

Town of Pelham

2025 Annual Town Report & Warrant



COVER PHOTO:

Community Hall circa 1893. A totally restored and accessible building has brought Community Hall into the 21st Century. These accomplishments have unmeasured value in the creation of a gathering space for governing, conducting business, learning, entertaining, socializing, reminiscing, celebrating and the “coming together” to further build a community where people “thrive and shine.”

IN MEMORIAM:

The Town of Pelham Annual Report is dedicated in memory and honor of the following who have passed away in 2025. We wish to recognize their Pelham Citizenship and especially wish to recognize with gratitude those that dedicated their services to the Town of Pelham.

Audrey Clark, Wife of Former Constable Donald Clark

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.), June to September

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE:

WWW.PELHAMHISTORY.ORG

Annual Town Report of 2025
 JANUARY 1, 2025 - DECEMBER 31, 2025



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Annual Town Report of 2025
Appointed & Elected Officials, Public Bodies, & Staff

Accountant	appointed	Capital Planning Committee	appointed
Gail Weiss, Accounting Officer	1 year	DPW – Richard Adamcek	1 year
		Finance – Emily Marriott	1 year
Animal Control Officer	appointed	Fire - Chief Dennis Nazzaro	1 year
Nancy Long	1 year	Police – Chief Gary Thomann	1 year
		Planning Board – Judith Eiseman	1 year
Anti-Racism Advisory Committee	appointed	School – Margaret Stancer	1 year
Anne Stoddard	1 year	Select Board - Robert Agoglia	1 year
Roy Regozin	1 year		
Jessica Jean-Louis	1 year	Cemetery Commissioners	elected
Pat Schumm	1 year	Scott Barton, Chair	2028
		John Philip Zahradnik	2026
		Daniel P. McCullough	2027
Archivist	appointed		
(vacant position)	1 year	Collector	appointed
		June Masseur	1 year
Assessor Clerk	appointed		
Lori Turati	1 year	Community Garden Committee	appointed
		Cydnie Reiman, Chair	1 year
Auditor	elected	Sue Tippit	1 year
Deborah Mauger	1 year	Wendi Weinberg	1 year
		Joel Bain	1 year
Board of Assessors	elected	Theresa Smith	1 year
Robert Rowell, Chair	2028		
William Collins	2026	Community Hall Committee	appointed
Robert Otis Rowell	2027	Linda Hanscom, Chair	1 year
		David Boyden	1 year
Buildings & Grounds	appointed	Pamela Mercieri	1 year
Richard Adamcek, DPW Superintendent	1 year	Sharyn Wentworth	1 year
Paul Moe	1 year	James Lumley	1 year
Building Inspector	appointed	Community Preservation Committee	appointed
David Waskiewicz	1 year	Conservation-Richard Seelig	1 year
		Cydnie Reiman, <i>at-large elected</i>	2028
Cable Advisory Board	appointed	James Lumley, <i>at-large appointed</i>	1 year
Richard Hall	1 year	Housing-Tilman Lukas	1 year
Robert Agoglia	1 year	Historical-Joseph Larson	1 year
Robert Rowell	1 year	Planning-Anne Stoddard (end Apr)	1 year
(vacancy), associate	1 year	Planning-Judith Eiseman (beg May)	1 year
		Recreation-Richard Fanning, Chair (res. Jun)	1 year

Conservation Commission	appointed	Elder Services-Outreach Worker	appointed
Dana MacDonald, Chair	2026	<i>(vacancy)</i>	1 year
Tilman Lukas	2028	Electrical Inspector	appointed
David Gross	2026	John Lamoureux (beg Jan)	1 year
Richard Seelig	2028		
Janice Gifford	2027	Emergency Management Director	appointed
Janice Stone, Conservation Agent		Derick Lamoureux, Police Lieutenant	1 year
Constables	appointed		
Gary Thomann, Chief Constable	1 year	Energy Committee	appointed
Roman Kucinski (end June)	1 year	John Larsen, Co-Chair	2027
Steven Hughes	1 year	Anthony Rogers, Co-Chair	2026
Kevin Fournier, Sr. (end June)	1 year	Dennis Randall Spalding-Fecher	2028
Kevin Quesnel (end June)	1 year		
Brian Pomeroy (beg July)	1 year	Fence Viewers	appointed
Richard Downie	1 year	Bruce Klotz	1 year
Jamie Margarian (beg July)	1 year	Joseph Larson	1 year
		Dennis Randall Spalding-Fecher	2028
Council on Aging	appointed	Finance Committee	appointed by Moderator
Tracy Osbahr, Chair	2027	John Trickey, Chair	2026
Isabel Ryavec	2027	Fred Vanderbeck	2028
Nancy Rose Weeber	2028	Emily Marriott	2027
Karen Smith	2026	Cara Castenson	2028
COA Associate Members		David Keiser	2027
Jane Porter	2027		
<i>(vacant position)</i>		Fire Department	appointed
Cultural Council	appointed	Dennis Nazzaro, Fire Chief	1 year
John Page	2028	Richard Hall, Deputy Fire Chief	
Antonios Maroulis	2026	David Hawkins, Lieutenant (ret.)	
Susan Daniels	2026	Jason Hall, Captain	
James Lumley	2026	Stephen Hall, Firefighter	
Ruth Rinard	2027	Peter Clough, Firefighter	
Carolyn Bassett	2027	Erich Hinlein, Firefighter	
Lisa Crossman	2028	Robert Libiszewski, Firefighter	
		Ryan Chaiffre, Firefighter	
Disability Access, ADA Coordinator	appointed	Jordan Helzer, Firefighter	
Susannah Martin	1 year	Dominick, Jr. Firefighter	
		Dominic, Firefighter	
Dog Officer, Animal Control Officer	appointed		
Nancy Long	1 year		

Gas Inspector	appointed	IT Advisory Group, continued	appointed
Andrew French	1 year	Robert Rowell	1 year
		Robert Otis Rowell	1 year
Board of Health	elected	Bruce Klotz	1 year
William Pula, Chair	2027	Joel Bain	1 year
Richard Hall	2028		
Leonor Rodriguez (beg May)	2026	Library	appointed
		Joanne Jodi Levine	1 year
Health Inspector	appointed	Jessica Lamson	
John Prenosil	1 year	Ashley Rodkey	
		Jenny Berggren	
		Rosalba Booth, School Librarian	
Highway Department	appointed		
Richard Adamcek, Superintendent	1 year		
Ethan Dickinson, Foreman			
Edward Chapin (ret July)		Library Trustees	elected
Charles Ryznic, Mechanic		Diane Gray	2026
Shawne Couture (beg Aug)		Abigail Jenks (end May)	2025
		Maia Porter	2027
Historical Commission	appointed	Charles Thompson	2027
Karl Martini, Chair	2026	Nancy Arons	2026
Joseph Larson	2025	Elizabeth Lutwak (beg May)	2027
Charles Thompson	2027	Elizabeth McDonnel (beg May)	2028
Daniel Robb	2026	Alyse Bynum	2028
Bruce Laurie	2027		
<i>(vacant position)</i>	2025	Moderator	elected
<i>(vacant position)</i>	2026	Daniel Robb	2025
HC Alternate Members			
Karl Ryavec	1 year	Personnel Board	appointed
<i>(vacant position)</i>		<i>(5 vacant positions)</i>	
Housing Committee	appointed	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	appointed
Tilman Lukas, Chair	1 year	Judith Eiseman, PB Rep	1 year
Barbara Cooper	1 year	Pete Wilson, Alternate PB Rep	1 year
Linda Spink	1 year		
Gail Kenny	1 year	Planning Board	elected
James Lumley	1 year	Judith Eiseman, Chair	2026
Jim Pewtherer	1 year	Peter Wilson	2029
Lauren Leonardis	1 year	Bruce Klotz	2027
Roy Regozin	1 year	Anne Stoddard (end May)	2025
		Stacy McCullough	2028
IT Advisory Group	appointed	James Bradbury (beg May)	2030
Theodore Streeter, Chair	1 year		
Peter Sienkewicz	1 year		
Joel Bain	1 year		

Plumbing Inspector	appointed	Sustainability Committee	appointed
Andrew French	1 year	Abigail Jenks	1 year
		Jane Porter	1 year
Police Department	appointed	Linda Smircich	1 year
Gary Thomann, Police Chief (part time)	2026	Rosemary Agoglia	1 year
Derick Lamoureux, Lieutenant		Diane Gray (beg Jan)	1 year
Sean Connor, Sergeant		Jessica Barr (end May)	1 year
Robert Thrasher, Officer (ret)		Linda Spink (end June)	1 year
Todd Mongeon, Officer			
Desiree Rivera (beg Feb, end Jan)		Town Clerk	appointed
Gabriel Socko (beg July)		Melissa Hibbard	1 year
James Fitzgerald (beg Oct)			
Public Health Director	appointed	Town Clerk Assistant	appointed
Andrea Crete	1 year	Patricia Olanyk	1 year
Board of Registrars	appointed	Transit Authority, Pioneer Valley	appointed
Melissa Hibbard, Town Clerk (beg. Sept)	2026	David Shanabrook (end May)	1 year
Bruce Laurie	2025	Jessica Barr (beg May)	1 year
Sharrie Reydak	2028		
John Trickey (end May)	2025	Treasurer	appointed
Ralph Faulkingham (beg July)	2028	June Masee	1 year
(<i>vacancy</i>)			
		Tree Warden	elected
School Committee	elected	David Hawkins	2028
Margaret Stancer, Chair	2027		
Sarahbess Kenny, Regional School Chair	2026	Veterans' Service Officer	appointed
William Sherr, Union 26 Representative	2027	Steven Connor	1 year
Rachel Figurasmith (beg Mar)	2027		
Jennifer Bradbury (beg May)	2028	Zoning Board of Appeals	appointed
		Jeffrey Eiseman, Chair	2029
School Principal, Pelham Elementary		Nicholas Cichanowski	2030
Brenda Darling, Principal		Kate Hudson	2026
		Karen Dzenolet, Secretary	2026
School Superintendent		Noah Wartenberg	2029
Dr. Xiomara Herman		ZBA Associate Members	
		Ralph Faulkingham (end May)	2025
Select Board	elected	David Litwak	2030
Robert Agoglia, Chair	2027	(<i>vacancy</i>)	
David Shanabrook (end May)	2025		
Tara Loomis	2026	Zoning Enforcement Officer	appointed
Jessica Barr (beg May)	2028	David Waskiewicz	1 year
Select Board Executive Assistant	appointed		
Susannah Martin	1 year		

Annual Town Report of 2025

ELECTION & TOWN MEETING RESULTS (CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

Annual Town Report of 2025

Annual Town Meeting Results, May 10, 2025

The annual Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator, Dan Robb, at 9:05 a.m. at the grounds of the Pelham Elementary School.

Article 1.

VOTED *unanimously* to see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Town Officers and Committees, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 2.

VOTED *unanimously* To see if the Town will vote 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 FY2026 beginning July 1, 2025, 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, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 3.

VOTED *unanimously* to see if the Town will vote 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, or take any other action relative thereto.

		FY 2024	FY 2025	FY2026	FY2026
	Article 3	Appropriated	Appropriated	Requested	Recommended
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
2	Selectperson Salary	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600
	Expenses				
3	Town Clerk Salary	\$30,913	\$32,490	\$34,554	\$34,554
	Assistant Town Clerk	\$0		\$6,000	\$6,000
	Expenses	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$9,000	\$9,000
4	Finance Committee	\$990	\$990	\$990	\$990
5	Assessor's Salary	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
	Assistant Assessors Salary	\$12,300	\$12,300	\$12,300	\$12,300
	Clerical/Consulting	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
	Contract Service	\$11,400	\$13,900	\$17,500	\$17,500
	Expenses	\$2,850	\$2,850	\$2,850	\$2,850
6	Collector Salary	\$19,081	\$20,768	\$21,787	\$21,787
	Expenses	\$10,785	\$11,000	\$11,275	\$11,275
7	Treasurer Salary	\$31,028	\$32,145	\$33,449	\$33,449

	Expenses	\$9,565	\$9,756	\$10,000	\$10,000
	Clerical/Consulting	\$6,775	\$7,019	\$7,184	\$7,194
8	Legal Services	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
9	Town Meetings, Elections etc.	\$13,000	\$15,000	\$9,000	\$9,000
10	Town Reports	\$875	\$875	\$875	\$875

11	Town Office Wages	\$30,129	\$31,214	\$31,994	\$31,994
	Select Board/Town Office Expenses	\$21,500	\$21,500	\$21,500	\$21,500
12	Buildings and Grounds				
	Salaries	\$17,982	\$18,630	\$19,096	\$19,096
	Expenses	\$65,720	\$65,720	\$65,720	\$65,720
	Maintenance	\$42,000	\$52,000	\$52,000	\$52,000
13	Blanket Insurance	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$52,800	\$52,800
14	Town Accountant	\$10,000	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$10,500
	Town Accountant Expense	\$200	\$250	\$250	\$250
15	Reserve Fund	\$102,000	\$102,000	\$102,000	\$102,000
16	Surety Bonds	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
	Group Buying with FRCOG		\$3,250	\$3,415	\$3,415
17	Emergency Management	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
18	Archivist	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$524,193	\$549,757	\$565,649	\$565,649
	BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS				
20	Board of Appeals	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
21	Conservation Commission	\$850	\$850	\$850	\$850
	Part Time Conservation Agent	\$0	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500
22	Council on Aging	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
23	Historical Commission	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
24	Library Trustees				
	Director Salary	\$31,719	\$41,236	\$42,267	\$42,267
	Staff Salaries	\$18,175	\$20,239	\$22,739	\$22,739
	Expenses	\$9,020	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
25	Planning Board	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
	Clerical/consulting	\$0	\$10,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
26	Recreation Commission	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
28	Cemetery Commission	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
	Energy Committee	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
	TOTAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS	\$75,164	\$105,225	\$111,756	\$111,756
	SCHOOLS				
30	Pelham Elementary	\$1,961,482	\$2,010,231	\$2,096,679	\$2,096,679
	TOTAL SCHOOLS	\$1,961,482	\$2,010,231	\$2,096,679	\$2,096,679
	PUBLIC WORKS				
40	Highway Fund				
	Superintendent Salary	\$80,075	\$82,958	\$85,032	\$85,032
	Staff Salaries	\$171,850	\$179,140	\$187,229	\$187,229
	Expenses	\$111,362	\$111,362	\$111,362	\$111,362

