

Town of Bernardston, Massachusetts



2023 Annual Report

The 2023 Annual Report Dedication to Louella Atherton



Louella Nettie (Barber) Atherton age 89, of Bernardston, MA passed away on November 21, 2023. She was born June 23, 1934, in Henry W. Cushman's Four Columns home on South Street in Bernardston. She was the daughter of Myron E. and Julia L. (Pratt) Barber. Atherton was a graduate of Powers Institute in 1951 and Greenfield Community College in 1975. She was a licensed notary public, real estate broker and insurance agent. For several years she was the assistant librarian at Cushman Library, the clerk for the Bernardston's Board of Health, a Master Guide at Historic Deerfield, legal assistant at Callhan, Curtiss, Carey & Gates and the office manager at Pratt Realty. She enjoyed historical research and compiled and published a family history book in 1997. Louella spearheaded the restoration of Powers Institute which became the Bernardston Senior Center and Bernardston Historical Museum. She was a Powers Institute Trustee, Director of Powers Institute Museum, Registrar of Voters and Church Historian of the United Church of Bernardston. Her family meant the world to her. Louella was a vital part of the Bernardston community. Her enthusiasm, cleverness and commitment to the Town will be missed!

The 2023 Annual Report Dedication to Fred Johnson



Fred Johnson was born and raised in Brattleboro, VT on December 26, 1924, one of 6 children. He moved to Bernardston with his wife and two children in 1959. Fred served in the Army during WWII from 1943-1946. Fred was a team chief in the Signal Corps. He was deployed to the China Burma India theatre - going over the Burma Road to Kunming, China, delivering supplies for the Chinese 5th Army.

Fred worked at Mount Hermon school as a custodian from 1958 to 1963. He later worked as a machinist for Bendix and for BETE Fog Nozzle in Greenfield. He is a long-standing member of the United Methodist Church in Bernardston and served as a Deacon as well as in the choir. After retirement, Fred became the custodian for the church as dedicated his time assisting with United Methodist Church Annual Gas Engine Show and parade.

Fred was also a volunteer with the Bernardston Fire Department. Throughout the years he has been very generous in aiding other retirees with various handyman services.

Bernardston, Massachusetts

Selectboard Annual Report 2023

In 2023, the Selectboard strived to work collaboratively in order to deliver quality public services to residents, while modeling best practices for civic discourse, transparency and accountability in local government. The Selectboard has aimed to honor traditions while preparing for inevitable change.

The Town successfully transitioned from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) Accounting System to MARCUM LLP. While at a slightly increased cost, MARCUM is a top-ranked national accounting and advisory firm dedicated to providing a well-timed reporting process.

The Heirloom Collective retail store completed its first full year of operation in May 2023. The Town of Bernardston brought in 3% of retail sales tax on their products. This total income to the Town was \$85,456.75!

A Competitive Community Compact IT Grant of \$50,000 was awarded to the Town in 2023. This competitive grant program focuses on driving innovation and transformation at the local level via investments in technology. The Selectboard accepted the grant and will use the transformative powers of IT to drive innovation, make local government more efficient, save taxpayer money, and make it easier for residents to interact and transact with the Town in 2024.

The Town of Bernardston was awarded the Community Development Block Grant in 2023 in the amount of \$1,261,301.00 for the Bernardston Country Estates Septic Repair and Replacement Project (\$959,945) that will upgrade and bring into compliance the current sanitary sewer system serving 38 homes. It includes replacing bituminous sewer lines and manhole structures, installation of adequately functioning and appropriately sized septic tanks, replacing the existing pump house and intake, replacing the asbestos cement

force mains, and installing a new pressure distribution leach field area. A Housing Rehab Program of \$150,000 was also awarded that will offer deferred payment loans to rehabilitate income eligible owner-occupied single or multi-family properties located within the town's boundaries to create safe, decent, sanitary and affordable housing. The goal of the program is to rehabilitate to code at least 3 units and the projects will break ground in Spring of 2024.

The Fire Department located an existing property in Town that will work for a new Fire Station location. The residents fully supported the property purchase with their vote at a significant savings. We look forward towards a fall move to the new location on or about September 1st, 2024.

In August 2023, the Senior Center was awarded \$88,000.00 grant to enhance digital literacy among senior citizens. The funding allowed for the purchase of 50 Claris tablets, all configured with Cyber-Senior architecture which enables senior's to quickly adapt to using the tablet and being able to easily location information. The Senior Center received enhanced internet coverage in the facility with the addition of several access points throughout the center.

Most importantly, the Selectboard would like to thank the dedication and hard work of the many boards, commissions and committees. We would like to thank our volunteers, who work hard to help the Town function. The volunteers coupled with the dedicated Town employees, make our Town of Bernardston special and unique! Without these folks, the Town would be a much different place to call home. We thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Selectboard and we wish you all good health in 2024 and beyond!

Stanley D. Garland, Chair Brian J. Keir Kenneth R. Bordewieck

Bernardston, Massachusetts Assessors Annual Report 2023

The Town issued 107 building permits this year including five for new construction. Also included were eight for commercial use including a large solar array. Many were issued for residential solar, weatherization and roof repair or replacement. Others were issued for miscellaneous projects like wood stoves, windows, doors, decks, and a few sheds.

There were 55 deed transfers in Bernardston for this year. This number is a decrease of 13 from last year. These transfers consisted of sales of land and homes as well as few family transfers. Although sales have slowed down, sale prices are still high for the third year in a row.

The Tax rate for fiscal year 2024 increased from \$15.99 to \$16.34. This is the first increase in five years. Valuations for this year increased an average of 7-10% due to market sales. FY24 was also a Revaluation year.

The Assessors switched to new software this year from Patriot Properties. In the long run this should be beneficial to all.

Regular office hours are Monday through Thursday 9am – 3:00 pm. Meetings are held once or a month or on an as-needed basis. Please contact the office for dates and times. The phone number is 648-5407.

Our email address is: assessors@townofbernardston.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Murphy-Chair
Russell L. Deane

Town of Bernardston, Massachusetts
Conservation Commission Annual Report 2023

The Conservation Commission is comprised of Chair, William Hill and members Andrew Rawcliffe, Kerry Baird and Damien Moody. In 2023, Conservation Agent, Cassie Tragert resigned from the position and the Commission welcomed Conservation Agent, Savannah Kitchens in October 2023. The Commission would like to extend a sincere thank you to Cassie for her dedication and commitment to the Conservation Commission and the Town of Bernardston.

Please know that the Conservation Commission is seeking additional volunteer members who are interested in learning new skills and duties involving the scope and mission of the Conservation Commission that includes administering the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act (MWPA), M.G.L. Chapter 131, section 40, as it applies to both private and municipal activities in the Town of Bernardston. With additional members, the Commission can become more active and involved in the oversight of open spaces and public lands, as well as working with landowners on the future preservation of precious land resources. The Conservation Commission convenes at the Town Hall, normally on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm. Please refer to the Town website or the bulletin board inside Town Hall for the posting of scheduled meetings.

The Commission would like to extend our sincere thanks to the members of the Selectboard for their dedicated interest and support during the year. The Commission relied on the frequent help of former Town Coordinator Louis Bordeaux, the current Town Coordinator, Karen Kelly and the Town Clerk Christina Slocum-Wysk in supporting some of our administrative tasks.

In 2023, the Bernardston Conservation Commission reviewed all projects and activities that fell within the jurisdiction of MWPA. Private, municipal projects and activities reviewed and acted included:

- Online Building Permit review and sign-off for 7 exterior building permit requests via the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program. This work was performed in part by William Hill, Andrew Rawcliffe, Damien Moody, Agent

Tragert and Agent Kitchin using MassGIS data sets; USGS quadrangle maps; MADEP Wetlands (1:12,000), and Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) Priority Habitats of Rare Species as well as the USGS StreamStats tool and aerial imagery to provide preliminary site review and indicate site inspection where applicable. Site inspections, when required, are performed by all members of the Conservation Commission and/or the Conservation Agent as availability allowed.

In 2023, the Conservation Commission addressed inquiries regarding MWPA jurisdiction:

- Issued a negative Determination of Applicability with conditions for the expansion of a pump house foundation at Crumpin Fox located at 0 Parmenter Road on February 14th, 2023.
- Issued a negative Determination of Applicability with conditions for proposed expansion of the existing footprint of a commercial building and repaving the existing paved parking area at 22 South Street on February 28, 2023.
- Issued a negative Determination of Applicability with conditions for the construction of a new home located at 230 Bald Mountain Road on May 9th, 2023.
- Reviewed and acted on three (3) reports of possible violations.
- No Emergency Certifications or Order of Resource Area Delineations were issued in 2023.
- Reviewed inquiries, visited the sites when required and issued opinions related to the MWPA for multiple inquiries at various locations within the Town.
- Reviewed and responded to environmental monitoring reports for ongoing projects including solar farms at 32 Fox Hill Road, 1417 Bernardston Road and the storage facility on Northfield Road. Commission members provided guidance for erosion control issues and ensured that the projects were compliant with respective Orders of Conditions issued under the MWPA.

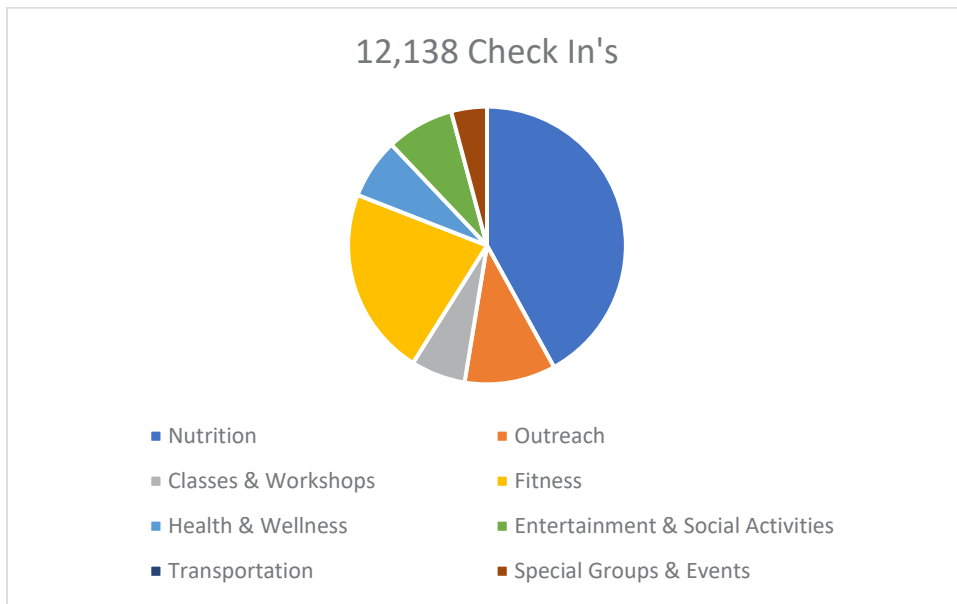
The Conservation Commission vision continues into 2024 and will continue to pursue existing public land that may be suitable for a Conservation Easement and work with stakeholders to initiate protection measures. The Commission will continue to monitor and provide detailed reports on existing Open Spaces and guide the development of a new Open Spaces & Recreation Plan for the Town. We will continue to work with the Town's boards, committees, commissions and the residents of Bernardston in promoting local and regional conservation projects and initiatives for open undeveloped Town property while maintaining regulatory compliance with the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act as it applies to both private and municipal activities in the town of Bernardston.

Respectfully submitted by William Hill, Chair and members Andrew Rawcliffe, Kerry Baird, Damien Moody and Savannah Kitchin, Conservation Agent.

Bernardston Senior Center and Council on Aging

In 2023 the Bernardston Senior Center has been very busy growing in the number of members and program offerings. We currently have 650 members that have attended 12,138 classes and events since January 2023.

We continue to see steady increases in service needs such as fuel assistance, LIHEAP, caregiver assistance, monthly Pop-Up Pantry, Brown Bag and SNAP as we have the only social service/ outreach in town. We are now offering a men's group, LGBTQ programming and have continued offering two foot clinics a month, walk in wellness checks, blood pressure checks, sharps exchange program, bereavement counseling, caregiver support groups, therapeutic massages, and our successful lock box program.



Through competitive grant applications we have installed a public computer lab, with Wi-Fi access points and network security firewalls. We have partnered with 7 other COA's to deliver digital literacy instruction and training. We have partnered with 5 other towns to provide grant funded outreach. Recently we have been awarded grant funding for hybrid programming. Grants in FY23 totaled over \$170,000.

Community partnerships include FRCOG, Bernardston Cultural Council, BES, PVRS, FCTS, LifePath, BFD, BPD, Franklin County Sheriffs Dept., FRTA, Mass Healthy Aging, Franklin Area Survival Center, Pioneer Valley Growers Association, Bernardston Kiwanis, RSVP, Bernardston Emergency Management, area businesses, COA's from Leyden, Northfield, Gill/Montague, Greenfield, Heath, Rowe, Charlemont and Colrain.

