



2019 – 2020

**ANNUAL
OFFICIAL REPORTS**

of the

Town of Petersham

MASSACHUSETTS

Town of Petersham - Annual Report

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TOWN of PETERSHAM OFFICE of the SELECTBOARD

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Annual Report of the Selectboard, Fiscal Year 2020

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

We open this Fiscal Year Annual Report noting that when the year began in July 2019 no one could have foreseen how the second half of the fiscal year would transpire as the community and the world began to face the impact of 'Coronavirus disease 2019' known as COVID-19. As news began to unfold in January 2020 and became full and blunt fact by March, Petersham officials, staff, and residents united to face the new normal.

This annual report documents the year ending June 30, 2020, by which point the community had been managing thru several months of the pandemic and which continued worldwide into the new fiscal year. Though the world had come to a near standstill, at the local level and through it all Petersham remained united and strong, working in unison to address the needs of the community while keeping regular town business running smoothly — we showed our flexibility, our compassion, our strength to carry on.

The Petersham Selectboard thanks all who participated in this year's town business — town staff, town committee members, elected officials, and volunteers — working together and with residents on a variety of needs and projects.

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COVID-19 Pandemic and A Year Like No Other

Early in 2020, as the world-wide health emergency became clear to all, and heeding directives from the federal level and various agencies of the Commonwealth including the Mass. Department of Public Health, on March 10, Massachusetts Gov. Baker declared an official public health emergency. As positive virus cases began to be recorded in the immediate region, on March 13 the local Schools announced action to temporarily close. The Selectboard organized a joint meeting for March 25 of all pertinent Boards and staff to begin to unite, organize, and focus on plans and needs for the new normal. All did an excellent job of managing logistical questions, responding to needs and emergencies, organizing so that town business could continue with safety precautions in place, and more. We are proud of how Petersham managed thru these unprecedented times.

Specific issues for the Selectboard included reviewing Annual June Town Meeting timing and needs including reducing the quorum level and moving the date. Working with the Town Clerk, the Selectboard moved the annual Town Election date from its normal first Monday in March 2020 to June 22 and moved Annual Town Meeting to June 29 rather than the first Monday in June. The Selectboard and Town Clerk created safe conditions at Town Hall for that critical public business.

Also in April, the Selectboard worked with the Tax Collector to approve certain tax collection conditions be modified due to COVID-19 including setting a new due date for local taxes from April 1 to June 1 and waiving of interest and fees on late payments until June 1, 2020.

Working with the Board of Health, the Selectboard temporarily closed town buildings and then set public access restrictions in place at the Town Offices so as to maintain a safe schedule and environment for town staff to continue their work and increased the number of monitors on duty at the Transfer Station so as to increase safety oversight for residents.

The Selectboard organized professional deep cleaning of Town Hall, Town Offices, and the Police Station and cruisers; planned and purchased personal protection equipment for town staff and committees; assisted in shifting committee meetings to remote access; sited a public portapotty at Town Hall exterior; and monitored State and federal notices and information including for emergency funding support; among a multitude of other COVID-19 related tasks and combined with maintaining regular day-to-day town business during the ongoing health emergency. The Selectboard maintained its full and regular meeting schedule during this time, meeting in person with safety precautions in place and providing remote access.

The Selectboard is grateful to the town's dedicated Board of Health for all of their work and to the town's emergency response staff — Police, Fire, and EMTs — who performed with their usual strong commitment and professionalism to the needs of the community. They were well prepared to manage all situations with COVID-19 precautions in place; being extremely careful of public and their crews' safety. As the world grew temporarily quiet and as individuals and families functioned within their own “bubbles”, visitors from out of town looking for outdoor respite flocked to Petersham's open space for hiking and biking, to simply get outdoors. The Quabbin Reservoir in particular saw a surge of visitors with overflow traffic at gate entries in Petersham and the surrounding area.

Through the months, the community as a whole worked diligently to keep positive COVID-19 cases as low as possible. Most of the town committee meetings and myriad community events were subdued from March thru June 2020 as the community followed universal guidelines for limiting public and personal interactions; these conditions continued into the new fiscal year.

Town Budget & Annual Town Meeting – June 2020

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, in April 2020, the Selectboard recommended setting an 'Essential Spending Only' policy for the balance of the year April 15–June 30, 2020; this action was taken jointly with the Advisory Finance Committee. We are grateful that departments and committees rose to the situation and focused only on necessary spending to the fiscal year end.

The Selectboard conducted annual town budget development from January into June 2020 working jointly with the Advisory Finance Committee and with the participation of all town departments and committees. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainty of how the State and municipal budgets for Fiscal Year 2021 might be impacted, it was decided that Petersham's Annual Meeting Budget and Warrant would focus only on the operating budget and debt commitments. Most departments and committees met the request for level-funded operating budgets. All capital project requests were put on hold for either a possible Fall 2020 Special Town Meeting or to wait until the next fiscal year depending upon the pandemic's impact.

Due to the public health situation, Annual Town Meeting was held on nearly the last day of the fiscal year – June 29, 2020. Working in partnership with the Moderator and Town Clerk, and as allowed by emergency State legislation, the Selectboard also voted to modify the Town Meeting quorum to 1% of registered voters rather than the town's required 10%. Even with the reduced quorum level over 50 voters attended Town Meeting to properly conduct town business. COVID-19 precautions were in place and both the interior and exterior of Town Hall were pressed into service to create a safe environment. Voters supported the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget and Warrant as presented. Keeping to the limited budget held as being the right decision as the new fiscal year began and COVID-19 continued unabated with financial uncertainties still in the air. The Selectboard is sincerely grateful to all who worked to make Town Meeting a success in such difficult times and for the dedication of local voters during a major public health emergency.

Town-wide Broadband Network Project

The Selectboard continued to meet with the town's Broadband Municipal Light Plant Board (MLP) as work progressed on development of the town-wide Fiber-to-the-Home broadband network.

In November 2019, the Selectboard received updates from the MLP Board including about specific projects for underground trench & conduit work in the Historic District along the Common so as to connect south and north portions of the town. The Selectboard approved TriWire Engineering Solutions as the low bidder for that project with engineering provided by Matrix, the network designer and the town's service provider. The Selectboard also held a Public Hearing and approved installation of a single utility pole required for the project on Hardwick Road. Selectboard and MLP Board member Nancy Allen managed project procurement processes for the MLP and kept the Selectboard informed of the project budget and updates as work progressed.

The utilities' make-ready work was concluded in December 2019 and Matrix began construction in January 2020 with the first customer network connections made in the Spring from the Town Hall electronics hub room to nearby homes. Matrix and their subcontractor TriWire worked diligently under difficult COVID-19 safety and access conditions so that by June 30, 2020, Matrix had connected a large portion of their projected 400+ customers and continued with their work into the new fiscal year.

Nichewaug Inn & Academy Project

Work on reviewing the future of the town-owned property continued throughout the fiscal year with Selectboard Vice Chair Henry Woolsey managing the process.

In Fall 2019, Selectboard members Henry Woolsey and Rick Marsh determined a next best step was to seat a new property review committee. They created a charge for the Nichewaug Inn & Academy Committee (NIAC) and in December three members were appointed to an initial one year term.

In November 2019, the Selectboard hosted Glenn Eaton, Executive Director of Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC), to review possible project support available through MRPC. Mr. Eaton described resources including possible Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) planning grant funding for property studies. In January 2020, the Board, with assistance from the NIAC, submitted a request for DLTA funding and the grant was awarded in February. In August 2019, the Selectboard received notice from the town's insurance

company that repairs needed to be made to the building roof and basement water pumped out or the town's liability policy would be cancelled. The Selectboard determined those repairs were not feasible at this time and the insurance was ended.

Town Hall Handicap Lift Project

In October 2019, the Selectboard applied for a Municipal Americans with Disabilities grant from the State for execution of a three-stop handicap lift at Town Hall; the grant was awarded in December 2019 and the \$140,000 grant funded the bulk of project costs in combination with funding previously approved by Town Meeting voters. In December, the Selectboard awarded the construction contract to the low bidder, Clearview Contracting. The lift project began in earnest in early Spring 2020 just as the pandemic was taking full hold. Nancy Allen worked with the contractor for project oversight and provided required progress reports to the State. The Selectboard is very grateful the crew worked steadily thru the months so as to keep the project on track for successful conclusion by the grant deadline of June 30, 2020. Nancy Allen created and submitted the project close-out report to the State from the Selectboard and the town received the full grant reimbursement amount.

In conjunction with the handicap lift project, the Selectboard implemented upgrades to the parking and surrounding slope area of Town Hall and Town Offices using funding that had been approved by voters. The Board thanks the Petersham Highway Department for their excellent work in executing the project with outside contractor Mallet Excavating.

Right to Farm Bylaw

The Selectboard had selected review of a local 'Right to Farm Bylaw' as a 'Best Practice' from the Commonwealth Community Compact offerings organized by the Office of the Governor. The Petersham Planning Board had helpfully organized and conducted reviews about the possible Bylaw with stakeholders including residents, farmers, abutters, and pertinent town officials. A draft Bylaw had been modified thru several iterations. In January 2020, the Selectboard organized and hosted a Public Information Meeting to review the process to that point. It was determined by all involved that the town's current Bylaws cover the needs and interests of the community and no further Bylaw was needed. The Selectboard concurred with this and prepared and submitted a project close-out report to the State relaying the results of the investigation. The Selectboard is grateful to the Planning Board, Animal Inspector, and Assistant Animal Inspector for their dedicated time and review.

Chimney Hill Cell Tower

In February 2020, the town received notice of a Complaint filed against the town in U.S. District Court due to the Zoning Board of Appeal's denial of a Special Permit to an Applicant for a proposed 160 foot cell tower development at Chimney Hill on Hall Road. The Selectboard and ZBA engaged Town Counsel and the process carried over into Fiscal Year 2021. In July 2020, all parties came to a resolution thus not requiring Court action. Both the Selectboard and ZBA unanimously approved that Town Counsel execute an 'Agreement for Judgement' with the tower developer with all parties agreeing to a 140-foot tall camouflaged tower, twenty feet lower than the original application request. The Board thanks the ZBA members for their diligent work on this matter.

Glen Valley Road Bridge and Quaker Drive Bridge

During the year, the Selectboard was kept up to date on engineering work conducted in tandem with the Mass. Dept of Transportation (DOT) for a new permanent Glen Valley Road Bridge to replace the temporary bridge now in place. The Selectboard worked with Highway Dept. Superintendent Greg Waid who oversaw the initial planning and engineering process. In April 2020, the engineering team of CHA Engineering held a Public Hearing presenting their plans.

MassDOT also informed the town that their inspections determined that Quaker Drive Bridge over Moccasin Brook needed to be replaced. The Highway Dept. set up the required detour route and the process began to address that now closed bridge. In August 2019, Greg Waid began the review work for that project including selecting an engineering firm and in February 2020, the Selectboard approved his recommendation of utilizing Mass. Chapter 90 roadwork funding for the project engineering. Selectboard member Nancy Allen worked with Greg Waid and the engineering firms on both of these bridge projects.

Other Business and Projects

In September 2019, the Selectboard gratefully accepted a donation of \$10,000 from residents Susan Foster & John Baker for monitoring of properties with conservation restrictions held by the town. In August 2019, the Selectboard reviewed and approved a contract with the qualified low bidder, Petersham Builders, for construction of the new accessible restroom at the Memorial Library with partial project funding provided by town voters. The Board reviewed and approved transferring an old, unused Fire Dept. truck to the Forest & Shade Tree Committee for use at the town's Wood Bank managed by the Committee. In Spring 2020, the Selectboard executed reworking of the Town Hall sump pump by Clearview Contracting for improved, reliable performance and with funding provided by town voters.

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In closing, we thank the staff at the Selectboard Office – Sherry Berube and Derrick Vannoy – for their dedicated work for the Office, fellow staff and Committee members, residents, and visitors.

This year we offer special thanks to the many State and regional officials, agencies, and individuals who kept towns across the Commonwealth, including Petersham, well informed about COVID-19 and all that it entailed. Massachusetts was well served during a time of public health emergency and for that we are grateful.

Fiscal Year 2020 was consumed by a worldwide pandemic — in our small corner of the world the Petersham community remained strong and resilient; worked together and watched out for one another; and rose to the challenges the world now faced. We continue deeply grateful to all who strive to make Petersham a fine community for residents, businesses, and visitors.

Respectfully submitted – Petersham Selectboard,

~ Nancy S. Allen
Chair

~ Henry L. Woolsey
Vice Chair

~ Fredrik A. Marsh
Clerk

**Town of Petersham
Advisory Finance Committee Report
Reserve Fund Transfers
Fiscal 2020**

Balance July 1, 2019	\$ 56,638.07
Available for FY20	<u>\$ -</u>

Transfers:	\$ -	Account Description
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Total Transfers	<u>\$ -</u>
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Balance June 30, 2020	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>
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Respectfully Submitted:
Richard Cavanaugh, Chairman
Mark Bishop, Vice Chair
Sandy Page, Clerk

Animal Control
Petersham, MA

Reporting Period: 01 July 2019 thru 30 June 2020

From found domestic rabbits, to loose cows, dogs, and llamas, this reporting period saw an increase in the number of calls (average 25/month) coming into animal control. Cases requiring attention represented a variety of species and there was an increase in the number of animals on quarantine hold. As has been the case in previous years, we receive calls for domestic pets, farm animals, and wildlife. This reporting period also saw an increase in the number of raptor incidents. Petersham AC continues to assist surrounding towns as needed, especially when additional sheltering space is required.

Dr. Heidi Langendoen again assisted with rabies vaccinations at the annual clinic, keeping the tradition going. The Board of Health has been very supportive of this effort.

When the stay at home order was issued in March, the calls for wildlife sightings and lost pets increased dramatically. Additionally, residents had many questions about Covid and pets.

In Massachusetts, all dogs, cats, and ferrets are required to be vaccinated against rabies. It is also the law that dogs must be registered through the Town Clerk. Petersham is fortunate in that the Town Clerk provides an easy to register system when the annual census is sent to households. *There is no excuse to not register your dog!* Having dogs registered is immensely helpful when one goes missing....or if there is a bite incident.

Animal Control submits a monthly call log summary to the Select Board, where it is kept on file.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Jones Bachrach

Annual Report of the Petersham Animal Inspector: June 2021

Animal Inspector Duties

Yearly inspections are performed to insure the town has an accurate count of how many animals of each species are in town and where they reside. 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. 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, checking the ear tags and date of arrival of all cattle coming into town from out of state, and to insure compliance repeat inspections as necessary.

Due to Covid-19 Restrictions the State Director of Agriculture has asked all Town Animal Inspectors to minimize in person on-site inspections. Exceptions were farms with large numbers of livestock, ongoing inspections to monitor past violations, and new and open complaints. Many locations were contacted by phone; however due to Broadband coming into Town many residents dropped their landlines and were not able to be contacted.

An increase in the bear population, as well as other predators, has taken a toll on livestock and poultry in town over the last few years. The possibility of Eastern Cougar threatening livestock can no longer be discounted. Keeping electric fencing in good order and the inclusion of guard animals can help in protecting farm animals, chicken coops and beehives.

Each year an effort is made to update the 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.

Town Animal Count by Species

- **Cattle:** 62 (includes dairy, beef, steers and oxen)
- **Goats:** 138
- **Sheep:** 81
- **Swine:** 27 (includes breeders and feeders)
- **Camelids:** 71 (includes llamas and Alpacas)
- **Yaks:** 3
- **Equines:** 67 (includes horses, donkeys and mules)
- **Poultry:** 1,312 (includes chickens, turkeys, ratites, waterfowl, and gamebirds)
- **Rabbits:** 8

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 continuing thanks to my assistant Deb Jones Bachrach for her help and support.

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 2020

Expense Account	\$15,301.00
Deeds, Postage and all Misc Bills	
Point Software, Software Maintenance	
Personal Property, Cartographic, Inc.	
Recertification	
Vision Appraisal-Software Maintenance	\$ 4,609.00
Vision Appraisal-Interim	\$ 0.00
Vision Revaluation – 3 year requirement	Article 29
Assessor's Salary	\$ 8,891.00
Asst. Assessor Salary	\$34,713.00

TAX RECAPITULATION

Total amount to be raised	\$4,791,185.44
Total estimated receipts & revenue	\$2,023,960.00
Net amount to be raised by taxation	\$2,767,225.44

Tax Rate \$ 17.37 per thousand

CALCULATION

Value of Town divided by 1000
 $159,310,618. / 1000 = 159,310$ will equal \$1.00 on tax rate.

Personal Property Accounts are not for public information.

Respectfully Submitted,
Board of Assessors

Ellen Anderson, Chair
Jean Robinson, Clerk
Dana Kennan, Member
Andrea Gale, Assistant Assessor



PETERSHAM BOARD OF HEALTH

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petershamboh@verizon.net

ANNUAL REPORT July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

The Board of Health has three elected officials, Chair, Robert Pasic, Stephen Loring, Fifi Scoufopoulos, and administrative assistant, Renee Wingertsman. Robert Pasic resigned in May of 2020 and Dr. Rebecca Jackson was appointed. Phil Leger is Health Agent. The Board meets on the first and third Thursday at 7:00 p.m. or as posted on www.townofpetersham.org.

This has been a very challenging time for the board because of the pandemic. The board conducted an emergency meeting with other offices on April 1, 2020 and closed the Town Office to the public. An outside company was hired to clean and sanitize the building.

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

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
5. Oversight of waste management

Memberships are: Region II Public Health Coalition, the Mass. Assoc. of Health Boards, Wachusett Medical Reserve Corps, and the Mass Toss Cooperative. The BOH assists the Select board with the operation of the Transfer Station. The BOH is responsible for the Public Health portion of the Emergency Management Program with the Department of Homeland Security. The annual rabies clinic held on January 25, 2020 was sponsored in collaboration with the Town Clerk, Animal Control Officer, Board of Health, Highway Department and veterinarian Dr. Heidi Langendoen, DVM and Deb Bachrach and Amelia Wendell. Proceeds were donated to PAWS (Petersham Animal Welfare System), the local animal welfare group. The Board of Health received a recycling grant of \$2800.00 from DEP for its achievements in recycling.

Annual participation in the regional Household Hazardous Waste collection in Orange in September 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 and a small income to the town.

Local Board of Health Duties

Perc Tests	15	Food Operations	10
Plan Reviews	14	Temporary Food permits	01
Repair; minor	04	Lyme disease reported	07
Systems Installed	15	Tobacco permit	01
System Haulers Permits	04	Housing Inspection	00
System Installers Permit	06	Outdoor Wood Boiler Permit	00
Private Well Permits	06	Public Water Systems	07

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 health of our community.

Robert Pasic ♦ Fifi Scoufopoulos
Rebecca Jackson Stephen Loring

Annual Report of the Petersham Broadband MLP Board

07/01/2019 – 06/30/2020

July 1, 2019

After more than 12 years of effort, Petersham has reached a funding agreement with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Mass Technology/ Massachusetts Broadband Institute) guaranteeing a Broadband Reimbursement Grant in the amount of \$880,000. This grant becomes payable to the Town upon completion of the Broadband Network.