41	School Signal Lights	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100
42	Snow Removal				
	Salaries	\$17,171	\$17,790	\$18,235	\$18,235
	Materials	\$74,432	\$81,875	\$81,875	\$81,875
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS		\$455,990	\$474,225	\$484,833	\$484,833
PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY					
50	Police Department				
	Chief Salary	\$31,623	\$32,752	\$33,571	\$33,571
	Full Time Officer Salary	\$132,240	\$156,603	\$171,239	\$171,239
	Part Time Officer's Salaries	\$18,445	\$21,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
	Training and Education	\$11,255	\$11,255	\$16,255	\$16,255
	Expenses	\$25,701	\$25,701	\$28,201	\$28,201
	Expenses Fuel	\$10,475	\$10,475	\$10,475	\$10,475
	Reserve Officers	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Regional Lockup	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
50A	Town Road Detail	\$3,729	\$3,729	\$3,729	\$3,729
50C	Constable: Elections	\$2,275	\$2,275	\$2,275	\$2,275
51	Fire Department				
	Chief Salary	\$32,780	\$33,960	\$34,809	\$34,809
	Firefighter's Salaries	\$45,548	\$43,358	\$44,442	\$44,442
	Administration Assistant		\$6,500	\$6,663	\$6,663
	Expenses	\$26,378	\$26,378	\$26,378	\$26,378
53	Fire Hydrants	\$280	\$280	\$280	\$280
	Fire Equipment Testing	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
54	Tree Warden Salary	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
	Expenses	\$11,500	\$11,500	\$11,500	\$11,500
57	Ambulance	\$34,986	\$35,861	\$37,654	\$37,654
58	Animal Control	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY		\$391,715	\$431,127	\$458,971	\$458,971
HEALTH AND SANITATION					
60	Board of Health Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Expenses	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
	Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
61	Solid Waste				
	Hazardous Household Waste	\$1,600	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
	Recycling	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
63	Inspector of Animals	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75
65	Quabbin Health District	\$19,861	\$20,361	\$21,180	\$21,180
TOTAL HEALTH AND SANITATION		\$21,936	\$22,836	\$23,655	\$23,655
BENEFITS AND INSURANCE					

70	County Retirement	\$314,277	\$336,102	\$334,741	\$334,741
71	Veteran's Agent Salary	\$6,219	\$6,494	\$6,652	\$6,652
	Expenses				
	Benefits	\$49,248	\$49,248	\$49,248	\$49,248
72	Workers' Compensation	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
73	Unemployment Insurance	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
74	Group Health /Medicare	\$200,000	\$224,000	\$258,048	\$258,048
	Health Insurance Opt Out	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000
75	OPEB Deposit	\$200,000	\$220,000	\$220,000	\$220,000
TOTAL BENEFITS AND INSURANCE		\$814,744	\$880,844	\$913,689	\$913,689
GRAND TOTAL		\$4,245,224	\$4,474,245	\$4,655,232	\$4,655,232

Recommended by the Finance Committee & Select Board.

Article 3A.

VOTED *unanimously* to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$36,838 to the following wages to make Pelham more competitive:

Assessor	\$96.72
Accountant	\$2,889.12
Treasurer/Collector	\$10,811.42
Fire Chief	\$4,612.19
Library Director	\$379.24
Police Sergeant	\$2,843.36
Executive Assistant	\$6,059.35
Town Clerk	\$9,145.84

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 4.

VOTED *unanimously* to see if the Town will 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, or take any other action relative thereto.

		FY 2024 Appropriated	FY 2025 Appropriated	FY 2026 Recommended
Assessors	(Chair)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Assessors	(others)	\$500	\$500	\$500
Auditor		\$0	\$0	\$0
Board of Health	(Chair)	\$200	\$0	\$0
Board of Health	(others)	\$150	\$0	\$0
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

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 4A.

VOTED *unanimously* to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the requested amount to pay for Pelham’s assessed costs for the Regional School, or take any other action relative thereto.

	FY 2024	FY2025	FY 2026
SCHOOLS	Approp.	Approp.	Requested
Amherst Pelham Regional	\$1,005,374	\$1,065,695	\$1,310,503

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 5.

VOTED *unanimously* to see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$268,281 to be spent as follows, or take any other action relative thereto.

Stabilization Account deposit	\$20,000
Elementary Special Education School Reserve	\$25,000
New Mail Box for Rhodes Building	\$1,000
Sustainability Committee	\$500
Cemetery Commission	\$1,000
Historical Complex	\$1,000
Zoning Board	\$500
Record Preservation	\$500
Health Insurance DPW	\$12,000
Regional Capital reserve	\$30,000
Regional Capital cost for 2026	\$27,745
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	
HVAC system for hot classrooms	\$6,500
Boiler Repairs	\$20,000
Security upgrades to swipe card access, door corers etc.	\$7,500
Improvements to bathroom stalls for privacy	\$12,000
Grounds-remove invasive weeds, poison ivy, tree work	\$15,000
Elementary Medicaid Reimbursement	\$4,771
Elementary School cost for Charter School Student	\$26,000
Legal expenses	\$15,000
Boiler repairs Community Center	\$10,000
Sprinkler Maintenance Community Center	\$7,500
Clutch repair to 2018 Western Star dump truck	\$7,000
Police signing bonus for 2026	\$5,000
Fire grant reimbursement	\$10,000
Finance member to attend MMA Annual Meeting	\$1,100
OPEB review and assessment	\$1,665

Recommended by the Finance Committee & Select Board.

Article 6.

VOTED *unanimously* to see if the Town will vote to approve annual spending limits for FY2026 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, or take any other action relative thereto:

Revolving fund	FY spending limit
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	\$1,000

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 7.

VOTED *unanimously* to see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Capital Plan Stabilization fund the sum of \$95,000.00 to purchase and equip a new pick-up truck for the Highway Department or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Finance Committee & Select Board.

Article 8.

VOTED *unanimously* to see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Capital Plan Stabilization fund the sum of \$19,000.00 to repair the 2015 F550 truck or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Finance Committee & Select Board.

Article 9.

VOTED *unanimously* to see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Capital Plan Stabilization fund the sum of \$100,000.00 to make needed repairs to the exterior of the Community Center or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Finance Committee & Select Board.

Article 10.

VOTED *unanimously* to see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$70,000 from the Capital Plan Stabilization Fund to purchase, outfit, and equip a 2025 Ford Explorer Hybrid police cruiser, or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Finance Committee and Select Board.

Article 11.

VOTED *unanimously* to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$61,387.50 for the final payment for the Town's (General Fund) indebtedness incurred for the Pelham Elementary School project, or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 12.

VOTED *unanimously* to see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,774.00 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, or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 13.

VOTED *unanimously* to see if the Town will vote to approve the FY26 budget for the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District using the statutory method pursuant to G.L. c.70, §6, or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 14.

VOTED *unanimously* to see if the Town will vote to approve the Community Preservation Committee's (CPC) recommended appropriation and transfer of \$9,500.00 from the Community Preservation Fund FY2026 estimated annual revenues for administrative expenses in FY2026, or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 15.

VOTED *unanimously* to see if the Town will vote to approve the Community Preservation Committee's recommended appropriation and transfer of the following sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues, and to reserve for later appropriation: \$19,000.00 for Open Space and Recreation, \$19,000.00 for Community Housing, and \$19,000.00 for Historic Resources; and to reserve from the estimated annual revenues for later appropriation \$123,500.00 to the annual FY2026 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve, or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 16.

VOTED *unanimously* to see if the Town will vote to adopt the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$93,150.87 from the Open Space and Recreation Fund, for the Pelham Elementary School Playground Committee's application to pay for the cost of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) renovation of the Pelham School playground, including removal of old equipment, delivery and installation of new equipment, and any landscaping that needs to be done, or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 17. WITHDRAWN

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$10,000.00 from the FY2026 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve, for the Pelham Conservation Commission's application for funding for creation of digital trail maps for the Town of Pelham, or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 18.

VOTED *unanimously* to see if the Town will vote 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, or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 19.

VOTED *unanimously* to see if the Town will vote 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, or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 20.

VOTED *unanimously* To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into contracts with the Massachusetts Highway Department for construction and/or maintenance of public highways for Fiscal Year 2026, 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, or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 21.

VOTED *unanimously* To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept and/or apply for any State or Federal funds or grants that may become available during Fiscal Year 2026 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, or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 22.

VOTED *unanimously* to amend Article 22 by moving letter A. to appear on its own line with the word Purpose following the line with § 125-9.1. Accessory dwelling units.

VOTED unanimously to change C.(2) b. so it reads as follows: If the shortest distance between proposed ADU and the Principal Dwelling is more than 50 feet, a site plan approval has been obtained.

VOTED unanimously to amend C.(3) by deleting the phrase “with a building footprint beyond 50 feet from the Principal Dwelling, as measured from the nearest corner” and replace with “that have no point within 50 feet of any point of the Principal Dwelling”

To see if the Town will vote to amend its Zoning Bylaws with respect to Accessory Dwelling Units, as follows:

By amending the Table of Use Regulations in Section 5.A by removing existing Accessory Apartment uses (“Attached accessory apartment” and “Detached accessory apartment”) and adding the following:

Land Use Classification	Residential I	Limited Business	Village Center Mixed-Use	Village Center Neighborhood	Village Center Rural Edge	Standards and Conditions
Residential Use						
Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) within 50 feet of the Principal Dwelling	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	See §9.1
ADUs beyond 50 feet from Principal Dwelling	SPA/PB	Y	Y	Y	SPA/PB	See §9.1
Second ADU – Detached (see § 125-9.1(C)(4))	N	N	SP/SPA/PB	SP/SPA/PB	N	See §9.1

By deleting Section 9.1 “Accessory Apartments” in the entirety and replacing it with the following:
 § 125-9.1. Accessory dwelling units.

A. Purpose.

The purpose of this Section 9.1 is to allow for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), as defined under G.L c.40A, §1A, to be built as-of-right in Single-Family Residential Zoning Districts in accordance with Section 3 of the Zoning Act (G.L. c.40A), as amended by Section 8 of Chapter 150 of the Acts of 2024, and the regulations under 760 CMR 71.00: Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Units. This zoning provides for by-right ADUs to accomplish the following purposes:

- (1) Encourage a more balanced and diverse population and income mix;
- (2) Provide older homeowners with a means of obtaining rental income, companionship, security and services, and thereby enabling them to stay more comfortably in homes and neighborhoods they might otherwise be forced to leave;

- (3) Make housing units available to moderate-income households that might otherwise have difficulty finding homes within the town;
- (4) Protect stability, property values and the single-family residential character of a neighborhood;
- (5) Increase housing production to address local and regional housing needs across all income levels and at all stages of life; and
- (6) Develop small-scale infill housing that fits in the context of zoning districts that allow single-family housing while providing gentle density.

B. Definitions.

For the purposes of this Section 9.1, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU). A self-contained housing unit, inclusive of sleeping, cooking, and sanitary facilities on the same Lot as a Principal Dwelling, subject to otherwise applicable dimensional and parking requirements, that maintains a separate entrance, either directly from the outside or through an entry hall or corridor shared with the Principal Dwelling sufficient to meet the requirements of the Building and Fire Code for safe egress. General references to ADUs in this bylaw include both Protected Use ADUs and Local ADUs.
- (2) Gross Floor Area (GFA). The sum of the areas of all stories of the building of compliant ceiling height pursuant to the Building Code, including basements, lofts, and intermediate floored tiers, measured from the interior faces of exterior walls or from the centerline of walls separating buildings or dwelling units but excluding crawl spaces, garage parking areas, attics, enclosed porches and similar spaces. Where there are multiple Principal Dwellings on the Lot, the GFA of the largest Principal Dwelling shall be used for determining the maximum size of a Protected Use ADU.
- (3) Modular Dwelling Unit. A pre-designed Dwelling Unit assembled and equipped with internal plumbing, electrical or similar systems prior to movement to the site where such Dwelling Unit is affixed to a foundation and connected to external utilities; or any portable structure with walls, a floor, and a roof, designed or used as a Dwelling Unit, transportable in one or more sections and affixed to a foundation and connected to external utilities.
- (4) Principal Dwelling. A structure, regardless of whether it conforms to zoning, including use requirements and dimensional requirements, such as setbacks, bulk, and height, that contains at least one Dwelling Unit and is located on the same Lot as an ADU.
- (5) Protected Use ADU. An attached, detached, or internal ADU that is located, or is proposed to be located, on a Lot in a Single-Family Residential Zoning District and is not larger in Gross Floor Area than ½ the Gross Floor Area of the Principal Dwelling or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller provided that only one ADU on a Lot may qualify as a Protected Use ADU. An ADU that is nonconforming to zoning shall still qualify as a Protected Use ADU if it otherwise meets this definition.
- (6) Recreational Vehicle. A vehicle which is built on a single chassis; designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.
- (7) Single-Family Residential Dwelling Unit. A structure on a Lot containing not more than one Dwelling Unit.
- (8) Single-Family Residential Zoning District. Any zoning district where Single-Family Residential Dwellings are a permitted or an allowable use, including any zoning district where Single-Family Residential Dwellings are allowed as-of-right, or by Special Permit.

C. Regulations.

For the purposes of this Section 9.1, the following regulations shall apply:

- (1) General Provisions for All ADUs
 - a. Code Compliance

- i. ADUs shall maintain a separate entrance from the Principal Dwelling sufficient to meet safe egress under the Building Code and Fire Code.
 - ii. ADU construction shall comply with 310 CMR 15.000: The State Environmental Code, Title 5 regulations for a Single-Family Residential Dwelling in the Single-Family Residential Zoning District in which the ADU is located.
- b. Dimensional Requirements. An ADU must meet all regulations (including front, side, and rear yard setbacks and maximum height restrictions) for the zoning district in which it is located, according to Section 125-6 “Dimensional and Density Regulations”, unless a Special Permit is issued by the Planning Board in accordance with Section 125-26.
- c. Allowed Building Types. A modular dwelling unit may be used as a Detached ADU. A recreational vehicle or mobile home may not be used as a detached ADU.
- d. Residential Use Only. Excluding home occupations as defined in Section 125-12, ADUs shall be used for residential purposes only and not be used for business or commercial purposes.
- e. Short-term Rentals. An ADU may not act as a short-term rental as defined in G.L. c.64G, §1.
- f. One ADU Per Lot. One ADU may be created on a Lot in any residential zoning district as indicated in § 125-5, Table of Use Regulations. A Lot containing a Principal Dwelling and one ADU shall not be considered a two-family dwelling as defined in these bylaws.
- g. Permit Application Requirements. An application for building permit for an ADU shall include any information necessary to show proposed interior and exterior changes and to determine compliance with the conditions of this subsection, including a plot plan and floor plans with proposed interior and exterior changes to the building.