Staff, COA and volunteers are the true pulse of BSC. BSC tallied 1986 volunteer hours from 76 people. We always have opportunities for community members to volunteer and contribute to our success.

With kindness, Jennifer Reynolds, Director of Bernardston Senior Center & COA



Cushman Library 2023 Annual Report

Respectfully Submitted by Karen E. Stinchfield, Library Director

Cushman Library is a State-certified library, based upon a minimum annual appropriation from the Town, compliance with open hours and circulating materials expenditure requirements, and the submission of the Annual Report Information Survey (ARIS) and the annual State Aid Financial Report & Compliance Form to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). Cushman is also a member of the Massachusetts Library System (MLS) and a Mininet circulating library in the Central/Western Massachusetts Resource Sharing (C/WMARS) network.

Our total circulation in 2023, with the exception of Mediated Inter-Library Loans via the Massachusetts Library System, was 10,335. Network Transfers, which are holds received from, or supplied to, other libraries, numbered 1,872 received and 1,870 supplied. 98 library cards were furnished to newly-registered patrons during 2023. We were open and offered full in-building circulation services throughout 2023, with the exception of the seven weeks during which our septic tank was replaced. Delivery of library materials took place weekly, with staff delivering to patrons' homes, during this time. We continue to receive delivery of Networks Transfers and returning circulating materials three times per week. Residents and patrons continue to have full access to all circulating materials on site, through all C/WMARS (Central and Western MA) libraries, the Commonwealth Catalog (ComCat, throughout the State), and Mediated Inter-Library Loans via MLS, which reaches worldwide.

We offered pond exploration for families, a wonderful concert by the pond featuring *Zara Bode's Little Big Band*, and a family concert in celebration of the culmination of our *Summer Reading Program* with *Davis Bates*. The latter two offerings were funded by the Bernardston Cultural Council, a local agency funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Sixty-six children participated in our six-week Summer Reading Program with the theme "*Find Your Voice*," which featured reading goals, weekly crafts, and lots of prizes. *Bernardston Kiwanis* again helped fund this programming. Ninety-seven adults and teens participated in our *Summer Reading Raffle*, vying for gift certificates of all sorts by reading as much as they could in six weeks. Our regular programming, including BONJOUR! French Conversation Group and our Book Discussion Group met consistently throughout the year, in person and via Zoom, when necessary. We resumed offering weekly all ages Story Hour and Wednesday Night Knitters in October, and our Braiding Sweetgrass Discussion Group on Facebook has 736 members from all over the world.

Cushman Library is a member of Libraries in the Woods (LITW), a group of 28 local rural libraries that originally gathered to participate in community reads and now shares extensive support, information, advocacy, and multi-faceted programming. The 2023 LITW Community Read featured *The Last White Man* by Mohsin Hamid. Cushman's discussion coupled this book with John Howard Griffin's 1961 autobiography *Black Like Me*. The juxtaposition of these two books, one fiction and one non-fiction about the changing of one's skin color, made for very interesting discussion.



Cushman Library **2023 Annual Report - Continued**

Respectfully Submitted by Karen E. Stinchfield, Library Director

The \$15,000 2023 Sustainable & Resilient New England Libraries Grant from the Association for Rural & Small Libraries enabled us to realize the longtime goal of removing all knob and tube wiring from our building, as well as upgrading our electrical service. Thanks to ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding, our defunct mini-split was replaced and three more were added, making every room in the building more comfortable; deteriorating fiberglass insulation was removed from our basement and replaced with spray foam insulation, and blown-in insulation now covers the floor of our attic, insuring that our building is more energy efficient; the roof trim was repaired and replaced as necessary, and then repainted, in an effort to deter any critters from entering the attic; and our overgrown yew bushes were removed and gardens redesigned. The Kousa Dogwood, Crab Apple, and white Lilac were removed in order to limit animal access to the building and entanglements with incoming wires. A portion of the stone patio and the patio railing had to be temporarily taken up in order to facilitate the installation of the new septic tank, which was our biggest project in 2023, funded by the Town's Renovate and Construct Town Buildings account.

In January, Sean Charles, our Assistant Librarian, worked his last day at Cushman and then went on to his new job at Greenfield Public Library, which would afford him more hours. The Cushman Library Board of Trustees made the decision to phase out the Assistant Librarian position, and the Library Director agreed to work every Saturday. Other than this shift, Cushman's staff has remained constant throughout 2023, with Library Assistants Mary McGinn and Peggy Shippa, and Alternate Audrey Dragone, sharing their love of literature and this community with everyone who visits.

The Board of Trustees (BOT) saw some changes, due to members moving out of town, moving on to other facets of life, and needing to care for their health. Jessica Byrnes, Kelly Guertin, Susan Hackney, and Cathryn Thomas transitioned out of the Trustees at different times throughout the year. Zoe Darrow, Eliza DeMarco, Joel Finnell, and Veronica Gilmore were elected or appointed to the BOT during 2023. The residents of Bernardston continue to be extremely well-served by the Trustees they have elected to work in tandem with the Library Director in order to bring engaging services to the community. In addition to having a dedicated Board of Trustees, the Cushman patrons benefit from the service of other regular volunteers, including Louise Legouis, who facilitates *BONJOUR!* our *French Conversation Group*; Jeanette Gale, who continues to create scrapbooks that document each year of life in Bernardston, which date back as far as the 1920's; and George Beauvais, who is always willing share his strength when we need it.

We continue to be a WiFi hotspot, thanks to our fiber installation and a router installed by C/WMARS, which many folks access for work as well as personal use. We also maintained our free wireless signal via Comcast Educational as a back-up



Cushman Library 2023 Annual Report - Continued

Respectfully Submitted by Karen E. Stinchfield, Library Director

system. Having wireless Internet available 24 hours per day has proven to be quite helpful to those folks who don't have Internet access at their homes, or don't have the speed necessary for certain functions.

Cushman is home to 16,999 physical holdings, which puts the value of our circulating collection at \$476,333. We strive to maintain a collection that offers our patrons access to materials that serve basic needs and those that reach beyond, creating an eclectic collection for everyone to enjoy. Patrons also have access to extensive digital and virtual offerings, which include educational resources and entertainment. Enjoy them!

Cushman Library Staff (as of 12/ 31/2023)

Library Director: Karen Stinchfield

Library Assistants:

Mary McGinn, Peggy Shippa, and Audrey Dragone

Cushman Library Trustees (as of 12/ 31/2023)

Brandon Grover, President

Justin Lawrence, Vice-President

Joel Finnell, Treasurer

Karen Fitzpatrick, Recording Secretary

Bob Lively, BOD Member-at-Large

Anne-Marie Mallon, BOD Alternate

Wendy Abramson

Jeana Bachinski

Lucy Damkoehler Schulte

Zoe Darrow

Eliza DeMarco

Veronica Gilmore

Annual Report of the Bernardston Emergency Management 2023

The Covid pandemic rolls on. The threat of school violence continues. The threat of hazardous material spills and transportation through our Town, with the Railroad and interstate Highways. We must continue to push to stay prepared for these as well as weather related emergencies.

A big THANK YOU goes out to Bill Montiglio, who stepped-down this year as one of the Deputy Managers. Bill has carried the load for the last couple of years, being available to go to regional meetings in Agawam, meetings with the Town Department Heads, staying vigilant on our yearly reports and plans, as well as the Special Needs/Assistance List and the Sand for Seniors' Program. His outstanding work ethic and professionalism reach far across the Town, region and state. It was his hard work and dedication that set Bernardston apart as leaders in this field. More than once our plans were used as demos at state meetings and were often shared by other towns. Bill took my direction that no one should have to reinvent the wheel! If we have something that somebody can use and change the names to fit their needs, let them have it and make life easier for other towns and their managers to complete the state mandated plans and requirements. Secondly, a larger THANK YOU for leaving us with some great working plans, an efficient contact list and for setting us on the right path of success with user friendly plans and record keeping.

Thanks to the other deputies, the Police and Fire Departments, the Selectboard and the Town Hall staff for their support! Thank you to all the other Town Departments, local businesses for their assistance over the past year. It is nice to know that you are all there when the need arises!

Respectfully,

Chief Peter A. Shedd

Bernardston, Massachusetts

Finance Committee Annual Report 2023

The Finance Committee is delighted to welcome Tammy Powell as the newest member of our group. She was appointed by our Town Moderator, Geoffrey Wilson, just in time to begin the budgeting process for Fiscal Year 2025. Welcome Tammy!

Our Bernardston By-laws require The Finance Committee to submit a budget to Annual Town Meeting and Massachusetts General Law requires that it be a balanced budget. Countless hours are spent each year preparing that budget for the coming Fiscal Year.

The Finance Committee met on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. from January thru May. Our Selectboard participated in most of those meetings as we built the Fiscal Year 2024 budget for presentation to the Annual Town Meeting. After Annual Town Meeting we met less often until late fall when we began the budgeting process for Fiscal Year 2025.

Other involvements by Finance Committee Members included the Fire Station Building Committee, the Public Service Advisory Commission, as well as attending many Selectboard meetings and some PVRSD Budget Committee Meetings.

Starting in January, Departments and Committees met with us to review their budget requests. We began receiving notifications of the Town's assessments for Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), Franklin Regional Retirement System, Franklin County Solid Waste District, Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Services District, the 2 school districts and other contracted services. Other standard expenses were examined and updated costs were included in the budget proposal.

The biggest differences in the FY24 Annual Budget were the change to a private firm for Accounting Services which had previously been provided by the FRCOG and the formalized agreement to provide Policing Services to the Town of Leyden.

Required year-end transfers for Fiscal Year 2023 were approved during the first 2 weeks of July by The Finance Committee and the Selectboard as required by Massachusetts General Law.

Work on a Capital Plan for the Town continues. Our goals are to compile a capital needs list and a projected schedule which will look forward at least ten years.

Throughout the process we appreciated conferring with and getting input from our Accountant and Town Treasurer and Town Coordinator. Their help and support are invaluable.

Thank you to the voters of Bernardston for their concern for and support of our Town and for supporting the Finance Committee's endeavors.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Dutcher, Chair
Brian Hervieux, Vice Chair
Stephen Nestanpower
Jody Coleman
Tammy Powell

Bernardston, Massachusetts Fire Department Annual Report 2023

Another busy year for the Bernardston Fire Department! We are truly doing more with less, More calls, less personnel...more repairs to the vehicles and the equipment. All while preparing to make the move to our new facility in September 2024.

We have hit the 300-call mark again this year and it was done with only 17 members. We are in need of some new membership! We are looking for volunteer firefighters, Emergency Medical Technician's (EMT), first responders, and Fire Station support personnel. With busy lives, it can be hard to find time to volunteer. However, the benefits of volunteering are enormous! Volunteering offers vital help to people in need, worthwhile causes, and strengthens the community. The benefits can be even greater for you, the volunteer. The right match can help you connect with the community, learn new skills, and even advance your career. While it's true that the more you volunteer, the more benefits you'll experience, volunteering doesn't have to involve a long-term commitment or take a huge amount of time out of your busy day.

New Fire Station plans are moving forward! The Raymond site on Northfield Road will provide the much-needed space for all of the equipment, offices and a meeting room. The new site has potential for future expansion and on-site training.

Most importantly, I would like to thank our residents, current and past members, family and friends for all your support over the last 25 years that I have been Chief! I would like to thank the Shelburne Control Dispatchers, the Franklin County Fire Chiefs, the Tri-State Fire Chiefs, the Selectboard, Town Hall staff, Chief Palmeri and the Police Department, and Brian Minor and the Highway Department for their outstanding support!

We are here for you 24/7! If we are busy, we have a plan that every call will be answered! Thanks to our great mutual aid system!

Chief Peter Shedd

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

To the Residents of the Solid Waste District:

The Solid Waste District was formed in 1989 to help Franklin County towns manage all aspects of their solid waste – recyclables, organics, hazardous waste, wastewater treatment sludge, and trash. We continue to provide assistance to twenty-one member towns through administrative support, professional consultation, trainings, and outreach to residents and businesses.

A review of recycling tonnage for 2023 shows that it was almost identical to 2022 recycling tonnage. District residents recycled just over 2,500 tons of paper and containers through their town programs. The recyclables were processed at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility and sold, primarily to domestic companies, to be recycled.

We held a May and October Clean Sweep bulky waste collection in 2023. Events were held at Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Northfield highway garage, and Whately transfer station. Combined, the events served 500 households and collected over 45 tons of bulky waste, scrap metal, appliances, electronics, propane tanks, tires, and other items.

We held our annual household hazardous waste collection in September 2023 at Greenfield Community College and Orange transfer station. This event allows residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, automotive products, pesticides, and other toxic products. A total of 360 households participated in this event. Residents have access every year to other hazardous waste collection events in the Pioneer Valley.

We applied for and received grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection worth \$107,100 for District towns. This grant funding is a result of a town's successful waste management infrastructure.

If you have questions about District programs, call us at 413-772-2438 (MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 TTY/TDD), visit our website at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org or visit us at 117 Main St. in Greenfield.

