

The Pelham Slate



www.townofpelham.org

SPRING 2022

Select Board Office News

After two years of outdoor town meetings during the pandemic, the **Spring Annual Town Meeting will move back inside the Pelham Elementary School gymnasium on Saturday, May 14, 2022** beginning at 9:00AM. Parking is available at the School, 45 Amherst Rd, with overflow parking at the Pelham Library, 2 South Valley Rd. Since the event is indoors this year all attendees are encouraged to wear a mask. Come be a part of the decision making for the town. Residents who want to vote at the annual town meeting must be registered to vote prior to the event. A copy of the Annual Town Meeting warrant is included inside this mailing.

Annual Local Election will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. Residents who want to vote at the election must be registered to vote prior to election day. Any questions, please call the Town Clerk. Thank you to those community members who submitted input on

potential uses of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated from the State. We are studying possible projects and are inclined to use funds for improvements/projects that will have long term benefits for Pelham.

HOW TO RECEIVE PELHAM'S MEETING CALENDAR ON YOUR DEVICE:

- Go to <https://mytowngovernment.org/01002> for Google Calendar (Apple and Outlook are similar):
1. Go to your **Google Calendar page**
 2. On the left, find Other Calendars, and **click the +** to the right
 3. Select the option **'From URL'**
 4. **Copy into the URL** field:
<https://mytowngovernment.org/01002/calendar.ics>
 5. Click the **Add Calendar** button (Your calendar will automatically include the meeting connection and/or location information)

HOW TO RECEIVE MEETING NOTICES AND/OR MINUTES IN YOUR IN-BOX:

1. Go to www.townofpelham.org
2. Click on **'Click Here for Upcoming Meeting Notices and Calendar'** under the My Town Government heading
3. **Choose board/committee** from drop down list
4. On the top of the page, under the board/committee member information, click on the wording **'Subscribe to Email Alerts for this board'**
5. **Enter email information & create a password**
(Each board/committee that you want to receive inbox messages from, must be subscribed to separately)

Robert Agoglia, Chair 2024, David Shanabrook, Vice-Chair 2022
Tara Loomis, Clerk 2023

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Do You Have Information Technology (IT) Experience and are Looking to Get Involved in Your Community?

We are looking for residents who would like to join the new IT Advisory Committee.

In 2021 Pelham received a state grant for an IT health and cyber assessment. Several best practice recommendations were identified in the reports and will serve as a guide for the committee as it prioritizes initiatives, budgeting,

and strategy. Recommendations will be made to the Select Board. There are many opportunities for improving Information Technology in Pelham and we need your expertise.

If interested, please send an email to:
pelhamadministrr@comcast.net.

Planning Board Updates & Projects

Town meeting was a revelation to me when Jeff and I came to town in 1969 as newlyweds and had our first encounter with local government in action. The Planning Board was asking for \$500 to pay a lawyer to sue the Zoning Board of Appeals and the ZBA was asking for \$500 to pay a lawyer to defend itself. It was an animated meeting, but Pelham was clearly a welcoming place where anyone with energy and interest could get involved just by showing up, listening, asking questions, and giving opinions. Trust in the open democratic process was high back then and people showed up to serve, make the rules and enforce them.



The Planning Board has a lot of plans for the coming fiscal year. We'd love to have your input as we set priorities! One of our key goals is to get other boards and committees to see how their particular concerns fit into the job of the Planning Board so we all can work together more effectively and efficiently.

A PARTIAL LIST OF ONGOING WORK THE PLANNING BOARD HOPES TO DO FOR YOU:

- **Finish and print an updated version of our zoning bylaws**
- **Complete a review of zoning and general town bylaws to prepare for and help direct future growth— especially in the Village Center. We want to ensure that our bylaws are without exclusionary or discriminatory language and that development is in keeping with Pelham's rural character and environmental needs and priorities.**
- **Study the need for and complete bylaws, regulations, and definitions for approval at town meeting of several issues that have been raised regarding: storm water management, cannabis, earth removal, driveways, town wide dark sky regulations, and adding associate members to the Board.**
- **Increase professionalization of the Board by providing training for those interested in planning in whatever capacity they serve the town so that what the Planning Board has accomplished won't get lost when the roster changes and everyone understands their legal roles and responsibilities.**

All of us can have a voice in our government, but lately there seem to be fewer folks doing the work required of a mostly volunteer government. Why is that? **What do you need or want from your local government? How can we get you involved?** Some of us have been doing this for a long time and new voices and willing hands are needed.

