



The Pelham Slate

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FALL 2023

From the Select Board

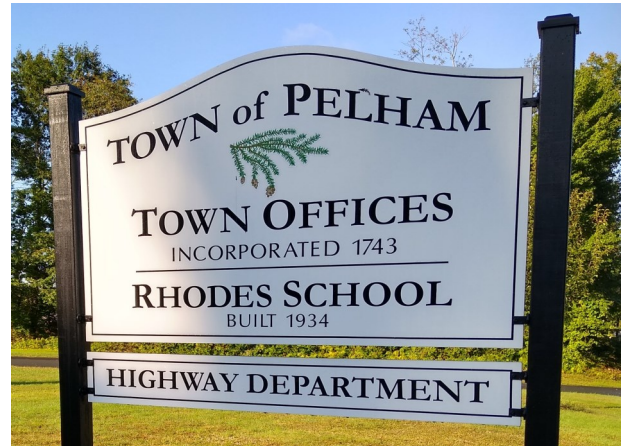
The Select Board appointed Melissa Hibbard as its new Town Clerk. Melissa began work on September 5, 2023 and we are excited to have her here! Thank you again to the Town Clerk Hiring Committee for their work reviewing applicants and holding interviews. The Select Board would like to thank Sandra Burgess for her continued dedication, hard work, and expertise as Pelham's Town Clerk. We wish Sandra the very best in her retirement and will miss her very much.

Special Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023 beginning at 10:00am. The meeting will open at the Old Town Hall then be moved down to the Pelham Elementary School field under a tent. Parking is available at the Elementary School with overflow parking available at the Library. The Special Town Meeting warrant (enclosed in mailing) will include a total of three warrant articles. Come out on the 14th and be an active participant in town meeting.

The Anti-Racism Advisory Committee coordinated with the Select Board to hold an additional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training in October 2023 for all employees and board/committee members. And for the first time, the DEI training two-part workshop is also be open to residents of the town. Thank you to the ARAC members and to Roy Regozin for his support and follow up. Go to townofpelham.org for more information regarding the training and registration under the

announcement section on the homepage.

Recently the legal Right of Way from the Amherst Town line to South Valley Road has been established. Thank you to Highway Superintendent Rick Adamcek for your guidance and moving that plan along.



New Sign at the Rhodes Building
Courtesy of Susannah Carey

Berkshire Design Group in conjunction with PVPC has begun survey work related to the sidewalk design along Amherst Road beginning at the town line and continuing East towards the Community Center. The design process will include public participation. The Select Board approved the use of ARPA funds for design costs associated with this project. When a design is approved we will seek grants to fund actual construction.

Pelham and Amherst now have an approved memorandum of understanding detailing the collaboration to design an extension of Amherst's public sewer lines to Cadwell Street, Jones and South Valley Roads (South Valley Road between Jones and Amherst Roads). The first step in the design process is to conduct a survey to mark the right of way on the affected public ways. Amherst has chosen a firm to conduct the survey and we look forward to this work beginning soon. The Select Board has approved ARPA funds for the design costs associated with this project. Once a design is agreed upon we will work with Amherst to obtain grant funding to implement the project.

Robert Agolia, Chair '24
Tara Loomis, Vice-Chair '26
David Shanabrook, Clerk '25

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UPDATES FROM THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE



The Pelham Sustainability Committee has been hard at work this year after the success of the *What to Do With Your Stuff* manual! Our goal is to identify concrete steps we can take to minimize the negative impact of how we use and dispose of natural and manufactured items in our daily lives. As a backdrop, we are witnessing and experiencing climate extremes, with fires, floods and extreme heat. These events spur us forward in our work.

This thinking and discussion has led us to the idea of zero waste! Zero waste goes beyond recycling and becomes a whole systems approach to eliminating waste in our communities. It is seen as one of the most important ways to combat climate change. As we all need support in making needed changes in our consumer habits to reach this goal, our latest endeavor was to sponsor a gathering called Moving Towards Zero Waste: Workshop and Strategy Swap. If you attended this gathering, you had a chance to see how helpful it is to be with others who are interested in taking action towards reducing our waste. Hopefully, everyone came away with great, concrete ideas and most importantly, inspiration! If you didn't have a chance to attend and wish to know more, we plan to post the Power Point on the town website, townofpelham.org.

