vocational School	322,418.00	0.00	322,418.00	318,215.80	0.00	4,202.20
Chamber of Commerce	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers to other Funds	179,981.76	0.00	179,981.76	179,981.76	0.00	0.00
Reserve Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Appropriated - General	\$24,028,051.77	\$1,231,950.52	\$25,260,002.29	\$23,718,761.30	\$672,033.46	\$869,207.53
Tax Rate Assessments						
State Assessments	\$4,238.00	\$0.00	\$4,238.00	\$4,478.00	\$0.00	(\$240.00)
County Assessments	38,857.00	0.00	38,857.00	38,857.00	0.00	0.00
Other Assessments		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Tax Rate Assessments	\$43,095.00	\$0.00	\$43,095.00	\$43,335.00	\$0.00	(\$240.00)
Total General Fund	\$24,071,146.77	\$1,231,950.52	\$25,303,097.29	\$23,762,096.30	\$672,033.46	\$868,967.53

Town of Williamstown
Annual Report of Budgets and Expenditures Enterprise Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Account	FY23 Budget	FY22 Encumbrance	Total Available	Year to Date Expended	FY23 Encumbrance	Balance
Appropriations - Transfer Station	\$251,618.31	\$0.00	\$251,618.31	\$234,051.27	\$0.00	\$17,567.04
Sustainable Materials Recovery	5,600.00	16,333.05	21,933.05	13,968.00	7,965.05	0.00
Compost Pilot	920.00	393.30	1,313.30	1,313.30	0.00	0.00
Transfers to OPEB Trust	200.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00
Transfer to Reserves	1,218.69	0.00	1,218.69	0.00	0.00	1,218.69
Appropriations - Sewer Department	384,770.21	57,675.89	442,446.10	347,043.90	37,925.65	57,476.55
Pump Station Upgrades C17PS	0.00	13,018.81	13,018.81	13,018.81	0.00	0.00
Sewer Camera Replacement C18SC	0.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	0.00	0.00
South St Sewer Replacement C19SS	0.00	60,000.00	60,000.00	0.00	60,000.00	0.00
Cold Spring Pump Upgrades C20PS	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	17,780.31	22,219.69	0.00
Inflow & Infiltration Reduction C21II	0.00	16,315.12	16,315.12	0.00	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
Cold Spring Rd Lift Stations C22LS	0.00	80,000.00	80,000.00	495.00	0.00	79,505.00
Inflow & Infiltration Reduction C22II	0.00	300,000.00	300,000.00	16,408.80	283,591.20	0.00
4x4 Utility Body & Crane C23CR	58,000.00		58,000.00	0.00	58,000.00	0.00
Hoosac River Bank Stabilization C23HR	210,000.00		210,000.00	0.00	210,000.00	0.00
Simonds Road Lift Station C23SP	70,000.00		70,000.00	0.00	70,000.00	0.00
Tractor Camera C23TC	85,000.00		85,000.00	56,493.00	28,507.00	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	900.00	0.00	900.00	900.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers to Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hoosac Water Quality District	854,110.89	0.00	854,110.89	838,952.90	0.00	15,157.99
Appropriations - Water Department	673,058.52	21,325.61	694,384.13	611,156.74	26.00	83,201.39
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	13,321.50	13,321.50	0.00	13,321.50	0.00
Chlorine Analyzers C22CA	0.00	5,690.00	5,690.00	0.00	5,690.00	0.00
SCADA System C22SC	0.00	1,096.63	1,096.63	1,096.63	0.00	0.00
4x4 Utility Body & Crane C23CR	58,000.00		58,000.00		58,000.00	0.00
Rattlesnake Reservoir C23RR	40,000.00		40,000.00		40,000.00	0.00
Well #2 Redevelopment C23W2	2,500,000.00		2,500,000.00		2,500,000.00	0.00
Cleaning Wells 1A, 3 C23WC	105,000.00		105,000.00	43,393.00	61,607.00	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	2,400.00	0.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	0.00	0.00
Transfer to Reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Enterprise	\$5,550,096.62	\$887,169.91	\$6,437,266.53	\$2,432,971.66	\$3,700,168.21	\$304,126.66

Town of Williamstown
Annual Report of Revenues and Expenditures Trust Funds
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Account	Balance 7/1/2022	Receipts (net of unrealized gain/loss)	Total Available	Expended	Balance 6/30/2023
Trust Funds					
Affordable Housing	\$182,465.04	\$102,954.63	\$285,419.67	\$81,146.00	\$204,273.67
Alma Morey	6,603.03	191.10	6,794.13	0.00	6,794.13
Botsford-House of Local History Trust	42,778.64	1,238.05	44,016.69	0.00	44,016.69
Botsford - Library Trust	74,656.74	679.44	75,336.18	0.00	75,336.18
Bullock Forest	81,377.37	660.60	82,037.97	10,000.00	72,037.97
C.D. Foster	1,986.65	57.48	2,044.13	64.95	1,979.18
Compensated Balances	298,695.29	59,293.46	357,988.75	69,797.33	288,191.42
Conservation Commission	3,881.38	112.32	3,993.70	0.00	3,993.70
Helen Renzi School	10,030.03	290.28	10,320.31	57.01	10,263.30
J.E. Bascom	11,423.38	330.63	11,754.01	0.00	11,754.01
Library Annual Fund	41,177.71	30,941.15	72,118.86	47,080.45	25,038.41
Library Carpenter Fund	10,348.06	94.38	10,442.44	0.00	10,442.44
Margaret Lindley	2,567.11	74.29	2,641.40	0.00	2,641.40
Municipal Scholarship	39,345.23	3,547.91	42,893.14	8,200.00	34,693.14
OPEB Liability Trust	646,183.85	104,926.20	751,110.05	0.00	751,110.05
Perpetual Care Income	5,553.26	6,605.58	12,158.84	9,704.00	2,454.84
Perpetual Care Principal	428,779.76	7,669.56	436,449.32	0.00	436,449.32
Sale of Lots	31,030.36	965.37	31,995.73	0.00	31,995.73
Sherman Burbank	854,466.40	23,477.78	877,944.18	15,000.00	862,944.18
Southlawn Cemetery	4,863.57	140.75	5,004.32	0.00	5,004.32
Stabilization Fund	803,091.42	74,158.53	877,249.95	0.00	877,249.95
Torrey Woods	3,111.90	90.06	3,201.96	0.00	3,201.96
West Lawn Cemetery	222,868.56	15,829.08	238,697.64	0.00	238,697.64
Total Trust Funds	\$3,807,284.74	\$434,328.63	\$4,241,613.37	\$241,049.74	\$4,000,563.63

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

Andy Hogeland, Chair

The current members of the Trust are Daniel Gura (Vice Chair), Ruth Harrison (Treasurer), Andy Hogeland (Chair, and representing the Select Board), Robin Malloy, Kayla Servin (Secretary), 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 some former residents of The Spruces.
- Purchasing three building lots and contracting with Northern Berkshire Habitat to build permanently affordable houses on them. Two houses have been completed at Cole and Maple Streets, and plans are underway for 4-5 more on Summer Street
- Creating the Richard DeMayo Mortgage Assistance Program which has enabled 22 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 2023, 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. 22 grants have been made to Williamstown residents under this program.
- Support of the Habitat Summer Street project. As the Habitat homes were being finalized at the Maple and Cole sites, the Trust awarded \$40,000 to Habitat to begin the design work for development of the Summer Street lot that the Trust bought several years ago. Habitat is currently evaluating the feasibility of 4-5 houses at that location.
- Support of 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. This measure was passed by Town Meeting in 2023. These adjustments would aid the most economically challenged homeowners in our town.

- Evaluation of options to assist residents with heating bills. The Trust looked at options to provide our qualified lower income residents with support for home energy efficiency projects

We look forward to working in 2024 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:

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

2023 Commissioners: Sarah Gardner (Chair), Brian Cole, Averill Cook, Darryl Lipinski, William Galusha, Christopher Sabot (Alternate).

Email address: agcom@williamstownma.gov

Activities/Accomplishments: Comprehensive Planning Process: The Commission submitted feedback on the Comprehensive Plan draft, primarily with regard to the situation faced by farms in Williamstown, outlining the threats to farms, such as the development pressure from home buyers, the high demand for rural estate homes, and the concomitant criticism of farm practices that often accompanies rural gentrification. Planning and zoning can help protect the town's farms and farmland for future generations or can facilitate the current trend of low density suburbanization of the town's rural areas.

Mediating: The Commission met with the Board of Health and town officials to help mediate a complaint about rooster noise and wrote a letter advising a compromise solution

Farmland Preservation: The Commission continued to support permanent protection of working farmland.

Grant Support: The Commission wrote letters of support for several Williamstown farms

applying for state grants to support the improvement of their farms' infrastructure and equipment.

Farmland: The Commission continues to work with the Mass Dept of Agricultural Resources and Williamstown Rural Lands to identify farmland that is eligible for farmland protection.

Williamstown Farmers Market: The Commission supports and 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 Farmer Potluck Dinner (Nov. 8): The Agricultural Commission hosted its Annual Farmer Dinner at Sheep Hill for all farmers, families and farm workers in Williamstown and neighboring towns.



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 2023 there were 2,928 taxable parcels and accounts of which 2,511 were classified as residential, 274 as commercial and/or mixed-use, 14 industrial parcels and 129 taxable personal property accounts. The taxable value of all parcels and accounts was \$1,206,320,097, an increase of \$103,899,973 or 9.4% over the prior year value of \$1,110,242,012. As a percentage of the of \$18,652,949 FY 2023 tax levy, the residential class paid 88.39% or \$17,435,871 of the levy. Commercial & Industrial classes paid a combined 8.54% or \$1,666,613 and personal property accounted for 2.07% of the levy or \$403,712. Separate from taxable parcels there were 201 parcels classified as “tax exempt” having a combined value of \$550,734,400.

The tax rate is calculated by dividing the tax levy (\$19,506,196), or the amount of money to be raised to fund the budget, by the total value of taxable real and personal property (\$1,206,320,097). This generated a FY 2023 tax rate \$16.17 per \$1,000 of value, a decrease of ¢0.75 from the prior year. The FY 2023 median single-family home value is \$358,600, an increase of \$30,300 over the prior year’s median value of \$328,300. The median single-family home tax bill, exclusive of the CPA and Fire District charges, increased \$244 in FY 2023 from \$5,555 to \$5,799.

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 municipal 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 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 2023 Tax Rate

<i>Town Meeting Date</i>	<i>Total Appropriations Each Meeting</i>	<i>From Tax Levy</i>	<i>From Free Cash</i>	<i>From Other Available Funds</i>	<i>From Enterprise Funds</i>	<i>CPA Funds</i>
5/17/2022	30,061,547	22,918,251	872,315.00	24,704.00	5,523,577	722,700.00
<i>Totals</i>	30,061,546.63	22,918,251.01	872,315.00	24,704.00	5,523,576.62	722,700.00

Local Expenditures.....	\$ 30,511,221.87
Cherry Sheet Offsets & Other Amounts.....	43,095.00
Overlay.....	106,096.48
<i>Tax Rate Summary</i>	
1. Gross Amount to be Raised.....	30,511,221.87
2. Estimated Receipts and Available Funds.....	11,005,025.91
3. Net Amount to be Raised by Taxation.....	\$ 19,506,195.96
4. Real Property Valuation.....	\$1,181,353,359
5. Personal Property Valuation.....	\$ 24,966,738
6. Total Property Valuation.....	\$1,206,320,097
7. Tax Rate	16.17
8. Real Property Tax.....	19,102,483.81
9. Personal Property Tax.....	403,712.15
10. Total Taxes Levied on Property.....	\$ 19,506,195.96

Recap Abatements and Exemptions		Recap Motor Vehicle Commitments		
<i>Abatements</i>		<i>Calendar Year</i>	<i>Valuation</i>	<i>Excise</i>
Real Estate	\$ 7,923.83	<i>Commitments</i>		
Personal Property	\$ 700.05	7	2022	\$ 1,003,126
		1-3	2023	\$ 28,330,951
		4-6	2023	\$ 7,957,440
<i>Exemptions</i>		<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>
Clause 41C	\$ 3,500.00			37,291,517
Clause 22, 22E	17,600.00			780,409.89
Clause 17D	1,575.00	<i>Abatements</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Excise</i>
Clause 37	1,312.50		191	\$ 16,446.49
Clause 42	0.00			
Clause 18	0.00			
Total.....	\$ 32,611.38	<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$</i>	\$16,446.49

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:

- Joe Bergeron
- Nate Budington
- Andy Hogeland, co-chair
- Jeff Johnson, co-chair
- Mary Kennedy
- 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 included 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 process reviewed the town’s current charter and recommended 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 included 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. Members have done research on a range of topics, and we have heard from advocates from Voter Choice MA on Ranked Choice Voting.

We solicited opinions from town residents by sending a survey out with about 2600 property tax bills in May 2023. Since we recognized that mailing would not reach tenants, we also mailed the survey to an additional approximately 600 probable addresses for tenants, though many of these mailings were returned as undeliverable. The survey allowed for responses to be submitted in paper to Town Hall or through an on-line portal using Survey Monkey. We received 509 responses while the survey was open.

In addition, we surveyed current members of town boards and committees. The Committee also developed a questionnaire to be sent to all currently serving members of town boards and committees. Finally, our Town Manager, Bob Menicocci, solicited opinions from Town Hall staff, including on the topics raised in the survey. We received 20 responses from staff, and those responses are discussed in this report as each topic comes up, along with the community survey responses.

The Committee issued an Interim report in August 2023 outlining the issues and work through that time, but not making any recommendations until after there had been more opportunity for public comment. During 2023, we held public outreach events at the registration for Town meeting, the Mt. Greylock Regional School Committee, National Night Out, the Framers' Market, and the Harper Center. We also solicited comment by Facebook on the Williamstown Issues and Info page.

The final report was issued in January 2024 and presented to the Select Board on January 22, 2024. It recommends 12 modifications to the Charter or related by-laws. The next step is to allow more specific discussion of recommendations and the preparation of articles to be voted on at Town meeting in May 2024.

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Andrew Groff, AICP, Community Development Director

Ryan Contenta, MCO, 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

You will find the staff of Williamstown's Community Development Department on the third floor of the Municipal Building where our staff is engaged both in long-term planning policy and short-term regulation of development activities. Our department is committed to public safety and community support, working to assist all members of the community throughout each stage of the development process. The Department partners three basic functions of town government that oversee development activities, the Building Officials, Board of Health and Health Inspector, and Planning and Land Use. All three basic functions of the Department work together to forward the goal of protecting both the town's built and natural environment to ensure a safe, healthy, and thriving Williamstown. The State Building Code, Board of Health Regulations, The Wetlands and Rivers Protection Acts, as well as the Town's Zoning Bylaw, Sign Bylaw and Subdivision Regulations are all enforced by the Department and the various volunteer community boards that the Department works with in order to achieve this goal. Below are reports from the Department's Building Officials and the Director, responsible for working with our land use and planning boards. Reports concerning the many different Boards and Commissions the Department works with are separate from this report.

BUILDING OFFICIALS

Ryan Contenta, Building Commissioner

Travis Fachini, Local Inspector

Joseph Beverly, Inspector of Wires

Michael Lahey, Inspector of Plumbing and Gas

Williamstown's Building Officials issued 570 Building Permits with an estimated construction dollar value of \$45,841,227.81 for the calendar year 2023. 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 completed construction for the Davis Center. The building department has been working with Williams College on the initial building proposal for the Williams College Museum of Arts (WCMA). The sad but necessary demolition of the Towne Field House has been completed, because of the demolition we are working with Williams College to replace the Towne Field House. We also saw many single-family home renovations and construction of the River Run Loft condominiums phase 2. The River Run Loft phase 2 consists of 54 residential units, slated to begin this spring. The new Williamstown Fire Station has completed their removal of unsuitable soil and replaced it with material that can be suitable for supporting the new fire station. The construction of the building is scheduled for late spring or early summer.

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. 191 Buildings were inspected and received valid Certificates of Inspection in 2023. 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.



Towne Field House roof structure

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.

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



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

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 2024.

Williamstown Community Development - Building Department Building and Trades Permits Issued 2023	
New Single-Family Houses	11
Solar Photovoltaic	24
Total Building Permits	570
Wire Permits	289
Plumbing Permits	77
Gas Permits	64

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Ruth Russell, Health Inspector (since Nov. 2023)

This is my first annual report as the Health Inspector for the Town of Williamstown. I became Health Inspector in November of 2023, taking over for Jeffrey Kennedy, who had been in this position since 1995.

Health inspection functions in Williamstown are mandated by State laws and regulations, and by local Board of Health regulations. The inspection and monitoring requirements include, but are not limited to, food establishments, bathing beaches, septic systems, private and geothermal wells, housing, swimming pools, tobacco product sales, refuse and recycling, manufactured housing communities, beaver control, recreational camps, and nuisances affecting the public's health.

Did you know that over 10% of the boards of health in the United States are 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 specialize 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 OpenGov online permitting system. All permit applications are now completed online.

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

· Establishment Inspections Performed in 2023: 58

· Food Establishment Permits issued in 2023: 87

The Board of Health issues retail establishment licenses to individual vendors selling processed foods at a farmer's 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.

· Farmer's Market Prepared Food Permits issued in 2023: 5

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. Rental dwelling unit inspections were suspended in August of 2023 when Jeffrey Kennedy retired, but reinstated in November of 2023 when I was hired.

· Rental Dwelling Units Inspected in 2023: 32

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 also been permitted recently.

· Drinking Water Well Permits issued in 2023: 1

· Geothermal Well Permits issued in 2023: 2

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 (perc 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 Title 5 regulation. The Board of Health is also requiring any inspections performed on vacant dwellings to be re-inspected after occupancy. This will ensure that a buyer is not buying a dwelling with a system that would normally fail if used and 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.

- Title 5 Inspections Witnessed in 2023: 15
- Septic System Installer Permits issued in 2023: 2
- Disposal System (Septic System) Construction Permits issued in 2023: 3

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

- Septage Transport Permits issued in 2023: 6

The Board of Health from time to time examines all camps, motels, hotels, manufactured housing communities and cabins licensed by it. 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 has 10 motels, 3 hotels, 1 manufactured housing community, & 1 camp.
- Motel Establishment Permits issued in 2023: 9

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

· Recreational Camp for Children Permits issued in 2023: 9

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

· Public and Semi-Public Swimming Pool, Hot Tub, or Spa Permits issued in 2023: 12

Margaret Lindley Park has the only authorized public bathing beach in Williamstown. Beach bacterial sampling of the impoundment water at Margaret Lindley Park is tested weekly 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.

· Indoor Ice Rink Permits issued in 2023: 1

· The Williams College Lansing Chapman Rink is inspected annually. Although the rink is primarily serviced with an electric ice re-surfacing machine, it is still licensed and inspected because the seldom used back-up re-surfacer is propane powered.

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

· Refuse & Recyclables Hauler Permits issued in 2023: 8

Establishments selling tobacco products, including smoking tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, and electronic nicotine delivery systems in the Town of Williamstown must be permitted by the Board of Health.

· Tobacco Product Sales Permits issued in 2023: 6

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.

Williamstown has joined the Berkshire County Public Health Alliance to coordinate public health efforts on a larger scale and to assist in planning and implementation of public health functions to smaller communities. The Alliance assisted the Town of Williamstown after Jeffrey Kennedy retired and have continued to assist me with training for this new role. I am also being trained by the Health Agent in Great Barrington.

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. I have begun the 2023 Animal Inspections, but due to my starting late in the year, these inspections will continue through April 30, 2024.

The Town of Williamstown has a very pro-active and involved public health program. 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

Alex Tracy-D'Unger, Compliance Officer I / Inspector, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Division of Standards.

Beginning in 2011, Jeffrey Kennedy assumed the position of Sealer of Weights and Measures. As of the end of 2023, these duties are now being contracted out to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Standards.

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 providing support to all members of the community who are investigating the possibility of changing how their land is used. When someone is researching potential development, whether the proposal is a small home addition or a large commercial building, the planner is generally the first town official you will see when undertaking a project. It is our job to help citizens make sense of these laws and regulations and ensure the permitting process is simple, fair and equitable for all stakeholders of any size project.

In addition to assisting the public with navigating the maze of Massachusetts land use law our office is responsible for the staff support, including research, analysis, and GIS mapping capabilities to five of Williamstown's local boards and commissions.

2023 saw the completion of our new community Comprehensive Master Plan, Envisioning Williamstown. The plan will provide a road map for the future development of our community and our work to provide high quality public services to the community.

We also were able to work on some exciting grant funded initiatives this past year. Mass Trails awarded the town funding to collaborate with North Adams on design for the extension of our new bike path into the city. We plan to continue that work in '24. The MA Woodland Partnership also awarded us funding to plant additional street trees in 2024. We're also busy collaborating with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission on multiple projects including an update of the Town's Open Space Plan.

In addition to this exciting work on Envisioning Williamstown 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 that are brought to the Commission through the Wetlands Act review process. The Planner attends all of the Commission's meetings to provide staff support and also acts as the Conservation Agent, handling enforcement and other day to day issues of the Commission.

- Historical Commission

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

- Planning Board

The Planning Board is an elected Board, responsible for overseeing the long-term land use patterns of Williamstown through the Zoning Bylaw, Subdivision Rules, and Master Planning process. The Planner is responsible for the review of all plans and permit applications that come before the Board and ensures they are complete and distributed to all interested parties. The Planner also provides significant time in staff support to the board. Working with individual members on research projects and possible zoning bylaw, and subdivision regulation amendments. The Planner is also responsible for the maintenance of the Board's official maps and frequently updates the Board on important legislation and other planning issues.

- Sign Commission

The Sign Inspector is responsible for reviewing all sign applications and may issue any sign which fully complies with the Sign Bylaw; any deviation from the bylaw requires Sign

Commission approval. The Sign Inspector is also the enforcing authority under the bylaw. Fines may be assessed under the non-criminal disposition provisions of the Code of the Town of Williamstown. The Sign Commission meets the 4th Thursday of every month.

- The Zoning Board of Appeals

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

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



DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND RACIAL EQUITY (DIRE) ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**DIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLAN FRAMEWORK
SELECT BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 25, 2023
MEETING HANDOUT**

Select Board Goal:

Development of a Diversity Strategic Plan to make Williamstown ready for a more diverse future. The desire is for the Diversity Strategic Plan to include specific recommendations on how best to structure future task forces and working groups to support the ongoing effort in line with the Select Board's official charge to the DIRE committee.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

This diversity strategic plan framework identifies priority areas and a rubric for creating consistent goals. Each priority area identified below includes DRAFT specific goals to make Williamstown ready for a more diverse future. To implement the plan, the town would create working groups, establish implementation partnerships, gather data, establish communications plans, establish budgets and funding, identify leadership development and training opportunities, and document effective processes and practices.

PRIORITY AREAS

Select Board Priority	Select Board Priority	Select Board Priority	Select Board Priority	Select Board Priority	DIRE Priorities
<i>Enhance and increase cooperation, understanding, and dialogue among residents of diverse cultural, religious, socio economic, and racial backgrounds</i>	<i>Create town wide events that foster cultural awareness</i>	<i>Increase diverse, equitable, and inclusive participation on government boards and committees</i>	<i>Increase diverse, equitable, and inclusive participation in the Town workplaces</i>	<i>Create sustainable methods for continuous improvement in the development of diversity in our community</i>	<i>Support youth</i>
					<i>Support Stockbridge Munsee Community</i>

Implementation Partners

Data Gathering

Communications

Budgeting and Funding

Leadership Development and Training

Document Effective Processes and Practices

3

Enhance and increase cooperation, understanding, and dialogue among residents of diverse cultural, religious, socio-economic, and racial backgrounds

RUBRIC FOR CREATING STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timebound, Inclusive, and Equitable (SMARTIE) (see Appendix I)

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

For each priority area, the Town will establish a working group of volunteers. Each working group will review and refine the draft goals provided in the sections below using the SMARTIE goals rubric. Each working group will also perform outreach to potential implementation partners (see Appendix II), gather data and information, establish a plan for communications, establish a budget and make funding requests of the Town and other funding sources, identify leadership development and funding opportunities, and document effective processes and practices in its work.

