

# Town of Pelham

## 2020 Annual Town Report & Warrant



**Cover Photo:**

Photo of Rhodes Building/Town Offices courtesy of Kathleen Martell.

**Pelham Historical Society Museum**

Located in Pelham Historic Complex,  
Corner of Amherst Road and Daniel Shays Highway

FREE!

FREE!

FREE!

OPEN Sunday Afternoons (1:30 to 4:30 p.m.) from June to September

Check our website, [www.pelhamhistory.org](http://www.pelhamhistory.org), for more information

Annual Town Report of 2020  
 JANUARY 1, 2020 - DECEMBER 31, 2020



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## Annual Town Report of 2020 Appointed & Elected Officials, Public Bodies, & Staff

<b>Accountant</b>	appointed	<b>Building Inspector</b>	appointed
Gail Weiss, Accounting Officer	1 year	David Waskiewicz	1 year
<b>Animal Control Officer</b>	appointed	<b>Cable Advisory Committee</b>	appointed
Nancy Long	1 year	Richard Hall	1 year
		Robert Agoglia (beg July)	1 year
<b>Anti-Racism Advisory Committee</b>	appointed	Karen Willard-Ribeiro (end June)	1 year
Charlie Lynch	1 year	Robert Rowell	1 year
Joseph Davis	1 year	<i>(Associate Member Vacancy)</i>	
Jacqueline Faison	1 year		
Matteo Ramos-Mucci	1 year	<b>Capital Planning Committee</b>	appointed
Roy Regozin	1 year	DPW – Richard Adamcek	1 year
Daniel Robb	1 year	Finance – John Trickey	1 year
Pat Schumm	1 year	Fire - Chief Raymond Murphy	1 year
Anne Stoddard	1 year	Police – Chief Gary Thomann	1 year
Jessica Jean-Louis	1 year	Planning Board – Judith Eiseman	1 year
Jacob Berkowitz	1 year	School – Sarah Hall	1 year
Karen Willard-Ribeiro	1 year	Select Board – Karen Willard-Ribeiro (thr. June)	1 year
Cydnie Reiman	1 year	Select Board – Robert Agoglia (beg. July)	1 year
Charles Rizzuto	1 year		
Agnes McCraven	1 year	<b>Cemetery Commissioners</b>	elected
Carmen Leah Ascencio	1 year	Norman Page	2023
		Scott Barton	2022
<b>Archivist</b>	appointed	Cleon (Buzzy) Booth	2021
<i>(vacant position)</i>	1 year		
<b>Assistant Assessor</b>	appointed	<b>Collector</b>	appointed
Lori Turati	1 year	June Masseur	2021
		<b>Community Garden Committee</b>	appointed
<b>Board of Assessors</b>	elected	Cydnie Reiman, Chair	1 year
Robert Rowell, Chair	2022	Sue Tippit	1 year
Gwendolyn Hubler	2021	Heidi Dollard	1 year
William Collins	2023	Abbie Jenks	1 year
		Wendi Weinberg	1 year
<b>Auditor</b>	elected	<b>Community Hall Committee</b>	appointed
John Trickey	2021	Linda Hanscom, Chair	1 year
		Lavonne Rathbun	1 year
<b>Buildings &amp; Grounds</b>	appointed	Diane Shepard	1 year
Richard Adamcek	1 year	<i>(vacant position)</i>	1 year
Paul Moe	1 year	<i>(vacant position)</i>	1 year

<b>Community Hall Accessibility Committee</b>	appointed	<b>Cultural Council</b>	appointed
Linda Hanscom	1 year	Nora Maroulis, Chair	2021
Richard Adamcek	1 year	Linda Spink (end Oct)	2023
Karl Martini	1 year	Gregory Wardlaw (end Oct)	2023
		Andrea Kandel	2021
<b>Community Preservation Committee</b>	appointed	Christopher Wardlaw	2022
Conservation-Dana MacDonald	1 year	Grace Spalding Fecher (end June)	2023
Cydnie Reiman, <i>at-large elected</i>	2022	Sofia Maroulis (end Oct)	2023
James Lumley, <i>at-large appointed (beg. Nov)</i>	1 year		
Housing-Tilman Lukas	1 year	<b>Disability Access</b>	appointed
Historical-Joseph Larson	1 year	Susannah Carey	1 year
Planning-Judy Eiseman	1 year		
Recreation-Thomas Fanning	1 year	<b>Dog Officer</b>	appointed
		Nancy Long	1 year
<b>Conservation Committee</b>	appointed		
Dana MacDonald, Chair	2023	<b>Elder Services-Outreach Worker</b>	appointed
Tilman Lukas	2022	<i>(vacant position)</i>	1 year
David Gross	2023		
Richard Seelig	2022	<b>Electrical Inspector</b>	appointed
Janice Gifford (beg. March)	2021	Ronald Shepard	1 year
		Douglas Rae, Assistant Electrical Inspector	1 year
<b>Constables</b>	appointed		
Gary Thomann, Chief Constable	1 year	<b>Emergency Management Director</b>	appointed
Roman Kucinski	1 year	Gary Thomann, Police Chief	2021
Steven Hughes	1 year		
Christopher Rice	1 year	<b>Energy Committee</b>	appointed
		John Larsen, Co-Chairs	2021
<b>Council on Aging</b>	appointed	Tony Rogers, Co-Chairs	2023
Kathleen Martell	2023	Dennis Randall Spalding-Fecher	2022
Grace Dane	2023		
Isabel Ryavec	2021	<b>Fence Viewers</b>	appointed
Tracy Osbahr	2021	Bruce Klotz	1 year
Nancy Rose Weeber	2022	Joseph Larson	1 year
<b>COA Associate Members</b>			
<i>(two vacant positions)</i>		<b>Finance Committee</b>	appointed by Moderator
		John Trickey, Chair	2023
<b>Council of Governments</b>	elected	Fred Vanderbeck	2022
John Trickey	2022	William Martell	2022
		Emily Marriott	2021
		Cara Castenson	2023

<b>Fire Department</b>	appointed	<b>Housing Committee</b>	appointed
Raymond Murphy, Jr., Fire Chief	2021	Tilman Lukas, Chair	1 year
Richard Hall, Deputy Fire Chief		Barbara Cooper	1 year
Jason Hall, Lieutenant		Ruth Elcan	1 year
David Hawkins, Lieutenant		Gail Kenny	1 year
Peter Clough, Firefighter		James Lumley	1 year
Stephen Hall, Firefighter		Amy Spalding-Fecher	
Erich Hinlein, Firefighter		<i>(vacancy)</i>	1 year
Brian Huyler, Firefighter		<b>IT Committee</b>	appointed
Jarrett Austin, Firefighter/EMT		<i>(5 vacant positions)</i>	1 year
Joel Melendez, Firefighter (beg. Jan)		<b>Library</b>	appointed
Christopher Kain, Firefighter/EMT (thr. May)		Joanne (Jodi) Levine, Director	
<b>Gas Inspector</b>	appointed	Jessica Lamson	
Andrew French	1 year	Ashley Rodkey	
<b>Board of Health</b>	elected	Sally Goldin	
William Pula, Chair	2021	Rosalba Booth, School Librarian	
Richard Hall	2022	<b>Library Trustees</b>	elected
Christopher Rice	2020	Gillian Duda	2023
<b>Health Inspector</b>	appointed	Gayle Barton	2022
Finn McCool		Michael Hussin	2022
<b>Highway Department</b>	appointed	Rosemary Agoglia	2021
Rick Adamcek, Superintendent	2021	Gregory Wardlaw	2021
Ethan Dickinson, Foreman (beg. Jan)		Diane Gray (beg. July)	2023
Edward Chapin		Jacques Graton (thr. June)	2020
Charles Ryznic, part-time seasonal		<b>Moderator</b>	elected
Robert Novik, part-time seasonal		Daniel Robb	2021
Nathanial Ribeiro, part-time seasonal (end Oct)		<b>Personnel Board</b>	appointed
<b>Historical Commission</b>	appointed	<i>(5 vacant positions)</i>	
Karl Martini, Chair	2023	<b>Pioneer Valley Planning Commission</b>	appointed
Joseph Larson	2022	Judith Eiseman, Planning Board Chair	1 year
Charles Thompson	2021	Alexandra Dewey, Alternate Planning Board Member	1 year
Daniel Robb	2023	<b>Planning Board</b>	elected
<i>(vacant position)</i>		Judith Eiseman, Chair	2021
<i>(vacant position)</i>		Peter Wilson	2024
<i>(vacant position)</i>		Alexandra Dewey	2023
<b>Commission Alternate Members</b>		Leslie Tarr Laurie	2022
Karl Ryavec	1 year	Linda Spink (thr. June)	2020
<i>(vacant position)</i>		Anne Stoddard (beg. July)	2025

<b>Plumbing Inspector</b> Andy French	appointed 1 year	<b>School Principal, Pelham Elementary</b> Lisa Desjarlais (thr June) Leigh Whiting-Jones (beg. July)	
<b>Police Department</b> Gary Thomann, Police Chief Kevin Fournier Sr., Lieutenant Derick Lamoureux, Sergeant Connor Parnell, Officer Todd Mongeon, Officer Jared Tivnam, Officer Robert Thrasher, Officer Richard Downie, Officer Sean Conner, Officer Peter Michaels, Reserve Officer Stephen Hughes, Reserve Officer Kevin Quesnel, Reserve Officer	appointed 2023	<b>School Principals, Regional Middle &amp; High</b> Joseph Smith (end July), Interim Middle School Diego Sharon (beg. July), Middle School Talib Sadiq, High School	
<b>Public Health Director</b> Judith Metcalf	appointed 1 year	<b>School Superintendent</b> Dr. Michael Morris	
<b>Recreation Commission</b> (5 vacant positions)	appointed 1 year	<b>Select Board</b> Karen Willard-Ribeiro (thr. June) Robert Agoglia, Chair Tara Loomis, Vice-Chair (beg. July) David Shanabrook, Clerk (beg. July)	elected 2020 2021 2023 2022
<b>Recycling Coordinator</b> Susannah Carey	appointed 1 year	<b>Select Board Administrative Assistant</b> Susannah Carey	appointed 1 year
<b>Regional School District Planning Committee</b> Emily Marriott Richard Tom Fanning Cara Castenson	appointed by Moderator	<b>Town Clerk</b> Sandra Burgess, appointed (beg. July) Kathleen Martell, elected (thr. June)	appointed 2021 2020
<b>Board of Registrars</b> Sandra Burgess, Town Clerk Sharrie Reydak Franlisa Rowell Virginia Servos Kathleen Martell (thr. June) (vacancy)	appointed 2023 2022 2023 2024 2020	<b>Transit Authority, Pioneer Valley</b> Karen Willard-Ribeiro (thr. June) David Shanabrook (beg. Dec)	appointed 1 year 1 year
<b>School Committee</b> Sarah Hall, Chair Ron Mannino Margaret Stancer Brenda Barlow (beg. July) Sarahbess Kenney Jessica Jean-Louis (end May)	elected 2021 2023 2021 2021 2023 2020	<b>Treasurer</b> June Masee	appointed 2021
		<b>Tree Warden</b> David Hawkins	elected 2021
		<b>Veterans' Service Officer</b> Steven Connor	appointed 1 year

<b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b>	appointed
Jeffrey Eiseman, Chair	2024
Amanda Huhmann	2024
Carey Clouse, Clerk	2025
Ann McNeal, Vice-Chair	2023
Ralph Faulkingham, Secretary	2022
<b>ZBA Associate Members</b>	
David Litwak	2022
Stacy McCullough (beg. Jan)	2025
<b>Zoning Enforcement Officer</b>	appointed
David Waskiewicz	1 year

\***Appointed** positions listed for 1 year begin July 1 and end June 30. These positions are annually re-appointed by the Select Board in June prior to the start of the new fiscal yr.

\***Elected** positions that have reached the end of their term are listed on the local Election ballot in May for residents to **to vote who will serve.**

# ELECTIONS & TOWN MEETING RESULTS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER



## Annual Town Report of 2020

### Special Town Election, January 4, 2020

**Board of Selectmen  
(One for Two Years)**

No Nomination	0
All Others	83
Blanks	0

**Total Votes Cast            83**

Attest:  
Kathy Martell  
Town Clerk





# Annual Town Report of 2020

## Presidential Primary, March 3, 2020

### DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

#### PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE

DEVAL PATRICK	1
AMY KLOBUCHAR	2
ELIZABETH WARREN	253
MICHAEL BENNET	0
MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG	26
TULSI GABBARD	0
CORY BOOKER	0
JULIAN CASTRO	0
TOM STEYER	0
BERNIE SANDERS	208
JOSEPH R. BIDEN	137
JOHN K. DELANEY	0
ANDREW YANG	1
PETE BUTTIGIEG	3
MARIANNE WILLIAMSON	0
NO PREFERENCE	0
All Others	0
Blanks	0

#### STATE COMMITTEE MAN

DAVID J. NARKEWICZ	443
All Others	0
Blanks	188

#### STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN

All Others	21
Blanks	610

#### TOWN COMMITTEE

JUDITH S. EISEMAN	168
RICHARD W. SEELIG	140
GAYLE R. BARTON	153
LINDA J. SPINK	149
BARBARA P. COOPER	150
JANE ELLEN PORTER	130
ISABEL S. RYAVEC	125

KARL W. RYAVEC	114
ABIGAIL JENKS	208
RALPH H. FAULKINGHAM	163
All Others	5

**TOTAL VOTES CAST  
IN DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY 631**

### GREEN RAINBOW PRIMARY

#### PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE

DARIO HUNTER	0
SKCM CURRY	0
KENT MESPLAY	0
HOWARD HAWKINS	0
NO PREFERENCE	0
All Others	0
Blanks	0

#### STATE COMMITTEE MAN

No Nomination	0
All Others	0
Blanks	0

#### STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN

No Nomination	0
All Others	0
Blanks	0

#### TOWN COMMITTEE

All Others	0
Blanks	0

**TOTAL VOTERS CAST  
IN GREEN-RAINBOW PRIMARY 0**

**LIBERTARIAN PRIMARY**

<b>PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE</b>		No Nomination	0
ARVIN VOHRA	0	All Others	0
VERMIN LOVE SUPREME	0	Blanks	0
JACOB GEORGE HORNBERGER	0		
SAMUEL JOSEPH ROBB	0	<b>STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN</b>	
DAN TAXATION IS THEFT BEHRMAN	0	No Nomination	0
KIMBERLY MARGARET RUFF	0	All Others	0
KENNETH REED ARMSTRONG	0	Blanks	0
ADAM KOKESH	0		
JO JORGENSEN	0	<b>TOWN COMMITTEE</b>	
MAX ABRAMSON	0	All Others	0
NO PREFERENCE	0	Blanks	0
All Others	0		
Blanks	0	<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	
		<b>IN LIBERTARIAN PRIMARY</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>STATE COMMITTEE MAN</b>			

**REPUBLICAN PRIMARY**

<b>PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE</b>		<b>STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN</b>	
WILLIAM F. WELD	10	MARY L. STUART	13
JOE WALSH	0	All Others	0
DONALD J. TRUMP	7	Blanks	4
ROQUE "ROCKY" DE LA FUENTE	0		
NO PREFERENCE	0	<b>TOWN COMMITTEE</b>	
All Others	0	All Others	1
Blanks	0	Blanks	169
<b>STATE COMMITTEE MAN</b>		<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	
JAY S. FLEITMAN	13	<b>IN REPUBLICAN PRIMARY</b>	<b>17</b>
All Others	0		
Blanks	4		
Attest:		Kathy Martell	
		Town Clerk	



**Annual Town Report of 2020**

**Annual Town Meeting Minutes, June 27, 2020**

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PELHAM BOARD OF HEALTH  
FOR A SAFER TOWN MEETING**

1. Please bring and wear your masks or other types of face coverings as they are required.
2. Please also bring water or another beverage with you. And if you have your own bottle of sanitizer, bring that as well.
3. Anyone with a medical reason not to wear a mask will be seated in a separate area.
4. Seating will be set up so social distancing will be adhered to.
5. People should maintain a distance of 6 feet from others. (Couples and families who have practiced safer at home together do not have to social distance from each other, but need to maintain 6 feet from other participants.)
6. If you are sick, have a fever, in quarantine or recently exposed to an COVID-19-positive person should not attend the Town Meeting.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE TOWN JUNE 2020**

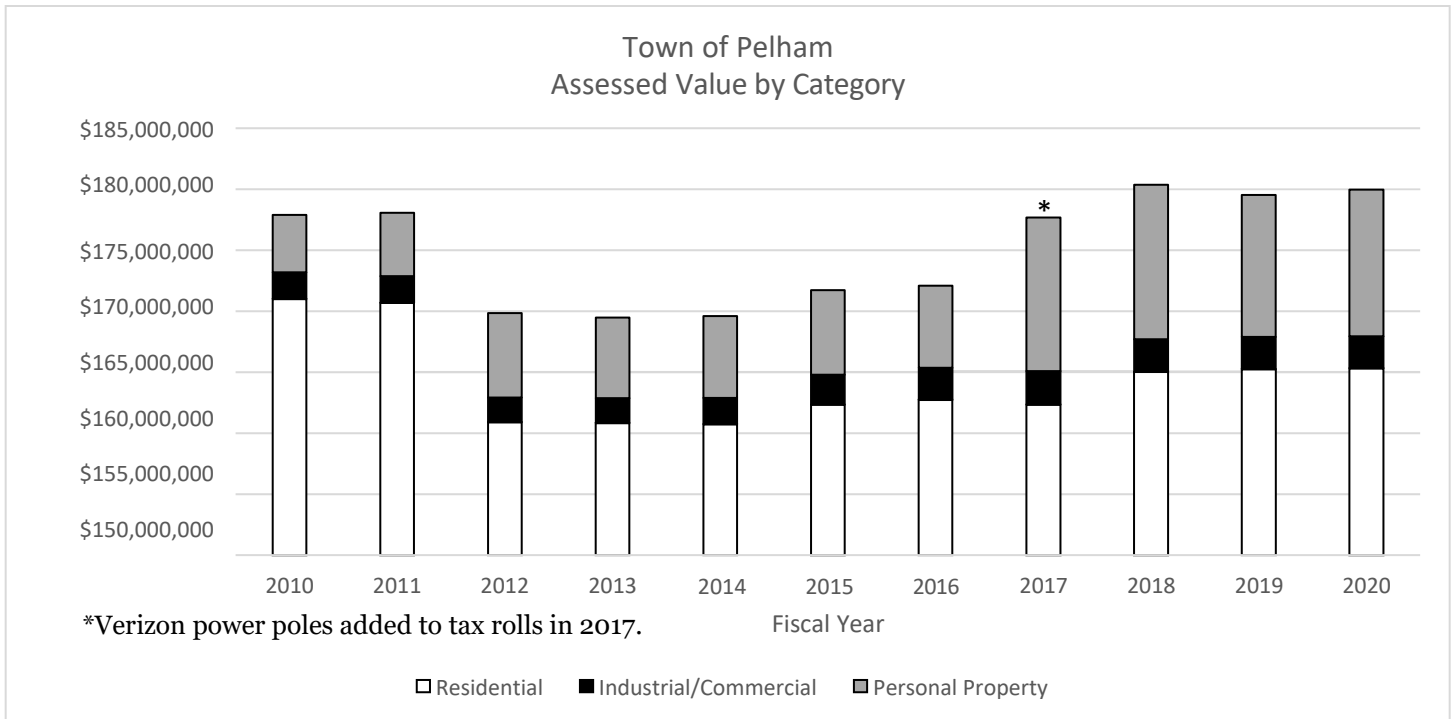
Pelham's financial picture remains steady and good. That was what I wrote back in early March as I prepared the report for a May town meeting. Now in early June I have a very different perspective and would view the picture as cautionary. The closing of the schools, colleges, universities, restaurants, retail, etc. has thrown many cities and towns, along with the State, into a financial abyss where the bottom has yet to be determined. It could be a full year before we fully understand what the new normal will be. Because Pelham's tax revenue is largely dependent on personal and residential property taxes, we are not concerned with the loss of meals and hotel taxes, parking meter revenue, and commercial property taxes as are other municipalities. The big unknown for Pelham is what will happen to our State aid. On a recent webinar sponsored by the Massachusetts Municipal Association, towns were advised to look at what they experienced during the recession beginning in 2007. At that time Pelham saw its unrestricted State aid drop from \$198,000 in 2007 down to \$124,000 by 2012. We have only recovered to \$169,000 in 2020. The Finance Committee, in an effort to be cautionary and expecting to see another drop in aid, decided to reduce the requested budget by approximately \$75,000, which would be a good safeguard in protecting the Pelham taxpayer. Subsequent to that decision, the Town of Amherst appealed to the Regional School District for relief in their share of the Region's cost due to their expected drop both in local and State revenue. The new Regional School budget reduced Pelham's share by \$24,000 compared to the previous budget.

