



2015-2016

ANNUAL

OFFICIAL REPORTS

OF THE

TOWN OF PETERSHAM

MASSACHUSETTS

Town of Petersham - Annual Report
INDEX
FY2016 (July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016)

List of Petersham Town Officials & Boards & Committees

Selectboard

Advisory Finance Committee

Animal Control Officer

Animal Inspector

Board of Assessors

Board of Health

Broadband Committee - No report submitted

Capital Improvement Planning Committee

Cemetery Commission

Conservation Commission

Council on Aging

Cultural Council

Emergency Management Committee

Energy Committee

Fire Department

Forest & Shade Committee

Highway Department

Historical Commission/Historic District Commission

Inspector of Buildings

Petersham Memorial Library Annual Report

Petersham Memorial Library Treasurer's Report

Open Space & Recreation Committee

Planning Board

Police Department

Route 122 Scenic Byway Committee - No report submitted

Town Accountant

Town Clerk

Elections:

Presidential Primary March 1, 2016

Annual Town Election March 7, 2016

Meetings:

Special Town Meeting September 21, 2015

Special Town Meeting June 6, 2016

Annual Town Meeting June 6, 2016

Raffles, Dog Funds, Marijuana Citations & Building Code Violations

Vital Statistics

Town Treasurer

Tree Warden

Veterans' Services

Zoning Board of Appeals

Petersham Center School Committee & Administration Report

Petersham Center School Financial Statement
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District Report
Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District Committee

**LIST OF PETERSHAM TOWN OFFICERS
FY16- July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016**

ELECTED BOARDS AND OFFICERS

Moderator	
Bart Wendell	Term Expiration Dates 2017
Selectboard	
Fredrick A. Marsh	2017
Nancy Allen	2019
Henry Woolsey	2018
Tax Collector	
Rene Wingertsman	2018
Town Clerk	
Diana Cooley	2018
Treasurer	
Dana Robinson	2017
Board of Assessors	
Ellen Anderson	2017
Jean W. Robinson	2019
Dana W. Kennan	2018
Board of Health	
Robert Pasic, Chair	2018
Fifi Scoufopoulos	2019
Kaye Cousens	2017
Constables	
Denis N. Legare	2019
Richard N. Bartus	2019
Larry A. Robinson	2019
Mahar Regional School Committee	
Heidi Shortis	2019
Petersham School Committee	
Angela Danielson	2017
Janice Coughlan	2018
Lynn Peredina	2019

Planning Board

John Lawson	2017
Fraser Sinclair	2017
Donna Byron	2019
Stephen Herzog	2018
Robert Rocheleau	2018

Trustees of Public Library

Hilary Loring	2019
Kent Byron	2017
Anne Perkins	2018

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

Richard D. Cooley, Jr.	2019 (3 year appointment)
------------------------	---------------------------

Sergeant

Randy Horne	2016
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Police Officers

Jesse Berard	2016
Jeffrey Boyer	2016
Peter Buck	2016
Marc Duguay	2016
Daniel Kimball	2016
Robert Legare	2016
Michael Leslie	2016
Jason Lichtenberger	2016
Timothy Wright	2016

Board of Overseers, Central Dispatch

Richard D. Cooley, Jr.	
Petersham representative	2016

Municipal Hearings Officer

(No appointment made)

Fire Chief

Dana Robinson	2016
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Assistant Fire Chief

Robert Legare	2016
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Tree Warden Melissa Levangie	2018 (3 year appointment)
Deputy Tree Warden (no appointment made)	
Forest Warden Dana Robinson	2016
Deputy Forest Warden Larry Robinson	2016
Robert D. Legare	2016
Shawn Legare	2016
Sexton Ellen Anderson	2016
Trench Safety Officer Gregory Waid	2017
Montachusett Regional Planning Committee Nancy Allen	2016
Town Accountant Jean Joel	2018 (3 year appointment)
Emergency Management Director Lynne Shaw	2016
Emergency Management Asst. Director Richard D. Cooley, Jr.	2016
Directors of Veterans' Services, Veterans' Agent, and Burial Agent Neil McGuirk	(Appointed through District)
Northeast Veterans' District Representative Vincent J. Purple	2016
Graves Registration Officer No appointment	2019 (3 year appointment)
Custodian of Tax Title Possessions Dana Robinson	2016

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

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

2016

Fifi Scoufopoulos, Agent

2016

Kaye Cousens, Agent

2016

Philip Leger, Agent

2016

Renee Wingertsman, Agent

2016

Board of Registrars

Diana Cooley, Clerk, 2019

Anne Perkins, 2018

Helen Simms, 2019

Alfred Berry, 2016

Broadband Committee

George Bull

Thomas Gurganus

John Blum

Shawn Legare

Andre Pierre

Capital Improvement Planning Committee

Janice Coughlan (Center School)

Tom Cahill (Citizen at Large)

John Lawson (Planning)

Irene Graeff (Citizen at Large)

Dana Robinson (Treasurer)

Fran Misiuk (Citizen at Large)

Robert Bellefeuille (AFC)

(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 2018
David Lockesmith 2018
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 06/30/2017
Patricia Delohery Kieras 06/30/2017
Christine Word 06/30/2018
Monika Agnello 06/30/2017
Louise Dwyer Huppert 08/31/2018
Emily Joy Anderson 01/02/2019
Jeannette Martin 06/30/2017

Emergency Management Planning Committee 2016

James Burke Dana Robinson
Brianna Skowyra Lynne Shaw
Fredrik A. Marsh Chief Richard D. Cooley
Gregory Waid (2017)

Energy Committee

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

Max Feldman

Forest and Shade Tree Committee

Clarisse Hart
Stephen Herzog
Robert Clark

Sheila Youd
Melissa Levangie

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
Randy Horne

2016
Christine Boyer-Thompson
Gregory Waid (2017)

Memorial Park and Common Committee

Emily Arnold

Rexine Barnes

Montachusett Regional School District Rep.

V. Edward Simms

Open Space and Recreation Committee

Robert Clark
Clinton Shaw
Henry Woolsey

Emery Boose
Michael Huppert

Personnel Policy Review Committee

Ann Degnan
Dana Kennan
Fredrik A. Marsh
Gregory Waid

Steven Boudreau
Dana Robinson
Randy Horne

Rt. 122 Scenic By-way Steering Committee

Nancy Allen

Tax-exempt Committee

Roy Nilson

Robert Paquet

Zoning Board of Appeals (3 year term)

Brian MacEwen 2019
MaryAnn Reynolds 2017
Don Eaton 2018

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



**TOWN of PETERSHAM
OFFICE of the SELECTBOARD**

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Petersham, Massachusetts 01366

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Annual Report of the Selectboard, Fiscal Year 2016

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

The Petersham Selectboard thanks all who participated in this year's town business for the community — town employees, members of the volunteer town committees, and elected officials — working together and with residents on a variety of town needs and projects. Fiscal year 2016 was a productive time for the town and as often seems to be the case, much of the work focused on bricks & mortar — that is repairs, restoration, upgrades, and general care of town properties of all sorts, from the historic, to the necessary, to the town's future interests.

Nichewaugh Inn & Academy Project

This project picked up from FY15 efforts by moving along on a variety of fronts: Final asbestos removal and demolition specifications were released for bids on July 15 with a submittal deadline of August 12. The required processes were fulfilled including property walk-thrus by all interested contractors. Four bids were received by the deadline with Associated Building Wreckers, Inc. of Springfield being the lowest bidder (as they also had been in 2010). Also in July, the Selectboard determined that the one building redevelopment proposal submitted by a developer in response to an RFP issued earlier in the year would go before the voters as an Article at a Special Town Meeting in conjunction with voters' review of Articles for demolition and asbestos removal. In preparation for Special Town Meeting, the Selectboard took in information and questions thru the summer from residents and committees including the Advisory Finance Committee for the developer to respond to via written replies.

During the summer, Town Meeting Warrant Articles were drafted for asbestos removal and building demolition and an additional Article was created asking the voters to consider hiring a planning consultant to review the future of the property and possible uses of the building and/or site. A public information presentation regarding all the Nichewaugh Warrant Articles was held.

In November 2015, the Selectboard issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a planning consultant, and in December received three responses. In April 2016, the Board contracted with Ted Carman of Concord Square Planning & Development (CSPD) to undertake a market and feasibility analysis with a deadline of September 2016. Project review by CSPD and public information and input sessions began in late Spring and carried into the Summer.

Vice Chairman Henry Woolsey managed the oversight of the Nichewaugh Inn project for the Selectboard.

Fall 2015 Special Town Meeting

The Selectboard organized a Special Town Meeting held on September 21. The Administrative Coordinator, Advisory Finance Committee, and Moderator worked with the Board with the primary purpose of the Meeting being to address the Nichewaugh Inn & Academy project.

At the Special Town Meeting none of the Nichewaugh Inn & Academy project Articles passed (four Articles required a two-thirds vote) except for approval from the voters to issue an RFP for a planning consultant to assist the town in studying the economics and possible future uses of the property as reported above.

Additional Town Meeting Articles included a resident's request for an easement for a barn partially located on town land along East Street; a request to receive grant funding for a town conservation restriction on farm property on East Street at the corner of Quaker Drive as recommended by the Conservation Commission and Open Space & Recreation Committee; the second vote as required by the Commonwealth so as to establish a Municipal Light Plant board as recommended by the Petersham Broadband Committee; and payment of a prior fiscal year Fire Department bill. Each of those Articles received approval from voters.

Broadband Project

The Selectboard worked through the year with the Broadband Committee on various aspects of the committee's ongoing efforts to bring a town-wide fiber-to-the-home broadband network (FTTH) to Petersham. In Fall 2015, work began on a Memorandum of Agreement between the town and Matrix Design Group, the preferred contractor for implementing the network and who had installed a system in the town of Leverett. In October, a meeting was held with Mass. Broadband Institute (MBI) Director Eric Nakajima, MBI staff, and Sen. Anne Gobi all of whom were supportive of moving the process along and in anticipation of utilizing Petersham's MBI designated allotment of State bond funds.

In January 2016, Governor Baker put a four month moratorium on all MBI activities as he reviewed the entire process and Director Nakajima departed from MBI. Numerous communications were received and delivered during the course of the year between MBI, the Selectboard, the Broadband Committee, and the Governor's Office.

In Spring 2016, Selectboard members joined Broadband Committee members and several other towns in attending a public hearing in Amherst whereby a review of Matrix Design Group and ComCast Cable was held. In May 2016, the Selectboard received a local citizens' petition signed by 63 residents and sent to the Governor seeking action on implementation of rural broadband.

As of June 2016, it remained unclear as to whether Petersham would be allowed to work with Matrix for the town's broadband build-out and also receive the town's designated allotment of MBI funding if it did so.

Glen Valley Bridge Project

In April 2016, after efforts by the Highway Superintendent Tim Graves working closely with engineers, finalizing specifications, and securing bids, the Selectboard awarded a contract to low bidder R. Bates & Sons, Inc. to construct the new bridge over the Swift River at Glen Valley Road which had been out of service for approximately five years. The bulk of project funding was provided from the State with a smaller portion provided by the town. The Selectboard thanked Tim Graves for all of his work on the project which was about to commence construction just as he was about to begin retirement. New Superintendent Greg Waid took over management of the project which proceeded into the summer.

Ledgeville Schoolhouse Renovation Project

The Selectboard worked with the town's Historical Commission and Petersham Historical Society on the renovation process for the town-owned 1846 one-room Ledgeville Schoolhouse on East Street using funding secured by now retired Sen. Stephen Brewer. In September 2015, the Selectboard approved awarding two project renovation contracts to Roger Graves Contracting of Barre and Douglas Cameron of Petersham as the low bidders and as recommended by the Historical Commission per the specifications created by the Commission. Also as recommended by the Commission, the Selectboard had the building's electric service terminated and approved the sale/disposal of surplus goods from the building.

In June 2016, a detailed application was submitted to the US National Park Service by the Historical Commission seeking status on the National Historic Register. The application had already received approval in the Spring from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The Selectboard is grateful to the Historical Commission and Historical Society for all of their ongoing work on the schoolhouse project.

Hearse House Renovation Project

In December 2015, at the request of the Cemetery Commission, the Selectboard approved awarding repair of the historic Hearse House in the Center Cemetery to the low bidder, CD Masonry of Oxford, MA. Selectboard member Nancy Allen worked with the Commission on creating specifications for the project. The renovation work of the 1889 building was funded thru private donations from local residents, a Greater Worcester Community Foundation grant, and appropriation from local taxpayers.

Town Hall Access Ramp

In October 2015, the Selectboard reviewed several schemes for locating a new access ramp at the exterior of Town Hall to replace the failing existing 'temporary' ramp. A site visit was held with Highway Superintendent Tim Graves for his input on potentially raising the grade of the front asphalt so as to help create a shorter ramp length. In February 2016, the Selectboard submitted the project as a request to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC) for inclusion at Annual Town Meeting. In May, the CIPC decided to not recommend funding as other projects took precedent.

Heywood Hospital Quabbin Retreat

The property at 211 North Main Street was purchased by non-profit Heywood Healthcare in October 2015 for future use as an addiction recovery center. The Selectboard and Heywood conducted negotiation discussions for a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreement per a draft submitted by the town's Tax Exempt Committee. The final PILOT was signed by the Selectboard and Heywood in January 2016, with the first annual payment due by fiscal year-end June 2016 and payments due in that same timeframe each year going forward.

Highway Department Superintendent Position

In January 2016, the Selectboard received notice of retirement from Superintendent Tim Graves; the Selectboard accepted it with regret and thanked Tim for his service to the town. Work began to review the job description, advertise for a new employee, and undertake interviews. In March, the Selectboard was pleased to offer the position to Gregory Waid who began as Superintendent in April. With the hiring of Greg Waid from within the department, the open position of Maintenance Operator was advertised. The Selectboard was pleased to offer the position to part-time employee Brian Bassett who began full-time work immediately.

Annual Town Meeting & Town Budget

As in every year, annual town budget development was conducted from January through June 2016 with the Selectboard, Advisory Finance Committee, and Administrative Coordinator working together with all departments and committees. At June's Annual Town Meeting, the voters concurred with the proposed budget and which ultimately meant important savings for taxpayers and a lowering of the property tax rate for a second year in a row.

Other Projects

- The Selectboard approved undertaking the biennial employee healthcare enrollment audit offered by town insurer MIIA and as recommended by the Treasurer.
- In July 2015, the Selectboard accepted the resignation of part-time office assistant Renee Wingertsman who was taking on an expanded workload as the town's new tax collector. The Board was grateful for Renee's many years of work in the Selectboard Office. The process for updating the job description and filling the position was undertaken with job advertisements and interviews. The Board was pleased to offer the position to Sherry Berube who began work in September.
- In August 2015, work began to make the two lower level Town Hall restrooms handicap accessible. Administrative Coordinator Steve Boudreau took on the assignment and oversaw the upgrades to each restroom including removing some fixtures and stalls and modifying the rooms into single person use thereby opening

up the space needed for handicap access. The project came out very well and the Selectboard was grateful for Steve's money-saving ideas and implementation working with building custodian Neil Legare.

- In August 2015, a heavy hailstorm did damage in sections of town including to some town building roofs. Barnes Landscaping was contracted to clean up the massive leaf debris through the center. Some residents had severe damage to their cars and home roofs. In October through the efforts of assistant building inspector Bob Legare, the town's insurance company MIIA reviewed all the town-owned buildings for roof damage. A claim process was initiated and further inspection work began through MIIA's claim adjuster into June 2016 when an initial settlement was reached and next steps began.
- To assist in meeting the Energy Committee's goal of 15% energy reduction, the Selectboard agreed to the request that town buildings' thermostats be set to 55 degrees during cold weather season when a room or building is not in use. The new procedure was put in place immediately.
- With financial support from the voters at Annual Town Meeting, one of the historic veterans marble wall plaque at Petersham Memorial Library was updated to include the name of Robert Walter Recos which was engraved on the Korean War plaque. The Selectboard thanks Steve Boudreau and Library director Jayne Arata for their efforts on the project.
- In October 2015, the Selectboard approved a forest cutting plan prepared by forester Mike Leonard for the town-owned Davenport Property off Doe Valley Road as recommended by the Conservation Commission. The Board then approved Anderson Timber Harvesting of Westminster, MA as recommended by Mike Leonard for the logging which was scheduled for January-March 2016. Warm winter weather caused postponment of the project until Winter 2017.
- In November 2015, the Selectboard approved the annual restart of the Petersham Wood Bank as recommended by the Tree Warden. The Selectboard is grateful to the Tree Warden Melissa Lavangie, the Forest & Shade Tree Committee, and the numerous volunteers who have made this program a success and a source of assistance to residents. Selectman Rick Marsh worked on the Wood Bank during the year with the crew of other volunteers. In March 2016, the Selectboard met on site at the Transfer Station to review the Wood Bank and a proposal from the Tree Warden to upgrade the area for better access, work area, storage, delivery, and pick up of wood; also in attendance were Tim Graves and Greg Waid of the Highway Dept. and Bob Clark of the Conservation Commission. With approval from the Board of Health and notification to Mass. DEP, the project was undertaken in late Spring by the Highway Dept. The refined area works much better for all parties who use the Transfer Station.
- In June 2016, the Selectboard met with Police Chief Dana Cooley to review his update of the Police Department's Policy & Procedures and approved the update as presented. Chief Cooley with Officer Legare requested canine liability insurance coverage for two bloodhounds trained and handled by them. MIIA reported there was no additional cost to insure the bloodhounds as they are considered a police resource. It was also requested to allow response to mutual aid requests calling for use of the bloodhounds. The Chief noted that use of the dogs would not impact the PPD budget. The Selectboard approved the requests.

We close with our sincere thanks to all who work to make Petersham a fine community for residents, businesses, and visitors.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy S. Allen
Chair

Henry L. Woolsey
Vice Chair

Fredrik A. Marsh
Clerk

**Town of Petersham
Advisory Finance Committee Report
Reserve Fund Transfers
Fiscal 2016**

Balance July 1, 2015 \$ 35,000.00

Transfers:

		Account Description
09/08/15	1,248.00	Selectboard Expense - storm clean-up
09/21/15	984.58	Fire - Prior Year Expense
03/08/16	6,910.00	Insurance - Nichewaug and Academy
03/22/16	13,914.00	Highway Department - Glen Valley Bridge
07/26/16	1,398.69	Administrative Coordinator - Overtime
07/26/16	132.58	Printing
07/26/16	1,406.38	Highway Department - Salaries
07/26/16	909.52	Elections Salaries and Expense

Total Transfers 26,903.75

Balance June 30, 2016 \$ 8,096.25

Respectfully Submitted:

Ross France, Chairman
Robert Bellefeuille, Clerk
Eric Mandel
Don Clarkson
Paul Youd

Animal Control

Petersham, MA

Reporting Period: 01 July 2015 thru 30 June 2016

In 2012, the legislature of our state approved AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING ANIMAL CONTROL. All towns and cities in the Commonwealth were required to complete implementation in 2016. Petersham is in compliance with all new regulations; changes include expanded responsibility and reporting, a uniformed training discipline requiring additional CEUs, and an enhanced communication network with fellow ACOs.

Thanks always go to our local dispatch and the Petersham Police Department for their continued support. Both agencies contact immediately when calls are received which helps tremendously with a timely response.

We had another successful rabies vaccination clinic, our local PAWS network was instrumental in the rehoming of several dogs and cats, locally we were able to respond to animal emergencies in a very timely manner, and our animal companions that get lost have a safe haven at the shelter until their families are located or they are rehomed.

Please register your dogs with the Town Clerk (it is the law), vaccinate your dogs, cats, and ferrets for rabies, and regularly check your fencing. You can never be too careful!

- dogs running at large-36
- cats running at large-6
- cats successfully trapped and returned to owner/rehomed-4
- dogs within Petersham w/search and rescue-5
- barking dog complaint-8
- assisted other ACO/agency w/search and rescue/capture (dog)-5
- dog bite/quarantine-3
- suspicious bat submitted to State Lab-1 (negative result)
- complaint of pigs running at large-3
- animal surrender-2
- contact through other agency regarding hoarding concern-2
- capture and return of homing pigeon-2
- dog in danger at home, removed-1
- general animal complaint-8

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Jones Bachrach

Annual Report of the Petersham Animal Inspector

Fiscal Year 2016

I wish to thank the residents of Petersham for their cooperation during my first year as animal inspector. Animal inspections are mandated by the State of Massachusetts for every city and town.

Animal Inspector Duties

The duties of the municipal animal inspector are important to both the animals and the residents in the event of an outbreak of a contagious disease. By performing yearly inspections the town has an accurate count of how many animals of each species are in town and where they reside. For this reason barn inspections are designed to conduct a census of the domestic livestock and poultry; to assure that all animals appear to be in good health and free from disease; and to ensure that appropriate housing and ample food and water are being supplied. Additional duties of the animal inspector include rabies control in the domestic livestock population of town and checking the ear tags and date of arrival of all cattle coming into town from out of state.

During the past year every effort was made to update an obsolete list of town residences with livestock or poultry. Thank you again to those residents with animals who contacted me to make sure they were included on the updated listing. A total of 84 locations were visited. Thirteen were found to no longer have livestock or poultry.

Town Animal Count by Species

- **Cattle:** 93 (includes dairy, beef, steers and oxen)
- **Goats:** 109
- **Sheep:** 54
- **Swine:** 63 (includes breeders and feeders)
- **Llamas:** 45
- **Alpacas:** 24
- **Yaks:** 3
- **Horses:** 79
- **Donkey/mule:** 3
- **Poultry:** 1,004 (includes chickens, turkeys, ratites, waterfowl, and gamebirds)
- **Rabbits:** 2

I wish to commend the animal owners of Petersham for the high level of care exhibited to their animals. I would also like to give special thanks to my assistant Deb Jones Bachrach for her help and support during my first year.

Respectfully submitted;

Marc Page

Petersham Animal Inspector



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 2016

Expense Account	\$ 14,330.00
Deeds, Postage and all Misc Bills	
Point Software, Software Maintenance	
Personal Property, Cartographic, Inc.	
Recertification	
Vision Appraisal-Software Maintenance	\$ 3,500.00
Vision Appraisal-Cyclical	\$ 23,900.00
Mapping Project	\$ 15,000.00
Assessor's Salary	\$ 8,050.00
Asst. Assessor Salary	\$ 31,447.00

TAX RECAPITULATION

Total amount to be raised	\$4,225,564.49
Total estimated receipts & revenue	\$1,814,624.07
Net amount to be raised by taxation	\$2,440,940.42

Tax Rate \$ 16.42 per thousand

CALCULATION

Value of Town divided by 1000

$148,656,542 / 1000 = 148,656$ will equal \$1.00 on tax rate.

Personal Property Accounts are not for public information.

Respectfully Submitted,
Board of Assessors

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



PETERSHAM BOARD OF HEALTH

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ANNUAL REPORT July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

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.

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, 2016 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

Perc Tests	13	Food Operations	9
Plan Reviews	11	Temporary Food permits	4
minor	2	Lyme Disease reported	6
Systems Installed	9	Tobacco permit	1
System Haulers Permits	3	Housing Inspection	1
System Installers Permit	4	Outdoor Wood Boiler Permit	0
Private Well Permits			1
Public Water Systems	6		

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

**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/ Nichewaug 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.
Francis Misiuk
Irene Graeff
Robert Bellefeuille
Fredrik Marsh
Irene Graeff
John Lawson
Francis Misiuk
John Lawson

CEMETERY COMMISSION

JULY 2015 – JUNE 2016

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. Ellen Anderson is the sexton. Barnes Landscaping is contracted to maintain the cemeteries. The Cemetery Commission link on the town website includes the information regarding burials and a listing of all fees.

The second phase of the construction of the West Road Cemetery stonewall has been completed by Fran Misiuk. Site cleanup was completed by the Highway Department and Barnes Landscaping.