Timeline	Goal
ST	Identify affinity groups and establish contacts with leadership, establish partnerships
ST	Host town listening sessions for residents dedicated to issues of diversity
ST	Collaborate with Williams College’s Davis Center to create and circulate town newsletter containing diverse events
OG	Publicize community programs and events to raise community awareness

OG	Work with community leaders to identify necessary actions to increase dialogue across identity markers
OG	Identify barriers to enhanced and increased cooperation, understanding and dialogue
LT	Research and identify best practices to foster increased cooperation, understanding and dialogue

Timeline: ST = Short Term, OG = Ongoing, LT= Long Term

Create town-wide events that foster cultural awareness

Timeline	Goal
ST	Identify affinity groups and establish contacts with leadership, establish partnerships
ST	Publicize community programs and events to raise community awareness
ST	Invite speakers from diverse community groups to host community events
OG	Expand cultural celebrations
OG	Research and identify best practices to foster cultural awareness
LT	Host open workshops and discussions about markers of identity

Timeline: ST = Short Term, OG = Ongoing, LT= Long Term

Increase diverse, equitable, and inclusive participation on government boards and committees

Timeline	Goal
ST	Support and publicize vacancies and desire to increase diverse, equitable and inclusive participation
ST	Train chairs of government boards and committees on how to encourage inclusive conversations within meetings
ST	Outreach to chairs of government boards and committees to establish partnerships
ST	Collect data to establish baseline of participation
ST	Identify barriers to increasing diverse, equitable and inclusive participation on government boards and committees
OG	Research and identify best practices to encourage diverse, equitable and inclusive participation

Timeline: ST = Short Term, OG = Ongoing, LT= Long Term

Increase diverse, equitable, and inclusive participation in the Town workplaces

Timeline	Goal
ST	Outreach to Town workplace hiring authorities to establish partnerships
ST	Support and publicize hiring authorities practices to diversify Town workforce
ST	Collect data to establish baseline of current workforce and hiring practices
ST	Identify barriers to diverse, equitable and inclusive hiring practices
ST	Join professional collaborations with other towns to learn how similar towns are working to diversify workforces
OG	Research and identify best practices to diversify workforce
OG	Create process to monitor and assess progress
OG	Recruit diverse members of communities to join workforce by working with community partners

Timeline: ST = Short Term, OG = Ongoing, LT= Long Term

Create sustainable methods for continuous improvement in the development of diversity in our community

Timeline	Goal
ST	Establish baseline of current practices in the development of diversity in Williamstown
OG	Identify barriers and knowledge gaps to development of diversity
OG	Research and identify best practices for continuous improvement
OG	Promote strategic plan and guidelines to ensure goals are clearly identified
LT	Create process to monitor and assess progress
LT	Ensure that government board and committee chairs train the next chair in what they've learned regarding diversity of community

Timeline: ST = Short Term, OG = Ongoing, LT= Long Term

Support Youth

Timeline	Goal
ST	Outreach to schools, Williamstown Youth Center, and youth community leaders to establish partnerships
ST	Establish fora with administrators at Mount Greylock Regional Schools to understand issues of diversity among students
ST	Work with Williams College’s Center for Learning in Action (CLiA) to increase support to diverse youth
ST	Collaborate with Williams College Minority Coalition groups (affinity groups) to design activities for Williamstown youth focused on diversity
OG	Identify barriers to inclusion and belonging
OG	Voice support of DEI events and programming in Williamstown schools
OG	Engage and actively support inclusive Williamstown youth activities
OG	Work to increase the participation of youth in Diversity Equity Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) efforts

Timeline: ST = Short Term, OG = Ongoing, LT= Long Term

Support Stockbridge-Munsee Community (SMC)

Timeline	Goal
ST	Outreach to Stockbridge-Munsee Community Cultural Affairs and Tribal Historic Preservation Office to establish contacts
ST	Document SMC process for collaboration and consultation
ST	Expand cultural celebrations in partnership with SMC
OG	Identify barriers to support in Mohican Homelands
OG	Increase awareness of appropriate consultation practices
OG	Publicize and support SMC research, events and programming

Timeline: ST = Short Term, OG = Ongoing, LT= Long Term

APPENDIX I

SMARTIE goals rubric

- ***Specific*** — Reflect a detailed aspect of what is sought to be accomplished.
- ***Measurable*** — Include a standard or benchmark to be met.
- ***Achievable*** or ***Ambitious*** — Challenging to the degree that accomplishment would progress or even a “stretch”.

- **Relevant** or **Realistic** — Not overly challenging or reflective of too little thought or resources impossible for execution.
- **Timebound** — Has a clear deadline.
- **Inclusive** –bring traditionally excluded individuals and groups into processes, activities, decisions and policymaking. While *diversity* is about who is present at the table, *inclusion* is about who is empowered to make decisions or participate in a meaningful way.
- **Equitable** - include elements of fairness or justice to address systemic injustice, inequity or oppression.

APPENDIX II

Potential Implementation Partners Identified by DIRE

1. Enhance and increase cooperation, understanding, and dialogue among residents of diverse cultural, religious, socio economic, and racial backgrounds

Berkshire County CourtWatch
 Berkshire Immigrant Center
 Berkshire United Way / BFAIR /
 Salvation Army / BCAC Brien
 Center / Lousion House / Elizabeth
 Freeman Center / WMass Labor
 Action /
 Chamber of Commerce / Local
 Businesses
 Community Chest
 Community Legal Aid
 Davis Center at Williams College
 Fire, Police, EMS, BHS, Public
 Transportation
 Food Pantry
 Harper Center / Council on Aging
 Housing Authority
 Local Churches

2. Create town-wide events that foster cultural awareness

Chamber of Commerce
 Clark Art
 Hotels / Event Organizers
 Mass MoCA
 NAACP Berkshire
 National Night Out
 NAACP Berkshire
 Northern Berkshire
 Community
 Coalition
 Pediatricians
 Schools, Preschools

Select Board
Social Workers – Williamstown CARES survey Strengthening Police / Community Partnership group
SweetWood
Town Committees
Town Government / Treasurer / Assessors Williamstown Youth Center
YMCA
Northern Berkshire Community Coalition Williams College - Museums, Davis Center, '62 center
Williamstown Historical Museum
Williamstown Rural Lands
Williamstown Youth Center

3. Increase diverse, equitable, and inclusive participation (a) on government boards and committees and (b) in the Town workplaces

Town Hall, Town Manager, Hiring Authorities Williamstown Fire District
Select Board
Town Moderator
Chairs of Town Boards and Committees Superintendent of Schools

4. Create sustainable methods for continuous improvement in the development of diversity in our community

Davis Center
Health Systems
Library
Local Business
Multicultural Institutions (need to identify) NAACP
NAACP Berkshire

5. Support youth

Buxton School
Pediatricians
Pine Cobble
Williams College
Williams College Children's Center

6. Support Stockbridge-Munsee Community

SMC leadership
SMC - Director of Cultural Affairs
NBCC
Planning Board / Assessor Gentrification and housing expenses –
Points of access to public and social services
Public Schools
Stockbridge-Munsee Community
Williamstown Pre-school
Williamstown Public Schools / Superintendent / Principals
Williamstown Youth Center
Tribal Historic Preservation Office Staff
Supporting People and Institutions in Homelands

2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND RACIAL EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Shana Dixon, Chair

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

It is with gratitude and humility that the DIRE Advisory Committee acknowledges that we live and work in the ancestral homelands of the Mohican People, who are the indigenous peoples of this land. Despite tremendous hardship in being forced from here; today, their community resides in Wisconsin, and is known as the Stockbridge Munsee Community. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors, past and present, and acknowledge their continuous presence in their homelands as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all.

ABOUT THE DIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The DIRE Advisory Committee was created by the Select Board in the Summer of 2020. The Town of Williamstown has expressed a commitment to providing equity, access, and opportunity for all its residents, and believes in the vital importance of a diverse community. The Town of Williamstown wants to be a welcoming community and a safe and enjoyable place of residence for people regardless of background and we continuously strive to make this happen.

The Select Board's charge to the DIRE Advisory Committee includes addressing inclusiveness, diversity, and equity through the development of forums for open and safe discussion of these issues, and for the development of actionable recommendations to improve the attainment of these goals in Williamstown for all residents. The DIRE Advisory Committee is a diverse group of people with different backgrounds and walks of life who don't shy away from discussion of difficult topics of racial justice, inequalities and disparities that relate to individuals in our region and also broader national and international issues. We strive to provide an open forum for public comment where people can speak their opinion, raise concerns and make suggestions.

The DIRE Advisory Committee meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month, and its meetings are subject to Open Meeting Law and meeting times and agendas are posted in advance on the Town Calendar. DIRE meetings and virtual listening sessions are broadcast live on public access cable television and are also recorded for viewing anytime by Willinet: <https://www.willinet.org/municipal-meetings/dire/>

Current Members

Ashley Shan

Noah Kane-Small

Andrew Art

Randal Flippinger

Justine Beringer

Shana Dixon

ACTIVITIES IN 2023

The DIRE Advisory Committee made many great strides in 2023, including the development of a draft strategic plan to make Williamstown ready for a more diverse future.

Draft Diversity Strategic Plan. A major focus of the Committee in 2023 was creating at the request of the Select Board a draft strategic plan framework to make Williamstown ready for a more diverse future. The Committee discussed preparing a scoping document to address the specific steps in the Select Board's request. Members of the Committee met with the Town Manager and Human Resources department to solicit input on developing the strategic plan. The Committee discussed when to use a consultant (mentioned in the Select Board request) and how to develop partnerships to implement the goals of the strategic plan. During the drafting period, the Committee was informed by models from

other Massachusetts communities and adopted a SMARTIE Goals framework. Ms. Jemma Lambert, Director of Community Services, Town of Andover, Mass. presented lessons learned and guidance to the Committee. The draft strategic plan framework was presented to the Select Board in September and October 2023 for review and comment. The draft is available on the town website ,Select Board Meeting Packet on September 25th addresses seven priority areas:

- **Enhancing and increasing cooperation, understanding, and dialogue among residents of diverse cultural, religious, socio- economic, and racial backgrounds;**
- **Creating town-wide events that foster cultural awareness;**
- **Increasing diverse, equitable, and inclusive participation on government boards and committees;**
- **Increasing diverse, equitable, and inclusive participation in the Town workplaces;**
- **Creating sustainable methods for continuous improvement in the development of diversity in our community;**
- **Supporting youth; and**
- **Supporting the Stockbridge- Munsee Community.**

Other highlights of the DIRE Advisory Committee’s work in 2023 include:

April, 2023- Williams College Students in Dr. Allison Guess’s Africana Studies 234/235 class, joined by Solomon Titus Taylor, a descendant of Ishmael’s, delivered a compelling historical presentation on Ishmael Titus, a Revolutionary War hero and Black man who lived in the White Oaks neighborhood in Williamstown. Ishmael Titus, unjustly denied a pension for his war service, has yet to be formally recognized in Williamstown for his valor and patriotism. The Committee discussed the need to have Williamstown revisit its narrative presentations of history to include enslaved Black people, and to remedy past omissions and erasures. This is an ongoing effort.

May, 2023- Following the Ismael Titus Presentation, the Committee hosted a discussion with representatives of the Historical Museum, the 1753 House Committee, and the Williamstown Historical Museum. The Committee discussed omitted histories and sought asked questions about how to revisit the histories that, continuing to the present, have erased the presence of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican from their ancestral homelands, omitted any mention of enslavement of Black people by Benjamin Simonds (and others), and failed to include the significant historical contributions from minority residents. This is an ongoing effort.

October, 2023- Lacking funding from the Town, the Committee successfully applied for a Mary and Henry Flynt grant and was awarded \$1,170.00 by the Williamstown Community Chest. The grand funding will support the Committee’s work to host three community forums in furtherance of the Strategic Plan goals.

December, 2023 - As in previous years, the Committee enjoyed the quick conversations that we had with community members while providing 270 s’mores and about 400 cups of hot apple cider during the Holiday Walk. What a great turn out! We look forward to doing it again!

Budgeting and Planning. Through the process of developing the draft strategic plan framework during the course of 2023, the Committee found that the lack of funding and resources is a barrier to the implementation of activities that are identified in the strategic plan. To address initiatives for community engagement and enrichment, the Committee began work on a budget request from the Town with funding requests to the Select Board and Finance Committee. The Budget included line items to advance all of the items outlined in the strategic plan, for example: community engagement opportunities at established events such as the Holiday Walk, National Night Out and DIRE forums for community engagement. The budget also sought funding for new community enrichment events including educational discussions, events with the LGBTQIA+ community, multicultural events, and commitments to address DUI initiatives. The Committee strongly supports Town funding of these and other events to enhance the betterment of the Town and build a more inclusive and equitable space for all.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Lauren Stevens, 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 Lauren Stevens, Henry Art, Cory Campbell, Tim Carr, Andrew Galusha, Phil McKnight, and Barbra Robertson. 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 9 Town properties in the care and custody of the Commission: The Stone Hill Woodlot, Margaret Lindley Park, The Hunter Lot, The Deans Lot, Bloedel Park, The Pine Cobble Lot, Bridges Pond, the Lowry Lot, the Burbank Lot. The latter two properties are currently used for agriculture under special use permits.

During 2023 the Commission continued its land and water task forces work and began looking seriously at management of Town lands not under Commission jurisdiction including the Spruces. The Commission also worked closely with Seth Jenkins of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission on updating our Open Space and Recreation Plan. 2023 was a light year for applications for work under the Wetlands Act for the Commission. While minor residential continued on its brisk post 2020 pace work related to our local institutions and commercial property owners remained slow. One area that was not slow however was response to emergencies. While we were fortunate to not have had as wet a summer as our neighbors to the north in hard hit areas of Vermont 2023 was a remarkably wet year with many flooding issues. Some did result in the Commission having to issue permits for emergency remediation work. We're all hoping for a dryer and less active weather pattern in 2024.



COUNCIL ON AGING

Brian O'Grady, Director

It was an interesting year. We met a lot of new friends during 2023 and lost a few as well. The passage of time brings joy and sadness, and as older generations slip away, new groups of people bring a new set of variables into the picture. The problems we once worked to resolve have morphed into something not as familiar. During the past year we engaged with people whose issues were not as easily resolved. We were once able to solve problems with a phone call and a little time to make connections, recently we've been encountering larger logistical problems including a shortage of workers to help in homes. We have spoken with people looking for more affordable space to relocate to, or just a place to live. Waiting lists are long and some types of housing are simply just not available. We speak with people who are hungry and have few resources or support. We have been encountering individuals recovering from or in the depths of one addiction or another. We supported people who have little money but great need, in some cases desperate need. Some are younger elders and sometimes not elders at all, we get it. While our focus is on elders and program streams are mostly geared to

this population, we are a port in the storm. We are a Council on Aging and if you are not aging, you are dead. We will help as we are able.

People heard about us, and they came in strong numbers for many programs. We met many new people this year from word of mouth, agency publications, assorted postings, structured formal outreach, all sorts of contacts led new friends here to Church Street for one program or another. Most of our contacts from any sources come to us in two forms, a telephone call, or a walk-in visit. Either way, you're likely to speak first with Carmel Kushi, our administrative person. Carmel is only here in the morning and during that time she will help you to troubleshoot problems, resolve issues, refer you to appropriate sources for services. If an issue requires greater time for response, she will pass it on to either myself, the Director, or to Sarah Kline, our Outreach person, who finds herself on the receiving end of all sorts of calls ranging from simple to increasingly complex. During the year, Sarah made hundreds of calls and home visits to help people who needed us. She has also been helpful in the creation of new programs and in facilitating the same.

The specter of Covid resurgence and assorted flu bugs did nothing to dampen enthusiasm for life! Oh yes, we did pay attention to that particular annoyance and during the year we hosted several Covid vaccination clinics with the latest version of the vaccine available. It seems like we had a clinic every other month and if we didn't get everyone who needed a shot (or wanted one), I would be surprised. And, of course we hosted seasonal flu shot clinics as well.

Enough of this pestilence issue (we hope). We supported community health in many other ways in 2023.

Active aging remains a major focus for us. Three times weekly Mary Edgerton leads yoga classes and a great volunteer, Sherry Lashway, leads an informal class on the lawn outside during the week when the weather cooperates. Youlin Shi teaches two Tai Chi classes weekly-a beginner class and an opportunity for more advanced practitioners. Amanda Bayliss has people sweating four times weekly in her exercise classes, a strenuous program involving movement, stretchy bands, and weights. Karyn O'Toole leads a gentler exercise class weekly as well.

A new addition this year is Reiki. Mary Molleur, a Reiki Master, started bringing a special technique to our array. Reiki is a healing energy technique using gentle hand movements to guide the flow of healthy energy through the body to reduce stress and help the healing process. Try it. You may be surprised. We hosted a caregiver support group with Elder Services for a while during the year. Corrine Case facilitates a loss support group as well. The latter addresses grief following any loss and not just bereavement. Loss is loss and the pain is real.

Sarah Kline and I lead Memory Training classes. It is not a cure all for memory deficits and the class is not meant for individuals with dementia. It's a short evidence-based series of exercises designed by folks at the UCLA longevity center for people with minor memory concerns. The program will provide some proven techniques to help remember, for example, tasks, chores, and peoples' names. Oh! How about the big one-grocery lists! Watch for it, we'll be doing this again.

One of the major life altering changes we have been witnessing is the proliferation of electronic devices which can really make life easier. Of course, one of the problems has been that with every new technology comes a learning curve. We collaborate with Williams student volunteers weekly during the school year to offer a program called "Tech Tutoring." It's exactly what it sounds like, bring us your device, any device, iPad, Chromebook, phone of any breed and our tutors will try to help you sort it out. Great program folks!

Of course, there were Blood Pressure clinics, McCann Tech sent LPN students to lead classes on subjects ranging from Osteoporosis to GERD. We had seminars on skin cancer and care, neurological disorders. We had a seminar on Narcan, the nasal spray which can save lives in people who have overdosed if administered in a timely manner. Almost all the people who attended the session brought Narcan home with them, some of them thought they might have cause to use it in time. Remember what we said earlier about changes...? And yes, we do have a supply here at Harper. We had experts talk about nutrition, lawyers commenting about wills and power of attorney. Once, an AARP person who was well versed in all kinds of fraud was presenting on scam avoidance and in moment of perfect timing, received actual scammers call on his cellphone while he was here! A hands-on, live demonstration on how to deflect a phone creep.

Funeral Consumers of WMA provided useful information about life 's end necessities and provided information around funeral and burial requirements. The local Berkshire Board of Health presented on tick bites and tick bourn illness. We

provided training in Matter of Balance, a program designed to teach people specific strategies and core strengthening exercises to avoid falls which can be fatal. We lost three of our regular participants to fatal falls in the past year. Three too many...

In September, Sarah curated our Second Annual Wellness Fair featuring many agencies in our referral base, home care providers and various housing entities, who are heavily sought out by our neighbors for service opportunities. They brought information and educational materials, a variety of snacks, provided raffle opportunities for participants, partially as a means of engaging with community members, partially for fun, all successfully.

Last summer, our Selectboard granted us ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds to replace aging furniture, improve the computer lab etc. You may have noticed that we have purchased new chairs, tables for activities, new computers and monitors for the classroom, a great smart TV for the main hall. Our new PA system is reliable, has better volume control and is without muffled voices. This device will allow us to add a feature with earphones which will significantly improve the ability of our friends to hear in our space. More to come! You will notice, we hope!

Food is essential to life itself, and during the year we continued to work with Elder Services to provide Grab and Go, a nutritious hot meal (including Vegetarian options), 3 days weekly. This option is open to all seniors who need or want the meal, no questions asked. Participation in this has fluctuated through its time, we have also managed to refer less physically mobile people to the Home Delivered Meals program, same food with home delivery. We host the Foodbank of Western Mass Brown Bag program monthly, literally a paper sack filled with shelf stable food and seasonal fruits and veggies. We provide snacks at programs, host weekly coffee with a continental type of breakfast as well as monthly senior meals with spaghetti and meatballs, French Toast, and pizza as favorites. We have used grant funds to purchase food cards to give to individuals needing food and who are short on funds. Our staff also collect food for the St Patrick's food pantry monthly.

Rick Andrews, our primary van operator, also helps with the food effort by bringing people grocery shopping weekly. He also transports to local restaurants twice monthly for lunch out, important as a social outlet. He also brings people to medical appointments, for treatments and clinical services locally in North Berkshire and the Pownal VT satellite physician offices of Southwestern Vermont Medical Center. Standard of living transport is regular as well and trips to the hairdresser and library, for example, are routine.

When he needs to be away from his travelling office, Rick is supported by David Larabee and Jake Jowett, a couple of the best pinch hitters you could ask for!

In December we won a grant from Massachusetts Councils on Aging to promote Dementia Friendly programming in Williamstown. We, Williamstown, were recognized as a dementia friendly community in Massachusetts last fall. Dementia-friendly communities address the needs specific to their residents, advocating for dementia awareness and providing services, programs, and public spaces that support people with dementia and their care partners. We will be working with folks at the Milne Library, Willinet, the Chamber of Commerce and others to further the goals of this program. We know that there are folks out there caring for individuals with one cognitive issue or another. We want to support you. This will be a program launched in 2024. You'll be hearing more about this effort soon. We hosted the AARP Tax Aide program for the...actually I cannot tell you how many years they have done this. They were doing tax preparation assistance long before I arrived here, and I have been here for a while. Geoff King and friends are available on Tuesday evenings and Saturday afternoon to complete and file your state and federal taxes. Yes, we play games, including Bingo. We host weekly cribbage, bridge games, movies, concerts, storytellers, lectures...we have a walking group, Ghetta Hirsch leads our Tuesday morning art class. Students from the Williamstown Elementary School, our neighbors across Church Street, visit to interact with our elders. They sing, play games, make decorations and crafts, and learn about each other! Oh, and Karyn's Winter and Summer High teas are social highlights! Cucumber sandwiches! Yum! We had Tango lessons last summer as well.

There is more, we are continually active, we can add you to our mailing list or, better yet, stop by and grab the monthly calendar! You'll be welcome here!

We would not have been able to do any of this without the support of our loyal volunteers, bingo callers, board members, program helpers, AARP volunteers, anyone who has served the Williamstown elder community here at the COA, you are all wonderful. Thank you for your support!

This report is written in memory of three special people. Dorothy Reinke, former Chair of the Board of the Williamstown Council on Aging, elder community activist who served with many local organizations and who at the age of 100, bought a new car. Jean Tyler, a past member of the COA Board, lecturer, author, Alzheimer's community activist, and Elaine Keys who passed as this report was finished. Elaine was a member of the Council on Aging Board, one of our first computer instructors and past editor of the former monthly newsletter. You are all missed.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian O'Grady, Williamstown Council on Aging Director.

DAVID & JOYCE MILNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Pat McLeod, Library Director
www.milnelibrary.org

83,058 Items circulated
70,013 Items owned
209,406 downloadable items available
5,614 Active card holders
24,413 Interlibrary loans

After 25 years of service to the Town, our Library Director Pat McLeod retired at the end of the year. Twenty-five years is a long time, and many things in the library world have changed in that time. She liked to say that when she started there were only one or two computers in the library building. She spearheaded the automation of the entire library in the late 1990s and early 2000s, and brought the Milne library into the 21st century. She was also instrumental in coordinating the Williamstown Reads! program in the early 2000s, bringing in speakers and programs relating to Seabiscuit and Shackleton. We thank her and commend her for her service to the Town of Williamstown.



2023 was a year in which we still are in the process of recovering from the changes of the pandemic. Our traffic and circulation are still rising back to the high levels they were at before the disruptions of the COVID lockdown in 2020.

We have added a new online language learning service, Mango Languages, to complement Transparent Languages. Between these two services, our cardholders have online access to language learning resources for over 100 languages that they can use at any time.

We have really prioritized community outreach this year, and have gone out to farmers' markets and to Williams College to meet new students. We are collaborating with Sweetwood and the Council on Aging to try to reach older patrons and match them up with services they might not be aware of. Through a collaboration with the Center for EcoTechnology, we were able to obtain an induction stovetop set which is now part of our circulating collection.

The Town conducted a compensation comparison study this year, and as a result, a number of library staff members had their salaries increased to be competitive with similar towns across Massachusetts.

As always, the library functions so well because we have a wonderful team of staff and dedicated volunteers who complete a variety of tasks. We are lucky to have a community around us that is so supportive of the library and works in so many different ways to help us provide such a wide range of services and resources to our patrons.

2024 will be the 150th anniversary of the founding of the public library in Williamstown, and in preparation for this event, we have been working on fixing up our building, after some years of deferred maintenance. Among other things, we have been working with a team of volunteers who are fixing up our gardens and grounds, so that there are pleasant areas outside for people to sit and read, or chat, or just enjoy some sun.

The 150th anniversary will be a big celebration throughout 2024. We are honored to serve our community and are looking forward to the next 150 years (and more!).

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.
- 21,275 in 2023
 - (compared to 19,050 borrows in 2022 and 16,258 in 2021)
- 153 new users in 2023
 - (compared to 124 new users in 2022 and 121 in 2021)

Hoopla:

- Patrons have access to eBooks, audiobooks, comics, magazines, graphic novels, television shows and music through Hoopla, all instantly available with no holds.
- 1105 borrows in 2023 (compared to 969 borrows in 2022)

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.
- Patrons have borrowed 1185 titles (compared to 946 in 2022).

Overdrive Advantage

We also subscribe to Overdrive Advantage, which allows us to purchase titles that benefit the CW MARS cooperative collection as a whole and gives our patrons first shot at popular titles. We added 100 new titles in 2023.

Newsletter

2,733 patrons receive our weekly newsletter. On average, 49% of these patrons open the newsletter every week - that is roughly 1,339 weekly readers.

Adult Programming

In 2023, we scheduled and hosted programming for adults throughout the year. General program categories covered include books and reading, poetry, art, film, writing, nature and the environment, home and gardening, and exercise and health in the form of workshops, talks, performances, and outdoor experiences.

This year we broadened our horizons by trying out new types of programs and new presenters as well. New programs included a poetry open mic night, needle-felting workshops, a mushroom talk and walk, an “Ask a Muslim Anything” talk, a sourdough starter workshop, film showings on Fridays and a terrarium-making workshop done in conjunction with the Teen Librarian. Attendance ranged from good to excellent at each of these programs!

Repeated programs included Gentle Yoga, a scarf-dyeing workshop, and both day and night sky stargazing. We again hosted several book talks with local authors, and hosted a re-enactment of the life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

In October, the library partnered with the League of Women Voters to put on a celebration of banned books. The event featured readings by a number of authors and had over 100 attendees.

In addition, we again hosted two reading challenges: Blind Date With a Book in February, and Book Bingo over the summer. Blind Date With a Book occurred for the fifth year in a row, and we provided Book Bingo cards to adults over the summer for the fourth year in a row. For both events, patrons participated independently by coming into the library and turning in a card at the end. Staff learned which titles were preferred, and patrons received prizes for participating.

The library also took part in Climate Preparedness Week for the third time in September. We hosted the mushroom talk mentioned above and helped to plan the hybrid Clean Energy Incentives Forum with the Pioneer Valley Library Collective. We also hosted programs about fall gardening, the plastics crisis and composting - all given by northern Berkshire residents, coincidentally!

