

Town of Pelham

2023 Annual Town Report & Warrant



Cover Photo:

Old Town Hall Complex in Autumn courtesy of Susannah Carey.

Town Hall circa 1743

Church circa 1839

PELHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

Located in Pelham Historic Complex,
Corner of Amherst Road and Daniel Shays Highway



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Sunday Afternoons (1:30 to 4:30 p.m.) , June to September

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Annual Town Report of 2023
JANUARY 1, 2023 - DECEMBER 31, 2023



Table of Contents

Elected Officials, Public Bodies, & Staff	4
Elections	
Annual Town Election, May 16, 2023	34
Town Meetings	
Annual Town Meeting, May 13, 2023	8
Fall Town Meeting, October 15, 2023	35
Reports	
Accountant	35
Animal Control	41
Anti-Racism Advisory Committee	41
Assessors	42
Building Inspector	44
Cemetery	44
Collector	45
Community Garden Committee	45
Community Hall Committee	46
Community Preservation Committee	46
Conservation Commission	48
Council on Aging	49
Cultural Council	50
Energy Committee	50
Fence Viewers	52
Finance Committee	52
Fire Department	53
Board of Health / Public Health Director	54
Highway Department	57
Historical Commission	58
Housing Committee	59
IT Advisory Group	60
Library	60
Planning Board	61
Police Department	63
School	64
Select Board	65
Town Clerk	66
Treasurer	66
Zoning Board of Appeals	66


Annual Town Report of 2023
Appointed & Elected Officials, Public Bodies, & Staff

Accountant	appointed	Capital Planning Committee	appointed
Gail Weiss, Accounting Officer	1 year	DPW – Richard Adamcek	1 year
		Finance – John Trickey (end Nov)	1 year
		Finance – Emily Marriott (beg. Dec)	1 year
Animal Control Officer	appointed	Fire - Chief Raymond Murphy, Jr. (end May)	1 year
Nancy Long	1 year	Fire - Chief Dennis Nazzaro (beg. May)	1 year
		Police – Chief Gary Thomann	1 year
Anti-Racism Advisory Committee	appointed	Planning Board – Judith Eiseman	1 year
Anne Stoddard	1 year	School – Sarah Hall (end Aug)	1 year
Roy Regozin	1 year	Select Board - Robert Agoglia	1 year
Charlie Lynch	1 year		
Jessica Jean-Louis	1 year	Cemetery Commissioners	elected
Pat Schumm	1 year	Scott Barton, Chair	2025
Matteo Ramos-Mucci	1 year	Cleon (Buzzy) Booth (res. Aug)	2024
Corine Tachtiris (beg. Mar)	1 year	Philip Zahradnik (beg. Aug)	2024
		Cydnie Reiman (beg. May, res. July)	2026
Archivist	appointed		
(vacant position)	1 year	Collector	appointed
		June Masee	2024
Assessor Assistant	appointed		
Lori Turati	1 year	Community Garden Committee	appointed
		Cydnie Reiman, Chair	1 year
Board of Assessors	elected	Sue Tippit	1 year
Robert Rowell, Chair	2025	Wendi Weinberg	1 year
Gwendolyn Hubler	2024	Joel Bain	1 year
William Collins	2026	Theresa Smith	1 year
Auditor	elected	Community Hall Committee	appointed
(vacant position)	2024	Linda Hanscom, Chair	1 year
		Pamela Mercieri	1 year
Buildings & Grounds	appointed	David Boyden	1 year
Richard Adamcek, DPW Superintendent	1 year	Edward Dane (res. Sept)	1 year
Paul Moe	1 year	(vacant position)	1 year
Building Inspector	appointed	Community Hall Accessibility Committee	appointed
David Waskiewicz	1 year	Linda Hanscom	1 year
		Richard Adamcek	1 year
Cable Advisory Committee	appointed	Karl Martini	1 year
Richard Hall	1 year		
Robert Agoglia	1 year		
Robert Rowell	1 year		
Associate Member, vacant position	1 year		

Community Preservation Committee	appointed	Disability Access, ADA Coordinator	appointed
Conservation-Richard Seelig	1 year	Susannah Carey	1 year
Cydney Reiman, <i>at-large elected</i>	2025		
James Lumley, <i>at-large appointed</i>	1 year	Dog Officer, Animal Control Officer	appointed
Housing-Tilman Lukas	1 year	Nancy Long	1 year
Historical-Joseph Larson	1 year		
Planning-Judith Eiseman	1 year	Elder Services-Outreach Worker	appointed
Recreation-Richard Fanning, Chair	1 year	Sally Kaufmann (res. Sept)	1 year
Conservation Commission	appointed	Electrical Inspector	appointed
Dana MacDonald, Chair	2026	Ronald Shepard	1 year
Tilman Lukas	2025		
David Gross	2026	Emergency Management Director	appointed
Richard Seelig	2025	Gary Thomann, Police Chief	2023
Janice Gifford	2024	Derick Lamoureux, Lieutenant (beg. July)	2024
Thomas Martens, Associate (beg. Apr, res.Aug)	2026		
Janice Stone, Conservation Agent		Energy Committee	appointed
		John Larsen, Co-Chair	2024
Constables	appointed	Anthony Rogers, Co-Chair	2026
Gary Thomann, Chief Constable	1 year	Dennis Randall Spalding-Fecher	2025
Roman Kucinski	1 year		
Steven Hughes	1 year	Fence Viewers	appointed
Kevin Fournier, Sr.	1 year	Bruce Klotz	1 year
Kevin Quesnel	1 year	Joseph Larson	1 year
Richard Downie	1 year		
		Finance Committee	app. by Mod.
Council on Aging	appointed	John Trickey, Chair	2026
Tracy Osbahr, Chair	2024	Fred Vanderbeck	2025
Grace Dane (res. June)	2023	Emily Marriott	2024
Isabel Ryavec	2024	Cara Castenson	2025
Nancy Rose Weeber	2025	<i>(vacant position)</i>	
Karen Smith (beg. Mar)	2026		
CoA Associate Members		Fire Department	appointed
Jane Porter	2024	Dennis Nazzaro, Fire Chief	
<i>(vacant position)</i>		Richard Hall, Deputy Fire Chief	
		David Hawkins, Lieutenant	
Cultural Council	appointed	Jason Hall, Lieutenant	
Antonios Maroulis	2026	Stephen Hall, Firefighter	
Susan Daniels	2026	Peter Clough, Firefighter	
James Lumley	2026	Erich Hinlein, Firefighter	
Ruth Rinard	2024	Jordan Helzer, Firefighter	
Carolyn Bassett	2024	Rob Libiszewski, Firefighter	
John Page	2024		
<i>(vacant position)</i>	2025		

Gas Inspector	appointed	IT Advisory Group, cont.	appointed
Andrew French	1 year	Robert Rowell	1 year
		Dennis Nazzaro	1 year
Board of Health	elected	Joel Bain (beg. Feb)	1 year
William Pula, Chair	2024	Richard Fanning	1 year
Richard Hall	2025	ITAG Associate Members	
Melissa Nazzaro	2026	Bruce Klotz (beg. Mar)	1 year
Health Inspector	appointed	Library	appointed
Sainath Palani (res. July)	1 year	Joanne (Jodi) Levine, Director	
John Prenosil (beg. Oct)	1 year	Jessica Lamson	
		Ashley Rodkey	
Highway Department	appointed	Sally Goldin	
Richard Adamcek, Superintendent	2024	Jane Urban	
Ethan Dickinson, Foreman		Rosalba Booth, School Librarian	
Edward Chapin			
Charles Ryznic		Library Trustees	elected
Shawne Couture, pt. seasonal (res. Apr)		Gillian Duda (end May)	2023
Steve O'Brien, pt. seasonal (beg. May)		Rosemary Agoglia	2024
		Diane Gray	2026
Historical Commission	appointed	Susan Machala	2024
Karl Martini, Chair	2026	Alyse Bynum	2025
Joseph Larson	2025	Abigail Jenks	2025
Charles Thompson	2024	Maia Porter (beg. Sept)	2026
Daniel Robb	2026	Robert Graves (beg. May, res. Aug)	2026
Bruce Laurie	2024		
<i>(vacant position)</i>	2025	Moderator	elected
<i>(vacant position)</i>	2026	Daniel Robb	2024
HC Alternate Members			
Karl Ryavec	1 year	Personnel Board	appointed
<i>(vacant position)</i>		<i>(5 vacant positions)</i>	
Housing Committee	appointed	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	appointed
Tilman Lukas, Chair	1 year	Judith Eiseman, PB Representative	1 year
Barbara Cooper	1 year	Pete Wilson, Alternate PB Representative (beg. Dec)	1 year
Linda Spink	1 year		
Gail Kenny	1 year	Planning Board	elected
James Lumley	1 year	Judith Eiseman, Chair	2024
Jim Pewtherer	1 year	Peter Wilson	2024
Lauren Leonardis (beg. May)	1 year	Bruce Klotz	2027
		Anne Stoddard	2025
IT Advisory Group	appointed	Stacy McCullough (beg May)	2027
Theodore Streeter, Chair	1 year	Alexandra Dewey (end May)	2023
Peter Sienkewicz	1 year		
Robert Otis Rowell	1 year	Plumbing Inspector	appointed
Charles Thompson (res. Jan)	1 year	Andrew French	1 year

Police Department	appointed	Select Board	elected
Gary Thomann, Police Chief		Robert Agoglia, Chair	2024
Derick Lamoureux, Lieutenant		David Shanabrook, Vice-Chair	2025
Sean Connor, Sergeant		Tara Loomis, Clerk	2026
Connor Parnell, Officer (res. Oct)		Select Board Executive Assistant	appointed
Robert Thrasher, Officer		Susannah Carey	1 year
Briana Yusko, Officer		Sustainability Committee	appointed
Peter Michaels, Officer		Abigail Jenks	1 year
Jeff Farnsworth, Officer		Jessica Barr	1 year
Todd Mongeon, Officer		Kate Lamdin	1 year
Brett Wilson, Officer (beg. Aug)		Jane Porter	1 year
James Ryan, Officer (beg. Nov)		Linda Smircich	1 year
Public Health Director	appointed	Linda Spink	1 year
Andrea Crete	1 year	(<i>vacancy</i>)	1 year
Records Access Officer	appointed	Town Clerk	appointed
Patricia Olanyk (ret. Feb)		Sandra Burgess (end Sept)	2023
Regional School District Planning Committee	appointed by Moderator	Melissa Hibbard (beg. Sept)	1 year
Emily Marriott		Transit Authority, Pioneer Valley	appointed
Richard Tom Fanning		David Shanabrook	1 year
Cara Castenson		Treasurer	appointed
Board of Registrars	appointed	June Masee	1 year
Sandra Burgess, Town Clerk (end. Sept)	2026	Tree Warden	elected
Melissa Hibbard, Town Clerk (beg. Sept)	2026	David Hawkins	2025
Bruce Laurie	2025	Veterans' Service Officer	appointed
Sharrie Reydak	2025	Steven Connor	1 year
John Trickey	2024	Zoning Board of Appeals	appointed
School Committee	elected	Jeffrey Eiseman, Chair	2024
Sarah Hall, Chair (res. Aug)	2024	Ralph Faulkingham, Secretary	2025
Ron Mannino (end May)	2023	David Litwak	2025
Margaret Stancer, Chair	2024	Karen Dzenolet	2026
Sarahbess Kenny	2026	Noah Wartenberg	2024
Richard Fanning (beg. May, res. Sept)	2025	ZBA Associate Members	
William Sherr (beg. Aug)	2024	Nicholas Cichanowski	2025
Markyta Ables-Conyer (beg. Oct)	2024	Kate Hudson	2026
(<i>vacancy</i>)	2026	(<i>vacant position</i>)	2024
School Principal, Pelham Elementary		Zoning Enforcement Officer	appointed
Brenda Darling, Principal		David Waskiewicz	1 year
School Superintendent			
Dr. Michael Morris (end Aug.)			
Dr. Douglas Slaughter, Interim			

Annual Town Report of 2023

ELECTION & TOWN MEETING RESULTS (CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

Annual Town Meeting Results, May 13, 2023

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Daniel Robb, at 9:09 a.m. at the grounds of the Pelham Elementary School.

Article 1.

VOTED unanimously to accept the reports of the Town Officers and Committees.

Article 2.

VOTED unanimously to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the FY2024 beginning July 1, 2023, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17.

Article 3.

VOTED unanimously to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the ensuing fiscal year.

		FY2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2024
	Article 3	Appropriated	Appropriated	Requested	Recommended
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
2	Selectperson Salary	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600
	Expenses				
3	Town Clerk Salary	\$19,581	\$20,071	\$30,913	\$30,913
	Records/Information Clerk	\$13,114	\$13,442	\$0	\$0
	Expenses	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
4	Finance Committee	\$990	\$990	\$990	\$990
5	Assessor's Salary	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
	Assistant Assessors Salary	\$12,300	\$12,300	\$12,300	\$12,300
	Clerical/Consulting	\$700	\$2,000	\$500	\$500
	Contract Service	\$8,300	\$8,900	\$11,400	\$11,400
	Expenses	\$5,750	\$3,850	\$2,850	\$2,850
6	Collector Salary	\$17,814	\$18,816	\$19,081	\$19,081
	Expenses	\$10,264	\$10,521	\$10,785	\$10,785
7	Treasurer Salary	\$28,967	\$30,271	\$31,028	\$31,028
	Expenses	\$9,104	\$9,332	\$9,565	\$9,565
	Clerical/Consulting	\$6,353	\$6,512	\$6,775	\$6,775
8	Legal Services	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000

9	Town Meetings, Elections etc.	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
10	Town Reports	\$875	\$875	\$875	\$875
11	Town Office Wages	\$28,677	\$29,394	\$30,129	\$30,129
	Select Board/Town Office Expenses	\$21,500	\$21,500	\$21,500	\$21,500
12	Buildings and Grounds				
	Salaries	\$17,115	\$17,543	\$17,982	\$17,982

	Expenses	\$62,720	\$65,720	\$95,720	\$65,720
	Maintenance	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
13	Blanket Insurance	\$51,000	\$45,000	\$48,000	\$48,000
14	Town Accountant	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
	Town Accountant Expense	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
15	Reserve Fund	\$87,000	\$87,000	\$87,000	\$87,000
16	Surety Bonds	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
17	Emergency Management	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
18	Archivist	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
19	Hampshire County COG	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT		\$483,924	\$485,637	\$519,193	\$489,193

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

20	Board of Appeals	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
21	Conservation Commission	\$850	\$850	\$850	\$850
	Part Time Conservation Agent	\$5,000	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$0
22	Council on Aging	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
23	Historical Commission	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
24	Library Trustees				
	Director Salary	\$30,423	\$30,945	\$31,719	\$31,719
	Staff Salaries	\$16,273	\$17,723	\$18,175	\$18,175
	Expenses	\$9,400	\$8,800	\$9,020	\$9,020
25	Planning Board	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
	Clerical/consulting		\$7,500	\$8,000	\$0
26	Recreation Commission	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
28	Cemetery Commission	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
	Energy Committee	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
TOTAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS		\$76,346	\$72,718	\$95,664	\$75,164

SCHOOLS

30	Pelham Elementary	\$1,874,990	\$1,917,800	\$1,963,522	\$1,961,482
31	Amherst Pelham Regional	\$929,525	\$966,706	\$1,005,374	\$1,005,374
TOTAL SCHOOLS		\$2,804,515	\$2,882,556	\$2,968,896	\$2,966,856

PUBLIC WORKS

40	Highway Fund				
	Superintendent Salary	\$69,824	\$73,650	\$80,075	\$80,075
	Staff Salaries	\$129,789	\$158,656	\$171,850	\$171,850
	Expenses	\$121,362	\$106,362	\$121,362	\$111,362
41	School Signal Lights	\$900	\$900	\$1,100	\$1,100
42	Snow Removal				
	Salaries	\$14,801	\$15,171	\$21,171	\$17,171
	Materials	\$68,432	\$68,432	\$84,432	\$74,432
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS		\$405,108	\$423,171	\$479,990	\$455,990
PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY					
50	Police Department				
	Chief Salary	\$70,140	\$73,623	\$31,623	\$31,623
	Full Time Officer Salary	\$43,056	\$45,015	\$132,240	\$132,240
	Part Time Officer's Salaries	\$44,337	\$50,445	\$18,445	\$18,445
	Training and Education	\$10,000	\$11,255	\$11,255	\$11,255
	Expenses	\$25,701	\$25,701	\$25,701	\$25,701
	Expenses Fuel	\$10,475	\$10,475	\$10,475	\$10,475
	Reserve Officers	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Regional Lockup	\$1,255	\$0	\$0	\$0
50A	Town Road Detail	\$3,729	\$3,729	\$3,729	\$3,729
50C	Constable: Elections	\$2,275	\$2,275	\$2,275	\$2,275
51	Fire Department				
	Chief Salary	\$28,293	\$29,000	\$32,780	\$32,780
	Firefighter's Salaries	\$46,952	\$48,125	\$49,328	\$45,548
	Expenses	\$23,980	\$23,980	\$26,378	\$26,378
53	Fire Hydrants	\$280	\$280	\$280	\$280
54	Tree Warden Salary	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
	Expenses	\$11,500	\$11,500	\$11,500	\$11,500
57	Ambulance	\$33,300	\$34,133	\$34,986	\$34,986
58	Animal Control	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY		\$359,273	\$369,036	\$400,495	\$391,715
HEALTH AND SANITATION					
60	Board of Health Salaries	\$500	\$500	\$0	\$0
	Expenses	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
	Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control	\$5,000	\$5,500	\$0	\$0
61	Solid Waste				
	Hazardous Household Waste	\$1,200	\$1,400	\$1,600	\$1,600
	Recycling	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
63	Inspector of Animals	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75
65	Quabbin Health District	\$18,861	\$19,361	\$19,861	\$19,861

TOTAL HEALTH AND SANITATION		\$26,036	\$21,736	\$21,936	\$21,936
BENEFITS AND INSURANCE					
70	County Retirement	\$259,719	\$295,519	\$314,277	\$314,277
71	Veteran's Agent Salary	\$6,559	\$6,339	\$6,219	\$6,219
	Expenses				
	Benefits	\$49,248	\$49,248	\$49,248	\$49,248
72	Workers' Compensation	\$26,400	\$26,800	\$30,000	\$30,000
73	Unemployment Insurance	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
74	Group Health /Medicare	\$175,000	\$185,500	\$220,000	\$200,000
	Health Insurance Opt Out	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000
75	OPEB Deposit	\$160,000	\$180,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
TOTAL BENEFITS AND INSURANCE		\$691,926	\$758,406	\$834,744	\$814,744
GRAND TOTAL		\$4,847,128	\$5,013,260	\$5,320,918	\$5,215,598

Recommended by the Finance Committee and Select Board.