Jan Ameen - *Executive Director*
Chair

Chris Boutwell, Montague -

Terry Narkewicz, Shelburne - *Vice-Chair*
Treasurer

M.A. Swedlund, Deerfield -

FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

82 Industrial Boulevard

Turners Falls, Massachusetts 01376

TEL: 413-863-4239

FAX: 413-863-2816



Richard J Martin
Superintendent

FCTS Mission Statement

It is the mission of Franklin County Technical School to prepare all students to achieve a future of successful careers, technical and intellectual curiosity, healthy life choices and strength of character

FY25 Annual Report to Towns

We submit this annual report for 2023-24 school year on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff and students. As a reminder, the FY25 budget represents October 1, 2023 enrollment count, which is always a year behind the state budget process. FCTS has an enrollment of 568 students with town breakouts as follows:

Bernardston	30	Erving	27	Montague	74	Sunderland	9
Buckland	18	Gill	13	New Salem	14	Warwick	5
Colrain	23	Greenfield	132	Northfield	40	Wendell	8
Conway	7	Heath	11	Orange	90	Whately	18
Deerfield	35	Leyden	4	Shelburne	10		

Franklin County Technical School awarded 123 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2023. Massachusetts students are required to pass the MCAS in order to receive a high school diploma and once again our students were very successful in meeting this high academic standard. The state has adjusted their measures for evaluating district/school accountability and FCTS maintained the equivalent of a Level 2 accountability status out of a 5-point scale with 1 being the highest and 5 the lowest. Additionally, the district is meeting targets set by the Department of Education for passing rates of students of high risk with disabilities.

FCTS has the advantage of utilizing vocational students and licensed instructors from carpentry, electrical, plumbing, landscaping, and advanced precision machining to provide maintenance and repairs to our school grounds and facility saving member towns tens of thousands of dollars annually. These shop programs also saved member towns an estimated \$100,000 with the bond authorization projects.

Franklin County Technical School students are learning the value of paid work opportunities through a newly revamped Cooperative Education Program (Coop). In 2023 FCTS has approximately 38% of our seniors involved in paid Coop jobs related to their vocational field of study. FCTS also offers excellent academic offerings with increased courses in Advanced Placement, Honors, Foreign Language, credit recovery, and special education to provide all students with the opportunity to be prepared for college and career readiness.

Franklin County Technical School continues to experience increased enrollment and popularity within Franklin County, which has translated to new vocational technical programs in the fields of Veterinary Animal Science, Medical Assisting, and a new Aviation Technician program. These new vibrant programs are the first new vocational programs at FCTS in more than 40 years and bring the total number of Chapter 74 vocational-technical programs to 15. Unlike other school districts which may offer a 45-minute course in a trade, FCTS students must follow strict Chapter 74 guidelines where students are in their vocational shop program for 6.5 hours per day for a full week to meet industry competency guidelines.



ACCREDITED MEMBER NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, INC.

FCTS is in the final process of completing a new 4800 sq. ft. Veterinary Science Learning Center and Clinic. The new building is located on Industrial Blvd next to FCTS. The facility is planning to open in the spring of 2024 and will be used for the FCTS Veterinary program and provide students with real world experiences in the veterinary field.

The new Aviation program is slated to start during the 2024-25 school year. This program will provide students with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) credentials to be certified as an Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT). FCTS was fortunate to receive a 4.2 million-dollar competitive grant to build a new 12,000 sq. ft. aviation hangar with no additional assessment to towns. The FCTS hangar will be located along the boundary line between FCTS and the Turners Falls Airport. The facility will include; 1 twin engine airplane, 2 single engine airplanes, 1 glider, and 1 helicopter as well as FAA machines, equipment, engine simulators, and tools required by the FAA to start a new program. FCTS is planning to become one of the few high schools in the United States to offer a credentialed FAA program. Students graduating from the program will have the opportunity to obtain 1200 hours of FAA training to sit for the FAA license test and be on their way to a career in aviation.

FCTS is nearly 50 years old and is one of the few remaining regional vocational schools in Massachusetts without a Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) funded facility. In late 2022, FCTS was invited into the MSBA eligibility phase of the process, which will conclude in May of 2024. At this time, the MSBA will make a determination if FCTS will enter into the Feasibility Study phase of the program. The Feasibility Study will take several years to complete and will include a design phase which will determine anticipated costs of a potential project. FCTS has budgeted money over the last several years to fund a Feasibility Study without having to go out to bond with member towns. At the conclusion of the Feasibility Study, the MSBA and FCTS will determine if it is “feasible” to go out to our member towns to build a new facility, renovate, or seek other alternatives.

Franklin County Technical School’s technical programs continue to improve and evolve through the use of competitive Skills Capital Grants. FCTS has received more than 6.2 million dollars in grants over the last 6 years without using tax dollars from member communities. These funds have significantly enhanced our Welding, Medical Assisting, Veterinary Science, Machine Technology and Aviation vocational technical programs. FCTS also partners with the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board and Greenfield Community College to offer an evening program for underemployed and displaced workers to obtain a certification in Advanced Precision Machining using our 21st Century modernized CNC machines. Through the highly competitive skills grant FCTS also received \$500,000 to build a mobile welding simulator lab to be used to develop technical skills towards certification. FCTS will partner with the Franklin County House of Corrections to utilize the new mobile welding simulator lab as an opportunity to help inmates acquire advanced technical skills which can lead to employment upon release.

In addition, FCTS applied for and received a total of 1.8 million-dollar multi-year grants over the last several years to implement new adult evening training programs through the Commonwealth’s Career Technical Initiative (CTI). Since 2022, FCTS initiated adult training courses in Welding, Auto Technology, and Carpentry through the CTI grant and plans to explore more programs for 2024. FCTS also started its own Electrical adult program and plans to add more in the near future. To accomplish these goals and to meet industry and community needs, FCTS has hired a full-time adult coordinator.

Franklin County Tech’s Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, and Landscaping programs established a foundation in collaboration with the Greenfield Savings Bank to build a new home for the community. The current construction continues on the house on Petty Plain Road in Greenfield. Beyond the Greenfield house project, the Carpentry program constructed a new storage shed for the Town of Charlemont Federated Church, is constructing a pavilion for the Town of Shelburne Falls, and built a related classroom for our Automotive Tech program.

The Landscaping and Horticulture department worked with the Town of Shelburne Falls in the consultation and design of a pocket park, Source to Sea annual cleanup, Franklin County Fairgrounds tree planting, beautification design projects and fence repair, made wreaths for the Conway covered bridge, worked at the Shelburne Hills Cemetery for fall cleanup, consulted and designed the Veteran’s Memorial in Pelham, the Peskeompskut Park signage in Turners Falls, and planted trees for the towns on South Deerfield and Turners Falls. In Montague LH is working with the Montague Planning Department on the Millers trail modification.



The Programming and Web Design students worked with the Montague Senior Center and will be providing Tech Support beginning in December of 2023. The program also helped to develop a website for the UCC Church in Conway and a senior student is working with the First Congregational Church in Ashfield and coordinates the video and audio for online services.

The Electrical department continues working with the Town of Heath, retro fitting new parking and office lights at the town hall. Additionally, there is ongoing work at the office of the Turners Falls Airport, the support of the wiring for the newly constructed Vet Science building on campus and the automotive technology related classroom, installation of securing cameras in the welding department, and supporting the FCTS NIS department.

The Advanced Manufacturing program collaborated with our welding and carpentry shop on the design and construction of the Towns of Deerfield and Northfield 350th time capsules. Currently the students are manufacturing rollers for the horticulture program for the striping of the athletic fields in addition to assisting with making replacement parts for the automotive and horticulture departments, and they have worked with carpentry to operate the CNC router with a MasterCam program.

The Culinary Arts program did a crepe presentation for the Northfield Senior Center, and will provided a holiday luncheon in December for the Montague Housing Authority. They will serve the Erving Lady's Red Hat Society for a Valentine's Day luncheon, have created ice carvings for the Annual Winter Festival in Greenfield, hosted the Annual Chamber of Commerce Breakfast, the School Resource Officer's Breakfast, the Superintendent's Award Dinner, the Light Up The Fairgrounds Breakfast, the Annual National Honor Society's luncheon, . Also provided food and baked items for the Annual FCTS Car Show and Little Drummer Craft Fair.

The Welding department repaired the Highland Cemetery Gate in Millers Falls, have created an air conditioner unit cover for the Town of Warwick, a bench to be located at the French King Bridge in Erving, engine stands for the Aviation program scheduled to open in the Fall of 2024, brackets for the Franklin County Land Trust for signage, worked on the recycling carts for the Franklin County Fair and they are in discussion with the High Street Cemetery in Greenfield to restore their gates.

The Health Technology program has run public blood pressure clinics, a nail clinic at the Erving Senior Center, volunteered at the Arbors and Regal Care in Greenfield, collected items for a Hygiene Drive, work with the Ja'Duke Preschool observing child development and the creation of activities, and helped to serve holiday meals at the Stone Soup Café in Greenfield.

The Cosmetology program continues to provide services for residents of the Poet Seat Nursing Home, Linda Manor, Quabbin Valley Nursing Home, and the Bernardston Senior Center.

The Veterinary Science program ran a pet food and toy drive for local shelters, and has volunteered at the Dakin Humane Society. Services will expand to the public once the program occupies the new building.

Franklin County Tech is forward thinking as it continues to review labor demand and market analysis to add new programs and skills to support students to obtain competencies and training to make them competitive in the workplace, college, and career. Our partnerships with our communities are important for our programs, and we thank those which allow our students the opportunity to practice their trades out in the field.

Respectfully,



Mr. Richard J. Kuklewicz
School Committee Chairman



Mr. Richard J. Martin
Superintendent-Director



Franklin Regional Council of Governments Services to Bernardston in 2023

The FRCOG provides planning services, programming, and advocacy to all Franklin County municipalities. Our municipal service programs – Collective Purchasing, the Cooperative Public Health District, Cooperative Building, Plumbing, and Electrical Inspection, and Town Accounting – are available to any municipality. The Community Health Department gathers data and works to improve the factors that impact health in the region; the Planning Department assists with local planning and larger regional projects; and the Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Programs prepare and train first responders and local officials.

The following pages list services specific to Bernardston.

Climate Resilience, Land Use, and Housing

- Held a workshop for communities involved in the Franklin County Regional Pollinator Action Plan, including Bernardston, to share stories and lessons learned about expanding town pollinator habitat.
- Briefed the planning board on options to regulate the mapped river corridors for the Fall River, Dry Brook, and Mill Brook.
- Worked with the planning board to update the Bernardston Open Space and Recreation Plan, to be completed in 2024.
- Prepared a memo summarizing known short-term rental numbers in Franklin County, revenues for towns that have opted in to the lodging tax, and existing bylaws across the state related to short-term rentals. Towns can use that info to develop policies and bylaws, if desired.
- Organized and facilitated the Small Town Housing Working Group, which met 6 times in 2023. Several representatives from Bernardston attended at least one meeting, along with reps from 15 other Franklin County towns, 3 other municipalities, and several organizations.
- Created a scope of work to assist in applying for a grant to conduct a Bernardston Housing Production Plan.

Community Health

- Conducted the annual student health survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Pioneer Valley Regional School (PVRs) administrators on results from 90 Pioneer students, representing 64% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant writing and program planning.
- Worked with PVRSD administration and staff to implement restorative practices school climate improvements.
- Supported town officials with information and technical assistance on spending opioid settlement funds.
- Worked with town officials to recruit residents to fill out the Massachusetts Community Health Survey, to better understand local needs and encourage state investment in improving health outcomes.
- Provided 4 Bernardston children with summer camp scholarships through a CHIP Foundation for Community Justice mini-grant to improve youth health.

Economic Development

- Met with the new town administrator to review FRCOG Planning services.

