

MAY 11 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

SAVE THE DATE DEBATE & VOTE: Without you, there is no democracy.

PELHAM SLATE

MVP Connect Pelham Edition



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351 Amherst Road
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Welcome to the Connect Pelham Issue

In this Connect Pelham Slate you can read descriptions of a selection of articles you see listed in the warrant enclosed in this mailing.

CONNECT PELHAM: HELPING TO BRING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER, is finding ways to develop stronger connections between the townspeople, staff and residents.

Connect Pelham has been offering concerts, pot-lucks, lectures and more, as we look for new ways to build and celebrate a resilient community. We hope that this edition of the Slate will help you to dig into the some of the many interesting warrant articles that are coming up at Town Meeting.

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Choose? Choose! Choose.

TOWN MEETING: SAT., MAY 11

Take the day off, devote it to democracy.

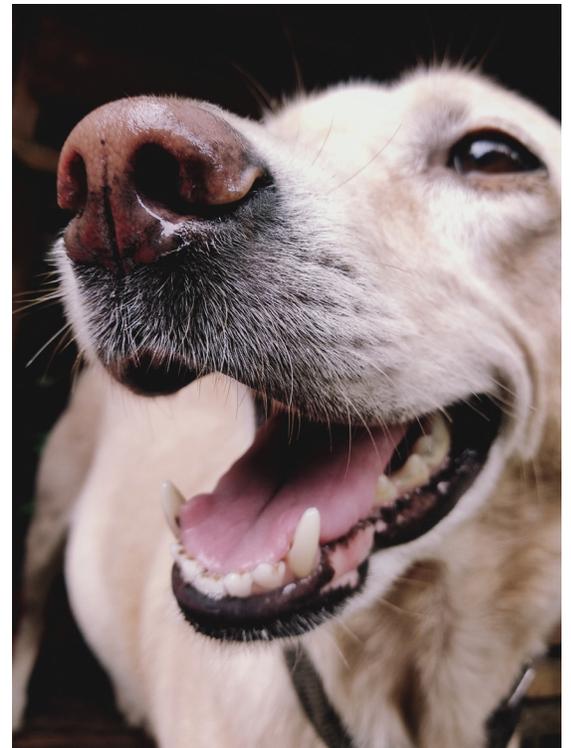
Here in our New England town, all the citizens collectively act as the legislative branch of the local government- that is, one citizen, one vote. Do you find yourself chewing through politics on social media, watching it on the news, talking with friends and wishing you could have more say? Here in your town of Pelham, you can. Simply come and effect change. And one vote might make all the difference- yours. So see you at the Pelham Elementary School at 9 AM.

Enclosed in this mailing you will find your Warrant Articles-topics we, together as a community, are set to debate and vote upon on Saturday, May 11.

This celebration of your rights is our best chance to make a big difference.

Some of the topics you'll have a chance to say yea or nay to are:

- **Climate Accountability: Yes or No?**
- **Budget: Apportion 4 Million Dollars?**
- **Dog Leash: On or Off?**
- **Town Clerk: Elected or Appointed?**
- **Town Zoning: What goes Where?**
- **Habitat for Humanity House?**



Energy Committee

Your Energy Committee:
Sahar Daoudi, John Larsen,
Alisa Pearson, Daniel Robb,
Tony Rogers, and Stan Swiercz.

FOR A MORE ENERGY-EFFICIENT, SUSTAINABLE, TOWN

What is Article 15 F. for?

- The town has applied for a \$250,000 Green Communities grant to fund the bulk of the cost to install a new state-of-the-art Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) Heat Pump heating and cooling system and Energy Recovery Ventilator ventilation system in the Pelham Community Center.
- In addition to this grant, the system also qualifies for additional incentives from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and Mass Save.
- These funding sources don't quite cover all of the project costs. The town is seeking additional grant funding, but to ensure that the project can proceed if we receive the Green Communities grant, Town Meeting is asked to appropriate \$25,000 to help cover the the balance of the projected project cost or to repair equipment if there is a failure before we can replace the current system.

Why replace the Community Center HVAC system now?

- The current system is reaching the end of its rated useful life
- Components have failed
- Glycol transfer fluid might be accelerating deterioration
- Be proactive. Act before a catastrophic failure and crisis
- Take advantage of grant funding to save the town money. Takes one to two years to apply for and secure grants. Won't have time if we wait for failure.

Why a VRF electric Heat Pump System?

