



The Pelham Slate

Updates From the Select Board

After the lively discussion at Fall Town Meeting about speed limits on Amherst Road, the Select Board petitioned Mass DOT, Highway Division, requesting to rescind the regulatory speed limits on Amherst Road (45mph from 202 to about Bray Court, then 40mph to the Amherst town line) and revert to the statutory speed limits. On December 1, 2022 we were notified that our request was approved. This means that the speed limit on Amherst Road from route 202 to Jones Road is now 40mph and from Jones Road to the Amherst town line it's 30mph. Our Highway Department has already posted the new speed limit signs and our police department is engaged in enforcement that will initially focus on educating speeding drivers with warnings unless their speed is excessive.



The change in the speed limit is most significant in the thickly settled Village Center. It is another step in our efforts to improve safety on this stretch of Amherst Road. Our next effort will focus on designing a sidewalk from the school to the Amherst town line along with well-marked crosswalks. There will be public hearings in the next few months required to establish the right of way for this section of Amherst Road followed by an article at Annual Town Meeting in May to legally approve it. The next step is a design process that will involve public participation. When we have a final design, we will seek grant funding from the state for construction. Stay tuned!

Finally, it's obvious that the reduced speed limits will only make Amherst Road safer if drivers follow them. To this end, we encourage all Pelham residents to adhere to the speed limits. As a community, **Let's Set the Pace for Safety!**

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Help Fill Open Positions

New opportunities to become an active member in your community.

Contact information for board/committee Chairpersons can be found on the Town of Pelham website,

www.townofpelham.org/boards
All meetings open to the public.

Be engaged, creative, and part of the decision making. Make a difference in your community.

Immediate openings:

- * Anti-Racism Advisory Committee
- * Cable Advisory Board
- * Community Garden Committee
- * Community Hall Committee
- * Council On Aging
- * Cultural Council
- * Energy Committee
- * Finance Committee
- * Historical Commission
- * Housing Committee
- * IT Advisory Group
- * Planning Board
- * School Committee
- * Zoning Board of Appeals

FY 2024 BUDGET SEASON HAS BEGUN!

On December 12, 2022 representatives from each Town that make up the Regional school met to review the Region’s Assessment methods and discuss each Town’s unique financial situation. This marks the beginning of the budget planning process for the fiscal year 2024 which begins on July 1, 2023. The 4 Towns will meet again in January to review the initial budget from the Regional School and discuss in more detail an assessment method that would be agreeable to all of the Towns. The 10-year Capital plan for the Region should be available for that meeting for review and discussion.

On January 9, 2023, the annual Roundtable was held by a joint meeting of the Select Board and Finance Committee to provide guidance on budget preparation to all the departments, boards, and commissions and others who might be looking for money from the town in 2024. We listened to any potential unanticipated requests.

During February, the Finance Committee will meet with each department, commission and board that will be requesting additional money in the new year. The last meeting will be the first week in March with the two schools to finalize their requests. At that time we expect to complete the operating budget known as Article 3 in your Town Warrant.

In the month of March, the Finance Committee will review all Warrant Articles that are money related.

April is when the Finance Committee will meet with the Select Board and review Article 3 and all the financial warrant articles they are considering for the May Town Meeting.

The Finance Committee looks forward to seeing you at Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 13, 2023.

COUNCIL ON AGING UPDATES

Have you registered for the CODE RED program?

In the event of an emergency situation or critical community alerts, the “reverse 911” system will call the phone number you provide with important information. This could be notification that the town’s warming centers are open during a prolonged power outage, an evacuation notice, bio-terrorism alert, boil water notice or missing child report. Registration is simple. Go to the town website www.townofpelham.org , click on **CODE RED** on the left side of the home page. That takes you to the Pelham Police Department page where you click on the **CODE RED** icon and then fill out the registration form that comes up. If you don’t use the internet, Sally Kaufmann, Pelham COA’s Outreach Worker, is happy to fill the form out with you. Call her at 413-530-3759.

If the first snowfall has left you feeling that you might like to have some sand on hand for your walkway, you can visit the DPW building behind Town Hall with a container to pick some up. If you cannot safely

do that yourself, the COA and Hampshire Sheriff Department are happy to deliver to you. Call Sally Kaufmann at 413-530-3759 for more information.

There have been lots of positive comments about the Footcare Clinic.

“This was better than the sessions at the podiatrist’s office.” “I’ve learned how to deal with foot fungus at last.” “I am amazed at how much I’ve learned about taking care of my feet - and how terrific the massage feels.”