This funding dramatically reduces Petersham's anticipated overall Broadband Project cost. The cost to Petersham taxpayers will be less than the cost incurred by almost all of the other 45 rural Central & Western Mass communities currently building Broadband networks.

September 6, 2019

Petersham now has 411 paid Broadband subscribers representing more than 75% of all homes and businesses * State signed Broadband reimbursement grant in the amount of \$880,000 last February * Matrix has reduced connection fee from \$500 to \$400 for those customers opting not to purchase telephone service * Broadband utility pole Make-Ready work (1900 poles) carried out by National Grid began on Monday April 3rd * National Grid contractors completed their work in record time on May 21st * Verizon crews began the final portion of the Make Ready work on May 22nd * Verizon crews have taken longer than expected but should be finishing up their work shortly (85% complete as of 9/3) * Matrix crews have been ready to begin the process of installing their fiber-optic cable and connecting homes for many months but cannot start until Verizon signs-off * 47 miles of fiber-optic cable is in the process of being delivered * Matrix is now scheduled to begin hanging fiber-optic cable within the next month * 70 Mile long Fiber connection between Petersham Broadband Equipment room in Lower Town Hall and Internet "Back-haul" provider in Boston was completed on August 27th * High Speed Broadband link to Town Hall Equipment Room scheduled to go live by late September (a wired/wireless high-speed connection for residents to try out will be available) * Mile long Town-owned buried fiber-optic cable connecting the East & West sides of Town is currently being installed under Matrix supervision and will be completed by September 12th.

September 21, 2019

On Saturday 9/21 we had a good turnout for our latest Broadband Information Meeting with about 60 people in attendance.

The Internet connection between the Broadband Equipment Room in the Lower Town Hall is now "live". This 70-mile fiber connection between Petersham and the Boston Internet "back-haul" provider will be the source of all resident connections. Matrix is ready to start hanging fiber and connecting customers the minute Verizon finally completes the 15% of the utility pole Make Ready work remaining. This is a major project milestone.

November 26, 2019

Petersham's Broadband project continues to move steadily forward. After an eight-month wait, during which Matrix/Petersham was forbidden from placing any of our fiber on our poles, both

utilities, National Grid & Verizon, have now issued licenses completing the twenty-six Pole Applications Make Ready process.

Despite these delays, Matrix is committed to working throughout the coming winter months to meet our scheduled project completion date this Spring.

Work on moving existing fiber on 157 poles on the State's Middle Mile fiber network which runs along ten miles of our poles is ongoing and should be completed by next week (12/07). Look for the white Phoenix bucket trucks.

After more than twelve years of effort, Petersham's Broadband project will now be officially in our hands.

In the last three weeks, two deliveries totaling more than 37 miles of Matrix fiber-optic cable have been made to Petersham.

December 15, 2019

After almost one year of on-and-off effort, both National Grid and Verizon have now completed the Make-Ready work on Petersham's more than 1,900 utility poles and the State of Massachusetts has completed the repositioning of its fiber-optic Middle Mile cable making room for Petersham and its project partner Matrix Design to begin hanging our own fiber and to start connecting our more than 400 prepaid subscribers.

January 6, 2020

Initial Broadband Construction Area: Work will be starting in the center of Town - East St - Maple Lane - Quaker Drive - Glasheen Rd - Oliver St - South Main St - Barre Rd on Monday 01/06/20.

January 9, 2020

Pole hardware installation has been completed along the following routes: East Street from the Town Hall to Maple Lane – Oliver Street from South Main Street to the end of South Main Street.

January 10, 2020

Bucket Truck Crews continue to work in the center of Town installing pole hardware, and in places where network "backbone" fiber will run, installing 1/4" stainless steel cable designed to support and lash together multiple fiber lines (1-4) increasing the efficiency of the network and making the overall build more aesthetically pleasing (Visually you will see one overhead cable instead of 3 or 4). Matrix and Matrix subcontractors are now scheduled to work every day until final completion of the network.

February 4, 2020 Today is day 30 of the construction phase of Petersham's Broadband network (16 work-days). This week Matrix and its subcontractors have begun to run fiber-optic cable to individual homes and businesses.

During the past three weeks more than 240,000 feet (45 miles) of US-manufactured network fiber-optic cable have been delivered to Petersham

April 17, 2020

The vast majority of all backordered parts and pole hardware orders have now been delivered despite severe Covid-19 related disruptions to worldwide equipment supply chains.

April 28, 2020

With detailed Covid-19 safety measures in place, Matrix and subcontractor crews will restart the street-side construction phase of the Town-wide Broadband Project on Tuesday, April 28.

May 5, 2020

Work continues this week with more than six Matrix/Tri-wire crews working in Town. Specialized crews were also working this past Saturday in several areas. Covid-19 precautions are in-place.

May 15, 2020

Because of Covid-19, both Matrix and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, are now offering free Public High Speed Wifi connections available from front parking areas of the Town Hall and Town Office Building. Petersham thanks both Matrix and the MBI for their support during these difficult times. No password required. Please maintain social distancing. Network Backbone Cable installed: 30.7 miles - Drop Cables Installed at residence and business locations: 175 / 420 (42%) - Roadway Network Splicing: completed for service area of 170 subs - Terminals Splicing.

May 22, 2020

LIVE HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND CONNECTIONS HAVE BEGUN – THE CONSENSUS OF SUBSCRIBERS CONNECTED SO FAR CAN BE SUMMED UP IN ONE WORD – “WOW!”

As one newly connected resident reported:

“In the past with Verizon DSL, I was only able to participate in work-related “ video conferences” through an audio connection. Now with Petersham/Matrix Broadband I am joining conferences in high-definition video while others in my household are simultaneously watching a Netflix movie and still others are participating in on-line learning. “WOW!”

May 28, 2020

After a great first week, Matrix has made the decision today to increase their daily connection appointment schedule by 50%. Additional connection teams will be in Town starting next week. Fifteen (15) more subscribers have confirmed appointments as of today.

June 26, 2020

The Petersham Broadband MLP Board reports that, despite ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, it expects that all 411 families and business subscribers will be fully connected to its high-speed fiber-optic network within the next few months. Petersham’s network will connect our residents faster and more reliably than the Internet connections found in 95% of all the other 19,500 small towns in the United States.

Report of the Capital Improvement Planning Committee
Fiscal Year 2020

The Capital Improvement Planning Committee would like to recommend the following budget for Capital Improvement items for Fiscal Year 2020. All requests were evaluated on need, cost effectiveness, quality of improvement, completeness and availability of funds.

The following items are recommended for inclusion in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for June of 2019.

Police Department – Body Armor	\$ 9,542.00
Police Department – New Cruiser (Pickup)	\$ 48,205.00
Fire Department – Quick Attack Pumper	\$ 280,000.00
Landscaping South Side – Town Hall	\$ 10,000.00
Handicapped Toilet – Library	\$ 15,000.00

The CIPC believes that this Capital Budget is reasonable and necessary. The recommendation for the Handicapped Toilet for the Library will be contingent on an opinion from Town Counsel as to whether the Town can fund a project on a building that is not owned by the Town. We believe that this budget can be funded using a combination of current year appropriation, Free Cash, use of Stabilization Funds, other available funds and borrowing. The CIPC did not take into consideration any excess levy capacity that may exist in making its recommendations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Robinson, Ch.
Fredrik Marsh
Mark Bishop
John Lawson
Irene Graeff
Lynn Perdina
Hillary Loring

PETERSHAM CEMETERY COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT
July 2019 – June 2020

The Cemetery Commission regularly meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7 pm in the Selectmen's Office at the Town Hall. This year, due to the COVID virus, the Cemetery Commission did not meet in March, May, or June.

The Commission investigated the possibility of permitting natural burials in some of the town's cemeteries. Commission members met with the Board of Health and it was agreed that we could advance this possibility. Restriction would be to town residents only due to space considerations. The West Road, Mann, and Williams Cemeteries were considered possible locations. Procedures and guidelines for such burials still need to be determined.

Now that the survey and map of the West Road Cemetery has been completed by Alf Berry, we are ready to move on to the next step of marking rows in that cemetery. We are in discussions with Alf over doing a similar survey of the East Street Cemetery.

We did not hold another "ghost" walk this year, but Ken Levine did create a scarecrow for the Commission for the fall Cultural Council Scarecrow Contest.

Selective gravestone cleaning has continued. The Cemetery Commission has been using D2, a cleaning agent approved by historic preservationists, to clean the stones with the least disturbance possible. We have employed TaMara Conde of Historic Gravestone Services to repair selected broken or toppled stones with a particular emphasis on veterans' graves.

Repairs and cleaning were accomplished in the East Street, West Road, and Goddard Cemeteries.

We continue to work on a new Cemetery Rules and Regulations document.

The Wheeler, Williams, Rickey, and Mudge graves were planted with annual flowers before Memorial Day as usual.

Cemetery Commission Members on June 31, 2020

Barbara Hanno, Chairperson

Robin Koenig, Sexton

Lynn Shaw, Clerk

Glenede Albertine

Deb Bachrach

Ken Levine

Sheila Youd



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 YEAR 2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020)

Regular monthly meetings were held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. Public Hearings and Special Meetings were scheduled to either coincide with regular monthly meetings or between monthly meetings as necessary. The December 2019 meeting was cancelled. Special Meetings were held on 9 July 2019 and on 12 February 2020 to issue Determinations of Applicability and Special Meetings were held on 27 September 2019 and on 23 January 2020 to issue Certificates of Compliance.

The Public Hearing on the Notice of Intent by Sunpin Solar Development, LLC for a wetland crossing to access a proposed 14 acre ground-mounted solar facility off of New Athol Road was held on 6 August 2019 with continuations in September, October, and November 2019 and in January, February, and March 2020 when an Order of Conditions was issued. This project required the hiring of an outside Peer Reviewer which corroborated the Commission's findings and made recommendations for the Order of Conditions.

The Commission issued a total of two Determinations of Applicability and a total of two emergency certifications during Fiscal 2020. One Order of Conditions was issued during fiscal year 2020. Site visits were conducted for all Requests for Determinations of Applicability, Notices of Intent, and Certificates of Compliance and for other issues requiring Conservation Commission recommendations or approval.

Over thirteen Forest Cutting Plans were reviewed including landowner submissions, DCR Service Forester approvals, and DCR Service Forester final inspections. One DCR Advisory Ruling under the Watershed Protection Regulations was reviewed as were three Approval Not Required plans from the Planning Board.

Melissa Martinez moved and resigned from the Commission just before the Fiscal Year began. Tyson Neukirch resigned as he did not have the time to serve on the Commission and David Boeri resigned from the Commission as well leaving a four-member Commission through the remainder of the Fiscal Year.

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. The Davenport Pond Property is protected under Chapter 97 with USDA Forest Legacy funds with the expectation for sound forest management. The property has a forest stewardship plan as part of the protection with Forest Legacy funds. Plans are being prepared for a parking area, signs, and a trail map for the Davenport Property.

The Commission holds Conservation Restrictions (CRs) on over 880 acres of private land including a 200-foot zone on either side of the East Branch of the Swift River on Harvard Forest property and The Trustees' Brooks Woodland Preserve. The required annual monitoring of the CRs was done by Dr. Richard King as the students from Clark University were no longer available due to the discontinuation of the Land Conservation course. Richard King's CR monitoring is a valuable service to the Conservation Commission and to Petersham. 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 of the open fields continued at the Babbitt Sanctuary.

Extreme weather events, both wind and rain, continue to be a problem with considerable tree damage and power outages. Because of the COVID19 virus, the Environmental Education Program at the Petersham

Center School through the Lewis and Corrine Babbitt Wildlife Sanctuary Trust Fund was cancelled. The bluebird trail at the Petersham Center School continued to have a pair of nesting bluebirds and tree swallows.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Clark, Chair
John A. Baker, Clerk
Anne F. Cavanaugh
Henry L. Woolsey

PETERSHAM COUNCIL ON AGING ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2020

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

We are a volunteer organization with a new Meal-Site Manager who will receive payment. We have no salaried positions at this time. Funds to carry out our activities come from an annual grant of \$6,000 from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and a grant of \$1,100 from the Town of Petersham. We are also supported by services from LifePath, Inc., 101 Munson Street, Suite 201, Greenfield, MA.

The Council on Aging Board for FY2020 has met monthly, except for July and August in 2019 and May in 2020, 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 10:00 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 26th year. We meet every Monday at 12:00 in the Lower Town Hall. Diana Tandy took over the job of Meal-Site Manager and her helpers included: Kay Berry, Wanda Dickson, and Janice Olson. The site manager and Janice Olson have received certification in ServSafe practices, choke saver and heart resuscitation, allergen training and sanitation. Unfortunately, Diane had to leave due to illness. We are an approved site. This year 387 meals were served on 21 Mondays. The Grab 'n' Go lunches totaled 76 meals on 6 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 600 hours of their time wearing several different hats. Thank you for your dedication to the seniors of Petersham. A \$3.00 donation is recommended for lunch. To reserve a meal, please call Kay Berry at 978-724-6610 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 and older. This past year 428 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 Sandra Page and our email address is: pshamcoa@gmail.com.

A newly formed group called Petersham Partners is dedicated to helping seniors stay connected to our community. The COA tries to help them whenever possible.

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

- The Fitness Program for seniors for 14 weeks, led by YMCA instructors on Mondays and Fridays on the main floor of the Town Hall.
- Floor yoga held on the main floor of the Town Hall on Tuesday for 27 weeks led by Pat Roix and Loren Magruder.
- 16 weeks of tai chi were led by Valerie and Nick Wisniewski.
- All of the above programs are sponsored by the COA and underwritten by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

- Senior trip to the Eastern States Exposition on September 19, 2019.
- LifeLine Information Program sponsored by the Athol/Orange Rotary Club was presented by Diane Coburn from Athol Hospital September 30, 2019 at 12:30 p.m.
- Quabbin Valley Healthcare delivered coupons for free pies for Thanksgiving.
- Card games were played in the Lower Town Hall on first Monday of the month from 1 to 3 p.m.
- The Board voted to begin moving away from Styrofoam dishes to heavy paper ones.
- Longtime member, Barbara Amidon died December 27, 2019. Donations to the COA were made in her memory.
- Our Meal-Site manager, Diana Tandy, died December 31, 2019. She worked for LifePath and helped at area Senior Centers.
- On January 13, 2020 the Board voted to accept Jennifer Berry as the new permanent Meal-Site Manager.
- Sandy Page resigned from the Board in February in order to serve on the Town Finance Committee but she will continue to do her wonderful work with the newsletter.
- Loren Magruder will take over instructing yoga from Pat Roix who left due to health concerns.
- We shut down our programs in early March due to the COVID-19 virus.
- Our last meal was free and provided by Quabbin Valley Healthcare. It was served at the Orthodox Congregational Church's Andrew Hall on March 9, 2020.
- Entertainer Dan Kirouac and Storyteller Davis Bates rescheduled their Cultural Council programs to 2021.

The Council wishes to thank all that helped to make 2019/2020 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 help and support of all the COA's activities.
- Administrative Coordinator Sherry Berube, and Assistant Derrick Vannoy for help with any problems, updates, and Town Hall concerns.
- Highway Superintendent Gregory Waid for keeping the walkways clean 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
Philip Hanno, Treasurer
Pamela Chevalier, Recording Secretary

Lynn Shaw, Co-Vice Chairman
Sheila Youd, Co-Vice Chairman
Wanda Dickson

Petersham Cultural Council Annual Report for FY 2020

Members:

Jane Lynch Gilbert, Chairperson
Kaitlin Switzer Walsh, Secretary
Emily Joy Anderson
Carly Hutchinson
Linda Paquet, Treasurer

Covid-19 caused delays and/or cancellations of our programs and grants. Planning for the 2020 Art Show was cancelled and letters were sent to grantees with the opportunity to extend their programs or conduct zoom activities until June 30, 2021. Several folks took advantage of that and may need to extend further if necessary. The pandemic did not affect our Scarecrow Exhibit on the Common... lots of fun, separated and masked!

Twelve Local Cultural Council grants were approved for the FY 2021 grant cycle and totaled \$6174.00. Funding from the state amounted to \$4800; the balance came from funds that were raised locally in past few years.

2021 Grants Awarded:

Uniquely Quabbin Magazine (Athol Historical Society)
Petersham Friday Market
Building Watersheds Chris Eaton (Mass Audubon)
Johnny Appleseed Country Fair Live Entertainment
Petersham Monthly Art Program Ages 8-10 (Kaitlin Switzer Walsh)
Petersham Monthly Art Program Ages 3-5 (Kaitlin Switzer Walsh)
Wild Side of Petersham (East Quabbin Land Trust/Patrick Allison)
Native Story Telling with Larry Spotted Crow Mann (East Quabbin Land Trust)
Chainsaws, Cheeseburgers & Rock & Roll Live (Jesse Green)
Peoples' History of Petersham (Larry Buell)
Pre-European History of Nichewaug (Larry Buell)
All Things Irish (The Polus Center)

The Council is looking for new members. The time commitment is not huge and the activities are fun. Please contact Jane if interested. jelynchg@umass.edu

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Lynch Gilbert, Chairperson

Petersham Emergency Management Committee
Annual Report

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 Committee was fortunate to not have to deal with any major natural or man-made disasters this year, aside from assisting with Covid response but the committee remains diligent in assuring the Town has the necessary resources to respond if necessary. The EMD and Assistant EMD monitor all state and national alerts and make necessary response plans when warranted, with our first responders. While we did have the expected snow and ice storms with power loss and tree issues, we did not have to activate the Emergency Operations Center as none were lengthy or devastating as we have seen in the past such as the 2008 ice storm.

The focus this year was to support the Town departments in responding to Covid. While this was a Board of Health lead response, the Petersham Emergency Management did assist.

Assistance included:

- Obtaining PPE supplies as offered by the State through MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency) and distribution to first responder agencies (Police, Fire, Highway, Board of Health, Town Offices, and the Petersham Center School as outlined by the Commonwealth
- Assisting Mrs. Warburton, the school nurse in preparing the new office nurse area with Covid supplies

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

Self preparedness is the basis for community preparedness. In the event of a disaster of any type: local, state or national, all residents are encouraged to pre-plan for their families by having:

- A comprehensive home and work safety plan
- A communications plan with family and friends
- A plan for pets and/or farm animals
- Food, water and first aid supplies

Visit <http://www.ready.gov/are-you-ready-guide> for individual disaster preparedness information.

Emergency Management Director Lynne Shaw, RN, BSN, MBA, MEP,
Assistant Emergency Manager Police Chief Dana Cooley

**Annual Report of the Petersham Fire Department
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020**

To the Citizens of Petersham:

I herewith submit my report of activity by the Petersham Fire Department for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2020.