(2) Protected Use ADUs

The Building Inspector shall approve a Building Permit authorizing Protected Use ADU installation and use within, or on a Lot with, a Principal Dwelling in a Single-Family Residential Zoning District, including within, or on a Lot with, a Preexisting Nonconforming Structure, if the following conditions are met:

- a. Dimensional Standards
 - i. Protected Use ADUs shall not be larger than a Gross Floor Area of 900 square feet or ½ the Gross Floor Area of the Principal Dwelling, whichever is smaller.
 - ii. A Protected Use ADU on a Lot with a Single-Family Residential Dwelling Unit shall not otherwise have more restrictive dimensional standards than those required for the Single-Family Residential Dwelling, according to Section 125-6 “Dimensional and density regulations”, within the same district.
 - iii. A Protected Use ADU on a Lot with a Principal Dwelling that is not a Single-Family Residential Dwelling Unit shall not otherwise have more restrictive dimensional standards than those required for its Principal Dwelling according to Section 125-6 “Dimensional and density regulations.”
- b. If the shortest distance between the proposed ADU and the Principal Dwelling is more than 50 feet, a Site Plan Approval has been obtained.

(3) Site Plan Approval. Detached ADUs in the Residential and Village Center Rural Edge zoning districts that have no point within 50 feet of any point of the Principal Dwelling are required to obtain Site Plan Approval from the Planning Board pursuant to the procedures in Section 125-27 of this Zoning Bylaw, provided that the Site Plan Review criteria shall consider the following:

- a. The ADU should minimize the impacts to the watershed, such as but not limited to soil removal, grade changes, increased impervious cover, and wetland encroachment.
- b. The ADU should minimize the impacts to the environment, such as but not limited to vegetation removal and habitat disruption.
- c. The ADU shall be serviced with adequate water supply and sewer or septic service.

- d. Architectural style should be compatible with the Principal Dwelling.
 - e. Massing of the ADU and Principal Dwelling should be compatible with the exiting neighborhood context. The Planning Board may request reasonable plan modifications of the Site Plan for a detached ADU and may impose reasonable conditions that are not inconsistent with this bylaw or the provision of G.L. c.40A, §3.
- (4) Second ADU. A second ADU may be created on the same Lot as a Principal Dwelling only within the Village Center Mixed-use and Village Center Neighborhood zoning districts, and only upon the issuance of a Special Permit for the additional ADU by the Planning Board pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40A, s. 9, and shall require Site Plan Review by the Planning Board.
- a. Dimensional Standards. The additional ADU shall not be larger than a Gross Floor Area of 900 square feet or ½ the Gross Floor Area of the Principal Dwelling, whichever is smaller. The combined Gross Floor Area of all ADUs on the same Lot shall not be greater than the Gross Floor Area of the Principal Dwelling.
 - b. Special Permit Requirements. The application for a special permit shall comply with Section 125- 26.
 - c. A lot containing a Principal Dwelling and two or more ADUs shall not be considered a multi- family dwelling as defined in these bylaws.
- (5) Nonconformance
- a. A Protected Use ADU shall be permitted within, or on a Lot with, a Pre-existing Nonconforming Structure so long as the Protected Use ADU can be developed in conformance with the Building Code, 760 CMR 71.00, and G.L. c.40A, §6, ¶1.
 - b. Pre-existing Nonconforming Structures. A pre-existing, nonconforming structure shall comply with Section 125-7 of this Zoning Bylaw and G.L. c.40A, §6, ¶1.

D. Administration and Enforcement

- (1) The Building Inspector shall administer and enforce the provisions of this Section 9.1.
- (2) No building shall be changed in use or configuration without a Building Permit from the Building Inspector.
- (3) No building shall be occupied until a certificate of occupancy is issued by the Building Inspector, where required.
- (4) The Building Inspector or the special permit granting authority may allow reasonable deviation from the stated conditions where necessary to install features that facilitate access and mobility for disabled persons, all pursuant to G.L. c.40A, §3.

or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 23.

VOTED *unanimously* to see if the Town will vote to amend its Zoning Bylaws with respect to Accessory Dwelling Units, as follows:

By amending the Table of Use Regulations in Section 5.A by changing the land use classification “Second ADU – Detached (see § 125-9.1(C)(4))” to “Second ADU”.

or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 24.

VOTED *unanimously* to see if the Town will vote to amend its Zoning Bylaws with respect to Solar Electric Installations, as follows:

By replacing the provisions amended at Annual Town Meeting in 2023 that were disapproved in-whole by the Attorney General’s Office, specifically

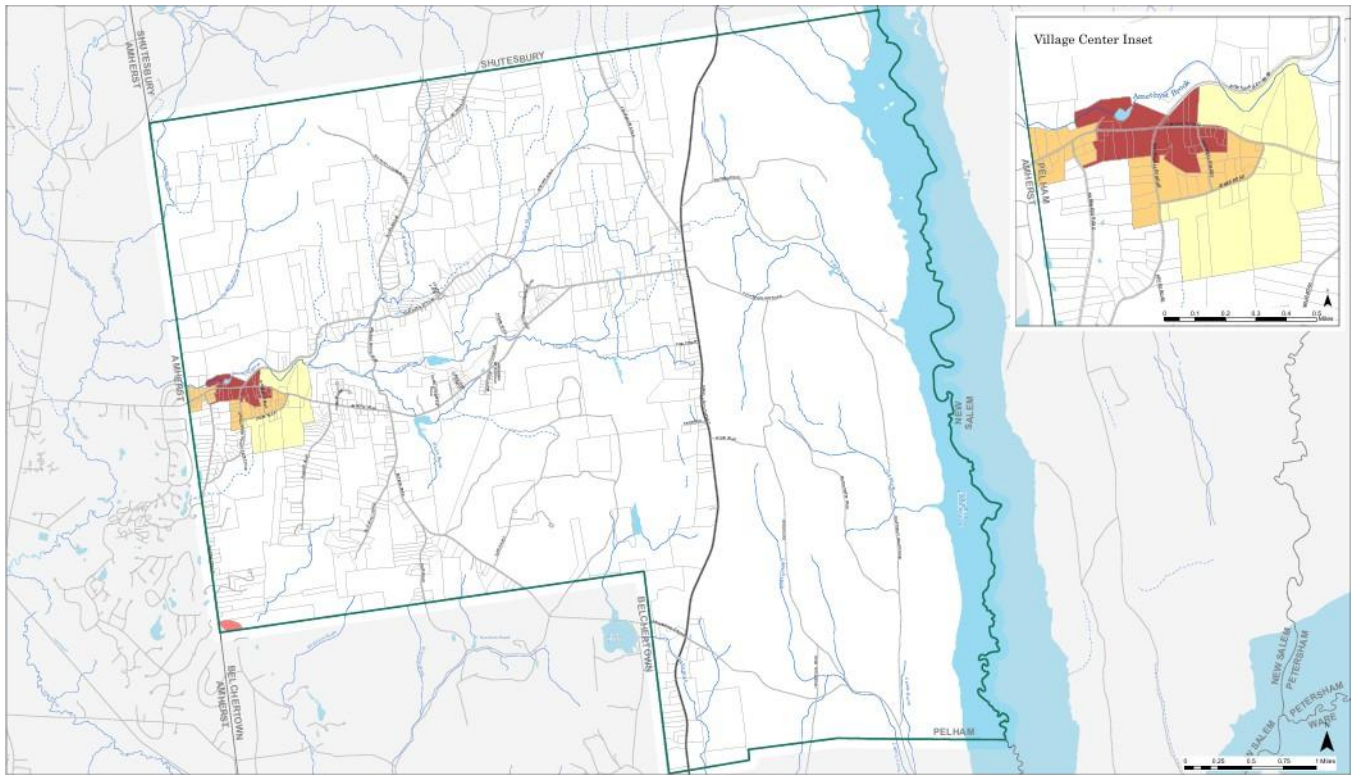
- §18.2.D.3 regarding “Mitigation for Loss of Carbon Sequestration and Forest Habitat”
- §18.2.D.10 regarding “Mitigation for Forest Block Fragmentation”
- §18.2.E.3 regarding “Control of Vegetation”

with “(Reserved)”, or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 25.

VOTED unanimously to see if the Town will vote to amend its Zoning Bylaws, Section 125-4 Zoning Map, by replacing the current Zoning Map with the Zoning Map entitled “2024 ZONING MAP OF THE TOWN OF PELHAM” dated “*Dolinger 6/2/24*” in the bottom-right hand corner and on file with Town Clerk, or take any other action relative thereto.



2024 ZONING MAP
OF THE
TOWN OF PELHAM

THIS ZONING MAP IS FOR GENERAL INFORMATION PURPOSES. IN THE EVENT OF ANY CONFLICTS, THE BYLAWS SHALL TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THIS MAP. THE TOWN ENGINEER HAS REVIEWED THIS MAP FOR TECHNICAL ACCURACY AND COMPLIANCE WITH STATE REQUIREMENTS.



Zoning & Overlay Districts

- (R) Residential (No Lot)
- (VC-ME) Village Center Mixed Edge
- (VC-M) Village Center Neighborhood
- (VC-ME) Village Center Mixed Edge
- (L) Light Industrial
- (M) Medium Density Residential
- (H) Heavy Industrial
- (A) Agricultural
- (S) Special Use
- (O) Office
- (C) Community Center
- (P) Public Use
- (I) Institutional
- (U) Utility
- (M) Medium Density Residential
- (H) Heavy Industrial
- (A) Agricultural
- (S) Special Use
- (O) Office
- (C) Community Center
- (P) Public Use
- (I) Institutional
- (U) Utility

— Town Boundaries
 --- Tax Parcel Boundaries
 — U.S. Highways
 — Local/Road
 — Open Water
 — Stream
 — Intersecting Stream



Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 26.

VOTED unanimously to amend Article 26. By adding in C. Unless signed federal judicial warrant has been presented. And adding the word federal in D. Before signed. CITIZEN PETITION FOR A BYLAW WHICH WILL REVISE AND REPLACE CHAPTER 50 IMMIGRATION STATUS 50-1, 50-2: PELHAM MASSACHUSETTS BYLAW related to IMMIGRATION STATUS;

We move that the Town of Pelham approves this bylaw as follows:

PURPOSE

Town of Pelham seeks to assure equal, just and fair treatment of all persons who live, work or visit Pelham and will equally enforce the law and serve the public without consideration of immigration status, citizenship, national origin, race, or ethnicity.

1. DEFINITIONS

“Federal immigration agency” means any agency, department or part of the federal government that enforces immigration laws, including but not limited to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

“Immigration detainees” and “ICE detainees” are requests made by federal immigration officials, including but not limited to those authorized under Section 287.7 of Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations, to state or local agencies to voluntarily maintain custody of an individual once that individual is released from local custody, and/or to notify a federal

immigration agency before the pending release of an individual.

“Administrative warrant” means a warrant, notice to appear, warrant of deportation, or other order of arrest or detention issued by a federal immigration agency. Such administrative warrants are not issued by a judicial officer, nor are they based on a finding of probable cause for an alleged criminal law violation.’

2. POLICY ESTABLISHED

It will be the ongoing policy of the Town of Pelham, MA that;

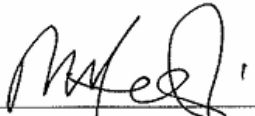
- a) **Equal treatment.** All municipal employees, including law enforcement employees will treat all persons equally, enforce laws, and serve the public without consideration of immigration status. Citizenship, immigration status, national origin, race, and ethnicity shall have no bearing on an individual's treatment by employees or officers of agencies or departments.
- b) **Communications with a federal immigration agency.** No officer or employee of Pelham Police Department shall provide any officer or employee of a federal immigration agency with the following information relating to a person in the custody of the Department or who has come to the attention of the Department: information about an individual's incarceration status, length of detention, home address, work address, personal information, court hearing information, or pending release, except information that is available through the Massachusetts Public Records Laws. No officer or employee of the Pelham Police Department may initiate a communication with a federal immigration agency regarding a member of the public, except in exigent circumstances relating to an imminent threat to public safety.
- c) **Use of local resources.** No Pelham funds, resources, facilities, property, equipment, or personnel may be used to assist or participate in the enforcement of federal immigration laws, unless a signed federal judicial warrant has been presented.
- d) **Inquiries about immigration status.** No municipal employees, including Pelham Elementary School or law enforcement officers of Pelham may inquire about the immigration status of any crime victim, suspect, arrestee, 911 caller, witness, or other member of the public with whom they have contact, except as required by state law or to provide a public benefit.
- e) **Role of police in immigration enforcement.** No officer or employee of the Pelham Police Department may initiate an investigation or take law enforcement action on the sole basis of actual or perceived immigration status, including the initiation of a traffic stop, an apprehension or arrest.
- f) **ICE detainees and administrative warrants.** No officer or employee of the Pelham Police Department may arrest or detain an individual on the basis of suspected or known immigration status, an ICE detainer, an ICE administrative warrant or otherwise at the request of a federal immigration agency unless the request is accompanied by a judicial order, judicial warrant or showing of probable cause that the individual has committed a crime for which the Police Department is authorized to make an arrest. This includes extending the length of detention by any amount of time once an individual is released from local custody, or before being transferred to court, or an individual has been posted bail or bond, or released on personal recognizance.
- g) **Notice to individuals subject to ICE interventions.** If the Town of Pelham Police Department receives an immigration detainer or ICE administrative warrant for a person in its custody, the Department shall provide the person with a copy of such detainer request or administrative warrant, and any other documentation it possesses pertaining to the person's immigration case
- h) **School records and enrollment.** No employee of the town of Pelham Public Schools shall require a student or parent to provide information regarding their immigration or citizenship status to establish the student's residency in the district for enrollment purposes. If such information becomes known to an employee of the Pelham Elementary School, such information shall not be maintained or distributed and shall have no bearing on the student's ability to register for school or the school's treatment of that student. Information collected regarding place of birth for the purpose of providing English Language Learners with appropriate services shall be used only for that purpose and not distributed further.
- i) **No employee of the Pelham Elementary School will** allow a federal officer or employee of a federal immigration agency to monitor, stop, detain, question, or interrogate family members or students on school property, unless school district policy protocol has been followed and a signed federal judicial warrant has been presented.

3. REPORTING

Beginning on the date of passage of this ordinance and every six months thereafter, the Pelham Police chief shall submit a report with information stated below to the Pelham Town Clerk and Select Board.

- a) The total number of requests for information from a federal immigration agency
- b) The total number of instances and details of each time information was given to a federal immigration agency with names redacted.
- c) Names and descriptions of all task forces in which Pelham and a federal immigration agency participated.

