

ANNUAL  
Official Reports  
Of the  
Town of Petersham  
MASSACHUSETTS



2014 - 2015

**LIST OF PETERSHAM TOWN OFFICERS**  
**FY15- July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015**  
**ELECTED BOARDS AND OFFICERS**

<b>Moderator</b>		<b>Term Expiration Dates</b>
	Bart Wendell	2017
<b>Selectboard</b>		
	Fredrick A. Marsh	2017
	Nancy Allen	2016
	Henry Woolsey	2018
<b>Tax Collector</b>		
	Rene Wingertsman	2018
<b>Town Clerk</b>		
	Diana Cooley	2018
<b>Treasurer</b>		
	Dana Robinson	2017
<b>Board of Assessors</b>		
	Ellen Anderson	2017
	Jean W. Robinson	2016
	Dana W. Kennan	2018
<b>Board of Health</b>		
	Robert Pasic, Chair	2018
	Fifi Scoufopoulos	2016
	Kaye Cousens	2017
<b>Board of Health</b>		
	Robert Pasic, Agent	2018
	Fifi Scoufopoulos, Agent	2016
	Kaye Cousens, Agent	2017
<b>Constables</b>		
	Denis N. Legare	2016
	Richard N. Bartus	2016
	Larry A. Robinson	2016
<b>Mahar Regional School Committee</b>		
	Heidi Shortis	2016

**Petersham School Committee**

Angela Danielson	2017
Janice Coughlan	2018
Lynn Peredina	2016

**Planning Board**

John Lawson	2017
Fraser Sinclair	2017
Donna Byron	2016
Stephen Herzog	2018
Robert Rocheleau	2018

**Trustees of Public Library**

Richard Carfagna	2016
Kent Byron	2017
Anne Perkins	2018

**APPOINTED/HIRED BOARDS AND OFFICERS****Chief of Police**

Richard D. Cooley, Jr.	2016 (3 year appointment)
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**Sergeant**

Randy Horne	2015
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**Police Officers**

Jesse Berard	2015
Jeffrey Boyer	2015
Peter Buck	2015
Marc Duguay	2015
Daniel Kimball	2015
Robert Legare	2015
Jason Lichtenberger	2015
Timothy Wright	2015

**Board of Overseers, Central Dispatch**

Richard D. Cooley, Jr.	
Petersham representative	2015

**Municipal Hearings Officer**

(No appointment made)

**Fire Chief**

Dana Robinson	2015
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<b>Assistant Fire Chief</b> Robert Legare	2015
<b>Tree Warden</b> Leslie Cooley	2015 (3 year appointment)
<b>Deputy Tree Warden</b> (no appointment made)	
<b>Forest Warden</b> Dana Robinson	2015
<b>Deputy Forest Warden</b> Ronald DeJackome	2015
Robert D. Legare	2015
Shawn Legare	2015
<b>Sexton</b> Ellen Anderson	2015
<b>Trench Safety Officer</b> Timothy Graves	2015
<b>Montachusett Regional Planning Committee</b> Nancy Allen	2015
<b>Town Accountant</b> Jean Joel	2015 (3 year appointment)
<b>Emergency Management Director</b> Lynne Shaw	2015
<b>Emergency Management Asst. Director</b> Richard D. Cooley, Jr.	2015
<b>Directors of Veterans' Services, Veterans' Agent, and Burial Agent</b> Neil McGuirk	(Appointed through District)
<b>Northeast Veterans' District Representative</b> Vincent J. Purple	2015
<b>Graves Registration Officer</b>	2016 (3 year appointment)

<b>Custodian of Tax Title Possessions</b> Dana Robinson	2015
<b>Animal Control Officer &amp; Animal Shelter Manager</b> Deb Bachrach	2016
<b>Inspector of Animals</b> Jeffrey Perkins	2015
<b>Assistant Inspector of Animals</b> Deb Bachrach	2015
<b>Inspector of Buildings</b> Brianna Skowyra	2016 (3 yr appointment)
<b>Local Building Inspector</b> Robert Legare	2015
<b>Electrical Inspector</b> Gary Terroy	2015
<b>Assistant Electrical Inspector</b> Glenn Tattan	2015
<b>Gas Inspector</b> Daniel Joly	2015
<b>Assistant Gas Inspector</b> John Dolan	2015
<b>Plumbing Inspector</b> Daniel Joly	2015
<b>Alternate Plumbing Inspector</b> John Dolan	2015
<b>ADA Coordinator</b> Steven Boudreau	2015
<b>Town Counsel</b> Kopelman and Paige	2015

**TOWN-APPOINTED COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, AND BOARDS**  
(Unless noted, appointed on an annual basis)

**Affordable Housing Plan Committee**

Charles Berube

Stephen Kieras

**Board of Health**

Robert Pasic, Agent

2015

Fifi Scoufopoulos, Agent

2015

Kaye Cousens, Agent

2015

Philip Leger, Agent

2015

Renee Wingertsman, Agent

2015

**Board of Registrars**

Diana Cooley, Clerk

Anne Perkins, 2015

Barbara Nickless, 2015

Helen Simms, 2015

**Broadband Committee**

George Bull

Thomas Gurganus

John Blum

Paul Williams

Shawn Legare

**Capital Improvement Planning Committee**

Janice Coughlan (Center School)

Robert Bellefeuille (AFC)

John Lawson (Planning)

Irene Graeff (Citizen at Large)

Dana Robinson (Treasurer)

Fran Misiuk (Citizen at Large)

(Citizens at Large appointed by Moderator)

Fredrik A. Marsh (Selectboard)

**Cemetery Commission (3 year appointment)**

Glenede Albertine

2016

Lynn Shaw

2016

Barbara Hanno

2016

Ann Townsend

2016

Deb Bachrach

2017

Ken Levine

2017

Sheila Youd

2018

**Conservation Commission (3 year appointment)**

Robert Clark	2016
Henry Woolsey	2015
David Lockesmith	2015
John Baker	2017
Ashley Gabrenas	2017
Ry Parcell	2016
Abigail L. Castagnaro	2017

**Council on Aging (3 year appointment)**

Wanda Dickson	2016
Janice Olson	2016
Mary Russell	2016
Katherine M. Berry	2018
Pam Chevalier	2016
Brian Miner	2016
Eileen O'Grady	2018
Delores Wierman	2017
Lynn Shaw	2016
Sheila Youd	2016

**Council on Aging FRTA Advisory Board (1 year appointment)**

None

**Cultural Council (3 year appointment)**

Pam Chevalier	2017
Linda Paquet	2016
Jody Bird	2015
Patricia Delhorey Kieras	2017
Christine Word	2018
Ashley Gabrenas	2015
Monika Agnello	2017

**Emergency Management Planning Committee**

James Burke	Dana Robinson
Brianna Skowrya	Lynne Shaw
Fredrik A. Marsh	Chief Richard D. Cooley
Timothy Graves	

**Energy Committee**

Brian Miner	Thomas Cahill
Josh Cayea	Linda Paquet
Christine Eaton	Sheila Youd
Max Feldman	

**Forest and Shade Tree Committee**

Clarisse Hart	Sheila Youd
Stephen Herzog	Melissa Levangie
Robert Clark	Abigail Castagnaro

**Historic District Commission/Historical Commission (5 year appointment)**

Christine Mandel	2020
Marcia L. Shaw	2020
Robert Clark	2019
Jeremy Gabrenas	2019
Nancy Allen	2016
Mark Bishop	2018

**Insurance Advisory Committee**

Ann Degnan	Timothy Graves
Christine Boyer-Thompson	Randy Horne

**Memorial Park and Common Committee**

Emily Arnold	Rexine Barnes
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**Montachusett Regional School District Rep.**

V. Edward Simms

**Open Space and Recreation Committee**

Robert Clark	Emery Boose
Clinton Shaw	Michael Huppert
Henry Woolsey	

**Personnel Policy Review Committee**

Ann Degnan	Steven Boudreau
Dana Kennan	Dana Robinson
Fredrik A. Marsh	Randy Horne
Gregory Waid	

**Rt. 122 Scenic By-way Steering Committee**

Nancy Allen	Donald Flye
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**Tax-exempt Committee**

Roy Nilson	Robert Paquet
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**Zoning Board of Appeals (3 year term)**

Brian MacEwen	2016
MaryAnn Reynolds	2017
Don Eaton	2018
Donald O'Neil, Associate	2018
Jeffrey Perkins, Associate	2015



## **MODERATOR APPOINTMENTS**

### **Advisory Finance Committee (3 year appointment as of August 1)**

James Regan	7/31/2015
Ross France	7/31/2016
Eric Mandel	7/31/2016
Robert Bellefeuille	7/31/2017
Don Clarkson	7/31/2017

### **Capital Improvement Planning Committee**

Irene Graeff (Citizen at Large)  
Fran Misiuk (Citizen at Large)

### **PCS Long Range Planning Committee**

Lynn Peredina  
Angela Danielson  
Kevin Shortis  
Octavia Willard-Brooks  
Hilary Loring  
Jim Regan  
Lynne Feldman  
Katherine Reeves  
Barbie Downing  
Kerri Lyden  
Ann Degnan  
Nichole Ruggles

Animal Control

Petersham, MA

Reporting Period: 01 July 2014-30 June 2015

Once again, I would like to thank the Petersham Police Department and Central Dispatch for contacting me regarding animal control issues. Our animal friendly community continues to work together.

As a reminder, all dogs over the age of 6 months must be registered through the Town Clerk's office; registration is a valuable tool when a dog is found. Residents are also encouraged to make a point of regularly checking all fencing and gates for their pets.

Again we had a successful rabies clinic in January 2015 and our local PAWS network was instrumental in the successful reunions of several local pets.

The activity log for the reporting period is listed below.

- ^Calls for dogs running at large-49 (returned to owner)
- ^Calls for cats running at large-7
- ^Cats successfully trapped and returned to owner/rehomed-6
- ^Lost dogs within Petersham w/search and rescue-3
- ^Barking dog complaint-5
- ^Assisted other ACO w/search and rescue/capture (dog)-3
- ^Lost Petersham dog found in another location/transported to Petersham-1
- ^Assisted other ACO w/humane euthanasia-2
- ^Capture of out of town dogs/returned to responsible ACO-4
- ^Re-homed cats in need-2
- ^Dog bite/quarantine-2
- ^Capture of loose livestock-4
- ^Capture of loose equine-1
- ^Suspicious bat submitted to State Lab-1
- ^Presumed rabid fox dispatched (under the direction of State authority)-1
- ^Porcine surrender and transport to MSPCA/Nevins Farm-1
- ^Neighbor/General Animal Complaint-6

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Jones Bachrach



# Town of Petersham

## BOARD OF ASSESSORS

3 South Main Street

P.O. Box 87

Petersham, MA 01366-0087

978-724-6658

Fax 978-724-6660

### ANNUAL TOWN REPORT FY 2015

Expense Account	\$ 16,990.00
Deeds, Postage and all Misc Bills	
Point Software, Software Maintenance	
Research Consultants, Personal Property	
Cartographic, Inc.	
Recertification	
Vision Appraisal-Software Maintenance	\$ 3,500.00
Vision Appraisal-Interim	\$ 3,000.00
Mapping Project	\$ 15,000.00
Assessor's Salary	\$ 7,852.00
Asst. Assessor Salary	\$ 30,680.00

### TAX RECAPITULATION

Total amount to be raised	\$4,336,099.20
Total estimated receipts & revenue	\$1,824,629.47
Net amount to be raised by taxation	\$2,511,469.73

Tax Rate \$ 16.99 per thousand

### CALCULATION

Value of Town divided by 1000

$147,820,467 / 1000 = 147,820$  will equal \$1.00 on tax rate.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Board of Assessors

Dana Kennan, Chairman  
Jean Robinson, Clerk  
Ellen Anderson, Member



## PETERSHAM BOARD OF HEALTH

3 South Main Street • P.O. Box 486 • Petersham, MA 01366-0486  
978/724-0057 tel. • 978/724-3501 fax  
petershamboh@verizon.net

### ANNUAL REPORT July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

The Board of Health has three elected officials, Chair, Robert Pasic RN, Kaye Cousens RN, Fifi Scoufopoulos, and a part-time administrative assistant, Renee Wingertsman. Phil Leger continues to act as Health Agent. Office hours are in the Town Office Building on Mondays (except holidays) from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. The Board meets on the first and third Thursday at 7:00 p.m. or as posted on [www.townofpetersham.org](http://www.townofpetersham.org).

The responsibilities of the Board, as determined by regulations of the Commonwealth are four- fold:

1. Review and monitoring of septic system and well installation
2. Permitting and inspection of all food establishments and services
3. Adherence to Housing codes
4. Transmittable disease follow-ups and other public health issues

Memberships are with Region II Public Health Coalition, the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards, Wachusett Medical Reserve Corps, and the Mass Toss Cooperative. The Board of Health assists the Selectboard with the operation of the Transfer Station. The Board of Health is responsible for the Public Health portion of the Emergency Management Program in compliance with the Department of Homeland Security.

A rabies clinic was sponsored in January, 2015 in collaboration with the Town Clerk, Animal Control Officer, Board of Health, Highway Department and local veterinarian Alan Bachrach and his wife Deb. Proceeds were donated to PAWS (Petersham Animal Welfare System), the local animal welfare group.

Annual participation in the regional Household Hazardous Waste collection was in Athol this year in September and allowed residents to dispose of unwanted hazardous materials safely.

A recycled clothing and textile white bin is at the Transfer Station and accepts clean clothing and textiles at no cost to residents.

#### Local Board of Health Duties

##### A. Septic System Regulations

Perc Tests	8
Plan Reviews	8
Repair, minor	2
Systems Installed	3
System Haulers Permits	3
System Installers Permit	6

##### B. Private Well Permits

3

##### C. Public Water Systems

6

##### D. Food Operations

09

##### E. Temporary Food permits

4

##### F. Lyme Disease reported

9

##### G. Tobacco permit

1

##### H. Housing Inspection

1

##### I. Outdoor Wood Boiler Permit

1

The Board of Health would like to thank the other Town Boards, Department Heads and the Town's Residents for their assistance in promoting the work of the Board as it pertains to the health of our community.

Robert Pasic ♦ Fifi Scoufopoulos  
Kaye Cousens



## **Petersham Broadband Committee**

**Annual Report to the Town July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015**

*Current Committee membership 2015-2016*

Chip Bull (Chair), Thomas Garganus, Shawn Legare, John Blum, Andre Pierre, Gregory Grandbois

This report summarizes the recent activities of the Petersham Broadband Committee.

### **Mission Statement**

**The mission of the Petersham Broadband Committee is to review all options available and to facilitate the timely construction of a cost effective, non-property tax based, high-speed, Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) Broadband network capable of serving all of the residents and businesses of the Town of Petersham now and far into the future.**

### **History of the Petersham Broadband Initiative**

Efforts to bring high-speed Internet to Petersham go back at least to 2005, and have led to the current initiative begun in 2008 when the State announced plans to build the “Middle Mile” to unserved towns in Western Massachusetts. The subsequent history leading to the current status was presented to Petersham residents at the annual town meeting in June 2014.

### **Background: the Massachusetts Broadband Institute and the Matrix Design Group**

Created in 2008, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), which is part of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, is charged with expanding “affordable high-speed Internet or broadband access across the State.” MBI oversaw the installation of the \$90 million “Middle Mile,” which brought high-speed, fiber-optic-based broadband connectivity to all 44 Western Massachusetts towns designated as unserved or underserved. An additional \$40 million authorization, supplemented in some cases by local investment, and or public/private partnerships will help bring “last-mile” connectivity to every premise in those towns (fiber-to-the-home, FTTH), including Petersham. Petersham has worked hard to develop a close working relationship with the MBI. Petersham is also currently working with The Matrix Design Group (builder of the Broadband network in Leverett) on a plan that would be funded by

a combination of sources including Petersham's share of State bond funding and Subscriber pre-payments, but primarily through Matrix Design's investment in the construction and operation of a 50Mb FTTH Broadband network.

It should be noted that Petersham's anticipated financing structure is a marked departure from the various regional proposals currently under review where twenty-four area towns have approved local bond borrowing totaling thirty-eight million dollars to be repaid through long-term increases to their tax assessment averaging \$225.00 per household for up to twenty years.

Because of the complexity of this project and to enable Petersham citizens to obtain additional background information regarding this critical issue, the following Internet links are being provided.

MBI: <http://broadband.masstech.org/what-we-do/who-we-are>

#### **Funding allocations:**

[http://www.masslive.com/politics/index.ssf/2015/02/gov\\_charlie\\_baker\\_releases\\_50.html](http://www.masslive.com/politics/index.ssf/2015/02/gov_charlie_baker_releases_50.html)

[http://www.masslive.com/politics/index.ssf/2015/06/union\\_station\\_umass\\_amherst\\_br.html](http://www.masslive.com/politics/index.ssf/2015/06/union_station_umass_amherst_br.html)

<http://broadband.masstech.org/>; <http://broadband.masstech.org/sites/mbi/files/documents/mbi-newsletters/mbi-newsletter-15-february-march-2015.pdf>

#### **Progress Report**

To date, only one Western Massachusetts town has successfully constructed a Broadband Network.

After more than six years, the Town of Leverett, has completed the installation of its FTTH network, the first town in the unserved region to do so. A recent article highlights the significance of that accomplishment:

<http://www.betaboston.com/news/2015/06/13/remote-mass-towns-welcome-broadbands-arrival/>

Petersham has benefited from studying Leverett's experience. The Matrix Design Group was chosen by Leverett to build their network. After reviewing numerous possible options and construction vendors, The Petersham Broadband Committee believes that the public/private partnership agreement, currently under review, with the Matrix Design Group, is the best way to achieve the goals stated in our Mission Statement.

#### **Project Costs:**

Based on the results of design studies completed by the Matrix Design Group we estimate total costs for the entire project to be \$2.2 million dollars. This figure is driven primarily by the network construction and installation costs themselves (\$1.6 million) paid for by Matrix and the preliminary utility Make-Ready and related costs (\$550,000).

## **The Public-Private Partnership Model**

While the simplest model might appear to be that followed by Leverett, in which Petersham fully funds, owns, and operates the network, this approach requires the greatest expenditure and entails the largest financial and operational risk to the Town, which, candidly, does not have the experience to carry this out with confidence. The approach that the Broadband Committee has been exploring most intensively has been a public-private partnership, in which a company experienced in building and operating broadband networks would do so in Petersham at a subsidized cost, in return for an extended agreement to operate the network. Under the Matrix Design Group proposal, Matrix would design and build the network, at their cost, operate the network under the oversight of the Petersham Municipal Light Plant Board members, and serve as the Network ISP, billing subscribers on a monthly basis. Matrix would be responsible for maintaining and repairing the network. Overall local control would remain in the hands of the Town of Petersham under a provision that would allow the Town to purchase the network at a predetermined price over the twenty year life of the agreement, should we so desire.

Petersham would be responsible for all pre-build costs, including the utility Make-Ready, legal, police detail (where required), some electronic equipment and its housing, and legal and related costs. These costs to the Town would be primarily covered by Petersham's anticipated share of the MBI state bond funding, and through a previously awarded planning grant from MBI.

During the past several annual Town Meeting seasons, over 24 Western Massachusetts towns have voted to authorize borrowing of a total of \$38 million, in excess of \$1 million in each town, for installing broadband networks, and many have approved the Proposition 2.5 debt exclusion requirement. All plans to be part of a proposed MBI-structured or Wiredwest regional network, which the Petersham Broadband Committee has explored, but which, given the estimated \$1.6 million dollar borrowing requirement, we feel is not a viable alternative for the Town of Petersham.

## **Conclusion**

The Petersham Broadband Committee believes that a private/public partnership with The Matrix Design Group represents the most cost effective solution. The Town should install a FTTH network as soon as possible, and has been working toward that end. We recognize the financial, operational, and conceptual challenges. We look forward to presenting the developing Petersham/Matrix agreement to the Petersham Selectboard for their review this fall. To this end we also urge the Town to vote at the 2015 Annual Town Meeting as well as the upcoming Special Town Meeting to be recognized as a Massachusetts Municipal Light Plant Community, thus enabling us to certify our eligibility to receive funding assistance through the Massachusetts Broadband Institute for the purposes of completing the necessary "Make-Ready Work", a prerequisite for finalization of our agreement with the Matrix Design Group.

In today's world, the lack of high-speed internet service in Petersham degrades our property values, stifles business and economic development, and places the children of our community at a distinct educational disadvantage. Now is the time to move forward.



## P E T E R S H A M B U I L D I N G I N S P E C T O R

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3 South Main Street • P.O. Box 486 • Petersham, MA 01366-0486  
978/724-3586 tel. • 978/724-3501 fax  
petershambldginsp@verizon.net

### ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015

Category	Number
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Building Permits

72

New Homes	2	Decks & Porches	1
Additions	2	Roofs	12
Siding	9	Remodel	4
Repairs	7	Barns/Garages	3
Solar Panels	9	Demo	1
Chimney	1	Insulation	8
		Wood/Pellet Stoves	13

Office hours are held every Monday (except Holidays) from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Town Office Building

Respectfully Submitted  
Brianna Skowrya Inspector of Buildings  
Robert Legare Local Building Inspector



**Report of the Capital Improvement Planning Committee  
Fiscal Year 2016**

The Capital Improvement Planning Committee would like to recommend the following budget for Capital Improvement Items for Fiscal Year 2016. All request were evaluated on need, cost effectiveness, quality of improvement, completeness and expected availability of funds.

The following items are recommended for inclusion in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for June 2015.

Assessors Mapping Project – Third and Final Year	\$ 15,000.00
Fire Department SCBA Replacement Year 2 of 3	\$ 24,000.00
Fire Department Hose Replacement Year 2 of 5	\$ 5,000.00
Town Hall Ramp Replacement	\$ 12,000.00
Highway Department – Snow Plow	\$ 11,500.00
 Total Capital Budget	 \$ 67,500.00

Items not recommended include new Hot Water system for the Fire Station, Repair of the Town Hall Cupola, Grader replacement and Police Cruiser replacement. Most of these items were deferred due to expected availability of funds and uncertainty of Stabilization Funds until a final solution to the Academy/ Nichewaugg Inn is determined. One proposal was not comprehensive enough to earn a recommendation.

The CIPC recognized the budget restrictions due to the limited amount of Free Cash available this year, and the effects of the costs from the harsh winter in formulating the budget for Fiscal Year 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Robinson, Ch.  
Robert Bellefeuille  
Fredrik Marsh  
Irene Graeff  
John Lawson  
Francis Misiuk

## CEMETERY COMMISSION

JULY 2014 – JUNE 2015

The Cemetery Commission meets at 7:00 P.M. on the second Thursday of each month in the main floor office of the Town office Building to proceed with its responsibilities of selling cemetery lots and overseeing the maintenance of Petersham's nine cemeteries, facilitating burials, and maintaining and updating records. Lynn Shaw serves as the Cemetery Commission's Chairperson as well as the point person for the Hearse House Project. Ann Townsend maintains the financial records. Marcia Flynn resigned from the Cemetery Commission, and Barbara Hanno became the newest member. As Sexton, Ellen Anderson is to be consulted regarding all burials. Barnes Landscaping was recontracted to maintain the cemeteries. The fee for burials on weekends and holidays has been increased. The town website includes the listing of all fees.

Each member of the Cemetery Commission has "adopted" a cemetery as follows: Center Cemetery (Sheila and Barbara), East Street Cemetery (Deb, Ann, and Lynn), Ledgeville Cemetery (Deb), Mann Cemetery (Lynn), Nichewaug Cemetery (Lynn), Williams Cemetery (Ann), Flat Rock Cemetery (Barbara), West Road Cemetery (Ken), and Goddard Cemetery (Glennede). A questionnaire was developed by Deb to create a central list of cemetery needs. Ken developed a list of gravestone repairs to be forwarded to TaMara Conde who will prioritize gravestone repairs and conduct workshops. Issues related to the planting or removal of plantings, trees, and shrubs will be referred to Barnes Landscaping. Brush hogging was completed on the annex to the East Street Cemetery. Large maple trees at the Ledgeville Cemetery were trimmed by Melissa Levangie, Tree Warden. Cemetery Commission members have been planting daffodils for spring blooming in the cemeteries. The purchase and placement of Memorial Day flowers (designated by trusts) and the placement of geraniums at the Memorial Trees on the Common was completed by Cemetery Commission members.

The contract for the rebuilding of the West Road Cemetery stone wall was awarded to Fran Misiuk. Poison Ivy was removed, and then the Highway Department removed stones and prepared the site. Fran Misiuk completed the first phase of the project in November. Remaining funds and private donations made the completion of the second phase possible in the spring. Site cleanup was completed by the Highway Department and Barnes Landscaping.

Members of the Cemetery Commission, the Historic District Commission, and the Petersham Historical Society attended many meetings regarding their joint project to save the historic Hearse House in the Center Cemetery. Thanks to interesting articles in the local papers written by Sheila and Barbara and pleas for private donations, a preliminary investigation of the footings and a plan to cover the roof were funded. Although this was not completed until spring due to the intense winter weather, Fran Misiuk concluded that only the west wall, possibly

weakened by the heavy iron doors, required rebuilding. This was most encouraging news since the prior consensus was that the entire building would need to be disassembled. It was determined by Fran Misiuk and Roger Graves that the walls would have to be repaired prior to the roof being rebuilt with the roof needing to be secured temporarily with a tarp. The Cemetery Commission with the guided expertise of Nancy Allen submitted a grant request to the Worcester Community Foundation for \$32,000 to fund the project.

Updating cemetery records continues to be a major project for members of the Cemetery Commission. Barbara Hanno has delivered copies of the Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society catalogue of the Petersham Cemeteries to the Cemetery Commission, the Petersham Memorial Library, and the Petersham Historical Society. The book is also available to purchase (print on demand) on the CMGS website. Cemetery Inscriptions of Petersham is also available. In addition, Barbara Hanno's extensive photographs of all of Petersham's cemeteries are a tremendous asset for the Cemetery Commission. Her photos have been transferred to the Cemetery Commission computer and are accessible to Cemetery Commission members. Other areas of interest include lichen research at the Mann Cemetery by A. Pringle of Harvard Forest and the showing of a film about green burial at the library. The members of the Cemetery Commission have completed a very busy year with no intention of slowing down as they serve our community.

#### Cemetery Commission Members

June 30, 2015

Lynn Shaw, Chairperson  
Glenede Albertine, Clerk  
Ann Townsend, Treasurer  
Ken Levine  
Barbara Hanno  
Sheila Youd  
Deb Bachrach

## Report of the Petersham Center School

August 27, 2014 marked the start of a great school year at the Petersham Center School. We opened our doors to 115 students in grades K-6. Class sizes continue to average around 17 students. We were again fortunate to have students attend the Center School under the School of Choice program from the towns of Athol, Orange, Templeton, Winchendon, Hardwick, Phillipston, Barre, New Salem, North Brookfield, Amherst, and Gardner.

The Petersham Center School budget was \$1,223,252.00 for the 2014-2015 school year, with an estimated \$361,000.00 in school choice funds. In addition to these funds, the Center School received several grants. These grants were used for a variety of purposes; salaries, books, materials, specialized services, consultation, and professional development.

Students participated in several field trips to compliment their academic studies. Kindergarteners attended the Worcester Ecotarium, Grades 5 & 6 went to the Plymouth Plantation, Grades 1-3 visited the Eric Carle Museum and the Flat Stanley Play at the Mt. Wachusett Community College. Grades 1 & 2 went to the Red Apple Farm. Grade 3 took a walking historical tour of the Town of Petersham. Grades 5 & 6 also enjoyed their annual trip to Connors Pond in Petersham.

