

# Town of Pelham

## 2021 Annual Town Report & Warrant



**Cover Photo:**

Photo of Harris Dam along Amherst Road courtesy of Lori Krikorian.

## **DEDICATION**

The 2021 Town Report is dedicated to William Martell and Howard Frost. Bill served on the Finance Committee for 28 years and on the Select Board for 14 years. Howard Frost was a forever Pelham resident who helped with the brown bag program delivering meals to seniors and housebound residents.

### **PELHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM**

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



FREE and OPEN to the PUBLIC  
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 2021  
JANUARY 1, 2021 - DECEMBER 31, 2021



**Table of Contents**

<b>Elected Officials, Public Bodies, &amp; Staff</b>	4
<b>Elections</b>	
Annual Town Election, May 11, 2021	17
<b>Town Meetings</b>	
Annual Spring Town Meeting, May 8, 2021	6
Fall Town Meeting, October 23, 2021	18
<b>Reports</b>	
Accountant	19
Animal Control	24
Assessors	24
Building Inspector	26
Cemetery	26
Collector	27
Community Garden Committee	27
Community Hall Committee	28
Community Preservation Committee	29
Conservation Commission	30
Council on Aging	31
Cultural Council	32
Energy Committee	32
Fence Viewers	32
Finance Committee	33
Fire Department	34
Board of Health / Public Health Director	35
Highway Department	38
Historical Commission	40
Housing Committee	41
Library	42
Planning Board	43
Police Department	45
School	47
Select Board	49
Town Clerk	50
Treasurer	50
Zoning Board of Appeals	51



## Annual Town Report of 2021 Appointed & Elected Officials, Public Bodies, & Staff


<b>Accountant</b>	appointed	<b>Capital Planning Committee</b>	appointed
Gail Weiss, Accounting Officer	1 year	DPW – Richard Adamcek	1 year
		Finance – John Trickey	1 year
<b>Animal Control Officer</b>	appointed	Fire - Chief Raymond Murphy	1 year
Nancy Long	1 year	Police – Chief Gary Thomann	1 year
		Planning Board – Judith Eiseman	1 year
<b>Anti-Racism Advisory Committee</b>	appointed	School – Sarah Hall	1 year
Anne Stoddard	1 year	Select Board - Robert Agolia	1 year
Roy Regozin	1 year		
Charlie Lynch (beg. July)	1 year	<b>Cemetery Commissioners</b>	elected
Matteo Ramos-Mucci	1 year	Norman Page	2023
Pat Schumm	1 year	Scott Barton	2022
Jessica Jean-Louis	1 year	Cleon (Buzzy) Booth	2024
<i>(vacant position)</i>	1 year		
		<b>Collector</b>	appointed
<b>Archivist</b>	appointed	June Masee	2022
<i>(vacant position)</i>	1 year		
		<b>Community Garden Committee</b>	appointed
<b>Assistant Assessor</b>	appointed	Cydnie Reiman, Chair	1 year
Lori Turati	1 year	Sue Tippit	1 year
		Heidi Dollard (end May)	1 year
<b>Board of Assessors</b>	elected	Abbie Jenks	1 year
Robert Rowell, Chair	2022	Wendi Weinberg	1 year
Gwendolyn Hubler	2024	Joel Bain (beg. June)	1 year
William Collins	2023		
		<b>Community Hall Committee</b>	appointed
<b>Auditor</b>	elected	Linda Hanscom, Chair	1 year
John Trickey	2022	Pamela Mercieri (beg. June)	1 year
		David Boyden (beg. June)	1 year
<b>Buildings &amp; Grounds</b>	appointed	Edward Dane (beg. June)	1 year
Richard Adamcek, DPW Superintendent	1 year	Lavonne Rathbun (end July)	1 year
Paul Moe	1 year	Diane Shepard (end July)	1 year
<b>Building Inspector</b>	appointed	<b>Community Hall Accessibility Committee</b>	appointed
David Waskiewicz	1 year	Linda Hanscom	1 year
		Richard Adamcek	1 year
<b>Cable Advisory Committee</b>	appointed	Karl Martini	1 year
Richard Hall	1 year		
Robert Agolia	1 year		
Robert Rowell	1 year		
<i>Associate Member Vacancy</i>	1 year		

<b>Community Preservation Committee</b>	appointed	<b>Dog Officer, ACO</b>	appointed
Conservation- <i>vacant</i>	1 year	Nancy Long	1 year
Cydnie Reiman, <i>at-large elected</i>	2022		
James Lumley, <i>at-large appointed (beg. Nov)</i>	1 year	<b>Elder Services-Outreach Worker</b>	appointed
Housing-Tilman Lukas	1 year	Sally Kaufmann (beg. July)	1 year
Historical-Joseph Larson	1 year		
Planning-Judith Eiseman	1 year	<b>Electrical Inspector</b>	appointed
Recreation-Thomas Fanning, Chair	1 year	Ronald Shepard	1 year
		Douglas Rae, Assistant Electrical Inspector (end March)	1 year
<b>Conservation Committee</b>	appointed	<b>Emergency Management Director</b>	appointed
Dana MacDonald, Chair	2023	Gary Thomann, Police Chief	2023
Tilman Lukas	2022		
David Gross	2023	<b>Energy Committee</b>	appointed
Richard Seelig	2022	John Larsen, Co-Chair	2024
Janice Gifford	2024	Anthony Rogers, Co-Chair	2023
Meredith Borenstein, Cons. Agent		Dennis Randall Spalding-Fecher	2022
<b>Constables</b>	appointed	<b>Fence Viewers</b>	appointed
Gary Thomann, Chief Constable	1 year	Bruce Klotz	1 year
Roman Kucinski	1 year	Joseph Larson	1 year
Steven Hughes	1 year		
Christopher Rice	1 year	<b>Finance Committee</b>	appointed by Moderator
		John Trickey, Chair	2023
<b>Council on Aging</b>	appointed	Fred Vanderbeck	2022
Tracy Osbahr, Chair	2024	William Martell (end June)	2022
Grace Dane	2023	Emily Marriott	2024
Isabel Ryavec	2024	Cara Castenson	2023
Nancy Rose Weeber	2022		
Kathleen Martell (end Oct)	2023	<b>Fire Department</b>	appointed
<b>CoA Associate Members</b>		Raymond Murphy, Jr., Fire Chief (ret. July)	2021
Jane Porter	2024	Raymond Murphy, Jr., Fire Administrator (beg. July)	2022
<i>(vacant position)</i>		Richard Hall, Deputy Fire Chief	
<b>Cultural Council</b>	appointed	Jason Hall, Lieutenant	
Nora Maroulis, Chair	2022	David Hawkins, Lieutenant	
Antonios Maroulis	2023	Stephen Hall, Firefighter	
James Lumley	2023	Peter Clough, Firefighter	
Andrea Kandel (end June)	2021	Erich Hinlein, Firefighter	
Susan Daniels	2023	Jarrett Austin, EMT/Firefighter	
<i>(vacant position)</i>	2023	Joel Melendez, Firefighter	
<i>(vacant position)</i>	2023	Dennis Nazarro, Firefighter (beg. June)	
<b>Disability Access</b>	appointed		
Susannah Carey	1 year		

<b>Gas Inspector</b>	appointed	<b>Library</b>	appointed
Andrew French	1 year	Joanne (Jodi) Levine, Director	
		Jessica Lamson	
<b>Board of Health</b>	elected	Ashley Rodkey	
William Pula, Chair	2021	Sally Goldin	
Richard Hall	2022	Rosalba Booth, School Librarian	
Christopher Rice (end Aug)	2023		
Robert Redwood (beg. Oct)	2022	<b>Library Trustees</b>	elected
		Gillian Duda	2023
<b>Health Inspector</b>	appointed	Gayle Barton	2022
Finn McCool (end Mar)		Michael Hussin	2022
Sainath Palani (beg. July)		Rosemary Agoglia	2024
		Gregory Wardlaw (end May)	2021
<b>Highway Department</b>	appointed	Diane Gray	2023
Richard Adamcek, Superintendent	2022	Susan Machala (beg. June)	2024
Ethan Dickinson, Foreman			
Edward Chapin		<b>Moderator</b>	elected
Charles Ryznic, part-time seasonal		Daniel Robb	2022
Robert Novick, part-time seasonal			
		<b>Personnel Board</b>	appointed
<b>Historical Commission</b>	appointed	<i>(5 vacant positions)</i>	
Karl Martini, Chair	2023		
Joseph Larson	2022	<b>Pioneer Valley Planning Commission</b>	appointed
Charles Thompson (end June)	2021	Judith Eiseman, PB Representative	1 year
Daniel Robb	2023	Alexandra Dewey, Alternate PB Representative	1 year
Bruce Laurie	2024		
<i>(vacant position)</i>	2022	<b>Planning Board</b>	elected
<i>(vacant position)</i>	2023	Judith Eiseman, Chair	2024
<b>Commission Alternate Members</b>		Peter Wilson	2024
Karl Ryavec	1 year	Alexandra Dewey	2023
<i>(vacant position)</i>		Leslie Tarr Laurie (end July)	2022
		Matteo Ramos-Mucci (beg. Aug)	2022
<b>Housing Committee</b>	appointed	Anne Stoddard	2025
Tilman Lukas, Chair	1 year		
Barbara Cooper	1 year	<b>Plumbing Inspector</b>	appointed
Ruth Elcan	1 year	Andy French	1 year
Gail Kenny	1 year		
James Lumley	1 year		
Amy Spalding-Fecher	1 year		
<i>(vacant position)</i>	1 year		
<b>IT Committee</b>	appointed		
<i>(5 vacant positions)</i>	1 year		

<b>Police Department</b>	appointed	<b>School Principal, Pelham Elementary</b>	
Gary Thomann, Police Chief	2023	Brenda Darling, Interim Principal (beg July)	
Kevin Fournier Sr., Lieutenant		Jessica Nardizzi, Interim Principal (beg. July)	
Christopher Rice, Sergeant (ret.)		Leigh Whiting-Jones (end June)	
Derick Lamoureux, Sergeant		<b>School Principals, Regional Middle &amp; High</b>	
Connor Parnell, Officer		Diego Sharon (beg. July), Middle School	
Todd Mongeon, Officer		Talib Sadiq, High School	
Jared Tivnam, Officer		<b>School Superintendent</b>	
Robert Thrasher, Officer		Dr. Michael Morris	
Richard Downie, Officer			
Sean Conner, Officer		<b>Select Board</b>	elected
Briana Yusko, Officer (beg. June)		Robert Agoglia, Chair	2024
Peter Michaels, Reserve Officer		David Shanabrook, Vice-Chair	2022
Stephen Hughes, Reserve Officer		Tara Loomis, Clerk	2023
Kevin Quesnel, Reserve Officer		<b>Select Board Administrative Assistant</b>	appointed
		Susannah Carey	1 year
<b>Public Health Director</b>	appointed		
Judith Metcalf (ret. Apr)	1 year	<b>Town Clerk</b>	appointed
Stephen Bell (beg. May)	1 year	Sandra Burgess	2022
<b>Recreation Commission</b>	appointed	<b>Transit Authority, Pioneer Valley</b>	appointed
<i>(5 vacant positions)</i>	1 year	David Shanabrook	1 year
<b>Regional School District Planning Committee</b>	appointed by Moderator	<b>Treasurer</b>	appointed
Emily Marriott		June Masee	2022
Richard Tom Fanning			
Cara Castenson		<b>Tree Warden</b>	elected
		David Hawkins	2022
<b>Board of Registrars</b>	appointed	<b>Veterans' Service Officer</b>	appointed
Sandra Burgess, Town Clerk	2023	Steven Connor	1 year
Sharrie Reydak	2022		
Virginia Servos	2023	<b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b>	appointed
Franlisa Rowell	2023	Jeffrey Eiseman, Chair	2024
<i>(vacant position)</i>	2024	Amanda Huhmann	2024
		Carey Clouse, Clerk	2025
<b>School Committee</b>	elected	Ann McNeal, Vice-Chair	2023
Sarah Hall, Chair	2024	Ralph Faulkingham, Secretary	2022
Ron Mannino	2023	<b>ZBA Associate Members</b>	
Margaret Stancer	2024	David Litwak	2022
Brenda Barlow	2022	Stacy McCullough (end Aug)	2025
Sarahbess Kenney	2023	Noah Wartenberg (beg. Oct)	2022
		<b>Zoning Enforcement Officer</b>	appointed
		David Waskiewicz	1 year





**Annual Town Report of 2021**  
**ELECTIONS &**  
**TOWN MEETING RESULTS**  
**(CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)**

**Annual Town Meeting Minutes, May 8, 2021**

**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**

The Finance Committee is pleased to report that financially the Town has weathered the pandemic successfully, with no significant disruption in tax collection, cash flow or unforeseen expenses. The Select Board and School Administration have used the Federal and State COVID money wisely to cover the extra costs for safety protocols as the money was intended. These expenses included masks, hand sanitizers, new ventilation system for the Rhodes Building and plans for a similar system in the Community Hall.