Be it further resolved that upon approval this revised bylaw will be sent to the Chief of Police, Director of the Pelham Library, Principal of Pelham Elementary School as well as the heads of all other town departments. Additionally copies will be sent our state Rep. Aaron Saunders, 24 Beacon St. Rm. 34, Boston, MA 02133 (aaronsaunders@mahouse.gov); state Sen. Jo Comerford, 24 Beacon St. Rm.410 Boston, MA.02133 (JoComerfordmasenate.gov), and Governor Maura Healey, Rm 28, State House, Rm. 28, Boston,MA 02133

Robert Agoglia, Chair 

Tara Loomis, Vice-Chair 

David Shanabrook, Clerk 

Date Signed by the Select Board: _____

Constable 

Date Posted: 4/8/2025 @ Police/Fire Station & Rhodes Building



Annual Town Report of 2025

Annual Town Election, May 13, 2025 (Unofficial)

SELECT BOARD

Jessica Gail Barr	58
Peter C. Wilson	1
James Arthur Bradbury	1
Markyta A. Ables	1
Cyndie Rochelle Reiman	1
Jennifer Sinding Bradbury	1
Miles Reed Sherr-Garcia	1
All Others	5
Sub Total	69
Blanks	55
TOTAL	124

SCHOOL COMMITTEE (3 Years)

Jennifer Sinding Bradbury	52
Zahava Friedman	1
Lauren Marie Leonardis	1
Jeffrey Weil Eiseman	1
All Others	1
Sub Total	56
Blanks	68
TOTAL	124

LIBRARY TRUSTEES (3 Years)

Elizabeth ZA McDonnel	40
Alyse Bynum	34
Elizabeth Ann Lutwak	15
Brooke Cushman Sullivan	1
All Others	1
Sub Totals	91
Blanks	157
TOTAL	248

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Robert Nils Rowell	106
write-ins	0
Blanks	18
TOTAL	124

PLANNING BOARD

James Arthur Bradbury	82
Elizabeth Ann Lutwak	2
Sub Total	84
Blanks	40
TOTAL	124

CEMETERY COMMISSION (3 Years)

Scott L Barton	95
	0
	0
Write-ins	2
Blanks	27
TOTAL	124

BOARD OF HEALTH 3 year

William E Pula	3
Jessica Brooke Steier	3
Richard M Hall	10
all others	1
Sub Total	17
Blanks	107
TOTAL	124

SCHOOL COMMITTEE (Two Year) Vote for Two

Rachel Figurasmith	94
Margaret Alice Stancer	84
Write-ins	22
Sub Total	200
Blanks	48
TOTAL	248

MODERATOR

Daniel Elias Robb	40
Deborah Nell Mauger	1
All Others	1
Sub Total	42
Blanks	82
TOTAL	124

LIBRARY TRUSTEES (2 Years)	
Elizabeth ZA McDonnell	12
Alyse Bynum	2
Elizabeth Ann Lutwak	31
Brooke Cushman Sullivan	1
Isabel S Ryavec	2
All Others	1
Sub Total	49
Blanks	75
TOTAL	124

AUDITOR	
Deborah Nell Mauer	2
David Andrew Keiser	1
Colin Mew	1
All Other	4
Subtotal	8
Blanks	116
TOTAL	124

BOARD OF HEALTH (1 Year)	
Patricia Day Williams	1
Leonor M Rodriguez	2
William E Pula	1
All Others	3
Sub Total	7
Blanks	117
TOTAL	124

TREE WARDEN	
David Charles Hawkins	109
	0
	0
Write-ins	0
Blanks	15
TOTAL	124

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE	
Cydnia Rochelle Reiman	109
	0
	0
Write-ins	0
Blanks	15
TOTAL	124



Annual Town Report of 2025

Fall Special Town Meeting Results, October 15, 2025

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by Select Board Chair Robert Agoglia, at 6:02 p.m. at the Historic Old Town Hall, 376 Amherst Road.

Daniel Robb was absent, there for a temporary Moderator had to be elected by taking the following steps.

1. Call the meeting to order.
2. Announce the quorum is present.
3. Since the Moderator is absent, the first order of business is to elect by ballot a Temporary Moderator pursuant to G.L. c. 39 section 14. The Temporary Moderator will preside over this Town Meeting.
4. It is my understanding that Bob Agoglia has graciously offered to perform the duties of the Moderator tonight. Additionally, you should be aware that in elections, the person receiving the majority of votes of those present and voting is declared the winner. Accordingly, if there is only one person nominated tonight, only one vote will be required to “elect” the Temporary Moderator.
5. Do I have a nomination for Bob Agoglia to act as Temporary Moderator for purposes of this meeting?
6. Are there any additional nominations?
7. Hearing none, nominations are closed. Further, hearing no objections, I declare that Bob Agoglia is the sole nominee for the position of Temporary Moderator for this meeting.
8. Do I hear motion that the clerk of the Select Board cast one ballot for Bob Agoglia? Is there a Second?
9. I will ask for a vote on the motion that the clerk of Select Board cast one ballot. We will use a show of hands. If the vote is ‘close’ , meaning it is apparent to me that there are significant number of “no” votes, then we will have a counted vote. If the is “yes” to have the clerk of the Select Board cast a single ballot, then the clerk will

cast the ballot for Bob Agoglia. The Select Board then reviews the ballot cast by the clerk and reports the same to the Town Clerk.

10. The Town Clerk then declares the election of the Temporary Moderator and administers the oath of office: “Do you solemnly swear that you will faithfully and impartially perform and discharge the duties of the office of Temporary Moderator to which you have been elected?”

Article 1.

VOTED unanimously see if the Town will vote to transfer the \$1,000 appropriated under Article 5 of the 2025 Annual Town Meeting for “New Mail Box for Rhodes Building”, to instead be used to fund the purchase of an electronic board/committee platform for the Town Clerk, or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 2.

VOTED unanimously see if the Town will vote to adopt the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$16,000 from the Open Space and Recreation Fund, for the Pelham Elementary School Playground Committee’s application to pay for the increased cost of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) renovation of the Pelham School Playground, which appropriation shall be added to the existing appropriation under Article 15 of the 2025 Annual Town Meeting, or take any other action relative thereto.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 3.

VOTED unanimously see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation to provide, as set forth below; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill so submitted, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and further that the Select Board is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition, or take any other action relative thereto.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF PELHAM TO CONTINUE THE EMPLOYMENT OF GARY L. THOMANN AS POLICE CHIEF

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

Section 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, Gary L. Thomann, the police chief of Pelham police department, may continue to serve in the position until May 17, 2032, the date of his retirement, or until the date he is relieved of his duties, whichever occurs first; provided, however, that he is mentally and physically capable of performing the duties of his office. The select board may require, at its own expense, that Gary L. Thomann be examined by an impartial physician designated by the select board to determine such capability. No further deductions shall be made from the regular compensation of Gary L. Thomann pursuant to chapter 32 of the General Laws for any service subsequent to May 31, 2027, and upon retirement, Gary L. Thomann shall receive a superannuation retirement allowance equal to that which he would have been entitled had he retired on May 31, 2027.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 4.

VOTED unanimously to amend the article’s motion to see if the Town will vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, an amount of money to be expended under the direction of Amherst-Pelham Regional School District for Amherst – Pelham Regional Middle School Roof Replacement Project which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program and for which the Town may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”). The Town acknowledges that the MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town. Any grant that the Town may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) sixty-one point ninety-five percent

(61.95%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Original Motion:

That the Town appropriate a portion of the amount of ten million, twenty-four thousand, and sixteen (\$ 10,024,016) dollars as determined by the Regional Agreement, for the purpose of paying costs of Amherst – Pelham Regional Middle School Roof Replacement Project including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the ‘Project’), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the Town may eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), said amount to be expended under the direction of the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District. To meet this appropriation the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The Town acknowledges that the MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant approved by the received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town; provided further that any grant that Town may receive from the MSBA for the project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) sixty-one point ninety – five percent (61.95%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA;

AMENDED MOTION:

That the town appropriate \$266,000 from the Regional Capital Reserve Account, which is Pelham’s portion of the amount of ten million, twenty-four thousand, and sixteen (\$10,024,016) dollars as determined by Regional Agreement, for the purpose of paying costs of Amherst -Pelham Regional Middle School Roof Replacement Project including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the ”Project”), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the Town may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), said amount to be expended under the direction of the Amherst -Pelham Regional School District. To meet this appropriation the Amherst -Pelham Regional School District is authorized to borrow said amount M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The Town acknowledges the that the MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town; provided further that any grant that Town may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) sixty-one point ninety-five percent (61.95%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA;

The business of the warrant having been completed, the meeting voted to dissolve at 6:34 p.m. on Wednesday, October 15, 2025.

35 voters were checked in.

Attest:

Melissa A. Hibbard
Town Clerk



Annual Town Report of 2025

Accountant

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances for the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	Variance Favorable <u>(Unfavorable)</u>
<u>Revenues</u>			
Taxes:			
Real estate	\$ 4,489,448	\$ 4,417,077	\$ (72,371)
Personal property	291,102	292,241	1,139
Motor vehicle and other excise	168,000	150,705	(17,295)
Local Rooms Tax	320	6,550	6,230
Penalties and interest	16,000	17,396	1,396
Payments in lieu of taxes	429,600	429,531	(69)
Intergovernmental:			
Federal	4,495	7,322	2,827
State	542,543	591,703	49,160
Departmental revenues	23,500	17,146	(6,354)
Earnings on invested funds	15,000	80,244	65,244
Court fines	4,900	4,921	21
Miscellaneous	-	6,503	6,503
Total Revenues	<u>5,984,908</u>	<u>6,021,339</u>	<u>36,431</u>
<u>Expenditures</u>			
General government	587,907	443,358	144,549
Protection of persons and property	454,627	397,236	57,391
Education	3,157,128	3,108,295	48,833
Public works and facilities	485,225	490,886	(5,661)
Human services	81,578	42,168	39,410

Culture and recreation	74,259	73,636	623
Debt service	64,125	64,125	-
Intergovernmental expenses	72,163	181,264	(109,101)
Miscellaneous	616,602	565,296	51,306
Total Expenditures	<u>5,593,614</u>	<u>5,366,264</u>	<u>227,350</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues			
Over Expenditures	<u>391,294</u>	<u>655,075</u>	<u>263,781</u>
<u>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</u>			
Operating transfers in	-	13,746	13,746
Operating transfers out	(599,126)	(599,126)	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>(599,126)</u>	<u>(585,380)</u>	<u>13,746</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Other Sources Over Expenditures and Other Uses	<u>(207,832)</u>	<u>69,695</u>	<u>277,527</u>
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year		<u>1,618,118</u>	
Fund Balance - End of Year		\$ <u><u>1,687,813</u></u>	

Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances All governmental and Trust Funds for the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Governmental Fund Types			Fund Types	Groups	Totals
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt	
ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	1,856,698.03	3,170,115.07	738,623.96	748,989.15		6,514,426.21
Investments				2,479,127.76		2,479,127.76
Receivables:						
Personal property taxes	(647.38)					(647.38)

	177,850					177,850
Real estate taxes	.37					.37
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	(176,845.29)					(176,845.29)
Tax liens	63,098.87	469.54				63,568.41
Deferred taxes	10,382.46					10,382.46
Motor vehicle excise	86,466.81					86,466.81
Other receivables - CPA		2,805.13				2,805.13
Foreclosures/Possessions	30,750.75					30,750.75
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds					60,000.00	60,000.00
Amounts to be provided - vacation/sick leave						0.00
Total Assets	2,047,754.62	3,173,389.74	738,623.96	3,228,116.91	60,000.00	9,247,885.23

LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY

LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY						
Liabilities:						
Warrants payable						0.00
Accounts payable	135,992.10	5,954.10				141,946.20
Accrued payroll	29,832.09					29,832.09
Withholdings						0.00
Deferred revenue:						
Real and personal property taxes	357.70					357.70
Tax liens	63,098.87	469.54				63,568.41
Deferred taxes	10,382.46					10,382.46
Foreclosures/Possessions	30,750.75					30,750.75
Motor vehicle excise	86,466.81					86,466.81
Other receivables - CPA		2,805.13				2,805.13
Tailings	3,062.05					3,062.05
Agency Funds				(127,203.66)		(127,203.66)
Notes payable						0.00
Bonds payable					60,000.00	60,000.00
Vacation and sick leave liability					0.00	0.00
Total Liabilities	359,942.83	9,228.77	0.00	(127,203.66)	60,000.00	301,967.94

Fund Equity:						
Reserved for encumbrances	71,451.13					71,451.13

Reserved for expenditures	261,281	2,607,5				2,868,8
Reserved for continuing appropriations	.00	62.84		738,62		43.84
Reserved for petty cash				3.96		738,623
						.96
					876,192	0.00
Reserved for MSBA Debt	98.62			.81		876,291
				2,479,1		.43
Reserved for OPEB				27.76		2,479,1
Reserved for working deposit						27.76
						0.00
Undesignated fund balance	1,354,9	556,598				1,911,5
	81.04	.13				79.17
	1,687,8	3,164,1	738,62	3,355,3		8,945,9
Total Fund Equity	11.79	60.97	3.96	20.57	0.00	17.29
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	2,047,7	3,173,3	738,62	3,228,1	60,00	9,247,8
	54.62	89.74	3.96	16.91	0.00	85.23

Special Revenue Funds

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances for the Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Fund Balance Beginning	Revenues	Total Available	Expenditures	Fund Balance Ending
<u>School Programs</u>					
School Lunch	163,706	56,360	220,066	58,804	161,262
School Choice	1,013,817	571,618	1,585,435	522,863	1,062,572
Federal REAP Grant	574		574		574
ESSER (COVID) Grant	(5,504)	133,404	127,900	800	127,100
Mental Health Grant	(1,521)		(1,521)		(1,521)
SPED Program Improvement	(3,173)		(3,173)		(3,173)
Students Social Emotional Grant	2,745		2,745	1,616	1,129
Remote Learning Tech Essentials		5,436	5,436		5,436
FY25 IDEA Gr (Pass Through Amherst		9,242	9,242		9,242
After School Childcare	(5,105)		(5,105)		(5,105)
Pre School Program Teacher	(29,464)		(29,464)	88	(29,552)
Quality	2,208	1,593	3,801		3,801
Student Activities	2,984	9,506	12,490	3,443	9,047
School Times Mirror	489		489		489
Rental of School Facilities	14,907	283	15,190		15,190
J Brooks Adventure Fund	11,933	723	12,656		12,656
RCAP Water Bottle Filling Grant	3,372		3,372		3,372
STARS Cultural Grant			-	525	(525)
Rural State Aid Grant	28,262	28,677	56,939	8,839	48,100
School Gift Fund	10,154	500	10,654	1,103	9,551