I am willing to help you find a way to play a role in town governance. Please contact me or other officials if you are interested or have questions about what we are doing and why.

Judy Eiseman, Chair

Help Fill Vacant Board/Committee Positions

- ANTI-RACISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
- CABLE ADVISORY BOARD
- COMMUNITY HALL COMMITTEE
- COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMM.
- COUNCIL ON AGING
- CULTURAL COUNCIL

- HISTORICAL COMMISSION
- HOUSING COMMITTEE
- PERSONNEL BOARD
- ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS



⇒ **Need more information on how to join, duties, and responsibilities** contact the Select Board office, (413) 253-7129, for Chairperson's contact information.

⇒ **For the most up to date calendar with meeting notices**, go to townofpelham.org and click on the calendar icon under the My Town Government heading.

Libraries in the Woods Community Read Returns

Spring is in the air, and with it the promise of warmer days, open windows and good things to come. I hesitate to predict what will be happening at the library by the time you read this, though, since COVID has had us on such a roller coaster ride that every time I think we're inching closer to normal it throws us another curve and everything changes again. After promising in-person story time in the last issue of the Slate, Omicron set us back and everything was cancelled. Now we're trying again, bringing our train table back out of storage and restarting our play groups and music time on Monday mornings at 10 (registration required), then hopefully story hour will follow. Please visit our website, www.pelham-library.net to be sure. As of this writing, masks are still required at all times, but we will follow the schools' lead on this, so again, check our website for the latest information.



The Pelham Public Library is once again collaborating with more than 20 other small libraries in our region under the umbrella, "Libraries in the Woods" to bring you a big multi-

community read. This year's title will be "The Dirty Life: A Memoir of Farming, Food and Love" by Kristin Kimball. We'll have copies available at the desk and will be hosting programming throughout the region during the months of April and May. It'll be our book group's April title and we'll be hosting gardening programs by community members Mary Jo Maffei and Heidi Dollard, as well as running a seed planting booth at the Pelham Fair. There will be all sorts of activities in the surrounding towns as well, including farm tours, sustainability workshops and more. Stay tuned for more information!

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 get in touch with us.

Have you signed up for Wowbrary yet? It'll send you a weekly newsletter with all of our newest happenings and arrivals. Sign up at <https://www.wowbrary.org/signup.aspx>.

As always, if there is something you'd like to see us doing please let us know. We're here to help and we can't wait to see you. Wear a mask and come on in!

Jodi Levine, Director

Pelham Seniors: Lock Boxes Available

A lock box is a small secure box with a combination that holds your house key.

The location and combination will be on file with the Pelham Police Department and the Dispatch Center.

When an emergency call comes in, the dispatcher will inform the responding officer or paramedic of the lock box location and combination via a secure format. This allows the officer quick entry to offer assistance.

A collaboration among the Hampshire County Sheriff's Office, the Pelham Police Department, and the Pelham Council on Aging is behind this program. **A Deputy Sheriff and Pelham's Chief of Police will install the boxes free of charge.**

If you would like to request a lock box, contact Sally Kaufmann, Pelham CoA Outreach Worker, at (413) 530-3759.

Project Sustainability Working Group

After the immensely fun and successful Swap Day last year, the Sustainability Working Group (SWG), in conjunction with the Pelham Democratic Town Committee, is holding a Swap Day!

Since the demise of the Take It or Leave It at the Amherst Transfer Station, many of us are left wondering what to do with our once treasured, still useable items. The SWG is in the process of creating a handy resource guide for how to reuse, repurpose and recycle our "stuff". And one of our resources is our Swap Day.

- **WHERE: PELHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GROUNDS**
- **WHEN: MAY 21, 2022 FROM 9 AM-1 PM**
(Raindate, May 22, 2022)
- **WHAT: CLEAN AND USABLE HOUSEHOLD/KITCHEN GOODS, BOOKS, GARDEN TOOLS, TOYS, GAMES, SPORTS EQUIPMENT, CLOTHING, SMALL HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, JEWELRY, CRAFT SUPPLIES, GREETING CARDS, UNUSED CANDLES, SCHOOL SUPPLIES, ETC.**

⇒ Please, no flower pots, hoses, large electronics, large appliances

⇒ Clean, sturdy cardboard boxes welcome.

If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Diane Gray, dianegray@gmail.com.

Questions? Contact Abbie Jenks, gandhi0324@gmail.com.