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

Structure Fires	0
Chimney Fires	1
Brush Fires	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	9
Alarm Activations – No fire	16
Carbon Monoxide Alarm Activation	5
Severe Storm Standby	3
Trees Down on Wires	2
Smoke Investigation	1
Animal Assistance	1
Good Intent Calls	1
Lost Person	1
Public Service	1
Cellars Pumped	1
Medical Emergencies	39
Mutual Aid	<u>8</u>
Total	90
Permits Issued:	
Smoke/ CO Inspections	34
Oil Burner Permits	6
Oil Truck/ Transfer Tank Inpsection	1
Blasting Permits	2
Propane Storage Permits	24
Burning Permits	<u>419</u>
Total Permits Issued	486

During the year the department took possession of the new rescue tools (Jaws of Life) that it ordered at the end of FY 2019. These rescue tools are battery operated and are no longer dependent on a gasoline powered hydraulic pump and hoses to be operated. The new technology in this equipment provides a rescue tool that is more powerful than the old style that it replaced.

The second half of the Fiscal Year found the Department preoccupied with the Covid-19 pandemic. New procedures were put in place for response to any medical assistance call with proper PPE required of all firefighters who responded. These precautions have been successful as of the end of the Fiscal Year in prevention infections of any personnel.

In the Spring of 2020, we ordered a new Quick Attack Pumper to replace a 40 year old vehicle that has served the Town well. Funding was approved at the Annual Town Meeting in June of 2019 and a debt exclusion was approved in August of 2019. Delivery was originally expected I late June 2020, but due to the Covid -19 pandemic delivery will be delayed into the next Fiscal year.

The department continued the replacement of Turn Out Gear that it began in Fiscal 2019. All active members have now either been measured for or have received their new gear.

With the adoption of the Green Energy code, this department is seeing many more propane installations and especially underground propane tanks for homes heated with propane. Homeowners are reminded the since we are a call fire department the inspection of these tanks before they are covered, needs to be coordinated with the Fire Chief in advance to avoid delays.

Firefighters continued regular training at the bi-monthly meetings. In the good weather months practical training evolutions were conducted to refresh and hone firefighting skills. These outdoor trainings help to keep the firefighters familiar with the operation of all equipment and improve the driving skills necessary when operating larger vehicles. In the cold weather months First Responder refresher classes were conducted to keep our emergency medical skills current. Most members continue to keep their certification in CPR current. In house and local instructors were utilized for all training sessions.

The on-line burning permit system continued to be a popular alternative to the permit phone line. The on-line system has eliminated busy signals on the permit phone line and has continued to grow. Over 60 percent of the burning permits issued were self-issued through the on-line system. 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.

Petersham like many small town volunteer departments, continues to struggle attracting new members. 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 get involved and to give back to the community please consider being a firefighter. The Department meets on the First and Third Wednesdays of each month. 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 most of our current firefighters work out of town. Training is provided at our regular meetings and through regional training opportunities sponsored by area departments or the MA Fire Academy. These training classes are usually available at no cost to the participants. Anyone interested is urged to contact the chief or a member of the department for more information.

I would also like to thank the Highway Department and the Police Department for their assistance throughout the year. Good working relationships between departments are 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 understanding. 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

Submission for Petersham Town Report FY21

The Petersham Forest & Shade Tree Committee

The PFSTC has not met this year due to COVID19 closures. However, with email planning, we have continued to make great strides to benefit our town trees and to ensure that they are a resource for all.

- With leadership by committee co-chair Jordan O'Connor, the Petersham Wood Bank made available 34 crates of split, dry firewood to residents during the 2020-2021 heating season, coordinating closely with:
 - o Mass. DCR, on deployment of a new splitter/automated conveyor system (see photo at right, by Jordan O'Connor), and continued implementation of a 2-year grant
 - o David Smith (new Tree Warden) on the size and location of incoming logs
 - o A growing volunteer group, including UMass students, to organize socially distant wood stacking during COVID closures, and to organize a volunteer day on May 15, 2021
- A small group of committee members and community volunteers planted a replacement shade tree on the North Common, dedicated to Cpl. Lloyd Mitchell, USMCR, in collaboration with the Petersham Tree Warden (see photo at right, by Nancy Allen).
- Throughout the year, individual committee members have weeded, watered, and re-mulched recently planted Town trees.
- Co-chairs have worked to secure a seamless staff transition to a new Tree Warden, including strategizing for a re-assessment of the condition of trees on the Common and surrounding historic district ([see 2016 assessment here](#)).
- We are currently planning, in collaboration with the Conservation Commission, for a community volunteer workday in summer 2021 to do brush removal and other work at the Town's Davenport Property.



Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Forest & Shade Tree Committee,
Jordan O'Connor & Clarisse Hart, co-chairs

Town of Petersham
Highway Department
Annual Report
2019-2020

Chapter 90 Work

Crack sealing was done on parts of Hardwick Rd and Monson Tpk. Rd. Section of West St. Nelson Rd. paved and Oliver St. was paved.

General Highway

Roads were swept. Dirt roads graded Graveled and rolled, edged and ditched road sides, catch basins cleaned, and road sides mowed. General cleanup of limbs brush and debris from road sides. Sand was screened and hauled to highway dept. Culvert was replaced on Oliver St.

Snow Account

The snow and ice season started on Nov. 19 with icy roads. And the season end on March 24th with few inches' inches of snow. Used about 500 ton of salt and 700 ton of sand. Once again, the Part-time help was greatly appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gregory Waid
Highway Superintendent



PETERSHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION & HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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

Historic District Commission & Historical Commission Annual Report Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020)

Meetings of the Historic District Commission & Historical Commission normally held at the Petersham Memorial Library on the third Thursday of each month were curtailed in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency and meetings were then held by Conference Call. During Fiscal 2020, July 2019 through June 2020, five meetings and two public hearings were held. One Permit for Demolition of a garage and two Certificates of Appropriateness were issued

In July 2019, three members resigned from the Historic District Commission. Melissa Martinez left Petersham and resigned from the Commission. She is an architect and was a valuable member of the Commission. Christine Mandell resigned from the Commission after serving ten years. Her in-depth knowledge of the history of Petersham and her work at the Petersham Historical Society were indispensable. Nancy Allen also resigned after serving fifteen years on the Commission as Chair. The Commission is grateful for her service.

Because of the COVID-19 State of Emergency, only essential business was conducted and monthly meetings cancelled when possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Clark, Chair
Claudette H. Bishop

Jeremy P. Gabrenas
Hilary L. Loring

Marcia Lynn Shaw



PETERSHAM Inspector of Buildings

3 South Main Street • P.O. Box 486 • Petersham, MA 01366-0486
www.townofpetersham.org
978/724-3586 tel. • 978/724-3501 fax
buildingdept@townofpetersham.org

We have all had an unusual 2020 but we pulled through with the cooperation and flexibility of all the residents and contractors. Moving into remote working environment proved pretty successful.

In March, after working for the Town of Petersham since October 2000, Brianna Skowyra resigned to take a job as State Building Inspector. We wish her well.

We would like to thank Robert Legare as Alternate Building Inspector in the transition.

In June we welcomed William Cantell to the team as the Building Commissioner/Zoning Officer.

To the Residents of Petersham;

I am grateful to have been hired as the Regional Building Commissioner and Zoning Bylaw Officer for the towns of Petersham, Barre, Hardwick and New Braintree. I feel lucky to be working in such a beautiful area.

Of great importance is property identification. In my travels around the area, it has been noticed that not all properties are correctly identified. All properties are required to be identified with 4 inch numbers on a contrasting background. The numbers should be on the building side facing the road if the building is visible from the road, or on a sign or mailbox located on the same side of the road as the building. Not only is this required by Mass State Law, it is vitally important for emergence services that may be required at the property.

I appreciate working with the people in Petersham and look forward to a rewarding year. I appreciate all the cooperation, help and support I have received from all the various boards, departments and committees throughout the year. A special thank you to Administrative Assistant, Renee Wingertsman for her invaluable assistance.

You can leave a message 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or reach the office by email at buildingdept@townofpetersham.org.

Respectfully submitted;

William Cantell
Building Commissioner/Zoning Officer



PETERSHAM Inspector of Buildings

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Permits issued Fy2020

05 New construction – Residential
18 Addition, Alteration, Repair
09 Solar – residential
00 Solar- Commercial
05 Wood/pellet stove permit
14 Roofing/Siding/Window
01 Garage/Shed
04 Weatherization
01 Pool
06 Other-Misc.
01 Demo

Staff

William Cantell

Robert Legare

Gary Terroy

Dan Joly

Renee Wingertsman

Building Commissioner

Alternate Building Inspector

Electrical Inspector

Gas & Plumbing Inspector

Administrative Assistant

Petersham Memorial Library
Treasurer's Report
July 2019 through June 2020

INCOME **95756**

Annual Appeal and Gifts	9735
Trash Bags	4265
Investment Income	67542
State Grant	2794
Town Appropriation	9550
Other	1870

EXPENSE **68002**

Collection Materials	7737
CW MARS	2538
Insurance	593
Trash Bags	3325
Payroll Expense	43282
Utilities	9262
Other	1265

NET ORDINARY INCOME **27752**

Capital Expense	6173
Corporation Expense	6478

NET INCOME **15101**

Restroom Project Income	21190
Restroom Project Expense	21190

PETERSHAM MEMORIAL LIBRARY

23 Common Street

Petersham, Massachusetts, 01366

Annual Report to the Town Of Petersham

of the Petersham Memorial Library

July 01, 2019 – June 30, 2020

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 for 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:

Pandemic Curbside Hours:

Tuesdays 11:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Fridays 11:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Or By Arrangement (Pick Up or Home Delivery) Monday through Sunday

Normal Operating Hours

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

Trustees:

- Barrett Anderson
- Bob Bellefeuille
- Paul Youd
- Kent Byron
- Donald Clarkson
- Annette Ermini
- Ashley Gabrenas
- Tally Lent
- Ken Levine
- Hilary Loring
- Fifi Scoufopoulos
- Jean Sinclair

In August 2019 Amber Johns joined the library team as Library Director.

682 Petersham residents were library cardholders in Fiscal Year 2020. Petersham Memorial Library's total circulation of materials was 10,928, which included 6,184 books, 76 print periodicals, 512 audiobooks, and 2,477 DVDs. We checked out 1,592 audio and Ebooks via Overdrive and the Libby App.

We received 2,314 Inter-Library Loans for Petersham residents from surrounding libraries. We provided 1,056 Inter-Library Loans to patrons of other libraries in the CWMars system.

This year, the library had two public use computers, one public use laptop, and two tablets. Community members used our computers a total of 676 times through the year, which breaks down to roughly 13 times per week. We estimate that an additional 400 or more people logged on to our wireless connection, both inside and outside of the building.

In FY2020, the library loaned an estimated 600 books to the teachers of the Petersham Center School to use in their classrooms, specifically for the 6th grade class, who took a field trip to the library in October 2019 to read to our story time children. We're honored to provide our services to students in Petersham.

Our digital library offerings included 6 database licenses and 90,000 ebooks, audiobooks, and videos. In 2020, 1226 electronic titles were downloaded from the digital catalog by our patrons.

The library was open a total of 658 hours, which included 132 hours on Saturday and 66 hours after 5 p.m.

Our shelves currently hold 8,243 books for adults, 999 books for young adults, and 5,094 books for children. Our acquisitions budget for FY2020 was \$8,000.

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, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Worcester Art Museum, the Ecotarium, Historic Deerfield, Magic Wings Butterfly Sanctuary, and the Fitchburg Art Museum.

In December 2019, The 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 for our Book Basket and LEGO raffles and beautiful selection of arts and crafts for holiday shopping.

The Annual Library Tea was held Sunday, February 10 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., welcoming 76 people into the library. The tea is the Library's Thank You to our community for the support we receive throughout the year.

Non-library use of the building and grounds included meetings for the Historic District Commission, the Petersham Board of Health, Aging in Place, Ukulele Group, and the Petersham Farmers Market.

Last year, the Petersham Memorial Library continued to offer story hour for children until mid-March. Our other programs and events during the 2020 Fiscal Year included a visit from Eyes on Owls (provided in part by a grant from the Petersham Cultural Council), which was one of the best-attended programs in the library's history. We also hosted readings by local authors, a program on saving garden seeds, and our annual Tea. We saw a total of 812 adults and children attend programs and story times at our library last year.

Like all libraries across the country, we closed our doors in mid-March due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. From the very beginning of this unprecedented period, the staff offered continuous tech support for patrons using our digital services, such as help accessing our Libby App, as well as creating new library cards for community members interested in our digital services. We are proud to have been able to lend our physical materials, and even provide home delivery, for patrons who reached out to request these services last spring. In June 2020, the staff took on the momentous task of reformatting the way the library is managed during the duration of the pandemic, with the explicit goals of insuring 1) **staff and community safety** and 2) **a consistent approach** to making materials available to community members. With the encouragement and urging of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to "Continue to offer *only* those services you are able and at levels that provide you, your staff members, and your communities with the greatest possible health and safety precautions, given the ongoing pandemic," (Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs and the Government Liaison at the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners), we settled on a curbside pickup model that would allow for safety and dependability as COVID-19 numbers fluctuate and rise. We began this new model of operation the first week of July 2020 and our services remain largely the same as ever: there is very little – other than use of the interior of the building – that we can't provide to our patrons under this emergency model. With the addition of home delivery and virtual shelf tours, how we provide access to

library materials has adapted and become more flexible in FY2020. We hope to carry several of these emergency management strategies into safer times, beyond the pandemic.

Over 150 volunteer hours were logged at our library in 2019-2020 and I would like to extend my gratitude to the volunteers, staff, Trustees and patrons of the Petersham Memorial Library for all they do.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Johns

Director

Petersham Memorial Library



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 YEAR 2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020)

Regular monthly meetings were held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM. The December 2019 meeting was cancelled as were the April, May, and June meetings of 2020. Protecting farmland and promoting agriculture remained a high priority. Recreation opportunities continued to be a priority although limited by the covid19 pandemic.

Visitation to Petersham properties primarily belonging to The Trustees, Mass Audubon, Harvard Forest and the Department of Conservation & Recreation was much greater during the Covid19 pandemic as people sought outdoor recreation. Work on the Bob Marshall Trail connecting the Gould Woodlot at Harvard Forest to the Harvard Pond/Tom Swamp Tracts remains to be completed. The northern portion of the trail remains accessible. Trails were flagged at the Babbitt Wildlife Sanctuary, Hallberg parcel, and Ganson parcel with minimum maintenance.

Invasive species control and trail management continues to be a challenge especially at the Davenport Property. Because of more frequent storm and wind events, trail maintenance has become a higher priority with no easy solution. Establishing native pollinator gardens continued to be discussed. The East Quabin Land Trust is planning one at the Wilder parcel on North Main Street and The Trustees' North Common Meadow is a resource for native pollinators as well as bobolinks.

Identifying and proposing improvements in existing Town-owned lands for public recreation should be a component of the Town's next Open Space & Recreation Plan. Public recreation facilities, especially swimming, continues to be difficult to address. Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust has prepared a trail map for the Davenport Property.

The Open Space & Recreation Committee (OS&RC), especially through the efforts of Ari Pugliese and Henry Woolsey, organized weekly Pickle ball games in the gym at the Petersham Center School. Pickle ball has caught on as a sport and the Petersham Center School has been very supportive. The OS&RC in conjunction with the Council on Aging purchased two ping-pong tables for the town which are used weekly in the Town Hall. The OS&RC hopes to increase recreational opportunities.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Clark, Chair
Emery R. Boose, Clerk
Anne F. Cavanaugh
Ari J. Pugliese
Clinton A. Shaw
Henry L. Woolsey

Petersham Planning Board Annual Report
FY July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020

There were three plans with a total of six new lots endorsed as ANR (Approval Not Required) during FY 2020:

08/22/2019	Lots 407/55 and 407/58	Popple Camp Road
09/26/2019	Lots 411/14 and 411/14.1	Phillips Drive
01/23/2020	Lots 416/96 and 416/97	Dugway Road

A total of \$400 in fees were paid to the town for these endorsements.

Fraser Sinclair, Chair

Town of Petersham Police Department FY 2020 Annual Report

The Petersham Police Department is pleased to present you with our FY 2020 Annual Report.

As we all know the FY 2020 year, was at least in my generation, like no other. We began with a relatively quiet routine year ending with one the world's worst Pandemics ever experienced.

Our department has met the challenges of this pandemic head on, continuing to respond to medical emergencies donning as much personal protective gear as possible while entering into businesses and residences with invisible unknown virus atmospheres to render aid to those in need.

Throughout the year we continued our relationship with the Center School providing the children and staff with educational programs such as Halloween Safety, Stranger Danger, Bullying, Cyber Bullying etc. Much of these programs were brought to us with the assistance of Worcester County District Attorney Joe Early's Office staff.

Again Emergency Management Director Lynne Shaw assisted with applying for grant funding providing additional equipment for the department. Thank you Lynne Shaw.

The department has had some personnel changes as some of our seasoned officers have moved on to full time policing careers in neighboring communities. We wish them well with all of their endeavors.

Training continues for our officers as we moved into the direction of Police reform. Not a lot of the police reform is new for Petersham as Massachusetts has been far ahead of the curve in promoting training to meet the new standards of policing. While we all are for police reform and making it better the future associated costs are yet to be determined.

The police department added a new addition to our fleet replacing our oldest cruiser a 2010 Ford Crown Victoria with a full size pick-up truck. The pickup functions as a primary patrol vehicle with the capability of transporting road barriers and supplies in the event of weather related emergencies.

Again, I would like to you, the residents of this community for your continued support.

Thank you to all of the departments within our community for their cooperation, commitment and partnership to provide the residents of Petersham with one of the safest communities to live in.