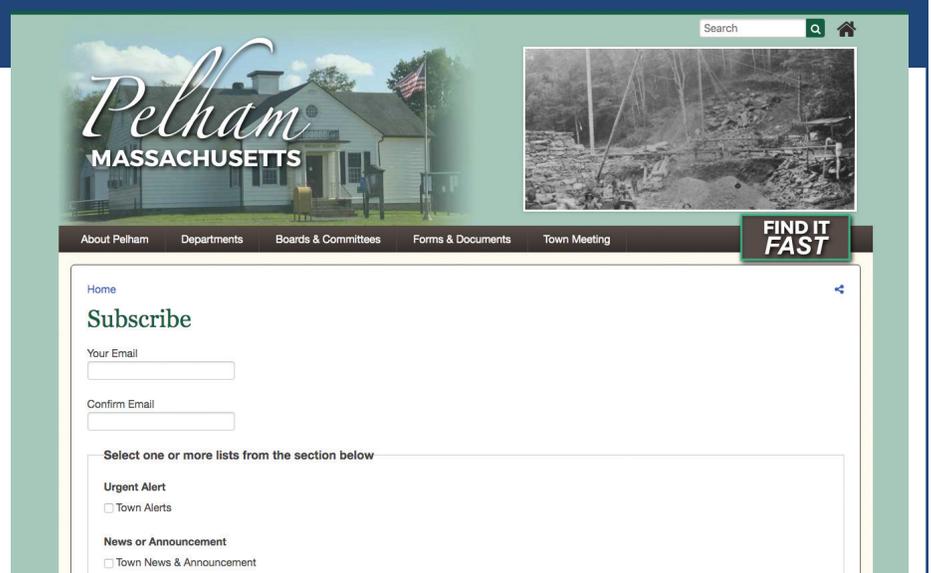
- VRF electric heat pumps are a modern, proven and highly efficient solution that can provide both heating and cooling.
- **Reduced costs.** The specified system will reduce Community Center energy costs by 26%. This is based on current oil prices. If oil prices increase, the savings will increase, as oil prices are more volatile than electricity prices. Savings will also increase when Pelham develops on site solar generation.
- **Funding sources.** The specified system qualifies for grants through the Green Communities program and the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program. The town has received grants from both programs in the past and has applied for grants from both programs to support this project. In addition, the system qualifies for incentives from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and Mass Save. The system can also generate Alternative Energy Certificates that can serve as an additional revenue stream for the town based on how much energy the system delivers to the building each year.
- **Improved efficiency.** Heat pumps deliver two to three times more heat or cooling energy than they consume. The specified system will reduce Community Center energy use by 50%.
- **Reduce carbon footprint.** The specified system will reduce carbon dioxide emissions for the Community Center by 41%. This reduction will increase as the electricity from the grid incorporates more carbon free renewable source through Renewable Portfolio Standard and even more as Pelham develops its own solar energy resources.
- The specified system will be paired with an Energy Recovery Ventilation system that will provide fresh air as needed by the number of building occupants and save energy by transferring energy from the stale air exhaust stream to the fresh air intake.

WEB SITE FEATURE:

News Delivered To Your Inbox

Sign up today to receive electronic communications, including urgent alerts, town news, announcements, meeting agendas and minutes, for Pelham's boards and committees. Visit our web site at www.townofpelham.org and click on Subscribe to E-Alerts.

Questions? Call Selectboard Assistant, Susannah Carey 253-7129



The screenshot shows the Pelham Massachusetts website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and a home icon. Below the header, there is a navigation menu with links for 'About Pelham', 'Departments', 'Boards & Committees', 'Forms & Documents', and 'Town Meeting'. A 'FIND IT FAST' button is also visible. The main content area features a 'Subscribe' form with fields for 'Your Email' and 'Confirm Email'. Below the form, there is a section titled 'Select one or more lists from the section below' with two options: 'Urgent Alert' (with a checkbox for 'Town Alerts') and 'News or Announcement' (with a checkbox for 'Town News & Announcement'). The background of the website features a large image of a white house with a porch and an American flag, and a smaller image of a construction site.

Finance Committee

Your Finance Committee:
Tara Loomis, Emily Marriott, Bill Martell
John Trickey and Fred Vanderbeck,

REPEATED FROM THE COVER PAGE OF THE WARRANT ARTICLES.

The Finance Committee is pleased to report that the Town's finances are in good condition for this year. As of the end of March, all current expenditures are well within budget and they are on track to finish in the same fashion. The Snow and Ice numbers will be over, but well within what we might normally see.

The budget being presented at the May Town meeting is balanced and below the two and a half percent increase that we strive to use as a ceiling. This is largely because the Regional Assessment (Pelham's share of the Regional School budget) is \$35,239 below last year's number. This is a result of the declining number of Pelham students which represents a lower percentage of the total student body. The Elementary budget is less than the 2.5% guidance because there has been a decrease in the health insurance cost due to many of the participants using a less expensive option. There is an article to increase many of the Town employee's wages in order to keep them somewhat competitive in this market. Passing this Warrant Article still keeps the total budget increase well within the two and a half percent target that is our goal.

Pelham's future financial situation is becoming much clearer and what is just over the horizon is very troubling. Below is a chart of Pelham's expected cost increase for the Elementary and Regional Schools. This is based on the new Regional Assessment that was reached this year.

These are realistic projections, assuming that the Regional agreement continues. If the Elementary School were to add new Charter and Choice out students, these figures could be adversely affected.

So what does this mean? The Finance Committee guideline is to try to keep the total budget increase to two and half percent, which is about \$100,000 each year. Obviously beginning in 2022 this cap will not be possible and we project the tax increase to be in the \$150,000 range to keep up with retirement obligations, health insurance, wage increases, cost of utilities, and maintenance. Every household should be planning ahead for these tax increases.

