THE PELHAM SLATE



www.townofpelham.org

WINTER EDITION 2022, PAGE 1

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REMINDER FROM THE FIRE DEPT.

Open Air Burning Season January 15-May 1

For More Information Call (413) 253-3311 or visit pelhamfd.com



FROM THE SELECT BOARD OFFICE

In an effort to promote a clear and common understanding of our town's bylaw regarding the control of dogs, the Select Board is sharing this information directly by mail with all licensed dog owners and with all Pelham residents below.

Article 22 that passed at the 2019 Annual Town Meeting is incorporated in the relevant sections of the bylaw shown below. It is now the current Town Bylaw and it stipulates that an unleashed dog running at large beyond the boundaries of its owner's residence is a violation of the bylaw unless the dog is in the act of training, working or hunting. Reported incidents of this and other enumerated violations are subject to fines as provided in the Fine Schedule, which was also amended at the 2019 Annual Town Meeting. While Article 23, which was defeated at the same Town Meeting, would have required that "dogs on Town property must be leashed at all times", Pelham's current bylaw requires that dogs be leashed when they are beyond their owner's property (with exceptions as enumerated).

Thus, there is a leash law in Pelham. All complaints and alleged violations should be reported to the Dog Officer, (413) 800-6280.

The current version of the bylaw posted in the Code of Pelham on the town website does not yet reflect updates from the Articles that passed at the 2019 Annual Town Meeting. It will be updated once the codifying process is completed. The following sections of the Animal Control Bylaw relevant to dog control incorporate the changes approved at the 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

§ 5-3 Purpose.

The town requires that all dog owners keep their dogs under control at all times for the purpose of protecting people and animals from injury, protecting property from damage and preventing dog-related nuisances. The Town further requires any dog for which one formal complaint has been filed be kept under the owners/guardians or keepers leash control at all times on town property.

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SELECT BOARD continued from page 1

§ 5-7 Violations enumerated.

Any owner who allows his/her dog to do any of the following will be considered in violation of this article:

- A. Unlicensed dog: a dog six months or older, which is unlicensed or not relicensed by May 31 each year.
- B. Running at large: to go beyond the boundaries of the owner's residence unless the dog is under leash control; however, dogs in the act of training, working or hunting are excepted.
- C. To chase a pedestrian, bicycle or any other vehicle.
- D. To bark excessively during the day or to bark between 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. so as to disturb the reasonable quiet of the neighborhood.
- E. Worrying livestock: to worry, injure or kill another's livestock, fowl or pet.
- F. Vicious dog: to menace, attack or bite a person without provocation.

§ 5-18. Fine Schedule.

Dog Control Bylaw Fine Schedule

	First Offense	Second Offense	Third Offense
Failure to license	\$25	\$50	\$75
Failure to have kennel license	\$25	\$50	\$75
Running at large	\$25	\$50	\$75
Chasing offense	\$25	\$50	\$75
Excessive barking	\$25	\$50	\$75
Removal of dog waste	\$25	\$50	\$75
Worrying domestic animals	\$25	\$50	\$75
Vicious Dog	\$25	\$50	\$75
Inhumane	\$50	\$75	\$100

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Pelham Select Board

Robert Agoglia, Chair David Shanabrook, Vice-Chair Tara Loomis, Clerk



Save the Dates!

Annual Town Meeting: Saturday, May 14, 2022

Annual Town Election: Tuesday, May 17, 2022



WANT TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

POSITIONS ARE OPEN ON THE FOLLOWING BOARDS/COMMITTEES:

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

- CULTURAL COUNCIL
- HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 - HOUSING COMMITTEE
- PERSONNEL BOARD



- ⇒ Need more information on how to join, duties, and responsibilities contact the Select Board office (413-253-7129) for Chairperson's contact information. All board/committee meetings are open to the public and welcome public participation. With the continued presence of the COVID-19 pandemic, some meetings are being held remotely online via ZOOM or other similar platforms.
- ⇒ **For the most up to date calendar** with meeting notices, go to <u>townofpelham.org</u> and click on the calendar icon under the My Town Government Heading for updated meeting schedules.

ANTI-RACISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The ARAC has been working since the Fall of 2020 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. We currently have three open seats.

Within ARAC, we have five working groups:
Outreach, Policy, History, Public Safety, and
Education. These groups are addressing anti
racism in several directions, such as fair housing,
communication with our public safety
officers, and drafting an anti-discrimination

bylaw.