Thank you to my officers and their families for their commitment to this department and the Town of Petersham. Thank you to my wife and family for being their when needed the most.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard D. Cooley Jr.
Chief of Police

Town of Petersham
Fiscal Year 2020

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	\$8,065.00	\$7,937.00	\$128.00
Expenses	\$4,280.00	\$3,107.08	\$1,172.92
Part - Time Clerk	\$14,350.00	\$13,141.86	\$1,208.14
Total Board of Selectmen	\$26,695.00	\$24,185.94	\$2,509.06
Town Admin Coordinator			
Salary	\$21,957.00	\$16,683.63	\$5,273.37
Total Town Admin Coordinator	\$21,957.00	\$16,683.63	\$5,273.37
Finance Committee			
Expenses	\$505.00	\$135.00	\$370.00
Total Finance Committee	\$505.00	\$135.00	\$370.00
Town Accountant			
Salary	\$21,013.00	\$21,013.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$6,271.00	\$6,009.08	\$261.92
Accounting Clerk	\$2,155.00	\$1,420.18	\$734.82
Total Town Accountant	\$29,439.00	\$28,442.26	\$996.74
Board of Assessors			
Board Members Salaries	\$8,891.00	\$8,671.00	\$220.00
Expenses	\$19,910.00	\$16,946.66	\$2,963.34
Assistant Assessor Salary	\$34,713.00	\$28,984.26	\$5,728.74
FY 20 Revaluation	\$20,449.52	\$18,349.20	\$2,100.32
Total Board of Assessors	\$83,963.52	\$72,951.12	\$11,012.40
Treasurer			
Salary	\$17,815.00	\$17,815.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$7,701.53	\$4,750.35	\$2,951.18
Payroll Processing Fees	\$3,500.00	\$3,426.54	\$73.46
Total Treasurer	\$29,016.53	\$25,991.89	\$3,024.64
Tax Collector			
Salary	\$14,101.00	\$14,101.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$20,670.00	\$13,394.90	\$7,275.10
Total Tax Collector	\$34,771.00	\$27,495.90	\$7,275.10
Town Counsel			
Legal Fees	\$14,050.57	\$5,029.66	\$9,020.91
Total Town Counsel	\$14,050.57	\$5,029.66	\$9,020.91

Department:	Budget	Expended	Unexpended
Town Clerk			
Salary	\$11,408.00	\$11,408.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$2,859.00	\$1,583.62	\$1,275.38
Vital Statistics	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Vital Records	\$5,000.00	\$743.45	\$4,256.55
Software & Maintenance	\$1,534.00	\$1,534.00	\$0.00
Part-Time Clerk	\$684.00	\$684.00	\$0.00
Total Town Clerk	\$21,585.00	\$16,053.07	\$5,531.93
Election & Registration			
Salaries	\$7,000.00	\$5,746.25	\$1,253.75
Expenses	\$1,725.00	\$1,612.04	\$112.96
Total Election & Registration	\$8,725.00	\$7,358.29	\$1,366.71
Planning Board			
Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Planning Board	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Zoning Board of Appeals			
Expenses	\$973.00	\$0.00	\$973.00
ZBA Consultant	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Zoning Board of Appeals	\$973.00	\$0.00	\$973.00
Land Court / Tax Title Fees			
Land Court Fees	\$17,300.65	\$0.00	\$17,300.65
Tax Title Surveys / Appraisals	\$52,509.18	\$0.00	\$52,509.18
Total Land Court / Tax Title Fees	\$69,809.83	\$0.00	\$69,809.83
Town Hall			
Town Hall / Office Maintenance	\$4,500.00	\$4,276.71	\$223.29
Town Hall / Office Expenses	\$27,538.32	\$19,421.42	\$8,116.90
Town - Phone	\$13,500.00	\$9,164.35	\$4,335.65
Computer Service	\$1,000.00	\$877.99	\$122.01
Handicap Accessible Lift	\$15,181.89	\$3,657.86	\$11,524.03
T Hall Northern Parking Area	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Sump Pump Town Hall	\$4,850.00	\$4,850.00	\$0.00
South & West Parking Area	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Total Town Hall	\$86,570.21	\$42,248.33	\$44,321.88
Printing			
Town Printing	\$1,750.00	\$1,248.25	\$501.75
Total Printing	\$1,750.00	\$1,248.25	\$501.75
Police Department			
Police Chief Salary	\$79,187.00	\$79,187.00	\$0.00
Police Wages	\$49,318.20	\$46,607.75	\$2,710.45
Full Time Officer Wages	\$55,835.00	\$55,835.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$40,195.00	\$35,441.09	\$4,753.91
Training Officers	\$9,207.00	\$6,533.54	\$2,673.46
Full Time Officer OT	\$6,167.68	\$3,495.39	\$2,672.29

Department:	Budget	Expended	Unexpended
Body Armor Vests	\$9,542.00	\$0.00	\$9,542.00
Pickup Truck Cruiser	\$48,205.00	\$46,589.92	\$1,615.08
Total Police Department	\$297,656.88	\$273,689.69	\$23,967.19
Fire Department			
Salaries/Wages	\$29,115.75	\$16,477.90	\$12,637.85
Expenses	\$31,316.55	\$31,316.55	\$0.00
Fire Chief Salary	\$3,982.00	\$3,982.00	\$0.00
Fire Hoses	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$5,500.00
Turnout Gear	\$22,239.82	\$10,311.70	\$11,928.12
Breathing Apparatus	\$6,257.00	\$0.00	\$6,257.00
Quick Attack Pumper Truck	\$280,000.00	\$0.00	\$280,000.00
Total Fire Department	\$378,411.12	\$62,088.15	\$316,322.97
Emergency Management			
Emergency Management	\$5,679.27	\$4,200.07	\$1,479.20
Total Emergency Management	\$5,679.27	\$4,200.07	\$1,479.20
Building Inspector			
Building Inspector Expense	\$9,766.00	\$9,751.05	\$14.95
Clerical	\$2,987.00	\$2,987.00	\$0.00
Total Building Inspector	\$12,753.00	\$12,738.05	\$14.95
Animal Control Officer			
Salary	\$3,081.00	\$3,081.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$2,096.69	\$276.06	\$1,820.63
Total Dog Officer	\$5,177.69	\$3,357.06	\$1,820.63
Tree Warden			
Salary	\$3,075.00	\$3,075.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$685.00	\$0.00	\$685.00
High Tree Work	\$52,078.25	\$21,553.08	\$30,525.17
Total Tree Warden	\$55,838.25	\$24,628.08	\$31,210.17
Forest Warden			
Salary	\$26.00	\$26.00	\$0.00
Total Forest Warden	\$26.00	\$26.00	\$0.00
Public Safety Communications			
Communication Radio Repairs	\$1,800.00	\$1,096.64	\$703.36
IMC & LEAPS	\$3,610.00	\$2,488.30	\$1,121.70
Total Public Safety Communications	\$5,410.00	\$3,584.94	\$1,825.06
Broadband Network			
Expenses	\$99,650.87	\$106,154.03	(\$6,503.16)
Total Broadband Network	\$99,650.87	\$106,154.03	(\$6,503.16)
Education			
Petersham Center School	\$1,519,334.00	\$1,368,173.78	\$151,160.22
Encumbrance FY 2018	\$54,384.06	\$54,384.06	\$0.00
Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District	\$885,870.00	\$885,870.00	\$0.00
Montachusett Regional Vocational Tech.	\$14,686.00	\$14,560.00	\$126.00
Total Education	\$2,474,274.06	\$2,322,987.84	\$151,286.22

Department:	Budget	Expended	Unexpended
Highway Department			
Salaries	\$155,017.69	\$155,017.69	\$0.00
Expenses	\$49,178.29	\$49,178.29	\$0.00
Ford 450 Truck	\$3,255.73	\$3,255.73	\$0.00
	<u>\$207,451.71</u>	<u>\$207,451.71</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Town Barn			
Expenses	\$7,142.10	\$7,142.10	\$0.00
Total Town Barn	<u>\$7,142.10</u>	<u>\$7,142.10</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Snow & Ice Removal			
Expenses	\$71,354.00	\$71,353.66	\$0.34
Total Snow & Ice Removal	<u>\$71,354.00</u>	<u>\$71,353.66</u>	<u>\$0.34</u>
Street Lights			
Street Lights	\$7,687.19	\$7,687.19	\$0.00
Total Street Lights	<u>\$7,687.19</u>	<u>\$7,687.19</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Cemetery Department			
Cemetery Commissioners Stipends	\$761.00	\$328.24	\$432.76
Expenses	\$3,800.00	\$2,550.00	\$1,250.00
Care of Cemeteries	\$20,985.00	\$20,985.00	\$0.00
Computerizing Cemetery Records	\$120.04	\$0.00	\$120.04
Cemetery Repairs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Cemetery Department	<u>\$25,666.04</u>	<u>\$23,863.24</u>	<u>\$1,802.80</u>
Board of Health			
Board Members Salaries	\$517.00	\$517.00	\$0.00
Expenses	\$2,700.00	\$170.00	\$2,530.00
BOH - Admin Assistant	\$7,076.00	\$7,014.29	\$61.71
Inspector of Animals	\$2,587.00	\$2,587.00	\$0.00
Total Board of Health	<u>\$12,880.00</u>	<u>\$10,288.29</u>	<u>\$2,591.71</u>
Transfer Station			
Transfer Station	\$52,260.82	\$46,378.67	\$5,882.15
Total Transfer Station	<u>\$52,260.82</u>	<u>\$46,378.67</u>	<u>\$5,882.15</u>
Council on Aging			
Expenses	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	\$0.00
Total Council on Aging	<u>\$1,100.00</u>	<u>\$1,100.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Veterans' Agent			
Expenses	\$3,684.00	\$3,683.64	\$0.36
Veterans' Benefits	\$4,321.38	\$3,176.62	\$1,144.76
Total Veterans' Agent	<u>\$8,005.38</u>	<u>\$6,860.26</u>	<u>\$1,145.12</u>
Library			
Operating Subsidy	\$9,550.00	\$9,550.00	\$0.00
Handicap Accessible Restroom	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
Total Library	<u>\$9,550.00</u>	<u>\$9,550.00</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	\$136.82	\$188.18
Bandstand Maintenance & Repairs	\$4,900.00	\$0.00	\$4,900.00
Total Bandstand	\$5,225.00	\$136.82	\$5,088.18
Town Clock			
Care of Town Clock	\$73.00	\$73.00	\$0.00
Total Town Clock	\$73.00	\$73.00	\$0.00
Care of Common			
Expenses - Contracted	\$7,863.00	\$7,863.00	\$0.00
Town Common Repairs	\$4,850.00	\$0.00	\$4,850.00
Friday Market Concerts	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Total Care of Common	\$13,713.00	\$8,863.00	\$4,850.00
Historical Commission			
Expenses	\$85.00	\$0.00	\$85.00
Total Historical Commission	\$85.00	\$0.00	\$85.00
Historical District Commission			
Expenses	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$0.00
Total Historical District Commission	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$0.00
Memorial Day			
Expenses	\$645.00	\$434.86	\$210.14
Total Memorial Day	\$645.00	\$434.86	\$210.14
Debt Service			
Mahar Dam Debt	\$183.00	\$183.00	\$0.00
Nichewaug Inn & Academy Dibt	\$85,485.00	\$85,485.00	\$0.00
Center School Debt	\$103,195.00	\$103,192.50	\$2.50
Mahar Debt	\$22,253.00	\$22,253.00	\$0.00
Broadband Debt	\$60,500.00	\$58,604.42	\$1,895.58
Total Debt Service	\$271,616.00	\$269,717.92	\$1,898.08
Assessments			
School Choice	\$59,300.00	\$41,152.00	\$18,148.00
Air Pollution	\$365.00	\$365.00	\$0.00
Regional Transit	\$86.00	\$86.00	\$0.00
RMV Non-Renewal	\$1,580.00	\$1,120.00	\$460.00
Total State Assessments	\$61,331.00	\$42,723.00	\$18,608.00
Retirement			
Assessment	\$158,460.00	\$158,460.00	\$0.00
Total Retirement	\$158,460.00	\$158,460.00	\$0.00
Insurance			
Health	\$85,920.80	\$42,960.40	\$42,960.40
Retirees Health	\$41,264.44	\$14,239.44	\$27,025.00
	\$127,185.24	\$57,199.84	\$69,985.40

Department:	Budget	Expended	Unexpended
Medicare	\$22,613.11	\$22,613.11	\$0.00
General Insurance	\$81,345.00	\$81,345.00	\$0.00
Insurance - Nichewaug Property	\$7,476.50	\$0.00	\$7,476.50
Insurance Reserve Fund	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
Total Insurance	\$395,805.09	\$218,357.79	\$177,447.30
Nichewaug Dispostion	\$5,908.52	\$232.93	\$5,675.59
Nichewaug Maintenance	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
	\$8,408.52	\$2,732.93	\$5,675.59
Transfer to Broadband Capital Project	70,000.00	70,000.00	\$0.00



Report of the Town Clerk

Greetings Residents,

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 ~ I am sure that we will all have stories to tell. What a year it was. I am sure the Covid-19 pandemic will be the topic of discussion for many years that will come to mind.

Covid put a spin on our elections and town meeting that none of us have seen before but we are strong New Englanders. It was a bump in the road for us. Our election was postponed until June 22nd instead of in March. We were able to hold it and keep everyone safe. The election staff took precautions and kept you and themselves safe. Our Town meeting was a few weeks late but we got it done before the next fiscal year. The Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, Moderator and myself were able to come up with a plan to make it all come to fruition. You, the voters, trusted us, took your precautions, and showed up and made business complete. We may have a little town but we have a strong town. We may not always agree but we can make sure that our little town can keep running and not succumb to the pressures of our environment.

I, for one, am thankful and grateful for the people of this great little town. When we talk about this year we can hold our heads up high. Your elected officials were working behind the scenes in every way to keep everyone safe and keep this town running as close to uninterrupted as humanly possible. I think we should, as a town, take a bow and pat each other (when it's safe) on the back and say "great job".

Stay safe, healthy and keep being the great town that we are all proud to be a part of.

Vital Statistics of the Town Clerk

Births

From July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 there were 4 babies born – 4 girls and 0 boys.
From January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020 there were 5 babies born – 2 girls and 3 boys.

Marriages

August 26, 2019	Richard Adams	Athol
	Katrina Taylor	Athol
November 9, 2019	Clinton Sykes	Petersham
	Cynthia Reilly	Petersham
January 18, 2020	Kevin Flaherty	Petersham
	Karen Rockel	Petersham
February 14, 2020	Eric Loyd	Petersham
	Susan Girouard	Petersham
January 11, 2020	Sean Sawicki	Winchendon
	Rebekah Manseau	Winchendon
February 29, 2020	Michael Garuti	Fitchburg
	Beth-Anne Gregory	Fitchburg
March 25, 2020	Andrew Bain	Petersham
	Haley O'Neil	Petersham
June 6, 2020	Daniel Paras	Orange
	Olivia Chicoine	Orange

Deaths

November 3, 2019	Taylor Ahlstrom O'Brien	Petersham	28
December 18, 2019	Milton Clyde Scott	Petersham	74
January 5, 2020	Richard Alfred Caouette	Petersham	78
February 6, 2020	Nancy Anderson	Petersham	93
February 10, 2020	Robert Dwyer	Petersham	83
February 24, 2020	Thelma Lamb	Petersham	94
May 28, 2020	Michael Coughlan	Petersham	73

There was 1 burial brought into town.

PETERSHAM TOWN OFFICERS

FY 20 July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

ELECTED BOARDS AND OFFICERS

	Term Expiration Date
Moderator	
Bart Wendell	2023
Board of Selectmen	
Fredrik A. Marsh	2023
Nancy Allen	2022
Henry Woolsey	2021
Tax Collector	
Renee Wingertsman	2021
Town Clerk	
Diana L. Cooley	2021
Treasurer	
Dana C. Robinson	2023
Board of Assessors	
Ellen Anderson	2023
Jean W. Robinson	2022
Dana W. Kennan	2021
Board of Health	
Robert Pasic	2021
FifiScoufopoulos	2022
Stephen Loring	2023
Constables	
Denis N. Legare	2022
Richard N. Bartus	2022
Larry A. Robinson	2022
Mahar Regional School Committee	
Maryanne Reynolds	2022
Petersham School Committee	
Tina Leslie	2023
Jennifer DeJackome	2021
Lynn Peredina	2022

Planning Board

John Lawson	2023
Fraser Sinclair	2023
Donna Byron	2022
Stephen Herzog	2021
Irene Perkins	2021

Trustees of Public Library

Hilary Loring	2022
Kent Byron	2023
FifiScofopoulos	2021

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 30, 2020 POSTPONED UNTIL JUNE 22, 2020

Moderator – 3 Years

Bart Wendell 92

Board of Selectmen – 3 Years

Fredrik A. Marsh 89

Treasurer – 3 Years

Dana C. Robinson 95

Board of Assessors – 3 Years

Ellen H. Anderson 87

Board of Health – 3 Years

Stephen H. Loring 93

Petersham School Committee – 3 Years

Tina Leslie 16

Planning Board – 3 Years

John Lawson 92

Fraser Sinclair 96

Trustees of Public Library – 3 Years

Kent Byron 99

Mahar Regional School Committee – 2 Years

Maryanne Reynolds 22

Special Election

August 26, 2019

Question 1

Shall the Town of Petersham be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition Two and One-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to finance a Quick Attack Pumper Truck for the Petersham Fire Department as voted for and approved under Article 33 of the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting held on June 3, 2019?

Yes – 79

No – 18

97 voters out of 946 = 10% turnout

MARCH 3, 2020 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

DEMOCRAT 374

REPUBLICAN 75

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE

DEVAL PATRICK 0
 AMY KLOBUCHAR 0
 ELIZABETH WARREN 92
 MICHAEL BENNET 0
 MICHAEL R BLOOMBERG 29
 TULSI GABBARD 8
 CORY BOOKER 0
 JULIAN CASTRO 0
 TOM STEYER 3
 BERNIE SANDERS 127
 JOSEPH R BIDEN 107
 JOHN K DELANEY 1
 ANDREW YANG 1
 PETE BUTTIGIEG 4
 MARIANNE WILLIAMSON 0
 NO PREFERENCE 2

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE

WILLIAM F WELD 6
 JOE WALSH 0
 DONALD J TRUMP 68
 ROQUE "ROCKY" DE LA FUENTE 0
 NO PREFERENCE 1

STATE COMMITTEE MAN

MICHAEL J VALANZOLA 61

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN

LINDSAY A VALANZOLA 41
 JORDAN WILLOW EVANS 21

TOWN COMMITTEE

LIBERTARIAN

STATE COMMITTEE MAN

WILLIAM R SHEMETH III 256

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN

LAURA L JETTE 271

TOWN COMMITTEE

HENRY L WOOLSEY 270
 JEANNETTE MARTIN 213
 JANE R DUDERSTADT 209
 NANCY S ALLEN 239
 JANE E LYNCH-GILBERT 224
 MARCIA L SHAW 206

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE

ARVIN VOHRA 0
 VERMIN LOVE SUPREME 0
 JACOB GEORGE HORNBERGER 0
 SAMUEL JOSEPH ROBB 0
 DAN TAXATION IS THEFT BEHRMAN 0
 KIMBERLY MARGARET RUFF 1
 KENNETH REED ARMSTRONG 0
 ADAM KOKESH 0
 JO JORGENSEN 0
 MAX ABRAMSON 0
 NO PREFERENCE 0

STATE COMMITTEE MAN

0

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN

0

TOWN COMMITTEE

0

GREEN-RAINBOW

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE

DARIO HUNTER 0
 SEDINAM KINAMO CHRISTIN 0
 MOYOWASIFZA CURRY 0
 KENT MESPLAY 0
 HOWARD HAWKINS 0
 NO PREFERENCE 0

STATE COMMITTEE MAN 0

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN 0

TOWN COMMITTEE 0

450 VOTERS OUT OF 960 = 47% 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

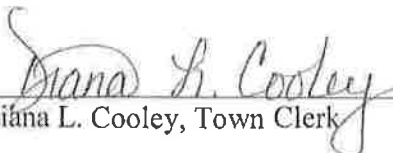
June 27, 2020

At the Special Town Meeting, at which a quorum was present, I certify that the following votes were taken:

- Article 1: The Town voted to take from Free Cash the sum of \$11,353.66 to eliminate the Fiscal Year 2020 Snow and Ice Account deficit.
- Article 2: The Town voted to take from Free Cash the sum of \$70,000.00 to eliminate the Fiscal Year 2020 Broadband Network Account deficit.
- Article 3: The Town voted to take from Free Cash the sum of \$26,420.00 and take \$4,000.00 each from the following revolving accounts: Board of Health, Fire Chief Expenses and Tax Collector for a total of \$38,420.00

This meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm.