The other effect of the coming increases is that the tax rate will be going up quite noticeably. Our current rate is \$21.59. We cannot exceed the limit of \$25 excluding the CPC funding and the bond payment for our school. Since we cannot go over that number, in order to fund the Town, cuts will definitely be necessary until the assessed value of our Town goes up during a reevaluation or new revenue is found. It is time to seriously start discussing what should be the plan. The Town Center is a start but without some major economic development activity, it will not solve our problem.

The projected future tax challenge is real and will not go away. It is imperative that the leadership of our Town begin to address these concerns and begin a dialogue to plan for our future. Much of our energies should be concentrated on keeping our Town viable and functional.

Pelham's expected cost increase for the Elementary and Regional Schools

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Elementary	\$19,336	\$38,762	\$39,731	\$40,724	\$41,742
Region	<\$35,238>	<\$5,558>	\$37,969	\$40,178	\$46,917
Total Increase	<\$15,902>	\$33,204	\$77,700	\$80,902	\$88,659

Housing Committee

Your Housing Committee:
Tilman Lukas, Chair Barbara
Cooper, Ruth Elcan, Gail Kenny,
Jim Lumley, Amy Spalding-Fecher

PELHAM FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER PROGRAM

The Housing Committee is happy to announce the start of the Pelham First Time Homebuyer Program.

At last year's October town meeting, voters approved funds to help two first-time homebuyers cover down payment and closing costs for home acquisition.

Valley Community Development will administer the program on behalf of the town. The program will make available loans of up to \$15,000 for two income-eligible households purchasing a home in Pelham. The loans require no payment of principal or interest and will be forgiven at 1/5th per year with no repayment required after 5 years provided borrowers remain in compliance with the terms of the Note.

To be eligible for the First Time Homebuyer Program applicants cannot have owned a home within the last 3 years and household income cannot be above the following guidelines:

Household Size/Income Limit

1 Person\$51,730
2 Persons\$59,120
3 Persons\$66,510
4 Persons\$73,900
5 Persons\$79,812
6 Persons\$85,724
7 Persons\$91,636
8 Persons\$97,548

For information and application: Valley Community Development Corporation
Donna Cabana, (413) 586-5855,
ext.180dc@valleycdc.com.

Applications will also be available at the Pelham Library and with the Town Clerk.



ARTICLES FOR TOWN MEETING EXPLAINED

The overhaul and reorganization of Pelham's Zoning Document approved last May had two main objectives:

1. To create a compact Village Center where water and sewer exist, or may be reasonably expected to be expanded, in order to provide a space for appropriate business uses and affordable housing
2. To provide regulations and definitions tailored to retain community control over building design and uses while preserving the rural characteristics of Pelham.

Other changes voted at that time added a table of contents, revised the table of uses and repaginated the entire document. At Town Meeting this year the Board is responding to concerns expressed by citizens by introducing five articles clarifying some concepts by adding and/or revising some definitions and certain requirements for permitted uses.

Article numbers 1 and 5 are necessary housekeeping with no substantive changes; article numbers 2, 3 and 4 contain the revisions we feel are justifiable and appropriate. Below is a synopsis of the five articles and the citizens petitions related changes.

Article 1: Currently, the Table of Uses groups together sets of commercial uses like Restaurant/Bar/Entertainment. The proposed changes in Article 1 simply separates those uses so that each use is on its own line. This does not change the content of the zoning. It only changes how it is displayed for the convenience of users and discussions at public hearings held for applicants to request permits. Passage of this article is critical to enable town meeting to discuss the other articles systematically.

Article 2: Adds and revises some definitions and seeks a change to the Table of Uses. The key issue is the way "Convenience Store" and "Retail/Retail Sales" are defined. It is illegal to simply ban chain stores, but the Planning Board has assumed that most Pelham residents don't want any here. Rather, by defining "convenience store" as a type of retail with certain characteristics (size, volume, selling area, etc.) that are not allowed in Pelham, it can be distinguished from retail that is allowable and desirable. Retail as we define it envisions a smaller enterprise, home occupation, or proprietor-owned type shop. The other changes reduce the square footage of any retail from greater or lesser than 2500 sq. ft. to 2,000 sq. ft.; adds a Special Permit requirement in the Village Center-Mixed Use district; and fully describes the reasons why convenience stores, as defined, are not congruent with the purpose of the town's zoning.

Article 3: Adds a definition for "Medical Office" and proposes changes to the Table of Uses for both greater and lesser than 2400 sq. ft. buildings for this use, disallowing the greater than 2500 sq. ft. in all districts. The article also revises definitions for Office, Personal Service Establishment, and Professional Service.

Article 4: Proposes several changes to Table 1 Schedule of Use Regulations, adding or revising definitions dealing with restaurants, bars and entertainment. (1) Bars will be prohibited everywhere

in town unless associated with a restaurant and granted a Special Permit. (2) "Standalone Entertainment" will be prohibited in all districts. (3) Entertainment in a building larger than 2500 sq. ft. will not be permitted anywhere in town. (4) Entertainment accessory to a commercial use will be permitted only in the Village Center-Mixed Use district, leaving the process for using public buildings and land as they are currently managed. (5) "Adult Entertainment" is added to the Table of Uses to enable the town to severely restrict it—essentially no one will be able to propose such a use now, but without this section all entertainment would be treated equally by law. Revisions of definitions associated with all of these proposals are also taken up under this article and extensive purpose statements are added to conform with accepted legal means of regulating of various entertainment types.