In anticipation of this reduction in State aid, the Finance Committee made reductions to the budget in contributions to OPEB, the Reserve fund, insurance costs, and recycling expenses among others, in addition to the \$24,000 reduction in Pelham's Regional School assessment. The total reduction was just over \$74,000. If the State reductions are not as severe as the Finance Committee has planned, we can bring additional adjustments to the Fall Town Meeting. The Finance Committee also reduced some of the expenses from Free Cash to create a reasonable buffer if the Town experiences late or delayed tax payment from Pelham residents. This will allow the town to function without concern for cash flow or the need for

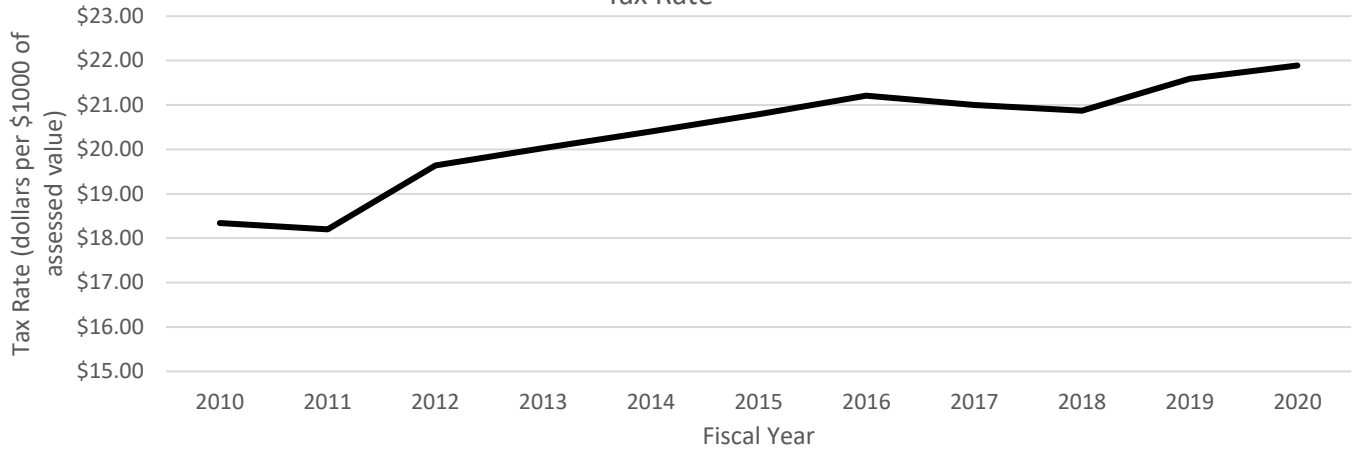
short term borrowing if a significant number of tax payments are delayed.

It is important that all the Pelham taxpayers understand how valuable new growth is to the Town and its future survival. Our property taxes are calculated based on the total assessed values of the Town. Briefly this means that the assessors, through approved methods, have figured out the value of every square foot of land and buildings in the Town. There are three types of values in Pelham: residential, industrial/commercial, and personal property. When Proposition 2 ½ was passed in 1980, it was assumed that a Town’s value would increase at 2.5 percent or greater each year through new buildings, increased demand for existing locations, etc. For the first decade or longer, this was true, but for the last ten years there has been little new growth in Pelham. In 2010 the total assessment of all three categories was \$177,888,700. In 2020 that number was \$179,967,100 an increase of \$2,076,400 or 1.3% over the ten-year span. That increase is a far cry from 2.5% every year. Meanwhile the amount raised to run the Town was \$3,527,634 in 2010 and \$4,632,302 in 2020, an increase of 31%. You can clearly see why the tax rate keeps going up to cover the added costs of maintaining the Town and meeting the educational needs of the residents.

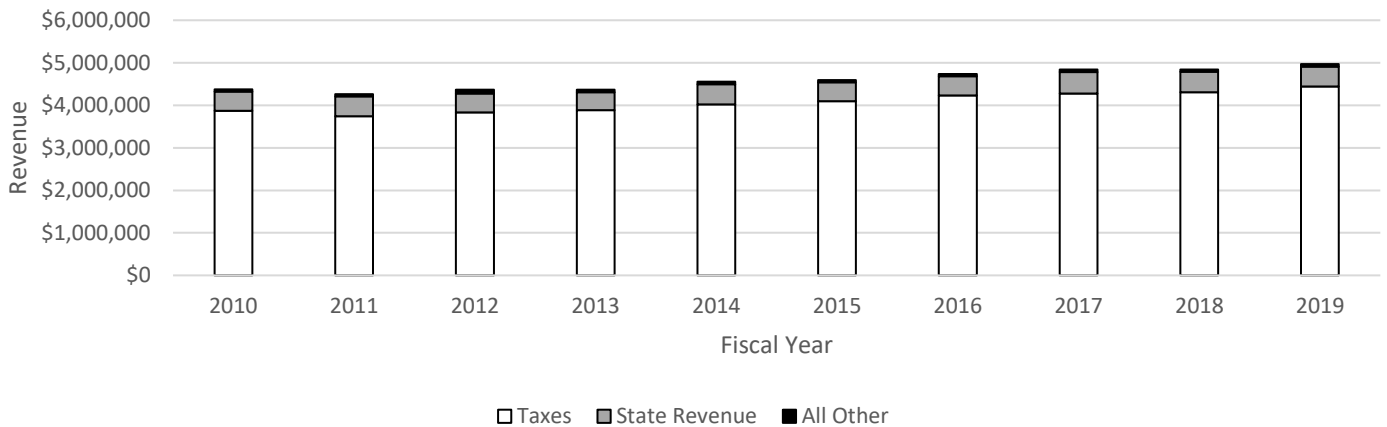
Without a change to its current trajectory—through new growth, increases in State aid, reductions in the operating budget, or a combination of the above—Pelham runs the risk of reaching its property tax limit within the next decade. Increasing commercial development may have the greatest potential to increase Pelham’s long-term financial sustainability as it would likely have lower associated costs to the Town compared to new housing and it maybe more achievable than decreasing Town spending or increasing State aid.



Town of Pelham  
Tax Rate



Town of Pelham  
Revenue



## 2020 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Hampshire, ss.

To one of the Constables of the Town of Pelham, in said County.

*Greetings:*

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Pelham, Massachusetts, qualified to vote in the Town affairs to meet in the Pelham Elementary School, at 45 Amherst Road, in said Pelham on Saturday the twenty seventh day of June, in the year A.D. 2020 at 9:00 a.m. for the reading of the Town Warrant and to proceed with the meeting.

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic the Annual Town meeting was held under a tent large in the Elementary School soccer field. A sound system with 4 microphones was set up and functioning properly. Microphones were sanitized between

speakers. State DPH and local BOH guidelines for Social Distancing (including but not limited to seating spacing with aisles and wearing masks were followed). Hand sanitizer was available. Police and Fire Departments had staffed tents set up for any assistance that might be required.

Moderator Dan Robb Presided 84 Voters were present. Asked for a moment of silence for Pelham residents that passed away this year. He allowed brief comments by State Representative Mindy Domb. Karen Willard-Ribeiro had certificates of appreciation for all those who volunteered in town for 10 years or more, including Cleon Booth for 50 years. Bob Agoglia thanked Karen for her service to the town and then said words are not enough in relation to the Statement on Inequality regarding recent issues in our country; so, the Board of Selectmen will be creating a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Dan Robb recognized Kathy Martell as Town Clerk and Lisa Desjarlais as the Pelham School Superintendent who is moving to a new position in Gill. He said he was hopeful about the weather as storms were predicted and hoped to get the meeting completed. He welcomed newcomers to town meeting went over the rules of order/conduct for this meeting; including but not limited to: saying point of order if someone needed seating. no lines at the microphones, waiting to be called on to speak, giving name and address each time called upon to speak, point of order for questions on an article, and call the question to end debate. He submitted a consent agenda motion asking that it be voted first and to group articles 1,2,6,7,14,15, and 16, that are routinely passed and have little or no discussion. It would need to pass unanimously or it would fail and all article would be discussed.

Consent agenda motion was Moved, Seconded and **Motion Passed Unanimously.**

**Article 1.**

The Town voted to accept the reports of the Town Officers and Committees. This article was included in Consent Agenda. Moved, Seconded and **Article Passed Unanimously**

**Article 2.**

The Town voted to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the FY2021 beginning July 1, 2020, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17.

This article was included in Consent Agenda. Moved, Seconded and **Article Passed Unanimously**

**Article 3.**

The Town name the salaries and wages for all elected officers for the ensuing year, which payments shall not be made in advance of performance, and to determine when and how they shall be paid.

	FY2019 Appropriated	FY2020 appropriated	FY2021 Recommended
Assessors (Chair)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Assessors (others)	\$500	\$500	\$500
Auditor	\$0	\$0	\$0
Board of Health (Chair)	\$200	\$200	\$200
Board of Health (others)	\$150	\$150	\$150
Cemetery Commissioner (each 3) \$9.00hr	\$0	\$0	\$0
Library Trustees	\$0	\$0	\$0
Moderator	\$0	\$0	\$0
Planning Board	\$0	\$0	\$0
School Committee	\$0	\$0	\$0

Selectmen (each 3)	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
Town Clerk	\$18,635	\$18,914	\$19,293
Tree Warden	\$400	\$1,500	\$1,500

*Recommended by the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen. Moved and Seconded*

*Then there was limited discussion on Tree Warden salary and Town Clerk salary. **Article Passed Unanimously.***

**Article 4.**

The Town voted to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the ensuing fiscal year.

<b>WARRANT LINES</b>	<b>FY2021</b>	<b>FY2019</b>	<b>FY2020</b>	<b>FY2021</b>	<b>FY2021</b>
<b>Article 4</b>		<b>Approp.</b>	<b>Approp.</b>	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Recom.</b>
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>					
2 Selectperson Salary		\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600
Expenses		NA	NA	\$0	
3 Town Clerk Salary		\$18,635	\$18,914	\$19,292	\$19,292
Expenses		\$6,750	\$6,850	\$8,000	\$8,000
Records/Information Clerk		\$12,480	\$12,667	\$12,920	\$12,920
18 Archivist		\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$0
4 Finance Committee Expenses		\$990	\$990	\$990	\$990
5 Assessor's Salary		\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Assistant Assessors Salary		\$0	\$0	\$12,300	\$12,300
Contract Service		\$26,100	\$26,100	\$9,900	\$9,900
Expenses		\$4,250	\$4,250	\$5,750	\$5,750
6 Collector Salary		\$15,425	\$16,550	\$17,212	\$17,212
Expenses		\$9,702	\$9,702	\$9,775	\$9,775
7 Treasurer Salary		\$24,666	\$25,950	\$27,988	\$27,988
Expenses		\$7,082	\$8,500	\$8,670	\$8,670
Clerical/Consulting		\$5,000	\$6,000	\$6,050	\$6,050
8 Town Legal Services		\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
9 Town Meetings, Elections etc.		\$12,000	\$12,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
10 Town Reports		\$875	\$875	\$875	\$875
11 Town Office Wages		\$23,612	\$27,699	\$28,253	\$28,253
Select Board/Town Office Expenses		\$19,670	\$19,670	\$21,500	\$21,500
12 Buildings and Grounds					
Salaries		\$15,621	\$16,531	\$16,862	\$16,862
Expenses		\$62,720	\$62,720	\$62,720	\$62,720
Maintenance		\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
13 Blanket Insurance		\$40,000	\$43,000	\$46,000	\$46,000
14 Town Accountant		\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
15 Reserve Fund		\$87,000	\$87,000	\$87,000	\$70,000
16 Surety Bonds		\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
17 Emergency Management		\$6,500	\$6,545	\$7,000	\$7,000
19 Hampshire County COG		\$662	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>		<b>\$451,640</b>	<b>\$464,413</b>	<b>\$473,957</b>	<b>\$455,657</b>

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

20 Board of Appeals	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
21 Conservation Commission	\$850	\$850	\$850	\$850
Conservation Part Time Agent	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
22 Council on Aging	\$2,470	\$2,470	\$5,000	\$5,000
23 Historical Commission	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
24 Library Trustees				
Director Salary	\$25,211	\$26,709	\$27,770	\$27,770
Staff Salaries	\$15,199	\$15,427	\$16,132	\$16,132
Expenses	\$11,614	\$11,214	\$10,814	\$10,814
25 Planning Board	\$500	\$500	\$1,500	\$1,500
26 Recreation Commission	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
28 Cemetery Commission	\$6,500	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
Energy Committee	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$500
<b>TOTAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS</b>	<b>\$67,744</b>	<b>\$69,570</b>	<b>\$74,966</b>	<b>\$74,966</b>

**SCHOOLS**

30 Pelham Elementary	\$1,763,380	\$1,785,208	\$1,826,299	\$1,826,299
31 Amherst Pelham Regional	\$947,186	\$911,947	\$913,077	\$891,934
<b>TOTAL SCHOOLS</b>	<b>\$2,710,566</b>	<b>\$2,697,155</b>	<b>\$2,739,376</b>	<b>\$2,718,233</b>

	<b>FY2019 Approp.</b>	<b>FY2020 Approp.</b>	<b>FY2021 Request</b>	<b>FY2021 Recom.</b>
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>				
40 Highway Fund				
Superintendent Salary	\$62,182	\$65,195	\$66,499	\$66,499
Staff Salaries	\$118,446	\$124,383	\$127,871	\$127,871
Expenses	\$121,362	\$121,362	\$121,362	\$121,362
41 School Signal Lights	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900
42 Snow Removal				
Salaries	\$13,451	\$14,198	\$14,582	\$14,582
Materials	\$68,432	\$68,432	\$68,432	\$68,432
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS</b>	<b>\$384,773</b>	<b>\$394,470</b>	<b>\$399,646</b>	<b>\$399,646</b>

**PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY**

50 Police Department				
Chief Salary	\$62,401	\$65,417	\$66,725	\$66,725
Full Time Officer Salary	\$32,032	\$40,000	\$41,605	\$41,605
Part Time Officer's Salaries	\$40,146	\$42,828	\$43,684	\$43,684
Training and Education	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Expenses	\$25,701	\$25,701	\$25,701	\$25,701
Expenses Fuel	\$12,475	\$10,475	\$10,475	\$10,475
Reserve Officers	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0



Regional Lockup	\$1,255	\$1,255	\$1,255	\$1,255
50A Town Road Detail	\$3,729	\$3,729	\$3,729	\$3,729
50C Constable: Elections	\$2,275	\$2,275	\$2,275	\$2,275
51 Fire Department				
Chief Salary	\$25,901	\$27,329	\$27,875	\$27,875
Firefighter's Salaries	\$41,431	\$42,352	\$46,259	\$46,259
Expenses	\$23,980	\$23,980	\$23,980	\$23,980
53 Fire Hydrants	\$280	\$280	\$280	\$280
54 Tree Warden Salary	\$400	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Expenses	\$11,500	\$11,500	\$11,500	\$11,500
57 Ambulance	\$30,750	\$31,750	\$32,500	\$32,500
58 Animal Control	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$2,500
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY</b>	<b>\$326,256</b>	<b>\$345,371</b>	<b>\$351,843</b>	<b>\$351,843</b>
<b>HEALTH AND SANITATION</b>				
60 Board of Health Salaries	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
Expenses	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
61 Solid Waste				
Hazardous Household Waste	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$1,200
Recycling	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$7,000	\$0
63 Inspector of Animals	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75
65 Quabbin Health District	\$16,861	\$17,361	\$17,861	\$17,861
<b>TOTAL HEALTH AND SANITATION</b>	<b>\$27,336</b>	<b>\$27,836</b>	<b>\$27,036</b>	<b>\$20,036</b>
<b>BENEFITS AND INSURANCE</b>				
70 County Retirement	\$189,000	\$206,000	\$226,318	\$226,318
71 Veteran's Agent Salary	\$5,751	\$5,973	\$6,369	\$6,369
Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Benefits	\$49,248	\$49,248	\$49,248	\$49,248
72 Workers' Compensation	\$16,444	\$17,266	\$24,000	\$24,000
73 Unemployment Insurance	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
74 Group Health /Medicare	\$220,000	\$220,000	\$190,000	\$175,000
Health Insurance Opt Out			\$12,000	\$9,000
75 OPEB Deposit	\$100,000	\$120,000	\$140,000	\$130,000
<b>TOTAL BENEFITS AND INSURANCE</b>	<b>\$586,443</b>	<b>\$624,487</b>	<b>\$653,935</b>	<b>\$625,935</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,554,758</b>	<b>\$4,623,302</b>	<b>\$4,720,7 59</b>	<b>\$4,646,316</b>

*Recommended by the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen.*

*Motion made and Seconded*

*There were holds for discussion on the Regional School budget, as to how the amount was determined and why it went down and not up; The Police Department Budget as to the number of Officers ( 2 Full time and 10 part time) and types and amount of training and education our Officers receive and comments about the speed sign on Amherst Road by the school which is deemed as very effective. And lastly the Public Works Snow and Ice Budge which stays relatively the same because leftover money rolls back into the general fund and it can be overspent if necessary due to bad storms. Passed Unanimously*

The Moderator took a moment to thank Registrar Sharrie Reydak for her service checking in voters and our Town

Counsel Katharine Lord Kline for driving out to attend our Town Meeting.