This is a True Copy Attest.


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

June 27, 2020

Nonvoters on the floor were Michelle Tontodonato, Director of Finance at Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District, Dr. Elizabeth Zielinsky, Superintendent of Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District and Eric Glazier, Principal of Petersham Center School.

A moment of silence was held for those that have passed.

At the Annual Town Meeting, at which a quorum was present, I certify that the following votes were taken:

Article 1: The Town voted receive the reports from Town Officers and Committees. Nancy Allen – Board of Selectmen and Richard Cavanaugh – Advisory Finance Committee

The Town voted consent articles 2 – 18 as one vote. All were passed unanimously.

Article 2: The Town voted to authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal Year 2021, 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 2021.

Article 4: The Town voted for 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 2021.

Article 5: The Town voted for 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 2021.

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 2021.

Article 7: The Town voted to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ 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; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed \$20,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2021.

- Article 8: The Town voted to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ 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; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed \$2,500.00 for Fiscal Year 2021.
- Article 9: The Town voted to re-authorize the Town Clerk to deposit fee income generated from certificates, DBA's, Dog Fees, Genealogy, etc. into a Revolving Fund account for payment of fees due as submitted for payment by the Town Clerk pursuant to the provisions of state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½, said fund to be established from receipts of said income; and expenditures shall not exceed \$2,600.00 for Fiscal Year 2021.
- Article 10: The Town voted to authorize the Tax Collector to deposit fee income generated from collection of taxes into a Revolving Fund account for payment of fees due as submitted for payment by the Tax Collector pursuant to the provisions of state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, said fund to be established from receipts of said income; and expenditures shall not exceed \$10,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2021.
- Article 11: The Town voted to to re-authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ for deposits of all receipts for grave openings and from which the Selectboard and Cemetery Commission may make expenditures to pay the costs thereof; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed \$6,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2021.
- Article 12: The Town voted to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ 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; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed \$2,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2021.
- Article 13: The Town voted to authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ to be expended by the Conservation Commission 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 Conservation Commission and expenditures from said Revolving Fund not to exceed \$5,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2021.
- Article 14: The Town voted to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ 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 carrying out its duties; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed \$1,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2021.

- Article 15: The Town voted to re-authorize a Revolving Fund pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ 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; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed \$3,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2021.
- Article 16: The Town voted to re-authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ 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; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed \$10,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2021.
- Article 17: The Town voted to re-authorize a Revolving Fund, pursuant to state law MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53E½ and pursuant to Local Cultural Council Regulations at 962 CMR 2:05, for deposits 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; and expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall not exceed \$3,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2021.
- Article 18: The Town voted to accept and expend Chapter 90 Funds from the State for the purpose of local road work projects, said expenditures to be 100% reimbursed by the State.
- Article 19: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the following budgets for the Fiscal Year 2021 as summarized below:

Town General Office & Finance:	\$	316,312.00
Total Protection of Persons & Property:	\$	424,981.00
Total Health and Sanitation:	\$	65,313.00
Total Highway Department:	\$	285,235.00
Total Charities and Veterans Benefits:	\$	13,759.00
Total Unclassified	\$	351,799.00
<i>GRAND TOTAL of:</i>	\$	<u>1,457,399.00</u>

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$792,500.00 for the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District Fiscal Year 2021 budget.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$39,037.00 for the Montachusett Regional Vocational School District Fiscal Year 2021 budget.


The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,556,278.00 for the Petesham Center School Fiscal Year 2021 budget.

- Article 20: The voted to fix the salaries of all Elective Town Officers as provided in Section 108 of Chapter 41, General Laws as amended: Moderator \$0; Town Treasurer \$18,261.00; Town Clerk \$11,694.00; Tax Collector \$14,454.00; Selectboard, Chair, \$3,001.00; two members \$2,634.00 each; Board of Assessors, Chair, \$3,399.00, Clerk, \$2,944.00, other member, \$2,771.00; Board of Health Chair, \$215.00, other members, \$158.00 each; Trustee of Library FREE; Constables \$13.14/per hour.
- Article 21: The Town voted to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of \$104,793.00 to pay the Fiscal Year 2021 principal and interest due on the construction note for the Petersham Center School building construction.
- Article 22: The Town voted to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of \$18,409.00 to pay the Fiscal Year 2021 principal and interest due on the construction note for the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District school building construction.
- Article 23: The Town voted to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds, take from the Stabilization Fund, borrow, or any combination thereof, the sum of \$1,986.00 to pay the Fiscal Year 2021 interest on the note for repairs to the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District dam.
- Article 24: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,006.00 and take \$37,889.00 from the existing General Fund Account No. 255698-CDBG Town of Athol Expenses' for a total sum of \$41,895.00 to pay the Fiscal Year 2021 principal and interest due on the note for asbestos removal at the Nichewaug Inn & Academy building.
- Article 25: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$29,025.00 to pay the Fiscal Year 2021 principal and interest due on the note for the debt incurred for project expenses for completion of the town-wide broadband network project previously approved by vote of the Special Town Meeting of December 12, 2016.
- Article 26: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,800.00 to pay the interest due on the note for debt incurred for project expenses for completion of the town-wide broadband network as approved by vote of the Special Town Meeting of November 19, 2018.
- Article 27: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500.00 for deposit in the existing General Fund Account No. 015925.046 – Nichewaug Inn & Academy Maintenance for general maintenance of the property.
- Article 28: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 for the Board of Assessors to contract for services to execute Year One of Five of the Full Measure and List of all real estate and personal property as required by State Law.

- Article 29: The Town voted to take the accumulated interest from the Consolidated Cemetery Fund 1 and 2, the E.M. Cook Cemetery Trust Fund, the L.L. Pond Cemetery Fund, and the William Smith Cemetery Fund for deposit into the Cemetery Repair Fund, said fund to be expended by the Cemetery Commission for Cemetery improvements.
- Article 30: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 for deposit into the Reserve Fund for Fiscal Year 2021.
- Article 31: 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, to be held during Fiscal Year 2021.
- Article 32: The Town voted to transfer \$8,277.00 from Free Cash and move it to the Stabilization Fund. 2/3's vote needed – Unanimous
- Article 33: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to support the Petersham Friday Market and its 2020 program of up to 20 live music performances to be held on the town common.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

This is a True Copy Attest.


Diana L. Cooley, Town Clerk

**Town of Petersham
Trust Funds
June 30, 2020**

Fund	Princ. Bal.	Earnings Bal.	Princ.	Earnings	Cash	Princ. Bal.	Earnings Bal.	Ending Cash	
	7/1/2019	7/1/2019	Contrib.	Net	Disp.	6/30/2020	6/30/2020	Value	
Cemetery Funds									
Consolidated Cemetery I & II	\$ 84,051.71	\$ 1,798.70		\$ 1,052.67		\$ 84,051.71	\$ 2,851.37	\$ 86,903.08	
E.M. Cook Cemetery Fund	1,026.25	23.52		\$ 12.87		\$ 1,026.25	\$ 36.39	\$ 1,062.64	
L.L. Pond Cemetery Fund 1 & II	2,333.33	53.47		\$ 29.27		\$ 2,333.33	\$ 82.74	\$ 2,416.07	
Belle Rickey Cemetery Fund	188.97	8.58		\$ 2.43		\$ 188.97	\$ 11.01	\$ 199.98	
Annie Daniels Flower Fund	1,069.54	48.60		\$ 13.71		\$ 1,069.54	\$ 62.31	\$ 1,131.85	
John Mudge Flower Fund	2,131.32	217.27		\$ 28.79		\$ 2,131.32	\$ 246.06	\$ 2,377.38	
J & C Williams Flower Fund	544.61	24.75		\$ 6.97		\$ 544.61	\$ 31.72	\$ 576.33	
William Smith Cemetery Fund	9,000.00	206.32		\$ 112.88		\$ 9,000.00	\$ 319.20	\$ 9,319.20	
Sub Total	\$ 100,345.73	\$ 2,381.21	\$ -	\$ 1,259.59	\$ -	\$ 100,345.73	\$ 3,640.80	\$ 103,986.53	
School Funds									
McCarthy School fund	\$ 3,310.91	\$ 820.78		\$ 50.66	\$ -	\$ 3,310.91	\$ 871.44	\$ 4,182.35	
Hildreth School fund	4,476.72	371.48		\$ 59.45	-	\$ 4,476.72	\$ 430.93	\$ 4,907.65	
Josephine Dickman School Fund	2,926.79	280.68		\$ 39.33	-	\$ 2,926.79	\$ 320.01	\$ 3,246.80	
Discovery Center School	459.22	312.72		\$ 9.44	-	\$ 459.22	\$ 322.16	\$ 781.38	
Subtotal	\$ 11,173.64	\$ 1,785.66	\$ -	\$ 158.88	\$ -	\$ 11,173.64	\$ 1,944.54	\$ 13,118.18	
Library Funds									
Mann Library Fund I & II	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,513.88		\$ 79.86	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,593.74	\$ 6,593.74	
GW Cook Library Fund	1,026.25	311.07		\$ 16.39	-	\$ 1,026.25	\$ 327.46	\$ 1,353.71	
Spooner Library Fund I, II & III	4,659.00	13.71		\$ 57.26	(48.95)	\$ 4,659.00	\$ 22.02	\$ 4,681.02	
Wheeler Library fund	3,000.00	908.35		\$ 47.92	-	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 956.27	\$ 3,956.27	
Subtotal	\$ 13,685.25	\$ 2,747.01	\$ -	\$ 201.43	(48.95)	\$ 13,685.25	\$ 2,899.49	\$ 16,584.74	
Conservation Funds									
Babbitt Fund	\$ 56,195.79	\$ 838.00		\$ 698.77	(678.00)	\$ 56,195.79	\$ 858.77	\$ 57,054.56	
Evelyn Murphy Conservation Fund	10,000.00	1,370.22		\$ 139.26	(199.00)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 1,310.48	\$ 11,310.48	
Subtotal	\$ 66,195.79	\$ 2,208.22	\$ -	\$ 838.03	(877.00)	\$ 66,195.79	\$ 2,169.25	\$ 68,365.04	
Charity Funds									
Elizabeth Newton Charity Fund	\$ 3,441.65	\$ 10,409.09		\$ 169.84	-	\$ 3,441.65	\$ 10,578.93	\$ 14,020.58	
E Newton Deserving Poor Fund	13,672.26	37,050.87		\$ 621.96	-	\$ 13,672.26	\$ 37,672.83	\$ 51,345.09	
Subtotal	\$ 17,113.91	\$ 47,459.96	\$ -	\$ 791.80	-	\$ 17,113.91	\$ 48,251.76	\$ 65,365.67	

**Town of Petersham
Trust Funds
June 30, 2020**

<u>Other Funds</u>						
Flint Memorial Fund	\$ 22,967.99	\$ 12,508.02	\$ 434.97	\$ 22,967.99	\$ 12,942.99	\$ 35,910.98
Disaster Fund	6,949.70	76,642.51	\$ 1,020.06	6,949.70	\$ 71,608.84	\$ 78,558.54
Stabilization Fund	308,624.18	87,002.94	-	\$ 4,797.47	308,624.18	\$ 334,367.59
Energy Commission fund	0.39	3.37	0.06	(66,057.00)	0.39	\$ 3.82
Petersham Village Imp. Soc	115.66	115.02	\$ 2.86	-	115.66	\$ 233.54
Davenport Property Maintenance	\$ 4,617.13	\$ 17.53	\$ (139.49)	\$ 56.67	\$ (60.51)	\$ 4,491.33
Subtotal	\$ 343,275.05	\$ 176,289.39	\$ (139.49)	\$ 6,312.09	\$ (72,171.24)	\$ 343,135.56
	\$ 551,789.37	\$ 232,871.45	\$ (139.49)	\$ 9,561.82	\$ (73,097.19)	\$ 551,649.88
Grand Total Trust Funds						\$ 169,336.08
						\$ 720,985.96

Respectfully Submitted
Dana C. Robinson
Town Treasurer

**Town of Petersham
Annual Payroll
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020**

General Government

Selectmen

Nancy Allen	Selectman	2,927.00	
Fredrik Marsh	Selectmen	2,505.00	
Henry Woolsey	Selectman	2,505.00	
Steven Boudreau	Admin. Coordinator		
Sherry Berube	BOS Administrator	16,645.79	
Derrick Vannoy	BOS Admin. Assistant	13,075.26	\$ 37,658.05

Assessors

Dana Kennan	Assessor	3,232.00	
Ellen Anderson	Assessor	2,800.00	
Jean Robinson	Assessor	2,636.00	
Andrea Gale		10,704.00	
Kelly Garlock	Asst. Assessor	17,991.18	\$ 37,363.18

Tax Collector

Renee Wingertsman	Salary	14,101.00	
	Fees	3,651.00	\$ 17,752.00

Town Clerk

Diana Cooley		12,850.50	
Renee Wingertsman	Secretary	-	\$ 12,850.50

Town Treasurer

Dana Robinson		17,815.00	\$ 17,815.00
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Town Accountant

Jean Joel		21,013.00	
Kelly Garlock	Assistant	2,011.31	\$ 23,024.31

Building Inspector

Brianna Skowrya	Paid thru District	0.00	
Renee Wingertsman	Secretary	2,044.50	\$ 2,044.50

Board of Health

Stephen Loring	Health Board	154.00	
Fifi Scoufopoulos	Health Board	154.00	
Robert Pasic	Health Board	209.00	
Michael Seitz	Transfer Station	1,716.38	
Fredrik Marsh	Transfer Station	1,493.68	
Renee Wingertsman	BOH Secretary	7,039.20	\$ 10,766.26

Town Hall & Office Custodian

Neil Legare		582.96	\$ 582.96
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Tree Warden

Melissa LeVangie		3,075.00	\$ 3,075.00
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Animal Inspector

Marc Page		2,587.00	\$ 2,587.00
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Animal Control Officer

Debra Jones- Bachrach		3,081.00	\$ 3,081.00
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Plumbing & Gas Inspector

Daniel Jolly		6,225.00	\$ 6,225.00
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Electrical Inspector

Gary Terroy		6,494.00	
Glenn Tattan	Asst. Electrical Inspector	-	\$ 6,494.00

**Town of Petersham
Annual Payroll
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020**

Elections & Registration

Ralph Hebert		189.75	
Anne Hyde-Hebert		189.75	
Dana Kennan		154.75	
Carolyn May		341.50	
Karen O'Connor		608.75	
Renee Wingertsman		38.25	
Denis Legare	Constable	-	\$ 1,522.75

Emergency Management Director

Lynne Shaw		300.00	
			\$ 300.00

Police Department

R. Dana Cooley Jr.	Chief	82,962.67	
	Detail Pay	3,600.00	
Stankey Andriski II		2,419.50	
John Bell		2,459.76	
Jesse Berard		5,212.14	
Peter Buck		4,861.01	
Russell Davidson		4,158.58	
Marc Duguay		8,111.37	
Michael Gobeille		1,612.50	
Randy Horne	Salary	55,981.90	
	Detail Pay	39,557.00	
Daniel Kimball		2,164.38	
Robert Legare		2,418.33	
Jason Lichtengerger		13,375.30	
Thomas Martin		3,880.80	
Brandon Newell		12,714.30	
Charles Pinder		2,421.58	
Timothy Wright		10,318.10	
			\$ 258,229.22

Fire Department

Dana Robinson	Chief	7,025.90	
	Inspection Fees	1,400.00	
Robert Legare	Assistant Chief	4,660.30	
Larry Robinson	Deputy Chief	604.90	
Shawn Legare	Captain	2,029.20	
Vinnie Acito		16.10	
Matthew Berthiaume		541.30	
Scott Churchill		171.80	
Shawn Clukey		247.50	
Jacob Cooley		718.84	
Peter Devoll		652.00	
Christopher Jackson		261.60	
Rebecca Jackson		742.40	
Bryan Killay		759.00	
Greggory Kimball		705.50	
Josiah Legare		342.50	
Rebecca Legare		609.60	
Charles Pinder		229.40	
Sarah Rowell		410.10	
Jason Scott		1,278.60	\$ 23,406.54

**Town of Petersham
Annual Payroll
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020**

Highway Department

Gregory Waid	Superintendent	65,671.94	
Leslie Cooley		60,574.03	
Brian Bassett		54,697.04	
Richard Cooley, Sr.		4,882.10	
Bryan Killay		2,060.64	
Neil Legare		3,086.31	
Fredrik Mash		3,385.38	
Charles Pinder		1,474.75	
Jason Scott		153.53	
Jacob Cooley		117.28	\$ 196,103.00

School Department

Eric Glazier	Principal	95,660.00	
Joanne Menard	Principal	3,572.30	
Alissa Roy	Grade 1	60,846.02	
Wendi LeBlanc	Grade 2	83,457.91	
Tracy Smith	Grade 3	68,717.24	
Melissa Clark	Learning Specialist	68,811.49	
Carol Mercier	Grade 4	36,876.00	
Deidre Keenan	Grade 4	9,682.66	
Beth Cass	Special Education Teacher	31,899.97	
Aaron O'Conner	Grade 5	58,351.51	
Nicole Ruggles	Grade 6	85,147.91	
Donna Shaughnessy	Long-term Substitute	12,843.44	
Elizabeth Parsons	ELL Teacher	16,234.00	
Christina Boyer- Thompson	Kindergarten	58,505.95	
Natasha Hanna	Music/Aide	12,245.55	
Elizabeth Garrett	Music/Aide	19,178.41	
Angela Haynes	Music/Aide	7,757.56	
Kay Leonard	Art	11,151.27	
Robert Whitelaw	Phys. Ed.	16,143.88	
Christine Warburton	School Nurse	56,404.44	
Nicole Costello	Guidance Counselor	26,819.23	
Malory Blanchette	Aide	18,282.04	
Lisa Brouillet	Aide	9,888.61	
Kimberlyn Rushford-Waugh	Aide	19,055.22	
Kristen Orlando	Aide	20,427.76	
Gail Russ	Aide	17,905.34	
Mary Whitelaw	Aide	19,103.55	
Ann Degnan	Secretary	46,835.72	
Kristine Wallace	Cook	24,545.65	
James M. Burke III	Dir. Of Buildings & Grounds	50,606.26	
Justin Liversidge	Custodian	38,348.00	
Denise Audette	Substitute	84.00	
Charles Black	Substitute	441.00	
Barbara Clough	Substitute	294.00	
Barbie Downing	Substitute	13,614.92	
Jennifer Lemarier	Substitute	414.75	
Tina Leslie	Substitute	1,329.20	
Kathy McCrohon	Substitute	54.00	
Jill O'Connor	Substitute	1,260.57	
Kerrie-Ann Sampson	Substitute	4,785.38	
Barbara Young	Substitute	5,176.50	\$ 1,132,759.21

**Town of Petersham
Annual Payroll
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020**

1099 Vendors

Phillip Leger	Health Agent	7,575.00	
Barnes Landscaping	Care of Cemeteries & Common	29,652.75	
Whittier Plumbing & Heating	Heating Repairs	3,634.93	
Salvatore Ardagna, Jr.	Street Sweeping	3,600.00	
Tamra Conde	Grave Stone Repairs	6,650.00	
Jason Edridge	Electrical Repairs	3,720.00	
Favreau Forestry LLC	Tree Work	29,934.00	
Suzanne Saven	Social Services	7,718.00	
Pamela Short	Cutural Services	804.00	
Steven Garrison	Cutural Services	750.00	
Richard King	Cutural Services	5,000.00	
Susan Downing	Psychologist	8,331.39	\$ 107,370.07
			<hr/>
Total Payroll All Departments			<u>\$ 1,901,009.55</u>

Respectfully Submitted,
Dana C. Robinson
Town Treasurer



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES,
NORTHEAST QUABBIN DISTRICT (NQD)
CALENDAR YEAR 2020
ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Athol:

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts began providing for its veterans and their families in need, 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 agency 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 serving veterans.