Last year the budget that the Finance Committee brought to the Town was very conservative. We withheld some expenses to be sure that the Town would have adequate resources in the event that something popped due to COVID, but nothing did. This year is very different as we look to get back on track with normal operations.

The 2022 recommended budget is \$4,845,036, which is an increase of \$171,721 over the 2021 approved expenses. There are four driving forces behind this large increase:

- 1) The Regional budget is up by \$37,591 after 6 years of consecutive declines. Increases can be expected to continue in future years, though not quite as dramatically, as the Region moves toward assessing 100% of its budget using the State's Statutory Method.
- 2) The Pelham Elementary School budget has a \$46,666 increase to cover its operation. The School now replaces 1/3 of their computers each year, which makes this yearly expense more of an operational cost than a capital expenditure. The cost for the computers this year is \$6,900.
- 3) The County Retirement assessment increased by \$33,401 to cover our employees' pension obligation.



- 4) Our OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits-Healthcare) continues to increase by \$20,000 yearly to build the Trust Fund to pay for the Town retirees' health costs.

These four accounts are responsible for 59% of the increase cost of operation for the coming fiscal year.

Last year, cautionary spending due to unknown COVID fiscal demands, in addition to some increases in property assessments, reduced the tax rate by fifty-three cents. The average tax bill was lower by forty-six dollars. This year we anticipate that the tax rate will return to its upward trend. In 2023 all assessments will be re-evaluated in the entire Town, and the tax rate will be adjusted accordingly. There are two solar projects and one building replacement that could provide some increased tax benefit, but there is nothing on the horizon that would change the pressure on the homeowner's property tax bill.

The Town will face some hefty Capital expenses in the next few years. This includes \$600,000 to replace a fire truck, \$240,000 for a new roof on the Elementary School, \$125,000 for new air packs for the Fire Department along with replacing two police cruisers. At this point, we do not anticipate needing to borrow any money for these expenses, but timing will be important so that expenses are incurred only when funds are available in the Capital Equipment Stabilization Account. The Regional School's Capital program has plans for a new roof on the Middle School and a replacement of the track and playing field in the next two to three years. Pelham will need to bolster its reserve for these costs if we don't want them added to the tax rate.

The Finance Committee continues to look for creative ways to solve financial issues affecting the Town. We are continually looking ahead in an attempt to anticipate future expenses and plan ways to fund them. It is increasingly difficult and challenging due to the Town's limited sources of revenue and continued rising costs. But we persevere as we hope you will.

Respectfully submitted:

E. Marriott, F. Vanderbeck, C. Castenson, B. Martell, and J. Trickey



## 2021 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING RESULTS

May 8, 2021

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Daniel Robb, at 9:01 a.m. at the grounds of the Pelham Elementary School.

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

Article 1.

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the reports of the Town Officers and Committees.

Article 2.

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the FY2022 beginning July 1, 2021, 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.

Article 3.

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** 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>FY2022</b>	<b>FY2020</b>	<b>FY2021</b>	<b>FY2022</b>	<b>FY2022</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	NA	NA
3	Town Clerk Salary	\$18,914	\$19,292	\$19,581	\$19,581
	Expenses	\$6,850	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
	Records/Information Clerk	\$12,667	\$12,920	\$13,114	\$13,114
18	Archivist	\$1,300	\$0	\$0	\$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	\$12,300	\$12,300	\$12,300
	Clerical/Consulting			\$700	\$700
	Contract Service	\$26,100	\$9,900	\$8,300	\$8,300
	Expenses	\$4,250	\$5,750	\$5,750	\$5,750
6	Collector Salary	\$16,550	\$17,212	\$17,814	\$17,814
	Expenses	\$9,702	\$9,775	\$10,264	\$10,264
7	Treasurer Salary	\$25,950	\$27,988	\$28,967	\$28,967
	Expenses	\$8,500	\$8,670	\$9,104	\$9,104
	Clerical/Consulting	\$6,000	\$6,050	\$6,353	\$6,353
8	Town Legal Services	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
9	Town Meetings, Elections etc.	\$12,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
10	Town Reports	\$875	\$875	\$875	\$875
11	Town Office Wages	\$27,699	\$28,253	\$28,677	\$28,677
	Select Board/Town Office Expenses	\$19,670	\$21,500	\$21,500	\$21,500
12	Buildings and Grounds				
	Salaries	\$16,531	\$16,862	\$17,115	\$17,115
	Expenses	\$62,720	\$62,720	\$62,720	\$62,720
	Maintenance	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
13	Blanket Insurance	\$43,000	\$46,000	\$51,000	\$51,000
14	Town Accountant	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
	Town Accountant Expenses			\$200	\$200
15	Reserve Fund	\$87,000	\$87,000	\$87,000	\$87,000
16	Surety Bonds	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
17	Emergency Management	\$6,545	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
19	Hampshire County COG	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>		<b>\$464,413</b>	<b>\$472,657</b>	<b>\$483,924</b>	<b>\$483,924</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	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
23	Historical Commission	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
24	Library Trustees				
	Director Salary	\$26,709	\$27,770	\$30,423	\$30,423
	Staff Salaries	\$15,427	\$16,132	\$16,273	\$16,273
	Expenses	\$11,214	\$10,814	\$9,400	\$9,400
25	Planning Board	\$500	\$1500	\$1,500	\$1,500
26	Recreation Commission	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
28	Cemetery Commission	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
	Energy Committee	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
<b>TOTAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS</b>		<b>\$69,570</b>	<b>\$74,966</b>	<b>\$76,346</b>	<b>\$76,346</b>

### SCHOOLS

30	Pelham Elementary	\$1,785,208	\$1,826,299	\$1,874,990	\$1,874,990
31	Amherst Pelham Regional	\$911,947	\$891,934	\$923,486	\$923,486
<b>TOTAL SCHOOLS</b>		<b>\$2,697,155</b>	<b>\$2,718,233</b>	<b>\$2,798,476</b>	<b>\$2,798,476</b>

### PUBLIC WORKS

40	Highway Fund				
	Superintendent Salary	\$65,195	\$66,499	\$69,824	\$69,824
	Staff Salaries	\$124,383	\$127,871	\$129,789	\$129,789
	Expenses	\$121,362	\$121,362	\$121,362	\$121,362
41	School Signal Lights	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900
42	Snow Removal				
	Salaries	\$14,198	\$14,582	\$14,801	\$14,801
	Materials	\$68,432	\$68,432	\$68,432	\$68,432
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS</b>		<b>\$394,470</b>	<b>\$399,646</b>	<b>\$405,108</b>	<b>\$405,108</b>

### PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY

50	Police Department				
	Chief Salary	\$65,417	\$66,725	\$70,140	\$70,140
	Full Time Officer Salary	\$40,000	\$41,605	\$43,056	\$43,056
	Part Time Officer's Salaries	\$42,828	\$43,684	\$44,337	\$44,337
	Training and Education	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
	Expenses	\$25,701	\$25,701	\$25,701	\$25,701
	Expenses Fuel	\$10,475	\$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				
	Fire Department Administrator	\$27,329	\$27,875	\$28,293	\$28,293
	Firefighter's Salaries	\$45,352	\$46,259	\$46,952	\$46,952

Expenses	\$23,980	\$23,980	\$23,980	\$23,980
53 Fire Hydrants	\$280	\$280	\$280	\$280
54 Tree Warden Salary	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Expenses	\$11,500	\$11,500	\$11,500	\$11,500
57 Ambulance	\$31,750	\$32,500	\$33,300	\$33,300
58 Animal Control	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY</b>	<b>\$345,371</b>	<b>\$351,843</b>	<b>\$359,273</b>	<b>\$359,273</b>

**HEALTH AND SANITATION**

60 Board of Health Salaries	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
Expenses	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
61 Solid Waste				
Hazardous Household Waste	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
Recycling	\$8,500	\$0	\$0	\$0
63 Inspector of Animals	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75
65 Quabbin Health District	\$17,361	\$17,861	\$18,861	\$18,861
<b>TOTAL HEALTH AND SANITATION</b>	<b>\$27,836</b>	<b>\$20,036</b>	<b>\$21,036</b>	<b>\$21,036</b>

**BENEFITS AND INSURANCE**

70 County Retirement	\$206,000	\$226,318	\$259,719	\$259,719
71 Veteran's Agent Salary	\$5,973	\$6,369	\$6,559	\$6,559
Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Benefits	\$49,248	\$49,248	\$49,248	\$49,248
72 Workers' Compensation	\$17,266	\$24,000	\$26,400	\$26,400
73 Unemployment Insurance	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
74 Group Health /Medicare	\$220,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000
Health Insurance Opt Out		\$9000	\$9,000	\$9,000
75 OPEB Deposit	\$120,000	\$140,000	\$160,000	\$160,000
<b>TOTAL BENEFITS AND INSURANCE</b>	<b>\$624,487</b>	<b>\$635,935</b>	<b>\$691,926</b>	<b>\$691,926</b>

<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,623,302</b>	<b>\$4,673,316</b>	<b>\$4,836,089</b>	<b>\$4,836,089</b>
--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------

Article 4.

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** to 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.

		<b>FY2020 Appropriated</b>	<b>FY2021 appropriated</b>	<b>FY2022 Recommended</b>
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
Select Board	(each 3)	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
Tree Warden		\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500

Article 5.

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$262,000 for expenditure as follows:

- A. \$2,500 to defray the cost of clerical and technical help and consultants to the Planning Board
- B. \$25,000 for road maintenance
- C. \$10,000 to be deposited in the General Stabilization account
- D. \$5,500 to the School Department for FY2021, 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 Select Board
- F. \$25,000 toward the Amherst Pelham Regional School District Capital needs
- G. \$5,000 to be used to correct ADA issues at the Elementary School
- H. \$4,000 to finish the interior renovations and upgrades at the Elementary School
- I. \$5,000 to complete the security upgrades at the Elementary School
- J. \$15,000 to refurbish and bring the DPW bathroom up to code and install a sink in the break room
- K. \$12,000 to purchase and equip an off the road rescue vehicle to be used by the Police and Fire Departments
- L. \$11,000 to paint the interior of the Rhodes Building
- M. \$75,000 to regrind and repave the Rhodes Building and DPW roadway and parking areas
- N. \$12,000 to reimburse the Elementary School for the gym rental income
- O. \$20,000 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 Pelham cemeteries
- S. \$500 for preservation of Town Clerk Records
- T. \$5,000 for clerical support for the Police Departments implementation of the New Police Reform Act.