The clinic is offered on the **2nd Thursday of each month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m at the Pelham Community Hall on the corner of Amherst Rd and North Valley Rd.** Board-certified nurses from Footcare By Nurses, a

health care agency focused on keeping feet healthy and functional, provides the service.

Participants are asked to donate \$20 for their ½ hour session. To schedule an appointment, call the Pelham Outreach Worker, Sally Kaufmann, at (413) 530-3759.

SAVE THE DATE: NEXT FOOT CLINIC FEBRUARY 9



Housing Committee Welcomes a New Neighbor!

Re-printed with permission from Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity and new Pelham residents, Hassan and Hajar.

Good schools and a safe community were two of the reasons Hassan and Hajar moved to Pelham. Another important reason was “It’s a nice feeling to build your own home with your own hands.”

“We came here for a new job, a new life”, Hassan says, bundled up against the wind as he and his wife, Hajar, tell their story in a park near the Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity office.

“You just need to work hard in the U.S. to reach your goals.”



And work hard is what Hassan and Hajar have been doing for years as they have gone to school, worked, and begun to raise a family. Then they added to their To-Do list, putting the sweat equity time and energy to build their Habitat home. Hassan, whose field of expertise is HVAC says, “My goal is to work for myself, so working with Habitat to build my house is a great opportunity to learn, to add to my resume.”



The couple is happy to have been chosen as the homeowners of a new house in Pelham, a community that holds much appeal for them. Citing good schools and a safe community, Hassan adds, “The future of my children is important to me.”

Along with the personal satisfaction of being able to take part in building their own home, “It is a great thing to tell your children,” Hassan added. While their younger son may not have too many opinions yet about his future home, their daughter is thinking ahead...her future treehouse, a house right-sized for her eight-year-

Housing Committee Welcomes Jim Pewtherer

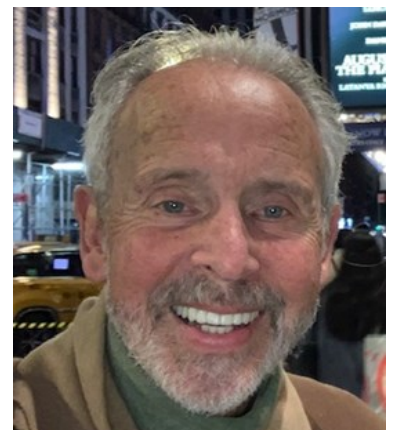
Jim Pewtherer joined the Housing Committee out of an interest in seeing the town become more accessible to young families. He moved here with his wife Jan in 1995 and has worked to gradually improve their house while creating gardens around it.

Jim has been a teacher for both younger children and high schoolers with a specialty in English and history. After almost 50 years in education, he currently works part time as an arbitrator.

Jim appreciates the beauty and peacefulness of Pelham as one of its more important assets.

He also believes that growing the town and caring for the environment are compatible and important for our community. He is working to help make Pelham a welcoming place with affordable housing so that the town will be a vibrant, diverse, and thriving community.

WELCOME Jim!



From the Historical Commission



The Historical Commission and DPW Superintendent, Rick Adamcek, keep watch of Historic Town Hall with the help and advice of several professional consultants. Recently one of our consultants expressed concern about a couple of beams above the second-floor meeting room. We hired an engineer who is a specialist in these matters. He has made a close examination of the beams and we are happy to report that all beams are sound.

Joseph Larson, Member

Fire Department Grant Award

Congratulations to the Pelham Fire Chief and Department who was awarded a Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security for \$10,500. The funds will purchase three new sets of turnout gear.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

www.mass.gov/dfs • (978) 567-3300

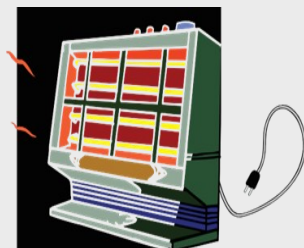
SPACE HEATER FIRES BETWEEN 2010-2019

- 148 space heater fires were reported. One of every 74 space heater fires causes fatality.
- Space heater fires caused 2 civilian deaths, 16 civilian injuries, 28 fire service injuries, and an estimated dollar loss of \$10.9 million. Average dollar loss for space heater fire is \$73,458
- 12% of the space heater fires were caused when combustible materials such as bedding, mattresses and pillows, clothing or furniture were too close to the heater, and another 6% were caused when rugs, carpets, or mats were under or too close to the heater

SAFETY TIPS

If you must use a space heater for heat use as safely as possible. When buying a heater look for one that has been tested and labeled by a nationally recognized testing company, such as Underwriter's Laboratories (UL).