Shared Municipal Services

- Bernardston contracted with FRCOG for collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment.
- The FRCOG Cooperative Inspections program issued 125 building permits, 93 electrical permits, 47 plumbing/gas permits, and 11 Certificates of Inspection for Bernardston in 2023.
- The FRCOG Town Accounting program produced biweekly vendor warrants, and provided monthly budget reports to all officials and departments through the end of fiscal year 2023. Bernardston continues to have access to historical accounting data through the FRCOG's MIP software.
- Bernardston is a member of the CPHS, a regional health district based at the FRCOG, which accomplishes all of the town's public health work, except septic system oversight (carried out by a separate agent to the board of health). CPHS staff:
 - Facilitated COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics between state mobile vendors and local schools, libraries, and senior centers. Clinics in CPHS towns served 726 individuals and provided 1075 doses of vaccine, including a Bernardston Senior Center clinic that served 59 people and provided 93 doses of vaccine.
 - Hosted drop-in nursing hours at the Senior Center and Stratton Manor, serving 53 different people in 98 separate contacts.
 - Gave 259 Flu and 257 COVID vaccinations at drop-in nursing hours and home visits. Bernardston residents received 43 vaccines, including 28 during home visits.
 - Completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance and reporting for communicable disease cases in district member towns, checking state infectious disease system daily and following up as required, including for 63 Bernardston cases.
 - Offered sharps collection and box exchange in collaboration with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District at all drop-in nursing hours: 69 boxes exchanged.
 - Provided guidance for town board of health members and regularly attended meetings.
 - Assisted businesses, organizations, and individuals with the CPHS on-line public health permitting system; evaluated and made determinations on a total of 54 applications for Bernardston, and on an additional 14 applications for regional permits. Among these were 26 food and 16 temporary food establishments permit applications, involving 37 on-site inspections; 4 short-term rental permit applications; and 2 beaver-trapping permit applications.
 - Responded to health- and safety- related housing complaints.
 - Offered tick-bite prevention outreach by collaborating with the board of health to provide prevention materials and 7 permethrin shoe-spraying events districtwide, including one at the senior center.
 - Hosted a "Train the Trainer" event at which community members learned to train their peers to recognize and respond to opioid overdose.
 - Presented a community training on how to identify and respond to an overdose in collaboration with a local library.
 - Supported the Franklin County Age- and Dementia- Friendly Communities initiative by working with the steering committee, subcommittees, and community partners to write and publish a five-year action plan in response to local priorities identified from the needs survey data.
 - Trained to be Medicare insurance "SHINE" counselor and assisted 1 Bernardston resident.
 - Provided guidance to the board of health and regularly attended board meetings.

Training and Education

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops, roundtables, and training sessions that Bernardston public officials, staff, and residents attended, and the number in attendance.

Public Health & Community Awareness

Beaver Trapping Permitting — 1

Food Safety — 3

Healthy Living for Brain & Body — 10

Restorative Practices — 4

Emergency Prep & Homeland Security

K-9 Life Support Certification — 1

Assault and Battery Response — 2

Municipal Officials' Continuing Education

Selectboard 101 — 2

Transportation

- Discussed various Geographic Information System (GIS) software application options and training for town staff.
- Created a GIS map of all unpaved roads within the town.
- Engaged in a contract to install Franklin County Bikeway wayfinding signs in spring 2024.
- Conducted traffic counts by town request on Brattleboro Road and Church Street.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Cooperative Public Health Service Services to Heath -- 2023



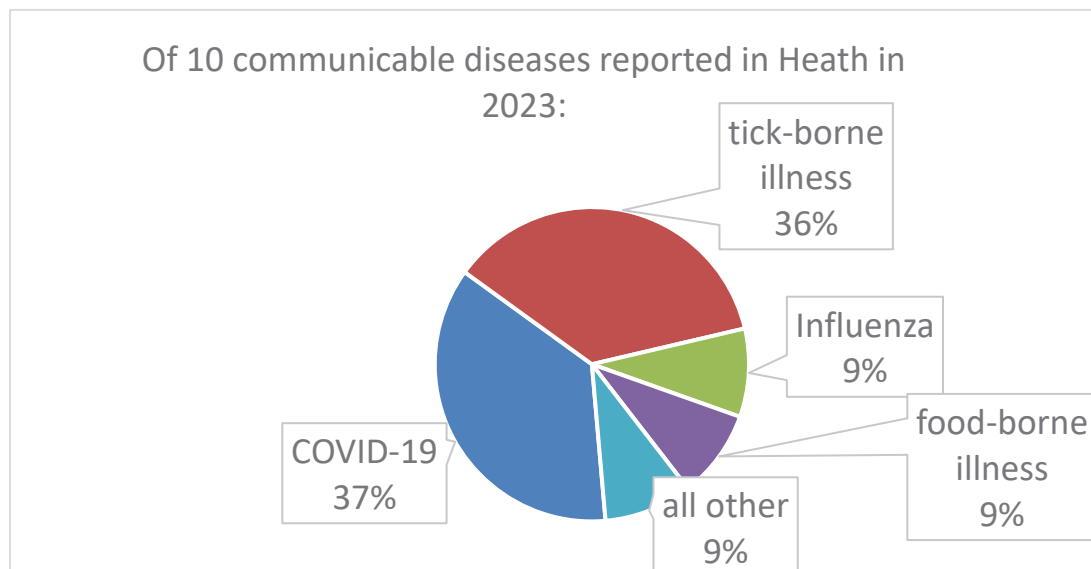
The Town, along with the other member towns of Ashfield, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Leyden, Monroe, Northfield, Rowe, and Shelburne, is served by the Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS), a health district based at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. CPHS provides professional support to the Town Board of Health for all public health issues. Staff members include Program Manager Randy Crochier, Health Agent Kurt Schellenberg, Health Inspector Jasmine Ward, Permitting Coordinator Liz Jacobson-Carroll, Public Health Nurses Lisa White and Meg Ryan, and Epidemiologist and Community Health Educator Maureen O'Reilly.

CPHS activities in Heath on behalf of the Board of Health during 2023 included:

- Facilitated COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics between state mobile vendors and local schools and senior centers. The clinics in Cooperative Public Health District Towns 726 individuals and provided 1075 doses of vaccine.
- Additionally, the nurses gave 259 Flu and 257 COVID vaccinations at drop-in nursing hours, and home visits. Heath residents received 27 vaccines, including 13 at home visits, coordinated with the Town Nurse.
- Completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance and reporting for communicable disease cases in district member towns, checking state infectious disease reporting system daily and following up as required, including 10 Heath cases. (See pie chart below).
- Offered sharps collection and box exchange in collaboration with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. At all drop-in nursing hours, residents can pick up hazardous waste boxes appropriate for needle disposal, and can bring full boxes for disposal. 69 boxes were exchanged over the year.
- Offered tick-bite prevention outreach by collaborating with the board of health to provide education materials and 7 permethrin shoe-spraying events districtwide, including one in Heath.
- Through a CPHS district program and MA Department of Public Health subsidy, Heath residents sought 13 low-cost tick tests, saving a value of \$390. Of the tested ticks, 39% were positive for the Lyme disease pathogen, 8% were positive for the anaplasmosis pathogen and 8% for the babesiosis pathogen.
- Served as town's arbovirus coordinator, monitoring weekly data reports on mosquito and tick borne disease from the state and providing regular updates to the town.
- Provided a biweekly newsletter for BOH members, to provide updates to pertinent public health topics, including upcoming events/trainings, visualizations of local data, and relevant epidemiological analyses.

- Provided articles of public health topics to *Heath Herald* and a monthly public health topic flyer to BOH, town administrator, Council on Aging, and library.
- Registered with the Department of Public Health to become a Community Naloxone Program, so that CPHS can dispense the medication naloxone (Narcan) at no-cost. Hosted a “Train the Trainer” event: community members can now train their peers on recognizing and responding to opioid overdose.
- Assisted businesses, organizations, and individuals with our on-line public health permitting system; reviewed and made determinations on a total of 52 applications for Heath, and on an additional 14 applications for regional permits, including the following:
 - To enforce the Title-5 septic code for the town: conducted 13 soil evaluations for septic systems; reviewed 3 septic system plans, reviewed and issued 2 local upgrade approvals, visited sites, completed final inspections of installations, and prepared certificates of compliance; witnessed 6 Title-5 inspections prior to property transfer
 - Permitted 4 new wells and determined compliance with water supply standards.
 - Permitted and inspected 4 food establishment and 13 temporary food vendors. Conducted 19 inspections.
 - Permitted and inspected 2 short-term rental units
- Responded to and managed multiple housing cases with varying degrees of complexity.
- Provided guidance to the Board of Health, and regularly attended meetings.
- Offered two low-cost 3-in-1 Food safety trainings (ServSafe®, Mass Allergens Awareness and Choke Saver with use of EpiPen® and Narcan®) for town residents.
- The CPHS staff looks forward to working together with Heath Board of Health members and residents to improve the health of the community in the coming year.

Heath’s representatives to the CPHS Oversight in 2023 were Board of Health members Susan Gruen and Shiela Litchfield. For more information about the Board or the district, visit www.frcoq.org



Bernardston, Massachusetts Green Committee Annual Report 2023

Green Committee members:

Christina Slocum-Wysk, Chair
Clayton Cardin
Jane Dutcher Brian
Kier
Frank Ribeiro

The Green Committee was established through Massachusetts Green Communities Division in 2015. The purpose of the Green Committee is to work with the energy industry to reduce energy use and costs by implementing clean energy projects in municipal buildings, facilities, and schools. The Green Committee applies for grants to implement energy conservation measures that help cut energy use and costs. We track our actual energy use and costs, acquire when able, fuel-efficient vehicles as required by our Fuel-Efficient Vehicle Policy, and ensure new construction activities follow the Stretch Energy Code working with Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program. Eversource provides incentives to reduce the costs of installing energy saving projects.

We work with companies that perform free energy audits and make recommendations for projects that will reduce our energy use and costs. The companies apply for incentives from Eversource. We apply for a grant from Massachusetts Green Communities Division based on the energy saving calculations provided through the energy audit and costs of the project.

In the years since 2015 we have been able to replace the Town Hall heating system, update the lighting in all buildings to LED and install a mini split in Cushman Library with our first grant. In 2022 we were awarded a grant to install a heat pump mini split in the Highway Garage break room and insulate the garage bay areas to reduce energy costs. We completed this project in November 2023!

Submitted by,
Christina Slocum-Wysk
Green Committee Chair

Bernardston, Massachusetts
Highway Department & Transfer Station
Annual Report 2023

The year 2023 was a significant year for the Bernardston Highway Department and the Transfer Station. The Highway Department added a facilities maintenance management program that incorporates planning, organization and execution of work that maintains and optimizes functioning of Town buildings, equipment and grounds. The facility maintenance program integrates preventive maintenance, safety, compliance, energy efficiency and asset protection and it is tracked and recorded. Annual maintenance of furnaces, septic, fire extinguishers, and inspections are executed through the facilities maintenance program.

The highly energetic and motivated crew of the Highway Department and Transfer Station includes Brian, Rob, Ron, Brian, Danielle, Bob, and Jayden! Each member of the team is capable of performing all duties and responsibilities of the Highway Department and the Transfer Station. Don't be surprised if you see the same members of the team mowing the grass at Cushman Park, plowing the snow down your street or directing traffic during our road construction activities all in the same week!

During the 2023 construction season, the Highway Department completed several projects. Couch Brook Road was the main project for the summer. Working in conjunction with Eversource and Bernardston's Tree Warden, roadside trees were removed that posed a hazard. Once the roadside trees were removed the drainage part of the project began. Part of the drainage stage of the project was to re-profile the ditches to drain the water properly and several culverts along Couch Brook Road that were failing were replaced. The next stage of the project was preparing the road surface for paving. The Highway Department did this by removing the dirt from the surface and patching the holes, creating the perfect surface for the new hot mix asphalt to adhere to. All States Asphalt applied two layers of hot mix asphalt to the road surface, reprofiling the road and providing a new driving surface. This surface, with the correct maintenance should last up to 20 years!

In 2022, the Highway Department purchased a 2005 Peterbilt Dump Truck. A sander and plow frame were added to make use during snow operations. The 2023 winter season was the first season using the truck and everything went according to plan! Purchasing the used truck and building it into what the Town needed saved the Town over \$210,000!

During the same period of time, a used dump truck was purchased too. The dump truck was used for hauling materials during the construction season. Over the last couple of years, hauling our own materials instead of hiring a contractor, the Highway Department has saved the Town approximately \$93,000!

The Transfer Station has continued to take in a significant amount of trash and recycling each week. As a participating municipality in the MassDEP Regional Program, the Transfer Station continues to save the Town money. We are recycling approximately 160 mattresses and box springs every year! Starting next year, the Transfer Station will be offering a smaller size trash bag at the request of our residents. The smaller trash bags will be available for purchase in FY25 at the Transfer Station only.

The Highway Department is looking forward to the upcoming fiscal year. Improving the grounds and taking care of the Town's buildings will be a high priority in FY25. We are also planning significant road rebuilding projects on Fox Hill, Deacon Parker and West Mountain Roads. We have 11 culvert replacements planned and also a dredging project at Cushman Park.

As always, drive safe and if you see something that needs our attention, feel free to stop by or give us a call! Thank you!!!

Respectfully,

The Bernardston Highway Department and Transfer Station

2023 Annual Report to the Towns

Pioneer Valley Regional School District

Patricia Kinsella, Superintendent

Pioneer Valley Regional School District (PVRSD) operates three schools: Bernardston Elementary (serving students PreK-6 from Bernardston and Leyden), Northfield Elementary (serving students PreK-6 from Northfield), and Pioneer Valley Regional School (serving students Gr. 7-12 from all three towns).

Departure of Warwick

On July 1, the Warwick Community School officially reopened as part of the brand-new Warwick School District. The final transition process was notably collaborative, and we wish our colleagues in Warwick every success with their new district.

Warwick-resident students in PreK-6 who previously attended Northfield Elementary School now attend the Warwick Community School. Warwick-resident students in Grades 7 - 12 may attend Pioneer Valley Regional School through a tuition agreement with the Town of Warwick. (Students from Vernon, VT may attend our secondary school through a similar tuition agreement.)