Article 6.

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** 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 FY2022 in the amount of \$3,500.00.

Article 7.

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** 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; \$14,500.00 for Open Space; \$14,500.00 for Community Housing; and \$14,500.00 for Historic Resources; and to reserve for later appropriation \$40,200.00 to the FY2022 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve.

Article 8.

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** to appropriate the sum of \$275,000.00 from the Capital Plan Stabilization Fund to purchase and equip a new heavy-duty dump truck with snow fighting equipment.

Article 9.

**VOTED by a declared two-thirds** to appropriate the sum of \$70,000.00 from the Capital Plan Stabilization Fund to repair and paint the exterior of the Museum at the Old Town Hall Complex.

Article 10.

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** to amend Section VI of the Amherst Pelham Regional School District Agreement by adding subsection (j) as follows: for Fiscal Year 2022 only, the alternative operating budget assessment shall be calculated as 65% 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.

Article 11.

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** to raise and appropriate the sum of \$59,567.22 and transfer \$12,657.18 from Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Funds for the payment of the Town’s (General Fund) indebtedness.

Article 12.

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** to appropriate the sum of \$26,333.00 from the Regional School Capital account to pay Pelham’s share of the Regional School Capital debt.

Article 13.

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** to appropriate the sum of \$14,055.60 from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund (established by vote of the Fall 2015 Town Meeting) to be used by the Select Board for the purpose of technology services and purchases for the Town.

Article 14.

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** to approve annual spending limits for FY2022 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 Select Board, 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	\$30,000
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

Article 15.

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** 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.

Article 16.

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** 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.

Article 17.

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** to authorize the Select Board to enter into contracts with the Massachusetts Highway Department for construction and/or maintenance of public highways for the Fiscal Year 2022, and further to authorize the Select Board 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 Select Board 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.

Article 18.

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** to authorize the Select Board to accept and/or apply for any State or Federal funds or grants that may become available during the Fiscal Year 2022 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 Select Board 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.

Article 19.

### **Citizen Petition**

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to WITHDRAW**

[To see if the Town will amend the Code of the Town of Pelham bylaws Chapter 5, Article II Dog Control (adopted 5/11/2019 ATM, Art. 22) by adding the provision underlined below:

Section 5-3 Purpose

The Town requires that all dog owners keep their dogs under control at all times for the purpose of protecting people and animals from injury, protecting property from damage and preventing dog-related nuisances. Furthermore, dogs must be under the owners/guardian’s or keeper’s leash control at all times from 10:00 AM until dark on town property and private property that allows public use. The town further requires any dog for which one formal complaint has been filed be kept under the owners/guardian’s or keeper’s leash control at all times on town property and private property that allows public use.]

*After hearing discussion on the article the petitioners advised the Moderator that they were satisfied the Town had heard their concerns leading to the placement of the article on the warrant, and that this matter was to be taken up by the Conservation Commission who would hold public hearings, a motion was made by Georgeanne Greene on behalf of the petitioners to withdraw the article.*

Article 20.

**VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** to pass the following resolution.



## Resolution Opposing the Palmer/Springfield Biomass Power Plant

### WHEREAS:

- Rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide have created a global climate emergency
- Wood-fired power plants emit more carbon dioxide per kilowatt hour of electricity generation than coal (2012 Manomet Study)
- More than 60 years are necessary to regenerate a forest to the prior level of carbon dioxide sequestration
- Wood-fired power plants emit far more respirable particulates than coal, causing serious health hazards
- Particulate and gaseous pollution from the planned Palmer/Springfield power plant would increase hazardous pollution throughout the Pioneer Valley
- The planned Palmer/Springfield woody biomass power plant would be sited in a low-income area of Springfield, exacerbating an already serious environmental justice situation
- The DOER Renewable Portfolio Standards are poised to define wood-burning power plants as “non-carbon emitting”, allowing the millions of dollars in rebates that would make the Palmer/Springfield power plant profitable

### THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Town of Pelham strongly opposes the Palmer Renewable Energy wood-burning power plant and the irreparable harm it would cause to the environment and human health,

The Town of Pelham protests the use of state subsidies or other incentives to support large-scale woody biomass power plants,

The Town of Pelham calls on Gov. Baker, the Legislature's Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee, and the DOER to reject the inaccurate definition of large-scale woody biomass burning as “carbon neutral” and to strike any inclusion of woody biomass from the update to the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards,

The Town of Pelham urges our State Legislators to pass legislation rapidly in 2021 that will permanently ban large-scale woody biomass power plants in the Commonwealth and any state subsidies for such use.

The business of the warrant having been completed, the meeting voted to dissolve at 11:42 a.m. on Saturday, May 8, 2021. 98 voters were checked in.

Attest:  
Sandra J. Burgess  
Town Clerk



## Annual Town Report of 2021

### Annual Town Election, May 11, 2021

#### SELECT BOARD (One for Three Years)

ROBERT V. AGOGLIA	86
Write-ins	2
Blanks	5
TOTAL	93

#### BOARD OF ASSESSORS (One for Three Years)

GWENDOLYN ANN HUBLER*	11
Write-Ins	2
Blanks	91
TOTAL	93

#### BOARD OF HEALTH (One for Three Years)

WILLIAM E. PULA	86
Write-ins	1
Blanks	6
TOTAL	93

#### SCHOOL COMMITTEE (One for Three Years)

SARAH E. HALL	90
MARGARET A. STANCER	91
Write-ins	0
Blanks	186
TOTAL	186

#### SCHOOL COMMITTEE (One for One Year)

BRENDA S. BARLOW	87
Write-ins	0
Blanks	6
TOTAL	93

#### PLANNING BOARD (One for Five Years)

JUDITH E. EISEMAN	72
Write-ins	2
Blanks	19
TOTAL	93

#### LIBRARY TRUSTEES (Two for Three Years)

ROSEMARY A. AGOGLIA	87
SUSAN MACHALA*	44
ISABEL RYAVEC*	7
Write-ins	2
Blanks	46
TOTAL	186

#### AUDITOR (One for One Year)

JOHN TRICKEY*	3
Write-ins	3
Blanks	90
TOTAL	93

#### CEMETERY COMMISSION (One for Three

Years) CLEON B. BOOTH	90
Write-ins	0
Blanks	3
TOTAL	93

#### MODERATOR (One for One Year)

DANIEL E. ROBB*	31
Write-ins	2
Blanks	91
TOTAL	93

#### TREE WARDEN (One for Three Years)

DAVID C. HAWKINS	90
Write-ins	0
Blanks	3
TOTAL	93

Registered Voters 1033

Ballots Cast 93

VOTER TURNOUT 9.00%



## Annual Town Report of 2021

### Fall Special Town Meeting, October 23, 2021

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Daniel Robb, at 9:00 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 9:30 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.

#### Article 1.

**VOTED** to appropriate \$250,000 from available Community Preservation Funds in support of Amethyst Brook Apartments, the Home City Development, Inc. affordable rental housing project at 20-22 Amherst Road, and to meet such appropriation \$49,498 be taken from the Housing Fund Balance, \$40,200 be taken from the Budgeted Reserve, and \$160,302 be taken from the Undesignated Fund Balance.

#### Article 2.

##### **VOTED to withdraw**

[To see if the Town will vote to amend Pelham Code Article II, Chapter 5, Dog Control, as follows:

§5.3 is amended by adding the sentence underlined below:

##### §5-3 Purpose

The Town requires that all dog owners keep their dogs under control at all times for the purpose of protecting people and animals from injury, protecting property from damage and preventing dog-related nuisances. The Town further requires any dog for which one formal complaint has been filed be kept under the owners’/guardians’ or keepers’ leash control at all times on Town property. All dogs must be leashed on public ways in Pelham.

§5-18 is amended by deleting the words with strike-throughs, below:

##### §5-18 Fine Schedule

	<b>First Offense</b>	<b>Second Offense</b>	<b>Third Offense</b>
And substituting the following:			
Running at Large	Written Warning	\$50	\$100
or take any other action relative thereto.			

#### Article 3.

##### **VOTED to withdraw**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,000 to hire a part-time Animal Patrol Officer under the supervision of Public Safety for purposes of patrolling Conservation areas and public ways in Town and to educate the public about and enforce Town bylaws relating to animals, or take any other action relative thereto.]

#### Article 4.

**VOTED** unanimously to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for membership dues to join the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District, or take any other action relative thereto.

The business of the warrant having been completed, the meeting voted to dissolve at 12:53 p.m. on Saturday, October 23, 2021. 81 voters were checked in.

Attest:

Sandra J. Burgess, Town Clerk



## Annual Town Report of 2021

### Accountant

#### Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance Budget and Actual for the Year Ended June 30, 2021

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
<u>Revenues</u>			
Taxes:			
Real Estate	\$3,651,763	\$3,633,456	\$ (18,307)
Personl Property	266,006	265,357	(649)
Tax Liens Redeemed	-	23,957	23,957
Tax Foreclosures	-	17,567	17,567
Motor Vehicle and Other Excise	140,000	148,312	8,312
Penalties and interest	38,000	32,412	(5,588)
Payments in lieu of taxes	429,000	425,687	(3,313)
Intergovernmental:			
Federal	5,900	5,924	24
State	468,605	462,395	(6,210)
Departmental revenues	14,900	20,135	5,235
Earnings on invested funds	14,500	3,378	(11,122)
Court fines	6,500	7,948	1,448
Sale of Town Land	-	20,904	20,904
Miscellaneous	-	7,558	7,558
Total Revenues	\$5,035,174	\$5,074,990	\$39,816
<u>Expenditures</u>			
General government	\$480,500	\$327,140	\$153,360
Protection of persons and property	358,843	338,925	19,918
Education	2,779,112	2,775,010	4,102
Public works and facilities	412,346	408,392	3,954
Human services	79,453	56,006	23,447
Culture and recreation	54,916	50,034	4,882
Debt service	74,887	74,887	-
Intergovernmental expenses	23,567	18,567	5,000
Miscellaneous	440,315	417,921	22,394
Total Expenditures	\$4,703,939	\$4,466,882	\$237,057
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	331,235	608,108	276,873
<u>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</u>			
Operating transfers in	27,450	58,505	31,055
Operating transfers out	(480,280)	(480,280)	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(452,830)	(421,775)	31,055
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Other Sources Over Expenditures and Other Uses	(121,595)	186,333	64,738

Fund Balance - Beginning of Year  
Fund Balance - End of Year

\$1,339,494  
\$1,525,826

**Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances  
All Governmental and Trust Funds for the Year Ended June 30, 2021**