In 2023 we sponsored virtual programs, but fewer than in 2022. They included Medicare informational talks, a felting workshop, a talk about New England ghosts, the Clean Energy Incentives Forum and home downsizing advice.

The Friends of the Milne Public Library were, as always, our steadfast financial supporters. They provided all paid programming for the library, mostly in the form of fees and stipends for presenters. In addition, several presenters received Massachusetts Cultural Council grants to cover their costs.

Young Adult Services 2023

This year we included a variety of in-house, passive and takeaway programs for our busy teen patrons to get involved. Takeaway kits are a popular way for teens to create on their own schedule; we offered beginner crochet kits and virtual felting rainbow patch workshops for pickup. During Pride Month in the Teen Room, colorful rainbow tissue paper and glue was on hand and teens created a giant collage rainbow which is now on permanent display in our graphic novel area. There is always something to work on in the Teen Room, whether it is a pop-up valentine card, coloring pages or a puzzle.

During Poetry Month, tables were set up around the library where patrons could create collage poetry. The submissions were featured on our gallery wall during April. We also hosted a very well attended open-mic Be Heard: Poetry Night.

We offered movies throughout the year thanks to our movie licensing subscription and our spacious Community Room. Some examples of the teen movies shown were Black Panther and The Hate U Give (in honor of Black History Month), The Nightmare Before Christmas (our Halloween offering), and The Barbie Movie, which was quite a crowd pleaser!! Our free “concession stand” included a selection of sweet and savory snacks, fruit, and bubbly seltzers.

We had a larger number of tweens and teens participate in our 2023 Summer Reading program, 57 in total, which almost doubled the participants of last year. Raffle tickets were handed out for daily reading and additional teen/tween incentives such as reading a genre book, visiting a blog post on the website, or attending events. A whopping total of 485 raffle tickets were returned the summer of 2023!

Some of our events included Gelli printmaking, a didgeridoo workshop, and Build a Terrarium. The fall and winter months included tarot card readings and the ever-popular collage bookmarks.





The Teen Room has two monthly rotating displays with themes such as The LatinX Experience, Jump into a Creepy Read, Well-Being for Teens and our new Spanish Language Collection. Most of these displays are accompanied with a blog post on our website and the books can be accessed in-person or through our online catalog.

Children's Room

In 2023 we celebrated our own unique ways of expressing ourselves, through art, dance, music, and more. The Summer Reading theme was "Find Your Voice," and we tried to take full advantage of the range of possibilities with our programming.

In April we resumed our twice-weekly storytimes, changing the days to Monday and Wednesday to fit better with what other local libraries were offering. It's wonderful to be able to share the fun of reading with so many kids, many of whom are regular attendees. The new bubble machine is always a big hit.

Our summer events included printmaking, weaving, and a lot of crafting – using things like clay, pipe cleaners, beads, and cardboard. We invited a few performers, and some tweens and teens even learned how to play the didgeridoo. Two programs involving animals (bats and reptiles) drew in huge numbers of people.

In the fall, our programming slowed down, but we did have a party to celebrate Halloween and Dia de Muertos. Over a hundred people joined us to make haunted (or not) houses, calavera masks, flower crowns, and pop-up black cats. And in November, we partnered with the town DPW for Touch a Truck Day, which was a huge success and was talked about for days afterwards.

Changes this year included a new shelving unit to hold more of our growing collection of graphic novels and manga. The shelves, along with a pair of new armchairs, form a reading nook which sees a lot of use. And we continued to curate and update our collections to reflect the growing diversity and interests of our community, and to welcome patrons of all ages to come read with us.



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Melissa Cragg, Chair – Fred Puddester, Vice Chair

Members of the Finance Committee serving during calendar 2023 included Paula Consolini, Melissa Cragg, Charles Fox, Doris Karamatsos, Molly Magavern, Elaine Neely, Fred Puddester, Suzanne Stinson, and Michael Sussman. Work during 2023 focused on preparation of the fiscal year 2024 operating and capital budget covering the period from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The Finance Committee created an “Ad Hoc Debt Study Group” to study town debt capacity and existing debt structure and short and long-term capital budget requirements for the Town, the Fire District, Mt. Greylock Regional Schools, and Hoosac Water Quality District. Led by Suzanne Stinson, other participants include Melissa Cragg, Hugh Daley, Don Dubendorf, Carrie Greene, and Fred Puddester. This committee has gathered much information and will make a report on its findings in the coming months. Last year’s presentation called “Finance 101: Demystifying Town Finances” was updated in a memo dated January 16 to the Select Board. Both the PowerPoint and the letter addressing town taxation and cost structure can be found on the Finance Committee page of the www.williamstownma.gov website.

At the Annual Town meeting held on May 21, 2023, the Finance Committee recommended, and the town approved an expense budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 of \$23,858,204, a 6% increase over the prior fiscal year’s actual expenses of \$22,441,169 (3% more than 2023’s budgeted 23,142,255). Per usual, over half of the budget is devoted to funding our schools reflecting the continued commitment the town places on preparing its children for happy, productive futures.

Fiscal year 2024’s budget included no new town government positions though it did include funding for the first time of our share (\$23,500) of the compensation for a Human Resources professional, previously funded under a grant. Staff pay increases of 3% were included in the budget as was \$50,000 to fund yet-to-be-identified positions across town government below pay levels considered to be competitive. The budget also included funding to promote three patrolmen to sergeant better reflecting their job responsibilities and importantly continued funding for police and dispatch training and certification. Health benefits’ expenses rose 8.9%. Also included was \$30,000 for the town website redesign. Happily, 2024 town expenditures are coming in below budgeted levels, a harbinger of more free cash in 2025.

“Free Cash,” accumulated funds resulting from excess net tax revenues from prior years, totaled \$1,895,508 on June 30, 2022. The Finance Committee recommended and the town approved \$177,000 appropriation from these funds for three town non-profits, \$350,000 in additions to town reserves including the Stabilization Reserve (expected to bring that total balance to \$1.1 million), and \$1,118,000 for equipment mostly for the Department of Public Works (\$325,100), building renovations for the Milne Public Library (\$320,000), and road repaving for Meecham, School, Church, and Park Streets (\$472,900).



WILLIAMSTOWN, MA BUDGET SUMMARY					
		Approved	Six Months	'24 vs '23	Annualized
	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	% Change	6Mos vs '23
				% Change	% Change
Executive	\$ 490,419	\$ 383,550	\$ 156,871	78%	64%
Administration and Finance	\$ 3,399,648	\$ 3,687,621	\$ 1,767,604	108%	104%
Community Development	\$ 430,733	\$ 459,992	\$ 187,191	107%	87%
Public Safety	\$ 1,620,675	\$ 1,784,072	\$ 789,657	110%	97%
Public Works	\$ 2,000,036	\$ 2,373,087	\$ 776,000	119%	78%
Human Services	\$ 851,165	\$ 1,008,748	\$ 455,931	119%	107%
Subtotal General Government	\$ 8,792,676	\$ 9,697,070	\$ 4,133,254	110%	94%
Debt Service	\$ 557,688	\$ 547,188	\$ 76,094	98%	27%
Finance Committee Reserve	\$ -	\$ 75,000	\$ -	NA	NA
Transfer Station Transfer	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ -	NA	NA
Total General Government	\$ 9,350,364	\$ 10,339,257	\$ 4,209,348	111%	90%
McCann	\$ 237,450	\$ 260,060	\$ 192,851	110%	162%
Mt Greylock Regional	\$ 12,853,355	\$ 13,258,887	\$ 6,629,444	103%	103%
Subtotal Schools	\$ 13,090,805	\$ 13,518,947	\$ 6,822,294	103%	104%
Total Spending	\$ 22,441,169	\$ 23,858,204	\$ 11,031,643	106%	98%
Off-Budget Spending from Free Cash:					
Williamstown Youth Center	\$ 77,000	\$ 77,000	\$ 77,000	100%	
Chamber of Commerce	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	100%	
Sand Springs Recreation	\$ 19,000	\$ -	\$ -	0%	
Williamstown Preschool	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	100%	
Subtotal NonProfits	\$ 196,000	\$ 177,000	\$ 127,000	90%	
OPEB Reserve	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	100%	
Compensated Balance Reserve	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	100%	
Stabilization Fund	\$ 50,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -	500%	
Classification/Wage Study	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ -	0%	
Capital Projects	\$ 494,815	\$ 1,118,000	\$ -	226%	
Offset Tax Levy	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ -	0%	
Total Off-Budget	\$ 1,125,815	\$ 1,645,000	\$ 127,000	146%	
Free Cash	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 1,895,508	\$ 1,895,508	118%	
Free Cash Use/(Carryover)	\$ (474,185)	\$ (250,508)	\$ (1,768,508)	53%	
Approved Property Tax Levy	\$ 19,501,099	\$ 20,336,062	\$ 20,336,062	104%	
New Growth			\$ 651,082		
Tax Levy Attributable to Preexisting Taxpayers			\$ 19,684,980	101%	

The tax levy is the amount required to fund the town's budget. Mitigating any year's increase from the year prior is "new growth," the amount of new projects added to the town's tax rolls. The town enjoyed over \$40 million in such growth in 2023, virtually all of it residential. The majority of this resulted from the conversion from rentals to condominiums at Cable Mills. The \$40 million in new growth contributes over \$650,000 in new tax revenues absorbing much of the budgeted expense increase.

The 2024 Williamstown tax levy of \$20,336,062 is \$2,817,656 under the Proposition 2.5 limit as of June 30, 2023. The town continues to enjoy a strong Aa1 credit rating on its long-term debt from Moody's Investor Services.

Faithful minutes-keeper Doris Karampatsos recently resigned from the Finance Committee. We thank her for many years of service. We welcome Rachel Tarses to the Finance Committee.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Craig Clough, Superintendent

This year was a transition year for the public works department. Director of Public Works Chris Lemoine retired in March of 2023 to end a 24-year career with the Town. Chris's public service started in 1998 at the Cemetery and Parks department where he was hired as an equipment operator. Chris became the Cemetery and Parks Foreman in 2001 and shortly thereafter became the Superintendent. In 2011 Chris moved over to the Highway Department as the Superintendent. After 8 years Chris then moved up to Director of Public Works. Chris was Director from 2019 to 2023. All of us at the Public Works department wish Chris a healthy, long, and relaxing retirement. We also saw the retirement of Peter Robare from the Highway Department. Peter was a longtime employee putting in over 31 years of service to the public of Williamstown. Thanks Peter and enjoy your retirement. Lastly, Kenneth McAlpine retired from the Facilities department after 15 plus years of service. Thanks for taking care of our buildings Ken! Ken was also the recipient of the Williamstown League of Women Voters Employee of the year award in 2022.

I would like to welcome Justin Olansky to the Public Works Superintendent position and Garret Wood to the Cemetery and Parks Operations Supervisor position. Justin was hired by the Highway department in 2018 and brought with him broad knowledge of highway operations. In 2020, Justin was promoted to the Cemetery and Parks department Operations Supervisor position. Justin has proven to be a dedicated and very trustworthy employee and has excelled in all positions he has held. Garret Wood was hired by the Highway department in 2020 and was recently promoted to his new position. Garret joins us with numerous trade capabilities and knowledge of cemetery operations and has proven to be a great asset to the Town's operations. The Public Works department continues to be in a cycle of retirements. We have filled three Highway department positions this year. I would like to welcome Joseph Strohmaier, Matthew Johnson, Micheal Hubby.

Now on to operations. Winter started off slow but picked up its pace at the end of February. Back-to-back storms exhausted the highway crew as most storms started late at night and continued for 24hours. One 2023 storm in particular was on March 13th through the 15th. Snow started to pile up instantly and by 2:00pm on the 14th Belin Road had received 19 inches of heavy wet snow. The storm continued for another 18hours. Total accumulation of the historic heavy wet snow equaled close to 18inches in town and 36 inches in the hills. It should be noted that the Public Works Highway Department received the Employee of the Year award from the League of Women Voters for their hard work and dedication for making sure the Town was taken care of during this March 2023 snowstorm. Employees from the Water/Sewer and Cemetery/Parks departments assisted during this storm and are recognized as well for this award.

The wet weather continued throughout the year causing many drainage issues around town. The excess runoff from all the rain we have received this year also plugged up many drainage pipes on our gravel roads. The wet weather also postponed the paving of Brook Road, Front Street, John Street, and Manning Street. Mother nature has continued to send more water our way causing the riverbank of the Hoosic River to erode in the area of North Street by Syndicate Road causing major concern of losing a 24-inch sewer main. Engineering to rectify this situation has begun and we hope to have construction underway by the summer of 2024. The Highway department did some extensive asphalt preservation this year by chip stone sealing several roads in town. Scott Hill Road, Sloan Road, Blair Road, Hawthorn Road, Hawthorn Court, Hill Province Road, Laurie Drive, Petersburg Road, Forest Road, Northwest Hill Road, Jamieson Heights, Jerome Drive, and Lee Terrace all received this treatment that will prolong the life of the road surface.

Cemetery, Parks, and Recreation

The town owns three cemeteries, several parks, and now a new shared use path. The Mohican Shared Use Path was completed this year providing the town and surrounding communities with a safe place to walk, run, or bike for 2.4 miles. This small public works department takes care of all the town's public areas in addition to the cemeteries and parks. This includes all the small intersection islands around town as well as the Williamstown Elementary School, Spring Street parking lot, Joyce Milne Library, Museum of History, Town Hall, and DPW grounds. All this work is accomplished with

three full-time employees, including the supervisor, and 4 seasonal employees. It still astounds me how much work this crew gets done in a week, especially with all the rain we have been getting which makes it almost impossible to complete their tasks. All of this is done, including cemetery burial services.

Transfer Station

The town's transfer station is available to all town residents who want to utilize this great service. You can participate in using the transfer station by purchasing a permit (sticker). This year the Town sold 876 transfer station permits. That is a lot of vehicles visiting our small station weekly. The station offers rubbish disposal, food waste, demolition, metal recycling, plastic bottles, metal cans, glass bottle recycling, and paper recycling. Coming soon, we have a paper compactor that will be operational in 2024 which will lessen the amount of haul charges we incur on a weekly basis.

WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT

David M Caron, Superintendent

Water/Sewer Dept.

The Water & Sewer Department had another busy season in 2023, The LSLI (Lead Service Line Inventory) is underway for the town, this is an inventory mandated by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) that requires all public water supplies within the United States of America conduct an inventory and account for every water service line that may be lead or galvanized material within a towns distribution system. The complete inventory for the town water services is due by October 2024. Another project that is in the early stages is the redevelopment/rehab of our town water supply well #2, the well is located on Stetson Road across from the Little League field. Some of the upgrades include a new pump and motor along with new electrical, the upgrade also includes new controls and communication equipment along with security cameras and keyless entry into the buildings. The old water main pipes both inside and outside of the well building will also be replaced as part of the rehab of well #2. Both projects were contracted to Wright-Pierce Engineering Consultants.

The Water Department responded to and repaired 7 water main breaks. One water main break worth noting was on Wednesday, September 6th in the vicinity of 229 North Street/Rt. 7 that forced the closing of Rt. 7 for approximately 12 hours. The Water Department responded to a call of water coming out of the road at 2:30 pm, upon arrival the department quickly realized the road would have to be closed to traffic. The Highway Department also responded for backup and to help with the excavation and repair of the 8" cast iron water main that was discovered to have a 6" diameter hole in the side of the pipe. The amount of water coming out of the main caused severe damage to the roadway for approximately 80 ft. in both the North and South bound lanes. The crews were on site until 3am the next morning until the water main was repaired and to ensure the road was safe for travel before it was reopened.

The Water Department also repaired several residential water services along with water gates and gate boxes. Due to the age, three fire hydrants were replaced at different locations in town, Rt. 7 at Jerome Drive, Jamieson Heights, and Haley Street.

Repairing water main breaks and water services/gates is only a small part of the responsibility that lies in the department's hands, below are some of the other duties that the department handles:

1. Maintenance of town water main right of ways.
2. Monthly fire hydrant maintenance/repair.
3. Bi-annual flushing of the water distribution system.
4. Daily leak detection/ pressure checks on the distribution system.
5. Bi-annual testing of backflow prevention devices.
6. Daily chemical injection pump inspection/repair

The Sewer Department replaced a 2010 Ford F-350 in July with a 2023 Chevrolet Silverado 3500 utility body work vehicle. The new vehicle came equipped with a 2000lb crane to assist with the removal of our sewer lift station ejector pumps. An onboard air compressor was also included with the purchase to better assist with repairs of both water & sewer mains as well as hydrant repair/maintenance as needed.

The department also welcomed Evan Burrington as our newest employee, Evan brings a strong mechanical background to the department and has proven to be a great asset to our team.

The Sewer Department rehabilitated 3 sewer lift stations on Cold Spring Road this year, the rehab was another positive step toward removal of ground water infiltration. When the ground water is allowed to enter the sewer collection system it is being treated as if it were sewer, this increases the cost of treatment by using more chemicals to treat the excess clean water. Eliminating the entry of clean water is an important step toward keeping the sewer rates as low as possible. The department continues to take every course of action possible to stop the clean water from entering the sewer system, below is a just a few examples:

1. Continuous cleaning of the sewer lines with our rodding machine and jet truck.
2. Televising of the sewer lines to check for cracked or broken pipes with our tractor camera.
3. Replacement of any sewer pipes found to be compromised.
4. Inspections and repairs of manholes all year long.
5. Epoxy coated lining of manholes found to have water infiltration.

Some of the other duties of the Sewer Department include:

1. Weekly inspection of all sewer pump stations.
2. Chemical treatment of sewer lines to remove any roots or grease that could cause potential backups.
3. Bi-annual cleaning of all sewer tanks to remove grease, grit and debris.

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 2023

District Commission

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

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 1,329,543,000 gallons of raw sewage during Fiscal Year 2023, which represents an decrease in flow of

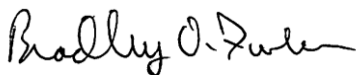
367,796,500 gallons as compared to Fiscal Year 2022. In addition, the District treated 500,867 pounds of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and 723,378 pounds of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) in FY 2023.

Some key highlights of FY 2023 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 works 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 2023 was busy for District personnel. The District entered into a 20 year agreement to purchase 700,000 kw/h of solar credits from Barre Road Solar/Nexamp LLC. This will help to off electrical costs for many years.
- In April 2023, the District received its draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This new NPDES Permit contains new reporting requirements, sampling requirements and laboratory analysis that will be challenging for all District employees.
- The District employees completed one major in-house Capital Improvement, which required removing 8 – 850 gallon chemical tanks and reinstalling 8 - New 850 gallon Sodium Hypochlorite tanks with all associated piping & gauges
- Since 1983, the District's compost facility continues to produce Type I compost as defined by the MADEP. Approximately 3,829 yards of final compost was produced in FY23. Type 1 compost was made available to individual members of the local communities; however, the bulk of the compost was sold throughout the state of Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut and Vermont by a contracted vendor.
- Public interest in the District's facility continues to grow. The District's website, www.hoosacwaterqualitydistrict.com, gives an in depth description of the operations of the treatment facility. Tours are given regularly to local college students, local grade school students and the general public.

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

Respectfully submitted for the District,



Bradley O. Furlon
Chief Operator/District Manager

PLANNING BOARD

Stephanie Boyd, Chair

Annual Report 2023 – Planning Board

The Planning Board is an elected Board, responsible for overseeing the long-term land use patterns of Williamstown through the Zoning Bylaw, The Subdivision Control Law, and Master Planning process. Following the May 2023 Town Election the Board is comprised of five members, chaired Peter Beck, with additional members, Cory Campbell, Ben Greenfield, Ken Kuttner and Roger Lawrence.

The past year was a very exciting year for the Planning Board. A number of important housing related warrant articles were brought before the 2023 Annual Town Meeting. Among these were a reduction of road frontage in the General Residence Zone and allowing as of right 3 and 4 unit homes in that same zone. All of these articles passed and were approved by the Attorney General later this past summer. These are truly generational changes to our zoning bylaw that should help alleviate the housing market crunch in our community over the coming years and decades. While we have not seen direct impact from these changes they will allow market response over time. Just as our current housing crisis took many years to develop, changes like this will take many years to resolve it through market action. Looking into 2024 the Board spent the remainder of 2023 focused on additional tools for increased housing growth including exploring mobile homes as options, a cottage court housing bylaw, and potential collaboration with the Select Board on regulation of short-term rentals. The Board was also able to work with a group of Williams students to take a comprehensive look at parking across the Williams campus and Town Center. We'll be using this data on future projects in 2024.

Additionally, as 2023 came to a close the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, appointed by the board in 2021, concluded its work on the Town's new Town Plan, Envisioning Williamstown 2035. The Planning Board approved the plan in November. Our first town plan since 2002 is a major accomplishment. It is a thoughtful look at our community and where it sees itself as we look toward the future. The hard work of this committee and all the stakeholders involved provides a roadmap toward a positive future for the Planning Board and our other partners in municipal government to follow.

Finally, we want to take this opportunity to remind all our friends and neighbors that throughout 2024 the Planning Board will be meeting the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM to discuss these and other important issues. We encourage the public to attend and discuss the present and future land use patterns of Williamstown, and how we grow, protect, and manage the fabric of our community.

WOODLANDS PARTNERSHIP OF NORTHWEST AMERICA

Henry W. Art, Williamstown, Representative to the Board

2023 Annual Progress Report and update

The Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts is a public body that started its existence as the Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership in 2014. It is currently in the process of legally changing its name to better reflect its mission and the cultural heritage of the region it serves. The Woodlands Partnership was established to be a shared forest stewardship collaboration among the US Forest Service, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, 21 municipalities and a dozen public and non-governmental organizations in Western Massachusetts. In November 2019, Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen visited Northwestern Massachusetts and with Kathleen Theoharides, MA Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, signed the Shared Stewardship Framework that now guides this public body, as well as validating the 2018 state legislation that legally established the partnership.

Since its inception, the Partnership has had considerable success in providing grants to individual municipalities, and to the northwestern Massachusetts region as a whole, to broadly implement the goals of forest-based

economic development and sustainable forest landscapes. This program, funded through grants from the U.S. Forest Service and the MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs, is now into its fifth cycle of project awards, and it is through these awards that the Partnership can most immediately act in its mission to facilitate the sustainable use and conservation of our regional forests.

Williamstown has indeed been fortunate in receiving several grants to develop management plans for climate mitigation through increasing the ability of town woodlands to take up and sequester carbon dioxide. A 2019 study by Williams College students Adrienne Joe, Ariel Koltun-Fromm, Jared Strauss, and Rachel Porter, *Can Money Grow on Trees? A Path to Carbon Trading in Williamstown, MA* led to the Town’s successful 2020 application for a \$20,000 Woodlands Partnership grant to conduct a needs assessment of Town-owned Forest lands and develop forest management plans to provide a basis to determine the feasibility of managing town lands for carbon trading programs.

The Town was also selected to participate in the Woodland Partnership / Mass Audubon Society ‘Forest Climate Resilience Program’ that assists municipalities in planning and implementing practices that help forests cope with climate extremes (adaptation) while also locking away greenhouse gases that cause climate change (mitigation). Through this collaboration, technical assistance is provided to the Town and funding to cover the cost of implementing climate-informed forest resiliency practices on town-owned forestland, in this case the Hunter Lot on Petersburg Road. In June 2022 the Forest Climate Resilience Program sponsored interpretive woodlands walk at the site.

Williamstown has also benefitted from the Woodlands Partnership urban forestry grants facilitating tree planting. In 2021-2022, the Town receive a Woodland Partnership Implementation Grant of \$20,000 for Phase 1 of tree planting to replace trees killed by the emerald ash borer on the Town Green along Main Street. In 2023- 2024, Woodland Partnership Implementation Grant of \$25,000 for Phase 2 of tree planting on the Town Green and extending to streets in the General Residence district near the town center. Finally, a US Forest Service Urban Forestry Grant for \$20,000 through the Woodlands Partnership funded an Earth Day 2023 celebratory tree planting along the Mohican Recreational Trail near Hoosic River.



It has been my privilege to serve as Williamstown’s board representative to the Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts, and its Chair from 2020 to 2023. I look forward to representing the interests of the Town and the Woodlands Partnership region in the coming year.

WILLIAMSTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Michael Ziemba

Williamstown Police Department

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 very fortunate to have these professionals in these incredibly trying times not only locally but also across the country. Every aspect of the policing profession changes what seems like almost daily. The 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 extended family and I care about and respect each and every one of them for collectively helping to make this town safe. In the year 2024, your Police Department looks forward to continuing to listen to community input, demonstrating 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 to be the most professional agency we can be, all while continuing to engage with the community we serve. Along with the above-stated initiatives, we saw the implementation of the Body Worn Cameras after being awarded a state grant to assist with the purchase and implementation of the project. This past year saw the appointment of two Patrol Officers as well as the Detective rise to the rank of Sergeant. After a rigorous eight-hour testing session that is designed to score strengths and indicate areas for improvement, these three Officers performed exceptionally well. Their addition to the management of the department is a welcome one, as they assist the Chief with some of the administrative duties of the department as well as provide guidance and oversight during shifts when the Chief is not present.

One of the duties of the Police Chief is not only to be the team leader 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 Ziemba

Accreditation Manager/Analyst: Charles Chandler

Sergeant: Shuan William, Anthony Duprat

Detective Sergeant: Calvin Dziedziak

Patrol Officers: Tania Hernandez, Craig Eichhammer, John McConnell, Scott Skorupski, Brad Sacco, David Jennings, Haley Sigsbury, Ryan Dubie

Dispatchers: Laurie Tuper, Barb Brucato, Christy Lemoine, Carter King, Melissa Rustin (Part Time Dispatcher), Keiyara Thoresen (Part Time Dispatcher)

Custodian: Jim Blair

Staffing:

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

In 2022 we saw the elimination of our part time officers due in part to new requirements of the Police Reform Bill. The two existing part time officers at that time attended the MPTC (Massachusetts Police Training Council) full time academy, filling existing vacancies in the department. In 2023 Officer Kevin Garner retired from the department after 30+ years of service. Also in 2023, Officer Haley Sigsbury and Officer Ryan Dubie graduated from the police academy and joined the department as full-time patrol officers. Both these officers started with the department as dispatchers.