We are continuing to fulfill our mission of supporting each other in reducing, recycling, repurposing and reimagining how to handle our waste. We are working with Jodi Levine, Pelham Library Director, helping choose safe tools/appliances for the Library of Things. We will focus on those items that are occasionally used and can easily and safely be shared. In addition, the Committee plans to co-sponsor a Repair Café with the Library, where volunteers with particular skills meet with folks who need something repaired. Think mending, fixing small appliances, bikes, etc. And the Committee will be researching good children's and adult books about zero waste for the library, to help fill the newly purchased display cases! If you know of any resources, please contact us.

We are seeking one more member for the Sustainability Committee so if you have an interest in helping our environment and love working with a group of dedicated, hardworking people, please contact Abbie Jenks at gandhi0324@gmail.com.

Abbie Jenks, Co-Chair
Jane Porter

Jessica Barr, Co-Chair
Linda Smircich

Kate Lamdin, Secretary
Linda Spink

PELHAM'S NEW DARKSKY BYLAW AND YOU

What is DarkSky?

Internationally, state-wide, and locally, DarkSky standards aim to protect wildlife and human health by reducing light pollution, while still ensuring that you have the light you need. At the spring Annual Town Meeting, Pelham voted in a new DarkSky bylaw. It's based on lighting standards developed by the prominent organization DarkSky International.¹

Why DarkSky?

Excess light disorients migrating hummingbirds and butterflies, discourages fireflies, and makes frogs too vulnerable to predators. That's just for starters. Excess light harms many of the insects, amphibians, birds, and mammals that live with us in Pelham. That includes humans, with higher rates of cancer, heart disease, diabetes, depression, obesity, and sleep disorders where there's more artificial light.¹ Excess light wastes energy and money. Glare can create the illusion of visibility while actually making it harder to see – especially for aging eyes. Plus it spoils stargazing, and could even annoy your neighbors! That's why more than 50



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PELHAM LIBRARY NEWS

Happy Fall and welcome back, students and travelers! We had a busy summer at the library!

Nearly 100 children and a dozen teens participated in our Summer Reading Program, "Find Your Voice", and we had great programming. Ed the Wizard helped us find our pirate voices (ARRR!), Trevor the Games Man and Valley Flow Juggling delighted us with tricks and taught us a few, too. Mahood the Falcon, under the careful watch of his trainer, Henry, of Monadnock Falconry, flew around the field and landed on many arms large and small, delighting and amazing us. We even had a kids' Open Mic Night, where our young patrons could share their own voices, ranging from violin solos to knock-knock jokes! Pelham Players, under the guidance of Cindy Naughton, Solomon Goldstein-Rose, and with help from Nora Klotz, entertained us with "Stone Soup" and "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown". We had a packed house! We can't wait to see what next summer has in store.

Weekdays are busy at the library, with regularly scheduled programming for young and old alike.

- ***Mondays at 10:30AM we have Music for Little Ones with Wendy Plummer***
- ***Tuesdays at 5:00PM is Qigong with Rema Boscov (weather permitting)***
- ***Wednesday evenings from 5:00-7:00PM are reserved for teens and tweens, with open gaming alternating with Dungeons & Dragons****
- ***Thursday evenings at 5:30PM we have yoga with Sara Coblyn***
- ***Friday mornings from 10:15-11:45AM we host Dana of the Collaborative for a Play group and Story Time***

*No registration is necessary for any of these except Dungeons & Dragons, so come join the fun!

We're excited to be collaborating with the

Council on Aging on several programs this year, including a life story writing group. It's full this time around, but if there's enough interest we'll hold another session this winter, so let us know. We'll also be having a showing of a film by local filmmaker, musician and author Nick Kachulis titled, "Life With Bill: A New Model for Aging" on Saturday, November 18 at 11:00, followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker.

We'll also be welcoming live music back to the library beginning in October with two Saturday concerts, Matt York on October 7 and Graham Christian on October 14. Visit our website pelham-library.net for details on these and other upcoming programs. Other things in the works include a makerspace program for kids with Jay Mankita on Saturday, October 21 at 11AM, a Repair Café (date TBA), and Crafts workshops for all ages.

This month we're featuring paintings by Pelham artist Gillian Haven in the Ramsdell Room. They'll be on display through October. If you're interested in exhibiting your artwork let us know. We'd love to schedule a show!

-Do you know about Wowbrary, which will send you a newsletter with our latest acquisitions each week?

-Do you follow our Facebook page, Pelham Library MA?

-Do you know about ComicsPlus, Libby, Kanopy and Hoopla, our FREE ebook and streaming platforms?

