



The Pelham Slate

WWW.TOWNOFPELHAM.ORG

SPRING 2023

Updates From the Select Board

Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 13, 2023 beginning at 9am. The meeting will be held outside under a tent on the Elementary School field. Parking is available at the Elementary School with overflow parking available at the library. Residents who want to vote at the Town Meeting must be registered to vote prior to the event.

The Annual Local Election will be held on the following Tuesday, May 16, 2023 from 11am-7pm in the Ramsdell Room inside the Pelham Library. Come out and vote for elected positions: Select Board, Assessor, Board of Health, School Committee, Planning Board, Cemetery Commission, Library Trustees, Auditor, and Moderator. Residents who want to vote at either Town Meeting or the Local Election must be registered to vote prior to the event. Any questions, please call the Town Clerk. At both events the Pelham sixth grade class will have a

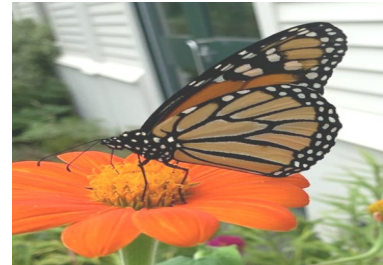
table set up with food and drinks as well as a donation jar to raise funds for yearbooks and the end of year team building trip to Camp Massasoit at Springfield College. Thank you for your support!

Senator Comerford visited with the Select Board and Town Officials on March 20, 2023 to hear about issues that matter to the Pelham community. We appreciate the time Senator Comerford took out of her schedule to meet with us and thank all that participated and shared that evening.

The Anti-Racism Advisory Committee researched a trainer and coordinated with the Select Board to schedule the first Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) trainings for employees and board/committee members in March and April. Going forward this new training will be held annually and the Select Board hopes to hold the next session in the Fall 2023.

The Select Board and Anti-Racism Advisory Committee held a joint forum on April 11, 2023 in the Ramsdell Room at the Pelham Library regarding the community responders model for enhancing public safety and policing. Pelham Chief of Police Gary Thomann, Amherst Director of CRESS Earl Miller, and retired Baltimore Police Officer Major Mike Hillard participated in the conversation and Q&A session.

You may have noticed the new window blinds in the Pelham Library.



Monarch courtesy of Jodi Levine

While they are an impressive aesthetic addition to the Community Center, their real benefit is their contribution to the building's energy efficiency. **This is just part of the ongoing efforts of Rick Adamcek, DPW Superintendent, and the Energy Committee to improve and tune the new Mitsubishi HVAC system so that it reaches its full potential.**

These efforts have already yielded significant energy savings with hopefully more to come. This heating and cooling system was installed in 2021 as a major step toward Pelham becoming a Green Community.

The Town Clerk Hiring Committee is wrapping up their work reviewing applicants and holding interviews. **The Select Board would like to thank Sandra Burgess for her continued dedication and hard work as Pelham's Town Clerk. We know Sandra is eager to retire and we wish her the very best.**

Robert Agoglia '24
David Shanabrook '25
Tara Loomis '23

INSIDE

Council on Aging Survey.....	2
Library News.....	3
New Members Wanted.....	3
Playground Improvements.....	4
Historical Society Program.....	5
Well & Septic Regulations.....	6
Dates & Reminders.....	6
Meeting Schedules, Contacts..	7

COUNCIL ON AGING NEWS & SURVEY

It is estimated that by 2030, 1 out of every 5 people in the United States will be over the age of 65, and by 2035 the number of people over 65 will outnumber children under 18. With a rapidly aging population, it is important to ensure that the built and social environments in all of our communities support people of all ages and abilities. An initiative called Age and Dementia Friendly Communities is underway across the nation. It seeks to better the lives of older adults through policies that create affordable housing, improve transportation options, build community participation, make healthcare services more accessible, and much more. **A survey designed by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission will help Pelham and other smaller towns in the region begin this process and is available online, <https://tinyurl.com/AFPVSurvey>.** If you prefer to fill out a paper version of the survey, you may pick one up at the Pelham Library and return it there. Please complete either version by Friday, April 28th and include your contact information at the end of the survey to be eligible for one of three \$50 gift cards.