Many staffing changes in the department over the last several years have continued to keep the department operating below full capacity staffing levels, but due to recruitment efforts and the desire of working for a forward-thinking professional agency, we have been able to return to full staff in late 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.

The fall of 2023 saw the departure of Part Time Dispatcher and former intern Emileigh Pause who left for a full-time career in the Coast Guard.

We were fortunate to hire two new part time dispatchers during the fall of 2023, Keiyara Thoresen and Melissa Rustin.

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 2023, the Department received/returned **18,880** calls on the business lines and another **4,661** calls on the emergency or 911 lines.

There were 12,479 calls for service requiring some sort of action and are listed below by Call-Type category and are then broken down by shift:

CALLS BY CATEGORY	2021	2022	2023
911 ABANDONED CALLS	88	83	71
911 TEST CALLS	78	83	84
911 WRONG NUMBER CALLS	241	109	119
911 TRANSFER CALL	52	66	174
911 OVERFLOW - ADAMS	3	1	0
911 HANG UP CALL	89	88	91
911 SILENT CALLS	113	99	88
911 OVERFLOW – NORTH ADAMS	36	41	32
ABANDONED MV	5	3	5
ALARM – BURGLAR	173	182	173
ALARM – OTHER	9	26	25
AMBULANCE CALL – WILLIAMSTOWN	1099	1212	1448
AMBULANCE CALL – HANCOCK	38	54	28
AMBULANCE CALL – MUTUAL AID	8	5	6
AMBULANCE CALLS – NEW ASHFORD	10	4	7
AMBULANCE CALL - NORTH ADAMS	8	9	5
AMBULANCE CALLS – POWNAL	4	1	2
AMBULANCE TRANSFERS	237	300	378
ANIMAL BITE	19	13	13
ANIMAL CONTROL	258	259	233
ALARM PERMITS ISSUED	3	46	1
ALARM PERMIT RENEWALS	123	71	72
ANNOYING PHONE CALLS	15	11	1
ASSAULT	17	15	14
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – DPW	47	54	59
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – FIRE	61	45	25
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – MGRSD	5	11	23
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	225	202	171
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – RMV	2	3	3
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – POLICE	99	127	122
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – UTILITY	57	73	71
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – WCSS	12	28	21

ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – REPO	4	4	3
BREAKING & ENTRY	3	3	11
B.O.L.O.	110	71	84
BUILDING CHECK	2454	3433	3841
BURGLARY	1	2	1
DISTURBANCE	137	111	117
DISABLED MV	87	72	78
DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE	30	20	41
ESCORT / TRANSPORT	5	11	11
FINGERPRINTING	30	39	60
FIRE DISPATCH – WILLIAMSTOWN	296	243	255
FIRE DISPATCH – MUTUAL AID	8	9	10
FIREARMS OFFENSE	1	3	4
FOREST WARDEN DISPATCH	16	13	17
ILLEGAL DUMPING	9	6	4
JUNK MOTOR VEHICLE	0	1	2
K-9 REQUEST – WILLIAMSTOWN	6	3	4
K-9 REQUESTS – OTHER AGENCY	7	10	6
LARCENY	52	60	93
LICENSE TO CARRY	50	58	86
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION	1	1	3
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE	102	92	89
MISSING PERSON	14	12	25
MOTOR VEHICLE LOCKOUT	87	79	83
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT	150	211	197
MOTOR VEHICLE STOP	774	690	775
NARCOTICS INVEST	2	4	3
NOISE COMPLAINT	28	24	15
PARKING COMPLAINT	28	62	34
PERSONNEL COMPLAINT	7	1	1
PROPERTY DAMAGE	17	10	10
PARKING CHECK	347	397	377
POWER OUTAGE	4	4	18
RECORDS REQUEST	260	331	400
FOUND / LOST PROPERTY	66	130	101
PUBLIC SERVICE	193	198	178
PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT	36	57	63
RECOVERED STOLEN MV	0	1	1
ROAD CONDITIONS	102	139	167
SERVE RESTRAINING ORDER	19	19	12
SEXUAL OFFENSES	13	3	13
SUDDEN DEATH	3	6	7
SECTION 12	16	64	36
SHOPLIFTING	8	3	6
SUSPICIOUS MOTOR VEHICLE	103	120	140

AUTO THEFT	1	1	4
SOLICITING	38	58	42
SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION	8	0	5
SPEED TRAILER ASSIGNMENT	2	4	3
SYSTEM TROUBLE	9	11	6
SERVE SUMMONS	13	18	25
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	265	306	290
THREATS / HARASSMENT	50	70	69
TRAFFIC CONTROL	528	498	513
TRAFFIC COMPLAINT	194	215	201
TRESPASS	23	25	61
UNWANTED GUEST	17	30	28
VANDALISM	24	24	17
VIOLATION RESTRAINING ORDER	9	5	3
SERVE WARRANT	8	8	16
WELL-BEING CHECK	158	123	149
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE:	10213	11665	12479

2023 CALLS FOR SERVICE BY SHIFT:

<u>SHIFT</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CALLS</u>
Days / 7am to 3pm	7664
Evenings / 3pm to 11pm	3128
Nights / 11pm to 7am	1687
Total Calls for Service	12479

Criminal Charges/Arrests/Protective Custody/Incident Reports:

The Police Department issued to court one hundred and four (104) arrest reports against people for various criminal activity throughout the year 2023. Six (6) 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 are able to provide a much more detailed narrative as to what occurred. In 2023, two hundred and seventy-six (276) incident reports were generated. All of these report types are submitted monthly 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 in an attempt to locate the specific motor vehicle. A second type of complaint commonly received is when a resident or group of residents in a specific neighborhood report speeding vehicles in a specific section of town. To assist in strategizing enforcement in these specific areas, the Police Department deploys a speed monitoring trailer to record the number of vehicles, speed, direction and time of day to allow for a more specific enforcement action. These trailers also serve as a deterrent as well by displaying both the posted road speed and the vehicle's speed, and then flashing red when the posted speed is exceeded. In addition to the

mobile trailers, we also have two (2) permanent speed monitoring signs installed on Route 43 (Water Street and Green River Road); two (2) signs on School Street and two (2) signs on North Hoosac Road.

In 2023, the Police Department responded to one hundred and ninety-seven (197) motor vehicle crashes.

<u>CRASH ACTIVITY SUMMARY</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
FATAL MV CRASHES	1	0	0
CRASHES INVOLVING PEDESTRIANS / CYCLISTS	1	3	2
TOTAL MV CRASHES:	150	211	197

<u>TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
CRIMINAL MOTOR VEHICLE VIOLATIONS	95	89	68
CIVIL MOTOR VEHICLE VIOLATIONS	38	72	146
WARNING MOTOR VEHICLE VIOLATIONS	844	660	1044
TOTAL MOTOR VEHICLE STOPS:	774	690	775

<u>PARKING ENFORCEMENT</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
HANDICAP ZONE	0	0	1
PROHIBITED AREA	6	24	43
DOUBLE PARKING	0	1	0
ALL NIGHT PARKING	340	652	690
WITHIN 10' OF FIRE HYDRANT	0	1	0
ACROSS PRIVATE DRIVE / ROAD	0	1	1
WITHIN 20' OF INTERSECTION	1	0	0
UPON CROSSWALK / SIDEWALK	1	2	2
WRONG DIRECTION OR MORE THAN 12" FROM CURB	4	26	38
SNOW & ICE REMOVAL	0	0	4
OVERTIME PARKING	0	95	74
TOTAL PARKING TICKETS:	352	804	853

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. Williamstown is pleased to announce that our staff logged an impressive 2130 hours of training collectively in 2023 as a department. 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 2023 included: Legal Updates; Frontline Digital Evidence; Trauma Informed Policing; Electronic Weapon Training and Certification; Hate Crimes; Officer Response to Interpersonal Violence; CPR, AED and First Responder; 212 Degrees Preventing Officer Crises; Defensive Tactics; Duty to Intervene; CJIS Security Training and Fingerprint Background Checks; and Firearms Training and Qualifications. Officers also completed non-mandatory training for Narcan and Active Shooter Hostile Event Response Training. All officers also participated in training for the use of Body Worn Cameras with several training as administrators, prior to the implementation of the camera program on patrols.

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

All Williamstown Police Officers are also certified Dispatchers, and therefore, all officers and civilian dispatch 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 as well as maintaining bi-annual recertification in Call Handling Foundations, CPR Certification, and Emergency Medical Dispatch with Pre-Arrival and Telecommunicator CPR. This year the 16 hours of education included the topics of Stress It's All In Your Head, and How to Save a Life; Yours! All Employees also completed the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Law Review required for town employees.

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. This year, Sgt Anthony Duprat was also certified as an Animal Control Officer.

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

January

- Dispatcher Tuper recertified for Advanced CPR
- Chief Ziemba completed training on Liability & Public Records
- Dispatcher Pause trained on Unconscious Bias and Emergency Medical Dispatch
- Officer Sacco completed a 3 Day Tactical Instructor Development Course
- Acc. Manager Chandler recertified in CPR

February

- Chief Ziemba completed training on Internal Affairs
- Officer Sacco was certified as an Electronics Weapon Instructor
- Officer Sigsbury certified in use of Radar Equipment
- Chief Ziemba completed ACO training regarding Bats

March

- Chief Ziemba completed training in Essential Interpersonal Communication Skills and Leadership

- Det Dziedziak completed a training for Missing and Unidentified Persons Investigations
- Acc. Manager Chandler was certified as an MPAC Certified Assessor
- Dispatcher Rustin completed training for Unconscious Bias, and Emergency Medical Dispatch, and recertified in CPR and First Aid

April

- Chief Ziemba completed training in Use of Force and Police Pursuits
- Officer Sacco was certified as an MPTC instructor for Firearms and Rifles
- Chief Ziemba and Officer Jennings were reappointed as Inspectors of Animals
- Chief Ziemba completed two weeklong sessions for the Executive Leadership Institute, completing the Trilogy of Training

May

- Dispatcher Tuper recertified as an Advanced CPR Instructor
- K9 Shelby and Handler Sgt Duprat certified in Article Searches, as well as Tracking and Trailing
- Chief Ziemba completed ACO training regarding Coyotes
- Chief Ziemba completed training about Emerging Technology in Criminal Investigations

June

- Chief Ziemba completed ACO training on the topics of Becoming a More Wildlife-Friendly Agency, County and State Readiness to Respond to Animal Emergencies, and Deer Related Issues
- Chief Ziemba completed the Executive Development Series with training on Public Employee Freedom of Speech

July

- Dispatcher Thoresen completed Emergency Medical Dispatch Training
- Acc. Manager Chandler completed training for Criminal Intelligence Systems Operating Policies

August

- Sergeants Duprat and William completed training on Suicide Intervention and Prevention
- Officers McConnell and Jennings attended training and were certified as Field Training Officers
- Dispatcher Lemoine completed Local Agency Security Officer Training for CJIS
- Dispatcher Thoresen completed Unconscious Bias training, as well as a Public Safety Telecommunicator course
- Officer Sacco completed DCJIS Guardado Training for Licensed Officers
- Dispatcher Lemoine completed MEMA Emergency Management Director Orientation
- Officer Sigsbury completed training on the Reid Technique for Interview and Interrogation

September

- Sergeant Det Dziedziak completed training on Suicide Intervention and Prevention
- Dispatcher Thoresen completed NeXT Generation 911 Operator Training
- Officer Jennings and Sergeant Duprat completed the Mass ACO Core Competencies Training

November

- Officer Jennings completed ACO training in the following topics: Assessing Canine Behavior in the Shelter, Speaking Dog, Solving Problems with Bears, Advanced Return-to-Owner Techniques, Recognizing and Responding to Animal Hoarders, and Mitigating Feline Nuisance
- Chief Ziemba completed ACO training on Using Knowledge to Increase Impact
- Officer Sacco completed Firearms Legal Updates Training
- Sergeants William, Dziedziak, and Duprat completed a 4.5 Day Course for Front-Line Leadership
- Sergeant Duprat completed ACO training on the following topics: Investigating Animal Abuse for Law Enforcement

December

- Sergeant Duprat completed ACO training on the following topics: Cats & Wildlife, Becoming a More Wildlife-Friendly Agency, Non-Native Management Strategies, Deer Issues, Pigeon Issues, Bear Issues, Raccoon Issues, Conflicts with

Grants:

In early 2023, the following grant money was awarded to the Department to be used for the 2023 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	\$16,828.05
State 911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Support	One Time Purchase of Radio/E911 Recorder	\$13,310.00
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Equipment Grant	Operations Center Equipment	\$2700

Specialized Assignments:

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

- **Animal Control:**

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

- **Berkshire Law Enforcement Task Force (BLETF): Sergeant 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 (12) 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: Sergeant Anthony Duprat and K-9 Shelby**

Officer Anthony Duprat and K-9 Shelby have proven to be a great 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 inception of Williamstown's K-9 program there were no grants that were offered to assist with expenses and startup costs, but that has now changed. Many area municipalities have been awarded these grants and now have K-9 Units trained to respond to calls for service, providing a larger resource of K-9 responses, easing the burden on the existing K-9 Units in the area.

To date, the new K-9 Units have selected either a Shepherd or Malinois canine, focusing training on tracking, article and/or narcotics detection and/or a patrol dog, leaving Williamstown's Shelby as the only bloodhound in all 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 the 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.

Sacco spends time each day between calls for service at the schools interacting with faculty, staff and the student body. The relationships he builds are quite evident when you see children seeking him out at our community events and asking for him by name.

- **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. Sgt. Anthony Duprat and Detective Sgt Calvin Dziedziak became the department's first two certified FTOs after completing the certification program hosted by the Massachusetts Police Training Council (MPTC) employing the nationally accepted "San Jose Model." In 2023, Officers John McConnell and David Jennings were also certified as FTOs. 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.

Community Oriented Programs

The Police Department continued its Community Policing approach throughout 2023 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 is also able to distribute gun safety locks, free of charge, to all residents. Anyone in need of gun safety locks should call or stop by the Williamstown Police Department. Officer Sacco performs all License to Carry (LTC) and Firearms Identification Card (FID) applications and renewals. This is generally done between 8AM - 2PM. Residents should call first to check availability.

The issuance of the FID or LTC by the Police Department has been expedited by the Police Department implementing MIRCS (Massachusetts Instant Record Check System). MIRCS is a program implemented through the Criminal History Systems Board for online instant record checks, photos and fingerprinting for firearms licensing applicants. It improves

efficiency in the licensing process by confirming data and fingerprint identification immediately. This system allows for an electronic application process to reduce the delays caused by forwarding paper applications by mail.

- **Community Events/Planning:**

The Police Department usually stays busy directing traffic around numerous events throughout the year. 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 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 and twenty community members enjoying crafts, games, holiday themed decorations and food. The primary points of contact for organizing these events were Officers Tania Hernandez and Haley Sigsbury who both did an outstanding job seeing these through successfully. We look forward to the events on the horizon for 2024!

- **Department of Justice Program**

In July of 2021 Chief Ziemba 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 welcome 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 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.

After concluding its primary mission during the Spring of 2023, the SPCP group agreed to, at Chief Ziemba's request, stay on as a community sounding board for issues that may arise in the future. This group continues to discuss and ask questions as needed throughout the year and still meets/emails with Ziemba on a regular basis. They also assisted at many of our community events this year and we thank them for their continued support and presence.

- **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 and attends weekly meetings to address issues in our community. 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's 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.

In 2023 we purchased a computerized policy management system which eliminates the need to rely on the paper version. Policies can be updated and scheduled for review through this system and then emailed out to officers for review and acceptance. All of these actions are tracked through the software along with several other unique features that ensure adherence to best practice and accountability.

- **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 2023 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. In the years since its inception, we've had a dramatic drop in the number of neighborhood noise complaints. The student body seems thankful for the proactive program that outlines how the college and the community can live together without dramatically impacting one another.

- **CodeRED:**

CodeRED is an electronic emergency notification system that enables local public safety personnel to notify residents and businesses of emergencies that may require action. Alerts come via telephone, text message, and email. Any time there is an urgent public safety message. Officials will send messages to alert you of emergency details, instructions, or precautions that you need in order for you to make well-informed decisions and remain safe.

- **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

Kurt Gabel, Registrar

Parvin Hajizadeh, 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 and fuel tank registrations, records vital records and issues certified copies, provides notary public services, oversees employee and board members compliance with the Conflict of Interest law, Open Meeting Law and serves as the Public Records Officer in addition to many more daily tasks.

Total Registered Voters as of December 31, 2023 –

Democrat (D) – 2,073

Republican (R) – 220

Unenrolled (U) – 2,597

Libertarian (L) – 11

Conservative (A) - 1

United Independent Party (CC) – 6

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) –

Dog Licenses Issued – 2023

Male	47
Female	33
Neutered Male	246
Spayed Female	274
Kennel License (4 dogs)	0
Kennel License (10 dogs)	0

Net Value of Licenses	\$ 3,560.00
Late Fees	\$ 260.00
Gross Value of Dog License	\$ 3,820.00

Vital Records Recorded in 2023

Births	15
Marriage Intentions	39
Marriage Licenses	39
Deaths	118

Certificates & Certified Copies Issued per Request in 2023

Business Certificates	55
Certified Birth Certificates Issued	63
Certified Marriage Certificates Issued	64
Certified Death Certificates Issued	829

**TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
FISCAL YEAR
JULY 1, 2023 to JUNE 30, 2024
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 NINTH OF MAY 2023 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 Mount Greylock Regional School, 1781 Cold Spring Road, on TUESDAY, THE SIXTEENTH DAY OF MAY 2023 AT SEVEN O'CLOCK P.M. for the following purpose:

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

Proceeding: Moderator Elisabeth (Beth) Goodman opened the Annual Town Meeting at 7:00 PM on May 16, 2023 at Mt. Greylock Regional School in the gymnasium. Beth is Williamstown's first female Moderator in its 209th year of Town Meetings.

Hugh Daley represented the Select Board as Chair. Town Meeting was Hugh's last official act as a member of the Select Board.

Melissa Cragg represented the Finance Committee as Chair.

Stephanie Boyd represented the Planning Board as Chair.

Jane Patton represented the Community Preservation Committee as Chair.

Anne Skinner, presented the League of Women Voters Town Employee Award to the Snow Removal Team of the Department of Public Works. Robert Orell accepted the award as the employee of the department with the longest number of years of service to the Town.

The Moderator announced the recipient of the Scarborough, Solomon & Flynt Community Award - James Kolesar.

Electronic voting devices (clickers) were used for the first time this year. Electronic voting devices were used so voters could practice and get a feel for them prior to voting on article 27. Voters were able to test their clickers prior to Town Meeting starting. A test setup was displayed on the screens around the gym, which allowed voters to see their clicker work. The Moderator conducted 2 test votes at the beginning of the meeting so everyone could practice two more times before getting into the warrant articles.

The Moderator then made a motion to dispense the reading of the warrant. This motion passed using electronic voting devices with 268 in favor and 26 opposed.

Hugh Daley, Select Board Chair moved and it was seconded to use electronic voting devices for articles 1-15. This would allow for more practice. Paul Harsch asked if there was a way to tell on the clicker if an individual's vote counted. Hugh Daley explained either a 1 (for yes) or 2 (for no) will be displayed on the clicker screen along with OK. This means your vote was received. After discussion concluded a voice vote was taken on Mr. Daley's motion which the Moderator declared passed by majority vote.

Three hundred and eighty (380) registered voters checked into Town Meeting which is 7.5% of registered voters.

ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICERS

Article 1. To choose two Select Board members, each for a three year term; two Library Trustee members, each for a three year term; one Planning Board member for a five year term and one Planning Board member for a five year term with one year remaining. The election occurs on May 9, 2023 after this document has gone to the printer. 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 had the Town vote using electronic voting devices. The Moderator then declared article 2 passed by a majority vote of 308 in favor and 7 opposed, for a total of 315 votes.

APPROPRIATION FOR DEBT SERVICE

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$661,587.50 or any other sum, to pay interest and maturing debt, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Purpose	Year Borrowed	Years Left	Total Outstanding 7/1/23	FY2024 Principal and Interest
Elementary School	2005	2	\$385,000	\$202,700.00
Police Station	2018	15	\$3,970,000	\$344,487.50
Cable Mills	2015	2	\$220,000	\$114,400.00

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$547,187.50 from taxation and \$114,400.00 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. 5 - 0

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 Chair of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$547,187.50 from taxation and \$114,400.00 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund. There being no discussion, the Moderator had the Town vote using electronic voting devices. The Moderator then declared article 3 passed by a majority vote of 277 in favor and 9 opposed, for a total of 286 votes.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$1,428,000 or any other sum, for the following capital expenditures, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Item	Department	Amount
Church Street Design	Public Works	\$60,000
Meecham Street - Mill/Pave/Curbing	Highway	\$107,300
Street Sweeper	Highway	\$295,000
School Street Paving	Highway	\$107,000
Mooreland Street Paving	Highway	\$96,000
Park Street Paving	Highway	\$102,600
Commercial Mower	Parks	\$16,500
Patrol Equipment	Police	\$13,600
Roof Repair	Library	\$20,000
Library Facilities Repairs	Library	\$300,000
Subtotal		\$1,118,000
4x4 ¾ Ton Utility Body (50%)	Sewer	\$50,000
Subtotal		\$50,000
Sherman Reservoir Mechanical Rehab	Water	\$40,000
Sherman Reservoir Emer Action Plan	Water	\$20,000
Mandated Service Line Inventory Plan	Water	\$150,000
4x4 ¾ Ton Utility Body (50%)	Water	\$50,000
Subtotal		\$260,000
Total Capital		\$1,428,000

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$1,118,000, that \$50,000 be transferred from Estimated Sewer Receipts and that \$260,000 be transferred from Estimated Water Receipts.

The Select Board recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 5 - 0.

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 Chair of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$1,118,000, that \$50,000 be transferred from Estimated Sewer Receipts and that \$260,000 be transferred from Estimated Water Receipts. There being no discussion, the Moderator had the Town vote using electronic voting devices. The Moderator then declared article 4 passed by a majority vote of 312 in favor and 17 opposed, for a total of 329 votes.

SEWER DEPARTMENT

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Sewer Receipts the sum of \$1,592,515.43 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 \$1,592,515.43 from Estimated Sewer Receipts.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

The sewer rate was \$3.31 for FY23 and will remain unchanged for FY24. The HWQD rate will increase from the FY23 rate of \$4.21 to \$4.66 for FY24 This is a \$.45 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 Chair of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,592,515.43 from Estimated Sewer Receipts. There being no discussion, the Moderator had the Town vote using electronic voting devices. The Moderator then declared article 5 passed by a majority vote of 327 in favor and 12 opposed, for a total of 339 votes.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Water Receipts the sum of \$695,819.68 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 \$629,169.00 from Estimated Water Receipts and the sum of \$66,650.68 from Water Fund Unreserved Fund Balance.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

The water rate was \$3.85 for FY23 and will remain unchanged for FY24. The Water Department is an Enterprise Fund. All expenses of the Department are paid by user fees, not taxation.

Proceeding: The Chair of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$629,169.00 from Estimated Water Receipts and the sum of \$66,650.68 from Water Fund Unreserved Fund Balance. There being no discussion, the Moderator had the Town vote using electronic voting devices. The Moderator then declared article 6 passed by a majority vote of 319 in favor and 7 opposed, for a total of 326 votes.

WATER RATE

Article 7. To see if the Town will, in accordance with § 7, Chapter 606 of the Acts and Resolves of 1941, vote to approve a municipal water rate of \$3.85 per 100 cubic feet of water as fixed by the Select Board at their meeting of April 10, 2023 to be effective July 1, 2023, 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. 5 - 0

There is no increase in the rate from the previous year

Proceeding: The Chair 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 had the Town vote using electronic voting devices. The Moderator then declared article 7 passed by a majority vote of 314 in favor and 10 opposed, for a total of 324 votes.

TRANSFER STATION DEPARTMENT

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts or other available funds the sum of \$253,712.79 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 \$233,712.79 from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts and \$20,000 from general taxation.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

The sticker permit fee remains unchanged at \$120 for a primary sticker and \$20 for secondary/temporary stickers. The tag fee also remains unchanged at \$2/bag. The Transfer Station is an Enterprise Fund.

Proceeding: The Chair of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$233,712.79 from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts and \$20,000 from general taxation. There being no discussion, the Moderator had the Town vote using electronic voting devices. The Moderator then declared article 8 passed by a majority vote of 333 in favor and 10 opposed, for a total of 343 votes.

CHAPTER 90 HIGHWAY FUNDS

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from Chapter 90 funds that are, or may become, available to the Town during the fiscal year for Capital Projects, and to authorize the Treasurer to borrow such amounts in anticipation of reimbursement by the Commonwealth, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

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 Chair of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 9. There being no discussion, the Moderator had the Town vote using electronic voting devices. The Moderator then declared article 9 passed by a majority vote of 306 in favor and 23 opposed, for a total of 329 votes.

TO FUND OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Article 10. 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 \$44,550 from Unreserved Fund Balance; that \$2,250 be appropriated from Estimated Water Receipts; that \$2,600 be appropriated from Estimated Sewer Receipts; and that \$600 be appropriated from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts to the OPEB Trust Fund.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

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.