Article 5: This article is intended to allow someone to make Changes to the Code of Pelham that will be necessary as a result of what passes or doesn't pass at town meeting. Citizens Petitions have been submitted seeking to eliminate "restaurant/bar/entertainment less than 2500 sq. ft. uses from the Village Center Neighborhood District" and also seek to remove "Retail less than 2,500 sq. ft." from the Village Center-Neighborhood District. The petitions also seek to to substitute "professional" and eliminate "commercial" uses from the Village Center-Neighborhood District in the Purpose section, Article II Zoning Districts. The Planning Board believes that the majority of Pelham citizens favor limited commercial uses in the Village Center-Neighborhood district—especially since these uses must meet clear standards and require special permits and/or Site Plan Approval following rigorous application and public hearing processes. Passing this change in the Purpose Section would require other changes in the zoning document. Questions can be directed to Judy Eiseman, Planning Board Chair: 253-2932

Selectboard

Your Selectboard:
Robert Agoglia, Alisa Pearson,
and Karen Ribeiro

THREE ARTICLES FOR YOU

The Selectboard responds to citizen's concerns with warrants:

Appointed Town Clerk: The move from elected to appointed Town Clerks is a trend across the Commonwealth. Elected officials must live in the town, appointed do not.

Dog Leashes: Two articles are before you to consider, one relating only at dogs with a prior citation, the other applies to all dogs.

Short Term Rental Tax: Towns are now able to add a local occupancy tax to short-term rentals. This is a new revenue source for Pelham.

ROUNDTABLE



We heard you, Town Meeting

Your select board is seeking to find a balance for governing our town. Such balance implements the will of town meeting, related to the essential financial, aspirational, and care-taking functions that affect the quality of life in our town, with actions to address the existential threats posed by climate change. We don't have good role models in government that give equal weight and attention to mitigating the effects of climate change. So, we are learning as we go.

One of the actions we recently implemented was to organize a roundtable meeting of town leaders from among our town's staff, committees and boards on March 5, 2019. The meeting was attended by fifteen people plus our volunteer facilitator, Pelham resident Steven Botkin (thank you Steven). The purpose of the meeting was to generate ideas for how Pelham could reduce its carbon footprint.

At the beginning of the meeting we learned about some steps Pelham has taken to reduce its use of fossil fuels. The Energy Committee reported that the Community Center roof project resulted in fuel savings of 16% and a 21% reduction in carbon emissions. Two lighting upgrades, the most recent in 2018, further reduced energy use by 4%. The Committee is currently seeking grants to support new HVAC systems for the Community Center and School, and to study photovoltaic systems that together could potentially reduce the carbon footprint of these buildings by over 50%.

After hearing this encouraging news, participants were led through a process to brainstorm and prioritize ideas for further reducing Pelham's carbon footprint. The ideas that were generated clustered around three main themes:

- installing photovoltaic systems for town buildings and facilitating such systems for residents;
- increasing education about climate change and positive steps that the town and individuals can take and have taken to reduce their carbon footprint; and,
- encouraging businesses to open in town that sell food and offer experiences that residents now travel more miles to obtain, thereby reducing use of fuel and carbon emissions.

Most recently, our Energy Committee is at work on grants to explore photovoltaic systems for town buildings and our Connect Pelham Task Force is working to create networks of residents to exchange information and offer support in exploring steps to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. The Planning Board has created the zoning that makes it possible for businesses to locate in our Village Center in the future. And citizens brought forward a warrant article for our upcoming Town Meeting that would require progress reports at future Town Meetings on steps taken to conserve vital water and energy resources, and minimize carbon emissions. We look forward to sharing with you updates of more of such work being done in our community.

We also need your help. If you are interested in becoming involved, please talk to one of us or any of our committee/board members for more information. Your ideas, energy and talents are all part of making our town a "greener" and even better place to live.

FRIENDS OF THE PELHAM LIBRARY AND
CONNECT PELHAM PRESENT:
PLANT- BAKE - and TAG Sale!
SATURDAY MAY 4th - 9am - 2pm
Music, Fun, Community!
Carpooling and walking are encouraged
**PELHAM SCHOOL FIELD
AND LIBRARY**
CONNECT PELHAM -- Helping to Bring Our Community Together

Drop off plant donations at the library on Friday, May 3 from 8:00 am to noon. Drop of donations of baked good on the morning of the sale. If you would like help potting up plants, contact Emily Marriott at 413-362-9682 or eemariott@gmail.com. **Last day to dig is April 28.**

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

Get involved, vote. Here's your chance to choose who represents you and our town. May 14th is right around the corner!