#### **Article 5.**

The Town voted to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$141,559 for expenditure as follows:

- A. \$2,000 to defray the cost of clerical and technical help and consultants to the Planning Board
- B. \$10,000 for road maintenance
- C. \$10,000 to repair and or replace the heating system at the Community Building
- D. \$8,339 to the School Department for FY2020, this money representing an amount equal to that received by the Town as Medicaid reimbursements for services provided by the School Department
- E. \$25,000 for reimbursement of unanticipated special education charges, which reimbursement would require the approval of the School Committee, Finance Committee, and Board of Selectmen
- F. \$20,000 toward the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Capital needs
- G. \$10,000 to be used to correct ADA issues at the Elementary School
- H. \$10,000 to fix the oil supply to the elementary school boiler
- I. \$2,200 to install a hood vent over the welding area in the Town garage
- J. \$5,200 to install garage door openers in the Town garages
- K. \$1,120 to cover the cost of an expired Police Department Safety Grant
- L. \$3,200 to acquire a fixed solar-powered speed sign for Amherst Road
- M. \$6,000 to replace the server at the Pelham Elementary School
- N. \$5,000 for a computer server and handheld GPS to locate boundaries
- O. \$10,000 to be deposited in the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund
- P. \$1,000 for maintenance of the Historic Complex
- Q. \$2,500 to defray the Zoning Board of Appeals cost of consultants including legal and stenographic services
- R. \$1,000 to be used by the Cemetery Commission in making repairs to some of the Pelham cemeteries
- S. \$500 for preservation of Town Clerk Records
- T. \$3,500 to cover two months of recycling costs

*Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.*

*Motion Made and Seconded*

*Discussion included costs for recycling changes response was the old company was bought out and new company has different services but over \$20,000 more to voters to keep which is too costly and Costs for Computer server and GPS which was that we no longer have the contracted services from the town of Amherst and we also have boundaries that are not correct. **Article Passed Unanimously***

#### **Article 6.**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into contracts with the Massachusetts Highway Department for construction and/or maintenance of public highways for the Fiscal Year 2021, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen on behalf of the Town to accept and expend any money from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for highway construction and/or maintenance, provided that no funds shall be expended to widen, or enter into a contract to widen, any Town road unless the Board of Selectmen has held a public hearing advertised at least fourteen (14) days in advance, with any proposed contract and/or plans for such road improvements being posted for public viewing prior to the public hearing, and further provided that such policy is consistent with State requirements. This article was included in Consent Agenda. Moved, Seconded and **Article Passed Unanimously**

#### **Article 7.**

The Town voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and/or apply for any State or Federal funds or grants that may become available during the Fiscal Year 2021 and to expend such funds in accordance with the terms and conditions thereof, provided that no funds shall be expended to widen, or to enter into a contract to widen, any Town road unless the Board of Selectmen has held a public hearing advertised at least fourteen (14) days in advance, with any proposed contract and/or plans for such road improvements being posted for public viewing

prior to the public hearing, and further provided that such policy is consistent with State requirements.

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.*

This article was included in Consent Agenda. Moved, Seconded and **Article Passed Unanimously**

A Motion made to move the last article Article 29 to be heard next (before Article 8) and was seconded, Discussion included that Article 10 was essential to be taken up as all four towns in the Regionals School district must vote approve this to fund the Regional School Budget for FY 21. Discussion included that that the town has not had a chance to experience having an Appointed Town Clerk, a lot of time was spent on this article last year and we are pressed for time to get this town meeting completed before the predicted bad weather begins Motion amended to amend motion to move Article 29 to after article 10. **Amendment Passed and Vote to move Article 29 to after Motion 10 passed 36 in favor to 33 opposed.**

#### **Article 8.**

The Town voted to appropriate the sum of \$41,300 from the Capital Stabilization account to purchase and install seven new replacement windows for, and to wash, repair, scrape, caulk, and paint the exterior of the Highway Garage.

*Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.*

This needs a 2/3 majority vote A motion was made and seconded. **Article Passed Unanimously**

#### **Article 9.**

The Town voted to appropriate the sum of \$5,600 from the Capital Stabilization account to wash, repair, scrape, caulk, and paint the exterior of the Community Hall.

*Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.*

A motion was made and Seconded **Article Passed Unanimously.**

#### **Article 10.**

The Town voted to amend Section VI of the Amherst Pelham Regional School District Agreement by adding subsection (j) as follows: For Fiscal Year 2021 only, the alternative operating budget assessment shall be calculated as 45% of a five-year average of minimum contributions with the remainder of the assessment allocated to the member towns in accordance with the per-pupil method found in Section VI (e) of the Amherst Pelham Regional School District Agreement. The five-year average of minimum contributions will include the five most recent years.

*Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.*

*A motion was made and seconded. There was a lot of discussion about how the funding for the Regional School is done. This is a complicated process. One method is the Per pupil rate where budget is divided by number of pupils and each town is assessed amount of per pupil multiplied by the number of pupils in their town and the other method is the statutory rate which is a state formula which takes into consideration the income level of each town's residents and number of pupils in each town. The whole School Committee groups have spent three years trying to come up with a plan to make it better. The Pelham School Committee and the Regional School Committee have agreed with the three other towns to slowly moving from the per pupil rate to the statutory rate which is the fall back plan, and is being done incrementally. This year it is figured using a formula based on 45% statutory and 55% on a 5 year rolling average of incomes. **Article Passed Unanimously.***

#### **Article 29.**

##### **Citizen's Petition**

To see if the Town will vote to rescind Article 7 of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting changing the position of Town Clerk from Elected to Appointed and return it to an Elected position with a 3 year term as previously in the Town Of Pelham bylaws and the Town of Pelham will authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation changing the office of Town Clerk from Appointed to Elected , as set forth above; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve amendments within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition. Upon effective date of this act, the current appointed Town Clerk shall hold the position until such time as a special election to fill the position is held if

it is more than 3 months before the next Annual Local Election; or otherwise until the next Annual Local Election and the Elected Town Clerk is Qualified. Proposed amended article submitted with changes recommended by town counsel.

Proposed new wording of Article 29:

I move that the Town vote to rescind the vote taken under Article 7 of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting and authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation repealing Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2020 and change the office of Town Clerk from Appointed to Elected, with a three year term as Previously in the Town of Pelham bylaws, and providing that upon the effective date of the act the current appointed clerk shall hold the position until such time as a special election is held if it is more than 3 months before the next Annual Local Election and the Elected Town Clerk is qualified; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment, and to authorize the Select Board to approve amendments within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition. This wording was moved and seconded and passed unanimously. Discussion included that this was voted on before and not about the person and look at the number of empty and unopposed people running on the election ballot this year, the current job search for the appointed clerk only yielded four applicants and one will be appointed Monday after this town meeting. Motion was made to call the question and vote was 61 to 12 to end debate. Vote on amended article count was started but was determined by the Moderator that the majority was not in favor so this **Article Failed to Pass.**

**Article 11.**

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$62,229.72 and transfer \$12,657.78 from Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Funds for the payment of the Town's (General Fund).

*Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.*

*Motion made and seconded and had no discussion. Article Passed Unanimously.*

**Article 12.**

The Town voted to appropriate the sum of \$27,540 from the Regional School Capital account to pay Pelham's share of the Regional School Capital debt.

*Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.*

*Motion made and seconded There was no discussion Article Passed Unanimously*

**Article 13.**

The Town voted to appropriate the sum of \$10,771.68 from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund (established by vote of the Fall 2015 Town Meeting) to be used by the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of Technology services and purchases for the Town.

*Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.*

*Motion made and seconded no discussion Article passed Unanimously*

**Article 14.**

The Town voted to authorize the Library Trustees to expend such monies as they may receive from the sale of discarded books, gifts, and bequests, and from the State and Federal Governments.

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.*

**This article was included in Consent Agenda. Moved, Seconded and Passed Unanimously**

**Article 15.**

The Town voted to authorize the Pelham Cultural Council to expend such monies as it may receive from the State and Federal Governments, and from gifts and bequests.

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.*

**This article was included in Consent Agenda. Moved, Seconded and Passed Unanimously**

**Article 16.**

The Town voted to accept the provisions of G.L. c. -59, §5C1/2, inserted by Section 14 of Chapter 62 of the Acts of 2014, for the purpose of increasing the real estate tax exemptions up to 100 percent for taxpayers qualifying for exemptions under Clauses 17C, 22, 37 or 41C of G.L. c. 59, §5.

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.*

**This article was included in Consent Agenda. Moved, Seconded and Passed Unanimously**

**Article 17.**

The Town voted to amend the General Bylaws of the Town to rename the Board of Selectmen as the Select Board, by striking out, in every instance in which they appear, the words “Board of Selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the words “Select Board”; and by striking out, in every instance in which they appear, the word “Selectman” and “Selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the words “Select Board Member” or “Select Board Members”; and further to authorize the Town Clerk to prepare and publish a version of the General Bylaws which conforms to such change in title; and, further, to amend Chapter 1 of the General Bylaws by inserting the following new Article therein, with the remaining sections to be renumbered accordingly, or take any action other relative thereto.

**CHAPTER 1. General Provisions**

**Article I: Adoption of Code Article II:**

**Select Board**

For the purposes of these Bylaws and otherwise, the Board of Selectmen shall be referred to as the Select Board and members of the Board shall be referred to as “Select Board Members.” The Select Board shall have all the powers and duties of a board of selectmen under the General Laws and any special laws applicable to the Town of Pelham, as well as such other powers and duties as are provided in the Town’s Bylaws.

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This needs a 2/3 vote.*

*Motion made and seconded* **Article Passed Unanimously**

**Article 18.**

The Town voted to amend the Zoning Bylaws of the Town to rename the Board of Selectmen as the Select Board, by striking out, in every instance in which they appear, the words “Board of Selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the words “Select Board”; and by striking out, in every instance in which they appear, the word “Selectman” and “Selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the words “Select Board Member” or “Select Board Members”; and further to authorize the Town Clerk to prepare and publish a version of the Zoning Bylaw which conforms to such change in title.

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. This needs a 2/3 vote*

A motion was made and seconded **Article Passed Unanimously**

**Article 19.**

The Town voted pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, Section 53E1/2, to establish a new revolving fund to authorize the Planning Board to use application and consultation fees collected for administrative, consulting and other costs in order to carry out its application review responsibilities, and further to amend the Pelham General Bylaws, Chapter Revolving Funds by inserting a new row in the Table of authorized revolving funds as follows, and to set the FY 2021 spending limit at \$15,000.

<b>Revolving Fund</b>	<b>Authorization to Spend</b>	<b>Revenue Source</b>	<b>Use of Fund</b>
Planning Board	Planning Board	Application and consultation fees	Application review responsibilities

*Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen A*

*motion was made and seconded* **Article Passed Unanimously**

**Article 20.**

The Town voted to approve annual spending limits for FY 2021 for revolving funds established in the Town Bylaws, in accordance with G.L c.44, Section 53E1/2, with such expenditure limits to be applicable for each fiscal year until such time as Town meeting votes, prior to July 1 in any year, to increase the same for the ensuing fiscal year; provided, however, that at the request of the entity authorized to expend such funds, the Board of Selectmen, with the approval of the Finance Committee, may increase such limit, for that fiscal year only, all as set forth below:

<b>Revolving fund</b>	<b>FY spending limit</b>
Archivist	\$2,500
Building Inspector	\$18,227
Community Garden Committee	\$5,000
Community Hall	\$7,000
Fire Department	\$7,500
Gas Inspector	\$1,500
Department of Public Works	\$7,500
Planning Board	\$15,000
Plumbing Inspector	\$1,500
Police Department	\$7,500
Wiring Inspector	\$3,000
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$55,000

*Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.*

A motion was made and seconded. Discussion was about the Community Hall Fund answered money must be raised by rentals etc, before it can be spent **Article passed Unanimously**

**Article 21.**

The Town voted to accept, for hearings held by the Zoning Board of Appeals, Section 23D of Chapter 39 of the General Laws, which allows a member of a municipal board holding adjudicatory hearings who has missed no more than one session of the hearing to vote on the matter provided that, before the vote, they have certified in writing that they have examined all evidence received at the missed session (which shall include an audio or video recording or a transcript of the missed session).

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.*

A motion was made and seconded Discussion included that with the 40B hearing that can last up to 6 months, if a member missed a meeting, could not vote at subsequent meetings or hearings related to this project. This allows for members to miss one meeting/hearing. **Article passed Unanimously**

**Article 22.**

The Town voted to amend the Community Choice Energy resolution adopted at the 2018 Annual Town Meeting, which is set forth below, to authorize the Board of Selectmen, rather than Town Meeting, to approve the plan developed by the inter-municipal task force for an inter-municipal Community Choice Energy organization..

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.*

**2018 Resolution Passed**

**Resolution to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Using Municipal Electric Aggregation, also known as Community Choice Energy, to Improve Energy Efficiency and Develop Local Renewable Energy Generation**

Whereas the Fall 1998 Pelham Town Meeting, pursuant to MGL Chapter 164 Section 134, voted to grant the Board of Selectmen the authority to develop and participate in a contract, or contracts, for power supply and other related services, independently, or in joint action with other towns, and;

Whereas the town of Pelham has been invited by the City of Northampton to explore forming a joint Community Choice Energy organization initially comprising Northampton, Amherst, and Pelham, and;

Whereas residents of the Town of Pelham have a substantial environmental and social interest in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the generation of electricity, and;

Whereas residential electricity customers in the Town of Pelham are interested in the possibility of reducing and stabilizing electric bills and in expanding energy services;

Be it therefore resolved, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164, § 134, that the Town Meeting of Pelham authorizes the Board of Selectmen to act in partnership with other municipalities to form an inter-municipal task force to develop a plan to be approved by Town Meeting for an inter-municipal Community Choice Energy organization that will:

- Contract for and develop electric supply and other related services for Pelham electricity consumers. Individual consumers would retain the option not to participate and to choose an alternate service.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive energy plan to:
  - Provide energy efficiency services
  - Develop local renewable and other distributed energy resources
  - Deliver other energy services
  - Reduce or stabilize customer electric bills

Be it further resolved that a primary Community Choice Energy organization objective will be to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the purchase of electricity from green renewable sources, provision of energy efficiency services and the development of local renewable distributed energy resources.

**An amendment** submitted by Judy Eiseman to insert the phrase “provided that prior to such approval, the Board of Selectmen consults with a committee comprised of the Finance Committee, Energy Committee, Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Pelham’s member of the inter-municipal task force and holds a public hearing with two weeks notice to present the elements of the proposed plan to the public.”

There was a lot of discussion surrounding this amendment. Some items include an open review after the task force finishes, Board of Selectmen has not done it before because the trust factor not there, Authority granted to Board of Selectmen and town can potentially save some money, discussed a couple years ago, but process was too complicated to understand and two years later we are still in the same position, this is allowing the Select Board to consider a plan, statute requires a public review process, Select Board meetings are open to public, so if interested can go to Select Board meeting. A motion was made to call the question on the amendment. Vote on the Amendment yes 32 no 37

**Amendment Failed** Vote on **Article 22 Passed with a few Nay votes**

#### **Article 23.**

The Town voted to accept the recommendations of the Historic Commission and the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate from the Community Preservation Historic Fund the sum of \$70,000 for the exterior repainting of the old Town Hall.

*Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.*

Motion made and Seconded **Article Passed Unanimously**

#### **Article 24.**

The Town voted to accept the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee and the School Committee to appropriate from the Community Preservation Open Space and Recreation Fund the sum of \$11,500 for the design of a new track and field complex at the Amherst/Pelham Regional High School.

*Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen*

Motion made and seconded Discussion included: Is this necessary at this time? Is this appropriate use of CPC funds?

The track is really in bad shape. This is a study to see what the design will be and what the cost will be, and then make plans for a new track. **Article passed with one Nay**

#### **Article 25.**

The Town voted to adopt the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate and transfer the following sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues for Community Preservation Committee administrative expenses in FY2021 in the amount of \$3,500.

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.*

Moved and Seconded **Passed Unanimously**

#### **Article 26.**

The Town voted to adopt the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate and transfer

the following sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues, and to reserve for later appropriation; \$14,500 for Open Space; \$14,500 for Community Housing; and \$14,500 for Historic Resources; and to reserve for later appropriation \$40,200 to the FY2021 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve.

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.*

Discussion this is the routine division of the funds for accounting. **Article Passed Unanimously**

**Article 27.**

The Town voted to accept G.L. c. 53, §9A, Nomination Papers, which provides as follows:

The final date for obtaining blank nomination papers for nomination to city or town office shall be forty-eight week day hours prior to the hour on which nomination papers are required to be submitted to the registrars of voters for certification.

Each candidate shall file with the city or town clerk, prior to obtaining blank nomination papers, a statement containing his name and address, and the city or town office for which he intends to be a candidate.

No candidate for city or town office shall receive more blank nomination papers than will contain the number of signatures required to place his name in nomination, multiplied by five.

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.*

Discussion Why do we need this? This is part of our election process followed by the Town Clerk, and we do not have a bylaw that we need to follow for this process. The state Elections division said we follow this, but never accepted the statute. It would be better if we accepted the statute and filed the acceptance with the state. Town Counsel did not have a comment on this. **Motion to call the question Passed Unanimously and Article passed Unanimously**

**Article 28.**

**Town of Pelham Pollinator Protection Resolution**

A non-binding resolution endorsing the protection of pollinators and enhancement of pollinator habitat

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators are a crucial component of a healthy ecosystem and a vital link in our food system, providing the pollination responsible for over three quarters of the world's plant species, and for one out of every three bites of food that we eat; and

WHEREAS, pollinator populations are in sharp decline due to human land use practices that are causing ongoing habitat loss and fragmentation, the expansion of pesticide use by consumers and professionals, the spread of pathogens and parasites, and global climate change; and

WHEREAS, extensive research has documented that neonicotinoids and other systemic pesticides have been shown to cause illness and death to honey bees, native bees, butterflies, moths, other insect pollinators, and beneficial insects; and

WHEREAS, guidelines for land management best practices are available that allow residents, businesses, farms, towns, and land trusts to manage their land in ways that increase pollinator forage and nest sites while decreasing maintenance costs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this Select Board that the Town of Pelham is hereby declared a Pollinator-Friendly Community and that the town encourages the adoption of policies and practices that support pollinator health by minimizing the use of insecticides;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Pelham will set an example by adopting the pollinator friendly practices below and encourage property owners, residents, town departments, business owners, and land trusts to adopt pollinator-friendly practices including:



- \* Planting more pollinator-supporting forage on their property, emphasizing native plant species, and adopting organic or chemical-free lawn and landscaping practices;
- \* Avoiding the planting of flowering plants that are treated with systemic insecticides and avoiding the use of seeds coated with systemic neonicotinoids;
- \* Avoiding the use of insecticides, including systemic insecticides, on their property.

The Town Clerk is requested to send copies of this resolution to Governor Charlie Baker, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner John Lebeaux, State Senator Josephine Comerford, and State Representative Mindy Domb.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Motion was made and seconded **Article Passed Unanimously**  
 Motion to Adjourn at 12:14 pm Passed unanimously

Respectfully Submitted  
 Kathleen Martell Pelham  
 Town Clerk

Signatures of Select Board and Constable as posted on warrant.

Karen Willard-Ribeiro, Chair   
 Robert Agoglia, Vice-Chair   
 BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
 Date signed: 6-9-2020  
 Constable   
 Date posted: 6/11/2020 Fire/Police Station and Rhodes Building



**Annual Town Report of 2020**

**Annual Town Election, June 30, 2020**

**OFFICIAL RESULTS      BALLOTS CAST**

\*denotes winner

<b>Board of Selectmen (One for Three Years)</b>	<b>Cemetery Commission (One for Three Years)</b>	<b>Moderator (One for One Year)</b>	<b>Board of Assessors (One for Three Years)</b>	<b>School Committee (One for Two Years)</b>	<b>Auditor (One for One Year)</b>
Tara A. Loomis 181	Norman L. Page 180	Daniel E. Robb 98	William Collins 8	Sarahbess B. Kenney 34	John L. Trickey 68
Tilman Lukas 2	All Others 1	Ralph Faulkingham 4	Bill Martell 1	Brenda Barlow 28	Gail Kenney 1
Karen Ribeiro 1	Blanks 17	Blanks 96	Blanks 189	Abigail Jenks 1	Blanks 129
All Others 0				Jeffrey Eiseman 1	
Blanks 14				Jessica G. Barr 1	
				Blanks 133	
<b>Board of Selectmen (One for Two Years)</b>	<b>School Committee (Two for Three Years)</b>	<b>Library Trustees (Two for Three Years)</b>	<b>Board of Health (One for Three Years)</b>	<b>Planning Board (One for Five Years)</b>	
David H. Shanabrook 150	Ronald Mannino 174	Gillian H. Duda 179	Christopher H. Rice 80	Ann M. Stoddard 80	
Tilman Lukas 17	Sarahbess B. Kenney 51	Diane Gray 15	Bill Pula 2	Gail Kenny 1	
Peter Wilson 6	Brenda Barlow 11	Gayle Barton 1	Charles Weeber 1	Blanks 117	
David Bosch 1	All Others 1	Karl Ryavec 1	Blanks 115		
Blanks 24	Blanks 159	Blanks 198			

**Total Votes Cast - 198**



## Annual Town Report of 2020

### Fall Special Town Meeting, October 24, 2020

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Daniel Robb, at 9:02 a.m. at the Old Pelham Town Hall. Due to COVID restrictions, the meeting voted to adjourn to 9:30 a.m. at an outside location at the Pelham Elementary School.