(A motion was made by the Finance Committee chair, John Trickey, to correct the following clerical errors: Line 54 Tree Warden Salary change the requested and recommend to \$1,500; Next line Expenses change the requested and recommended to \$11,500; Line 57 Ambulance change the requested and recommended to \$34,986; Line 58 Animal Control change the requested and recommend to \$3,000. Motion was seconded and Article 3 voted as recommended by the Finance Committee and Select Board.)

Article 4.

VOTED unanimously to name the salaries and wages for all elected officers for the ensuing year, which payments shall not be made in advance of performance, and to determine when and how they shall be paid.

	FY2022 Appropriated	FY2023 Appropriated	FY2024 Recommended
Assessors (Chair)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Assessors (others)	\$500	\$500	\$500
Auditor	\$0	\$0	\$0
Board of Health (Chair)	\$200	\$200	\$0
Board of Health (others)	\$150	\$150	\$0
Cemetery Commissioner (each 3) \$9.00hr	\$0	\$0	\$0
Library Trustees	\$0	\$0	\$0
Moderator	\$0	\$0	\$0
Planning Board	\$0	\$0	\$0
School Committee	\$0	\$0	\$0
Select Board (each 3)	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
Tree Warden	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500

Recommended by the Finance Committee and Select Board.

Article 5.

VOTED unanimously to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$237,637 for expenditure as follows:

- A. \$5,000 for testing of fire equipment
- B. \$30,000 for Building and Grounds expense to cover increase energy costs until the new HVAC system at the Community Center building is functioning optimally

- C. \$2,500 for Pelham Elementary School energy management system
- D. \$5,000 for Pelham Elementary School interior renovations
- E. \$6,888 to the School Department for FY2023, this money representing an amount equal to that received by the Town as medical reimbursement for services provided by the School Department.
- F. \$25,000 for reimbursement of unanticipated special education charges, which reimbursement would require the approval of the School Committee, Select Board and Finance Committee.
- G. \$22,000 to be deposited in the Regional School Capital Reserve Account
- H. \$28,000 to pay Pelham's share of the 2024 Regional School Capital Debt
- I. \$11,399 to pay for FY2023 wages adjustments based on the wage study
- J. \$1,000 for maintenance of the Historical Complex
- K. \$8,000 for clerical/consulting help for the Planning Board
- L. \$500 for consulting help for the Zoning Board of Appeals
- M. \$500 for Record preservation
- N. \$28,000 for Health Insurance Town Clerk/DPW
- O. \$10,500 for Fire personnel turnout gear to be reimbursed by a grant
- P. \$1,100 for a member of the Finance Committee to attend the MMA annual meeting and seminars
- Q. \$1,000 for maintenance of the Town's cemeteries
- R. \$12,500 for a Conservation Agent for the Conservation Commission
- S. \$3,250 to pay for joining the Group Buying program of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments
- T. \$7,500 for repairs to the sprinkler system in the Community Center
- U. \$10,000 to maintain the old heating system in the Community Center
- V. \$5,500 to upgrade the Fire Alarm System in the Historical Complex
- W. \$10,000 for Highway Expense
- X. \$2,500 for a new Town Office sign at the Rhodes Building.

Recommended by the Finance Committee and Select Board.

Article 6.

VOTED unanimously to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$3,300 to replace the sign at the Old Town Hall Complex.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 7.

VOTED to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$2,000 for the purpose of resolving a disputed claim with the owners of 25 Amherst Road regarding drainage of water at the property

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 8.

VOTED unanimously to appropriate the sum of \$415,000 from the Capital Plan Stabilization Fund to purchase and equip a new or used multi-use mini pumper.

(A motion was made by the Fire Chief to insert the words or used before multi-use mini pumper.)

Article 9.

VOTED unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate and transfer the following sum of money from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues for Community Preservation Committee administrative expenses in FY2024 in the amount of \$3,500.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 10.

VOTED unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate and transfer the following sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues, and to reserve for later appropriation; \$16,000 for Open Space; \$16,000 for Community Housing; and \$16,000 for Historic Resources; and to reserve for later appropriation \$50,000 to the FY2024 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 11.

VOTED unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$17,250 from the Open Space and Recreation Fund for the Pelham Elementary School Playground Committee’s application to hire Berkshire Design Group to conduct a feasibility study for improvements to the Pelham Elementary School playground to bring it into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 12.

VOTED unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$70,000, of which \$40,200 shall be from Pelham’s FY23 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve, \$14,700 shall be from the Community Housing Fund, and \$15,100 shall be from the Undesignated Fund, for the Cadwell Street Homeownership application submitted by Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 13.

VOTED unanimously to amend Section VI of the Amherst Pelham Regional School District Agreement by replacing subsection j) as follows: “For Fiscal Year 2024 only, the alternative operating budget assessment shall be calculated as a five-year average of minimum contributions with the remainder of the assessment allocated to the member towns in accordance with the per-pupil method found in Section VI (e) of the Amherst Pelham Regional School District Agreement. Additionally, if any member town's assessment based on this method increases or decreases more than 4% from their Fiscal Year 2023 assessment, the Fiscal Year 2024 assessment shall be limited to a 4% change provided that the requirements of Minimum Local Contribution are still met. The five-year average of minimum contributions will include the five most recent years.

Recommended by the Finance Committee and Select Board.

Article 14.

VOTED unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,167.22 and transfer \$12,657.78 from Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Funds for the payment of the Town’s (General Fund) indebtedness.

Recommended by the Finance Committee and Select Board.

Article 15.

VOTED unanimously to appropriate the sum of \$14,160 from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund (established by vote of the Fall 2015 Town Meeting) to be used by the Select Board for the purpose of Technology services and purchases for the Town.

Recommended by the Finance Committee and Select Board.

Article 16.

VOTED unanimously to approve annual spending limits for FY2024 for revolving funds established in the Town Bylaws, in accordance with G.L c.44, Section 53E1/2, with such expenditure limits to be applicable for each fiscal year until such time as Town Meeting votes, prior to July 1 in any year, to increase the same for the ensuing fiscal year; provided, however, that at the request of the entity authorized to expend such funds, the Select Board, with the approval of the Finance Committee, may increase such limit, for that fiscal year only, all as set forth below:

Revolving fund	FY spending limit
Archivist	\$2,500
Building Inspector	\$30,000
Community Garden Committee	\$5,000
Community Hall	\$7,000
Fire Department	\$7,500
Gas Inspector	\$1,500

Department of Public Works	\$7,500
Planning Board	\$15,000
Plumbing Inspector	\$1,500
Police Department	\$7,500
Wiring Inspector	\$3,000
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$1,000

Recommended by the Finance Committee and Select Board.

Article 17.

VOTED unanimously to establish an Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, in accordance with G.L. c.40, Section 5B, and to authorize deposits thereto from future Opioid Settlement payments.

Recommended by the Finance Committee and Select Board.

Article 18.

VOTED unanimously to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$10,412.18 and to transfer said sum to the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund.

Recommended by the Finance Committee and Select Board.

Article 19.

VOTED unanimously to authorize the Library Trustees to expend such monies as they may receive from the sale of discarded books, gifts, and bequests, and from the State and Federal Governments.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 20.

VOTED unanimously to authorize the Pelham Cultural Council to expend such monies as it may receive from the State and Federal Governments, and from gifts and bequests.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 21.

VOTED unanimously to accept the provisions of G.L. c.59, Section 5, Clause 54 to establish a minimum fair cash value of \$5,000 required for personal property accounts to be taxed, to take effect starting in Fiscal Year 2024.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 22.

VOTED unanimously to accept as a public way a portion of the roadway known as Amherst Road as heretofore laid out by the Select board and shown on a plan of land entitled “The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Amended Plan of Amherst Road in the Town of Pelham prepared by Christopher C. Danforth, PLS and dated November 7, 2022, and on file with the Town Clerk, and authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain, the fee to and/or easements in such portion of Amherst Road for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Pelham and any drainage, access, utility and/or other easements related thereto.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 23.

VOTED unanimously to authorize the Select Board to enter into contracts with the Massachusetts Highway Department for construction and/or maintenance of public highways for Fiscal Year 2024, and further to authorize the Select Board on behalf of the Town to accept and expend any money from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for highway construction and/or maintenance, provided that no funds shall be expended to widen, or enter into a contract to widen, any Town road unless the Select Board has held a public hearing advertised at least fourteen (14) days in advance, with any proposed contract and/or plans for such road improvements being posted for public viewing prior to the public hearing, and further provided that such policy is consistent with State requirements.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 24.

VOTED unanimously to authorize the Select Board to accept and/or apply for any State or Federal funds or grants that may become available during Fiscal Year 2024 and to expend such funds in accordance with the terms and conditions thereof, provided that no funds shall be expended to widen, or to enter into a contract to widen, any Town road unless the Select Board has held a public hearing advertised at least fourteen (14) days in advance, with any proposed contract and/or plans for such road improvements being posted for public viewing prior to the public hearing, and further provided that such policy is consistent with State requirements.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 25.

VOTED unanimously to amend General Bylaws of the Town of Pelham, Chapter 23 Driveways, by adding a requirement for an engineered site plan for certain driveways, removing resurfacing as a non-significant modification to an existing driveway, as set forth below.

Amend § 23-2(C) by adding the words in bold:

- C. An accurate sketch plan and diagrams showing boundaries and dimensions of lot, driveway location, design, dimensions, grades, materials of driveway, drainage provisions, including culverts, and intended purpose. An engineered site plan may be required for any driveway with a gradient in excess of 5% and/or serves more than two lots.

(A motion was made to replace the word “shall” with the word “may” in the last sentence.)

Amend § 23-4(B) by removing the words in strike-through:

- B. No significant modification to an existing driveway, e.g. changes to layout, grading, drainage or surface treatment, including resurfacing (~~except resurfacing~~), shall be made without first obtaining a permit from the Department of Public Works Superintendent or his/her designee, in order to insure that no increased danger to the public or increased likelihood of damage to a public way occurs. Any request for a modification shall follow the same format, including filing fee, as an original submission in § 23-2.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 26.

VOTED by a declared two-thirds vote to amend Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Pelham, Section 125-13 Common Access Driveways, by amending §125-13(A), definition to align with standards of common access driveways, clarifying standards in §125-13(C) to align with use of the word “lot”, clarifying in §125-13©(2)(a)[2] maximum grades at certain points of the common driveway, and replacing wording related to street acceptance, as shown below with deletions in strike-through and additions underlined.

Amend § 125-13(A) as follows ~~by amending~~:

- A. Definition. As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

COMMON ACCESS DRIVEWAY or COMMON ACCESS DRIVE -- A driveway/curb cut shared by not more than ~~five~~ three lots, such that each lot has approved frontage on an existing public way, and has access obtained through the common use of a private driveway designed according to the standards for construction of shared driveways in Pelham. [Amended 5-11-1996 ATM, Art. 23]

Amend § 125-13(C) by amending:

- B. Standards. Proposed common access driveways to be shared by not more than ~~five dwelling units~~ three lots shall require a special permit from the Planning Board. For each such proposal the Superintendent of Public Works, Fire Chief, Board of Health, Conservation Commission and Building Inspector may provide to the Planning Board written opinion or oral testimony at a public hearing regarding matters pertaining to their

particular jurisdiction, together with any questions or considerations bearing on the adequacy of the plan. This opinion or testimony may include, but is not limited to, suggestions for road specifications, wetland and open space protection and other criteria designed to promote the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the Town of Pelham. In reaching its decision, the Planning Board shall consider the following factors: whether the proposed drive creates less adverse impact to wetlands located on the lots or otherwise diminishes environmental degradation; allows safer access to lots; results in the preservation of the rural quality of the area through the reduction in the number of access ways and maintenance of existing vegetative and topographical conditions; otherwise promotes the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the Town of Pelham. This provision shall be applied in conjunction with the Subdivision Control Law (MGL c. 41., §§ 81K through 81GG) and the Rules and Regulations Governing the Subdivision of Land in Pelham.

Amend § 125-13(C)(2)(a)[2] ~~by amending~~ as follows:

- [2] A maximum grade of 8%; said driveway shall not exceed a grade of 2% within 30 feet of its intersection with the public way, or a grade of 5% within 30-50 feet of the driveway after the intersection.

Amend § 125-13(E) by replacing current wording with:

- E. Street acceptance. A common driveway designed and constructed in accordance with these requirements is not a street which may be accepted as a town way. In granting a special permit for a common driveway, the Planning Board shall impose a condition prohibiting the property owners from petitioning for acceptance of the common drive as a public way, unless property owners petition to the Town demonstrating that the common driveway conforms to the Rules and Regulations for the Subdivision of Land in the Town of Pelham, for the construction and laying of ways, including requirements pertaining to cul-de-sac or dead-end streets, and demonstrating that the lots served by the common driveway, with structures as built, conform with dimensional regulations applicable to the zoning district with respect to lot area, frontage, coverage, setbacks and lot width. A lot divided by the common drive right-of-way shall be considered as two separate lots for purposes of this demonstration, with new lot lines as created by the proposed new public way. If application is ever made for a common driveway to become a Town way, such common driveway shall first, at the applicant's expense, be made to conform to the Rules and Regulations for the Subdivision of Land in the Town of Pelham in effect at the time that such application is made.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 27.

VOTED by a declared two-thirds to amend Zoning Bylaws of the Town of Pelham, Section 125-21 Environmental performance standards, related to lighting, by removing §125-13(A) Lighting, and replacing with language ensuring lighting standards adopted in Village Center apply to all zoning districts, or take any other action relative thereto.

Amend § 125-21(A) by replacing current section with:

Lighting

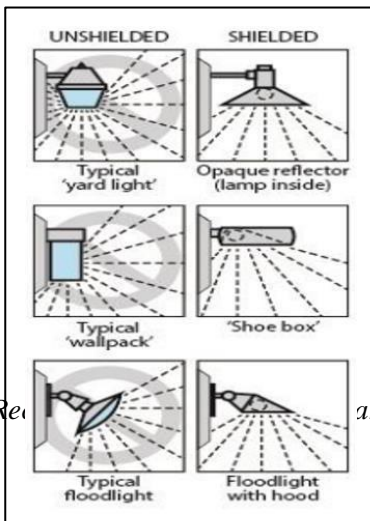
- 1) Applicability. The requirements of this section shall apply to all outdoor lighting on all lots and parcels in any district in the Town of Pelham. When existing outdoor lighting equipment is being modified, extended, expanded or replaced, it shall be subject to the requirements of this section. Exemptions from this section are identified on §125-8.2.(G)(1).
- 2) Lighting equipment shall be designed, constructed and installed to:

- (a) control glare and prevent light trespass onto adjacent properties or public ways, curtail degradation of dark skies at night, and conserve energy resources while maintaining safety, visibility and security of individuals and property;
 - (b) direct light only where it is needed at the minimum intensity and duration necessary to serve the intended purposes and any sensor technologies, timers or other means to activate lighting shall be used only during times when it will be needed;
 - (c) prevent measurable light at the property lines and minimize glare at any location on or off the property.
- 3) Flashing, blinking, running, scrolling, traveling, animated, or intermittent lighting shall not be visible from the exterior of any building unless associated with exempted lighting types in §125-8.2.(G)(1).
- 4) Illumination levels. Any use, except for single-family residential properties, shall comply with site lumen limit found in §125-8.2.(G)(6)(a)[3] under the VC-N and VC-RE districts as applicable.
 - (a) For all other uses, including single family uses, all outdoor lighting shall not exceed the following allowed luminaire lumens of 630 lumens.
- 5) Color.
 - (a) All luminaires in all districts must have light sources with a color temperature or correlated color temperature (CCT) of 2700 Kelvin or less.
 - (b) The color rendering index of all luminaires in all districts must be sixty-five (65) or higher.

- 6) Backlight, Uplight, Glare (BUG) Rating. All luminaires in all districts except for those in the Village Center districts, shall be rated and installed in accordance with the following standards.

<u>Maximum Backlight, Uplight, and Glare (BUG) Ratings</u>	
<u>Backlight Rating</u>	
<u>Greater than 2 mounting heights from property line</u>	<u>B1</u>
<u>One (1) to less than two (2) mounting heights from property line and ideally oriented.</u>	<u>B1</u>
<u>0.5 to 1 mounting heights from property line and ideally oriented.</u>	<u>B0</u>
<u>Less than 0.5 mounting height to property line and properly oriented</u>	<u>B0</u>
<u>Uplight Rating</u>	
<u>Allowed % light emission above 90 degrees from street or area lighting</u>	<u>0%</u>
<u>Glare Rating</u>	
<u>Any luminaire not ideally oriented with 1 to less than 2 mounting heights to any property line of concern</u>	<u>G0</u>

<u>Any luminaire not ideally oriented with 0.5 to 1 mounting heights to any property line of concern</u>	<u>G0</u>
<u>Any luminaire not ideally oriented with less than 0.5 mounting heights to any property line of concern</u>	<u>G0</u>



- (7) Luminaires that are accessory to a single or two-family use shall be fully shielded so that no light emitted by the luminaire is projected above a horizontal plane (see definition of “fully shielded luminaire” in §125-34).

- (a) Illustrations showing unshielded and shielded luminaires:

- (8) Any motion activated lighting using sensor technologies, timers or other means shall remain off unless motion is detected.

Revised

Article 28.

VOTED by a declared two-thirds vote to amend the Town of Pelham Zoning Bylaw by striking ARTICLE V, Section §125-18.2, Solar Electric Installations, and replacing it with a new ARTICLE V, § 125-18.2, Solar Electric Installations, as shown below and in the text that will be available for review at the May 13, 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

§ 125-18.2 SOLAR ELECTRIC INSTALLATIONS [ADDED 5/13/23 ATM]

A. Background

There is a pressing need to promote solar energy development in light of the global climate crisis. The Town of Pelham supports solar development in order to advance the Commonwealth's policy goals to transition to non-carbon-based energy production. It is understood that the Massachusetts statutes have established solar energy generation as a protected use that cannot be prohibited or unreasonably regulated "except where necessary to protect the public health, safety or welfare" of Pelham residents. For these reasons, the Town of Pelham's zoning is intended to support reasonable and appropriate solar installations. As noted, however, certain solar related development should not occur if it is to the detriment of the public health, safety or welfare of residents. It is the responsibility of the Town of Pelham, through reasonable regulation and within the context of the local community, that solar development occur in a manner that protects its residents' health, safety and welfare. This bylaw seeks to establish the appropriate balance.