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(three years)
Vote for one
Alisa C. Pearson
Candidate for re-election

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

(three years)
Vote for one
Robert N. Rowell
Candidate for re-election

BOARD OF HEALTH

(three years)
Vote for one
Richard M. Hall
Candidate for re-election

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(three years)
Vote for one
No Candidate

PLANNING BOARD

(five years)
Vote for one
Peter C. Wilson
Candidate for re-election

(one year)

Vote for one
Linda J. Spink

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

(three years)
Vote for not more than two
Gayle R. Barton
Candidate for re-election
Michael Hussin

CEMETERY COMMISSION

(three years)
Vote for one
Scott L. Barton
Candidate for re-election

MODERATOR

(one year)
Vote for one
Daniel E. Robb
Candidate for re-election

AUDITOR

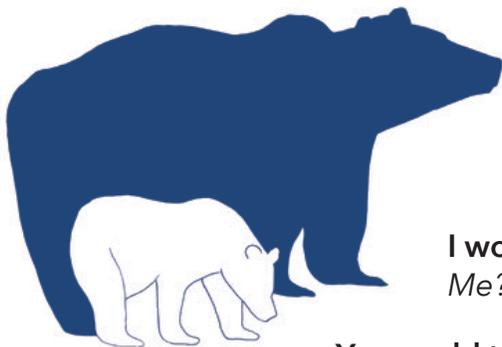
(one year)
Vote for one
No Candidate

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

(three years)
Vote for one
No Candidate

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

(three years)
Vote for one
Cydnie Reiman
Candidate for re-election



Mom, isn't a democracy about having a choice?

Yes, and it's also about voting.

Do I have a choice if I can only vote for one person?

No, not much of a choice.

I would vote for you, Mom.

Me? But I have to take care of you.

You could take care of me by running for office!

PROGRAM OF EVENTS THROUGH AUGUST 2019

Pelham Historical Society Museum Located in Pelham's Historic Complex, Corner of Amherst Road and Daniel Shays Highway

Check our website, www.pelhamhistory.org for updated information on special Sunday Museum activities for young and old alike!

May 26, 2019 at 10 a.m.

Quabbin Park Cemetery

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

Meet at 10 a.m. at the Quabbin Park Cemetery for refreshments followed by a parade and service at 11 a.m., honoring individuals removed from their original resting places for the building of Quabbin Reservoir. March behind the PHS banner with Pelham residents. *For more information contact Ginia Servos, 413-253-9934. Program co-sponsored with the Pelham Library*

June 2, 2019 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Pelham Historic Complex

MUSEUM OPENING

EVENTS TOUR OF TOWN COMPLEX 1:30 p.m.

CONNIE KINDAHL WEAVINGS AND GARDEN TOUR 3:00 p.m.

(Meet at Town Hall) Visit the Pelham Historical Society's Museum on its Opening Day to find out what's new. Learn about our small town with its big history by enjoying a tour of the Town Complex at 1:30 p.m. with our local historian Joseph Larson. Join us at the Town Hall at 3:00 p.m. to view some of long-time Pelham resident Connie Kindahl's weavings followed by a tour of her beautiful gardens. *For more information contact Cynthia Weigel, 413-256-4606.*



July 13, 2019 at 2 p.m. *Rain Date: Sunday, July 14, 2019 at 2 p.m.*

Meet at North Valley Cemetery

VISIT TO THE NORTH VALLEY AND COOK-JOHNSON CEMETERIES

Cemetery Commissioners Cleon Booth, Norman Page and several PHS Board members will share brief histories, stories and points of interest relating to two of Pelham's burying grounds, the North Valley Cemetery and the Cook - Johnson Cemetery. As we tour those cemeteries we will encounter some of the decorative stone engravings, personal inscriptions and fables that have endured the test of time. *For more information contact Bruce Klotz, 413-253-1601 or Linda Campbell Hanscom, 413-323-7377.*

August 10, 2019 at 10 a.m. *Rain Date: Sunday, August 11, 2019 at 3 p.m.*

Meet at former United Church of Pelham parking area

A VISIT TO PELHAM'S QUAKER CEMETERY AND MEETINGHOUSE SITE

In 1806 Quaker Esek Cook came to Pelham where he was instrumental in gathering together a small society of his faith. We will carpool and then walk to Pelham's Quaker Meetinghouse site and Cemetery. During our visit Pelham resident Roger Conant, a member of the Mt. Toby Quaker Meeting Group, will provide a history of the presence of the Quakers in Pelham, the meeting house where they assembled and the simple wooded cemetery where they rest. *For more information contact Linda Campbell Hanscom, 413-323-7377.*

ABOUT THE COVER

For this issue of the Slate, local Pelham resident and artist, Ron Michaud generously shared one of his paintings for the cover. We decided to ask Ron a little bit about his history here in Pelham, as well as about his work as an artist.

Learn more about Ron's work at his website: <https://www.ronmichaudart.com>



How long have you lived in Pelham?

My wife Linda and I moved to Pelham in 1996 as our son Phil was just beginning kindergarten at Pelham Elementary.

What inspired you to make these paintings?