The Special Town Meeting resumed at 9:36 a.m.

The Moderator asked Town Meeting to observe a minute of silence in recognition of those Pelham residents who had passed away since the Annual Town Meeting.

Those remembered were: Emma Weaver, Roger Conant, Eileen Doubleday, Robert Matthieu, Connie Kindahl, and Sigrit Schutz.

Article 1.

**VOTED** to amend the vote taken under Article 5 of the June 27, 2020 Annual Town Meeting by changing the amount appropriated for item F, Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Capital needs, \$25,000.

Article 2.

**VOTED unanimously** to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be deposited in the OPEB Trust account.

Article 3.

**VOTED unanimously** to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,000 to be added to the Reserve account.

Article 4.

**VOTED unanimously** to appropriate the sum of \$45,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for repair or replacement of the Community Center HVAC system, giving priority to the use of state grant funds when repairing or replacing the HVAC system.

Article 5.

**VOTED by a declared 2/3** to strike ARTICLE V, Section § 125-18.2, Solar electric installations, of the Town of Pelham Zoning Bylaw, and replace it with a new ARTICLE V, § 125-18.2. Solar Electric Installations, as shown in the text available at the October 24, 2020 Special Town Meeting.

- *The Planning Board moved to amend Section G (3) of the proposed replacement solar bylaw so as to delete the phrase at the end of the first sentence reading: ; or Habitat of Potential Regional or Statewide Importance; and to insert the words “as of the date of the application” following the words “data available” in the second sentence. Amendment was passed.*
- *A friendly amendment was made to amend the language at the end of the first sentence in Section G (3) by adding “the most current” immediately after the semi-colon and to remove the number 2 from the references to BioMap 2.*

Article 6.

**VOTED by a declared 2/3** to add the following definitions to ARTICLE VIII, Section § 125-34, Definitions, of the Town of Pelham Zoning Bylaw.

**Frontage** shall mean the continuous and unbroken distance between the sidelines of a lot measured along the street line (where the lot meets the right-of-way of the street).

**Ground-Mounted Solar Electric Installation** shall mean a Solar Electric System that is affixed to the ground (not roof-mounted) and all appurtenant fencing, access driveways, drainage infrastructure, electronics, and any surrounding shade management areas.

**Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Electric Installation** shall mean a Ground-Mounted Solar Electric Installation which occupies more than one and one-half (1.5) acres of land and no greater than fifteen (15) acres of land.

**Small-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Electric Installation** shall mean a Ground-Mounted Solar Electric Installation which occupies one and one-half (1.5) acres or less of land.

**Solar Districts** shall be those areas shown on the Zoning Map as “Solar Districts.”

**Solar Electric System** shall mean a group of Solar Photovoltaic Arrays for the generation of electricity.

**Solar Energy** shall mean radiant energy received from the sun that can be collected in the form of heat or light by a solar collector.

**Solar Photovoltaic Array** shall mean an active Solar Energy collection device that converts solar energy directly into electricity whose primary purpose is to harvest energy by transforming solar energy into another form of energy or transferring heat from a collector to another medium using mechanical, electrical, or chemical means.

**SPGA** shall mean Special Permit Granting Authority

Article 7.

**VOTED unanimously** to strike the Solar electric installations row in ARTICLE III, Section § 125-5, Table 1 Schedule of Use Regulations, of the Town of Pelham Zoning Bylaw, and replace it with the following four new rows.

Land Use Classification	Zoning District					Notes
	Residential	Limited Business	Village Center Mixed-Use	Village Center Neighborhood	Village Center Rural Edge	Standards and Conditions
General Uses						
Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Electric Installations	SP/PB	N	N	N	N	In Solar Districts Only See § 125-18.2
Small-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Electric Installations	SP/ZBA	N	N	N	SP/PB	See § 125-18.2
Small-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Electric Installations which are accessory to an existing residential or non-residential use which generate electricity principally (no less than 50% of generated power) used by such residential or non-residential use	SPA/ZBA	SPA/ZBA	SPA/ZBA	SPA/ZBA	SPA/ZBA	See § 125-18.2
Building-mounted solar electric installations	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	See § 125-18.2

Article 8.

**VOTED unanimously** to adopt an updated zoning map, captioned “2020 Zoning Map of the Town of Pelham”, dated 10/1/20, adding areas designated as Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar Electric Installation Districts as overlay to otherwise Residential (R) district.

Article 9.

**VOTED** to adopt the following non-binding resolution:

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following non-binding resolution:

Should the Town support, at future Town Meeting(s), an appropriation(s) of up to \$500,000 of Community Preservation Act Funds, to support the affordable housing development at 20-22 Amherst Road, which shall consist of approximately 34 dwelling units, all of which shall be affordable to persons/households earning less than 80% of the area median income for the area including the Town of Pelham.

Dana McDonald, Chair of the Pelham Community Preservation Committee, and Tilman Lukas, Chair of the Housing Committee, presented Jim Lumley with a plaque in recognition of Mr. Lumley’s many years of service to the community and providing public access to his property, known as Lilac Land for all to enjoy. The award read as follows: “Presented to James Lumley in Grateful Appreciation for your many years of Outstanding Dedicated Service on the Community Preservation Committee and the Housing Committee for the town of Pelham, Massachusetts October 24, 2020”.

The business of the warrant having been completed, the meeting voted to dissolve at 1:22 p.m. on Saturday, October 24, 2020. 101 voters were checked in.

Attest: Sandra J. Burgess, Town Clerk



## Annual Town Report of 2020

### State/Presidential Election, November 3, 2020

<b>UNOFFICIAL RESULTS Provisional Ballots and Overseas Mail In still to be tallied</b>	<b>Machine Counted (incl. EV)</b>	<b>Electronic</b>	<b>Hand Counted</b>	<b>Provisional Ballots*</b>	<b>Overseas*</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>ELECTORS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT</b>						
BIDEN and HARRIS	797	7	14	0	0	<b>818</b>
HAWKINS and WALKER	7	0	0	0	0	<b>7</b>
JORGENSEN and COHEN	8	0	0	0	0	<b>8</b>
TRUMP and PENCE	88	0	0	0	0	<b>88</b>
All Others	2	0		0	0	<b>2</b>
Blanks	5	0	3	2	0	<b>10</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>933</b>
<b>SENATOR IN CONGRESS</b>						
EDWARD J. MARKEY	786	6	14			<b>806</b>
KEVIN J. O'CONNOR	108	0	0			<b>108</b>
SHIVA AYYADURAI (Write-In)	4					
All Others	0	1				<b>1</b>
Blanks	9	0	3	2	0	<b>14</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>933</b>
<b>REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS</b>						
JAMES P. McGOVERN	799	7	14			<b>820</b>
TRACY LYNN LOVVORN	90	0	0			
All Others	0	0				<b>0</b>
Blanks	18	0	3	2	0	<b>23</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>933</b>
<b>COUNCILLOR</b>						
MARY E. HURLEY	128	6	13			<b>147</b>

All Others	777	0				777
Blanks	2	1	4	2	0	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>933</b>
<b>SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT</b>						
JOANNE M. COMERFORD	790	6	13			809
All Others	5	0				5
Blanks	112	1	4	2	0	119
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>933</b>
<b>REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT</b>						
MINDY DOMB	797	6	13			816
All Others	4	0				4
Blanks	106	1	4	2	0	113
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>933</b>
<b>REGISTER OF PROBATE</b>						
MICHAEL J. CAREY	715	6	13			734
All Others	3	0				3
Blanks	189	1	4	2	0	196
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>933</b>
<b>QUESTION 1</b>						
YES	733	4	14			751
NO	136	2	3			141
Blanks	38	1	0	2	0	41
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>933</b>
<b>QUESTION 2</b>						
YES	636	5	14			655
NO	235	1	2			238
Blanks	36	1	1	2	0	40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>933</b>
<b>QUESTION 3</b>						
YES	711	5	15			731
NO	114	1				115

Blanks	82	1	2	2	0	87
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>933</b>
<b>QUESTION 4</b>						<b>0</b>
YES	735	6	14			755
NO	71	0	1			72
Blanks	101	1	2	2	0	106
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>933</b>

<b>VOTER TURNOUT</b>	<b>REGISTERED VOTERS</b>	<b>BALLOTS CAST</b>	
	1056	933	0.88



## Annual Town Report of 2020

### Accountant

#### Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance Budget and Actual for the Year Ended June 30, 2020

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
<u>Revenues</u>			
Taxes:			
Real estate	\$3,676,325	\$3,697,272	\$ 20,947
Personal property	263,155	262,922	(233)
Tax liens redeemed	-	18,122	18,122
Motor vehicle and other excise	135,000	141,458	6,458
Penalties and interest	7,500	38,680	31,180
Payments in lieu of taxes	414,602	429,531	14,929
Intergovernmental:			
Federal	8,200	5,908	(2,292)
State	473,633	469,927	(3,706)
Departmental revenues	7,800	14,896	7,096
Earnings on invested funds	9,500	14,853	5,353
Court fines	4,400	6,661	2,261
Miscellaneous		659	659
Total Revenues	5,000,115	5,100,889	100,774
<u>Expenditures</u>			
General government	468,065	335,147	132,918



Protection of persons and property	356,916	335,793	21,123
Education	2,757,907	2,673,199	84,708
Public works and facilities	411,970	391,391	20,579
Human services	76,027	40,103	35,924
Culture and recreation	53,550	52,295	1,255
Debt service	77,512	77,512	-
Intergovernmental expenses	38,980	23,283	15,697
Miscellaneous	449,266	370,617	78,649
Total Expenditures	4,690,193	4,299,340	390,853
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	309,922	801,549	491,627

Other Financing Sources (Uses)

Operating transfers in	24,054	24,469	415
Operating transfers out	(550,357)	(550,357)	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(550,357)	(525,888)	415

Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and  
Other Sources Over Expenditures  
and Other Uses

(240,435)	275,661	492,042
-----------	---------	---------

Fund Balance - Beginning of Year

\$1,058,440

Fund Balance - End of Year

\$1,334,101

**Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances  
All Governmental and Trust Funds for the Year Ended June 30, 2020**

	<u>Governmental Funds</u>			<u>Fiduciary Funds</u>		Totals
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Expendable Trusts	Non- Expendable Trusts	
<u>Revenues</u>						
Taxes:						
Real estate	\$3,697,272	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$3,697,272
Personal property		262,922				262,922
CPA		73,477				73,477
Tax liens & Foreclosures	18,122	336				18,458
Motor vehicle and other excise	141,458					141,458
Penalties and interest	38,680	534				39,214
Payments in lieu of taxes	429,531					429,531
Intergovernmental:						
State	469,927	474,848		4,491		949,266
Federal	5,908	122,608				128,516
Departmental revenues	14,896	5,486				20,382
Charges for services		119,925		1,050		120,975
Earnings on invested funds	14,853	293		43,624		58,770
Court fines	6,661					6,661
Miscellaneous	659	20,792		8,125		29,576
	5,100,889	818,299	-	57,290	-	5,976,478
<u>Expenditures</u>						
General government	335,147	282,514	55,264	2,000		674,925
Protection of persons and property	335,793	13,477	16,000			365,270
Education	2,673,199	439,171	6,037			3,118,407
Public works and facilities	391,391	58,394	14,610			464,395
Human services	40,103	2,614				42,717
Culture and recreation	52,295	16,596		9,497		78,388
Debt service	77,512					77,512
Intergovernmental expenses	23,283					23,283

Miscellaneous	370,617					370,617
	4,299,340	812,766	91,911	11,497	-	5,215,514
	801,549	5,533	(91,911)	45,793		760,964
<u>Other Financing Sources</u>						
Operating transfers in	24,469	1,120	161,500	387,737		574,826
Operating transfers out	(550,357)		(24,469)			(574,826)
	(525,888)	1,120	137,031	387,737	-	-
	275,661	6,653	45,120	433,530	-	760,964
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	1,058,440	1,263,416		355,180	1,441,818	37,851
Fund Balance – End of Year	\$1,334,101	\$1,270,069	\$400,300	\$1,875,348	\$ 37,851	\$4,917,669

**Special Revenue Funds**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances for the Year**  
**Ended June 30, 2020**

		Fund				Fund	
		Balance			Total	Balance	
		<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Available</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Ending</u>
<u>School Programs</u>							
School Lunch		27,543	27,072		54,615	36,273	18,342
School Choice		450,038	226,809		676,847	315,000	361,847
Federal REAP Grant		106	34,793		34,899	9,565	25,334
ESSER (COVID) Grant			2,000		2,000		2,000
After School Childcare		5,112	25,405		30,517	28,971	1,546
Pre School Program		(5,787)	146,068		140,281	115,869	24,412
Teacher Quality		(397)	1,960		1,563	861	702
Student Activities		2,310	5,505		7,815	2,869	4,946
School Times Mirror		489			489		489
J Brooks Adventure Fund		11,002	181		11,183		11,183
Mass Cultural Council Stars Grant			3,800		3,800	3,800	-
School Gift Fund		15,004	1,000		16,004	5,000	11,004
Total School Programs		505,420	474,593	-	980,013	518,208	461,805
<u>Other Special Revenues</u>							
Road Construction		2,703	57,854		60,557	57,854	2,703
Cultural Council		3,788	4,850		8,638	3,125	5,513
Council on Aging		-	6,000		6,000	2,614	3,386

Wetlands Protection		284			284	159	125
McClung Land Purchase Fed Grant			80,069		80,069	80,069	-
Cable Franchise-Appropriated		9,310	15,205		24,515	18,495	6,020
Cable Franchise-Unappropriated		17,963	18,571		36,534	15,205	21,329
Energy Tech Grant (META)		(3,000)	3,000		-		-
Compost Bins		1,120			1,120		1,120
Green Community Grant			42,500		42,500		42,500
MVP Planning Grant		(46,413)	54,900		8,487	2,444	6,043
Dept. Of Justice Equitable Grant		4,968			4,968		4,968
Community Hall Gifts		22,578	100		22,678		22,678
Multiplex Gift		3,730	62		3,792		3,792
Library Children Book Gifts		1,121	2,479		3,600	1,600	2,000
Community Garden Expense		686			686	272	414
Historic Commission Gift		1,175			1,175		1,175
Donald Clark Public Safety Grant		299			299	299	-
Other Gifts		995			995		995
Other Public Safety Grants		4,694		1,120	5,814		5,814
Public Health Grant		2,728			2,728		2,728
Opiod Grant		270			270		270
Septic Repair Loan Program		95,804			95,804		95,804
Inspection Revolving Funds		44,805	20,391		65,196	16,596	48,600
Website Improvement Grant		2,000			2,000		2,000
Conservation Commission Revolving		100	223		323	99	224
Insurance Proceeds			6,642		6,642	6,642	-
Police Drug Forfiture		2,097			2,097		2,097
CARES Act COVID Grant			8,596		8,596	8,596	-
Other		2,009	88		2,097	146	1,951
Total Other Special Revenue		175,814	321,530	1,120	498,464	214,215	284,249
Total Special Revenue Funds		\$681,234	\$796,123	\$ 1,120	\$1,478,477	\$ 732,423	\$746,054

**Combining Balance Sheet Year Ended June 30, 2020**

	General	Special	Capital	Trust &	Long Term	TOTALS
	Fund	Revenue	Projects	Agency	Account	(Memo
	Fund	Fund	Fund	Fund	Group	Only)
<b>ASSETS</b>						
	\$1,382,475.	\$1,291,914.	\$400,298.4	\$1,862,308.		\$4,936,996.
POOLED CASH	01	41	4	98		84
PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES	\$1,098.55					\$1,098.55
REAL ESTATE/CPA TAXES	\$98,151.23	\$1,126.80				\$99,277.03
ALLOWANCE FOR ABATEMENT & EXEMPT	(\$124,727.83)					(\$124,727.83)
ROLLBACK TAXES/SUPPLEMENTAL PROP TAXES	\$0.00					\$0.00
	\$114,673.2					\$115,555.7
TAX LIENS RECEIVABLE	3	\$882.49				2
TAX POSSESSIONS	\$38,758.19					\$38,758.19
MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAX	\$36,492.12					\$36,492.12
DUE FROM COMMONWEALTH						\$0.00
AMOUNT TO BE PROVIDED FOR BONDS					\$420,000.00	\$420,000.00
						0
	\$1,546,920.	\$1,293,923.	\$400,298.4	\$1,862,308.	\$420,000.0	\$5,523,451.
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	50	70	4	98	0	62
<b>TOTAL LIABILITES &amp; FUND BALANCE</b>						
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
ACCRUED PAYROLLS PAYABLE	(\$2,883.48)					(\$2,883.48)
	(\$37,035.3					(\$37,987.3
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	5)	(\$952.00)				5)
EMPLOYEE WITHHOLDINGS PAYABLE				(\$17,075.09		(\$17,075.0
				)		9)
ABANDONED PROP & OTHER LIABILITIES	(\$3,062.05)			\$67,965.54		\$64,903.49
DEFERRED REVENUE-RE, CPA, DEFERRED REVENUE-ROLL BACK TAXES	25,478.05	(\$1,126.80)				\$24,351.25
	\$0.00					
	(\$114,673.					(\$115,555.
DEFERRED REVENUE-TAX LIENS	23)	(\$882.49)				72)
DEFERRED REVENUE-TAX POSSESSIONS	(\$38,758.19)					(\$38,758.19)
DEFERRED REVENUE-MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE	(\$36,492.12)					(\$36,492.12)
						2)
BONDS PAYABLE					(\$420,000.00)	(\$420,000.00)
						00)
	(\$207,426.37)	(\$2,961.29)	\$0.00	\$50,890.45	(\$420,000.00)	(\$579,497.21)
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>						
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>						
F/B RESERVED FOR EXPENDITURES	(\$353,541.13)	(\$1,082,766.66)	(\$400,298.44)	(\$1,913,199.43)		(\$3,749,805.66)
F/B RESERVED FOR DEFICITS	\$0.00					\$0.00
	(\$63,387.74)					(\$63,387.74)
F/B RESERVED FOR For Debt Service						4)
UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE	(\$922,565.26)	(\$208,195.75)				(\$1,130,761.01)

TOTAL FUND BALANCE	(\$1,339,494.13)	(\$1,290,962.41)	(\$400,298.44)	(\$1,913,199.43)	\$0.00	(\$4,943,954.41)
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	(\$1,546,920.50)	(\$1,293,923.70)	(\$400,298.44)	(\$1,862,308.98)	(\$420,000.00)	(\$5,523,451.16)



## Annual Town Report of 2020

### Animal Control

Total of calls for 2020:

Running at large	52	Lost duck	1
Nuisance dog calls	12	Animals impounded	13
Lost dogs	7	Dogs claimed	6
Lost cats	26		
Lost sheep	6		

The remaining 7 dogs were placed with rescue groups or shelters if they were placed. Dogs placed in new homes were 7.

Two cats died in an accident in the roadway. I assisted the owner with the after care of the bodies and was able to get them cremated at no charge to the owners.

I attended monthly Animal Control meetings and biyearly training for disaster.