The June 2022 Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2025 and 2030 (CECP) states that "Massachusetts' natural and working lands (NWL) provide many benefits to the residents of the Commonwealth, including clean air and water, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, recreational opportunities, food and wood production, and many other functions on which society and life depend. These benefits, often called ecosystem services, continually serve our society as long as NWL can remain functioning as NWL. Massachusetts NWL ecosystems currently store at least 0.6 gigatons of carbon, equivalent to over 2 gigatons of carbon dioxide or the past 25 years of greenhouse gas emissions in the Commonwealth. As NWL are an important local resource to help remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, the Commonwealth will protect NWL from losses and degradation and will pursue new and ongoing actions to increase their capacity to sequester carbon." The CECP states that "ensuring that our forests continue to provide the full range of ecosystem services in the face of ongoing climate change requires careful stewardship that considers forest ecosystem dynamics, protections against forest loss, and sustainable harvest and use of forest products. While carbon sequestration is among the most important forest ecosystem services in the context of this 2025/2030 CECP and the Commonwealth's ability to achieve net zero in 2050, forests must also continue to provide wildlife habitat, wood products, clean air and water, and recreation, necessitating tradeoffs in which ecosystem services are prioritized in forest management. These management decisions must be tailored to the particular ecological conditions, land owners' objectives, and community values for specific forest areas."

For purposes of this bylaw, it is understood that protection of public health, safety or welfare for Pelham residents includes the following:

- Since Pelham does not have an extensive public water system, most uses in the community rely upon drinking water wells for a clean potable water supply. Residents and the community at large depend upon a functional, reliable, stable and resilient water supply. This requires that reasonable steps are taken 1) to protect the integrity of inter-connected water resources – above and below ground; and 2) to protect water from contamination and significant supply disruption. In acknowledgement of the key position Pelham holds in the region as a watershed not only for its own private water supply but also for portions of the water supplies of Shutesbury, Amherst, Belchertown, Springfield and the Quabbin Reservoir, Pelham enacted a Water Supply Protection Overlay District, Article IV Section 125-8.1 [Amended 10-27-1993 STM] "to promote the health, safety and welfare of the community by protecting, preserving and maintaining the surface and groundwater resources of the Town and the region from any use of land or buildings which may pollute or otherwise adversely affect the quality and quantity of its water resources."
- Wetlands provide a unique element in local water systems as reflected in the Commonwealth's Wetlands

Protection Act and Pelham's local Wetlands Bylaw and should therefore be protected from contamination and disruption. As noted by the U.S. EPA, wetlands naturally improve water quality, mitigate flooding and erosion, and support fish and wildlife.

- Roads are essential for the provision of emergency services, residents' employment and education, and the reduction of isolation for climate vulnerable individuals. Pelham's 6.5 miles of unpaved roads are susceptible to damage due to heavy or inappropriate use, more frequent weather variability and severe weather events from climate change resulting in drought or flooding, and construction and development that can degrade the roadway surface or its drainage system. The protection of infrastructure integrity is important to the health, welfare and safety of residents and the environment.
- A resilient natural ecosystem is essential for the health and wellbeing of the populace, the water supply, and the local flora and fauna. Pelham is primarily forest land and it is recognized that unfragmented tracts of forest provide many ecological benefits that contribute to a vibrant natural ecosystem, and water supply, and by extension make Pelham a more resilient community.
- A forest and its trees are the only known terrestrial mechanism for removing carbon on a large scale from the atmosphere through carbon sequestration and storage. As recognized at the international, national, and state level, removing carbon from the atmosphere is an essential component of mitigating climate change. In its CECP, the Commonwealth has committed to reduce Greenhouse Gases by 25% below 1990 level in 2030 on natural and working lands through enhanced carbon sequestration capacity and adoption of climate smart management practices. Pelham, through its forestland, contributes to the Commonwealth's efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and removal of the forest land should be considered for any proposed use.
- As a community that is mostly forested land and with little infrastructure and minimal municipal water supply, the risk of forest fires should be minimized whenever possible. Increased instances of drought and the weakening health of local forests from invasive species and fragmentation make Pelham's forests more susceptible.
- While Pelham has limited agricultural land, with climate change, the capacity to grow food locally is important, making agricultural soils a premium resource to be protected.
- As a small rural town, Pelham has a volunteer fire department led by a part-time chief and a small police department comprised of a full-time chief and primarily part-time officers. The emergency management team is primarily volunteers and town staff (fire chief, police chief, town administrator). Given this staffing level, the town has a very limited ability to respond to large scale or complex industrial accidents. Similarly, because Pelham is surrounded by other low-capacity towns in rural Franklin and Hampshire Counties, mutual aid may provide more personnel but not greater technical ability to respond to large or complex emergencies. Hosting industrial developments with potential for electrical and fire incidents may therefore pose a heightened public safety hazard.
- Preserving historical and cultural resources provides a sense of belonging and identity that is beneficial for the well-being of individuals and communities. The Massachusetts Historical Commission highlights the importance of historic and cultural preservation, stating that "the continuing presence of historic properties in Massachusetts immeasurably enhances the quality of our lives; they help to establish our sense of place and to define the very character of our communities." The Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Plan 2018–2022 establishes the priorities for the Commonwealth. Among other goals, it calls for (1) strengthening "the stewardship of historic and archaeological resources" - to "encourage and support state agencies, municipalities, and non-profit organizations to maintain their significant historic properties"; and (2) including diverse cultural and ethnic communities in historic preservation" - to "provide opportunities for historic preservation that can reflect a broader range of cultures, traditions, and ethnicity." Pelham is home to many sites that are significant to Indigenous and Euro-American history and culture that, if preserved, will contribute to the promotion, protection and restoration of residents' well-being.

Consistent with Massachusetts zoning law, as stated in section 2A of Chapter 808 of the Acts of 1975, this bylaw seeks to address the need to "conserve health"; "secure safety from fire, flood, panic and other dangers";

“facilitate the adequate provision of transportation, water, water supply, drainage, sewerage, schools, parks, open space and other public requirements”; “to conserve the value of land and buildings including the conservation of natural resources and the prevention of blight and pollution of the environment.”

B. Purpose.

The purpose of this bylaw is to provide reasonable regulation that strikes a balance between allowing needed solar development and protecting the public health, safety and welfare of Pelham residents as detailed herein.

Reasonable regulation shall be achieved in this bylaw by: (1) providing standards for the approval, placement, design, construction, operation, monitoring, modification and removal of solar electric installations in order to protect and preserve Town infrastructure (including roads), prevent public nuisance, promote public safety, maintain existing residential property values, minimize and mitigate possible impacts on environmental, scenic, and historic resources, and protect the town from financial harms; (2) providing adequate financial assurance for the eventual decommissioning of solar electric installations; and (3) protecting large contiguous blocks of forest back-land based on the understanding that large unfragmented tracts provide many ecological benefits including improved water and air quality, sequestration of carbon, reduced movement of invasive species, provision of wildlife habitat and the land base for greater biodiversity; as well as maintaining commercial forestry as a viable agricultural activity and providing many recreational opportunities for town residents.

C. Applicability

(1) This Section 125-18.2 applies to Large- Scale and Small-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Electric Installations (hereinafter, Installations). Small-Scale Installations which are accessory to an existing residential or non-residential use, which generate electricity principally (no less than 50% of generated power) used by such residential or non-residential use, are permitted as of right, do not need to comply with this section, but will require site plan review from the Zoning Board of Appeals, a building permit, and must comply with all other applicable provisions of the Town of Pelham Zoning Bylaw and non-zoning bylaws and regulations. Building-mounted solar electric installations are permitted by right following issuance of a building permit. Large-Scale Installations are permitted only within the Solar Electric Installation Districts by special permit from the Planning Board, as special permit granting authority (SPGA).

(2) This Section 125-18.2 also pertains to physical modifications that materially alter the type, configuration, or size of Installations or related equipment.

(3) This Section 125-18.2 shall not apply to an Installation for which a zoning permit was issued and was still in effect as of the first publication of notice of the April 12, 2023 Planning Board public hearing, but the record owner of the land shall have the right to waive this exemption, in which case Section 125-18.2 shall apply.

(4) Upon written request by the applicant, the Planning Board may waive or reduce any special permit requirement of this Section 125-18.2 by the same majority vote required for the special permit itself upon written findings included in the permit of:

(a) special circumstances of the site, its surroundings, or the proposal that negate the need for imposition of the requirement, or the objectives of this section may be met in alternative manner; and

(b) that such a waiver or reduction will not derogate from the public purposes and intent of the Zoning Bylaw.

(c) In the case of a special permit, such waiver or reduction requests must be made by the applicant no later than the close of the public hearing. An affirmative or negative vote under this paragraph shall not be construed as an approval or disapproval of the permit sought.

D. Requirements

(1) Compliance with Laws, Bylaws, and Regulations:

The construction and operation of all Installations shall be consistent with all applicable local, state and federal requirements, including but not limited to all applicable safety, construction, electrical, and communications requirements. All buildings and fixtures forming a part thereof shall be constructed in accordance with the Massachusetts State Building Code. Siting of all Installations shall be consistent with all applicable local, state and federal requirements, including but not be limited to:

- A. Mass. Endangered Species Act (MESA)
- B. Mass. Wetlands Protection Act (WPA)
- C. Mass. Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)
- D. Mass. Forest Cutting Practices Regulations
- E. Pelham Local Wetlands Bylaw
- F. U.S. Endangered Species Act
- G. National Historic Preservation Protection Act (NHPA)

Installations shall not go into construction until all local, state and federal requirements have been met and all required approvals issued.

(2) Dimensional Requirements

(a) Frontage: Lots for Installations shall have the required frontage on a public way stated in Section 125-6 and defined in this Zoning Bylaw.

(b) Access driveways for Installations shall be no longer than 1,000 feet to the beginning of the use.

(c) Lot Size:

(i) Large-Scale Installation shall mean an Installation which occupies more than one and one-half (1.5) acres of land and no greater than fifteen (15) acres of land.

(ii) Small-Scale Installation shall mean an Installation which occupies one and one-half (1.5) acres or less of land.

(d) Minimum setbacks for all Large-Scale Installations shall be:

- Front street setback: 500 feet
- Property line setback: 100 feet

(e) Minimum setbacks for all Small-Scale Installations shall be:

- Front street setback: 100 feet
- Property line setback: 50 feet

(f) Required setback areas shall not be counted toward an Installation's total acreage.

(g) If an ESS is included in the Installation, it shall be located no more than 100 feet from the outer perimeter of the solar panels, and to mitigate possible damage resulting from a fire, the ESS shall maintain a buffer of at least 100 feet from forested land.

(3) Mitigation for Loss of Carbon Sequestration and Forest Habitat:

If forestland existing as such on the date of adoption of this bylaw is proposed to be converted to an Installation the plans shall designate thereon an area of unprotected (meaning, not subject to MGL c. 184,

§§ 31-33 or other binding restrictions upon development at time of application) land on the same lot and of a size equal to four times (4X) the total area of such Installation. Such designated land shall remain in substantially its natural condition without alteration, including a prohibition of commercial forestry/tree cutting not related to the maintenance of the Installation, until such time as the Installation is decommissioned; except in response to a natural occurrence, invasive species or disease that impacts the trees and requires cutting to preserve the health of the forest.

Any project on land that is under an approved EOEEA forest management plan is exempt from the 4x provision of this section.

(Motion was made to add the following language to the end of section D(3) Mitigation for Loss of Carbon Sequestration and Forest Habitat: Any project on land that is under an approved EOEEA forest management plan is exempt from the 4x provision of this section.)

(Motion was made to add the following language to the first line of section D(3) Mitigation for Loss of Carbon Sequestration and Forest Habitat following the words "If forestland: "existing as such on the date of adoption of this bylaw" in the first sentence. Both motions passed.)

(4) Mitigation for Loss of Forest Habitat within the Installation:

If forestland existing as such on the date of adoption of this bylaw is proposed to be converted to an Installation, a plan shall be submitted to establish mitigation measures to preserve and support the health and ecological services of the forestland: minimize erosion, promote the growth of native plants and prevent invasive species. The site shall be regularly reseeded and annually monitored until 80% of the land is vegetated by native plants (excluding invasive species). A planting maintenance plan shall be submitted with the special permit application. An annual monitoring report shall be submitted for the first five years after construction and later if the 80% vegetation threshold is not met.

(Motion was made to add the language "existing as such on the date of adoption of this bylaw" following "If forestland" in the first sentence. Motion passed.)

(5) Mitigation for Installation of Perimeter Fencing:

Any perimeter fencing within winter sight of a public roadway, driveway, or dwelling existing at the time of the special permit application shall be entirely black in color. Fences shall be raised to an appropriate distance above the ground to facilitate the passage of small animals.

(6) Mitigation for Disruption of Trail Networks:

If existing trail networks, old Town roads, or woods or cart roads are disrupted by the location of the Installation, the plans shall show alternative alignments to be marked and made passable by the applicant. No rights of public access may be established hereunder.

(7) Mitigation for Disruption of Historic Resources and Properties:

Historic resources and properties, such as cellar holes, farmsteads, stone corrals, marked graves, water wells, or pre-Columbian features, including those listed on the Massachusetts Register of Historic Places or as defined by the National Historic Preservation Act, shall be excluded from the areas proposed to be developed, including clearing for shade management. A written assessment of the project's effects on each identified historic resource or property and ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects shall be submitted as part of the special permit application. A suitable buffer area shall be established on all sides of each historic resource.

(8) All plans and maps shall be prepared, stamped and signed by a Professional Civil Engineer licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

(9) Mitigation for Road Integrity:

Construction access shall be from paved (bituminous or chip-sealed) Town roads. In the alternative, an applicant may propose, at their expense, to Town specifications, and based on the Town's cost estimate, to fund the paving and improvement of drainage facilities to those portions of the Town road required to meet the intent of this section as determined by the Planning Board. The applicant may also propose posting a bond sufficient to fund the maintenance, repair, and restoration to the satisfaction of the Highway Department and the Select Board, of an unpaved Town road and associated drainage facilities used for

construction access. The Planning Board, after consultation with the Pelham Highway Department and only following written Select Board approval of an alternative proposal, may accept or deny such alternative proposals.

(10) Mitigation for Forest Block Fragmentation:

In order to preserve the ecological integrity of Pelham's large blocks of undeveloped forestland as stated in § 125-18.2 B. herein, no more than the number indicated of Large-Scale Installations shall be permitted within the bounds of any set of public ways and/or Town borders as depicted on the 2020 Zoning Map of the Town of Pelham in the district entitled Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar Electric Installation Districts, and incorporated into the Zoning Bylaw.

E. Design and Performance Standards

(1) Except for emergency response or repairs, there shall be no permanently-affixed exterior lighting, including during construction and operation.

(2) Signage :

(a) Sufficient signage shall be provided to identify the owner of the Installation and provide a 24-hour emergency contact phone number.

(b) Signage at the perimeter warning pedestrians is allowable.

(c) Installations shall not be used for displaying any advertising except for reasonable identification of the manufacturer or operator of such Installation.

(3) Control of Vegetation: Herbicides or pesticides may not be used to control vegetation or wildlife.

(4) Visual Impacts:

(a) Installations shall be designed to minimize visual impacts including preserving natural vegetation to the maximum extent possible, blending in equipment with the surroundings, and adding vegetative buffers to provide an effective visual barrier from adjacent roads and driveways, and to screen abutting residential dwellings.

(b) When possible, a diversity of plant species shall be used, with a preference for species native to New England.

(c) Use of exotic plants, as identified by the most recent copy of the "Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List" maintained by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, is prohibited.

(d) If deemed necessary by the Planning Board, the depth of the vegetative screen shall be 30 feet and will be composed of native trees and shrubs staggered for height and density that shall be properly maintained.

(e) The owner/operator shall not remove any naturally occurring vegetation such as trees and shrubs unless it adversely affects the performance and operation of the Installation.

(f) Landscaping shall be maintained and replaced as necessary by the owner/operator of the Installation.

(5) Utility Connections: Electrical transformers, wires, or other utility interconnections shall be constructed as required by the utility provider and may be above ground if necessary; provided, however, that every reasonable effort shall be made to place all utility connections underground, depending on appropriate soil conditions and topography of the site and any requirements of the utility provider.

(6) All electric power generated at an Installation shall be from solar energy.

(7) Access driveways shall be constructed to minimize finished width, grading, removal of stone walls or roadside trees, incompatible appearance from the roadway, and impacts to environmental or historic resources.

F. Safety and Environmental Standards

(1) Emergency Services

(a) The Installation owner or operator shall provide a copy of the project summary, electrical schematic, and site plan to the Pelham Fire Chief.

(b) The owner or operator shall cooperate with local emergency services to develop a written emergency response plan that is provided to Pelham police and fire departments.

(c) All means of shutting down the Installation shall be clearly marked.

(d) The owner or operator shall identify a responsible person for public and governmental inquiries throughout the life of the Installation. Updated contact information shall be provided to the Select Board, Fire Chief, Police Chief, and the Emergency Management Director annually, no later than 30 days after the beginning of the fiscal year or within 14 days of any contact personnel or information changes. Contact information shall include the contact's name, role in relation to the Installation, email address and work phone number. At least one 24 hour/7 day phone number shall be provided for emergencies.

(2) Land Clearing, Soil Erosion and Land Impacts

(a) The Installation shall be designed to minimize impacts to open agricultural land and fields, even if not in production. Clearing of natural vegetation shall be limited to what is necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Installation. Grading that substantially disturbs the existing soil profile and structure is prohibited; sites shall be selected where construction may be accomplished without such earth work.

(b) Prior to any site disturbance and construction, the limits of the work shown on the approved site plan shall be surveyed and clearly marked by a Professional Land Surveyor. Upon completion of the survey, the Professional Land Surveyor shall verify to the Planning Board, in writing, that the limit of work, as shown on the approved site plans, has been established on site.

(c) The design shall minimize the use of concrete and other impervious materials to the maximum extent possible. Installations shall be installed on water permeable surfaces.

(d) Installations, including access driveways and any associated drainage infrastructure on original, pre development grades in excess of 10%, is prohibited. This requirement does not apply to areas used exclusively for shade management provided all stumps from cut trees shall remain in place.

(e) An environmental monitor may be designated by the Planning Board, at the applicant's or owner's expense, to inspect the site during construction and after significant weather events; the monitor shall provide timely reports to the operator and Planning Board regarding erosion and stormwater impacts.

(3) Habitat Impacts:

Installations shall not be located on:

(a) permanently protected land under MGL. c. 184, §§ 31-33.