Parent and community involvement continues to be an integral component of our success. The PTG continued to be a very active group for the Petersham Center School. We are proud of the many parents and community members who volunteer at the school and support us throughout the year. In addition, the PTG worked hard to provide the students with activities and opportunities in a variety of areas: Field Day, Sharks Ice Hockey games, Holiday Bazaar, Movie Night, and the end of year field trip to Southwick's Zoo.

Along with the trips sponsored by the PTG, the PCS students were able to participate in their annual learning field trips to the Babbitt Wildlife Sanctuary with Chris Eaton, the Connors Pond trip with Bob Clark, and the annual fish stocking trip to Quabbin Gate 30. In addition to that, the Petersham Police and Fire Department conducted programs on bus and Halloween safety, DARE program with the 5<sup>th</sup> graders, as well as Fire Prevention for grades K-6.

Classroom teachers and specialists worked collaboratively in professional learning communities to enhance classroom instruction through collaboration with the Orange district. Professional Development included Math Mapping for all grades, as well as problem solving and rubric development in the upper grades. Teachers in grades K-6 were also trained in implementing the Lucy Calkins Writing Workshop.

The 2014-2015 school year showed many changes in staff at the Petersham Center School. Two staff members retired; Melanie Pallotta, Instructional Support Teacher and Barbara Young, Special Ed Secretary. Paraprofessionals Kelli Graves and Trish Notre also left the

Center School, as well as Principal Chris Dodge. These changes brought new additions to the staff at the school. We welcomed two new paraprofessionals, Julie Brown and Kimberly Rushford-Waugh, as well as a new Instructional Support Teacher, Missy Clark and a new Fourth grade teacher, Deirdre Keenan. The Petersham Center School was fortunate enough to have Joanne Menard from Holden accept the position of Principal.

The Center School would like to express to all the teachers, staff, students, parents, and community members their deep appreciation for all the support and dedication for a job well done. The 2014-2015 school year was an exciting and successful one.

**COMPARATIVE ENROLLMENT FIGURES**  
**(October 1<sup>st</sup>)**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Pre-school</b>								
<b>Out of Dist.</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>Placement</b>								
<b>Total:</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>120</b>

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REGULAR EDUCATION	Budget	Expended	Proposed
	2014-2015	2014-2015	2015-2016
1000 ADMINISTRATION			
1131 Committee Expense	1262	1308	1500
1132 Committee Adv. Exp	200	56	200
1133 Committee Legal Exp	3,000	4356	3000
1140 MASC Dues	1	0	1
1160 Census	175	175	175
1170 School Council	1	0	1
<b>1100 COMMITTEE SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>4639</b>	<b>5895</b>	<b>4877</b>
1210 Superintendent Salary	14,628	11616	19757
1220 Supt. Secretary Salary	0	0	0
1230 Supt. Office Expense	1,000	986	1000
1240 Superintendent Dues	1	0	1
1250 Superintendent Travel	1	0	1
1260 Supt. Sec. Asst. Sal	0	0	0
<b>1200 SUPERINTENDENT SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>15,630</b>	<b>12602</b>	<b>20759</b>
<b>1000 ADMINISTRATION TOTAL</b>	<b>20,269</b>	<b>18497</b>	<b>25636</b>
2000 INSTRUCTION			
2100			
2210 Principal's Salary	77,147	77729	79461
2220 Principal Secretary Salary	38,800	39400	40370
2230 Office Expense	3,000	2894	3500
2241 N.E.A.S.C. Dues	1	0	1
2242 M.E.S.P.A Dues	600	550	600
2250 Principal Travel	800	1199	900
<b>2200 PRINCIPAL SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>120,348</b>	<b>121772</b>	<b>124832</b>
2301 Teacher Salaries	392,803	415467	392776
2302 Supervisor Salaries	11,929	11694	17952
2303 Substitute Salaries	8,000	10848	8000
2304 Band/Glee Club Salaries	0	49	1
2305 Discovery Salaries	1	0	1
2306 Teacher Aide Salaries	13,765	26701	1527
2307 Counselor Salary	1	0	1
2308 Tech/Media Specialist	1	0	1
<b>2300 TEACHER SALARY SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>426,500</b>	<b>464759</b>	<b>420259</b>
2351 Teacher Course Credits	2,500	1540	5000
2352 Professional Development	5,000	4323	7500
2353 Scholar Supplies	6,000	5353	6000
2354 Technology	14,838	13712	28386
2355 Staff Travel	800	739	800
2356 Field Trips	2,360	2733	3500
2357 Workbooks	4,050	4582	3500
2358 Professional Materials	1	0	12500
<b>2350 MATERIALS&amp;TRAIN. SUBTOTA</b>	<b>35,549</b>	<b>32982</b>	<b>67186</b>

REGULAR EDUCATION	Budget 2014-2015	Expended 2014-2015	Proposed 2015-2016
2400 TEXTBOOK SUBTOTAL	1	0	1
2500 LIBRARY BOOKS SUBTOTAL	1	0	1
2600 AUDIO VISUAL SUBTOTAL	6320	6196	1
2700 ACHIEVMNT. TESTS	5500	4616	3000
<b>2000 INSTRUCTION TOTAL</b>	<b>11,822</b>	<b>10812</b>	<b>3,003</b>
<b>3000 OTHER SCHOOL SERVICES</b>			
3200 School Physician(Flint Fund)	1	550	500
3210 School Nurse Salary	519	0	1
3220 Health Supplies	1500	1756	1800
3370 Transportation	103777	102600	103777
3380 Trans. Contingency	1	0	1
3400 Food Services	258	218	1
<b>3000 OTHER SCHOOL SERV. TOTAL</b>	<b>106056</b>	<b>105124</b>	<b>106080</b>
<b>4000 OPERATION &amp; MAINTENANCE</b>			
4110 Custodian Salary	803	0	1
4111 Custodial Recall	500	695	800
4112 Custodial Supplies	9,452	7791	9,000
4113 Director of Bldg. & Grounds	43,786	43786	44,881
4120 Heating	47,407	50189	35,100
4130 Telephone	4,284	1577	4,100
4140 Electricity	13,632	17252	15,000
4150 Alarm Monitoring	570	543	570
4210 Maintenance of Grounds	3,058	1979	2,508
4220 Maintenance of Buildings	3,582	3436	10,006
4221 Contracted Services	20,048	24514	20,048
4222 Water Assoc. Dues	300	0	300
4230 Maint. Of Equipment - Bldg.	6,215	8186	7,175
4232 Maint. Of Equipment - Educ.	9,183	9146	9,183
<b>4000 OPERATION &amp; MAINTENANCE</b>	<b>162,820</b>	<b>169094</b>	<b>158,672</b>
<b>5000 FIXED CHARGES</b>			
5200 Health Insurance	176,871	177046	191,018
5202 Dental Insurance	0	0	0
<b>5000 FIXED CHARGES TOTAL</b>	<b>176871</b>	<b>177046</b>	<b>191,018</b>
<b>7000 ACQUIS. - FIXED ASSETS</b>			
7200 Acquis. & Imprv. - Bldg.	1	0	1
7390 Acquis. Of Equip. - Educ.	500	92	500
7391 Acquis. Of Equip. - Bldg.	500	358	500
7490 Replacement Equip. - Educ.	1	0	1
7491 Replacement Equip. - Bldg.	1	0	1
<b>7000 ACQUIS. - FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>1003</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>1003</b>
8000 DEBT SERVICE/RETIREMENT	1	0	1
<b>REGULAR EDUCATION BUDGE</b>	<b>1,051,239</b>	<b>1,100,536</b>	<b>1,097,689</b>

FINANCIAL STATEMENT



SPECIAL EDUCATION	Budget 2014-2015	Expended 2014-2015	Proposed 2015-2016
92000 INSTRUCTION			
92210 Spec. Needs Admin Salary	9,730	6418	6,577
92220 Special Needs Sec. Salary	12579	22294	1
92230 Office Expense	200	137	200
<b>92200 SPEC.NEEDS ADMIN. SUBTL.</b>	<b>22509</b>	<b>28849</b>	<b>6,778</b>
92301 Special Needs Teacher Salary	23,389	20690	1
92302 Special Needs Teacher Salary	0	0	34609
92303 Spec. Needs Teacher Sub Sal.	1	0	1
92304 Special Needs Aide Salary	30,670	0	1,598
92305 Special Needs Tutor Salary	1	0	1
92306 Speech Therapist Salary	46,930	40487	43,879
92307 Therapist (PT, OT) Salaries	12,000	12000	24,583
92308 Psychologist Salary	1	0	1
92309 Counselor Salary	1	0	1
92310 Summer Program Tchr. Salary	1	0	1
92311 Inclusion Specialist	1	0	1
<b>92300 SPEC.NEEDS SALARY SUBTL.</b>	<b>112,995</b>	<b>73177</b>	<b>104,676</b>
92350 Special Needs Travel	1	0	1
92351 Home/Hospital Instruction	100	0	100
92360 Cont. Servs. - Behav. Specialist	1	0	1
92365 Contr. Psychological Services	7,000	5995	7,000
92370 Physician/Nurse	1	0	1
92371 Contracted Services	17,500	11983	5,000
92375 S.N. Admin. Dues	0	0	1
<b>92380 CONTR. SERV. &amp; EXP. SUBTL.</b>	<b>24,603</b>	<b>17978</b>	<b>12,104</b>
92390 SCHOOL SUPPLIES	900	2208	1,000
92400 TEXTBOOKS	1	0	1
92600 AUDIO VISUAL SERVICE	1	0	1
<b>92000 INSTRUCTION TOTAL</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>2208</b>	<b>1,002</b>
93000 TRANSPORTATION TOTAL	1	0	1
97390 ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT	1	0	1
94000 OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	1	0	1
99000 PROGRAMS W/OTHER DISTRICT	3	0	3
99100 CAPS Collab. Assessment	500	444	500
99110 Pre-School Program	500	0	500
99120 Tuition Out of District	1	0	
<b>99000 PROGRAMS W/OTHER DIST.</b>	<b>1004</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>1,003</b>
<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION BUDGET</b>	<b>162013</b>	<b>122656</b>	<b>125,563</b>
REGULAR EDUC. BUDGET	1,051,239	1100536	1,097,689
SPECIAL EDUC. BUDGET	162013	122656	125,563
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION BUDGET:</b>	<b>1,223,252</b>	<b>1223192</b>	<b>1,223,252</b>



## PETERSHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

3 South Main Street • P.O. Box 486 • Petersham, MA 01366-0486  
978/724-3353 tel. • 978/724-3501 fax

### REPORT OF THE PETERSHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION FISCAL 2015

Regular monthly meetings were held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. On two occasions, a quorum was not reached and the meetings were not held. Public Hearings and Special Meetings were scheduled to either coincide with regular monthly meetings or between monthly meetings as necessary. The Commission issued four Determinations of Applicability. No Orders of Conditions were issued during the Fiscal year. Site visits were conducted for all Determinations of Applicability and for other issues that required Conservation Commission recommendations or approval.

Twelve Forest Cutting Plans were reviewed. This process includes the initial Plan from the landowner, approved of the plan by the DCR Service Forester, and the final inspection by the DCR Service Forester. There were two reviews of DCR Applicability Decisions under the Watershed Protection Regulations.

The Conservation Commission manages four properties, the Lewis and Corinne Babbitt Wildlife Sanctuary and the Hallberg and Ganson Parcels and the Davenport Pond Property totaling over 269 acres. The Commission also holds Conservation Restrictions (CRs) on over 450 acres of private land including a 200 foot zone on either side of the East Branch Swift River on Harvard Forest property. The required annual monitoring of the CRs was done by John Baker's Clark University students which was a valuable educational experience for the students as well as a very valuable service to the Conservation Commission. Their work and reports are greatly appreciated. Annual CR monitoring of the Davenport Property was conducted by Harvard Forest and CR monitoring of the Hallberg and Ganson Parcels was conducted by Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. Annual mowing open fields and reclaiming overgrown fields continued at the Sanctuary.

Fiscal 2015 marks the thirty-second year the Commission has funded the Environmental Education Program at the Petersham Center School through the Lewis and Corrine Babbitt Wildlife Sanctuary Trust Fund. The program continues to be taught by Chris Eaton of Mass Audubon and includes classroom work K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade as well as field trips to the Lewis and Corrine Babbitt Wildlife Sanctuary. The program provides the students with a lasting appreciation for the natural world around them, helps them to become environmentally responsible citizens, and to grow in their understanding, appreciation, and respect for our environment. As far as is known this continues to be the only environmental education program in a public school funded by a Conservation Commission. Again, the bluebird trail at the Petersham Center School had a nesting pair of bluebirds and tree swallows.

In the spring of 2015, the Commission began work with Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust to protect a 51 acre Hutchinson parcel with a Conservation Restriction through the U. S. Forest Service, Quabbin Reservoir to Wachusett Mountain Forest Legacy Project grant.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Clark, Chair  
John Baker, Clerk  
Abigail Castagnaro  
Ashley Gabrenas

David Lockesmith  
Ry Parcell  
Henry Woolsey  
Thomas Webber, Associate

PETERSHAM COUNCIL ON AGING ANNUAL REPORT  
FISCAL YEAR 2015

**Mission Statement:** Petersham's Council on Aging dedicates itself to addressing concerns of the sixty-year and older population.

We are an all volunteer organization. We have no salaried positions. Funds to carry out our activities come from an annual grant of \$4,000 from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and a grant of \$850 from the Town of Petersham. We are also supported by services from Franklin County Home Care Corp. (FCHCC) and Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA).

The COA's Senior Transportation Program through the FRTA consists of out of town medical rides in the Athol/Orange area as funded by the FRTA. Reservations may be made by calling 413-774-2262.

We thank Petersham's Unsung Heroine, Sue Hellen, for serving as our Representative to FCHCC for nearly 30 years. Sue has indicated that she would like to retire now that she is 90 years old.

Resignations were accepted from Board Members: Barbara Amidon, Yvonne Bryant, and Nancy Robinson. Ethel 'Dolly' Barnes passed away due to illness.

We welcomed new members Pamela Chevalier, Brian Miner, Lynn Shaw, and Sheila Youd.

The Council on Aging Board for FY2015 has met monthly, except for July and August, in order to plan health and entertainment programs for Petersham's seniors and to assure that the meal site meets standards, and that seniors are informed via monthly newsletters of issues and programs of interest. We meet every second Monday of the month at 10:30 a.m. in the Lower Town Hall. We welcome anyone to come and share ideas and concerns.

The Monday Luncheon Club through the FCHCC's Meals-on-Wheels Program is in its 21<sup>st</sup> year. We meet every Monday at 12:00 in the Lower Town Hall. Mary Russell is our site manager and culinary miracle worker. Her helpers include: Kay Berry, Wanda Dickson, and Janice Olson. The site manager and her helpers have received certification in serv-safe practices, choke saver and heart resuscitation, allergen training and sanitation. We are an approved site. This year 654 meals were served on 40 Mondays. The volunteers that provide this service comply with the requirements of the Massachusetts Department of Health and the Petersham Board of Health. We estimate that the COA volunteers have given 1040 hours of their time wearing several different hats. Thank you for your dedication to the seniors of Petersham. A \$2.50 donation is recommended for lunch. To reserve a meal, please call Mary Russell at 978-724-3233 on Thursday for a lunch on Monday.

The COA newsletter, underwritten by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA), is sent to all Petersham residents 60 years and older. This past year 363 seniors received a newsletter. It has a calendar of local activities, senior program notices, monthly meal site menus, health and legal advisories. The current editor is Kay Berry and our email address is [pshamcoa@gmail.com](mailto:pshamcoa@gmail.com).

A new microwave oven was purchased to replace one which no longer worked. The Athol-Orange Area Rotary club gave the Town of Petersham a check to be used for the purchase of a new 6 burner electric stove with a convection oven for the COA. The old stove

had outlived its usefulness and was frustrating at times. We are very happy with the way the new stove performs.

A review of the programs and activities highlighted in this year's newsletters included:

- The Exercise Program for seniors consisted of two 10-week sessions led by YMCA instructors at the Center School gymnasium on Mondays and Fridays. In the spring the program was moved to the main floor of the Town Hall. Sept. 8, 2014
- Floor and chair yoga was held at the Davis Memorial building of the Unitarian Church. In spring it was moved to the main floor of the Town Hall on Tuesdays. Sept. 16, 2014.
- Area Senior Picnic at Silver Lake Park pavilion in Athol on Aug. 28, 2014
- Senior trip to the Eastern States Exposition on Sept. 18, 2014
- Program on Lyme Disease on Sept. 29, 2014
- 'Keeping Yourself Safe from Crime' presented by Elisabeth Haddad of The School and Community Outreach Project of District Atty. Joseph D. Early, Jr. on Oct. 20, 2014
- Program on Alzheimer's Disease presented by Quabbin Valley Health Care on Oct. 27, 2014
- Petersham Center School chorus and band rehearsal at the school on Dec. 15, 2014
- 'Mabel and Jerry', a short one-act play grant funded by the Petersham Cultural Council on April 27, 2015
- Lion's Club annual meal and appetizers on May 4, 2015
- Luncheon excursion to Montachusett Regional Vocational Tech School on May 9, 2015

The Council wishes to thank all that helped to make 2014/2015 a successful year.

- The Petersham Center School for sharing their gym and talented chorus and band.
- Nicholas Barishian, Grant Chairman for the Eastern States Exposition, for approving our request for admission and bus transportation.
- The Selectboard for their support of all the COA's activities.
- Steven Boudreau, Administrative Coordinator, for all his assistance in coordination the use of the Town Hall and keeping us updated on needed information.
- Road Superintendent Tim Graves for keeping the walkways clear for us.
- Neil Legare for maintenance and cleaning of the Town Hall and for a donation of a heavy duty rolling cart for equipment for the exercise class.
- Thank you to all unsung volunteers who have helped keep us going.

Respectively submitted,  
Council on Aging Board Members

Katherine Berry, Chairman and Treasurer  
Wanda Dickson, Vice Chairman  
Janice Olson, Secretary  
Mary Russell, Meal Site Manager  
Pamela Chevalier

Brian Miner  
Eileen O'Grady  
Lynn Shaw  
Delores Wierman  
Sheila Youd

## FY 2015 Cultural Council Report

2015 Grants Awarded to	Project	Amount Funded
Friends of Mahar Music	STOMP Performance/Field Trip	\$300
Petersham Council on Aging	Ukulele for Seniors	\$420
Barrett Anderson	Petersham First Night Bash	\$300
Village Lyceum	Climate Change Imperative: Renewable Resources	\$400
Orange Revitalization Project	New Year's Eve 2015	\$100
Mass Audubon/Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary	Understanding Water: the STEM Way	\$422
Russel Killough-Miller	The Nutcracker (Performance at PCS)	\$200
Petersham Art Center	Artist Teas	\$325
Quabbin Valley Pro Musica	Handel's Messiah: Winter Concert	\$200
Petersham Historical Society	Archival Filing of Wilson Day Collection	\$150
Rte 122 Scenic Byway Committee	Brochure	\$300
Petersham Historical Society	Native American Program with interpreter	\$250
Forest & Shade Tree Committee	Petersham Tree Tour	\$560
Petersham Center School	Theater at the Mount/Field Trip/"How to Become a Pirate"	\$468
Listening Wellness Center	Youth After School Enrichment Program	\$150
The Village School	Children's Book Festival	\$200
Mary King	Plaque Forgiveness Spiral	\$100
Jody Bird	Destination Imagination Team	\$100
Phil Simon	Old 78 Farm Fall Festival	\$200
<b>TOTAL</b>	(\$4400 State Funds + \$745 Local Funds)	<b>\$5145.00</b>

May 2015: The Council sponsored an all-day "Earth Day in May" celebration on and around the Common. Activities included workshops, music and story-telling, guided tree walk, children's games and a Trashion-Re-Fashion Ball.

### Cultural Council Membership

Linda Paquet, Chairperson  
 Christine Word, Clerk  
 Pam Chevalier, Treasurer  
 Monika Agnello  
 Jody Bird  
 Ashley Gabrenas  
 Trisha Delohery Keiras

Petersham Emergency Management Committee  
Annual Report FY 2015

The Committee continues to be active in preparing for and responding to emergencies for our Town as well as being ready to assist other towns or work with them as they assist us. The Town was fortunate to not have to deal with any major disasters this year, but the committee remains diligent in assuring the Town has the necessary resources to respond if necessary.

The CODE RED reverse 9-1-1 system is up and running and we encourage residents to log onto CODE RED and input their information. This is a citizen driven website, so the information is completely managed by each resident for their own contact information which would be used in case there was an emergency that affected all or parts of Town. It is used for Public Safety issues only. Residents or those who wish to be notified if there is a loved one that depends upon them, yet they do not live in Town, can go to the CODE RED website at <https://public.coderedweb.com> and click on the RESIDENT ENROLLEMNT tab.

With the anticipated arrival of the Quabbin retreat, the Emergency Management Director has had preliminary discussions with Henry Heywood Hospital Administration, as this is the first healthcare facility in Town and this adds and additional aspect to our emergency planning, NIMS compliance and response assets and capabilities.

Continuing works includes:

- The EMD applying for grants that are made available to the Town for emergency preparedness and response activities
- Maintain the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- Continued updates to the Petersham Center School Emergency Plan. The Town is fortunate that the School takes a very active interest in emergency preparedness on all levels and welcomes training to keep the children and staff safe. .
- Continued Active Shooter training as offered by the Massachusetts State Police in conjunction with the police department and mutual aid law enforcement agencies.
- Emergency Planning and training initiatives with Quabbin Retreat

The Committee wishes to thank the men and women who continue to serve as first responders in our Town.

Self preparedness is the basis for community preparedness. Visit <http://www.ready.gov/are-you-ready-guide> for individual disaster preparedness information.

Emergency Management Director Lynne Shaw  
Assistant Emergency Manager Chief Dana Cooley



**PETERSHAM ENERGY COMMITTEE**

**FY 15 TOWN REPORT**

FY 2015 was a busy year for the Energy Committee and the Green Community Program. \$138,425 was expended in the following manner, after completing energy audits on all six municipal buildings:

- August: All lights and lighting fixtures in all buildings were converted to LED or compact fluorescent bulbs
- October: Attic insulation installed in Fire Station, Highway Barn and Center School  
Complete new propane heating system and insulation installed in Fire Station
- December: Winserts installed in Town Hall
- February: Winserts installed in Town Office Building
- April: Complete new propane heating system installed in Town Hall  
New stand-alone propane hot water heater installed in Center School

Additionally the Energy Committee applied for a SAPHIRE (Schools & Public Housing Integrating Renewables & Efficiency) grant and was awarded funding for Feasibility Study from DOER. The study considered geo-thermal, solar and pellet heating systems for Center School. A pellet boiler will be considered. The grant to fund the project had not been received as of the end of FY 15.

Tamara Castagnaro resigned from the committee. Tom Cahill was appointed to committee; he agreed to be the clerk.

Respectfully submitted,

- Linda Paquet, Chairperson
- Tom Cahill
- Josh Cayea
- Chris Eaton
- Max Feldman
- Brian Miner
- Sheila Youd

**Town of Petersham  
 Advisory Finance Committee Report  
 Reserve Fund Transfers  
 Fiscal 2015**

**Balance July 1, 2014**                   \$           25,000.00

**Transfers:**

		<b>Account Description</b>
08/18/14	589.99	Town Accountant Expense
10/16/14	927.68	Nichewaug Inn
10/16/14	2,123.00	Nichewaug Inn
10/28/14	375.00	Nichewaug Inn
12/18/14	198.00	Cemetery Expense
03/23/15	1,120.03	Nichewaug Inn
04/06/15	4,000.00	Town Hall Office Maint
05/12/15	521.94	Snow & Ice Expense
08/10/15	205.19	Administrative Coordinator Salary
08/10/15	979.31	Administrative Coordinator OT Salary
08/10/15	700.00	Care of Cemeteries
08/10/15	2,129.62	Central Phone Expense
08/10/15	523.87	Election/Registration Salary
08/10/15	2,056.74	Fire Salary
08/10/15	3,799.91	Medicare Taxes
08/10/15	66.76	Selectmen's Expense
08/10/15	2,026.16	Town Hall Office Expenses
08/10/15	1,741.60	Highway Salary

**Total Transfers**                                          24,084.80

**Balance June 30, 2015**                         \$           915.20

Respectfully Submitted:  
 Ross France, Chairman  
 Robert Bellefeuille, Clerk  
 Eric Mandel  
 Don Clarkson





# Petersham Fire Department

Petersham, Massachusetts 01366

## Annual Report of the Petersham Fire Department Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

To the Citizens of Petersham:

I herewith submit my report of activity by the Petersham Fire Department for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2015.

During the Fiscal Year the Department responded to the following calls for assistance.

Structure Fires	0
Chimney Fires	2
Brush Fires	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	11
Alarm Activations – No fire	6
Carbon Monoxide Alarm Activation	3
Smoke/Fire Investigations	4
Trees Down on Wires	2
Transformer Fire	1
Illegal Burning	4
Electrical Problem	1
Assist Police Department	1
Basements Pumped	1
Medical Emergencies	48
Fire Watch	2
Mutual Aid	<u>9</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Permits Issued:</b>	
Smoke/ CO Inspections	17
Oil Buner Permits	10
Fuel Transfer Tank Permits	2
Propane Storage Permits	12
Burning Permits	<u>352</u>
<b>Total Permits Issued</b>	<b>393</b>

Through the efforts of the Energy Committee and the Green Communities Grant Program, the 30 plus year old oil furnace at the fire station was replaced with a new propane boiler heating system. This system is much more efficient than the old furnace and also allows the Fire Department to take advantage of lower cost propane to heat the building. The difference was noticeable during the winter months. The total savings in gallons of fuel consumed is still being determined but should be significant.

The Energy Committee also had the building insulation upgraded utilizing the same grant funds. While at first skeptical as to whether or not this was a good use of funds, I was made a believer over the rough winter of 2014-2015. The department has always had to contend with ice buildup on each side of the gabled section of the front roof. Because of the insulation project there was virtually no ice to deal with!

The Annual Town Meeting funded the first year of a five year hose replacement program. Much of the hose carried by the Department was purchased 35 to 40 years ago. With this first allotment, we replaced all of the attack lines with the purchase of 1800 feet of 1 3/4" hose. In addition, 600 feet of forestry hose was replaced.

All personnel completed a First Responder refresher course as required by state law. This course was undertaken to bring all firefighters up to the same level of training. This will also allow the department to recertify over a three year period.

This year our dispatch center implemented an on-line permit system to obtain burning permits during the burning season. Approximately half of the permits issued were obtained on-line. This greatly reduced the burden on the dispatchers. The burning permit telephone line remains active for those who do not have access to a computer. The on-line system can be found at [www.c8burnpermits.com](http://www.c8burnpermits.com).

The department is always looking for new volunteers to join the Fire Department. We are really in need of a few individuals that work nights who would be willing to respond to calls during the daytime. There are fewer people available for daytime calls and it may get to the point where it is a real problem. Training is available at times other than at our regular meetings. Anyone interested can contact the chief or a member of the department for more information.

I would like to thank the Highway Department for keeping the dry hydrants at various locations plowed out throughout the past harsh winter. Also to the firefighters who shoveled, cut brush and weed wacked at the dry hydrant locations throughout the year.