This last year we have made three recommendations to the

Select Board, one concerning Anti Racism training for town personnel, another supporting changes to the Mathematics curriculum, and one recommending the retention of an Intervention Teacher at Pelham Elementary.

We meet once a month, on Zoom, as a full Committee. The working groups meet as needed. While we are seeking Committee members, anyone interested in participating only in a working group is also welcome.

Current members: Jessica Jean-Louis, Charlie Lynch, Matteo Ramos-Mucci, Roy Regozin, Pat Schumm and Anne Stoddard.

If you are interested please contact pelhamadministrator@comcast.net.

UPDATES FROM THE TOWN CLERK'S DESK

CENSUS

The 2022 Annual Street Listing forms have either been mailed or will be shortly. Please complete the form according to the instructions provided and return at your earliest convenience.

DOGS

An application to renew dog licenses by mail is printed on the reverse of the Annual Street listing form. **2021 Dog Licenses expire on March 31, 2022** and must be renewed by May 31, 2022 to avoid a late fee.

Any dog license renewed on or after June 1, 2022 will incur the late fee.

LATE FEES

(per dog – in addition to the license fee)

Effective 6/1/21 - \$10 * Effective 7/1/21 - \$25 * Effective 8/1/21 - \$50

All dogs 6 months or older must be licensed annually.

TO LICENSE YOUR DOG BY MAIL

- ⇒ SEND THE FOLLOWING:
- ◆ A copy of the current rabies vaccination certificate for each dog <u>if done</u> less than a year ago.
- Proof of neutering or spaying if procedure done less than a year ago.
- ◆ A #10 size SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE to return the license and tag.
- Check payable to "Town of Pelham" for the appropriate fee.



DOG LICENSE FEES

\$6 for a spayed or neutered dog.

*Proof of spaying or neutering must be provided if procedure was done since the previous license was issued.

\$10 for a non-spayed/ non-neutered dog.

TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER REMINDERS

TAXES DUE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2022

You should have already received or will be receiving your tax bill via USPS. Please note that both payment coupons for February and May are included and can be detached accordingly. Please do not staple checks to payment coupons as they can cause problems with the check scanning machine. Make sure to double check the amount you are paying matches the amount due.



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

There are two collection boxes; Police Station parking lot, front of Rhodes Building; for residents to leave envelopes with payments or other paperwork for Town Office staff.

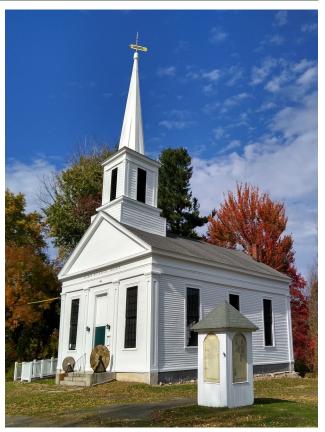
FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

- ABATEMENTS Due February 1, 2022
- ♦ New 2022 Fiscal Year Tax Rate: \$20.56
- Reminder: Return Exemption Applications
- Office Hours on Wednesdays, 9am-12pm
 by appointment
- Call Lori Turati with any questions, (413) 253-0734

PELHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Pelham Historical Society (PHS) wishes you a Happy and Healthy New Year. Unfortunately, as you know COVID is still with us. Nonetheless, PHS hopes to offer monthly insights into Pelham life, past and present, this year. Due to COVID restrictions those insights may be in the form of email news blasts and programs that are videotaped or held outdoors instead of indoors. We plan to offer a few of the programs we had planned for 2020 such as "Play Ball" and to reinstate old favorites such as "Points of Interest in Pelham." Because of the need for flexibility re: hosting programs in person, we will not print a pamphlet this year but instead will send email updates closer in time to a particular event so as to comply with any changing COVID restrictions.

If you would like to be added to our email list to receive these notices, please contact us at info@pelhamistory.org. In addition, if you are interested in becoming involved with the Pelham Historical Society, please feel free to contact Cynthia Weigel, PHS President, at (413) 256-4606.



Finally, an important reminder that we are all living through unusual, interesting times and should document our current history for future generations. The Pelham Historical Society together with the Pelham Library developed a form to record your stories, experiences, and reflections during COVID. The form is available on our website at https://pelhamhistory.org/. Paper copies are also available in the Library and Rhodes Building. If you do not have time to fill out the entire form, please answer the last two questions which are: Question 10: What is something about life in Pelham that you think has changed forever? Question 11: In a hundred years from now what would you like to tell future Pelham residents about this/these year(s)?