Financial Improvements

The district continues to improve its financial operations, as evidenced by the School Committee's vote in October 2023 to return \$740,214 to our member towns and to pay off a state note of \$198,000. In addition, the School Committee committed to \$614,000 in key investments over the next several years. Those investments will support curriculum renewal, the PVRS facility, and staff compensation.

Facilities Master Plan

The district completed a Facilities Master Plan (FMP) during 2023 that produced comprehensive facilities conditions assessment reports on all three buildings. These reports provide important information to both the district and member towns regarding deferred and upcoming maintenance needs.

CannonDesign, an architecture and design firm that works with educational organizations across the country, was the vendor on this project. Cannon convened a stakeholder group of students, staff, parents/guardians, town officials, and School Committee members, to develop guiding principles for the process and to provide ongoing feedback on options developed by Cannon.

At the end of the process, Cannon recommended that the district consider a long-range plan to consolidate all of its facilities on the current site of Pioneer Valley Regional School. That recommendation will be further explored during 2024.

The district paid for the project with Covid-era ESSER grand funding.

Administrative Team

Four new administrators joined the district over the summer. We welcomed new Principals at NES and PVRS, a Director of Student Services, and a Director of Teaching & Learning. Now that we have a full team of talented and dedicated administrators, the district will be developing a longer-range and comprehensive plan to strengthen our curricular, instructional, and student support services.

Pioneer Valley Regional School
Annual Report 2023
Matthew F. Sullivan, Principal

The year 2023 was a year of both change and development for Pioneer Valley Regional School, marked by the introduction of a new administrative team, several new teachers, and new class offerings. As the calendar turns to 2024, the foundation has been laid for the next steps in our school's continued growth.

There have been significant changes to programming offered at Pioneer, both in terms of class offerings as well as activities. One important example is the return of the woodshop program, which has rapidly become a highly popular class amongst students. Currently offered to students from grades 7 through 12, the woodshop allows students to engage in hands-on learning, express their creativity, and effectively channel their energy in a way that was not previously accommodated.

Another significant adjustment involves the Pathways program and how that time is utilized. This year, Pioneer introduced two new components of the Pathways program, RTI and Clubs. RTI, or Response to Intervention, is a program that allows students to receive individualized, direct, targeted instruction and academic support during the school day. Providing students with a specific, dedicated time to work on targeted areas of academic need is proving valuable and highly beneficial to our students. A second change that was made to Pathways is the inclusion of time for student clubs to meet. Due to a range of factors, including transportation and the high percentage of our students who participate in sports, the number of students who could attend after school clubs and activities has diminished. As these extracurricular activities are essential components of a balanced and enjoyable student experience, it was imperative that we provide a time for students to participate. At the close of 2023, Pioneer proudly offers over 20 student clubs and activities with a student participation rate of 100%.

Athletically, Pioneer has had a successful year, fielding teams that earned success either on the scoreboard or in growth and experience. Highlights include both boys and girls basketball, with the girls' team finishing the season with a winning record and a win in the state tournament, and the boys' team enjoying a 20-4 record before bowing out in the state quarterfinals. The boys baseball team also had a tremendous season, finishing an impressive 19-2 before ending the season in the state semi-finals. As a school, we are proud of our athletic accomplishments, but more importantly, we are proud of the fact that our athletes are also outstanding young people.

An additional and noteworthy development has been an extensive and continuing effort to reach out and communicate with students and families. Both administrators and faculty made a concerted and consistent attempt to engage in conversation with students and families in an attempt to learn more about their experiences with the school, their preferences, their areas of concern, and their hopes for the future. This effort was largely centered around students in Grade

8, with the rationale that our school needs to do a better job of retaining more students entering into Grade 9. While the fruits of this work are not yet realized, the efforts made in 2023 were well received by both parents and students, and promise good results moving forward.

A final important development in 2023 was the process of introducing Career Innovation Pathways to our students. In 2023, Pioneer advanced through the first steps for this designation, which will offer students broad entry points into important and rewarding careers or further areas of study. This is not to be confused with a vocational program; rather it is a means by which students can accrue both real-world experience by doing hands-on work while also accruing academic credit. It is an exciting opportunity, and in pursuing this our school is strengthening both its academic standing and the options that will be available to our students.

Undoubtedly, there is much work left to be done, but Pioneer Valley Regional School closes 2023 on strong footing and can look to the future with optimism. Continuing to bolster our academic offerings, providing a rich and varied array of activities, and supporting our students academically, socially, and emotionally are hallmarks of a quality education and school experience, and we can proudly say that we are delivering on these promises. We conclude 2023 with hope and confidence that our future is bright.

Bernardston Elementary School
Annual Report 2023
Cindy Schultz, Principal

When visiting Bernardston Elementary School during 2023, people found educators and students dedicated to social-emotional learning, community development, and academic growth.

To many adults, it may seem that the implications of the pandemic were over by 2023, but the reality was that our children were still swirling socially from its impact and were playing catch up academically. Their social emotional needs were high as were their instructional needs and our Bernardston educators worked very hard to support them during this journey.

One way that Bernardston educators prepared for this work was by participating in professional development opportunities that strengthened their skills in dealing with these heightened needs. Staff members deepened their understanding of Responsive Classroom approaches to education and best practice instruction. The initial four days of training focused on developing and strengthening successful routines and procedures, clearly communicating expectations, using positive language, and building a sense of community. This work was important and is ongoing.

Movement, interaction, and choice were part of Responsive Classroom work, because as we know, physical fitness helps all of us with our mental and physical health. At Bernardston Elementary School, we recognized the children's need for movement throughout the day and deliberately planned daily schedules to allow for frequent body breaks. In addition, children started attending physical education class twice a week and we added a climbing wall to the gym. Rock wall climbing became part of the physical education class, and the climbing helped develop upper body strength, build coordination, and increase teamwork opportunities. It was a huge hit with the children!

In classrooms, the need for movement and teamwork extended to Playful Learning and Playful Engineering; which are two initiatives that were funded by grants in 2023 and that benefited the children of Bernardston. Grades PreK through three were part of the Playful Learning grant and grades four through six were part of the Playful Engineering grant. With each of these grants, the children participated in engaging, hands-on, and choice driven activities. Children learned to create and share while participating in these initiatives. This work with classmates helped to solidify a sense of community.

Our sharing and community building extended from the classrooms to the building level during 2023 as well. Our All-School Meetings, monthly Code of Conduct Meetings, Business Box entries, and BEST Awards were a few of the ways that the whole Bernardston Elementary School community came together. Student voices were heard through meetings and opportunities to submit ideas in writing and pictures. At our assemblies, classes rotated leading and sharing in a variety of ways. They sang songs, recited poems, shared pieces of art and engineering, or segments of live performances. They also celebrated and recognized students for making good choices like being kind, safe, and trying their best.

Sharing and communicating was important to staff and students at Bernardston Elementary School during 2023. Our meetings and communications helped students and staff stay connected and share ideas, and through use of these methods two themes kept surfacing, the repair and update of our playground and the need for increased cooling for classrooms. (The second tended to come up on hot days.) Some children even met with the facilities director, Gretchen Licata, to share concerns and ideas and John Lepore from Future Land Designs, LLC.

As you can tell, 2023 was busy at Bernardston Elementary School. The staff grappled with social emotional growth and learning needs. They used many methods to address these needs, such as hands-on, high engagement learning approaches, increased physical movement throughout the day, and increased opportunities for communication were just a few of the techniques. Throughout the year, educators at BES always stayed focused on the needs of the students.

Bernardston, Massachusetts Planning Board Annual Report 2023

Christina Slocum-Wysk, Chair
Rawn Fulton
Peter Nai
Pamela Nuovo
Shannon Wissman-Hoar
John Lepore, Alternate

2023 was another busy year for the Planning Board. In January we met with Pacifico to update their special permit for the large-scale solar installation at the Greenfield town line. Installation of the array started in late fall and should be online in 2024.

The Planning Board began working with Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to update our expired 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). The OSRP should be updated every 7 years and its purpose is to plan the Town's conservation and recreation resources. Once the plan is approved by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation Services, we would then qualify for grant programs for the next seven years. The plans include public participation in which we sent out a survey for residents and others to provide feedback. The survey provided vital information on what town resources are currently being used and what resources residents would like to have. From the survey results we found that hiking trails and access to Fall River were the top requests. Other sections of the plan include Community Setting, Environmental Inventory and Analysis, Inventory of Lands and Conservation and Recreation Interest, Community Vision, Analysis of Needs, Goal and Objectives, and Five-Year Action Plan. We will continue to work with FRCOG through 2024 to complete the plan.

John Lepore has donated many hours working on River Corridor Mapping to identify those vulnerable flood areas in town due to climate change. From the data he gathered and had confirmed with an independent geomorphologist we are working on new bylaws to protect people, property and water resources in those areas prone to flooding. FRCOG is helping us and other communities in Franklin County with creating new River Corridor bylaws.

The planning board also reviewed several Approval Not Required (ANR) plans, home occupations, and accessory dwellings.



From The Desk Of
Chief James E. Palmeri

2023 Annual Police Report

I am honored to be submitting my sixteenth annual report as your police chief. As you can imagine, my responsibilities are wide ranged. From administrative functions to daily shift patrol, ultimately responsible for overseeing 365 days of operations for the department. This position is both rewarding and challenging. Throughout the year, I constantly assess our approach in policing to determine if we're practicing best policy for modern day policing. Policing is ever evolving and staying committed to a high standard is no small undertaking. Training is a constant, from yearly minimum standards to specialized certifications. This aids us in providing the best policing to the town as possible, while staying fiscally responsible.

A big part of our department's success is staying committed to the philosophy of community policing. We believe in continuously building positive relationships between our officers and the communities we serve. Together, we can identify and resolve neighborhood problems, creating a positive quality of life for those who live and visit our community.

As the year rolled out, we continued our efforts addressing an uptick in mental health calls. As you may recall, in mid 2022, we began a Co-Response Mental Health Team. This is when a mental health clinician is partnered with a police officer. This opportunity was a result of hard work led by the Town of Erving Police Department, in partnerships with the adjoining communities of Gill, Leverett, and Northfield. This is a grant funded operation and has shown to be very successful. We are in our second year and looks to be needed for a third, optimistically hoping funding remains possible through the Department of Mental Health. The department had 86 mental health related services this year.

School Safety events...During the year, the officers provided safety events to the Bernardston Elementary School students. In the Fall we scheduled our annual Halloween Safety talks and provided glow-sticks and bags to the students for trick or treating. Along with our fire and highway departments, we provided traffic safety during the school's Annual Turkey Trot event. This is always a great time for the students, parents and staff alike. We always look forward to this event as well. We also try to make ourselves available for student drop-off and pickup. One of the biggest safety events is the annual Bike Rodeo. Sergeant Richardson coordinates this annual tradition with enthusiasm. He uses fundraising monies to purchase and hand out bike helmets to our community's children. He has staff from Bicycle World Inc on hand for bike safety checks, along with Sweet Lucy's Bakery and Townline Ice Cream providing cookies and ice cream. This year, all children who attended this fun family event were given special event t-shirts, which were purchased by the police association.

Another service we have been providing to our residents is vacant house checks. We have a registration form you can fill out and while you're away we randomly check on your residence. We also encourage you to have trusted neighbors and/or friends keep an eye on your home too. People often ask about installing home alarms and cameras. Although highly recommended, we understand these types of deterrence's are not always financially practical.

COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY POLICING

On a personal note, bitter sweet I say, Officer Michael Kelly retired as an officer from the police department. Officer Kelly proudly served this community for over 20 years. “Big Mike” will be greatly missed out on patrol but he’ll remain as a traffic control officer, aiding us during parades and traffic details. I personally thank him for his service to both the department and town, wishing him well in a much deserved retirement from policing.



Throughout the year we had some concerning and uncommon investigations. In June, we had an arrest of a person impersonating a police officer. He was operating a vehicle very similar to a police cruiser, was unlawfully armed with a firearm, carrying other dangerous weapons, and had numerous law enforcement style clothing and equipment to include a tactical and ballistic vest. We later learned throughout this investigation, this person was well known to NH authorities for similar incidents. This incident is being prosecuted through the superior court in Greenfield.

In June, we had a reported indecent assault and battery (Juvenile). This is an open and ongoing investigation. In July, we investigated a reported rape. This is an ongoing investigation. In December, we had a reported indecent assault and battery on a child. This is an active and ongoing investigation, being assisted by the MA State Police Detective Unit and specialized services at the District Attorney’s Office. It should be noted, at no time during these investigations did we feel the community was at risk.

I am pleased to report a positive update on Shared Police Services between Bernardston and Leyden. Since July 2022, we have provided police services to the Town of Leyden. We began this journey with a 1-year MOA (memorandum of agreement). Throughout the year and after several months of meetings and researching data, the towns signed on to a 3-year IMA (inter-municipal agreement) commitment. My number one priority was continuing to provide quality services to Bernardston, while taking over duties in Leyden. After the first year, I feel we have done so and believe the long term commitment reflects this. I thank everyone involved, including the overwhelming support in both communities. I look forward to continuing this partnership for years to come. If anyone ever has questions regarding this partnership, my door is always open for conversation.

