



# The Pelham Slate

WWW.PELHAMMA.GOV

SPRING 2026

## FROM THE SELECT BOARD

### Budget Season Underway

Budget preparations are well underway for Fiscal Year 2027, which begins July 1, 2026. The process kicked off in January with the annual joint meeting of the Select Board and Finance Committee, bringing together board and committee chairs alongside town department heads. All departments and committees have been asked to level-fund their budgets for the coming year.

### Mark Your Calendar: Town Meeting & Election

The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, May 9, 2026**, beginning at **9:00 AM** in the Pelham Elementary School gymnasium. All residents are encouraged to attend and participate in local decision-making.

The Annual Town Election will follow on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026**, from **11:00 AM to 7:00 PM** in the Ramsdell Room at the Community Center. Parking is available in the Library parking lot.

### Village Center Infrastructure Project

Work continues on the sewer and water line replacement project in the Village Center. A public hearing was held on April 9, 2026, giving residents an opportunity to learn about the project and share feedback. The town extends its sincere thanks to Guilford Mooring, Superintendent of Public Works for the Town of Amherst, for his ongoing support and collaboration throughout this project.

Sincerely, Robert Agolia, Chair '27, Tara Loomis, Vice-Chair '26, Jessica Barr, Clerk '28

## INSIDE

- Roadside Cleanup.....2
- Historical Society Events....2
- Dog License Info.....3
- Sustainability Committee..3
- Planning Board News.....4
- Health Updates.....5
- IRS Scams.....5
- Garden Plots Available.....5

## NATIONAL DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026  
10:00AM—2:00PM

**Drop off old medication safely at the Pelham Police Station, 2 South Valley Rd**

Medicines can remain in original containers with labels. Prescription and non-prescription drugs, vitamins, and veterinary meds are accepted.

**NO LIQUIDS, SYRINGES, IV EQUIPMENT OR CHEMOTHERAPY DRUGS.**

## Pelham Picks Up Event

**Celebrate Earth Day with the Second Annual week of roadside clean up from April 20<sup>th</sup> till 26<sup>th</sup> (School Vacation Week).** Can't participate during that week? Don't worry, you can do it any time before Town Meeting— Just be sure to avoid the ticks and the poison ivy!



Find a friend (or two), grab gloves and a trash bag and participate in a roadside clean-up of your neighborhood. Remember to take a picture of you and your haul and send it to us at [pelhammasustainability@proton.me](mailto:pelhammasustainability@proton.me), so we can make a poster to share at the Annual Town Meeting on May 9, 2026.

Sign up at the Pelham Library, the Pelham School, or at the Pelham community coffee hour to let us know which areas you choose to pick up and to get a list of guidelines.

A weeklong event co-sponsored by the Sustainability Committee and the Pelham Library.



## Pelham Historical Society Updates & Events

This year we sent our program flyer to all Pelham residents. As a reminder these are our programs for the next few months:

- ◆ May 24 at 10:00 am, Memorial Day Observance (Quabbin Park Cemetery)
- ◆ June 7, 1:30 – 4:30 pm, Museum Opens, Special Tours planned (Pelham Historic Complex)
- ◆ **July 4 at 1:00 pm, Pelham Old Home Day: A Return (Pelham Historic Complex)**
- ◆ July 25 at 1:00 pm, A Visit to the Gravesites of Pelham Soldiers (Cook-Johnson Cemetery)
- ◆ September 26 at 5:30 pm, Harvest Supper & Howard D Barnes Memorial Pie Auction (Pelham Historic Complex)

For more details check our flyer or the website, [www.pelhamhistory.org](http://www.pelhamhistory.org). Several of our programs this year celebrate our nation's founding.

**I would like to highlight the return of Pelham Old Home Day on July 4.** This tradition dates back to 1917 but has not been held in Pelham for a while. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Laura Hall, [ljhall21@yahoo.com](mailto:ljhall21@yahoo.com), or by phone, (413) 256-6082. We are still in the planning phase. While this event frequently was held in September, we chose July 4th to create an event for Pelham to celebrate our nation's 250<sup>th</sup>.

We hope to see you at the Museum or at one of our programs!  
Cynthia Weigel, PHS President

## CENSUS & DOG LICENSE INFORMATION

### CENSUS

When the 2026 Annual Street Listing forms are mailed, please fill them out according to instructions and return them at your earliest convenience. Election law requires that the Board of Registrars, each year, verify the residence of voters for the purpose of keeping the voter registration rolls accurate. The Annual Street List is the primary tool for doing this. If a voter does not respond to the first or second Annual Street List mailings, they will be placed into INACTIVE status and a Confirmation Card will be mailed to them. If the voter fails to return the Confirmation Card, they will remain in Inactive Status. If they are in inactive status when they go to the polls to vote, they will be required to complete and sign an affidavit of current and continued residence and to show official documentation that confirms their residential address.