Come see your neighbors and friends, browse the tables, and take away treasures!
We hope to see you there,

Sustainability Working Group & Pelham Democratic Town Committee Members

2022 Dog Licenses Available Now

2021 DOG LICENSES EXPIRED ON MARCH 31, 2022.

There is a two months grace period for renewing without incurring a late fee.

**LICENSES ISSUED ON OR
AFTER MAY 1 WILL INCUR
A LATE FEE**, regardless of when they were mailed or placed in Town collection boxes.

Late fee starts on May 1 at \$25 per dog. On June 1 the late fee increases to \$50 per dog. On July 1 the late fee increases to \$75 per dog

Town Clerk office hours:

Tuesday & Wednesday
10am-2pm
Thursday 10am - 1pm.



Questions?

Call (413) 253-0512
Sandra Burgess, Town Clerk

Trails Where Dogs Are Required To Be Leashed

New signage requiring dogs to be leashed has been posted at the Buffam Falls Conservation Area. Additional signage will soon be posted at the Pemberton Memorial Forest, Well-Away-Farm, and other locations as needed.

To report violations, please call the Animal Control Officer, (413) 800-6280.

AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) Detected in Birds in Massachusetts

HPAI has been detected in birds; wild water, domestic; in multiple locations in MA and surrounding states.

MDAR is asking that Animal Control Officers and Animal Inspectors to provide assistance in removing dead wild birds from the environment.

REPORT SICK OR DEAD BIRDS:

(413) 800-6280, Pelham's Animal Inspector

Domestic Bird:

[Mass.gov/forms/poultry-disease-reporting-form](https://mass.gov/forms/poultry-disease-reporting-form)

MDAR Animal Health

Wild Bird:

(508) 389-6300, MA Wildlife

Taxes Due: MAY 2, 2022

May's payment coupon was attached to February's payment coupon.

Reminder to not staple checks to payment coupons as they can cause problems with the check scanning machine. Make sure to double check the amount you are paying matches the amount due.

If you need to update your address or would like to pay your bill online, please contact June Masee, pelhamcollector@comcast.net or (413) 253-2267, Monday - Thursday 8:00am-3:30pm.

There are two collection boxes in town to drop tax payments. One is located at the Police Station parking lot and the other is in front of Rhodes Building/Town Offices. Please include a check made out to the Town of Pelham. Cash is only accepted for payment at the Tax Collector's office.

2022 Historical Society Programs & Museum Schedule

GOOD NEWS! The Pelham Historical Society (PHS) will be hosting programs again this year and **opening the Museum**. So as to comply with any changing COVID restrictions, we will send email updates with more details closer in time to a particular event or planned Museum opening. To receive those notices please provide us with your email at info@pelhamhistory.org if you have not already done so.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS so far to note on your calendars:

- Sunday, April 24 at 2 p.m. - **Points of Interest in the Cadwell Forest area**, a walking tour of historical sites.
- Sunday, May 29 at 11 a.m. – **Memorial Day Observance** to recognize those removed from their original resting place for the building of the Quabbin Reservoir.
- Sunday, June 12 at 2 p.m. – **Points of Interest in the Brewer Road area**, a walking tour of historical sites.
- Tuesday, July 19 at 6:30 p.m. – **Play Ball**, a program about Pelham's sandlot and ballplayers of yore.
- Saturday, September 24 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. – **Pie Auction** with our favorite host **Stan Rosenberg** together with a presentation on **Daniel Shays** by **Daniel Bullen**, author of *Daniel Shays's Honorable Rebellion*.
- Saturday, October 1 at 2 p.m. – **Tour of the Old Town Complex** by Pelham Historian Joseph Larson.
- Tuesday, November 15 at 6:30 p.m. – **Annual Meeting** followed by a program at 7 p.m. on **Pelham Poultry Farms**.

MUSEUM OPENING:

Although we decided against opening the Museum for the entire Summer season, we will open the Museum on the first and third Sundays of July, August and September from 1:30 pm to 4:30 p.m. In addition we will open the Museum during programs held at the Pelham Historic Complex, namely on September 24 and October 1. **If you are willing to be a greeter at the Museum on any of those dates please contact Susan Ashman at 413-427-6558 (cell) or sioux181@yahoo.com (email).** We would be happy to train you and/or pair you with an experienced greeter if you have not greeted before. In sum, the Museum will be open on the following dates: July 3, July 17, August 7, August 21, September 4, September 18, September 24 and October 1.

We thank you for your interest and ongoing support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Cynthia Weigel, PHS President, at 413-256-4606. We hope that if you are not a member or have not yet renewed your membership, that you will do so.