Welcome to Karen Smith, a longtime Pelham resident who has recently been appointed to the Council on Aging. As a historian, Karen has a longstanding interest in the town's changes over time, and as a retired person, she is interested in helping fellow residents live full lives as they grow older.

NEWLY CREATED SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

It's official! The former Sustainability Working Group (SWG) is now the Sustainability Committee. The Town of Pelham officially swore us in this past February and we can now continue our work on our mission as a full member of town government.

Our original Sustainability Working Group's purpose was to develop Pelham-specific information that helps us reduce, reuse, recycle, and reimagine what to do with things we no longer want or need. We focused on both the common items that are easier to recycle and some items that are not



readily disposed of, such as CDs and CD cases, corks, stuffed animals, fabric/

old or unusable clothing, and Styrofoam. We provided guidance and concrete steps that are doable, that bring our community together, and that help make this a better world.

Our first project, then, was the creation of the **"What to Do With Our Stuff Manual"**, found on the Town of Pelham website, at the Library, and at the Pelham Elementary School. In working on the Stuff manual, we realized there is a growing awareness of and interest in exploring how our lifestyle affects our ecosystem and climate. To help with this exploration, our next focus is on researching and creating a guide about living a more sustainable life. Our goal is to identify concrete steps we can take to mini-

mize the negative impacts in our use of natural and manufactured resources. We look forward to learning with you about our relationship with our beloved Pelham environment.

We meet on the second Thursday of the month, currently on Zoom, at 1:30 pm. If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the website for notices of our meetings. If you have any questions, you can reach us through the town website. We hope to see you soon!

Members: Abbie Jenks, Co-Chair, Jessica Barr, Co-Chair, Kate Lamdin, Clerk, Jane Porter, Linda Smirchich, Linda Spink

HAPPY SPRING FROM THE PELHAM LIBRARY!

The garden is in bloom, the air is warming and things are humming along! We now have regular programming happening every day of the week: Playgroup and drop-in knitting on Mondays, Reiki meditation on the first Tuesday of the month, teen/tween game nights on Wednesdays, yoga on Thursdays, playgroups on Fridays, and Mah-Jong twice a month on Saturdays! **Visit the calendar on our website, www.pelham-library.net for the full schedule.** We still have time for special events, too.

Art is back in the Ramsdell Room, with Susan Mulholland's oil paintings on exhibit through April and more to come. **Our new state representative, Aaron Saunders, will be hosting monthly open office hours at the library,** though as of this writing we're still awaiting his schedule. We've recently collaborated on programming with the Pelham Historical Society (a visit with the author of "The Lost Towns of the Swift River Valley"), the Council on Aging (a screening of the film "The Cycle of Memory") and are

planning a forum on the future of policing and community responders with the Pelham Anti-Racism Committee and others. The Pelham Library is a busy place!

We are once again collaborating with a number of other small local 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 Last White Man" by Mohsin Hamid. It'll be our book group's May title and we'll have copies available at the desk. The group will be hosting programming throughout the region during the month of May. Stay tuned for more information.

We are expanding our Library of Things. **New items that are now available for check out include a car error code reader, a flatbed scanner, a car DVD player, a volt meter, a telescope, and more games and electronics kits.** We'll be adding a VR headset, digital converters, a pack and play and more soon. Thanks again to the Friends of the Pelham Library for funding this venture. Ask at the

desk for more information.

Have you seen our beautiful new fish tank yet? We owe a huge thank you to the Friends of the Pelham Library for funding the upgrade and to Miguel's Fish and Aquarium Maintenance for taking on the task.

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!

Jodi Levine, Director

JOIN THE ENERGY COMMITTEE TODAY!

Tackling climate change on the ground, where it matters. Climate change is affecting every aspect of our town and our lives. At the same time new state and federal policies such as the Inflation Reduction Act present an array of new opportunities to cut energy costs and carbon pollution in town operations and for residents. The Pelham Energy Committee is working hard to pursue new state and federal funding for town projects that cut reliance on fossil fuels and lower costs for the town. We also want to

start new initiatives to engage residents and provide information on cost cutting opportunities at home.



The committee is actively seeking new members to help with these efforts. If you want to learn more contact John Larsen, starch@gmail.com, or Tony Rogers, tonyrogersemail@comcast.net.