In November, we were awarded a Body Worn Camera system grant through the state. This newly implemented policy will be rolling out in early 2024. We were also awarded a Municipal Road Safety Grant for dedicated motor vehicle enforcement. The first deployment was in December for Impaired Driving. The next scheduled event will be in April and run through September 2024. I thank Officer Chabot for writing this traffic

COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY POLICING

grant opportunity, getting awarded close to \$20,000 while providing our communities with specialized enforcement not otherwise funded.

Throughout the year, we investigated a variety of calls. These calls included, but were not limited to; drunk and drugged driving, illegal drug activities, fraud/identity theft, intimidation, suspicious activity, property crimes, larcenies, and animal complaints. Some of the department’s arrests were related to; breaking and entering(s), sex crimes, warrants, driving under the influence (increase), drug possession, destruction of property, disorderly conduct, restraining order violations, larcenies and criminal motor vehicle violations.

Below are some of the statistical data we track. In most cases, calls of services increased in 2023.

**BERNARDSTON POLICE STATISTICS-2023
(2022 stats)**

Arrests – 65 (29)	Animal Services – 136 (140)	Assists Citizen/Motorists – 160 (144)
Alarms – 74 (67)	Assists other Agencies – 98 (138)	Building/ House Checks – 2776 (1877)
Check the Welfare – 66 (54)	911 Calls – 127 (115)	Firearms Licenses – 68 (85)
Investigations– 136 (140)	Larceny / Fraud Cases – 37 (34)	Mental Health Calls-86
Medical Emergencies – 198 (170)	MV Accidents – 70 (58)	Motor Vehicle Stops – 1118 (49)
Officer Wanted – 79 (58)	Suspicious Activity – 137 (107)	Radar Enforcement – 906 (871)
Traffic/Safety Hazards – 141 (117)	Issued Citations – 924 (262)	

DEPARTMENT ROSTER

James Palmeri - Chief of Police	Darren Gale - Officer
John Richardson - Sergeant	Mitchell Waldron - Officer
Curtis Weaver – Officer	Jordan Zukowski – Officer
Thomas Chabot - Officer	

Traffic Control Unit-Non Sworn

Mike Kelly – Retired Officer/TCU

Michael Gralenski-Traffic Control Unit (Details) Bradley Bordewieck-Traffic Control Unit (Details)

Please remember to visit the town’s website; www.townofbernardston.org Click on Police Department and you will find links that may interest you. You can also *like* us on Facebook. Our Facebook page is for daily warning and alerts, or special events. Earlier this year, we had to start up another Facebook page, as our old one became inoperable for unknown reasons. Sadly, Facebook was no help in rectifying the problem. We’re off to a good re-start and look forward to keeping you updated with town and department posts.

If you ever have a question or concern, please feel free to stop by the station to speak with an officer or email me directly at police@townofbernardston.org

Respectfully submitted,

Chief James E. Palmeri

COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY POLICING

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Sheriff

FRANKLIN COUNTY

CHRISTOPHER J. DONELAN
SHERIFF



LORI M. STREETER
SUPERINTENDENT



TO THE SELECT BOARD AND RESIDENTS OF BERNARDSTON:

In 2019, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office in partnership with the Towns of Buckland, Colrain, Gill, Heath, Monroe, Northfield, and Shelburne join to create the Franklin County Regional Animal Control program to provide full-time services to these towns. Since its inception, the Franklin County Regional Animal Control program has expanded to provide these services to (12) towns in Franklin County. The program has also expanded its staff to include a part-time Animal Control Officer.

During 2023, Franklin County Regional Animal Control logged 880 calls for service between January 1st and December 31st 2023 which resulting in 1455 corresponding action(s).

Breakdown of calls by Town:

🐾 Bernardston:	<u>47</u>
🐾 Buckland:	<u>67</u>
🐾 Charlemont:	<u>52</u>
🐾 Colrain:	<u>49</u>
🐾 Conway:	<u>44</u>
🐾 Gill:	<u>55</u>
🐾 Heath:	<u>18</u>
🐾 Leyden:	<u>26</u>
🐾 Monroe:	<u>12</u>
🐾 New Salem:	<u>44</u>
🐾 Northfield:	<u>75</u>
🐾 Shelburne:	<u>77</u>
🐾 Dog Shelter:	<u>106</u>
🐾 Other:	<u>208</u>

Calls for Service:

- 🐾 **22 – Animal bite reports.**
- 🐾 **179 – Animal complaints or concerns.**
- 🐾 **134 – Investigations.**
- 🐾 **83 – Found or lost animals.**
- 🐾 **23 – Inspections.**
- 🐾 **33 – Sick or injured animals.**
- 🐾 **74 – Assistance to other agencies.**
- 🐾 **51 – Hearings, Meetings or Trainings.**

**Note: The above does not represent all the calls that were received.*

Other Statistics:

- 🐾 **24 – Animal surrenders.**
- 🐾 **47 – Canines picked up.**
- 🐾 **33 – Cat(s) picked up.**
- 🐾 **13 – Wildlife picked up.**
- 🐾 **1 – Other animals picked up.**
- 🐾 **20 – Warnings issued.**
- 🐾 **9 – Dog hearings.**
- 🐾 **7 – Citations issued.**

In the spring of 2023, with the assistance of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter and local veterinarians Amy Rubin and Jaime Remillard we were able to host rabies vaccination clinics in Turners Falls and Heath, through which a total of 96 pets were vaccinated.

Anyone with Animal Control questions or issues can contact us by email at animalcontrol@fcs0-ma.us or by phone at **413-774-7340**. If you have an urgent or immediate situation, please contact the Shelburne Falls Regional Communications Center at **413-625-8200**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kyle Dragon, Lead Regional Animal Control Officer
Judie Garceau, Part-Time Regional Animal Control Officer



**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2023**

Taxes	Balance 7/1/22	Committed	Collected	Abated	Refunds	Tax Title	Adjustments	Outstanding 6/30/23
1988 MV Excise	\$ 1,746.00							\$ 1,746.00
1989 Real Estate	\$ 45.98							\$ 45.98
1989 MV Excise	\$ 2,420.00							\$ 2,420.00
1990 Real Estate	\$ 55.49							\$ 55.49
1990 MV Excise	\$ 2,198.00							\$ 2,198.00
1991 Real Estate	\$ 55.45							\$ 55.45
1992 Real Estate	\$ 242.21							\$ 242.21
1993 Real Estate	\$ 53.95							\$ 53.95
1994 Real Estate	\$ 54.21							\$ 54.21
1995 Real Estate	\$ 95.13							\$ 95.13
1996 Real Estate	\$ 87.83							\$ 87.83
1997 Real Estate	\$ 433.01							\$ 433.01
1998 Real Estate	\$ 981.76							\$ 981.76
1999 Real Estate	\$ 555.67							\$ 555.67
2000 Real Estate	\$ 534.79							\$ 534.79
2001 Real Estate	\$ 534.48							\$ 534.48
2002 Real Estate	\$ 768.60							\$ 768.60
2003 Real Estate	\$ 564.69							\$ 564.69
2004 Real Estate	\$ 723.48							\$ 723.48
2005 Real Estate	\$ 829.04							\$ 829.04
2007 Real Estate	\$ 995.69							\$ 995.69
2007 Personal Property	\$ 124.88							\$ 124.88
2007 MVE	\$ 5.83							\$ 5.83
2008 Real Estate	\$ 1,446.48							\$ 1,446.48
2009 Real Estate	\$ 1,081.50							\$ 1,081.50
2010 Real Estate	\$ 682.50							\$ 682.50
2011 Real Estate	\$ 1,133.42							\$ 1,133.42
2012 Real Estate	\$ 1,253.37							\$ 1,253.37
2013 Real Estate	\$ 1,268.63							\$ 1,268.63
2014 Real Estate	\$ 1,368.68							\$ 1,368.68
2015 Real Estate	\$ 1,454.81							\$ 1,454.81
2015 MV Excise	\$ 1,068.85							\$ 1,068.85
2016 Real Estate	\$ 1,292.10							\$ 1,292.10
2016 MV Excise	\$ 1,582.51							\$ 1,582.51
2017 Real Estate	\$ 1,313.40							\$ 1,313.40
2017 MV Excise	\$ 1,139.03		\$ 241.25					\$ 897.78
2018 Real Estate	\$ 1,359.21							\$ 1,359.21
2018 MV Excise	\$ 1,277.19		\$ 172.50					\$ 1,104.69
2019 Real Estate	\$ 1,359.09							\$ 1,359.09
2019 MV Excise	\$ 1,093.89		\$ 232.42					\$ 861.47
2020 Real Estate	\$ 11,160.74		\$ 9,874.31					\$ 1,286.43
2020 MV Excise	\$ 1,732.12		\$ 810.42					\$ 921.70
2021 Real Estate	\$ 49,277.11		\$ 34,000.37	\$ 740.46	\$ 740.46			\$ 15,276.74
2021 Personal Property	\$ 3,169.27							\$ 3,169.27
2021 MV Excise	\$ 7,839.26		\$ 5,061.86	\$ 194.91	\$ 194.91			\$ 2,777.40
2022 Real Estate	\$ 107,661.41		\$ 50,371.04	\$ 805.51	\$ 805.51		-\$1.98	\$ 57,288.39
2022 Personal Property	\$ 17,672.60		\$ 11,852.31					\$ 5,820.29
2022 MV Excise	\$ 33,168.94	\$ 26,295.83	\$ 52,550.20	\$ 2,398.60	\$ 2,575.49			\$ 7,091.46
2023 Real Estate	\$ (47.73)	\$ 4,778,390.99	\$ 4,567,214.79	\$ 32,714.82	\$ 17,980.83	\$ 5,198.36	\$ 0.82	\$ 191,196.94
2023 Personal Property		\$ 128,423.29	\$ 109,848.13		\$ 73.56			\$ 18,648.72
2023 MV Excise		\$ 298,799.17	\$ 276,499.99	\$ 7,160.94	\$ 4,760.72			\$ 19,898.96
2023 Motor Home Excise		\$ 5,472.00	\$ 5,472.00					\$ -
Total	\$ 266,914.55	\$ 5,237,381.28	\$ 5,124,201.59	\$ 44,015.24	\$ 27,131.48	\$ 5,198.36	\$ (1.16)	\$ 358,010.96
Other Collections								
Interest Collected	\$ 31,090.61							
Bank Acct Interest	\$ 23.53							
Demand Fees	\$ 3,480.00							
MLC Fees	\$ 1,375.00							
PILOT	\$ -							
NSF Fees	\$ 125.00							
RMV Clear Fees	\$ 1,780.00							

Respectfully Submitted,
Mona A. Minor, Tax Collector
July 25, 2023

Town of Bernardston
 Summary Budget Comparison - FY23 Budget to Actual
 From 7/1/2022 Through 6/30/2023

Account Code	Account Title	Original Budget	Revised Budget	TotBud	Current Period Actual	YTD Actual	Balance	PErcExp
114	Moderator							
5400	General Expenses	230.00	0.00	230.00	0.00	0.00	230.00	0.00%
Total 114	Moderator	230.00	0.00	230.00	0.00	0.00	230.00	0.00%
122	Selectboard							
5100	Salaries & Wages, Elected Offi	6,050.00	0.00	6,050.00	6,050.00	6,050.00	0.00	100.00%
5400	General Expenses	2,800.00	0.00	2,800.00	1,031.15	1,031.15	1,768.85	36.83%
5807	Art#22 ATM CSS Serv 5/25/22	40,000.00	0.00	40,000.00	6,040.00	6,040.00	33,960.00	15.10%
5813	BNCTV CONTRACT NEG	2,000.00	610.00	2,610.00	2,610.00	2,610.00	0.00	100.00%
Total 122	Selectboard	50,850.00	610.00	51,460.00	15,731.15	15,731.15	35,728.85	30.57%
123	Town Coordinator							
5110	Salaries & Wages	63,366.80	0.00	63,366.80	63,366.80	63,366.80	0.00	100.00%
Total 123	Town Coordinator	63,366.80	0.00	63,366.80	63,366.80	63,366.80	0.00	100.00%
132	Reserve Fund							
5400	General Expenses	100,000.00	(23,051.79)	76,948.21	0.00	0.00	76,948.21	0.00%
Total 132	Reserve Fund	100,000.00	(23,051.79)	76,948.21	0.00	0.00	76,948.21	0.00%
135	Audit							
5400	General Expenses	8,000.00	7,100.00	15,100.00	14,000.00	14,000.00	1,100.00	92.72%
Total 135	Audit	8,000.00	7,100.00	15,100.00	14,000.00	14,000.00	1,100.00	92.72%
141	Assessors							
5100	Salaries & Wages, Elected Offi	3,050.00	0.00	3,050.00	2,050.00	2,050.00	1,000.00	67.21%
5110	Salaries & Wages	38,995.96	0.00	38,995.96	38,995.96	38,995.96	0.00	100.00%
5400	General Expenses	11,165.00	0.00	11,165.00	8,760.17	8,760.17	2,404.83	78.46%
5415	Reinspection Program	4,000.00	9,700.00	13,700.00	13,000.00	13,000.00	700.00	94.89%
Total 141	Assessors	57,210.96	9,700.00	66,910.96	62,806.13	62,806.13	4,104.83	93.87%
142	Revaluation							