	Governmental Funds			Fiduciary Funds		Totals
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Expendable Trusts	Non-Expendable Trusts	
<b>Revenues</b>						
<b>Taxes:</b>						
Real estate	\$3,633,456	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$3,633,456
Personal property	265,357					265,357
CPA		74,081				74,081
Tax liens & Foreclosures	41,524	164				41,688
Motor vehicle and other excise	148,312					148,312
Penalties and interest	32,412	249				32,661
Payments in lieu of taxes	425,687					425,687
<b>Intergovernmental:</b>						
State	462,395	549,787		4,941		1,017,123
Federal	5,924	251,874				257,798
Departmental revenues	20,135	6,435				26,570
Charges for services		83,666		372		84,038
Earnings on invested funds	3,378	305		290,138		293,821
Court fines	7,948					7,948
Miscellaneous	6,535	21,577		6,476		34,588
Sale of Town Owned Land	20,904					20,904
Total Revenue	5,073,967	988,138	-	301,927	-	6,364,032
<b>Expenditures</b>						
General government	327,140	510,666	50,902	293		889,001
Protection of persons and property	338,925	8,982	3,200			351,107
Education	2,775,010	278,805	17,017			3,070,832
Public works and facilities	408,392	94,725	40,708			543,825
Human services	56,006	2,335				58,341
Culture and recreation	50,034	16,069		9,233		75,336
Debt service	74,887					74,887
Intergovernmental expenses	18,567					18,567
Miscellaneous	417,921					417,921
Total Expense	4,466,882	911,582	111,827	9,526	-	5,499,817
Revenues Over Expenditures	607,085	76,556	(111,827)	292,448		864,215
<b>Other Financing Sources</b>						
Operating transfers in	58,505		178,500	424,590		661,595
Operating transfers out	(480,280)		(89,415)	( 91,900)		(661,595)
	(421,775)		89,085	332,690		-
	185,310	76,556	(22,742)	625,091		864,215
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	1,339,494	1,290,962	400,298	1,875,348	37,851	4,943,953
Fund Balance – End of Year	\$1,524,804	\$1,367,518	\$377,556	\$2,500,439	\$ 37,851	\$5,808,168

**Special Revenue Funds  
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances for the Year  
Ended June 30, 2021**

			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			18,342	4,382		22,724	19,994	2,730
School Choice			361,847	266,524	(100,000)	528,371		528,371
Federal REAP Grant			25,334	297		25,631	25,631	-
ESSER (COVID) Grant			2,000	104,378		106,378	103,290	3,088
After School Childcare			1,546			1,546	-	1,546
SPED Program Improvement				578		578	475	103
Pre School Program			24,412	273		24,685	36,898	(12,212)
Teacher Quality			702	2,687		3,389	2,391	998
Student Activities			4,946	1,255		6,201	800	5,400
School Times Mirror			489			489		489
Rental of School Facilities				13,065		13,065		13,066
One8 Foundation Grant				1,875		1,875		1,875
J Brooks Adventure Fund			11,183	240		11,423	13	11,411
Mass Cultural Council Stars Grant				4,450		4,450	4,450	-
School Gift Fund			11,004	1,000		12,004	336	11,668
<b>Total School Programs</b>			<b>461,805</b>	<b>401,004</b>	<b>(100,000)</b>	<b>762,809</b>	<b>194,278</b>	<b>568,533</b>
<u>Other Special Revenues</u>								
Road Construction			2,703	94,439		97,142	94,439	2,703
Cultural Council			5,513	4,800		10,313	1,675	8,638
Council on Aging			3,386	6,000		9,386	2,335	7,051
Wetlands Protection			125	236		361		361
Municipal Regional Incentive Grant				15,000		15,000		15,000
Conservation Review Amethyst Brook				6,980		6,980	4,180	2,800
Cable Franchise-Appropriated			6,020		10,772	16,792	7,817	8,975
Cable Franchise-Unappropriated			21,329	13,971	(10,772)	24,528		24,528

Consultant ZBA Amethyst Brook			19,700		19,700	2,600	17,100
Compost Bins		1,120			1,120		1,120
Green Community Grant		42,500	85,000		127,500	144,495	(16,995)
MVP Planning Grant		6,043	156,495		162,538	346,306	(183,768)
Dept. Of Justice Equitable Grant		4,968			4,968		4,968
Community Hall Gifts		22,678			22,678		22,678
Multiplex Gift		3,792	82		3,874	4	3,870
Library Children Book Gifts		2,000	3,520		5,520	4,884	636
Community Garden Expense		414			414	203	211
Historic Commission Gift		1,175			1,175		1,175
Other Gifts		995	40		1,035		1,035
ARPA Relief Fund			68,715		68,715		68,715
Other Public Safety Grants		5,814	2,433		8,247		8,247
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		48,600	20,456		69,056	10,870	58,186
Website Improvement Grant		2,000			2,000		2,000
Conservation Commission Revolving		224	7,052		7,276	4,758	2,518
Insurance Proceeds			31,546		31,546	31,546	-
Police Drug Forfeiture		2,097			2,097		2,097
CARES Act COVID Grant			94,571		94,571	101,016	(6,445)
Other		1,951	18		1,969	790	1,178
<b>Total Other Special Revenue</b>		<b>284,249</b>	<b>631,054</b>		<b>915,303</b>	<b>757,918</b>	<b>157,385</b>
<b>Total Special Revenue Funds</b>		<b>\$746,054</b>	<b>\$796,123</b>	<b>\$ 1,120</b>	<b>\$1,478,477</b>	<b>\$ 732,423</b>	<b>\$725,917</b>

### Combining Balance Sheet Year Ended June 30, 2021

	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Trust & Agency Fund	Long Term Account Group	TOTALS (Memo Only)
<b>ASSETS</b>						
POOLED CASH	\$1,551,244	\$1,552,541.		\$2,390,094.		\$5,871,436.
PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES	.13	90	\$377,555.89	21		13
REAL ESTATE/CPA TAXES	\$1,747.51					\$1,747.51
ALLOWANCE FOR ABATEMENT & EXEMPT	\$98,520.41	\$1,693.89				\$100,214.3
						0
	(\$151,269.93)					(\$151,269.93)



	General	Special	Capital Projects	Trust & Agency	Long Term	TOTALS
TAX LIENS RECEIVABLE	\$89,354.21	\$882.49				\$90,236.70
TAX POSSESSIONS	\$30,750.75					\$30,750.75
MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAX	\$44,873.28					\$44,873.28
DUE FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS	\$49,503.76					\$49,503.76
AMOUNT TO BE PROVIDED FOR BONDS					\$300,000.0 0	\$300,000.0 0
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,714,724.12</b>	<b>\$1,555,118.28</b>	<b>\$377,555.89</b>	<b>\$2,390,094.21</b>	<b>\$300,000.00</b>	<b>\$6,337,492.50</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE LIABILITIES</b>						
ACCRUED PAYROLLS PAYABLE	\$18,369.73	\$25.00				\$18,394.73
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$54,513.54					\$54,513.54
EMPLOYEE WITHHOLDINGS PAYABLE				\$11,553.37		\$11,553.37
ABANDONED PROP & OTHER LIABILITIES	\$3,062.05 (\$51,002.01)			(\$159,749.52)		(\$156,687.47)
DEFERRED REVENUE-RE, CPA,		\$1,693.89				\$1,693.89
DEFERRED REVENUE-TAX LIENS	\$89,354.21	\$882.49				\$90,236.70
DEFERRED REVENUE-TAX POSSESSIONS	\$30,750.75					\$30,750.75
DEFERRED REVENUE-MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE	\$44,873.28					\$44,873.28
GRANT ANTICIPATION NOTE		\$185,000.00				\$185,000.00
BONDS PAYABLE					\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$189,921.55</b>	<b>\$187,601.38</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>(\$148,196.15)</b>	<b>\$300,000.00</b>	<b>\$529,326.78</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>						
F/B RESERVED FOR EXPENDITURES	\$450,623.56	\$818,099.29	\$377,555.89	\$1,143,583.90		\$2,789,862.64
F/B RESERVED FOR For Debt Service	\$50,729.96					\$50,729.96
F/B RESERVED FOR OPEB				\$1,394,706.46		\$1,394,706.46
UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE	\$1,023,449.05	\$549,417.61				\$1,572,866.66
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1,524,802.57</b>	<b>\$1,367,516.90</b>	<b>\$377,555.89</b>	<b>\$2,538,290.36</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$5,808,165.72</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1,714,724.12</b>	<b>\$1,555,118.28</b>	<b>\$377,555.89</b>	<b>\$2,390,094.21</b>	<b>\$300,000.00</b>	<b>\$6,337,492.50</b>



## Annual Town Report of 2021

### Animal Control

<b>Total of calls for 2021</b>		<b>Lost other;</b>	
Running at Large	78	Parrot	1
Animals impounded	19	Parakeet	2
Nuisance dog calls	20	Cats	8
Claimed by owners	12	<b>Adopted/sent to rescue;</b>	
Lost dog	11	Dogs	7
		Bird adopted	1

The dogs that were not claimed by their owners were placed with local rescue groups. The cats that no one claimed were placed with local rescue. The mama and the babies were kept together then adopted after being spayed and vaccinated.

The monthly ACO meetings were held remotely on ZOOM.

A \$1000 grant was received to help injured animals with their medical care if needed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nancy Long  
Dog Officer/Animal Control Officer



## Annual Town Report of 2021

### Anti-Racism Advisory Committee

No report available.



## Annual Town Report of 2021

### Board of Assessors

**Robert "Rusty" Rowell – Chair**  
**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**

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 6, 2021 and voted a single tax rate for all residential and commercial properties in the Town of Pelham. The tax rate for FY2022 is \$20.56 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 Assessor's office processed the following applications for exemptions, motor vehicle abatements and Real estate abatements for fiscal year 2021 and calendar 2020.

FY 2021 Statutory Exemptions granted:

- 4 – 41C (senior) \$3,372.51
- 5 – 22 (veteran) \$5,078.48
- 4 – 17D (senior or surviving spouse) \$1,225.00
- 1 – 37A (blind) \$437.50
- 0 – 41A (deferral)

FY 2021 Real Estate abatements granted (at time of this printing):

- 2 - Totaling \$962.71 Real Estate 1-CPA \$20.24
- 3 - Totaling \$1,383.72 Personal Property

FY 2021 Low/Moderate Income Exemption for the CPA surcharge

- 6- Totaling \$489.39

2020 Motor Vehicle Excise abatements:

- 41 - Totaling \$3,605.40

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 2021

### Building Inspector

Building and renovations continue to be strong in town. This year includes 3 new dwelling units being built. They benefit from higher energy saving requirements of the Stretch Energy Code. Home improvement included insulation with assistance from MassSave, as well as new windows, doors and roofs. Solar photo-voltaics were steady, albeit less than previous years.

During 2021 there were 80 total permits issued:

6	Woodstoves/Pellet Stoves	0	Barns/Garages
2	Additions	14	Roofs
3	New Single Family Homes	13	Window/Door Replacements
0	Pools	0	Siding
3	Demolitions	0	Decks
6	Renovations	8	Photo-Voltaic Arrays/Solar Hot Water
5	Alterations	12	Insulation
3	Deck	0	Tent
0	Shed	1	Sheet metal/Mechanical
3	Repair	1	Cell Tower Alteration
0	Porches		

The estimated value of building construction for building permits issued during 2021 was \$2,393,592. 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 2021

### 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 2021:

- There were seven burials, including five 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 the budgeted \$6500.
- 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.
- Dead trees were removed as necessary, often thanks to Public Works Superintendent Rick Adamcek.

As the pandemic eased, the Commission met four times in 2021 at Community Hall across from the Library/Police/Fire Station Building.

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

**Annual Town Report of 2021**

**Collector**

	FY	Uncollected 0701/2020	Commitments	Collections	Refunds	Abatements/ Exemptions	Put into Tax Title	Uncollected 06/30/21
Real Estate	2021	0.00	3,651,763	3,554,686.05	0	0	0	97,076.87
	2020	141,672.76	0.00	111,573.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,098.92
	2019	32,978.44	0.00	26,418.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,560.11
	total	174,651.20	0.00	137,992.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	36,659.03
CPA	2021	0.00	74,529.55	69,817.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,212.31
	2020	0.00	2,680.99	2,680.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2019	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	total	0.00	2,680.99	2,680.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,212.31
								2,680.99
Personal Property	2021	0.00	266,066.40	264,828.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,237.54
	2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2019	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	142,079.80	98,691.41		3,114.01	0.00	40,274.38
	2020	14,304.93	0.00	2,231.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,073.27
	2019	8,578.50	0.00	3,147.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,431.45
	2018	2,808.14	1,788.77	359.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,237.70
	2017	717.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	717.14
	2016	506.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	506.00
	total	26,914.71	143,868.57	104,429.33	0.00	3,114.01	0.00	63,239.94
grand total		201,565.91						102,111.28

**Annual Town Report of 2021**

**Community Garden Committee**

The Community Garden continues to thrive. ALL plots were filled for the second year in a row, along with a waiting list. There were ten gardeners this past season.