I assisted 11 local families with spay/neuter vouchers provided by the Massachusetts Spay/Neuter Program to aid families that could not afford that service.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy J. Long  
Animal Control Officer



## Annual Town Report of 2020

### Board of Assessors

**Robert “Rusty” Rowell – Chairman**  
**Gwen Hubler**  
**William Collins**  
**Lori Turati- Assistant Assessor**

**Meetings are the first and third Tuesday of every month, except for July and August where they occur on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday for those months. Meetings are held at 6:30 pm in the Rhodes Building at 351 Amherst Road. Contact the Assistant Assessor with any questions at 413-253-0734.**

**NEW OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays, 9:00am-noon and by appointment**  
**Phone: 413-253-0734 Fax: 413-253-0847**

The Assessor’s office is responsible for keeping accurate data on all real estate and personal property in town and assessing both at market value as set forth in the Massachusetts State Law. Our office handles tax exemptions for the elderly, surviving spouses and minor children, blind, disabled veterans and deferrals. We process abatements for eligible taxpayers for motor vehicle excise, real estate and personal property. We continue to verify and collect data on all real estate and personal property in town.

The Select Board held the tax classification hearing on December 2, 2020 and voted a single tax rate for all residential and commercial properties in the Town of Pelham. The tax rate for FY2021 is \$21.42 per thousand dollars of valuation for all properties in town.

Maintenance of current and accurate property inventory data is a critical element in the development of uniform, fair market values. The last certification review indicated that the Board of Assessors needed to continue with a cyclical reinspection program of all descriptive property data over a six-year time period (2015- 2021), so that each parcel is inspected at least once in every nine-year cycle. Throughout the year a representative of the Board of Assessors will be out to photograph properties and verify data on property record cards. The board also recommends that property owners check their property record cards every year to verify the data. It is the responsibility of the property owner to be sure the data is correct.

The Board of Assessors meets regularly as posted. Meetings are open to the public; however, any person who desires to meet with the Board should call and make an appointment to be put on the agenda.

### BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The Assessors office processed the following applications for exemptions, motor vehicle abatements and Real estate abatements for fiscal year 2020 and calendar 2019.

FY 2020 Statutory Exemptions granted:

5 – 41C (senior) \$4372.51

4 – 22 (veteran) \$4678.48  
4 – 17D (senior or surviving spouse) \$1225.00  
1 – 37A (blind) \$437.50  
0 – 41A (deferral)

FY 2020 Real Estate abatements granted (at time of this printing):

2 - Totaling \$915.00 Real Estate 1-CPA \$20.48  
0 - Totaling \$0.00 Personal Property

FY 2020 Low/Moderate Income Exemption for the CPA surcharge

7- Totaling \$570.18

2019 Motor Vehicle Excise abatements:

46 - Totaling \$4382.81

Applications for each listed above can be picked up at the Assessor's office or call 253-0734 to have one mailed.

Real Estate abatement applications and Low / Moderate Income Exemptions for the Community Preservation Surcharge must be filed with assessors not later than April 1<sup>st</sup> for the fiscal year.

Exemption applications for Seniors, Surviving Spouses, Veterans, Blind and Deferrals must be filed with assessor on or before December 15 or by April 1<sup>st</sup> after actual (**not** preliminary) tax bills are mailed for fiscal year if later.

Motor vehicle excise abatement applications must be received by the assessors within three years after the excise was due, or one year after the excise was paid, whichever is later. Filing an abatement does not stay the collection of your excise bill. To avoid interest, charges and collection action, including non-renewal of your registration, you must pay the bill in full within 30 days of its issue date. You will receive a refund if abatement is granted. NOTE: You are not entitled to abatement if you (1) cancel your registration and retain ownership of the vehicle, or (2) move to another Massachusetts city or town, during the calendar year. No excise may be reduced to less than \$5.00. No abatement or refund of less than \$5.00 may be made.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Turati  
Assistant Assessor  
Board of Assessors



**Annual Town Report of 2020**

**Building Inspector**

Despite a national pandemic due to Covid-19, building and renovations continued generating a large number of permits for this community. Home improvement leaned more toward comfort within the home with insulation taking the lead again, along new windows and doors. Many decks were rebuilt or upgraded with new decking. Solar photo-voltaics were steady but not one of our best years. Two repairs were due to fire early in the year. During 2020, there were 80 total permits issued:

5	Woodstoves/Pellet Stoves	1	Barns/Garages
2	Additions	5	Roofs
0	New Single Family Homes	13	Window/Door Replacements
1	Pools	2	Siding
0	Demolitions	0	3-Season Rooms
7	Renovations	7	Photo-Voltaic Arrays/Solar Hot Water
1	Alterations	19	Insulation
7	Deck	1	Tent
0	Shed	1	Sheet metal
7	Repair	0	Cell Tower Alteration
1	Porches		

The estimated value of building construction for building permits issued during 2020 was \$1,062,389, down about \$745,000. Once again I look forward to serving the people of Pelham in the coming year.

Respectfully Submitted,  
David Waskiewicz  
Pelham Building Inspector



**Annual Town Report of 2020**

**Cemetery Commission**

The Pelham Cemetery Commission is charged with maintaining the cemeteries for which the town is responsible: Arnold, Cook-Johnson, Harkness, Knight’s Corner, Mt. Lincoln, North Valley, Pelham Hill, Quaker (jointly with the Historical Commission), and Stevens. The cemeteries of Pelham are maintained for historical reasons and the use of Pelham residents. The only currently-active cemetery is North Valley.

**In 2020:**

- There were five burials, including three cremations. Two lots were sold.
- The cemeteries were mowed/trimmed and stones straightened as necessary throughout the growing season, and trees removed as necessary, which cost \$6,500.00.
- Flags were placed at the graves of about 150 known Veterans and at cemetery entrances prior to Memorial Day. Currently, flags are provided by the VFW.



- 48 three-feet by three-feet plots located due north of the old vault at North Valley were marked with spikes and mapped, and are now available to be purchased for \$100 for cremation interments. Only flat markers flush to the ground will be permitted.
- Thanks to the Department of Public Works, stumps and brush were cleared on the North side of Cook-Johnson as part of the preparation of an area dedicated to green burials. When the area is graded and seeded, lots will be available for interments without vaults.

The Commission met in January and February, but due to the pandemic did not meet the rest of the year. When meetings resume, they will likely be held on the second Tuesday of the month either in the History Room at the Library or at Community Hall across the road.

Respectfully,  
 Norman Page, Chair; Cleon “Buzzy” Booth; Scott Barton, Secretary



## Annual Town Report of 2020

### Collector

	FY	Uncollected 0701/2019	Commitments	Collections	Refunds	Abatements/ Exemptions	Put into Tax Title	Uncollected 06/30/20	
Real Estate	2020	0.00	3,676,325	3,534,652.24	0	0	0	141,672.76	
	2019	93,969.00	0.00	60,990.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	32,978.44	
	2018	5,609.57	0.00	3,117.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,492.53	35,470.97
	total	99,578.57	0.00	64,108.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	35,470.03	
CPA	2020	0.00	74,525.08	69,817.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,680.99	
	2019	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Personal Property	2020	0.00	263155.03	263155.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	2019	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	2018	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Motor Vehicle	2020	0.00	136,032.12	119,576.57		2,150.62	0.00	14,304.93	
	2019	20,832.58	0.00	12,254.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,578.50	
	2018	4,136.14	0.00	1,328.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,808.14	
	2017	1,076.35	0.00	359.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	717.14	
	2016	506.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	506.00	
	2015	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	total	26,551.07	136,032.12	133,517.86	0.00	2,150.62	0.00	26,914.71	
	grand total	126,129.64						62,384.74	



## Annual Town Report of 2020

### Community Garden Committee

The Pelham Community Garden experienced an increase in demand this past year. Even after enlarging the Garden, there was still a waiting list.

Improvements at the Garden included a portable garage for equipment as well as fencing, which was necessary to deter deer and other forest creatures, as well as dogs from entering the Garden. New plants were added to the Pollinator Garden as well.

Since the COVID pandemic, use of the parking lot that serves the Garden and Buffum Falls trailhead has increased. The trailhead continues to be a favorite place for hikers and dog walkers. This has made parking more difficult with cars sometimes lining the road. Unleashed dogs also continue to remain a challenge, though the new fencing has proved to be very helpful.

Obtaining an independent water supply for the Garden continues to be the biggest challenge. Several attempts were made this past Summer to dig a shallow well on the property. Rick Adamcek, Buzzy Booth, and Bill Pula were involved in trying to locate a water source, but were unsuccessful. Two well drillers were also consulted with no positive outcome.

Our water supply is still dependent on the Pelham Fire Department delivering water to the site, for which we are continually thankful. Plans are in the works to install a 550 gallon water tank. This will supplement the 750 gallon water supply that already exists.

The Pelham Community Garden is in its fifth year and is thriving. The distribution of garden plots gives preference to those people living and/or working in Pelham.

The Garden Committee meets on an as needed basis.

EXPENSES:	Fencing & Gates	\$707.00
	Portable Garage	\$274.00
	Pollinator plants	\$32.00
INCOME:	Garden Plots	\$230.00

Respectfully submitted by the Pelham Community Garden Committee:

*Cyd Reiman, Chair*

*Wendi Weinberg, Secretary & Treasurer*

*Sue Tippet, Heidi Dollard, & Abbie Jenks*



## Annual Town Report of 2020

### Community Hall Committee

The year 2020 was not a “business as usual” year but more of a “reframing” of that which was essential to meet the many challenges that the Covid 19 pandemic brought. It appears that the Town of Pelham successfully met the challenges...we were separated but unified, helpless but hopeful, overcome but resilient, defeated but triumphant.

Much like other Town buildings, Community Hall’s doors have been closed...meetings, programs, private/public gatherings and school visitations were cancelled but all was not quiet at 40 Amherst Road this spring/summer. In early April, Ed Dane, David Boyden and Herb Hoyack, all representing the Pelham Historical Society, busied themselves with selected interior projects, which included carpentry, staining and painting. You may have also noticed ladders and paint cans about the building and grounds. Under the direction of Rick Adamcek, the entire exterior of the building was embellished with a new coat of white paint. The very recently established accessibility, against the backdrop of a newly painted building and the American flag fluttering in the breeze, renders the historic schoolhouse to a Norman Rockwell painting. Many hearts and hands have brought this to fruition.

A special thank you to Buildings and Grounds Superintendent Rick Adamcek and to the Pelham Historical Society for their continued support of Community Hall and its mission.

Gratitude is also extended to Diane Shepard and Lavonne Rathbun for their years of service to the Community Hall restoration project.

Pending Select Board approval, we have finally arrived at a full and what will prove to be an engaged and committed Board.

*Linda Campbell Hanscom, Chair*



## Annual Town Report of 2020

### Community Preservation Committee

#### **Responsibilities of the Committee**

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) administers a state/town-funded program under the state Community Preservation Act (CPA). The program is funded through an annual 3% surcharge on each property owner’s tax bill. The state annually matches, dollar for dollar, the funds collected by the town from the surcharge at a variable total percentage. The CPC is authorized to fund town-meeting-approved projects that meet town needs in the areas of Open Space and Recreation, Historic Preservation, and Community Housing. At least 10% of each year’s income from the combined town surcharge and state match must be reserved for each of the three authorized areas of town needs. CPC funds can accumulate and be spent over future years.

#### **Recommendations for Town Meetings in 2020**

**Spring Town Meeting June 27**

Article 23. The Town voted to accept the recommendations of the Historic Commission and the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate from the Community Preservation Historic Fund the sum of \$70,000 for the exterior repainting of the old Town Hall. Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen. Motion made and Seconded Article Passed Unanimously

**At the CPC's February, 2021 meeting, a motion was made, seconded and passed to close out the account for the paint renovation of old town hall (\$70k) This work was completed in November 2020 with an outstanding balance of \$21.8K. The prep work was very well done. Northeast Painting Associates used a primer that contains rubber that bonds to the wood below and holds the paint above.**

Article 24. The Town voted to accept the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee and the School Committee to appropriate from the Community Preservation Open Space and Recreation Fund the sum of \$11,500 for the design of a new track and field complex at the Amherst/Pelham Regional High School. Recommended by the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen Motion made and seconded Discussion included: Is this necessary at this time? Is this appropriate use of CPC funds? The track is really in bad shape. This is a study to see what the design will be and what the cost will be, and then make plans for a new track. Article passed with one Nay.

**This project is on hold by the Regional Schools due to the Covid shutdown. The project will likely proceed when school schedules return to normal.**

Article 25. The Town voted to adopt the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate and transfer the following sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues for Community Preservation Committee administrative expenses in FY2021 in the amount of \$3,500. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Moved and Seconded Passed Unanimously.

**As of January 31, 2021, this administrative expense fund stands at \$2,600.**

Article 26. The Town voted to adopt the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate and transfer the following sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues, and to reserve for later appropriation; \$14,500 for Open Space; \$14,500 for Community Housing; and \$14,500 for Historic Resources; and to reserve for later appropriation \$40,200 to the FY2021 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen – Discussion: this is the routine division of the funds for accounting. Article Passed Unanimously

### **Fall Town Meeting October 24**

Article 9. VOTED to adopt the following non-binding resolution: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following non-binding resolution: Should the Town support, at future Town Meeting(s), an appropriation(s) of up to \$500,000 of Community Preservation Act Funds, to support the affordable housing development at 20-22 Amherst Road, which shall consist of approximately 34 dwelling units, all of which shall be affordable to persons/households earning less than 80% of the area median income for the area including the Town of Pelham.

**The Community Preservation Committee will reserve funds over the next two years to be available to pay for this affordable housing project with as little borrowing as possible. Putting funds aside will help us control the interest expenses.**

Recognition of Jim Lumley's service to the town: Dana McDonald, Chair of the Pelham Community Preservation Committee, and Tilman Lukas, Chair of the Housing Committee, presented Jim Lumley with a plaque in recognition of Mr. Lumley's many years of service to the community and providing public access to his property, known as Lilac Land for all to enjoy. The award read as follows: "Presented to James Lumley in

Grateful Appreciation for your many years of Outstanding Dedicated Service on the Community Preservation Committee and the Housing Committee for the town of Pelham, Massachusetts October 24, 2020”

**Respectfully submitted by the Community Preservation Committee:**

*Members:*

- Cydnie Reiman, at-large elected through 2022*
- James Lumley, at-large appointed through 2021*
- Dana MacDonald, Conservation through 2021*
- Barbara Cooper, Housing through 2021*
- Joseph Larson, Historical through 2021*
- Judith Eiseman, Planning through 2021*
- Thomas Fanning, Chair Recreation through 2021*



**Annual Town Report of 2020**

**Conservation Commission**

The Pelham Conservation Commission, established in 1970 under the State’s [Conservation Commission Act of 1957](#) (40 MGL 40 § 8C), serves as the principal conservation authority for Pelham. Our duties include open space protection and management, wetlands protection, monitoring forest cutting plans, and environmental education.

The Commission administers the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (MGL 131 § 40), which governs all work (land alteration) in wetlands and buffer zones as defined by this law. In addition, the Commission administers the Town’s Wetland Bylaw (Chapter 119) enacted to further ensure that wetlands are protected from uses that could result in damage to wildlife habitat, water supplies, flood control, and other important values. The Commission also monitors Forest Cutting Plans approved by the Department of Conservation and Recreation under the Forest Cutting Practices Act (MGL 132 § 40-46).

During 2020, the Commission continued to function during the pandemic, meeting regularly remotely via Zoom. We are a 5-member Commission. Continuing members are Dana MacDonald, Chair; Tilman Lukas, Vice-chair; and David Gross, Secretary. We have two new members: Richard Seelig and Janice Gifford who were appointed March 2019 and February 2020, respectively. The Commission meets at 7:00 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and last Thursday of each month via Zoom until further notice.

**2020 Actions and Activities:** During 2020, the Commission rendered 1 Enforcement Order, 3 Advisory Assessment letters, and 2 Emergency Certifications.

Abbreviated Notice of Intent	1	Forest Cutting Plans	2
Determination of Applicability	1	Sign Install Locations	2
Enforcement Orders/violation complaints	2	Trail improvement projects	3
Emergency culvert repair	2	Advisory Assessment Letter	3

**ACTIVITIES**

Administrative duties are performed by a part-time Conservation Agent, Meredith Borenstein, to assist the volunteer board with noticing permits, posting agendas, scheduling and conducting site walks as well as reviewing permits.

The Commission continues to attempt to manage complaints about dogs in our conservation areas. Additional signs were installed along Cook Road and at Buffam Falls Conservation Area. According to the town bylaw, at a minimum dogs always need to be under voice control on town property, and there are fines if there are complaints.

The PCC continues to work with the Kestrel Land Trust and the Town of Pelham creating public access and parking for recently acquired open spaces at the Well Away Farm Conservation Area, the Buffam Brook Community Forest, and the Pemberton Memorial Forest as well as ongoing encroachment issues. The most recent conservation land acquisition resulted from the generous support of William and Emily McClung who are longtime residents of Pelham and family land stewards. This project added 40-acres to the Buffam Brook Community Forest and was supported by a grant from the US Forest Service Community Forest Program, a significant owner bargain sale, and additional private/public funds. The Conservation Commission would like to acknowledge the patient and steadfast efforts of the McClungs, and the kind assistance of the Kestrel Trust, Forest Service, and Community Preservation Committee.

Respectfully Submitted to the Town and for the Commission:

Dana MacDonald, Chair



## **Annual Town Report of 2020**

### **Council on Aging**

The Council on Aging is charged with identifying the total needs of the community's older population and enlisting all citizens in designing, supporting, and promoting those programs intended to assist elders in the community. The Pelham COA participates in the Massachusetts Council on Aging and Executive Office of Elder Affairs networks. We have mastered meeting outdoors and via Zoom but look forward to connecting in person as soon as it is safe. The hunt to secure a COVID-19 vaccine appointment continues for many. The COA posts updated information on the sign-up process on the town website, but the problems of inadequate vaccine supply and a cumbersome online registration process have not been resolved. The Amherst Senior Center staff have been most welcoming to Pelham seniors and includes them in their regional clinic whenever vaccines are available. Many of the cultural, educational, and fitness opportunities the center offers virtually are available to Pelham residents.

The popular flu clinic and the about to be launched foot care clinic had to be cancelled because of the pandemic. No group socials or open house gatherings at Community Hall were possible. The "Foot Care by Nurses" program offered home visits to Pelham residents as an interim measure. Outreach and service efforts continued in different ways. Special thanks to Tilman Lukas, Virginia Servos and Kathy Martell for so reliably delivering Meals on Wheels to Pelham residents and to Tom Terault for delivering Survival Center and Food Bank food bags and boxes. A few new volunteers have come forward and will give some relief and flexibility to the current drivers. Our thanks to COA member Grace Dane who sends birthday greetings to the many seniors in town. The COA mailed a letter containing a list of area resources to Pelham seniors in late November. The resource list is posted in the COA section of the town website.

The COA has collaborated with Amherst Neighbors, a project aimed at connecting older adults to the neighbors and resources that help them age well within their community. A number of Pelham residents are members of the group and two serve on the Board of Directors. Free membership offers

access to services, educational programs, interest groups, and member recommended professional service providers.

A survey requesting specifics about interests and needs was mailed to Pelham older adults in February. Responses will be used to plan future activities and address service needs. We appreciate those who used the survey to volunteer to provide rides to medical appointments, meal deliveries, and neighbor to neighbor contact when the time comes.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tracy Osbahr, Grace Dane, Kathleen Martell, Isabel Ryavec, and Nancy Rose Weeber



**Annual Town Report of 2020**  
**Cultural Council**  
No report at time of publication.



**Annual Town Report of 2020**  
**Energy Committee**

Our mission continues to be to do all we can to help reduce the Town of Pelham's energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions while keeping the town affordable for all. We encourage anyone interested in the Energy Committee to get involved, come to meetings, and help out with your own skills. We are here to serve the community, and we would greatly appreciate your help.