(b) Land designated as Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscapes (CNLs) by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program BioMap 2 and when available, as designated by

its successor BioMap 3. Core Habitats identified in Pelham include three Forest Cores, three Aquatic Cores, and seven Species of Conservation Concern Cores, all of which “ensure the long-term persistence of species of conservation concern, exemplary natural communities, and intact ecosystems.” CNLs identified in Pelham include three Landscape Blocks, one Wetland Core, and three Aquatic Cores - “larger landscape areas that are better able to support ecological processes, disturbances, and wide-ranging species.” These designations establish that the need for protection is a stated interest of the Commonwealth and meets the need for public welfare as established in the 2010 BioMap 2 report, the Commonwealth’s 2022 Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2025 and 2030, and the 2020 SMART regulations, as amended or updated.

(c) Habitat of Potential Regional and Statewide Importance located on Massachusetts Ecological Integrity Maps of the Dept. of Environmental Protection. The need for protection meets the needs of public welfare and the interest of the Commonwealth as noted by DEP, “Massachusetts Ecological Integrity Maps” representing human-induced stressors on the environment and resiliency.”

(d) Priority Habitat as codified by Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, that includes all state listed species of both plants and animals. The need for protection meets the needs of public welfare and the interest of the Commonwealth.

(4) Wetlands

(a) The applicant will prepare MA DEP/WPA Form 4a. Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) that includes a wetland evaluation and map of the site. The ANRAD shall also be submitted to the Conservation Commission.

(b) In order to provide an adequate intervening land area for the infiltration of stormwater runoff from an Installation, ground alterations such as stump removal, excavation, filling, grading, or the installation of drainage facilities or solar panels are prohibited within 100 feet of any wetlands or hydrologic features subject to the jurisdiction of the Pelham Conservation Commission.

(c) The Planning Board may impose conditions to contain and control stormwater runoff that might negatively impact identified wetlands or other hydrologic features even if the proposed work area is outside the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission, including the local wetlands bylaw.

(5) Energy Storage Systems (ESS)

(a) If an energy storage system (ESS) is installed as part of the Installation, the ESS shall be designed and sized to store only the energy generated on site. The Installation shall not be designed nor operated to receive and subsequently transfer off-site-generated energy. An ESS must meet the standards put forth in the National Fire Protection Association’s NFPA 855, Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems, 2020 Edition, as amended and updated and comply with Massachusetts Fire Code 527 CMR 1.00 and the State Electrical Code 527 CMR 12.00.

(b) To ensure that local first responders are prepared for emergencies related to the ESS, the owner or operator shall arrange for and pay all the expenses for training, as needed, of Pelham fire, police, and emergency management personnel, as designated by the town to respond to an ESS- related emergency. Payment, in an amount approved by the Fire Chief, Police Chief, and Emergency Management Director, to cover all expenses of training above shall be due to the town by July 1; unspent funds will be credited to the following training session.

(c) In the case of an emergency related to the ESS, the operator shall provide the Town of Pelham with an emergency response team, at the operator’s expense, that has the necessary capacity, equipment and training to undertake the requirements of the emergency response plan.

(d) All means of shutting down the ESS shall be clearly marked.

(e) Spacing of energy storage units and other fire prevention installation measures for the ESS shall be designed and documented to follow current safety-related best practices to mitigate thermal runaway among energy storage units.

(f) Onsite water storage shall be available for firefighting adequate to the needs to mitigate thermal runaway at the ESS as indicated in the Hazard Mitigation Analysis specified in G., Required Application Materials.

(g) An ESS shall be designed so that in the instance of fire, noxious gases resulting from combustion will be contained or filtered, to the maximum extent practicable, mitigating the direct venting into the environment from containers or storage units associated with the ESS.

(h) Contaminated water runoff from firefighting and heat reduction efforts related to an ESS shall be contained onsite to prevent, to the maximum extent practicable, water infiltration into the soil to protect underlying or adjacent water systems.

(i) To mitigate the risk of water contamination in the case of emergency and in particular risks to public and private water supplies, the ESS shall comply with § 125-25 D. 5 of the Pelham Zoning Bylaw. Unless waived by the Planning Board, the ESS shall be sited no less than 400 feet from the nearest water well.

(j) Use of per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) for fire suppression associated with the ESS is prohibited given the federally and state recognized high risk of contamination of groundwater.

G. Required Application Materials

The project applicant shall provide the following documents.

(1) Required Pre-Submission Documents

(a) Project Notifications for Historic and Cultural Mitigation. The purpose of the project notifications is to provide a reasonable opportunity for knowledgeable parties to: comment on the project, inform the Phase I Cultural Resource Survey Report, or participate in the development of the Cultural Resource Management Plan. Notifications shall at a minimum include: the project name, a narrative description of the project; contact information for the applicant; most recent U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) map section (7.5 minute quadrangle) showing actual project location, a site map showing the Area of Potential Effect as defined by the National Historic Preservation Act, and a narrative including relevant historical or cultural information about the site.

(b) Project notifications shall be sent to the following parties: Massachusetts State Historical Commission; Pelham Historical Commission; the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) for tribes in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, New York, and New Hampshire listed by the U.S Department of the Interior and the National Conference of State Legislatures. If a tribal government or organization has no THPO, project notifications shall be sent to the appropriate tribal representative for that given tribal government. At a minimum, project notifications shall be sent to the following Tribal governments or their successors: Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head-Aquinnah, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians, Nipmuc Nation, Nipmuck Tribal Council of Chaubunagungamaug, Chappaquiddick Wampanoag Tribe, Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe, Mashantucket Western Pequot Tribal Nation, Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut, Narragansett Indian Tribe, Schaghticoke Tribal Nation, Elnu Abenaki Tribe of Vermont, Golden Hill Paugussett Indian Nation, Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, and Seneca Nation of Indians. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs or the Massachusetts Historical Commission so that the applicant can notify additional tribes that have historical ties to the Algonquian-speaking Indigenous people of

Western Massachusetts.

Project notifications shall be written with a requirement to respond within 45 days from date of receipt. A failure of parties to respond within 45 days from date of receipt shall allow the applicant to submit the special permit application under this § 125-18.2. Late responses shall be provided to the Planning Board.

(c) Phase I Cultural Resource Survey Report. The primary objective of a Phase 1 Cultural Resource Survey Report is to identify and record all cultural resources within a project area. This shall include locations of all known, mapped or suspected historic properties, Indigenous archaeological sites, or sites of Indigenous ceremonial activity, as well as documentation demonstrating the required Project Notifications in G.(1)(a-b) above and any received written responses to the notification. Identification of such sites shall be based upon all of the following: i) a determination of the Area of Potential Effects as defined by the National Historic Preservation Act - the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties; ii) cultural resource survey; iii) field work; iv) review of available records of historic or cultural properties; and v) review of information about suspected historic properties, including those of religious and cultural significance to an Indigenous community, and historic properties suggested by noticed parties.

The Planning Board strongly encourages the owner or applicant to allow appropriate site access to parties noticed in accordance with G.(1)(a-b) to determine the presence of historical resources and properties and to assess possible impacts. In the instance that the noticed parties are unable to gain access to the site and are therefore unable to submit comments based upon direct knowledge to the Planning Board, the lack of this documentation shall not be deemed to establish that there are no historical resources or properties present or that possible disruptions might not occur.

To protect the cultural resources, any reports deemed, by either the Massachusetts Historical Commission or the Pelham Historical Commission, to contain sensitive information about sites and specimens, as defined in section 26B of MGL Chapter 9, shall not be a public record. Any such reports shall be available only to the permitting authorities, the Pelham Historical Commission, the Massachusetts Historical Commission, any consulting Tribes, and the project applicant.

(2) Required Documents for Special Permit Submission

(a) A Site Plan additionally showing:

- (i) Locations of wetlands and surface water resources including hydrogeological modeling of groundwater systems.
- (ii) Location of BioMap 2, and when available BioMap 3, Core Habitats and Critical Natural Landscapes as designated by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP).
- (iii) Location of Habitat of Potential Regional and Statewide Importance located on Massachusetts Ecological Integrity Maps as maintained by the Dept. of Environmental Protection.
- (iv) Location of Priority Habitat as codified by MA Endangered Species Act (MESA)
- (v) Locations of local or National Historic Districts
- (vi) Locations of vegetative plantings
- (vii) Locations of stormwater management elements

- (b) A full report of all materials to be used, including but not limited to the use of cleaning products, paints or coatings, hydro-seeding, fertilizers, and soil additives. When available, Material Safety Data Sheets shall be provided.
- (c) Blueprints: Blueprints or drawings of the installation signed by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, showing: the proposed layout of the Installation and any potential shading from nearby structures and; one- or three-line electrical diagram detailing the Installation, associated components, and electrical interconnection methods, with all Massachusetts and National Electrical Code compliant disconnects and overcurrent devices.
- (d) General Documentation: The following information shall also be provided:
- (i) Name, address, and contact information for proposed installer of the Installation.
 - (ii) The name, contact information and signature of any agents representing the project applicant.
 - (iii) A list of any state or federally listed hazardous or known carcinogenic materials proposed to be located on the site in excess of household quantities and a plan to prevent their release to the environment as appropriate. In addition, if an ESS is included in the Installation, a list of materials that are flammable or toxic when burned shall be provided.
- (e) Site Control: The project applicant shall submit documentation of actual or prospective access and control of the project site sufficient to allow for construction and operation of the proposed Installation.
- (f) Operation and Maintenance Plan: The project applicant shall submit a plan for the operation and maintenance of the Installation (Operation and Maintenance Plan), which shall include measures for maintaining safe access to the Installation, stormwater management (consistent with DEP's and, where appropriate, Pelham's stormwater regulations and vegetation controls), as well as general procedures for operational maintenance of the installation. Plans for vegetative controls and stormwater management shall include regular annual inspection and maintenance. If an ESS is installed, operation and maintenance plans shall be provided for regular inspection, servicing, repair and renovation of the ESS.
- (g) Financial Surety: Applicants for Installations shall provide a form of surety, either through an escrow account, bond or otherwise, accessible to the Town of Pelham to cover the cost of removal in the event the Town must remove the Installation and remediate the site to its natural preexisting condition, in an amount and form determined to be reasonable by the SPGA, but in no event to exceed more than 125 percent of the cost of removal and compliance with the additional requirements set forth herein. The project applicant shall submit a fully inclusive estimate of the costs associated with removal, prepared by a qualified engineer. The amount shall include a mechanism for calculating increased removal costs due to inflation.
- (h) Utility Notification: Installations shall not be constructed, nor a building permit issued, until evidence has been provided to the Planning Board that the utility company that operates the electrical grid where the Installation is to be located has approved the Installation owner or operator's intent to install an interconnected customer-owned generator and that the utility has approved connection of the proposed generator into their power grid. Off-grid systems shall be exempt from this requirement. A signed copy of the interconnection service agreement with the utility company shall be submitted before the Installation may go into operation.
- (i) Proof of Liability Insurance covering risks associated with the Installation. In addition, if the Installation includes an ESS, proof of additional liability insurance shall be provided, adequate to

address costs associated with possible fires, explosions or water contamination, as identified in the Hazard Mitigation Analysis.

(j) Proof of Compliance. The applicant shall submit to the Planning Board evidence of compliance with local, state and federal permitting and procedures, as applicable. Proof of compliance shall be submitted regarding compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Mass. Wetlands Protection Act, Mass. Endangered Species Act, Mass. Environmental Protection Act, Mass. Forest Cutting Practices regulations, and the Pelham local Wetlands Bylaw. Submission of evidence for compliance or exemption, as relevant, will be required before construction of the Installation may begin.

(k) Noise Assessment. The applicant and owner shall submit a noise assessment by a qualified professional of the noise levels projected to be generated during construction and operation of the Installation, including for an ESS; a noise mitigation plan for construction and operation consistent with Massachusetts DEP Noise Control Regulation, 310 CMR 7.10; and a noise monitoring plan as it relates to residents and wildlife consistent with state or national best practices.

(l) A report by a qualified professional with demonstrated knowledge in hydrogeology that provides an estimate of how and the extent to which construction and operation of the Installation may affect water volume, water storage, and drinking water well recharge within 400 feet of property lines for the Installation.

(m) If appropriate for the site, a Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) or a Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) written by a professional with generally recognized credentials. The Planning Board encourages good faith engagement with interested parties to resolve adverse effects including development and evaluation of alternatives or modifications that could avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects. The applicant shall submit the CRMP or HPMP to the Planning Board and all parties noticed in G.(1)(a-b).

(n) Energy Storage System Plans and Documentation: For installations that include an ESS, the following documents shall be submitted:

(i) A site-specific Hazard Mitigation Analysis, conducted at the applicant's expense.

(ii) A written emergency response plan to be provided to Planning Board that is consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Hazard Mitigation Analysis and is approved by the Fire Chief, Police Chief, and the Emergency Management Director. The emergency response plan shall include the sequence of operations relative to ESS shutdown and emergency response intervention.

(iii) Material Safety Data Sheets for batteries and electrical components, and for fire suppression chemicals that would be used in the case of a fire at the ESS.

(iv) A copy of the project summary, electrical schematic, and site plan for the ESS, which shall be provided to the Pelham Fire Chief, Police Chief, and the Emergency Management Director in addition to the Planning Board.

(v) Fire and explosion prevention and mitigation information including venting system operation; location of detectors and types of detectors/sensors including manufacturer and model, accuracy, and sensitivity; suppression system design, including type of agent, system layout, application rate, and source.

(vi) Design specifications for: energy storage units including cells, modules, and rack systems including manufacturer and model and unit levels of storage cells; pertinent UL test data; energy storage containers including but not limited to the general physical layout relative to

doors, access panels, vents; interior layout of cabinets, racks, ductwork, compartmentation; ventilation system; construction materials; and exterior of containers including spacing between containers and the specifications of structural supports/foundations for the containers.

(3) Monitoring, Maintenance and Reporting

(a) Required Conditions :

- (i) The Installation owner or operator shall maintain the facility in good condition.
- (ii) Maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, painting, structural repairs, and preserving integrity of security measures.
- (iii) Site access shall be maintained to a level acceptable to the Pelham Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director.
- (iv) The owner or operator shall be responsible for the cost of maintaining the Installation and any access driveways.

(b) Annual Reporting:

- (i) The owner or operator of an Installation shall submit an annual report demonstrating and certifying compliance with the Operation and Maintenance Plan, the requirements of this Section 125-18.2 and the approved special permit, including but not limited to continued management and maintenance of vegetation, compliance with the approved plans and any special permit conditions, continuation of liability insurance, adequacy of road access, and the amount of electricity generated by the Installation. The annual report shall also provide information on maintenance completed during the course of the calendar year including maintenance of the physical site, vegetative controls, stormwater controls, electronic systems, fire prevention mechanisms if appropriate, and ESS. If an ESS is part of the Installation, the annual report shall include information about the amount of electricity stored and transferred by the ESS during the period reported.
- (ii) The report shall be submitted to the Select Board, Planning Board, Fire Chief, Emergency Management Director, Building Commissioner, Board of Health and Conservation Commission (if a wetlands permit was issued) no later than 45 days after the end of the calendar year.

(c) Discontinued Operations

- (i) Any Installation which has reached the end of its useful life, has been abandoned, or taken off line shall be physically removed no later than 150 days after the date of discontinued operations.
- (ii) The owner or operator shall notify the Special Permit Granting Authority (SPGA) by certified mail, of the proposed date of discontinued operations and plans for removal.
- (iii) Removal shall consist of physical removal of all components of the Installation, including but not limited to structures, foundations, equipment, security barriers, and on-site above-ground transmission lines. Associated off-site utility interconnections shall also be removed if no longer needed. Also required are: disposal of all solid and hazardous waste in accordance with local, state, and federal waste disposal regulations; and restoration of the site to its natural preexisting condition, including stabilization or re-vegetation of the site as necessary to minimize erosion. The SPGA may allow the owner or operator to leave landscaping or designated below-grade foundations and electric lines in order to minimize erosion and disruption to vegetation.

(iv) Removal by the Town: If the owner or operator of an Installation fails to remove it in accordance with the requirements of this Section 125-18.2 within 150 days of discontinued operations or abandonment, the Town, upon receiving a court order, may enter the property and physically remove the Installation at the owner's expense, drawing from the escrow account or upon the bond or other financial surety provided by the applicant.

H. Lapse of Approval: Any special permit shall automatically lapse if the Installation is not installed and functioning within two (2) years of the grant of the special permit or if the Installation shall be considered abandoned.

I. Enforcement: A violation of this Bylaw shall be subject to the enforcement provisions of the Town of Pelham Zoning Bylaw, Article VII and any adopted non-criminal disposition provisions.

Recommended by the Select Board.

(Motion to lay this article on the table was defeated by a vote of YES 16: NO 26)

Article 29.

VOTED unanimously to amend the Town of Pelham Zoning Bylaw by adding the following definitions to ARTICLE VIII, Section § 125-34, Definitions, or take any other action relative thereto.

Energy Storage System (ESS) shall mean any mechanical, thermal, electrical, chemical, electrochemical or other device that is operated to store energy for use by the utility grid or a backup system.

Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 30.

VOTED unanimously to amend the Town of Pelham Zoning Bylaw by adding a row for “Energy Storage System” in ARTICLE III, Section § 125-5, Table 1, Schedule of Use Regulations, as shown below, or take any other action relative thereto.

Land Use Classification	Zoning District					Notes
	Residential	Limited Business	Village Center Mixed-Use	Village Center Neighborhood	Village Center Rural Edge	Standards and Conditions
General Uses						
Energy Storage System (as a principal use)	N	N	N	N	N	See § 125-18.2

Article 31.

VOTED the following resolution:

Citizen's Petition

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution or take any other action relative thereto:

Whereas voters at the 2022 Annual Town meeting were not made aware that Pelham's share (\$82,350) of the debt authorization submitted by the Regional School Committee to rehabilitate the Regional track and field excluded Option 2 (expanding and reorienting the track with a natural turf field), leaving only a choice between Option 1 (just resurfacing the track) OR Option 3 (expanding and reorienting the track with an artificial turf field),

Whereas, Option 2 is expected to cost less than Option 3 both initially and in life cycle costs,

Whereas, the monetary goal set for fundraising was not met by the deadline of January 16, 2023,

Whereas, members of the Regional School Committee were not presented with sufficient information on the health, safety, and environmental dangers of artificial turf, including those related to PFAS, micro-plastics, heat-related injuries, skin and orthopedic injuries, negative impact on the biome and climate. and other issues,

Whereas the Boards of Health of Amherst and Pelham have both voted not to support artificial turf fields because of health and safety hazards,

Whereas artificial turf must be replaced at least every 8-10 years and there are currently no means to recycle these materials in the United States,

Whereas the figures presented show that artificial turf is twice as expensive as natural turf and that the costs of replacement, disposal, and new equipment to maintain artificial turf have not been included in the 10-year budget plan,

Whereas legislation supported by State Senator Jo Comerford and State Representative Aaron Saunders has been introduced or supported in order to ban PFAS in all forms from use in the Commonwealth and bans against PFAS and artificial turf have been enacted in other states and municipalities,

Whereas the Superintendent of Schools has indicated that numerous issues of poor maintenance exist for all playing fields and has enumerated the severe lapses in maintenance over several years,

Whereas a sufficient budget for training and performance for proper maintenance as well as actual maintenance should be submitted for either existing fields or proposed fields,

Whereas the funding necessary for construction of the artificial turf option is millions of dollars more than what has been secured, causing a delay of uncertain duration in initiating that project with resultant further cost escalation,

Whereas the estimated cost for the natural turf option is close to being secured if currently secured funds were to be directed toward either Option 1 or Option 2,

Now, therefore, the Town of Pelham hereby requests that the Regional School Committee fund either Option 1 or Option 2 but *not* Option 3 for the rehabilitation of the track and field at the high school.