Total School Programs	1,210,384	817,342	2,027,726	598,081	1,429,645
Other Special Revenues					
Road Construction	2,702	317,613	320,315	301,746	18,569
Cultural Council	3,230	5,700	8,930	8,444	486
Council on Aging	18,427	7,500	25,927	1,495	24,432
Cable Franchise-Appropriated	15,609	10,810	26,419	18,618	7,801
Cable Franchise-Unappropriated	28,343	13,636	41,979	10,810	31,169
Insurance Revolving	(7,933)	56,033	48,100	56,033	(7,933)
MVP Planning Grant	-	50,000	50,000		50,000
Dept. Of Justice Equitable Grant	4,968		4,968		4,968
Police Bridge Academy	6,000	3,000	9,000		9,000
Police JAG Account	3,143		3,143		3,143
Community Hall Gifts	23,708		23,708		23,708
Multiplex Gift	4,046	245	4,291		4,291
Library Children Book Gifts	2,743	5,744	8,487	7,453	1,034
Community Garden Expense	211		211		211
Historic Commission Gift	1,175		1,175		1,175
Other Gifts	4,456	2,500	6,956	2,556	4,400
ARPA Relief Fund	253,052	24,235	277,287	272,185	5,102
FEMA Relief	19,187		19,187	3,586	15,601
Fire Dept Equipment Grant	(10,440)	10,440	-	5,028	(5,028)
Other Public Safety Grants	8,466	13,348	21,814	10,750	11,064
Public Health Grant	2,728		2,728	2,728	0
Opioid Grant	14,220	(8,548)	5,672		5,672
Septic Repair Loan Program	95,804		95,804		95,804
Inspection Revolving Funds	151,262	35,907	187,169	33,008	154,161
Tax Title Fund		1,470	1,470		1,470
Conservation Commission Revolving	1,688	310	1,998	306	1,692
Police Drug Forfeiture	2,097		2,097		2,097
Other	4,862	35	4,897		4,897
Total Other Special Revenue	653,754	549,978	1,203,732	734,746	468,986
Total Special Revenue Funds	\$1,864,138	\$1,367,320	\$3,231,458	\$1,332,827	\$1,898,631

Combining Balance Sheet Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Governmental Fund Types			Fiduciar y Fund Types	Accou nt Group s	Totals
	General	Special Revenu e	Capital Project s	Trust and Agency	Long- term Debt	
ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	1,856,698.03	3,170,115.07	738,623.96	748,989.15		6,514,426.21

Investments				2,479,1		2,479,1
				27.76		27.76
Receivables:						
Personal property taxes	(647.38)					(647.38)
	177,850					177,850
Real estate taxes	.37					.37
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	(176,84					(176,84
	5.29)					5.29)
Tax liens	63,098.					63,568.
	87	469.54				41
	10,382.					10,382.
Deferred taxes	46					46
	86,466.					86,466.
Motor vehicle excise	81					81
		2,805.1				2,805.1
Other receivables - CPA		3				3
	30,750.					30,750.
Foreclosures/Possessions	75					75
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds				60,00		60,000.
Amounts to be provided - vacation/sick leave				0.00		00
						0.00
	2,047,7	3,173,3	738,62	3,228,1	60,00	9,247,8
Total Assets	54.62	89.74	3.96	16.91	0.00	85.23

LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY

Liabilities:						
Warrants payable						0.00
	135,992	5,954.1				141,946
Accounts payable	.10	0				.20
	29,832.					29,832.
Accrued payroll	09					09
Withholdings						0.00
Deferred revenue:						
Real and personal property taxes	357.70					357.70
	63,098.					63,568.
Tax liens	87	469.54				41
	10,382.					10,382.
Deferred taxes	46					46
Foreclosures/Possessions	30,750.					30,750.
	75					75
Motor vehicle excise	86,466.					86,466.
	81					81
Other receivables - CPA		2,805.1				2,805.1
		3				3
Tailings	3,062.0					3,062.0
	5					5
Agency Funds				(127,20		(127,20
Notes payable				3.66)		3.66)
						0.00
Bonds payable					60,00	60,000.
Vacation and sick leave liability					0.00	00
						0.00
Total Liabilities	359,942	9,228.7	0.00	(127,20	60,00	301,967
	.83	7		3.66)	0.00	.94

Fund Equity:						
	71,451.					71,451.
Reserved for encumbrances	13					13
	261,281	2,607.5				2,868.8
Reserved for expenditures	.00	62.84				43.84
Reserved for continuing appropriations			738,62			738,623
			3.96			.96
Reserved for petty cash						0.00
				876,192		876,291
Reserved for MSBA Debt	98.62			.81		.43
				2,479,1		2,479,1
Reserved for OPEB				27.76		27.76
Reserved for working deposit						0.00
	1,354,9	556,598				1,911,5
Undesignated fund balance	81.04	.13				79.17
	1,687,8	3,164,1	738,62	3,355,3		8,945,9
Total Fund Equity	11.79	60.97	3.96	20.57	0.00	17.29
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	2,047,7	3,173,3	738,62	3,228,1	60,00	9,247,8
	54.62	89.74	3.96	16.91	0.00	85.23



Annual Town Report of 2025

Animal Control

No report submitted.



Annual Town Report of 2025

Anti-Racism Advisory Committee

The mission of the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee (ARAC) is to examine the Town of Pelham’s policies through an antiracist lens and to provide counsel that both counters systemic racism and advocates for equity within our community. This fall, the ARAC offered the Town our third annual Anti-Racism Training. To accommodate our community’s schedules, we offered two times for the presentation to Pelham employees, volunteers, and residents: one in the morning and one in the evening. The workshops were led by Jennifer Moyston, who has worked in the public sector for many years and is “committed to Operational Excellence and Inclusive Community Service”. Participants enjoyed meeting with colleagues and neighbors, listening to a leader in this work, and discussing the implications with one another. Lively discussions followed both presentations and participants indicated interest in continuing the workshops into the future. We are planning to offer a follow-up meeting in May or June, to provide opportunities for further discussion of our understanding of the often subtle biases we all hold and how to address them. The ARAC has been working with the Housing Committee in their effort to amend the Town Zoning By-Laws so that they will promote more diversity in housing such as the new affordable Amethyst Brook Apartments, Habitat for Humanity houses and the recently passed by-law regarding accessory dwelling units. ARAC continues to be in conversation with the school about parity in achievement by economic and ethnic groups. We have been supportive of the selection of curricula that foster individualized instruction and learning. We are concerned that the Pelham Elementary School may need to close. We believe it is one of Pelham’s strongest assets.



Annual Town Report of 2025

Board of Assessors

Phone: 413-253-0734

Robert “Rusty” Rowell – Chairman

Otis Rowell

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 3rd Tuesday for those months. Meetings are held at 7:00 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 November 17, 2024 and voted a single tax rate for all residential and commercial properties in the Town of Pelham. The tax rate for FY2025 is \$16.97 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 2025 and calendar 2024.

FY 2024 Statutory Exemptions granted:

4 – 41C (senior) \$3946.96

7 – 22 (veteran) \$7000.00

- 3 – 17D (senior or surviving spouse) \$1050.00
- 0 – 37A (blind)
- 0 – 41A (deferral)

FY 2024 Real Estate abatements granted (at time of this printing):

- 2 - Totaling \$182.21 Real Estate 5-CPA \$5.46
- 0 - Totaling \$00.00 Personal Property

FY 2024 Low/Moderate Income Exemption for the CPA surcharge

- 5- Totaling \$496.39

2024 Motor Vehicle Excise abatements:

- 35 - Totaling \$2383.67

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 1st 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 1st 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 2025

Building Inspector

2025 construction has slowed as building permit numbers are noticeably less compared to last year. The multi-family housing project, Amethyst Brook, completed this year and the Centennial Water Treatment Plant neared completion. The Specialized Stretch Energy Code is now in effect for new dwellings. Also starting in February of 2025, the state created a new regulation which allows the creation of a “Protected” Accessory Dwelling Unit. The intention is to create more housing across the state.

During 2025 the following number and types of permits were issued:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 7 | Woodstoves/Pellet Stoves |
| 2 | Additions |
| 1 | New Single-Family Dwellings |
| 1 | Pools |
| 1 | Demolitions |
| 5 | Renovations |
| 2 | Alterations |

4	Decks
1	Shed
0	Repair
1	Porches
1	Barns/Garages
13	Roofs
11	Window/Door/Skylight Replacements
0	Siding
10	Solar Photo-Voltaic Arrays/Hot Water
17	Insulation
0	Tent
0	Sheet metal/Mechanical
3	Cell Tower Alteration(generator)
<u>0</u>	<u>Generator</u>
80	Total

The estimated value of building construction for building permits issued during 2025 was \$3,283,778. I look forward to serving the people of Pelham in the coming year.

Respectfully Submitted,
David Waskiewicz
Pelham Building Inspector



Annual Town Report of 2025

Cemetery Commission

The Pelham Cemetery Commission is made up of three members and is charged with maintaining the cemeteries for which the town is responsible: Arnold, Booth (formerly North Valley), Cook-Johnson, Harkness, Keyes-Stevens, Knights, Pelham Hill, Ruben Allen, and Quaker Burying Ground (jointly with the Historical Commission. Pelham's cemeteries and burying ground are maintained for historical reasons and for the use of town residents. The only active cemetery is Booth Cemetery on North Valley Road. The commission met 6 times in 2025.

In 2025:

- There were four cremation burials, and one full burial.
- Commission identified, coordinated movement, and worked with Dorsey Memorial for carving of the Booth Cemetery stone. The commission would like to thank Chuck Weeber for donating the stone, and to Rick Adamcek and the Highway Department for moving it.
- Flags were placed at the graves of 158 known Veterans and at cemetery entrances prior to Memorial Day.
- Flags are provided by the V.F.W.
- Bids were sought and submitted for stone wall repair at Pelham Hill Cemetery. Decision was made to table project. Commission met with landowners that currently border Booth Cemetery regarding potential plan to purchase land for eventual expansion. Local tree removal business was consulted for feasibility and approximate cost.
- Commission members began mapping an updated plot plan to determine number of burial plots at Booth Cemetery.
- Commission is developing a list of guidelines that will be completed in 2026.

The commission would like to thank the many people that were involved in the mowing, weed and leaf removal, and the overall upkeep of the cemeteries.

Scott Barton, Chair J. Phil Zahradnik, Dan McCullough, Secretary



Annual Town Report of 2025

Collector

No report submitted.



Annual Town Report of 2025

Community Garden Committee

It was a busy Pelham Community Garden. The committee used the remaining funds from their CPA account for garden improvements this year, including the installation of new garden gates, fence improvements, and pollinator garden improvements.

The Pelham Fire Department assisted us by filling the water storage tanks located in the garden as needed through the season. The pollinator garden thrived this past year, providing food and shelter for a variety of native insects and animals.

The Community Garden is actively looking for town folk to join the Garden Committee.

Meetings are held monthly on an as needed basis.

2025 Expenses - \$4,536

2025 Plot Fees - \$130

Respectfully submitted by:

Cyd Reiman (Chair)
Chris Bain (Co-Chair)
Theresa Smith (Treasurer)
Wendi Weinberg
Sue Tippet



Annual Town Report of 2025

Community Hall Committee

No report submitted.



Annual Town Report of 2025

Community Preservation Committee

Come to our meetings! The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) meets on every third Thursday of the month from 7 to 8:30 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). Just go to the Boards and

Committees menu and select the 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 beginning of each agenda is the Zoom link for that meeting.

Public Information Hearing! The 2025 public hearing was held on May 15, 2025. The CPC will hold its next public hearing on May 21, 2026 at 7:15 p.m. in the Ramsdell Room at the Pelham Library. The purpose is to hear the needs, possibilities and resources of the town regarding community preservation. Find the agenda and minutes at Pelham's MyTownGovernment website (mytowngovernment.org/01002). Topics covered at the public information hearing include current applications for Community Preservation funds. The committee will also discuss the Pelham Community Preservation Plan and the estimated yearly revenue.

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 2024 for Fiscal Year 2025 • Local Surcharge: \$103,560.35 • State Match: \$96,574.00
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. 1 Pelham CPC January 19, 2026

FY2025 Activity: Town Meeting actions and end of fiscal year fund balances. Spring Town Meeting May 10, 2025
Article 14. VOTED unanimously to see if the Town will vote to approve the Community Preservation Committee's (CPC) recommended appropriation and transfer of \$9,500.00 from the Community Preservation Fund FY2026 estimated annual revenues for administrative expenses in FY2026, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by the Select Board.
Article 15. VOTED unanimously to see if the Town will vote to approve the Community Preservation Committee's recommended appropriation and transfer of the following sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues, and to reserve for later appropriation: \$19,000.00 for Open Space and Recreation, \$19,000.00 for Community Housing, and \$19,000.00 for Historic Resources; and to reserve from the estimated annual revenues for later appropriation \$123,500.00 to the annual FY2026 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by the Select Board.
Article 16. VOTED unanimously to see if the Town will vote to adopt the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$93,150.87 from the Open Space and Recreation Fund, for the Pelham Elementary School Playground Committee's application to pay for the cost of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) renovation of the Pelham School playground, including removal of old equipment, delivery and installation of new equipment, and any landscaping that needs to be done, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by the Select Board.
Article 17. WITHDRAWN To see if the Town will vote to adopt the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$10,000.00 from the FY2026 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve, for the Pelham Conservation Commission's application for funding for creation of digital trail maps for the Town of Pelham, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by the Select Board.

Special Town Meeting October 15, 2025 Article 2. VOTED unanimously see if the Town will vote to adopt the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$16,000 from the Open Space and Recreation Fund, for the Pelham Elementary School Playground Committee's application to pay for the increased cost of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) renovation of the Pelham School Playground, which appropriation shall be added to the existing appropriation under Article 15 of the 2025 Annual Town Meeting, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by the Select Board. 2 Pelham CPC January 19, 2026

CPA Fund Balances Current Balance End of Fiscal Year 2025 (June 30, 2025)

Encumbered for Active Projects \$708,929.89

Reserved for Open Space/Recreation

Reserved for Historic Resources Reserved for Community Housing

Reserved for Undesignated Fund Budgeted Reserve \$17,242.13 \$111,643.00 \$33,000.40 \$394,392.65

Respectfully submitted by the Community Preservation Committee: Members: Cydnie Reiman, at-large James Lumley, at-large James Pewtherer, Housing Joseph Larson, Historical Judith Eiseman, Planning Richard Seelig, Conservation Thomas Fanning, Recreation Kate Sypek, Administrative Assistant 3 \$22,644.06 \$20,242.13 \$130,643.00 \$52,000.40 \$394,392.65 \$123,500



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Conservation Commission

The Pelham Conservation Commission, established in 1970 under the State's Conservation Commission Act of 1957 (MGL 40 s. 8C), serves as the principal conservation authority for Pelham. The Commission administers the MA Wetlands Protection Act (MGL 131 s. 40), which governs all work (land alteration) in wetlands and 100-ft 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 reviews Forest Cutting Plans approved by the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) under the Forest Cutting Practices Act (MGL 132 s.40-46). The Commission duties also include open space protection and management, and environmental education.