HELLO FROM THE PELHAM PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE!



We are an ad hoc assembly of people from the Pelham Elementary School community that have come together to help upgrade the school playground and get it on track for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This is a part of a multi-year initiative by all three districts (Pelham, Regional, Amherst) working to improve accessibility on all school properties.

The playground requires several upgrades to get into compliance and it will take substantial effort to get there over the next few years. We have spent nearly two years exploring options for playground improvements and engaging with town committees. After soliciting estimates from multiple design firms, the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) recently approved recommending the use of CPA money to fund a Feasibility Study by the Berkshire Design Group (BDG).

The next step is for Town Meeting to consider a warrant article to approve spending these funds. A “yes” vote will initiate a process with BDG to engage the community for input, perform on-site survey work, prepare three schematic design alternatives, and create a final master plan with an opinion of probable costs. From there we will consider strategies for fundraising and making a new playground a reality. We hope you will consider voting “yes” for the warrant article at town meeting.

We are always looking for new members, especially if you have experience with grant writing or fundraising. If you are interested please email Committee Chair Venuta Carulli, venuta@gmail.com.

NEWS FROM THE HOUSING COMMITTEE

The Housing Committee is happy to bring to Spring Town Meeting a proposal from Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity (PVHH) to build two new affordable homes in the Village Center, thanks to the generosity of another Pelham resident. Former residents enabled the purchase of their lot on Amherst Rd where two new families helped build their new homes thanks to PVHH. So, let’s take this opportunity to debunk a myth or two about “affordable housing.”

What it is NOT. Affordable housing is not about the type of home being built. At a recent public meeting a local resident wondered if the proposed new homes would “fit” in the neighborhood. The answer is an emphatic: Yes! Look around Pelham...we are so lucky to have a wide variety of housing here! While some call Pelham a “suburb” of Amherst, that stereo-

type (a subdivision with a handful of similar houses) does not apply to Pelham. In fact, nearly all neighborhoods have a variety of older homes (50+ yrs) mixed with newer homes, or newer additions. Most have larger homes next to smaller homes.

What it IS. In Massachusetts, housing is affordable when an owner or renter who earns no more than 80% Area Median Income (AMI) can pay for their housing expenses, typically rent or mortgage (and if the latter, real estate taxes and home insurance) with no more than 30 percent of their annual income. To be registered as affordable in the state’s housing inventory (SHI) the housing must be permanent, year-round, and affordable in perpetuity – this latter requirement usually involves a deed restriction. Therefore, mobile homes (not currently

permitted) even if permanently affixed to a foundation, do not “count” as affordable homes.

Prior to the successful efforts of the Housing Committee to bring more affordable housing to Pelham (Amethyst Brook Apartments is another example), Pelham had LESS THAN ONE PERCENT “affordable housing.” With the future construction of ABA and four new Habitat homes, SEVEN PERCENT of Pelham’s housing stock will be considered “affordable.”

**PLEASE COME TO
SPRING TOWN MEETING
ON
SATURDAY, MAY 13
TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT
FOR OUR NEWEST
PROPOSAL TO
INCREASE AFFORDABLE
HOUSING IN PELHAM.
THANKS!**

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMMING

SUNDAY MAY 28

10:00 A.M.

Quabbin Park Cemetery

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

Meet at the Quabbin Park Cemetery to commemorate individuals removed from their original resting places for the building of the Quabbin Reservoir. Refreshments beginning at 10 a.m. will be followed by a parade and service at 11 a.m. For more information contact Cynthia Weigel, 413-256-4606.

SUNDAY JUNE 4

1:30 TO 4:30 P.M.

Pelham Historic Complex

MUSEUM OPENS

HISTORIC COMPLEX TOUR-2 P.M.

Come See What's New at the Museum! Visit to discover what's new and to explore your old favorites.

Tour the Historic Complex at 2:00

pm with Pelham's local historian

Joe Larson. Find out why our small town is so important. For more information contact Cynthia Weigel, 413-256-4606.

SUNDAY JULY 9

1:00 P.M.