The business of the warrant having been completed, the meeting voted to dissolve at 2:37 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, 2023. 82 voters were checked in.

Attest:
Sandra J. Burgess
Town Clerk



Annual Town Report of 2023

Annual Town Election, May 16, 2023

SELECT BOARD (One for Three Years)

TARA A. LOOMIS	78
All Others	1
Blanks	4
TOTAL	83

PLANNING BOARD (One for Five Years)

STACEY YARUSS McCULLOUGH*	2
All Others	3
Blanks	78
TOTAL	83

BOARD OF ASSESSORS (One for Three Years)

WILLIAM S. COLLINS	78
All Others	0
Blanks	5
TOTAL	83

LIBRARY TRUSTEES (Two for Three Years)

ROBERT J. GRAVES	75
DIANE GRAY	77
All Others	0
Blanks	14
TOTAL	166

BOARD OF HEALTH (One for Three Years)

MELISSA A. NAZZARO	78
All Others	0
Blanks	5
TOTAL	83

AUDITOR (One for One Year)

FAILURE TO ELECT#	
All Others	2
Blanks	81
TOTAL	83

SCHOOL COMMITTEE (Two for Three Years)

RICHARD T. FANNING	78
SARAHBESS KENNEY	71
All Others	2
Blanks	15
TOTAL	166

#Two write-ins received one vote each

CEMETERY COMMISSION (One for Three Years)

CYDNIE REIMAN*	36
All Others	2
Blanks	45
TOTAL	83

SCHOOL COMMITTEE (One for Two Years)

FAILURE TO ELECT#	
All Others	4
Blanks	79
TOTAL	83

MODERATOR (One for One Year)

DANIEL E. ROBB*	20
All Others	1
Blanks	62
TOTAL	83

#Four write-ins received one vote each

Registered Voters	1051
Ballots Cast	83
VOTER TURNOUT	7.90%
*WRITE-IN	



Annual Town Report of 2023

Fall Special Town Meeting Results, October 14, 2023

The special town meeting was called to order by Moderator, Daniel Robb, at 10:00 a.m. at the Old Pelham Town Hall. Due to health concerns with rising cases of COVID, the meeting voted to adjourn to an outside location at the Pelham Elementary School. Special Town Meeting resumed at 10:25 a.m. The Moderator asked Town Meeting to observe a minute of silence in recognition of those that came before us and for all the suffering in the Middle East.

Article 1. VOTED unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Building Maintenance account for Fiscal Year 2024.

Article 2. VOTED unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to be added to the Reserve account to cover unanticipated expenses incurred by the Town.

Article 3. VOTED to appropriate from available Community Preservation funds the amount of \$250,000 in support of Amethyst Brook Apartments, the Home City Development, Inc. affordable rental housing project at 20-22 Amherst Road. (Motion to reduce amount to 150,000.00 was defeated)

The business of the warrant having been completed, the meeting voted to dissolve at 11:26 a.m. on Saturday, October 14, 2023.

Attest:
Melissa A Hibbard, Town Clerk



Annual Town Report of 2023

Accountant

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance Budget and Actual for the Year Ended June 30, 2023

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	Variance Favorable <u>(Unfavorable)</u>
<u>Revenues</u>			
Taxes:			
Real estate	\$3,943,145	\$3,887,952	\$ (55,193)
Personal property	271,186	271,204	18
Tax liens redeemed	-	2,175	2,175
Motor vehicle and other excise	150,000	154,450	4,450
Penalties and interest	30,000	9,721	(20,279)
Payments in lieu of taxes	429,000	429,531	531
Intergovernmental:			
Federal	7,300	995	(6,305)
State	519,592	557,468	37,876
Departmental revenues	24,500	14,490	(10,010)

Earnings on invested funds	1,100	7,824	6,724
Court fines	5,500	4,895	(605)
Miscellaneous	-	11,628	11,628
Total Revenues	<u>5,381,323</u>	<u>5,352,333</u>	<u>(28,990)</u>

Expenditures

General government	537,613	456,908	80,705
Protection of persons and property	386,944	362,965	23,979
Education	3,116,607	2,878,217	238,390
Public works and facilities	471,161	463,696	7,465
Human services	91,423	36,984	54,439
Culture and recreation	57,668	56,649	1,019
Debt service	69,525	69,525	-
Intergovernmental expenses	23,994	30,518	(6,524)
Miscellaneous	532,969	472,836	60,133
Total Expenditures	<u>5,287,904</u>	<u>4,828,298</u>	<u>459,606</u>

Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues

Over Expenditures	<u>93,419</u>	<u>524,035</u>	<u>430,616</u>
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Other Financing Sources (Uses)

Operating transfers in	30,095	32,560	2,465
Operating transfers out	<u>(627,016)</u>	<u>(627,016)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>(627,016)</u>	<u>(594,456)</u>	<u>2,465</u>

Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and

Other Sources Over Expenditures and Other Uses	<u>(533,597)</u>	<u>(70,421)</u>	<u>433,081</u>
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Fund Balance - Beginning of Year \$1,754,615

Fund Balance - End of Year \$1,684,194

**Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
All Governmental and Trust Funds for the Year Ended June 30, 2023**

	<u>Governmental Funds</u>			<u>Fiduciary Funds</u>		Totals
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Expendable Trusts	Non- Expendable Trusts	
<u>Revenues</u>						
Taxes:						
Real estate	\$ 3,887,952					\$3,887,952
Personal property	271,204					271,204
CPA			87,384			87,384
Tax liens redeemed	2,175		32			2,207
Motor vehicle and other excise	154,450					154,450
Penalties and interest	9,721		149			9,870

Payments in lieu of taxes	429,531					429,531
Intergovernmental:						
Federal	995	334,828				335,823
State	557,468	930,689		5,468		1,493,625
Departmental revenues	14,490					14,490
Charges for Services		27,298				27,298
Earnings on invested funds	7,824	296		118,119		126,239
Court fines	4,895					4,895
Miscellaneous	11,628	25,164		11,822		48,614
Total Revenues	\$5,352,333	\$1,405,840		\$135,409		\$6,893,582
<u>Expenditures</u>						
General government	\$456,908	89,028	34,913			\$580,849
Protection of persons and property	362,965	13,055	78,393			454,413
Education	2,878,217	434,006	24,756			3,336,979
Public works and facilities	463,696	75,911	20,743			560,350
Human services	36,984	2,601				39,585
Culture and recreation	56,649	22,396		17,929		96,974
Debt service	69,525					69,525
Intergovernmental expenses	30,518					*
Miscellaneous	472,836					472,836
Total Expenditures	\$4,828,298	\$636,997	\$158,805	\$17,929		\$5,642,029
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues						
Over Expenditures	524,035	768,843	(158,805)	117,480		1,251,553
<u>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</u>						
Operating transfers in	32,560		171,000	463,102		666,662
Operating transfers out	(627,016)		(39,646)	0		(666,662)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(594,456)	-	131,354	463,102		0
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Other Sources Over Expenditures and Other Uses						
	(70,421)	768,843	(27,451)	580,582		1,251,553
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	1,754,615	1,888,225	307,757	2,352,321	37,851	6,340,769
Fund Balance - End of Year	\$ 1,684,194	\$ 2,657,068	\$ 280,306	\$ 2,932,903	\$ 37,851	\$7,592,322

Special Revenue Funds
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances for the Year
Ended June 30, 2023

	Fund Balance <u>Beginning</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	Total <u>Available</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	Fund Balance <u>Ending</u>
<u>School Programs</u>					
School Lunch	90,139	102,113	192,252	19,219	173,033
School Choice	620,441	525,306	1,145,747	250,000	895,747
Federal REAP Grant	2,694	26,785	29,479	27,785	1,694
ESSER (COVID) Grant	19,484	41,602	61,086	53,859	7,227
Mental Health Grant	(10,563)	59,418	48,855	43,572	5,283
SPED Program Improvement	(1,320)		(1,320)	1,853	(3,173)

FY22 Summer Academy	600		600	600	-
Students Social Emotional Grant		39,350	39,350	27,213	12,137
After School Childcare	(3,499)		(3,499)	1,606	(5,105)
Pre School Program	(13,985)		(13,985)	15,028	(29,013)
Teacher Quality	1,352	1,058	2,410		2,410
Student Activities	5,255	2,015	7,270	7,442	(172)
School Times Mirror	489		489		489
Rental of School Facilities	14,679		14,679		14,679
J Brooks Adventure Fund	11,166	469	11,635	228	11,407
One8 Foundation	381	1,250	1,631	891	740
RCAP Water Bottle Filling Grant	3,372		3,372		3,372
Rural State Grant		9,192	9,192	3,500	5,692
School Gift Fund	11,820	3,195	15,015	4,167	10,848
Total School Programs	752,505	811,753	1,564,258	456,963	1,107,295

Other Special Revenues

Road Construction	(116,150)	194,762	78,612	75,910	2,702
Cultural Council	7,612	5,555	13,167	9,287	3,880
Council on Aging	8,524	6,500	15,024	3,017	12,007
Wetlands Protection	-	50	50	16	34
Amethyst Brook Reviews	500		500		500
Cable Franchise-Appropriated	15,187	10,589	25,776	8,511	17,265
Cable Franchise-Unappropriated	24,329	18,670	42,999	14,861	28,138
Compost Bins	1,120		1,120		1,120
MVP Planning Grant	(8,279)		(8,279)		(8,279)
Dept. Of Justice Equitable Grant	4,968		4,968		4,968
Community Hall Gifts	23,708		23,708		23,708
Multiplex Gift	3,787	175	3,962	94	3,868
Library Children Book Gifts	100	4,256	4,356	3,795	561
Community Garden Expense	211		211		211
Historic Commission Gift	1,175		1,175		1,175
Other Gifts	1,035	931	1,966		1,966
ARPA Relief Fund	186,889	196,719	383,608	16,689	366,919
Other Public Safety Grants	8,247	1,671	9,918	1,671	8,247
Public Health Grant	2,728		2,728		2,728
Opioid Grant	270		270		270
Septic Repair Loan Program	95,804		95,804		95,804
Inspection Revolving Funds	72,368	30,727	103,095	18,750	84,345
Website Improvement Grant	2,000		2,000		2,000
Conservation Commission Revolving	1,897	50	1,947	343	1,604
Police Drug Forfeiture	2,097		2,097		2,097
Other	1,185	28	1,213		1,213
Total Other Special Revenue	341,312	470,683	811,995	152,944	659,051
Total Special Revenue Funds	\$1,093,817	\$1,282,436	\$2,376,253	\$ 609,907	\$1,766,346

Combining Balance Sheet Year Ended June 30, 2023

Fiduciary Account

	Governmental Fund Types		Proprietary Fund Types			Fund Types	Group s	Totals
	General Fund	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Internal Services	Trust and Agency	Long- term Debt	(Memorandum Only)
Pooled Cash	1,797,526	1,888,225.69	307,757.35			838,131.87		4,831,640.91
Personal property taxes	492							492.00
Real estate taxes	110,676							110,676.00
Allowance for abatements & exemptions	(148,404)							(148,404.09)
Tax liens	63,357	298.64						63,655.64
Motor vehicle excise	43,152							43,152.00
Other excises								0.00
User fees								0.00
Utility liens added to taxes								0.00
Departmental								0.00
Special assessments								0.00
Due from other governments	67,936							67,936.12
Accounts Receivable	11,836	487.25						12,323.25
Foreclosures/Possessions	30,751							30,750.75
Amount to be Provided for Bonds							180,000.00	180,000.00
								0.00
Total Assets	1,977,322	1,889,011.58	307,757.35	0.00	0.00	838,131.87	180,000.00	5,192,222.58

Warrants payable								0.00
Accounts payable	98,767							98,767.00
Accrued payroll	23,340							23,340.00
Withholdings								0.00
Accrued claims payable								0.00
Due to/from other funds								0.00
Due to other governments								0.00
Unclaimed Checks (Tailings)	3,062							3,062.00
Deferred revenue:								
Real and personal property taxes	(37,235)							(37,235.00)
Tax liens	63,457	298.64						63,755.64
Foreclosures/Possessions	30,751							30,750.75

								43,152.0	
Motor vehicle excise	43,152							0	
Other excises								0.00	
Departmental								0.00	
Special assessments								0.00	
Due from other governments								0.00	
Other receivables - CPA	487.25							487.25	
Deposits receivable								0.00	
Prepaid taxes/fees								0.00	
Tailings	3,062							3,062.05	
						(196,57		(196,579	
Agency Funds						9.17)		.17)	
Notes payable								0.00	
Bonds payable							240,0	240,000.	
Vacation and sick leave liability							00.00	00	
								0.00	
Total Liabilities	228,356	785.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	(196,57	240,0	272,562.	52

Reserved for encumbrances	193,567							193,566.	
Reserved for expenditures	282,615	1,410,5						69	
		47.35						1,693,16	
			307,7					2.35	
Reserved for continuing appropriations			57.35					307,757.	
Reserved for appropriations						1,034,7		35	
						11.04		1,034,71	
						1,355,4		1.04	
Reserved for OPEB						61.59		1,355,46	
Reserved for appropriation deficit	(280)							1.59	
Reserved for snow and ice deficit								(279.61)	
Reserved for COVID-19 deficit								0.00	
Reserved for debt service	38,072							0.00	
Reserved for premiums								38,072.1	
Reserved for working deposit								8	
Undesignated fund balance	1,240,641	477,67						0.00	
		8.34						0.00	
Unreserved retained earnings								1,718,31	
Investment in capital assets								8.85	
Total Fund Equity	1,754,615	1,888,2	307,7	0.00	0.00	2,390,1	72.63	0.00	6,340,77
		25.69	57.35						0.44
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	1,982,971	1,889,0	307,7	0.00	0.00	2,193,5	240,0	6,613,33	2.96
		11.58	57.35			93.46	00.00		

PROOF BALANCE SHEET IS IN BALANCE	5,649	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,355,4	60,00	1,421,11
						61.59	0.00	0.38

**PROOF FUND BALANCE
DETAIL**

AGREES TO THE BALANCE SHEET	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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PROOF RECEIVABLES DETAIL AGREES TO THE BALANCE SHEET

0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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Annual Town Report of 2023

Animal Control

Dogs not claimed and rehomed: 9

Nuisance dog calls: 68

These calls are for dogs that are let out unsupervised and leave their yard causing problems for neighbors. Specifically, the calls are for dogs that are bothering chickens by chasing them when they are walking with their family, dogs that are biting when someone stops and tries to help, and dogs that chase people riding on horses. There are only a few calls, but all are preventable.

Cats HBC: 6

Wildlife calls: 16

This year there were 57 cats living in and around a house that needed to be relocated. This was accomplished with help from one of the neighbors on Meetinghouse Road. I worked with a local rescue who assisted in finding homes for them and a friend who bottle fed the three babies that were found in the house without their mother.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Long, Animal Inspector & Dog Officer



Annual Town Report of 2023

Anti-Racism Advisory Committee

The Anti-Racism Advisory Committee (ARAC) was created by the Select Board in 2020. Its mission “is to examine the Town of Pelham’s policies and bylaws through an anti-racist lens and provide feedback that both counters systemic racism and advocates for equity within our community.” (Mission Statement)

ARAC and the Select Board jointly hosted a forum on policing in April 2023. ARAC took the lead in recommending the topics and participants for the Forum. Although there is not a public safety problem in Pelham, many communities are using community responders to assist in some policing activities. The Forum provided the opportunity for residents and others to learn what community responders do, and to talk about whether it is something Pelham wants to consider. Since the forum, ARAC has stayed in touch with Amherst and several smaller towns in the vicinity, to learn what they are doing. ARAC will keep the Select Board informed about what it learns.

In the field of Education, ARAC has focused on equity, looking for ways to help students to succeed who are struggling to learn. The use of new curricula for reading and mathematics in the Pelham and Amherst public schools is anticipated to improve the learning process for all students. ARAC will monitor information concerning how well students are

performing under the new curricula, and the extent to which information obtained from common assessments is being used to help students fill in any gaps in their learning.

In the spring and fall of 2023, ARAC arranged for workshops which focused on exploring ourselves as racial beings and, in a separate session, on understanding white supremacy. This year ARAC expects to arrange for a workshop to be presented during the fall that will assist Town personnel to identify, and respond appropriately to racial issues, whether it be in a bylaw or regulation, policies or procedures.

More generally, ARAC will prepare a list of means that have been used to support increasing the diversity of a community. This will serve as a basis for ARAC to discuss how likely it is that a proposal, if approved, would increase diversity in the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Jean-Louis, Roy Regozin, Patricia Schumm, Anne Stoddard, Corine Tachtiris - Members



Annual Town Report of 2023

Board of Assessors

Robert “Rusty” Rowell – Chairman

Gwen Hubler

William Collins

Lori Turati- Assistant Assessor

Meetings are the first and third Tuesday of every month, except for July and August where they occur on the 3rd Tuesday for those months. Meetings are held at 6:30 pm in the Rhodes Building at 351 Amherst Road. Contact the Assistant Assessor with any questions at 413-253-0734.

NEW OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays, 9:00am-noon and by appointment, (413) 253-0734

The Assessor’s office is responsible for keeping accurate data on all real estate and personal property in town and assessing both at market value as set forth in Massachusetts State Law. Our office handles tax exemptions for the elderly, surviving spouses and minor children, blind, disabled veterans and deferrals. We process abatements for eligible taxpayers for motor vehicle excise, real estate, and personal property. We continue to verify and collect data on all real estate and personal property in town.

The Board of Selectmen held the tax classification hearing on November 20, 2023 and voted a single tax rate for all residential and commercial properties in the Town of Pelham. The tax rate for FY2024 is \$17.52 per thousand dollars of valuation for all properties in town.