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 for the restoration of the Hearse House in the Center Cemetery. The Foundation awarded \$16,000 for the project, and the contract was awarded to C D Masonry to complete the first phase of the project which included the following: straightening the west wall, repointing all four walls, repairing and painting of the doors, stabilizing and covering of the roof with a tarp. The second phase, which consists of rebuilding and replacing the slate roof through funding from gifts, repair account, insurance from hail damage, and budget request, is in the process of being completed.

Other projects continue for the Cemetery Commission. With donations being solicited from descendants, the installation of a railing on the steps at the Goddard Cemetery is planned. Pamela Barnes Chevalier has volunteered to contact donors, Chris Barnes has repaired the stone steps, and the search is progressing for an estimate for the railing. The plan for an historical guide to the Petersham cemeteries is progressing with requests for funding and grants. Additional projects include the cleaning of stones, repairing of stones, the removal of trees from hail damage, the removal of overgrown shrubbery, and the planting of spring bulbs as well as Memorial Day plantings.

Barbara Hanno's extensive photographs of all of Petersham's cemeteries are a tremendous asset for the Cemetery Commission. The photos are available to the public for research and family history through contacting the Cemetery Commission. 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, 2016

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



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 2016

Regular monthly meetings were held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. A quorum was not reached for the August 2015 meeting and it was not held and the April 2016 meeting was cancelled. There was a special meeting held on 17 November 2015 for issuing an emergency certification. Public Hearings and Special Meetings were scheduled to either coincide with regular monthly meetings or between monthly meetings as necessary.

The Commission issued two 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. One emergency certification was issued.

Twenty-seven Forest Cutting Plans were reviewed including landowner submissions, DCR Service Forester approvals, and DCR Service Forester final inspections. There were two reviews of DCR Applicability Decisions under the Watershed Protection Regulations and four reviews of approval not required plans from the Planning Board.

The four properties the Conservation Commission manages: the Lewis and Corinne Babbitt Wildlife Sanctuary, the Hallberg and Ganson Parcels, and the Davenport Pond Property total over 269 acres. A forest cutting plan was prepared for the Davenport Pond Property to address storm damage from an earlier microburst as well as white pine needle cast. The property was protected under Chapter 97 with USDA Forest Legacy funds with the expectation for sound forest management. The forest cutting plan is in keeping with the forest stewardship plan prepared for the property as part of the protection with Forest Legacy funds. Cutting was planned in the winter but had to be curtailed because of lack of frost in the ground and will take place another year when conditions are suitable.

The Commission also holds Conservation Restrictions (CRs) on over 840 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 CRs was done by John Baker's Clark University Land Conservation Course students which was once again a valuable educational experience for the students as well as a very valuable service to the Conservation Commission. They also prepared the baseline inventory for the Gross Farm CR Acquisition Initiative. 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 continued at the Sanctuary.

The Conservation Commission was awarded a LAND (Local Acquisition for Natural Diversity) Grant from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for \$242,336.00 in December 2015 for the former Gross Farm CR Acquisition Initiative Project, the second highest in the State. Subsequently, a \$10,000.00 grant for incidental expenses was awarded by the Quabbin-to-Cardigan Partnership (Q2C). This was our fourth successful LAND Grant made possible through the incredible work of the East Quabbin Land Trust. The former Gross Farm now Rice's Roots Farm of 235 acres is now protected through a CR held by the Conservation Commission which protects this valuable wildlife corridor, 30 acres of prime agricultural soils, and assures this beautiful natural areas continues to maintain the rural character of Petersham. Rice's Roots Farm will be an important addition to local agriculture. The property also

contains two interesting habitats discovered during the CR baseline preparation, a black spruce bog and a hickory hop-hornbeam community and has some historical landmarks: In addition, the 103.8 acre Feldman CR and the 51 acre Hutchinson CR were accepted and are now held by the Conservation Commission through the efforts of Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust.

Fiscal 2016 marks the thirty-third 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 6th 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. Once 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
Ashley Gabrenas

David Lockesmith
Ry Parcell
Henry Woolsey
Thomas Webber, Associate

PETERSHAM COUNCIL ON AGING ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2016

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 \$4,500 from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and a grant of \$1000 from the Town of Petersham. We are also supported by services from LifePath, Inc. (formerly 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 accepted the resignation of Eileen O'Grady and voted to have Michael 'Mick' Huppert be her replacement.

The Council on Aging Board for FY2016 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 LifePath's Meals-on-Wheels Program is in its 22nd 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 541 meals were served on 39 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 1030 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 373 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.

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

- The Fitness Program for seniors consisted of two 10-week sessions led by YMCA instructors on Mondays and Fridays on the main floor of the Town Hall.
- Floor and chair yoga was held on the main floor of the Town Hall on Tuesdays for two 10-week sessions led by Pat Roix.

- North Quabbin Community Senior Picnic at Silver Lake Park pavilion in Athol on Sep. 03, 2015
- Senior trip to the Eastern States Exposition on Sept. 24, 2015
- Quabbin Valley Healthcare delivered coupons for free pies for Thanksgiving.
- Donald 'Spin' Ainsworth played the piano in the lower Town Hall while people gathered around and sung Christmas carols. He tuned the piano at a later date. Dec. 21, 2015
- Petersham Center School chorus and band rehearsal at the school in Dec. 2015
- Rebecca Bialecki talked about progress of the Quabbin Retreat and opiate addiction among seniors on Jan. 25, 2016
- Jim Regan spoke about "Aging in Place" and elder services on Feb. 08, 2016
- Quabbin Valley Healthcare catered a free meal as part of their QVH Outreach to the Community on March 14, 2016
- Dept. of Health and Human Services presented program "Medicare Fraud and Abuse" on April 11, 2016
- Pam and Ray Chevalier did the Meals-on-Wheels Walk and contributed \$75 from Petersham which was matched by the Greenfield Savings Bank on April 30, 2016
- Luncheon excursion to Montachusett Regional Vocational Tech School on May 10, 2016
- Mini concert by the ukulele group of people that took lessons from Marc Erwin of Athol on May 23, 2016. The class was sponsored in part by the Petersham Cultural Council.
- MA Senior Medicare Patrol (MASMP) presented an interactive program on ways to detect, prevent, and report healthcare errors of fraud and abuse on June 20, 2016

The Council wishes to thank all that helped to make 2015/2016 a successful year.

- 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.
- Bob Laford for basic CPR and Anti-Choke Saver class.
- Steven Boudreau, Administrative Coordinator, for all his assistance in coordination the use of the Town Hall and keeping us updated on needed information.
- Assistant Administrative Coordinator, Sherry Berube, for help with our files and paperwork.
- Road Superintendent Gregory Waid for keeping the walkways clear and sanded.
- Neil Legare for maintenance and cleaning of the Town Hall.
- 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

Michael Huppert
Brian Miner
Lynn Shaw
Delores Wierman
Sheila Youd

Petersham Cultural Council Annual Report for 2016

Submitted by Jeannette Martin, co-chair

Members of the PCC 2016

Jeannette Martin- co-chair

Trish Delohery Kieras- co-chair

Pam Chevalier- Treasurer

Christine Word- Clerk

Monika Agnello

Louise Dwyer Huppert

Emily Joy Anderson

Fiscal Year 2016 Grants awarded

Applicant	Project Title	App #	Year	Decision
Petersham Friday Market	Petersham Friday Market	1227	2017	\$500
Quabbin Valley Pro Musica, resident chorus	1794 Meetinghouse of New Salem			
QVPM Fall/Winter Concert	2340		2017	\$200
Mass Audubon	Characteristics of Living Things	2808	2017	\$310
Lillian Gordon	Mexican Cultural Celebration	3720	2017	\$400
Orange Revitalization Partnership	Starry Starry Night	3984	2017	\$100
Simon, Phil	Old 78 Farm Fall Festival	4902	2017	\$200
Henderson, Steve	An Accidental Wedding - a play	5627	2017	\$300
Athol Historical Society	Uniquely Quabbin magazine/consortium	5750	2017	\$250
The Village School	Central Mass Children's Book Festival	6422	2017	\$200
Petersham Council on Aging	Tai Chi for Teens - Seniors	6609	2017	\$400
Village Lyceum	Classical Music: What's in the Name	7656	2017	\$400
Porcino, Storyteller/Musician, John	To Life! Celebrations in Stroy,			
Song & Music	7697		2017	\$425
Stanton, Cathy	A Quabbin Farm Album	8301	2017	\$100
Hamelin, Pied Potter	Pied Potter Hamelin's Magical Potter's Wheel			
8566			2017	\$375

Listening, The Barre Integrated Health Center Youth Enrichment Programs	8916	2017	\$477
Nancy Allen Petersham Historical Society - FARMING CONSERVATION	9529	2017	\$300
Anderson, Barrett The Blues World - History Through Songs and Storie	9676	2017	\$300
Nancy Allen PETERSHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Preserving History:	9854	2017	\$100
Athol Veterans Park Development Corp America's Sweethearts Concert	9876	2017	\$100
Petrie, Jetta Two Horses Native American Artifact Collection		2017	\$190
PCC Regional Art Show Regional Art Show		2017	\$640

Other Activities

The Cultural Council did a town wide survey and outreach to the town in order to collect information on the kinds of projects Petersham residents wanted us to fund. This was the three year survey required by the MCC and took place in June.

We created a written survey form that was available to residents at the Country Store, the Library, the Post Office and the Art Center. We also had the survey online, and had it distributed at the Center School.

There was an informational tea held at the Library on June 11 where residents could ask questions and give us ideas on future grant funding.

The results were helpful to us in determining how to allocate the grants. Many residents were interested in having more town wide, intergenerational events such as festivals and music.

The survey is attached. More information on the Grants is available on the Mass Cultural Council website.

Petersham Cultural Council Community Input Survey

Did you know that the Petersham Cultural Council funds projects in the Arts and Humanities at the Library, the Historical Society, the Art Center and the Petersham schools? It also helps fund some of the annual festivals, music events and other local activities that happen in our area.

The **PCC** wants you to help us set our funding priorities for the next few years. Please take a moment to complete this survey and give us your thoughts on what kinds of events you would like for the town. You can **return the survey to the Library, the Country Store, the Town Office, or mail it to Petersham Cultural Council, P.O. Box 486, Petersham MA 01366.**

You can also **do this survey online** at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RPP6W6G>

1. Were you aware that individual artists, schools and community groups can apply for grants from the **Petersham Cultural Council** ? Yes No

2. What current arts and cultural programs or services are you aware of and feel are important to maintain?

3. What do you consider to be important issues relating to culture in our community? (i.e., access to arts programs, special population group needs, school system needs, etc.)?

4. What might artists and arts organizations do to make ours a more livable, prosperous community?

5. How do you hear about cultural activities that interest you?
 Local paper
 Town website
 Petershamcommon.com
 Notices posted at the Library, the Country Store, P.O. or other public building
 Word of mouth
 Council on Aging newsletter
 Other: _____

6. Our priorities are to allocate funds to primarily local applicants, with an emphasis on Petersham residents, organizations and schools. We prefer to reflect diversity in grant awards from year to year, with exceptions for annual events and projects that relate to the wider N. Quabbin region. Do you believe we have made this clear in our publicity and our communications to applicants?
 Yes, quite clear Yes, reasonably clear No, not very clear

7. What should be the most important priorities that our council should consider for LCC funding? **Please rank at least your top three** recommendations, with "1" for most important, "2" for the next, etc.

- Professional development of local artists through community projects
- Nature, science, agriculture, and environmental education projects
- Arts education in the schools
- Restoration or preservation projects
- Communitywide gatherings: festivals, concerts, plays
- Field trips for students to museums or performances
- Projects celebrating local history, cultural diversity
- Other: _____

8. Is there a particular population segment we should attempt to reach through public funding of cultural projects?

- Elementary age children
- Teens
- Seniors
- Low-income
- People with disabilities
- Families
- Other: _____

9. Other comments/suggestions:

Thank you for participating in this survey!

The Massachusetts Cultural Council funds projects in the Arts and Humanities, History, Science, and Education, and helps to fund Community Events such as festivals or workshops on topics of interest to towns and cities in Massachusetts



Petersham Emergency Management Committee
Annual Report FY 2016

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.

With the upcoming opening 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 an additional aspect to our emergency planning, NIMS compliance and response assets & capabilities. A multi jurisdictional law enforcement/EMS active shooter training at the retreat was held in January 2016 and involved a dozen communities, Heywood Healthcare and the Massachusetts STOP team who were the trainers. Volunteer mock victims allowed for coordination of Law Enforcement response, EMS care and communication with the Athol and Henry Heywood Hospitals. Henry Heywood Hospital used this opportunity to meet their Joint Commission certification requirements in disaster preparedness. Approximately 100 people participated. This was jointly funded by the Town's annual Emergency Preparedness-Homeland Security grant and Heywood Healthcare.

The Town's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan has been updated as required annually by the Commonwealth and FEMA.

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 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 with disaster exercises planned in calendar year 2017.

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. Additional information and Federal disaster alerts are also available on the Town's webpage.

Emergency Management Director Lynne Shaw
Assistant Emergency Manager Chief Dana Cooley



PETERSHAM ENERGY COMMITTEE

FY 16 TOWN REPORT

After considerable work trying to design and price a pellet heating system for Center School, and because preliminary RFP estimates turned out to be much higher than the feasibility study performed and the grant funding promised, the committee decided **not** to go forward with the SAPHIRE (Schools & Public Housing Integrating Renewables & Efficiency) grant.

However, FY 2016 brought another Green Community Competitive Grant to Petersham in the amount of \$29,000. The work will be completed in the early months of FY 2017 and will realize considerable savings in heating costs in our municipal buildings. The projects include:

- Indoor window inserts to be installed in the original school building;
- New insulated overhead doors to be installed at the Highway Barn;
- Complete insulation and air sealing of the Town Office Building attic and stairwell.

Respectfully submitted,

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

**Annual Report of the Petersham Fire Department
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

To the Citizens of Petersham:

I herewith submit my report of activity by the Petersham Fire Department for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2016.

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

Structure Fires	0
Chimney Fires	2
Brush Fires	3
Stove Fire	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	9
Alarm Activations – No fire	8
Carbon Monoxide Alarm Activation	3
Smoke/Fire Investigations	1
Trees Down on Wires	1
Lightning Strike – No Fire	1
Delayed Ignition	4
Equipment Fire	1
Assist Highway Department	1
Public Assistance	5
Medical Emergencies	38
Fire Watch	1
Fireworks Investigation	1
Mutual Aid	<u>8</u>
Total	86
Permits Issued:	
Smoke/ CO Inspections	29
Oil Buner Permits	11
Fuel Transfer Tank Permits	0
Propane Storage Permits	21
Burning Permits	<u>458</u>
Total Permits Issued	519

The Annual Town Meeting funded the third 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 second allotment, we replaced an additional 600 ft. of forestry hose and will begin the process of replacing all of our 2 1/2 inch large stream attack/supply hose. The Annual Town Meeting also funded the third year of a program to replace the departments self-contained breathing apparatus (air packs). These should be received in the first part of Fiscal Year 2017.

Throughout the year training was provided at our bi-monthly meetings. In the good weather months practical training evolutions were conducted to refresh and hone firefighting skills. In the cold weather months First Responder refresher classes were conducted to keep our emergency medical skills current. In house and local instructors were utilized for all training sessions.

In October, the department once again partnered with the Petersham Center School to spread its Fire Prevention message. Grades K-2 colored a fire prevention themed page and Grades 3-6 drew a Fire Safety Poster based on the 2015 NFPA theme. The posters and coloring pages were judged and the winner from each grade was given a ride to school in a fire truck.

This was the second year of the on-line burning permit system. The on-line system has eliminated busy signals on the permit phone line and has been a great success. 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.

The department is always looking to recruit new members. In our busy world it can be a delicate balance between work and family commitments with little time left to volunteer. IF you are looking for a way to contribute or give back to the community please consider being a firefighter. We are in need of individuals that are available both during the day and at night. Daytime calls provide the biggest challenge for response as more of our current firefighters work out of town. Training is available at our regular meetings and can be attended regionally at no cost other than your time. Anyone interested is urged to contact the chief or a member of the department for more information.

I would like to thank the Highway Department and the Police Department for their assistance throughout the year. Good working relationships between departments is essential for success in a small community.

As always I want to thank the men and women of the department for their dedication and support. It is not always easy or 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 the citizens of Petersham for your continued 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 FY2016

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 continued to make great strides to benefit our beloved town trees:

- In April the Town received a Department of Conservation and Recreation challenge grant for "Planting Petersham's Future" in the amount of \$14,114.00. We have funds to plant trees on town gateways, and at the Center School. Funds also support providing public workshops on tree care (planting, pruning, invasive species, and grafting); funds also supported treating invasive species at the Town Transfer station.
- Continued making re-useable bags provided at the Country Store (and at Arbor Day)
- Continued our educational tree themed postcard series to residents
- Continued our all-volunteer Wood Bank program (now in our 3rd winter) that leverages grant funds from the Mass. DCR and private donations. In the heating year of 2016-7 we have administered over 30 vouchers for firewood processed from downed roadside trees.

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

Melissa LeVangie, Member

Town of Petersham
Highway Department
Annual Report
2015-2016

Chapter 90 Work

Amidon Drive, Dugway Road, Woodward Road, and Dana Road were fog sealed and crack sealed. Hardwick Road from Old Hardwick Road to Gate 41 were leveled with asphalt and micro sealed. Hardwick Road from gate 41 to Hardwick line were reclaimed and paved. We installed drainage and catch basins on West Street from Common Street west. We then reclaimed and paved from Common Street to the bottom of the hill. We edged, ground and compacted Quaker Drive from Hall Road to Rte. 122.

General Highway Account

All paved roads were swept. Dirt roads were graded, rolled and compacted. Gravel was applied as needed. Catch basins were cleaned and road sides mowed. Culverts were installed on Narrows Lane and Harty Drive. Edging and ditching of roadsides was done on parts of East Street, Glasheen Road, Old East Street, Nichewaug Road, Harty Drive, and Quaker Drive. Winter sand was processed and hauled to the highway department. Tim Graves retired as Superintendent in May. Greg Waid was hired as Superintendent. Brian Basset was hired as a full-time employee.

Snow Account

We used 494 tons of salt and approximately 1000 cubic yards of sand during the snow and ice season. The part-time help was greatly appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gregory Waid
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, 2015 – June 30, 2016

The Petersham Historic District Commission & Historical Commission met monthly throughout the year.

During the year the Commission received Project Applications and held Public Hearings for two projects: A sun room/porch rear addition at 37 South Main Street. The HDC approved the Application. Removal of an exterior door on the rear ell and replacement with cedar clapboard at 37 North Main Street. The HDC approved the Application.

Projects previously approved by the HDC that were underway during the year included the Library porch roof renovation, construction of an addition at a private residence at 11 Common Street, and signage revision at TTOR's North Common Meadow. In May 2016, the HDC-HC, along with other town committees, met with the town's planning consultant Ted Carman for a general review of the Nichewaug Inn & Academy property located in the District.

The biggest undertaking for the HDC-HC during the year was the review and editing of the existing HDC-HC Bylaw XII which runs 11 pages in the Town's Bylaws and governs the work of the HDC-HC. The Commission had felt for sometime that this effort was necessary as the Bylaw contained years of patched in modifications accidentally creating confusing sections for the reader. In an effort to remove contradictions and errors and improve readability and clarity, the HDC drafted an administrative revision of the Bylaw. In addition, the District Map was updated for clarity of graphic appearance. All Commission members worked on and reviewed updated drafts on a regular basis throughout the year, with Lynn Shaw coordinating the effort. The draft was reviewed by the Planning Board and by Town Counsel Kopelman & Paige. A Public Hearing was held with the Planning Board in April 2016 for residents' review and input. The final proposed Bylaw and District Map were approved by voters at the June 2016 Annual Town Meeting.

Beginning in August 2015, HDC member Chris Mandel worked closely with Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) consultant Stacey Spies on National Register applications for the two historic East Street Schoolhouses, the 1846 Fourth District and the 1849 Fifth District schools. In March and June 2016, the MHC approved the applications nominating the Schoolhouses for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places; from there the applications went on to the federal review level at the National Park Service. In Summer 2015, the HDC-HC reviewed bids from contractors Doug Cameron and Roger Graves for repair and renovation work at the town-owned Fourth District/ Ledgeville Schoolhouse and recommended to the Selectboard that the two contractors be hired. Nancy Allen worked on coordination efforts with both contractors during the Fall and Spring. Petersham Historical Society (PHS) Board member Jean Sinclair provided invaluable support to Chris and Nancy as the Ledgeville School restoration project was in full swing. PHS Board members Henry Woolsey, Jean Sinclair, Paul Youd, Larry Buell, and Bob Bellefeuille, along with residents Barbara Metzger and Dave Malysa, joined HDC members Mark Bishop, Chris, and Nancy to clean out the Ledgeville School so as to make it ready for renovations. The volunteer group also relocated many items from the School to temporary storage at the Center School and organized a sale of items declared surplus by the town.

During the year, Lynn Shaw kept the Commission apprised of repair and restoration work at the historic 1889 Hearse House in the Center Cemetery and which the Cemetery Commission has oversight. Chase Davis of CD Masonry in Oxford was contracted to handle the stone work for that project and Tim White of Barre handled the iron work.

In 2015, with the guidance and coordination of Mark Bishop, the HDC-HC began to offer a public lecture series. Guest speakers and topics for Fall 2015 featured Joseph Cornish on 'Maintaining & Caring for Historic Homes' and Sally Zimmerman on 'Energy Conservation & Retrofitting Older Homes.' Both speakers were from Historic New England. In Spring 2016, HDC member Bob Clark presented, 'Seasons in the Wild' featuring 40 years of his nature photography in the Quabbin Reservoir area. The programs were well attended and we thank the Library for use of the building.

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 2015 – June 2016:*

~ Nancy Allen, *Chair*; Robert Clark, *Vice Chair*, Mark Bishop, *Clerk*
Jeremy Gabrenas, Christine Mandel, Lynn Shaw, *members*

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 and followed the signing of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966. Today, there are more than 600 Historic Districts in cities and towns across Massachusetts. Since the 1930s, over 2,300 local Historic Districts have been established across the United States and the number keeps growing as towns discover and appreciate the benefits brought about by preservation.

Town of Petersham

Brianna Skowyra - Inspector of Buildings

3 South Main Street

P.O. Box 486

Petersham, MA 01366-0486

petershambldginsp@verizon.net

www.townofpetersham.org

Office 978-724-3586

Fax 978-724-3501

INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS REPORT

July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Category

Building Permits

Number

111

<u>Building Permits</u>			
2	New Homes	5	Decks and Porches
2	Additions	15	Roofs and Siding
5	Remodel	2	Barns/Garages
2	Repairs	9	Other
2	Sheds	6	Solar Panel
0	Demo	0	Greenhouse

Office hours are held every Monday from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Town Office Building.

Respectfully Submitted
Brianna Skowyra
Inspector of Buildings

PETERSHAM MEMORIAL LIBRARY

23 Common Street
Petersham, Massachusetts, 01366

Annual Report to the Town Of Petersham
of the Petersham Memorial Library
July 01, 2015 – June 30, 2016

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
- Don Clarkson
- Kent Byron
- Robert Bellefeuille
- Tally Lent
- Hilary Loring
- Anne Perkins
- Clint Shaw

Six hundred and eighty four Petersham residents were library cardholders in Fiscal Year 2016. Petersham Memorial Library patrons checked out 6,109 books, 721 print serials, 1004 audio books and 2,107 movies. 2,492 interlibrary loans were received and 1,598 were provided. 1,705 on-site loans were made to patrons who do not reside in Petersham.

FY2016 the library had 2 computers, 1 laptop and 2 tablets for public use. An average of 12 patrons per week accessed the internet using the library's computers. 809 wireless sessions were provided to patrons. The library's web address is www.petershamlibrary.net.