### DOGS

2025 Dog Licenses expire on March 31, 2026, and must be renewed by May 31, 2026, to avoid a late fee. Any dog license renewed on or after June 1 will incur a late fee. All dogs 6 months or older must be licensed annually.

### DOG LICENSE FEES

⇒ \$10 for a spayed or neutered dog.

Proof of spaying or neutering must be provided if the procedure was done since the previous license was issued.

⇒ \$15 for a non-spayed/non-neutered dog.

### TO LICENSE BY MAIL:

- ◆ A copy of the current rabies vaccination certificate for each dog if done less than a year ago
- ◆ Proof of neutering or spaying if procedure done less than a year ago
- ◆ A #10 size SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE to return the license and tag
- ◆ Check payable to "Town of Pelham"

### Send All Items To:

Town Clerk  
351 Amherst Rd  
Pelham, MA 01002

## Sustainability Committee

The Sustainability Committee meets in person at the library at 5pm, on the second Thursday of every month (see [MyTownGovernment.org](http://MyTownGovernment.org) for changes). Consider coming as a guest or to check out whether or not you'd like to join the committee.

We are currently working on an update to What to Do With your Stuff, our online guide to recycling in our area. Look for it on the town website later this spring.

The Sustainability Committee and the Pelham Library are co-sponsors of the second annual week-long event Pelham Picks Up, a roadside litter clean up from April 20th to April 26th. This was a successful and fun event last year. More information regarding the event is on page 2 of this newsletter. Can't do it then? Don't worry, you can participate any time before Town Meeting—Just be sure to avoid the ticks and the poison ivy!

For the Committee, Jane Porter, Member

## Planning Board Updates

The Planning Board is looking forward to a lively discussion at town meeting about proposed amendments to the Accessory Dwelling Unit bylaw that town meeting passed last year in response to a state mandate. We have carefully considered the Housing Committee's desire to add more flexibility by considering a variety of questions related to: Pelham's regional role in encouraging lower cost housing; reasonably regulating size and distance from a principal dwelling of detached ADUs; benefits and problems involved for residents who want to create ADUs in or near their homes; and potential effects on taxes and cost of community services with respect to police, fire, and highways.

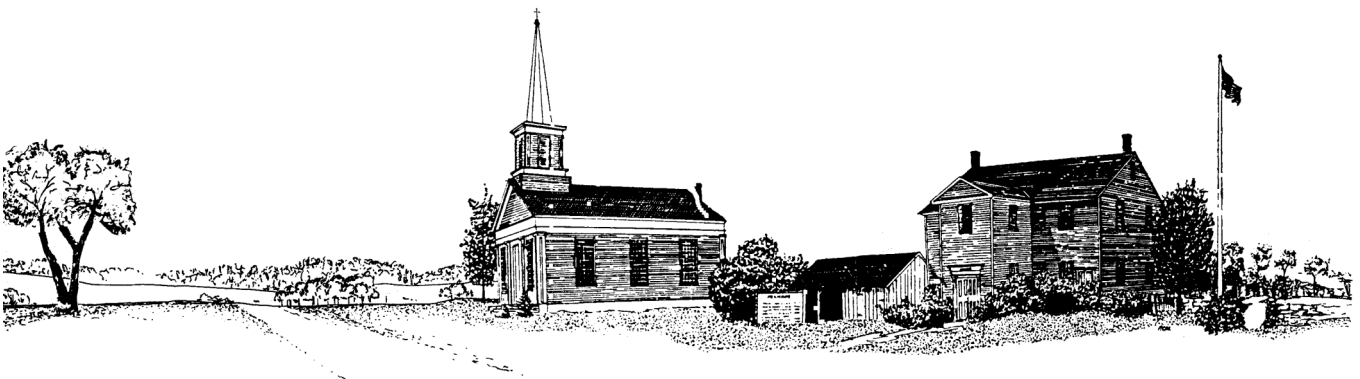
**As recommended in *Pelham Village Center Vision and Potential: A community Plan Report*, the Board is contemplating creation of a "Village Center Priorities Committee" to establish priorities and goals for the three VC Districts** (see [pelhamma.gov](http://pelhamma.gov).) Village Center Zoning was voted in 2018 to allow denser housing and increase small business opportunities *where public sewer and water already exist or may be possible*. Folks for or against making changes should understand that legitimate reasons underlay development limitations in town: Recall that over one third of Pelham's land was taken to protect the Quabbin Watershed to supply drinking water to other parts of the state. Much of the rest is either permanently protected watershed for Amherst's reservoirs, is conservation land, or is otherwise unsuitable for development because of wetlands or topography. The entire town is zoned as a Water Supply Protection District to protect ourselves and others in the region.