That's a big question. In addition to being representational landscapes, the paintings are really derived from my abstract color work over the years. I've always been fascinated with color and vision. My most recent paintings are crafted from a carefully selected set of colors located strategically on the canvas. These colors then interact and influence each other in ways that generate more apparent colors than are actually there. The result is an image that the eye and the brain readily recognize.

Is this from a series?

I'm currently working on a series of paintings titled "The Road to Dana". Many people in this area are familiar with the Quabbin, its history and the four towns that were taken and removed to build it. One of those towns, Dana and its common, remains above the water line today and is accessible from the eastern shore. My wife and son and I first visited the site shortly after we arrived to the area in 1996. I was immediately taken with the sense of place and the town and the lives that were once so much a part of the Swift River Valley. This series of paintings in some way seeks to recall the sense of place that was once that community.

Does Pelham inspire your work?

There are so many ways that living in this area inspires my work and ideas, but yes, it would be difficult to live in Pelham and not be influenced by the people and the landscape. A short drive through the area makes that immediately clear.

Happy Spring from the Pelham Library!

Mark your calendars now, the Pelham Plant Sale returns on Saturday, May 4. Meanwhile, there is so much going on around here. We're so much more than books, though we have plenty of those, of course, and are always adding new ones. We've recently expanded our collection of children's science kits, including Snap Circuits, Squishy Circuits and Ozobots. Have a budding engineer in the family? Why not check some out? We're also very excited to offer Kanopy, a streaming service similar to Netflix, free to Pelham Library patrons. Stop by, call, or email to see how you can take advantage of this great offering. Our recent programs have included a jazz concert with the Steve Kurtz/Dan Belmont Quartet, film showings of "Dark Money" and "Into the Wild", programs on Pelham past and present with the Pelham Historical Society, a series on gender in children in collaboration with the Pelham School PTO, a visit from Justice Hadley of the Greenfield District Court for Judicial Awareness Month, and teen Valentines and painting programs. We're also participating in "Libraries in the Woods" along with 9 other area libraries, all reading the same book, "The Stranger in the Woods" by Michael Finkel and doing related programming throughout March and April. The little ones have been enjoying music, playgroups, ukulele story time with Julie Stepanek and a brand-new light table courtesy of the Collaborative for Educational Services. We're also planning for our annual Children's Summer Reading Program, this year with a theme of "A Universe of Stories". If you don't have a library card yet, what are you waiting for? Come in and sign up! We received the most delightful gift recently in memory of long-time patron and volunteer Rae Nelson Selig, who passed away last November. She was one of the founding members of The Merry Devils, a club of seniors from Union High School in Union, NJ in 1953. The group stayed in touch all these years, and the remaining members decided to honor her memory with gifts to the Pelham Library totaling over \$1,200, which will be used to purchase books. She's pictured here in her club photo, in the top row, second from the right. Thank you, Merry Devils, for helping our collection to grow! We welcomed Ruthie Sterling to our staff this year, and she's been making her presence felt, whether helping you at the desk, leading creative teen programs or designing great displays. We've also been lucky to have ARHS senior and Pelham School alumna Max Callahan interning with us on Wednesdays, when he helps process our new arrivals and keeps our library looking spiffy by organizing our shelves. He's been trying his hand at displays, too. Volunteers and interns like Max are crucial to the functioning of any public library. If you have an hour or two to spare each month (or more!) please consider helping us out. If you have a special area of interest or expertise and would like to do a program, or if you are an artist interested in having an exhibit in the Ramsdell Room let us know. We'll talk. You can also join the Friends of the Pelham Library and help plan for upcoming events.

Jodi Levine, Director



The Merry Devils, Rae Nelson Selig, pictured here in her club photo, in the top row, second from the right.

If you don't have a library card yet, what are you waiting for?

Come in and sign up!

We're very excited to offer **Kanopy**, a streaming service similar to Netflix, free to Pelham Library patrons.

THE WORLD'S FINEST CINEMA

NOW STREAMING FREE WITH YOUR LIBRARY CARD

KANOPY.COM Watch now

Kindergarten registration for the 2019–2020 school year has now begun. The registration process for kindergarten is no longer completed at the Pelham Elementary School main office. Parents/guardians are asked to go to the district registrar at the ARMS district office- Side Entrance. Yahdira Torres is the contact person for all Pelham School registrations and can be reached at Torresy@arps.org or (413) 362-1810. If you have any school specific questions, please contact us at (413) 362-1100 for more information. Children who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2018 are eligible to enroll in kindergarten for the fall. There are no exceptions to this requirement. An original birth certificate, proof of immunization, proof of residency in the district and a current physical examination are required for admission. The original birth certificate, proof of residency, and immunization record should be brought to registration. A physical examination can be performed up to the start of school and forms for a physician to fill out will be available at registration. If parents/guardians have questions concerning student eligibility, they are requested to direct their questions to the appropriate building principal.

School Choice We are currently accepting applications for School Choice for the 2019-2020 school year. Please contact the school at (413)362-1100 for more information or visit the school website at: <http://pe.arps.org/>

Lisa Desjarlais, Principal



Kindergarten
Registration
Starts Now!