MGL Chapter 115: Section: 3B was passed into law by the Commonwealth during FY 2015 establishing the mandatory requirement whereby Directors of Veterans' Services/Veterans' Services Officers (VSO) must become legally certified. Mandatory recertification is required every three-years.

MGL Chapter 115 authorizes an eligible veteran to receive certain financial, medical, and other benefits earned by their military service. Services are available through the local area Director of Veterans' Services/Veterans' Services Officers 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. DVS requires the district to reapply every two years to continue operations. On March 7, 2017 DVS granted approval for the district to continue operating through June 30, 2021.

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 compliant with MGL Chapter 115.

Led by the Director of Veterans' Services, the NQD serves veterans and dependents having a formal residence in Athol, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston and Royalston.

VETERANS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERED BY THE NORTHEAST QUABBIN 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 FY19 Veterans' Benefits paid, by community, to its eligible veterans and/or dependents. Benefits paid are normally reimbursed at 75% by the

commonwealth. There are exceptions, where some benefits are eligible for 100% reimbursement.

FY20 VETERANS' BENEFITS DATA

Town	Benefits Paid	State Reimbursements	% Reimbursed
Athol	\$196,670.01	\$147,813.88	75%
Orange	\$101,982.13	\$76,486.62	75%
Petersham	\$3,176.62	\$2,382.45	75%
Phillipston	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%
Royalston	\$2,647.20	\$1,985.41	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 **\$1.4M**(MVSOA)dollars in annual compensation to veterans, dependents and surviving spouses living in the North Quabbin District of Athol, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston and Royalston.
 - b. VA Central-Western-Massachusetts Healthcare System – Headquartered at Northampton VA Medical Center, Leeds has five Community Based Outpatient Clinics delivering medical and mental health treatment to over 90,000 veteranswith an annual budget of **\$250 M**.
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. MassHire Franklin Hampshire
 - f. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- g. U.S. Department of Justice
- h. Other Massachusetts & U.S. Departments, Non-Profit Organizations and state agencies.

The office has continued to see an increase in the numbers of veterans applying for service-connected disabilities, both new and increases. Operating under COVID guidelines for the second half of FY 2020, has seen some challenges. These challenges were met and overcome with the excellent support of the NQD town offices. The office has managed to successfully take care of all supportive needs presented by veterans' and their families.

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,

Sarah C. Custer

Sarah C. Custer

Director, NorthEastQuabbin District
Veterans' Services

PETERSHAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

FY2020 ANNUAL REPORT

In FY2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020), the members of the Zoning Board of Appeals were Donald O’Neil (Chair), Brian MacEwen (Clerk), Maryann Reynolds (Member) and Don Eaton (Associate Member),

The Board considered one application during this period for a Special Permit/Variance for a Wireless Telecommunications Facility filed by TowerNorth Development LLC for premises located at 41 Hall Road which application remained under consideration at the close of fiscal year 2020. In addition, there were several business permit applications that were submitted by residents which were signed and processed by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald O’Neil, Chair



Petersham Center School

Spirit of Inquiry

Dr. Elizabeth Zielinski, *Superintendent*
Eric M. Glazier, *Principal*

P.O. Box 148
Petersham, MA 01366
(978)724-3363
FAX (978)724-6687

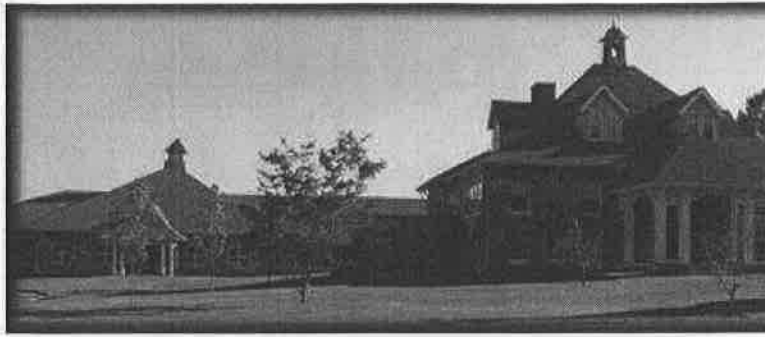
Student Information:

The graduating 6th grade class of 2020 had 20 students. Our student population as of 9/8/2020 is 123 students from K through grade 6. The class breakdown is as follows:

Kindergarten--11 Petersham/4 School Choice	Grade 4--9 Petersham/10 School Choice
Grade 1--12 Petersham/6 School Choice	Grade 5--6 Petersham/10 School Choice
Grade 2--13 Petersham/11 School Choice	Grade 6--10 Petersham/10 School Choice
Grade 3--1 Petersham/9 School Choice	

COVID UPDATE:

In mid March of 2020 the Petersham Center School began working fully remote due to the COVID -19 pandemic. Our staff continued to provide our students with work and some live sessions of classes were provided during this time. We were able to put a chromebook into every student's hands in order to connect with the teacher remotely. Due to the order from the Governor and guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, our school stayed in a fully remote model until the end of the school year. During the school closure, a team of educators and community members was assembled to draft three plans for school reopening. We created a fully remote learning plan, a hybrid learning plan, and full inclusion learning plan. Our school committee voted to return to school in September in a hybrid learning model. This model reflected our best effort to get students back into the school safely while following the state and federal guidelines around COVID-19. We brought half of our students in on Monday and Tuesday for in-person instruction and the other half of the students in on Thursday and Friday for in-person instruction. Our school year officially started on September 8, 2020 and we were able to make it until the Christmas break with only minimal disruption to our hybrid learning model. I certainly want to recognize the hard work of everyone from the students and staff, to the parents and community members. These folks helped us successfully bring students into the building when many of our neighbors kept their school doors closed.



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Curriculum Update:

All of our students continue to use a variety of tools to access the academic curriculum. Due to the COVID pandemic, we purchased a new K-6 reading program in 2020 called Wonders. This program provides students with a variety of learning opportunities that cover all aspects of reading from comprehension strategies to foundational skills and fluency. The best part of the Wonders program is that it has a fully digitized online platform. This means that every student was able to access their Reading textbook on their chromebook from home. We also purchased hard copies for each student, but the online platform has proved itself to be invaluable. We will be looking at updating our math curriculum in FY22. The goal will be to have a program that covers K-6 and also has a digital platform for students.

Current Technology:

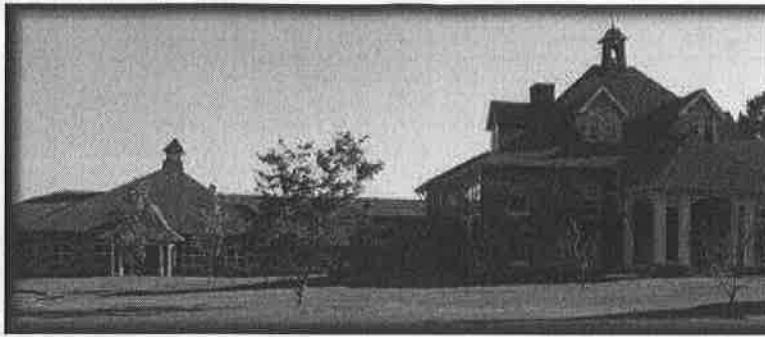
We have been able to increase the amount of technology that our students have access to. PCS has a 1-1 chromebook program for students in grades K-6 and we are hoping to expand to more technology in the future.

School Community:

I'd like to publicly thank our many, many, dedicated parents and townspeople who gave their generous support to the Petersham Center School in 2020. Without their support, we would not have had a successful fall. We worked very closely with the Petersham Board of Health, the Petersham Police and Emergency Management Team, the Petersham Selectboard, and the Petersham Finance Committee to ensure that our building was safe and ready to open on September 8, 2020.

Building Improvement:

With appreciation to our Selectboard, Finance Committee members, and others, I'm excited to announce that we have continued working to improve our school building. Through a grant we were able to upgrade the air handling vents for better air exchange in the building. All building gutters were repaired as needed and painted. We continue to explore ways to replace the security cameras with modern web based cameras that may be accessed outside the building by school administrators and local emergency management personnel. I



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remain committed to upgrading the playground at PCS and look forward to sharing that with the community.

Social Media:

We have an active Facebook Page that can be found by searching for Petersham Center School, Petersham Massachusetts. Photos of classroom activities and field trips are posted on the Facebook page along with important notices and fliers. Information about school closure due to weather can also be found on our page. We recently reintroduced the Parent Newsletter which is e-mailed home to all student families. If anyone from the community would like information submitted in the family newsletter, please contact me in advance.

Thank you:

I'd like to thank the students, parents, teachers, staff, and community members for their continued support in making my second year as PCS Principal so rewarding. I continue to look forward to the amazing years to come.

Respectfully Submitted
Eric M. Glazier
Principal

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL
VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT

**ANNUAL REPORT
2020**



MONTY TECH
A High School Education For Those Who Want More

1050 Westminster Street
Fitchburg, MA 01420
www.montytech.net

As I reflected on the 2019-2020 school year, and considered what might be included in the 2020 Annual Report, I was reminded of the progress and accomplishments made by our students and staff, during an incredibly challenging time. While each year at Monty Tech is exciting and includes many “firsts”, traditional instruction ended abruptly in 2019-2020, and students and instructors were forced to turn to technology to watch, learn and collaborate. The all-important hands-on learning was not possible because of the unexpected pandemic, and so for the first time ever, our vocational instructors relied solely on their creativity, their understanding of instructional technology, and their technical skills to carry them through the end of the year. Our academic teachers collaborated to create lessons and assessments that would effectively measure learning in a remote setting, and explored countless apps and platforms to increase engagement. Students who looked forward to events like SkillsUSA competitions, prom and graduation, grappled with disappointment and the unknown, and Guidance Counselors worked diligently to reach out to students who were now more isolated from their peers than ever before. To say 2019-2020 was challenging may be an understatement, but to disregard our progress as an educational community would be a disservice to everyone who worked so hard to serve our students. While the traditional school year may have been abbreviated, so many incredible achievements were recognized in this historic year.

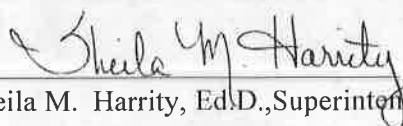
A project more than 7 years in the making, the Monty Tech Veterinary Clinic, opened and began providing affordable veterinary care to pets in need, across our district. Routine wellness care visits, affordable medications and vaccinations, diagnostic services, primary care surgical services, stable urgent care, compassionate end of life care, and dentistry services were delivered by our talented Veterinary Medical Director, Dr. Kayla Sample. Students worked in the new state-of-the-art clinic, learning techniques and gaining knowledge that align with veterinary assistant programs across the Commonwealth. In fact, Becker College has recognized the Monty Tech Veterinary Science program for its rigor and content, and has offered qualified program graduates up to 13 college credits. Further, relying on the school’s trusted model of school-to-business partnerships, a unique collaboration between Monty Tech and VCA has resulted in co-op placements for Seniors in the program.

In August 2019, Monty Tech accepted a \$384,257 award from the Massachusetts Skills Cabinet. This award provided funding to update technology and equipment in two shops: Health Occupations and Automotive Technology. Health Occupations students worked and learned in updated shop facilities, to include new hospital beds and lifts, as well as new diagnostic equipment to train students in the proper procedures for testing for cholesterol, blood sugar, lead, lung volume, and more. In addition, the program received state-of-the-art virtual dissection technology, bringing lessons in anatomy and physiology to new heights. This equipment, provided by Anatomage and most often found on college campuses, immediately engaged students, bringing a deeper level of knowledge and understanding to students as they explored the human body and its complex systems.

Students in the Automotive Technology program were introduced to an all-new simulation lab, that now includes the latest technology in trainers and simulators aligned with NATEF standards. The shop was updated to include new automotive lifts, floor jacks, engine stands, chargers, an air table, and a redesigned tool crib with all new hand tools. Further, in 2019-2020, in partnership with Snap On Tools, instructors rolled out a more sophisticated technical training program and increased opportunities to earn all-new diagnostic credentials, validating their experience and ability to diagnose and service today’s computer-controlled vehicles. With new curriculum, technology and the addition of NC3 Automotive Diagnostic Certifications to the program, our Automotive Technology program graduates will enter a competitive workforce poised for success.

Students who attend Monty Tech have chosen a high school experience unlike any other. While completing all of the same high school requirements of students enrolled in a traditional, comprehensive high school, our students are also learning a valuable trade – skills they will carry with them for a lifetime. In the most challenging times, our students are called upon to demonstrate creativity, innovation and technical skill proficiency, and though face-to-face instruction may have been interrupted, their achievements continued. On behalf of our talented educators and administrators, who remain focused on delivering the highest quality academic and vocational-technical education possible, I am delighted to present the District’s 2019-2020 annual report to you.

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 transformed 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

Christina Favreau, Director of Academic Programs

Jim Hachey, Director of Vocational Programs

Michael Gormley, Director of Facilities

Donald Kitzmiller, Director of Technology

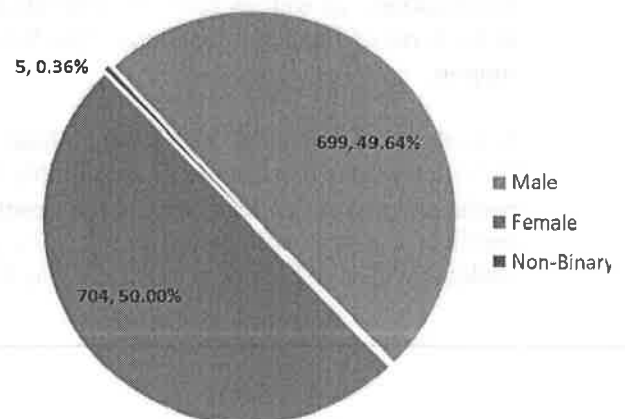
Katy Whitaker, Development Coordinator

Victoria Zarozinski, Director of Student Support Services

Enrollment

On June 1, 2020, student enrollment at Monty Tech included 1,408 students in grades nine through twelve, representing each of the district's eighteen sending communities. Each class of students is comprised of a relatively equal balance of male vs. female students, and each student attending Monty Tech has elected to do so, prepared to explore an interest in one of the school's twenty-one rigorous vocational-technical programs. While the school currently offers only five programs non-traditional for male students, and twelve programs non-traditional for female students, we are proud to have a student population

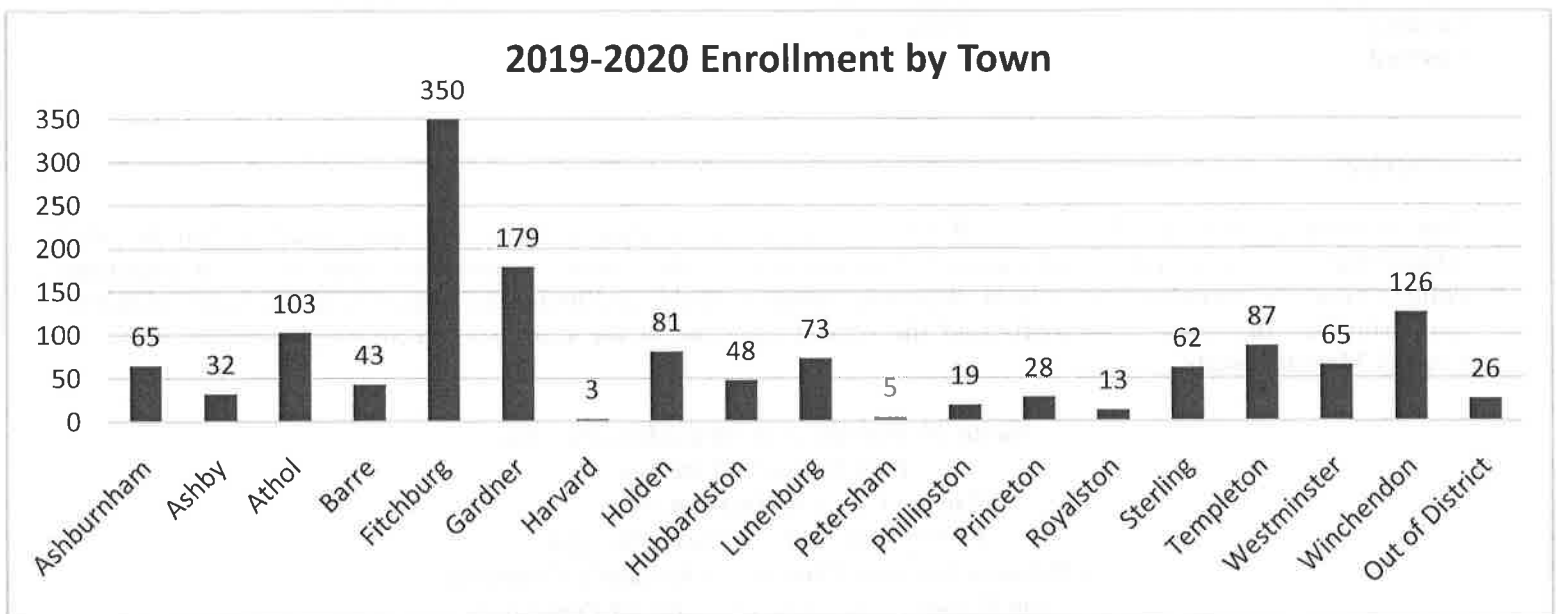
2019-2020 STUDENT ENROLLMENT



that is well- balanced by gender and a variety of academic interests and achievements.

Throughout 2019-2020, Monty Tech offered a variety of opportunities for students, parents, and community members to learn about and visit the school. In October 2019, approximately 450 district eighth graders participated in the annual "Tour Day" event. Students toured our twenty-one 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 speak with staff members.

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. While the program continued to attract a large number of students during the Fall and Winter sessions in the 2019-2020 school year, serving 518 area students, the Spring session was cancelled due to the widespread pandemic.