As you may know, many residents of the 12 Quabbin towns are taking steps to persuade the people of the Commonwealth—40% of whom get their drinking water from the Quabbin—to help us as we fight to maintain our schools, roads, and public health, and safety for ourselves and for those who drink our water. Working with Senator Comerford and Representative Saunders, Pelham residents representing various boards and committees have been supporting legislative efforts aimed at setting up a Quabbin Trust Fund. You too can join the Quabbin Watershed Stewards Group to get the word out!

We need financial assistance to continue to do our part and to educate the citizens of the Commonwealth about how the complex needs of our communities are relative to having clean drinking water statewide. In order to correct or prevent destruction of natural systems, we start with understanding our land and resources. Working with the Conservation Commission and others to care for elements essential to people and wildlife, while allowing sensible development is our role. To learn more about this and other Planning Board efforts, contact any of our members or come to our meetings and get involved!

Judy Eiseman, Chair

On behalf of members: James Bradbury, Bruce Klotz, Stacey McCullough, Pete Wilson



## Board of Health Updates

With assistance from a state grant, the Board of Health has installed an air quality monitoring device on the library building. This device is part of a statewide network that monitors particulate pollution. You can view data for Pelham and other participating towns by visiting [map.purpleair.com](http://map.purpleair.com).

The Board of Health meets on the second Thursday of each month at 4:00 PM in the Ramsdell Room at the Community Center.

## Council on Aging News

**IRS impostor scams surge during tax season**, and a new rule about how refunds are issued may cause confusion. As of this year, the IRS will only distribute tax refunds electronically as the federal government moves away from paper checks. This kind of change provides opportunities for scammers to impersonate the agency.

How it works:

You receive an unexpected communication that claims to be from the IRS

They may say you owe back taxes and face legal action if you don't act fast and pay immediately, or they may ask for banking details to "update refund information because of the new rule.

They may seek payment via wire transfer, cryptocurrency, or by purchasing gift cards and sharing the numbers off the back.

They might have good news: you have a refund coming or even a tax rebate, which you can claim by clicking a link or calling a phone number.

**What you should know:**

- ◆ Generally, the IRS will first send a letter through the mail before the agency otherwise contacts taxpayers; it only uses email and text with your permission.
- ◆ Federal agencies never request payment via wire transfer, cryptocurrency, or gift card
- ◆ If a tax filer does not include direct deposit information on their 2025 return, the IRS will send a letter to the last known address to request bank information or find out why the taxpayer cannot provide it
- ◆ If you get a call claiming to be from the IRS, hang up – or better yet, don't pick up the call to begin with.
- ◆ If you want to confirm your tax payment status, call the IRS directly using a trusted number from an official letter, at [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) or log into your IRS Online Account if you have one.

-Tracy Osbahr, Chair

## Attention All Gardeners!

Did you know Pelham has its own Community Garden? Whether you are interested in growing food or flowers, garden plots are now available for 2026. Registration forms are available on the Town of Pelham website, at the Pelham Library, or contact Theresa Smith, [theresa.e.smith@gmail.com](mailto:theresa.e.smith@gmail.com).

For the Committee, Cydnie Reiman, Member

## Library Notes & News

Happy Spring from the Pelham Library! After a long, cold winter we've been enjoying fabulous programming, tons of new books and movies, a garden coming back to life and so much more. We're continuing to grow our Library of Things and our game and puzzle collections, and we've begun planning for summer. Thanks to the generosity of the Pelham Cultural Council, we've received grants for both our 2026 Summer Reading Program, "Plant a Seed: Read!" and for Pelham Players' upcoming production of "Into the Woods, Jr.". It's going to be great! We have a new collaboration beginning with the Kestrel Trust as well, a quarterly nature writing program.



We also have lots of new books, movies, audiobooks and magazines arriving each week (we've recently added several new magazine subscriptions) and our full slate of regularly occurring programs including a weekly playgroup and, storytime for littles on Friday mornings, Music for Little Ones on Monday mornings, and yoga classes for adults on Thursday evenings, Qigong on Saturday mornings, and several gaming groups. Be sure to sign up for Wowbrary for a weekly newsletter with our latest news and new arrivals each week. Sign up at [wowbrary.org/signup.aspx](http://wowbrary.org/signup.aspx). Visit our website, [pelham-library.net](http://pelham-library.net) and our Facebook page, Pelham Library MA to be in the know about all the latest happenings and all of our electronic offerings. Let us know if you'd like to receive our email newsletter as well. As always, if there is something you'd like to see us doing please let us know. We're YOUR library, we're here to help and we can't wait to see you!