The one thing that does not allow garden expansion is a stable water supply. Multiple attempts were made with the help of Highway Superintendent, Rick Adamcek, and Cemetery Commission Member, Buzzy Booth, to locate and dig a shallow well on the property. This proved to be a fruitless endeavor. An additional water tank was purchased this past year. The garden now has 1,000 gallons of water on the site when all tanks are filled. We do however, depend on the volunteer Pelham Fire Department to deliver water to the site. A request to the Select Board was made for funding to drill a well on the garden site using ARPA money provided by the state.

Community Garden meetings are scheduled as needed throughout the year.

EXPENSES INCOME

Water tank replacement valves:	\$171.00
Garden plot donations:	\$240.00
Water tank:	\$ 95.00
Plot clean up refunds:	<u>\$ 60.00</u>
Total:	\$326.00

Respectfully submitted by The Pelham Community Garden Committee: Cyd Reiman, Wendi Weinberg, Abbie Jenks, Chris Bain, Sue Tippet



**Annual Town Report of 2021**

**Community Hall Committee**

The Community Hall Committee is responsible for preserving and maintaining the historic integrity of the one room schoolhouse, its use by the public and private sector and its educational influence on the area’s school children.

As with other Town buildings, the use of Community Hall was limited by the continued presence of the COVID virus. Once again, there was no school visitation, private gatherings or Town related meetings. With strict guidelines, however, a memorial service for 96-year old Pelham resident Alice Campbell was held at Community Hall on November 6th. Her family very graciously established a table & chair fund to benefit Community Hall and it has been extremely well received. The Pelham Historical Society has very recently resumed gathering at the building for their regular business meetings...the first time in 17 months...it was a time of celebration!

We anxiously look forward to the time when there will be assemblies of school children, Town related meetings and private gatherings at Community Hall once again.

In closing, the Community Hall Committee would like to acknowledge the passing of Herbert Hoyack. Herb and his wife Connie moved to the area from Pennsylvania seven years ago. They were both public educators. They soon became members of the Pelham Historical Society and made numerous contributions to the wellbeing of the Society’s museum. Herb, along with Pelham Historical Society Trustee Ed Dane, were responsible for the construction of the Conkey Tavern replica at the Museum. As well, Herb became engaged in various areas of support at Community Hall. He was often seen with hammer, saw or paintbrush pursuing various projects at the building. Herb and Connie also contributed to the “school visitation” days at Community Hall, whereby they sought out vintage games to play with the children. Needless to say, those merrymaking games were the most popular events the children experienced at Community Hall. We will sorely miss Herb Hoyack’s presence.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Hanscom, Chair  
Members: David Boyden, Edward Dane and Pamela Mercieri



## Annual Town Report of 2021

### Community Preservation Committee

#### Come to our meetings!

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) meets on every third Thursday of the month from 6 to 7:30 pm. Our meetings are open to the public and can be attended virtually by finding the agenda and Zoom link on the *MyTownGovernment* site for Pelham, [mytowngovernment.org/01002](http://mytowngovernment.org/01002).

Just go to the *Boards and Committees* menu and select *Community Preservation Committee*. On that page you will see the agendas and minutes of past meetings, plus the agenda for any upcoming meetings that have been scheduled. At the end of each agenda is the Zoom link for that meeting.

Also available on the CPC page of the *MyTownGovernment* site is a link to the *Pelham MA CPC* website where you can find documents with information pertaining to a range of Pelham CPA issues.

#### Public Information Hearing

To be held on April 21 at 6 pm, to hear the needs, possibilities and resources of the town regarding community preservation. Find the Zoom link one week before the meeting on the agenda at Pelham’s *MyTownGovernment* website ([mytowngovernment.org/01002](http://mytowngovernment.org/01002)).

#### 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.

#### Latest Revenues Reported in 2021

Local Surcharge: \$74,299.40

State Match: \$73,633.00

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.

#### 2021 Activity: Town Meeting actions and end of fiscal year fund balances.

##### Spring Town Meeting May 8, 2021

#### Article 6

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY 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 FY2022 in the amount of \$3,500.00.

#### Article 7

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY 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 \$14,500.00 for Open Space; \$14,500.00 for Community Housing; and \$14,500.00 for Historic Resources; and to reserve for later appropriation \$40,200.00 to the FY2022 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve.

#### End of fiscal year CPA Fund Balances as of June 30, 2021

Note: Amounts reserved at the May 8 Town Meeting are added to the 3 categories on July 1, 2021



Encumbered for Active Projects:	\$92,181.94
Reserved for Open Space/Recreation:	\$107,943.00
Reserved for Historic Resources:	\$49,443.00
Reserved for Community Housing:	\$34,998.40
<u>Reserved for Undesignated Fund:</u>	<u>\$357,033.21</u>
Total CPA Fund Balance:	\$641,599.55

**Fall Town Meeting October 23, 2021**

**Article 1**

VOTED to appropriate \$250,000 from available Community Preservation Funds in support of Amethyst Brook Apartments, the Home City Development, Inc. affordable rental housing project at 20-22 Amherst Road, and to meet such appropriation \$49,498 be taken from the Housing Fund Balance, \$40,200 be taken from the Budgeted Reserve, and \$160,302 be taken from the Undesignated Fund Balance.

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

Members:

Cydnie Reiman, at-large elected  
 James Lumley, at-large appointed  
 Barbara Cooper, Housing

Joseph Larson, Historical  
 Judith Eiseman, Planning  
 Thomas Fanning, Recreation (Chair)



**Annual Town Report of 2021**

**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 2021, the Commission continued to function during the pandemic, meeting regularly remotely via Zoom as well as some hybrid meetings. We are a 5-member Commission. Continuing members are Dana MacDonald, Chair; Tilman Lukas, Vice-chair; and David Gross, Secretary, Richard Seelig, and Janice Gifford. The Commission meets at 7:00 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and last Thursday of each month via Zoom until further notice.

**2021 Actions and Activities:**

Notice of Intent Orders of Condition	2	Forest Cutting Plans	2
Determination of Applicability	5	Sign Install Locations	4
Enforcement Orders/violation complaints	2	Advisory Assessment Letter	3
Storm Water Plan Review/Revisions	1		

**Activities**

The Commission continues to attempt to manage complaints about dogs in our conservation areas. Additional signs, with the help of the Kestrel Trust were installed at Buffam Falls Conservation Area, Buffam Brook Community Forest, We-

Away-Farm trail, and Pemberton Memorial Forest reflecting the current Town Bylaw that dogs be leashed when off their owner's property.

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.

Respectfully Submitted to the Town and for the Commission:  
Dana MacDonald – Chair



## **Annual Town Report of 2021**

### **Council on Aging**

As we approach what all hope is the end of the Covid-19 pandemic, we look forward to new opportunities to gather in person. The Pelham Community Hall awaits our return! Many of our efforts this year focused on learning about opportunities to help seniors age interdependently and resiliently in their community. Council members regularly attend educational programs and conferences offered by the Massachusetts Councils on Aging and Executive Office of Elder Affairs. We encouraged participation in the online activities offered by the Amherst Senior Center and Amherst Neighbors, both of which welcome Pelham elders. As the reality of the digital divide between those who have ready access to computers and the internet and those who do not exists in Pelham, we communicate via direct mail, postings on the town website, and articles in the *Pelham Slate* and Amherst Senior Center newsletter. Frequent updates on the town website shared information on the rollout and availability of the Covid vaccine and encouraged people to help neighbors who lack internet access schedule appointments via phone. The Council created a brochure describing local resources and contacts for aging in place. First responders in Pelham now carry these brochures and are able to provide them to vulnerable seniors whom they encounter in the line of duty. An informational insert is also now included in the birthday cards sent to seniors in town. Home delivered meals continue to be provided to eligible Pelham residents through Highland Valley Elder Services. Efforts to recruit regular and substitute drivers expanded the pool, but we can always use more help!

Collaboration with other town committees and programs has expanded, with ongoing participation in the Housing Committee and the development of a program to deliver books and materials to Pelham seniors in collaboration with the Pelham Library. A COA representative attends SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) meetings and we look forward to bringing some of their programs to Pelham.

We held a successful and safe flu clinic in October, thanks to the guidance of John Ochs, pharmacist at the Belchertown Stop & Shop. Covid protocols required appointment slots, which were fully subscribed within a few days.

Outreach work resumed in September with the hire of Pelham resident Sally Kaufmann. Information about Sally and her role as the Outreach Worker has been included in the Pelham Slate, Town of Pelham website, at Town Meeting, in direct mailings by the COA and in Amherst's Senior Center newsletter. A table on community services and topics of interest to older adults has been updated at the Pelham Library. Sally offers office hours at the library on Wednesday afternoons. Inquiries from community members have focused on transportation needs, fuel assistance, support for caregivers, and information on home health services. Additional inquiries have included seasonal needs such as help with yard work and snow removal. Most inquiries and support has been via phone or email. When the weather warms and Covid restrictions are relaxed, Sally hopes to resume home visits as needed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tracy Osbahr, Grace Dane, Jane Porter, Nancy Rose Weeber, Isabel Ryavec, Sally Kaufmann



**Annual Town Report of 2021**  
**Cultural Council**  
No report available.



**Annual Town Report of 2021**  
**Energy Committee**

The Energy Committee has been busy this winter.

- Community Center HVAC project. While the new HVAC system has been operational since mid-summer, upgrading of the building energy management control system was only completed at the end of 2021. Staff were trained to use the upgraded system in January of 2022. There are also still a few issues yet to be addressed by the installer during this initial year of operation (during which all work by the contractor is covered by the warranty). The new system has been heating the building, with the legacy boiler acting as backup, while the performance of the system has been analyzed. The operation of the system to date has, on the coldest days, required boiler backup. The Energy Committee has been coordinating with Rick Adamcek, discussing how to optimize system operation (both the new equipment and the legacy boiler system) to minimize fuel use and electric consumption and minimize costs to the town while maintaining a comfortable facility. We have also been discussing the mismatch between the building's heating needs on cold days and the operation of the new HVAC system with the system design engineer, in order to identify the source or sources of underperformance and possible solutions. Finally, we have also completed the final report for the Green Communities grant and hosted a walk-through meeting with our program manager. This completed the grant process and ensured that we would get the remainder of our grant award.
- The energy committee has engaged with Pelham's representative of the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) task force as the town along with Amherst and Northampton construct a plan for a new entity that can procure clean electricity for the three towns, invest in clean energy projects and save money for electricity consumers. The Energy Committee has provided advice to the Selectboard on a Memorandum of Understanding between the towns and working with a contractor to construct a plan for the new entity.
- The Energy Committee stands ready to help other town committees and departments to save energy and cut pollution. The Committee recently met with Amherst Regional School District officials in initial conversations about options to replace the elementary school heating system. This will be a topic of increasing focus for the committee over the next few years.

Respectfully submitted, Co-Chair Tony Rogers



**Annual Town Report of 2021**  
**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 2021

### Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is pleased to report that financially the Town has weathered the pandemic successfully, with no significant disruption in tax collection, cash flow or unforeseen expenses. The Select Board and School Administration have used the Federal and State COVID money wisely to cover the extra costs for safety protocols as the money was intended. These expenses included masks, hand sanitizers, new ventilation system for the Rhodes Building and plans for a similar system in the Community Hall.