Town of Bernardston
 Summary Budget Comparison - FY23 Budget to Actual
 From 7/1/2022 Through 6/30/2023

Account Code	Account Title	Original Budget	Revised Budget	TotBud	Current Period Actual	YTD Actual	Balance	PErcExp
5400	General Expenses	2,400.00	7,200.00	9,600.00	0.00	0.00	9,600.00	0.00%
Total 142	Revaluation	2,400.00	7,200.00	9,600.00	0.00	0.00	9,600.00	0.00%
145	Treasurer							
5110	Salaries & Wages	24,780.97	0.00	24,780.97	24,780.97	24,780.97	0.00	100.00%
5400	General Expenses	5,740.00	0.00	5,740.00	4,850.48	4,850.48	889.52	84.50%
5405	Certification	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	100.00%
5410	Tax Title Expenses	5,000.00	5,000.00	10,000.00	1,182.40	1,182.40	8,817.60	11.82%
Total 145	Treasurer	36,520.97	5,000.00	41,520.97	31,813.85	31,813.85	9,707.12	76.62%
146	Collector							
5110	Salaries & Wages	21,717.42	0.00	21,717.42	21,717.42	21,717.42	0.00	100.00%
5400	General Expenses	8,213.00	0.00	8,213.00	5,782.81	5,782.81	2,430.19	70.41%
Total 146	Collector	29,930.42	0.00	29,930.42	27,500.23	27,500.23	2,430.19	91.88%
151	Legal							
5400	General Expenses	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00	7,530.75	7,530.75	469.25	94.13%
Total 151	Legal	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00	7,530.75	7,530.75	469.25	94.13%
161	Clerk							
5110	Salaries & Wages	18,483.94	0.00	18,483.94	18,481.09	18,481.09	2.85	99.98%
5112	Asst. Town Clerk	7,986.89	0.00	7,986.89	7,676.16	7,676.16	310.73	96.11%
5400	General Expenses	3,700.00	0.00	3,700.00	2,987.37	2,987.37	712.63	80.74%
Total 161	Clerk	30,170.83	0.00	30,170.83	29,144.62	29,144.62	1,026.21	96.60%
162	Elections							
5100	Salaries & Wages, Elected Off	480.00	0.00	480.00	480.00	480.00	0.00	100.00%
5400	General Expenses	10,510.00	0.00	10,510.00	10,198.06	10,198.06	311.94	97.03%
5499	Encumbrance	0.00	123.43	123.43	0.00	0.00	123.43	0.00%
Total 162	Elections	10,990.00	123.43	11,113.43	10,678.06	10,678.06	435.37	96.08%
171	Conservation Commission							
5110	Salaries & Wages	688.86	0.00	688.86	0.00	0.00	688.86	0.00%

Town of Bernardston
 Summary Budget Comparison - FY23 Budget to Actual
 From 7/1/2022 Through 6/30/2023

Account Code	Account Title	Original Budget	Revised Budget	TotBud	Current Period Actual	YTD Actual	Balance	PErcExp
5400	General Expenses	882.00	0.00	882.00	146.00	146.00	736.00	16.55%
Total 171	Conservation Commission	1,570.86	0.00	1,570.86	146.00	146.00	1,424.86	9.29%
172	Agricultural Commission	1,125.00	0.00	1,125.00	34.00	34.00	1,091.00	3.02%
5400	General Expenses	1,125.00	0.00	1,125.00	34.00	34.00	1,091.00	3.02%
Total 172	Agricultural Commission	1,125.00	0.00	1,125.00	34.00	34.00	1,091.00	3.02%
175	Planning Board	4,751.87	0.00	4,751.87	1,187.55	1,187.55	3,564.32	24.99%
5110	Salaries & Wages	4,751.87	0.00	4,751.87	1,187.55	1,187.55	3,564.32	24.99%
5400	General Expenses	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	706.40	706.40	293.60	70.64%
Total 175	Planning Board	5,751.87	0.00	5,751.87	1,893.95	1,893.95	3,857.92	32.93%
176	Zoning/Appeals Board	344.43	0.00	344.43	0.00	0.00	344.43	0.00%
5110	Salaries & Wages	344.43	0.00	344.43	0.00	0.00	344.43	0.00%
5400	General Expenses	300.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00%
Total 176	Zoning/Appeals Board	644.43	0.00	644.43	0.00	0.00	644.43	0.00%
191	Powers Institute	34,760.00	0.00	34,760.00	32,478.05	32,478.05	2,281.95	93.44%
5400	General Expenses	34,760.00	0.00	34,760.00	32,478.05	32,478.05	2,281.95	93.44%
Total 191	Powers Institute	34,760.00	0.00	34,760.00	32,478.05	32,478.05	2,281.95	93.44%
192	Public Buildings	16,800.00	19,439.13	36,239.13	36,239.13	36,239.13	0.00	100.00%
5400	General Expenses	16,800.00	19,439.13	36,239.13	36,239.13	36,239.13	0.00	100.00%
5412	IT Services	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	2,089.93	2,089.93	1,910.07	52.25%
5416	Town Record Preservation	0.00	92.14	92.14	0.00	0.00	92.14	0.00%
5418	Cell Phones	3,360.00	0.00	3,360.00	3,130.20	3,130.20	229.80	93.16%
5428	Mosquito Control	3,000.00	12,000.00	15,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	3,000.00	80.00%
5499	Encumbrance	0.00	155.09	155.09	155.09	155.09	0.00	100.00%
5800	Renovate/Construct Town Bldgs	45,000.00	0.00	45,000.00	265.35	265.35	44,734.65	0.59%
Total 192	Public Buildings	72,160.00	31,686.36	103,846.36	53,879.70	53,879.70	49,966.66	51.88%

Town of Bernardston
 Summary Budget Comparison - FY23 Budget to Actual
 From 7/1/2022 Through 6/30/2023

Account Code	Account Title	Original Budget	Revised Budget	TotBud	Current Period Actual	YTD Actual	Balance	PErcExp
193	Property & Liability Insurance							
5400	General Expenses	68,968.00	0.00	68,968.00	57,284.00	57,284.00	11,684.00	83.06%
5404	Bonds	652.00	0.00	652.00	652.00	652.00	0.00	100.00%
Total 193	Property & Liability Insurance	69,620.00	0.00	69,620.00	57,936.00	57,936.00	11,684.00	83.22%
195	Town Reports							
5400	General Expenses	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	701.37	701.37	298.63	70.14%
Total 195	Town Reports	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	701.37	701.37	298.63	70.14%
196	Newsletter							
5110	Salaries & Wages	800.00	0.00	800.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	0.00%
5400	General Expenses	1,800.00	0.00	1,800.00	0.00	0.00	1,800.00	0.00%
Total 196	Newsletter	2,600.00	0.00	2,600.00	0.00	0.00	2,600.00	0.00%
210	Police							
5110	Salaries & Wages	292,315.42	(6,500.00)	292,815.42	267,175.36	267,175.36	25,640.06	91.24%
5400	General Expenses	39,875.00	6,500.00	46,375.00	43,070.50	43,070.50	3,304.50	92.87%
5467	Animal Control Officer	6,375.25	0.00	6,375.25	5,964.00	5,964.00	411.25	93.55%
Total 210	Police	345,565.67	0.00	345,565.67	316,209.86	316,209.86	29,355.81	91.51%
220	Fire							
5100	Salaries & Wages, Elected Off	12,800.00	0.00	12,800.00	12,800.00	12,800.00	0.00	100.00%
5110	Salaries & Wages	58,560.56	0.00	58,560.56	42,582.83	42,582.83	15,977.73	72.72%
5400	General Expenses	72,250.00	0.00	72,250.00	69,701.35	69,701.35	2,548.65	96.47%
5823	Art #3 STM 9/15/21 Fire Station	130,000.00	0.00	130,000.00	127,416.70	127,416.70	2,583.30	98.01%
5824	Ambulance Service	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	100.00%
Total 220	Fire	283,610.56	0.00	283,610.56	262,500.88	262,500.88	21,109.68	92.56%
291	Emergency Management							
5110	Salaries & Wages	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	4,789.74	4,789.74	210.26	95.79%
5400	General Expenses	6,400.00	0.00	6,400.00	5,686.86	5,686.86	713.14	88.86%

Town of Bernardston
 Summary Budget Comparison - FY23 Budget to Actual
 From 7/1/2022 Through 6/30/2023

Account Code	Account Title	Original Budget	Revised Budget	TotBud	Current Period Actual	YTD Actual	Balance	PErcExp
5804	Art #23 ATM Radio System FD and PD	0.00	7,372.00	7,372.00	7,372.00	7,372.00	0.00	100.00%
Total 291	Emergency Management	11,400.00	7,372.00	18,772.00	17,848.60	17,848.60	923.40	95.08%
292	Municipal Animal Inspector							
5400	General Expenses	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	100.00%
Total 292	Municipal Animal Inspector	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	100.00%
294	Tree Warden							
5400	General Expenses	14,019.88	0.00	14,019.88	14,019.83	14,019.83	0.05	100.00%
5828	Tree Removal	0.00	3,113.34	3,113.34	3,110.81	3,110.81	2.53	99.92%
Total 294	Tree Warden	14,019.88	3,113.34	17,133.22	17,130.64	17,130.64	2.58	99.98%
310	Regional School							
5100	Salaries & Wages, Elected Offi	800.00	0.00	800.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	50.00%
5400	General Expenses	3,079,170.00	0.00	3,079,170.00	3,079,169.70	3,079,169.70	0.30	100.00%
5808	Art#24 Prior Yr Bill	600.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	0.00	100.00%
5829	Art #6 Carpet PVRs FY22	0.00	2,696.90	2,696.90	0.00	0.00	2,696.90	0.00%
5830	BES Capital Expenses	5,000.00	12,458.89	17,458.89	0.00	0.00	17,458.89	0.00%
Total 310	Regional School	3,085,570.00	15,155.79	3,100,725.79	3,080,169.70	3,080,169.70	20,556.09	99.34%
320	Vocational/Technical Schools							
5400	General Expenses	325,872.23	0.00	325,872.23	325,872.00	325,872.00	0.23	100.00%
5833	FCTS Capital Expense	6,580.05	0.00	6,580.05	6,580.05	6,580.05	0.00	100.00%
Total 320	Vocational/Technical Schools	332,452.28	0.00	332,452.28	332,452.05	332,452.05	0.23	100.00%
422	Highway Expenses							
5110	Salaries & Wages	219,879.93	0.00	219,879.93	201,012.29	201,012.29	18,867.64	91.42%
5400	General Expenses	124,250.00	0.00	124,250.00	123,267.52	123,267.52	982.48	99.21%

Town of Bernardston
 Summary Budget Comparison - FY23 Budget to Actual
 From 7/1/2022 Through 6/30/2023

Account Code	Account Title	Original Budget	Revised Budget	TotBud	Current Period Actual	YTD Actual	Balance	PercExp
5803	STM 2/16/22 Art #3 Hwy Trucks	0.00	41,715.50	41,715.50	35,078.95	35,078.95	6,636.55	84.09%
5840	Road Boundaries	0.00	8,759.64	8,759.64	0.00	0.00	8,759.64	0.00%
5854	Culvert Replacement Art#25	0.00	15,875.45	15,875.45	10,882.51	10,882.51	4,992.94	68.55%
Total 422	Highway Expenses	344,129.93	66,350.59	410,480.52	370,241.27	370,241.27	40,239.25	90.20%
423	Snow & Ice Removal							
5110	Salaries & Wages	25,440.00	156.31	25,596.31	25,596.31	25,596.31	0.00	100.00%
5400	General Expenses	56,850.00	13,514.31	70,364.31	70,364.31	70,364.31	0.00	100.00%
Total 423	Snow & Ice Removal	82,290.00	13,670.62	95,960.62	95,960.62	95,960.62	0.00	100.00%
424	Street Lighting							
5400	General Expenses	4,900.00	1,192.66	6,092.66	6,092.66	6,092.66	0.00	100.00%
Total 424	Street Lighting	4,900.00	1,192.66	6,092.66	6,092.66	6,092.66	0.00	100.00%
430	Waste Disposal							
5400	General Expenses	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00	5,343.75	5,343.75	2,656.25	66.80%
Total 430	Waste Disposal	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00	5,343.75	5,343.75	2,656.25	66.80%
433	Transfer Station							
5110	Salaries & Wages	20,460.00	(156.31)	20,303.69	16,031.71	16,031.71	4,271.98	78.96%
5400	General Expenses	125,095.00	(13,514.31)	111,580.69	110,733.00	110,733.00	847.69	99.24%
5456	Landfill Repair	0.00	913.50	913.50	0.00	0.00	913.50	0.00%
Total 433	Transfer Station	145,555.00	(12,757.12)	132,797.88	126,764.71	126,764.71	6,033.17	95.46%
491	Cemetery							
5400	General Expenses	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	100.00%
Total 491	Cemetery	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	100.00%
512	Board of Health							
5100	Salaries & Wages, Elected Offi	3,200.00	0.00	3,200.00	2,823.29	2,823.29	376.71	88.23%
5400	General Expenses	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	195.00	195.00	805.00	19.50%
5425	Landfill Testing	7,825.00	1,245.00	9,070.00	7,370.00	7,370.00	1,700.00	81.26%