Town Office Schedules & Contact Information

Assessor's Office

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 Office, Administrative Assistant

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

State Representatives

Representative, Mindy Domb

3rd Hampshire

(413) 461-2060

DISTRICT OFFICE, Springfield

(617) 722-2400

STATE HOUSE

MINDY.DOMB@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 noti-
fied by your local emergency re-
sponse team in the event of emer-
gency 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
- Community Hall Accessibility Committee
- Cultural Council
- Finance Committee
- IT Advisory Committee
- Regional School District Planning Committee
- Zoning Board of Appeals

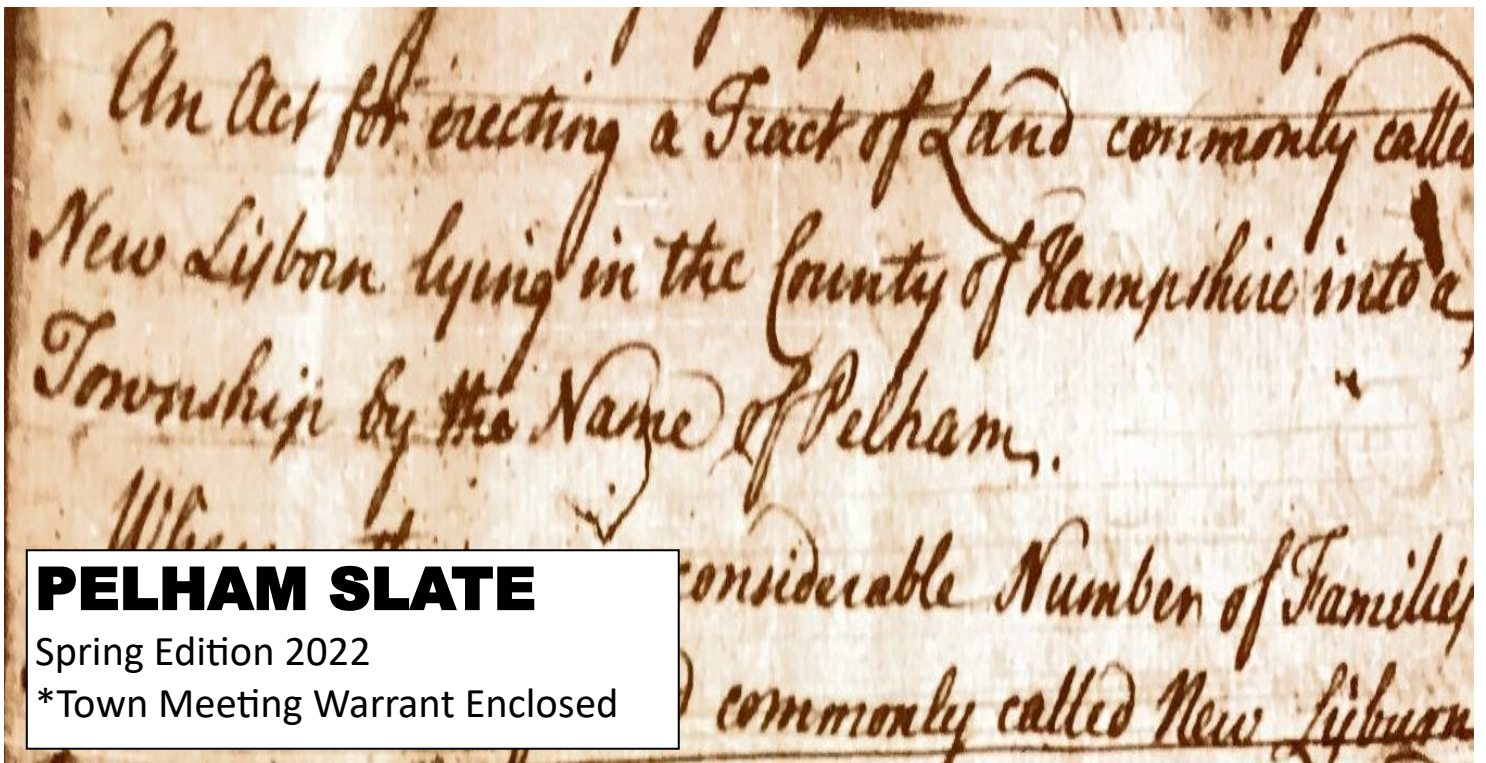
Please note that these are
only anticipated meeting
times and locations:

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

[https://
mytowngovern-
ment.org/01002](https://mytowngovernment.org/01002)

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

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*Town Meeting Warrant Enclosed