Last year the budget that the Finance Committee brought to the Town was very conservative. We withheld some expenses to be sure that the Town would have adequate resources in the event that something popped due to Covid, but nothing did. This year is very different as we look to get back on track with normal operations.

The 2022 recommended budget is \$4,845,036, which is an increase of \$171,721 over the 2021 approved expenses. There are four driving forces behind this large increase:

- 1) The Regional budget is up by \$37,591 after 6 years of consecutive declines. Increases can be expected to continue in future years, though not quite as dramatically, as the Region moves toward assessing 100% of its budget using the State's Statutory Method.
- 2) The Pelham Elementary School budget has a \$46,666 increase to cover its operation. The School now replaces 1/3 of their computers each year, which makes this yearly expense more of an operational cost than a capital expenditure. The cost for the computers this year is \$6,900.
- 3) The County Retirement assessment increased by \$33,401 to cover our employees' pension obligation.
- 4) Our OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits-Healthcare) continues to increase by \$20,000 yearly to build the Trust Fund to pay for the Town retirees' health costs.

These four accounts are responsible for 59% of the increase cost of operation for the coming fiscal year.

Last year, cautionary spending due to unknown COVID fiscal demands, in addition to some increases in property assessments, reduced the tax rate by fifty-three cents. The average tax bill was lower by forty-six dollars. This year we anticipate that the tax rate will return to its upward trend. In 2023 all assessments will be re-evaluated in the entire Town, and the tax rate will be adjusted accordingly. There are two solar projects and one building replacement that could provide some increased tax benefit, but there is nothing on the horizon that would change the pressure on the homeowner's property tax bill.

The Town will face some hefty Capital expenses in the next few years. This includes \$600,000 to replace a fire truck, \$240,000 for a new roof on the Elementary School, \$125,000 for new air packs for the Fire Department along with replacing two police cruisers. At this point, we do not anticipate needing to borrow any money for these expenses, but timing will be important so that expenses are incurred only when funds are available in the Capital Equipment Stabilization Account. The Regional School's Capital program has plans for a new roof on the Middle School and a replacement of the track and playing field in the next two to three years. Pelham will need to bolster its reserve for these costs if we don't want them added to the tax rate.

The Finance Committee continues to look for creative ways to solve financial issues affecting the Town. We are continually looking ahead in an attempt to anticipate future expenses and plan ways to fund them. It is increasingly difficult and challenging due to the Town's limited sources of revenue and continued rising costs. But we persevere as we hope you will.

Respectfully submitted:

E. Marriott, F. Vanderbeck, C. Castenson, B. Martell, and J. Trickey



## Annual Town Report of 2021

### Fire Department

#### STAFF:

Administrator, Raymond A. Murphy, Jr.	Firefighter Peter J. Clough
Deputy Fire Chief Richard M. Hall	Firefighter Erich S. Hinlein
Lieutenant David C. Hawkins	Firefighter/EMT Jarrett M. Austin
Lieutenant Jason R. Hall	Firefighter Joel O. Melendez
Firefighter Stephen M. Hall	FF Dennis Nazarro (beg. June)

#### CALLS FOR SERVICE/OPERATIONS:

TYPE OF CALL		PERMIT INSPECTIONS	
Structure Fires	0	Safety Inspections Conducted	1
Vehicle Fires	1	Certificate of Occupancy	0
Brush Fires	2	Alarm/CO/Smoke Detector	16
Chimney Fires	0	Fuel Oil Burning Equipment	12
Rubbish/Trash Fires	0	Tank Installations	0
Smoke/Odor Investigation	2	Tank Removals	2
Illegal Burning	0	Tank Trucks	0
Alarm Activation	9	LP Gas Storage	12
Other Fire/Investigations	2	Unvented Gas Heaters	0
CO Detector Calls	1	Flammable Storage	0
Medical/Rescue	100	Black Powder	0
Vehicle Accidents	12	Fireworks	0
Down Utility/Trees	22	Cannon/Mortar Firing	0
Appliance Incident	0	Model Rocket	0
Water Incident	1	Rubbish Containers	0
Haz-Mat/Spills/Leaks	1	Open Air Burning	90
Public Assistance/Other	7	Agricultural Operations	0
Mutual Aid Given	1	Ceremonial Bonfires	0
Air Crash	0	Blasting	0
Explosion	0	Floor Finishing	0
Bomb Threat	0	TOTAL	133
Standby Duty	0		
Lost Person	0		
TOTAL	161	TRAINING SESSIONS	
		In-House Training	24
MUTUAL AID RECEIVED	1	Mass. Fire Academy	0
		Hampshire County Training	0
INJURIES - Fire Personnel	0	Mutual Aid	0
FATALITIES - Fire Personnel	0	Other	
		TOTAL	24

### 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 2021. 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.

STAFF HOURS BY CATEGORY

Emergency Response – 712.5	Training – 559.5	Administration & Operations –
Safety Inspections – 66.5	Meetings & Programs – 18.5	1238

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 2021**

**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 Boards of Health offices in the Town Hall. What was still usable was distributed to various at-risk Departments.

By the beginning of 2021, remote work was a very familiar environment for the employees of the Quabbin Health District. Having transitioned to almost completely in-person work for most of 2020, it was not a strain to continue that into 2021. It was in the spring of 2021 that the office staff started working in the building again, and by May the entire department was back to work in person full time.

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 and later the American Recovery Plan Act.

The following table lists the major COVID-19 activity/ services provided to each town in the District during 2021:

	<b>Belchertown</b>	<b>Ware</b>	<b>Pelham</b>
<b>Confirmed Cases tracked and monitored</b>	<b>1217</b>	<b>1300</b>	<b>40</b>

<b>Outbreaks and Clusters investigated</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total COVID Complaints</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Repeated Complaints</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Referrals from DLS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Enforcement Letters</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Fines Issued</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>COVID Plan Reviews</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>

**Total: Activities District-wide: 2671**

### **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>75</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Septic Application Review (New Construction)</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Septic Application Review (Repair)</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Septic Installation Inspections and Re-inspections</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Well Application Review</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Housing Inspections (upon complaint) And Re-inspections</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>66</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>8</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>75</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>New or Remodeled Food Plan review</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Mobile/Temporary Food Inspections</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Beaver Permits Applications</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Nuisance Complaints Received and Investigated and Orders issued as warranted</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</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 Public Beaches</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0 Not opened</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Meetings/ Hearings</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>

**Total: Inspection Activities District-wide: 744**

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. On top of the challenges of COVID-19, this was as difficult year for staffing changes. Our former health inspector left his position in March, which prompted a shift in Stephen Bell's roll from COVID-19 Compliance Officer to Health Inspector. Judy Metcalf, the former director of the district, retired from her position in April after 33 years of exemplary service. Her position was filled by Stephen Bell.

We hired a new health inspector, Sainath Palani, who almost single-handedly kept the routine inspection business of the Board of Health running from July 2021 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...

We also added, for the first time in the District's history, a full-time Public Health Nurse to cover all three towns. Amy Langone, a former operating room nurse, took this position in July 2021, and had her hands full from the start with COVID-19 case investigations.

Administrative Assistant Betty Barlow and Senior Clerk Mary Grenier provided instrumental clerical support to us all, 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, Inspector, and nurse 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,  
Stephen Bell, MPH  
Director of Public Health  
Quabbin Health District



## Annual Town Report of 2021

### Highway Department

Even with the pandemic the Highway Department managed to keep Pelham roads, buildings, and grounds in good shape. Most of the projects that we had planned for this year were completed. Fortunate for us, only one employee tested positive for COVID-19.

#### Summary of 2021 activities:

Community Center (Library, Police & Fire Departments): A new HVAC unit was installed. Repairs were made to the old control management for the HVAC unit and new equipment was added to integrate the old and new system. Repairs were made to the dehumidifier at the Library. The condenser for the carrier unit at the Police Department needed to be replaced. All of the air ducts in the Library were cleaned. A fan coil unit at the Library needed a leaking valve replaced. The batteries for the emergency lighting were replaced. The pocket door at the Library was repaired.

Rhodes Building: The electric service was upgraded to 200 amps when a new ventilation system was installed to help achieve proper air exchange. A motion sensor light was installed at the front of the building. Two new security cameras were also mounted on the building. The work that was done to the inside on the first floor included repairs to the first-floor walls and ceiling, new window blinds fitted, and a new coat of paint was applied. Both the front and rear exterior doors were replaced while the parking lot was ground up and repaved. The well water pressure switch needed replacement. The outside bulletin board was removed from the lawn in front of the building.

Highway Garage: The bathroom plumbing was brought up to code and a new hand wash sink was installed in the breakroom. The driveway/parking lot was ground up and repaved. Repairs were made to the water system a new pressure switch and relief valve were installed, and a ball valve and some piping were fitted.

Museum: Roof repairs were completed.

Community Hall: A new ventilation unit was installed to help achieve proper air exchange.

North Valley Cemetery: Highway Department staff assisted the Tree Warden with cleanup of a fallen tree that had to be taken down.

Old Town Hall Cemetery: A large limb was removed and some trees trimmed behind the Museum.

Cook Johnson Cemetery: Several trees removed from the access road to the cemetery.

For Equipment Repairs: The number 8 truck was involved in an accident (not Town's fault) and needed work on the snow plow frame, hydraulic lines, and plow lights. A new snow plow and headlights were replaced as well. The truck during the year had its clutch adjusted, new slack adjusters, and rear brakes. We made repairs to the old snow plow and will keep it as a spare.

The number 5 truck had the heater blower motor replaced. The liquid deicer tanks removed to repair leaks, new baffles installed with new filler caps, and the sander spinner replaced. A wiring issue with the headlights was addressed, liquid deicer check valve replaced, and the trucks snow plow center bolt rebuilt and replaced. Also, the body alarm needed to be replaced. The exhaust brake valve needed to be replaced.

The number 2 truck needed an evener valve on the side dump and muffler hangers replaced.

The number 3 truck had new ball joints installed, front end alignment, windshield wiper switch fixed, and front wheel bearings installed. New heated snow plow lights, rear tire studs and lug nuts, and four new rear tires were replaced. The truck has made several trips to the dealer for issues with its emission system.

The number 1 truck had a new control stick for its plow and snow plow hydraulics serviced. Repairs were made to its turbo. Other fixes included rear brakes, an emergency brake cable, and a new road watch gauge.

The Ford Taurus needed new cross over exhaust pipe, rear brakes, starter, valve cover gasket, and a new lift assist for the hood.

The wood chipper had blades replaced, a new fuel injector and low oil pressure sensor replaced.

The new Holland tractor had a hydraulic issue repaired and a rear tire valve stem replaced.

The small vibratory roller needed a new bushing installed.

The roadside flail mower had a bearing replaced on its rollers.

The John Deere loader had its cab steps rebuilt.

The zero-turn lawn mower had new belts replaced.