During 2025 the Commission continued to meet mostly by Zoom, unless the applicants or guests preferred in-person. MA government has allowed the continuation of remote meetings for Conservation Commissions. The Commission meets on the 2nd and last Thursday of the month. We held 18 meetings (16 Zoom & 2 in person), and conducted numerous site visits. Members include Dana MacDonald, Chair; Tilman Lukas, Vice-Chair; David Gross, Secretary; Richard Seelig and Janice Gifford. Janice Stone is the Conservation Agent.

2025 Actions & Activities

The Commission reviewed many sites for prospective projects and issued two Advisory Assessment Letters, one Emergency Certification, one Determination, and three Certificates of Compliance for completed projects. Advisory Assessments are for minor projects that are not likely to have any impact on wetlands or buffer zones. The Commission also investigated two complaints about wetland violations, one of which took most of the year to resolve.

Two large construction projects were completed this year but required monitoring during 2025. These are the Amherst Centennial Water Treatment Plant reconstruction at 86 Amherst Rd. and the new affordable housing project known as Amethyst Brook Apartments at 20-22 Amherst Rd.

The Commission performed some needed maintenance on town conservation land, and proposed two conservation projects to the Community Preservation Committee. These are for replacing the decking and railings of a bridge, and a set of steps on a slope at Buffam Falls Conservation Area; and creation of a digital map of the main trails in Pelham, which would be downloadable from the town website. Pelham has many great miles of trails to explore, including the New England Scenic Trail and Robert Frost Trail, and shorter ones on conservation land.

The Commission continues to work with the Kestrel Land Trust on land protection, including a Conservation Restriction (CR) on 2 town parcels in the northwest part of town, which has been delayed due to title concerns on one of the parcels. These two parcels are adjacent to the new 938-acre Sarah Cows Forest at Pelham Hills, which was formerly Cows Forest land, now owned by The Trustees of Reservations, with Kestrel Land Trust holding the CR. This new "Forever Wild Forest" land connects with other conservation lands to the north and

south, creating an even larger block, and includes a long section of the Robert Frost Trail.

Respectfully submitted to the Town,
Pelham Conservation Commission



New sign installed along N. Valley Rd



CC members clearing trail of fallen trees



Annual Town Report of 2025

Council on Aging

The Council on Aging is committed to helping the almost 500 older adults in Pelham age in place safely and with purpose. The COA collaborates with Amherst Neighbors, a free program that is open to Pelham residents. It is a resource for information, virtual and in-person programs, special interest groups, and volunteers who provide help with household repairs, transportation, companionship, assistance with technology, grocery shopping, etc. Visit www.amherstneighbors.org or call 413-345-2555 to learn more.

The Pelham COA offers these ongoing programs:

- *Annual flu clinic
- *Monthly footcare clinic
- *Home delivery of library materials
- *Free lockboxes to provide first responders access to a home in an emergency
- *Life Story Writing Class for Older Adults
- *Information table at the Pelham library
- *Birthday cards with local resource reminders
- *Fire Safety Awareness Education in collaboration with Belchertown Fire Department

For information about these services and community programs that provide meals, transportation, fuel assistance, home health care and support to older adults, contact Tracy Osbahr, COA chair, at 413-531-9678.

We are actively seeking new members to join the COA. Meetings are held at 2 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at the Library Complex but we are open to finding a more convenient meeting time if that timeframe is a barrier to

anyone.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Osbahr, Nancy Rose Weeber, Isabel Ryavec, Jane Porter, Karen Smith



Annual Town Report of 2025

Cultural Council

Earlier this fall, the Pelham Cultural Council invited organizations, schools, and individuals to submit proposals for cultural activities serving Pelham residents and students in the Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools. This year, the Council was able to award **\$6,840** in direct funding to community-based arts, humanities, and science programming. Priority was given to projects that serve local families and youth, celebrate Pelham's history and environment, highlight Pelham-based artists and educators, and bring global perspectives to our community. They are:

- **Summer Reading Program: "Plant a Seed: Read"** – The Pelham Library's literacy-focused summer program for children and families.
- **Lose Your Blues Jazz Piano Concert** – A solo jazz performance by Stephen Page at the Pelham Library.
- **West African Drumming Workshop: Come Out to Play** – An interactive workshop combining performance, history, and hands-on drumming at the Pelham Library.
- **Pelham Players** – The long-running free summer youth theater program for Pelham children and teens.
- **Cemeteries of Pelham** – Guided public tours exploring the history, layout, and stories of Pelham's historic cemeteries.
- **Hampshire Young People's Chorus Spring Concert** – A culminating regional youth choral performance with participation from Pelham students.
- **Pelham Elementary PTO Art and Culture Night Performer** – Live performance and arts activities for Pelham Elementary School's annual community celebration.
- **6th Annual Odenong Powwow** – An intertribal, community-centered celebration of Indigenous/Native American culture, arts, and traditions held at Amherst Regional High School.
- **Amherst Regional Public Schools @ The Drake** – A multi-part public concert series showcasing students, faculty, and community musicians.
- **Mindfulness Garden Mural Project** – A vibrant, abstract mural by Sharon Leshner enhancing the garden at Summit Academy (a part of the Amherst-Pelham Regional schools).
- **Secret Planet Music Series** – A community-supported global music concert series presenting international artists in the Pioneer Valley.
- **Silverthorne Summer Season** – Professional theater productions centering underrepresented voices and accessible pricing.
- **Tunes@Noon** – A free monthly lunchtime concert series providing live music to the community at Amherst Survival Center.
- **Uniquely Quabbin Magazine** – A regional arts and culture magazine highlighting local history, writing, photography, and visual art.

The Pelham Cultural Council is also **actively seeking new members**. Serving on the Council is a meaningful way to support local arts and culture, help guide funding decisions, and contribute to Pelham's civic life. Residents interested in learning more or joining the Council are encouraged to email pelhamculture@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing these projects come to life and thank the Pelham community and Mass Cultural Council for their continued support of arts, humanities, and cultural programming in Pelham.

—Pelham Cultural Council Members Carolyn Bassett, Lisa Crossman, Susan Daniels, Jim Lumley, Tony Maroulis, John Page and Ruth Rinard.



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Energy Committee

Town Report from the Pelham Energy Committee

This report provides an overview of the energy committee's plans regarding future decarbonization projects in town and expected impacts on town finances.

The take-home message is:

- **Supporting studies** - We are commissioning a bunch of studies to answer engineering questions we have about future decarbonization projects paid for through a state grant already secured as part of the town's status as a Climate Leader community.
- **State grant opportunity** - We will use those study results to shape our February 2027 application to the state for project grant funding
- **10% town match** - The state project funding opportunity requires a town match of only 10%, with the state paying up to a maximum of 1 million dollars. If we propose projects totaling \$1,111,000, it would cost the town \$111,000 and the state would provide the full extra 1 million dollars.
- **Town contribution needed in mid-FY28**. If we receive the state funding, we would need the \$111,000 match around the middle of FY 2028.
- **Cheaper Electricity?** We will also be receiving a proposal from Constellation Energy to be the town's electricity supplier. We anticipate that it would provide electricity at a lower cost than our current supplier,

Preparing for decarbonization projects

The Energy Committee is pursuing a number of engineering projects that will put us in a good position to get state funding for future decarbonization projects.

Engineering studies in progress

We are currently overseeing four studies, at no cost to the town. They are funded by the recently grant from DOER. The studies include:

1. DPW – An evaluation of the DPW electrical infrastructure and grid connection and upgrades that will be needed to support future vehicle charging, energy storage and solar panels. This will include engineering drawings for needed upgrades.
2. CCP - A similar study of the electrical infrastructure and grid connection at the Community Center.
3. CCP - A study of possible backup power systems for the Community Center, including batteries and a generator
4. CCP – Design documents for an auxiliary hydronic heat pump system to provide some auxiliary heat and fully decarbonize the Community Center (allow us to cease using the oil-fired boiler).

All of these studies would also provide estimates of implementation and operating costs.

Additional studies in the near future

We are also discussing a few possible studies with Power Options. Power Options is a unique legal entity that supplies electricity to municipal and non-profit entities. They are also obligated to supply free studies to their members, whether those members buy power from them or not. For a membership of \$500/yr, we could get the following studies, worth at least \$20,000, at no additional cost.

1. CCP - A study of possible solar systems at the Community Center, either a canopy system or ground-mounted system.
2. CCP - A study of the details of a battery system at the Community Center to address future electrical demand charges, once vehicle charging is initiated.
3. DPW – Design documents for a ground-mounted solar PV system over the leach field at the DPW.
4. DPW – Design documents for a future battery system to reduce electrical demand charges at the DPW garage

All of these studies would also provide expected implementation and operating costs.

Plans for decarbonization

Decarbonization grant opportunity –February 2027

We are aiming to apply to the state for funding for a large grant to fund town decarbonization projects. We expect to apply for the February 1, 2027 opportunity. This grant would allow us to package decarbonization projects into one project that would cost \$1,111,000. The town would have to come up with \$111,000 (10% of the total cost). The choice of projects would depend on rough conformance with our Decarbonization Roadmap, estimates of the implementation costs for each project, and out other priorities.

At the moment, I expect that our proposal would include the following projects (see table below).

The table includes anticipated 2027 costs (45% larger than our latest estimates) and cost savings (reduced by 20% to avoid optimism) and the resulting simple payback period for each project, based on the town's contribution to each of these projects.

Project	2027 Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual Cost Savings	Simple payback period, years
CCP - auxiliary hydronic heat pump	280,000	\$ 8,582	3.3
CCP - 150 kWh demand reduction battery system	230,000	\$ 8,640	2.7
Rhodes - New heat pump heating and cooling	120,000	\$ (2,000)	-6.0
DPW - Rooftop PV, 36 kW	345,000	\$ 32,820	0.4
DPW – Leach field PV, 60 kW	345,000	\$ 54,700	0.6

Decarbonization projects could save the town about \$100,000 per year

The total town savings from these five projects would be \$102,000 for an aggregate simple payback period of 1.1 years. Total town investment would be \$111,000. The specifics of our application proposal will depend on the results of all of our studies but, these numbers are representative of the projects we are looking at. The inclusion of PV projects in the mix provides the shortest payback period and the most value to the town.

Town match needed mid-FY 2028

Assuming that we apply for implementation funding in February 2027, the start construction might be in the fall-winter of 2027.

If so, the town match will be needed roughly in the middle of FY 2028.

The details of the arrangements will be:

- As construction begins, the state would give us \$100,000, 10% of its award.
- After that there would be a series of town payments for work completed and state reimbursement of those costs, up to 90% of their contribution.
- After completing final documentation, an inspection, etc. we would be sent the state's final \$100,000.
- And we will be left with a net unreimbursed cost of \$111,000.

Cheaper electricity for the town

Finally, Power Options (mentioned above as a source of low-cost engineering studies) is interested in supplying our electricity (through Constellation Energy). Power Options already has the details of our electrical use and will soon be getting back to us with a proposal for supplying electricity to the town municipal accounts. We anticipate that it would provide electricity at a lower cost than our current supplier.

Respectfully submitted by John Larsen (co-chair), Tony Rogers (co-chair) and Randall Spalding-Fecher (member).



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Fence Viewers

Fence Viewers settle disputes between landowners regarding fences along common property lines. Traditionally, the Fence Viewers along with the Hogreeves were responsible for assuring that livestock was kept under control and prevented from damaging neighboring fields and crops. The Fence Viewers also maintained the Animal Pound. Over time, catching and impounding animals has become the responsibility of the Dog/Animal Officer. Pelham no longer has Hogreeves. The Fence Viewers now provide advice on fence issues in general and can assist residents to locate evidence of the boundary lines and the corners of their property. For more information please refer to the “Handbook on Fence Viewers and Laws on Fences in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts”, published in 2004 by Joseph Larson. In 2025 the Pelham Fence Viewers had to take no official actions.

Respectfully submitted, Joseph S. Larson & Bruce Klotz



Annual Town Report of 2025

Finance Committee

The financial situation of the Town continues to decline as expenses rise more than our revenue. Over the last two years our expenses have exceeded our revenue by about \$200,000. This year will be another year of deficit spending. The increased spending over the revenue is forecast to be more than \$300,000. Overall, the Town departments have done an exceptional job trying to hold down expenses and being creative in approaching projects. Our biggest challenge is the pressure from wage increases and rising insurance rates.

The largest budget increase comes from the Regional Schools (grades 7-12) which is based on three factors. The first is the 6% increase cost of operating the school for next year (\$1,507,452) assessed to the four member towns. This is on top of last year’s increase of 6%. The second is related to the assessment method. For the last seven or so years, the Region has been transitioning to using the Statutory method of assessing the towns for funding the Regional Schools versus the per pupil method used for many prior years. The Statutory method takes into account the wealth of each town. Since Pelham is considered a wealthier town, we share a higher burden. This allocation is used on the portion of the budget called the “Minimum Contribution” required by the State. That number this year is \$14,305,435 of which Pelham is responsible for \$777,841 (5.43%). The remaining portion of the operating budget is allocated on a per pupil cost based on a five-year rolling average of enrollment, which this year has Pelham paying \$574,243 (5.12%). The third contributing factor is the increasing number of students enrolling in the Regional Schools from Pelham. In 2021 there were 62 students from Pelham while in 2024 there were 73. The total increase to Pelham’s Regional assessment is \$244,807. This should be a onetime adjustment and next year should be back to more typical increases.

With gratitude for the work of the School Committee and the Superintendent, the Pelham Elementary School budget increase to the Town is \$44,000 (an increase of 2.5%) which is within the guidelines provided by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee has also requested \$26,000 from Free Cash to cover the cost of an elementary-aged charter school student. When this student moves on to the Region after 6th grade, the cost will be eliminated from the Elementary School budget. The Elementary School appears to have received an increase in State aid (Chapter 70) of \$42,000 based on the Governor’s budget.

On the good side, our Capital Stabilization plan continues to work as planned and we are paying cash for all of our purchases. We should consider establishing such a plan for the Regional Schools’ capital needs as they are about to increase substantially in three years.

Also positive is the balance of our OPEB Trust Fund, which at the end of February, was over \$2,380,000, a significant accomplishment for a Town of our size. (The OPEB trust is recommended by the State and to cover the health insurance for retired town employees.) The Finance Committee does not recommend increasing our contribution to the

OPEB trust fund this year (to offset the sharp increase to our Regional Assessment); we need to do so next year to stay on track toward full funding.

With little new growth to the property tax base occurring in Pelham, we expect it to be a struggle to keep the tax rate increase within 2.5% for 2027. The 2.5% increase for 2026 is estimated at \$135,000. In 2027 no department or school budget should expect to increase by more than 2.5% without expecting the taxpayers to consider an override or approving equivalent reductions in other departments to produce a balanced budget. Tough choices are coming requiring that the taxpayers speak up so that the Finance Committee will know how to proceed next year. To communicate with the Finance Committee you can send an email to finance@pelhamma.gov. We welcome your input.