The Committee had a busy and productive year in 2020, launching the high efficiency heating and cooling project for the Community Center, securing additional state grants to support this investment, and supporting the development of the community-based utility initiative for Pelham, Amherst, and Northampton.

**Energy Efficient Heating and Cooling for the Community Building**

After more than three years of study and grant writing, consultation with boards, committees, the Town of Pelham is now replacing the existing heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system in the Library and Safety Complex with a highly efficient air-source heat-pump. The complex is the single largest energy consuming municipal building in town. The goals of this project have been to save money, energy and pollution for the Town, while minimizing the Town's investment costs by securing grant funding.

This new efficient variable refrigerant flow (VRF) system will be installed in the first half of 2021. Because Pelham town leaders, the Select Board, Finance Committee and Town Superintendent, elected to keep the existing oil system as a back-up, there will be no interruption in service. As a further benefit, Pelham is also able to keep the existing (and never-yet-used) backup-generator. Once installed, the new system will cost less to operate than the old heating and cooling systems, by providing highly efficient heating and cooling. Specifically, the new system will cut building energy costs by 20%, carbon pollution by 40% and energy consumption by 50%.

The Energy Committee and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Task Force secured grants to finance the replacement system for the aging HVAC: A Green Communities grant worth \$170,000 and an MVP award of \$274,000. Based on these funds, and the previous allocation of \$68,000 from the Town for repair or

replacements of the HVAC system, the Town requested bids from contractors last summer. The Select Board, after confirming that the lowest bidders were capable and responsible contractors, approved Adams Plumbing and Heating as the general contractor on August 19. The total project cost is estimated at \$553,000. After the grant funds and previous allocations, the Town only needed to approve an additional \$45,000 for the project to go head. This means that 80% of the total project costs will be covered by grants instead of coming out of the Town budget. Fall Town Meeting approved these funds.

Equipment purchasing has commenced, and the pre-construction meeting was held on site on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The Select Board also selected George Kicza as “Clerk of the Works” to assist the town in oversight of the project. Construction will start in the first quarter of 2021.

Looking ahead, because the VRF is an electric system, it is now possible to zero-out the carbon footprint of the Community Building, once solar can be installed.

**Do you know anyone interested in grant-writing, fundraising or a donation for a solar canopy to power the School, Library, and Safety Complex campus?** Please reach out to us!

### **Community Choice Aggregation – town-owned power utilities for more affordable and cleaner electricity**

Pelham has been working with Amherst and Northampton for several years to understand the potential benefits of a joint municipal aggregation utility using the Community Choice Energy Plus model, as authorized by Spring 2018 Town Meeting. The model allows towns to take charge of their electricity supply, negotiate better prices with electricity generators and suppliers, and access state grant funding to invest in energy efficiency, renewable energy and other community services. The means that towns can potentially lower the environmental impact from electricity consumption in their community while providing more affordable energy services. The towns would form a “joint powers entity” (JPE) that would serve as a local utility for electricity supply and distribution.

Western Mass Community Choice Energy Group, formed by the three towns, has led the effort since the inception, and has raised grant funding for feasibility studies and legal work. The inter-municipal task force under this group has been meeting since June 2018 and released report recommending the three municipalities move forward with developing a joint aggregation plan February 2020. The Fall Town Meeting voted to amend the 2018 resolution on community choice aggregation to authorize the Select Board, rather than Town Meeting, to approve the plan developed by the inter-municipal task force. This is the same arrangement as Amherst and Northampton, where the town executive will approve the plans for community choice aggregation and the eventual Joint Power Agreement. The Energy Committee will continue to support the Select Board is reviewing plans for the Joint Power Agreement and other initiatives as they are developed in 2021.

John Larson and Tony Rogers, Co-Chairs



## **Annual Town Report of 2020**

### **Fence Viewers**

Fence Viewers settle disputes between landowners regarding fences along common property lines. These are rare events today, so we are prepared to provide advice on fence issues in general and to assist residents locate evidence of the boundary lines and the corners of their property. Our “Handbook on Fence Viewers and Laws on Fences in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts”, published in 2004, may be obtained in digital form the Berkley Electronic Press by searching on the internet at [http://works.bepress.com/joseph\\_larson](http://works.bepress.com/joseph_larson). Respectfully submitted, Joseph S. Larson





## Annual Town Report of 2020

### Finance Committee

Pelham's financial picture remains steady and good. That was what I wrote back in early March as I prepared the report for a May town meeting. Now in early June I have a very different perspective and would view the picture as cautionary. The closing of the schools, colleges, universities, restaurants, retail, etc. has thrown many cities and towns, along with the State, into a financial abyss where the bottom has yet to be determined. It could be a full year before we fully understand what the new normal will be. Because Pelham's tax revenue is largely dependent on personal and residential property taxes, we are not concerned with the loss of meals and hotel taxes, parking meter revenue, and commercial property taxes as are other municipalities. The big unknown for Pelham is what will happen to our State aid. On a recent webinar sponsored by the Massachusetts Municipal Association, towns were advised to look at what they experienced during the recession beginning in 2007. At that time Pelham saw its unrestricted State aid drop from \$198,000 in 2007 down to \$124,000 by 2012. We have only recovered to \$169,000 in 2020. The Finance Committee, in an effort to be cautionary and expecting to see another drop in aid, decided to reduce the requested budget by approximately \$75,000, which would be a good safeguard in protecting the Pelham taxpayer. Subsequent to that decision, the Town of Amherst appealed to the Regional School District for relief in their share of the Region's cost due to their expected drop both in local and State revenue. The new Regional School budget reduced Pelham's share by \$24,000 compared to the previous budget.

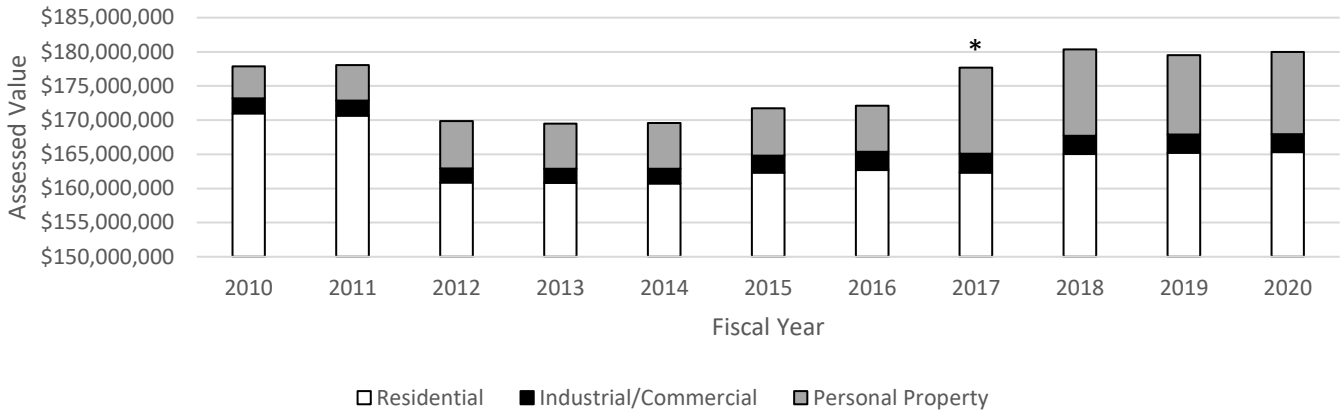
In anticipation of this reduction in State aid, the Finance Committee made reductions to the budget in contributions to OPEB, the Reserve fund, insurance costs, and recycling expenses among others, in addition to the \$24,000 reduction in Pelham's Regional School assessment. The total reduction was just over \$74,000. If the State reductions are not as severe as the Finance Committee has planned, we can bring additional adjustments to the Fall Town Meeting. The Finance Committee also reduced some of the expenses from Free Cash to create a reasonable buffer if the Town experiences late or delayed tax payment from Pelham residents. This will allow the town to function without concern for cash flow or the need for short term borrowing if a significant number of tax payments are delayed.

It is important that all the Pelham taxpayers understand how valuable new growth is to the Town and its future survival. Our property taxes are calculated based on the total assessed values of the Town. Briefly this means that the assessors, through approved methods, have figured out the value of every square foot of land and buildings in the Town. There are three types of values in Pelham: residential, industrial/commercial, and personal property. When Proposition 2 ½ was passed in 1980, it was assumed that a Town's value would increase at 2.5 percent or greater each year through new buildings, increased demand for existing locations, etc. For the first decade or longer, this was true, but for the last ten years there has been little new growth in Pelham. In 2010 the total assessment of all three categories was \$177,888,700. In 2020 that number was \$179,967,100 an increase of \$2,076,400 or 1.3% over the ten-year span. That increase is a far cry from 2.5% every year. Meanwhile the amount raised to run the Town was \$3,527,634 in 2010 and \$4,632,302 in 2020, an increase of 31%. You can clearly see why the tax rate keeps going up to cover the added costs of maintaining the Town and meeting the educational needs of the residents.

Without a change to its current trajectory—through new growth, increases in State aid, reductions in the operating budget, or a combination of the above—Pelham runs the risk of reaching its property tax limit within the next decade. Increasing commercial development may have the greatest potential to increase Pelham's long-term financial sustainability as it would likely have lower associated costs to the Town compared to new housing and it maybe more achievable than decreasing Town spending or increasing State aid.

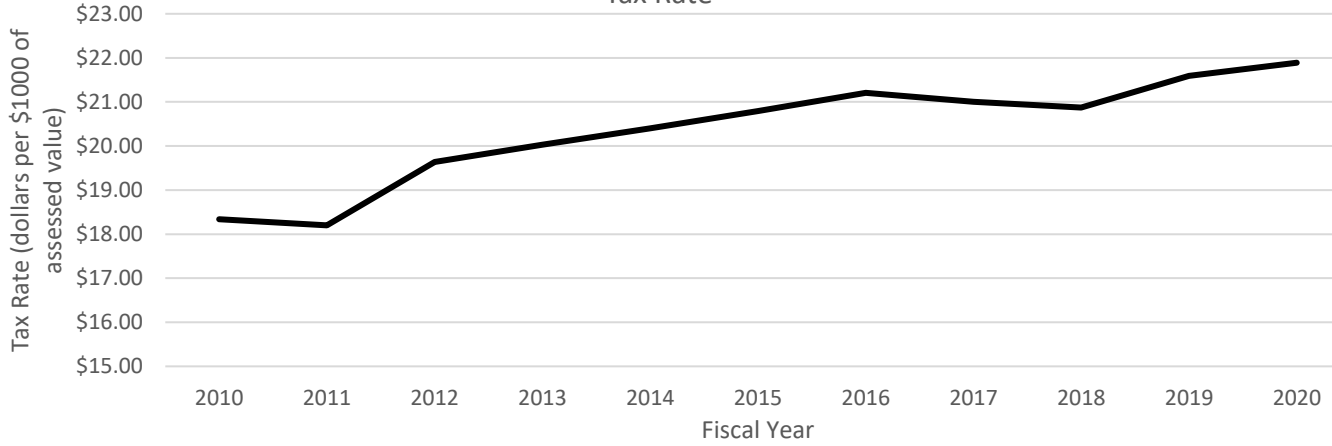
Respectfully submitted, John Trickey Chair of the Pelham Finance Committee

### Town of Pelham Assessed Value by Category

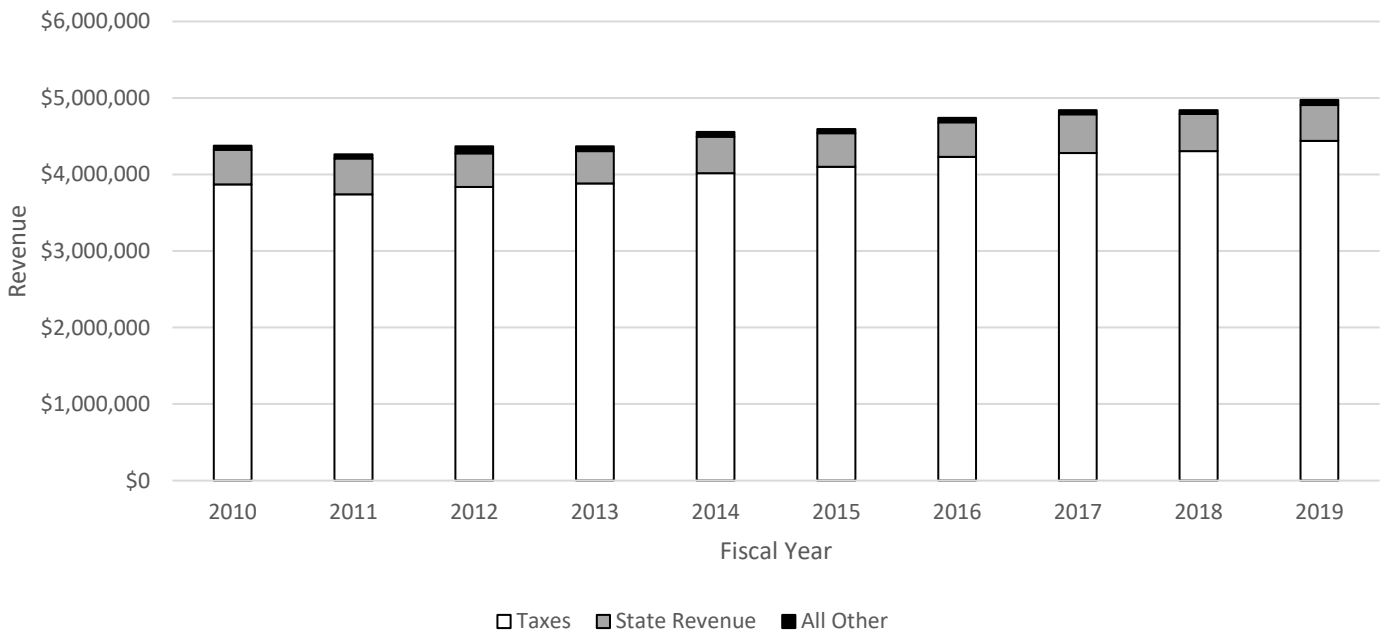


\*Verizon power poles added to tax rolls in 2017.

### Town of Pelham Tax Rate



### Town of Pelham Revenue



Annual Town Report of 2020

**Fire Department**

STAFF:

Chief Raymond A. Murphy, Jr.	FF Erich S. Hinlein
Deputy Chief Richard M. Hall	FF/EMT Christopher N. Kain (thr. May)
Lt. David C. Hawkins	FF Brian J. Huylar (thr. May)
Lt. Jason R. Hall	FF/EMT Jarrett M. Austin
FF Stephen M. Hall	FF Joel O. Melendez (beg. Jan.)
FF Peter J. Clough	

CALLS FOR SERVICE/OPERATIONS:

TYPE OF CALL		PERMIT INSPECTIONS	
Structure Fires	2	Safety Inspections Conducted	4
Vehicle Fires	1	Certificate of Occupancy	0
Brush Fires	0	Alarm/CO/Smoke Detector	21
Chimney Fires	1	Fuel Oil Burning Equipment	11
Rubbish/Trash Fires	1	Tank Installations	0
Smoke/Odor Investigation	5	Tank Removals	2
Illegal Burning	2	Tank Trucks	0
Alarm Activation	22	LP Gas Storage	8
Other Fire/Investigations	1	Unvented Gas Heaters	0
CO Detector Calls	3	Flammable Storage	0
Medical/Rescue	69	Black Powder	0
Vehicle Accidents	21	Fireworks	0
Down Utility/Trees	9	Cannon/Mortar Firing	0
Appliance Incident	2	Model Rocket	0
Water Incident	0	Rubbish Containers	0
Haz-Mat/Spills/Leaks	0	Open Air Burning	89
Public Assistance/Other	5	Agricultural Operations	0
Mutual Aid Given	7	Ceremonial Bonfires	0
Air Crash	0	Blasting	0
Explosion	0	Floor Finishing	0
Bomb Threat	0	TOTAL	135
Standby Duty	0		
Lost Person	0		
TOTAL	151	TRAINING SESSIONS	
		In-House Training	29
MUTUAL AID RECEIVED	3	Mass. Fire Academy	0
		Hampshire County Training	0
INJURIES - Fire Personnel	0	Mutual Aid	0
FATALITIES - Fire Personnel	0	Other	
		TOTAL	29

## PELHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

As the Fire Chief of Pelham Fire Department, it is with great pride that I present this summary of activities for FY 2020. The Pelham Fire Department provides vital services to the community. From the collective efforts of our firefighters and administrative staff working with other Town of Pelham departments, elected officials, boards, committees, neighboring fire departments, and the citizens of our community, we continue to ensure that our fire department meets the challenges that are a part of sustaining a first-rate municipal fire department.

The Pelham Fire Department continually strives to improve the services we provide to the citizens of Pelham. This is accomplished through our extensive training program. Most of our training is accomplished in-house by certified trainers or highly experienced personnel. We frequently bring in subject-matter experts to teach in their area of expertise. We also send some members to training offered by county and state fire academies as well as nationally recognized presenters. Our firefighters take the lessons they learn and bring the knowledge back to the Department, where it can be shared with the other firefighters. We also have a very successful partnership with surrounding communities and organizations that allows us to train together and share knowledge.

Members of the fire dept. provide fire prevention and inspections services, fire suppression, vehicle extrication, emergency medical response and mutual aid. We also respond to down trees and power lines, flooding issues, gas leaks (propane and gasoline), carbon monoxide issues, problems with smoke or carbon monoxide detectors, lock outs, lift assists, wellness checks, and more. We also host our annual open house for fire prevention week and attend community events throughout the year.

### **Staff Hours By Category:**

Emergency Response – 809.5

Safety Inspections – 67

Training – 621

Meetings & Programs – 98

Administration & Operations – 1265.5

Please visit our web site at [www.pelhamfd.com](http://www.pelhamfd.com) and find us on Facebook.

Respectfully submitted, Raymond A. Murphy, Jr., Fire Chief



### **Annual Town Report of 2020**

## **Board of Health & Quabbin Health District**

### **COVID-19**

The first case of novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 known as COVID-19 was confirmed in Massachusetts on March 2, 2020. Since that time, the word pandemic became a common word in our collective vocabulary. As a novel virus, the first step of the health department was education of other town departments on what was known of the virus at that time - how it is transmitted and protective measures. We also performed an inventory of existing medical supplies such as masks, gloves, goggles, sanitizer, etc... in storage at the Board of Health offices in the Town Hall. What was still usable was distributed to various at-risk Departments. Donations were also made to our local hospital system, Baystate Health, as their supplies were in desperate shortage as they struggled to care for those afflicted with COVID-19 seeking care at our local hospitals.

As an employer, the Quabbin Health District also had obligations to protect their staff from exposures while keeping our essential functions running. We did so by preparing to transition to remote location work as much as possible. Employees were outfitted with remote equipment and communications. Provisions and protocols were established to meet our financial obligations: payroll, monthly withholdings payments, and benefit administration as well as vendor payments. A COVID-19 Plan was developed and provided to all staff, along with PPE gear when duty required interaction with others at large.

The District also applied for and received funding for a \$50,000 grant from the Massachusetts Public Health Trust. Funds were used for remote work equipment and communications, as well as for distribution of supplies for public protection. Mask, gloves and thermometers were prepared and given to the senior centers, food banks, and local opioid prevention groups. Essential departments were also provided with worker protection supplies, such as to the Town Clerks for voting and town meetings. The towns also eventually had access to their own funding from the CARES Act. As Massachusetts prepared to re-open in May, an educational campaign of yard signs was instituted District wide at parks, open recreations spaces, and public spaces. The bulk of the grant was used to hire a COVID-19 consultant whose main focus was to assist business and groups with their COVID-19 planning for re-opening that complied with the various, and often changing, orders issued by the Governor. When necessary, warnings and enforcement orders were issued. However, by far, the majority of our time was spent on disease surveillance.