#### For Road Repairs:

Pine Tree Circle and South Valley Rd from Jones to Harkness Rd were shimmed and overlaid with hot mix asphalt. Gulf Rd received a 20% rubber asphalt/stone coat. The build-up of winter sand was removed from the shoulder of South Valley Rd, Buffam Rd, and Amherst Rd. An earth berm was repaired at the end of South Valley to keep water from running down the road into the catch basin. On Cook Road a wooden guard rail was repaired and a culvert cap stone was reset. Boyden Rd had a little over 500 feet dug out then fabric netting installed with 20" of new gravel put down to help with the yearly Spring mud issue on that section. Several catch basins were rebuilt on Packardville Rd and the one at the bottom of Butterhill was raised up to grade. Three culvert headwalls were rebuilt on Enfield Rd and the one on Buffam Rd, at the intersection of Boden Rd, was also rebuilt. Repairs were made to drainage ditch on Meetinghouse Rd. One of the blinking LED speed lights for the School sign had to be replaced. The Highway Department crew worked with the Police Department to install a solar powered speed limit sign on Amherst Rd. The HD crew also worked with the Tree Warden to remove a large leaning tree from Jones Road. Trees and limbs were trimmed around Pine Tree Circle. Mass DOT installed a UMass sign at the intersection of Route 202 and Amherst Rd. Several roads in town received hot mix asphalt to patch and shim the surface: Arnold Rd got 6 ton to patch the water swales on the hill, 35 tons were applied to South Valley from Amherst Rd to Jones Rd. 44 ton was put on Packardville Rd, and Buffam Rd got 34 ton. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) is working on an RFP to hire a consultant to design a sidewalk from the Amherst town line to South Valley Rd. Pelham is working on an agreement with the Town of Amherst for design and installation of a sewer on South Valley to Jones Rd intersection, Jones Rd, and Cadwell Street.

#### Yearly Maintenance:

All town roads were swept, catch basins cleaned, and lines and crosswalks were painted. Parking lot lines were painted at the Community Center, Elementary School, and the Rhodes Building. Roadsides were mowed, guard rails and road signs were replaced. Brush was trimmed to improve sight distance in many locations, downed trees were cleared and cleaned up, 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 added to many locations. The Live Flight landing zone was mowed several times. The crew assisted the Town Clerk with setup and take down of Elections as needed. The Community Center generator was run monthly and load tested. Spring clean-up was completed on all town properties and buildings.

I would like to thank our helpful part-time seasonal employees Charles Ryznic and Shawne Couture. Charles was also able to obtain his CDL Class B driver's license, which will be a huge asset to the Department to have another truck driver available when needed.

Thank you also to George Kicza, Sr. for a job well done as Clerk of the Works for the Community Center HVAC project.

Trainings: Foreman Ethan Dickinson, Truck Driver Edward Chapin, and myself took a mandatory Hoisting Engineer License class.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Adamcek, Superintendent of Public Works and Buildings & Grounds



**Annual Town Report of 2021**

**Historical Commission**

~ 39 ~

The Commission has responsibility under state law for the inventory, preservation, protection, and development of the historic and archaeological assets of the town. Due to COVID (and the advanced age of the commission members) we had very few online emergency meetings during the year 2021.

**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 the projected reopening is in summer 2022.

**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 2020-21. Due to COVID and some changes in the electronic submission format we were delayed in finishing the survey as planned.

**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 in collaboration with the Pelham Historical Society we tried 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 2021**

**Housing 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.

In the past three years, the Committee initiated a First-Time Homebuyer assistance program, secured a parcel of land on Amherst Rd. for Habitat for Humanity, and proposed the future development of Amethyst Brook Apartments, a 34-unit affordable rental development.

Rapidly increasing home sale prices in 2021 have been well above what a first-time homebuyer can afford. Regrettably, in consultation with our non-profit partner, Valley Community Development Inc., we had to discontinue our First-Time Homebuyer assistance program, approved in 2019. Nonetheless, we are grateful we were able to help one first-time homebuyer family move into a home in Pelham in 2020.

In the spring of 2021, Habitat began construction of two 3-bedroom houses on Amherst Rd. thanks to a forgivable loan of Community Preservation Act funds approved at Town Meeting in 2019. The following year Home City Development, Inc., the abutter and non-profit developers of Amethyst Brook Apartments, donated a small parcel of land so that 8 Amherst Road could be subdivided into two approved building lots. We look forward to welcoming two families who will become new homeowners and new Pelham residents in the summer of 2022.

In 2021, Amethyst Brook Apartments, a 34-unit development at 20-22 Amherst Rd., continued to work its way through the complicated labyrinth of design, permitting, and financing required to successfully construct state and federally assisted affordable housing. During spring and summer, the design architects, engineers, and environmental specialists, working with Home City Development, Inc, prepared detailed plans and specifications to meet Massachusetts Department of Wetland Protection and Pelham Conservation Commission regulations, as well as Pelham Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) requirements. Lengthy hearings and reviews by the Conservation Commission and ZBA continued into late summer. In the fall of 2021, the ZBA issued a Comprehensive Zoning Permit for Amethyst Brook Apartments, Pelham's first affordable rental housing. Shortly thereafter, the Conservation Commission issued a permit under the Wetlands Protection Act and the Pelham Wetlands Bylaw.

At 2020 Town Meeting, voters had overwhelmingly approved a non-binding commitment for up to \$500,000 in Community Preservation Act (CPA) Funds for Amethyst Brook Apartments. At the Fall 2021 Town Meeting, the Housing Committee, with unanimous support from the Select Board, Community Preservation Committee, and Finance Committee, introduced a Town Meeting Warrant Article seeking a firm initial commitment of \$250,000. A large majority of Pelham voters supported and passed the article. With this endorsement by town residents, Home City Development, Inc. began preparing an application for state and federal financing. If successful, construction could begin in mid-2023 with construction completion in late 2024.

Also at Fall Town Meeting 2021, the Housing Committee initiated and distributed Pelham's first Housing Needs Survey. The fifty responses received will be combined with further efforts by the Housing Committee to involve Pelham residents in this important endeavor.

The construction of two Habitat houses, as well as the permitting of Amethyst Brook Apartments, added momentum to the need to address traffic and safety issues along Amherst Road. New efforts to reduce the speed of vehicles driving through town have been initiated, and the Housing Committee began discussions with Select Board members about the need for a sidewalk from the Amherst town line up to the Community Building and the elementary school. Housing Committee members have been researching available grants from the Commonwealth to support this initiative and will assist in the application process. If successful, the creation of a pedestrian-safe sidewalk will be another first for Pelham.

In 2021, the Select Board secured a commitment for technical assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to help secure funding for the expansion of public water and sewer in the Pelham Village Center area. This additional infrastructure would enable more building lots to be created – perhaps even the construction of another Habitat for Humanity house.

In the upcoming year, the Housing Committee will continue to work closely with Pelham residents, town boards and committees, and our non-profit partners, to further our mission. We thank all 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  
Gail Kenny, Barbara Cooper, Jim Lumley



## Library Trustees

FY21 was the first full fiscal year of the pandemic, covering the period from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. It was far from a normal year. We were not open to the public and provided only curbside service through much of this period. Interlibrary loan was on hiatus for some of this time and in-person programming was cancelled. We stayed flexible and our services evolved based on guidance from health officials.

Nevertheless, we circulated over 25,000 items, nearly 20,000 of those in print and the rest a mix of downloadable content, CD audiobooks, DVDs, games, and more. We provided 538 items to other libraries by interlibrary loan and received 659 for our patrons to borrow, significantly fewer than in a normal year, but still not insignificant. Due to our free parking and easy curbside service, and the fact that some other libraries remained fully closed, nearly 50% of our circulation was to patrons from our neighboring towns, a service for which we get State Aid to Public Libraries.

The closure was a natural time for the Library to continue to expand our electronic offerings. In addition to Overdrive, our statewide ebook and e-audiobook provider and Kanopy, a video streaming service, we now have:

- Wowbrary, a weekly e-newsletter which highlights our new releases;
- Hoopla!, a service which provides ebooks, e-audiobooks, movies, music, periodicals and more; and
- ComicsPlus, which provides unlimited digital access to comics and graphic novels for all ages.

Jodi was able to assist patrons with our electronic content even while working from home, which was very much appreciated.

The Library partnered with other regional libraries to offer a wide variety of Zoom programming including a multi-community read centered around the book “Station Eleven” by Emily St. John Mandel. Other collaborative offerings included:

- a series of free weekly movies at the Northfield Drive-In;
- a mystery writers’ panel, a theater education panel, a poetry reading, and a gardening series;
- programs on managing stress, decluttering, and finding easy walks.

Specific to Pelham:

- our book group met monthly on Zoom;
- we offered fun on-line ways to participate in our Summer Reading Program and gave out prizes to all who took part;
- we provided dozens and dozens of take-and-make craft kits to children.

Our fabulous teen group all graduated from high school last year and will be missed. AnnaMaria Biagi was awarded the Friends of the Library’s first Pelham Library Teen Scholarship and was hired on to assist part-time over the summer.

The very generous bequest of Virginia Davis to the Friends of the Pelham Free Library continues to enhance our ability to add to the collection, support programs, and maintain the gardens.

Our meeting rooms were closed, making it easier for the town to install our new HVAC system, which, while still being tweaked, promises to make our building more efficient and provide excellent air exchange.

We bid a fond farewell to Ruthie Sterling, who left to become head of young adult services at the Clapp Memorial Library in Belchertown, and we welcomed Jane Urban to our staff.

We are grateful to the community, volunteers, and staff who enabled us to not only survive but flourish during the pandemic. Now that our doors are open again and we’re starting in-person programming, we are once again looking for volunteers as well as people from the community with special skills they’d like to share. Stop in and make use of the resources and be sure to thank the hard-working staff while you are there.

Respectfully submitted,

Library Trustees:

Gayle Barton, Chair

Rosemary Agoglia, Gillian Duda, Diane Gray, Michael Hussin, Susan Machala

Library Director, Jodi Levine

**Stay informed!** Sign up at the circulation desk to be added to the email events list.

Keep up with Library news on the website at <https://www.pelham-library.net/>

Sign up for *Wowbrary* to learn about our latest releases at <https://www.wowbrary.org/signup.aspx> Follow the Library on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PelhamLibraryMA/>



## Annual Town Report of 2021

### Planning Board

The Planning Board is an elected five-member board and is responsible for the following items as 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 voted by town meeting although a preliminary master plan is in early draft stages —begun in 2020 prior to the pandemic.
- **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 to be recorded in the Registry of Deeds that create building lots that purport to meet zoning requirements on land along existing public roads in Pelham.
- **Subdivision Plans:** Review and action on plans that create new building lots from land along newly built subdivision roadways
- **Site Plan Review:** Review and action on projects that require site plan review.
- **Special Permits:** Review of projects that require a special permit from the Planning Board. Some permits are issued by the ZBA rather than the Planning Board, mostly those in the Village Center.
- **Special Projects:** Related to land use planning

The Planning Board reviewed two resurveyed and reconfigured ANR lots for the Habitat for Humanity houses now being built at 8 Amherst Road. We were delighted to see these homes proposed since they help realize the town's vision under our new Village Center regulations. Building is proceeding on schedule and the houses should be finished in the Spring of 2022.

The Planning Board provided written and oral comments to the Zoning Board at public hearings held in response to the proposal for the Amethyst Brook Apartments to be built at 20–22 Amherst Road. Extensive waivers from our Village Center zoning were requested by Home City Development Corporation for this Ch. 40B project which under state law is managed by the ZBA to “streamline” the permitting process for housing that meets the state definition of “affordable housing.” The Board unanimously opposed granting CPA money for this project and so stated at town meeting. Our reasons included the problems involved in overcrowding an environmentally fragile area along a protected cold water fishery and the comparative isolation residents will experience in that steep terrain with limited safe play areas for children.

In April we held an introductory meeting with AMP Energy about a solar project they are considering on Tower Road in the Cadwell Forest. AMP requested an introductory meeting to give us an overview of the project as envisioned at that time, with the understanding that the plan is quite preliminary. There has been no contact from them since that meeting and we have not received an official plan. The Board has been keeping abreast of legal and other developments related to large scale industrial solar projects regionally and statewide. We joined the Select Board in unanimously signing on to an *amicus* brief providing information as requested by the Supreme Judicial Court on a case involving the definition of “reasonable regulation” of solar systems in Waltham that could have an impact on our town.