Maintenance of current and accurate property inventory data is a critical element in the development of uniform, fair market values. The last certification review indicated that the Board of Assessors needed to continue with a cyclical reinspection program of all descriptive property data over a six-year time period (2022- 2028), so that each parcel is inspected at least once in every nine-year cycle. Throughout the year a representative of the Board of Assessors will be out to photograph properties and verify data on property record cards. The board also recommends that property owners check their property record cards every year to verify the data. It is the responsibility of the property owner to be sure the data is correct.

The Board of Assessors meets regularly as posted. Meetings are open to the public; however, any person who desires to meet with the Board should call and make an appointment to be put on the agenda.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The Assessor's office processed the following applications for exemptions, motor vehicle abatements and Real estate abatements for fiscal year 2023 and calendar 2022.

FY 2023 Statutory Exemptions granted:

- 4 – 41C (senior) \$3868.03 CPA \$109.14
- 7 – 22 (veteran) \$6200.00 CPA \$186.00
- 3 – 17D (senior or surviving spouse) \$1050.00
- 0 – 37A (blind)
- 0 – 41A (deferral)

FY 2023 Real Estate abatements granted (at time of this printing):

- 5 - Totaling \$5600.99 Real Estate CPA \$166.75

FY 2023 Low/Moderate Income Exemption for the CPA surcharge

- 5- Totaling \$448.94

2022 Motor Vehicle Excise abatements:

- 28 - Totaling \$2616.64

Applications for each listed above can be picked up at the Assessor's office or call 253-0734 to have one mailed.

Real Estate abatement applications and Low / Moderate Income Exemptions for the Community Preservation Surcharge must be filed with assessors not later than April 1st for the fiscal year.

Exemption applications for Seniors, Surviving Spouses, Veterans, Blind and Deferrals must be filed with assessor on or before December 15 or by April 1st after actual (**not** preliminary) tax bills are mailed for fiscal year if later.

Motor vehicle excise abatement applications must be received by the assessors within three years after the excise was due, or one year after the excise was paid, whichever is later. **Filing an abatement does not stay the collection of your excise bill.** To avoid interest, charges and collection action, including non-renewal of your registration, you must pay the bill in full within 30 days of its issue date. You will receive a refund if abatement is granted. NOTE: You are not entitled to abatement if you (1) cancel your registration and retain ownership of the vehicle, or (2) move to another Massachusetts city or town, during the calendar year. No excise may be reduced to less than \$5.00. No abatement or refund of less than \$5.00 may be made.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Turati, Assistant Assessor



Annual Town Report of 2023

Building Inspector

2023 construction has led to a record number of building permits once again. Building permits were issued to create 36 new dwelling units. This is mostly due to the housing project on Amherst Rd. Another project of note is the replacement of the Centennial Water Treatment Plant for the Town of Amherst. Both of these projects have contributed greatly to the total cost of construction in Pelham this year. January 2023 was the start of a new Energy Code with a new Building Code expected in 2024.

During 2023 the following number and types of permits were issued:

8	Woodstoves/Pellet Stoves	13	Window/Door Replacements
1	Additions	0	Siding
2	New Single Family Homes	1	New Commercial/Municipal
1	Pools	11	Photo-Voltaic Arrays/Solar Hot Water
0	Demolitions	23	Insulation
11	Renovations	1	Tent
5	Alterations	4	Sheet metal/Mechanical
2	Decks	1	Cell Tower Alteration(generator)
2	Shed	<u>2</u>	<u>New Multi-Family Apartments</u>
1	Repair		
3	Porches		
0	Barns/Garages	103	Total
11	Roofs		

The estimated value of building construction for building permits issued during 2023 was \$11,541,887.

Once again I look forward to serving the people of Pelham in the coming year as new energy and building codes will come into existence.

Respectfully Submitted,
David Waskiewicz, Pelham Building Inspector



Annual Town Report of 2023

Cemetery Commission

The Pelham Cemetery Commission is charged with maintaining the cemeteries for which the town is responsible: Arnold, Cook-Johnson, Harkness, Knight's Corner, Mt. Lincoln, North Valley, Pelham Hill, Quaker (jointly with the Historical Commission), and Stevens. The cemeteries of Pelham are maintained for historical reasons and the use of Pelham residents. The only currently-active cemetery is North Valley. The commission met eight times in 2023.

In 2023:

- There were no full burials, and six cremation burials.
- The cemeteries were mowed/trimmed and stones straightened as necessary throughout the growing season, and trees removed as necessary.
- Flags were placed at the graves of about 150 known Veterans and at cemetery entrances prior to Memorial Day. Currently, flags are provided by the VFW.
- Thanks go to everyone who mowed and weed-whacked.

Respectfully,
Scott Barton, Chair; J.Philip Zahradnik, Secretary.

Annual Town Report of 2023

Collector

	FY	Uncollected 07/01/22	Commitments	Collections	Refunds	Abatements/ Exemptions	Put into Tax Title	Uncollected 06/30/23
Real Estate	2023	0.00	3,943,144.96	3,877,422.47	0	0	0	65,722.49
	2022	97,067.00	0.00	72,953.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	24,113.40
	2021	107,814.87	0.00	69,067.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	38,747.22
	total	204,881.87	0.00	142,021.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	62,860.62
CPA	2023	0.00	88,697.63	69,817.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	940.48
	2022	2,680.99	0.00	1,740.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	940.48
	2021	940.48	0.00	615.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	324.62
	total	3,621.47	0.00	2,356.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,265.10
Personal Property	2023	0.00	271,186.25	271,186.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Motor Vehicle	2023	0.00	173,204.92	155,271.80		2,150.62	0.00	15,782.42
	2022	87,084.40	0.00	72,310.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,774.25
	2021	12,063.00	0.00	7,850.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,212.43
	2020	4,136.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,136.14
	2019	717.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	717.14
	2018	506.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	506.00
	total	104,506.68	173,204.92	235,432.52	0.00	2,150.62	0.00	40,128.46
	grand total	313,010.02						104,254.18

Annual Town Report of 2023

Community Garden Committee

At the Pelham Community Garden, it was business as usual this past year. With all the rain we had, the Pelham Fire Dept. only came once to fill the water tanks located at the garden. The Pollinator garden (part of the Community Garden project) provides a year round haven for birds and insects.

Wendi Weinberg will be stepping down as the Treasurer and Secretary of the Community Garden. Theresa Smith will be filling those roles beginning in 2024. The Garden Committee thanks Wendi for her years of managing those two positions. In addition, Cyd Reiman will be sharing the Chairperson’s position with Chris Bain starting in 2024.

2023 EXPENSES : \$0

2023 RECEIPTS : Plot donations : \$125.00

Other donations : \$50.00

Total receipts :\$ 175.00

Respectfully submitted by the Pelham Community Garden Committee: Cyd Reiman & Chris Bain (Co-Chairs), Sue Tippet, Wendi Weinberg, Theresa Smith (Treasurer & Secretary)



Annual Town Report of 2023

Community Hall Committee

No report submitted.



Annual Town Report of 2023

Community Preservation Committee

Come to our meetings!

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) meets on every third Thursday of the month from 6 to 7:30 pm. Our meetings are open to the public and can be attended virtually by finding the agenda and Zoom link on the *MyTownGovernment* site for Pelham, (mytowngovernment.org/01002).

Just go to the *Boards and Committees* menu and select the *Community Preservation Committee*. On that page you will see the agendas and minutes of past meetings, plus the agenda for any upcoming meetings that have been scheduled. At the end of each agenda is the Zoom link for that meeting.

Also available on the CPC page of the *MyTownGovernment* site is a link to the *Pelham MA CPC* website where you can find documents with information pertaining to a range of Pelham CPA issues.

Public Information Hearing!

Was held on February 16, 2023 at 7 pm, to hear the needs, possibilities and resources of the town regarding community preservation. Find the agenda and minutes at Pelham's *MyTownGovernment* website (mytowngovernment.org/01002). Topics covered at the public information hearing were the application for the Pelham School Playground upgrade and the application for purchasing two building lots as part of the Cadwell Street Homeownership application. Also discussed were four other articles that will appear on the warrant for our spring Town Meeting.

Responsibilities of the Committee

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) administers a state/town-funded program under the state Community Preservation Act (CPA). The program is funded through an annual 3% surcharge on each property owner's tax bill. The state annually matches, dollar for dollar, the funds collected by the town from the surcharge at a variable total percentage.

Latest Revenues Reported in 2023

Local Surcharge: \$87,816.53

State Match: \$80,487.00

The CPC is authorized to fund town-meeting-approved projects that meet town needs in the areas of Open Space and Recreation, Historic Preservation, and Community Housing. At least 10% of each year's income from the combined town surcharge and state match must be reserved for each of the three authorized areas of town needs. CPC funds can accumulate and be spent over future years.

**FY2023 Activity: Town Meeting actions and end of fiscal year fund balances.
Spring Town Meeting May 14, 2022**

Article 9.

VOTED unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate and transfer the following sum of money from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues for Community Preservation Committee administrative expenses in FY2024 in the amount of \$3,500. - Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 10.

VOTED unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate and transfer the following sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues, and to reserve for later appropriation; \$16,000 for Open Space; \$16,000 for Community Housing; and \$16,000 for Historic Resources; and to reserve for later appropriation \$50,000 to the FY2024 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve. - Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 11.

VOTED unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$17,250 from the Open Space and Recreation Fund for the Pelham Elementary School Playground Committee’s application to hire Berkshire Design Group to conduct a feasibility study for improvements to the Pelham Elementary School playground to bring it into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). - Recommended by the Select Board.

Article 12.

VOTED unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$70,000, of which \$40,200 shall be from Pelham’s FY23 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve, \$14,700 shall be from the Community Housing Fund, and \$15,100 shall be from the Undesignated Fund, for the Cadwell Street Homeownership application submitted by Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity. - Recommended by the Select Board.

End of fiscal year CPA Fund Balances as of June 30, 2023

Note: Amounts reserved at the May 14 Town Meeting were added to the 3 categories on July 1, 2023

Encumbered for Active Projects:	\$333,003.05
Reserved for Open Space/Recreation:	\$119,893.00
Reserved for Historic Resources:	\$78,643.00
Reserved for Community Housing:	\$0.00
Reserved for Undesignated Fund:	\$358,797.84

Total CPA Fund Balance: \$890,337.29

Respectfully submitted by the Community Preservation Committee:

Members:

*Cydnie Reiman, at-large
James Lumley, at-large
Barbara Cooper, Housing
Joseph Larson, Historical*

*Judith Eiseman, Planning
Richard Seelig, Conservation
Thomas Fanning, Recreation (CPC committee
Chair)*



Annual Town Report of 2023

Conservation Commission

The Pelham Conservation Commission, established in 1970 under the State's Conservation Commission Act of 1957 (MGL 40 s. 8C), serves as the principal conservation authority for Pelham. The Commission administers the MA Wetlands Protection Act (MGL 131 s. 40), which governs all work (land alteration) in wetlands and 100-ft buffer zones as defined by this law. In addition, the Commission administers the Town's Wetland Bylaw (Chapter 119) enacted to further ensure that wetlands are protected from uses that could result in damage to wildlife habitat, water supplies, flood control, and other important values. The Commission reviews Forest Cutting Plans approved by the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) under the Forest Cutting Practices Act (MGL 132 s.40-46). The Commission duties also include open space protection and management, and environmental education.

During 2023 the Commission continued to function under some pandemic measures, including meeting mostly by Zoom, but also some hybrid meetings as well. MA government has allowed the continuation of remote meetings for Conservation Commissions. The Commission meets every 2nd and last Thursday of the month. We held 18 meetings and numerous site visits in 2023. Members include Dana MacDonald, Chair; Tilman Lukas, Vice-Chair; David Gross, Secretary; Richard Seelig and Janice Gifford. Thom Martens was an Associate Member for a few months this year as well. Janice Stone is the Conservation Agent.

2023 Actions & Activities

The Commission reviewed a number of sites for prospective projects and issued four Advisory Assessment Letters, one Determination, and one Certificate of Compliance for a completed project. Some sites were also determined to be outside the Commission's jurisdiction and did not require any permit.

Two previously permitted large construction projects began site work this year. These are the Amherst Centennial Water Treatment Plant reconstruction at 86 Amherst Rd. and the new affordable housing project known as Amethyst Brook Apartments at 20-22 Amherst Rd. The Commission reviewed final plans, attended some construction meetings and did site visits. Both sites will be active for a couple of years and will continue to require oversight.

The Commission continued to monitor two Enforcement sites, which involved the Town as well as the Commission. The trespass off Harkness Rd was resolved, and the cleanup and restoration on Meetinghouse Rd are underway. A new illegal dumping site was determined to be across the town line in Shutesbury.

The Commission met with the Board of Health to discuss the new town septic system regulations. Plans for all new and replacement or repair septic systems need to be reviewed by the Commission, to confirm whether they are within the Commission's wetland jurisdiction. The

Commission met with Jennifer Fish, the DCR Service Forestry Director, about the role of the Commission in the review and monitoring of Forest Cutting Plans in Pelham.

The Commission discussed ways to control invasive plants on Conservation land, and replaced signs at Cook Rd and Buffam Falls Conservation Areas. The Commission worked with Kestrel Land Trust on creating a Conservation Restriction on 3 parcels in the northwest section of town.

The Commission responded to several questions and requests of town residents involving beaver activity, dumping of materials, and other similar issues.

Respectfully submitted to the Town,
Pelham Conservation Commission



Annual Town Report of 2024

Council on Aging

The Council on Aging is committed to helping the almost 500 older adults in Pelham age in place safely and with purpose. Ongoing programs include:

- *Free lockboxes to provide first responders access to a home in an emergency
- *Annual flu clinic *Monthly footcare clinic *Sand/salt delivery
- *Home delivery of library materials *Information table at the Pelham library

For information about these services and other programs that provide meals, transportation, fuel assistance, home health care and support to older adults in the community, contact Tracy Osbahr, COA Chair, at 413-531-9678.

The COA continues to explore ways to connect with folks in town, recognizing that not everyone uses the internet and few answer phone calls from unfamiliar numbers. An invitation to meet in person with COA members to share stories about Pelham and learn about useful resources was mailed to each resident who was 85+ years old. Two film events that provided different models of aging were offered in collaboration with the Pelham Library. Both “Cycle of Memory,” chronicling two siblings’ bicycle adventure to find the memories their grandfather lost to Alzheimer’s, and “Life with Bill,” showing the joy, love and humor a loved one with Alzheimer’s may still bring to their family, were well received. In Fall ’23, Nancy Rose Weeber led an 8-session “Life Story Writing” group for 10 older adults at the Pelham Library, with new sessions planned for Spring ’24.

We note the resignation of longtime COA member Grace Dane and Outreach Worker Sally Kaufmann and honor their service to the town and to the COA as we welcome the appointment of Karen Smith to the Council. The home delivered meals program has been taken over by Highland Valley Elder Services, which combined the Pelham route with Amherst households. Much appreciation goes to the Pelham drivers who faithfully delivered meals to fellow residents for several years.

COA meetings are held at 2 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at the Library Complex.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Osbahr (Chair), Nancy Rose Weeber (Clerk), Isabel Ryavec, Jane Porter,
Karen Smith



Annual Town Report of 2023

Cultural Council

No report submitted.



Annual Town Report of 2023

Energy Committee

The Energy Committee has spent the year helping the town to improve the performance of recent clean energy investments and lay the groundwork for more clean energy projects in the future.

Community Center-Library-Public Safety complex

In 2023, the Energy Committee continued to monitor the operation of the Community Center HVAC system, explore ways to improve the building envelope, adjust the operation of the HVAC system, and explore additional equipment options that may be needed.

- The Committee worked with Rick Adamcek to implement as many operational improvements as possible to improve the performance of the HVAC system in the Community Center. Rick has improved the air sealing in the building, installed thermal blinds in all windows in the building and reduced the boiler water temperature during those times when the boiler is needed. Altogether, these efforts have reduced building fuel oil use this winter significantly. A big improvement over last year.
- Early in 2024, an energy consultant will test the building air infiltration and search for infiltration sources that have been missed. They will also evaluate the quality and amount of insulation in the building.
- During 2023, the Energy Committee considered a number of other more significant options for improving the system Performance, including some from the Building and Construction Technology department at UMass. The committee recently submitted a grant application for a study of the cost and benefits of the various building options that are being considered.

Pelham Elementary School

In a few years the roof and the HVAC system in the Pelham Elementary School will both be due for replacement.

- The Energy Committee is working with the school district and the UMass Clean Energy Corps to evaluate possible options for energy-saving improvements in the Pelham School and for a new clean HVAC system to replace the current heating system. The UMass Clean Energy Corps is a group of students under the supervision of the UMass Building and Construction Technology department who will evaluate our energy-saving and HVAC options. Their evaluation will extend over the Spring semester, 2024.
- The Energy Committee got a full structural analysis and study of options for a solar PV system on the Pelham School in 2019. That estimate is currently being updated by RISE Engineering.

- The Pelham Elementary School has not been included in the Green Communities program “footprint” – the municipal buildings considered evaluating energy savings and eligible for Green Communities funding opportunities. In 2023, we began working with the Green Communities Program and the School District to include the school in the Green Communities scope and program. This will make the school eligible for possible future energy savings grants from the state.

Solar PV on Town Buildings

In 2023, the Energy Committee considered possibilities for installing solar PV on town buildings and over town parking lots. After searching for grant opportunities, we learned that grant funding for PV systems is difficult to find. The Green Communities program does not currently fund them, but there is a new program that does. The new state Climate Leaders program.

Climate Leader Community

Pelham has been a “Green Community” for a number of years. This has pushed us to reduce energy use and greenhouse emissions and provided funding opportunities to achieve those goals. As a consequence, the town had reduced its energy use by 17 % since 2012. The Energy Committee is currently considering taking steps to become designated as a “Climate Leader Community.” This is a designation that would ask more of the town than being a Green Community but also would provide access to larger grants and grants for PV systems. To become a Climate Leader Community, the town would have to take a variety of steps to confirm that town government will be net-zero by 2050. The steps include

- the development of a detailed Decarbonization Roadmap for making all sources of municipal greenhouse gas emissions net-zero by 2050,
- the adoption of the state’s Specialized Opt-In Building Code
- approval of a zero-emission first vehicle policy

The Committee will be exploring the details of the program in 2024 and a plan for meeting the requirements to be a Climate Leader Community.

Community Engagement

The main purpose of the energy committee has been to address the energy use of municipal buildings and equipment. The Energy Committee is starting to branch out to look at ways to support the residents of the town to transition to the clean technologies of the future: clean heating and clean transportation. We anticipate providing information about rebates and incentives, information about the technologies that are available, opportunities to meet vendors, and resources to ensure that new heat pumps that you install or vehicles that you buy fit with the way you live.

New Member Recruitment

We are always in need of members. Please consider volunteering.