As always I want to thank the men and women of the department for their dedication and support. It is not always convenient to respond to calls in time of need and it is important that you know your efforts are truly appreciated. Thank you as well to the wives, families and significant others for your support. Finally, thank you to you the citizens of Petersham for your support at Town Meeting and the kind words of appreciation that make the job of serving our community worthwhile.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana C. Robinson  
Fire Chief

### ***The Petersham Forest & Shade Tree Committee – Town Report for FY2015***

The PFSTC meets typically on the third Thursday of the month at the Country Store from 5:30-7pm. (Meeting times and agenda are made available on the Town's website.) Last year the committee made great strides to benefit our trees:

- Received a Petersham Cultural Council grant to create a map and interpretive tour of significant Petersham trees , with nominations from the community (projected due date of Spring 2016)
- Created initial products for a fundraiser campaign – Cordwood re-useable bag program
- Began an educational postcard series to residents in Town
- Began to inventory the ash trees on town rights of way, to proactively address the threat of emerald ash borer, an invasive insect recently found in Worcester County
- Continued our all-volunteer Wood Bank program (now in our 2<sup>nd</sup> winter) that leverages grant funds from the Mass. DCR and private donations. In the heating year of 2015-16 we have administered over 25 vouchers for firewood processed from downed roadside trees.
- Received a grant from the New England Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture to expand Arbor Day community programming
- Applied for a challenge grant from the Mass. DCR to fund tree planting in town gateways and at the Center School, and to provide public workshops on tree care

Sighted locations for future tree plantings

Mapped invasive plants along town rights of way and began to discuss initial plans for plant removal and community education.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Forest & Shade Tree Committee,

Melissa LeVangie, Member

# Town of Petersham

## Highway Department

### Annual Report

### 2014-2015

#### Chapter 90 Work

Crack sealing was applied to Hardwick Road, Popple Camp Road, and East Street. A section of West Road, from Camel Hump Road to a few hundred feet beyond Birch Drive, had new culverts installed, was reclaimed, and had new pavement put down. Philips Drive was reclaimed and paved. East Street, from Main Street to the Fire Station, was reclaimed and paved. Drainage swales on that section of road were also paved. Spring Street was overlaid with a leveling course and topped with 1 1/2" of asphalt. Nichewaug Road had asphalt applied to the low spots and was resurfaced with a 3/8" stone seal. Glen Valley Road and Old Hardwick Road were also resurfaced with a stone seal. A small rubber tired excavator with three buckets and a hydraulic hammer was purchased with Chapter 90 money. Gravel was crushed at the Quabbin pit and put on Birch Drive, Glasheen Road and Tom Swamp Road.

#### General Highway Account

The normal highway maintenance activities that take place every year were completed. Sweeping roads, cleaning ditches, filling pot holes , grading dirt roads, removal of trees that fall, mowing of roadsides, signs were replaced, vehicles were repaired and routine maintenance was performed on trucks and equipment.. Winter sand was made and hauled to the highway yard. With grant money from the Green Communities Act, the ceiling of the highway barn had more insulation added. The Town received \$38,406.96 for road repairs from the State. This money was called the Winter Rapid Recovery Road Program (WRRRP), given to towns to help recover from the last winter. This money was applied to West Road Chapter 90 work. Highway installed a pad for a propane tank at the Fire Station, excavated and filled the gas line trench, and helped removed the old furnace. We also took the old furnace from the Town Hall to the Transfer Station. Preparation for a stone wall at the West Road Cemetery was made, and after wall was built, the highway cleaned up excess material and put loam and seed on the site. The highway expanded its stock yard on Rt122 to stock pile trees, cut by National Grid on West Road and other Town property, to be used for a Wood Bank. The highway picked up a new truck with a combination dump/sander body mounted on it.

#### Snow Account

The first storm of this winter was on Wednesday November 26, we ended up with 9-11" of wet snow. On January 27<sup>th</sup> we had a blizzard, and after that winter came on hard. The sanders were out almost every night in February. The snow was dry and light

because it stayed cold. It just kept piling up. The wing was put on the road grader to push back the snow banks to make room for more. Some of the dirt roads with high banks were only wide enough for one vehicle. 447.24 tons of salt and approximately 1,400 cubic yards of sand. Once again the Part-time help was greatly appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Timothy W. Graves  
Highway Superintendent



PETERSHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
and PETERSHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

3 South Main Street • Petersham, Massachusetts 01366 • 978-724-3353 tel • 978-724-3501 fax

## Annual Report for July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

The Petersham Historic District Commission & Historical Commission met monthly throughout the year at Petersham Memorial Library and enjoyed a productive year.

The Commission received a Project Application for an addition and modifications to the exterior residence at 11 Common Street. Upon review, discussion, and completion of a Public Hearing, the project was approved. The HDC received an Application for 26 South Main Street requesting to remove windows and doors from a south side exterior. Upon review, discussion, and completion of the Public Hearing, the project was approved. Both projects had interesting historic photographs which the Commission appreciated reviewing. At the request of the HDC, staff from The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) met to review a large sign that had been installed on North Main Street, at North Common Meadow and which was felt to be out of scale with the location and blocked views of buildings and landscape. Upon conclusion of a site visit all were in agreement to remove the existing sign and install a new smaller one near the historic Brooks Law Office along with an information kiosk behind the Law Office. The HDC was appreciative of TTOR's understanding and willingness to rethink the project.

Discussion was held during the year about solar panels, bike path designation on Route 32, and possible exterior changes at The Country Store. In February 2015, we submitted our annual town budget for FY16 and in keeping with the wishes of the Selectboard & Advisory Finance Committee, we requested a level funded budget.

The HDC was pleased to welcome new Commission member Jeremy Gabrenas in September 2014. Jeremy takes the seat required to be filled by a person in the trades. The Commission was pleased to welcome new member Mark Bishop in January 2015. Mark fulfills the required position of being from among the property owners of the District. He also agreed to take on the job of HDC Clerk for which all members were grateful. The Board was thankful for the many years Chris Mandel had fulfilled the position of Clerk. In Spring 2015, Mark proposed an HDC Lecture Series as a way to communicate with residents and the public in general. He brought many ideas to the Commission and the series looks promising with guest Joseph Cornish of Historic New England willing to give the first talk on historic home maintenance.

The Commission continued reviewing and editing our By-laws, with HDC member Lynn Shaw keeping the detailed process moving forward. The project is on track for likely submission to the voters at June 2016 Annual Town Meeting and will include the input of the Planning Board for review and public hearing as required by law.

Through the work of HDC member Chris Mandel, the applications for nomination to the National Register of the historic Ledgeville Schoolhouse and Second East Street Schoolhouse, dated 1846 and 1849 respectively, were submitted to Massachusetts Historical Commission on July 3, 2014. In October 2014, Petersham Historical Society (PHS) president Henry Woolsey met with the HDC to review state funding that had been provided for renovation of the town-owned Ledgeville Schoolhouse thanks to support of retiring Senator Stephen Brewer. All agreed the HDC and PHS will work well together on this important preservation project; there is a lot of helpful overlap with Chris Mandel and Nancy Allen also being members of the Historical Society Board. In Spring 2015, Nancy Allen reported project specifications for the Schoolhouse had been developed for review and recommended that the first phase of work focus on structural issues, major interior work, and door & window repairs.

The HDC welcomes attendance at our meetings which are held under the Town's Historic District Commission Bylaw Article XII. The Commission is grateful to Petersham residents and fellow town officials for providing their support for preservation of Petersham's history.

~ Respectfully submitted, *Commission Members, July 2014 – June 2015:*  
Nancy Allen, *Chair*; Robert Clark, *Vice Chair*; Mark Bishop, *Clerk*  
Jeremy Gabrenas, Christine Mandel, Lynn Shaw, *members*

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Meeting Agendas, Minutes, and other HDC materials can be found at the Historic District Commission link on the town web site at [www.mytowngovernment.org/01366](http://www.mytowngovernment.org/01366). Our thanks to the web managers for providing this service and to Petersham Memorial Library for providing HDC meeting space.

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**ABOUT THE PETERSHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT** Through the diligent hard work of town residents and the commitment of Petersham voters, the Petersham Historic District was established in 1967 as one of the earliest in the Commonwealth. Today, there are more than 215 Districts in 110 towns and cities across the Massachusetts. Since the 1930s, over 2,300 Historic Districts have been established across the United States and the number keeps growing as towns discover and appreciate the "quality of community" benefits brought about by preservation.



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
RALPH C. MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

	<b>Town</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Peter Cross, Chair	Orange	2016
Patricia Smith, Vice-Chair	Orange	2018
Carla Halpern	New Salem	Appointed Position
Lynn Peredina	Petersham	Appointed Position
Heidi Shortis	Petersham	2016
Johanna Bartlett	Wendell	Appointed Position
Chris Paul	Orange	2016
Rebecca Badgley	Orange	2017
Ray Younghans	Orange	Appointed Position
Sunday Lefebvre	Orange	2017
Chante Jillson	Orange	2018

**STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Madison Corcoran

Tari N. Thomas, Superintendent  
Gabriele Voelker, District Treasurer  
Daniel Haynes, Director of Finance

Office Hours: 7:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

Office Telephone: 978-544 2920

District Web site: <http://www.rcmahar.org>

To the members of the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School Committee and the voters of the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District, I submit my Annual Report as Superintendent. The report to the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School Committee covers the period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. As such, all reports cover the final half of the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year and the first half of the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year.

## **Vision Statement**

The Ralph C. Mahar Regional School, in collaboration with families, envisions a quality learning environment which values academic excellence that enables students to reach their full potential in a rapidly changing global society.

## **Mission Statement**

The Ralph C. Mahar Regional School community will ensure teaching and learning take place in a safe, collaborative, and inclusive environment. We commit to working with families and community members to support the personal, academic, and career growth of every student. We believe that a challenging curriculum for all students, and a culture that actively welcomes all learners, will contribute to a more knowledgeable community and society. We believe that all students must be prepared with 21st-century skills and an understanding of the demands and challenges of an ever-changing world.

## **Core Values**

### **Student Achievement:**

- We believe all students learn best when actively engaged in the learning process.
- We believe education is about student growth that includes core academics, the arts, cultural awareness, and physical, social and emotional well-being.
- We believe the purpose of education is to enable students to become self-reliant learners and productive, responsible citizens.

### **Personal Growth:**

- We believe in promoting personal responsibility in students so they may reach their full potential.

### **School Climate:**

- We believe all decisions should be made in the best interest of students, while recognizing and welcoming their individual differences.
- We believe in a safe environment built on communication and a shared decision making process that supports curiosity, creativity, respect, and positive attitudes.

### **Collaborative Partnerships:**

- We believe in identifying and developing diverse opportunities for students to engage in active learning within their communities.
- We believe the education of a child is the shared responsibility of town, educational, family, and student communities.

### **Resources:**

- We believe in school personnel working with family and town communities to provide ongoing information regarding student achievement, school-related activities, and annual budget and expenditures.
- We believe in utilizing fiscally responsible strategies which support teaching and learning to meet the unique needs of students.

## **THREE STRATEGIC GOALS FOR 2015-2020**

Building upon the supports, processes and structures that have been developed this year, the district has set three Strategic Objectives for the School Years 2015-2020. These objectives are all focused on the central task of improving core reading and math instruction for all students, with a focus on student disabilities and students with limited English proficiency. We believe the Strategic Objectives complement and reinforce one another to provide a powerful plan for improvement.

Aligned, Consistently Delivered and Continuously Improving Curriculum  
Effective Instruction & Instructional Leadership  
School Supports and Interventions  
with embedded assessment, technology integration & professional development



**Teacher of Year for 2014-2015**  
Margaret Lawless, Middle School Mathematics Teacher



**New Personnel**

The district welcomed the expertise of the following new faculty/staff members during the 2014-2015 school year:

Marie Cole, Secondary Curriculum Coordinator  
Michael McLellan, Special Education Teacher  
Tammy Nail, Special Education Paraprofessional  
Aaryn Aiken, Special Education Teacher  
Kristen Hesse, Special Education Para  
Ryan DeMar, Special Education Para  
Walker Babich, Special Education Para  
Carina Morand, Title I Math Para  
Robin Allain-Moody, History Teacher  
Stephanie Cole, English Teacher  
Laryssa Witty, World Language Teacher  
Nicholas Morin, Network Technology Specialist  
Joshua Rogers, Tech Help Desk Specialist

**Faculty and Staff Retirements**

The following faculty/staff members retired at the conclusion of the 2014-2015 school year:

The Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District had no retirements.

**OUR PARTNERSHIPS**

**CAPS Educational Collaborative Programs at Mahar**

Two programs, “Junior Senators” and “Senior Senators” continue to be located on the campus of the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School. Students aged 13 – 22, who are challenged with multiple disabilities, receive a high quality education that allows them to be included in the public school environment. These students are afforded the full complement of specialized CAPS instruction and related services such as Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy, but can also be seen in grade level Mathematics, English, Social Science, and unified arts classes.

## **The Gateway to College**

This partnership with Mount Wachusett Community College and the Gateway to College (based in Portland, OR) continues to be a road to academic success for students from the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District and schools in many other central and western Massachusetts towns. Students in this program attend classes at Mount Wachusett and begin earning college credits early. Students who graduate from the Gateway to College earn the Ralph C. Mahar Regional high school diploma.

## **Pathways Early College Innovation School**

Now in its fifth year of operation, this program offers students the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and Associates Degree from Mount Wachusett Community College at the same time. By becoming full-time, dual enrollment students at the beginning of the junior year, students in this program have the opportunity to attend all college classes at Mount Wachusett Community College free of charge.

## **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

### **AM Integrated Learning Center**

This is an alternative high school program that is referred to as “A School Within a School.” Students in this program have the benefit of a school social worker, special education teacher, and full-time paraprofessional support. The focus of this program is on students’ emotional and behavioral health, which has impacted their ability to learn in the mainstreamed environment. A level-system that focuses on rewards and positive behavioral intervention has proven successful for many students who might be educated at the expense of the district in placements other than Ralph C. Mahar.

### **PM Integrated Learning Center**

This program focuses on the non-traditional learner. Students in the PM Integrated Learning Center are involved in career and/or internship placement for 20 hours per week. These students attend school from 3:00 – 5:00 PM each day during the school year and take one class each summer. There are few programs which offer students the opportunity to earn their high school diploma outside of the regular school schedule in Massachusetts.

### **Middle School Integrated Learning Center**

This is a self-contained middle school classroom for students who are also challenged with behavioral and emotional issues. This program feeds into the high school AM Integrated Learning Center. A significant difference is the middle school utilizes a more tangible system for reinforcement for positive behavioral interactions. These students are offered the services of a school psychologist, full-time teacher, and two paraprofessionals.

## **CURRICULUM AND LEARNING**

### **Accomplishments of the 2014-2015 School Year**

There was a targeted focus on middle school for the 2014-2015 school year, especially in mathematics and science. The middle school skills block was targeted and the curriculum used for the various tiers was aligned. All students utilized *Khan Academy* in order to focus on specific skills and standards. The RtI (Response to Intervention) specialists worked with teachers to use the data from *Khan Academy* to plan instruction. In addition, it was expected that all students experience some sort of project based learning in which they could see the application of mathematics in real life situations. A significant percentage of project based learning activities were in the context of science.

Also, every Grade 8 student received one semester of an additional science technology class during their unified arts block.

Tier Levels	Khan Academy	Project Based Learning
Tier I - Above Grade Level	20% of skill block	80% of skill block
Tier II - At or Near Grade Level	50% of skill block	50% of skill block
Tier III - Below Grade Level	75%-80% skill block	25% - 20% skill block

In addition to the targeted focus of the mathematical skills blocks, the after school *Structured Mathematics Homework Program* was implemented. This program was held from 2:05 pm-3:00 pm every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday and was staffed by paraprofessionals who work daily in the middle mathematics classrooms. The objective of this program is to assist students with the successful completion of their daily mathematics homework so that students have additional opportunities to practice mathematics problems with support and clarification of the daily mathematics objectives.

As a result of these initiatives, the school saw a 10% increase in the number of Grade 8 students scoring proficient on the *MCAS Science Technology and Engineering Exam*. While PARCC results were not as high as previous years' MCAS results, at Mahar students significantly outperformed in mathematics as compared to English Language Arts. This is in direct opposition to the State where students had a higher proficiency rate in English language arts than they did in mathematics. The shift in these results as compared to the State's were attributed to the focus on mathematics and science in the middle school.

### Planning Teams

Mahar established several teams this school year: data, professional development, and curriculum mapping. These teams were made up of a cross section of staff: middle school teachers, high school teachers, paraprofessionals, and administration. The teams began by establishing and inventorying past practices and resources.

The data teams began by surveying all assessments administered to students from MCAS, to PARCC, to PSAT to ACT. A chart was established that included: what the assessment was, who took the assessment, the purpose of the assessment, what the assessment was used for, who had access to the data, where the data was housed, and who was responsible for management and dissemination of the data. The team then worked on developing the parameters needed to be able to house this information in a secure, common location so that teachers had easy access to it for planning and instructional purposes. A consultant was hired to develop a custom page in *PowerSchool* to be utilized as a data warehouse.

The professional development team began meeting in the spring to develop the PD plan for the upcoming school year. Staff were surveyed as to the types of offerings they needed and were interested in attending. The team then developed a schedule for the upcoming year that focused on three types of PD offerings: State mandated professional development, professional development that aligns to the school and district goals, and teacher requested PD that offered teachers opportunities to earn the PDP points as required by the State for their teaching license. In addition, Mahar staff were polled to determine who had an area of expertise or a desire to share their knowledge of a topic with their colleagues; as a result, a bank of facilitators was established for the upcoming school year.

The curriculum mapping team began in the spring by inventorying all the curriculum maps and pacing guides currently established and determining their alignment to the new Massachusetts State Standards based on the Common Core. Several staff members attended a State sponsored training in curriculum mapping and a middle school team was established. The goal of the team was to ensure alignment of curriculum from grade to grade and the establishment of priority standards at each grade level and subject matter. The plan was also to infuse technology in a manner that it is a vehicle for learning and not an add-on to the curriculum. Again, the focus was on the middle school to revise and

establish curriculum maps that reflects current standards, the specific needs of the current student population, and utilized technology as one of many methods to instruct students. The goal was to begin at the middle school level and build up the maps through the grade levels and reflect that the middle school would be completely 1:1 with Chromebooks beginning in the next school year.



### ENROLLMENT for 2014-2015

Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Total
125	143	129	101	122	94	714

### KEY METRICS for 2014-2015

Enrollment at RC Mahar	714
Enrollment at Gateway	68
Enrollment at Pathways	34
Attendance Rate	96.3
Average Class Size	13.9
Number of Teachers	63.9
Special Education	15.7%
Economically Disadvantaged	51.5%
High Needs	41.5%
English Language Learners	0.6%
School Choice In	255
School Choice Out	64
Home Education	20
Students Per Computer	0.6
Classrooms on the Internet (%)	100%

### Student Assessment Results 2015

The *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) requires an annual report card for each school, as well as for each student. Report cards answer important questions about a school's overall performance and contain specific information about student enrollment and teacher qualifications, student achievement, accountability, how a school is performing relative to other schools in the district and the state, and the progress made toward narrowing proficiency gaps for different groups of students.

The report includes the following important information about our school:

**Student enrollment and teacher quality:** This section of the report card provides information about the students and teachers at Ralph C. Mahar Regional, as compared to the district and the state.

**School and district accountability information:** This section of the report contains three important pieces of information:

- **Accountability and Assistance Levels:** Schools and districts are placed into one of five accountability and assistance levels (1-5), with the highest performing in Level 1 and lowest performing in Level 5. Our school has been placed into **Level 2** because we are not quite yet narrowing the achievement gaps for our students in English Language Arts and Mathematics.
- **School Percentiles:** A school percentile between 1 and 99 is reported for most schools. This number shows the overall performance of our school relative to other schools that serve the same or similar grades. **Mahar's percentile is 23.** This means that our school is performing higher than twenty-three percent of similar schools with similar grade spans in the state.
- **Progress and Performance Index (PPI):** The PPI is a number that indicates our school's progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps, or, in other words, helping *all* students reach proficiency and be prepared for success after high school. Massachusetts has set a goal of reducing proficiency gaps by half between the years 2011 and 2017. For a group of students to be considered to be making sufficient progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps, its cumulative PPI must be 75 or higher. **Mahar's PPI was 57.**

To improve student achievement at the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School, we are implementing the Strategic Plan for the Consolidated Districts for 2015-2020. For more specifics, please visit our website.

We encourage parents/guardians to become involved in helping us improve our school. Some of the ways you can become involved are:

- Encouraging your child's learning at home
- Attending parent-teacher meetings and other special meetings
- Serving as a volunteer in our school or district
- Encouraging other parents to become involved

For more information about our school and to view the actual report card, please visit the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education at:

<http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/reportcard/SchoolReportCardOverview.aspx?linkid=105&orgcode=07550505&fycode=2015&orgtypecode=6&>

or to request information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teachers, please feel free to contact the school at 978-544-2920.

I am honored to provide our communities with an update on the progress of the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School. It is a privilege to work for a School Committee that demands of its employees and students excellence in the classroom and great sportsmanship on the athletic fields. The Ralph C. Mahar Regional School is an organization that proudly strives to make a difference in the lives of children..... and they do.

Tari Nugent Thomas  
 Superintendent of Schools  
 January 2015

## **PETERSHAM MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

23 Common Street  
Petersham, Massachusetts, 01366

Annual Report to the Town Of Petersham  
of the Petersham Memorial Library  
July 01, 2014 – June 30, 2015

### **Vision Statement:**

The Petersham Memorial Library will fulfill its vital mission to the community by providing resources, programming and an atmosphere to encourage multi-faceted intellectual growth. This will be achieved by nurturing a love of reading, encouraging the sharing of ideas and acceptance of diversity, and fostering the pursuit of life long learning in a friendly, welcoming environment making the library an important cultural hub for the Petersham community of all ages.

### **Mission Statement:**

The Petersham Memorial Library will provide the community with a diverse and rich collection that nurtures a love of books and reading and fosters the communication of ideas and information. The Library will also be home to a special collection of materials of local and regional history and genealogy. In addition to maintaining the collection, the Library has a commitment to preserve the architectural integrity of the building, to preserve the memorials within the building, and to provide an attractive and friendly environment.

### **Hours:**

- Tuesday 10:00A.M. to 5:00P.M.
- Wednesday 2:00P.M. to 7:00P.M.
- Friday 2:00P.M. to 5:00P.M.
- Saturday 9:00A.M. to 1:00P.M.

### **Trustees:**

- Barbara Hanno
- John Burk
- Mark Ailinger
- Ashley Gabrenas
- Janice Olson
- Annette Ermini
- Kent Byron
- Robert Bellefeuille
- Tally Lent
- Richard Carfagna
- Anne Perkins
- Clint Shaw

Seven hundred and ninety-nine Petersham residents were library cardholders in Fiscal Year 2015. Petersham Memorial Library patrons checked out 5,747 books, 536 print serials, 856 audio books and 2,254 movies. 2,176 interlibrary loans were received and 1,409 were provided. 2,020 on-site loans were made to patrons who do not reside in Petersham.

FY2015 the library had 2 public use computers and 2 public use laptops. An average of 12 patrons per week accessed the internet using the library's computers. Many patrons log on to our wireless connection either in or outside the building. The library's web address is [www.petershamlibrary.net](http://www.petershamlibrary.net).

Our digital library offerings included 6 data base licenses, 30,858 e-book titles, 7,902 audio book titles and 61,167 video titles. In 2015, 845 electronic titles were downloaded from the digital catalog by our patrons.

The library was open a total of 960 hours which included 204 hours on Saturday and 102 hours after 5PM. 5,974 people entered the library during open hours.

Our shelves currently hold 7,857 books for adults and 4,697 books for children and 957 Young Adult titles. There are 51 volumes of print periodicals, newspapers and other print serials. 1,199 DVD/VHS titles were available for loan as well as 444 books/music in audio format.

Discount Passes to area attractions included the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst, Massachusetts State Parks Pass, Tower Hill Botanical Garden in Boylston and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

During the 2014-2015 season, the Petersham Memorial Library continued to offer story hour for children, at 10:30 on Tuesday morning. Our story hour format included a story, game, music, craft/science activity, yoga, sign language and play time for our youngest patrons.

The adult book discussion group began meeting on the first Friday of each month at 12:30 p.m. during the winter months. Our new discussion group is called Book Soup because members meet at the library for a cup of soup and a good discussion of the selected read.

The Statewide Summer Reading Program theme this year was *Every Hero Has a Story*. The goal of the program is to encourage children to continue to read over the summer.

The Library Book Sale was held October 10 and 11. We wish to thank Fifi Scoufopoulos, our book sale organizer and her army of volunteers. Packers, sorters, movers, sellers and buyers all came together for a successful sale.

The Library handed out well over 200 treat bags during the Town Halloween Trick or Treat festivities. Jeanne Forand packaged all the good bags in preparation for the event. Bob and Karen Bellefeuille handed out the treats and Jenna Berry was our photographer. A Photo board of all our Halloween visitors was put on display at the library throughout the month of November.

In December, The Magical Petersham Holiday Arts and Crafts Show and Sale took place in the Town Hall. We wish to thank the show organizers for allowing the library to participate. We appreciate your generous support and beautiful selection of arts and crafts for holiday shopping.

The Annual Library Tea was held Sunday, February 8 from 2:00 to 4:00. Invitations were mailed to all Petersham residents. The tea is the Library's *Thank You* to our community for the support we receive throughout the year.

This year's Petersham Branch Alliance Annual Plant and Bake Sale had a beautiful selection of plants and delicious home baked goods and was held on the Common. A portion of the funds raised through this wonderful event were generously donated to the library. We very much appreciate your continued support.

Highlights for the year included:

- Trees 101, an Arbor Day program presented by Melissa Levangie
- Bear in my Garden, a program on black bears
- Massachusetts Mineral Lecture given by Fred Wilda and Wayne Corwin of The Connecticut Valley Mineral Club. The Connecticut Valley Mineral Club donated a Massachusetts Mineral specimen case to the library in memory of long time club member and Petersham resident Warren Johansson.
- The Birth of a Book presented by Nancy Hale author of *My Journey; a military wife's tale of faith, hope and courage*
- *A Will for the Woods*, a film and discussion on green burial
- Belly Fit, a belly dancing exercise program
- Frugal Fun Out of the Box Entertaining Ideas program presented by Karen Bellefeuille
- Poetry Night



- Author, Linda Mapes gave a presentation on her book, *The Witness Tree*
- UNLAUNCH'D VOICES, An Evening With Walt Whitman presented by Steven Collins
- Shades of Shakespeare, a special evening of festivities and fun in honor of Shakespeare's 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, was celebrated at the Petersham Memorial Library to help raise money for the Building Improvement Fund. Special guests William Shakespeare and his wife, Anne Hathaway attended as well as a host of other characters including witches, fortunetellers, fairies, and musicians. Queen Elizabeth the First cut the birthday cake to honor 450 years of her favorite playwright's reign. A successful silent auction concluded the evening with many valuable contributions of items and services bringing generous bids from friends of the library. The library would like to thank the community for their continued support. The library will add the proceeds to the Building Improvement Fund in anticipation of our upcoming Roof Project.

We gratefully acknowledge the Petersham Cultural Council for their support of the following programs: Library Coffee House Series and UNLAUNCH'D VOICES, An Evening with Walt Whitman

Non library use of building included meetings for The Grange, Historic District Commission, Petersham Branch Alliance, Route 122 Scenic Byway Advisory Committee and Historical Society.