The Town of Amherst requested site plan approval of its plan to replace the Centennial Treatment Plant on Amherst Road with a new facility. The old facility will be completely demolished including the below grade structures. The existing

lagoons will be removed and modern treatment will result in 95% of the treatment residual being recycled with the remaining 5% being periodically pumped into the sewer system—no hazardous materials involved in the pumping. The Planning Board contracted with Comprehensive Environmental Inc. to prepare a peer-review of the site plan. We also contracted with James Lowenthal, Chair of the Astronomy Department at Smith College and an internationally recognized “dark-sky” expert to review the lighting plan. The Planning Board approved a modified plan and appreciated the cooperative efforts between Amherst and Pelham’s consultants that resulted in increased environmental protection and visual benefits. Project completion is expected in the next two years.

The Planning Board reviewed a site plan for a shared driveway at 66 Daniel Shays Highway We also approved two additional ANRs this year: one reconfigured lots at 77 Enfield Road; the other created new lots at the corner of Cadwell and Amherst Roads in the Village Center. Our bylaws permit, among other changes made in 2018, smaller lots and multi-family homes to encourage affordability and community connection in the Village Center.

We have contracted with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to engage Ken Comia, one of their senior planners, to assist the Board in updating bylaws, drafting decisions, maintaining continuity of goals and records as board membership changes, and to providing training to Board members and other groups about the planning process, laws, and enforcement. We expect to continue the relationship with Ken in the coming year to further professionalize our process, to assist in bylaw review and revision, and to maintain an up to date set of bylaws following each town meeting vote to make changes in them.

**Members:**

Judy Eiseman, Chair

Lexi Dewey, Vice-chair

Pete Wilson, Anne Stoddard, Leslie Laurie (January – June), Matteo Ramos-Mucci (July – December)



**Annual Town Report of 2021**

**Police Department**

**Pelham Police Department Most Common Calls For Service by Type and Month Year 2021**

	Jan	Feb	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
911 Misdial	2	0	2	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	1	11
Animal Complaint	2	2	0	2	1	3	1	2	0	1	1	2	17
Assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Arrest	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Assist Citizen	2	2	3	3	0	0	3	3	2	1	1	1	21
Assist Fire Department	0	2	8	0	3	0	6	2	3	1	3	5	33
Assist Other Agency	0	3	3	1	2	2	0	2	1	1	1	3	19





Check Welfare	3	1	3	1	0	5	1	1	1	3	2	2	23
Assist Citizen	2	2	3	3	0	0	3	3	2	1	1	1	21
Assist Other Agency	0	3	3	1	2	2	0	2	1	1	1	3	19
Disabled Motor Vehicle	1	2	1	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	2	7	19
Animal Complaint	2	2	0	2	1	3	1	2	0	1	1	2	17
Officer Requested	0	0	2	1	3	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	12
Suspicious Vehicle	0	0	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	2	12
911 Misdial	2	0	2	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	1	11
BOLO	2	4	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	11
Investigation	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	3	11
Suspicious Person	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	1	3	0	0	0	11
Paperwork Service	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	9
Noise Complaint	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	1	0	7
Larceny	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
Shots Fired	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	6
Disturbance	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	5
Fraud	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	5
Unwanted Person	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Domestic Violence Incident	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	4
Trespass	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	4
Arrest	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Motor Vehicle Accident with Personal Injury	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3
Neighbor Dispute	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Hit and Run Accident	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Illegal Dumping	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Mental Health Issue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Missing Person	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Recovered Article	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Vandalism	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Threat to Commit Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
B&E Building	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Identity Theft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile Incident	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total:												783	

These numbers do not reflect general calls for service at the station, firearm permits issued, community service events, and training.

There were a total of five Arrests and eight Warrants for the year.

### Members of the Pelham Police Department

Chief of Police	Gary L. Thomann	Officer	Jared Tivnan
Lieutenant	Kevin H. Fournier Sr.	Officer	Richard Downie
Sergeant	Derick Lamoureux	Officer	Todd Mongeon
Officer	Conner Parnell	Officer	Robert Thrasher

Officer  
Officer  
Officer

Kevin Quesnel  
Peter Michaels  
Sean Conner

Constable  
Constable  
Constable

Roman Kucinski  
Steven Hughes  
Christopher Rice



## Annual Town Report of 2021

### 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 Select Board 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 22, 2022*



Grade Level	Total Enrollment	Pelham Residents	School Choice
Kindergarten	14	4	10
First Grade	18	10	8
Second Grade	16	7	9
Third Grade	19	9	10
Fourth Grade	15	8	7

Fifth Grade	20	11	9
Sixth Grade	18	12	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>59</b>

**Staff and Program**

Micki Darling assumed the role of Pelham Interim Principal in July 2021. She has worked closely with the Pelham staff, former Principal Leigh Whiting-Jones, the Pelham School Committee, and District Office 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 2021-2022 school year: Physical Safety, Emotional Wellbeing, and Antiracism. The vision is: A school where students feel safe, valued, and loved.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, students have been learning in person this year. The staff have done an exceptional job not only keeping the students safe, but incorporating social emotional and mental health learning into the school’s instructional programming and fostering community with students and families. We have been able to maintain school traditions such as African American Read-In, Latino Heritage Read-in, reading buddies, monthly school wide picture book reads and all school monthly assemblies. Pelham staff have engaged in professional learning throughout the year focused on trauma informed teaching, antiracism, cultivating emotional resilience, and social emotional learning.

We are honored to announce Pelham is the recipient of a grant to Develop Multi-Tiered Systems of Social-Emotional, Behavioral & Mental Health, and Well-Being Support. Our grant proposal is designed to support the self-assessment process to then lead us to develop comprehensive, equitable school mental health systems in the district. The work will be facilitated by the BRYT Central Team. The BRYT Central Team will work with district leaders and the school team to develop a shared vision for comprehensive, equitable school mental health supports in the district based in the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS framework) and will support the school in identifying its plan for achieving this vision and initially implementing this plan during the 2021-22 school year. Students with needs, both emotional and academic, continue to receive support through both general education and special education programming.

The school is in its fourth 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 Turkey Trot 1-Mile race, Trunk or Treat, and Treat Trolley for the staff. The PTO has also provided resources to all classroom teachers and continues to collaborate with the staff to find ways to support the school.

The grant funded naturalist-in-residence program through the Hitchcock Center has continued this year, providing students with a connection to the local ecosystem and the natural world around them.

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 2021**

## Select Board

Even though 2021 was the second year with the COVID-19 pandemic present, the Select Board office remained very busy. There were 25 posted meetings (2 in-person & 23 virtual via ZOOM), 207 motions, 85 Board/Committee/Staff appointments, four Slate Newsletters arranged & sent, two Town Meeting warrants prepared & sent, and one Tax Classification Hearing.

Annual Town Meeting was held on the field at the Pelham Elementary School under a tent again due to the pandemic. The Fall Special Town Meeting was opened at the Old Town Hall, in order to keep the status as the ‘oldest continuously used town hall in the United States,’ then moved to the Elementary School. It was wonderful to see so many voters turn out for both events while continuing to stay socially distanced and masked.

The Rhodes Building was closed to the public due to pandemic for the beginning of 2021 but re-opened on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Plexi-glass doorway screens were installed to ensure the health and safety of both community members who visited and town office staff working in the building. Thank you to everyone who visited the Rhodes Building wearing a mask and entering the lobby one at a time to be helped.

Pelham was awarded the following grants in 2021:

**Community Compact Best Practice Information Technology grant** was awarded in February for \$17,500 from the State’s Community Compact Cabinet to support an Information Technology review and assessment for the town.

**Community Compact Best Practice Human Resources grant** was awarded in February for \$15,000 from the State’s Community Compact Cabinet to support a Wage & Classification study for town employees.

**The CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund grant round three through six** awarded funds for necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 that were not accounted for in the current budget.

**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds** were awarded to the town to cover eligible costs incurred between March 3, 2021 and December 31, 2024 to respond to the public health emergency brought upon by COVID-19.

**The MIIA Risk Management Rewards grant** was awarded in November for \$4,297. The Police Department will use some of the funds to purchase two body cameras while the Highway Department will be replacing 15-25-year-old chainsaw equipment; helmets, chaps.

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.** 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 Agolia 2024, Chair    David Shanabrook 2022, Vice-Chair    Tara Loomis 2023, Clerk*



**Annual Town Report of 2021**

**Town Clerk**

### Vital Records

Five births and six deaths were recorded in Pelham between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021.

Vital records are recorded and reported on a calendar year basis.

### Dog Licensing

203 dog licenses were issued between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022.

Town Bylaws, as amended by Article 41 of the 2016 Annual Town Meeting, provide for the adjusted balance from dog licensing fees to be transferred annually to the Elementary School Library account. After adjusting for the costs of tags and postage, the sum of \$626.26 was transferred in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandra J. Burgess, Town Clerk



## **Annual Town Report of 2021**

### **Treasurer**

<b>7/1/2020</b>	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>4,727,929.65</b>
	Revenue	7,944,212.15
	Expenses	6,800,705.67
<b>6/30/2021</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>5,871,436.13</b>
End of Year Trust Fund Balances	OPEB	1,396,770.89
Trust Fund	Stabilization	288,130.25
	Conservation	13,533.44
	Town Building Gifts	3,875.24
	Wright Fund	1,505.35
	Cemetery	39,176.27
	Judy Brooks	
	Adventure	11,428.59
	Capital Equipment	<b>721,625.61</b>
	H Ramsdell Fund	<b>9,808.77</b>
	Operating Fund	48,309.59



## **Annual Town Report of 2021**

### **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 reviews 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>
Jeffrey Eiseman	2024	Member	Chair
Ralph Faulkingham	2022	Member	Secretary
Amanda Huhmann	2024	Member	
David Litwak	2025	Member	
Ann McNeal	2023	Member	Vice-chair
Nicholas Cichanowski	2022	Associate Member	
Noah Wartenberg	2025	Associate Member	

We note the resignation of Carey Clouse and Stacey McCullough and we honor the stellar service they provided to the town and to the ZBA as members.

In calendar year 2021, the principal work of the ZBA was to take the lead for the town of Pelham in reviewing — under the terms and substantial constraints both of the laws of the Commonwealth, Chapter 40B and the town's Comprehensive Permit regulations — an application for a comprehensive permit by Home City, Inc. to construct an affordable housing complex known as Amethyst Brook Apartments at 22-24 Amherst Road.

Our review was carried out in accordance with Pelham's Comprehensive Permit Regulations, that were adopted in 2019. The work solicited and took into account input from stakeholders, abutters, and various Board and Commissions — including the Select Board, the Planning Board, the Housing Committee, the Conservation Commission, the Energy Committee, the Historical Committee, town officials (the Highway Superintendent) — abutters and stakeholders (including Home City and the Kestrel Trust) and various consultants: Judy Barrett of the Massachusetts Housing Partnership (regarding, the Comprehensive permitting process), James Lowenthal (regarding adherence to Pelham's dark sky zoning bylaw), and Comprehensive Environmental, Inc. (regarding a variety of environmental issues, but especially stormwater management, given the fragility of Amethyst Brook's cold water fishery and riverine habitat).

The ZBA conducted a public hearing that began on March 22, and continued through nine sessions. It concluded on August 11, with the ZBA unanimously voting to grant Home City the permit it sought, with both waivers from our zoning bylaws and conditions.

In addition to the 40B-related activity, the ZBA granted, with conditions, a permit to conduct a home occupation to Mr. Vincent Frano at his home at 378 Daniel Shays Highway.

Prepared and submitted by Jeff Eiseman and Ralph Faulkingham