Jodi Levine, Director

### Annual Town Election

**Tuesday, May 12**

**11:00AM-7:00PM**

**Ramsdell Room,  
Community Center,  
2 South Valley Rd,  
Park outside Library**

**REAL ESTATE  
TAXES DUE:  
MAY 1, 2026**



### QUESTIONS?

- Collector/Treasurer,  
June Masee
- ♦ [COLLECTORTREASUER@PELHAMMA.GOV](mailto:COLLECTORTREASUER@PELHAMMA.GOV)
  - ♦ (413) 253-7129 Ext 3



**Town Offices**  
**351 Amherst Rd**

Call Ahead to  
 Verify We Are In:  
**(413) 253-7129**

**Assessor's  
 Clerk**  
**Ext. 2**  
 Lori Turati  
 Wednesdays  
 9am-12pm  
 & by appointment

**Collector/  
 Treasurer**  
**Ext. 3**  
 June Masee  
 Monday-  
 Thursday  
 8am-3:30pm

**Town Clerk**  
**Ext. 4**  
 Melissa Hibbard  
 Monday-  
 Thursday  
 8am-2pm

**Select Board  
 Executive  
 Assistant**  
**Ext. 1**  
 Susannah Martin  
 Monday-  
 Thursday

## State Representatives

**Representative, Aaron Saunders**

7th Hampden District  
 (617) 722-2425 x7300

STATE HOUSE

[AARON.SAUNDERS@MAHOUSE.GOV](mailto:AARON.SAUNDERS@MAHOUSE.GOV)

**State Senator, Jo Comerford**

(617) 722-1532

STATE HOUSE

[COMERFORD@MASENATE.GOV](mailto:COMERFORD@MASENATE.GOV)

## STAY INFORMED!

*Do you want to be notified by your local emergency response team in the event of emergency situations or critical community alerts?*

**SIGN UP ONLINE:**

[pelhampolicema.com](http://pelhampolicema.com)

-Click on CodeRed icon.

-Enter information.



## Board/Committee Meeting Schedules

**Assessors, Board of**

3rd Tuesday, 7:30 PM  
 Rhodes Building,  
 351 Amherst Rd

**Council on Aging**

2nd Wednesday, 2:00 PM  
 Community Center,  
 2 South Valley Rd

**Housing Committee**

2nd Monday, 4:30 PM  
 Community Center,  
 2 South Valley Rd

**Cemetery Commission**

1st Thursday, 6:00 PM  
 Community Center,  
 2 South Valley Rd

**Energy Committee**

As needed, 7:30 PM  
 Community Center,  
 2 South Valley Rd

**Library Trustees**

2nd Wednesday,  
 7:30 PM  
 Community Center,  
 2 South Valley Rd

**Conservation Commission**

2nd and last Thursdays  
 7:00 PM  
 Community Center,  
 2 South Valley Rd

**Health, Board of**

2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM  
 Community Center,  
 2 South Valley Rd

**Planning Board**

2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM  
 Community Center,  
 2 South Valley Rd

**Community Preservation  
 Committee**

3rd Thursday, 7:00 PM  
 Community Center,  
 2 South Valley Rd

**Historical Commission**

3rd Tuesday, 7:30 PM  
 Community Center,  
 2 South Valley Rd

**School Committee**

1st Tuesday &  
 as needed, 5:30 PM  
 Community Center,  
 2 South Valley Rd

**Select Board**

1st & 3rd Mondays  
 & as needed, 7:00PM  
 Rhodes Building,  
 351 Amherst Rd

**Please Note, Only anticipated Meeting Times & locations:**

By law, definitive meeting information is posted  
 48 hours in advance on

<http://mytowngovement.org/01002>

**Public Bodies that meet**

**AS NEEDED:**

- Anti-Racism Advisory Committee
- Cable Advisory Comm.
- Capital Planning Comm.
- Community Garden Committee
- Community Hall Committee
- Cultural Council
- Finance Committee
- IT Advisory Group
- Sustainability Committee
- Zoning Board of Appeals

**OTHER DEPARTMENTS:**

**Police Department**  
 Non-Emergency, Station  
 (413) 253-0484

**Fire Department**  
 Non-Emergency, Station  
 (413) 253-3311

Town of Pelham  
Rhodes Building  
351 Amherst Road  
Pelham, MA 01002

PRESORTED  
STANDARD MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
AMHERST, MA  
PERMIT NO. 31



# PELHAM SLATE

Spring  
Edition

**Photo:**  
*Stone Wall at Old Town  
Hall Complex  
Courtesy of  
Susannah Martin*