Wishing you all the best!

BOARD OF HEALTH NEWS



FREE



WELL WATER

TESTING for PFAS



REGISTER

SAMPLE

GET RESULTS

Well owners, please apply online for your free private well drinking water sampling kit. Receive your free and easy-to-use sampling kit. Collect water samples and return free of charge.

Find out if your private well drinking water contains per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS have been linked to adverse health effects.



Apply for <u>FREE</u> water testing TODAY





Apply promptly, this is a limited time offer, in select towns.

Applications must be made online. If using cell phone, orient in landscape mode.

New member: Robert Redwood was appointed by the Select Board to the Board of Health on October 6, 2021. Bobby is a physician and Chief of Emergency Medicine at Cooley Dickerson Hospital. Bobby will have to run for a full-term next May. Pelham is lucky to have such a qualified member and hope he stays on the Board for many years. Bobby is replacing Chris Rice a long serving member who resigned due to a move. I want to thank Chris for his long service.

Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District: Pelham voted to join the District at the Fall Special Town Meeting. With membership the Town can receive services which includes weekly mosquito trapping and testing while also reapplying to opt-out of the widespread pesticide spraying State program. Last Spring's application was rejected but with our membership in District our application should be more robust.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC: There have only been two cases of COVID reported since October 1 in Pelham and both appear to be connected to UMASS. There isn't an easy way to determine Pelham's vaccination rate since it is mixed in with Amherst which is further complicated by UMASS Students, but it appears to be over 80%. It's time to get booster shots and please still use masks.

PFAS Sampling: Free private well testing for PFAS is still available. Ad above.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP



WHAT TO DO WITH OUR "STUFF"?

Did you know that Pelham now has a new Project Sustainability Working Group? Born out of conversations with other townsfolk, and a very successful Swap Day held in the late spring, sponsored by the Democratic Town Committee, Pelham now has a new working group to help research the various ways we can reduce, reuse, repurpose and recycle our "stuff".

The pandemic has brought into sharp focus the issue of how to manage packaging, out of date products, no longer wanted items, etc. During lockdown, our local transfer station shut down the "Take It or Leave It", and Styrofoam was no longer collected. In other depositories such as supermarkets, plastic bag recycle bins were closed. Many of us collected these items in the anticipation that things would open as the pandemic impacts waned but there is a growing awareness that this is not entirely the case.

The Take It or Leave It is not reopening, nor is the collection of Styrofoam for recycling. The confusion around what plastic is recyclable is widespread and there are reports of recycling not being very effective. Our oceans are filling up with refuse from our lifestyle. Alarm bells are sounding about climate related issues and there is a growing awareness of how our lifestyle is impacting our ecosystem and climate. Now there is something we can do about it!

Creation of the Project Sustainability Working Group is in line with the principles of the Transition Town movement but few in town know Pelham is an official Transition Town! (Visit <u>transitionus.org</u> for more information). Simply speaking, Transition is a movement of communities coming together to reimagine and rebuild our world. It is becoming clear that we can and must take things into our own hands as the easy and simple methods for managing our refuse that were once in place are changing. Pelham is now moving forward in manifesting the principles of Transition.

The Project Sustainability Working Group's initial vision and task is to create a document specific to Pelham, that explains multiple ways to reduce, reuse, recycle and reimagine what to do with our items. We all know about recycling paper, plastic and cans. Our research will focus on other items that are not as easily disposed of such as CD/DVD cases, corks, stuffed animals, fabric/old unusable clothing, Styrofoam and so forth. Our manual will provide some guidance and concrete steps that are possible and serve as a beginning for our town to engage in making this a better world!

For more information or if you'd like to assist, please contact Abbie Jenks at gandhi0324@gmail.com

SWAP DAY SUCCESS!

Pelham's first Swap Day on August 28th at the Pelham Elementary School parking lot, sponsored by the Pelham Democratic Town Committee, was a huge success. Over 100 mostly Pelham residents participated. Remaining items were either donated or recycled. <u>Details</u> about the May 2022 Swap Day will be in the next edition of the Slate.



FY2023 BUDGET SEASON

Outline of the Budgeting Process:

In November representatives from each Town that make up the Regional school met to review the Region's Assessment methods and discuss each Town's unique financial situation. This marked the beginning of the budget planning process for the fiscal year 2023 which begins on July 1, 2022. The 4 Towns will meet again at a tentative date of January 8, 2022 to review the initial budget from the Regional School and discuss in more detail an assessment method that would be agreeable to all of the Towns. The 10 year Capital plan for the Region should be available for that meeting for review and discussion.