The following table lists the major COVID-19 activity/ services provided to each town in the District during 2020:

	<b>Belchertown</b>	<b>Ware</b>	<b>Pelham</b>
<b>Confirmed Cases tracked and monitored</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Close Contacts (exposures) identified</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Outbreaks and Clusters investigated</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total COVID Complaints</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Repeated Complaints</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Referrals from DLS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Enforcement Letters</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Fines Issued</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>COVID Plan Reviews</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>

**Total: Activities District-wide: 1271**

### **ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT**

The Quabbin Health District is a regional health department serving the communities of Belchertown, Ware, and Pelham. It was established by town meeting vote in 1980 and is the joint effort of the local Boards of Health to provide their towns with public health professionals and services. Our primary duties center on enforcing provisions of the State Sanitary Code and Environmental Code under the jurisdiction of the Board of Health. We also provide technical assistance and educational services to residents and other municipal departments. The Quabbin Health District serves a total population of approximately 27,448 residents in an area of about 120 square miles in Hampshire County. The following table lists the major activity/ services provided to each town in the District during 2020.

	<b>Belchertown</b>	<b>Ware</b>	<b>Pelham</b>
<b>PercTest / Deepholes and Soil Evaluations</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Septic Application Review (New Construction)</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Septic Application Review (Repair)</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Septic Installation Inspections and Re-inspections</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Well Application Review</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Housing Inspections (upon complaint) And Re-inspections</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Lead Paint Inspections</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Condemnations (#of units)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Voucher Housing Inspections</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Housing Court Appearances</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Food Service Inspections (routine and complaint) Including School Cafeterias</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>New or Remodeled Food Plan review</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Mobile/Temporary Food Inspections</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Beaver Permits Applications</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Nuisance Complaints Received and Investigated and Orders issued as warranted</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Tanning Bed Licensure</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Children Recreational Camp Inspections and Licensing</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Tattoo/ Body Art Establishments</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>N/A</b>

<b>Public Pool and Sauna Inspections</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Public Beaches</b>		<b>Not opened</b>	
<b><u>Meetings/ Hearings</u></b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>

**Total: Inspection Activities District-wide: 743**

The tremendous amount of work performed by the staff of the Quabbin Health District in this unprecedented year could not have been possible without the dedicated service of our employees.

Health Inspector, Finn McCool, almost single-handedly kept the routine inspection business of the Board of Health running from March 2020 forward. He continued to perform required food safety inspections, investigate tenant complaints and order repairs on rental housing units, perform perc tests, inspect septic installation, etc...

Stephen Bell, a former employee of the Quabbin Health District, returned to Massachusetts in the Spring of 2020 and became our COVID-19 consultant. He was a valuable resource to our team in the fight against COVID-19, especially given his familiarity with the town, businesses, groups, and other departments.

Administrative Assistant Betty Barlow and Senior Clerk Mary Grenier provided instrumental clerical support to all us, whether in our normal duties or pandemic response. They did the work admirably despite working remotely at times with new equipment, while learning new programs, and procedures.

The Quabbin Health District is governed by a Board of Directors, which is composed of the elected Board of Health members from all three communities within the District. The meeting places rotate among the three Town Halls. The Health Director and Inspector work in all three communities and maintain fully functional workplaces in both the Ware and Belchertown Town Halls. The District provides administrative / clerical personnel at both locations as well.

I would also like to thank members of the District Board of Directors for their continued support.

Sincerely,

Judy Metcalf, R.S., C.H.O.  
 Director of Public Health  
 Quabbin Health District



**Annual Town Report of 2020**

**Highway**

Even with the challenging times with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Highway Department managed to accomplish most of our projects this year.

**For Buildings and Grounds:**

At the Community Hall, a new accessible refridgerater/freezer was installed. Community Hall's old fridge went to the Highway Department and the old highway fridge went to the Town Office. Everyone got an upgrade. The exterior of Community Hall was washed, scraped, bare wood primed then painted. Ed Dane and David Boyden

did a wonderful job boxing in the plumbing and repairing the trim. Thank you for volunteering your time and expertise for this project. The work that was done looks great!

The Highway garage was washed, scraped, primed and painted. The windows were all replaced in the older section. New electric garage door openers were installed along with an exhaust fan over the welding bench.

At the Old Town Hall, the exterior was washed, scraped, sanded, repaired, primed and painted.

At the Rhodes Building/Town Offices the front steps and handrails were repaired. To help meet COVID-19 requirements, two removable doors with plexi-glass and counter space were constructed so when the building opens again to the public, residents can safely be served in the lobby area. Also installed was a new ventilation system to achieve proper air exchange for both offices in the building.

At the Fire Station, pulleys and new cables were replaced on one garage door.

#### **For Equipment and Repairs:**

The number five truck needed a new muffler and other exhaust work. The center bolt on the snow plow was replaced, and a new set of LED backup lights were installed. The number three truck received repairs to its L pack tool box and front end hood and grille. A new mirror was also installed on the small dump truck. The fuelcell, and heater in the DEF tank had to be replaced. The number two truck needed its main hydraulic line replaced as well as a power angle hydraulic line on its plow. The check valve for liquid deicer was replaced and a new sander light was installed as there was an electric short found. The Taurus car had front brakes and a new alternator installed. The number eight truck needed repairs to its sander spinner shield, which then needed an adjustment. The ride on lawn mower needed new head gaskets and the oil breather tube was replaced. The mower deck belt was replaced and a new set of blades installed. The wood chipper got a new set of knives installed. The pressure washer had to be rebuilt and the John Deere loader had a step replaced.

#### **For Road Repairs:**

On the Route 202 end of Packardville Rd, the crew cut brush, removed sand build up on the shoulders, and hand patched and shimmed with 85 tons of hot mix asphalt. Immediately following, Warner Brothers applied 730 tons of hot mix asphalt to overlay both the Gate 8 side and Knights Corner end of Packardville Rd. Work on Country Lane included raising ten catch basins as well as patching with 20 tons of hot mix asphalt. Warner Brothers shimmed and overlaid Country Lane with 698 tons of hot mix asphalt. On North Valley Rd, the crew shimmed and overlaid several locations from Meetinghouse Rd up until the change from pavement to dirt by the high tension line crossing, which totaled 504 tons of hot mix asphalt applied. Gulf Road had three catch basins raised. On South Valley Rd in a narrow section, banks were cut back to aid with snow storage. One catch basin was rebuilt at the beginning of Old Pratt Corner Rd. King Road had one culvert replaced. Due to wash outs on the edge of several roads, the crew worked to repair those. Cadwell Street had a cement cover on a drop inlet replaced and one catch basin repaired. A culvert on Buffam Rd also required repair. A wooden guard rail on Arnold Rd required repairs. On Amherst Rd from the Amherst/Pelham line up to Arnold Rd, fog lines were moved in and new signage was installed advising of the narrow travel lane due to thickly settled area. The hope is to slow traffic down that is heading down the road into the Village Center. On Bray Court a Children at Play sign and No Thru Street sign were installed. At the Community Garden, the crew helped to install a small tool shed to house the lawnmower which is used there. Also at the Community Garden site on Meeting House Rd, the crew helped search for a location for a possible well. At the Cook Johnson cemetery brush was cut, stumps were pulled with low areas backfilled. At the request of the Insurance Company and Tax Collector, the crew mowed around the town owned property at 18 Daniel Shays Highway.

The entire Highway Department along with Police and Fire Department staff and several others participated in a parade past Earl Fay's house to celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Ethan Dickinson was hired as the new Highway Foreman on January 2, 2020. Nathaniel Ribeiro and Charles Ryznic worked as part-time seasonal help during the Summer and early Fall. The Highway Department received a grant from the Town's Insurance for Risk Assessment, which included purchase of road cones and road closed barricades. Also purchased within the Department was a new leaf blower that attaches to the back of the small tractor and will be able to blow leaves/debris off the edge of roads, water ways, and swales.

#### **Under Yearly Maintenance:**

All Town roads were swept, catch basins cleaned, lines and crosswalks were painted on roads. Parking lot lines were painted at the Community Center, Elementary School and the Rhodes Building. Roadsides were mowed,



guard rail posts and road signs were replaced. Brush was trimmed to improve sight distance in many locations and ditches and water ways were cleaned out. Different areas in Town received hot patch while other pot holes were repaired with cold patch. All dirt roads were graded several times with gravel and added to many locations. The life flight landing zone was mowed several times. The crew assisted the Town Clerk with setup and take down of elections when needed. The Community Center generator was run monthly and load tested. Spring clean up was completed at all Town owned properties and buildings.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Adamcek  
Superintendent of Public Works e Building & Grounds Supervisor



## **Annual Town Report of 2020**

### **Historical Commission**

The Commission has responsibility under state law for the inventory, preservation, protection, and development of the historic and archaeological assets of the town.

#### **Pelham Old Town Hall National Historic District** (corner Amherst Rd and Route 202)

The district consists of the 1743 **Town Hall**, 1839 **Church/Museum** and the **Pelham Center Cemetery**. Both buildings are covered by preservation agreements between the Town of Pelham and the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

#### **1743 Town Hall/Meetinghouse**

Preservation of the exterior and interior of the Town Hall is an ongoing project.

#### **1839 Pelham Hill Church/Museum**

The private Pelham Historical Society, by Town Meeting vote, uses this building as the Pelham History Museum and our Commission is responsible for structural matters. Several small repairs were attended to. The Pelham Historical Society suspended the Museum exhibits of Pelham's History due to the ongoing COVID pandemic.

#### **Pelham Historic Cemeteries**

The Commission supports and supervises the continuing repairs to the cemetery walls started in 2018.

#### **Historic Assets Inventory**

We worked on the completion of all Phases of the Inventory of the Historic Assets in Pelham during 2020. Due to COVID and some changes in the electronic submission format we were delayed in finishing the survey as planned.

#### **Town Records Preservation**

The Commission cosponsored the continuing efforts of the town clerk to preserve the historic town records. The Commission also supported the effort by the Pelham Historical Society.

#### **Pelham Community Hall Accessibility**

The Commission supported the changes needed to make Pelham Community Hall accessible (compliant with the ADA standards).

#### **Pelham Affordable Housing Development Amherst Rd 18-22**

We reviewed the preliminary plans for the development of Amherst Rd 18-22 including structures remaining from the historic fish-rod factory as presented by Home City Development. Responses to the developer and the Massachusetts Historical Commission were crafted and submitted. This is a multiyear project and we are trying to preserve as many of the historical assets involved as possible including the remnants of old mill foundations and dams at the site.

Respectfully submitted:

**Pelham Historical Commission:**

Karl Martini, Chairman and Secretary; Charles Thompson, Treasurer; Members: Joseph Larson, Dan Robb, Bruce Laurie and Alternate Karl Ryavec.



**Annual Town Report of 2020**

**Housing Committee**

The Pelham Board of Selectmen established the Pelham Housing Committee in 2015, following the recommendation of a Housing Needs Study published the previous year with funds provided by Pelham's Community Preservation Committee. The Housing Committee's mission is to find ways to increase the diversity, availability, and affordability of housing options in town, particularly for young families and seniors. Since then, the Committee has explored and identified several ways these goals may be achieved.

The Housing Needs Study also identified a strong need for affordable housing and recommended the creation of a down payment assistance program, as well as zoning changes that would allow the construction of duplex homes, construction of new homes on smaller lots, and conversion of large homes into multiple units. The study also recommended a professional Housing Inventory and Assessment. The Housing Committee hired consultants and brought that goal to fruition in 2017.

In 2019, the Housing Committee's first major goal to provide closing cost/down payment assistance achieved some success. Community Preservation funds were made available to two first-time homebuyers with \$15,000 deferred payment loans at 0% interest, which will be forgivable after 5 years. One first time homebuyer successfully used the program to purchase a home in Pelham the following year. The high cost of housing in our town has made it difficult to find another house in Pelham deemed affordable. Valley Community Development Corporation, our agent administering the program, has graciously agreed to continue to provide technical assistance in the hopes of finding a second buyer.

Throughout 2020 the Housing Committee has continued to work closely with Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity in an effort to construct a single-family affordable house. Housing Committee members secured a commitment from the owners of a parcel of land at 8 Amherst Rd. In May, 2020, the lot was sold to Habitat for Humanity with the assistance of \$109,000 in Pelham Community Preservation funds approved at Town Meeting in 2019.

Thanks to a donation of some additional land from the abutter, Home City Development, Inc. (HCDDI), and through successful efforts by the Pelham Planning Board to create the new Village Neighborhood district, Habitat was able to divide the parcel into two ANR (Approval Not Required) building lots.

This spring, 2021, Habitat is planning to begin construction on the first of two affordable houses. Each house will contain 3 bedrooms and sell for \$155,000 or less. Income-eligible families (up to \$51,225 for a family of 4) must agree to provide at least 250 hours of on-site construction work. The Housing Committee has promoted

this opportunity, (the first of its kind in Pelham) including posting application information on the town website, to encourage anyone interested, or anyone who may know of a possibly eligible family, to contact Habitat for Humanity for further information.

Home City Development, Inc. (HCDI), a regional not-for-profit affordable housing developer, is continuing to move forward with the proposed development of a 34-unit affordable rental property at 20-22 Amherst Road, known as Amethyst Brook Apartments (ABA). Through proposed demolition and reconstruction at this underutilized and environmentally-sensitive site (formerly the Bartlett Fly Rod factory), HCDI is planning to create 28 affordable one and two-bedroom apartments. An additional 6 apartments are being proposed at a second new building at 20 Amherst Rd., the site of a long-vacant, structurally unsound farmhouse. In total, the two new buildings on approximately 3 acres will contain 24 one-bedroom, 7 two-bedroom, and 3 three-bedroom apartments. All apartments will be made affordable to families earning up to 60% of the Area Median income. This development will also preserve approximately 7 acres of open space/recreation land adjoining an existing hiking trail.

In October, 2020, the Housing Committee prepared and mailed to every Pelham resident a detailed 8-page document containing answers to the many questions and concerns we had received about the ABA affordable housing development, including full-color architectural renderings. The mailing also provided information about a Warrant Article, which - if approved at Fall Town Meeting - would show strong local support for affordable housing/ABA, a measure required to ensure access to State funding.

Despite a lengthy agenda, and a sudden rainstorm that sent residents scurrying under cover, Pelham voters overwhelmingly approved a non-binding resolution for up to \$500,000 in Community Preservation Funds to be applied towards-ABA construction costs. In the fall of 2021, it is expected that Home City Development (HCDI) will proceed to apply for the majority of required funding from Massachusetts' Department of Housing and Community Development. Limited State and Federal affordable housing resources and a very competitive environment will most likely delay construction until 2023 or 2024.

As of this writing, HCDI has submitted a Notice of Intent to the Pelham Conservation Commission and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The Commission is responsible for reviewing all aspects of storm water management, riverfront protection, and wetland protection, including wildlife habitat protection. The review is ongoing and permits may be issued in early spring. HCDI will also be submitting a Chapter 40B Comprehensive Permit application to the Pelham Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), which has the responsibility to review all documentation regarding the proposed development, ensure it meets all health and safety requirements, and add any permitting conditions it may deem necessary. All town boards will have an opportunity to participate and provide comments to the ZBA. It is hoped that the ZBA will issue a Comprehensive Permit for this much-needed affordable housing development sometime in mid-to-late summer.

Along with our ongoing initiatives, the Housing Committee is now seeking programs and resources to assist Pelham families who may need assistance to pay rent or mortgage payments or make repairs to their homes so they may continue to live in Pelham. The Committee will continue to work closely with Valley Community Development, Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity, and Home City Development, as well as all town boards and residents, thanking those who have generously provided their time and given their strong-support to help make Pelham a more diverse, affordable and welcoming community.

Pelham Housing Committee,

*Tilman Lukas, Chair*

*Ruth Elcan, Gail Kenny, Barbara Cooper, Amy Spalding-Fecher, James Lumley*



## Annual Town Report of 2020

### Library Trustees

#### Pelham Free Public Library Statistics from July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

FY20 began as a normal year with robust programming and high levels of circulation. When the pandemic hit in March, 2020, we closed the library awaiting guidance from the state. Jodi Levine, Library Director, continued working from home and, when it became clear that it was safe to work in the Library with strict precautions, or there was work to be done from home, the staff began working again as well. The Library followed Massachusetts and Pelham public health guidelines and opened for curbside pickup in the late spring. This service was enthusiastically and gratefully received by the community, and we want to applaud Jodi's careful monitoring of state and local guidance, and the actions and concerns of her peer librarians, in rolling out this service so effectively.

#### Circulation

The Pelham library circulated over 25,000 items in FY20. eBook circulation nearly doubled (from 383 to 728), and circulation of downloadable audio was up by 62% over FY19. People from nearby towns represented 36% of our circulation, for which we get state aid. Interlibrary loan (ILL) was about 1% of circulation, which was down as ILL was suspended for months after the pandemic began.

#### New Services.

- The Library expanded electronic offerings to include a second video streaming service, *Acorn TV*.
- *Wowbrary* is a weekly email service that lists highlights of additions to the collection as well as news of the library. Anyone can sign up using the link on the Library homepage:  
<https://www.pelham-library.net/>

#### Diversity Review

The Pelham Library is committed to having a diverse and inclusive collection, with an emphasis on books written in people's own voices, and we undertook a diversity audit to see how we're doing. The audit focused on a snapshot of our new fiction for children, teens, and adults. The results showed a higher percentage of female authors across all categories than expected, and identified areas where we could be doing better. In particular, we're looking for more picture books featuring Asian characters and more fiction written by Latino men.

#### Programs

Before it closed to the public, the Library offered 250 programs which were attended by 4,073 people. It's important to note that these numbers include after-school programs so they are higher than would be the case otherwise. Following the state-wide shutdown of libraries, some programming continued but in an online format.

- Our teen programming continued to expand under the leadership of Ruthie Sterling, who left for a full-time teen-services position at the Belchertown Library in March.
- *Music for Little Ones*, now renamed *Sing With Your Little Ones*, has moved to Zoom and is offered in collaboration with the Jones Library Children's Room.
- The Library book group has moved to Zoom, but has stayed active throughout the year.
- We hosted a redesigned Summer Reading Program with the theme "*Imagine Your Story*." We posted weekly on-line challenges such as making a fairy house, a costume challenge, and making an edible

book, then posted photos to Facebook. Kids kept reading logs as always, and came masked to choose their prizes.

- We also collaborated with over a dozen local libraries and the Northfield Drive-In for free family double-feature movie nights every Wednesday in July and August.

### **Small Library Collaboration**

Perhaps the silver lining this year has been the collaboration among small local libraries. The group that initially formed for a community read last year has now begun to co-sponsor other events together, including another community read centered around “Braiding Sweetgrass” by Robin Wall Kimmerer. There was an author night with Archer Mayor, the above-mentioned drive-in movie nights, and more. Jodi presented on the collaboration at the Massachusetts Small Libraries Conference in November.

### **Friends**

The impact of the very generous bequest of Virginia Davis to the Friends of the Pelham Free Library is being felt in our ability to add to the collection, support programs, and maintain the gardens.

### **New HVAC**

We are very excited about the upcoming installation of the new heating and cooling system. Our thanks to everyone who supported that initiative.

### **Communications:**

Web: <https://www.pelham-library.net/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PelhamLibraryMA/>

Contact [pelham.library@gmail.com](mailto:pelham.library@gmail.com) to be added to the email events list or to request books for curbside pickup.

Respectfully submitted by the Library Trustees,

Gayle Barton, chair, Michael Hussin, vice-chair, Rosemary Agoglia, Gillian Duda, Diane Gray, Greg Wardlaw



## **Annual Town Report of 2020**

### **Planning Board**

The Planning Board is an elected five member board and currently has no alternate members. The Board is responsible for the following functions dictated by our zoning bylaws and regulations and by various sections of state law including MGL Ch.41 and 40A.