Class of 2020 Awards

Members of the Class of 2020 were awarded approximately \$200,000 in scholarships, tools, and equipment. The Monty Tech Foundation generously provided \$28,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors, ranging in amounts from \$400 to \$2,000. The Foundation also awarded \$3,570 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 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 31% of the graduating class of 2020 reported plans to enroll at a 4-year college/university upon graduation. By earning college credits while still in high school, these students will save 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 2019-2020, a great deal of effort was put forth by the School Committee, administration, and staff. The final fiscal year 2019-2020 Educational Plan totaled \$28,760,202 which represents a 3.62% increase over the 2018-2019 Educational Plan. The District's FY20 budget only exceeds the minimum spending required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 70 by \$145,657 or .6%.

The District was audited in December 2020 as part of the yearly financial audit by the accounting firm of Melanson, Heath and Co. from Greenfield, MA and expects to receive a good report.

Grants and Contracts

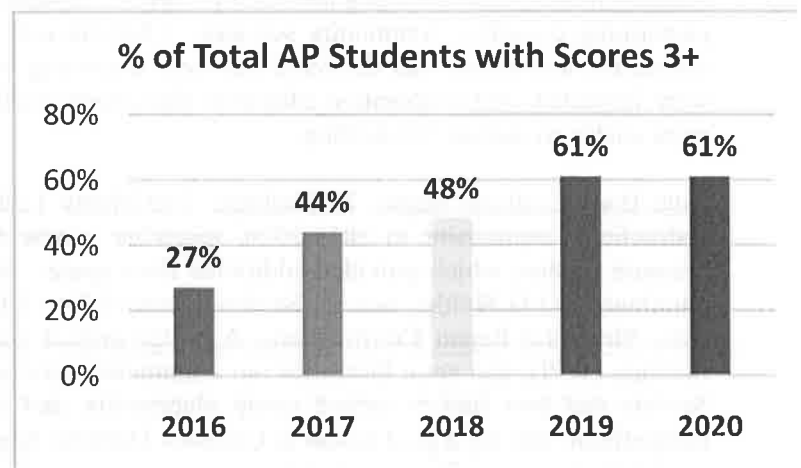
Monty Tech continues to pursue grant funding on an annual basis. These funds help provide many educational and social services to the student population. For fiscal year 2020, state and federal grant sources provided the school with \$978,827. Programs funded by these grants include: Essential Health Services, Improving Teacher Quality, Special Education Services and Program Improvement, Title I Support, Perkins Occupational Education, Student Support and Academic Enrichment and Marine Corp Junior Reserve Officer Training.

Academic Achievement

During the spring of 2020, the administration of the MCAS was postponed due to COVID-19 safety precautions. Last year, Monty Tech's passing rate on the English Language Arts was 99%, Mathematics 97%, Biology 99%. Monty Tech students exceeded the state averages in all 3 subjects. With regard to our Accountability status, Monty Tech made "Substantial Progress Toward Meeting Targets."

Monty Tech is committed to providing students with rigorous STEM learning opportunities, and so in recent years, the curriculum has been expanded to include Advanced Placement Programs (two English courses, two mathematics courses, two science courses, and one computer science course). In addition, teachers have participated in meaningful, high-quality professional development which has enabled us to successfully implement two Project Lead the Way biomedical courses and 2 dual enrollment science courses (Biology and Biotechnology).

During the spring of 2020, students at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School continued to demonstrate high academic achievement, earning commendable scores on AP exams. It is important to remember that these exams took place during remote learning. AP exams were modified significantly prior to testing, the testing environment was remote, and teachers may have faced some challenges in planning some of the components of the curriculum (due to COVID-19). Although we are pleased with the results, we are aware that these issues, in addition to potential internal scaling applied by the College Board, may have significantly impacted the final results.



The school is in its 8th year of administering Advanced Placement exams, and students enrolled in AP courses continue to improve their performance.

- In the spring of 2020, 89 out of 146 (61%) exams earned qualifying credit - the highest number of “exams” with qualifying scores we’ve ever had.
- This year, more than half of the students who tested in the following subjects received qualifying scores: AP Literature, AP Language, AP Environmental, AP Chemistry and AP Statistics (5 out of 7 subjects).
- The AP subject with the highest number of students with qualifying scores was AP Literature & Composition with 41 out of 54 students (76%). It was also the AP subject with the most “test takers” with 54 students taking this exam.
- Students who completed the AP Literature, AP Chemistry, and AP Environmental exams exceeded the “state” averages in Massachusetts. In addition, students who completed the AP Literature, AP Language, and AP Environmental exceeded “global” averages.
- Most notably, AP Literature and AP Environmental exceeded both state and global averages.

	Spring 2016 (SY15-16)	Spring 2017 (SY16-17)	Spring 2018 (SY17-18)	Spring 2019 (SY18-19)	Spring 2020 (SY19-20)
MT AP Courses	5	6	7	7	7
MT AP Student Enrollment	188	151	135	157	179
Students with Qualifying Scores	39 (27%)	53 (44%)	46 (48%)	68 (61%)	89 (61%)
AP Test Takers	145	120	95	111	146
Total # of Qualifying Exams	44 (24%)	65 (44%)	58 (43%)	79 (54%)	75 (71%)
Total # of AP Exams	187	148	134	146	106

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-one different vocational-technical education programs are building homes, reconstructing damaged properties, repairing service vehicles, making walkways more accessible, and performing countless community services. Unfortunately, the widespread pandemic forced a school closure, and vocational instruction was delivered remotely beginning March 2020. In turn, opportunities for hands-on learning were impacted, and cooperative education placements available to students were also restricted, as business partners were unable to sustain full staffing.

Auto Body Collision Repair Technology: The Monty Tech Auto Body program benefitted from much-needed, new instructional equipment in 2019-2020, receiving a new Snap-On Air conditioning machine and a wall-mounted pressure washer, which provided additional floor space. Students were trained with the Pro-Spot M.I.G brazing and aluminum M.I.G.Welder, and all Seniors received their EPA 6 H Certificate, I-Car Pro Level 1 in Refinishing and Non- Structural Repair Certifications. A bridge project was completed in collaboration with Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), and soon thereafter our community service projects were discontinued due to the pandemic. Three Seniors and two Juniors earned co-op placements, and students performed quite well at the SkillsUSA District competition, earning a gold medal in Collision Damage Appraisal, a silver medal in Refinishing, and silver and bronze medals for Collision Repair. (Total student enrollment: 63)

Automotive Technology: The Monty Tech Automotive Technology program was awarded the FY20 Skills Capital Grant, and as a result students and instructors began the 2019-2020 school year in a shop that included a newly designed and outfitted tool crib, five new floor jacks, three new automotive lifts, one air table, five engine stands, three chargers, and an all-new Auto Lab that includes high tech trainers and simulators aligned with NATEF standards. Two additional certification opportunities (digital multimeters and scan tool applications) were made available to students, using the newly purchased Snap-On NC3 certified training equipment. These industry-recognized credentials and the new equipment will enhance our students' level of competency within the automotive industry for years to come. Until the pandemic forced a building closure, students and staff in the Automotive Technology program had worked on or diagnosed more than 200 vehicles. Students performed repairs that included transmission replacements, intake manifolds, brake work, and various other technical repairs, demonstrating technical skills that are required for any service technician in our area. Three Seniors and one Junior earned co-op placements, while instructors continued to utilize e-learning program options to keep the remaining students on track and engaged during the closure. (Total student enrollment: 62)

Business Technology: Monty Tech's Business Technology program continues to benefit from a unique partnership with Workers Credit Union. The opportunity to participate in teller training and financial literacy workshops has been met with great enthusiasm from students, who completed 9 modules and earned a financial literacy certificate. Instructors, in collaboration with their post-secondary colleagues, continue to refine and develop new articulation agreements. The agreement with Mount Wachusett Community College will provide qualified students with college credits at no cost to the student. Students are eligible to receive 24 credits from Mount Wachusett Community College. 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, The Gear House School Store, and the Monty Tech Greenhouse. Five Seniors and five Juniors were out on co-op placements during the 2019-2020 school year. (Total student enrollment: 71)

Cabinetmaking: Monty Tech Cabinetmaking students are called upon for a number of projects small and large, across the campus and beyond. 2019-2020 was no exception. Students completed projects that include: building a beautiful solid oak cabinet for the Fitchburg Alumni class of 1969, to be presented as a gift to Fitchburg High School's library; designing and using CNC technology to manufacture signage for the Devens Fire Department; and collaborating with Worcester Polytechnic Institute to mill and CNC over 400 pieces of ash to be used for strength testing for their engineering students. Sophomores in the Cabinetmaking program also designed and constructed three hundred fifty 10"x19" sapele charcuterie boards with pocketed cut-outs to accommodate two serving dishes and slate tray. The finished pieces will be used to raise funds for the Student Scholarship Program, supporting the Class of 2021. Eight Seniors and four Juniors earned co-op placements, representing the program so well. (Total student enrollment: 67)

CAD/Drafting & Design: In 2019-2020, the Monty Tech CAD/Drafting & Design program welcomed a new instructor, Jesse Veinotte, whose talents will help guide the Freshmen and Senior experience for years to come. While the school closure certainly curtailed the number of community serve jobs our students were able to complete, the curriculum was easily adapted into an online platform, and students were able to achieve a number of valuable industry-recognized certifications, including AutoCAD, Inventor, Revit, and Solidworks. Twelve students advanced to the SkillsUSA States competition, representing the program well, while two Senior students were proud to earn coveted co-op placements, working at Process Cooling in Leominster, MA and United Plastic Fabricating in North Andover, MA. (Total student enrollment: 61)

Cosmetology: The Monty Tech Cosmetology program is one of the only programs that students may leave and directly enter the industry, fully-licensed and ready for a career. The state-approved program is rigorous and provides students with countless opportunities to refine their cosmetology skills on clientele who understand and appreciate the learning environment. 2019-2020 was an exceptionally busy year for the Monty Tech Cosmetology students, who were compelled to raise funds for a local family in need, and did so by hosting "Staff Nights." Monty Tech staff and their families were invited into the shop for discounted services, and proceeds were donated to support a young girl who tragically lost her father in an accident. Their dedication to community service and "giving back" was a hallmark of the Cosmetology Class of 2020, and a testament to the students who worked so hard and learned so much while in the Monty Tech program. Eighteen students took and passed the Cosmetology State Board exam, and are now prepared for careers in the field. In addition, a total of one nine Seniors earned co-op placements in local salons – more than any year before. (Total student enrollment: 86)

Culinary Arts: In a typical year, Monty Tech Culinary Arts students and instructors operate a full-service restaurant and bakery, serving 90-120 patrons daily. They might also showcase their talents at regional events and fundraisers, working side-by-side with some of the area's finest chefs. But 2019-2020 was no ordinary year. The school's Mountain Room Restaurant closed in March, and all in-person dining/serving experiences were cancelled for the students. Curriculum transitioned from in-person to a virtual platform, which is challenging for the culinary trade, but the instructors did so effectively, seeking meaningful opportunities for their students to continue to develop in their chosen trade. Despite the pandemic, all students successfully earned Allergen Awareness and ServSafe Certifications, which are important credentials to have for any entry-level position in the culinary and hospitality trades. (Total student enrollment: 97)

Dental Assisting: A critical component of the Monty Tech Dental Assisting curriculum is the preparation for the Dental Assisting National Board certification exams. In 2019-2020, all students who sat for both the DANB Infection Control exam and the DANB Radiology exam, passed. This 100% pass rate is a true testament to the high quality instruction in the Monty Tech Dental Assisting program, and something we continue to be so proud of. A total of four students (two Seniors and two Juniors) earned co-op placements, while the remaining Juniors and Seniors participated in affiliation/externship experiences in area dental clinics and offices. Monty Tech Dental Assisting students and instructors also worked closely with local health provider, Community Health Connections, and provided dental services to more than 35 students in need through this beneficial school-based dental hygiene program. This experience provided valuable hands-on experience, as students were called upon to assist the staff from CHC during each dental procedure performed. (Total student enrollment: 60)

Early Childhood Education: Students and instructors in the Monty Tech Early Childhood Education program are committed to community service activities, and the 2019-2020 school year was no exception. Students and instructors raised funds for SkillsUSA Change for Children and held a Sesame Street themed "Baby Show" for the Gardner VNA "Healthy Families" program. Two Juniors and one Senior were out on co-op, gaining valuable experience working with young children, and instructors worked closely with colleagues at Fitchburg State University to develop the program's first-ever articulation agreement between the two institutions. Fitchburg State University will now grant qualified program graduates up to 6 college credits, at no charge, recognizing the work they have completed while enrolled in the Monty Tech Early Childhood Education Program. The Monty Tech Child Care Center continues to operate at full capacity but in a hybrid model, providing meaningful hands-on learning opportunities for all students in the Early Childhood Education program. (Total student enrollment: 60)

Electrical: Throughout 2019-2020, students and instructors in the Electrical program wired numerous machines, equipment, computers, and lights throughout Monty Tech. Students and instructors successfully completed wiring new equipment in the AutoBody Shop, and CAD/ Drafting & Design shop. The students wired the new electronic parking lot gate, and began wiring two homes in Ashburnham, constructed in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity. Unfortunately, when the school closed in March 2020, all hands-on projects for students ceased, so wiring those homes was completed by our instructors, who volunteered their time to do so. Fourteen Seniors and two Juniors earned co-op placements, and continued their work throughout the Spring and into the summer months. The Freshman class was filled with first choice students, which is a credit to the talents of the program's newest instructor, Alex Thibeault. (Total student enrollment: 89)

Engineering Technology: The Engineering Technology program at Monty Tech is a rigorous program, infused with a nationally certified curriculum provided by Project Lead the Way, and countless hands-on learning opportunities that provide students with opportunities to demonstrate creativity, make connections with prior learning, and earn college credits. On October 22, 2019, the school welcomed Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, to celebrate the completion and ribbon cutting of the school's new ARM (Automation, Robotics and Mechatronics) Lab. All Engineering Technology students benefitted from the new technology available in the lab, including three Amatrol tabletop mechatronics learning systems with Pegasus robots, one Fanuc LR Mate 200ID/4S robot, one Festo MPS 203 mechatronics system, and one Stratasys F270 3D printer. All Freshmen completed the OSHA 10-hour General Industry training and certification program, while two Seniors participated in meaningful co-op placements. (Total student enrollment: 57)

Graphic Communications: Throughout the 2019-2020 school year, the students in Monty Tech's Graphic Communications shop produced numerous projects for our district cities and towns, and a variety of non-profit organizations in the district. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, hands-on learning opportunities were halted in March, so students were unable to complete all community services that were requested. A program highlight for the year was having twelve students earn awards at the Printing Industries of New England's Award of Excellence Gala. Having their talents recognized by industry professionals is not only rewarding to the student, but also validates the efforts of our talented teaching staff. Four Seniors and one Junior pursued and earned co-op placements. Of the twenty-one talented Seniors who graduated from the Graphic Communication program in 2020, all twenty-one were accepted into colleges/universities and eight chose to enter the workforce in related careers. (Total student enrollment: 85)

Health Occupations: The Health Occupations program continues to be one of the more popular programs here at Monty Tech, providing a rigorous education grounded in current medical knowledge and practice. A Skills Capital Grant award provided the program with \$180,246 in additional funding, so during the Summer of 2019, great efforts were made to improve the instructional spaces, and bring in added technology and equipment for student training purposes. In addition to new hospital/nursing home beds, exam tables, EKG machines, geriatric manikins, CPR manikins, stethoscopes, blood pressure and phlebotomy training arms, and five new testing/diagnostic machines, the school was able to purchase the program's first-ever Virtual Dissection Technology. The high-capacity Anatomage table is something most often found on college campuses, but has proven to be an invaluable training device to Monty Tech Health occupations students studying for one of their many certification exams. Every Junior enrolled in the Health Occupations program earned CPR certification; thirteen Juniors received their nursing assistant certificate (only fourteen students took the exam prior to school closing in March 2020. Those who did not pass or complete the CNA exam will be able to do so during the 2020-2021 school year.) Students at all levels completed pandemic-specific training, and obtained the National COVID-Ready Caregiver Certification, which was recommended by the Department of Public Health for all healthcare professionals. Finally, through a unique collaboration with Mount Wachusett Community College, three motivated Seniors completed the Emergency Medical Technician training program, earning eight college credits at no cost, and now have a valuable career pathway available to them. (Total student enrollment: 107)

House Carpentry: The Monty Tech House Carpentry program supported a number of community organizations during the abbreviated 2019-2020 school year, completing projects that include: building a 24'x40' lean-to roof at the Hubbardston DPW Salt Barn, construction of a Habitat for Humanity home in Ashburnham, and finishing all interior trim at the NEADS carriage house, located in Princeton. Students and instructors were also called upon construct a prefabricated stage for the Fitchburg State University Theatre Club, and were delighted to work closely with our post-secondary partners in doing so. Sophomore students handcrafted a number of beautiful Adirondack chairs, which will be used for charitable donations in the months to come. Finally, eight Senior students earned co-op placements, and enjoyed working with area businesses representing the carpentry and construction trades. (Total student enrollment: 54)

HVAC & Property Maintenance: Monty Tech HVAC and Property Maintenance students and instructors participate in the home building project each year, installing the HVAC system and a number of other tasks associated with residential construction efforts. In 2019-2020, Monty Tech HVAC students and instructors worked in Ashburnham to support the Habitat for Humanity community service project. In addition, they traveled to Sterling Municipal Light Department to complete work there. The Monty Tech HVAC & Property Maintenance program also established a partnership with the Monty Tech School of Continuing Education, to offer Oil Burner Technician training and certification to the high school students. After earning National EPA Certification for refrigerant recovery, a total of nine Seniors were placed in area businesses through the school's popular co-op program. HVAC Technicians, and specifically Oil Burner Technicians, are in demand across North Central Massachusetts, so the addition of this credential will prove to be beneficial to all program graduates who choose to stay in the HVAC and Property Maintenance trades. While Junior students were not eligible to go out on co-op in 2019-2020, instructors offered high-quality online instruction and support, so that they might continue to refine their technical skills and proficiency using various online lessons and assessments. (Total student enrollment: 64)

Information Technology: The Information Technology program continues to offer students more industry-recognized certificates than any other program at Monty Tech, an accomplishment our instructors are so proud of, as these certifications affirm the technical skill proficiency needed for entry-level careers in networking and information

technology. In 2019-2020, all Freshmen completed the OSHA 10-hour General Industry training, and all Sophomore students passed the Test-out PC Pro Certificate exam, the Cisco IT Essential course for computer repair and maintenance, and the Introduction to Networking course. One Sophomore, one Junior, and one Senior elected to take, and passed, the COMPTIA A+ exam. All Seniors completed the Python Programming course and participated in the AP Computer Science Principles course. Seven Seniors and one Junior earned co-op placements, applying their technical skills in area businesses. In total, approximately 100 hours of community tech support were completed, which involved hardware and software troubleshooting on desktops, laptops, printers, and mobile devices. (Total student enrollment: 36)