Our digital library offerings included 6 data base licenses, 45,753 e-book titles, 9,775 audio book titles, 130 electronic serial subscriptions and 997 video titles. In 2016, 905 electronic titles were downloaded from the digital catalog by our patrons.

The library was open a total of 951 hours which included 200 hours on Saturday and 104 hours after 5PM. 5,926 people entered the library during open hours.

Our shelves currently hold 7,708 books for adults and 4,704 books for children and 960 young adult titles. There are 44 volumes of print periodicals, newspapers and other print serials. 1,252 DVD/VHS titles were available for loan as well as 488 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 2015-2016 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. We offered adult/teen coloring on Wednesday evenings and a Lego Club for kids at 3:00 p.m. each Wednesday.

The Statewide Summer Reading Program theme this year was *Ready Set Read*. The goal of the program is to encourage children to continue to read over the summer. This year's theme encouraged physical fitness as well.

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 the photographer.

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 14 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.

The library offered 45 children's programs and 22 adult programs. Highlights for the year included:

- Arbor Day Program entitled: "Mushrooms, Forests & You: Demystifying the Fungal Kingdom with presenter: Matthew Shreiner
- Sparky's Puppets "The Kingdom of Riddles"
- Coffee House with the Nezich-Kramer Flute Duo
- 2 movie night screenings which included *The Great Gatsby* and *Shaun the Sheep*
- A Dowsing Program presented by Susan McNeill Spuhler
- The Gatsby Gala, our annual library fundraiser, was a fun and successful event. We wish to thank the community for its many gifts to PML, such as supporting our fundraisers for the new porch roof.
- Four Seasons of Quabbin with photographer Dale Monette
- Creation of a library reading garden to honor Grace Sherwood and her love of books and gardening and her many contributions to the library and the community. Through the expert planning and hard work of Ashley, Morgan and Brennan Gabrenas, Tally Lent, Barbara Hanno and others this vision came to be. It is our hope that it will be a beautiful spot to enjoy a good book, good company and the beauty of nature.

Non-library use of the building included meetings for the Historic District Commission, the Petersham Cultural Council, and the Scenic By Ways Committee.

Over 134 volunteer hours were logged at our library in 2015/2016 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

Petersham Memorial Library Treasurer's Report

July 2015 through June 2016

Income	97643.15
• Building Improvement Income	4329.95
• Annual Appeal, gifts, other fund raising	12721.35
• Trash Bags	6224.75
• Investment Income	62400.00
• State Grant	2508.79
• Town Appropriation	9050.00
• Other	408.31
Expense	88054.90
• Collection Materials	11702.68
• CWMARS	2471.00
• Insurance	2920.00
• Trash Bags	5700.00
• Payroll Expense	45095.30
• Building maintenance	7076.43
• Projects & Programs	2945.73
• Utilities	6638.71
• Other	3505.05
Capital Expense	33303.09
Accounting	805.00
Net Income	24594.84

About \$26000 of Capital Expense raised by Building Improvement fundraising



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 2016

Regular monthly meetings were held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM with the April 2016 meeting cancelled. The Committee explored ways of implementing the Open Space & Recreation Plan (OS&RP) with an emphasis on protecting our farmland. In December 2015, the Conservation Commission was awarded a LAND (Local Acquisition for Natural Diversity) Grant from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for \$242,336.00 for the Gross Farm CR Acquisition Initiative Project, the second highest in the State. Subsequently, a \$10,000.00 grant for incidental expenses was awarded by the Quabbin-to-Cardigan Partnership (Q2C). This was our fourth successful LAND Grant made possible through the incredible work of the East Quabbin Land Trust. The former Gross Farm of 235 acres is now protected through a conservation restriction (CR) held by the Conservation Commission. The Open Space & Recreation Committee explored resources to encourage local agriculture and to protect land with valuable agricultural soils. In addition, the 104 acre Feldman CR and the 51 acre Hutchinson CR were accepted by the Conservation Commission through the efforts of Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust.

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 connecting the Gould Woodlot at Harvard Forest to the Harvard Pond/Tom Swamp Tracts continued through work projects with MassLIFT AmeriCorps volunteers. An agreement is still pending from the Department of Conservation and Recreation for access through Petersham State Forest. A footbridge over Nelson Brook was installed opening access through the northern portion of the trail.

The OS&RP 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 Committee continued to identify areas and explore ways of controlling invasive species.

Protection of the former Gross Farm with its valuable wildlife corridor, landscape value, and agricultural soils assures this beautiful natural areas continues to maintain the rural character of Petersham. With thirty acres of prime agricultural soils, this property will be an important addition as a working farm. Through the efforts of Mount Grace Conservation Land Trust, the Committee now has an ongoing farmland inventory. Clark University students continue to monitor the Conservation Restrictions held by the Conservation Commission. Their work is greatly appreciated.

Identifying and proposing improvements in existing Town owned areas for public recreation is another component of the new Plan. Public recreation facilities such as swimming continues to be a difficult to address. The Committee continued to explore opportunities and improvements in existing Town owned areas for public recreation 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, 2015-June 30, 2016

There were four plans with a total of nine new lots endorsed as ANR (Approval Not Required) during FY 2015:

- Next to 231 East Street: lot 407.1
- 54 Loring Hill Road: lots 319.1, 313.1
- 708 Hardwick Road: lots 708.1, 708.2
- 276 West Road: lots 661, 661.1, 661.2, 661.3

There were two plot plans reviewed for projects seeking building permits at:

- 279 Hardwick Road
- 57 Old East Street

The Planning Board reviewed the new Petersham Historic District Commission bylaw that was approved at the Annual Town Meeting and signed copies of a new plan showing the boundaries of the district.

In June the Quabbin Retreat engineers gave a presentation of their latest layout for the facility and explained their plan to use vegetation to screen the proposed parking area from the street.

Respectfully submitted,

Fraser Sinclair, Chair

Donna Byron, Clerk

Town of Petersham Police Department 2016 Annual Report

The Police Department had another busy year with a total of 1945 calls for officers to answer. Although we have had a lot of calls for service, our residential break and entries still remain low as compared to surrounding communities.

I would like to take this time to express sorrow and my deepest sympathy to the family of Richard "Dick" Nickless. Dick was the leader with full commitment to our crime watch program keeping both crime watch volunteers and the police department on their toes. Dick never missed a day, assisting the police department in protecting your homes and property.

Our relationship and commitment with the Petersham Center School remains strong as Principal Joanne Menard and this department work hand in hand to assure the safety of the students, staff and visitors. High levels of training continue for our officers provided by the Massachusetts State Police Stop Team in the event of an active shooter situation at the Center School. I am confident that if an event were to happen in the Town of Petersham our officers are prepared for the task at hand.

Our DARE "Drug Awareness Resistance Education" program continues with the fifth grade class at the Center School taught by our own DARE Officer Dan Kimball. This program has been and continues to be supported financially with an annual donation by Harvard Forest.

The Police Department continued to work with the Heywood Group at the new Quabbin Retreat.

I would like to thank my officers and their families for their unselfish dedication while these officers put their lives on the line for the Town of Petersham every time they put on the uniform.

I would like to especially thank my wife Diana and family for supporting me each and every day.

Our department remains committed to provide you the residents of the Town of Petersham with the unconditional safety in which you deserve.

God Bless and God Speed.

Respectfully Submitted.

R. Dana Cooley Jr.
Chief of Police

**REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT
FISCAL YEAR 2016**

I hereby submit my report for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016.

Account Name	Year-To-Date Revenue
Personal Property Taxes	202,003.01
Real Estate Taxes	2,178,131.94
Tax Liens Redeemed	30,356.88
Motor Vehicle Excise	157,403.86
Interest & Penalties on Real & Personal Property	12,133.16
Interest on Motor Vehicle Taxes	1,449.77
Total Taxes and Excise	2,581,478.62
Fees - Miscellaneous	385.00
Transfer Station Fees	38,439.00
Rentals	350.00
Dept Revenue - Police	817.50
Dept Revenue - Other	
Total Departmental Revenue	39,991.50
Licenses - Alcoholic	2,200.00
Licenses - Dog	1,460.75
Permits - Miscellaneous Business	925.00
Permits - Other	255.85
Total Licenses and Permits	4,841.60
State Owned Land	64,145.00
Elderly Abatements	2,300.00
Exemptions: Vets, Elderly, Etc.	5,213.00
Chapter 70	425,758.00
Unrestricted General Government	105,685.00
MDC - In Lieu of Taxes	507,527.39
Court Fines	130.00
Registry of MV Fines	8,595.00
Veterans' Benefits	694.00
Total State Revenues	1,120,047.39

Account Name

**Year-To-Date
Revenue**

Fines	400.00
Earnings on Investments	1,258.12
Miscellaneous Revenue	7,104.89
FEMA Reimbursement	12,885.98
Total Unclassified	21,648.99

Total General Fund Revenues	3,768,008.10
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REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

Fiscal Year 2016 – Another year and another chapter closes. We lost some very loved community members this year. One particular person played a big role in this office. Richard “Dick” L. Nickless, our former Moderator. When I first came into office I was a young stay at home Mom who wanted to do something different. Ruth Bassingthwaite guided me into the position but never prepared me for the big booming personality that I would encounter when it came to Town Meetings. To say I was intimidated is an understatement. Dick was never anything but a gentleman who possessed a wealth of knowledge and professionalism. He loved this Town and the citizens in it as much as he loved his politics and Robert’s Rules of Order. His favorite thing to remind me of was that I was his favorite Town Clerk that he worked with in his lengthy career. At the time of Dick’s retirement he was presented with the town’s gavel. It was well used and there were pieces of it missing. I am sure we can all remember a time or two when a chunk might have gone missing. Dick may be gone but he will never be forgotten.

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.

Thanks also to Steven Boudreau for filtering the day-to-day calls until I get to work.

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. This was Barbara’s last year to serve on this board. Alfred “Alf” Berry filled her shoes. Thanks Alf for stepping up to the plate.

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

MARCH 1, 2016 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

DEMOCRAT

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE

BERNIE SANDERS	243
MARTIN O'MALLEY	0
HILLARY CLINTON	104
ROQUE "ROCKY" DE LA FUENTE	0
NO PREFERENCE	349

STATE COMMITTEE MAN

WILLIAM R. SHEMETH, III	237
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STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN

LAURA L. JETTE	242
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TOWN COMMITTEE

HENRY L. WOOLSEY	257
ANNE H. PERKINS	223
JANE R. DUDERSTADT	200
MARCIA L. SHAW	212

GREEN-RAINBOW

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE

SEDINAM KINAMO CHRISTIN	
MOYOWASIFZA CURRY	0
JILL STEIN	2
WILLIAM P. KREML	
KENT MESPLAY	
DARRYL CHERNEY	
NO PREFERENCE	

STATE COMMITTEE MAN

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN

TOWN COMMITTEE

UNITED INDEPENDENT PARTY

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE

STATE COMMITTEE MAN

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN

TOWN COMMITTEE

REPUBLICAN

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE

JIM GILMORE	0
DONALD J. TRUMP	94
TED CRUZ	33
GEORGE PATAKI	0
BEN CARSON	10
MIKE HUCKABEE	0
RAND PAUL	1
CARLY FIORINA	2
RICK SANTORUM	0
CHRIS CHRISTIE	0
MARCO RUBIO	29
JEB BUSH	3
JOHN R. KASICH	27
NO PREFERENCE	2

STATE COMMITTEE MAN

WILLIAM GILLMEISTER	67
REED V. HILLMAN	100

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN

RONNA K. PRUNIER	87
LINDSAY A. VALANZOLA	76

TOWN COMMITTEE

ALFRED BERRY	10
KATHERINE DODD	9
CAROLYN MAY	8
FREDRIK MARSH	7
NORMAN HEBERT	8
RICHARD NICKLESS	10
SANDRA LARSON	8
JANE HEIN	7
BARBARA NICKLESS	7
REBECCA LEGARE	6

553 VOTERS OUT OF 918 = 60% TURNOUT

MARCH 7, 2016 ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

3 YEARS

NANCY ALLEN	208
PETER F. GEORGE	169
BLANKS	3

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

3 YEARS

JEAN W. ROBINSON	315
BLANKS	64

BOARD OF HEALTH

3 YEARS

FIFI SCOUFOPOULOS	313
BLANKS	67

CONSTABLE

VOTE FOR 3 - 3 YEARS

DENIS N. LEGARE	315
RICHARD N. BARTUS	302
LARRY A. ROBINSON	301

BLANKS

MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

3 YEARS

HEIDI A. SHORTIS	304
BLANKS	76

PETERSHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

3 YEARS

LYNN JONES PEREDINA	195
ANNE MARIE GOODFELLOW	141
BLANKS	44

PLANNING BOARD

3 YEARS

DONNA K. BYRON	294
BLANKS	85

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY

3 YEARS

HILLARY LORING	89
BLANKS	277

380 VOTES CAST = 41% TURNOUT



Town of Petersham
Office of the Town Clerk

Diana L. Cooley

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

At the Special Town Meeting, held on June 6, 2016, at which a quorum was present, I certify the following votes were taken:

Article 1: The Town voted to transfer from free cash, the sum of \$7,665.31 to eliminate the Fiscal Year 2016 Snow and Ice Account Deficit. Unanimous

Article 2: The Town voted to transfer from free cash the sum of \$5,000.00 to pay the town's share of the property and casualty insurance deductible costs for hail damaged roof repairs at various town buildings to which damage occurred August 4, 2015. Unanimous

Article 3: The Town voted to Take No Action. Unanimous

Special Town Meeting Dissolved at 7:46 PM.

This is a True Copy Attest.

Diana L. Cooley

Diana L. Cooley, Town Clerk



Town of Petersham
Office of the Town Clerk

Diana L. Cooley

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

At the Special Town Meeting, held on September 21, 2015, at which a quorum was present, the following votes were taken:

A motion was made and seconded to allow Atty. David Doneski to sit on stage as a non-voter. **Unanimous**

A motion was made and seconded to allow Moderator Bart Wendell to call a 2/3 vote. **Unanimous**

Article 1: The Town voted to hear any and all reports necessary. A report was read by Nancy Allen, Chair of the Board of Selectmen, Henry Woolsey on behalf of the Selectboard re: Nichewaug Inn, Ross France, Chair of the Advisory Finance Committee and Chip Bull on behalf of the Broadband Committee.

Tom Cahill made a motion to use paper ballots on Articles 6-10 in an effort to keep this meeting expeditious and accurate.

Roy Nilson made an amendment to remove Article 10 from the motion. **137 in favor 60 opposed.** Motion passes.

Sworn in as tellers by the Town Clerk were Kathleen Geary, Chuck Berube, Richard Nicoletti, Roger Almedia, David Davis and Clarisse Hart.

The town voted to have articles 6-9 to be voted by secret ballot. **154 in favor 52 opposed**

Article 2: The Town voted to transfer the sum of \$984.58 from the Reserve Fund Account 015132.000 to pay unpaid FY2014 bills owed to R. J. McDonald Oil Company of Barre. **Unanimous**

Article 3: The Town voted to authorize the Selectboard to grant an easement for the encroachment of an existing 1 1/2 story wood frame barn on Assessors' Parcel No. 364, 100 East Street, Petersham, Massachusetts, onto the right of way for East Street as established by the Worcester County Commissioners and as further shown on a survey entitled, "Plan of Land on East Street, Petersham, Massachusetts, Property Owners Frederick F. Day, Patricia C. Brannon, & Constance D. Smith" by GRAZ Engineering LLC dated April, 2014, and recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 912, Plan 61, and to execute all documents necessary in connection therewith. **Unanimous**

Article 4: The Town voted to appropriate the sum of \$380,000.00 and authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard and subject to a positive grant award notification from the "L.A.N.D. Grant Program" of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to take said sum from a "Gross Property Conservation Restriction Acquisition Account" to be set up with funds to be transferred to the Town by the East Quabbin Land Trust, or its designee, for the purpose of acquiring a conservation restriction on the so-called Gross property, containing 235 acres more or less, consisting of two parcels shown on Petersham Assessors' Maps as Parcel Numbers 407 and 351, including no more than two building envelopes, by negotiated purchase, said conservation restriction to be conveyed to the Town of Petersham under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 8C, as it may hereafter be amended and such other Massachusetts statutes relating to conservation as may be applicable, to be managed and controlled by the Conservation Commission of the Town of Petersham; and to authorize the Conservation Commission to file on behalf of the Town of Petersham any and all applications deemed necessary for grants and/or reimbursements from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under Chapter 132A, Section 11 of the General Laws and/or any other provisions of law in any way connected with the scope of this Article; and to authorize the Selectboard and/or

Conservation Commission and Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the Town of Petersham to effect said purchase. **190 Yes 17 No**

Article 5: The Town voted 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. Voted by secret ballot **205 Yes 26 No Passed by 2/3**

Rebecca Fraser made a motion to limit the speaking time to 2 minutes per person per article. **172 in favor 18 against Motion Passes**

Sherry Berube made a motion to take Article 10 before the remaining articles. **Motion failed 18 in favor**

Article 6: The motion was made to transfer the custody and control of the Town-owned property known as the former Nichewaug Inn and Maria Assumpta Academy located at 25 Common Street, and shown on the Assessors' Maps as Parcel Number 48, to the Selectboard for the purpose of sale, and to authorize the Selectboard to sell and convey the property to an interested developer chosen by the Selectboard in accordance with all applicable provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws, and pursuant to the Request For Proposals process initiated by the Selectboard in November of 2014, for the purpose of redevelopment of this property upon such terms and conditions as the Selectboard deems necessary or appropriate, such terms and conditions to include the following provisions:

- preservation of the historical appearance of the original inn building as visible from public ways;
- incorporation into the re-development plan designs accommodations for the septic and water needs of the adjacent Petersham Memorial Library;
- an overall project re-development time-frame schedule of 24-36 months, starting from the date of conveyance of the property from the Town to the chosen developer;
- the posting of a surety bond of not less than \$2 Million Dollars payable to the Town of Petersham to ensure compliance with project redevelopment benchmarks, including the abatement or encapsulation of hazardous materials present in the buildings;
- a grant to the Town of a right of first refusal to re-purchase the entire property if the selected developer decides to sell the property;

And to authorize the Selectboard to take all actions and execute all documents necessary or convenient to accomplish such sale and conveyance provided that a Purchase and Sale agreement is signed by both parties by the time of the 2016 Annual Town Meeting.

A secret ballot was held. **67 Yes 160 No ~ The motion fails**

Article 7: There was a motion made to transfer from the Stabilization Fund \$358,792.00 and borrow \$750,000.00 (**\$ 1,108,792.00**) for the costs of abatement and/or removal of asbestos and other hazardous materials and for the complete demolition, deconstruction, and removal of all buildings and structures except the garage as detailed in Alternate 2 in the bid documents advertised in the Massachusetts Central Register issue of July 15, 2015, on the Town-owned property known as the former Nichewaug Inn and Maria Assumpta

Academy located at 25 Common Street, Assessors' Map Parcel Number 48, as may be possible with funding provided for the purposes, over a period of one or more years, as determined by the Selectboard, said removal to include site clearance, filling, soil restoration, grading, and seeding of the land upon completion of demolition, and all costs incidental and related thereto, including design, engineering, environmental consulting and project monitoring costs; and to authorize the Selectboard, subject to obtaining a "Permit for Demolition" from the Town of Petersham's Historic District Commission, to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the Town of Petersham to effect said abatement and/or removal of hazardous materials, demolition, deconstruction and removal of buildings and structures; and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to issue bonds or notes therefor in accordance with the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7(3A), Chapter 181 of the Acts and Resolves of 2013: An Act Authorizing the Town of Petersham to Borrow Outside the Debt Limit for a Certain Town Project enacted by the General Court of Massachusetts and signed into law on December 19, 2013 by his Excellency the Governor, and any other enabling authority.

A secret ballot was held. **115 Yes 106 No – 2/3 required ~ Motion Fails**

Article 8: The motion was made take \$357,872.00 from the Stabilization Fund and borrow \$380,000.00 (**\$737,872.00**) for the costs of abatement and/or removal of asbestos and other hazardous materials and for the demolition, deconstruction, and removal of the approximately 4,860 square foot brick connector building as detailed in Alternate 1 in the bid documents advertised in the Massachusetts Central Register issue of July 15, 2015, on the Town-owned property known as the former Nichewaug Inn and Maria Assumpta Academy located at 25 Common Street, Assessors' Map Parcel Number 48, as may be possible with funding provided for the purposes, over a period of one or more years, as determined by the Selectboard, said removal to include site clearance, filling, soil restoration, grading, and seeding of the land upon completion of the demolition of the Connector Wing, and all costs incidental and related thereto, including design, engineering, environmental consulting and project monitoring costs, and remedial repairs; and to authorize the Selectboard, subject to obtaining a "Permit for Demolition" from the Town of Petersham's Historic District Commission, to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the Town of Petersham to effect said abatement and/or removal of hazardous materials, demolition, deconstruction and removal; and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to issue bonds or notes therefor in accordance with the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7(3A), Chapter 181 of the Acts and Resolves of 2013: An Act Authorizing the Town of Petersham to Borrow Outside the Debt Limit for a Certain Town Project enacted by the General Court of Massachusetts and signed into law on December 19, 2013 by his Excellency the Governor, and any other enabling authority.

A secret ballot was taken. **79 Yes 73 No Motion Fails – 2/3 vote needed**

Article 9: The motion was made to raise transfer \$354,202.00 from the Stabilization Fund and borrow \$230,000.00 (**\$ 584,202.00**) for the costs of abatement and/or removal of asbestos and other hazardous materials as detailed in the base bid scope in the bid documents advertised in the Massachusetts Central Register issue of July 15, 2015, at the Town-owned property known as the former Nichewaug Inn and Maria Assumpta Academy located at 25 Common Street, Assessors' Map Parcel Number 48, as may be possible with funding provided for the purposes, over a period of one or more years, as determined by the Selectboard, and all costs incidental and related thereto, including design, engineering, environmental consulting and project monitoring costs, and remedial repairs; and to authorize the Selectboard to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the Town of Petersham to effect said abatement and/or removal of hazardous materials; and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to issue bonds or notes therefor in accordance with the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7(3A), Chapter 181 of the Acts and Resolves of 2013: An Act Authorizing the Town of Petersham to Borrow Outside the Debt Limit for a Certain Town Project enacted by the General Court of Massachusetts and signed into law December 19, 2013 by his Excellency the Governor, and any other enabling authority.

A secret ballot was held. **77 Yes 66 No - 2/3 required Motion Fails**

Article 10: The motion was made to authorize the Selectboard to hire a consultant to work with the community: to investigate fiscally sound options for the future use, development, redevelopment, disposition, and/or sale of the Town-owned property located at 25 Common Street, Assessors' Map Parcel Number 48; to evaluate how the property could help address the water and septic needs of the adjacent Petersham Memorial Library; to identify relevant grant and other funding opportunities; and to prepare a plan for this property presenting various options prior to September 30, 2016.

10 opposed ~ Motion Passes

The Town voted to adjourn the STM at 11:57 PM.

This is a true copy attest.

Diana L. Cooley

Diana L. Cooley, Town Clerk



Town of Petersham
Office of the Town Clerk

Diana L. Cooley

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

At the Annual Town Meeting, held on June 6, 2016, at which a quorum was present, I certify the following votes were taken:

Non-Voters on the floor: Steven Boudreau - Administrative Coordinator, Tari Thomas – Mahar, Tammy Crockett – Monty Tech, Harriet Wendell – Bart’s Mom (can’t do the stairs to the balcony), Joanne Menard – PCS Principal. The Town voted to allow the non-voters to stay on the floor.

The Town voted to allow the Moderator to call a 2/3 vote.

Article 1: Reports were read by Nancy Allen on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, Henry Woolsey on behalf of the Board of Selectmen regarding the Nichewaug Inn Property, Ross France on behalf of the Advisory Finance Committee

The Town voted to pass the articles in the Consent Calendar. This included Articles 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20. Unanimous

Article 2: The Town voted to authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal Year 2017, 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 2017.