Annual Town Report of 2024

Fence Viewers

Fence Viewers settle disputes between landowners regarding fences along common property lines. These are rare events today, so we are prepared to provide advice on fence issues in general and to assist residents locate evidence of the boundary lines and the corners of their property. Our “Handbook on Fence Viewers and Laws on Fences in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts”, published in 2004, may be obtained in digital form the Berkley Electronic Press by searching on the internet at http://works.bepress.com/joseph_larson.

Respectfully submitted, Joseph S. Larson



Annual Town Report of 2023

Finance Committee

Pelham is experiencing extremely troublesome rising budget requests due to inflation, wage adjustments, changes in energy sources, and the increasing complexity in running the town. Prior to the 2022 fiscal year, the Finance Committee would rarely see the increase in the total budget request be over \$150,000. Last year the requested increases totaled over \$200,000. This year that number was over \$300,000. This figure is almost three times what an increase based on the Proposition two and a half guidelines would reflect.

Last year the Finance Committee was able to reduce the tax increase to \$168,000. This was done by identifying requests that could be short term, ones that could reasonably be expected to be reduced in the next year, and ones that would unlikely increase in the following years. It was hoped that 2023 would be a more traditional year in terms of increases.

That hope did not materialize, and costs just continue to shoot upwards. The \$300,000 increase in requests for 2024 were led by the schools (\$83,000), Group Health Care (\$34,000), utilities in the Community Center (\$30,000), Snow and Ice (\$22,000), County Retirement (\$18,000), Police Department reorganization (\$18,000), and Highway Department supplies and road materials (\$15,000). The Finance Committee was able to again identify a number of expenses that could be reduced or moved to one time appropriation from Free Cash to reduce the tax burden. Even with these changes, the increase in taxes will need to be about \$200,000. This will be tempered a little with a few thousand additional dollars from the State through funding from “Unrestricted Aid to Cities and Towns” along with a few more thousands in additional revenue from the PILOT Program (Payment in Lieu of Taxes). These potential funding sources are based on the Governor’s budget released in early March. We still await the release of the House and Senate budgets later this Spring.

All taxable property in Pelham was re-evaluated in 2022 to bring the valuations up to current market values. This resulted in an increase in the assessed value of Pelham by about thirty five million dollars. If this had been the result of new investments such as businesses, stores, homes etc., it would be great news

since that would reflect new revenue. Since this is not the case, it means that the current homes and businesses have increased value and can be taxed for more revenue over time.

The Finance Committee members continue to struggle to meet the financial requests and obligations of the community with the inadequate revenue sources. Additional State Aid will help, but given our demographics and our wealth factor, Pelham does not fit any category of need in the eyes of the State. We strive to keep our tax increases within reasonable limits, but with the Town's finite revenue sources this is becoming more difficult each year. We may be faced with choosing between larger increases in taxes or cuts in services in the future unless Pelham can fundamentally change its financial trajectory by reducing costs through regionalization of services or other means, by increasing revenue through new growth and development, or by other options yet to be identified. A structured process for addressing these issues is beyond the scope of the Finance Committee. Ideally that process could start with the town identifying and prioritizing a list of values and objectives it would like to financially support and then generate alternatives based on the ranked priorities. Difficult tradeoffs are likely part of this discussion.

Respectfully Submitted: F. Vanderbeck, E. Marriott, C. Castenson and J. Trickey



Annual Town Report of 2024

Fire Department

I am pleased to submit the 2023 report of The Pelham Fire Department.

I would like to thank the members of the department who put in countless hours training and responding to calls to help the residents and visitors of Pelham. As I write this report, looking back on calls from this past year, I remember having multiple calls on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in 2023. Our members respond 24/7/365, often leaving family as holiday dinners are served, returning to a cold meal, but this crew would not trade it for anything, they thrive on helping others in a time of need.

Pelham Fire Department responded to 193 calls in 2023, a new record for our small department. The calls included:

114 Medical Calls	15 Fire Alarms
21 Motor Vehicle Accidents	5 Carbon Monoxide Alarms
3 Vehicle Fires	2 Water Problems
3 Structure Fires	2 Propane Problems
8 Mutual Aid Responses	3 Brush Fires
3 Smoke Investigations	4 Public Assists
9 Electrical / Tree Hazards	1 Technical Rescue

Members of Pelham Fire participated in over 1000 hours of training in 2023, as well as vehicle maintenance, station maintenance, and regular equipment checks to make sure we are ready to respond at a moment's notice.

In 2023 Pelham Fire conducted over 100 inspections including oil burners, propane tanks, smoke and co detector inspections on houses sold, solar panel and battery storage as well as plan review and meetings with 2 large construction projects in town.

All Pelham apparatus was professionally serviced and tested in 2023, including ladders, hose, SCBA and pumps.

The purchase of a new truck to replace the 2003 engine was approved at the annual town meeting. That truck is on order and is scheduled for delivery in February 2024. The 2003 engine will be traded in towards the purchase of the new truck.

Once again Pelham Fire participated in the Pelham PTO Trunk or Treat event by hosting a public safety open house at the same time.

Pelham Fire received a grant in 2023 from The Department of Fire Services to purchase 3 new sets of fire gear, making all our fire gear NFPA compliant. We will be applying for the same grant in 2024 to replace our thermal imager camera and other aging equipment. Pelham Fire was not successful in being awarded the federal fire grant in 2023 for new SCBA and replacement of our tanker, but we will be applying again in 2024.

We are in need of new members, if you are interested in helping your community, please contact us for more information or visit Pelhamfd.com

2023 Members

Dennis Nazzaro – Chief	Stephen Hall - Firefighter
Richard Hall – Deputy Chief	Peter Clough – Firefighter
David Hawkins – Lieutenant	Erich Hinlein – Firefighter
Jason Hall – Lieutenant	Jordan Helzer - Firefighter
	Rob Libiszewski - Firefighter

Sincerely, Dennis Nazzaro, Chief



Annual Town Report of 2023

Board of Health

Board of Health Members:

Name	Title
William Pula	Chairman
Melissa Nazzaro	Member
Richard Hall	Member

Mission Statement and Background:

The mission of the Pelham Board of Health is to address public health needs, protect and improve the health and quality of life in the community, offer education resources and promulgate and enforce local, State, and national regulations as required by law.

Through the Quabbin Health District the Pelham Board of Health is able to provide one full time Director of Public Health, Andrea Crete; one full time Administrative Assistant, Betty Barlow who staffs the Ware Board of Health office Monday – Friday from 8:30AM – 4PM; a full time Health Inspector John Prenosil; and a full time Public Health Nurse Kirsten Krieger.

The Quabbin Health District is a comprehensive regional health department serving the communities of Belchertown, Pelham, and Ware. The district was established in 1980 by a Town meeting vote and was formed under the Section 27A of Chapter 111 of the MGL. It is a joint effort by the three communities' local boards of health to provide their towns with the public health professionals and services needed to create healthy communities. The District provides public health services for the roughly 26,267 residents

within these communities' 120 square mile radius. The district provides each town with the shared personnel, equipment, and other resources to carry out the required public health duties.

The Quabbin Health District provides services to Pelham including but not limited to communicable and reportable disease surveillance via an online epidemiological network (MAVEN), public health investigations, public health messaging, 24-7 public health emergency response, seasonal flu vaccination clinics, tobacco control, substance abuse prevention programs, and State mandated public health inspections and complaint management. You can visit the Quabbin Health District website for more information on services at <http://quabbinhealthdistrict.com>

The Pelham Board of Health meets the Second Thursday of every month at 4:30PM in the Rhodes Building located at 351 Amherst Road, Pelham.

The report below details the services the Quabbin Health District provided to the Town of Pelham for the 2023 calendar year. Please contact the District by phone at 413-967-9561 or email bbarlow@townofware.com with any questions, comments, requests for additional information, and to relay any specific public health concerns in Pelham.

Administrative Assistant Report:

One duty of the Administrative Assistant is to advise applicants on requirements for permitting or licensure. Obtain the necessary information; record data; collect fees; and issue licenses or permits to applicants who qualify as determined by the pertinent inspector.

The following is a listing of the various permits which were issued by the Quabbin Health District office during 2023:

Food Establishment Licenses	2	Septic Installer Licenses	7
Milk & Cream Licenses	2	Septic Installations (new)	3
Mobile Home Park Licenses	1	Septic Installations (repair)	10
Septic Hauler Licenses	7	Plumbing Permits	27

Respectfully Submitted, Betty Barlow - Administrative Assistant

Board of Health Activity & Inspections Report:

Food Inspections	2
Nuisance Inspections	2
Housing Inspection	0
Housing Condemnations	0
Housing Court Appearance	1
Soil Testing	4
Septic Final Component Inspections	13
Septic System Plan Reviews (new construction)	0
Septic System Plan Reviews (Repair)	7
Well Application Review	1

Public Health Nursing Report:

The PHN is also responsible for and has been conducting MAVEN infectious disease surveillance. This requires checking in daily for notifications of infectious diseases occurring in Pelham. The types and numbers of communicable diseases reported in the Town of Pelham for 2023 are listed below. They are listed by the disease/illness and the number of cases (residents suspected, probably, and confirmed to have an infectious illness/disease).

Public Health Nurse Activities – Pelham – 2023

MAVEN Infectious Disease Surveillance

- MA Department of Public Health – Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiology Network
 - Worked with MA Department of Public Health on infectious disease case investigations

Infectious Illness	Date Range	Number of Cases
COVID-19 age < 18 yrs.	1/1/2023 – 12/31/2023	1
COVID-19 age < 18 years	1/1/2023 – 12/31/2023	6

to determine source of exposure to prevent outbreaks of infectious disease.

Educational Presentations:

- Dementia Friends Information Session at Pelham Public Library

COVID-19 Cases – Pelham

****Please note, at-home COVID-19 testing is not reported to MA DPH, therefore these numbers may not accurately represent community spread of COVID-19.*

*C = confirmed, P = probable****

2023 All Other MAVEN Infectious Illnesses Report for Pelham

Disease Name	Confirmed (C)	Probable (P)	Suspect (S)
Calicivirus/Norovirus	1	0	0
Influenza	2	0	0
Lyme Disease	0	1	0
Shiga toxin producing organism	1	0	0
Tuberculosis	1	0	0

Submitted by; Kirsten L Krieger RN, BSN, Public Health Nurse, Quabbin Health District

Respectfully Submitted, on Behalf of the Pelham Board of Health.

Andrea Crete MPH, RS
 Director of Public Health
 Quabbin Health District



Annual Town Report of 2023

Highway Department

The Highway Department had a very productive year in spite of all the rain. We managed to catch up on some projects that had been deferred over the last few years.

Summary of 2023 activities by building:

Community Center: Four of the fan coil units had flow switches replaced. The air handler unit in the Ramsdell Room needed a fan motor replaced and a heat pump controller unit replaced. New insulated blinds were installed in the Library and a circulation heat pump was replaced. The boiler needed a new fuel pump, burner relay, low water sensor, fuel lines, and ignitor installed. The Library rest rooms both had hand wash faucets replaced. Two new dehumidifiers were purchased with one installed in the Fire Training room and one installed in the boiler room. A condensate pump was replaced in one of the heat pumps. The water meter was also replaced.

Old Town Hall: Work was done on both toilets related to a new seat installation and the other replacement was a water tower. On the North side roof both valleys had to be stripped and re-shingled with snow and ice barriers installed. The gas fireplace had to be rewired because of mouse damage.

Community Hall: The furnace needed a draft blower motor and relay replaced. Window shades were restrained and window screens installed, with the kitchen ceiling painted, and the door stained. Brush on the north and east sides was cut and chipped. Outdoor lights were sanded and repainted.

Rhodes Building: Changes were made to four doors to secure the working areas of employees. A new dehumidifier was added to the boiler room. The fire alarms were also upgraded.

Highway Garage: A new blower motor was installed in its furnace. The fire alarms were also upgraded. The DPW staff helped remove the Eco Sculpture at the Elementary School and helped with winter clean up in the cemeteries. A stump was removed from Knight's cemetery followed by spreading of loam and re-seeding the area.

Equipment Repairs:

The pickup truck had an emission sensor replaced and an electric solenoid replace for the snow plow. A tail light was replaced, hydraulic lines on the snow plow replaced, and the transmission got flushed and serviced. The nox trap sensor was replaced and the rear end had a fluid changed. The steering control arm modular was replaced, and the air bag and tire pressure monitor reprogrammed. Brakes were replaced on all four wheels and an o ring was replaced on the oil cooler.

The number 3 small dump truck had an emission sensor issue and needed to be reprogrammed. The L pack tool box needed repairs. Both cross bearings in the front end and the left front u joint were replaced. It also received new front brake pads and rotors. The starter and the right side tigh rod both needed to be replaced. The rear leaf springs and brakes were replaced. The dump alarm was replaced and all the wheels were sanded and painted. The transmission was flushed and serviced.

The number 5 truck had the flex pipe on its exhaust system replaced. The air dryer for its brakes were replaced and all of its rims were sanded and painted. The exhaust pipes from the turbo to the muffler and the exhaust stack pipe were also replaced. The alternator also needed replacement as well as the starter contacts.

The number 2 truck had its radio antenna replaced, rear lights repaired, and a shield built over junction box to keep sand and salt out of the wires. The sander controls had an o ring replaced to stop a leak. Other hydraulic leaks were repaired. An air fitting and coolant leak were also fixed. A fitting on the sand

spinner needed to be tightened and the quick coupler was replaced. A tail light was replaced and a mud flap was repaired. A restricting valve was added to the sand spinner to better control the spinner's speed. The number 8 truck had fuel leaks and mud flaps repaired, and the liquid deicer tank bracket rebuilt. A new fuel tank was also installed.

The John Deere loader had side plates rebuilt and painted along with the antifreeze overflow tank replaced. The hydraulic system was flushed and serviced. Both differentials and transmission were serviced. Pins and bushings were replaced on the front loader as well as the steering arm bushing and pins. The rims were sanded and painted.

The new roll plow had a hand jack installed. One of the small trim mowers needed a new carburetor installed.

The wood chipper needed its auto feed sensor replaced.

The library generator needed a new battery charger.

The Expedition needed a new muffler and tail pipe.

The new Holland tractor had several hydraulic hoses replaced.

The backhoe had its front bucket cutting edge replaced, and a leaf blower needed a new muffler.

Road Repairs:

A 20% rubber/asphalt surface was applied to Arnold, Enfield and Packardville Roads. Catch basins on Arnold, Buffam, and North Valley Roads needed to be rebuilt. A culvert head wall on North Valley Road was rebuilt. On Cook Road a cap stone needed to be reset for a culvert there.

Other:

Steve O'Brien was hired to mow roadsides this summer. Berkshire Design Group was hired to design potential sidewalk from the Amherst town line to South Valley Road. The Town of Amherst is doing the engineering for sewer on Cadwell, Jones, and a section of South Valley Roads. Pelham applied for an MVP grant for engineering of culverts on mid North Valley Road and lower Buffam Road but unfortunately Pelham was not awarded.

All DPW staff attended hoisting engineer recertification in Greenfield.

Yearly Maintenance:

All town roads were swept and had catch basins cleaned. Lines were painted on roads and crosswalks. Parking lot lines were painted at the Elementary School, Community Center, and the Rhodes School. Roadsides were mowed, guard posts and road signs were replaced. Brush was trimmed to improve sight distance in many locations and downed trees were cleared and cleaned up. Ditches and waterways were cleaned out many times with excess materials removed from the road shoulders. Different areas in town received hot patch, while other potholes were repaired with cold patch. All dirt roads were graded several times with gravel added to many locations. The life flight land zone was mowed several times. The DPW staff assisted the Town Clerk with set up and take down of elections as needed. The Community Center generator was run monthly and load tested. Spring cleanup was done at all town owned properties and buildings. The fire alarm and sprinkler systems were inspected and tested. All filters were inspected and changed in building HVAC systems.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Adamcek

DPW Superintendent



Annual Town Report of 2023

Historical Commission

No report submitted.



Annual Town Report of 2023

Housing Committee

The Pelham Board of Selectmen established the Pelham Housing Committee in 2015, following the recommendation of the 2014 “Housing Needs Study” with a mission to: *find ways to increase the diversity, availability, and affordability of housing options in town, particularly for young families and seniors*. Since then, the Housing Committee has created a comprehensive “Pelham Land Inventory and Assessment”, offered financial assistance to first-time homebuyers, and created affordable housing in the Village Center.

The year 2023 was particularly momentous for affordable housing in Pelham. The adoption of Village Center (VC) zoning in 2018 allowed the creation of new two building lots within walking distance to the school, library, and the Community Center. Thanks to the generosity of the Pelham resident who owned this property, the lots were first offered to Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity, who led a two-hour community discussion about proposed plans to build two new single-family affordable homes. At Spring 2023 Town Meeting, the proposal to buy the lots with available Community Preservation funds received unanimous support from Pelham voters.

At the 2023 Special Fall Town Meeting, Pelham residents strongly supported the second and final installment of \$250,000 in available Community preservation funds for Amethyst Brook Apartments, a 34-unit affordable rental housing development in the Village Center. A celebratory ground-breaking ceremony was attended by dozens of Pelham residents, as well as state officials and corporate funding partners. We are looking forward to announcing the beginning of the application process for future residents in the summer of 2024.

In 2023 the Housing Committee continued to discuss proposed zoning changes at public meetings with members of the Planning Board and other interested Pelham residents. Suggestions include extending the right to build accessory dwelling units beyond the Village Center, allowing the development of homes on large lots with adequate road frontage (aka “flag lots), and considering the impact of the “Pelham Square” on the creation of additional housing, particularly for seniors and young families.

The Housing Committee is also working with other town boards to extend town sewer connections into Village Center neighborhoods, and help create safe pedestrian walkways for an increasing number of residents in newly developed affordable housing on Amherst Rd., between the Amherst town line and the Pelham Elementary School.

This year we look forward to more informative discussions with Pelham residents at our monthly Housing Committee meetings (generally on Zoom) on the second Monday of the month at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Cooper
Gail Kenny
Lauren Leonardis
Tilman Lukas, Chair

James Lumley
James Pewtherer
Linda Spink



Annual Town Report of 2023

IT Advisory Group

No report submitted.



Annual Town Report of 2023

Library Trustees

Statistics from July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

The Pelham Library has been very busy, returning to a nearly normal year following Covid closures and restrictions.

- We circulated nearly 29,000 physical items. Nearly 1/3 of these were loaned to residents of neighboring towns for which we receive State Aid to Public Libraries. Of our over 3,100 registered borrowers, nearly half live outside of Pelham.
- We circulated over 2,000 electronic items as well.
- We loaned almost 700 items to other libraries in the state.
- Our extensive collection continues to grow and includes over 35,000 physical items.
- We had 9,277 visits to the library, up 2,000 from the previous year.
- We received nearly 2,700 questions from patrons.
- Our public computers were used over 1,000 times and our website was visited over 13,000 times.
- We offer access to multiple electronic collections with offerings including e-books, e-audio, graphic novel collections, streaming video and music, electronic periodicals and hundreds of statewide databases.
- We expanded our “Library of Things”, which will continue to grow in 2024.