Over 136 volunteer hours were logged at our library in 2014/2015 and I would like to extend my gratitude to the volunteers, staff, Trustees and patrons of the Petersham Memorial Library for all they do to help make it the great place it is.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jayne Arata  
Director  
Petersham Memorial Library

# Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School



# ANNUAL REPORT 2014 - 2015

1050 Westminster Street  
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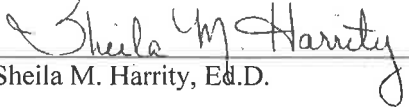
The 2014-2015 school year was my first year as Superintendent-Director of Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District, and it seemed to come and go in a minute; I would be remiss if I did not take time to reflect upon the numerous achievements our talented students, faculty and staff accomplished throughout the school year. These awards, recognitions, and distinctions are the result of years of high quality education and vocational-technical training. They are the hallmark of a Monty Tech education, earned by both individuals' and team efforts. While they are, in deed, an honor, they are simply a snapshot of the wonderful experiences happening on a day-to-day basis here at Monty Tech. I am delighted to present the District's 2014-2015 annual report to you, highlighting some of the year's most notable achievements, including:

- A talented team of three Monty Tech Engineering students won the gold medal for Engineering Technology and Design at the SkillsUSA national competitions held in Louisville, KY. Nicolas Wicker of Fitchburg, Leon Gaulin of Winchendon and Devan Kumar, also of Winchendon, led by instructor Dennis Cormier, created a portable game console designed with retro gaming in mind. The team has developed patents on their prize-winning efforts, and continues to expand their business and engineering acumen.
- The Machine Technology program aligned curriculum to MASSMEP (Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership) standards, and as a result students are now able to earn Level 1 and Level 2 Applied Manufacturing Technology Pathway Certifications. Having these certifications will ensure program graduates stand-out when they enter the workforce upon graduation, as employers are better able to verify technical skills and expertise with this widely accepted training model. Also, our instructors are now able to access the manufacturing curriculum developed through Worcester Polytechnic Institute, adding rigor and relevance to our very popular Machine Technology program.
- The Monty Tech Auto Body/ Collision Repair Department was featured in the April 2015 edition of the New England Automotive Report, applauded for its dedication to excellence. Molly Brodeur, President of the Alliance of Automotive Service Providers, Massachusetts cited the program's innovative technologies, spacious facilities, and specialized equipment as among the best in New England.
- Outpacing more than 1,000 teams across the United States, and competing in three categories: network security, digital forensics, and Cisco networking, a team of six talented students captured first place at the CyberPatriot event, a national high school cyber defense competition, founded by the Air Force Association.
- Students at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School continued to demonstrate high academic achievement. In the spring of 2015, Monty Tech's passing rate on the MCAS English Language Arts exam was 100%, Mathematics 98%, and Biology 98%.

We are so proud of the educational programs offered here at Monty Tech, yet we continually strive to improve upon them. Collaborating with area colleges and universities, we are ensuring our curriculum and instruction are rigorous and relevant. Sharing best practices with vocational-technical colleagues from across the state – and nation – we give and take some of the best ideas, with one thing in mind – what is best for our students. And what is best, I believe, is preparing students for both college and career.

We hope you will find this report a comprehensive review of the quality education you have come to know and expect from Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School. You may notice that each of the eighteen member cities and towns are reflected in this report, and that students performed services in almost every community last year. Providing our students with an opportunity to give back to the communities that support them – and support our school – is a pleasure.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sheila M. Harrity, Ed.D.

**Our Mission**

Every student will graduate from Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School with the skills, knowledge, and abilities to be a productive and effective member of an ever-changing society.

**Our District**

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School is a four-year career and technical high school serving the member towns of:

Ashburnham	Harvard	Princeton
Ashby	Holden	Royalston
Athol	Hubbardston	Sterling
Barre	Lunenburg	Templeton
Fitchburg	Petersham	Westminster
Gardner	Phillipston	Winchendon

**Leadership**

The leadership team at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School is comprised of ten talented administrators whose varied educational backgrounds, professional experiences, and areas of expertise contribute to the success of the school. Working collaboratively, and under the direction of the Superintendent and Principal, the team has been able to transform the school into one of the most sought-after high schools in North Central Massachusetts.

*Sheila M. Harrity, Superintendent-Director*  
*Tom Browne, Principal*  
*Dayana Carlson, Assistant Principal*  
*Tammy Crockett, Business Manager*  
*Francine Duncan, Director of Technology*

*Christina Favreau, Director of Academic Programs*  
*Jim Hachey, Director of Vocational Programs*  
*Richard Ikonen, Director of Facilities*  
*Katy Whitaker, Development Coordinator*  
*Victoria Zarozinski, Director of Student Support Services*

**Enrollment**

On June 1, 2015, student enrollment at Monty Tech included 1,418 students in grades nine through twelve. Students are represented from every community in the district: Ashburnham (61), Ashby (35), Athol (88), Barre (37), Fitchburg (368), Gardner (146), Harvard (5), Holden (71), Hubbardston (62), Lunenburg (78), Petersham (4), Phillipston (18), Princeton (20), Royalston (18), Sterling (61), Templeton (93), Westminster (81), and Winchendon (146). The remaining 26 students were from out-of-district towns, including Ayer, Clinton, Lancaster, Leominster, Orange, Shirley, Webster and Worcester.

Throughout 2014-2015, Monty Tech offered a variety of opportunities for students, parents, and community members to learn about and visit the school. In October 2014, approximately 1,000 district eighth graders participated in the annual "Tour Day" event. Students toured our twenty vocational-technical areas and learned about the school's challenging academic offerings and exciting athletic and extracurricular programs. Career Awareness Night offered interested students the opportunity to return in the evening with their family members, to further explore the facilities and talk with staff members.

Each year, the Dean of Admissions conducts school visits, student interviews, and accepts applications for admissions. 2014-2015 proved to be an exceptionally busy year for her, as the school received 631 applications for admission. Of those, 575 were from students hoping to enter our incoming freshman class.

The balance of the applications came from students hoping to enter the school as upperclassmen. Because there are only a limited number of students the school can accept each year, 338 freshmen and 3 upperclassmen were admitted.

The Vocational Interest Program (V.I.P.) offers area seventh and eighth grade students the chance to visit Monty Tech after school, and participate in hands-on learning experiences across a variety of vocational/technical areas. The program continued to attract a large number of students during the 2014-2015 school year, serving approximately 600 area students.

### *Class of 2015 Awards*

Members of the Class of 2015 were awarded approximately \$55,000 in scholarships. The Monty Tech Foundation generously provided \$35,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors, ranging in amounts of \$200 to \$2,000. The Foundation also awarded \$6,000 to the Practical Nursing graduates. Once again, local and state organizations, as well as generous individuals, continue to recognize the ability and potential of Monty Tech graduates in the form of financial donations. The School Committee, administration, faculty, and graduates themselves, are grateful for this support.

Articulation Agreements with local colleges also play an important role in helping reduce the cost of higher education. Qualified Monty Tech students are eligible to receive college credits through a number of articulation agreements with public and private colleges across the country. Approximately 54% of the graduating class of 2015 reported plans to enroll at either a 2-year college, 4-year college/university, or a technical/trade school upon graduation. By earning college credits while still in high school, these students will benefit by saving both time and money as they pursue advanced educational programs.

### *Financial Report*

In an effort to develop a cost-effective budget for the fiscal year 2014-2015, a great deal of effort was put forth by the School Committee, administration, and staff. The final fiscal year 2014-2015 Educational Plan totaled \$25,640,833, which represents a 3.5% increase over the 2013-2014 Educational Plan. The District's FY15 budget, once again, only meets the minimum spending required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 70.

The District was audited in August 2015 as part of the yearly financial audit by the accounting firm of Melanson, Heath and Co. from Greenfield, MA and a very good report is anticipated.

### *Grants and Contracts*

Monty Tech continues to pursue grant funding on an annual basis. These funds assist in providing many educational and social services to the student population. For fiscal year 2015, state and federal grant sources provided the school with \$866,668. Programs funded by these grants include: Essential Health Services, Social Intervention and Mediation, Improving Teacher Quality, Special Education Services and Program Improvement, Title I Support, Perkins Occupational Education, and Perkins Postsecondary Education. Using these allocation funds, the school was able to purchase a variety of instructional technology, equipment and supplies to enhance the learning experience across both academic and vocational programs.

### *Academic Achievement*

In 2014-2015, students at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School continued to demonstrate high academic achievement, earning commendable MCAS scores in English Language Arts, Mathematics and

Biology. For Spring 2015, Monty Tech’s passing rate on the English Language Arts was 100%, Mathematics 98%, Biology 98%.

The district is particularly proud of the number of students earning Advanced scores, and is pleased to report significant increases in this category. On the English Language Arts exam, students scoring Advanced increased by 16% from 2014. On the Math exam, we saw a 10% increase in Advanced from 2014, and on the Grade 10 Biology exam, there was a 3% increase in students scoring Advanced.

English Language Arts	2013	2014	2015
Students Tested	352	364	374
Passing	99%	100%	100%
Advanced/ Proficient	95%	95%	96%
Needs Improvement	5%	5%	4%
Failing	1%	0%	0%

Mathematics	2013	2014	2015
Students Tested	352	366	375
Passing	98%	98%	98%
Advanced/Proficient	80%	84%	87%
Needs Improvement	18%	14%	11%
Failing	2%	2%	2%

Biology	2013	2014	2015
Students Tested	398	351	347
Passing	97%	99%	98%
Advanced/ Proficient	73%	74%	77%
Needs Improvement	24%	25%	21%
Failing	3%	1%	2%

The district continues to make progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps. Students in all subgroups have met their progress and performance targets, securing the school’s Level 1 Status distinction.

**Vocational Projects in the District Communities**

Unlike students in traditional, comprehensive high schools, students at Monty Tech are asked to put their education into practice on a daily basis. Students across the twenty different vocational-technical education programs are building homes, reconstructing damaged properties, repairing service vehicles, making walkways more accessible, and performing countless community services.

The 2014-2015 school year was a busy one for our vocational educators, as each trade aimed to provide practical, hands-on learning experiences for our students, while helping to improve each of the eighteen member communities.

**Auto Body: Collision Repair Technology:** A highlight of the 2014-2015 school year was the addition of new instructor, Michael Forhan, who brings wonderful industry experience and expertise to the popular Auto Body program. The program received an I-CAR Education Foundation Grant, and as a result, sophomores and

juniors will receive a Level I I-CAR certification. Students detailed, repaired, and repainted more than eighty automobiles and trucks, including a dump truck for the Winchendon Housing Authority. Six ski chairs were coated for the Johnny Appleseed Trail Association, and trail brackets were painted for Baldwinville Department of Conservation. A state-of-the-art fresh-air system was installed in the spray booth, providing our students with clean air while working in the booth, eliminating the need for respirators. (Total enrollment: 62; 34 males, 28 females)

Automotive Technology: As in past years, the Automotive Technology program continues to service a variety of vehicles for faculty, staff, municipalities, and district residents. 2014-2015 proved to be a very busy year for the program, as more than 400 vehicles were serviced by talented students and instructors. The Automotive Technology program continues to work to align instruction to the 2014 CVTE frameworks, as well as the recently revised NATEF standards. Instructors are pleased to report an increase in student enrollment, and offer congratulations to Senior student, Cody Caley, who placed third at the State SkillsUSA competition. A total of seven students participated in the Co-Op program, applying their technical skills in real work settings. (Total enrollment: 67; 54 males, 13 females)

Business Technology: Students graduating from Monty Tech's Business Technology program may qualify for up to nine college credits, taking advantage of articulation agreements with either Mount Wachusett Community College or New England Institute of Technology. Recognizing the work that these students have done throughout their high school year, college officials have agreed to provide qualified Business Technology students with college credits, at no charge, saving the students time and money as they pursue higher education. During the 2014-2015 school year, four students participated in the school's popular Co-Operative Education Program. Additionally, Business Technology stand-out Rebecca Parker was named SkillsUSA National Voting Delegate, and traveled to Louisville in June 2015. Business Technology students continue to post the daily menu on the Monty Tech website for the Mountain Room, distribute, collect, and maintain the Community Service database for all shops, and run a successful school store, the Gear House, refining their skills in cash handling, customer service, organization, and marketing. (Total enrollment: 66; 15 males, 51 females)

Cabinetmaking: Throughout 2014-2015, Monty Tech's Cabinetmaking instructors and students built and installed custom cabinetry and casework in the Westminster Senior and Community Center, the City of Gardner Mayor's Office, and in each of the school's three house-building projects. At the Westminster Senior Center, the talented Cabinetmaking students were charged with finishing all interior architectural woodworking, and did a beautiful job on that project. More than \$20,000 in materials and five months of labor was devoted to that job, saving the Town of Westminster a substantial amount of money. The students also built a beautiful podium and hepplewhite table, and personally delivered the furniture with historical significance to Governor Baker at the Massachusetts State House. Incorporating antique designs into today's Cabinetmaking curriculum has been challenging and has also provided students with additional career opportunities within the trade. Finally, eleven Cabinetmaking students participated in the school's Co-Op program. (Total enrollment: 70; 51 males, 19 females)

Cosmetology: The Monty Tech Cosmetology program introduced students to a talented new instructor, Lirazol Alie, who brings tremendous industry experience, expertise, and enthusiasm to the popular program. 2014-2015 also brought new educational initiatives, including computer literacy objectives. Programs such as Quizlet, Remind, and Google Classroom were introduced, and have been providing additional avenues for students and instructors to communicate and share ideas. The program accepted twenty-four Freshmen, all first choice students. In addition to serving more than 1,500 clients throughout the 2014-2015 school year, students provided mothers from Head Start in Athol with a complimentary "Day of Beauty" in honor of Mother's Day. Also in line with the program's commitment to community service, a portion of all fees collected from October through March were donated to support Horizons for Homeless. More than half of the graduates from the Cosmetology program reported plans to work in the trade, while the remaining graduates went on to pursue higher education. (Total enrollment: 91, 0 males, 91 females)

Culinary Arts: Students and instructors in the Monty Tech Culinary Arts program are among the busiest in our school. In addition to operating a full-service dining room and bakery, serving more than one hundred patrons daily, culinary students showcase their talents throughout the year at various catering events and trade shows in our sending districts, and at meetings and workshops within the school. Throughout the 2014-2015 school year, Culinary Arts students and staff prepared food for: United Way Day of Caring (150 people), Advisory Dinner/Meetings (Over 600 people), Monty Tech Homecoming Dance (500 people), Monty Tech Retirees Holiday Buffet (90 people), Women in Technology Event (150 people), Graduation reception (125 people), Department of Elementary and Secondary Education meeting (25 people), four Monty Tech Foundation breakfast meetings, the annual Superintendent's Dinner, and all school committee and subcommittee meetings. Additionally, we participated in the Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce Chowder & Chili fest, and hosted private events for Gardner AARP, Chairtown Lumber, and Montachusett Home Care. (Total enrollment: 101; 34 males, 67 females)

Dental Assisting: During 2014-2015, the Dental Assisting program introduced twenty-one students to industry experience through externships, while seven students participated in affiliation, and one student earned a co-operative educational placement, working with an area dentist. All sophomore, junior, and senior students attended the Yankee Dental Convention in Boston, and learned about the most current trends and practices in the field. While national passing averages for Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) exams range from 69% - 78%, the Monty Tech dental students earned a 100% passing rate on the Infection Control exam and an outstanding 100% passing rate on the Radiology exam. For the fifth consecutive year, Monty Tech welcomed Community Health Connections, a school-based dental hygiene program, whose goal is to provide dental services to students in need. Through this initiative, more than thirty students were examined by a dentist, had their teeth cleaned, and had sealants or temporary fillings applied as needed. Monty Tech Dental Assisting students were given hands-on, practical experience, as they assisted the staff from CHC during each dental procedure that was performed. (Total enrollment: 57; 5 males, 52 females)

Drafting Technology: The 2014-2015 school year was a busy one for Drafting Technology students and instructors. A total of five students (three Juniors and two Seniors) participated in the school's Co-Operative Education program, and ten students advanced to the SkillsUSA state competitions. Instructors are pleased to report that a majority of the graduating seniors intend to pursue careers in the field of drafting. Like most programs in the school, the Drafting Technology program is committed to community service, and throughout the year worked to provide food and household products for a family in the community. The students and instructors also gathered items to donate for Project Shoebox, which provides personal care items to children in the foster care system, offered design services to the Lunenburg Cemetery Building project, and designed landscape and general layout for Railroad Park in Fitchburg. Students also created countless banners and signage for area community organizations and Monty Tech's graduation, college fair, greenhouse, JROTC, and Drama Club, to name a few. (Total enrollment: 56; 33 males, 23 females)

Early Childhood Education: The Early Childhood Education program began the 2014-2015 school year with a dynamic new instructor, Karla Boudreau. The program received three new Baby Care Parent Simulation dolls, each with car seat detections, as well as temperature detectors. Also, two new cameras were purchased to document students' work for individual professional portfolios. The program participated in the Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children's Recognition Dinner, and in preparation for the event, students created thirty games for this recognition dinner. Students and instructors worked to raise critical funds for Lucy's Love Bus, an agency that provides grants for children with cancer who are not covered by health insurance, and contributed to a number of other child-centered causes, including: SkillsUSA Change for Children, Salvation Army Christmas Angel, and the school's National Honor Society food and supplies drive. All of the program's graduating seniors are college bound and report plans to continue in the field of education. (Total enrollment: 62; 2 males, 60 females)

Electrical: The Electrical program continues to be one of the busiest trades in the school. During 2014-2015, students completed more than 90 work orders throughout the building, including wiring the following: a new CNC milling machine in Cabinetmaking, new milling machines in machine shop, new lifts in Auto



Technology, a new grinder in HVAC & Property Maintenance, a new smart board in Drafting, a new shear in Welding/ Metal Fabrication, new shapers and chop saws in Cabinetmaking, a new scoreboard in the gym, new office space for both the Vice Principal and the Dean of Admissions, and new charger outlets for calculators in an academic room. Students also rewired the Engineering department's storage room and relocated much of their equipment, and a new Prototrak machine in Machine Technology. In addition to wiring equipment, students performed numerous repairs and installations throughout the school as needed, including lights, outlets, computers, sensors, and CATV jacks. The Electrical program was instrumental in ensuring the school responded to all aspects in the most recent Coordinated Program Review's safety audit, and completed each of the recommended findings in a very timely manner. Students and instructors participated in the two house building projects in 2014-2015, again ensuring their work was done in a timely and efficient manner. The program's instructional space was updated to create a more conducive learning environment. Finally twelve students were awarded co-op positions, and more than half of the graduating senior class entered the workforce upon graduation, continuing into the electrical apprenticeship. (Total enrollment: 92; 76 males, 16 females)

Engineering Technology: The Monty Tech Engineering Technology program continued to enhance their curriculum and instruction by embedding four Project Lead the Way courses into the already rigorous vocational-technical curriculum. Students performed well on the end of course assessments affiliated with the Project Lead the Way coursework, with four students earning college credit in Principles of Engineering, eleven students earning college credit in Introduction to Engineering Design, and six students earning credit in Computer Integrated Manufacturing. These students may apply these credits at colleges and universities across the country. The exploratory program during the 2014-2015 school year yielded positive results for the program, with 12 students selecting Engineering Technology as their first choice and one as second choice. All sixteen seniors graduated, and a majority reported plans to continue their education or continue working in the engineering field. The instructors are pleased with the work done in their instructional space, citing better organization and increased safety. Some of the major improvements included a dropped ceiling, new work benches and stools, insulated front wall and fresh paint and the installation of a second SMART board. The Junior class went on a field trip to EASTEC, in Springfield to see the latest technology in manufacturing technologies and techniques. All Freshmen and Sophomores completed OSHA 10 hour training, and earned an OSHA 10 card. Six Seniors presented capstone projects to sponsors, parents and fellow students, demonstrating individual creativity and a deep understanding of engineering principles. Finally, the Monty Tech Engineering students were top performers at SkillsUSA contests throughout the year. At the district competitions, students earned two gold, two silver, and six bronze medals. At the state competitions, three gold and two bronze medals were captured. And at the national competitions held in Louisville, KY, a talented team of three Monty Tech Engineering students won the gold medal for Engineering Technology and Design. (Total enrollment: 55; 42 males, 13 females)

Graphic Communications: Instructors in Monty Tech's Graphic Communications program are pleased to report that all graduating seniors had plans to attend college, and many expected to pursue advanced degrees in the field. Throughout the 2014-2015 school year, the shop continued to produce large quantities of print projects for district towns and community service organizations, completing more than 300 print projects. Because Graphic Communications provides print and design services at deep discounts to local agencies, instructors report saving these offices more than \$100,000 this school year. Students and instructors also completed numerous in-house jobs, resulting in a savings to the school district of more than \$220,000 from black and white copies, wide format printing, yearbook print and production. Three students were placed in co-op experiences, applying and refining their technical skills in local businesses. The program also received six new iMac computers with CS6 Software, and the computer lab was reconfigured and equipped with new desks and a new SMART board. (Total enrollment: 86; 32 males, 54 females)

Health Occupations: The Health Occupations program at Monty Tech continues to educate a large number of students, providing a rigorous education grounded in current medical knowledge and practice. During the 2014-2015 school year, students and instructors organized a large baby shower, benefiting Battered Womens' Resources, Inc. All items collected through that event were donated to expectant mothers living in the shelter.

Students and instructors also participated in Pediatric Day, in conjunction with the school's Early Childhood Education program. The Health Occupations program was awarded a grant of \$42,400, which was used to purchase simulation devices for advanced training and simulated patient scenarios and case studies. Fifteen seniors passed the National Healthcare Association (CCMA) exam, while the program continues to offer students opportunities to earn an array of industry-recognized credentials, including: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10-hour certification; Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid Certificate through the American Heart Association; and Certified Nursing Assistant License through the American Red Cross. Finally, Health Occupations students performed quite well throughout the year at various SkillsUSA competitions, earning a silver medal in Medical Assisting and a bronze medal in Freshman Commentary. Two students were also named State Officer Elect and National Voting Delegate, representing the school and program well. Twenty-three of the graduating seniors in 2015 reported plans to enroll in college, and a majority intend to stay close to the medical field. (Total enrollment: 106; 7 males, 99 females)

House Carpentry: Unlike other vocational-technical programs at Monty Tech, a majority of the work done by students and instructors in the House Carpentry program is completed off-campus, completing renovation, building, and repair work for member communities. Last year was no exception, as students and instructors worked together to complete the following projects: a duplex in Fitchburg for Habitat for Humanity, a two-story colonial home in Ashburnham for Montachusett Enterprise Center, Inc. (MEC), and a set of stairs in the school's Plumbing department. Mr. Morrison, the most recent addition to the House Carpentry staff, and Mr. Pearson, a Monty Tech science teacher, completed an Academic/Vocational Integration project, in an effort to further connect academic elements to practical, real-world applications. The result of the unique lesson was twenty-five bluebird houses, handcrafted by each student, and taken home to share with families and friends. (Total enrollment: 57; 40 males, 17 females)

HVAC & Property Maintenance: The 2014-2015 school year saw some changes in the HVAC & Property Maintenance Program. For many years this program had been named Industrial Technology, but when the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education outlined changes in the program's curriculum frameworks in 2014, it seemed an appropriate time to update the name of the program and refine curriculum so that students and graduates will be better prepared to pursue a variety of career pathways in the Building & Property Maintenance and HVAC fields. Combining elements from both programs, the instructors have developed a broad curriculum that continues to engage students and impress area business owners. Throughout the year, students and instructors collaborated with other Monty Tech programs to complete a number of "outside jobs", including: installing sheetrock and vinyl siding on a duplex home for Habitat for Humanity in Fitchburg, installing siding and wood molding products in a single family home in Ashburnham, and installing brackets for the Holden Recreation Department snowmobile trail. The program was proud to have thirteen students (6 seniors and 7 juniors) participate in the school's popular Co-Operative Education program – more students than in any other program at Monty Tech! (Total enrollment: 64; 57 males, 7 females)

Information Technology: As with any school, Information Technology provides key services to the educational community. In addition to the critical in-house Help Desk services offered by the program, students and instructors performed in excess of 400 hours of repair, upgrading, and troubleshooting computer problems for Monty Tech community members. Competing in the Cyber Patriot event, a national high school cyber defense competition, founded by the Air Force Association, Information Technology and Engineering students, led by program instructor Richard Duncan, captured first place at the March competition. A team of twelve Information Technology students participated in the Fitchburg State University Programming Competition, and there our students placed 13<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> from the 32 teams in attendance. To ensure program graduates are armed with valuable industry-recognized certifications, program instructors offer students the following certification opportunities: TestOut PC Pro certification, IC3 Certification, Cisco IT Essential Course for Computer Repair and Maintenance, and Cisco Introduction to Networking. (100% passing rate for Sophomores). Instructors are proud to report a 98% passing rate for the juniors who took the first test of the CIW Web Foundation certification exams. Two students applied their skills, working with area non-profit agencies, building user-friendly websites for the following: Big Cheese 5K Road Race for the Town

of Athol, Community Health Connections website, and Fitchburg East Rotary website. Two talented students, Derick Kay and Ryan Perenzin, earned gold medals at the SkillsUSA District competitions, traveled to the state event and continued their winning streak with another gold medal. The pair earned the right to travel and compete on the national level in June 2015, for the third time in their high school career. (Total enrollment: 61; 60 males, 1 female)

Machine Technology: Machine Technology students and instructors had the opportunity to take part in several field trips throughout 2014-2015, including: MTD in Charlton, NyproMold in Clinton, Rocheleau Tool & Die in Fitchburg, LS Starrett in Athol, and the EASTEC show in Springfield. These field trips provided students with opportunities to see how their education connects to local industry, as well as some of the emerging technologies in the machining field. Students were also fortunate to hear from local experts, including a guest speaker from LS Starrett, who discussed proper band saw blade selection. Perhaps one of the program's greatest accomplishments was aligning curriculum to MASSMEP (Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership) training efforts. This exciting new relationship will provide our students opportunities to earn level 1 and level 2 machinist certifications, and will grant the instructors access to manufacturing curriculum developed through Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Finally, students successfully completed a number of machining jobs to benefit the school and community offices, which included: plaques for the "Ride of your Life" suicide prevention fundraiser, plaques for the school's space shuttle mission, gifts for various visitors and guests, memorial tile engraving, parts for engineering technology projects, dental base components, for plumbing projects, and parts needed to repair the district's field lawn mowers. (Total enrollment: 60; 57 males, 3 females)

Masonry: The Masonry program introduced a new instructor, Christopher Giardina to the program in 2014-2015. Students and instructors continued to focus on a number of community projects, including: brick steps and tiles for Habitat for Humanity House in Fitchburg; tile and concrete floor for Montachusett Enterprise Center, Inc. (MEC) house in Ashburnham; brick step repairs and concrete floor for Sterling Municipal Light; stone veneer and tile for the Westminster Senior Center; block dug outs for Gardner Little League; stone wall repair for St. Bernard's Elementary School; and, repointed brick for Winchendon Senior Center. When the students weren't busy in our district communities, they were preparing for and competing in the Massachusetts Trowel Trades Association (MTTA) competition, where they earned top recognitions and awards. (Total enrollment: 68; 57 males, 11 females)

Plumbing: The Monty Tech Plumbing program, like other trades throughout the school, is committed to community service. As a result, students and instructors worked throughout the year to complete a duplex house in Fitchburg for Habitat for Humanity and a single-family home in Ashburnham for Montachusett Enterprise Center, Inc. (MEC). Both projects included lessons in high efficiency heating and cooling systems. The students successfully installed gas piping for the homes, as well. A senior student was named Vocational Technical All-Star from the Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors Association of Massachusetts, and as a result, he received tools and a scholarship for continuing his education in the plumbing licensure program. Another stand-out student was recognized by the Central Massachusetts Plumbing & Gas Fitting Inspectors Association, and was also awarded a scholarship to continue his education in the field. Instructors are proud to partner with a number of local companies that have committed to hiring program graduates, and throughout the 2014-2015 school year, the program saw eight students (5 seniors and 3 juniors) earn co-op jobs, where they were challenged to take their technical skills to a new level. On campus, students repaired leaks, cleaned drains, replaced a hot water heater, worked on water coolers, and repaired and maintained the plumbing system throughout the school. The teachers' area within the shop was improved with custom made desks and a counter top, designed and crafted by Monty Tech's Cabinetmaking students. (Total enrollment: 71; 69 males, 2 females)

Welding/Metal Fabrication: Throughout the 2014-2015 school year, the Welding/Metal Fabrication program successfully completed numerous projects on the Monty Tech campus, and more than eighty projects for residents of our community. Some of the more notable community service projects included: fabricating and welding a twenty-one foot tall, multi-section statue for the Fitchburg Art Museum, which is now the focal

point to their main entrance; repairing a band cart for Fitchburg High school; fabricating and welding panels for Winchendon Housing Authority's dump truck; fabricating and welding trail marking brackets for the Department of Conservation & Recreation of Winchendon; fabricating and welding stainless steel counter tops and trim at the Westminster Senior Center; and repairing net for Templeton, Narragansett Youth Baseball. In addition, the program benefited from added technology, including a portable fume extractor donated by industry partner Airgas East, and various portable power hand tools donated by Tractor Supply, Inc. The program's hydraulic power shear blades were also rotated and adjusted to specifications. Two juniors and eight seniors participated in the school's popular Co-Operative Education program, applying and refining their technical skills in area businesses. (Total enrollment: 64; 55 males, 9 females)

### *Student Support Services*

During the 2014-2015 school year, Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District provided special services to approximately three hundred and fifteen students – measuring progress of over two hundred students on Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and just under one hundred students adhering to individualized Section 504 plans. While the Student Support Services (SSS) Department encompasses special education, the department provides support and is available to all Monty Tech students.