Article 4: The Town voted to allow 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 2017.

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 2017.

Article 6: The Town voted for 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 2017.

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 2017.

Article 8: 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 2017.

Article 9: 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 2017 not to exceed \$15,000.00.

Article 10: 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 2017.

Article 11: 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 2017.

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 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 2017 not to exceed \$2,000.00.

Article 13: 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 2017 not to exceed \$1,000.00.

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 2017 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 2017 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 2017.

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 2017 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 2017 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 2017.

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

Article 21: The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,361,896.00 for the total; of the Selectboard Budget for FY2017 summarized as follows:

Total General Office & Finance:	\$311,009.00
Total Protection of Persons and Property:	\$372,646.00
Total Health and Sanitation:	\$63,657.00
Total Highway Department:	\$264,753.00
Total Charities and Veterans Benefits:	\$12,655.00
Total Unclassified:	\$337,176.00

Ross France explained that the AFC was decreasing the line item Medical Insurance under Unclassified to \$72,837.00 and increase Health Insurance – Retirees to \$65,000.00.

Dana Robinson amended the Unclassified Expense – Memorial Day line item to \$495.00. The amendment passed unanimously. Lynne Shaw amended the Unclassified Expense – Memorial Day line item by an additional \$150.00 for geraniums. The amendment passed unanimously.

The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$759,205.00 for the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District FY2017 Budget.

The Town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,180.00 for the Montachusett Regional Vocational School District FY2017 Budget.

The Town voted to unanimously raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,306,990.00 for the Petersham Center School FY2017 Budget.

Grand Total General Budget \$3,482,271.00

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 \$15,590.00; Town Clerk \$10,093.00; Tax Collector \$12,410; Selectboard, Chair \$2,717.00; two members \$2,384.00 each; Board of Assessors, Chair, \$3,079.00, Clerk, \$2,665.00, other member, \$2,509.00; Trustee of Library FREE; Constables \$11.28/per hour; Board of Health chair, \$193.00, other members, \$142.00 each. Unanimous

Article 23: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,800.00 for six (6) Petersham Brass Band Concerts at \$300.00 per concert during the summer of 2016. Unanimous

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

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. Unanimous

Article 26: The Town voted to transfer \$3,000.00 from the receipts reserved account number 285491.000 Sale of Cemetery Lots to General Fund Account # 015491.006 Cemetery repairs. Unanimous

Article 27: The Town voted to vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$102,730.00 to pay the FY2017 principal and interest due on the construction note for the Petersham Center School building project. Unanimous

Article 28: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,583.00 to pay the FY2017 principal and interest on the construction note for the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District school building. Unanimous

Article 29: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$894.00 to pay the FY2017 principal and interest on the construction note for repairs to Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District dam. Unanimous

Article 30: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,600.00 to pay the FY2017 principal and interest due on the Fire Department fire truck. Unanimous

Article 31: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000.00 for deposit into the Reserve Fund for FY2017. Unanimous

Article 32: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,364.00 for the Board of Assessors to fund the Cyclical Data Collection and Reassessment of Values of all Real Estate for Fiscal Year 2019. Unanimous

Article 33: The Town voted to accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 13, Municipal Buildings Insurance Fund, and to establish a municipal insurance reserve fund; and vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 for such reserve fund to make funds available to meet unanticipated future insurance deductibles or to provide for uninsured losses, or to pay Town property insurance charges.

Amendment made by Ross France to take the \$30,000.00 from Free Cash. Motion passes unanimously.

Motion passes unanimously.

Article 34: The Town voted to Take No Action. Unanimous

Article 35: The Town voted to transfer from free cash the sum of \$4,000.00 to be used to make necessary repairs to the roof and roof system of the Hearse House. Unanimous

Article 36: The Town voted to transfer from free cash the sum of \$42,642.00 to purchase a new cruiser for the Police Department. Unanimous

Article 37: The Town voted to transfer from free cash the sum of \$40,416.00 to purchase new self-contained breathing apparatus for the Fire Department. Unanimous

Article 38: The Town voted to transfer from free cash the sum of \$5,000.00 for payment of year three of five of fire hose replacement for the Fire Department. Unanimous

Article 39: Bob Bellefeuille made a motion to take \$107,634.00 from Free Cash and move it to the Stabilization Fund.

Eric Mandel made an amendment to make the amount \$107,616.00. The amendment passed unanimously.

The Town voted to take \$107,616.00 from Free Cash and move it to the Stabilization Fund.

2/3 required 1 opposed

Article 40: 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. Yes 41 No 33

Article 41: The Town voted unanimously to amend the existing Town By-law 'Article XII: Petersham Historic District Commission & Historical Commission Town By-law' as follows; or act in relation thereto:

Petersham By-law Article XII:

Petersham Historic District, Historic District Commission and Historical Commission By-law

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this By-law is to promote the educational, cultural, economic, and general welfare of the public through the preservation and protection of the distinctive characteristics of buildings, places, and districts of historic and architectural significance in the Town of Petersham, through the maintenance of appropriate settings for such buildings, places, and districts as a tangible reminder of the historic tradition of the Town of Petersham.

SECTION 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT

There is established in the Town of Petersham an Historic District according to the provisions of Chapter 211 of the Massachusetts Acts of 1966, and subject to amendment by Town Meeting vote as provided for in Chapter 211 and this By-law. The boundaries of the Historic District are shown on a map entitled "Petersham Historic District," dated May 26, 2016, which is on file with the Town Clerk of the Town of Petersham and recorded in the Registry of Deeds. A copy of this map can be found at the end of this By-law.

The Historic District extends from a public way in the Historic District, as defined in this By-law, to the rear bounds of a lot or 200 feet, whichever is the less.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS

As used in this By-law, the following words and terms shall have the following meanings:

Altered - includes rebuilt, reconstructed, restored, removed, and demolished;

Building - is a combination of materials having a roof and forming shelter for persons, animals, or property;

Commission - refers to The Historic District Commission established by Section 4;

Erected - includes built, constructed, reconstructed, restored, altered, enlarged, and moved;

Exterior Architectural Feature - means the architectural style and general arrangement of such portion of the exterior of a building or structure as is open to view from a public way in the Historic District, including the kind and texture of the building materials of such portion, and the type and style of windows, doors, and other fixtures appurtenant to such portion of the exterior;

Historic District - refers to the district established by Section 2 and any other district established pursuant to Section 11;

Person - includes an individual, a partnership, a corporation, an unincorporated organization, association, or other entity;

A Public Way in the Historic District - North Main Street, South Main Street, Common Street, and North Street comprise the Public Ways in the Historic District;

Structure - a combination of materials assembled at a fixed location to give support or shelter or for other purposes, including a building, framework, swimming pool, shed, platform, tower, or similar object;

Capitalized terms not defined in this By-law shall have the meaning given in Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws.

SECTION 4. CREATION AND ORGANIZATION OF HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

An Historic District Commission in the Town of Petersham is hereby established that shall consist of seven unpaid members, at least four of whom shall be residents and property owners of the Town, who shall be appointed by the Selectboard for terms of five years in the manner and for the terms of office as herein provided, and who shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified:

- one member shall be a registered architect, or, in the event that none is available to serve, a person who has had architectural training and background;
- one member shall be appointed from two nominees of the Petersham Historical Society;
- one member shall be appointed from two nominees of the Planning Board of the Town of Petersham;
- one member shall be appointed from among the residents and property owners of the Historic District;
- one member shall be appointed who, in the opinion of the Selectboard, is qualified by reason of his experience in the building trades;
- two members will be chosen from Petersham residents at large.

If within thirty days after submission of a written request for nominees to an organization entitled to submit nominations for membership on the Commission, or search for an individual meeting the above qualifications, no such nominations have been made, or no such qualified individual can be found, the Selectboard may proceed to make the appointment to the Commission without nomination by such organization, or to an individual without such qualification.

As the term of office of each of the members shall expire, his successor shall be appointed in the same manner for a term of five years. All nominations for appointment of members of the Commission shall be submitted to the Selectboard by a letter that includes a statement of the qualifications of the nominees. A member of the Commission may be removed from office for cause by the Selectboard after a public hearing. A vacancy in the membership of the Commission shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term in the manner specified for the original appointment to the term vacated. The Commission shall elect annually a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and a Clerk from its membership. In the case of absence of the Chairperson from any meeting the Vice-Chairperson shall preside, and in his absence the Commission shall elect a temporary Chairperson for such meeting.

SECTION 5. REQUIRED CERTIFICATES AND PERMITS

Except as provided in Section 6, any person who desires to erect, build, construct, reconstruct, restore, alter, move, demolish, remove, or change any building or structure within the Historic District shall file with the Commission an application for a Certificate of Non-applicability; or a Certificate of Appropriateness, together with such plans, elevations, specifications, material and other information as shall be deemed necessary by the Commission to enable it to make a determination with respect to the application.

- 1) No building or structure, except as provided in Section 6, shall be erected within the Historic District unless and until either a Certificate of Appropriateness or a Certificate of Non-applicability has been issued by the Commission.
- 2) No building or structure within the Historic District, except as provided in Section 6, shall be changed as to exterior features until either a Certificate of Appropriateness or a Certificate of Non-applicability has been issued by the Commission.
- 3) No building or structure within the Historic District, except as provided in Section 6, shall be demolished or removed unless and until an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness has been filed with the Commission, and such Certificate has been issued by the Commission.
- 4) No occupational, commercial or other sign or billboard, except as provided in Section 6, that is subject to view from a public way in the Historic District, shall be erected within the Historic District unless and until either a Certificate of Non-applicability or a Certificate of Appropriateness has been issued by the Commission.
- 5) Except in cases excluded by Section 6.
 - a) No building permit shall be issued by the Town of Petersham for any building or structure to be erected within the Historic District until a Certificate of Appropriateness or a Certificate of Non-applicability has been issued by the Commission.
 - b) No permit shall be issued by the Town of Petersham for the demolition or removal of any building or structure within the Historic District until a Certificate of Appropriateness has been issued by the Commission.
 - c) No building permit shall be issued by the Town of Petersham for a change in an architectural feature within the Historic District until a Certificate of Appropriateness has been issued by the Commission.

SECTION 6. EXCLUSIONS, LIMITATIONS, AND EXCEPTIONS

- 1) The powers and authority of the Historic District Commission shall be limited to exterior architectural features within the Historic District that are visible from a public way within the Historic District as defined in Section 3.
- 2) The Historic District Commission shall have no authority over the following:
 - a) The color of paint on all exterior surfaces;
 - b) The materials used on roofs;
 - c) Walls, fences, terraces, storm doors and storm windows, lighting fixtures, antennae;
 - d) Temporary structures or signs for use in connection with any official celebration or parade, or any charitable drive in the Town; provided, that any such structure or sign shall be removed within seven days following the termination of the celebration, parade or charitable drive for which such structure or sign shall have been erected or displayed; and any other temporary structure or signs which the Commission shall determine from time to

time may be excluded from the provisions of Section 5 without substantial derogation from the intent and purposes of this By-law;

e) Real estate signs of not more than six square feet in area advertising the sale or rental of the premises on which they are erected or displayed and which are not illuminated provided not more than two such signs are displayed in connection with each such premises;

f) Occupational signs in connection with a residence of not more than one square foot in area, provided only one such sign is displayed in connection with each residence, and one sign in connection with each non-residential use that is not more than twelve square feet in area, consists of letters painted on wood without symbol or trademark and if illuminated is illuminated only indirectly;

g) The reconstruction, substantially similar in exterior design, of a building or structure damaged or destroyed by fire, storm or other disaster, provided such reconstruction is begun within one year thereafter and carried forward with due diligence.

3) Nothing in this By-law shall be construed to prevent the ordinary maintenance, repair, or replacement of any exterior architectural feature of any building or structure within the Historic District; nor shall anything in this By-law be construed to prevent landscaping changes; nor shall anything in this act be construed to prevent the erection, construction, reconstruction, restoration, alteration, or demolition of any such feature which a duly authorized public officer shall certify is required by the public safety because of an unsafe or dangerous condition; nor shall anything in this By-law be construed to prevent any construction, reconstruction, alteration, or demolition under a permit issued prior to the effective date of said Chapter 211 of the Acts of 1966.

4) The Commission may determine from time to time that certain categories of architectural features, structures, or signs may be erected or installed without review by the Commission provided there is no substantial derogation from the intended purposes of this By-law; and while any such determination by the Commission is in effect, any such categories so enumerated by the Commission may be erected or installed without the filing of an application for, or the issuance of, a Certificate of Appropriateness.

SECTION 7. MEETINGS, HEARINGS, TIME FOR MAKING DETERMINATIONS

Meetings of the Commission shall be held at the call of the Chairperson and shall be called at the request of three members of the Commission and in such other manner as the Commission shall determine in its rules. Four members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

The Commission shall determine, promptly, and within fourteen days after the filing of an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness, whether the application involves any features that are subject to approval by the Commission. If the Commission determines that the application involves such features, the Commission shall hold a public hearing on the application unless the hearing is waived as herein provided. The Commission shall also hold a public hearing on all other applications required to be filed with it under this By-law, or under any other by-law enacted by the Town.

The Commission shall fix a reasonable time for the hearing on any application and shall give public notice thereof at least fourteen days before said hearing by posting notice of time, place, and purpose of the hearing in two public places in the Town; and by mailing postage prepaid, a copy of said notice to the applicant, to the owners of all property deemed by the Commission to be materially affected thereby as they appear on the most recent real estate tax list of the Board of Assessors, to the Planning Board of the Town, and to such other persons as the Commission shall deem entitled to notice.

As soon as convenient after such public hearing but in any event within forty-five days after the filing of the application, or within such further time as the applicant may allow in writing, the Commission shall make a determination on the application. If the Commission shall fail to make a determination within said forty-five days, or within such further time allowed by the applicant, the Commission shall be deemed to have approved the application, and the Commission shall thereupon issue a Certificate of Appropriateness.

SECTION 8. POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF COMMISSION

The Commission shall have the following powers, functions and duties:

- 1) The Commission shall have the duty of implementing this By-law by receiving and reviewing applications in connection with construction, demolition, and alteration of architectural features of any building or structure within the Historic District and of issuing Certificates of Non-applicability and Certificates of Appropriateness;
- 2) The Commission shall not consider interior arrangements or building features not subject to public view;
- 3) The Commission shall not make any recommendation or requirement except for the purpose of preventing developments obviously incongruous to the historic aspects and the architectural integrity of the Historic District. In deciding on appropriateness the Commission shall consider, among other things, the historic value and significance of the site, building, or structure; the general design, arrangement, texture, and material of the features involved; and the relation of such factors to similar factors of sites, buildings, and structures in the immediate surroundings. The Commission shall also consider the applicable zoning and other by-laws of the Town;
- 4) If a proposal is determined to be inappropriate, the Commission shall determine whether, owing to conditions especially affecting the Historic District generally, failure to approve an application will involve a substantial hardship, financial or otherwise, to the applicant and whether such application could be approved without substantial detriment to the public welfare and without substantial derogation from the intent and purposes of this By-law. If the Commission determines that the features, demolition or removal involved will be appropriate or, although inappropriate, owing to conditions as aforesaid, failure to approve an application will involve substantial hardship to the applicant and approval thereof could be made without substantial detriment or derogation as aforesaid, the Commission shall approve the application; but if the Commission does not so determine, the application shall be disapproved;
- 5) In approving an application the Commission may impose conditions that, if the Certificate of Appropriateness is acted upon, shall be binding upon the applicant, the owner of the property, and his successors in title. Prior to approving an application subject to conditions the Commission may notify the applicant of its proposed action and permit the applicant to express his opinion thereon;
- 6) In the case of a determination by the Commission that an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness does not involve any exterior architectural feature, or is excluded by Section 6, the Commission shall cause a Certificate of Non-applicability, dated and signed by its Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, to be issued forthwith to the applicant;
- 7) In the case of an approval by the Commission of an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness or in the event an application is deemed approved through failure to make a determination within the time specified in Section 7, the Commission shall issue a Certificate of Appropriateness, dated and signed by its Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, to the applicant;
- 8) In the case of disapproval of an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness, the Commission shall issue a notice of its determination, dated and signed by its Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, to the applicant, setting forth therein the reasons for its determination. The Commission may make recommendations to the applicant with respect to the appropriateness of design, arrangement, texture, material, and similar factors. Prior to the issuance of any disapproval the Commission may notify the applicant of its proposed action accompanied by recommendations of changes in the applicant's proposal that, if made, would make the application acceptable to the Commission. If within ten days of the receipt of such notice the applicant files a written modification of his application in conformity with the recommended changes of the Commission, the Commission shall issue a Certificate of Appropriateness, dated and signed by its Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson;

9) The Commission shall keep a permanent record of its resolutions, transactions, and determinations, and may make such rules and regulations consistent with this By-law and prescribe such forms as it shall deem desirable and necessary;

10) The Commission shall file with the Town Clerk and Town Building Inspector a notice of all determinations made by it, and approvals of application through failure of the Commission to make a determination within the time allowed under Section 7;

11) The Commission may, subject to appropriation, employ technical assistants or consultants and incur other expenses necessary to the carrying on of its work and may accept money gifts and expend the same for such purposes. The Commission may accept gifts of easements or other interests in real property that the Commission may determine will protect the Historic District or otherwise carry out the purpose of this By-law;

12) The Commission shall have, in addition to the powers, authority and duties granted to it by this By-law, such powers, authority and duties as may be delegated to it from time to time by vote of a Town Meeting.

SECTION 9. APPEALS

Any person aggrieved by a determination of the Commission, whether or not previously a party to the proceeding, or any officer or board of the Town may, within twenty days after the filing of a notice of such determination with the Town Clerk, appeal to the Worcester County Superior Court.

SECTION 10. ENFORCEMENT

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this By-law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than ten dollars nor more than two hundred dollars. The Worcester County Superior Court, upon the petition of the Selectboard, shall have jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of this By-law and any by-law enacted hereunder and the determinations, rulings and regulations issued pursuant thereto and may restrain by injunction violations thereof and issue such other orders for relief of violations as may be required.

SECTION 11. CHANGES IN HISTORIC DISTRICT

The district established by Section 2 may be enlarged or reduced and new districts may be created by a two thirds vote of any regular or special Town Meeting, the warrant for which shall contain an article or articles for the purpose. Prior to any such action the Planning Board of the Town shall hold a public hearing thereon and shall report its recommendations to the Town Meeting. The Planning Board shall give due notice of such hearing at least fourteen days prior thereto by posting in the Town and by mailing, postage prepaid, a copy of said notice to the owners of all properties to be included in or removed from an historic district.

SECTION 12. HISTORICAL COMMISSION

An Historical Commission in the Town of Petersham is hereby established under the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 8D, for the purposes and with the rights and duties provided by law. The Historical Commission is concerned with the preservation, protection, and development of the historical and archeological assets of the town. The Historical Commission shall conduct researches for places of historic or archeological value, shall cooperate with the State Archeologist in conducting such researches or other surveys, and shall seek to coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes, and may advertise, prepare, print, and distribute books, maps, charts, plans, and pamphlets that it deems necessary for its work. For the purpose of protecting and preserving such places, it may make such recommendations as it deems necessary to the Selectboard and, subject to their approval, to the Massachusetts Historical Commission, that any such place be certified as an historical or archeological landmark. It shall report to the state archeologist the existence of any archeological, paleontological, or historical site or object discovered in accordance with

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 9, Section 27C, and shall apply for permits necessary pursuant to said Section 27 C. Any information received by the Historical Commission with respect to the location of sites and specimens, as defined in said Chapter 9, Section 26B, shall not be a public record.

The Historical Commission may:

hold hearings;

enter into contracts with individuals, organizations and institutions for services furthering the objectives of the Historical Commission's program;

enter into contracts with local or regional associations for cooperative endeavors furthering the Historical Commission's program;

accept gifts, contributions and bequests of funds from individuals, foundations and from federal, state, or other governmental bodies for the purpose of furthering the Historical Commission's program;

make and sign any agreements and may do and perform any and all acts that may be necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of this By-law.

The Historical Commission shall keep accurate records of its meetings and actions and shall file an annual report, which shall be printed in the annual Town report.

The Historical Commission shall consist of seven members, those members being the same as those appointed to the Historic District Commission. Four members of the Historical Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Article 42: The Town voted unanimously to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 57 as amended in its entirety, and hereby enact the following Petersham By-law as 'Article XIX: Local licenses and permits; denial, revocation, or suspension for failure to pay municipal taxes or charges,' as follows;

Article XIX:

**Local licenses and permits; denial, revocation, or suspension
for failure to pay municipal taxes or charges**

Section 1. As provided for herein, the Town of Petersham may deny any application for, or revoke or suspend a building permit, or any local license or permit including renewals and transfers issued by any board, officer, department for any person, corporation or business enterprise, who has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments, or any other municipal charges, including amounts assessed under the provisions of section twenty-one D of Chapter 40 of the General Laws or with respect to any activity, event or other matter which is the subject of such license or permit and which activity, event or matter is carried out or exercised or is to be carried out or exercised on or about real estate whose owner has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or any other municipal charges.

Section 2. The tax collector or other Town official responsible for records of all municipal taxes, assessments, betterments, and other municipal charges, hereinafter referred to as the tax collector, shall annually furnish to each department, board, commission or division, hereinafter referred to as the licensing authority, that issues licenses or permits including renewals and transfers, a list of any person, corporation, or business enterprise, hereinafter referred to as the party, that has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or other municipal charges for not less than a twelve month period, and that such party has not filed in good faith a pending application for an abatement of such tax or a pending petition before the appellate tax board.

Section 3. The licensing authority may deny, revoke or suspend any license or permit, including renewals and transfers of any party whose name appears on said list furnished to the licensing authority from the tax collector or with respect to any activity, event or other matter which is the subject of such license or permit and which

activity, event or matter is carried out or exercised or is to be carried out or exercised on or about real estate owned by any party whose name appears on said list furnished to the licensing authority from the tax collector; provided, however, that written notice is given to the party and the tax collector, as required by applicable provisions of law, and the party is given a hearing, to be held not earlier than fourteen days after said notice. Said list shall be prima facie evidence for denial, revocation or suspension of said license or permit to any party. The tax collector shall have the right to intervene in any hearing conducted with respect to such license denial, revocation or suspension. Any findings made by the licensing authority with respect to such license denial, revocation or suspension shall be made only for the purposes of such proceeding and shall not be relevant to or introduced in any other proceeding at law, except for any appeal from such license denial, revocation or suspension. Any license or permit denied, suspended or revoked under this section shall not be reissued or renewed until the license authority receives a certificate issued by the tax collector that the party is in good standing with respect to any and all local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or other municipal charges, payable to the Town as the date of issuance of said certificate.

Section 4. Any party shall be given an opportunity to enter into a payment agreement, thereby allowing the licensing authority to issue a certificate indicating said limitations to the license or permit and the validity of said license shall be conditioned upon the satisfactory compliance with said agreement. Failure to comply with said agreement shall be grounds for the suspension or revocation of said license or permit; provided, however, that the holder be given notice and a hearing as required by applicable provisions of law.

Section 5. The Selectboard may waive such denial, suspension, or revocation if it finds there is no direct or indirect business interest by the property owner, its officers or stockholders, if any, or members of his immediate family, as defined in section one of chapter two hundred and sixty-eight A of the General Laws in the business or activity conducted in or on said property.