Proceeding: The Chair of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$44,550 from Unreserved Fund Balance; that \$2,250 be appropriated from Estimated Water Receipts; that \$2,600 be appropriated from Estimated Sewer Receipts; and that \$600 be appropriated from Estimated Transfer Station Receipts to the OPEB Trust Fund. There being no discussion, the Moderator had the Town vote using electronic voting devices. The Moderator then declared article 10 passed by a majority vote of 305 in favor and 13 opposed, for a total of 318 votes.

APPROPRIATION TO COMPENSATED ABSENCES RESERVE FUND

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$50,000 to the Compensated Absences 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 Absences Reserve Fund.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

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

Proceeding: The Chair 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 Absences Reserve Fund. There being no discussion, the Moderator had the Town vote using electronic voting devices. The Moderator then declared article 11 passed by a majority vote of 325 in favor and 13 opposed, for a total of 338 votes.

APPROPRIATION TO STABILIZATION FUND

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$250,000 to the Stabilization Fund.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$250,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance to the Stabilization Fund.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

This appropriation continues to replenish funds that had previously been used from the Stabilization Fund and brings the expected principal balance to approximately \$1.1M.

Proceeding: The Chair of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$250,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance to the Stabilization Fund. There being no discussion, the Moderator had the Town vote using electronic voting devices. The Moderator then declared article 12 passed by a majority vote of 316 in favor and 14 opposed, for a total of 330 votes.

REVOLVING FUND SPENDING LIMITS

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to set annual spending limits for revolving funds for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, 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. 5 - 0

Proceeding: The Chair 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, 2023 to June 30, 2024, under the provisions of MGL chapter 44, §53E1/2. There being no discussion, the Moderator had the Town vote using electronic voting devices. The Moderator then declared article 13 passed by a majority vote of 328 in favor and 12 opposed, for a total of 340 votes.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$9,697,070 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 2023</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2024</u>
Executive	\$483,042.28	\$433,550.00
Administration and Finance	\$3,494,723.49	\$3,687,621.01
Community Development	\$446,494.42	\$459,992.17
Public Safety	\$1,625,746.29	\$1,784,072.19
Public Works	\$2,353,246.49	\$2,373,087.07
Human Services	\$910,541.59	\$958,747.56
Total	\$9,313,794.56	\$9,697,070.00

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$9,482,770 from taxation; that \$117,081 be appropriated from Estimated Water Receipts; that \$82,219 be appropriated from Estimated Sewer Receipts; 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 5 - 0.

The General Government appropriation is a 4.11% increase over the current year.

Proceeding: The Chair of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$9,482,770 from taxation; that \$117,081 be appropriated from Estimated Water Receipts; that \$82,219 be appropriated from Estimated Sewer Receipts; and that \$15,000 be appropriated from the Sherman Burbank Memorial Trust. There being no discussion, the Moderator had the Town vote using electronic voting devices. The Moderator then declared article 14 passed by a majority vote of 293 in favor and 50 opposed, for a total of 343 votes.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RESERVE FUND

Article 15. 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 unanimously recommends 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 5 - 0.

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 Chair 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 had the Town vote using electronic voting devices. The Moderator then declared article 15 passed by a majority vote of 323 in favor and 18 opposed, for a total of 341 votes.

Proceeding: Hugh Daley moved and it was seconded to take article 27 out of order. There was discussion about this. William Lenhart moved the town vote by voice vote to consider Mr. Daley's motion. The voice vote was too close to determine, so the Moderator had the Town vote by electronic voting device. The Moderator declared Mr. Daley's original motion to take article 27 out of order passed by a majority vote of 170 in favor and 150 opposed, for a total of 320 votes.

TOWN MEETING REMOTE CLICKERS

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to purchase electronic voting devices for future use at Town Meetings, and to authorize the Select Board to expend \$27,000 for this purpose; or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

The Select Board intends to use ARPA funds.

Proceeding: The Chair of the Select Board moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 27. After a significant amount of discussion, the question was called. A voice vote was taken on calling the question which required a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote in the affirmative and it passed by a supermajority. The voice vote was too close to determine, so the Moderator

had the Town vote using electronic voting devices. The Moderator then declared article 27 passed by a majority vote of 226 in favor and 114 opposed, for a total of 340 votes.

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$260,059.68 or any other sum, being Williamstown’s share of the Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District FY24 budget, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$260,059.68 from taxation.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

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

The Williamstown assessment is a 19.3% decrease from the current year which is attributable to decreased enrollment.

Proceeding: The Chair of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$260,059.68 from taxation. There being no discussion, the Moderator had the Town vote using a voice vote and the Moderator then declared article 16 passed unanimously.

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$13,258,887 or any other sum, being Williamstown’s share of the Mount Greylock Regional School District FY24 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.

	FY2023	FY2024
Operating Assessment	\$11,817,421.95	\$12,101,198
Capital Assessment	\$ 1,035,933.00	\$1,157,689
Total Assessment	\$12,853,354.95	\$13,258,887

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,258,887 from taxation.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

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 \$5,945,869 and the portion attributable to Mount Greylock Regional School is \$6,155,329.

This is a 3.16% increase from the current year.

Proceeding: The Chair of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,258,887 from taxation. There was a little discussion around the lacking art program and the elimination of \$100,000 from the school’s budget which was earmarked for the new DEI position that was created in last year's budget. Hearing no further discussion, a voice vote was taken and the Moderator declared article 17 passed by a majority vote.

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TRACK

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the amount of \$800,000 for the purpose of completing the Field and Track Project at Mount Greylock Regional School, pursuant to Chapter 71, Section 16(d) of the General Laws, and the District Agreement, as amended, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, 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 with the understanding that the \$ 800,000 will be allocated between the two district members according to the district agreement. 5 - 0

Proceeding: The Chair of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate the amount of \$800,000 for the purpose of completing the Field and Track Project at Mount Greylock Regional School. There was a clarifying remark made by Joe Bergeron, Business Administrator of the Regional School District. He pointed out 70% of the principal and interest payments would be the responsibility of Williamstown residents and 30% the responsibility of Lanesborough residents. The funding of this article will require a vote in the affirmative from both Williamstown and Lanesborough at their respective Town Meetings. Hugh Daley made a motion to amend article 18 as advised by Town Counsel by adding the language by borrowing so the motion would now read: The Chair of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate by borrowing the amount of \$800,000 for the purpose of completing the Field and Track Project at Mount Greylock Regional School. After further clarification by the School District, Town Counsel recommended the withdrawal of the previous amendment and create a new one, which Mr. Daley did. His new amendment reads: The Chair of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to approve the borrowing of \$800,000 for the purpose of completing the Field and Track Project at Mount Greylock Regional School. This amendment was seconded. The motion to amend passed unanimously by voice vote. There being no further discussion, the Moderator declared article 18 passed by a majority voice vote.

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT STABILIZATION FUND

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to approve the creation of a Stabilization Fund by the Mount Greylock Regional School District, per M.G.L. c.71, s.16 G ½, with separate accounting and assessment per the regional school district agreement language related to apportionment of capital costs, or take any other action related thereto.

The Finance Committee recommends the adoption of this article by a vote of 8 - 0 - 1.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

Proceeding: The Chair of the Finance Committee moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 19. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared article 19 passed unanimously by voice vote.

REVISING DEFINITIONS OF MOBILE AND MANUFACTURED HOME

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-laws, Section 70-9.2 Terms Defined, by deleting the language shown below with a strikethrough line and adding the language in italics, or take any other action in relation thereto.

MOBILE HOME

~~A dwelling unit built on a chassis and containing complete electrical, plumbing and sanitary facilities and designed to be installed on a temporary or permanent foundation for permanent living quarters, as defined in the Regulations Governing Mobile Home Parks adopted by the Board of Selectmen, acting as the Board of Health.~~

MANUFACTURED HOME/MOBILE HOME

A structure, built in conformance with the National Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards, which is transportable in one or more sections, which, in the traveling mode, is eight body feet or more in width or 40 body feet or more in length or which, when erected on site, is 320 or more square feet and which is built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used as a dwelling unit, with or without a permanent foundation, when connected to the required utilities and includes plumbing, heating, air conditioning and electrical systems contained therein.

~~MOBILE HOME PARK~~

~~Any lot or tract of land upon which two or more mobile homes occupied for dwelling purposes are located, including any buildings, structures, fixtures and equipment used in connection with said mobile homes, as defined in the Regulations Governing Mobile Home parks adopted by the Board of Selectmen as the Board of Health.~~

MANUFACTURED HOUSING COMMUNITY/MOBILE HOME PARK

Any lot or tract of land upon which three or more manufactured homes occupied for dwelling purposes are located, including any buildings, structures, fixtures and equipment used in connection with manufactured homes.

This proposal will make zoning definitions of manufactured homes align with Williamstown Department of Health regulations and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article pending any changes. 5 - 0

Proceeding: Stephanie Boyd, Chair of the Planning Board moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 20. After brief discussion concluded, the Moderator declared article 20 passed by a supermajority voice vote.

REMOVING BARRIERS TO MANUFACTURED HOUSING

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70, to allow mobile homes in all residential zones in the Town of Williamstown as follows, or take any other action in relation thereto:

Amend Section 70-9.2 Terms Defined, by deleting the language shown below with a strikethrough line and adding the language in italics..

DWELLING, SINGLE-FAMILY

A detached structure, ~~other than a mobile home~~, including a manufactured/mobile home, containing no more than one dwelling unit.

Amend Section 70-3.3.A.1 Residential Uses, Use Table, by removing the “Mobile home” rows from the table.

	RR1	RR2	GR	LB	SG	VB	PB	LI
		RR3						
Mobile home park:								
Within Mobile Home Park Overlay District (See § 70-7.4C.)	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA
Elsewhere	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Mobile home:								
 Within mobile home park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
 Elsewhere:								
 For up to 12 months while residence is being reconstruction	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
 Other cases	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
RESIDENTIAL USES Single-family dwelling	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No

Amend Section 70-7.1.I Mobile Homes and Campers. by deleting the language shown below with a strikethrough line and adding the language in italics.

I. ~~Mobile home and~~ Campers. No area shall be occupied or used by a ~~mobile home or camper~~ for a total time in excess of 30 days during any one calendar year, with the following exceptions:

(1) Campers owned by the occupant of the premises may be stored in the side or rear yard when not in use.

~~(2) Mobile homes may be located and occupied in a duly established mobile home park conforming to the regulations governing mobile home parks in Williamstown adopted by the Board of Selectmen acting as the Board of Health, or as such regulations may from time to time be amended by the Board of Selectmen acting as the Board of Health.~~

~~(3) The owner or occupier of a dwelling which has been destroyed by fire or other holocaust may reside in a mobile home on the site of such dwelling for up to 12 months while the dwelling is being rebuilt.~~

Currently, our zoning bylaw does not allow manufactured homes/mobile homes anywhere except in mobile home parks. They are one of the most affordable forms of home construction. This proposal will allow manufactured/mobile homes by right anywhere that single family homes are allowed by right. By removing the sections of the Use Table (in blue) that limit mobile homes to mobile home parks and changing the definition of single family dwelling to include mobile homes, we are allowing this type of home construction where single family homes are allowed, see RESIDENTIAL USES, Single-family dwelling in table. And we need to remove the temporary allowance in section 70-7.1.I since we want these homes to be permitted permanently. Mobile homes are built to and certified by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) standards.

This proposal requires a 2/3 vote of Town Meeting.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article pending any changes. 5 - 0

Proceeding: Stephanie Boyd, Chair of the Planning Board moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 21. After lengthy discussion, the question was called and it was seconded. After a voice vote, the Moderator declared the motion to call the question passed by a supermajority vote. The voice vote on article 21 was too close to determine, so the Moderator had the Town vote by electronic voting device. The Moderator then declared article 21 failed to receive the required 2/3 vote in the affirmative with 216 in favor and 114 opposed for a total of 330 votes.

REMOVING BARRIERS TO SMALL SCALE MULTI-UNIT HOMES - 3 Family

Article 22. To see if the town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70-3.3.A.1 Residential Uses, Use Table, by inserting the bold and underlined use and permissions, or take any other action in relation thereto;

	RR1	RR2	GR	LB	SG	VB	PB	LI
		RR3						
USES NOT LISTED	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
§ 70-3.3A Principal uses (See § 70-3.3B for accessory uses.)								
RESIDENTIAL USES	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Single-family dwelling								
Two-family dwelling	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
<u>Three-family dwelling</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Detached accessory dwellings [See § 70-7.1D]	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Other Multifamily								
Within major residential development guidelines (See § 70-7.1C)	BA	BA	BA	No	No	No	No	No
Elderly housing(See § 70-7.1E.)	No	No	BA	No	No	No	No	No
Other multifamily (See § 70-7.1G.)	No	No	BA	No	No	No	No	No

Amend §70-9.2 by adding the following;

DWELLING, THREE-FAMILY

A detached structure containing three dwelling units.

Amend §70-7.1.G by deleting the language shown below with a strikethrough line and adding the language in italics.

Other multifamily development. In districts where authorized in § 70-3.3, Use Regulation Schedule, new dwellings containing more than ~~two~~ three but not more than 16 dwelling units may be authorized on special permit, provided that the following are complied with:

This proposal will allow Three 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 present allowed as “other multi family” and permissible only via special permit.

This proposal requires a majority vote of Town Meeting to pass in accordance with Chapter 358 of the Acts of 2020 which reduced the requirement from 2/3 majority for zoning amendments which allow “multi-family housing” (3 or more dwelling units) by right in “eligible locations”, as defined in G.L. c.40A, s. 1A..

The Planning Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article pending any changes. 5 - 0

Proceeding: Stephanie Boyd, Chair of the Planning Board moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 22. After brief discussion concluded, the Moderator declared article 22 passed by majority voice vote.

REMOVING BARRIERS TO SMALL SCALE MULTI-UNIT HOMES- 4 Family

Article 23. To see if the town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, §70-3.3.A.1 Residential Uses, Use Table, by inserting the bold and underlined use and permissions, or take any other action in relation thereto;

	RR1	RR2	GR	LB	SG	VB	PB	LI
		RR3						
USES NOT LISTED	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
§ 70-3.3A Principal uses (See § 70-3.3B for accessory uses.)								
RESIDENTIAL USES	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Single-family dwelling								
Two-family dwelling	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Three-family dwelling	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
<u>Four-family dwelling</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
Detached accessory dwellings [See § 70-7.1D]	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Other Multifamily								
Within major residential development guidelines (See § 70-7.1C)	BA	BA	BA	No	No	No	No	No
Elderly housing(See § 70-7.1E.)	No	No	BA	No	No	No	No	No
Other multifamily (See § 70-7.1G.)	No	No	BA	No	No	No	No	No

Amend §70-9.2 by adding the following;

DWELLING, FOUR-FAMILY

A detached structure containing four dwelling units.

Amend § 70-7.1.G by deleting the language shown below with a strikethrough line and adding the language in italics.

Other multifamily development. In districts where authorized in § 70-3.3, Use Regulation Schedule, new dwellings containing more than ~~three~~ four but not more than 16 dwelling units may be authorized on special permit, provided that the following are complied with:

This proposal will allow 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.

This proposal requires a majority vote of Town Meeting to pass in accordance with Chapter 358 of the Acts of 2020 which reduced the requirement from 2/3 majority for zoning amendments which allow “multi-family housing” (3 or more dwelling units) by right in “eligible locations”, as defined in G.L. c.40A, s. 1A..

The Planning Board recommends the adoption of this article. 4 - 1

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

Proceeding: Stephanie Boyd, Chair of the Planning Board moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 23. After discussion concluded, the Moderator took a voice vote. The voice vote was too close to determine, so the Moderator had the Town vote using electronic voting devices. The Moderator then declared article 23 passed by a majority vote of 187 in favor and 110 opposed, for a total of 297 votes.

REDUCTION OF LOT DIMENSIONS, GENERAL RESIDENCE

Article 24. To see if the town will vote to amend the Williamstown Zoning By-Laws, § 70-4.3 Dimensional Schedule as follows:

§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 <u>66</u>	30	15	15	20	-

This proposal will reduce the frontage requirement in General Residence and bring a substantial portion of lots in the district into zoning compliance.

This proposal requires a majority vote of Town Meeting to pass in accordance with Chapter 358 of the Acts of 2020 which reduced the requirement from 2/3 majority for zoning amendments which modify regulations concerning yard sizes, lot area, open space and similar requirements.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

Proceeding: Stephanie Boyd, Chair of the Planning Board moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 24. After lengthy discussion from the floor, a motion was made by Paul Harsch and it was seconded, to table this article. Town Counsel clarified what tabling an article means. Tabling an article means all discussion stops now and it is picked up at the end of the meeting. However, with zoning articles typically, Towns aren’t ready to pick up an article at the end of the meeting. They are usually looking to continue discussion and planning at a later time and place. The term for this is a motion to take no action. Tabling this article requires a 2/3 vote in the affirmative. The Moderator took a voice vote and then declared the motion to table article 24 failed. There being no further discussion, the Town voted using electronic voting devices. The Moderator then declared article 24 passed with 179 in favor and 86 opposed for a total of 265 votes.

LANDOWNER PETITION- SWEETWOOD MAP AMENDMENT REQUEST

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Bylaws, Chapter 70, Zoning (“Bylaw”) as follows:

Amend the Williamstown Zoning Map by rezoning Assessor’s Parcels 302-001-000 and 302-002-000 from Rural Residence District 2 (RR2) and Rural Residence District 3 (RR3) to Southern Gateway District (SG).

This article will rezone the property also known as 1611 Cold Spring Road and operated as Sweetwood of Williamstown to the Southern Gateway District (SG). The rezoning would permit Sweetwood to continue operating as an “Assisted living residence,” as defined in the By-Law, while also permitting Sweetwood to lease existing vacant units to individuals that are not members of the independent living community.

The Planning Board unanimously recommends Town Meeting not adopt this article. 5 - 0

The Select Board made no recommendation on this article because it arrived too late for full consideration.

Proceeding: Stephanie Boyd, Chair of the Planning Board moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to take no action on article 25. Sweetwood approached the Town and requested articles 25 and 26 be withdrawn from consideration at the May 16, 2023 Town Meeting. Once an article appears on the warrant it cannot be removed, which is why there is motion to take no action on this article. Sweetwood would like to do more research and work with the Town more on the development of this article. The Moderator declared the motion to take no action on this article passes unanimously by voice vote.

LANDOWNER PETITION- CONVERSION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS TO MULTIFAMILY USES BY RIGHT IN BUSINESS DISTRICTS

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Williamstown Bylaws, Chapter 70, Zoning (“Bylaw”) Use Regulation Schedule § 70-3.3, as follows:

Amend § 70-3.3A (1) Residential Uses, to permit the conversion of existing buildings in the Planned Business District (PB), Limited Business District (LD) and Southern Gateway District (SG) to multifamily dwellings by right. Also, to amend § 70-3.3A (1) so that new construction of multifamily dwelling units in the PB and LD, exceeding 20,000 sq. ft., will continue to require a special permit from the Board of Appeals. Also, to amend § 70-3.3A (1) so that any new construction of multifamily dwelling units in the SG district will continue to require a special permit from the Board of Appeals.

§ 70-3.3. USE REGULATION SCHEDULE	Districts							
	RR1	RR2 RR3	GR	LB	SG	VB	PB	LI
Items which include defined terms are printed in italics.								
§ 70-3.3A Principal uses (See § 70-3.3B for accessory uses.)								
Multifamily dwellings within business districts, new construction (See § 70-7.1H.)	No	No	No	SPS	BA	No	SPS	No
Multifamily dwellings within business districts, by conversion of existing building (See § 70-7.1H.)	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No

The Planning Board unanimously recommends Town Meeting not adopt this article. 5 - 0

The Select Board made no recommendation on this article because it arrived too late for full consideration.

Proceeding: Stephanie Boyd, Chair of the Planning Board moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to take no action on article 26. Sweetwood approached the Town and requested articles 25 and 26 be withdrawn from consideration at the May

16, 2023 Town Meeting. Once an article appears on the warrant it cannot be removed, which is why there is motion to take no action on this article. Sweetwood would like to do more research and work with the Town more on the development of this article. The Moderator declared the motion to take no action on this article passes unanimously by voice vote.

DISPLAY OF FLAGS, SIGNS AND BANNERS ON SPECIFIED MUNICIPAL FLAGPOLES AND PROPERTIES

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the bylaw 4-12 set out below, or take any other action related thereto:

WHEREAS, It is important that the Town of Williamstown have standards and a process to be able to express official, Town-endorsed messages that may be appropriately accompanied by ceremonial flag-raising, signs and banners; and

WHEREAS, For these expressions of official Town sentiment to be clearly construed by the residents of the Town, it is also important to clearly demarcate and codify that the Town’s flagpoles are intended as locations for official expression of the Town’s sentiments and are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression by the public; and

WHEREAS, The expressions of official Town sentiment may also be communicated by means of flags, signs and banners affixed to the ground and structures of specific municipal buildings and that such affixing is not intended to serve as a forum for free expression by the public;

NOW, THEREFORE THE TOWN ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING BYLAW;

DISPLAY OF FLAGS, SIGNS AND BANNERS ON SPECIFIED MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES

The purpose of this bylaw is to establish guidelines for the display by the Town of Williamstown of (1) flags on specific municipal flagpoles and (2) flags, signs and banners affixed to the ground and structures of specific municipal buildings. This bylaw applies to (1) the use of flagpoles at the town hall, Field Park, town cemeteries, police station and department of public works buildings and (2) the affixing of flags, signs and banners to the grounds and structures of those buildings. The Town’s flagpoles subject to this bylaw are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression by the public. The structures and land of the municipal buildings subject to this bylaw are not intended to serve as forums for the affixing of flags, signs and banners for free expression by the public, though nothing in the bylaw is intended to prevent free expression by the public at such locations through means other than affixing, including carrying of flags, signs and banners.

The following flags, signs and banners may be displayed by the Town as an expression of the Town’s official sentiments:

- a. Flags in the following order of precedence: first, the United States flag; second, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts flag; and third, the P.O.W./M.I.A. (Prisoner of War/Missing in Action) flag as provided in 36 U.S.C. § 902;
- b. Flags, signs and banners for any of the above affixed to structures and land of the specific municipal buildings subject to this bylaw.

The Town has no formal program for how to address requests from the public to fly flags from town flagpoles, or to determine what types of flags it wants to display as an expression of the town’s own position. This article is in response to a recent Supreme Court case which teaches that it is helpful if the town has established a bylaw or program for governing flags on municipal property. The Supreme Court explained that a governmental entity has the right to speak for itself and is entitled to say what it wishes and to select the views that it wants to express. When a governmental entity does so, it is engaging in government speech. *Shurtleff v. City of Boston*, 596 U.S. ___ (2022). A key issue is the extent to which the government has actively shaped or controlled the expression and messages the flags send. Because Boston “had nothing—no written policies or clear internal guidance—about what flags groups could fly and what those flags would communicate” the Court found that Boston did not make the raising and flying of private groups’ flags a form of government speech and so could not deny the particular request from a religious group that was at issue in that case. This article would ensure town control over what flags, banners and signs may be flown on town flagpoles at Town Hall and other town properties by having a discrete list of what may be flown from specific locations to reflect the town’s sentiments.

The Select Board unanimously recommends adoption of this article. 5 - 0

Proceeding: The Select Board Chair moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 28. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 28 passed by a majority voice vote.

SENIOR CITIZEN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to adjust the exemption amount and eligibility factors for the property tax exemption for senior citizens pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41C, by (1) reducing the age of eligibility from 70 years to 65 years; (2) increasing the current amount of the exemption from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00; (3) increasing the asset (whole estate) limits for eligibility for the exemption from \$28,000 to \$40,000 for a single person and from \$30,000 to \$55,000 for married persons; (4) increasing the income (gross receipts) limits for eligibility for the exemption from \$13,000 to \$20,000 for a single person and from \$15,000 to \$30,000 for married persons and (5) accept Clause 41D of said Section 5 so as to approve tying the asset (whole estate) and income (gross receipts) limits (as adjusted hereunder) to the percentage increase in the Consumer price Index published by the U.S. Department of Labor as reported by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue each year, to be effective for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

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. The table below shows the current elements of the 41C exemption criteria and the 41D annual adjustment, and how they would be modified by this article.

	Current 41C Criteria	Proposed Expansion – all are maximum allow by law
Age	70	65
Amount of Exemption	\$500	\$1,000
Limit on Assets	\$28,000 single, 30,000 married – no CPI adjustment under 41D	40,000 single, 55,000 married – annual adjustment based on CPI under 41D
Limit on Income	13,000 single, 15,000 married – no CPI adjustment under 41D	20,000 single, 30,000 married – annual adjustment based on CPI under 41D

Proceeding: The Select Board Chair moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 29. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 29 passed unanimously by voice vote.