The department includes a full-time nursing staff that administers medications, performs state-mandated health screening exams, and provides, when necessary, health information to the special education team for a student's IEP meeting. The department benefits from a full-time school social worker who participates in departmental meetings and assists students who have needs concerning finances, family issues, homelessness, maternity, health issues, and proper food and clothing. The school is also fortunate to have on staff a full-time psychologist, whose role it is to evaluate all students referred for an initial evaluation or who require a three-year re-evaluation. In addition, we have a full-time speech language pathologist, who is available to assist students with disabilities, assess these students and consult with teachers. Our students also have access to the services of a full-time adjustment counselor and part-time school psychologist. All of these individuals are available for scheduled counseling sessions and mental health emergency treatment, as well as crisis intervention.

The school's Director of Student Support Services oversees the District's Special Education Program, which is reviewed annually in May, in accordance with regulatory requirements. The comprehensive review and evaluation are done in collaboration with the Parent Advisory Council, and the results of the evaluation are used to improve the special education procedures and programs in place at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School.

### *Technology*

In 2014-2015 Monty Tech continued the process of improving our network infrastructure to meet future needs. Additional access points were added to our wireless network to broaden connectivity. Internet bandwidth was increased, and multiple carriers were contracted to reduce the possibility of Internet downtime. A back up generator was installed and connected to our network servers to decrease the possibility of unexpected shutdown of vital equipment.

Monty Tech successfully completed two Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education initiatives involving technology. Pilot testing for PARCC, an online student assessment program, was conducted in Spring 2015, and state reporting of SIMS (student data) and SCS (student course schedule data) via SIF (Schools Interoperability Framework) commenced in March 2015.

Monty Tech continued the process of enhancing and automating procedures. Teachers began using x2 Aspen's Teacher Recommendations to enter student course requests, and the school improved parent

communication by including email addresses as part of our parent/student notification system. The school also initiated improvements to technical support through the automation of computer builds and updates.

Monty Tech began the transition of becoming a Google for Education school by changing our email system to Gmail for staff and students. Three Chromebook mobile labs were purchased late in the school year and will be ready for classroom use in 2015-2016. Monty Tech will plan professional development and support for additional Google apps as they are introduced during 2015-2016, and will consider a Chromebook 1:1 initiative.

### *SkillsUSA*

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. Through our association with SkillsUSA, our students develop job skills, leadership and professional skills, as well as provide community service.

The 2014-2015 school year was an extraordinary one for the Monty Tech chapter of SkillsUSA. The students met the challenges of the district competitions, performed well at the state level, and winners advanced to the coveted National Conference in June 2015. Co-advisors Kelsey Moskowitz (English Instructor), Anne Marie Cataldo (Early Childhood Education Instructor), and Brad Pelletier (Special Education Instructor), helped students successfully complete several community service projects, raising money for selected charitable organizations. Highlights of the year include:

- In November, fifteen students, consisting of chapter officers and Leadership Team members, attended a three-day Annual Fall State Leadership Conference, developed leadership skills and performed community service at an area YMCA Day Camp. They also donated nonperishable food items for the local food bank, as well as hats, mittens, and books for underprivileged children.
- The local competition was held in December 2014, and spanned three weeks consisting of a variety of skill and leadership events.
- In March 2015, qualified Monty Tech students traveled to Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School to compete at the SkillsUSA District Competition. There, Monty Tech students were awarded 44 medals, including: 12 gold, 11 silver and 21 bronze medals. Additionally, Grace Kirrane qualified to run for the State Executive Council.
- Rebecca Parker, a Class of 2015 Business Technology student, and Cassandra Campbell, a Class of 2016 Drafting Technology student, served on the State Advisory Committee to help aid in the planning of the State Conference.
- Twenty-three district medalists and qualifiers, sixteen local leadership and skill-related event contestants, one state officer candidate, and twenty-three voting delegates - a total of 63 students - attended the State Leadership and Skills Conference, held April 30 – May 2, 2015, at Blackstone Valley Vocational Technical School and the Best Western Royal Plaza (Marlboro). Monty Tech finished the competition with fourteen medals. Seven students were awarded gold medals and earned the right to compete at the National Leadership & Skills Conference held in Louisville, Kentucky in late June. Grace Kirrane was elected to the State Executive Council and will serve as a National Voting Delegate in Louisville along with Alyanna Giuliano, Cassandra Campbell, and Rebecca Parker who were also selected to serve.
- Twelve students and five instructors attended the National Leadership & Skills Conference in Louisville, KY. from June 22 – 27, 2015.

- A team of three talented Engineering Technology students received a Gold Medal for their performance at the National Engineering Technology/Design Contest. Working closely with their instructor, Dennis Cormier, Nicolas Wicker (Class of 2015), Leon Gaulin (Class of 2017), and Devan Kumar (Class of 2017) brought home this well-deserved honor.
- Taryne Swan and Cassandra Campbell were also recognized at the National Conference, receiving the President's Volunteer Service Award, Gold Standard
- Throughout the year, students participated in a number of community service projects, including: a "Change for Children" Campaign; a holiday party and celebration for children in the Fitchburg area; Salvation Army "Christmas Angels" were distributed to collect toys and gifts for underprivileged children; Raffle to benefit Be Like Brit Foundation and The Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism.

### *Marine Corps JROTC*

The Monty Tech Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MCJROTC) had a sensational school year. All program objectives for the 2014-2015 school year were achieved, most notable was the JROTC Cyber Security Team, led by First Sergeant Paul Jornet and Information Technology Instructor Richard Duncan, once again capturing national recognition by placing first in the Air Force Association's National Cyber Security Competition held in Washington, DC.

The 2014-2015 Corps of Cadets completed over eighty-eight hundred hours (8800+) of community service throughout the district. The corps conducted a major canned food drive, worked side-by-side with the Marine Corps Reserve in a national Toys 4 Tots campaign, and spent four weekends working with the local Salvation Army helping to raise over \$26,000 for needy families. The cadets conducted their annual 10 mile "March-A-Thon" to support NEADS (National Education of Assistance Dogs Services) from Princeton, MA, raising \$25,000 for their Service Dogs for Veterans program.

Sixty Monty Tech cadets attended a leadership camp at the Citadel in Charleston, SC. The camp provided cadets with individual and team development opportunities, as well as the opportunity to visit many historical sites.

During the summer of 2015, our Cadet Cyber Team was again asked to support a Cyber STEM camp for the National Marine Corps JROTC program. The Cyber Team coordinated the 12-day camp that focused on defending cyber networks from attacks. The camp also offered an introduction to robotics programming using the VEX Robotics System. The camp was attended by 200 students, representing thirty-five states.

The Cyber team along with community financial support and a group of Monty Tech staff volunteers also conducted a week-long Cyber Security camp for 50 middle school students. The camp, which was offered at no cost to the students, focused on computer operating systems, security and cyber ethics. In partnership with Fitchburg State University and Mount Wachusett Community College, the students also had an opportunity to visit both campuses to explore STEM pathways.

The Monty Tech JROTC program received an incredible honor, having been named a Marine Corps Honor School by the Commanding General Marine Corps Training & Education Command. Only ten percent of Marine Corps JROTC programs nationwide receive this recognition. The selection was based on several criteria, including cadet citizenship, the percentage of cadets involved in student government organizations, the number of cadets active in school activities and clubs, the number of community service hours for the unit as a whole and per cadet, the number of organizations assisted by the unit, and scholastic achievements including the number of academic awards and scholarships given to cadets. The units were also measured by participation in public affairs events, drill team competitions, rifle team competitions, physical fitness team competitions, and field trips.

Because of this prestigious status, we are pleased to announce that the Monty Tech JROTC instructors unit will now have the opportunity to make nomination recommendations to the U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, and the Military Academy at West Point under the Honor School Category.

### *Women in Technology*

Monty Tech is one of the original members of the North Central Massachusetts Women In Technology Program and the 2014-2015 school year marked the school's 13<sup>th</sup> year in this innovative school-to-business partnership. The highly successful collaborative program continues to grow with membership including students from six area high schools, introducing female students to well-paying careers in business and technology. Participants spend two days a month working on real-world work projects under the mentorship of company managers at SimplexGrinnell and Tyco Safety Products in Westminster, subsidiaries of Tyco International, a Fortune 500 company.

The program has been so successful in its mission of providing a proven pathway to corporate America, that it was recently recognized as one of the region's premier experience-based educational programs of its kind. Affiliation with the program, and skills acquired through participation, open doors to career opportunities not otherwise available to high school students. Graduates of the program are also equipped with a foundation to better meet the challenges of an ever-changing and demanding work force.

Each year, graduates of the program go on to rewarding and well-paying careers, made possible by this unique experience.

### *Student Athletics*

The Monty Tech athletic program continues to expand in scope and skill each year. More students and teams compete every season. In fact, during the 2014-2015 school year, the Monty Tech Athletic program saw a record number of student athletes participating in competitive sports programs, more than 614 participants! During the fall of 2014, Monty Tech was well-represented by seventeen teams. In the winter months, there were fourteen teams, and wrapping up the year, spring saw another fourteen teams come together at Monty Tech.

In the Fall of 2014, the Monty Tech Varsity Football team finished with a record of 2 – 9, but with a lot of younger players, the coaches expect a rebound in 2015. The JV Football team was 2 – 6 - 1 and the Freshman Football team was 2 – 4. The Varsity Boys Soccer team finished at 11 – 5 – 2 and qualified for the post-season tournament. They finished third in the Colonial Athletic League with a 6 – 4 – 2 record. The JV Boys Soccer team was 7 – 4 – 2. The Varsity Golf team was 4 – 12, and the JV Golf team played in three tournaments getting much valuable experience on the links. The Varsity Field Hockey team was 13 - 3 - 3, qualifying for the Central Mass Tournament for the fifth consecutive year. They lost to Grafton, 1 – 0 in an exciting match. The JV Field Hockey team finished at 5 – 3 – 1. The Boys Cross Country team was 7 - 8 and finished 3rd in the Colonial Athletic League with a 4 – 3 record. The Girls Cross Country team was 6 – 5 overall and 2 – 2 in the Colonial Athletic League, finishing 2nd. The Varsity Girls Volleyball team went 8 – 12. The team hosted its annual Bump-Set-Spike competition, to fight Breast Cancer, in October 2014, and raised over \$3,000. The JV Girls Volleyball team was 18 - 1 and the Freshmen Girls team continued to improve with a 6 – 6 record. The Varsity Girls Soccer team was 11 – 6 – 1 and qualified for the post-season, where they lost to Northbridge 6 – 0. The JV Girls Soccer team finished at 12 – 2 and will send some fine players to the varsity next year.

The Girls Varsity Basketball finished at 7 – 13 on the season, while the Junior Varsity Girls were 12 - 4 and the Freshman Girls finished with a record of 8 – 3. The Varsity Boys Basketball team finished at 14 – 9 and qualified for both the State Vocational Tournament and the Districts. They lost to Worcester Tech in the first round of the Vocational Tournament and beat Ayer in the first game of the Districts before losing to Hopedale in the quarterfinals. The JV Boys Basketball team was 16 – 2, and the Freshman Boys were 2 – 16. The Co-Op Wrestling team, a group of student-athletes from Fitchburg, Oakmont and Murdock, participated in many dual meets and tournaments finishing at 3 – 11. The Co-Op Boys Ice Hockey team, a partnership with Fitchburg High School, finished at 11 – 9 and qualified for the Districts, where they beat Littleton in the first round and lost to Worcester in the semi-finals. The Junior Varsity Ice Hockey team played very well, and is expected to send some talent up to the varsity in 2015-2016. Monty Tech also participated in a Co-op Swim team with Leominster, North Middlesex and Oakmont (in partnership with Fitchburg State University) and had 7 swimmers participating. Indoor Track & Field for both boys and girls participated in the Dual Valley Conference this year, as a guest. Both teams finished with a record of 2 – 3 on the season.

In the spring of 2015, the Monty Tech Varsity Softball team qualified for the Central Mass Tournament for the 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year with an 11 - 9 record. There, they lost a tight match against Maynard 7 - 6. Coach Reid is just 6 wins shy of 600 for his career at Monty Tech. The JV Softball team was 6 – 8. The Varsity Boys Volleyball team was 15 – 8 and 8 – 2 in the Colonial Athletic League. They beat Assabet 3 - 1 in the first round of the State Vocational Tournament before losing to Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School 3 – 0 in the finals. The boys also lost to Wachusett 3 – 1 in the District Tournament. The JV Boys Volleyball team played strong all year and finished with a record of 8 – 8. The Varsity Baseball team finished at 5 – 15, while the JV Baseball team was 10 – 4 and the Freshman Baseball team was 3 – 9. Both the Varsity and JV teams played a majority of their home games on the Fitchburg State University and Oakmont fields, while the freshmen played a number of their games at the Westminster Babe Ruth field, as the conditions of our baseball fields were not acceptable due to the very wet spring. The Boys Track & Field team was 6 - 2, finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Colonial Athletic league, and the Girls Track & Field team was 5 – 3, with a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish in the Colonial Athletic League. The Varsity Boys Lacrosse team played in 16 games going 7 – 9, missing the playoffs by only one win. The JV Boys Lacrosse was 7 – 4 – 3, and are expecting improved results in the coming years. The Girls Lacrosse team was a Co-Op with North Central Charter Essential School (Sizer). There were fifteen girls from Monty Tech on the team, and the district hopes to form its own team by 2017. Finally, there were seven total students (2 boys and 5 girls) playing in a Co-Op Tennis program with Fitchburg High School.

Congratulations to the Outstanding Male and Female athletes for 2014-2015, Kyle Morris and Kaitlyn MacAlister.

### *Postgraduate and Continuing Studies*

The Post Graduate and Continuing Studies Program, also known as Monty Tech Nites, continues to update and add courses that emphasize a commitment to excellence by offering affordable, quality, and enjoyable educational experiences. For the Fall of 2014, Monty Tech offered 78 in-house classes with 626 registrations. We also offered a number of online course options, with a total of 27 registrations. For the Spring 2015 semester, we offered 73 in-house courses with 568 registrations and an additional 47 registrations for online programs.

In March 2015 the postgraduate program successfully graduated our third class of nine Emergency Medical Technicians. The very successful EMT program is pleased to report increased acceptance/ enrollment numbers, as the program accepted a class of 16 students for the 2015-2016 school year.

The Director of the Postgraduate & Continuing Studies Program actively seeks information to develop new (and expand existing) certificate and licensure programs that align with regional workforce needs and employment trends.



### *Practical Nursing Program*

The Practical Nursing Program is designed to prepare graduates to practice safely, ethically and in a caring manner for patients who are experiencing common variations in health status in diverse health care settings. This mission, which is consistent with the philosophy and goals of the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District, accomplishes the following:

- Identifies a strong relationship between academic and vocational preparation
- Stresses the importance of developing critical thinking skills to function safely, effectively, and productively in an ever-changing technical and diverse society
- Supports the maintenance of a positive and caring learning and practice environment

On June 18, 2015, the Monty Tech Practical Nursing Program saw one of its largest graduating classes - forty (40) students - complete the Practical Nursing Program and enter the nursing profession. The class achieved an initial NCLEX pass rate of 88%, and just over 75% of the 2015 graduates are currently working in the North Central area, in various health care settings including long-term care, sub-acute care, clinics, medical offices, and prison health care.

The Monty Tech Practical Nursing Program continues to develop the "LPN to BSN Bridge" relationship with Fitchburg State University. Both institutions were awarded a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, supporting the "Nurse of the Future" initiative. The grant funding will assist veterans hoping to transition from military to civilian healthcare fields, granting academic credits for previous military training and experience in related military specialties.

In January, the program added a technology component called Shadow Health, a virtual patient-centered clinical experience software package. Students were asked to complete assignments at home, and were assessed according to their patient/student interaction and clinical practice interactions. The added technology proved to be beneficial, allowing the educational program to continue despite the challenging weather and school closings.

Finally, the Monty Tech PN Class of 2015 completed a meaningful community service project, adopting a Monty Tech family in need referred by the school's Student Support Services Department. The nursing students purchased holiday gifts and food for the family, making sure they were consistent with the family requests and needs.

### *Looking Ahead*

While the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District educational community is certainly proud of the achievements of our talented students, faculty, and staff, we continue to have an eye toward the future, always committed to improving our vocational and academic programming, strengthening key partnerships, and maintaining facilities that contribute to student success and achievement. As we look ahead, there are a number of programs and initiatives that we expect will have a positive impact on our school and students for years to come.

Expand partnerships with area businesses: To support the school's popular Business Technology program, specifically addressing the financial elements found within the program's frameworks, school leaders began exploring opportunities to bring banking to Monty Tech students. In collaboration with Workers' Credit Union, school officials are pleased to announce a developing partnership that will result in a full-service branch located on the school's campus, offering students opportunities to develop authentic financial literacy

skills and experience while still in high school. Additionally, students studying in the school's Business

Technology program will be trained as bank tellers, effectively preparing them for entry-level jobs in banking institutions across North Central Massachusetts.

Expand partnerships with area colleges and universities: Students in Monty Tech's very busy Health Occupations program may just be getting busier in the coming years. While the program already offered a number of industry-recognized credentials, school leaders began working with college partner, Mount Wachusett Community College, to determine if a college-level Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training program could be embedded into the senior year of study. We are pleased to announce that this collaboration has resulted in an agreement that will effectively allow seniors to earn 8 college credits, at no charge, and the opportunity to sit for the certification exam in June 2016. By providing additional career pathways in the medical field, and access to college level coursework while still enrolled in high school, school administrators and teachers are confident that program graduates will not only be more qualified for entry level positions, they will be more apt to find an area of interest within the medical field, and continue to refine the technical skills they developed while at Monty Tech.

Expand Access to Instructional Technology: A Monty Tech education is effective because efforts are made to continually access our programming, instructional equipment, and our educational resources. Through this assessment, it has become clear that while so many students have access to technology away from the school, many do not. It is important, then, to arm every student with the tools necessary to succeed not only in the workplace, but in the classroom, as well. The district is pleased to announce a large-scale technology initiative that began in August 2015, when every educator at Monty Tech was provided with a Chromebook and individualized professional development on how to best incorporate this added technology into daily instruction. So many teachers have embraced the concept, and continued to explore learning opportunities that have resulted in classroom instruction that better reflects our 21<sup>st</sup> Century school. The Monty Tech technology initiative continues, and in August 2016, every student at Monty Tech will also be provided with a Chromebook to support his/her learning, more efficiently communicate with teachers, and to promote collaboration among student peers.

Expand vocational-technical educational opportunities: As you know, Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School is home to twenty vocational-technical programs, and currently serves over 1,400 students from eighteen cities and towns in North Central Massachusetts. We are so proud of our students and accomplishments, and every year we strive to provide only the best educational programs, both academic and vocational, to each and every student. As we review our student demographic, the regional workforce data, and feedback we have received from students interested in attending our school, we consider the benefits of adding new vocational programs. We are pleased to announce that Monty Tech is in the development stages of bringing a new program – our 21<sup>st</sup> program – to the school – Animal/Veterinary Science. The new program will respond to much-needed workforce training and community services, and will effectively prepare students to enter both college and career pathways upon graduation. Students and instructors, in collaboration with program partner, Becker College, will effectively learn concepts associated with a high school veterinary assisting program, while running a fully-functioning veterinary clinic, designed to provide care for pets in low-income families. Students will have access to college level coursework, and earn industry-recognized credentials, so that they may either advance to related post-secondary programs, or enter into the workforce to fill the projected 25.32% growth in veterinary technician opportunities through 2022. While this program is only in its development stages, a great deal of work has already been done to assure its success. Student surveys have been collected, collaborative working groups have been established, and industry experts across North Central Massachusetts have been called upon to offer expertise to help ensure the innovative facility is designed with both education and service in mind, and that all equipment and services align with industry standards.

*The Monty Tech School Committee*

The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District Committee is comprised of twenty-two dedicated individuals, whose expertise proves invaluable in advising the district's operations, policies, and procedures.

Our students continue to benefit from the broad scope of their experiences and varying perspectives, and we are thankful to the following members of the 2014-2015 School Committee for their outstanding service.

Eric Olson, Phillipston  
*Chair*

Barbara Reynolds, Lunenburg  
*Vice Chair*

Diane Swenson, Ashburnham

Peter Capone, Ashby

Toni L. Phillips, Athol

John Scott, Barre

Claudia Holbert, Fitchburg

Brian J. Walker, Fitchburg

Dr. Ronald Tourigny, Fitchburg

LeRoy Clark, Fitchburg

Helen Lepkowski, Gardner

Eric D. Commodore, Gardner

*TBD*, Harvard

James Cournoyer, Holden

Kathleen Airoidi, Hubbardston

Edward Simms, Petersham

John P. Mollica, Princeton

Mary C. Barclay, Royalston

Dr. Kenneth I.H. Williams, Sterling

James M. Gilbert, Templeton

Walter Taylor/Ross Barber, Westminster

Burton E. Gould, Jr., Winchendon

Terri Hillman, Winchendon  
*Secretary*

Norman J. LeBlanc  
*District Treasurer*

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sheila M. Harrity, Ed.D.  
Superintendent-Director  
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School  
January 20, 2016

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**Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School**  
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**Fitchburg, MA 01420**  
**(978) 345-9200**  
**[www.montytech.net](http://www.montytech.net)**



## PETERSHAM OPEN SPACE & RECREATION COMMITTEE

3 South Main Street • P.O. Box 486 • Petersham, MA 01366-0486  
978/724-3353 tel. • 978/724-3501 fax

### REPORT OF THE OPEN SPACE & RECREATION COMMITTEE FISCAL 2015

Regular monthly meetings were held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM with a special informational meeting held on 26 May 2015 "The future of your farmland?" Topics included estate planning, financial planning, land conservation, farm succession, and leasing to a local farmer.

The Goals and Objectives of the new Open Space & Recreation Plan include linking our extensive trail system and connecting them with trails in adjacent towns. Work on the Bob Marshall Trail, a little over two miles long connecting the Gould Woodlot at Harvard Forest to the Harvard Pond/Tom Swamp Tracts continued through work projects with MassLIFT AmeriCorps volunteers. The State archaeologist reviewed the section of the trail through Petersham State Forest and a determination as to possibly changing the route is necessary before a memorandum of understanding from the Department of Conservation and Recreation can be obtained before work can begin. A footbridge over Nelson Brook will provide easy access.

Control of invasive species has become a more pressing issue. It is important that forest cutting practices consider the increased opportunities for the spread of invasive species. The new Plan calls for cooperative arrangements with institutions with large land holdings for invasive species control, trail management, and other programs that will benefit our scenic rural character and provide quality recreation for residents and visitors. The Town should seek grants and volunteer opportunities for invasive species control on Town properties and roadsides. Invasive species control should be encouraged on private lands.

Protecting wildlife corridors, landscape values, and the variety of beautiful natural areas of Petersham continues to be of primary importance for many residents as well as visitors and provides for many forms of recreation including hunting, fishing, and hiking. L.A.N.D. Grant (Local Acquisition for Natural Diversity Grant) opportunities from EOEEA should be considered as possible funding for Conservation Restrictions as opportunities arise. Clark University students continue to monitor the Conservation Restrictions held by the Conservation Commission. Their field work and reports are a most valuable contribution.

Identifying and proposing improvements in existing Town owned areas for public recreation is another component of the new Plan. The Committee continued to identify and propose improvements in existing Town owned areas for public recreation, better access, and interpretation at cultural sites as well as opportunities that would enhance the goals of the new Open Space & Recreation Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Clark, Chair  
Emery Boose, Clerk  
Mick (Michael) Huppert  
Clint Shaw  
Henry Woolsey

Petersham Planning Board Annual Report  
FY July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015

There were three plans endorsed as ANR (Approval Not Required) during FY 2015 on:

- East Street
- West Road
- Monson Turnpike

There were five plot plans reviewed for projects seeking building permits on:

- Oliver Street
- Old East Street
- Glen Valley Road
- Common Street
- Popple Camp Road

An article was put on the annual Town Meeting warrant to amend the bylaw for back lots and to add a new section on subdivisions. Both these articles passed and were approved by the Massachusetts Attorney General. The combined effect of these two bylaw changes greatly reduce the possible future buildout population of the town.

Respectfully submitted,

Fraser Sinclair, Chair

Donna Byron, Clerk

## Petersham Police Department Annual Report

It's hard to believe here we are again a year later. The Police Department doesn't have a lot to report for the past year. We have been very busy but who hasn't been.

Law Enforcement had a tough year with all of the events happening around the country and in the world. Our officers throughout all the negative publicity have remained professional, maintained their integrity and dedication to the Town of Petersham. Training our officers has never been as important as it is today. If our officers are well trained and stay within the guidelines of the policies and procedures, the risk of the town's liability is greatly reduced.

With that said, thanks to your financial support, our training continues for an active shooter, dealing with behavioral health issues, the higher use of opioids in the area and the list goes on.

Thanks to resident Lynne Shaw, Emergency Management Director who has assisted this department in securing grant funding for additional training and supplies.

Our DARE program continues at the Center School with the fifth grade class, thanks to the financial support of Harvard Forest. This program gives the student an educational foundation to make good decisions not only with drugs and alcohol but, everyday situations as well.

Our Crime Watch program continues with the leadership of longtime member Dick Nickless who keeps the Police Department on their toes.

At this time I would like to thank my officers and their families for the dedication and support of both the department and I. Your commitment, support and dedication does not go unnoticed.

I would like to especially thank my wife Diana Cooley for the support she provides to me each and everyday.

May God bless you all.

Chief R. Dana Cooley Jr.

**Petersham Police  
Call for Service  
Report**

911/Hang up	13
Abandoned Motor Vehicle	2
Alarms	42
Animal Calls	64
Assist Citizens	75
Assault	1
Assist Other Agencies	40
Building Issues	2
Burglary	5
Building Property Checks	211
Carbon Monoxide Alarm	1
Complaints	19
Court	30
Disturbance	4
Disabled Motor Vehicle	28
Domestic Disturbance	3
Escort / Transport	2
Fire Alarm	13
Fire / Brush	2
Illegal Burn	1
Fire Chimney	2
Fire Structure	3



Forgery Fraud	1
Gun Shots	9
Harrassment	1
Hazardous Incident	2
Identity Theft	1
Illegal Dumping	4
Investigation	28
Juvenile Offenses	1
Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting	3
Lockout	2
LTC/FID	38
Medical Emergency	40
Missing Person	1
Motor Vehicle Accident	38
Motor Vehicle Accident with injury	6
Motor Vehicle Investigations	108
Motor Vehicle Stops	1107
Notifications	5
Officer Initiated	100
Parking Complaints	1
Annoying Phone Calls	2
Found Lost Property	3
Psych Emergency	1
Serve Restraining Order	4
Safety Hazard	49

## **Route 122 'Lost Villages' Scenic Byway Advisory Committee**

Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Report July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Currently, Western Massachusetts has seven state-designated Scenic Byways, all part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Scenic Byway Program. Much of the Scenic Byway network originated hundreds of years ago as Native American footpaths along river valleys and hillsides. European settlers expanded many of the paths into stagecoach routes connecting villages to towns. Some areas boomed as a result of tourism and industry, while other receded.