Section 6. This bylaw shall not apply to the following licenses and permits: open burning; section thirteen of G.L. chapter forty-eight; bicycle permits; section eleven A of G.L. chapter eighty-five; sales of articles for charitable purposes, section thirty-three of G.L. chapter one hundred and one; children work permits, section sixty-nine of G.L. chapter one hundred and forty-nine; clubs, associations dispensing food or beverage licenses, section twenty-one E of G.L. chapter one hundred and forty; dog licenses, section one hundred and thirty-seven of G.L. chapter one hundred and forty; fishing, hunting, trapping license, section twelve of G.L. chapter one hundred and thirty-one; marriage licenses, section twenty-eight of G.L. chapter two hundred and seven and theatrical events, public exhibition permits, section one hundred and eighty-one of G.L. chapter one hundred and forty.

Section 7. Except as stated in the preceding section, no local license or permit shall be excluded from the provisions of this by-law.

Article 43: The Town voted to officially abandon a section of old road in front of 231 East Street. Area of land is approximately 36 ft wide + or - and 200+ - long and return to abutters. The piece of land is in front of property no. 195 map id 408 book no. 32781. 2/3 required Unanimous

Article 44: The article did not receive a second...the motion didn't stand.

Article 45: The Town voted to defeat the article. 11 Yes 76 No

Article 46: The Town voted to defeat the article. 2 Yes 85 No

The Annual Town Meeting was dissolved at 10:12 PM.

This is a True Copy Attest.

Diana L. Cooley

Diana L. Cooley, Town Clerk

Town Clerk

RAFFLES

The following organizations purchased raffle licenses at \$10.00 each for a total of \$20.00, which was paid to the Treasurer.

Petersham Curling Club
Petersham Curling Club

DOG FUNDS

A total of \$1,460.75 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 \$400.00 was collected in marijuana citations and turned over to the Treasurer.

BUILDING CODE VIOLATIONS

A total of \$0.00 was collected in building code violations and turned over to the Treasurer

Vital Statistics of the Town Clerk

Births

From July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 there were 5 babies born – 2 girls and 3 boys.
From January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016 there were 3 babies born – 1 girl and 2 boys.

Marriages

August 16, 2015	Tyson Reid Neukirch	Petersham
	Emily Adair Anderson	Petersham
August 22, 2015	Darren Robert Bouchard	New Salem
	Julie Marie Smith	New Salem
September 26, 2015	Trevor Rowe McHugh	Barre
	Amanda Lynn Russell	Barre
October 22, 2015	Gregory Alan Grandbois	Petersham
	Katheryn Shea Garland	Petersham
March 19, 2016	Charles Dewey McConologue	Petersham
	Jada Jan Brigham	Petersham

Deaths

August 16, 2015	Lorraine Therese LaFreniere	Petersham	80
September 7, 2015	Jeffrey David Perkins	Petersham	42
October 18, 2015	Anne Christine MacLeod	Petersham	88
October 27, 2015	Elizabeth Sherwood	Petersham	74
January 2, 2016	Muriel Vincent	Petersham	90
January 3, 2016	Bernard A. LePoer	Petersham	91
January 8, 2016	Edna Thomson	Petersham	90
February 21, 2016	Scot F. Wilson	Petersham	55
March 8, 2016	Mark Wingertsman, Sr.	Petersham	64
April 3, 2016	Kevin Lee Parizo	Petersham	48
April 29, 2016	Richard L. Nickless	Petersham	87

Of the above, 4 burials took place in Petersham. There were 11 burials brought into town.

**Town of Petersham
Fiscal Year 2016
Trust Fund Reconciliation**

Fund	Princ. Bal. 7/1/2015	Earnings Bal. 7/1/2015	Princ. Contrib.	Earnings Net	Cash Disb.	Princ. Bal. 6/30/2015	Earnings Bal 6/30/2015	Ending Cash Value
Cemetery Funds								
Consolidated Cemetery I & II	\$ 75,651.71	\$ 841.53	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 727.76		\$ 76,851.71	\$ 1,569.29	\$ 78,421.00
E.M. Cook Cemetery Fund	1,026.25	21.37		9.99	-	1,026.25	31.36	1,057.61
L.L. Pond Cemetery Fund I & II	2,333.33	48.55		22.66		2,333.33	71.21	2,404.54
Belle Rickey Cemetery Fund	188.97	2.35		1.79	(2.10)	188.97	2.04	191.01
Cemetery Bequests	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
Annie Daniels Flower Fund	1,069.54	13.40		10.30	(11.93)	1,069.54	11.77	1,081.31
John Mudge Flower Fund	2,131.32	141.21		21.61	(22.83)	2,131.32	139.99	2,271.31
J & C Williams Flower Fund	544.61	6.83		5.25	(6.09)	544.61	5.99	550.60
William Smith Cemetery Fund	9,000.00	188.04		87.44	-	9,000.00	275.48	9,275.48
SubTotal	\$ 91,945.73	\$ 1,263.28	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 886.80	\$ (42.95)	\$ 93,145.73	\$ 2,107.13	\$ 95,252.86
School Funds								
McCarthy School fund	\$ 3,310.91	\$ 647.05		\$ 37.66	\$ -	\$ 3,310.91	\$ 684.71	\$ 3,995.62
Hildreth School fund	4,476.72	168.51		44.23	-	4,476.72	212.74	4,689.46
Josephine Dickman School Fund	2,926.79	145.85		29.21	-	2,926.79	175.06	3,101.85
Discovery Center School	459.22	280.29		7.03	-	459.22	287.32	746.54
Subtotal	\$ 11,173.64	\$ 1,241.70	\$ -	\$ 118.13	\$ -	\$ 11,173.64	\$ 1,359.83	\$ 12,533.47
Library Funds								
Mann Library Fund I & II	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,240.00		\$ 59.36		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,299.36	\$ 6,299.36
GW Cook Library Fund	1,026.25	254.83		12.19		1,026.25	267.02	1,293.27
Spooner Library Fund I, II & III	4,659.00	58.52		44.87	(92.74)	4,659.00	10.65	4,669.65
Wheeler Library fund	3,000.00	744.00		35.64		3,000.00	779.64	3,779.64
Subtotal	\$ 13,685.25	\$ 2,297.35	\$ -	\$ 152.06	\$ (92.74)	\$ 13,685.25	\$ 2,356.67	\$ 16,041.92
Conservation Funds								
Babbit Fund	\$ 60,465.55	\$ 1,541.22		\$ 590.04	\$ (2,473.00)	\$ 60,021.04	\$ 102.77	\$ 60,123.81
Evelyn Murphy Conservation Fund	10,000.00	4,611.61		139.10	(1,335.50)	10,000.00	3,415.21	13,415.21
Subtotal	\$ 70,465.55	\$ 6,152.83	\$ -	\$ 729.14	\$ (3,808.50)	\$ 70,021.04	\$ 3,517.98	\$ 73,539.02
Charity Funds								
Elizabeth Newton Charity Fund	\$ 3,441.65	\$ 9,826.77		\$ 126.24	\$ -	\$ 3,441.65	\$ 9,953.01	\$ 13,394.66
E Newton Deserving Poor Fund	13,672.26	34,918.33		462.33	-	13,672.26	35,380.66	49,052.92
Subtotal	\$ 17,113.91	\$ 44,745.10	\$ -	\$ 588.57	\$ -	\$ 17,113.91	\$ 45,333.67	\$ 62,447.58

Town of Petersham
Fiscal Year 2016

Department:	Budget	Expended	Unexpended
Town Meeting Moderator			
Department Head Salary	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$70.00
Total Town Moderator	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$70.00
Board of Selectmen			
Board Members Salaries	\$7,300.00	\$7,300.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$5,532.00	\$5,150.17	\$381.83
Part - Time Clerk	\$5,124.00	\$5,082.56	\$41.44
Total Board of Selectmen	\$17,956.00	\$17,532.73	\$423.27
Town Admin Coordinator			
Salary	\$45,018.00	\$45,011.20	\$6.80
Admin Coordinator Overtime	\$2,212.69	\$2,212.69	\$0.00
Total Town Admin Coordinator	\$47,230.69	\$47,223.89	\$6.80
Finance Committee			
Expenses	\$505.00	\$329.00	\$176.00
Total Finance Committee	\$505.00	\$329.00	\$176.00
Reserve Fund	\$35,000.00	\$26,903.75	\$8,096.25
Town Accountant			
Salary	\$15,209.00	\$15,209.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$4,836.00	\$4,494.25	\$341.75
Audit	\$24,500.00	\$0.00	\$24,500.00
Accounting Clerk	\$2,000.00	\$1,547.74	\$452.26
Total Town Accountant	\$46,545.00	\$21,250.99	\$25,294.01
Board of Assessors			
Board Members Salaries	\$8,050.00	\$8,050.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$14,330.00	\$10,048.69	\$4,281.31
Assistant Assessor Salary	\$31,447.00	\$31,447.00	\$0.00
Mapping Project	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
FY 16 Revaluation	\$11,975.72	\$10,761.08	\$1,214.64
Total Board of Assessors	\$80,802.72	\$60,306.77	\$20,495.95
Treasurer			
Salary	\$15,209.00	\$15,209.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$4,086.00	\$3,572.94	\$513.06
Payroll Processing Fees	\$3,400.00	\$3,146.13	\$253.87
Total Treasurer	\$22,695.00	\$21,928.07	\$766.93
Tax Collector			
Salary	\$12,807.00	\$12,107.00	\$700.00
Expenses	\$18,065.00	\$17,491.09	\$573.91
Total Tax Collector	\$30,872.00	\$29,598.09	\$1,273.91
Town Counsel			
Legal Fees	\$12,029.89	\$9,412.89	\$2,617.00
Total Town Counsel	\$12,029.89	\$9,412.89	\$2,617.00

Department:	Budget	Expended	Unexpended
Town Clerk			
Salary	\$9,846.00	\$9,846.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$2,909.00	\$2,814.22	\$94.78
Vital Statistics	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Vital Records	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Part-Time Clerk	\$618.00	\$618.00	\$0.00
Total Town Clerk	\$18,473.00	\$13,378.22	\$5,094.78
Election & Registration			
Salaries	\$4,844.10	\$4,844.10	\$0.00
Expenses	\$1,515.42	\$1,515.42	\$0.00
Total Election & Registration	\$6,359.52	\$6,359.52	\$0.00
Planning Board			
Expenses	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Total Planning Board	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Zoning Board of Appeals			
Expenses	\$500.00	\$424.00	\$76.00
ZBA Consultant	\$960.00	\$0.00	\$960.00
Total Zoning Board of Appeals	\$1,460.00	\$424.00	\$1,036.00
Land Court / Tax Title Fees			
Land Court Fees	\$17,296.65	\$0.00	\$17,296.65
Tax Title Surveys / Appraisals	\$42,885.00	\$150.00	\$42,735.00
Total Land Court / Tax Title Fees	\$60,181.65	\$150.00	\$60,031.65
Town Hall			
Town Hall / Office Maintenance	\$4,500.00	\$3,881.73	\$618.27
Town Hall / Office Expenses	\$28,142.00	\$23,288.31	\$4,853.69
Town - Phone	\$11,000.00	\$9,753.06	\$1,246.94
Handicap Access / Town Hall / Office	\$12,157.32	\$0.00	\$12,157.32
Computer Service	\$2,290.00	\$2,238.92	\$51.08
Insurance Deductible - Hail Damage	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Town Hall / Office Wire	\$10,260.00	\$1,480.60	\$8,779.40
Total Town Hall	\$73,349.32	\$40,642.62	\$32,706.70
Printing			
Town Printing	\$1,882.58	\$1,882.58	\$0.00
Total Printing	\$1,882.58	\$1,882.58	\$0.00
Police Department			
Police Chief Salary	\$71,737.00	\$71,737.00	\$0.00
Police Wages	\$30,373.00	\$26,666.27	\$3,706.73
Full Time Officer Wages	\$50,582.00	\$50,582.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$35,803.00	\$33,168.63	\$2,634.37
Training - Full Time	\$3,340.00	\$2,459.21	\$880.79
Training - Part Time	\$6,886.00	\$4,830.51	\$2,055.49
Total Police Department	\$198,721.00	\$189,443.62	\$9,277.38

Department:	Budget	Expended	Unexpended
Fire Department			
Salaries/Wages	\$35,136.50	\$23,750.12	\$11,386.38
Expenses	\$26,129.00	\$16,274.21	\$9,854.79
Truck Tires	\$566.52	\$0.00	\$566.52
Fire Hoses	\$5,360.00	\$870.00	\$4,490.00
Replacement Air Packs	\$24,000.00	\$0.00	\$24,000.00
Breathing Apparatus	\$24,000.00	\$0.00	\$24,000.00
Total Fire Department	\$115,192.02	\$40,894.33	\$74,297.69
Emergency Management			
Emergency Management	\$5,420.00	\$5,303.03	\$116.97
Total Emergency Management	\$5,420.00	\$5,303.03	\$116.97
Building Inspector			
Building Inspector Salary	\$10,037.00	\$10,037.00	\$0.00
Clerical	\$2,500.00	\$2,498.93	\$1.07
Expenses	\$1,260.00	\$1,081.18	\$178.82
Asst. Building Inspector	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Total Building Inspector	\$14,797.00	\$14,617.11	\$179.89
Dog Officer			
Salary	\$1,954.00	\$1,954.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$1,425.00	\$468.89	\$956.11
Total Dog Officer	\$3,379.00	\$2,422.89	\$956.11
Tree Warden			
Salary	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$425.00	\$314.00	\$111.00
High Tree Work	\$26,000.00	\$17,711.95	\$8,288.05
Total Tree Warden	\$28,925.00	\$20,525.95	\$8,399.05
Forest Warden			
Salary	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00
Total Forest Warden	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00
Public Safety Communications			
Communication Radio Repairs	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.00
IMC & LEAPS	\$2,780.00	\$2,210.00	\$570.00
Total Public Safety Communications	\$4,580.00	\$2,210.00	\$2,370.00
Education			
Petersham Center School	\$1,275,382.89	\$1,213,774.61	\$61,608.28
Renewable Energy Heating System	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District	\$827,339.00	\$825,780.00	\$1,559.00
Montachusett Regional Vocational Tech.	\$64,257.00	\$64,094.01	\$162.99
Total Education	\$2,176,978.89	\$2,113,648.62	\$63,330.27

Department:	Budget	Expended	Unexpended
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Highway Department

Salaries	\$142,775.38	\$142,775.38	\$0.00
Expenses	\$52,080.00	\$42,443.64	\$9,636.36
Replace Snow Plow Blade	\$11,500.00	\$10,768.00	\$732.00
Loader Cover - Sander	\$1,164.70	\$1,164.70	
Glen Valley Rd Bridge	\$13,914.00	\$0.00	\$13,914.00
	<u>\$221,434.08</u>	<u>\$197,151.72</u>	<u>\$24,282.36</u>

Town Barn

Expenses	\$8,485.00	\$8,449.52	\$35.48
Total Town Barn	<u>\$8,485.00</u>	<u>\$8,449.52</u>	<u>\$35.48</u>

Snow & Ice Removal

Expenses	\$62,665.31	\$62,665.31	\$0.00
Total Snow & Ice Removal	<u>\$62,665.31</u>	<u>\$62,665.31</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>

Street Lights

Street Lights	\$6,500.00	\$5,929.68	\$570.32
Total Street Lights	<u>\$6,500.00</u>	<u>\$5,929.68</u>	<u>\$570.32</u>

Cemetery Department

Expenses	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
Care of Cemeteries	\$20,523.00	\$20,523.00	\$0.00
Computerizing Cemetery Records	\$155.01	\$0.00	\$155.01
Cemetery Repairs	\$2,188.39	\$149.76	\$2,038.63
West Rd Cemetery Wall	\$6,557.00	\$6,557.00	\$0.00
Total Cemetery Department	<u>\$29,723.40</u>	<u>\$27,529.76</u>	<u>\$2,193.64</u>

Board of Health

Board Members Salaries	\$464.00	\$464.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$2,700.00	\$1,231.89	\$1,468.11
BOH - Admin Assistant	\$5,931.00	\$5,930.34	\$0.66
Inspector of Animals	\$175.00	\$0.00	\$175.00
Total Board of Health	<u>\$9,270.00</u>	<u>\$7,626.23</u>	<u>\$1,643.77</u>

Transfer Station

Transfer Station	\$52,000.00	\$45,385.65	\$6,614.35
Total Transfer Station	<u>\$52,000.00</u>	<u>\$45,385.65</u>	<u>\$6,614.35</u>

Council on Aging

Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Total Council on Aging	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>

Veterans' Agent

Expenses	\$3,978.00	\$3,977.20	\$0.80
Veterans' Benefits	\$7,800.00	\$7,776.00	\$24.00
Update Veterans' Honor Roll Plaques	\$1,000.00	\$590.00	\$410.00
Total Veterans' Agent	<u>\$12,778.00</u>	<u>\$12,343.20</u>	<u>\$434.80</u>

Library

Operating Subsidy	\$9,050.00	\$9,050.00	\$0.00
Total Library	<u>\$9,050.00</u>	<u>\$9,050.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>

Department:	Budget	Expended	Unexpended
Concerts			
Concerts (6)	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$0.00

Total Concerts	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$0.00
Bandstand			
Bandstand Lighting	\$325.00	\$112.51	\$212.49
Total Bandstand	\$325.00	\$112.51	\$212.49
Town Clock			
Care of Town Clock	\$73.00	\$0.00	\$73.00
Total Town Clock	\$73.00	\$0.00	\$73.00
Care of Common			
Expenses	\$6,696.00	\$6,696.00	\$0.00
Total Care of Common	\$6,696.00	\$6,696.00	\$0.00
Historical Commission			
Expenses	\$85.00	\$32.90	\$52.10
Total Historical Commission	\$85.00	\$32.90	\$52.10
Historical District Commission			
Expenses	\$252.00	\$113.62	\$138.38
Total Historical District Commission	\$252.00	\$113.62	\$138.38
Memorial Day			
Expenses	\$495.00	\$495.00	\$0.00
Total Memorial Day	\$495.00	\$495.00	\$0.00
Debt Service			
Interest Expense	\$644.00	\$86.52	\$557.48
Fire Truck Debt	\$21,200.00	\$21,200.00	\$0.00
Center School Debt	\$100,492.50	\$100,492.50	\$0.00
Mahar Debt	\$24,946.00	\$24,946.00	\$0.00
Total Debt Service	\$147,282.50	\$146,725.02	\$557.48
Assessments			
School Choice	\$50,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$10,000.00
Air Pollution	\$364.00	\$364.00	\$0.00
Regional Transit	\$962.00	\$962.00	\$0.00
RMV Non-Renewal	\$740.00	\$740.00	\$0.00
Total State Assessments	\$52,066.00	\$42,066.00	\$10,000.00
Retirement			
Assessment	\$125,695.00	\$125,695.00	\$0.00
Total Retirement	\$125,695.00	\$125,695.00	\$0.00
Insurance			
Health	\$70,814.00	\$54,367.17	\$16,446.83
Retirees Health	\$51,381.00	\$27,483.68	\$23,897.32
Medicare	\$24,016.00	\$21,643.92	\$2,372.08
General Insurance	\$78,968.00	\$76,636.08	\$2,331.92
Total Insurance	\$225,179.00	\$180,130.85	\$45,048.15
Prior Year Invoice	\$984.58	\$984.58	\$0.00

Department:

	Budget	Expended	Unexpended
Nichewaug Dispostion	\$40,000.00	\$12,814.50	\$27,185.50
Nichewaug Maintenance	\$5,000.00	\$2,205.90	\$2,794.10

**Town of Petersham
Annual Payroll
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

General Government

Selectmen

Nancy Allen	Selectman	2,650.00	
Fredrik Marsh	Selectmen	2,325.00	
Henry Woolsey	Selectman	2,325.00	
Steven Boudreau	Admin. Coordinator	46,909.18	
Sherry Berube	Secretary	3,754.38	
Renee Wingertsman	Secretary	960.18	\$ 58,923.74

Assessors

Dana Kennan	Assessor	3,003.00	
Ellen Anderson	Assessor	2,447.00	
Jean Robinson	Assessor	2,600.00	
Kelly Garlock	Asst. Assessor	31,485.23	\$ 39,535.23

Tax Collector

Renee Wingertsman	Salary	12,107.00	
	Fees	10,046.50	\$ 22,153.50

Town Clerk

Diana Cooley		14,056.50	
Renee Wingertsman	Secretary	618.00	\$ 14,674.50

Town Treasurer

Dana Robinson		15,209.00	\$ 15,209.00
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Town Accountant

Jean Joel		15,209.00	
Kelly Garlock	Assistant	753.74	\$ 15,962.74

Building Inspector

Brianna Skowyra		10,037.00	
Robert Legare	Asst. Building Inspector	500.00	
Renee Wingertsman	Secretary	1,945.07	\$ 12,482.07

Board of Health

Kaye Cousens	Health Board	*	
Fifi Scoufopoulos	Health Board	*	
Robert Pasic	Health Board	*	
Michael Seitz	Transfer Station	1,463.11	
Fredrik Marsh	Transfer Station	1,345.60	
Renee Wingertsman	BOH Secretary	5,971.48	\$ 8,780.19
* Salary Paid in July 2016			

Inspector of Animals

_____ \$ -

Town Hall & Office Custodian

Neil Legare		8,240.00	\$ 8,240.00
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Tree Warden

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

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Dog Officer

Debra Jones- Bachrach		1,954.00	\$ 1,954.00
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Plumbing & Gas Inspector

Daniel Jolly		3,800.00	\$ 3,800.00
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**Town of Petersham
Annual Payroll
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

Electrical Inspector

Gary Terroy		4,920.00	
Glenn Tattan	Asst. Electrical Inspector	125.00	\$ 5,045.00

Elections & Registration

Ralph Hebert		264.13	
Anne Hyde-Hebert		264.13	
Dana Kennan		145.13	
Mary Kenney		270.79	
Carolyn May		3,401.46	
Richard Nickless		145.12	
Karen O'Connor		516.34	
Helen Simms		100.00	
Anne Perkins		100.00	
Alfred Berry		100.00	
Denis Legare	Constable	22.00	
Larry Robinson	Constable	88.00	\$ 5,417.10

Police Department

R. Dana Cooley Jr.	Chief	12,812.20	
	Detail Pay	5,492.00	
John Bartus	Detail Pay	1,280.00	
Jesse Berard	Salary	2,571.69	
	Detail Pay	2,200.00	
Jeffrey Boyer	Salary	5,938.24	
	Detail Pay	992.00	
Joseph Brown	Salary	1,233.40	
	Detail Pay	880.00	
Peter Buck	Salary	1,417.41	
Marc Duguay	Salary	4,359.24	
	Detail Pay	440.00	
Randy Horne	Salary	50,803.55	
	Detail Pay	30,623.50	
Daniel Kimball	Salary	3,814.40	
	Detail Pay	640.00	
Robert Legare	Salary	4,273.69	
Michael Leslie	Salary	3,987.91	
	Detail Pay	8,200.00	
Jason Lichtengerger	Salary	3,695.43	
	Detail Pay	320.00	
Timothy Wright	Salary	3,486.50	
	Detail Pay	4,120.00	\$ 213,581.16

**Town of Petersham
Annual Payroll
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

Fire Department

Dana Robinson	Chief	5,904.60	
	Inspection Fees	1,075.00	
	Forest Warden	25.00	
Robert Legare	Asst. Chief	4,255.72	
Larry Robinson	Captain	1,480.60	
Shawn Legare	Captain	705.50	
Vinnie Acito		1,455.60	
Raymond Balzer		1,592.20	
Scott Churchill		474.00	
Jacob Cooley		873.40	
Ronald Dejackome		178.80	
Peter Devoll		1,663.80	
Robert Goodfellow		689.50	
Kurt Graeff		14.90	
Robert Hughes		221.10	
Rebecca Jackson		1,112.20	
Rebecca Legare		474.20	
Colin O'Brien		561.80	
Charles Pinder		1,325.80	
Ashley Reed		934.30	
Jason Scott		1,519.60	
Kevin Shortis		189.70	
Troy Warrington		435.00	
Peter West		130.50	\$ 27,292.82