Respectfully Submitted: C. Castenson, E. Marriott, F. Vanderbeck, D. Keiser and J. Trickey



Annual Town Report of 2025

Fire Department

The following is the 2025 report of The Pelham Fire Department.

I would like to thank the members of the department who put in countless hours training and responding to calls to help the residents and visitors of Pelham. Our members respond 24/7/365

Pelham Fire Department responded to 196 calls in 2025. This is a 16% increase from 2024 and a record-breaking year for Pelham Fire call volume. This upward trend in call volume is seen nationwide and is putting a strain on resources locally and nationally, especially with volunteer departments.

The calls included:

1 Structure Fire	1 Carbon Monoxide Incident
3 Mutual Aid Structure Fires	3 Outside Smoke Investigations
3 Mutual Aid Coverage	3 Missing Persons / Search
2 Outside / Brush Fires	3 Wellbeing Checks
133 Medical Emergencies	6 Weather Related Calls (Trees down, no wires)
1 Overpressure / Explosion	1 Indoor Odor Investigation
10 Motor Vehicle Accidents	1 Gas Appliance Malfunction
5 Power Lines Down	20 False Alarms

Members of Pelham Fire participated in over 1000 hours of training in 2025, as well as vehicle maintenance, station maintenance, and regular equipment checks to make sure we are ready to respond at a moment's notice.

In 2025 Pelham Fire conducted over 100 inspections including oil burners, propane tanks, smoke and co detector inspections on houses sold, solar panel and battery storage as well as construction projects in town.

All Pelham apparatus were professionally serviced and tested in 2025, including ladders, hose, SCBA and pumps.

In November of 2025, Pelham Fire took delivery of our new 2025 Tanker. This unit replaced our 1990 Tanker 1. The truck responded to a fire in Amherst the same day it was delivered and shuttled over 105,000 thousand gallons of water to the fire scene.

Once again Pelham Fire participated in the Pelham PTO Trunk or Treat event by hosting a public safety open house at the same time. Pelham Fire has partnered with Belchertown Fire Department to deliver fire safety programs to Pelham Elementary School.

Pelham Fire received a \$15,677.50 grant in 2025 from The Department of Fire Services to refurbish the diesel exhaust system in the station as well as new boots and helmets for all members.

In 2025 Pelham was faced with a devastating house fire where a member of our community did not survive. I would like to thank all the members of Pelham Fire, Mutual Aid departments and the community who helped with this tragic situation, as well as wish our condolences to the family and friends of the victim.

We need new members, 16 and older. If you are interested in helping your community, please contact us for more information or visit pelhamma.gov

Sincerely, Dennis Nazzaro, Chief

2025 Members

Dennis Nazzaro – Chief
Richard Hall – Deputy Chief
Jason Hall – Captain

Stephen Hall - Firefighter
Peter Clough – Firefighter
Erich Hinlein – Firefighter
Jordan Helzer - Firefighter
Rob Libiszewski – Firefighter
Ryan Chaiffre – Firefighter
Dominic Nazzaro – Jr Firefighter
Domeniq Sanchez – Jr Firefighter



Annual Town Report of 2025

Board of Health

Board of Health Members:

Name	Title
William Pula	Chairman
Richard Hall	Member
Leonor Rodriguez	Member

Mission Statement and Background:

The mission of the Pelham Board of Health is to address public health needs, protect and improve the health and quality of life in the community, offer education resources, and promulgate and enforce local, state, and national regulations as required by law.

Through the Quabbin Health District, the Pelham Board of Health is able to provide one full-time Director of Public Health, Andrea Crete; a part-time Administrative Assistant, Desiree Vennert; a full-time Code Enforcement Officer, John Prenosil; a Title 5 Independent Contractor, Roger Bacon; and a full time Public Health Nurse Kirsten Krieger who resigned August 8, 2025.

The Quabbin Health District is a comprehensive regional health department serving the communities of Belchertown, Pelham, and Ware. The Quabbin Health District was established in 1980 by a town meeting vote and was formed under Section 27A of Chapter 111 of the MGL. It is a joint effort by the three community's local Boards of Health to provide their towns with the public health professionals and services needed to create healthy communities. The Quabbin Health District provides public health services for roughly 26,696 residents within these communities' 120 square mile radius. The Quabbin Health District provides each town with the shared personnel, equipment, and other resources to carry out the required public health duties.

The Quabbin Health District provides services to Pelham including, but not limited to, communicable and reportable disease surveillance via an online epidemiological network (MAVEN), public health investigations, public health messaging, 24-7 public health emergency response, seasonal flu vaccination clinics, tobacco control, substance abuse prevention programs, and state-mandated public health inspections and complaint management. You can visit the Quabbin Health District website for more information on services at <http://quabbinhealthdistrict.com>.

The Pelham Board of Health meets on the second Thursday of every month at 4:00pm in the Ramsdell Room at the Pelham Public Library located at 2 South Valley Road in Pelham.

The report below details the services the Quabbin Health District provided to the town of Pelham for the 2025 calendar year. Please contact the Quabbin Health District by phone at 413-967-9561, or email dvennert@townofware.com with any questions, comments, requests for additional information, and to relay any specific public health concerns in Pelham.

Administrative Assistant Report:

One duty of the Administrative Assistant is to obtain the necessary information, record data, collect fees, and issue permits to applicants who qualify as determined by the pertinent inspector.

The following is a list of the various permits that were issued by the Quabbin Health District Administrative Assistant during 2025:

Food Establishment Licenses	1
MA Rental Housing Voucher Applications	13
Pre Rental Housing Insp Application	1
Mobile Home Park Licenses	1
Septic/Trash Hauler Licenses	8
Septic Installer Licenses	6
Septic Installations (New)	1
Septic Installations (Repair)	7
Soil Testing Applications (Repair)	3
Soil Testing Applications (New)	3
Plumbing Permits	9

Respectfully Submitted by Desiree Vennert, Administrative Assistant.

Board of Health Activity & Inspections Report:

Food Inspections	1
Nuisance Inspections	2
Housing Inspections	17 (13 voucher)
Soil/Perc Testing	6
Septic Final Component Inspections	8
Septic System Plan Review	7
Well Application Reviews	1

Public Health Nursing Report - 2025

Communicable Disease Surveillance submitted by Lauren Blakeley RN, BSN, Contracted Public Health Nurse, Quabbin Health District.

The PHN is responsible for and has been conducting MAVEN infectious disease surveillance. This requires daily review of notifications for infectious diseases and contacting residents to investigate where they may have been exposed to an infectious disease or illness. The types and numbers of communicable diseases reported in the Town of Pelham for 2025 are listed below. (*at-home COVID-19 testing is not reported to MA DPH*).

Case classification terms:

Abbreviations: C = confirmed, P = probable, S = suspected

- Confirmed event: clinical and/or laboratory evidence fulfills criteria required for true cases.
- Probable event: available clinical and/or laboratory evidence meets most, but not all, of the criteria required for a confirmed case.
- Suspect event: available clinical and/or laboratory evidence meets some, but not all, of the criteria required for a definitive classification of the case.

Disease	Confirmed	Probable	Suspect
Babesiosis	0	0	2
Hepatitis B	0	0	1
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	1	0	2
Influenza	7	0	0
Lyme Disease	0	1	8
Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc)	4	0	0

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Pelham Board of Health,



Andrea Crete MPH, RS
Director of Public Health
Quabbin Health District



Annual Town Report of 2025

Highway Department

Town Report Highway Department

The Highway Department had a very productive year.

Summary of Activities by Building

Community Center: Insulation was repaired, replaced and added to the existing HVAC system piping. The rope for the flag pole was replaced. In the Library, ceiling tiles were repaired or replaced. At the front entrance to the Police/Fire Department new recessed lighting was installed. A film of tint was installed on the windows in the Police Department. At the Fire Department, a safety stop on a garage door was repaired and a new drop ceiling was installed in the Fire Chief's office. On the exterior of the building, new corner boards and other trim boards were replaced as well as several windows. More repairs will be needed next year. The walls in the Fire garage bays were also washed. All fire alarms and smoke detectors were tested and inspected. The boiler and air compressors were inspected by the State.

Library: A condensate line on an AC unit was repaired.

Community Hall: The water meter was replaced. New tables were delivered put together and brought to the building.

Rhodes Building: The fire alarm needed repair, a new bulletin board was built and painted to match the building. A new drop box was purchased and installed.

Highway Garage: A hand rail was installed on the platform used to service the furnace.

Historical Complex: A valve was repaired on a urinal.

Elementary School: Vines and brush were cleared from the fence along the field.

Cemeteries: Trees were removed from the path to the Quaker cemetery. A new stone was moved and placed at Booth cemetery on North Valley Road. Brush was also cleared from the back of the cemetery.

Equipment Repairs: The number five truck had the main feed hydraulic line replaced, as well as hydraulic lines replaced on the plow and sander. The hydraulic line that runs the liquid deicer pump replaced. The hydraulic cylinder that lifts the snow plow were replaced and the plow king pin was repaired. The plow light heating elements and several broken wires for the sander control were replaced. For the number three truck a new mirror was installed and the dump body alarm was replaced. The wiper motor was replaced and oil leaks on the engine fixed. The turbo was repaired, new rear tires installed, as well as the driver's seat rebuilt. For the number one truck a new windshield was installed and a front pinion sea replaced. For the number eight truck, a new clutch was installed, a snow plow king pin bolt was replaced, and a new liquid deicer pump was installed. New plow whips were added to its snow plow. The number two truck had repairs made to the wiring for the rear strobe lights and backup lights. The evener valve for the air tail gate had to be replaced. The backhoe had its tool box repaired, a broken hydraulic fitting for the wrist pivot was replaced, as well as the quick couplers. The wood chipper had a broken wire repaired for its Murphy switch and the clutch adjusted. The asphalt roller needed the water pump replaced. The New Holland Tractor needed a leak on the fuel tank repaired. The 80KW generator had its annual load test and the water pump replaced. The Ferri Flail mower had the PTO shaft replaced. The Ariens snowblower had an electrical issue repaired. We started servicing the Police Department vehicles and one had the exhaust replaced and another needed work on the brake pedal switch. The new pickup service truck was delivered.

Road Repairs:

Buffam Road was chip sealed with 20% rubber asphalt product as well as a small section of Gulf Road which was also shimmed. Two culverts on Amherst Road were lowered. Several sections of North Valley Road were shimmed and overlaid using over 500 ton of hot mis asphalt all applied by the Highway Department crew. Two catch basins on North

Valley Road were repaired/rebuilt. A sewer line was installed part way up on Cadwell Street. A water leak was repaired on South Valley Road by the Town of Amherst DPW. Guardrails were replaced on North Valley Road near Meeting House Road.

Yearly Maintenance:

All town roads were swept and catch basins cleaned. Lines were painted on roads and crosswalks. Parking lot lines were painted at the Elementary School, Community Center, and the Rhodes Building. Roadsides were mowed and guardrail posts and signs were replaced. Brush was trimmed to improve sight distance in many locations. Downed trees were cleaned up. Ditches and waterways were cleaned out many times with excess materials removed from the shoulders. Different areas in town received hot mix patch while other potholes were repaired with cold patch. All dirt roads were graded several times with gravel added to many locations. The Life Flight landing zone was mowed several times. Community Center generator was run monthly and load tested. Spring cleanup was done at all town owned properties and buildings. The fire alarm and sprinkler systems were inspected and tested. All filters were inspected and changed in the building HVAC systems. The floors in the Police and fire stations were stripped and waxed.

Other:

Mechanic Charlie Ryznic and myself attended a Bay State Road class on asphalt treatments. Edward Chapin retired at the end of July after 36+ years of service. I would like to thank Ed for his service, a more dedicated employee could not be found. Shawne Couture began working full time on August 1. Shawne has worked in the past for the Highway Department as seasonal help.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Adamcek
DPW Superintendent



Annual Town Report of 2025

Historical Commission

No report submitted.



Annual Town Report of 2025

Housing Committee

The mission of the Pelham Housing Committee is to find ways to increase the diversity, availability and affordability of housing options in town, particularly for young families and seniors.

In 2025, the Housing Committee (HC):

1. Participated in a celebration of the opening of the Amethyst Brook Apartments (ABA), the first affordable rental properties in town, located at 20 and 22 Amherst Road. The two buildings contain 24 one-bedroom apartments, 7 two-bedroom apartments, and 3 three-bedroom apartments.
2. Helped to successfully advocate for an extension of the route of the PVRTA bus line to the ABA and the Village Center, and the installation of a new sidewalk alongside Amherst Road between the Amherst Town Line and the ABA.
3. Supported the efforts of the Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity, Inc. to prepare to begin construction of two new affordable 3-bedroom houses on Cadwell Street. The houses will be highly energy-efficient, and will use solar energy to meet much of the owners' electric energy needs. Construction is expected to begin in 2026.

4. Worked with the Planning Board to prepare amendments to the town's Zoning By-Laws to comply with the provisions of the Affordable Homes Act that allows the construction of an Accessory Dwelling Unit, whether attached or detached, in every single-family zoning district. Those amendments were approved with some changes at the 2024 Annual Town Meeting. As required by law, the Office of the Attorney General reviewed the amendments and found that some of them did not comply with the law and deleted them. The HC worked with the Planning Board to propose amendments to the Zoning By-Laws that are consistent with the views expressed by the Office of the Attorney General and would permit a substantial increase in the number of affordable homes while still providing reasonable environmental and aquifer protection.
5. Updated the Welcome to Pelham pamphlet which is provided to new residents after they move in, to introduce them to the town.

Housing Committee Members: Tilman Lukas (Chair), Markyta Ables-Conyers, Gail Kenney, Lauren Leonardis, Jim Lumley, James Pewtherer, Roy Regozin, Linda Spink. Barbara Cooper is on leave this year; she has been missed.



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IT Advisory Group

No report submitted.



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Library Trustees

Statistics from July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

We've had another busy and productive year at the Pelham Library..

- We circulated nearly 22,000 physical items and 5,847 non-print items such as audio, video, eBooks, Library of Things items, games, puzzles, museum passes, etc.
- We offer access to multiple electronic collections with offerings including e-books, e-audio, graphic novel collections, streaming video and music, electronic periodicals and hundreds of statewide databases.
- We continue to expand the very popular Library of Things.
- Our meeting rooms were used 428 times.