The Lost Villages section of the Route 122 Scenic Byway derives its name from the many settled areas that were "lost" as a result of changes in human settlement patterns, the creation of the Quabbin Reservoir and its aqueduct system, and other historic events. Linking the towns of Orange, New Salem, Petersham, Barre, Oakham, Rutland, and Paxton, the Route 122 Scenic Byway connects forty miles of back roads, pristine land, and historic sites. Vestiges of former towns, old farm settlements, and outdoor recreation opportunities abound. "Lost Villages" include:

- Towns "lost" to the Quabbin Reservoir (Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, Prescott)
- West Rutland Village of Rutland
- Coldbrook Springs Village of Oakham
- White Valley Village of Barre
- Nichewaug Village of Petersham
- Moore State Park of Paxton
- Old mill villages and farm settlements

The Lost Village Section (Paxton to Petersham) of the Route 122 Scenic Byway Local Advisory Committee is comprised of two representatives from Paxton (Anita Fenton and Paul Robinson), Rutland (Helen Viner and Dick Williams), Oakham (Wes Dwelly and Bill Mucha), Barre (Phil Hubbard and Ed Yaglou) and Petersham (Nancy Allen and Don Flye).

The Towns of Barre, Oakham, and Rutland now have unique Scenic Byways kiosks that highlight important sites and pay homage to the Lost Villages; the Paxton and Petersham kiosks are under development. The five kiosks were constructed by the carpenters at the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The poster content for each town is unique and has been developed by advisory committee members from each town working with fellow committee member and graphic designer Nancy Allen who lent her talents to the poster design. The Oakham kiosk was installed by DCR staff while the Barre and Rutland kiosks were installed by the Barre and Rutland Department of Public Works. Installation of travel and wayfinding signage, demarking the Route 122 Scenic Byway, is also underway. Efforts are underway to develop local brochures highlighting each town's businesses and scenic attractions.

The Route 122 Lost Villages Scenic Byway is a collaborative project of the five towns in partnership with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, Massachusetts, Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration.

Town committee members are grateful for the support provided for this project. For more information, please visit: <http://www.bywayswestmass.com/byways/route-122/> and <http://www.cmrpc.org/>

Respectfully submitted,

~ *Route 122 Scenic Byway Local Advisory Committee*



TOWN OF PETERSHAM  
**OFFICE OF THE SELECTBOARD**

3 South Main Street • P.O. Box 486  
Petersham, Massachusetts 01366

[www.townofpetersham.org](http://www.townofpetersham.org) • 978-724-3353 • Fax 978-724-3501

## **Annual Report of the Selectboard, Fiscal Year 2015**

**The Petersham Selectboard wishes to thank town employees, members of the volunteer town boards and committees, and elected officials for their dedicated service and efforts on behalf of the town during this past year. Fiscal year 2015 was a busy and productive year on a variety of fronts including:**

### **Town-owned Nichewaug Inn & Academy Property**

In July 2014, Selectboard met with project contractors IEG and HLS Architects to review demolition and asbestos abatement specifications and PCB testing at the Nichewaug Inn property. After review with residents and with input from the Advisory Finance Committee, in September the Selectboard approved investigating two tracks for the disposition of Nichewaug Inn property: Demolition/asbestos abatement of the building and redevelopment of the building.

Along with demolition specifications, work on a Request for Proposals (RFP) began with input from interested residents. In October, the Selectboard met with Memorial Library Trustees to discuss possible use of a portion of Nichewaug Inn land to service future water and septic needs of the Library. In November, the Selectboard approved issuing the finalized Request for Proposals for Redevelopment of the Nichewaug Inn and voted approval to declare the Nichewaug Inn as surplus and available for disposal pursuant to MGL Chapter 30B. In December 2015, the Board coordinated with the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief for a fire watch detail during an inspection tour for all interested developers. Selectboard members participated in the January tour with interested developers.

In March 2015, the Selectboard received two redevelopment proposals in response to the call for proposals – one from the Petersham Committee, formed by James Regan of town, and one from Mike Tavares of Nova Scotia. The Selectboard decided to establish a Nichewaug Inn Evaluation Committee (NIEC) to review the two redevelopment proposals and report back their findings. In May 2015, the Petersham Committee informed the Selectboard that they were withdrawing their proposal, leaving Mike Tavares as the sole proposal. In June, the NIEC made the recommendation that the Tavares proposal be reviewed by the Selectboard for next steps.

The Selectboard finalized demolition specifications bid documents with HLS & IEG and determined to advertise for demolition bids as soon as possible in Summer 2015. Work on setting a date for and defining Articles for a Special Town Meeting schedule continued.

### **Annual Budget and Town Meeting**

The Selectboard, Advisory Finance Committee, Administrative Coordinator, and Town Moderator worked in tandem with individual departments and town committees on the annual town budget and preparation for Annual Town Meeting of June 1, 2015.

Annual budget discussions began in January 2015 with the Selectboard and Finance Committee defining the FY2016 Budget Message to all town staff and committees. The Selectboard and Finance Committee also met in January with Superintendent Tari Thomas of R.C. Mahar and School Committee members to discuss expectation for FY2016 education budgets. Individual department and committee budget review and discussions continued into April. In May, the Selectboard and Finance Committee hosted a public information session on budget recommendations. Working with the Administrative Coordinator, the June Annual Town Meeting Warrant was finalized.

Along with the operating budget special Articles included requests for funding for the Nichewaug Inn property; funding for engineering of a hybrid renewable heating system at the Center School;

funding for a new handicap access ramp at Town Hall; the first of two required votes to establish a municipal light plant for broadband service; a zoning Article asking to modify the subdivisions Bylaw; and an Article to participate in a municipal electrical aggregation plan through the Hampshire Council of Governments.

### **Town Buildings & Infrastructure**

Under management of the Administrative Coordinator, the Selectboard approved lead paint removal and repainting of all ten windows of lower Town Hall. In November 2014, the Board met with the Building Inspector and Assistant Fire Chief regarding repairs needed at the Town Hall cupola and roof.

In July 2014, Selectboard approved a bid award to stonemason Fran Misiuk in the amount of \$24,000 for West Road Cemetery Stone Wall construction, with thanks to resident Bill Purple and the Cemetery Commission for their work on the project. In April 2015, Selectboard and Council on Aging were delighted to receive announcement of a donation of \$4,500 from the Athol-Orange Rotary Club to purchase a much needed new stove in the Town Hall kitchen. The town is grateful for the gift from the Rotary which will serve many residents and guests at Town Hall.

### **Town Hall/Town Office Well**

During the year, addressing the condition of the Town Hall/Town Office well was an ongoing project for the Selectboard and Administrative Coordinator. In July 2014, the Selectboard signed an Administrative Consent Order issued by Mass. DEP regarding the well that had been tainted by intermittent coliform contamination and the required clean up and disinfection system installation.

In September 2014, the Administrative Coordinator researched costs to drill a replacement well as a possible remedy for the contamination issues. In January 2015, the Board met with the town water operator representative, Stu Harkins of Whitewater, to review coliform remediation program recommendations. In March, the Board approved video inspection of the well to see if a jaswell seal could be installed to stop contamination. With the test results in hand, the Board approved an amended Mass. DEP Administrative Consent Order which allowed for installation of a jaswell seal.

Upon receiving cost estimates, in April, the Selectboard and Advisory Finance Committee jointly approved a reserve fund transfer of \$4,000 to fund the jaswell seal installation for the well. The Administrative Coordinator began work to implement the project.

### **Energy Upgrades**

During the year the Energy Committee kept the Selectboard up to date reviewing and approving building energy improvements including Town Hall interior storm windows and insulation and weatherization at Petersham Center School, Police Station, and Highway Barn. Working with the Energy Committee, in September 2014, the Selectboard approved heating and insulation bids for various town buildings and approved an energy consulting bid for Bales Consulting. In December 2014, the Board supported a water heater energy upgrade at the Center School, insulation of attic at town offices, and interior storm windows at the Town Office building.

### **Glen Valley Bridge and Road Projects**

Thank you to the Highway Dept. and MassDOT for their work this year regarding upgrade of the Glen Valley Bridge. The Selectboard approved Mass. Chapter 90 funding for bridge engineering and design plans. In April 2015, working with the Highway Dept Superintendent, the Selectboard approved a MassDOT contract of \$187,742 for the bridge construction project.

The Selectboard accepted a MassDOT Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP) Grant in the amount of \$38,407 for road repairs caused by winter weather and approved a temporary easement across the town-owned Shaw property for the purpose of logging access by an abutting resident.

The Selectboard met with Petersham residents for preliminary discussions for a proposed bikeway path along Route 32 through Petersham from Athol. Initial project information was also received from the Town of Athol's Planning Office. In May 2015, the Selectboard wrote a letter of support to MassDOT for the bike route and received letters of support from the town's Historic District Commission and Open Space & Recreation Committee.

## Also of Note:

### **Soltas Energy Net Metering Contract Settlement**

The Selectboard worked closely with the MA Attorney General's Office and the town Energy Committee regarding a settlement with Soltas Energy due to their breach of a 2012 net metering contract with the town and other regional customers. The AG's Office successfully secured a \$40,000 settlement for Petersham. The Selectboard and Energy Committee are grateful to the AG's Office for their work on behalf of the town on this matter.

### **Heywood Hospital**

The Selectboard closely followed Heywood Healthcare's interest in purchasing the Sisters of the Assumption property, 211 North Main Street, for proposed re-use as a drug rehabilitation center. Some Board members attended a large public event at the property in July 2014 announcing the project and also attended meetings of the Zoning Board of Appeals as they reviewed an application submitted in August for a Special Permit for the new use. The ZBA Special Permit with conditions was issued in March 2015.

Beginning in October 2014, the Tax Exempt Committee began working with Heywood on a Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement (PILOT) the draft of which was submitted to the Selectboard in March 2015. The Board then began further discussions with Heywood on finalizing the PILOT.

### **Broadband Service**

In November 2014, Selectboard met with the Broadband Committee to receive updates on broadband status in Petersham. In December 2014, in tandem with the Broadband Committee, the Board decided that the town would not participate in a Western Mass. town-by-town borrowing program to create a regional broadband system and instead seek a privately built, subscriber financed network. The Board met again with the Broadband Committee in April 2015, as it continued its work and headed towards Town Meeting discussion with the voters.

### **Wood Policy and Wood Bank**

In November 2014, Selectboard met with the Tree Warden and Forest & Shade Tree Committee to review and provide input to an updated wood use policy and creation of a new local wood bank. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Wood Use Policy and Wood Bank project.

### **Community Electrical Aggregation Program**

In March 2015, Selectboard met with Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) representatives to discuss a community electrical aggregation purchasing program designed to allow residents to decide if they wished to participate in group electrical service purchasing. In May 2015, the Selectboard hosted an Electrical Aggregation Public Information Meeting and Q&A session for residents with HCOG program representatives. The Selectboard decided to place an Article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant for voters to decide what they wished to do about the program.

### **Appointments**

The Selectboard made numerous town appointments throughout the year and we are grateful to all who accept annual appointments particularly those who do so as volunteers for town committees.

### **Thank You to Retiring Senator Stephen Brewer**

In September 2014, the Selectboard met with retiring State Sen. Stephen Brewer, State Rep. Denise Andrews, and State Rep. Anne Gobi regarding local issues. The Board thanked Sen. Brewer for his many dedicated years of service on behalf of the town and the region. In February 2015, the Selectboard met with newly elected State Sen. Anne Gobi and State Rep. Susannah Whipps-Lee for introductions and a general review of local and regional interests.

Respectfully submitted,

*Petersham Selectboard*

~ Nancy S. Allen, *Chair*    ~ Henry L. Woolsey, *Vice Chair*    ~ Fredrik A. Marsh, *Clerk*

## **Submission for Petersham Town Report FY15**

### *Tree Warden – Town Report for FY2015*

It is my pleasure to report to the residents of Petersham that in 2015:

- The Town of Petersham earned the National Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA award.
- We held an Arbor Day Event on the Common (partnered with Forest & Shade Tree Committee members) that included tree ID games, an ask-an-arborist station, tree-themed refreshments, a tree-themed obstacle course, and tree climbing with professional arborists.
  
- More than two dozen residents attended my presentation about tree care at the Petersham Memorial Library
  
- Three trees were planted (one on the North Common, one on the South Common, and one at the Center School with the assistance of the third grade class) (partnered with Forest & Shade Tree Committee members)
  
- Over 20 high-risk roadsides trees were removed
  
- Fifteen roadside trees were pruned
  
- Conducted a tree inventory of the trees on the Common

Respectfully submitted, Melissa LeVangie, Tree Warden

## Submission for Petersham Town Report FY15

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- More than two dozen residents attended my presentation about tree care at the Petersham Memorial Library
- Three trees were planted (one on the North Common, one on the South Common, and one at the Center School with the assistance of the third grade class) (partnered with Forest & Shade Tree Committee members)
- Over 20 high-risk roadsides trees were removed
- Fifteen roadside trees were pruned
- Conducted a tree inventory of the trees on the Common

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa LeVangie, Tree Warden

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### *The Petersham Forest & Shade Tree Committee – Town Report for FY2015*

The PFSTC meets typically on the third Thursday of the month at the Country Store from 5:30-7pm. (Meeting times and agenda are made available on the Town's website.) Last year the committee made great strides to benefit our trees:

- Received a Petersham Cultural Council grant to create a map and interpretive tour of significant Petersham trees, with nominations from the community (projected due date of Spring 2016)
- Created initial products for a fundraiser campaign – Cordwood re-useable bag program
- Began an educational postcard series to residents in Town
- Began to inventory the ash trees on town rights of way, to proactively address the threat of emerald ash borer, an invasive insect recently found in Worcester County
- Continued our all-volunteer Wood Bank program (now in our 2<sup>nd</sup> winter) that leverages grant funds from the Mass. DCR and private donations. In the heating year of 2015-16 we have administered over 25 vouchers for firewood processed from downed roadside trees.
- Received a grant from the New England Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture to expand Arbor Day community programming
- Applied for a challenge grant from the Mass. DCR to fund tree planting in town gateways and at the Center School, and to provide public workshops on tree care  
Sighted locations for future tree plantings  
Mapped invasive plants along town rights of way and began to discuss initial plans for plant removal and community education.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Forest & Shade Tree Committee,  
Melissa LeVangie, Member

**Town of Petersham  
Annual Payroll  
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015**

**General Government**

**Selectmen**

Nancy Allen	Selectman	2,373.68	
Peter George	Selectman	1,723.32	
Fredrik Marsh	Selectmen	2,268.00	
Henry Woolsey	Selectman	756.00	
Steven Boudreau	Admin. Coordinator	45,637.17	
Renee Wingertsman	Secretary	5,264.33	\$ 58,022.50

**Assessors**

Dana Kennan	Assessor	2,929.00	
Ellen Anderson	Assessor	2,387.00	
Jean Robinson	Assessor	2,536.00	
Kelly Garlock	Asst. Assessor	31,128.95	\$ 38,980.95

**Tax Collector**

Virginia Newman		19,744.24	
Renee Wingertsman		3,937.00	\$ 23,681.24

**Town Clerk**

Diana Cooley		11,747.66	
Renee Wingertsman	Secretary	600.50	\$ 12,348.16

**Town Treasurer**

Dana Robinson		14,838.00	\$ 14,838.00
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**Town Accountant**

Jean Joel		14,838.00	
Kelly Garlock	Assistant	543.74	\$ 15,381.74

**Building Inspector**

Brianna Skowrya		9,792.00	
Renee Wingertsman	Secretary	2,836.18	\$ 12,628.18

**Board of Health**

Kaye Cousens	Health Board	134.00	
Fifi Scoufopoulos	Health Board	134.00	
Robert Pasic	Health Board	183.00	
Michsel Seitz	Transfer Station	1,120.00	
Fredrik Marsh	Transfer Station	1,745.38	
Paul Williams	Transfer Station	507.70	
Renee Wingertsman	BOH Secretary	4,864.07	\$ 8,688.15

**Inspector of Animals**

Jeffrey Perkins		-	\$ -
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**Town Hall & Office Custodian**

Robert Legare		175.00	
Neil Legare		7,718.92	\$ 7,893.92

**Tree Warden**

Melissa LeVangie		2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
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**Animal Inspector**

Jeffrey Perkins		175.00	\$ 175.00
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**Dog Officer**

Tina Linsey		325.60	
Debra Jones- Bachrach		1,302.72	\$ 1,628.32

**Plumbing Inspector**

Daniel Jolly		2,160.00	\$ 2,160.00
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**Town of Petersham  
Annual Payroll  
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015**

**Electrical Inspector**

Gary Terroy

2,495.00 \$ 2,495.00

**Gas Inspector**

- \$ -

**Elections & Registration**

Michelle Bartus	46.44	
Dale Bull	46.44	
Ralph Hebert	293.16	
Anne Hyde-Hebert	293.16	
Dana Kennan	191.56	
Mary Kenney	359.91	
Carolyn May	368.63	
Barbara Nickless	100.00	
Richard Nickless	252.51	
Karen O'Connor	679.40	
Helen Simms	100.00	
Anne Perkins	100.00	
Grace West	165.44	\$ 2,996.65

**Police Department**

R. Dana Cooley Jr.	Chief	72,393.45	
	Detail Pay	3,980.00	
Scott Acito		213.22	
John Bartus	Detail Pay	2,900.00	
Richard Bartus		527.30	
Jesse Berard	Salary	2,087.89	
	Detail Pay	5,040.00	
Ted Bassett		336.00	
Jeffrey Boyer	Salary	2,608.16	
	Detail Pay	640.00	
Joseph Brown	Salary	1,681.66	
	Detail Pay	7,680.00	
Peter Buck		1,204.77	
Marc Duguay	Salary	2,166.79	
	Detail Pay	320.00	
Randy Horne	Salary	50,356.38	
	Detail Pay	50,067.28	
Daniel Kimball	Salary	3,460.87	
	Detail Pay	160.00	
Denis Legare		42.28	
Robert Legare	Salary	5,993.55	
	Detail Pay	5,550.00	
Michael Leslie	Salary	6,247.64	
	Detail Pay	3,040.00	
Jason Lichtengerger	Salary	4,691.28	
	Detail Pay	3,080.00	
Timothy Wright	Salary	4,960.01	
	Detail Pay	2,900.00	\$ 244,328.53

**Town of Petersham  
Annual Payroll  
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015**

**Fire Department**

Dana Robinson	Chief	5,223.50		
	Inspection Fees	1,025.00		
	Forest Warden	25.00		
Robert Legare	Asst. Chief	4,046.14		
Larry Robinson	Captain	1,446.28		
Shawn Legare	Captain	787.70		
Vinnie Acito		822.50		
Daniel Allinger		70.50		
Raymond Balzer		1,201.80		
Scott Churchill		205.90		
Jacob Cooley		637.00		
Ronald Dejackome		158.70		
Peter Devoll		1,529.60		
Robert Goodfellow		807.40		
Kurt Graeff		28.20		
Robert Hughes		405.60		
Rebecca Jackson		405.00		
Gregory Kimball		620.30		
Neil Legare		229.20		
Eric Leichtweis		87.00		
Rebecca Legare		371.80		
Colin O'Brien		259.80		
Charles Pinder		1,046.60		
Jeffrey Perkins		28.20		
Ashley Reed		745.30		
Jason Scott		1,106.05		
Kevin Shortis		87.00		
Troy Warrington		174.00		
Peter West		338.90	\$	23,919.97

**Highway Department**

Timothy Graves	Superintendent	58,304.37		
Leslie Cooley		55,811.34		
Brian Bassett		5,195.84		
Richard Cooley, Sr.		12,845.30		
Robert Legare		2,271.15		
Fredrik Marsh		1,681.26		
Jacob Cooley		1,863.27		
Gregory Waid		49,141.14	\$	187,113.67

**Emergency Management**

Lynne Shaw		1,230.00	\$	1,230.00
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**Town of Petersham  
Annual Payroll  
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015**

**School Department**

Christopher Dodge	Principal	77,507.00
Melanie Pallotta	Learning Specialist	67,100.50
Bridget Koetsch	Kindegarten	67,451.42
Christina Boyer- Thompson	Grade 1	46,531.79
Wendi LeBlanc	Grade 2	70,935.97
Tracy Smith	Grade 3	61,913.46
Melissa Clark	Grade 4	49,665.03
Melissa Fournier	Grade 5	45,800.94

**School Department (con't)**

Nicole Ruggles	Grade 6	70,372.42
Donna Shaughnessy	Special Needs	65,965.79
Natasha Hanna	Music/Aide	19,749.49
Angela Haynes	Music/Aide	16,942.52
Kay Leonard	Art	10,272.12
Suzanne Tattan	Phys. Ed.	11,939.82
Stephanie Carmiello	School Nurse	32,973.53
Heather Bianchi	Nurse Sub.	1,145.00
Charlotte Layton	Nurse Sub.	665.00
Katherine Arsenault	Technology/Library	49,778.63
Karen Regan	Speech Pathologist	55,014.65
David Weinberg	Guidance	51,754.97
Rebecca Boisvert	Aide	2,353.80
Kelli Graves	Aide	14,437.45
Patricia Notre	Aide	17,201.60
Kristen Orlando	Aide	17,287.46
Brantley Powers	Aide	23,982.50
Kristine Wallace	Aide	15,224.42
Ann Degnan	Secretary	39,400.47
Barbara Young	Secretary	18,719.70
Debra Phelps	Cook	20,935.19
James M. Burke III	Head Custodian	44,394.21
Justin Liversidge	Custodian	30,519.31
Pamela Chevalier	Substitute	1,986.76
Jennifer Degnan	Substitute	43.00
John Waters	Substitute	560.00
Michelle Boudreau	Substitute	75.00
Lynn Peredina	Substitute	240.00
Alicia Wilcox	Substitute	546.44
Erin Young	Substitute	980.00
Helen Simms	Substitute	1,933.00
Luke Meunier	Substitute	70.00

70.00    \$ 1,124,370.36

Total Payroll All Departments

\$ 1,785,380.34

**Town of Petersham  
Annual Payroll  
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015**

**1099 Vendors**

Barnes Landscaping	Care of Common & Cemeteries	30,957.00	
Robert Legare	Carpentry	2,530.39	
Alfred Berry	Survey	1,600.00	
Alyssa Roberts	SchoolCommittee	1,230.22	
Thomas Garbett	Psychologist	11,559.50	
Salvatore Ardagna Jr.	Street Sweeping	1,700.00	
Phillip Ledger	Board of Health	5,346.46	
Corey Austin Painting	Painting	1,250.00	
Whittier Plumbing & Htg.	Repairs Town Hall & Office	2,427.28	
Jeffrey Nail	Tree Work	850.00	
Francis Misiuk	Stone Work	24,000.00	
			<u>\$ 83,450.85</u>
<b>Total Payroll &amp; 1099 Vendors</b>			<u><u>\$ 1,868,831.19</u></u>

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dana C. Robinson  
Town Treasurer

**Town of Petersham  
Trust Fund Summary  
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015**

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Princ. Bal.</u> <u>7/1/2014</u>	<u>Earnings Bal.</u> <u>7/1/2014</u>	<u>Princ.</u> <u>Contrib.</u>	<u>Earnings</u> <u>Net</u>	<u>Cash</u> <u>Disp.</u>	<u>Princ. Bal.</u> <u>6/30/2015</u>	<u>Earnings Bal</u> <u>6/30/2015</u>	<u>Ending Cash</u> <u>Value</u>
<b><u>Cemetery Funds</u></b>								
Consolidated Cemetery I & II	\$ 74,451.71	\$ 713.08	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 828.45	\$ (700.00)	\$ 75,651.71	\$ 841.53	\$ 76,493.24
E.M. Cook Cemetery Fund	1,026.25	9.93		11.44	-	1,026.25	21.37	1,047.62
L.L. Pond Cemetery Fund 1 & II	2,333.33	22.55		26.00	-	2,333.33	48.55	2,381.88
Belle Rickey Cemetery Fund	188.97	1.29		2.08	(1.02)	188.97	2.35	191.32
Cemetery Bequests	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
Annie Daniels Flower Fund	1,069.54	7.14		11.89	(5.63)	1,069.54	13.40	1,082.94
John Mudge Flower Fund	2,131.32	238.61		26.09	(123.49)	2,131.32	141.21	2,272.53
J & C Williams Flower Fund	544.61	3.64		6.05	(2.86)	544.61	6.83	551.44
William Smith Cemetery Fund	9,000.00	87.89		100.15	-	9,000.00	188.04	9,188.04
SubTotal	\$ 90,745.73	\$ 1,084.13	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,012.15	\$ (833.00)	\$ 91,945.73	\$ 1,263.28	\$ 93,209.01
<b><u>School Funds</u></b>								
McCarthy School fund	\$ 3,310.91	\$ 797.06		\$ 45.24	\$ (195.25)	\$ 3,310.91	\$ 647.05	\$ 3,957.96
Hildreth School fund	4,476.72	387.96		53.55	(273.00)	4,476.72	168.51	4,645.23
Josephine Dickman School Fund	2,926.79	112.36		33.49	-	2,926.79	145.85	3,072.64
Discovery Center School	459.22	272.23		8.06	-	459.22	280.29	739.51
Subtotal	\$ 11,173.64	\$ 1,569.61	\$ -	\$ 140.34	\$ (468.25)	\$ 11,173.64	\$ 1,241.70	\$ 12,415.34
<b><u>Library Funds</u></b>								
Mann Library Fund I & II	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,171.96		\$ 68.04		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,240.00	\$ 6,240.00
GW Cook Library Fund	1,026.25	240.85		13.98		1,026.25	254.83	1,281.08
Spooner Library Fund I, II & III	4,659.00	50.65		51.90	(44.03)	4,659.00	58.52	4,717.52
Wheeler Library fund	3,000.00	703.17		40.83		3,000.00	744.00	3,744.00
Subtotal	\$ 13,685.25	\$ 2,166.63	\$ -	\$ 174.75	\$ (44.03)	\$ 13,685.25	\$ 2,297.35	\$ 15,982.60
<b><u>Conservation Funds</u></b>								
Babbit Fund	\$ 60,465.55	\$ 5,043.14		\$ 722.08	\$ (4,224.00)	\$ 60,465.55	\$ 1,541.22	\$ 62,006.77
Evelyn Murphy Conservation Fund	10,000.00	2,007.30		133.31	2,471.00	10,000.00	4,611.61	14,611.61
Subtotal	\$ 70,465.55	\$ 7,050.44	\$ -	\$ 855.39	\$ (1,753.00)	\$ 70,465.55	\$ 6,152.83	\$ 76,618.38
<b><u>Charity Funds</u></b>								
Elizabeth Newton Charity Fund	\$ 3,441.65	\$ 9,682.10		\$ 144.67		\$ 3,441.65	\$ 9,826.77	\$ 13,268.42
E Newton Deserving Poor Fund	13,672.26	35,005.67		537.66	(625.00)	13,672.26	34,918.33	48,590.59
Subtotal	\$ 17,113.91	\$ 44,687.77	\$ -	\$ 682.33	\$ (625.00)	\$ 17,113.91	\$ 44,745.10	\$ 61,859.01