Pelham Cultural Council

ART, HISTORY, AND CULTURE Pelham Cultural Council Announces 2019 Grant Recipients and Asks for Your Feedback

The Pelham Cultural Council is pleased to announce that its most recent funding cycle resulted in 21 proposal submissions, of which 16 were selected to receive support from the Council's 2019 state allocation of \$4,400.

Grants awarded ranged from \$100 for an organization that keeps families up to date about cultural and educational opportunities in our area (hilltownfamilies.org), to \$900 in support of the Pelham School's field trip to the UMass Fine Art Center for a program entitled Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.

For a full list of 2019 grant recipients, visit:
<https://www.townofpelham.org/cultural-council>.

In anticipation of next year's funding cycle (deadline October 15), the Council encourages town residents and organizations to begin thinking now about submitting proposals for consideration. The Council will also be conducting a survey of residents to gauge interest in particular types of programming and help direct future funding decisions. The Pelham Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community. *For more information about submitting a proposal to the Pelham Cultural Council, or to learn more about serving as a member of the Cultural Council, contact Council Chair Nora Maroulis at nora@wunderarts.com.*

HELP WANTED

The following boards/committees are looking for new members to join:

- Board of Registrars, 1 member vacancy
- Cable Advisory Board, 1 associate member
- Community Hall Committee, 2 member vacancies
- Conservation Commission, 2 member vacancies
- Council On Aging, 1 associate member vacancy
- Energy Committee, 1 member vacancy
- Historical Commission, 2 member vacancies
- Personnel Board, 5 members
Recreation Commission, 5 members
- Space Needs Committee, 5 members
- Zoning Board of Appeals, 1 associate member vacancy

MEETING SCHEDULE

REGULAR

Board of Assessors

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

Board of Health

2nd Tuesdays at 7 PM
Rhodes Building, 351 Amherst Rd.

Board of Selectmen

1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 6 PM
Library, then School, 2 South Valley Rd.

Cemetery Commission

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

Conservation Commission

2nd and last Thursdays at 7 PM
Rhodes Building, 351 Amherst Rd.

Community Preservation Committee

3rd Thursdays at 7 PM
Pelham Library, Ramsdell Room
2 South Valley Rd.

Please note that these are only anticipated meeting times and locations:
By law, definitive meeting information is posted 48 hours in advance 24/7 on the TownofPelham.org website.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to accessibility concerns, meetings not reliant on records are not currently held at the Rhodes Building until further notice.

Energy Committee

1st Tuesdays and as needed 7:30 PM
Pelham Library, 2 South Valley Road.

Historical Commission

3rd Tuesdays at 7:30 PM
Pelham Library, 2 South Valley Road

Library Trustees

3rd Wednesdays at 7:30 PM
Pelham Library, 2 South Valley Road

Planning Board

2nd Mondays at 7 PM
Pelham Library, 2 South Valley Road

School Committee

1st Wednesday at 6 PM
Pelham Library, Ramsdell Room
2 South Valley Road

VARIABLE *see posting*

Community Garden Committee

Pelham Library, 2 South Valley Road

Council on Aging

Pelham Library, Ramsdell Room, 2 South Valley Road

Finance Committee

As needed at 6 PM

Public Bodies that also meet as needed:

- The Capital Planning Committee,
- Community Hall Committee,
- Cultural Council,
- Housing Committee,
- Regional School District Planning Committee,
- Zoning Board of Appeals.

FROM THE TOWN CLERK

DOG LICENSE INFORMATION

Please be aware... 2019 Dog Licenses will be available on Monday, March 4.

Dog Licenses cannot be issued or renewed without a current Rabies Vaccination. Proof of rabies vaccination must be provided at time of licensing. Proof of spaying or neutering is required in order to receive the discount. Kennel licenses must be done in person. Proof of rabies vaccination and spaying/neutering must be provided for each dog. Dog Licenses are valid from April 1st to the following March 31st regardless of when they are issued. Any renewal received on or after June 1 will be assessed the late fee as required by Town By Law.

OBTAIN DOG LICENSE VIA MAIL

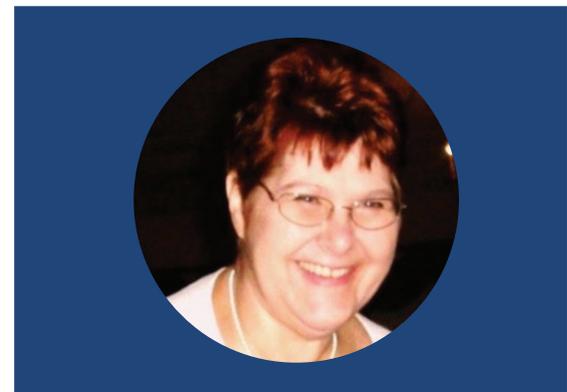
1. If rabies has expired a valid current rabies certificate must be provided. You can also have your Vet fax it to 413-256-1061 or mail a copy of rabies certificate.
2. Certificate of neutering or spaying only necessary if the procedure has taken place since the current license was issued.
3. Include a check made check payable to Town of Pelham for the appropriate amount.
4. Include a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope to return the license and dog tags. Note that multiple dog licenses and tags may require additional postage. Dog tags will not be mailed without a SASE.
5. Mail to: Town Clerk, 351 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01002.