In-person programming expanded to new heights! We hosted or co-hosted 265 in person programs with over 2,700 people attending. Programming highlights included:

- Regular programs included an early childhood playgroup sponsored by CES, weekly preschool music hours, concerts, Reiki, qigong, yoga, memoir writing, book groups, craft nights, gaming groups for teens and for neurodiverse young adults, and open office hours with our state representative, Aaron Saunders.
- A plant swap and seed starting workshop.
- Bouquet making workshops.
- A Sustainability Series including mending, bike repair, knife sharpening and basic sewing.
- Art exhibits in the Ramsdell Room by local artists.
- Safety and health programming including Narcan training and fire safety workshops in collaboration with the Pelham Council on Aging.
- We hosted the Pelham After School Program.
- Pelham Players put on two performances of Matilda Jr., each with over 100 people in attendance.

- Over 100 children participated in our Summer Reading Program, “Level Up at Your Library” and included visits from Valley favorites Trevor the Game Man and Ed the Wizard.

We are very grateful to the community, volunteers and staff who continue to make our Library flourish. Our doors are open—stop in and make use of the resources and be sure to thank our dedicated, hard-working staff while you are there. Also, let us know what else we could be doing to enrich your library experience.

Respectfully submitted by the Library Trustees and Jodi Levine, Library Director.

Alyse Bynum, co-chair; Diane Gray, co-chair; Maia Porter, Nancy Arons, Charles Thompson, Elizabeth Lutwak, Za McDonnell



Annual Town Report of 2025

Planning Board

For well over 50 years, townspeople have recognized that all planning should begin with understanding the values of our residents, our land, and our natural resources. To that end, the Planning Board works with residents and all town officials to bring ideas, regulations, and proposals for voters to study and vote upon. In 2025, Pelham and other Western Massachusetts towns were hit with political forces—state and federal—that required us to learn and adapt quickly to plans and goals set by other legislative bodies regarding energy siting, housing, public health and safety, and economic realities.

Along with our usual business of: approving new lots or changes to lots and maps; answering calls and emails; holding hearings and issuing Special Permits and/or Site Plan Approval on project applications; attending and contributing to meetings of other groups in and out of town; and hiring consultants when necessary, the Board is generally trying to keep others informed and understand priorities of town, state, and federal officials—some of which may conflict with views held by many Pelham residents.

We continue to learn about and incorporate required new and/or sometimes conflicting approaches to housing, energy, and land use. We have tried to keep abreast of developments in new state laws and regulations and have commented on a variety of projects in adjacent towns and various legislative actions. These include participation in developing Energy Facility Siting Board regulations and attending hearings and meetings on proposed developments in Amherst that could affect us, and remaining on top of Eversource and National Grid plans for their Rights of Way.

Members try to attend other town board/commission meetings to encourage communications among boards and to provide information on specific projects under discussion. We are assisted in this by our valued association with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (see pvpc.org) which provides a variety of training, research, grant writing, technical assistance, and help for all towns in the region. Ultimately “all politics is local” and we are seeing that play out as we discuss housing, energy, climate change, and economic realities here in town, statewide, and nationally.

Projects still awaiting completion or continuing effort:

- Centennial Water Treatment Plant. This project which required a Special Permit from the Planning Board began in 2021, and a ribbon cutting celebration occurred in October. However, before the new plant can begin delivering water this summer, there is work still to be completed. This includes correcting a problem with the water treatment process, completing approved landscaping, addressing a substantial problem with erosion and runoff during initial startup, and approval by the DEP of the treated water. Until that is corrected and the required plantings and screening are approved with an “as built” plan furnished to the Building Inspector and Planning Board, the expectation is that it will be ready to open by May or early summer 2026. The plant furnishes water for residents in the Pelham Village Center and Amherst.
- Massachusetts Downtown Initiative. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission assisted us in obtaining a \$25,000 state grant and PVPC’s Lori Tanner worked with town officials, staff, and residents in multiple meetings to study ongoing and potential collaborative efforts and to provide recommendations for community focused development in the Village

Center. The Board expects this work to continue into the following several years. The Final Report, Pelham Village Center Vision and Potential: A community Plan, built upon interviews with townsfolk and studies done over the past several years as well as comparisons with other towns' situations. It was submitted in June and is available on the town website. As the report notes: Our Village Center zoning "aligns with traditional New England neighborhood development, promoting compact development along existing infrastructure and minimizing environmental impact. . . [and] seeks to enhance walkability, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, maintain a rural woodland character, and support economic growth in an environmentally responsible manner." At this writing, the Planning Board is considering taking on one of the report recommendations by establishing a Village Center Priorities Committee to continue the work of pulling the community together and using its resources and residents' skills to benefit ourselves and other members of the Pioneer Valley community.

- Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Bylaw. ADUs are now permitted by-right statewide in Massachusetts due to the Healey-Driscoll Administration's Affordable Homes Act, signed into law in August 2024. Pelham voted an ADU bylaw at May Annual Town Meeting. This bylaw gives property owners the option of adding a new rental apartment in their home or on their property. Sometimes called tiny homes or in-law suites, ADUs are small, independent living spaces located on the same lot as a principal dwelling in a single-family residential zoning district. Garages, attics, and basements may be converted into ADUs, or an ADU may be a newly constructed detached cottage or addition onto the primary home, with a separate entrance.

If everyone in Pelham took advantage of this law, Pelham could theoretically have twice the number of houses it has now. That is unlikely because most residents won't want to add an ADU, and those who do may opt for additions rather than new structures. Furthermore, some lots are too constrained by size or topography to support an ADU or may have insufficient water, septic, or sewer capacity. While the state requires us to allow Protected Use ADUs, we can also opt to be even more permissive, allowing Local Use ADUs in addition.

At the Housing Committee's urging, we agreed in principle to present some amendments to our current bylaw at town meeting in 2026 to allow more types of ADU development than the state requires of us. Depending upon the policies we set, we may see more or less ADU development. Towns are allowed to decide whether these are right for Pelham.

- Municipal Vulnerability Project (MVP). Initially undertaken by the Planning Board, the project's goal and the available grant money is to be used to improve the town's climate resilience with a focus on social vulnerability and resilience. MVP 2.0 is underway with consultants from PVPC and the project will continue through implementation until 2027. Former Planning Board member Anne Stoddard has taken a leadership role in this effort.

- Quabbin Watershed Stewards Group. Planning Board and Select Board members have been in the lead working with other Quabbin watershed towns, Senator Jo Comerford and Representative Aaron Saunders in exploring financial recompense and better representation on the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Board for the environmental and watershed protection values provided by Quabbin communities. These towns value their rural communities but also seek acknowledgment and just compensation for the potential alternative use of land from their towns. Legislation has been proposed by western Massachusetts legislators Senator Comerford, Representative Saunders and others toward this end. A Watershed Stewards Group has been formed among the 12 towns which will seek assistance and understanding from the entire Commonwealth to establish a Quabbin Trust Fund for our communities to use in ways the towns see fit.

- Sewer and Sidewalk Planning in the Village Center. Discussions on how these might affect roads, pedestrians, trees, or private lands were held with residents, the Select Board, and other officials since all have some interest and authority to oversee some aspects of the designs and locations. Involved. Designs are in the works and some parts of the projects are already started.

- Eversource and National Grid Right Of Way (ROW) projects. Working with the Select Board, Conservation Commission and representatives of Belchertown, Shutesbury and other towns affected by these projects, we worked hard to stay on top of plans that will take several years to complete. Concerns include extensive tree cutting, destabilization of steep slopes, wetlands damage, noise, and blocked roads during construction. Efforts have been made to increase time for public comments on these projects.

We ask for your continued, new, or renewed interest in the needs of your local government. We NEED new voices, new faces, and informed opinions, so please come to our meetings, ask questions, and get involved! To learn more about the role and legal responsibilities of your elected planning and zoning officials, see [https:// www.mass.gov/lists/mass-general-laws-c40a](https://www.mass.gov/lists/mass-general-laws-c40a).

Finally, the we would like to thank Anne Stoddard for her work with us both on and off the Board. Also, our staff assistant and consultant from PVPC, Ken Comia, has made himself available to answer questions and fulfill our contract after his colleague moved out of state. We are also grateful for the creativity of consultant Jeff Lacy who has worked with us on both solar and ADU bylaws to help craft something that can work for and with Pelham's needs and unique situation in the region.

Judith Eiseman, Chair. Members: James Bradbury, Bruce Klotz, Stacey McCullough, Peter Wilson.





Annual Town Report of 2025

Police Department

Pelham PD Year End Report 2025

Call Reason	Total	Call Reason	Total
911 Hang Up	7	Juvenile Offenses	1
911 Miss Dial	4	Larceny	3
Text to 911	1	Larceny, Motor Vehicle	1
Abandoned Motor Vehicle	1	Lockout	1
Accident, Motor Vehicle	16	Medical Emergency	64
Administrative	2	Missing Person	1
Alarm – Burglar	1	Motor Vehicle Complaint	15
Animal Complaint	25	Motor Vehicle Stop	229
Accident, Property Damage	2	Neighbor Dispute	4
Accident, Injuries	2	Noise Complaint	2
Arrest, Warrant	1	Notification	12
Assist Other Agency	2	Parking Complaint	7
Assist Citizen	27	Safety Hazard	13
Breaking & Entering, Past	1	Scam (All)	3
BOLO (Be On the Look Out)	1	Sexual Offenses	2
Building/Property/Area Check	475	Shots Fired	1
Community Service	5	Sex Offender Registration	1
Disturbance	4	Serve, Paperwork	36
Disabled Motor Vehicle	10	Serve, Restraining Order	5
Domestic Disturbance	6	Serve, Summons	1
Fire, Alarm	6	Suspicious Activity	1
Fire, CO Alarm / Hazard	4	Suspicious Person	2
Fire, Illegal Burn	1	Suspicious Vehicle	3
Fire, Explosion	1	Serve, Warrant	2
Fire, Structure	1	Transport	1
Fire Investigation -Odor/Smoke	1	Traffic Control	6
Fire, Other	1	Traffic Enforcement	2
Fraud	8	Trespass	3
Fire, Vehicle	1	Traffic Hazard	7
Illegal Dumping	1	Unwanted Person	4
Investigation	16	Vandalism	1
Welfare Check	10		

Members of the Police Department

Chief of Police

Gary Thomann

Constable

Steven Hughes

Lieutenant

Derick Lamoureux

Constable

Roman Kucinski

Sergeant

Sean Connor

Constable

Kevin Quesnel

FT Officer

Jamie Ryan

Constable

Richard Downie

FT Officer

Jonathan Riches

Constable

Pete Michaels

FT Officer
PT Officer
PT Officer
Animal Control Officer

Desiree Rivera
Todd Mongeon
Robert Thrasher
Nancy Long



Annual Town Report of 2025

School

No report submitted.



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Select Board

The Select Board office had a productive and eventful year in 2025. Over the course of the year, the Board held 22 posted meetings, acted on approximately 122 motions, made 15 board, committee, and staff appointments, published three editions of the *Slate* newsletter, prepared and distributed two Town Meeting warrants, and conducted one tax classification hearing. The year included both an Annual Town Meeting and a Special Town Meeting — a reflection of the active and engaged governance that defines Pelham.

Town Meetings

The Annual Town Meeting was held on May 10, 2025, in the Pelham Elementary School gymnasium. The Fall Special Town Meeting took place on October 15, 2025, opening ceremonially at the Old Town Hall — home to the distinction of being the oldest continuously used town hall in the United States — before relocating to the Elementary School gymnasium for the remainder of the session. Voter turnout was strong at both meetings, and the Board is deeply grateful to every resident who made time to participate.

Town Meeting is democracy at its most direct. It is the forum where residents come together to govern openly, make decisions that shape the community, and ensure that Pelham remains accountable to the people who call it home. We encourage every eligible voter to attend.

A Note of Thanks

The Select Board extends its heartfelt gratitude to Pelham's elected officials, board and committee members, volunteers, and town employees, whose dedication and countless hours of service keep the town running smoothly. It is the involvement and care of residents that allows Pelham to remain what it has always been: a genuine, close-knit New England community.

Get Involved

Pelham's boards and committees depend on engaged residents willing to share their time, ideas, and perspectives. Whether you are new to town or have lived here for decades, we encourage you to consider serving on one of the many boards or committees that currently have vacancies. Active civic participation is what sustains a small community like ours — and every voice matters.

To view a list of vacant positions, visit pelhamma.gov and navigate to: *About Pelham → Board/Committee Appointment, Resignation, Meeting & Vacancy Information.*

For board and committee meeting schedules, visit mytowngovernment.org/01002 and select Pelham, MA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Agoglia 2027, Chair Tara Loomis 2026, Vice-Chair

Jessica Barr 2028, Clerk



Annual Town Report of 2025

Sustainability Committee

No report submitted.



Annual Town Report of 2025

Town Clerk

Vital Records

Eight births, two marriages, and ten deaths were recorded in Pelham between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025.

Dog Licensing

147 dog licenses and two kennel licenses were issued between March 16, 2024, and December 7, 2025. Town Bylaws, as amended by Article 41 of the 2016 Annual Town Meeting, provide for the adjusted balance from dog licensing receipts to be transferred annually to the Elementary School Library account. The adjusted balance of \$475.36 was transferred in 2025.

Respectfully submitted, Melissa A. Hibbard, Town Clerk



Annual Town Report of 2025

Treasurer

No report submitted.



Annual Town Report of 2025

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 (The Village Center Districts are shown on the Zoning Map in the Rhodes Building and on the town website. Contact the Building Inspector if you wonder whether your property falls within these districts). You may view or download a permit application at: https://pelhamma.gov/files/Pelham_ZBA_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 (Chapter 125) may be viewed at this location on the town's website: https://pelhamma.gov/files/Zoning_chpt_125.pdf

Enforcement authority of the zoning bylaw rests with the Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer.

The ZBA would like to express our gratitude to Dave Waskiewicz, our Zoning Enforcement Officer for his patience and good will in seeking to promote both compliance with the Pelham code and harmony and common purpose among neighbors.

The Board encourages anyone who has questions about the Board's mandate or activities to visit the following on the Town of Pelham website: <https://pelhamma.gov/p/86/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals>

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Role</u>
Jeff Eiseman	2026	Member	Chair
Nick Chicanowski	2027	Member	Vice-Chair
Karen Dzenolet	2026	Member	Secretary-Clerk
Kate Hudson	2026	Member	
David Litwak	2027	Associate Member	
Noah Wartenberg	2027	Member	

In calendar year 2025 the ZBA held a public hearing in August on one application. The ZBA approved a special permit (25-01) submitted by American Tower Corporation (ATW) and Verizon Wireless to place a generator and equipment cabinets on a proposed concrete pad inside a 12' x 30' (360 square feet) ground space within the existing compounds, and placing new antennas on the proposed platform mounted to the existing tower at a height of 175 feet at 7 Old Pratt Corner Road.

Prepared and submitted by Karen Dzenolet (Secretary-Clerk) and Jeff Eiseman (Chair).