Visit our web page, pelham-library.net to learn more.

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!

Jodi Levine, Director

COUNCIL ON AGING UPDATES



SCAMS THE IRS WANTS YOU TO KNOW ABOUT (FROM AARP)

Older adults are often targeted by criminals trying to extort money or identity information. You may have received a phone call from someone pretending to be from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). They'll insist you have an unpaid tax bill and face arrest unless you pay up immediately. The fake appeals can also come by regular mail, email and text. A new twist involves scammers sending letters with the IRS masthead in a cardboard envelope from a delivery service. The letter says that the recipient is being contacted regarding an "unclaimed refund," and offers a phone number that is not the IRS's. The taxpayer is asked to disclose personal information — "including detailed pictures of driver's licenses," the IRS says, that can be used by identity thieves to try obtaining a tax refund and other sensitive financial information.

How can you protect yourself from SCAMS?

- Hang up when you receive a phone call claiming to be from the IRS.
- Ignore any unsolicited email, social media post, or text claiming to be from the IRS. The agency won't contact you via these methods.
- Beware of anyone who claims you are owed money by the IRS who hasn't actually reviewed your taxes.
- Never pay an upfront fee to someone who says they can get your money back.

For more information re: scams and frauds,
go to www.northwesternma.org and www.aarp.com/fraud.

If you are interested in any of the following, contact Sally Kaufmann, COA Outreach Worker, at (413) 530-3759:

- ♦ The Footcare Clinic is on the second Thursday of the month
- ♦ Lock boxes
- ♦ A bucket of sand/salt if you cannot get to the Pelham DPW to pick one up yourself
- ♦ Help finding local resources for meal delivery, transportation, fuel assistance, health care aides, grocery delivery, light yard work

413 Cares is a digital community platform that helps connect residents of Western Massachusetts to services they need. You can search for food, health services, housing, internet resources, legal assistance, transportation and more! Take a look at <https://www.413cares.org/>.

The Affordable Connectivity Program is a Federal Communication Commission benefit program to help households unable to afford internet service. The benefit provides a monthly discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers.

⇒ Visit this website: <https://www.fcc.gov/acp> or contact your preferred participating provider to select a plan and have the discount applied to your bill.

DarkSky Bylaw continued from page 2

Massachusetts municipalities have already enacted DarkSky-related legislation.²

Will I still have enough light?

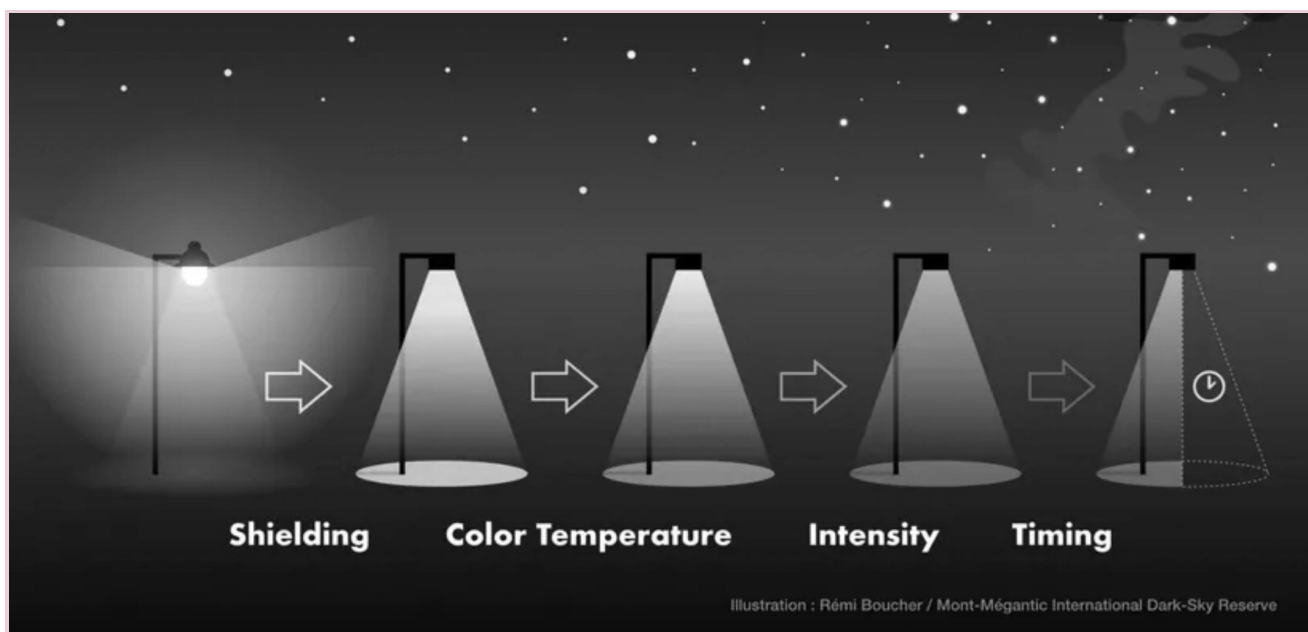
Seeing your way around is important! DarkSky standards are compatible with keeping your property securely and safely lit. DarkSky's first statement about "responsible outdoor lighting" is that it "meets the needs of people to see at night."³ DarkSky standards were no off-the-cuff project. Rather, they draw on reams of published studies, and address the visibility needs of diverse populations, including the elderly and those with low vision. Local college campuses, residential developments, and homes have been lit effectively according to these standards. You can see photos of a few of these locations at the link noted below.