CADWELL FOREST: AN EXCURSION

Surrounding Mount Lincoln is the University of Massachusetts' 1200 acre Cadwell Memorial Forest. Come explore its history, including old cellar holes, stone walls, and a Civil War Era (and Small Pox) Cemetery. We will *meet at the parking area on Packardville Road (Enfield Road) by the Tower Road gate.* This will be an accessible adventure with limited vehicle access for participants unable to walk the trail.

For more information

contact Bruce Klotz, 413-695-1797.



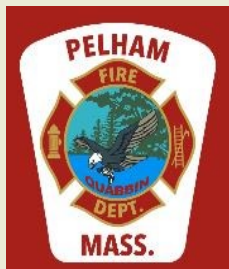
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

www.pelhamhistory.org

Located at the corner of Amherst Road and Daniel Shays Highway. **Open the first and third Sunday afternoons, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. (June thru Sept.)**

⇒ **OPEN: JUNE 4 AND 18, JULY 2 AND 16, AUGUST 6 AND 20, SEPTEMBER 3 AND 17**

TO BE A MUSEUM GREETER, CONTACT SUSAN ASHMAN, 413-427-6558.



FIREFIGHTERS NEEDED - JOIN NOW!

The Pelham Fire Department needs new members, both volunteer and stipend positions available. No experience necessary. Help your community and neighbors.

WWW.PELHAMFD.COM or (413) 253-3311

BOARD OF HEALTH UPDATES

The Board of Health adopted new private well regulations after a February 16, 2023 Public Hearing. The new regulations are based on the Department of Environmental Protection's Local Board of Health Model Private Well Regulations. The Regulations set out clear and protective well siting, water quality, and well capacity criteria. They also include a required annual water quality test for all rental units and a required water quality test when houses on private wells are sold. **The Board also at the Public Hearing annulled the Board of Health's Septic System Construction Regulations** and will be following and enforcing the MA State Environmental Code for Onsite Septic Systems 310 CMR 15.000 (Title 5).

Disease reported to the State during 2022 included 70 confirmed cases of COVID which is probably low due the prevalence of home testing, 2 confirmed cases of influenza, 3 cases of Lyme disease, and 1 of Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis (a tick spread disease).

The Town still has free rapid COVID tests available at the Library and the Rhodes Building and if you haven't already please get your COVID and Flu vaccinations.



PLANNING BOARD COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

In the fall of 2022 the Planning Board conducted a town-wide survey to assess opinions about long term growth and development in Pelham. A total of 161 people completed to the survey.

The survey asked respondents to select five aspects of the town character and rank them from 1 to 5. The five aspects selected most often and ranked the highest were: wildlife viewing and habitat protection, dark night skies, quiet safe streets, small high quality elementary school, and water supply and watershed protection.

In response to a question asking what type of business people would like to see in Pelham, many respondents selected coffee shop/ deli, bakery, and home based businesses. Very few respondents chose fast food businesses.

The survey asked questions about growth strategies in Pelham. A majority of respondents (64%) support or strongly support zoning some areas for agricultural uses and very low density housing. A majority (59%) also support allowing higher density housing types.

Although these strategies may seem contradictory, with careful attention to soil types, they could be complementary. By allowing denser housing and small commercial development in one area, such as the Village Center, we can preserve other areas for agriculture, recreation, wildlife habitat, and watershed and water supply protection.

Because “dark night skies” was identified as an important aspect of the town character, the Planning Board is proposing a

bylaw to extend the Dark Sky requirements throughout the Town. The new regulations will be applicable to new housing and to repairs and replacements. Sometimes, a fix can be as simple as shading or replacing a too-bright bulb so birds don’t crash into it at night and neighbors aren’t blinded with unwelcome light that shines onto their property.

The Planning Board will continue to seek input from town residents as we move forward with planning for Pelham’s future. Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey.