CITIZENS PETITION - "RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CHANGING THE STATE FLAG & SEAL OF MASSACHUSETTS"

Article 30. Whereas the history of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is replete with instances of conflict between the European Colonists and the Native Nations of the region, who first extended the hand of friendship to the Colonists on their shores in 1620, and helped them to survive starvation during the settlers' first winters on their land;

Whereas members of the Native Nation for whom the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is named were ambushed and killed by Myles Standish, first commander of the Plymouth Colony, at Wessagusett (now Weymouth) in April of 1623, barely two years after the Pilgrims arrived;

Whereas the Colonial broadsword held by a white hand above the head of the Indigenous person on the Massachusetts Flag and Seal is modeled after Myles Standish's own broadsword, borrowed for that purpose from the Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth by the illustrator Edmund Garrett in 1884;

Whereas the belt binding the Native's cloak on the Flag and Seal is modeled after a belt worn by Metacomet, known to the English as King Philip, who was among the Indigenous leaders that resorted to a mutually destructive war in 1675-76 in defense of Native lands against Colonial encroachment;

Whereas the proportions of the body of the Indigenous person on the Flag and Seal were taken from the skeleton of an Indigenous person unearthed in Winthrop, the bow modeled after a bow taken from an Indigenous man shot and killed by a colonist in Sudbury in 1665, and the facial features taken from a photograph of an Ojibwe chief from Great Falls, Montana, considered by the illustrator to be a "fine specimen of an Indian," though not from Massachusetts;

Whereas the history of relations between Massachusetts since Colonial times and the Native Nations who continue to live within its borders includes the forced internment of thousands of so-called "praying Indians" on Deer Island, in Boston Harbor, where they died by the hundreds of exposure in the winter of 1675, the enslavement of Indigenous people in Boston, Bermuda, and the Caribbean Islands, the offering of 40 pounds sterling as bounty for the scalps of Indigenous men, women and children in Massachusetts beginning in 1686, increased to 100 pounds sterling for the scalps of Indigenous adult males by 1722, half that amount for Indigenous women and children;

Whereas Indigenous people were legally prohibited from even stepping foot into Boston from 1675 until 2004, when that Colonial law was finally repealed;

Whereas the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Colonists at Plymouth Plantation, which gave rise to the long chain of genocidal wars and deliberate government policies of cultural destruction against Native Nations of this continent, occurred in the year 2020, affording every citizen of the Commonwealth a chance to reflect upon this history and come to an appreciation of the need for better relations between the descendants of the Colonial immigrants and the Native Nations of the Commonwealth;

Whereas the land area now known as the Town of Williamstown, shares a rich Native history with modern tribal Nations such as the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohican Indians, who inhabited this area long before the first colonial settlers arrived, in 1749;

Now, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Williamstown hereby adopts this resolution in support of the work of the Special Commission on the Official Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth, established by a Resolve of the General Court in 2021 and appointed by the Governor to recommend changes to the current flag and seal of Massachusetts, and in support of a new flag and seal for the Commonwealth that may better reflect our aspirations for harmonious and respectful relations between all people who now call Massachusetts home. The town clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution to

Sen. Paul Mark and Rep. John Barrett, with the request that they support the work of the aforementioned Special Commission and advocate for a new flag and seal for the Commonwealth.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

Proceeding: Wendy Penner moved, and it was seconded from the floor, the Town vote to adopt article 30. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 30 passed by a majority voice vote.

CITIZENS PETITION - "RANKED CHOICE VOTING FOR WILLIAMSTOWN ELECTIONS"

Article 31. AN ACT RELATIVE TO RANKED CHOICE VOTING IN THE TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN

SECTION 1. RANKED CHOICE VOTING

(a) The terms below shall have the following meanings in this section.

"Batch elimination" is the simultaneous defeat of multiple candidates for whom it is mathematically impossible to be elected.

"Concluded ballot," a ballot that does not rank any continuing candidate or contains an overvote at the highest-ranked continuing candidate.

"Continuing candidate," a candidate who has not been defeated or elected.

"Election threshold," the number of votes sufficient for a candidate to be elected in a multi-seat election. It is calculated by dividing the total number of votes counting for continuing candidates in the first round by the sum of the number of seats to be elected and 1, disregarding any fractions, and then adding 1.

"Highest-ranked continuing candidate," the continuing candidate with the highest ranking on a voter's ballot. Where a ballot omits one or more rankings, the next highest ranking shall be used for determining the highest-ranked continuing candidate.

"Plurality voting," the voting system in which the candidate receiving the most votes is declared the winner, even if such candidate does not receive a majority of the votes cast in the election.

"Ranked choice voting," a method of casting and tabulating ballots in which voters rank candidates for office in order of preference.

"Last-place candidate," (i) the candidate with the lowest vote total in a round of the ranked-choice voting tabulation; or (ii) a candidate that is defeated in batch elimination.

"Overvote," a circumstance in which a voter ranks more than 1 candidate at the same ranking.

"Ranking" means the number or the numeric ranking assigned on a ballot by a voter to a candidate to express the voter's preference for that candidate. Ranking number 1 shall be the highest ranking, ranking number 2 shall be the next-highest ranking, and so on.

"Surplus fraction," the number equal to the difference between an elected candidate's vote total and the election threshold, divided by the candidate's vote total.

"Transfer value," the proportion of a vote that a ballot will count to its highest-ranked continuing candidate. Each ballot shall begin with a transfer value of 1. If a ballot counts to the election of a candidate under subsection (d), it receives a lower transfer value.

(b) All town offices shall be elected by ranked choice voting, except for a single-seat office when the number of certified candidates is less than or equal to 2, or a multi-seat office when the number of certified candidates is less than or equal to the number of seats to be elected. Plurality voting shall be used when ranked choice voting cannot be conducted. Ranked choice voting elections shall be tabulated in rounds pursuant to this section.

(c) In any single-seat election with ranked choice voting, each round shall begin by counting the number of votes for each continuing candidate. Each ballot shall count as 1 vote for its highest-ranked continuing candidate. Concluded ballots shall not be counted for any continuing candidate. If no candidate receives a majority of the first-choice votes cast, an instant runoff shall be conducted. In each round of the instant runoff, the vote on each continuing ballot for each continuing candidate shall be counted. Each continuing ballot shall count as one vote for the highest-ranked continuing candidate on that continuing ballot. Each round shall end with one of the following two outcomes:

- (1) If there are more than 2 continuing candidates, the last-place candidate shall be defeated or the last-place candidates shall be defeated in batch elimination and a new round shall begin; or
- (2) If there are 2 continuing candidates, the candidate with the fewest votes shall be defeated, the candidate with the most votes shall be elected, and tabulation shall be complete.
- (d) In any multi-seat election with ranked choice voting, each round

shall begin by counting the number of votes for each continuing candidate. Each ballot shall count for its highest-ranked continuing candidate. Concluded ballots shall not count for any continuing candidate. In the first round only, the election threshold shall then be calculated. If no candidate reaches the election threshold, an instant runoff shall be conducted. In each round of the instant runoff, the vote on each continuing ballot for each continuing candidate shall be counted at its current transfer value. Each continuing ballot shall count as one vote for the highest-ranked continuing candidate on that continuing ballot. Each round shall end with one of the following three outcomes:

- (1) If at least 1 continuing candidate has more votes than the election threshold, then all such candidates shall be elected. Each ballot counting for an elected candidate shall be assigned a new transfer value by multiplying the ballot's current transfer value by the surplus fraction for the candidate. Each elected candidate shall be deemed to have a number of votes equal to the election threshold in all future rounds. If the number of elected candidates is equal to the number of seats to be filled then tabulation is complete. Otherwise, a new round shall begin;
- (2) If no continuing candidate has more votes than the election threshold and the sum of the number of elected candidates and continuing candidates is more than the sum of the number of seats to be elected and 1, the last-place candidate shall be defeated or the last-place candidates shall be defeated in batch elimination, and a new round shall begin; or
- (3) Otherwise, the continuing candidate with fewest votes shall be defeated, all other continuing candidates shall be elected, and tabulation is complete.
- (e) Batch elimination shall apply to the largest possible group of continuing candidates such that the sum of the votes of candidates in the group is less than the individual number of votes of every continuing candidate not in the group, and provided that the number of continuing candidates not in the group is at least 1 more than the remaining number of positions to elect.
- (f) If there is a tie between the continuing candidates receiving the fewest votes in any round other than the first round, the candidate with the fewest votes in the prior round shall be defeated. If the continuing candidates remain tied, this process shall be repeated using the votes from the next closest previous round, until either one continuing candidate has fewer votes or there are no more previous rounds to examine.
- (g) The Town Clerk may make any changes to the ranked choice voting ballot and tabulation process necessary to ensure the integrity and smooth functioning of the election, provided that ranked choice voting shall still be used and the fewest number of changes are made to achieve such purpose.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage, provided that there are at least 64 days till the next election, to allow for proper implementation.

The Select Board abstains from making a recommendation on this article. 5 - 0

Proceeding: James Mahon moved, and it was seconded from the floor, the Town vote to take no action on this article. Mr. Mahon explained he supports this article but there is still quite a bit of confusion and lack of time to address it. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 31 passed by a majority voice vote.

CITIZENS PETITION - "DOG LEASING IN GENERAL RESIDENCE"

Article 32. Whereas:

Williamstown wishes to be a welcoming community for all its residents and visitors.

Whereas:

We care deeply about the safety and well-being of pets, wildlife, and people.

Whereas:

There is a growing trend of pet owners ignoring leash laws, putting themselves, their dogs, and others at risk. Dogs off-leash can not only frighten and injure other pets and wildlife, but they can also attack people, causing physical and emotional harm. Moreover, off-leash dogs are more likely to run into traffic or get lost, injured, or even killed.

Whereas:

Several of these encounters have resulted in the citizen or their pet being put in danger or attacked. There were 108 calls to the WPD for dog bites and animal control support in 2021. There were 128 similar calls in 2022.

Whereas:

Pet owners need to be in control of their dog's while in public as an unleashed animal, free to roam can be a danger to itself, other pets, and citizens; and as an offleash animal darting across busy roads can cause vehicle mishaps that can result in injury or death to citizens OR to the dog in question;

Whereas :

An owner whose animal is unleashed is NOT in control of their animal no matter how well trained they claim the animal may be and as such their unleashed dog is free to react to the movements of other citizens and their pets without the owner having a means of control.

It is the responsibility of every dog owner to be in control of their pet at all times when out in public the only way to be sure that they are is for their pet to be leashed.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

By-law 10-4-a be amended

§ 10-4

Dogs required to be leashed.

A. Dog owners, keepers and persons otherwise in charge are required to restrain their dogs physically by leash ~~or by voice control~~ when they are not on the owner's property in the General Residence district, on the Rail Trail, and any area designated off-leash for dogs.

The Select Board recommends that the town not adopt this article. 4 - 1

*The petition signed by the voters contained a typo so the word which had intended to be "leashing" appeared as "leasing". Town officials may not alter wording in a petition. Regardless, the typo does not affect the intent and purpose of the article.

Proceeding: Randal Fippinger moved, and it was seconded from the floor, the Town vote to adopt article 32 by removing the words "or by voice control" in 10-4-a. Additionally deleting the phrase "in the General Residence district, on the rail trail, and" and by adding a word in 10-4-a "or". Section 10-4-a would now read: Dog owners, keepers and persons otherwise in charge are required to restrain their dogs physically by leash when they are not on the owner's property or any area designated off leash for dogs. Lastly, substituting the word leashing for leasing in the title of this article. The title of this article would now read "Dog Leashing in General Residence" opposed to "Dog Leasing in General Residence". Roger Lawrence made numerous amendments to this citizens petition. Select Board Chair, Hugh Daley recommended voting down Mr. Lawrence's amendment and the original article as moved and seconded, with the notion that the next Select Board will work with the Town and community to create a better bylaw that will benefit all residents. Hearing no further discussion, the Moderator called for a voice vote. The Moderator then declared the motion to amendment article 32 failed by voice vote. Select Board Member, Andrew Hogeland, moved and it was seconded to table this article. Tabling an article requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ voice in the affirmative. The voice vote was too close to determine, so the Moderator had the Town vote by electronic voting device. The Moderator then declared the motion to table article 32 passed by supermajority ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of 166 in favor and 58 opposed, for a total of 224 votes.

Proceeding: Karen Falk moved and it was seconded to take article 42 out of order. The Moderator took a voice vote. The voice vote was too close to determine, so the Moderator had the Town vote using electronic voting devices. The Moderator then declared the motion to take article 42 out of order passed by a majority vote of 119 in favor and 46 opposed, for a total of 165 votes.

SPECIAL LEGISLATION FOR ADDITIONAL SECTION 15 ALL ALCOHOLIC LICENSE

Article 42. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board 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 and grant such license to Ashnit LLC, dba Gold Leaf Shop located at 240B Main Street, or take any other action related thereto.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

Proceeding: The Select Board Chair moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to adopt article 42. This article was voted on at the 2022 Town Meeting in generic form with no name attached, but the State informed the Town, a specific business must be tied to the article. The article is before the Town to vote on making this business a full liquor store opposed to selling beer and wine only which it currently does. There being no further discussion, the Moderator then declared article 42 passed unanimously by voice vote.

Appropriations from the Community Preservation Fund are funded by a 2% surcharge on the real property tax levy.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-COMMITTEE EXPENSES

Article 33. To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2024 Community Preservation budget, and to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY2024 estimated annual revenues the sum of \$5,000 to meet the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2024, 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 unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

Proceeding: The Community Preservation Committee Chair moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2024 Community Preservation budget, and to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY2024 estimated annual revenues the sum of \$5,000 to meet the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2024. There being no further discussion, the Moderator then declared article 33 passed unanimously by voice vote.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY2024 estimated annual revenues, for affordable housing purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$120,000 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.

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. 3 - 2

Proceeding: The Community Preservation Committee Chair moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY2024 estimated annual revenues, for affordable housing purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$120,000 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. There being no discussion, the Moderator then declared article 34 passed unanimously by voice vote.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-RECREATION

Article 35. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY2024 estimated annual revenues under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$100,000, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2025, to fund a grant to the Mt. Greylock Regional School District for recreation purposes with respect to an 8-lane track with field sport facilities and a natural grass playing field with drainage and irrigation for its teams and the greater community in 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 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. 4 - 1

Proceeding: The Community Preservation Committee Chair moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY2024 estimated annual revenues under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$100,000, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2025, to fund a grant to the Mt. Greylock Regional School District for recreation purposes with respect to an 8-lane track with field sport facilities and a natural grass playing field with drainage and irrigation for its teams and the greater community in 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. Michael Sussman asked if Lanesborough had an article similar to this one on their Town Meeting warrant to help fund the track. Joe Burgeron, of Mt. Greylock Regional School, informed Town Meeting that Lanesborough does not participate in the CPA, so they do not have a Community Preservation Committee that could fund a grant. Carrie Greene, member of the Mt. Greylock Regional School Committee informed Town Meeting, voting yes on this article would reduce the amount of borrowing the School District needs to do and therefore benefit the Williamstown tax payers. There being no further discussion, the Moderator then declared article 35 passed by a majority voice vote.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Article 36. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY2024 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, 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 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. 3 - 2

Proceeding: The Community Preservation Committee Chair moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY2024 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, 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. Donald Dubendorf asked about the relationship between the two organizations (the Meetinghouse Preservation Fund, Inc. and the First Congregational Church). Susan Yates, President of the Meetinghouse Preservation Fund explained the organization is a 501(c)(3) and is completely separate from the church. It does not participate in any religious activities nor would any religious areas of the church be preserved. The preservation would be solely for the building because it is iconic to the Town. There being no further discussion, the Moderator then declared article 36 passed by a majority voice vote.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Article 37. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY2024 estimated annual revenues, for affordable housing purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$10,000 to fund a grant to the Williamstown Housing Authority for initiatives and programs related to furthering affordable housing in Williamstown, MA, 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 unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

Proceeding: The Community Preservation Committee Chair moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY2024 estimated annual revenues, for affordable housing purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$10,000 to fund a grant to the Williamstown Housing Authority for initiatives and programs related to furthering affordable housing in Williamstown, MA, 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. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared article 37 passed unanimously by voice vote.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION-HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Article 38. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY2024 estimated annual revenues, for historic preservation purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$35,000, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2024, to fund a grant to the Williamstown Historical Museum to restore the 19th century Dolan-Jenks barn on the grounds of the Museum, 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 unanimously recommends the adoption of this article.

The Select Board unanimously recommends the adoption of this article. 5 - 0

Proceeding: The Community Preservation Committee Chair moved, and it was seconded, the Town vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund FY2024 estimated annual revenues, for historic preservation purposes, under the Community Preservation Act, the sum of \$35,000, which funds shall revert to the CPA fund if not expended by June 30, 2024, to fund a grant to the Williamstown Historical Museum to restore the 19th century Dolan-Jenks barn on the grounds of the Museum, 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. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared article 38 passed by a majority voice vote.

WILLIAMSTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Article 39. 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. 5 - 0

The appropriation for the Chamber of Commerce is intended to promote tourism.
The Chamber of Commerce appropriation is unchanged from the current year.

Proceeding: The Finance Committee Chair 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. Benjamin Thuronyi asked about the estimated return on our investment since the fund is supposed to promote tourism. Susan Briggs, Executive Director of the Chamber did a presentation for the Finance Committee and would forward along the numbers to Mr. Thuronyi. The Finance Committee Chair did point out tourism does generate approximately \$1,000,000 in meals and hotel tax. Jane Patton pointed out hiring a Town employee to do the work of the Chamber would cost \$60,000-\$70,000 so this \$50,000 is a bargain. There being no further discussion, the Moderator declared article 39 passed unanimously by voice vote.

WILLIAMSTOWN YOUTH CENTER

Article 40. 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. 5 - 0

The Youth Center appropriation is unchanged from the current year.

Proceeding: The Finance Committee Chair 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. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared article 40 passed unanimously by voice vote.

WILLIAMSTOWN COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

Article 41. 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. 5 - 0

The Community Preschool appropriation is unchanged from the current year.

Proceeding: The Finance Committee Chair moved and it was seconded, the Town vote to transfer from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$50,000 to support the Williamstown Community Preschool. There being no discussion, the Moderator declared article 41 passed unanimously by voice vote.

Adjournment

Motion: There being no further business before the Town a motion was made, and seconded to adjourn the 2023 Annual Town Meeting. Following unanimous voice vote, the Moderator declared the meeting adjourned at 11:19 PM.

A true copy, attest:

Nicole E. Beverly

Nicole E. Beverly
Town Clerk

Williamstown Select Board

Date: April 10, 2023

Hugh Daley, chair
Jeffrey Johnson, vice chair
Andrew Hogeland

Jane Patton
Randal Fippinger

Approved by roll call vote at noticed Hybrid meeting of Select Board, April 10, 2023.

Berkshire, ss:

April 14, 2023

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.


Constable

4-14-23
Date



ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION MAY 9, 2023				
SELECTBOARD (3 YEAR) (2)	<i>PREC. 1</i>	<i>PREC. 2</i>	<i>PREC. 3</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
ANDREW S. HOGELAND	285	83	332	700
STEPHANIE BOYD	208	65	250	523
ANDREA (ANDI) L/ BRYANT	165	38	179	382
PAUL A. HARSCH, III	62	18	51	131
WRITE INS	1	0	1	2
BLANKS	35	10	35	80
TOTAL	756	214	848	181
LIBRARY TRUSTEE (3 YEAR) (2)	<i>PREC. 1</i>	<i>PREC. 2</i>	<i>PREC. 3</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
ALEXANDER M. CARLISLE	291	80	321	692
KATHERINE EVANS	289	75	339	703
WRITE INS	3	0	0	3
BLANKS	173	59	188	420
TOTAL	756	214	848	1818
PLANNING BOARD (5 YEAR) (1)	<i>PREC. 1</i>	<i>PREC. 2</i>	<i>PREC. 3</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
CORY E. CAMPBELL	286	78	336	700
WRITE INS	3	2	2	7
BLANKS	89	27	86	202
TOTAL	378	107	424	909
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
PLANNING BOARD (1YEAR) (1)	<i>PREC. 1</i>	<i>PREC. 2</i>	<i>PREC. 3</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
BENJAMIN D. GREENFIELD	292	82	347	721
WRITE INS	3	2	1	6
BLANKS	83	23	76	182
TOTAL	378	107	424	909

Treasurer's Receipts

For the year ending June 30, 2023

Department	Description	Amount
Tax and Excise		
Treasurer-Collector	Personal Property	\$402,090.23
Treasurer-Collector	Real Estate Tax	\$19,125,790.93
Treasurer-Collector	Motor Vehicle Excise	\$749,099.89
Treasurer-Collector	Interest on Property Tax	\$28,781.75
Treasurer-Collector	Interest on MV Excise	\$3,746.01
Treasurer-Collector	Interest on Tax Liens	\$1,203.13
Treasurer-Collector	Tax Liens & Foreclosures	\$3,542.00
Treasurer-Collector	Payments in Lieu of Tax	\$89,112.79
Treasurer-Collector	Meals Tax	\$203,634.29
Treasurer-Collector	Hotel and Motel Tax	\$896,626.15
Treasurer-Collector	Community Preservation-State Match	\$106,203.00
Treasurer-Collector	Community Preservation Surcharge	\$300,632.77
Treasurer-Collector	Cannabis Local Option Excise	\$255,159.12
Total Tax and Excise		\$22,165,622.06
Utility Charges		
Sewer Department	Sewer Charges	\$1,590,336.62
Water Department	Water Charges	\$1,069,667.99
Landfill Department	Landfill Payments	\$38,088.96
Landfill Department	Landfill Stickers	\$116,340.00
Landfill Department	Landfill Bags	\$63,700.00
Total Utility Charges		\$2,878,133.57
Other Charges for Services		
Cemetery	Cemetery Interments	\$13,950.00
Police	Off-Duty Fees	\$107,602.20
Total Charges for Services		\$121,552.20

<u>Fees</u>		
Assessor	Fees	\$-
Community Development	Fees	\$1,070.00
Cemetery Department	Perpetual Care	\$17,250.00
Conservation Commission	Fees	\$5,184.97
Council on Aging	Fees	\$6,822.60
Energy Credits	Fees	\$7,638.28
Health Department	Fees	\$10,206.00
Highway	Fees	\$990.00
Library	Fees	\$611.07
Landfill Department	Fees	\$1,316.80
Planning Board	Fees	\$920.00
Police Department	Fees	\$4,339.40
Police Department	Dispatch Services	\$65,779.52
Selectman	Fees	\$-
Treasurer - Collector	Cannabis Host Impact Fee	\$150,047.00
Sealer of Weights	Fees	\$770.00
Town Clerk	Fees	\$6,316.50
Treasurer - Collector	Fees	\$38,303.70
Insp Services-Revolver	Fees	\$58,712.23
Sewer Department	Fees	\$1,606.00
Town Manager	Fees	\$744.00
Water Department	Fees	\$15,986.55
Zoning Board	Fees	\$800.00
Total Fees		\$395,414.62

<u>Licenses and Permits</u>		
Community Development	Licenses and Permits	\$168,820.80
Health Department	Licenses and Permits	\$21,805.00
Highway	Licenses and Permits	\$350.00
Police Department	Licenses and Permits	\$3,167.50
Selectmen	Licenses and Permits-Liquor Licenses	\$28,850.00
Selectmen	Licenses and Permits	\$2,205.50
Sign Commission	Licenses and Permits	\$1,552.50
Town Clerk	Licenses and Permits	\$3,540.00
Total Licenses and Permits		\$230,291.30

<u>State Government - State Aid</u>		
Treasurer-Collector	Veterans Services	\$44,561.00

Treasurer-Collector	Abatement Reimbursement	\$13,925.00
Treasurer-Collector	State Owned Land	\$228,528.00
Treasurer-Collector	Chapter 90	\$599,747.11
Treasurer-Collector	Lottery	\$1,105,981.00
Treasurer-Collector	CARES---Covid 19 Supprt	\$-
Treasurer-Collector	ARPA	\$1,111,036.68
Total State Aid		\$3,103,778.79

State Government - Grants

Treasurer-Collector	Municipal Vulnerability	\$140,514.52
Treasurer-Collector	Mohawk Bike Trail	\$1,152.21
Treasurer-Collector	E-911	\$42,546.00
Treasurer-Collector	Police-Drug Task Force	\$11,322.18
Treasurer-Collector	Police- BODY CAM	\$18,677.80
Treasurer-Collector	Police - Community Policing	\$500.00
Treasurer-Collector	Library Title LIG/MEG Grant	\$17,479.62
Treasurer-Collector	Council on Aging - Formula Grant	\$29,028.00
Treasurer-Collector	Sustainable Materials Recovery Grant	\$5,600.00
Treasurer-Collector	Shared Streets	\$13,481.76
Treasurer-Collector	RRA TNC Ride	\$27.20
Treasurer-Collector	Winter Recovery Assistance	\$175,008.70
Total State Grants		\$455,337.99

Fines and Forfeits

Commonwealth		
Police Department	Court Fines	\$6,666.12
Total Fines and Forfeits	Parking Tickets	\$6,550.00
		\$13,216.12

Sale of Assets

Cemetery	Sale of Lots	\$1,650.00
DPW	Sale of Vehicles	\$7,347.00
		\$8,997.00

Interest Income

Treasurer-Collector	Unrestricted Investment Interest	\$105,310.82
Treasurer-Collector	Special Revenue Investment Interest	\$24,760.14
Treasurer-Collector	Trust Interest	\$3,807.20
Treasurer-Collector	Investment Interest Net of UNREALIZED LOSS	\$85,570.81

Treasurer-Collector	Trust Interest Net of UNREALIZED LOSS	\$32,752.87
Total Interest Income		\$252,201.84

Gifts and Contributions

Council on Aging	Donations & Fundraisers	\$5,599.21
Library	Operations Gifts	\$29,842.00
Library	Books	\$2,515.73
Police Department	Contribution - General	\$5,800.00
Town	Health Coordinator	\$2,000.00
Library	Renovations	\$25,000.00
Library	Sarah MacFarland Gift	\$36,000.00
Total Gifts and Contributions		\$106,756.94

Payroll and Insurance

Payroll Deductions		
Payroll Deductions	Federal Withholding	\$498,511.66
Payroll Deductions	Medicare Withholding	\$141,032.32
Payroll Deductions	State Withholding	\$241,486.30
Payroll Deductions	Retirement Withholding	\$425,533.15
Payroll Deductions	Health Insurance	\$1,424,088.14
Payroll Deductions	Life Insurance	\$12,587.37
Payroll Deductions	Dental Insurance	\$63,370.53
Payroll Deductions	Other Withholdings	\$147,848.24
Total Payroll and Insurance		\$2,954,457.71

Fund Transfers

Transfers between Funds		\$199,300.00
Total Fund Transfers		\$199,300.00

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous	ARPA Broadband	\$31,565.00
Miscellaneous	OPEB Fund	\$50,000.00
Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous Trust Distribution	\$24,704.00
Miscellaneous	Williamstown Scholarship Fund	\$2,431.75
Miscellaneous	Compensated Balance Transfer	\$50,000.00
Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous Trust Contributions-Stabilization	\$50,000.00
Miscellaneous	Library Annual Fund	\$30,523.00

Miscellaneous	Reimbursement for damages	\$990.20
Miscellaneous	Westlawn/Sherman Burbank Contributions	\$9,343.00
Miscellaneous	Opiod Settlement	\$34,623.28
Miscellaneous	CPA to Affordable Housing Trust	\$100,000.00
Miscellaneous	To Transfer Station	\$20,000.00
Miscellaneous	Compost Pilot	\$920.00
Miscellaneous	Affordable Housing Trust Donation	\$1,000.00
Miscellaneous	Reimbursement Grant MCOA	\$7,581.15
Total Miscellaneous		\$413,681.38
Total Receipts		\$33,298,741.52

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 2023 were Andrew Hoar; Chairman, Keith Davis, David Levine, Robert Mathews, and Vince Pesce. Alternate Members are Amy Jeschawitz, and Eunice Marigliano. The Board meets the third Thursday of every month to hear and decide petitions arising from the application of the Williamstown's Zoning Bylaws. These petitions fall into four categories:

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

Any application for any of these four types of permits requires the Board to place advertisements in the local newspaper, The Berkshire Eagle, and notify all abutters of the subject property of the time and date of the public hearing on an application by 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 saw very light business for the second year in a row. The main highlight of 2023 was the approval of the Town's new fire station set to begin construction in 2024

WILLIAMSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2022-2023 Academic Year

Superintendent: Dr. Jason McCandless

Principal: Cindy Sheehy

Assistant Principal: Travis Poirot

WILLIAMSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2023

2022-2023 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 2022-2023

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

School Year/Grade	2018-19	2019-20	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
PreK	12	16	11	27	33
Kdg	59	38	36	56	53
1	62	56	37	41	60
2	57	61	55	45	44
3	72	58	54	63	47
4	62	68	60	60	66
5	55	60	66	61	64
6	57	52	57	69	64
TOTAL:	436	409	376	422	431

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)
2022-2023**

Administrators	2
Instructional Staff	43.60
Special Education Teachers And Professional Support Staff	5.85
Paraprofessionals	24.4
Medical/Health Services	1
TOTAL:	76.85

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

Social-Emotional Learning: This year, Williamstown Elementary School added a social emotional learning specialist as part of the specialist rotation in addition to art, music, PE, and library. For forty minutes each week, every child in grades pre K through 6 participated in a social emotional learning class. Students were exposed to evidence-based practices to promote resilience, wellness, and positive developmental outcomes. SEL instruction delivered in students’ classrooms was extended and enriched through playful, authentic opportunities to practice skills.