Highway Department

Timothy Graves	Superintendent (ret. 4/16)	46,530.42	
Gregory Waid	Superintendent	47,156.97	
Leslie Cooley		51,843.29	
Brian Bassett		11,413.00	
Richard Cooley, Sr.		7,516.41	
Robert Legare		275.50	
Fredrik Marsh		1,166.36	
Jacob Cooley		1,145.20	\$ 167,047.15

Emergency Management Director

Lynne Shaw		1,230.00	\$ 1,230.00
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**Town of Petersham
Annual Payroll
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

School Department

Joanne Menard	Principal	85,000.00
Christopher Dodge	Principal	582.06
Melanie Pallotta	Learning Specialist	16,759.98
Bridget Koetsch	Kindegarten	64,756.85
Christina Boyer- Thompson	Grade 1	48,517.41
Wendi LeBlanc	Grade 2	71,766.38
Tracy Smith	Grade 3	62,587.14
Melissa Clark	Grade 4 /Learning Specialist	50,991.13
Deirdre Keenan	Grade 4	36,248.76
Melissa Fournier	Grade 5	47,553.68
Nicole Ruggles	Grade 6	71,297.21
Donna Shaughnessy	Special Needs	65,589.76
Natasha Hanna	Music/Aide	19,937.45
Angela Haynes	Music/Aide	17,417.42
Kay Leonard	Art	10,125.51
Suzanne Tattan	Phys. Ed.	12,182.83
Stephanie Carmiello	School Nurse	8,901.05
Barbara Clough	Nurse Sub.	4,714.50
Charlotte Layton	School Nurse	23,441.00
Katherine Arsenault	Technology/Library	54,598.57
Karen Regan	Speech Pathologist	8,970.28
David Weinberg	Guidance	53,747.32
Julie Brown	Aide	16,415.61
Kelli Graves	Aide	2,158.85
Kimberlyn Rushford-Waugh	Aide	14,068.14
Kristen Orlando	Aide	18,183.80
Brantley Powers	Aide	26,459.09
Kristine Wallace	Aide	16,503.72
Ann Degnan	Secretary	42,150.00
Barbara Young	Secretary/Substitute	4,751.98
Debra Phelps	Cook	21,213.74
James M. Burke III	Head Custodian	46,956.96
Justin Liversidge	Custodian	32,498.49
Pamela Chevalier	Substitute	1,771.55
Christine Brewer	Substitute	1,380.00
John Waters	Substitute	315.00
Michelle Boudreau	Substitute	260.00
Ann Marie Goodfellow	Substitute	140.00
Danielle Gadboury	Substitute	794.24
Alicia Wilcox	Substitute	560.78
Erin Young	Substitute	237.25
Helen Simms	Substitute	410.58
Luke Meunier	Substitute	
		<u>\$ 1,082,916.07</u>

Total Payroll All Departments

\$ 1,706,744.27

**Town of Petersham
Annual Payroll
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

1099 Vendors

Barnes Landscaping	Care of Common & Cemeteries	33,623.00
Douglas Cameron	Carpentry	6,088.00
Alyssa Roberts	School Committee	1,282.37
Thomas Garbett	Psychologist	11,486.25
Salvatore Ardagna Jr.	Street Sweeping	1,700.00
Phillip Leger	Board of Health	4,525.00
Whittier Plumbing & Htg.	Repairs Town Hall & Office	1,035.11
Jeffrey Nail	Tree Work	850.00
Francis Misiuk	Stone Work	1,500.00

\$ 62,089.73

Total Payroll & 1099 Vendors

\$ 1,768,834.00

Respectfully Submitted,
Dana C. Robinson
Town Treasurer



NORTHEAST QUABBIN VETERANS' SERVICES DISTRICT

584 MAIN STREET, ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS 01331

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

email: 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

FY16 ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

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. In 1861, at the start of the Civil War, the state legislature formalized the assistance provided to veterans by establishing Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 115 and the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services (DVS).

DVS is the state's lead state for overseeing the general welfare of the Commonwealth's nearly 400,000 living veterans. DVS establishes policy, proposes legislation, provides annual training, and ensures compliance with MGL Chapter 115 and other laws and regulations germane to veterans.

MGL Chapter 115: Section: 3B was passed into law by the Commonwealth during FY15 establishing the mandatory requirement whereby Directors of Veterans' Services and Veterans' Services Officers (VSO) must become legally certified.

DVS implemented the law during its October 2015 Annual Training where Directors and VSOs were required to take and pass the written certification examination. In addition, mandatory recertification is required every three-years.

MGL Chapter 115 authorizes eligible veteran to receive certain financial, medical, and other benefits earned by military service. Services are available through the local area Director of Veterans' Services/ Veterans' Services Officers to veterans living in one of the Commonwealth's 351 communities.

DISTRICT GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

The Secretary – DVS authorized the Northeast Quabbin Veterans' Services District to begin operations in January 2006. The district serves veterans and dependents having a formal residence in one of the district's communities.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 115: Section 11, for every authorized district, there shall be a Board of Directors. The board consists of a representative appointed by the Board of Selectmen from each member community. The Board establishes By-Laws to define district administration and operations.

I became legally certified on October 29, 2015 as Director of Veterans' Services by successfully completing and successfully passing the certification examination as required in MGL Chapter 115: Section: 3B.

With gratitude to the Town of Athol, the District Website is up-and-running and easily accessible to veterans on most town websites. It will always be a work-in-progress as it is updated periodically. The district link: www.athol-ma.gov/northeast-quabbin-veterans-services-district.

VETERANS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERED BY THE DISTRICT

A. MGL Chapter 115

1. A program of financial and medical assistance that may be available to veterans and/or dependents based on eligibility requirements.
2. The following chart represents FY16 Veterans' Benefits paid, by community, to its eligible veterans and/or dependents. Benefits paid are reimbursed at 75% by the commonwealth.

FY16 VETERANS' BENEFITS DATA

Town	Benefits Paid	State Reimbursements	% Reimbursed
Athol	\$157,759.59	\$118,314.62	75%
Orange	\$131,264.07	\$98,448.07	75%
Petersham	\$7,994.88	\$5,996.16	75%
Phillipston	\$5,729.20	\$4,296.90	75%
Royalston	\$5,212.24	\$3,909.20	75%

3. Burials in one of two Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries, Winchendon and Agawam.
4. 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.
5. Homeless prevention, Transitional Housing and outreach services.
6. Wartime Bonuses, Annuities, etc.
7. And more...

B. UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

1. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): Applications for Agent Orange illnesses, Mesothelioma, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Military Sexual Trauma (MST) service-connected disabilities, pensions, Dependency & Indemnity Compensation, healthcare, veterans' grave markers, and more.
 - a. VA Compensation & Benefits (VBA) paid nearly \$7.1M dollars in annual compensation to veterans, dependents and surviving spouses living in the district.

- b. VA Central-Western-Massachusetts Healthcare System – Headquartered at Northampton VA Medical Center, Leeds has five Community Based Outpatient Clinics delivering medical treatment to over 25,000 veterans with an annual budget of **\$162.2M**.
2. Department of Defense (DOD): Military records; medical records; medals, decorations and awards not previously issued; applications to correct Military Records, and more.
3. Other Agencies including:
 - a. Massachusetts Department of Health & Human Services
 - b. Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development
 - c. U.S. Social Security Administration
 - d. U.S. Department of Labor
 - e. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
 - f. U.S. Department of Justice
 - g. Other Massachusetts & U.S. Departments and Agencies.

The office has seen an increase in the numbers of veterans applying for service-connected disabilities including presumptive Agent Orange illnesses, Mesothelioma, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Military Sexual Trauma (MST), and more.

Veterans with service-connected disabilities are eligible for VA Healthcare. All other veterans may be eligible for VA Healthcare based on defined criteria. Due to the Affordable Care Act, wartime and peacetime veterans may qualify for VA Healthcare.

I look forward to serving veterans, spouses, surviving spouse of a deceased veteran, and dependents formally residing in one of the District's communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil P. McGuirk

Neil P. McGuirk, Director of Veterans' Services

Tree Warden – Town Report for FY2016

It is my pleasure to report to the residents of Petersham that in 2016:

- 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, a forest/tree mushroom identification booth, and provided free tree seedlings.

- More than two dozen residents attended a presentation I gave about general care and awareness of trees at the Petersham Memorial Library

- Trees were planted (a beech tree on the South Common, a tupelo at the Craft Center and a Londonplane at the Center School with the assistance of the third grade class) (partnered with Forest & Shade Tree Committee members)

- Over 25 high-risk roadsides trees were removed

- Four trees were removed by the hearing process

- Over 20 mature roadside trees were pruned

- Conducted a windshield ash survey and provided preventative treatment to protect against Emerald ash borer on two prominent trees in Town with an injected organic product.

- Treated the American elm on the South Common and at the Center school to provide protection against Dutch Elm Disease.

Respectfully submitted, Melissa LeVangie, Tree Warden

PETERSHAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
FY2016 ANNUAL REPORT

In FY2016 (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016), the members of the Zoning Board of Appeals were Donald O'Neil (Chair), Brian MacEwen (Clerk), Maryanne Reynolds (Member), and Don Eaton (Associate Member).

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

1. Variance granted from dimensional requirements (building setbacks) upon application filed by Frederick Day Trustee of the Day Family Trust, 100 East Street, Petersham.

There were also a number of business permit applications signed.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald O'Neil, Chair



Report of Petersham Center School **2015-2016**

On August 31, 2015 first year Principal Joanne Menard and PCS staff welcomed grades 1-6 students to the 2015-2016 school year. All students and staff met around the treasured school wellhouse. The Kindergarten class joined the Petersham community on September 6, 2015; thus creating a total of 120 students in grades K-6. Class sizes continued to have an average of 17 students per grade. PCS was again fortunate to have students under the School Choice program from the towns of: Amherst, Athol, Barre, Gardner, Hardwick, Orange, New Salem, North Brookfield, Phillipston, Templeton and Winchendon.

The Petersham Center School budget was \$1,223,252 for the 2015-2016 school year, with \$397,900 in school choice funds. In addition to these funds, PCS received several grants. These grants were used for a variety of purposes: salaries, books, materials, specialized services, consultation and professional development.

PCS was thrilled to create and offer our first after school STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) focused Enrichment Program. The following eight programs were available: Arts and Crafts, Building Club, Club Code, Design Squad, Digital Music, Novel Idea, Outdoor Explorations and Science Rocks. A total of 140 students participated with some of our students participating in multiple clubs. All programs were offered free of charge to all Petersham Center School students.

PCS Staff had many professional development opportunities this past year to enhance classroom instruction and safety. Classroom teachers and specialists worked collaboratively in

professional learning communities to enhance classroom instruction. They attended, along with Orange Elementary, professional development provided by Ribas Associates to strengthen teaching practices and student outcomes. The entire PCS Staff was trained by Chief Cooley and the Western School Safety Task Force on how to implement a Re-unification Plan for our school; as well as regular lock-down and fire drills with both the staff and students.

Students were able to participate in PCS traditional field trips; as well as experience some new locations that complement their academic studies. Grades 5 & 6 attended Nature's Classroom in Old Orchard Beach, Maine for a week in September to experience hands-on, engaging activities. The 3rd grade class was honored to have our beloved Kay Simms be their guide in a walking historical tour of Petersham. Chris Eaton, from Mass Audubon, provided many learning opportunities with the Babbitt Wildlife Sanctuary for all grades. Our 5th & 6th grades were able to enjoy Connor's Pond and Harvard Forest Pond with Bob Clark. The entire school again went to the Quabbin Reservoir Gate 31 to help with fish stocking. Grades 1-4 attended the play "How I Became a Pirate" at Gardner High School. The Kindergarten class enjoyed the Ecotarium in Worcester, while our 1st and 2nd grades took a fall trip to the Red Apple Farm. The 5th and 6th graders enjoyed trips to the Christa McAuliffe Center in Framingham. They also enjoyed their experience in Boston at the Boston Common/Freedom Trail tour and Tea Party Museum.

Petersham Center School also partnered with the Petersham Police Department, Chief Cooley, Officer Kimball, Petersham Fire Department and Chief Robinson to provide the following unique opportunities for students: bus and Halloween safety, DARE program with the 5th graders, and Fire Prevention with all PCS students. PCS also worked alongside Quabbin Mediation to provide Training Active Bystanders for our 5th and 6th graders.

Parent and community involvement continues to be an integral component of our success. The PTG continued to be an active group for the Petersham Center School. They provided the students with activities and opportunities in a variety of areas: Holiday Bazaar, raffles, Movie Night, helped with Field Day, and an end of the year field trip for all students to the Boston Science Museum.

The 2015-2016 school year showed some staffing changes. Kindergarten para, Julie Brown, left PCS. Caitlin Muzzy was welcomed as our new Kindergarten paraprofessional.

Petersham 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 our students. The 2015-2016 was an exciting and successful one.

Submitted by Joanne Menard, Principal of Petersham Center School
January 2017

**PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL
FY 2016 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES**

Object Code	FISCAL 2016					
	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Adjusted Budget	Expended YTD	Unexpended Balance	
ADMINISTRATION						
School Committee Expenses	1110	1,877.00	905.83	2,782.83	2,782.83	-
Central Office Salaries	1230	19,757.00	(1,066.33)	18,690.67	15,422.00	3,268.67
Central Office Expenses	1230	1,002.00	98.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	-
Legal	1430	3,000.00	62.50	3,062.50	3,062.50	-
Total Administration		25,636.00	0.00	25,636.00	22,367.33	3,268.67
SCHOOL BUILDING LEADERSHIP						
Principal Salary	2210	79,461.00	5,539.00	85,000.00	85,000.00	-
Principal Administrative Assistant Salary	2210	40,370.00		40,370.00	40,252.32	117.68
Principal Office Expenses	2210	3,500.00	218.47	3,718.47	3,718.47	-
Principal Dues and Travel	2210	1,501.00	1,561.75	3,062.75	3,062.75	-
Total School Building Leadership		124,832.00	7,319.22	132,151.22	132,033.54	117.68
INSTRUCTION						
Teacher Salaries	2305	392,776.00		392,776.00	392,137.48	638.52
Specialist Salaries	2310	17,954.00	(1,903.26)	16,050.74	16,050.74	-
Substitutes	2325	8,000.00	4,845.61	12,845.61	12,845.61	-
Classroom Specialists/Aides	2330	1,529.00	(87.27)	1,441.73	1,441.73	-
Instructional Technology	2451	28,386.00	2,714.97	31,100.97	31,100.97	-
Other Instructional Services	2440	4,300.00	684.76	4,984.76	4,984.76	-
Professional Development	2357	12,500.00	(2,480.23)	10,019.77	10,019.77	-
Supplies and Materials	2415	22,003.00		22,003.00	20,580.79	1,422.21
Total Instruction		487,448.00	3,774.58	491,222.58	489,161.85	2,060.73
GUIDANCE AND TESTING						
Testing	2720	3,000.00		3,000.00	2,038.15	961.85
Total Guidance and Testing		3,000.00	-	3,000.00	2,038.15	961.85
OTHER SCHOOL SERVICES						
Health Services	3200	2,302.00	145.99	2,447.99	2,447.99	-
Total Other School Services		2,302.00	145.99	2,447.99	2,447.99	-
TRANSPORTATION						
	3300	103,777.00	-	103,777.00	102,600.00	1,177.00
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE						
Director of Buildings and Grounds	4110	44,881.00		44,881.00	44,881.00	-
Custodian Overtime	4110	801.00	1,319.29	2,120.29	2,120.29	-
Custodial Supplies	4110	9,000.00	(800.55)	8,199.45	8,199.45	-
Fuel Oil	4120	35,100.00	(4,999.15)	30,100.85	30,100.85	-
Utilities	4130	19,670.00	4,834.30	24,504.30	24,504.30	-
Grounds Maintenance	4210	2,508.00	(1,263.49)	1,244.51	1,244.51	-
Building Maintenance	4220	30,354.00	4,054.66	34,408.66	34,408.66	-
Equipment Maintenance	4230	17,362.00	2,479.87	19,841.87	19,841.87	-
Total Operations and Maintenance		159,676.00	5,624.93	165,300.93	165,300.93	-
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AND INSURANCE						
Employee Health Benefits	5200	191,018.00	(31,963.81)	159,054.19	142,250.63	16,803.56
Total Employee Benefits and Insurance		191,018.00	(31,963.81)	159,054.19	142,250.63	16,803.56

**PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL
FY 2016 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES**

Object Code	FISCAL 2016					
	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Adjusted Budget	Expended YTD	Unexpended Balance	
SPECIAL EDUCATION						
Administration Salaries	1230	6,577.00	6,577.00	5,706.00	871.00	
Teaching	2305	34,714.00	34,714.00	34,608.91	105.09	
Classroom Specialists/Aides	2330	1,598.00	1,598.00	-	1,598.00	
Speech Pathologist Salary	2320	43,879.00	1,772.40	45,651.40	-	
Physical Therapist Salary	2320	24,583.00	1,876.09	26,459.09	-	
Supplies and Materials	2415	1,210.00	886.08	2,096.08	-	
Psychological Services	2800	7,000.00	3,285.52	10,285.52	-	
SPED Contracted Services	2800	5,000.00	(320.00)	4,680.00	-	
Transportation	3300	1.00	7,599.00	7,600.00	-	
Out of District Tuition	9000	1,001.00	1,001.00	20,538.11	(19,537.11)	
Total Special Education		125,563.00	15,099.09	140,662.09	157,625.11	(16,963.02)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		1,223,252.00	-	1,223,252.00	1,215,825.53	7,426.47

**PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL
FY 2016 SCHOOL CHOICE FUND EXPENDITURES**

Object Code	FISCAL 2016					
	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Adjusted Budget	Expended YTD	Unexpended Balance	
INSTRUCTION						
Teacher Salaries	2305	71,514.00	503.65	72,017.65	72,017.65	-
Specialist Salaries	2310	27,926.00	387.28	28,313.28	28,313.28	-
Enrichment Activities	2415	12,000.00	(2,579.71)	9,420.29	9,420.29	-
Classroom Specialists/Aides	2330	28,878.00		28,878.00	28,573.33	304.67
Instructional Technology Salary	2451	50,025.00	5,504.79	55,529.79	55,529.79	-
Total Instruction		190,343.00	3,816.01	194,159.01	193,854.34	304.67
GUIDANCE AND TESTING						
Counselor Salary	2720	27,598.00	0.05	27,598.05	27,598.05	-
Total Guidance and Testing		27,598.00	0.05	27,598.05	27,598.05	-
OTHER SCHOOL SERVICES						
School Nurse Salary	3200	33,832.00	-	33,832.00	32,844.73	987.27
School Lunch Services	3300	22,508.00	5,162.70	27,670.70	27,670.70	-
Total Other School Services		56,340.00	5,162.70	61,502.70	60,515.43	987.27
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE						
Custodian Salary	4110	30,744.00	193.34	30,937.34	30,937.34	-
Total Operations and Maintenance		30,744.00	193.34	30,937.34	30,937.34	-
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AND INSURANCE						
Employee Health Benefits	5200	15,000.00	(14,941.25)	58.75	-	58.75
Total Employee Benefits and Insurance		15,000.00	(14,941.25)	58.75	-	58.75
SPECIAL EDUCATION						
Teaching	2305	33,278.00	174.42	33,452.42	33,452.42	-
SPED Summer Program	2330	5,000.00		5,000.00	3,868.98	1,131.02
Counselor Salary	2320	27,597.00	174.73	27,771.73	27,771.73	-
SPED Contracted Services	2800	12,000.00	5,420.00	17,420.00	17,420.00	-
Total Special Education		77,875.00	5,769.15	83,644.15	82,513.13	1,131.02
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		397,900.00	-	397,900.00	395,418.29	2,481.71

PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
EDUCATION GRANTS AND REVOLVING
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016

	Fund Balances July 1, 2015	Revenues	Expenditures	Other Financing Sources (Uses)	Fund Balances June 30, 2016
Special Revenue:					
Grants and Revolving					
School Lunch Revolving	(570.44)	39,319.38	26,269.38		12,479.56
Building Usage Revolving	111.83	910.00	-		1,021.83
Big Yellow School Bus State Grant	-	200.00	200.00		-
Rural Education Federal Grant	-	15,311.00	15,311.00		-
Teacher Quality Federal Grant	66.28	2,903.00	3,217.28		(248.00)
SPED Program Improvement Federal Grant	1,130.00		1,130.00		-
Early Education and Care Federal Grant	257.11	1,938.00	1,794.75		400.36
SPED Entitlement Federal Grant	451.92	28,035.00	27,077.02		1,409.90
New Salem Academy Local Grant	-	1,900.00	1,900.00		-
Total - Education Grants and Revolving	1,446.70	90,516.38	76,899.43	-	15,063.65

ANNUAL REPORT

Montachusett Regional Vocational
Technical School

1050 Westminster Street
Fitchburg, MA 01420

www.montytech.net

2016





2015-2016 was an exceptional year at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District. We celebrated “50 years of Excellence in Education,” and through a thoughtful and reflective marketing campaign, we were able to honor the school’s history and highlight the successes of our proud alumni and notable achievements of our current students. We launched a robust technology initiative, providing all teachers with technology and training in preparation for a whole-school Chromebook rollout in FY17. Talented students, faculty and staff earned countless awards and recognitions, making our district so very proud. And finally, the school began efforts to bring our 21st career and technical education program to the school – Veterinary Science.

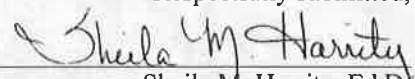
This work would not be possible without the contributions of the many talented educators and administrators here at Monty Tech – a team I am honored to lead in my role as Superintendent-Director. I am delighted to present the District’s 2015-2016 annual report to you, providing a snapshot of the wonderful experiences happening on a day-to-day basis here at Monty Tech, highlighting some of the year’s most notable achievements, including:

- Efforts to bring the school’s 21st vocational-technical program are well underway. After a careful review of workforce projections and student interest surveys, school administrators have begun the process to bring a Chapter 74 Animal Science program to the district, which will be open to students Fall 2017. This exciting STEM program will be housed in a state-of-the-art facility that boasts a classroom, science lab, grooming salon, and full-service veterinary clinic. In an unprecedented fundraising campaign, school administrators have raised an impressive \$1,975,461 in donations and in-kind matching services to support this project. With an overall cost of \$2,250,000, construction of the Monty Tech Veterinary Science Training Center and Community Clinic is in progress, providing tremendous hands-on learning opportunities to students in our Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrical, Cabinetmaking, HVAC, Masonry, and Welding trades.
- A unique partnership with Workers’ Credit Union has resulted in a full-service branch located on the school’s campus, and increased opportunities for students to develop authentic financial literacy skills while still in high school. Students studying in the school’s Business Technology program are being trained as bank tellers, preparing them for entry-level jobs in banking institutions across North Central Massachusetts, and financial literacy workshops are being integrated into the curriculum each year.
- Senior students in the school’s very popular Health Occupations program participated in the first year of an exciting new partnership between Monty Tech and Mount Wachusett Community College. This innovative high school-to-college collaboration, which embeds a comprehensive, college-level Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training program into the senior year of study has resulted in a number of students earning EMT credentials, providing additional career pathways in the medical field for these talented program graduates.
- Students at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School continued to demonstrate high academic achievement. In the spring of 2016, Monty Tech’s passing rate on the MCAS English Language Arts exam was 100%, Mathematics 99%, and Biology 99%.

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.
Superintendent-Director

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
Ashby
Athol
Barre
Fitchburg
Gardner

Harvard
Holden
Hubbardston
Lunenburg
Petersham
Phillipston

Princeton
Royalston
Sterling
Templeton
Westminster
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
Pamela Pothier, Director of Technology

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

Enrollment

On June 1, 2016, student enrollment at Monty Tech included 1,415 students in grades nine through twelve. Students are represented from every community in the district: Ashburnham (56), Ashby (32), Athol (85), Barre (37), Fitchburg (362), Gardner (143), Harvard (4), Holden (60), Hubbardston (70), Lunenburg (86), Petersham (3), Phillipston (19), Princeton (22), Royalston (18), Sterling (63), Templeton (103), Westminster (77), and Winchendon (150). The remaining 25 students were from out-of-district towns, including Ayer, Clinton, Dudley, Groton, Leominster, Orange, and Worcester.