- **Master Planning:** Periodic generation and updating of a town Master Plan (Pelham does not have a Master Plan that has been voted by town meeting.)
- **Zoning Amendments:** Development of amendments to the town's Zoning Bylaw, as needed, including conducting of hearings and making presentation to Town Meeting. Conducting public hearings for citizen petitions regarding zoning amendments and making recommendations to Town Meeting.
- **Subdivision Regulations:** Periodic development and amendments, as needed, to the Subdivision regulations.
- **Approval Not Required (ANR) Plans:** Review and approval of plans that create building lots from land along public roadways in Pelham.
- **Subdivision Plans:** Plans that create new building lots from land along newly built subdivision roadways.

- **Site Plan Review:** Review and approval of projects that require site plan review in the Village Center.
- **Special Permits:** Review and approval of projects that require a special permit predominantly in the Village Center.
- **Special Projects:** Related to land use planning

The major accomplishment of the Planning Board in 2020 was the revised Solar bylaw passed by Town Meeting in October which resulted in a new zoning map creating solar districts. The new bylaw incorporates the knowledge and experience gained since 2012 when the previous solar bylaw was approved and by our participation in a Solar Working Group overseen by PVPC. In order to prepare a bylaw that follows state guidelines and the current science, board members studied the BioMap and Protected Lands data and consulted the Conservation Commission, the Energy Committee, and others. The bylaw identifies five solar districts where large-scale solar arrays may be sited, allowing a total of six large arrays in town. This bylaw fairly regulates this industrial use while maintaining our green community status and protecting our watershed and conservation land. Small scale ground mounted solar panels that are accessory to residential or permitted business use still require Site Plan Approval from the Zoning Board of Appeals and a building permit but are permitted by right as are building or roof mounted solar panels.

A public hearing under the Scenic Roads Bylaw was held in November. Although the Scenic Roads Bylaw was passed in 2002, it was not readily available on the website and therefore has been overlooked. Because many people did not realize we had such a bylaw, public hearings regarding the cutting of trees in the public right-of-way had not been held under the terms of the bylaw, but only under the authority of the Tree Warden until this year. The recent hearing, in conjunction with the Highway Department and Tree Warden, reviewed the request to cut trees in the town right-of-way for the Habitat for Humanity houses to be constructed at 8 Amherst Road. The tree cutting proposal was revised and approved to the apparent satisfaction of abutters, owners, and town officials involved. As a result of going through this process we discovered that some updating of that bylaw may be in order to eliminate redundancy and simplify procedures.

The Board is keenly interested in increasing affordable housing in Town, especially in the Village Center Mixed Use and Neighborhood District around the school and library. Two important projects are in process in the Village Center. The Habitat for Humanity houses at 8 Amherst Road are proceeding on schedule with the full support of the Board. The Amethyst Brook Development planned for 20 – 22 Amherst Road is another opportunity to increase affordable housing in the Village Center brought forward by the Housing Committee. Although all Planning Board members support development of affordable housing in town, we have concerns about the particular site and the environmental constraints and costs involved. We participated in several meetings and hearings about the project and will continue to participate in the process as this project is governed under state law, Ch. 40B and moves forward primarily under the jurisdiction of the Zoning Board and Conservation Commission since these subsidized projects permit the granting of waivers from town zoning provisions which would otherwise fall to the Planning Board's jurisdiction.

With the help of town officials and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, the Board completed the comprehensive guide to the permitting process in Pelham that was begun in 2019. The Permitting Guide can be found on the Town website and is available to anyone seeking to create a business, make a change in the use of land or property, or just put on a deck. In addition, we have established a fee schedule and a revolving account for accepting and disbursing funds obtained through fees and have revised our forms for various permitting needs.

**Staff:** Anne Stoddard was hired in January as an administrative assistant. She resigned in June after being elected to the Board.

**Members:**

Judy Eiseman, Chair, Lexi Dewey, Vice-chair, Leslie Laurie, Pete Wilson, Linda Spink (January – June), & Anne Stoddard (June – December)

Annual Town Report of 2020

Police Department

**PELHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT MOST COMMON CALLS FOR SERVICE in 2020**



TYPE	MONTH												Total
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
911 Misdiagnosed	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	6
Animal Complaint	3	3	1	0	1	2	5	2	4	6	3	0	30
Assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Arrest	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Assist Citizen	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	2	6	1	19
Assist Fire Department	5	4	3	1	3	0	4	1	2	0	1	1	25
Assist Other Agency	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	3	0	1	1	11
B&E Building	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
BOLO Building	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	2	0	1	0	2	12
Check Burglar Alarm	8	10	22	10	6	11	5	4	5	25	19	36	161
Check Welfare	2	1	0	1	5	0	0	3	1	1	2	1	17
TYPE	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	11
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Disabled Motor Vehicle	0	4	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	3	4	2	24
Disturbance Domestic Violence	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6
Incident Fraud	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Hit and Run Accident	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	5	7	1	15
Illegal Dumping	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Identity Theft Investigation	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Juvenile Incident	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	5
Larceny	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
	0	0	5	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	8





Building Check	8	10	22	10	6	11	5	4	5	25	19	36	161
Medical Emergencies	7	8	5	1	4	4	4	9	4	8	13	7	74
Safety Hazard Animal	0	0	1	1	4	1	0	12	1	6	6	3	35
Complaint Assist Fire Department	3	3	1	0	1	2	5	2	4	6	3	0	30
Disabled Motor Vehicle	5	4	3	1	3	0	4	1	2	0	1	1	25
Motor Vehicle Accident	0	4	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	3	4	2	24
Officer Requested	1	5	3	1	1	3	2	2	0	3	1	2	24
Assist Citizen Motor Vehicle	3	3	2	1	3	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	20
Complaint Burglar Alarm	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	2	6	1	19
Fraud BOLO	0	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	4	0	18
Assist Other Agency Check	2	1	0	1	5	0	0	3	1	1	2	1	17
Welfare Larceny	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	5	7	1	15
Noise Complaint Suspicious Person	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	2	0	1	0	2	12
Traffic Hazard	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	3	0	1	1	11
911 Misdiagonal Disturbance	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	11
Motor Vehicle Accident with Personal Injury	0	0	5	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	8
Paperwork Service	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	1	0	8
Investigation Mental Health Issue	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	7
	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	7
	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	6
	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6
	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	6
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	5
	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5



  
 Annual Town Report of 2020  
  
**PELHAM** Elementary School

**Pelham Elementary School Committee**

Sarah Hall, Chair  
 Ron Mannino  
 Margaret Stancer  
 Sarahbess Kenney  
 Brenda Barlow

The five elected members of the School Committee are responsible for the education of all Pelham resident children from pre-K through grade 6. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee has been meeting virtually. Previously, the Committee met on the first Thursday evening of each month in the Pelham Library Community Room. The group welcomes the attendance and contributions of all Pelham citizens and school community members. Sarahbess Kenney and Margaret Stancer also serve on the Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committee that oversees the education of students in grades 7 through 12.

Committee members have endeavored to maintain effective academic programming at the school during difficult fiscal times through budget cuts and participation in the school choice program. School Committee members attend meetings of the Pelham Selectboard and Finance Committees to plan for both town and school needs. In addition, School Committee members have served on sub-committees of the Regional School Committee.

**Student Enrollment**

*As of February 1, 2021*

Grade Level	Total Enrollment	Pelham Residents	School Choice
Kindergarten	19	12	7
First Grade	13	8	5
Second Grade	17	11	6
Third Grade	14	9	5
Fourth Grade	21	11	10
Fifth Grade	15	12	3
Sixth Grade	14	10	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>40</b>

**Staff and Program**

Leigh Whiting-Jones assumed the role of Pelham Principal in July 2020. She has worked closely with the Pelham staff, former Principal Lisa Desjarlais, the Pelham School Committee, and Amherst Regional District administrators to provide a smooth transition for all community stakeholders.

In recognition of the current context, the school has articulated the following priorities for the 2020-2021 school year: Physical Safety, Emotional Wellbeing, and Antiracism. The vision is: **A school where students feel safe, valued, and loved.**

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, students have been learning remotely for the majority of the year. The staff have done an exceptional job incorporating digital learning tools into the school's instructional programming and fostering community with students and families. We have been able to maintain school traditions such as reading buddies, while starting new ones like a monthly school wide picture book read and a staff/family book club. The entire school gathers virtually once a month for an all school meeting, where students share about their learning, engage in community activities, and affirm our shared values of kindness, respect, working together, and accepting responsibility.

Pelham staff have engaged in professional learning throughout the year focused on antiracism, cultivating emotional resilience, social emotional learning, and digital learning tools. The entire professional teaching staff participated in a Dismantling White Supremacy Culture workshop in summer 2020 and this learning has continued to inform our work together. All teachers have been reading *Onward: Cultivating Emotional Resilience in Educators* by Elena Aguilar, engaging in ongoing reflection, and sharing about the ways in which our emotional lives shape our experiences teaching and learning.

The school's emphasis on emotional wellbeing for all is also reflected in the addition of a social-emotional universal screening assessment for students. The Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) is a research-based tool to measure students strengths and lagging skills. It has helped to inform the school's multi-tiered system of support for students' emotional learning. Students with needs, both emotional and academic, continue to receive support through both general education and special education programming.

The school is in its third year of teaching the LETS! TALK sexuality education curriculum (formerly known as SGEE) to students in grades K-2 and have added third and fourth grade this year. The staff continue to work collaboratively with the UMASS-based researchers and curriculum developers to provide feedback, refine lessons, and share best practices about teaching and learning. The affirming language and values embedded in the program align with the school's values and have had a positive impact on shaping an inclusive school community.

The Pelham PTO continues to organize the family community to support students and staff. This year they sponsored a school wide project where all classrooms read a shared picture book each month. This project, developed in partnership with a local bookstore, highlights the stories and voices of people of color. The PTO has also provided resources to all classroom teachers to improve access to remote learning tools. They continue to collaborate with the staff to find ways to support the school.

Though students have been learning remotely for the majority of the year, the school is building the framework for increasing access to outdoor learning when we are able to safely return to campus. The garden beds for each classroom, while currently dormant, remain a vibrant learning environment. The school now has a beautiful outdoor learning map, created by local illustrator Aaron Becker, which highlights opportunities on campus for outdoor learning experiences. The naturalist-in-residence program through the Hitchcock Center has continued virtually this year, providing students with a connection to the local ecosystem and the natural world around them.

While we are physically apart at this time, our school community is strong. We very much appreciate the support of the town to fund the school's programs and capital improvements. Please visit our school website <http://www.arps.org/pe> to learn more about the school.

Dr. Michael Morris, Superintendent of Schools



## Annual Town Report of 2020

### Select Board

It has been a busy year in the Select Board office. There were 31 posted meetings (3 in-person & 28 virtual in ZOOM), 182 motions, 95 Board/Committee/Staff appointments, three Slate Newsletters compiled & sent, two Town Meeting warrants prepared & sent, one budget roundtable with department/board/committee heads, and one tree hearing.

The Select Board is back to operating at full capacity with two new members elected at the June 30th Annual Town Election. Tara Loomis was elected to a 3-year term and David Shanabrook was elected to the remaining 2-year term, once held by Alisa Pearson. Welcome Tara and David! With turnover we say goodbye to Karen Willard-Ribeiro and thank her for her passion, dedication to the town, and to championing the MVP grant to the end! Thank you Karen! Pat Olanyk returned after a brief time away and was re-appointed as Temporary Records Information Clerk. Welcome back Pat!

Even though Annual Town Meeting was pushed from May 9 to June 27 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a successful meeting with 84 voters was held outside on the field of the Pelham Elementary School under a large tent. Protocols followed during the meeting included sanitizing/disinfecting surfaces and microphones, social distancing with proper seat placement between households, and requiring all attending to wear masks at all times for both the protection of themselves and their community members. The Police and Fire Department personnel were on hand in case of any issues that arose. The Fall Special Town Meeting was also safely held the third week of October despite the continued presence of the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was opened at the Old Town Hall in order to keep the status of the 'oldest continuously used town hall in the United States.' The meeting then paused and moved to the Elementary School field under a tent where the meeting continued and concluded with a total of 101 voters. It was wonderful to see so many voters turned out.

Pelham was awarded four grants in 2020:

**The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program action grant** was awarded in February 2020 for \$140,000. The FY2020 funds for the grant were extended through FY2021 per special authorization. Additional funding was also awarded in May 2020 for \$133,568 to be used in Fiscal Year 2021, thanks to Select Board member Karen Willard-Ribeiro and her persistence for the town. The funds will be used for the HVAC upgrade in the Community Building.

**The CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund grant round one** was awarded in July 2020 for \$8,596 for necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 that were not accounted for in the current budget.

**The CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund grant round two** was awarded in November 2020 for \$3,911 for necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 that were not accounted for in the current budget.

**The MIIA Risk Management Rewards grant** was awarded in December for \$2,118 to purchase equipment and supplies to support the health and wellness of our employees and community during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

The Select Board approved all town employees to carry-over one-week vacation into calendar year 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Rhodes Building exterior was scrapped and painted thanks to voters at annual town meeting who approved the funding. The building also had an Energy Recovery Ventilation system (ERV) installed in December 2020 to provide consistent filtered ventilation and involves the exchange of indoor air with outdoor air. The inside air

will now be replaced with fresh air and will be healthier for all going forward. The cost of the ERV unit qualifies for the State's CARES Act funding and will be applied for in 2021.

We are very grateful to all of the members on Boards & Commissions as well as other volunteers in Pelham who give their time and do so much work for the Town. Their willingness to participate is essential and their work does not go unnoticed. Thank you.

**There are many opportunities to get involved on a Board/Committee in Town**, so please consider joining and/or sharing your ideas by attending a meeting or two. For a list of vacant positions check, [www.townofpelham.org/home/news/boards-committee-vacancies-please-consider-joining](http://www.townofpelham.org/home/news/boards-committee-vacancies-please-consider-joining). For a list of meeting schedules check Meeting Schedules under the 'About Pelham' tab across the homepage.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Robert Agoglia 2021, Chair    Tara Loomis 2023, Vice-Chair    David Shanabrook 2022, Clerk*



## **Annual Town Report of 2020**

### **Town Clerk**

#### **Elections**

The Town Clerk's office felt the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in many ways, but particularly when it came to the preparation for elections.

The Special Election for Select Board which was held on January 4, and Presidential Primary which was held on March 3, were not impacted, but the Annual Town Election held on June 30, 2020 required several changes, including providing for Early Voting.

The new laws became effective before programmers at the state's Voter Registration Information System could make changes to accommodate the huge increase in Early Voting by Mail. Functions, which would become more streamlined by the time the November Election rolled around, required a lot of manual entry for the Annual Town Election, all of which had to be duplicated for the September Primary.

#### **Town Meeting**

The Special Town Meeting held on October 21, 2019 made two changes to the town's bylaws.

Article 1 added a provision for Non-Criminal Disposition, and Article 2 gave the Moderator the authority to declare a 2/3 vote.

The Annual Town Meeting held on June 27, 2020 also made changes to the town's bylaws.

Town Meeting voted to replace all references to the Board of Selectmen to Select Board (Selectman and Selectmen to Select Board Member or Select Board Members), with all their existing powers and duties applicable under Massachusetts General Laws, and special laws applicable to the Town of Pelham unchanged.

Town Meeting also voted to avail the Town of certain provisions of General Law:

- Chapter 44 §53E ½, to establish a new revolving fund for the purpose of enabling the Planning Board to review application responsibilities;
- Chapter 39, §23D which allows for hearings held by the Zoning Board of Appeals, a member of a municipal board holding adjudicatory hearings who has missed no more than one session of the hearing to vote on the matter provided;
- Chapter 53, §9A to provide for a deadline to obtain blank nomination papers. Acceptance of 53:9A means that candidates have until 48 hours prior to the hour on which they are required to be submitted to the Registrars of Voters for certification, to obtain nomination papers.

## Vital Records

Three births, 10 deaths, and 5 intentions of marriage were recorded in Pelham between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020. Vitals are recorded and reported on a calendar year basis.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sandra Burgess, Town Clerk



## **Annual Town Report of 2020**

### **Treasurer**

<b>7/1/2019</b>	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>4,099,477.00</b>
	Revenue	6,796,366.08
	Expenses	6,167,913.43
<b>6/30/2020</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>4,727,929.65</b>
End of Year Trust Fund Balances	OPEB	978,827.11
Trust Fund	Stabilization	494,565.36
	Conservation	13,264.01
	Town Building Gifts	3,798.08
	Wright Fund	1,475.38
	Cemetery	38,396.33
	Judy Brooks Adventure	11,201.07
	Capital Equipment	<b>341,424.57</b>
	H Ramsdell Fund	<b>9,701.71</b>
	Operating Fund	47,347.84



## **Annual Town Report of 2020**

### **Zoning Board of Appeals**

Over the past several years, the ZBA's most frequent business has involved applications for special permits for home occupations and for accessory apartments. At this point, the zoning bylaws that relate to these uses differ within and beyond the Village Center. Reviews of applications for these two purposes are now conducted by the Planning Board or the ZBA, depending upon whether the property is inside or outside the Village Center respectively. You may view or download a permit application at:

[https://www.townofpelham.org/sites/pelhamma/files/uploads/application\\_for\\_finding.pdf](https://www.townofpelham.org/sites/pelhamma/files/uploads/application_for_finding.pdf)

The Zoning Board of Appeals also administers applications for comprehensive permits for the construction of subsidized housing under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40B and Town of Pelham 40B Regulations, and reviews applications for variances and appeals of decisions by the Building Inspector.

The Board complies with the zoning rules and regulations authorized under Chapter 40A, Massachusetts General Laws, and it makes its decisions based on the Pelham zoning bylaw developed and amended by the Planning Board and voted by Town Meeting. That code may be viewed at this location on the town's website: <https://www.townofpelham.org/board-selectmen/code-town-pelham>

Enforcement authority of the zoning bylaw rests with the Building Inspector.

The Board encourages anyone who has questions about the Board's mandate or activities to visit the following site: <https://www.townofpelham.org/zoning-board-appeals>

The Select Board has appointed the following Pelham residents to the Zoning Board of Appeals:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Role</u>
Jeff Eiseman	2024	Member	Chair
Carey Clouse	2025	Member	Clerk
Ralph Faulkingham	2022	Member	Secretary
Amanda Huhmann	2024	Member	
Ann McNeal	2023	Member	Vice-chair
David Litwak	2022	Associate Member	
Stacey McCullough	2025	Associate Member	

In calendar year 2020....

1. The ZBA granted a special permit with conditions to Ms. Sahar Daoudi Nejm of 57 Buffam Road to construct an accessory apartment at her single-family, owner-occupied residence.

2. Given the rise in postage fees and the escalating costs of publishing legally-required notices in the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, the Board raised its application fee rates as follows:

variances and appeals: \$200

special permits for accessory apartments and home occupations: \$200

special permits for wireless equipment: \$350

special permits for solar installations other than on homes and back yards, but less than an acre: \$350

special permits for solar installations for areas greater than an acre: \$500

3. The Board made minor revisions to the Chapter 40B Comprehensive Permit Regulations.

Looking ahead, the Zoning Board of Appeals expects to be quite busy early in 2021 as it takes on a coordinating role on behalf of the town of Pelham in responding to an expected application for a comprehensive permit from Home City, Inc. to construct affordable housing at 20 and 22 Amherst Road. The job of the ZBA involves interpreting and balancing competing versions of the public interest in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. We shall work with various constituencies and outside consultants during the comprehensive permit hearing sessions. We welcome public participation.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeffrey Eiseman, Chair