The full report of the survey results is available on the town website:

<https://www.townofpelham.org/home/news/results-planning-boards-community-survey>



IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS

- **TAXES DUE MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023** Questions? (413) 253-2267
***May's payment coupon was attached to February's payment coupon (same 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 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: SATURDAY, MAY 13 @ 9am**
**Town Meeting Warrant Enclosed*
Help Support the 6th Grade Class raise funds for yearbooks and the end of year class trip —Food & refreshment table, Donations accepted
- **LOCAL ANNUAL ELECTION: TUESDAY, MAY 16** Questions? (413) 253-0512



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 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

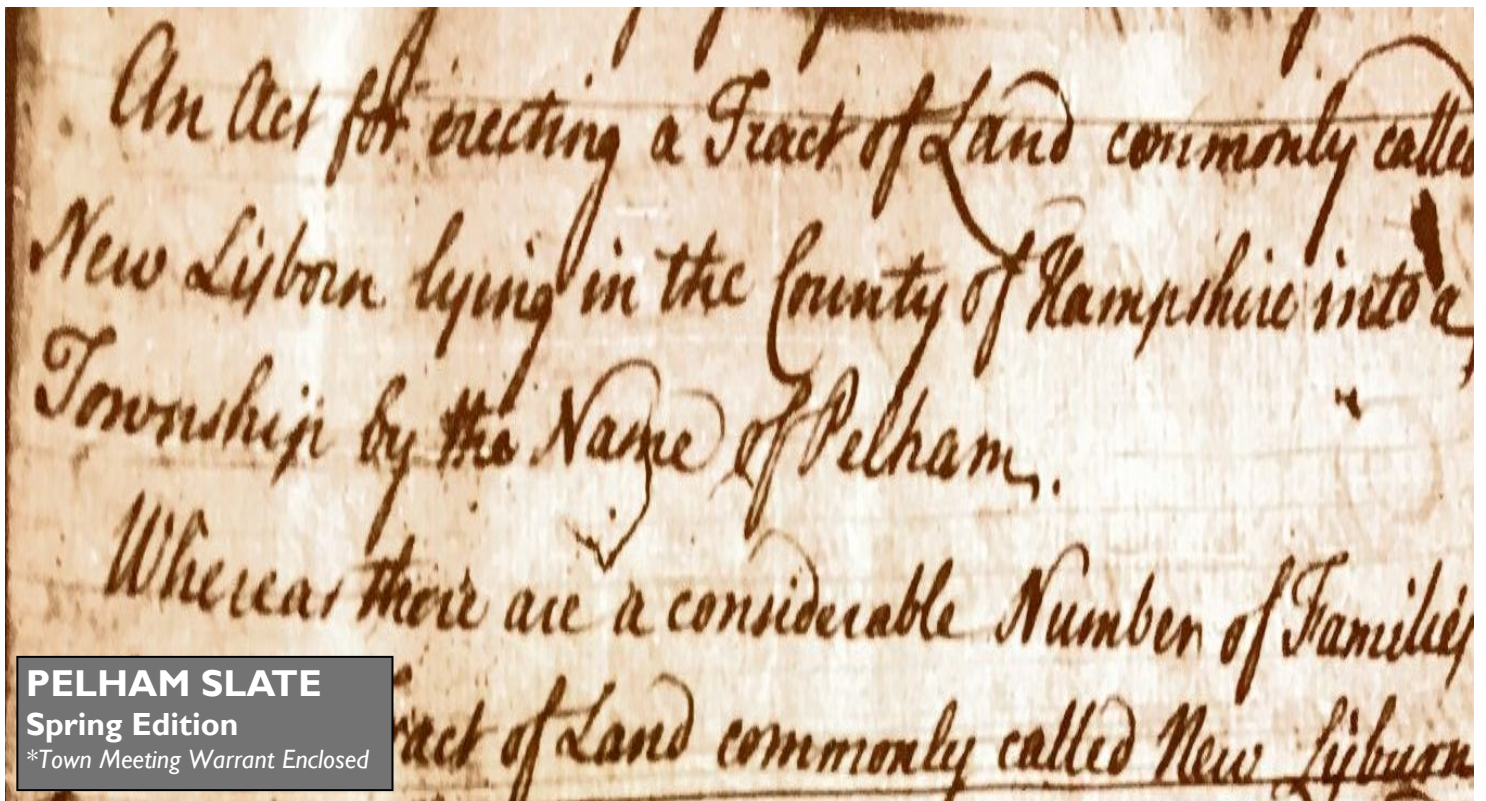
Please note that these are
only anticipated meeting
times & locations:

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

PRESORTED
STANDARD MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AMHERST, MA
PERMIT NO. 31



PELHAM SLATE

Spring Edition

*Town Meeting Warrant Enclosed