Throughout 2015-2016, Monty Tech offered a variety of opportunities for students, parents, and community members to learn about and visit the school. In October 2015, approximately 700 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. 2015-2016 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 2015-2016 school year, serving approximately 600 area students.

Class of 2016 Awards

Members of the Class of 2016 were awarded approximately \$58,000 in scholarships. The Monty Tech Foundation generously provided \$46,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors, ranging in amounts of \$200 to \$2,000. The Foundation also awarded \$4,000 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 61% of the graduating class of 2016 reported plans to enroll at either a 2-year college, a 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 2015-2016, a great deal of effort was put forth by the School Committee, administration, and staff. The final fiscal year 2015-2016 Educational Plan totaled \$26,229,366, which represents a 2.3% increase over the 2014-2015 Educational Plan. The District's FY16 budget only exceeds the minimum spending required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 70 by \$25,000 or .1%.

The District was audited in October 2016 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 help provide many educational and social services to the student population. For fiscal year 2016, state and federal grant sources provided the school with \$918,426. 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 Marine Corp Junior Reserve Officer Training. The District also received a competitive grant for \$136,412 to purchase equipment for the anticipated new Veterinary Science Program. Using these allocation and competitive 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 2015-2016, 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 2016, Monty Tech's passing rate on the English Language Arts was 100%, Mathematics 99%, Biology 99%.

English Language Arts	2014	2015	2016
Students Tested	364	374	349
Passing	100%	100%	100%
Advanced/ Proficient	95%	96%	97%
Needs Improvement	5%	4%	3%
Failing	0%	0%	0%

Mathematics	2014	2015	2016
Students Tested	366	375	348
Passing	98%	98%	99%
Advanced/Proficient	84%	87%	82%
Needs Improvement	14%	11%	17%
Failing	2%	2%	1%

Biology	2014	2015	2016
Students Tested	351	347	345
Passing	99%	98%	99%
Advanced/ Proficient	74%	77%	78%
Needs Improvement	25%	21%	21%
Failing	1%	2%	1%

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 2015-2016 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: The Monty Tech Auto Body program is led by a strong instructional team, always eager to enhance the program to benefit the students. This year instructor Michael Forhan revised the Freshman curriculum to expand the detailing component, which has been met with great enthusiasm from students and clients alike. Freshmen and Sophomores continue to earn industry recognized credentials, including the I-CAR Pro level one certification in refinishing and non-structural damage. This certification not only makes our program graduates more employable, it enables students to maintain the I-CAR gold class certification. Throughout the year, students detailed, repaired, and repainted vehicles, fulfilling more than seventy requests that included: an SUV police vehicle car for the Town of Winchendon, a wooden statue of Johnny Appleseed, and the antique playground fire truck for the Westminster Lions Club. All Freshmen achieved 10-Hour CareerSafe online certification for General Safety, two Juniors earned co-operative education placements, demonstrating their technical skills in the workplace, and all Senior students received an Environmental Protection Agency certificate. (Total enrollment: 62; 35 males, 27 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. 2015-2016 proved to be a very busy year for the program, as more than four hundred vehicles were serviced by talented students and instructors. In addition to maintaining the school's fleet of vehicles throughout the year, students were asked to repair a Salvation Army disaster relief vehicle, and it was a pleasure to give back to this deserving organization. Students performed very well in the SkillsUSA state competitions, placing third, fourth, and fifth, with hopes to improve in the coming year. A total of five students participated in the Co-Op Program, applying their technical skills in real work settings. Finally, instructors are proud to announce three talented program graduates are working in shops in the area, demonstrating the skills they acquired at Monty Tech. (Total enrollment: 62; 50 males, 12 females)

Business Technology: Students in Monty Tech's Business technology program are seeing tremendous benefits to the new partnership with Workers' Credit Union. The opportunity to participate in teller training and financial literacy workshops has been met with great enthusiasm from our students, and the instructors continue to be grateful for this developing partnership. Four students were offered co-op placements with WCU during the 2015-2016 school year as bank tellers, and the two Seniors were offered employment upon graduation. Monty Tech Business Technology instructors, in collaboration with their post-secondary colleagues, have developed two articulation agreements, with Mount Wachusett Community College and New England Institute of Technology, which will provide qualified students with college credits at no cost to the student. Opportunities to demonstrate customer service, cash handling, and accounting skills are ever-present as the Business technology students successfully operate an in-house retail location and greenhouse. The program's instructional technology was updated to allow students to test on the most up-to-date version of Microsoft for their certifications. (Total enrollment: 72; 16 males, 56 females)

Cabinetmaking: Throughout 2015-2016, instructors and students completed a number of high profile projects that demonstrate the true talents and craftsmanship developed in this very popular program. Some of the more notable projects completed by students include: building the base for the Johnny Appleseed statue and delivering it to the terminal at Logan Airport for display; building and installing kitchen cabinetry for the Gardner Council on Aging; building kitchens and vanities for the school's house-building projects; building a storage cabinet for SkillsUSA; designing, building and installing a kitchenette for the Main Office; constructing cell phone cases for shops, as well as an office table, a display case and a brochure holder for the School of Continuing Education. Students and instructors also completed more than sixty additional projects throughout the school and surrounding communities. In an effort to increase access to our primary software program, Alphacam, the school added more licenses to our program, which has proven to be a tremendous benefit. A total of eleven students (three Juniors and eight Seniors) were placed in co-operative educational settings, where they could build upon the strong technical foundation they have attained at Monty Tech. (Total enrollment: 73; 50 males, 23 females)

Cosmetology: Monty Tech is pleased to introduce Emily Bedard, a talented new instructor in the school's popular Cosmetology program, who brings tremendous industry experience and expertise in the trade. 2015-2016 also brought added instructional initiatives, including the addition of the Hairmax computer system, which was updated and installed in all related classrooms so that students are now able to work and learn using this system. With a significant increase in the number of clients served this year, the program also generated an additional \$1,000, which will be used to fund the much-needed consumable products. In an effort to support the school's commitment to community service, the Cosmetology Juniors traveled to Heywood Wakefield Assisted Living Center to do manicures for the residents there, while the Sophomore students offered services on the local front, during a successful staff appreciation day. Finally, it is with great pride that the Cosmetology instructors announce that 100% of the Senior students passed the Cosmetology State Boards, earning licenses to practice. (Total enrollment: 89, 1 males, 88 females)

Culinary Arts: Monty Tech Culinary Arts students and instructors are always busy with the daily operation of the Mountain Room Restaurant, which is open for lunch from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm Monday through Friday. In addition to operating a full-service restaurant and bakery, serving 90-120 patrons daily, culinary students showcase their talents throughout the year, providing outstanding service at events that include the following: two Program Advisory Committee dinner meetings, four Monty Tech Foundation breakfasts, Monty Tech's Retirees holiday luncheon, a graduation reception, the Women in Technology event, Principal and Counselors Day, the Monty Tech homecoming dance, MAVA meetings and all School Committee meetings and sub-committee meetings. Community service opportunities for students are always a highlight, and this year our students prepared meals for the United Way's "Day of Caring" event, Our Fathers House, and NEADS events. Students also participated in the Montachusett Opportunity Council's "Taste of North Central" fundraiser. The program's greatest undertaking this year was the Annual Superintendent's Dinner fundraising event. Students worked side-by-side with some of the area's finest chefs, preparing a six-course dinner with extensive hors d'oeuvres for 380 guests. (Total enrollment: 96; 34 males, 62 females)

Dental Assisting: During 2015-2016, the Dental Assisting program introduced nineteen students to industry experience through externships, while ten students participated in affiliation, and one student earned a cooperative 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 the national pass rate for the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) Infection Control Exam was 86% in FY15, the Monty Tech students far surpassed that rate with a 100% passing rate on the Infection Control exam. For the sixth 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: 58; 5 males, 53 females)

Drafting: The 2015-2016 school year was a busy one for Drafting Technology students and instructors. A total of six students (one Junior and five Seniors) participated in the school's Co-Op Program, and four 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 participates in a number of projects in and around the school. This year, Drafting students designed the preliminary architecture of the new Veterinary Science Training Center, completed plans for the plumbing program's storage shed, drew a layout of Riverside Cemetery in Winchendon, designed a new building sign for St. Bernard's in Fitchburg, designed and printed hundreds of signs and banners for various community organizations, planned and decorated the 50th Anniversary-themed Superintendent's Dinner, and created and installed signage throughout the building for the 2016 graduation, College Fair, School of Continuing Education, sports and drama clubs. (Total enrollment: 57; 36 males, 21 females)

Early Childhood Education: The Early Childhood Education program received 3 new Baby Care Parent Simulation dolls, each with car seat detections and temperature detectors. This added technology will assist instructors as they enhance lessons in infant and toddler safety. Several seniors and both instructors attended the Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children's Annual Conference. Students were delighted to support community service efforts, raising funds to support Lucy's Love Bus, an agency that provided grants for children with cancer that are not covered by health insurance. Students showered the Department of Children & Families with gifts and much needed supplies for foster families with emergency foster placements, raised funds for various causes including SkillsUSA Change for Children, adopted a Christmas Angel for a needy child from the Cleghorn Neighborhood Center, and contributed to the National Honor Society food and supplies drive. Instructors are proud to report that all graduates are pursuing careers and higher education related to the program - one is currently working in the field and the rest are enrolled in area colleges and universities in majors directly related to the field. (Total enrollment: 63; 1 male, 62 females)

Electrical: The Electrical program continues to be one of the busiest trades in the school. In 2015-2016, more than fifty work orders were completed throughout the building. The wiring of various equipment included: a new media blaster in welding, a television in cosmetology, replacing the fixture in the elevator, re-wiring the HVAC shop, wiring the new air conditioner in the Technology Department, and adding receptacles in the science room for new labs. In addition to wiring equipment, Electrical students performed numerous repairs of lights, outlets, computers, sensors, CATV jacks, and new data drops for computers. In addition to participating in the house building project in Ashburnham, upperclassmen students rewired a guard shack at the Westminster Crocker Pond, and the electrical shop motor lab was remodeled to incorporate twenty-four booths. Fifteen students earned co-op positions, and instructors are proud to announce that 60% of the graduating class entered electrical apprenticeships. (Total enrollment: 83; 69 males, 14 females)

Engineering Technology: The Monty Tech Engineering Technology program continues to further enhance the curriculum and instruction by improving upon the four Project Lead the Way course modules, and adding more Computer Integrated Manufacturing content into the already rigorous vocational-technical curriculum. Field Programmable Gate Array mini systems were purchased and integrated into the Digital Electronics curriculum. Engineering students performed well in SkillsUSA competitions, earning a number of top awards. At SkillsUSA at Districts, Monty Tech Engineering students received two gold, four silver, and four bronze medals. At SkillsUSA States, students earned two gold and one silver medal, and finally two top students traveled to Louisville, KY to compete at the National level in Mechatronics. The Freshman Exploratory Program yielded positive results for the program, with eleven first choice freshmen. The majority of the graduating class will continue their education in the engineering field. (Total enrollment: 48; 38 males, 10 females)

Graphic Communications: The Monty Tech Graphic Communications program is pleased to report that all graduating Seniors were accepted to area colleges and universities. The program benefited from twenty-four new iMac Computers with Adobe CC software, and our lab was renovated to accommodate this wonderful new technology. Throughout the 2015-2016 school year, the shop continued to produce large quantities of print projects for district towns and community service organizations. This year, over three hundred print projects were completed, saving local organizations approximately \$145,000. Twenty-two freshmen chose Graphic Communications as their top program, and two additional students joined our program, resulting in a freshman class of 24 students. The future looks bright for the Monty Tech Graphic Communications program. Three students earned co-op placements. Our students continue to perform well in related SkillsUSA competitions, and earned four medals at the District event - one silver and one gold in Advertising and Design, one gold in Screenprinting, and one bronze medal in Digital Cinema Production. (Total enrollment: 90; 37 males, 53 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. 2015-2016 was an exciting year for the program, as a new partnership with Mount Wachusett Community College enabled Senior students to participate in an Emergency Medical Technician training program, earning eight college credits at no cost. The program is dedicated to providing all students with opportunities to earn industry-recognized credentials, and as a result, students also earn the following credentials: 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. This year, 94% of the Senior students passed the National Healthcare Association (CCMA) exam. To support the students' desire to give back, a "Baby Shower" benefitting Battered Women's Resources, Inc. was held, students participated in Pediatric Day with the Early Childhood Education program and also raised \$700 for Special Olympics. (Total enrollment: 106; 10 males, 96 females)

House Carpentry: Most of the work done by the students and instructors in the Monty Tech House Carpentry program is done off-campus, completing renovations, buildings, and repair work for member communities. Some of the projects completed during the 2015-2016 school year include: building a two-story colonial home in Ashburnham for Montachusett Enterprise Center, Inc. (MEC), building two decks for a Habitat for Humanity house project in Fitchburg, building a shed for the Monty Tech football team, building a storage shed for Thomas Prince School in Princeton, and building a hip roof for the Lunenburg Cemetery Commission mausoleum. Lally columns were installed in two separate buildings for the Winchendon Housing Authority, and three "Buddy Benches" were built and installed at the Crocker School in Fitchburg. Tent platforms for Treasure Valley Scout Reservation in Rutland, curved picnic tables and benches for the Town of Hubbardston, ten bluebird houses for Ashby senior citizens, a small library for Baker's Grove Association in Westminster, picnic tables for Gardner Municipal Golf course, and numerous Adirondack chairs for non-profit organizations throughout the district were also built by the talented Carpentry students at Monty Tech. (Total enrollment: 68; 50 males, 18 females)

HVAC & Property Maintenance: The 2015-2016 school year was the first full year for the newly enhanced HVAC & Property Maintenance program, which is now aligned to the state frameworks more accurately. The program's new name and added curriculum is expected to present our students with additional career pathways and opportunities to participate in a co-operative work environment. Employers are discovering that we have more to offer, and students are finding themselves with more employable skill sets. As the shop continues its enhancements to the HVAC portion of our program, we are now fully involved with six student work modules, as well as a full-size commercial air chiller unit. New tooling to accommodate these changes includes the acquisition of six new lockable storage cabinet workbench workstations. These stations are outfitted with the necessary tooling used in the refrigeration trade, complete with test meters and manifold gauge sets. Nine Seniors and six Juniors participated in the very popular co-operative education program. (Total enrollment: 64; 56 males, 8 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. Some of our students compete in the Cyber Patriot event, a national high school cyber defense competition, founded by the Air Force Association. A team of eight students participated in the Fitchburg State University Programming Competition, placing 13th, 24th, and 25th out of 32 teams. Three Seniors were out on Co-op, and all Freshmen completed their Career Safe 10-Hour General Safety Certification. One Senior and one Junior developed websites for non-profit organizations - Gardner AARP and Monty Tech's Greenhouse. Our students performed very well in District and State SkillsUSA competitions. In the District competition, two Seniors were awarded gold medals in the 3D visualization & animation competition, two Juniors earned the gold in the Information Technology Services competition, and two sophomores brought home gold and silver medals in Internetworking. At the state

level, two talented Juniors earned Silver medals in Internetworking. (Total enrollment: 63; 58 males, 5 females)

Machine Technology: The Monty Tech Machine Technology Program continues to prepare students to achieve Level 1 and Level 2 MACWIC (Manufacturing Advancement Center for Workforce Innovation Collaborative) certification. Through a beneficial relationship with the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership, our instructors have access to high quality curriculum developed at WPI. Articulation agreements with Mount Wachusett Community College and Quinsigamond Community College were developed, which will save students time and money as they continue their education in the machining and manufacturing trades. Students completed a number of projects, including: engraving four hundred mirror frames, creating chocolate molds for the Superintendent's Dinner gifts, engraving gifts for the Class of 1996 reunion, engraving a time capsule plaque for the Town of Ashburnham, and refurbishing the hallowed Thanksgiving Day trophy for Narragansett Regional High School and Murdock Middle High School. (Total enrollment: 58; 57 males, 1 female)

Masonry: Students and instructors in Monty Tech's busy Masonry program continued to focus on a number of community projects including: installing brick steps and tiles for the Montachusett Enterprise Center, Inc. (MEC) house project in Ashburnham, installing a walkway for the Town of Hubbardston, construction of a mausoleum for the Lunenburg Cemetery Commission, installing a block wall for Turkey Middle School in Lunenburg, and repointing brick and block windows for Town of Templeton Water Department. In Winchendon, our students replaced walkways at the Clark Memorial YMCA, repaired block walls for the Housing Authority, and started the Veteran's cemetery walkway. 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. Instructors are proud to report that twelve Freshmen students selected Masonry as their top choice for placement, and look forward to teaching and mentoring this next generation of talented Masons. (Total enrollment: 66; 52 males, 14 females)

Plumbing: The Monty Tech Plumbing program, like other trades throughout the school, is committed to community service. As a result, students and instructors completed projects for a single-family home in Ashburnham for Montachusett Enterprise Center, Inc. (MEC). Students were introduced to high-efficiency condensing and LP gas heating systems during this project, and successfully installed the gas piping for the home. In addition, the students returned to the Bresnahan Scout Center in Ashburnham to finish plumbing installations. On campus, students fixed leaks, cleaned drains, replaced a hot water heater, worked on water coolers, and repaired and maintained the plumbing system. A Senior student was named Vocational Tech All-Star from the Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors Association of Massachusetts, receiving tools and a scholarship for continuing his education in the plumbing licensure program. Another Senior student won the Central Mass Plumbing & Gas Fitting Inspectors Association scholarship. Nine seniors and three juniors participated in the co-operative education program, gaining valuable work experience. Local plumbing companies have hired several graduates as plumbing apprentices. (Total enrollment: 75; 72 males, 3 females)

Welding/Metal Fabrication: The 2015-2016 school year brought the welcome addition of a third instructor to the Monty Tech Welding/Metal Fabrication program. A number of projects were successfully completed on the Monty Tech campus, and more than eighty projects benefiting the eighteen cities and towns in the Monty Tech district were completed by our talented students. Perhaps the most notable accomplishment is the installation of a twenty-one ft., multi-section statue for the Fitchburg Art Museum, which is the focal point to their main entrance. Students also



repaired railings for Lunenburg Middle School, and a light post, railings, and a mailbox for Sterling Municipal Light Department. They also fabricated and welded a time capsule for Mountview Middle School in Holden, and fabricated and welded stainless steel counter tops for Gardner Council on Aging. A new curriculum was implemented, bringing lessons in pipe welding to Senior students and CAD design with the Torch-Mate CNC plasma table to Junior students. Instructors are proud to report that six Seniors participated in the co-operative education program, demonstrating their strong technical skills, and five of those students continued their work with their employers post-graduation. (Total enrollment: 62; 48 males, 14 females)

Student Support Services

During the 2015-2016 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 2015-2016, the Monty Tech Technology Department completed a three-year technology plan and review, in preparation for a whole-school Chromebook roll-out in FY17. Training efforts continued throughout the year, to ensure teacher capacity in the Google for Education platform.

A sophisticated Liebert air conditioning system was installed in the Main Distribution Facility (MDF) to maintain constant temperature and humidity supporting the growing demands of the MDF.

Three Chromebook mobile labs were added to the fleet of mobile computer labs that circulate among classrooms providing the students with modern technology. A self-service LobbyGuard kiosk system was implemented that manages visitors to the building and increases school safety measures. The cafeteria received an upgrade to their POS system, utilizing advanced technology in school nutrition and meal planning. Candidates for free and reduced lunch may now complete an application online, managing payments and fees using this new online system. Finally, in preparation of the anticipated 2016-2017 Chromebook roll-out, the technology staff was reorganized. Duties were reallocated among staff and

leadership, transitioning to a more efficient department. New systems and policies are continually being researched to support this 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 2015-2016 school year was an extraordinary one for our chapter of SkillsUSA. The students met the challenges of districts, performed well at states and prepared for the National Conference. They also conducted several community service projects and raised money for various deserving charities. Serving as co-advisors were Kelsey Moskiwitz, English Instructor, Anne Marie Cataldo, Early Childhood Education Instructor, and Brad Pelletier, Special Education Instructor. Highlights of the year include:

- In September 2015, forty-one students applied and were accepted to form the Monty Tech SkillsUSA Leadership Team. After two leadership training sessions, seven officers were elected.
- In November 2015, sixteen students, consisting of chapter officers and Leadership Team members attended the Annual Fall State Leadership Conference, where they participated in workshops and leadership exercises and performed community service at an area YMCA Day Camp.
- The SkillsUSA local competitions took place November 2015, and on December 18th, the students learned who would advance to the next round of competition.
- A total of forty-seven medals were captured at the District Competition held in March 2016 at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School: fourteen gold, sixteen silver and seventeen bronze medals. Outstanding student Grace Kirrane qualified to run for the State Executive Council, as well.
- Olivia Houle, a junior in the Welding program, was selected to serve on the State Advisory Committee to help aid in the planning of the State Conference.
- Thirty-four district medalists and qualifiers, nine local leadership and occupational related event contestants, one state officer candidate and nineteen voting delegates for a total of sixty-three students attended the State Leadership and Skills Conference, held in April 2016 at Blackstone Valley Vocational Technical School. There, seven students were awarded gold medals, and earned the right to compete at the very competitive National Leadership & Skills Conference held in late June.
- Nine students and six instructors attended the National Leadership & Skills Conference in Louisville, KY in June 2016. There, Taylor Sadowski, a graduate from the Health Occupations program, earned a silver medal in the Medical Assisting contest.
- In August 2016, Grace Kirrane attended the SkillsUSA Massachusetts state leadership training where she was elected to serve as the SkillsUSA Massachusetts State Vice President.

Marine Corps JROTC

The Monty Tech Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MCJROTC) had a sensational school year. All program objectives for the 2015-2016 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 fourth overall in the Air Force Association's National Cyber Security Competition held in Baltimore, MD.

The 2015-2016 Corps of Cadets completed over eighty-eight hundred hours 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 five weekends working with the local Salvation Army helping to raise over \$25,000 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 \$20,000 for their Service Dogs for Veterans program.

Seventy Monty Tech cadets attended a leadership camp at Prince William Forest, in Quantico VA. The camp provided cadets with individual and team development opportunities, as well as the opportunity to visit our nation's capital and many other historical sites.

During the summer of 2016, 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 8-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 twenty-two states.

The Monty Tech JROTC program once again was awarded the designation of 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, Monty Tech's Senior Marine Instructor has the authority 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 2015-2016 school year marked the school's 14th year in this innovative school-to-business partnership. The highly successful collaborative program continues to grow with membership comprised of students from six area high schools. Its mission is to encourage female students to explore well-paying careers in the fields of 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. This past year we set a new high for the number of student/athlete participants, with forty-five teams and more than six hundred participants. Seventeen teams competed in Fall 2015, fourteen during the winter season, and another fifteen teams represented the school in Spring 2016.