In-person programming expanded to new heights! We hosted or co-hosted 218 in person programs with nearly 2,500 people attending.

- Regular programs included playgroups, weekly preschool music hours, concerts, game nights Reiki, qigong, yoga, book groups, craft nights, and teen game nights.
- We collaborated on programs with the Pelham Historical Society, the Council on Aging and the Pelham Sustainability Committee.
- We hosted the Pelham After School Program.
- Pelham Players performed two shows, “Stone Soup” for children ages 5-8 directed by Cindy Naughton and “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” for children ages 9 and up directed by Solomon Goldstein-Rose.
- Over 100 children participated in our Summer Reading Program, “Find Your Voice” funded by the Pelham Cultural Council and The Friends of the Pelham Library.

- We hosted art exhibits by Susan Mulholland and Gillian Haven in the Ramsdell Room.

We would like to recognize and bid a fond farewell to Louise MacDonald, who moved to New Hampshire to be closer to family. Louise volunteered at the Library for decades, first up the hill at the Rhodes Building and then here once the current building opened, assisting with getting our new materials ready for circulation and other tasks. We are grateful for her many years of service to the Library.

We are very grateful to the community, volunteers and staff who continue to make our Library flourish. Our doors are open—stop in and make use of the resources and be sure to thank our dedicated, hard-working staff while you are there.

Respectfully submitted by the Library Trustees and Joanne Levine, Library Director.

Alyse Bynum, Co-Chair; Diane Gray, Co-Chair; Rosemary Agoglia, Abbie Jenks, Susan Machala, Maia Porter



Annual Town Report of 2023

Planning Board

Planning for the town's future begins with a clear understanding of what is environmentally sensible and fiscally responsible for the land we inhabit. This year we built upon our previous efforts to professionalize operations by increasing each member's understanding of the requirements of serving on the Board and hiring part time professional staff to ensure that as new members join there is continuity in process, plan implementation, regulation development, and bylaw enforcement.

As we carry out our legally mandated duties, we continue to maintain over a half century of efforts to care for the environmental resources in town—always mindful of Pelham's unique position in the regional landscape as an ecologically valuable and heavily forested landscape with significant permanently protected watershed for our own private wells as well as drinking water supplies in Shutesbury, Amherst, Belchertown, Springfield and the Quabbin. This means that some desires simply cannot be accommodated in Pelham because they endanger other essential needs.

In 2023, the Board created and analyzed a town-wide survey in an attempt to discern residents' opinions about the types of development and businesses they would like to see as well what are considered the most important aspects of rural character to be maintained, where growth should occur, and in general what is most valued by residents of Pelham. Whereas the answers received from 161 people may or may not be shared by a majority and may only reflect current or partial understanding of what is actually feasible in our town, the answers did provide the Board with some direction for further investigation and action.

The Board has a long and prioritized list of bylaw amendments to consider and potential revenue enhancing ideas to strengthen the Village Center prospects for appropriate development, business, and housing to encourage new residents so that everyone who is interested in what Pelham has to offer can bring their talents to join us. Because there have been many reports and studies over the years that have shown similar results but have not always been fully acted upon, this Board is taking steps to ensure that Pelham progresses in ways that are both appropriate and, in time, will help to increase potential revenue without harming our quality of life. Actions the Board has already taken and some plans for the coming year include:

- Strengthening the legal basis of our solar bylaw in response to scientific studies and policy developments in the state and other municipalities; passed the bylaw revision; and have taken the Attorney General's opinions into account as we prepare potential amendments.
- Extending Dark Sky protections town-wide to protect wildlife and human health by reducing light pollution, while still ensuring effective, useful lighting for residents.
- Professionalizing the Board for continuity given changing board membership and increasing cooperation and information sharing with other town committees and Boards. This effort includes developing rules, regulations and procedures that are more easily transferable, and clarity about the aspects that are not optional but are legal requirements.

- Applying for and being awarded a \$7,500 DLTA grant for the ongoing project to reorganize town bylaws into a more consistent and understandable document which will be brought to Town Meeting for approval.
- Exploring possibilities for the town-owned lot on S. Valley Rd., in the context of Village Center development as a whole, with the collaboration of the Housing Committee, Select Board, Conservation Commission and others. A working group charged with investigating constraints and the desirability, feasibility, and viability of a range of options has been formed to assist the Board with a presentation for Spring Town Meeting. As part of this effort the Board commissioned a wetlands delineation and preliminary survey of the town-owned property including school grounds in order to clarify ownership and wetlands issues.
- Monitoring the Centennial Treatment Plant's compliance with permits.
- Reviewing initial stages of sidewalk design planning along Amherst Rd. as well as sewer extension plans for portions of the Village Center.

A few words of gratitude: First, to Sandra Burgess, retired Town Clerk, who worked hard to get the town bylaws and zoning bylaws properly corrected and updated. This was a huge task with which our consultants and members assisted, but which we could not have done without her commitment to follow legal process and leave things in proper order. Also, thanks to Lexi Dewey, who while choosing not to run for re-election, continues to offer professional advice and insight on water supply and landscape architecture issues.

Many thanks to Stacey Yaruss McCullough who has joined the Board with writing, research, and analytical skills we deeply appreciate. Finally, thanks to Ken Comia and Kyle Finnell—consultants from PVPC—who have worked with us to understand the culture and needs of the town and the Board so that we will be more consistently effective in preparing for the town's future.

We are grateful to all the other boards, commissions, committees, and individuals for working with us and supporting efforts to maintain and improve the prospects for the future of the town. We welcome anyone who would like to assist with our efforts in some way.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Eiseman, Chair

Members: Anne Stoddard, Bruce Klotz, Pete Wilson, Stacey Yaruss McCullough

Annual Town Report of 2024

Police Department

2023 Calls for Service	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
<i>911 Hang Up/Mis Dial</i>	1	1	1		1		2					1	7
<i>Abandoned Motor Vehicle</i>													0
<i>Accident, Motor Vehicle</i>	3	2	2	3	2	3	3	1	3	4	3	1	30
<i>Alarm</i>	1	4		4	1	3	1	3	4	3	3	2	29
<i>Animal Complaint</i>			1	1		2	7	2	5	2		3	23
<i>Assist Other Agency</i>		1	1	3	1	6		2	1	4	7	2	28
<i>Assist Citizen</i>	2		1		1	6	2	8	5	2	7	4	38
<i>Breaking and Entering</i>													0
<i>Building/Security Check</i>	9	10	11	9	13	15	25	10	18	29	27	16	192
<i>Disturbance</i>		3		1	1	1		2		2	1		11
<i>Disabled Motor Vehicle</i>		4	4	4		1		3	1	1	3	6	27
<i>Fire</i>	3	3	1						3				10
<i>Fraud</i>	1	1											2
<i>Harassment</i>					1								1
<i>Illegal Dumping</i>										1			1
<i>Investigation, Follow up</i>		1					1		2	1	2	1	8
<i>Larceny</i>			1									1	2
<i>Medical Emergency</i>	7	7	11	8	4	5	7	9	7	8	9	10	92
<i>Missing Person</i>				2	2			3	1				8
<i>Motor Vehicle/Parking Complaint</i>		1	3	1	3	1	3	4	4	2	7		29
<i>Motor Vehicle Stop</i>	39	57	60	40	40	63	71	87	93	108	131	112	901
<i>Noise Complaint</i>	1									1	1	2	5
<i>Missing Person</i>								2					2
<i>Property, Lost/Found</i>									1	1			2
<i>Safety/Road/Traffic Hazard</i>	4	2	8		1	1	3	3	1	1	1	6	31
<i>Shots Fired</i>								2					2
<i>Service, Paperwork</i>								4		3	3	1	11
<i>Suspicious Activity/Person/Vehicle</i>				2			3	5	7	4	2	5	28
<i>Threats Made</i>													0
<i>Traffic Control/Enforcement</i>		1					6	24	18	7	6	2	64
<i>Vandalism</i>											1		1
<i>Welfare Check</i>		3	2	1		4	4	1	1			3	19
TOTAL MONTHLY	71	101	107	79	71	111	138	175	175	184	214	178	1,604

*These numbers do not reflect general calls for service at the station such as firearms permitting, Community Service Events and training.

Of the **1,604** calls for service in 2023, many resulted in additional investigation which resulted in a full Offense Report, Arrest Report/Summons/Warrant Arrest.

The Police Department assigned **41** Offense Reports in 2023.

The Police Department assigned **51** Arrest/Summons/Warrant Reports in 2023.

Members of the Police Department

Chief of Police	Gary Thomann	Officer	Robert Thrasher
Lieutenant	Derick Lamoureux	Constable	Roman Kucinski
Sergeant	Sean Connor	Constable	Steve Hughes
Officer	Connor Parnell (res. Nov)	Constable	Kevin Quesnel
Officer	Brett Willson	Constable	Kevin Fournier
Officer	Jamie Ryan	Constable	Richard Downie
Officer	Todd Mongeon	Constable	Peter Michaels
Animal Control Officer	Nancy Long		



Annual Town Report of 2023

School

Pelham Elementary School Committee

Margaret Stancer, Chair
 William Sherr
 Sarahbess Kenny
 Markyta Ables-Conyers

We are pleased to present this annual report to the Town of Pelham for the Pelham Elementary School.

Vision and Focus for Students

As we continue to address the impact of the pandemic on our students, the primary vision for Pelham School this year has been to support the well-being of students, ensuring they are able to learn in an environment in which they feel safe, valued, and loved. To that end, Pelham staff have continued to engage in professional learning throughout the year on social justice with a focus on identity, trauma-informed teaching, antiracism, cultivating emotional resilience, LGBTQIA+ topics, and social-emotional learning. Families have been encouraged to be active participants in their children's school experience through activities such as the Cider Donut Run, All School Meetings, and classroom celebrations. We have also continued much-loved school traditions such as the African American Read-In, Latino Heritage Read-in, reading buddies, and monthly school assemblies.

In support of our social-emotional focus, Pelham School is the recipient of a grant earmarked to develop multi-tiered systems of social-emotional, behavioral, mental health, and well-being support. These funds have supported our work with BRYT (Bridge for Resilient Youth in Transition). The BRYT Central Team has worked with both district leaders and the Pelham school team to develop a shared vision for comprehensive, equitable school mental health support based on the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) framework. Through BRYT, staff have received training in community building and developing emotional resilience. In addition, several staff have received training in Peer Mediation. Students 4th through 6th grade have been trained and will be starting a peer mediation program at Pelham School.

Budget and Finance

Over the last couple of years Pelham School has increased the number of school choice students we have enrolled in order to provide financial sustainability. This trend has continued and I am pleased to report that there is a projected 35.5% increase in choice funds in FY25. As a result, the school budget continues to be on stable footing and is prepared for the end of COVID related grant monies in early FY25. We also want to thank the Pelham Select Board and Finance Committee for their support of the capital projects funded in FY24, including funding for interior renovations and the continuing support needed for energy management automation of the Pelham School Building.

Community Support

Pelham School enjoys an extraordinary level of support from the Pelham community. The Pelham PTO continually organizes the family community to support students and staff. This year they sponsored a school-wide Donut Run 1-Mile race, Trunk or Treat for students at Halloween, and a Treat Trolley for the staff. The PTO has also provided resources to

all classroom teachers and continues to collaborate with the staff to find ways to support the school. Beyond the PTO and Pelham School families, the entire Pelham community provides unwavering support for Pelham Elementary School. We are proud that the school serves as an essential and beloved community hub and look forward to continuing that strong relationship with the Town of Pelham.

Conclusion

Once again, thank you for your support of Pelham School. It is our privilege to work with the talented and dedicated faculty and staff of Pelham School on behalf of the town's most valuable resource--your children. We invite you to visit our website at <http://www.arps.org/pe> to learn more about the exciting things happening at Pelham School.

Sincerely,
Dr. Douglas Slaughter, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Micki Darling, Principal, Pelham Elementary School



Annual Town Report of 2023

Select Board

2023 was once again busy in the Select Board office. There were 32 posted meetings, 102 motions, 98 Board/Committee/Staff appointments, three Slate Newsletters arranged & sent, two Town Meeting warrants prepared & sent, two Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion trainings, one round table with Board/Committee chairs, one public safety community responders forum, and one tax classification hearing.

Annual Town Meeting was held in May on the field at the Pelham Elementary School under a tent. The Fall Special Town Meeting was held in October and was opened at the Old Town Hall, in order to keep the status as the 'oldest continuously used town hall in the United States,' then moved to the Elementary School field under a tent. It was wonderful to see so many voters turn out for both events. We encourage every resident in town to attend Town Meeting and be a part of the decision making. Town Meetings allows residents to govern openly and fairly and make decisions that drive the town.

The Select Board continued their plan to utilize American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for improvements/projects that will have long term benefits for the town including Police Reform Law training, Annual & Fall Town Meeting expenses, design work for Village Center sidewalk project, the sewer extension project for Cadwell, Jones, and part of South Valley Road, potential heating/cooling upgrades at the Rhodes Building, and storage improvements for the Rhodes Building basement.

The IT Advisory Group recommended the Select Board upgrade to a DOT GOV domain and obtain emails for most department staff and board and committee chairs. The Select Board know that these IT enhancements will improve security significantly. Next steps include potential network enrichments and phone connection.

The Select Board would like to thank the many elected officials, committee and board members, volunteers, and employees who put in countless hours to ensure the smooth operation of the Town. Residents who are engaged and become involved are the reasons why Pelham continues to be a viable and genuine small town.

Are you curious on how to get involved on a Board/Committee? If you are new to Pelham or have lived here many years, please consider joining one of the many groups looking for new members. Being an active member of your community and sharing your ideas could help inspire more residents to become involved. Our small community thrives on people staying engaged and caring about what goes on where they live.

For a list of vacant positions, please visit townofpelham.org.

For a listing of board/committee schedules visit the town website & click on 'Meeting Schedules', which is under the 'About Pelham' tab across the homepage.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Agolia 2024, Chair Tara Loomis 2026, Vice-Chair David Shanabrook 2025, Clerk



Annual Town Report of 2023

Town Clerk

Vital Records

Two births, one marriage, and eight deaths were recorded in Pelham between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023.

Dog Licensing

185 dog licenses and two kennel licenses were issued between March 16, 2023 and December 7, 2023. Town Bylaws, as amended by Article 41 of the 2016 Annual Town Meeting, provide for the adjusted balance from dog licensing receipts to be transferred annually to the Elementary School Library account. The adjusted balance of \$562.28 was transferred in 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa A. Hibbard, Town Clerk



Annual Town Report of 2023

Treasurer

7/1/2022	Beginning Balance	5,845,333.65
	Revenue	7,721,020.98
	Expenses	6,874,700.89
6/30/23	Ending Balance	6,691,653.65
End of Year Trust Fund Balances	OPEB	1,677,385.82
Trust Fund	Stabilization	515,647.49
	Conservation	13,581.21
	Town Building Gifts	3,888.93
	Wright Fund	1,510.66
	Cemetery	39,314.58
	Judy Brooks Adventure	11,468.98
	Capital Equipment	410,235.81
	H Ramsdell Fund	9,933.73
	Operating Fund	146,206.44



Annual Town Report of 2023

Zoning Board of Appeals

Over the past several years, the ZBA's most frequent business has involved applications for special permits for home occupations and for accessory apartments. At this point, the zoning bylaws that relate to these uses differ within and beyond the Village Center. Reviews of applications for these two purposes are now conducted by the Planning Board or the ZBA, depending upon whether the property is inside or outside the Village Center respectively. You may view or download a permit application at: townofpelham.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4851/f/uploads/application_for_finding.pdf

The Zoning Board of Appeals also reviews applications for comprehensive permits for the construction of subsidized housing under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40B and Town of Pelham 40B Regulations, and reviews applications for variances and appeals of decisions by the Building Inspector.

The Board complies with the zoning rules and regulations authorized under Chapter 40A, Massachusetts General Laws, and it makes its decisions based on the Pelham zoning bylaw developed and amended by the Planning Board and voted by Town Meeting.

At the moment, there is no version of the Pelham code available on the town website. If you need a version that is accurate through 2022, please contact the town clerk, who can email it to you. It is hoped that by mid-March, something even more up to date will be available on the town website.

Enforcement authority of the zoning bylaw rests with the Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer.

The ZBA would like to express our gratitude to Dave Waskiewicz, our Zoning Enforcement Officer for his patience and good will in seeking to promote both compliance with the Pelham code and harmony and common purpose among neighbors.

The Board encourages anyone who has questions about the Board's mandate or activities to visit the following site: <https://www.townofpelham.org/zoning-board-appeals>

The Select Board has appointed the following Pelham residents to the Zoning Board of Appeals:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Role</u>
Jeff Eiseman	2024	Member	Chair
Nick Chicanowski	2027	Associate Member	
Karen Dzendolet	2026	Member	Secretary
Ralph Faulkingham	2027	Member	Clerk
Kate Hudson	2026	Associate Member	
David Litwak	2025	Member	
Noah Wartenberg	2024	Member	

In calendar year 2023, the ZBA held public hearings on two applications and approved...

1. ...granting Chelsea Grybko a special permit to construct an accessory apartment in her owner-occupied, single-family dwelling at 59 Arnold Road.
2. ...granting Noah Wartenberg of 17 Jones Road a special permit to remove the existing attached carport and to replace it with an attached garage.

The ZBA also held a public hearing on the appeal by François Gouin of our Zoning Enforcement Officer's cease and desist order (specific to exterior lighting) at 27 Harkness Road. This hearing was continued over four successive meetings; in the end the Zoning Enforcement Officer withdrew his order, and Mr. Gouin withdrew his appeal.

Finally in calendar year 2023 and stretching into January 2024, the ZBA held a hearing over two meetings and approved amending a special permit granted to the American Tower Corporation on land it leases at 7 Old Pratts Corner Road. The amended permit will allow ATC to install an 80 KW generator to provide backup power to the installations on its cell tower.

For many years, Ralph Faulkingham contributed to the ZBA by taking on both the role of secretary and clerk. As the above list of members states, Karen Dzendolet has agreed to take on the role of secretary while Ralph has volunteered to continue as clerk. We appreciate Ralph's dedication and the high quality of the service he has provided to the town and to the ZBA as members, and Karen's willingness to take on this commitment.

Prepared and submitted by Jeff Eiseman, Chair and Karen Dzendolet, Secretary, 2024