- ◆ Keep the heater 3-feet away from drapes, furniture or other flammable materials.
- ◆ Place the heater on a level surface away from areas where someone might bump into it and knock it over.
- ◆ Avoid using extension cords. If you must use a cord, make sure it is heavy duty cord marked with
- ◆ Power rating at least as high as that on the label of the heater itself.
- ◆ Never leave a space heater unattended or running while you sleep.
- ◆ Supervise children and pets when a space heater is in use.
- ◆ Keep electric heaters away from water and never use them near a sink or in a bathroom.
- ◆ The sale and use of unvented kerosene heaters is illegal in MA.



Energy Committee Seeking New Members

The Energy Committee is looking for new members to help us in our next phase of supporting the achievement of the town's clean energy and climate goals. Now that the new heat pump HVAC system is fully operational in the Community Center, we are actively contemplating new clean energy projects on town property. Pursuing state grants and navigating new funding options through the federal Inflation Reduction Act will be easier and faster if we have extra people on the committee to share the load.



New Mindfulness & Reiki Programs at the Library

Happy Winter from the Pelham Library! We've had a great fall, full of wonderful programming, including playgroups & music time for little ones, a collaboration with the Pelham Historical Society on the history of poultry farming in Pelham and a collaboration with the Council on Aging on safety for seniors. We also started a teen role-playing game group and welcomed art back into the Ramsdell Room. [Come see the exhibit by Agnes Zsigmondi McCraven, "Beauty in Pelham", which will be on display through mid-January.](#)

New programs beginning in January:

Reiki Meditation Circle from 6-6:45 on the first Tuesday of every month starting in January and running through June. The group, led by Kristin Famighette, a Reiki Master Teacher, will meet in the Ramsdell Room and is open to all interested people ages 18 & up. No equipment or previous reiki or meditation experience is required. Drop-ins are welcome. To learn more about Kristin or meditation and reiki, visit www.stargardenhealing.org.

Teen & Tween 5 week mindfulness group for grades 7-12, Thursday afternoons at 4pm. Led by Sara Coblyn of Sweet Roots Gardens, www.sweetrootsgardens.com. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4EAAA72EA3FEC61-mindfulness>.

Adult Yoga Class, Thursdays at 5:30pm. Led by Sara

Coblyn of Sweet Roots Gardens. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4EAAA72EA3FEC61-yoga>. Space is limited.

Do you have a little one at home and worry that you might go stir-crazy this winter? Wendy Plummer serenades us on Monday mornings at 10:30 with Music for Little Ones and Dana Mengwasser of the Collaborative leads a weekly storytime and play group on Friday mornings at 10:30. Drop-ins are always welcome, no registration is necessary.

Seniors: Are you unable to get to the library? Do you know someone who is, but who would love to receive home delivery? The Pelham Council on Aging is now providing this service, and will deliver and pick up on Friday mornings. If you're interested, please call the Library, (413) 253-0657.

Are you taking advantage of all our fantastic electronic offerings from Wowbrary: Libby, Kanopy, ComicsPlus and Hoopla? Give us a call, drop us an email or visit our webpage, www.pelham-library.net to learn more. Also, please let us know if you'd like to be on our email list.

Finally, we're very glad to help the town distribute COVID rapid tests for free at the desk. Please, if you've been exposed to COVID or think you might have symptoms, wear a mask or ask us to bring them out to you. Masks are always available at the door.

Upcoming Historical Society Programs > pelhamhistory.org

To receive program and museum information/updates: info@pelhamhistory.org.

Tuesday, March 21 at 7 p.m. - Book discussion with Elena Palladino, *Lost Towns of the Swift River Valley: Drowned by the Quabbin*. Book signing will follow the presentation.

Sunday, April 30 afternoon - Play Ball!

Revisit Pelham's Fenway Park and the ballplayers who captivated and entertained the Town on a sandlot located on Jones Road.

If you are interested in helping with programming, the Museum or in some other capacity, contact Cynthia Weigel, PHS President, at (413) 256-4606.

From the Pelham Board of Health

We have a relatively new Board member and resident, Melissa Nazzaro, who has a background in Emergency Communication/Management and is an excellent addition to the Board and Town.