Last fall, the Varsity Football team had their best season ever as they went 10 – 2 and won the State Vocational Large School Championship. The JV Football team had a good overall season and competed every game. The Freshmen Football team was 1 – 7 - 1. The Varsity Boys Soccer team finished at 14 – 6 and qualified for the post-season tournament, finishing second in the Colonial Athletic League with an 8 – 3 record. The JV Boys Soccer team finished their season with a record of 9 – 6. The Varsity Golf team was 4 – 12, while the JV Golf team played in three tournaments, gaining valuable experience on the links. The Varsity Field Hockey team was 17 - 1 - 2, qualifying for the Central Mass Tournament for the sixth consecutive year. They beat Grafton, 3 – 0 but lost to Lunenburg 1- 0 in an excellently played game. They won the Colonial Athletic League Championship with a 10 – 0 - 2 record. The JV Field Hockey team finished their season with a record of 5 – 2 – 1. The Boys Cross Country team was 9 - 4 and finished 4th in the CAI.. The Girls Cross Country team was 3 – 5 overall, and also finished 4th in the Colonial Athletic League. The Varsity Girls Volleyball team went 7 – 13, and during their busy season held a successful Bump-Set-Spike competition, raising more than \$3,000 to fight Breast Cancer. The JV Girls Volleyball team was 11 – 9, while the Freshmen Girls team continued to improve with a 7 – 10 record. The Varsity Girls Soccer team was 11 – 7 – 1 and qualified for the post-season, where they lost to Bromfield 5 – 0. The JV Girls Soccer team finished at 7 – 4 - 2 and will send some fine players to the varsity next year.

The Girls Varsity Basketball finished at 14 – 7 on the season, qualifying for the post-season tournament where they lost to an impressive Millis team. The JV Girls were 18 – 0 and will send some fine players up to the varsity next year, and the Freshmen Girls finished the season with a 9 – 5 record. The Varsity Boys Basketball team finished at 15 – 8 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 Bethany Christian in the first game of the Districts before losing to Hopedale in the quarterfinals. The JV Boys Basketball team was 13 – 8, while the Freshmen Boys ended the season 4 – 12. The Boys Ice Hockey team finished at 9 – 8 - 3 and qualified for the District Tournament, and can expect some impressive JV team members to move up and strengthen the program next season. Both Boys and Girls Indoor Track & Field participated in the Dual Valley Conference in 2016, where the boys were 4 – 4 and the girls finished with a 1 – 7 record.

In the spring, the Varsity Softball team qualified for the Central Mass Tournament for the 23rd consecutive year with a 13 - 7 record. They advanced to the Semi-Finals, but fell to Uxbridge. Coach Reid won his 600th game during this season, his 43rd year at Monty Tech. Coach Reid was also selected as the Massachusetts Softball Coach of the Year. The JV Softball team ended their season 5 – 10. The Varsity Boys Volleyball team was 19 – 4 and 12 – 0 in the Colonial Athletic League, winning the league Championship and qualifying for both the State Vocational and District Tournaments. They advanced to the State Vocational Tournament Finals, but fell to Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational technical High School 3 – 0. The Varsity Baseball team finished at 11 – 9, winning the Colonial Athletic League Small School Championship. The JV Baseball team was 8 – 8 and the Freshmen Baseball team was 2 – 8. The Boys Track & Field team was 8 - 2, finishing 3rd in the Colonial Athletic League, while the Girls Track & Field team ended the season with a record of 8 – 4, placing 5th in the Colonial Athletic League. The Varsity Boys Lacrosse team played in nineteen games, finishing the season with a 9 – 10 record, missing the playoffs by only one game, and finishing 2nd in the Colonial Athletic League. The JV Boys Lacrosse was 11 – 6 – 1, as we look to the future.

Congratulations to the Outstanding Male and Female athletes for 2015-2016, Kyle Morris and Kaitlyn MacAlister. Dave Reid, Monty Tech's long-time Athletic Director, also received the prestigious "John

Young Award” from the MIAA for his outstanding contribution and service to high school athletics throughout his forty-three years of service.

Monty Tech School of Continuing Education



The Monty Tech School of Continuing Education continues to update and add courses that emphasize a commitment to excellence by offering affordable, quality, and enjoyable educational experiences. For the Fall of 2015, Monty Tech offered 67 classes with 667 registrations, and during the Spring 2016 semester, there were 66 postgraduate and continuing studies courses, with 609 registrations.

The program, now under the leadership of Director Mary May-Lucchese, is looking forward to expanding the number of small business partnerships and increasing the number and quality of personal enrichment classes - sewing, knitting, acrylic painting and sculpting, to name a few. In addition, the Director has almost doubled the catalog distribution from 80,000 to 155,000 copies, and modified the saturation market to provide the popular evening programs with additional exposure.

The School of Continuing Education is also looking forward to introducing a new software program with robust reporting features and a very intuitive student and instructor portal. This web-based software enhancement is critical to the program and very high on our list of priorities. The new online registration feature will, no doubt, be received positively by students and instructors alike.

Spring 2017 will see our new ESL Beginner 1 and Beginner 2 courses come to fruition. These courses, coupled with our career and certificate classes, speak directly to course combinations that provide our community members an opportunity to grow, evolve and take their new skill set to the workforce.

The success (and sustainability) of an adult education program is based on hiring quality instructors and meeting the needs of the community. We are in line to accomplish both! Our goal in the coming year includes increasing our adult education course offerings, with a concentration on career programs. Stay tuned for Pharmacy Technician, Medical Billing and Coding, Auto Damage Appraiser and Apprenticeship opportunities at the Monty Tech School of Continuing Education.

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

The above mission and philosophy were met by the Practical Nursing program by several different methods.

On June 23, 2016, a graduating class of 32 students completed the Practical Nursing Program and entered the nursing profession. The class achieved an initial NCLEX pass rate of 91%, with 29 of the 32 graduates

achieving 100% pass rate for the NCLEX-PN exam. Three graduates are waiting to sit their NCLEX-PN exam. 94% of the 2016 graduates are currently employed in the health care profession throughout Massachusetts, and many are working within the eighteen cities and towns of the Monty Tech school district as LPNs in various health care settings, ranging from long term care, sub-acute care to mental health facilities.

The Monty Tech Practical Nursing Program continues to develop the “LPN to BSN Bridge” relationship with Fitchburg State University. Several 2016 graduates are pursuing seats in the LPN to BSN program at FSU and will be continuing their education to the Bachelors in Nursing. Many present class applicants cited as their attraction to Monty Tech as the opportunity to complete a ten-month accelerated program and then bridge to Fitchburg State University.

Monty Tech Practical Nursing students are now completing patient scenarios in the Sim Lab on a weekly basis in Term 2 and Term 3. The Faculty Sim team has implemented National League of Nursing (NLN) patient scenarios consistent with our curriculum frameworks, and have also utilized the Sim lab setting to instruct students in developing nursing skills that they may not be experiencing in the clinical setting. Instructors have successfully developed a pediatric patient scenario that is consistent with present student learning outcomes and the clinical pediatric setting.

The Practical Nursing Program Faculty implemented new student learning outcomes across the curriculum adopted from the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education Nurse of the Future Initiative LPN Competencies. The competencies have been recognized nationally as being consistent with current LPN practice. The Faculty will assess the revised student learning outcomes and our content to assure consistency with the new NCLEX-PN Detailed Test Plan that will be released in March 2017.

The class of 2016 performed a community service project adopting a Monty Tech family in need referred by Student Support Services. The nursing students purchased holiday gifts and food for the family, making sure they were consistent with the family’s requests or needs.

With an eye toward the program’s future, forty-seven applicants were accepted to the Class of 2017, and forty-five students enrolled and will continue in the tradition of high-quality practical nursing preparation.

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: The Machine Technology program at Monty Tech has a long history of successfully placing students in machine and manufacturing shops in the area. Program instructors work closely with a nineteen-member program advisory committee to ensure instruction and training equipment aligns with current industry standards, and welcome their guidance in this regard. With an eye toward expanding opportunities for students interested in pursuing occupations in this high-demand industry, program partner L. S. Starrett Company has suggested adding lessons in quality control and metrology to the existing curriculum. Program instructors anticipate reconfiguring the instructional space to bring in updated equipment, and will also add two industry-recognized certification exams to the curriculum. By standardizing metrology instruction and providing students with opportunities to earn additional credentials, program instructors are ensuring Monty Tech Machine Technology students are poised for a successful

school-to-work transition upon graduation.

Expand partnerships with area colleges and universities: Monty Tech students currently benefit from a number of articulation and dual enrollment agreements with surrounding post-secondary partners. In the coming years, we hope to expand those opportunities in two vocational-technical areas: Information Technology and Early Childhood Education. By the end of 2016-2017, Monty Tech Information Technology instructors will submit an articulation request to MWCC officials, to determine how our curriculum may align with MWCC's Computer Information Systems Transfer Track (CIT) program. Additionally, instructors in Monty Tech's Early Childhood Education program will continue discussions with Fitchburg State University officials, exploring the potential of embedding one college-level course into the senior year curriculum. School officials continue to discuss the merits of aligning curriculum, securing appropriate adjunct professor credentials, and costs associated with tuition and fees for the agreed upon course.

Expand Access to Instructional Technology: A Monty Tech education is effective because efforts are made to continually assess 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 whole-school technology initiative, culminating in a September 2016 Chromebook distribution to each of our 1,435 students. It is our hope that these devices will support learning, increase and streamline communication with teachers, and 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 bringing our 21st program to the school – Animal/Veterinary Science. The new program, open to students



Fall 2017, will respond to much-needed workforce training and community services, and will effectively prepare students to enter both college and career pathways upon graduation.

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 2015-2016 School Committee for their outstanding service.

Barbara Reynolds, Lunenburg
Chair

Brian J. Walker, Fitchburg
Vice Chair

Diane Swenson, Ashburnham
Peter Capone, Ashby
Toni L. Phillips, Athol
Whitney Marshall, Barre
Claudia Holbert, Fitchburg
Brian J. Walker, Fitchburg
Dr. Ronald Tourigny, Fitchburg
Leroy Clark/ Melanie Weeks, Fitchburg
Helen Lepkowski/ James S. Boone, Gardner
Eric D. Commodore, Gardner
TBD, Harvard

James Cournoyer, Holden
Kathleen Airoidi, Hubbardston
Edward Simms, Petersham
Eric Olson, Phillipston
John P. Mollica, Princeton
Mary C. Barclay, Royalston
Dr. Kenneth I.H. Williams, Sterling
James M. Gilbert, Templeton
Ross Barber, Westminster
Burton E. Gould, Jr., Winchendon

Terri Hillman, Gardner
Secretary

Norman J. LeBlanc
District Treasurer

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sheila M. Harrity, Ed.D.
Superintendent-Director
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School
December 14, 2016

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School
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Fitchburg, MA 01420
(978) 345-9200
www.montytech.net



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
RALPH C. MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016**

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Committee Member	Town	Term Expires
Peter Cross, Chair	Orange	2019
Patricia Smith, Vice-Chair	Orange	2018
Carla Halpern	New Salem	Appointed
Lynn Peredina	Petersham	Appointed
Heidi Shortis	Petersham	2019
Johanna Bartlett	Wendell	Appointed
Christopher Paul	Orange	2019
Rebecca Badgley	Orange	2017
Jessica Knox	Orange	Appointed
Sunday Lefebvre	Orange	2017
Chante Jillson	Orange	2018



**STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Colleen Ward**

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

**Office Hours: 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 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, 2016 to December 31, 2016. As such, all reports cover the final half of the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year and the first half of the 2016-2017 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. We believe that if we work as a cohesive system focused on:

- improving the instructional core and student supports, as well as developing resilience and perseverance, as the key variables in growing student achievement
- creating continuously advancing, innovative, well-structured and engaging practices through a collaborative culture and continuous data analysis; and
- involving the community in connecting real world experiences, then

Every student will graduate from high school with the skills, proficiencies and opportunities to succeed as a citizen in a global society. We believe the Strategic Objectives complement and reinforce one another to provide a powerful plan for improvement. Our goals are:

Aligned, Consistently Delivered and Continuously Improving Curriculum Effective Instruction & Instructional Leadership School Supports and Interventions

with an emphasis on literacy: reading, writing, listening, viewing, & presenting
through embedded assessment, 21st Century skills integration & matched professional development

Teacher of Year for 2015-2016
Dereck Dowler, High School Mathematics Teacher



New Personnel

The district welcomed the expertise of the following new faculty/staff members during the 2015-2016 school year:

Theresa Brooks	ELL Teacher
Mackenzie Grant	Middle School Special Education
Kate Lawless	Title I Paraeducator
Clifford Martin	Title I Paraeducator
Lillian McMahon	Special Education Paraeducator
Craig Newton	Special Education Paraeducator

Faculty and Staff Retirements

The following faculty/staff members retired at the conclusion of the 2015-2016 school year:

William Curtis	High School Social Studies
Barabara Dame	High School Mathematics
Gregory Scotland	Physical Education
Pamela Smith	High School English
Pennie Smith	High School English and Department Coordinator
Veronica Levasseur	Secretarial



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 sixth 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. Due to the success of this model, colleges and universities across the Commonwealth are looking to create similar programming with their own neighboring districts.

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.

Three CAPS Collaborative Programs Senators, Junior Senators & Senators Vocational

CAPS Senators Program services students with multiple disabilities which may include health, communication, neurological, and sensory impairments. Students are provided individualized educational programming, based on the MA Curriculum Frameworks and the students' IEPs. The Senior Senators Program Curriculum follows a Theme-based approach to learning that incorporates the content areas— English Language Arts, Math, History & Social Sciences and Science & Technology. All lessons are adapted to the

level and needs of each child and instruction is delivered in a small group settings, with each student receiving 1:1 support as needed. A significant emphasis is also placed on functional living skills, including all activities of daily living and community skills, increasing independence across all environments, and improved ability to communicate with others. Services available to all students are: Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech/Language Therapy, Behavioral Support, Vision Therapy, Oral Motor Therapy and Orientation & Mobility Services. Students with medical needs are monitored by a Registered Nurse with additional individualized nursing support provided as needed.

CAPS Junior Senators program services students with moderate to severe disabilities including Autism who present with delays in cognitive development as well as communication, social, and sensory impairments. Students are provided individualized educational programming based on the MA Curriculum Frameworks and the students' IEPs. Junior Senators is a program for Jr./Sr. High School age students. Instruction is delivered in a small group and 1:1 format using the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis including discrete trial training, incidental teaching, and behavior shaping. Goals of the program are to develop functional academics, functional living skills, as well as vocational/community/leisure skills. Services including Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, BCBA services and students with health impairments are monitored by a Registered Nurse.

CAPS Senators Program services students with multiple disabilities which may include health, communication, neurological, and sensory impairments. Students are provided individualized educational programming, based on the MA Curriculum Frameworks and the students' IEPs.

The Senators Vocational Program Curriculum follows a Theme-based approach to learning that incorporates the content areas—English Language Arts, Math, History & Social Sciences and Science & Technology. All lessons are adapted to the level and needs of each child and instruction is delivered in a small group settings, with each student receiving 1:1 support as needed. A significant emphasis is also placed on functional living skills, including all activities of daily living and community skills, increasing independence across all environments, and improved ability to communicate with others. Services available to all students are: Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech/Language Therapy, Behavioral Support, Vision Therapy, Oral Motor Therapy and Orientation & Mobility Services. Students with medical needs are monitored by a Registered Nurse with additional individualized nursing support provided as needed.

CURRICULUM AND LEARNING

Accomplishments of the 2015-2016 School Year

There was a targeted focus on again for middle school for the 2015-2016 school year, especially in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science. The middle school skills block was targeted and teacher grouped students by instructional need for their daily skills block.

In an effort to earn CPI extra credit points, each ELA, mathematics, and science teacher was asked to identify students that they felt they could move from the warning/failing category to the needs improvement category and from the proficient category to the advanced category. As a result of this focus, the school earned 125 out of 150 extra credit points.

By and large, except for science, these extra credit points were earned by both high needs students (low income, ELL, and special education students) and by students with special education plans and 504 accommodations -- see table below.

Based on the results below, the middle school plans to target the skills block again this year; with an additional focus on science skills and content.

2016		ALL Students	High Needs	SpEd
ELA - Ex Credit	10% less Failing	25	25	25
ELA - Ex Credit	10% increase Adv	25	25	25
Math - Ex Credit	10% less Failing	25	25	25
Math - Ex Credit	10% increase Adv	25	25	25
Science - Ex Credit	10% less Failing	0	0	0
Science- Ex Credit	10% increase Adv	25	25	0

In addition to the targeted focus of the skills blocks, the after school *Structured Mathematics Homework Program* was continued for year two. 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 7th grade saw an increase in State assessment scores:

Subject	Percent Proficient 2015	Percent Proficient 2016
English language Arts (ELA)	27%	32%
Mathematics	33%	35%

In addition, algebra saw an increase in State assessment scores (note in 2015 9th graders took the algebra assessment and in 2016 the grade 8 algebra pilot class n=19 took the algebra State assessment):

Subject	Percent Proficient 2015	Percent Proficient 2016
Algebra	25%	100%

While 8th grade ELA and mathematics saw a decrease in proficiency between 2015 and 2016 (9% in ELA and 11% in mathematics) there was no State average in 2016 to compare the results to, so it was unable to be determined if this was a trend state-wide or just at Ralph C. Mahar. In addition, 19 students who normally would have taken the Grade 8 mathematics assessment took the algebra assessment instead (100% of which scored proficient or advanced); if these students had taken the 8th grade mathematics assessment, it is anticipated the overall proficiency rate would have been higher for grade 8 mathematics.

The 2016 John & Abigail Adams Scholarship Winners



Planning Teams

Mahar continues to meet with its data team, professional development team, and curriculum mapping team. These teams were made up of a cross section of staff: middle school teachers, high school teachers, paraprofessionals, and administration. The teams began last year by establishing and inventory past practices and resources and continues this year to examine school and instructional data, professional development offerings, and curricula.

The data teams meets to discuss data trends in the school. The team examines, State and local assessment data along with school climate and culture reports. An administrative team meets with central administration monthly, then shares this data with coordinators and RtI teachers, and the data and trends are then shared with the entire faculty via department meetings and faculty meetings.

The professional development team began meeting in the spring to develop the PD plan for the 2016-2017 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 focussed 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 team will reconvene again in the early Spring of 2017 to plan the professional development for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year.

The curriculum mapping team is meeting monthly this year (2016-2017) to develop the core middle school curriculum maps for English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies. In addition, the Title I department met over the summer to revise the Title I ELA curriculum to reflect the shifts in the ELA standards and focus on students' writing in response to texts.

The high school has continued to enroll students in Virtual High School (VHS) courses. These classes continue to remain popular with juniors and seniors and offer a variety of courses that otherwise would not be available to students: i.e. oceanography, AP psychology, etc. due to enrollment numbers and availability of teaching faculty for such specific courses.



The Mahar Dam

Last fall, Senator Stanley Rosenberg informed the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District that the FY16 State budget included \$100,000 for the Mahar dam. The funding, originally part of the FY15 State budget, was eliminated last winter due to the Governor's 9C cuts. This \$100,000 was received by the School District on April 1st and defrayed the amount of borrowing needed to fund the total cost of the dam rehabilitation. The capital funding reduced the overall debt assessment slated to be imposed on our member towns over the next five years. Most importantly, these state resources allowed the School District to maintain a budgetary focus on teaching and learning.

The district is most appreciative of the efforts made by former Senator Stephen Brewer, Senator Stanley Rosenberg and Senator Anne Gobi as well as Representative Susannah Whipps-Lee in facilitating the expeditious release of this funding at this critical juncture of the dam project. The district would also like to recognize the efforts made by Anna Friedman, Fiscal Policy Advisor to Senator Rosenberg and Matthew Beaton, Secretary for Energy and Environmental Affairs.



OCTOBER 1ST ENROLLMENT for 2016

Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Total
119	121	123	118	95	94	670

KEY METRICS for OCTOBER 1ST, 2016

Enrollment at RC Mahar	670
Enrollment at Gateway	91
Enrollment at Pathways	38
Average Attendance Rate	96%
Average Tardy Rate	2%
Average Class Size	12.7
Number of Teachers	65.8
Special Education	16.9%
Economically Disadvantaged	36.6%
High Needs	41.5%
English Language Learners	1.9%
2015 Graduation Rate	88%
School Choice In (includes Gateway/Pathways)	265
School Choice Out	59
Home Education	11
Students Per Computer	1:1
Classrooms on the Internet (%)	100%

Student Assessment Results Fall 2016



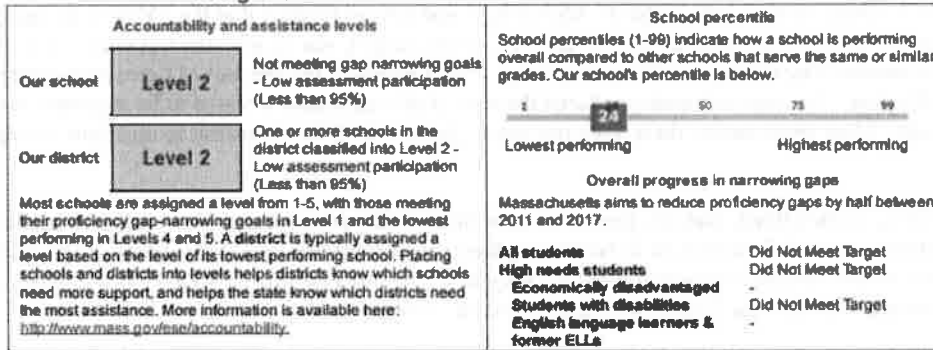
2016 Massachusetts School Report Card Overview RALPH C MAHAR REGIONAL (07550505)

Ralph C Mahar Public School District (07550000)
Scott A Hermin, Principal
Grades Served: 07,08,09,10,11,12

PO Box 680, Orange, MA 01364
Phone: 978.644.2542
Website: <http://www.rcmahar.org>

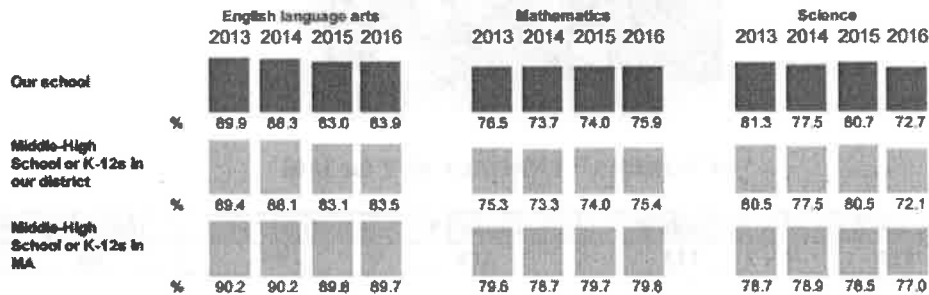
Report cards help parents/guardians and the general public see where schools and districts are succeeding and where there is still work to do. This report card overview answers important questions about our school's performance. For the full report card containing additional data contact the school's principal or visit the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's website at <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu>. For more information about report card data, visit our [Profiles Help](#) page.

How is our school doing overall?



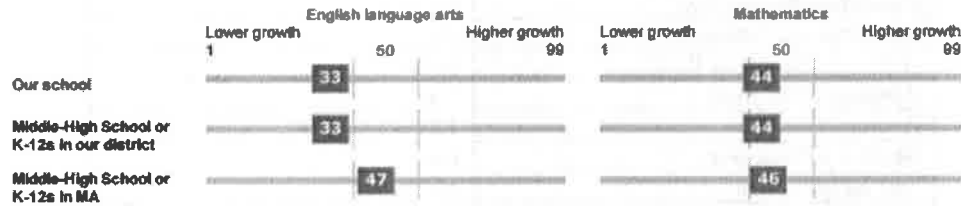
How does our school's achievement over time compare to the district and the state?

The transitional Composite Performance Index (CPI) is a number from 1-100 that represents the extent to which all students are progressing toward proficiency in a given subject. When all students demonstrate proficiency on MCAS and/or PARCC tests, the CPI will be 100. Our school's transitional CPIs for 2013-2016 are below.



How does our school's growth compare to the district and the state?

Transitional Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs) measure gains in student achievement from year to year. SGPs between 40 and 60 represent moderate growth. Our school's median SGPs for 2016 are below. (Note: Growth values are truncated.)



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=2016&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.

It is with great pride and pleasure that I present the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District's end of year report. I am so grateful to have worked with such a supportive community, staff, and students this past year. We have a strong school system with many amazing things happening in our district each day.

Tari Nugent Thomas
Superintendent of Schools
January 2017