NO LONGER HAVE A DOG?

Please let the Town Clerk know if you no longer have one of your previously owned/licensed dogs so that you don't receive reminder notices. (413) 253-0512, Tuesday-Thursday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

LICENSE FEES

Neutered or Spayed.	\$6.00
Male or Female.	\$10.00
Kennel Licenses 4 dogs or less.	\$20.00
Kennel Licenses for 5 -10 dogs.	\$50.00
Kennel Licenses 11 dogs or more	\$75.00



Please welcome Patrica Olanyk, Pelham's new Record Access Officer! Pat joins us from the Town of Amherst, Town Clerk's Office, where she retired after 20 years of service. Pat lives in Holyoke.

TOWN OFFICES, SCHEDULES & CONTACTS

Assessor's Office

Lori Turati, 253-0734
PelhamAssessor@comcast.net
Tuesday and Thursday, 8 AM-12 PM

Collector/Treasurer

June Masee, 253-2267
PelhamCollector@comcast.net
Monday-Thursday 8 AM-4 PM

Selectmen's Office, Admin. Assistant

Susannah Carey, 253-7129
PelhamAdministrator@comcast.net
Monday-Thursday, 9 AM-3 PM

Temporary Town Clerk

Sandra Burgess, 253-0512
PelhamTownClerk@comcast.net
New office hours until June 1, 2019
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday
10am-2pm.

2019 RECYCLING DATES

BRING RECYCLING to Pelham Elementary School at 45 Amherst Rd. on the **1st Saturday of each month, from 9 AM-12 PM**

If the first Saturday falls on a holiday or Town election, then the recycling date will be delayed by one week. Please check dates on the notice board at TownofPelham.org.

ITEMS THAT CAN BE RECYCLED:

Paper - newspaper, magazines, catalogs, white paper, cereal type boxes, corrugated cardboard, junk mail, & brown paper bags.

Containers - glass bottles, metal & aluminum cans, foil, plastics #1 - #6, wax-coated juice / milk cartons, & drink boxes.



Please do not use plastic bags for any recycling.

FROM THE ASSESSOR

Second quarter tax bills are due on Wednesday, May 1st, 2019.

All abatements must be submitted before **Wednesday, May 1st, 2019**. US postal post mark is acceptable for abatements only. Please be advised that the Town Offices are closed on Fridays.

Exemptions for Real Estate are available for Seniors, Veterans, Blind and Surviving Spouses for those who qualify. Please inquire on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 to noon if you have any questions regarding qualifications. (413-253-0734)

WHAT IS NEEDED FOR VEHICLE ABATEMENT?

You must have two proofs of what happened to the car and plates.

One of the following is required for all abatement requests, cancelled plate receipt, lost plate affidavit or new registration if the plates were transferred.

Additionally, Bill of sale or letter from insurance company identifying the vehicle totaled.

If the car was stolen, a police report, which ever applies. All must identify the vehicle.

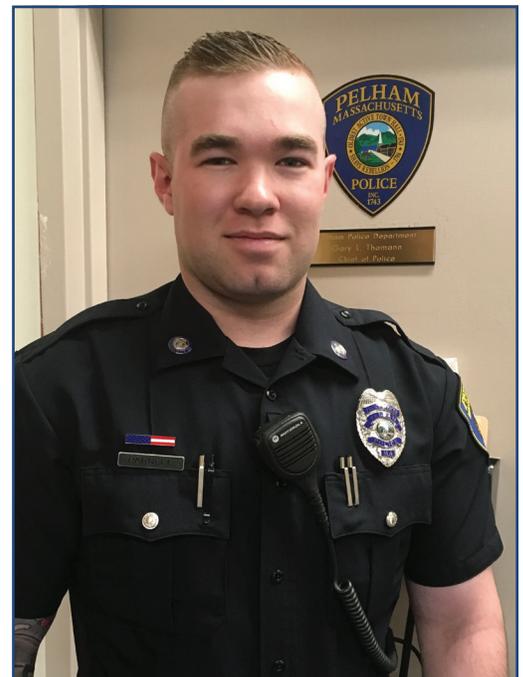
If you move out of state, a copy of the new state registration is needed.

Please be aware that the bill will be pro-rated by month and the bill should be paid. Applying for an abatement does not stay the payment of the bill. If the car was stolen, a police report, which ever applies. All must identify the vehicle.

REAL ESTATE TAXES

The next payment for Real Estate taxes is due **May 1st, 2019**. If you need a copy of your tax bill or need to learn the amount due please call the Collector/Treasurer, June Masee, at (413) 253-2267.

The Collector's office hours are Monday -Thursdays, 8:00AM-4:00PM at the Rhodes Building Town Offices, 351 Amherst Road.



Please welcome Officer Conner Parnell, Pelham's new full-time police officer!

Conner came to us from Deerfield where he was a part-time employee for a year and a half, he's a resident of Holyoke and will be attending the full-time Academy in January 2020.