There are free COVID rapid tests and masks available at the Pelham Library and the Rhodes Building. The supplies are limited. The Board advises people to take precautions this winter with the triple threat of COVID, Flu and RSV. If you haven't already been vaccinated, make sure to wash your hands and if you are in a high risk group wear a mask around crowds.

The Board is currently reviewing Pelham's Septic System and Private Well regulations. Please be on the lookout for the upcoming public hearing on these issues.

The Board has been reviewing the proposed use of Artificial Turf on Amherst Regional School athletic fields. With the option of a living natural surface (grass) to install a PFAS, heavy metal contaminated plastic rug that can't be recycled seems fool hardy. The Board voted on December 21, 2022 to make a recommendation to the Amherst Regional School Committee to reject the installation of artificial turf on the school's playing fields.



IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS

- **OPEN AIR BURNING SEASON (JANUARY 15—MAY 1)**
-Burn Permits required & are available from the Fire Department, (413) 253-3311
- **TAXES DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2023** Questions? (413) 253-2267
***Both February and May payment coupons included on same page, detach accordingly*
To pay bills online or update your address, contact the Collector.
- **ABATEMENTS DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2023** Questions? (413) 253-0734
***Exemption Applications must be received in the office by Wednesday, February 1, 2023*
New 2023 Fiscal Year Tax Rate: \$17.86
- **2022 DOG LICENSES Valid until March 31, 2023** Questions? (413) 253-0512
Neutered or Spayed - **\$6.00/dog** Male or Female: - **\$10.00/dog**
***Proof of rabies vaccination must be provided at time of licensing*
- **2023 OFFICES FOR LOCAL ELECTION BALLOT** Questions? (413) 253-0512
-Contact the Town Clerk after February 1, 2023

MEETINGS & MINUTES DELIVERED TO YOUR INBOX

1. Go to WWW.TOWNOFPELHAM.ORG
2. Click on the [CALENDAR ICON](#) (left side of page) which will open the MyTownGovernment homepage.
3. [SELECT A BOARD/COMMITTEE](#) from the drop down list (left side of page).
4. [Click on the link, "SUBSCRIBE TO EMAIL ALERTS FOR THIS BOARD"](#) then enter your email address. ***Each individual board/committee must be subscribed to separately*



Town Office Schedules & Contact Information

Assessor's Assistant

Lori Turati
(413) 253-0734
Wednesdays
9am-12pm
& by appointment

Tax Collector/ Treasurer

June Masee
(413) 253-2267
Mon-Thurs.
8am-3:30pm

Town Clerk

Sandra Burgess
(413) 253-0512
Tues. 10am-2pm
Wed. 10am-2pm
Thurs. 10am-1pm

Select Board Executive Assistant

Susannah Carey
(413) 253-7129
Mon-Thurs.
8:30am-2:30pm

State Representatives

Representative, Aaron Saunders

7th Hampden District
(617) 722-2425 x7300

STATE HOUSE

AARON.SAUNDERS@MAHOUSE.GOV

State Senator, Jo Comerford

(617) 722-1532

STATE HOUSE

COMERFORD@MASENATE.GOV

Stay Informed!

Go to Townofpelham.org
click on the **CodeRED** icon to be notified by your local emergency response team in the event of emergency situations or critical community alerts.

SIGN UP ONLINE:

pelhampolicema.com.



Board/Committee Meeting Schedules

REGULAR MEETINGS

Assessors, Board of

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

Cemetery Commission

2nd Tuesday
7:30 PM
Library, 2 South Valley Rd

Conservation Commission

2nd and last Thursdays
7:00 PM
Rhodes Building,
351 Amherst Rd

Community Preservation Committee

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

Council on Aging

2nd Wednesday
3:00 PM
Library, 2 South Valley Rd

Energy Committee

1st Tuesday & as needed
7:30 PM
Library, 2 South Valley Rd

Health, Board of

2nd Tuesday 7:00 PM
Rhodes Building,
351 Amherst Rd

Historical Commission

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

Housing Committee

1st Tuesday
4:30 PM
Library, 2 South Valley Rd

Library Trustees

2nd Wednesday
7:30 PM
Library, 2 South Valley Rd

Planning Board

2nd Tuesday
7:00 PM
Rhodes Building & Library

School Committee

1st Thursday & as needed
6:00 PM
Library, 2 South Valley Rd

Select Board

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

Public Bodies that meet

AS NEEDED:

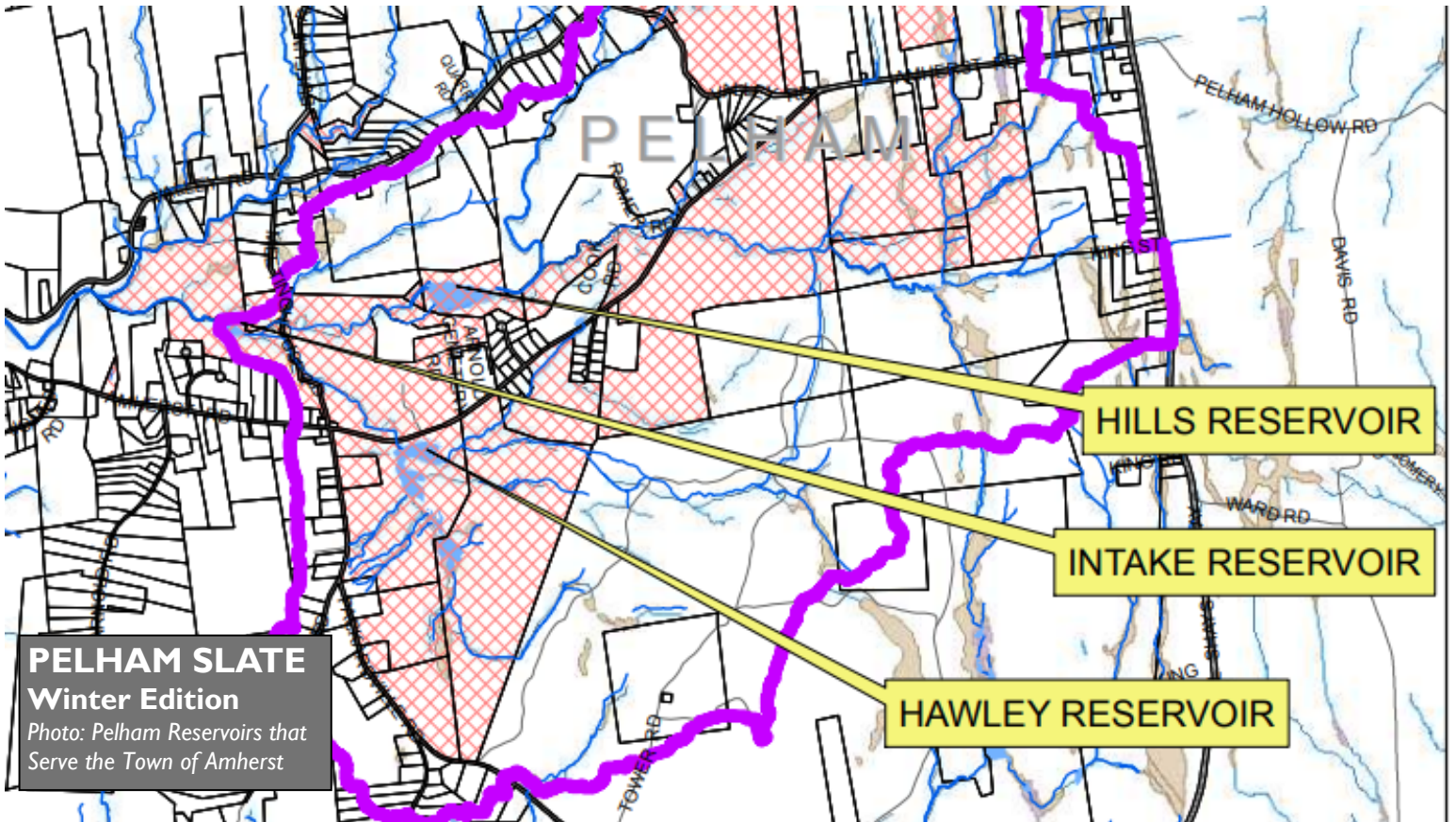
- Anti-Racism Advisory Committee
- Cable Advisory Committee
- Capital Planning Committee
- Community Garden Committee
- Community Hall Committee
- Cultural Council
- Finance Committee
- IT Advisory Group
- Regional School District Planning Committee
- Sustainability Committee
- Zoning Board of Appeals

Please note that these are only anticipated meeting times & locations:

By law, definitive meeting information is posted 48 hours in advance on <https://mytowngovement.org/01002>

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

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PELHAM SLATE
Winter Edition
*Photo: Pelham Reservoirs that
Serve the Town of Amherst*