Professional Development: To support students’ social emotional development, staff participated in Zones of Regulation training to gain an understanding of supporting students’ emotional health through explicit teaching of self regulation strategies using consistent language. Additionally, staff engaged in learning opportunities, through continued professional development focused on diversity, equity and inclusion with Dr. Simran Jeet Singh’s presentation titled “Disrupting Bias. Building Empathy. Seeking Wisdom” as well as gender identity training with Ash Bell.

Williams Center for Learning in Action Partnership: This year, Williams College students supported the school community by serving as classroom helpers, homework helpers, recess buddies, science fellows and big sibs. There were 26 classroom helpers, 10 homework helpers, 14 science fellows and 3 big sibs. In the month of January, 43 Williams College students supported students to provide after-school enrichment programming by teaching 17 different courses through Adventures in Learning. In every capacity, the college students were integral in supporting staff and building positive relationships with students.

Words Are Wonderful: The 24th Annual Words Are Wonderful Week began with visits from local storyteller, Rona Leventhal and author Molly Burnham. Students participated in interactive storytelling workshops and assemblies to discover the book making process. 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!

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2023

2022-2023 School Year
Dr. Jason P. McCandless - Superintendent
Jacob N. Schutz - Principal
Colin Shebar - Assistant Principal

Mount Greylock Regional School continues its steadfast dedication to innovation, prioritizing all students' academic engagement and social-emotional well-being. The school has realigned resources to cultivate new student programs and bolster support systems while also expanding and reimagining professional development opportunities for educators. In 2022-23, Mount Greylock staff took a deep dive into the Program of Study. As a community of engaged, diverse learners and mentors who seek to challenge ourselves academically and socially to contribute to a rapidly shifting world. Individually and collaboratively, we create an environment where the characteristics of responsibility, integrity, and perseverance are fostered and practiced by all.

In 2022-23, building upon the previous year's work and taking the lead from the MG School Council's School Improvement Plan, with the continued lens of diversity and inclusivity, the district focused on two primary targets:

1. Data/Academics - Review academic practices from AY2022 to determine successes and deficiencies, focusing on what to keep, change, and discard. Create a reasonable, multi-year plan to develop the capacity to measure the school's progress against school improvement and strategic goals with qualitative and quantitative data. Professional development and allotted time allowed the district to incorporate thoughtful decisions impacting curriculum, instruction, and programming.
2. Visual Arts - Generate more engagement in the Arts throughout the middle and high school community; expand and deepen Arts programming within the curriculum and extra-curricular offerings. Evaluating Arts programming and course offerings' types, structure, and timing to expand opportunities and engagement. Engage in professional development for faculty and staff on the instructional and logistical side of connecting students with Arts programming.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional development efforts focused on the PowerSchool platform and the Navince system as a primary means of effectively integrating desired and rigorous courses into students' schedules.

Mount Greylock's commitment to personalized instruction persisted through ongoing curriculum-focused professional development sessions tailored to each department. Alongside curriculum enhancements, faculty engaged in reviews of instructional methodologies, striving to optimize teaching approaches for diverse learner profiles.

Mount Greylock staff engaged in professional development sessions led by Dr. Simran Jeet Singh, an esteemed American educator, writer, and activist renowned for his work on religion and racism. Dr. Singh, serving as the Executive Director for the Aspen Institute's Religion & Society Program, a columnist for the Religion News Service, and a TIME Magazine contributor, facilitated sessions to foster inclusivity and equity within teaching practices. These sessions provided a rare opportunity for educators to introspect and challenge themselves to grow. Regardless of their stage in the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) journey, attendees explored avenues for personal and professional advancement through the lenses of curiosity, storytelling, and empathy-building.

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 school library teacher, Liza Barrett, hosts a diverse books club and a writing club, and is the site coordinator for the many Williams Center at Mt Greylock (WC@MG) programs run out of the library.

Improvements to the Collection:

The 22-23 year brought significant changes to the physical collection of the LMC as well as a new Materials Collection Policy. The entire print collection was vigorously weeded, discarding nearly 1000 titles that were damaged, out of date, and/or no longer relevant. After weeding, we fully genre-fied the collection, organizing books by subject/category/subcategory instead of the author's last name and the Dewey system. This "bookstore-style" browsing has increased circulation significantly. The final step to updating the collection was to digitize the collection and the circulation process. Until January 2023, we had still been using library cards to check books in and out, a very inefficient and antiquated method. It took several months to enter every book into FOLLET (our district's library management system). Still, with the help of the wonderful Library TAs, we completed the project during the spring of 2023. (*Note: Since 2023-24 will be the first full year using Follet, we will have accurate circulation data in future town reports.*)

With a newly weeded, thoughtfully curated, and notably diverse collection-- *and* with the knowledge that book challenges and bans were increasing around the nation-- we decided it was time to create an MGRSD Materials Collections Policy-- which would guide and support library purchasing, as well as provide clear steps to follow if a book is challenged in our district. Liza Barrett (MG), Alex Scott (WES), and Julianne Haskins (LES) worked together to write a comprehensive policy (the School Committee subsequently approved that in the fall of 2023).

Professional Development:

Liza attended two conferences during the 22-23 year. *What's New in Young Adult Literature (Nov 2022)* provided inspiration for purchasing, and the *Massachusetts School Library Association Annual Conference (March 2023)* provided excellent resources for our Materials Collection Policy creation and was valuable and inspiring for overall library management.

Grant Support:

The MG LMC received two grants for specific library enhancements this year.

We wrote and received a grant from the Friends of the Library to purchase books written by Native Americans, specifically Mohican-Munsee authors, and a SEE Fund grant to purchase large coloring posters and markers. The posters have been an enormous hit and provide an opportunity for students (and adults!) to destress and unwind. Coloring is a form of mindfulness accessible to everyone, regardless of skill level or experience. The personal, social, and emotional benefits of the meditative nature of coloring are well documented, and we are pleased to have added this valuable activity to the MG library space.

Williams Center at Mt Greylock Programs:

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 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. During Williams' Winter Study, the MG library hosted 2 Williams students who helped us weed the collection.

School Clubs hosted by the Library:

The Library Media Center continues to host both the MS/HS Creative Writing Club, which meets weekly after school, and the popular (HS only) Diverse Books Club, which meets with Williams leaders and Liza Barrett in the evening every 6-8 weeks for dinner (provided by the WC@MG) and book discussions in the MG library.

A Safe Space for Students:

The climate of the MG library is perhaps best described by Emily Mole ('24) in her article for The Greylock Echo, "The MG Library: A Safe Space for Students," in which Emily writes: "...from participating in TA positions...spending break and lunch in this area, or taking online courses, students, especially upperclassmen, spend a lot of time enjoying the library experience. Barrett, our wonderful librarian, always ensures everyone is comfortable through her organization, coloring walls, and enormous amounts of books and support." (March 2023)

STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS 2022 - 2023

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; 82% earned scores of meeting or exceeding expectations in English, and 70% earned equivalent scores in mathematics. 59% of 7th and 8th graders were meeting or exceeding expectations in English; 50% were achieving the same level in math. Science 8 exam scores revealed that 50% of 8th graders achieved or exceeded expectations.

Aptitude Tests: The average SAT score achieved was 1208. The state average is 1113, and the national average is 1028.

Scholarship: In 2022-23, Mount Greylock had four National Merit Commended Students. There were 63 AP Scholars: 26 with AP Scholars Distinction, and 16 AP Scholars with Honor. Twenty-five 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 2017-2022, Mount Greylock achieved a 98.88% adjusted graduation rate. 92 percent of the 82 graduates of the Class of 2023 planned to continue their education by enrolling in four- and two-year college programs. Others will pursue the military or join the workforce. The 2023 class headed to various colleges and universities, including Albany College of Pharmacy, Berkshire Community College, Boston University, Brandeis University, Champlain College, Coastal Carolina University, Drexel University, Hamilton College, Lafayette College, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Mass. Maritime Academy, Middlebury College, Montserrat College of Art, Mt. Holyoke College, Northeastern University, Occidental College, Providence College, Purdue University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Salem State University, Skidmore College, Springfield College, St. Lawrence University, Stonehill College, The George Washington University, Trinity College, Tufts University, Union College, UMASS Amherst, University of Minnesota, University of Rochester, Western New England University, Westfield State University, Williams College, Yale University.

OUTREACH & SERVICE

American Legion Boys and Girls State participants undergo an immersive experience, delving into the intricacies of citizenship rights, privileges, duties, and responsibilities within a simulated government framework. The program provides practical and objective training, allowing students to operate city, county, and state governments by electing peers to various offices. Engagement in legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, and recreational programs enriches the experience. Mount Greylock students have long benefited from this platform, honing leadership skills, exploring democratic values, and fostering civic engagement. Sponsored by Williamstown American Legion Post 152, representatives including Phoebe Barnes, Erin Keating, Mira Boyer, Emily Ouellette, Cece Malone, Maggie Nichols, Vincent Welch, Jenner Kittle, and Caleb Low attended the Stonehill College conference.

Mount Greylock remains actively involved in Project 351, a statewide initiative to unite 8th graders across Massachusetts through service commitments. Representatives from surrounding towns, including Cassidy Smith (Williamstown), Nolan Barnes (Williamstown), Emery Rotter (Lanesborough), and Claire Morin (Hancock), participated in the 2022-2023 Project 351 sessions. Additionally, Mount Greylock continues to strengthen its partnership with Berkshire County's Anti-Defamation League, furthering efforts to promote diversity and combat discrimination.

This year, Mount Greylock became a Unified Champion School. As such, our dedicated families continue to orchestrate the participation of middle and high school students in PALS (Promoting Acceptance and Learning through Sports), a program designed to facilitate interactions between differently-abled students and their peers. PALS pairs students with developmental disabilities from all three Mount Greylock Regional Schools with high school students, providing opportunities for inclusive engagement in sports activities.

EXTENSIVE ARTS PROGRAM

Mount Greylock continues to offer 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.

The extensive visual arts department at Mount Greylock has garnered widespread acclaim, exemplified by its recent recognition at the Mass MoCA Teen Invitational for excellence in artistic achievement. Building upon this success, the department strategically expanded its offerings by recruiting specialists in sculptural work. This initiative led to the addition of Rachel Mueller, a seasoned artist with expertise in 3D art forms such as ceramics and glass. With Rachel on board, the department now boasts a diverse team of three full-time art teachers, each bringing unique strengths to the curriculum. Karin Stack brings her passion for media arts and photography, while Jane-Ellen oversees 2D studio art, encompassing printmaking, mixed media, painting, and advanced studio classes. This strategic expansion enriches the artistic opportunities available to students and ensures a comprehensive and dynamic learning environment that fosters creativity and innovation.

THRIVING MUSIC PROGRAM

Mount Greylock's music program flourished in the 2022-2023 school year, experiencing significant growth and achievement in various areas. One of the most notable aspects is the increased number of students joining all ensembles, particularly the high school chorus, indicating a growing interest and dedication to musical pursuits among students. Additionally, the introduction of Music Theory as an elective after a prolonged hiatus since the late 90s has been met with enthusiasm, with 14 students enrolling to deepen their understanding of musical concepts. The program's commitment to excellence is further displayed by two students, Emily Dupuis and Grace Winters, earning prestigious All-State Acceptances in flute and bass respectively. Moreover, participation in the Massachusetts Music Educators Western District Festival has seen a significant uptick, with nine students securing spots in the Senior District and 10 in the Junior District in 2022. The program's innovative spirit was showcased with the debut of the Prism Concert in March 2023, a dynamic recruitment and pops-style event featuring performances from all ensembles spanning grades 7 through 12, including a captivating rendition of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" that combined band, orchestra, and chorus. Looking ahead, an exciting custom music-themed trip to Austria and Germany is planned for 2025, with 40 eager music students set to participate. Additionally, the support from Friends of the Arts, who provided MG Music polos for all enrolled music students to wear during performances, underscores the community's commitment to fostering a culture of musical excellence. The program remains vibrant, continuing recruitment concerts at elementary schools, participating in Memorial Day parades and ceremonies, and ensuring the jazz band performs at all major concerts throughout the year, further solidifying its reputation as a cornerstone of the school's arts education.

CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

The Mount Greylock School District is dedicated to offering an outstanding activities program to the students of this district. Mount Greylock students can choose from an extensive selection of co-curricular organizations that are integral to the educational process. Through participation in these opportunities, students can have experiences and training in events not ordinarily obtainable in the general curriculum.

Twenty-five different non-athletic co-curricular activities were offered during the 2022-2023 school year, including opportunities in the performing arts, student governance and leadership, school publications, and other organizations

designed to get Mount Greylock students involved. There were approximately 240 students (44% 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 20 students worked diligently with advisor Emily McCarthy to create the school yearbook with various events from the school year, including student and staff portraits, student-submitted candid photos, team/club pages, superlatives, and various other essential student memories from the 2022-2023 school year.

Shakespeare & Company returned to Mount Greylock with school performances of “*As You Like It*” in mid-November, followed by a performance at Tina Packer Playhouse as part of the Fall Festival of Shakespeare. We packed the auditorium for the winter musical with three performances of Lionel Bart’s “*Oliver!*” under the direction of Jeffrey Welch and Jacqueline Vinette. This performance included fifty student actors and crew members, including student accompanist senior *Samuel Tucker-Smith*. The final performance of the school year was “*Peter and the Starcatcher*,” written by Rick Elice and directed by former student Amanda Bell Goldmakher. This third performance continues to grow in participants yearly, with an incredible 30 students involved on stage or working on lights and sound.

The Mechanical Mounties competed in three competitions, concluding with a FIRST Robotics Competition in March. The team was led by captains *Elliot Louis* and *Noah Shin* and additional seniors *Cailean Fippinger*, *Beatrice Pedroni*, *Effie Skinner*, and *Will Marsh*. The student government continues to host elections each year to elect students to serve their classes, the Student Council, and the School Council for the following year.

Two seniors, Bryn Angelini and Clarissa Louis, started the Photography Club, an opportunity for students to “sharpen their skills by capturing events at Mount Greylock and in the community.” Faculty advisor Karen Stack hopes the club can teach skills students can carry into their future. The Youth Environmental Squad, also advised by Stack, worked with the school administration to switch the ‘recycling bags’ in each classroom with blue bins that can be used to recycle plastic, cans, and paper to be placed in our new larger recycling dumpster.

The Mount Greylock athletic program continues to be strong and, more importantly, an excellent 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. The 2022-2023 school year saw more than 350 students participate in at least one athletic program, reaching 65% of the enrolled students.

Highlights of the Fall 2022 season include the inaugural Unified Basketball “Red vs. White” Classic, providing an opportunity for our team to be split into two groups, each coached by a senior athlete on the team, and showcase their skills and enthusiasm in the Mountie Dome at the end of the season. The coaches for the teams were *Seamus Barnes* and *Jackson Shelsy*.

The Girl's Country Team also earned a Sectional (3C) Championship and placed 3rd at the MIAA State (D3) Championship. The Boys Cross Country Team was the runner-up in the Sectionals (3C) and MIAA State (D3) Championship Events. After a solid regular season, the Golf Team placed 2nd in the Western Massachusetts Championships and 12th at the MIAA Division III State Event. The Girls’ and Boys’ Soccer Teams competed in the Western Massachusetts Finals, finishing 2nd and qualifying for the MIAA State Tournament (D5), becoming Division V Quarterfinalists. After a Western Mass (Class D) Championship, the Volleyball Team traveled to Worcester State University to compete in the MIAA State Championship Game, finishing as State Finalists. Mount Greylock was once again the guest school in the Drury Football Co-op, and the team had an undefeated regular season, a league championship, and earned a spot in the MIAA State Tournament.

The Winter 2022-2023 season is the smallest at Mount Greylock, with only Basketball, Nordic Skiing, and Wrestling hosted at the school. In addition, four students from Mount Greylock were guests of the Drury High School Hockey Team, and three students traveled to Taconic High School to participate in the cooperative Alpine Ski Team. The

Nordic Ski Teams continue to be a great opportunity for younger athletes to join a program and an excellent 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 a second consecutive individual State Championship during the event, a fantastic accomplishment. The Boys' Basketball Team finished their tournament season with two considerable upsets to earn a spot in the MIAA State Quarterfinals. The Wrestling Team finished 8th in the MIAA Division III Western Championship.

The team and individual successes continued in the Spring 2023 season. The Girls' and Boys' Track & Field Teams finished the regular season undefeated, earning Western Mass Class B Championships. Both teams, not to be outdone, placed 2nd at the MIAA State (D6) Championship. Students *Lily Catelotti, Matteo Chang, Charlotte Coody, Chase Doyle, Katherine Goss, Chase Hoey, Jenner Kittle, Judge Martin, Quinn McDermott, Maggie Nichols, and Dan Warren* set school records during the season. The Girls' Lacrosse Team earned a second consecutive Western Mass Championship and became an MIAA State Quarterfinal Team. The Softball and Girls' Tennis teams were Western Mass Finalists and MIAA State Quarterfinalists. The Girls' Tennis Team ended the regular season undefeated, and the Boys Team, though small in numbers and young, qualified for the MIAA State Tournament. In their second season, the Unified Track Team had multiple students qualify for and medal at the MIAA Sectional and State Championships.

SUPPORTIVE PARENTS AND A DYNAMIC COMMUNITY

The Mount Greylock community benefits greatly from the ongoing support of parents, caregivers, and dedicated volunteers. Athletic booster clubs and co-curricular organizations such as Friends of the Arts and Parents4Greylock play pivotal roles, offering unwavering assistance throughout the year. Through fundraising efforts, transportation provisions, and onsite support, these groups ensure the smooth operation of various activities and programs. Parents4Greylock (P4G), established in 2021 as a replacement for the traditional PTO, adopts a collaborative approach encapsulated by its mission to "Partner, Participate, Provide, and Promote." P4G aims to foster family engagement in both school and community endeavors.

Meanwhile, a dynamic School Council collaborates closely with school administrators to assess and address the diverse needs of students. Furthermore, community organizations and local businesses generously offer opportunities for Mount Greylock students to participate in job shadowing, internships, and school-to-work programs. Additionally, partnerships with Williams College, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, and Berkshire Community College allow students to enroll in credit-bearing courses, enriching their educational experiences.

MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL STUDENT ENROLLMENT and STAFFING 2022-2023 **STUDENT ENROLLMENT**

	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
Grade 7	94	123	92	77	102	100
Grade 8	90	90	131	87	84	105
Grade 9	94	79	85	116	77	72
Grade 10	82	88	77	89	103	72
Grade 11	93	84	84	73	84	103
Grade 12	82	87	84	87	74	83
SP	5	5	4	3	3	1
TOTAL:	540	556	557	532	527	536

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)

	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
Administrators	4.97	3	2.98	3	3	4
Instructional Staff	45.49	45.67	46.07	47.26	47.36	48.11
Instructional Support Staff	3.54	3.54	3.86	3.83	3.87	3.87
Paraprofessionals	18	17	15	21	20	21
Medical/Health Services	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL:	73	70.21	68.91	76.09	75.23	77.98

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

2023 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 2023 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 pride themselves 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. We are excited to announce that we are adding a tenth high school vocational program, HVAC/R. In December 2022 we were the recipient of a \$3,110,000.00 Skills Capital grant for FY24 and FY25 to construct and equip a new facility on our campus. 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 2023 was the

twentieth 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 2023 was modified as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and certified through an attestation of a four-year course-completion requirement. 123 graduates of the class of 2023 saw 64% continue their education in a variety of colleges and universities, 33% enter the workforce, and 3% proudly enter into military service. In 2023 we were excited to return to MCLA for our commencement exercises with 123 graduates and a full campus center audience.

GRADE 10 – ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS			
PERFORMANCE LEVEL	2021	2022	2023
EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS	9%	4%	6%
PASSING	82%	94%	88%
NOT MEETING EXPECTATIONS	9%	2%	6%

GRADE 10 – MATHEMATICS			
PERFORMANCE LEVEL	2021	2022	2023
EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS	2%	0%	1%
PASSING	83%	94%	91%
NOT MEETING EXPECTATIONS	15%	6%	8%

GRADE 10 – SCIENCE AND TECH/ENG			
PERFORMANCE LEVEL	2021	2022	2023
EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS	NA	14%	7%
PASSING	NA	49%	87%
NOT MEETING EXPECTATIONS	NA	32%	6%

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

2022-2023 athletics resumed competition without any Covid restrictions in place across all games. 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.

In the fall of 2022 McCann hosted a visiting team from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) for our decennial accreditation. The visit took place from October 31st to November 3rd and consisted of a team of technical and academic instructors from across New England. The visiting team spent their time reviewing all aspects of the school including the programs offered, student support systems, and the school facility. The visit earned high praise from the visiting team who also provided recommendations for continued excellence over the next evaluation cycle. McCann was awarded continued accreditation with NEASC at the association's spring 2023 commissioner's meeting. Our culinary arts program was reaccredited for another five years by the American Culinary Federation Education Foundation Commission.

Our continuous facility improvement program allowed us to renovate our Guidance suite offices, install 80 new student lockers and refurbish an additional 150. We also created 57 new parking spaces in the front of the campus to accommodate the increased student demand. We completed air handling upgrades for the library and replaced the aging electrical equipment. We installed additional security cameras throughout the building and grounds and replaced a number of IT servers.

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 installed 19 new Smartboards throughout the building to enhance the use of the latest educational technology. Similarly, we upgraded all of the CAD department's computer systems to accommodate new design software requirements.

McCann continued its ongoing participation in SkillsUSA, a national organization of more than 380,000 student and teacher members and more than 440,000 total 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 2023 SkillsUSA district competition was held virtually at McCann in accordance with the school's policies and the SkillsUSA guidance. McCann students earned seventeen gold medals in 3-D visualization and animation, additive manufacturing,

architectural drafting, automated manufacturing technology, cosmetology, customer service, dental assisting, medical assisting, sheet metal, technical computer applications, technical drafting and web design. Nineteen silver medals were awarded in 3-D visualization and animation, additive manufacturing, automated manufacturing technology, automotive service technology, baking and pastry arts, carpentry, cosmetology, dental assisting, internetworking, sheet metal, technical computer applications, technical drafting, web design and welding. Sixteen bronze medals were also earned in 3-D visualization and animation, additive manufacturing, automated manufacturing technology, baking and pastry arts, carpentry, cosmetology, dental assisting, restaurant service, sheet metal, technical drafting and web design. The 2023 SkillsUSA state competition was held in Marlborough, MA. McCann students earned six gold medals in carpentry, cosmetology, dental assisting, job interview, sheet metal and technical drafting. Three silver medals were awarded 3-D visualization and animation, cosmetology and dental assisting. One bronze medal was also earned in automated manufacturing technology. The gold medal winners advanced to The National Leadership & Skills Conference in Atlanta, GA in June. McCann earned a bronze medal in sheet metal. We are incredibly proud of our competitors!