On January 10, 2022, the annual Roundtable will be held by a joint meeting of the Select Board and Finance Committee to provide guidance on budget preparation to all the departments, boards, and commissions and others who might be looking for money from the town in FY2023. We will also listen to any potential unanticipated requests.

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

During March the Finance Committee will review all Warrant Articles that are money related.

In April, we will meet with the Select Board and review Article 3 and all the financial warrant articles they are considering for the May Town Meeting.

The Finance Committee looks forward to seeing you on Saturday May 14, 2022.



HOUSING COMMITTEE NEWS

Thank You!

At Fall Special Town Meeting, Pelham residents strongly supported spending \$250,000 of available CPC funds for the future development of Amethyst Brook Apartments at 20-22 Amherst Rd.

We are also gratified to have received responses from 50 Pelham households to our Affordable Housing Survey. If you were not at the Fall Town Meeting or did not have an opportunity to respond to this short 9 question survey (anonymously - no names), please pick one up at either the Rhodes Building or the Pelham Library. Drop boxes for completed surveys are available at both locations. Thanks!

Beginning in 2022 the Housing Committee will be working on looking into applying for grant funding from the state's Rural and Small Town Development program, which helps towns like Pelham develop the infrastructure needed to create a vibrant and walkable Village Center, as well as additional affordable housing opportunities.

Pelham residents who are interested in the work of the Housing Committee and/or have questions about any of our current and future initiatives are always welcome to join us at a meeting on the first Tuesday of the month. We are also seeking new members! For further information contact Housing Committee Chair Tilman Lukas, tlukas@lukasdesign.com.

COUNCIL ON AGING UPDATES

Sally Kaufmann, Outreach Worker, is looking forward to meeting you by phone, by email, or in person to help support and connect you with community services to ensure your safety and wellbeing at home. Have you had a recent illness or hospitalization and need home care services or meal delivery while you recover? Would you like to explore energy assistance programs or property tax relief programs? Do you need help with transportation, grocery delivery, light yard work or perhaps a friendly visit from a fellow community member? Are you a Veteran and would like to learn more about services and programs in our community? Are you a caregiver who may need support? Sally can be reached at sallyb.kaufmann@gmail.com or at (413) 530-3759. She is available to provide home visits or meet in person at the Pelham Library on Wednesday afternoons from 3-5:00pm. We have recently updated our COA area at the library to include updated information and resources for older adults and their caregivers.

VACCINE CLINICS IN OUR AREA

- UMass/On-Campus Community
 Vaccine clinic: Information on its
 schedule, location and making an
 appointment is at
 www.umass.edu/coronavirus/vaccine
 Scheduled appointments required.
- Town of Amherst Weekly vaccine clinic by appointment on Thursdays from 3 to 6pm at the Bangs Center. Call (413) 259-3077

The Amherst Neighbors program includes Pelham residents. This no-fee organization offers programs to older adults who wish to live independent, engaged lives in their homes and communities. Any adult living in Amherst or Pelham is welcome to join as a member, volunteer, or both. Volunteers have helped their neighbors with gardening, transportation, odd jobs, prescription delivery, and friendly visits. Many online programs and interest groups are offered. For all volunteer requests, call 248-7481. Visit amherstneighbors.org

We've been thinking about ways to help one another within our community. Do you have a skill or special interest or professional expertise to share? Maybe you are a tech whiz and could help those trying to figure out how to use their new devices? Or maybe you bake fabulous croissants

and could demonstrate your techniques to others? Perhaps you could lead a workshop on a topic like "writing your own obituary." Although we aren't ready to gather in large groups just yet, think ahead to a time when we can and what you might like to share. If you have any ideas about becoming a "Pelham Pro" please email your thoughts to Tracy Osbahr at tosbahr7@gmail.com.

Everyone over the age of 5 can get the COVID-19 vaccine. Adults who received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine at least six months ago or the Johnson & Johnson vaccine two months ago are eligible for a booster that can their response to COVID-19 strong.

Locations for a free vaccine in Massachusetts are at <u>vaxfinder.mass.gov</u>. You can narrow results to search for locations offering boosters. For individuals who are unable to use VaxFinder or have difficulty accessing the internet, the COVID-19 Vaccine Resource Line (Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) is available by calling 2-1-1 and following the prompts for assistance. The COVID-19 Vaccine Resource Line is available in English and Spanish. Translators are available in nearly 100 other languages.