Town of Petersham  
Fiscal Year 2015

Department:	Budget	Expended	Unexpended
<b>Town Meeting Moderator</b>			
Department Head Salary	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$70.00
<b>Total Town Moderator</b>	<b>\$70.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$70.00</b>
<b>Board of Selectmen</b>			
Board Members Salaries	\$7,121.00	\$7,121.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$4,350.76	\$4,350.76	\$0.00
Right of Way Rte 32	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Part - Time Clerk	\$4,999.00	\$4,954.13	\$44.87
<b>Total Board of Selectmen</b>	<b>\$17,470.76</b>	<b>\$16,425.89</b>	<b>\$1,044.87</b>
<b>Town Admin Coordinator</b>			
Salary	\$44,125.19	\$44,125.19	\$0.00
Admin Coordinator Overtime	\$1,773.31	\$1,773.31	\$0.00
<b>Total Town Admin Coordinator</b>	<b>\$45,898.50</b>	<b>\$45,898.50</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Finance Committee</b>			
Expenses	\$505.00	\$129.00	\$376.00
<b>Total Finance Committee</b>	<b>\$505.00</b>	<b>\$129.00</b>	<b>\$376.00</b>
<b>Reserve Fund</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>	<b>\$24,084.80</b>	<b>\$915.20</b>
<b>Town Accountant</b>			
Salary	\$14,838.00	\$14,838.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$5,129.99	\$4,961.02	\$168.97
Audit	\$24,500.00	\$0.00	\$24,500.00
Accounting Clerk	\$2,000.00	\$1,078.41	\$921.59
<b>Total Town Accountant</b>	<b>\$46,467.99</b>	<b>\$20,877.43</b>	<b>\$25,590.56</b>
<b>Board of Assessors</b>			
Board Members Salaries	\$7,852.00	\$7,852.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$19,990.00	\$17,627.52	\$2,362.48
Assistant Assessor Salary	\$30,680.00	\$30,680.00	\$0.00
Mapping Project	\$28,141.84	\$28,141.84	\$0.00
FY 16 Revaluation	\$20,000.00	\$11,924.28	\$8,075.72
<b>Total Board of Assessors</b>	<b>\$106,663.84</b>	<b>\$96,225.64</b>	<b>\$10,438.20</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>			
Salary	\$14,838.00	\$14,838.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$3,961.00	\$2,221.15	\$1,739.85
Payroll Processing Fees	\$3,400.00	\$3,206.44	\$193.56
<b>Total Treasurer</b>	<b>\$22,199.00</b>	<b>\$20,265.59</b>	<b>\$1,933.41</b>
<b>Tax Collector</b>			
Salary	\$11,811.00	\$11,811.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$15,630.00	\$11,570.69	\$4,059.31
<b>Total Tax Collector</b>	<b>\$27,441.00</b>	<b>\$23,381.69</b>	<b>\$4,059.31</b>
<b>Town Counsel</b>			
Legal Fees	\$10,820.02	\$5,790.13	\$5,029.89
<b>Total Town Counsel</b>	<b>\$10,820.02</b>	<b>\$5,790.13</b>	<b>\$5,029.89</b>

Department:	Budget	Expended	Unexpended
<b>Town Clerk</b>			
Salary	\$9,605.00	\$9,605.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$3,109.00	\$1,774.06	\$1,334.94
Vital Statistics	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$0.00
Vital Records	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Part-Time Clerk	\$602.00	\$600.50	\$1.50
<b>Total Town Clerk</b>	<b>\$18,391.00</b>	<b>\$12,054.56</b>	<b>\$6,336.44</b>
<b>Election &amp; Registration</b>			
Salaries	\$6,623.87	\$6,623.87	\$0.00
Expenses	\$1,350.00	\$691.38	\$658.62
<b>Total Election &amp; Registration</b>	<b>\$7,973.87</b>	<b>\$7,315.25</b>	<b>\$658.62</b>
<b>Planning Board</b>			
Expenses	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
<b>Total Planning Board</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>
<b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b>			
Expenses	\$500.00	\$224.00	\$276.00
ZBA Consultant	\$760.00	\$0.00	\$760.00
<b>Total Zoning Board of Appeals</b>	<b>\$1,260.00</b>	<b>\$224.00</b>	<b>\$1,036.00</b>
<b>Land Court / Tax Title Fees</b>			
Land Court Fees	\$17,295.65	\$0.00	\$17,295.65
Tax Title Surveys / Appraisals	\$32,960.00	\$75.00	\$32,885.00
<b>Total Land Court / Tax Title Fees</b>	<b>\$50,255.65</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>	<b>\$50,180.65</b>
<b>Town Hall</b>			
Town Hall / Office Maintenance	\$8,665.21	\$8,471.20	\$194.01
Town Hall / Office Expenses	\$30,166.16	\$30,166.16	\$0.00
Town - Phone	\$13,129.62	\$13,129.62	\$0.00
Handicap Access / Town Hall / Office	\$157.32	\$0.00	\$157.32
Computer Service	\$1,755.00	\$465.00	\$1,290.00
Town Hall / Office Wiring	\$12,000.00	\$1,740.00	\$10,260.00
Town Hall Windows w/ Screens	\$21,000.00	\$10,740.93	\$10,259.07
Town Hall Alarm System	\$10,500.00	\$0.00	\$10,500.00
<b>Total Town Hall</b>	<b>\$97,373.31</b>	<b>\$64,712.91</b>	<b>\$32,660.40</b>
<b>Printing</b>			
Town Printing	\$1,750.00	\$1,123.59	\$626.41
<b>Total Printing</b>	<b>\$1,750.00</b>	<b>\$1,123.59</b>	<b>\$626.41</b>
<b>Police Department</b>			
Police Chief Salary	\$69,649.00	\$69,649.00	\$0.00
Police Wages	\$29,006.00	\$29,005.25	\$0.75
Full Time Officer Wages	\$49,348.00	\$49,348.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$36,142.57	\$34,522.73	\$1,619.84
Training - Full Time	\$3,258.00	\$2,080.63	\$1,177.37
Training - Part Time	\$5,492.00	\$4,460.17	\$1,031.83
SUV	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Police Department</b>	<b>\$237,895.57</b>	<b>\$234,065.78</b>	<b>\$3,829.79</b>

Department:	Budget	Expended	Unexpended
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<b>Fire Department</b>			
Salaries/Wages	\$28,466.74	\$20,202.24	\$8,264.50
Expenses	\$24,064.00	\$23,358.80	\$705.20
Generator	\$975.97	\$975.97	\$0.00
Truck Tires	\$566.52	\$0.00	\$566.52
Forestry Gear	\$1,745.50	\$1,745.50	\$0.00
Turnout Gear (2)	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
Fire Hoses	\$5,000.00	\$4,640.00	\$360.00
Breathing Apparatus	\$24,000.00	\$0.00	\$24,000.00
<b>Total Fire Department</b>	<b>\$87,818.73</b>	<b>\$53,922.51</b>	<b>\$33,896.22</b>
<b>Emergency Management</b>			
Emergency Management	\$4,580.00	\$4,321.05	\$258.95
<b>Total Emergency Management</b>	<b>\$4,580.00</b>	<b>\$4,321.05</b>	<b>\$258.95</b>
<b>Building Inspector</b>			
Building Inspector Salary	\$9,729.00	\$9,729.00	\$0.00
Clerical	\$2,500.00	\$2,494.08	\$5.92
Expenses	\$1,510.00	\$1,250.67	\$259.33
<b>Total Building Inspector</b>	<b>\$13,739.00</b>	<b>\$13,473.75</b>	<b>\$265.25</b>
<b>Dog Officer</b>			
Salary	\$1,954.00	\$1,628.32	\$325.68
Expenses	\$1,425.00	\$0.00	\$1,425.00
<b>Total Dog Officer</b>	<b>\$3,379.00</b>	<b>\$1,628.32</b>	<b>\$1,750.68</b>
<b>Tree Warden</b>			
Salary	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$860.00	\$616.36	\$243.64
High Tree Work	\$25,621.93	\$9,726.00	\$15,895.93
Town Trees	\$373.72	\$0.00	\$373.72
<b>Total Tree Warden</b>	<b>\$29,355.65</b>	<b>\$12,842.36</b>	<b>\$16,513.29</b>
<b>Forest Warden</b>			
Salary	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
<b>Total Forest Warden</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Public Safety Communications</b>			
Communication Radio Repairs	\$1,800.00	\$1,510.94	\$289.06
IMC & LEAPS	\$2,995.00	\$2,195.00	\$800.00
<b>Total Public Safety Communications</b>	<b>\$4,795.00</b>	<b>\$3,705.94</b>	<b>\$1,089.06</b>
<b>Education</b>			
Petersham Center School	\$1,223,252.00	\$1,171,058.19	\$52,193.81
Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District	\$851,928.00	\$839,651.00	\$12,277.00
Montachusett Regional Vocational Tech.	\$56,509.00	\$56,509.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Education</b>	<b>\$2,131,689.00</b>	<b>\$2,067,218.19</b>	<b>\$64,470.81</b>

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Expended</b>	<b>Unexpended</b>
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<b>Highway Department</b>			
Salaries	\$125,837.60	\$125,457.60	\$380.00
Expenses	\$53,434.72	\$51,673.37	\$1,761.35
Dump/Sander Body	\$45,977.00	\$43,588.58	\$2,388.42
Cab/Chasis/Components	\$102,000.00	\$101,841.63	\$158.37
	<u>\$327,249.32</u>	<u>\$322,561.18</u>	<u>\$4,688.14</u>
<b>Town Barn</b>			
Expenses	\$8,485.00	\$8,336.41	\$148.59
<b>Total Town Barn</b>	<u>\$8,485.00</u>	<u>\$8,336.41</u>	<u>\$148.59</u>
<b>Snow &amp; Ice Removal</b>			
Expenses	\$91,247.94	\$91,247.94	\$0.00
<b>Total Snow &amp; Ice Removal</b>	<u>\$91,247.94</u>	<u>\$91,247.94</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Street Lights</b>			
Street Lights	\$6,305.00	\$5,916.67	\$388.33
<b>Total Street Lights</b>	<u>\$6,305.00</u>	<u>\$5,916.67</u>	<u>\$388.33</u>
<b>Cemetery Department</b>			
Expenses	\$198.00	\$198.00	\$0.00
Care of Cemeteries	\$19,896.00	\$19,896.00	\$0.00
Computerizing Cemetery Records	\$185.01	\$30.00	\$155.01
Cemetery Repairs	\$88.90	\$0.00	\$88.90
West Rd Cemetery Wall	\$31,500.00	\$24,943.00	\$6,557.00
<b>Total Cemetery Department</b>	<u>\$51,867.91</u>	<u>\$45,067.00</u>	<u>\$6,800.91</u>
<b>Board of Health</b>			
Board Members Salaries	\$451.00	\$451.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$2,700.00	\$208.20	\$2,491.80
BOH - Admin Assistant	\$5,786.00	\$5,781.69	\$4.31
<b>Total Board of Health</b>	<u>\$8,937.00</u>	<u>\$6,440.89</u>	<u>\$2,496.11</u>
<b>Transfer Station</b>			
Transfer Station	\$52,076.00	\$47,336.12	\$4,739.88
<b>Total Transfer Station</b>	<u>\$52,076.00</u>	<u>\$47,336.12</u>	<u>\$4,739.88</u>
<b>Council on Aging</b>			
Expenses	\$850.00	\$850.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Council on Aging</b>	<u>\$850.00</u>	<u>\$850.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Veterans' Agent</b>			
Expenses	\$7,589.00	\$3,588.50	\$4,000.50
<b>Total Veterans' Agent</b>	<u>\$7,589.00</u>	<u>\$3,588.50</u>	<u>\$4,000.50</u>
<b>Library</b>			
Operating Subsidy	\$8,933.00	\$8,933.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Library</b>	<u>\$8,933.00</u>	<u>\$8,933.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Concerts</b>			
Concerts (6)	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Concerts</b>	<u>\$1,800.00</u>	<u>\$1,800.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Bandstand</b>			
Bandstand Lighting	\$325.00	\$129.87	\$195.13
<b>Total Bandstand</b>	<u>\$325.00</u>	<u>\$129.87</u>	<u>\$195.13</u>

Department:	Budget	Expended	Unexpended
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Town Clock

Care of Town Clock	\$146.00	\$146.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Town Clock</b>	<b>\$146.00</b>	<b>\$146.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Care of Common</b>			
Expenses	\$6,696.00	\$6,696.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Care of Common</b>	<b>\$6,696.00</b>	<b>\$6,696.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Historical Commission</b>			
Expenses	\$85.00	\$0.00	\$85.00
<b>Total Historical Commission</b>	<b>\$85.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$85.00</b>
<b>Historical District Commission</b>			
Expenses	\$252.00	\$49.09	\$202.91
<b>Total Historical District Commission</b>	<b>\$252.00</b>	<b>\$49.09</b>	<b>\$202.91</b>
<b>Memorial Day</b>			
Expenses	\$495.00	\$470.73	\$24.27
<b>Total Memorial Day</b>	<b>\$495.00</b>	<b>\$470.73</b>	<b>\$24.27</b>
<b>Debt Service</b>			
Interest Expense	\$5,000.00	\$643.66	\$4,356.34
Fire Truck Debt	\$21,800.00	\$21,800.00	\$0.00
Center School Debt	\$103,742.50	\$103,742.50	\$0.00
Mahar Debt	\$25,432.00	\$25,432.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Debt Service</b>	<b>\$155,974.50</b>	<b>\$151,618.16</b>	<b>\$4,356.34</b>
<b>Assessments</b>			
School Choice	\$32,500.00	\$50,000.00	(\$17,500.00)
Air Pollution	\$360.00	\$360.00	\$0.00
Regional Transit	\$962.00	\$962.00	\$0.00
RMV Non-Renewal	\$740.00	\$740.00	\$0.00
<b>Total State Assessments</b>	<b>\$34,562.00</b>	<b>\$52,062.00</b>	<b>(\$17,500.00)</b>
<b>Retirement</b>			
Assessment	\$193,098.00	\$193,098.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Retirement</b>	<b>\$193,098.00</b>	<b>\$193,098.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Insurance</b>			
Health	\$64,376.00	\$50,460.22	\$13,915.78
Retirees Health	\$46,710.00	\$22,443.46	\$24,266.54
Medicare	\$22,589.91	\$22,589.91	\$0.00
General Insurance	\$69,287.00	\$65,560.47	\$3,726.53
<b>Total Insurance</b>	<b>\$202,962.91</b>	<b>\$161,054.06</b>	<b>\$41,908.85</b>
<b>Transfer To Stabilization Fund</b>	<b>\$29,288.00</b>	<b>\$29,288.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT  
FISCAL YEAR 2015**

I hereby submit my report for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015.

Account Name	Year-To-Date Revenue
Personal Property Taxes	253,373.28
Real Estate Taxes	2,216,478.01
Tax Liens Redeemed	15,705.52
Motor Vehicle Excise	140,892.27
Interest & Penalties on Real & Personal Property	9,927.35
Interest on Motor Vehicle Taxes	2,533.94
	2,638,910.37
<b>Total Taxes and Excise</b>	<b>2,638,910.37</b>
Fees - Miscellaneous	1,683.67
Transfer Station Fees	37,811.00
Rentals	200.00
Dept Revenue - Police	775.00
Dept Revenue - Other	40.00
	40,509.67
<b>Total Departmental Revenue</b>	<b>40,509.67</b>
Licenses - Alcoholic	2,225.00
Licenses - Dog	1,527.75
Permits - Miscellaneous Business	75.00
Permits - Other	236.00
	4,063.75
<b>Total Licenses and Permits</b>	<b>4,063.75</b>
State Owned Land	64,145.00
Abatements Veterans', Etc.	2,510.00
Chapter 70	424,308.00
Unrestricted General Government	102,013.00
MDC - In Lieu of Taxes	500,027.39
Court Fines	360.00
Registry of MV Fines	8,820.00
	1,102,183.39
<b>Total State Revenues</b>	<b>1,102,183.39</b>

**Account Name**

**Year-To-Date  
Revenue**

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Fines	1,295.00
Earnings on Investments	831.93
Miscellaneous Revenue	7,122.27
Insurance Dividends	1,586.16
Legal Settlement	<u>40,000.00</u>
<b>Total Unclassified</b>	<b>50,835.36</b>
<b>Total General Fund Revenues</b>	<b><u><u>3,836,502.54</u></u></b>

## REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

Fiscal Year 2015 – Time just marches on, whether or not we like it. On June 30, 2015 I completed my 20<sup>th</sup> year as Town Clerk. I am humbled and honored that the Town of Petersham has allowed me to serve in this office for this long. Town Clerk is a job that I love doing. Meeting the people that I do through my office has been fun and interesting. Sometimes people have very interesting stories to tell if you just give them the time to tell them and take the time to listen. Thank you for allowing me to serve you as your Town Clerk. I hope to do this for many more years. As crazy as it sounds, paperwork doesn't scare me. Don't be fooled by my posted hours, I am in the office much more than that. I try to make myself available to people when needed. That is one of the many benefits of living in a small town.

There have been changes in government, both local and at state level. The Open Meeting Law and Ethics have been getting some major over hauls in an effort to keep processes and decisions more transparent. There has had to be some learning and adjustments made to the way that towns conduct business. None of us are perfect but, for the most part, town government tries to comply with the laws.

I continue to offer my services as a Notary Public and a Justice of the Peace. I continue to sell hunting/fishing licenses from my office.

Thank you to Renee Wingertsman for the help that she has provided me throughout the year. It always helps to do this job when you have great support people around you.

To my election workers, for their hours of great work and support, I continue to say that without them, elections would not run so smoothly. The Board of Registrars, Kay Simms, Anne Perkins and Barbara Nickless, continue to be there when needed. To all a big thank you!

The biggest thanks goes to my family for understanding the hours and commitment it takes to be the Town Clerk.

Thank you for allowing me to continue to serve as your Town Clerk.

*Diana L. Cooley*  
*Town Clerk*

## Vital Statistics of the Town Clerk

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### Births

From July 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 there were 4 babies born – 1 girl and 3 boys.  
 From January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015 there were 3 babies born – 1 girl and 2 boys.

### Marriages

August 19, 2014	Charles Frank Pinder	Petersham
	Hope Adina Sholes	Petersham
October 4, 2014	Ryan Andrew Gifford	Texas
	David Lee Robinson	Texas
October 11, 2014	David Jon Adamitis	Connecticut
	Katherine Ann Lanagan	Connecticut
October 18, 2014	Shawn Michail Clukey	Templeton
	Samantha Ann Price	Templeton
October 19, 2014	Thomas Lincoln Cleveland	Petersham
	Robin Lynn Bourdeau	Petersham
February 14, 2015	David Abbott Holland	Petersham
	Cristina Marie Cushman	Petersham

### Deaths

July 2, 2014	Hope Sherwood	Petersham	90
July 11, 2014	Scott M. Melvin	Petersham	60
July 14, 2014	Marjorie Martin	Petersham	86
July 30, 2014	Mary Herbert Lucille Walsh	Petersham	98
August 28, 2014	Warren I. Johansson	Petersham	93
January 2, 2015	Allan Russell Connolly	Petersham	66
January 22, 2015	Catherine Schneider	Petersham	103
January 24, 2015	Eileen Gauthier	Petersham	57
March 12, 2015	Everett Francis Glenn, Jr.	Petersham	76
March 19, 2015	Jean Marie Sullivan	Petersham	59
March 23, 2015	Ethel Leona Barnes	Petersham	83
May 16, 2015	Shannon A. Billings	Gardner	25
May 20, 2015	James Michael Winters	Petersham	55
June 9, 2015	Kathy Ballou	Petersham	66
June 9, 2015	Jaylin R. Johnson	Petersham	1 mo. 24 days
June 17, 2015	Gary Dale Lanpher	Petersham	79
June 18, 2015	Cynthia Ruth Seitz	Petersham	84

Of the above, 2 burials took place in Petersham. There were 2 burials brought into town.

## Town Clerk

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### RAFFLES

The following organizations purchased raffle licenses at \$10.00 each for a total of \$40.00, which was paid to the Treasurer.

Petersham Curling Club  
Petersham Montessori School  
St. Peter's Church  
Petersham Lions Club

### DOG FUNDS

A total of \$1,788.00 was collected from the sale of dog licenses. A total of \$0.00 was collected in dog fines and turned over to the Treasurer.

### MARIJUANA CITATIONS

A total of \$900.00 was collected in marijuana citations and turned over to the Treasurer.

### BUILDING CODE VIOLATIONS

A total of \$75.00 was collected in building code violations and turned over to the Treasurer

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION  
MARCH 2, 2015

BOARD OF SELECTMEN - 3 YEARS	
PETER F. GEORGE	127
HENRY L. WOOLSEY	247
TAX COLLECTOR - 3 YEARS	
RENEE WINGERTSMAN	331
TOWN CLERK - 3 YEARS	
DIANA L. COOLEY	331
BOARD OF ASSESSORS - 3 YEARS	
DANA W. KENNAN	269
BOARD OF HEALTH - 3 YEARS	
ROBERT J. PASIC	297
PETERSHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE - 3 YEARS	
JANICE COUGHLAN	127
PLANNING BOARD - 3 YEARS - VOTE FOR 2	
STEPHEN G. HERZOG	280
ROBERT A. ROCHELEAU	259
TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC LIBRARY - 3 YEARS	
ANNE H. PERKINS	304



**STATE PRIMARY - TOWN OF PETERSHAM**  
**September 9, 2014**

**REPUBLICAN**  
**SENATOR IN CONGRESS**

BRIAN J HERR 84

**GOVERNOR**

CHARLES D BAKER 88

MARK R FISHER 24

**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

KARYN E POLITO 97

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

JOHN B MILLER 86

**SECRETARY OF STATE**

DAVID D'ARCANGELO 85

**TREASURER**

MICHAEL JAMES HEFFERNAN 86

**AUDITOR**

PATRICIA S SAINT AUBIN 86

**REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS**

**COUNCILLOR**

JENNIE L CAISSIE 84

**SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT**

JAMES P EHRHARD 74

MICHAEL J VALANZOLA 39

**REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT**

KAREN R ANDERSON 39

SUSANNAH M WHIPPS LEE 87

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**REGISTER OF PROBATE**

**126 Republican Votes Cast**

**142 Democratic Votes Cast**

**DEMOCRAT**  
**SENATOR IN CONGRESS**

EDWARD J MARKEY 119

**GOVERNOR**

DONALD M BERWICK 72

MARTHA COAKLEY 46

STEVEN GROSSMAN 24

**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

LELAND CHEUNG 52

STEPHEN J KERRIGAN 59

MICHAEL E LAKE 11

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

MAURA HEALEY 98

WARREN E TOLMAN 34

**SECRETARY OF STATE**

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN 117

**TREASURER**

THOMAS P CONROY 38

BARRY R FINEGOLD 39

DEBORAH B GOLDBERG 41

**AUDITOR**

SUZANNE M BUMP 106

**REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS**

JAMES P MCGOVERN 121

**COUNCILLOR**

**SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT**

ANNE M GOBI 126

**REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT**

DENISE ANDREWS 116

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

JOSEPH D EARLY JR 108

**REGISTER OF PROBATE**

STEPHEN G ABRAHAM 103

# State Election November 4, 2014

## Senator in Congress

Edward J. Markey	337
Brian J. Herr	284
Others	
Blanks	26

## Governor & Lt. Governor

Baker & Polito	299
Coakley & Kerrigan	284
Falchuk & Jennings	27
Lively & Saunders	22
McCormick & Post	4
Others	1
Blanks	10

## Attorney General

Maura Healey	352
John B. Miller	265
Others	
Blanks	30

## Secretary of State

William Francis Galvin	376
David D'Arcangelo	211
Daniel L. Factor	36
Others	
Blanks	24

## Treasurer

Deborah B. Goldberg	295
Michael James Heffernan	276
Ian T. Jackson	42
Others	
Blanks	34

## Auditor

Suzanne M. Bump	324
Patricia S. Saint Aubin	249
MK Merelice	31
Others	
Blanks	43

## Representative in Congress

James P. McGovern	436
Others	2
Blanks	209

## Councillor

Jennie L. Caissie	401
Others	3
Blanks	243

## Senator in General Court

Anne M. Gobi	380
Michael J. Valanzola	250
Others	
Blanks	17

## Representative in General Court

Denise Andrews	291
Susannah M. Whipps Lee	336
Others	
Blanks	20

## District Attorney

Joseph D. Early, Jr.	451
Others	
Blanks	196

## Register of Probate

Stephen G. Abraham	323
Stephanie K. Fattman	277
Others	
Blanks	47

## Question 1 (Gasoline Tax)

Yes	335
No	293
Blanks	19

## Question 2 (Bottle Bill)

Yes	223
No	413
Blanks	11

## State Election November 4, 2014

### Question 3 (Gaming Commission/Casinos)

Yes	304
No	327
Blanks	16

### Question 4 (Sick Time)

Yes	316
No	267
Blanks	64

### Question 5 (Regulate & Tax Marijuana - Non-Binding)

Yes	242
No	168
Blanks	237



*Town of Petersham*  
*Office of the Town Clerk*

Diana L. Cooley

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PO Box 486 \* 3 South Main St. \* Petersham, MA 01366 \* (978) 724-6649

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At the Special Town Meeting, held on June 1, 2015, at which a quorum was present, the following votes were taken:

Article 1: The Town voted to transfer from Surplus Overlay \$50,000.00 to Account Number 015423.000 Snow Removal Expense to eliminate the FY2015 Snow Removal Expense deficit.

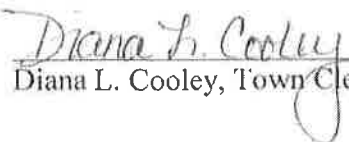
Article 2: The Town voted to transfer the following excess amounts from existing revolving accounts to the general fund: Town Clerk-\$3,000.00 from account #275161.00, Building Inspector-\$18,000.00 from account #275241.000, Board of Health-\$2,000.00 from account #275510.000.

Article 3: The Town voted to close out the following accounts created by vote of previous Town Meetings and deposit existing funds to the General Fund: Cab/Chassis Components Account #0151420.024 per Annual Town Meeting approval of June 2014, in the amount of \$158.37; Right of Way Rte. 32 Account #015122.004 per Special Town Meeting approval of June 2014, in the amount of \$1,000.00; Dump/Sander Body Account #015420.022 per Annual Town Meeting approval of June 2013, in the amount of \$2,388.42; Town Hall/Town Office Storm Windows with Screens Account #015192.021 per Annual Town Meeting approval of June 2005, in the amount of \$10,259.07; and Town Hall Alarm System #015192.025 Annual Town Meeting approval of June 2007, in the amount of \$10,500.00.

Article 4: The Town voted to take no action

The Town voted to adjourn the STM at 7:45PM.

This is a true copy attest.

  
Diana L. Cooley, Town Clerk



*Town of Petersham*  
*Office of the Town Clerk*

Diana L. Cooley

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PO Box 486 \* 3 South Main St. \* Petersham, MA 01366 \* (978) 724-6649

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At the Annual Town Meeting, held on June 1, 2015, at which a quorum was present, the following votes were taken:

Non-voters present were Tari Thomas - Ralph C. Mahar Regional, Christopher Doge - Petersham Center School, Tammy Lajoie - Monty Tech, Kenneth Elstein - Hampshire Council of Governments, Steve Boudreau - Administrative Coordinator and Timothy Graves - Highway Superintendent

A vote was taken to allow the non-residents to speak as needed.

A vote was taken to allow the Moderator to call the 2/3 votes.