Machine Technology: Throughout the 2019-2020 school year, Monty Tech Machine Technology instructors were able to effectively train students in precision measurement, CNC operation and cutter technology. Students worked on the shop floor and in the program's relatively new Clean Room environment, which was an addition to the program in 2018, funding by a \$435,000 Skills Capital Grant. A new print reading curriculum was adapted and applied, to expand the already comprehensive curriculum. All Freshman students earned the OSHA 10-hour general industry certification, while seven Seniors and four Juniors earned co-op placements, working and learning in area machine shops. (Total student enrollment: 45)

Masonry: The talents of Monty Tech Masonry students are on display throughout district communities, as projects that were completed during the 2019-2020 school year include: a block garage at the Lunenburg North Cemetery, block renovations for Sterling Municipal Light Department, a handicap ramp for the Hubbardston Police Department, and a detailed repair of the marble floor at the Forest Hill Cemetery Mausoleum. Students continued to maintain the OSHA silica standard, in a program that operates in compliance with all trade regulations. Three Seniors earned co-op placements, and continued to refine their skills working with business partners through the school's co-op program. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions in place due to COVID-19 closure, Juniors were not able to participate in the co-op program. (Total student enrollment: 53)

Plumbing: In the 2019-2020 school year, eighteen Freshmen entered the Plumbing trade at Monty Tech, all of whom successfully completed OSHA 10-hour General Industry safety training. Sophomore Plumbing students completed OSHA 10-hour Construction Training. Students and instructors completed replacement of water coolers throughout the Winchendon Public School District. Juniors and Seniors also gained valuable experience working on the plumbing at the two Habitat for Humanity homes in Ashburnham. Ten Seniors and one Junior participated in the co-op program. One Senior received the prestigious 2020 Vocational Tech Plumbing All-Star Award, given by the Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Contractors Association of Massachusetts, and all Seniors earned industry-recognized NFPA Hot Works safety training certificates. The program proudly graduated 18 students. (Total student enrollment: 71)

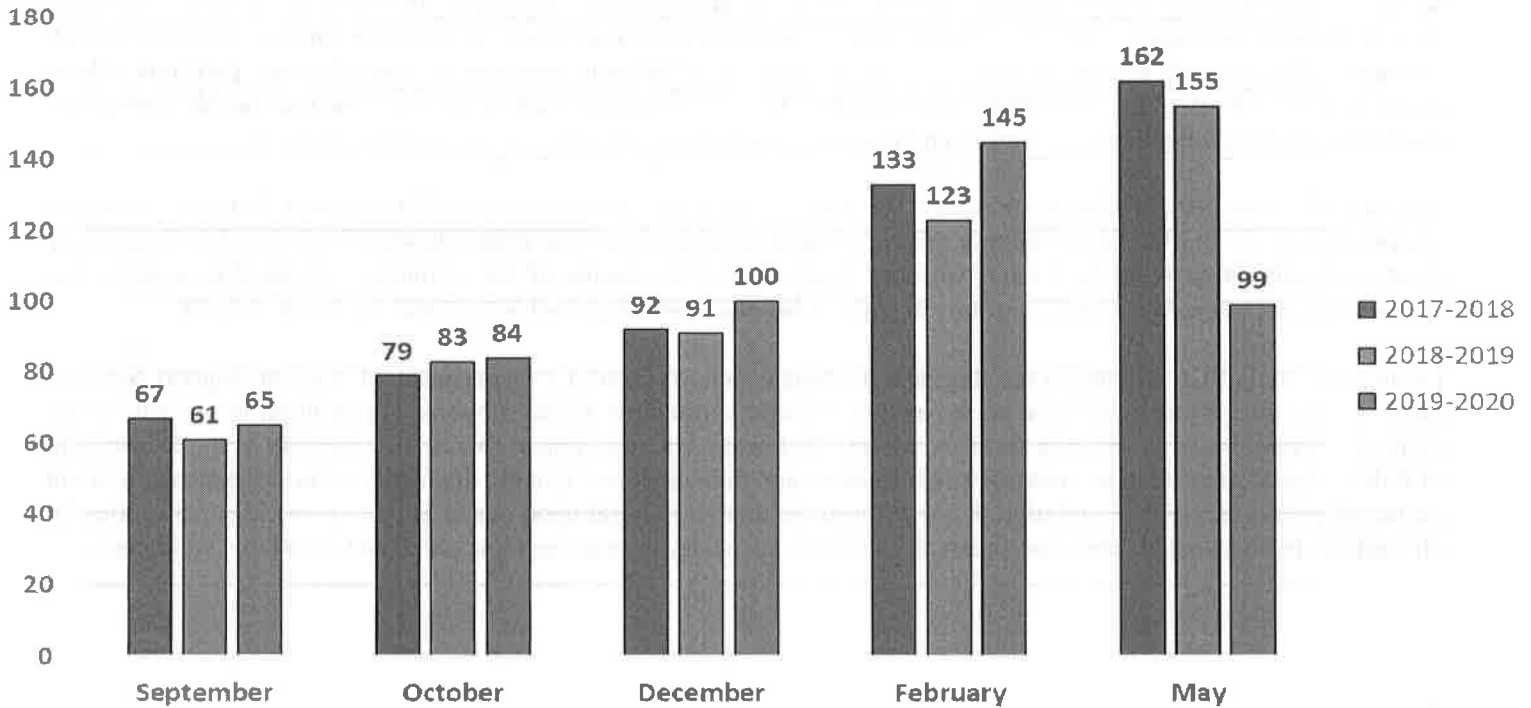
Veterinary Science: The school's newest vocational training program, Veterinary Science, entered its third year, and after many years of planning, opened the doors of the clinic to pets in need. A successful Exploratory program resulted in a full class of twenty-two eager Freshmen, who were quick to get to work, completing the OSHA 10-hour healthcare training and certification program, and spending the remainder of the second semester engaged in introductory animal science lessons, with a virtual field trip to see cattle owned by a classmate. Sophomores worked through some very challenging curriculum, covering units in client services, hospital management, anatomy, pathology and laboratory procedures. They visited Flying High Farm in Lunenburg to work with horses and complete the program's large animal requirements, and also toured Idexx laboratories in North Grafton, MA to observe all aspects of clinical pathology. The Juniors delved into even more rigorous curriculum, which would complement their hands-on work in the clinic. Lessons in pharmacology, grooming, surgical and nursing care, and anesthesiology proved to be invaluable to the program's first class of students to work in the clinic, applying their knowledge as they worked alongside veterinarians, groomers, and veterinary technicians. (Total student enrollment: 64)

Welding/Metal Fabrication: The 2019-2020 school year brought new equipment to the school's popular Welding/Metal Fabrication program. A 4 ft. squaring shear was added to the training program, to better prepare students for entry level careers in the trade. Numerous projects were completed by talented students, including more than fifty requests for individual projects from community members residing in the school's sending district. In response to the school closure, instructors implemented a new online learning platform from Miller Welding Open Book for grades 11 and 12. All Freshmen students successfully completed the OSHA 10-hour General Industry

training, and earned that certification. Juniors and Seniors participated in Careersafe Online Employability Interview skills, which is a targeted effort to compliment their already strong technical skills with the soft skills needed to succeed in life. Eight Seniors and one Junior were placed in area shops, working and learning from trade professionals who support the school's co-op program. (Total student enrollment: 55)

Co-operative Education and Student Placement

Students Participating in the Cooperative Education Program



The Cooperative Education Program is an extension of the student's technical education that combines classroom instruction with on-the-job-training. The Co-op Program provides students with an opportunity to further develop academic, technical and employability skills in an industry work environment. All students are eligible to participate in the Co-op Program, provided they satisfy state and school grade, attendance and performance requirements. All Co-op students have completed the OSHA recognized Career Safe online health and safety course.

The Cooperative Education Program is beneficial for both student and employer. For the student, it is a chance to gain on-the-job training that improves both their technical and employability skills. Additionally, making industry connections enhances post-graduate employment opportunities. The Co-op Program allows students to earn while they learn.

Employer benefits include addressing workforce needs in an efficient manner. Co-op students provide a pool of temporary and potential full-time employees who are already trained, thus reducing employer training costs. Co-op work hours may be tailored to suit the needs of partnering employers. Monty Tech was on pace for a record-breaking year for co-op placements, with 145 students (Juniors and Seniors) working, learning and applying their technical skills related in area businesses in February of 2020. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing pandemic, co-op opportunities for our students have declined slightly, but are expected to rebound when local businesses are able to open and operate at full capacity.

Student Support Services

During the 2019-2020 school year, Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District provided special services to approximately three hundred 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 that 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, mental health emergency treatment, medical/mental health re-entry and transition support services, 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.

During the 2019-2020 Montachusett Regional Technical School District's Department of Student Support Services made a concerted effort to increase social, emotional, and community based supports. In addition to our current re-entry and school based counseling services, Monty Tech and LUK, Inc. joined forces with the help of the Department of Public Health to provide services to at-risk students and their families. Couple this with the further expansion of our partnership with the SHINE Initiative, it has allowed the district to build upon our mission to provide opportunities for all students to be engaged, lead, and access the supports necessary to improve their social and emotional wellbeing.

Technology

The 2019-2020 school year proved to be a test in many ways for the Monty Tech educational community, but was no match for the school's Technology Department. Because of forward thinking on the part of the department's Director and the school's leadership team, 2019-2020 was the school's 4th year for the 1:1 Chromebook initiative, so students and instructors had previous experience with the tools and technology needed to learn in a remote setting. To support the additional and now required use of this technology, the Technology Department spent countless hours during the school year upgrading the network and increasing the bandwidth coming into the school to sustain video and audio conferencing.

Department personnel upgraded the learning experience for students, by purchasing laptops for students and teachers, building new iMacs for the Graphic Communications program, and rebuilding surplus computers for full remote students in CAD Drafting & Design, Graphic Communications, Business Technology, and Engineering, so that they may work from home on their vocational assignments. A ZOOM license was purchased, and the Instructional Technologist worked diligently to purchase and deploy software for all teachers. Camcorders, wireless headsets, interactive displays and a variety of apps were purchased, installed, and put into the hands of our educators to engage learners at all levels.

Finally, to ensure "business as usual," we invested in Splashtop, VPN client and configured the firewall, so that faculty and staff laptops could be fixed remotely if a software issue presented itself, and so that the Business Office would have remote access into the school to maintain a secure working environment, even when the building was closed.

Marine Corps JROTC

The Monty Tech Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MCJROTC) remains one of the school's most worthwhile and engaging programs available to our students. Due to outstanding performance throughout the year, Monty Tech's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program was, once again, designated as a Marine Corps Honor School. Selection for the Marine Corps Honor School means that the school's Marine Corps JROTC program was in the top 15% of the 68 other programs in Region 1. Region 1 includes schools from the mid-Atlantic and Northeast U.S. The selection is based on several criteria including:

- *Inspector General's inspection results*
- *Number of cadets in the program*
- *Number of community service hours conducted*
- *Number of public affairs events attended by cadets*
- *Number of academic awards presented to cadets*
- *Participation in drill team competitions, marksmanship competitions, physical fitness competitions, and field trips that support the growth and development of the cadet*

Because of this distinction, Monty Tech MJROTC instructors are allowed to nominate up to six cadets to each of the three service academies — U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Military Academy and U.S. Air Force Academy. This is the 9th time the program has earned this distinction since 2007.

The 2019-2020 Corps of Cadets completed over 4,800 hours of community service in the abbreviated year, completing a 10 mile March A Thon that raised \$20,000 to support local nonprofit organizations. The Cadets volunteered time during their weekends, working with the local Salvation Army, and helped raise more than \$25,000 for families in need. Finally, the Monty Tech Cadet Corps provided 11 Color Guards for local civic and veteran ceremonies, a highlight for students and instructors alike.

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 2019, Monty Tech offered 142 classes and another 114 in the Spring 2020 semester.

The program is on track to support the North Central Massachusetts workforce readiness pipeline with an increase in career and licensure courses. The pivot to a hybrid learning model has been beneficial to both our career/licensure students as well as our personal enrichment students. During the Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 sessions, we realized the resiliency of our students and their willingness to persevere with their training despite the challenges. Our instructors worked tirelessly to maintain training programs timelines.

Our medical students' skill set was and continues to be in high demand due to the pandemic. We were able to support our local medical facilities with newly license healthcare workers, to include Pharmacy Technicians, Medical Billing and Coding Specialists, EKG Technicians, Phlebotomists, CNAs, and Patient Care Technicians.

The continued success and sustainability of an adult education program is based on hiring quality instructors and meeting the needs of the community and supporting workforce development. Our goals in the coming year include: identifying additional training opportunities to meet the needs of the regional workforce, provide affordable and meaningful training opportunities to our nontraditional student population, and expanding programming to include off-site, daytime training opportunities across the region.

Practical Nursing Program

The Monty Tech Practical Nursing Program is designed to prepare graduates to practice safely and ethically in a caring manner for patients who are experiencing common variations in health status in diverse health care settings.

On June 25, 2020 a graduating class of 28 students completed the Practical Nursing Program and entered the nursing profession. The class has thus far achieved a pass rate of 75%, with 21 of the 28 graduates passing the NCLEX-PN exam (National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses). Due to the pandemic, the testing period has been extremely delayed. Seven graduates will pursue the examination in the coming months.

All of the 2020 graduates are currently employed in the health care profession throughout Massachusetts, working in various health care settings, such as long-term care, sub-acute care, mental health/substance abuse facilities, physician's offices and correctional medicine.

The Monty Tech Practical Nursing Program continues to strengthen the "LPN to BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) Bridge" relationship with Fitchburg State University. Several 2019 and 2020 graduates are pursuing seats in the LPN to BSN program at FSU and will be continuing their education to the Bachelors in Nursing. Many class applicants cited their attraction to Monty Tech as the opportunity to complete a ten-month accelerated program and then bridge to Fitchburg State University. In the 6-year history of the Bridge Program, all of Monty Tech's Practical Nursing graduates reaching graduation at FSU have passed their RN-NCLEX exam.

Monty Tech Practical Nursing students are now completing patient scenarios in the Sim Lab on a weekly basis in Terms 2, 3, and 4. The Faculty Sim team has implemented National League of Nursing (NLN) patient scenarios and authored several others 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 and implemented a library of scenarios reflecting INASCAL Standards (International Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning).

In Maternity Sim Lab Boot Camp, students utilize the new simulation models to imitate the birthing process, from obstetric office visits through labor and common post-partum complications. Well newborn care is also taught. Student feedback has been positive regarding these new maternity scenarios, stating it better prepares them for an unexpected outcome during a delivery. This expanded content also better prepares students for NACE (Nursing Acceleration Challenge Exam) success at FSU.

Substance abuse and the mental health setting job opportunities have increased with more funding being provided to combat the opiate crisis. Even without having specialty clinical rotations, students performing simulation scenarios involving substance abuse clients, has prepared our graduates to work in a substance abuse clinical setting, as well.

We are expecting an accreditation visit from the Massachusetts Board of Registration in the coming year. Our goals include stabilization of faculty positions, securing a certified Simulation Instructor, and pursuance of ACEN (Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing) to more accurately reflect the changing environment of nursing education.

Looking Ahead

While 2019-2020 ended in an unexpected manner, with students and instructors working and learning from home, we were able to use that time to reflect on the core values represented within our educational community and consider how we might improve the educational experience for all students upon their return. We understand that the pandemic brought about many changes to the way we live and work. Our students were isolated for weeks and months, while our instructors were asked to completely redefine their instruction to deliver an entirely remote curriculum. People of all ages, socio-economic classes and intellectual abilities feared for the safety of their family, friends and loved ones – compounding feelings of loneliness and uncertainty. As we looked ahead, then, a number of priorities for the upcoming

school year emerged. Supporting students and staff both socially and emotionally, providing the resources needed to succeed in a remote learning environment, and maintaining a clean and safe learning environment have become our latest priorities.

The changes brought upon by the pandemic were not expected. There was no time to prepare our staff and students for what might lie ahead, but I am thankful for the expertise and flexibility demonstrated by our very talented faculty and staff, and the students who made the most of a very difficult end of the 2019-2020 school year.

Programs and initiatives that we expect to implement in 2020-2021 that will have a positive impact on our school and students are as follows:

Support faculty, staff and students' socio-emotional wellness, and develop a community-wide understanding of equity (or lack thereof) and how it contributes to a safe and supportive learning environments for all students. We recognize that students and staff have been home and isolated from others for months. Learning from home may have presented an unintended result - unequal learning opportunities. There are fears and concerns among staff, and there is a heightened sensitivity to what this isolation has meant to our student population. Collaborating with community service agencies, we will address efforts to create a healthy school climate, and will provide targeted training opportunities to better serve our students. A diverse team of professionals (teachers, paraprofessionals, guidance counselors, and support staff) will review existing district and school documents and policies, survey staff and students regarding school climate, and develop a comprehensive action plan, and infuse those elements into the 2021-2024 District Improvement Plan.

Expand technology resources and infrastructure to support Hybrid and/or Remote Learning Platforms. Monty Tech is fortunate to have been able to provide all students with a Chromebook for the past several years, and all teachers with Chromebooks or laptops to support curriculum development efforts while away from the school. That technology proved to be invaluable during the 2019-2020 school year, and so the District is committed to maintaining and expanding access to instructional technology that will enhance at-home learning moving forward. During the summer of 2020, we learned that school would not resume with all students in-person. A complex schedule (balancing academic and vocational in-person instructional time) was negotiated and agreed upon, and students/parents were given the option of returning in a hybrid or fully remote model. By purchasing and maintaining ZOOM licenses, increasing bandwidth, reconfiguring surplus equipment, and continuing to work with the school's Instructional Technologist to provide a variety of workshops to academic and vocational instructors who have come to rely on any one of the two school's Learning Management Systems (Google Classroom or Schoology), Monty Tech will be well-positioned and prepared to deliver instruction either in-person or remotely, at a moment's notice.

Modify facilities and infrastructure to ensure students, faculty and staff are working and learning in a safe environment.

While the school is prepared to provide all faculty and staff with required and requested PPE, many upgrades to the school building must be completed prior to and maintained throughout the 2020-2021 school year. All rooftop units will be upgraded from MERV 8 to MERV 13 rated air filters, which are high quality air filters typically used in general surgery or hospital settings, capturing down to 0.3 – 1.0 micron particle size. iWave units will be added to the HVAC system, reducing pathogens, allergens, particles, smoke and odors in the air, creating a healthy environment without producing any harmful byproducts. Installing sanitizing stations, redirecting traffic patterns, and limiting the number of desks/seats in a confined space will provide a comfortable setting for the students during their in-person learning days, while limiting access to the school (parents and visitors must wait outside) will aid in screening and tracing efforts throughout the year.

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 2019-2020 School Committee for their outstanding service.

Brian J. Walker, Fitchburg
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Diane Swenson, Ashburnham
Vice Chair

Julie Marynok
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Norman J. LeBlanc
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William Brassard, Sterling
John Columbus, Templeton
Ross Barber, Westminster
Dr. Maureen Ward, Winchendon

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sheila M. Harrity, Ed.D., Superintendent-Director January 22, 2021

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