GREETINGS FROM THE PELHAM LIBRARY

It's been wonderfully busy at the Pelham Library, dare I say almost normal? Though we're still wear- and one of the developers of the series. Registraing masks and limiting attendance at programs, we love having people back, browsing the stacks and coming to in-person programs again. Now that school children are eligible to be vaccinated, we're once again hosting the Pelham After-School Program, though in smaller numbers than before, and it feels good. Our new hours seem to be popular! Visit our website, www.pelham-library.net for more information.

Our early childhood programming has moved indoors for the season! We start our Mondays at 9:30 with music from Wendy & Anna Plummer, followed by our play group with Margaret White from the Collaborative for Educational Services. In January we'll be adding story & craft time on Friday mornings at 10:30. Want to join the fun? Find the sign up link on our website.

The Pelham Public Library and the Pelham Anti-Racism Committee are pleased to offer The Stolen Beam: A Study of the Question of Reparations for descendants of Enslaved Africans in the U.S. The class, which will meet on Zoom on 5 consecutive Tuesdays at 7:00 beginning on January 18, offers an opportunity to study and reflect on some of the writings of prominent thought leaders on the topic of reparations for African Americans as a path to restorative justice. The course

will be facilitated by Jeff Gold, a Pelham resident tion will be limited to 15 people on a first come, first serve basis. Contact the library to sign up.

Seniors: Are you unable to get to the library? Do you know someone who is, but who would love to receive home delivery? The Pelham Council on Aging is now providing this service, and will deliver and pick up on Friday mornings. If you're interested, please get in touch with us.

Have you signed up for Wowbrary yet? It'll send you a weekly newsletter with all of our newest

> happenings and arrivals. Sign up at https://www.wowbrary.org/signup.aspx.

> We've added 2 services to our electronic offerings, Hoopla, which has a wide array

of streaming video, ebooks and e-audio, and Comics Plus! which offers unlimited access to comics and graphic novels for all ages. These are in addition to Overdrive (e-books & e-audio) and Kanopy (streaming movies, Great Courses, kids' content and more). Get in touch if you'd like your login information.

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

Jodi Levine, Director

NEWS DELIVERED RIGHT TO YOUR INBOX

RECEIVE MESSAGES for Pelham Board/Committee minutes and agendas when they are posted on MyTownGovernment platform.

- ⇒ Under the My Town Government heading on townofbelham.org, click on the calendar icon below to be taken to the MTG homepage for Pelham.
- ⇒ After the board/committee is chosen from the drop down list on the left hand side, click on "Subscribe to Email Alerts for this board" link, then enter your email address.
- Minutes/Agendas pre-July 21, 2021 are still available on townofpelham.org.



Town Office Schedules & Contact Information

Assessor's Office

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

Tax Collector/ **Treasurer**

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

Select Board Office Administrative Assistant,

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

Town Clerk

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

The Pelham Slate

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Representative, Mindy Domb **3rd Hampshire**

(413) 461-2060 DISTRICT OFFICE, Springfield (617) 722-2400 STATE HOUSE

MINDY.DOMB@MAHOUSE.GOV

State Senator, Jo Comerford (617) 722-1532

STATE HOUSE

COMERFORD@MASENATE.GOV

STAY **INFORMED!**

Go to **Townofpeham.org**

click on the CodeRED icon to be notified by your local emergency response team in the event of emergency situations or critical community alerts. SIGN UP ONLINE:

pelhampolicema.com.



MEETING SCHEDULES

REGULAR MEETINGS

Assessors, Board of

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

Cemetery Commission

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

Conservation Commission

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

Community Preservation Committee

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

Council on Aging

2nd Wednesday Library, 2 South Valley Rd

Energy Committee

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

Health, Board of

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

Historical Commission

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

Housing Committee

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

Library Trustees

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

Planning Board

2nd Monday 7:00 PM **Rhodes Building & Library**

School Committee

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

Select Board

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

Public Bodies that meet AS NEEDED:

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

Please note that these are only anticipated meeting times and locations: By law, definitive meeting information is posted 48 hours in advance on www.Townofpelham.org

Town of Pelham Rhodes Building 351 Amherst Road Pelham, MA 01002 PRESORTED STANDARD MAIL U.S. POSTAGE PAID AMHERST, MA PERMIT NO. 31