Article 1 : Reports were read by Nancy Allen on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, Ross France on behalf of the Advisory Finance Committee and Linda Paquet on behalf of the Energy Committee. The Town voted to accept the reports as read.

Article 2: The Town voted to authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal Year 2015, as permitted by Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), Chapter 44, Section 53F.

Article 3: The Town voted to use the income of the William B. Spooner Fund as of March 31 of the current fiscal year at the Petersham Memorial Library for Fiscal Year 2016.

Article 4: The Town voted to instruct the Treasurer to use the Elizabeth Newton Charities Trust Fund and Elizabeth Newton Deserving Poor Trust Fund for assistance to Petersham Veterans approved for benefits by Massachusetts Department of Veteran's Services through the Local Veterans' Service Office for Fiscal Year 2016.

Article 5: The Town voted to allow the Conservation Commission to use the accumulated interest from the Evelyn V. Murphy Conservation Fund as of March 31 of the current fiscal year for Fiscal Year 2016.

Article 6: The Town voted to allow the Conservation Commission to use the accumulated interest from the Lewis and Corrine Babbitt Wildlife Sanctuary Fund as of March 31 of the current fiscal year, to be used at the Sanctuary for Fiscal Year 2016.

Article 7: The Town voted to re-authorize the Accountant to deposit income generated from property and timber sales into a "Commissions Account" for payment of commissions due as submitted for payment by the Selectboard following sale of property, pursuant to the provisions of MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, to pay commissions due on the sale of real and/or personal property of the Town; said fund to be established from receipts of said property, and expenditures shall not exceed **\$5,000.00** for Fiscal Year 2016

Article 8: The Town voted to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ to be expended by the Treasurer for fees due to the Electrical Inspector, Gas Inspector and Plumbing Inspector. The Accountant shall be authorized to effect transfers from this account as required to cover vouchers submitted for payment upon verification that the disbursement requested does not exceed receipts to date; expenditures from said Fund for Fiscal Year 2016 not to exceed \$15,000.00.

Article 9: The Town voted to re-authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ to which shall be deposited all receipts for grave openings and from which the Selectboard may make expenditures to pay the costs thereof, said expenditures not to exceed \$4,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2016.

Article 10: The Town voted to re-authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ to be expended by the several Town departments that process permit and license hearing applications, to pay for services and fees charged for the filing of hearing applications, to include retrieval fees, legal notices, clerical fees, postage fees, and the carrying out of duties required; said fund to be established from receipts collected by the various departments, and said expenditures not to exceed \$5,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2016.

Article 11: The Town voted to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ for deposits of fees collected under the Petersham School Committee Fee Schedule for use of the Petersham School Building, to be expended by the Petersham School Committee for the purpose of repairs to the Building and replacement of equipment associated with the use of the Facility; expenditures from said Revolving Fund for Fiscal Year 2016 not to exceed \$2,000.00.

Article 12: The Town voted to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ for deposits of fees collected under the Planning Board Rules and Regulations Fee Schedule, to be expended by the Planning Board for the purpose of hiring professional consultants to assist the Planning Board in carrying out its duties; expenditures from said Revolving Fund for Fiscal Year 2016 not to exceed \$1,000.00.

Article 13: The Town voted to re-authorize the Town Clerk to deposit fee income generated from certificates, DBA's, Dog Fees, Genealogy, etc. into a Commissions Account for payment of fees due as submitted for payment by the Town Clerk pursuant to the provisions of MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, said fund to be established from receipts of said income, and expenditures shall not exceed \$3,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2016.

Article 14: The Town voted to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ to be expended by the Treasurer for fees due to the Fire Chief. The Accountant shall be authorized to effect transfers from this account as required to cover vouchers submitted for payment upon verification that the disbursement requested does not exceed receipts to date; expenditures from said Fund for Fiscal Year 2016 not to exceed \$3,000.00.

Article 15: The Town voted to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ for deposits of fees collected under the Zoning Board of Appeals Rules and Regulations Fee Schedule, to be expended by the Zoning Board of Appeals for the purposes of carrying out its duties; expenditures from said Revolving Fund for Fiscal Year 2016 not to exceed \$7,000.00.

Article 16: The Town voted to re-authorize the Inspector of Buildings to deposit fee income generated from inspections and related work into a Revolving Account, to be expended by the Inspector of Buildings, for the purposes of carrying out department duties, pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½, said fund to be established from receipts of said income, expenditures from said account not to exceed \$10,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2016.

Article 17: The Town voted to re-authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ and pursuant to Local Cultural Council Regulations at 962 CMR 2:05, for deposit of local funds collected by the Petersham Cultural Council, to be expended by the Petersham Cultural Council for the purpose of carrying out its duties; expenditures from said Revolving Fund for Fiscal Year 2016 not to exceed **\$5,000.00**.

Article 18: The Town voted to re-authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ and pursuant to Local Cultural Council Regulations at 962 CMR 2:05, for deposit of grant funds collected by the Petersham Cultural Council from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, to be expended by the Petersham

Cultural Council for the purpose of funding annual grants; expenditures from said Revolving Fund for Fiscal Year 2016 not to exceed **\$8,000.00**.

Article 19: The Town voted to re-authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ to be expended by the Board of Health, to pay for consulting services as required by the Board of Health, said fund to be established from receipts collected by the Board of Health for fees for its services; said expenditures not to exceed \$10,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2016

Article 20: The Town voted to accept and expend Chapter 90 Funds from the State, said expenditures to be 100% reimbursed by the State.

The Town voted to accept Articles 2 – 20 as Consent Articles and voted them as one.

Article 21: The Town voted to vote raise and appropriate the sum of 1,280,947 for the total of the Selectboard Budget for FY2016 summarized as follows:

Town General Office & Finance:	\$ 290,983.00
Total Protection of Persons & Property:	\$ 354,906.00
Total Health and Sanitation:	\$ 61,270.00
Total Highway Department:	\$ 261,744.00
Total Charities and Veterans Benefits:	\$ 11,778.00
Total Unclassified	\$ 300,266.00

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 827,339.00 for the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District FY2016 Budget.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 64,257.00 for the Montachusett Regional Vocational School District FY2016 Budget.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 1,223,252.00 for the Petersham Center School FY2016 Budget.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the Grand Total General Budget of \$3,395,795.00

Article 22: The Town voted to fix the salaries of all Elective Town Officers as provided in Section 108 of Chapter 41, General Laws as amended: Moderator \$0.00; Town Treasurer \$15,209.00; Town Clerk \$9,846.00; Tax Collector \$12,107.00; Selectboard, Chair \$2,650.00; two members \$2,325.00 each; Board of Assessors, Chair, \$3,003.00, Clerk, \$2,600.00, other member, \$2,447.00; Trustee of Library FREE; Constables \$11.00/per hour; Board of Health chair, \$188.00, other members, \$138.00 each.

Article 23: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,800.00 for (6) six Petersham Brass Bands Concerts at \$300.00 per concert to be held during the summer of 2015.

Article 24: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to be used for the Council on Aging Activities.

Article 25: The Town voted to take the accumulated interest from the Consolidated Cemetery Fund 1 and 2, the E.M. Cook Cemetery Trust Fund, the L.L. Pond Cemetery Fund, and the William Smith Cemetery Fund for deposit into the Cemetery Repair Fund, said fund to be expended by the Cemetery Commission for Cemetery improvements.

Article 26: The Town voted to take the sum of \$1,000.00 from the Grave Opening Expenses Account for deposit into the Cemetery Repair Fund, said fund to be expended by the Cemetery Commission for Cemetery improvements.

Article 27: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,492.50 to pay the FY2016 principal and interest due on the construction note for the Petersham Center School.

Article 28: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$24,946.00 to pay the FY2016 principal and interest due on the construction note for the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District school building.

Article 29: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,200.00 to pay the FY2016 principal and interest due on the Fire Department fire truck.

Article 30: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum \$19,141.00 and transfer from free cash \$15,859.00 for a total of \$35,000.00 for deposit into the Reserve Fund.

Article 31: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,900.00 for the Tri Annual Reassessments of the values of all real estate and personal properties for Fiscal Year 2016, as required by state law.

Article 32: The Town voted to transfer from free cash the sum of \$15,000.00 for the Board of Assessor to fund the third year of a three year mapping project required by the Department of Revenue, said funds to be spent in FY2015, FY2016, and any unspent amounts to revert thereafter to the general fund.

Article 33: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$24,000.00 for the Fire Department to purchase self-contained breathing apparatus Replacement Air Packs in year two of three.

Article 34: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000.00 for the Selectboard to purchase and install a replacement code compliant exterior Handicap Accessible Ramp for Town Hall, said appropriation to be under the control of the Selectboard. 2 opposed

Article 35: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 for the Fire Department to purchase replacement Fire Hose in year two of five of a purchase program.

Article 36: The Town voted raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,500.00 for the Highway Department to purchase a replacement Snow Plow Blade.

Article 37: The Town voted to that the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,164.70 for the Highway Department to purchase a roll tarp Load Cover for the sander truck.

Article 38: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to pay the expenses related to the upgrading and adding names to various veterans honor roll plaques located throughout the town and that any unspent funds be returned to the general fund.

Article 39: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to be used for ongoing maintenance of the Nichewaug Inn to include but not limited to, landscaping maintenance, general maintenance, security alarm, and secured access; this appropriation to be under the control of the Selectboard. 7 opposed

Article 40: The Town voted to transfer from the stabilization fund the sum of \$40,000.00 to be used for the disposition of the Nichewaug Inn during the Town's investigation and process of demolition, abatement, review of re-development proposals, and/or transfer of ownership of the property, to include but not limited to legal services, consultant fees, contractor fees, other professional fees, and secure building access; this appropriation to be under the control of the Selectboard. It was voted to move the question. 2/3 required – 5 opposed



Article 41: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for design and engineering of a hybrid renewable energy heating system in the form of a wood pellet/condensing gas burner at Petersham Center School; design and engineering to be contingent upon successful receipt of grant funding from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources. 1 opposed

Article 42: The Town voted to take no action of Article 42.

Article 43: The Town voted to take no action on Article 43. 9 opposed

Article 44: The Town voted to endorse the recommendation of its membership to the Franklin Regional Transit Authority authorizing transportation service to, or from, or within, the Town including the commitment by the Town for its share of any deficit as the result of such service.

An amendment was made by Roy Nilson to “not endorse the recommendation of its membership to the Franklin Regional Transit Authority authorizing transportation service to, or from, or within, the Town including the commitment by the Town for its share of any deficit as the result of such service and will withdraw from the Franklin Regional Transit Authority”.

A motion was made and voted to move the question.

The vote on the amendment made by Mr. Nilson was defeated, 3 in favor.

The original motion was passed with 3 opposed.

Article 45: The Town voted that to Pursuant to Chapter 164 of the Acts of 1997 to authorize the Selectboard to develop and participate in any municipal electrical aggregation plan and to amend restructure or reconstitute such plan as may be necessary and appropriate so as to execute a contract or contracts for power supply and other related services, independently or in joint action with other municipalities through the Hampshire Council of Governments, and further, if such contracts are to be approved, individual consumers would retain the option not to participate and choose any alternative service they desire, and further, the Selectboard may appoint a representative and or a committee to oversee such action. 4 opposed

Article 46: The Town voted to remove Article XI from the existing Town of Petersham Zoning By-laws, text of said Article XI provided below in ***bold, italic*** font; and add the following Section to Article XVI of the Town of Petersham Zoning By-laws, 'Section 5B. Subdivisions', text of said Article provided below in ***bold, italic*** font; or act in relation thereto:

Remove the following Article XI from existing Zoning By-laws:

***ARTICLE XI. SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS***

***Regulations governing the subdivision of land in the Town of Petersham are not classified as Bylaws but are regulations under the Planning Board, adopted by them after a Public Hearing, The regulations previously printed in this article having been completely revised, were adopted by the Planning Board on August 1, 1977, and are now available as a separate document. Copies may be obtained at the Selectmen's office.***

Add the following Section 5B to Article XVI of existing Zoning By-laws:

***SECTION 5B. SUBDIVISIONS***

#### A. Rules and Regulations

*Technical requirements for subdivisions are covered in a separate document, "Rules and Regulations Governing the Subdivision of Land" which is available in the Town Office Building.*

#### B. Definitions

*MGL: Massachusetts General Laws*

*ANR: For the purposes of this Section 5b, the standard process of lot division along existing roadways under Section IV of the Petersham Subdivision Regulations and in accordance with MGL Chapter 41, Sections 81L and P and Section 4 of the Zoning By-laws.*

#### C. Purpose and Applicability

*1. Purpose: The primary purpose of this section is to implement measures that will further the goals stated in the Petersham Master Plan:*

- Preserve the Town's historic rural landscape and existing pattern of low density housing.*
- Control the nature of new subdivision development that can occur in the Town.*
- Direct development away from environmentally sensitive areas.*
- Require new development to be designed in a manner that is environmentally and aesthetically compatible with its surroundings.*
- Foster small-scale agricultural and forestry production by retaining suitable lands for these purposes.*

*2. Applicability: This Article applies only to subdivisions of land that create new roads as defined in MGL Ch. 41, § 81L, and not to individual ANR lots created through the standard process with frontage on public ways.*

*(a) Deviations: The Planning Board may allow a subdivision development that deviates from one or more of the requirements herein by special permit. Such deviations may be approved if the applicant can demonstrate that the proposed plan provides adequate protection of environmental resources and meets the goals of this section as well or better than otherwise without such deviations.*

*(b) The subdivision approval and any requested special permit approvals provided for in this Section 4B shall be considered concurrently to the extent practicable.*

#### D. Conservation Analysis and Findings

*1. Prior to filing an application, an applicant is encouraged to meet with the Planning Board to discuss the conservation resources on the site.*

*2. A conservation analysis as described in the "Petersham Rules and Regulations Governing the Subdivision of Land" is required from the applicant preferably for informal review as noted above before the application is filed.*

*3. The Planning Board in consultation with the Conservation Commission shall study the conservation analysis, may conduct field visits, and shall formally determine in "conservation findings" which land should be preserved and where development may be located.*

*4. The proposed design shall conform or be modified by the applicant to conform with the conservation findings*

### E. Minimum Preserved Open Space

*The Plan shall show that at least 80% of the total acreage of the project will be preserved by a Conservation Restriction or other means acceptable to the Planning Board, the configuration of which shall be based upon the conservation findings. Conserved land is not required to be contiguous.*

### F. Allowable Lots

*1. The maximum number of lots permitted is calculated by a formula based upon the net acreage of the project. This calculation involves two steps, calculating the net acreage and then dividing it by the density divisor.*

#### *2. Net Acreage Calculation*

*(a) To determine net acreage, subtract from the gross acreage of the project the total acreage of:*

- (i) one-half of land with slopes of 15% -25% and all land with slopes greater than 25%.*
- (ii) land subject to easements or restrictions prohibiting development;*
- (iii) land which is inaccessible due to steep terrain, wetland or other barrier*
- (iv) all Watershed Protection Act land subject to the restrictions of 350 CMR 11.04(3)(a);*
- (v) all FEMA 100-year floodplains; and*
- (vi) all freshwater wetlands as defined in Section 40 of Chapter 131 of the General Laws, as delineated by an accredited wetlands specialist approved by the Petersham Conservation Commission.*

*(b) Applicants shall use the Field Data Form found in Appendix G of the Massachusetts DEP Handbook "Delineating Bordering Vegetated Wetlands Under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act" (1995). The complete form shall be submitted including all methods of determination, i.e., vegetation, soil, and any other indicators, as provided for on the form. If detailed vegetative assessments are not required by the Handbook for a particular site, the reasons must be noted on the Field Data Form. At the Planning Board's discretion, any of the information described above may be taken from current geographic information systems data available from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Mass GIS, and other credible sources including delineations registered by the use of global positioning systems.*

#### *3. Lot Calculation*

*(a) To determine the maximum number of allowable lots on the site, divide the net acreage by a density divisor of 7.5. Fractional units may be rounded up if the open space requirement of section E, above, is met.*

*(b) The following additional lots may be granted in the subdivision by special permit from the Planning Board. If necessary, the area of these lots may be subtracted from the open space required by E above.*

- (i) The lot count determined in 3(a) may be increased through a density bonus designed to advance important housing goals of the Petersham master plan. If the applicant permanently restricts ownership and occupancy of any dwelling units as affordable housing, and makes them eligible for inclusion in the Town's "Subsidized Housing Inventory" for the purposes of Chapter 40B of the General Laws, and makes a binding*

*commitment to construct such affordable residences: for each such affordable unit the number of permitted lots in 3(a) may be increased by one up to an additional three.*

*(ii) The lot count determined in 3(a) may also be increased by conserving land adjacent to the subdivision and fronting onto an existing roadway that would otherwise constitute buildable ANR lot(s). If at least the minimum area and frontage for such ANR lots is added to the preserved open space in accordance with Section I, below, a corresponding number of lots may be added to the lot count in 3(a).*

#### G. Types of Residential Development

*The allowable residential dwelling units may be developed as single-family, or any other housing type allowed by Section 4 in the Zoning By-laws.*

#### H. Dimensional and Design Requirements

*1. Minimum lot size and frontage shall conform with the requirements of Section 4 in the Zoning By-laws.*

*2. Lots shall be located and arranged in a manner that protects: views from roads and other publicly accessible points; farmland; wildlife habitat; and other sensitive environmental resources. Consideration shall be given to access of dwelling units to potentially arable land or land suitable for forestry. The Planning Board shall take into consideration the conservation findings in approving the arrangement of lots.*

#### I. Permanent Open Space

*1. All land required to be set aside as open space shall be so noted on any approved plans and shall be protected by a permanent Conservation Restriction, herein defined as a permanent restriction in the title to land of the type described in G.L. Chapter 184, Sections 31–33, to be held by the Town of Petersham Conservation Commission, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or a non-profit conservation organization qualified to hold Conservation Restrictions under Chapter 184, Section 31 of the General laws and also qualified to hold tax-deductible conservation easements under Section 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code. As used in this zoning bylaw "Conservation Restriction" also includes an Agricultural Preservation Restriction, a Watershed Preservation Restriction, or a Preservation Restriction. The restriction shall specify the permitted uses of the restricted land which may otherwise constitute development.*

#### *2. Ownership of Open Space Land*

*(a) The fee interest in the protected open space land, at the applicant's discretion, may be held in private ownership or held in common ownership by a homeowner's association (HOA). In the case of private ownership, ownership interests in such land shall be undivided unless the Planning Board grants a special permit allowing for the division of ownership, which may include apportioned ownership amongst some or all of the residential lots.*

*(b) If the land is owned in common by an HOA, such HOA shall be established in accordance with the following:*

*(i) The HOA must be created before final approval of the development, and must comply with all applicable provisions of state law.*

*(ii) Membership must be mandatory for each lot owner, who must be required by recorded covenants and restrictions to pay fees to the HOA for taxes, insurance, and maintenance of common open space, private roads, and other common facilities.*

*(iii) The HOA must be responsible for liability insurance, property taxes, the maintenance of recreational and other facilities, private roads, and any shared driveways used by all members.*

*(iv) Property owners must pay their pro rata share of the costs in (b) (ii) and (iii), above, and the assessment levied by the HOA must be able to become a lien on the individual property in the event of non-payment.*

*(v) The HOA must be able to adjust the assessment to meet changed needs.*

*(vi) The applicant shall make a conditional offer of dedication to the Town, binding upon the HOA, for all open space to be conveyed to the HOA. Such offer may be accepted by the Town, at the discretion of the Select Board, upon the failure of the HOA to take title to the open space from the applicant or other current owner, upon dissolution of the association at any future time, or upon failure of the HOA to fulfill its maintenance obligations hereunder or to pay its real property taxes.*

*(vii) Ownership shall be structured in such a manner that real property taxing authorities may satisfy property tax claims against the open space lands by proceeding against individual owners in the HOA and the lots and dwelling units they each own.*

*(viii) Town Counsel shall find that the HOA documents presented satisfy the conditions in (b)(i-vii), above, and such other conditions as the Planning Board shall deem necessary.*

### *3. Maintenance Standards*

*(a) Maintenance and plowing of private roads shall be the responsibility of the property owners.*

*(b) If the holder of the Conservation Restriction finds any provisions of the restriction to be violated, it may, upon 30 days written notice to the owner, enter the premises for necessary maintenance, and the actual costs of such maintenance by the Town shall be assessed ratably against the landowner or, in the case of an HOA, the owners of properties within the development, and shall, if unpaid, become a property tax lien on such property or properties*

2/3 required – 3 opposed

Article 47: The Town voted to add the following wording shown in ***bold, italic*** font below to Section 4e in Article XVI of the Town of Petersham Zoning By-laws; or action in relation thereto:

***Within the bounds of any lot existing as of January 1, 2016 one rear lot may be created.***

In addition to the basic minimum lot area a rear lot shall have an access strip at least 40 feet wide from a public way to the rear lot, which access strip shall be in the same ownership as the rear lot; the width of the lot where the building or structure is to be located shall equal or exceed the number of feet otherwise required for street frontage measured on a line roughly parallel to the street; and the front, rear, and side yards on the rear lot with respect to such building or structure shall equal or exceed those required in this By-law.

2/3 required – 3 opposed

Article 48: The Town voted to vote to authorize the Selectboard to take all necessary and appropriate action to establish and to maintain, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 164 of the General Laws and in accordance with the rules, regulations and orders of the Department of Public Utilities and the Department of Telecommunications & Cable, a municipal lighting plant for all purposes allowable under the laws of the Commonwealth, including without limitation the operation of a telecommunications system and any related services. Voting was by secret ballot – 2/3 required 96 votes were cast 91 yes and 5 no

Article 49: No Action No Motion per the moderator

Article 50: No Action No Motion per the moderator

Article 51: A motion was made to read: the Town will vote to limit members of the Board of Selectmen to serving exclusively on the Board of Selectmen. The proposed By-law change would read as follows, and would be an addition to the current By-laws:

***Article II, Paragraph D, Town Officers and Appointees and The Election or Appointment of Same***

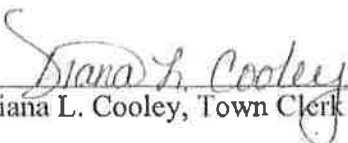
***Members of the Board of Selectmen shall hold no other Town office, nor serve on any Town Committee, except as provided for by the By-laws of the Town of Petersham.***

Motion was defeated

Article 52: No Action No Motion

The Town voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 PM.

This is a True Copy Attest.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Diana L. Cooley, Town Clerk



## NORTHEAST QUABBIN VETERANS' SERVICES DISTRICT

584 MAIN STREET, ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS 01331

PHONE: 978/249-6935 FAX: 978/575-0269

email: [vetagnt@townofathol.org](mailto:vetagnt@townofathol.org)

*Serving the Towns of Athol, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston and Royalston*

***"To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan." – A Lincoln***

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### **FY15 ANNUAL REPORT**

To the citizens of the Northeast Quabbin Veterans' Services District:

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts began providing for its needy veterans immediately following the Revolutionary War. At the start of the Civil War in 1861, the state legislature formalized the assistance by establishing Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 115 and Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services. State and local government leaders wanted to provide benefits to men and women, both living and deceased, who had borne the burden of military duty—and to their families. Chapter 115 enables every eligible Massachusetts veteran to receive certain financial, medical, educational, employment, and other benefits earned by military service.

#### **MASSACHUSETTS VETERANS' BENEFITS, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

1. Provides a "needs based means-tested" program of financial and medical assistance to eligible veterans.
2. Eligible veterans can be buried at no cost and a nominal fee for spouses in one of two Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries.
3. Women Veterans' Network – Provides women veterans with information on benefits; expand awareness of the needs; and identify health and human resources to meet those needs.
4. Homeless prevention – Provides outreach services through a network of assistance to at-risk veterans and/or their families.
5. Transitional Housing – Provides safe housing, a variety of services, and counseling for up to 24 months to eligible veterans.
6. Wartime Bonuses – Provides bonuses to eligible wartime veterans.
7. Annuities – Provides \$2,000 annually to 100% service-connected disabled veterans, Gold Star parents, and un-remarried spouses of deceased veterans whose death was service connected.
8. Access to federal, state and nonprofit programs and services.
9. And more...

#### **DISTRICT ACTIVATION & REACTIVATION**

Effective April 1, 2015, the District welcomed the Town of Orange as a member. With expansion, the board had to re-apply to the Secretary, Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services, for authorization to continue formal district operations. On March 9, 2015, the Secretary authorized the district to continue operations through June 30, 2017. District reapplication is mandatory every two years.

As of June 30, 2015, there were 24 Veterans' Services Districts operating throughout the commonwealth, serving 132 communities, and a population approaching 1.3 million residents.

**DISTRICT GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

For every district established pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 115, there shall be a Board of Directors consisting of a representative of each member community as appointed by the board of selectmen.

The Board established By-Laws dated January 11, 2006 define district operations and have updated the By-laws with amendments. The most recent amendment was on February 12, 2015 adding the Town of Orange as a member of the District.

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 115: Section 11 & NQD By-Laws:

1. At the November Board meeting, Director of Veterans' Services presents the next fiscal year's Administrative Budget to the Board recommending the funds required for district operations
2. The Board reviews, discusses and votes to certify the Administrative Budget. It includes each member community's assessment of the total budget.

**M.G.L. CHAPTER 115 – VETERANS' BENEFITS**

Veterans' benefits are monies paid by towns to eligible recipients. The Commonwealth reimburses a community at least 75% of dollars paid in benefits. See chart:

**FINALIZED FY15 VETERANS' BENEFITS DATA**

<b>Town</b>	<b>Benefits Expended</b>	<b>State Reimbursement</b>	<b>% Reimbursed</b>
Athol	\$162,537.66	\$122,340.78	75%
Orange	\$218,625.14	\$163,982.36	75%
Petersham	\$3,109.71	\$2,332.28	75%
Phillipston	\$10,637.29	\$7,977.99	75%
Royalston	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00	75%

**UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**

Assistance was provided to veterans with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); U.S. Department of Defense (DoD); U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA); U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), and other U.S. Departments and Agencies.

The office continued to work with veterans diagnosed with presumptive Agent Orange illnesses, Mesothelioma, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, Military Sexual Trauma, etc.

VA applications were processed for service-connected disabilities; increasing existing service-connected disabilities; Dependency & Indemnity Claims; pensions; burial expense assistance; Healthcare; Veterans Grave Markers, etc.

The district acquired military personnel records; medical records; medals, decorations and awards not previously issued to the veteran. Veterans have received assistance with DoD applications to correct Military Records and formal requests to review and upgrade type of discharge.

I look forward to serving veterans, spouses, dependents, and surviving spouses of deceased veterans, who formally reside in the District.

Respectfully submitted,

*Neil P. McGuirk*

Neil P. McGuirk, Director of Veterans' Services



**PETERSHAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**  
**FY2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

In FY2015 (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015), the members of the Zoning Board of Appeals were Maryanne Reynolds (Chair), Brian MacEwen (Clerk), Don Eaton (Member), Jeffrey Perkins (Associate Member), and Donald O'Neil (Associate Member).

The Board considered four applications during this period and took the following action:

1. Variance granted from dimensional requirements (rear yard setback) upon application filed by Emily Arnold, 11 Common Street, Petersham.
2. Special Permit granted to operate business (micro-distillery) at 88 Woodward Road, upon application of Jeremiah Friedman of Newton.
3. Special Permit granted to operate Behavioral Health Treatment Center and related professional offices at 211 Main Street, upon application of Heywood Healthcare, Inc., & Affiliates, 242 Green Street, Gardener.
4. Special Permit denied without prejudice to operate a Summer Camp at 39 Glasheen Road upon application of Jeremiah Wallack, 54 Glasheen Road, Petersham.

There were also a number of business permit applications signed.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald O'Neil, Chair