Business Professionals of America (BPA) is the premier CTSO (Career and Technical Student Organization) for students pursuing careers in business management, information technology, finance, office administration, health administration and other related career fields. The mission of Business Professionals of America is to develop and empower student leaders to discover their passion and change the world by creating unmatched opportunities in learning, professional growth and service. With 45,000 members in over 1,800 chapters across 25 states and Puerto Rico, as well as an international presence in China, Haiti and Peru, BPA is an organization that supports business and information technology educators by offering co-curricular exercises based on national standards. This 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 2023 BPA State Leadership Conference (SLC) in March, McCann BPA members earned seven 1st place,

two 2nd place, four 3rd place, five 4th place, and two 5th place awards. McCann students competed in finance, business administration, management information systems, digital communication and design, and management, marketing and communications. Twelve students traveled to Anaheim, CA for the National Leadership Conference in May.

Cooperative education is a program of vocational technical education for students who, through a cooperative arrangement between the school and employers, receive instruction, including related vocational instruction, by the alternating of study in school with a job in the occupation field. Such instruction shall be planned and supervised by the school and the employer so that each contributes to the student's education and employability. Work periods will be on alternate weeks during the school year. The experiences gained through cooperative education are critically beneficial to graduates entering the workforce, continuing their collegiate education or entering into military service.

During the 2022-2023 school year there were fifty-three seniors placed in co-op positions with thirty-seven of our cooperative education industry partners. The senior placement rate was 43% of the senior class during this time period. The junior placement from March-June was twenty-one placements with sixteen of our cooperative education industry partners. The junior placement rate was 19% of the junior class during this time period.

McCann students continued to excel in receiving industry-recognized credentials through their vocational programs. 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.

All eleven culinary arts seniors achieved the American Culinary Federation Certified Fundamental Cook Certifications and six of our seniors achieved the ServSafe manager certification. All seniors also achieved their Massachusetts Food Allergy Certification.

Thirty-four of the business technology students earned their certifications in a number of Microsoft Office programs including Access Expert, Excel, PowerPoint and Word.

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. 14 of our underclassmen received level 1 certification and 11 of our upperclassmen received level 2 certification which includes the Massachusetts Department of Labor pre-apprentice status. We also had two seniors achieve the SolidWorks CSWA academic certification.

Our computer assisted design drafting students were similarly successful in a variety of Certiport Autodesk Certified User certifications as follows: AutoCAD, 2, Maya, 1, RevIt, 4 and Certified OnShape Associate, 3.

All of our automotive technology seniors achieved the following certifications through the NC3 Snap-On program: EHP System V tire and wheel service; B2000P Wheel balancing; Pro 42 wheel alignment and the 504 multimeter certification.

Seven metal fabrication seniors received a total of eleven welding certifications in various processes and positions and three junior students qualified for four welder certifications. All sophomore students earned their Massachusetts Hot Work 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 \$45,683.00 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 2022-2023.

FY23 Budgeted Revenues		Budget	Actual
City & Town Assessments			
Municipal Minimum		\$3,451,123.00	\$3,451,123.00
Capital		\$25,940.00	\$25,940.00
Transportation		\$171,015.00	\$171,015.00
Municipal Assessment		\$102,600.00	\$102,600.00
Ch. 71 Transportation		\$311,000.00	\$356,683.00
Ch. 70 General School Aid		\$6,273,595.00	\$6,273,595.00
Tuition		\$321,218.00	\$321,218.00
Miscellaneous Revenue		\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Revenue Received		\$10,656,491.00	\$10,702,174.00
Member City & Town Transportation Refunds			(\$45,683.00)
		\$10,656,491.00	\$10,656,491.00
Source	Grant	Amount	
(Federal Entitlement)			
Fed	Sped IDEA		\$132,065.00
Fed	Title I		\$127,029.00
Fed	Title II A		\$17,721.00
Fed	Title IV		\$10,382.00
Fed	Perkins		\$78,058.00
Fed	Postsecondary Perkins		\$3,311.00
Fed	Perkins Improvement & Equipment		\$39,610.00
Fed	Perkins Postsecondary Reserve		\$9,518.00
Fed	ESSER II		\$82,020.00
Fed	ESSER III		\$418,248.00
Fed	CVTE Admissions		\$30,000.00
(Federal Grants Other)			
REAP			\$31,206.73
(State Grants)			
MyCap			\$11,300.00
Workforce Skills Capital Equipment			\$343,402.27
MassHire Berkshire: Connecting Activities			\$2,000.00
MassHire Berkshire: College & Career			\$9,000.00
Mass Cultural Council			\$2,455.26
MA Life Science			\$24,350.00
MassStep Culinary Arts NAPS			\$27,795.14
(Private)			
Private	Olmsted		\$5,000.00
Private	BHG Wellness		\$2,000.00
Private	General Dynamics		\$2,000.00
Private	Char. Ed Content Inst. Special Earmark HVAC FC196 DESE Admin		\$10,813.00
Private	Robotics Interest Group		\$2,500.00
Private	Gene Haas Foundation (AMT)		\$15,000.00
	TOTAL GRANTS		\$1,436,784.40

JAMES J. BROSNAN
Superintendent

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.ocd.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.

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



Williamstown Fire District 2023 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 2023 annual meeting took place on Tuesday, May 23, 2023. 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
Billie Jo Sawyer, Treasurer
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 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the Williamstown Elementary School. Voting for elected positions within the Williamstown Fire District took place before the annual meeting, from 4 - 7 p.m. John J. Notsley was elected to the Prudential Committee for a three-year term and Paul Harsch was elected to Moderator for a three-year term. Elected Prudential Committee members and term expirations are Joseph P. Beverly 2025, David R. Moresi 2024 (Chair), Lindsay Neathawk 2024 (Vice Chair), John J. Notsley 2026, and Michale Alex Steele 2025. Appointed officials of the Williamstown Fire District in 2023 include Billie Jo Sawyer, Treasurer, Paul Harsch, Moderator, and Sarah Currie, Clerk and Records Access Officer.

At the Annual Meeting, the District voted to appropriate from free cash in the Treasury \$50,000.00 for a Reserve Fund. The District also voted to appropriate \$70,000.00 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 the new fire station. The District also voted to appropriate the \$80,000.00 to be placed in the Stabilization Fund. The District voted to appropriate \$10,000.00 to be used for the purchase of firefighter turnout gear and personal protective equipment (PPE) and uniforms, for members of the Department. The District voted to appropriate \$36,000.00 to be used for the replacement and upgrading of essential life saving equipment, to include 5 AEDs, a Lucas CPR device, and supporting supplies for first responders. Additionally, the District voted to appropriate \$10,000.00 to be used for the purchase of essential communications equipment to support department operations. The District also voted to appropriate \$20,000.00 to be used for Legal and Financial Consulting, marketing and processing of necessary borrowing instruments, notes or bonds required for the financing of the new Fire Station construction project. And the District voted to appropriate \$12,000.00 to acquire approximately 12 firefighter ballistic vests and helmets to be used for essential lifesaving gear during emergency events.

The fire district continued to work diligently to plan for a new fire station and the Building Committee was active in 2023.

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 and the commonwealth's goal of attaining net-zero carbon emissions, and to do so at the best possible lifetime cost.

Specifically, the Committee did the following:

Worked on getting the vote out to authorize the bond issue.

Permitting with all local authorities.

Recommend hiring Skanska as OPM.

Recommended hiring EDN Studio for design work.

Reviewed building design development.

Worked with National Grid to insure Interconnection.

Looked for possible grants.

Voted to proceed with Construction documents.

Special District Meeting, February 28, 2023

February 28, 2023, will long be noted in the history of the District and of the Town.

The largest turnout in recent memory turned out that evening for the Special District Meeting called by the Prudential Committee to seek public support for the Building Committee's plan for a new station. By a vote of 509 to 32 the meeting authorized the District to borrow up to \$22.5 million for the project.

The meeting also acknowledged private gifts to the project from Williams College (\$5 million) and The Clark Art Institute (\$500,000).

This overwhelming voter support gave momentum to the permitting process such that site work was able to begin in 2023. Construction is expected to start in spring 2024 and the station to open in summer 2025.

Outreach - Chief

The fire department continues its outreach to the community. Firefighters took part in the 4th of July parade and oversaw the fireworks that evening. In August, the fire department participated in National Night Out which was sponsored by the Williamstown police department. On Saturday October 28th, the fire department held its annual Fire Prevention Open House from 10am to 2pm. The national theme for 2023 was "Prevent Kitchen Fires: Cook with Care". The event was

well attended by our community members, parents and their children. Informational handouts on preventing kitchen cooking fires and how to cook with care along with many other fire safety pamphlets were made available. Fire helmets, coloring books and other items were on hand for the children. Apparatus and equipment were on display and firefighters were there to answer any questions from both the young and old alike. The Forest Warden also participated in the open house. Hot dogs and hamburgers were provided by the Gale Hose Company. Coffee, cider and donuts were also served. The fire department also had a visit from Sparky the Fire Dog and Smokey the Bear. 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 for promoting safety by distributing glow sticks with the hope of ensuring better visibility so our children enjoyed a safe Halloween. During the month of October, the fire department educated our children in fire safety from the ages of 3-6 by visiting daycares and schools and hosting field trips to the fire station. Visits to the senior housing were also conducted, the residents discussed safe cooking practices, planning your escape, fire alarm, having a meeting spot and accountability.

Staffing

In June, William “Will” Titus and Grant Gattuso, two of our Williams Student Firefighters, graduated from Williams. They joined the department as freshmen in January of 2020 only to be sent home during the Covid epidemic. They returned back to the department their Sophomore year and have been a great asset to the department ever since. Will and Grant, the Fire Department and the firefighters thank you for your service and wish you the very best with your future endeavors. In January of 2023, three Williams Freshman were hired onto the department, Dalton Meyers, Alexandra Riggs and Santiago Ferris were selected from over a dozen applicants. Alex and Santiago have stayed very active with the department making calls and training. Unfortunately, Dalton had to step down for personal reasons. In November, Michael Bump rejoined the fire department after being gone for some time. Mike’s experience will be a great benefit to the department. In December of this year, the fire department hired three more Williams Students, Carlton Roe, William “Will” Tinson and Nicholas Wahab. The department is very excited to have these new additions and looks forward to what they will bring to the department. The fire department currently has 29 firefighters and 7 deputy forest wardens, two of which are also firefighters.

Grants

The fire department applied for the FY23 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 awarded \$11,651.35. The district purchased the following equipment: Five Kenwood Portable Radios with a spare battery and rapid charger for each radio. The radios were delivered in February and put into service shortly after.

The fire department also applied for and was awarded \$35,394.33 in federal funding through the Assistant to Firefighters Grant program. The grant was used to purchase Five Automatic Defibrillators and a Lucas device (used in CPR). The equipment is in service.

Training

Firefighters participated the following training classes this year: Automatic Sprinkler System, Fire Instructor, Vehicle Fires, Water Mapping, Suppression/Ventilation, Hose Streams, Suppression Tactics, Attic & Exterior Fires, Understanding Basement Fires, Managing Risk, Asher 3000 Active Shooter, Fire Behavior & Smoke Signals, Ventilation Misunderstood Art, Fire Attack, Motor Pump Operations, IS-700, IS-800, ICS-100, ICS-200, Roadway Safety, Fire Safety Air Management, Photovoltaics for the Fire Service and Grant Writing

In-house training is conducted on Monday evenings. A few of the topics include: Search and rescue using self-contained breathing apparatus, ladders, advancing hose lines, vehicle extrication, hydrants, review of truck equipment, chimney fires, tower operations, tanker operations (dumping, drafting and pumping), ropes and hauling systems and firematic drills.

The members of the fire district continue to maintain their first responders and CPR/AED certifications. The fire department and forestry members are trained and certified in Ice Water Rescue. The department is well equipped for this type of emergency. The Forest Warden held training on the operations of the brush trucks and went over all their equipment.

Noteworthy calls

On February 6, 2023 at 11:44 am, the fire department was dispatched to a report of a trash compactor smoking on Stetson Road. When the fire department arrived on scene, they found a 30-40 yard trash dumpster smoking heavily. The dumpster was not located near any structures and was sitting on black top. It was connected to a trash compactor and was full of paper and cardboard. The only access at the rear where it connected to the compactor and the fire appeared to be on that end. Once firefighters were on scene, two hose lines were deployed and the dumpster was disconnected from the compactor and pulled away with a loader. Firefighters knocked down what fire they could but because the cardboard was packed in the dumpster, it made it difficult to get to everything that was burning. The dumpster had to be emptied onto the parking lot area in order to totally extinguish the burning paper and cardboard. TAM, the company who supplies the dumpsters, sent a truck to lift the container in order to empty it. Once the container was up on the truck, the driver was able to tip it enough for some of the material to fall out. A back hoe was used to pull everything out onto the ground. The loader was able to spread the packed material out for the firefighters who then extinguished all the burning material using Class A foam and water. The cause of the fire was undetermined but it was likely to have been caused by an unextinguished cigarette or cigar.

On March 18, 2023 at 1:17 pm, the fire department was dispatched to the Lasell gym for a report of a vacuum cleaner on fire. When firefighters arrived on scene, they were directed to the side entrance where someone had carried a smoldering vacuum cleaner outside and used a fire extinguisher on it. Firefighters then cooled the unit with water and then opened it up and totally extinguished the small fire. Three male college students were dry grinding their alpine skis in the women's ski room when the vacuum they were using started smoldering and filling the room with smoke. The grinding/sharpening unit was attached to a Festool Shop Hepa vacuum cleaner via a plastic hose which collected the hot metal grindings. The vacuum cleaning unit was not rated for this type of use as it has a paper Hepa filter and other combustible parts. The college's Environmental Fire and Safety department was on scene and removed the grinding unit, stating a written procedure needs to be established before it is used in a building again.

On April 20th at 2:31 pm, the Forest Warden was requested to respond to the area of Pine Cobble School to assist the police with a lost person. The Forest Warden was directed by the police to the field at the end of Cluett Drive, just east of Pine Cobble School. Apparently a fifth grade male student walked away from his class while they were out on a field trip at this location. Chief Pedercini met up with the Forest Warden and the WPD and was updated. Chief Pedercini then had the fire department called out and requested everyone standby in the station for a lost person and wait for further instruction. The police officer on scene requested additional FD personnel to set up a sweep of the brush and wooded area around the field. An Incident Command was set up at the top of the hill on the east side of the field. A dozen firefighters responded to the IC staging area and prepared to walk through heavy brush. The Mass State Police were also notified and responded with three or four troopers, one being a canine unit. A brief search was conducted by the canine unit but due to others searching the area, the canine was unable to track. A plan was laid out to search multiple areas with the manpower staging at the IC. The search group was split up into teams of 4-5 and given an area to search. Two firefighters were assigned the Stone Hill Trail which was in close proximity to the school and a short run from the IC. State Police called for their Air Wing Helicopter to respond if it was available. The Air Wing did eventually arrive and they flew over the area searching. In the meantime, the two firefighters on the Stone Hill Trail reported they found the male individual who fits the description given. The two firefighters escorted the individual back to the school as it was closer than the IC. The police officers then headed to the school to meet up with the student and his parents who had been called and were waiting on site. The State Police were updated and all the search parties were called back to the IC and a roll call was taken before clearing the scene.

As firefighters were clearing from a missing person call on the afternoon of April 20th, the fire department was dispatched to a reported structure fire on Elm Street. The caller reported their neighbor's garage was on fire. Two fire officers were standing by at the station and responded quickly to the scene, one with their personal vehicle and the other with engine W1. The first arriving officer did a quick size up of the fire and then pulled a hose line off the truck when it arrived on scene. The hose line was charged, a plan of attack was made and then executed. The fire was knocked down quickly from an exterior attack through a window on the side of the garage. No one was home at the time. When the second fire engine, W2 arrived on scene, a water supply line was laid from Linden Street to W1. Additional manpower had also arrived on scene and forced entry through the front door to the home to check for smoke and fire and nothing was found. The fire had been knocked down but was still smoldering. The garage door was opened for better access and ventilation. Not wanting to disturb the scene, firefighters gradually apply additional water until the smoldering

stopped. The garage was full of miscellaneous items including a vehicle. The fire was located in the rear right corner of the garage. The burned material was a plastic trash container and its contents. The fire did, however, extend to two piles of stacked lumber but only charred them. The structure of the garage itself did not catch fire. There were no ignition sources found in the area where the fire started, including electrical outlets. There was no odor or signs of any combustible or flammable liquids in the garage at all. The neighbor reported seeing a person hanging around the front yard of the home prior to the fire. A full investigation was conducted by the local police department and the Mass State Police Fire Marshal's office. A suspect was charged and later the court dismissed the case.

On July 31st at 8:43 pm, the fire department was dispatched to Hubble House at Williams College for a report of smoke in a bathroom. When firefighters arrived on scene, they spoke to Campus Safety and Security who preceded to take them to room 305 where the smoke was coming from. Following a quick size up, it was determined there was a fire in the ceiling of the bathroom. Not knowing the extent of the fire, mutual aid from Pownal, Vt was requested by the fire department. Firefighter's advanced a hose line to the third floor and then charged it before making entry to room 305. The fire appeared to be in the ceiling fan and it was quickly extinguished. Firefighters then opened up the ceiling to check for fire extension and pulled the ceiling fan down. The fire was under control in a very short time. Firefighters checked a few other rooms and found light smoke in them, so each room was ventilated. The fire was initially reported by a student who had just taken a shower and noticed the smoke about fifteen minutes later. The student also reported seeing sparks and flames. It was determined that an electrical short in the ceiling fan sparked the fire.

The quick thinking of a resident saved the home from a major disaster. On October 16, 2023 at 5:18 pm, the fire department responded to a kitchen grease fire on Arnold Street. The caller reported the fire was spreading quickly. Chief Pedercini was first to arrive on scene and was informed by a male party that the fire was out. There was a frying pan outside on the ground along with a blanket that was partially burned. Although the fire was confirmed to be out, the home was full of smoke. When firefighters arrived on scene, they began ventilating the home. The fire started in the kitchen on the top of the stove. A frying pan, half filled with corn oil, was left unattended for 10-15 minutes on the front right burner which was turned on. At some point, the oil ignited. The fire extended from the stove top to the hood and then to the ceiling. It was hot enough to melt the vinyl blinds on the windows next to the stove and across the room. The fire damage included the exhaust fan, the vinyl blinds and a considerable amount of smoke damage throughout the home. There was no structural damage. The residents' son came out from the back bedroom off the kitchen and seeing the fire, grabbed a blanket from the kitchen floor and wrapped it around himself for protection. Using a corner of the blanket, he grabbed the handle of the flaming pan and carried it out the side door, tossing it to the ground. The blanket caught fire from burning splattered grease and it was tossed to the ground as well. No one was injured.

The fire department provided mutual aid on twelve occasions. Five were for structure fires, three for motor vehicle accidents, three for brush fires and one for a lost hiker. Williamstown's Tanker W4 and Engine W2 responded to Hancock for a structure fire on Route 7 at the old Brodie Ski Resort. W2 laid in with a four in supply line and W4 provided water to the scene. Firefighters responded to Pownal on five occasions, two were for brush fires and three were for structure fires/standby.

Firefighters responded to a total of twenty-three motor vehicle accidents, 20 in Williamstown and 3 in New Ashford. On June 24th, firefighters worked for almost an hour to free a driver from his vehicle after he crashed into a utility pole wrapping the driver side of the vehicle around it. Firefighters continue to provide medical care and assist the Northern Berkshire EMS with patients involved in MVA's. The fire department also responded to seven lift assist requests from the Northern Berkshire EMS. The fire department responded to 22 calls for natural gas odors/leaks throughout the year, of which thirteen went unfounded, while nine were confirmed leaks.

249 Incident Calls:

Structure Fires - 2, Dumpster Fire - 1, Car Fire - 1, Oven Fire - 1, Kitchen Fire - 1, Chimney Fires - 2, Vacuum Cleaner Fire - 1, Brush Fires - 2, Illegal Outside Fire - 10, Electrical Issue - 1, Electrical Appliance Issue - 2, Transformer/Pole/Tree/Wires down - 3, Boiler Issues - 2, Motor Vehicle Accidents - 20, Natural/Propane Gas Odor/Leaks - 22, Gasoline Odor/Spill - 1, Stalled Elevators - 2, Water Issues/Broken Pipes/Flooding Basements - 3, Carbon Monoxide Alarms - 20, Rescue/Missing Person - 3, Activated Fire Alarms Including Sprinkler Systems - 107, Assisted Resident's with Alarm System - 16, Smoke/Good Intent Calls - 3, Assisted NBEMS - 7, Smoke Complaint (forest warden) - 2,

Assisted Person Out of Woods (forest warden) - 1, Assisted Injured Hunter Out of Woods (forest warden) - 1, Mutual Aid Calls: Structure Fires - 5, (3 Pownal VT, 1 Hancock and 1 New Ashford), MVA's - 3 (New Ashford), Lost Hiker - 1 (Pownal VT), Brush fire - 3 (2 Pownal VT, 1 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.

214 permits were issued for smoke/co detectors, liquid propane gas, tank removals, oil burners, fire protection system, fuel tank storage, hot works, fireworks, hood suppression systems, floor refinishing, Energy Storage Systems (ESS) and a Fire report.

Forest Warden

For the year of 2023, the Forest Wardens Department issued the Town burning permits from January 15th through May 1st as well as permits for Agricultural and outdoor event fires year-round. The Department issued 256 permits and responded to 25 calls. Fourteen with only the Forest Wardens and eleven were jointly with the fire department. Of the 25 calls, we responded to 4 search & rescue calls.

On New Year's Eve, we were called to Pownal, VT to help locate 2 lost hikers in the woods on the MA/ VT border. The Warden and Deputy Warden's assisted the Pownal Fire Department with our Ranger 6x6 to help locate and bring the 2 parties out of the woods.

In April, we searched for a fifth grade male student from Pine Cobble School, who walked away from his class during a field trip off of Gale Road. He was eventually found on the Stone Hill Trail and was fine.

In May, 2 people were hiking in the Hopkins Forest at night when they got tired and started to not feel well. They were also disoriented and thought they were off the trail. The Forest Warden and Deputy Warden's responded to the trail head, while one of our staff members talked to them on their cell phone. As it turned out, they were not as lost as they thought and were able to walk out to us before we entered the woods.

In October, the department was dispatched to the Taconic Trail to extricate an injured hunter from the Sara Tenney Trail. The six wheeler was used to bring a medic to their location and then bring everyone back out.

The department responded to 4 Mutual Aid out of control Brush Fires. One call was in New Ashford and we were canceled in route. Two calls were in Pownal VT, Brush 1 responded with manpower in both cases. The fourth call was to Bennington VT, the Warden's department responded with Brush 1 and our Ranger, Brush 3.

Total calls: 26

4 Brush fires in town, 12 Smoke complaints or illegal fires, 4 Mutual Aid fires (1 New Ashford, 2 Pownal and 1 Bennington), 4 Missing persons/rescues (1 mutual aid to Pownal), 2 Injured persons rescued from woods

We answered 79 Phone calls and issued 256 Burning permits.

206 permits were applied for online by residents, 15 were issued by our office. There were 10 Agricultural permits issued and 25 Outdoor Event fire permits issued.

The Forest Warden's Department is trained in Wildland Firefighting and Ice Rescue. All members are First Responder and CPR/AED certified. Our most recent training was "Stop the Bleed". The department also participated in the 4th of July Parade, National Night Out and the fire department's open house.

You can obtain a Burning Permit on line between the hours of 8:30 am and 12:00 noon at www.bcburnpermits.com. If you don't see it up on site then we are not burning that day due to poor weather conditions. You can call our office with any questions at 413-458-5695.

2023 Report of the Williamstown Fire District Treasurer:

Williamstown Fire District

FY 2023

July 1, 2022

RECEIPTS:

Town of Williamstown (Taxes collected)	\$742,114	
Williams College	\$32,976	
Inspection Fees	\$4,625	
Interest Income	\$3,305	
Miscellaneous	\$8,250	
Donations	\$300	\$791,570
		\$791,570

EXPENSES

Audit		\$14,000	
Berkshire County Retirement		\$22,496	
Communications		\$6,642	
Debt Service		\$0	
Dispatch		\$69,007	
Education and Training		\$7,272	
Forestry Department		\$11,981	
Insurance		\$59,636	
Legal		\$11,464	
Maintenance & Operation		\$100,884	
Outreach & recruitment		\$8,156	
Pay of Firemen		\$51,169	
Salaries		\$131,709	
Services & Supplies		\$11,919	
Utilities		\$5,732	
Water Rents		\$1,650	
Total Operations	Article 5		(\$513,717)
Other Articles			
Stabilization	Article 6	FY '22	\$60,000
Chief Car	Article 9	FY '23	\$69,168
Communication	Article 8	FY '18	\$3,667
Station OPM Design	Article	FY '24	\$6,501
Grant Match	Article 8	FY '20	\$1,000
PPE/Uniforms	Article 11	FY '23	\$10,000
Tanker Truck	Article	FY '21	\$0
Station Design	Article 6	FY '21	\$4,776
Grant Match	Article 9	FY '21	\$0
OPM Grant	Article 6	FY '21	\$14,504
			(\$169,616)
			(\$683,333)

Income / Expense	NET Balance	June 30, 2023	\$108,237
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Stabilization Fund	July 1, 2022	\$444,092
Additions		\$60,000
Withdrawal		(69,168)
Interest		\$10,007
Fund Balance	June 30, 2023	\$444,931

Billie Jo Sawyer, Treasurer