It can be a real shift to go from lighting up a property like a stadium to a softer glow. But doing so can actually improve functional visibility by keeping glare from washing out your vision. In terms of security, decades of studies find no conclusive link between lighting and crime.⁴ The standards ensure that light is on your path when and where you need it, not constantly spilling out or up into the sky. The warmer light tones are just as illuminating, but have less of a negative impact. If you can imagine walking under the full moon, compliant lighting is up to 300 times as bright, depending on the square footage that each fixture covers.⁵

Many people wonder about the cost of DarkSky compliant lighting. When it's time for replacement or new lighting, good lights are no more expensive than bad ones – and, they'll actually save you money by minimizing wasted energy.

What's in the bylaw and what can I do?

Because of the importance of DarkSky's goals, recently affirmed in a town-wide survey, we were eager to get a bylaw on the books. Until consumer labeling for bulbs and fixtures catches up, some of the bylaw's technical specifications will be more relevant for professionally-led construction projects, and we do anticipate bylaw refinements over time. But the bylaw's principles, with their many immediate benefits, are already actionable. This illustration summarizes those principles in terms of the steps that improve lighting:



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*DarkSky Continued from page 5***Shielding:**

Keep light from shining upwards. Direct light where you need it, and limit spillover in other directions.

Color**Temperature:**

Choose amber - toned lighting rated 2700K or less. (*Color version of illustration is at link below.*)

Intensity:

Think soft glow, not glare.

Timing:

Use timers or sensors so light is on when you need it, and off when you don't.



You can find the complete bylaw on the Planning Board page on the town website. There too, you can see photos of the example sites mentioned above, the color version of the accompanying illustration, and links to more information about DarkSky in general. Visit <https://www.townofpelham.org/planning-board> and look for the green DarkSky tab on the left.

Is the choice to support DarkSky up to me?

While we hope you'll want to support DarkSky standards, there's no light police coming to your door to check your pre-existing lighting. When there's new construction, and when you're replacing bulbs and fixtures over time, that's when it's critical to be cognizant of the bylaw. The building inspector can help with implementation questions. There are handouts at the library, and the planning board together with others will be looking into providing a community forum with an expert or other forms of assistance – watch the town website for updates.

¹<https://darksky.org/resources/what-is-light-pollution/effects/human-health/>

²<https://idamass.wordpress.com/best-practices/massachusetts-towns-with-outdoor-lighting-ordinances/>

³<https://darksky.org/what-we-do/advancing-responsible-outdoor-lighting/>

⁴<https://darksky.org/resources/what-is-light-pollution/effects/safety/>

⁵James Lowenthal, DarkSky Mass president



IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS

- TAXES DUE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2023** Questions? (413) 253-2267
***November's payment coupon is attached to August's payment coupon (same yellow sheet). To pay bills online or update your address, contact the Collector/Treasurer*
- 2023 DOG LICENSES AVAILABLE NOW** 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 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14 @ 10:00AM**
**Town Meeting Warrant Enclosed*



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

Melissa Hibbard
(413) 253-0512
Monday-
Thursday
8am-2pm

Select Board Executive Assistant

Susannah Carey
(413) 253-7129
Mon-Thurs.
7:30am-1:30pm

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 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

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

2nd Monday
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 Tuesday & 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](https://mytowngovement.org/01002)

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

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PELHAM SLATE

Fall Edition

**Town Meeting Warrant Enclosed*