Town of Bernardston
 Summary Budget Comparison - FY23 Budget to Actual
 From 7/1/2022 Through 6/30/2023

Account Code	Account Title	Original Budget	Revised Budget	TotBud	Current Period Actual	YTD Actual	Balance	PErcExp
5850	BOH Property Cleanup	0.00	9,881.83	9,881.83	0.00	0.00	9,881.83	0.00%
5852	Wetlands Expense	3,000.00	6,782.08	9,782.08	400.00	400.00	9,382.08	4.09%
Total 512	Board of Health	15,025.00	17,908.91	32,933.91	10,788.29	10,788.29	22,145.62	32.76%
541	Council on Aging							
5110	Salaries & Wages	83,987.45	0.00	83,987.45	79,962.08	79,962.08	4,025.37	95.21%
5400	General Expenses	4,390.00	0.00	4,390.00	4,351.42	4,351.42	38.58	99.12%
Total 541	Council on Aging	88,377.45	0.00	88,377.45	84,313.50	84,313.50	4,063.95	95.40%
543	Veteran's Services							
5430	Veterans Benefits	3,672.00	0.00	3,672.00	406.08	406.08	3,265.92	11.06%
5432	Veterans Services	4,943.85	0.00	4,943.85	4,943.85	4,943.85	0.00	100.00%
5434	Veteran's Memorial Committee	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	300.00	300.00	1,200.00	20.00%
Total 543	Veteran's Services	10,115.85	0.00	10,115.85	5,649.93	5,649.93	4,465.92	55.85%
610	Library							
5110	Salaries & Wages	59,266.35	0.00	59,266.35	58,655.62	58,655.62	610.73	98.97%
5400	General Expenses	16,623.00	0.00	16,623.00	16,618.67	16,618.67	4.33	99.97%
Total 610	Library	75,889.35	0.00	75,889.35	75,274.29	75,274.29	615.06	99.19%
630	Recreation Commission							
5400	General Expenses	6,754.10	17,187.34	23,941.44	6,162.02	6,162.02	17,779.42	25.74%
Total 630	Recreation Commission	6,754.10	17,187.34	23,941.44	6,162.02	6,162.02	17,779.42	25.74%
634	Charity Farm Lot							
5400	General Expenses	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
Total 634	Charity Farm Lot	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
691	Historical Commission							
5400	General Expenses	400.00	0.00	400.00	226.03	226.03	173.97	56.51%
Total 691	Historical Commission	400.00	0.00	400.00	226.03	226.03	173.97	56.51%
692	Memorial Day							

Town of Bernardston
 Summary Budget Comparison - FY23 Budget to Actual
 From 7/1/2022 Through 6/30/2023

Account Code	Account Title	Original Budget	Revised Budget	TotBud	Current Period Actual	YTD Actual	Balance	PErcExp
5400	General Expenses	500.00	0.00	500.00	436.00	436.00	64.00	87.20%
Total 692	Memorial Day	500.00	0.00	500.00	436.00	436.00	64.00	87.20%
710	Retirement of Debt							
5915	Highway Dump Truck	64,000.00	0.00	64,000.00	64,000.00	64,000.00	0.00	100.00%
Total 710	Retirement of Debt	64,000.00	0.00	64,000.00	64,000.00	64,000.00	0.00	100.00%
752	Interest on Short-term Debt							
5400	General Expenses	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00%
Total 752	Interest on Short-term Debt	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00%
820	State Assessments & Charges							
5640	Air Pollution District	0.00	601.00	601.00	601.00	601.00	0.00	100.00%
5646	RMV Marking Surchg	0.00	540.00	540.00	1,140.00	1,140.00	(600.00)	211.11%
5663	Reg Transit Authority	0.00	9,953.00	9,953.00	9,953.00	9,953.00	0.00	100.00%
Total 820	State Assessments & Charges	0.00	11,094.00	11,094.00	11,694.00	11,694.00	(600.00)	105.41%
830	FRCOG							
5480	Statutory/Core Services	13,375.00	0.00	13,375.00	13,375.00	13,375.00	0.00	100.00%
5481	Accounting Program	31,792.00	0.00	31,792.00	31,792.00	31,792.00	0.00	100.00%
5482	Procurement	2,669.00	0.00	2,669.00	800.00	800.00	1,869.00	29.97%
5483	Regional Emergency Planning	150.00	0.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	0.00	100.00%
5484	Building Inspection	7,600.00	0.00	7,600.00	7,600.00	7,600.00	0.00	100.00%
5485	Emergency Communications	8,538.18	54.00	8,592.18	8,592.18	8,592.18	0.00	100.00%
5486	Public Health	17,933.00	0.00	17,933.00	17,933.00	17,933.00	0.00	100.00%
Total 830	FRCOG	82,057.18	54.00	82,111.18	80,242.18	80,242.18	1,869.00	97.72%
911	Retirement Contribution							
5400	General Expenses	131,521.00	0.00	131,521.00	131,521.00	131,521.00	0.00	100.00%

Town of Bernardston
 Summary Budget Comparison - FY23 Budget to Actual
 From 7/1/2022 Through 6/30/2023

Account Code	Account Title	Original Budget	Revised Budget	TotBud	Current Period Actual	YTD Actual	Balance	PErcExp
Total 911	Retirement Contribution	131,521.00	0.00	131,521.00	131,521.00	131,521.00	0.00	100.00%
912 5400	Social Security General Expenses	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00%
Total 912	Social Security	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00%
913 5400	Unemployment Compensation General Expenses	19,000.00	0.00	19,000.00	2,853.92	2,853.92	16,146.08	15.02%
Total 913	Unemployment Compensation	19,000.00	0.00	19,000.00	2,853.92	2,853.92	16,146.08	15.02%
914 5400	Health Insurance General Expenses	154,493.28	0.00	154,493.28	116,507.56	116,507.56	37,985.72	75.41%
Total 914	Health Insurance	154,493.28	0.00	154,493.28	116,507.56	116,507.56	37,985.72	75.41%
915 5400	Dental Insurance General Expenses	10,127.52	0.00	10,127.52	6,670.92	6,670.92	3,456.60	65.87%
Total 915	Dental Insurance	10,127.52	0.00	10,127.52	6,670.92	6,670.92	3,456.60	65.87%
916 5400	Medicare General Expenses	13,941.35	2,206.00	16,147.35	16,147.30	16,147.30	0.05	100.00%
Total 916	Medicare	13,941.35	2,206.00	16,147.35	16,147.30	16,147.30	0.05	100.00%
917 5400	Life Insurance General Expenses	686.56	0.00	686.56	585.82	585.82	100.74	85.33%
Total 917	Life Insurance	686.56	0.00	686.56	585.82	585.82	100.74	85.33%
918 5400	Employee Retirement/Separation Costs General Expenses	5,000.00	5,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00%

Town of Bernardston
 Summary Budget Comparison - FY23 Budget to Actual
 From 7/1/2022 Through 6/30/2023

Account Code	Account Title	Original Budget	Revised Budget	TotBud	Current Period Actual	YTD Actual	Balance	PercExp
Total 918	Employee Retirement/Separation Costs	5,000.00	5,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00%
970	Transfer To							
5960	Transfer to Spec Rev	155,300.00	0.00	155,300.00	155,300.00	155,300.00	0.00	100.00%
Total 970	Transfer To	155,300.00	0.00	155,300.00	155,300.00	155,300.00	0.00	100.00%
Report Difference		6,080,984.10	185,916.13	6,266,900.23	5,810,928.16	5,810,928.16	455,972.07	92.72%

Town of Bernardston
Funds
06/30/2023

	Beginning Balance	Revenue	Expense	Balance
Bernardston				
1Hw Highway Funds				
210 Chapter 90	(120,280.56)	194,620.56	(177,673.27)	(103,333.27)
213 WRAP Grant	0.00	104,227.59	(139,165.59)	(34,938.00)
Total Highway Funds	(120,280.56)	298,848.15	(316,838.86)	(138,271.27)
2Rev Revolving Funds				
230 Recreation Revolving	38,536.68	54,367.00	(44,955.34)	47,948.34
231 Wetlands Protection Fund	10,187.55	1,887.50	(2,263.20)	9,811.85
232 Dog Revolving Fund	6,239.71	4,447.00	(1,527.11)	9,159.60
233 Fire Dept Inspections Fund	(65.00)	1,235.00	(1,170.00)	0.00
234 Animal Control Revolving Fund	294.90	0.00	0.00	294.90
235 Planning Board Revolving Fund	5,622.92	2,100.00	(434.42)	7,288.50
236 ZBA Revolving Fund	972.35	0.00	0.00	972.35
237 Street Flag Replacement Fund	1,148.15	300.00	0.00	1,448.15
238 Board of Health Inspections	23,529.87	11,975.00	(4,337.50)	31,167.37
239 COA Clinics Revolving Fund	7,950.13	11,119.18	(9,365.29)	9,704.02
245 Fire Dept Accident Reimb Revolv	1,672.59	4,474.24	(1,672.59)	4,474.24
248 TS Recycling Revolving Fund	33,632.84	11,637.61	(27,650.00)	17,620.45
249 Newsletter Revolving Account	4.99	0.00	0.00	4.99
250 Agricultural Revolving Account	73.55	0.00	0.00	73.55
Total Revolving Funds	129,801.23	103,542.53	(93,375.45)	139,968.31
3OSR Other Special Revenue				
240 Transfer Station Landfill Rcpts	133,266.16	91,441.50	(92,825.00)	131,882.66
241 Landfill Wells	6,202.76	0.00	0.00	6,202.76
242 Self Eval Plan Grant	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
243 43D Permit Grant	4,856.19	0.00	0.00	4,856.19
244 TNC Municipal Acct	13.40	1.80	0.00	15.20
246 Insurance Proceeds	903.11	0.00	0.00	903.11
247 Solar Project Admin Fee	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00

Town of Bernardston
Funds
06/30/2023

	Beginning Balance	Revenue	Expense	Balance
Bernardston				
257	47.04	35.00	0.00	82.04
258	809.69	110.00	(916.55)	3.14
261	209,243.23	312,357.63	(146,530.31)	375,070.55
262	5,631.61	1,434.70	(1,907.11)	5,159.20
269	0.00	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
271	1,329.13	0.00	0.00	1,329.13
272	895.12	0.00	0.00	895.12
273	(4,381.03)	8,210.05	(5,830.25)	(2,001.23)
274	260.00	2,647.50	(4,132.50)	(1,225.00)
275	173.75	0.00	0.00	173.75
276	99.80	1,250.00	0.00	1,349.80
278	10,632.23	10,495.86	(4,068.14)	17,059.95
279	1,322.58	3,190.02	(2,269.77)	2,242.83
280	12,321.22	2,220.05	(1,921.49)	12,619.78
281	13,220.88	0.00	0.00	13,220.88
283	1,265.20	0.00	0.00	1,265.20
284	96,368.47	59,112.03	(32,302.35)	123,178.15
286	5,180.69	1,000.00	0.00	6,180.69
287	20,565.07	79,900.00	(49,835.14)	50,629.93
288	14,469.73	0.00	(485.03)	13,984.70
289	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
290	0.62	3,335.29	(3,055.29)	280.62
292	3,855.08	0.00	0.00	3,855.08
293	0.00	75.00	0.00	75.00
294	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
297	6,988.64	0.00	(6,641.13)	347.51
298	1,574.42	0.00	0.00	1,574.42
299	10,209.46	6,902.50	(548.10)	16,563.86
Total Other Special Revenue				824,975.02
579,524.25				(353,268.16)
4S&F	State & Federal Grants			

Town of Bernardston
Funds
06/302023

	Beginning Balance	Revenue	Expense	Balance
Bernardston				
402	557.54	4,800.00	(546.00)	4,811.54
403	0.00	14,443.00	0.00	14,443.00
404	0.00	100,000.00	(100,000.00)	0.00
405	320.66	0.00	0.00	320.66
406	504.39	0.00	0.00	504.39
409	(10,407.00)	10,407.00	(10,500.00)	(10,500.00)
410	12,500.00	0.00	0.00	12,500.00
412	74.16	9,372.00	(9,446.16)	0.00
414	228.25	5,488.18	(3,136.52)	2,579.91
415	9,905.00	5,526.26	(8,196.31)	7,234.95
416	(3,562.64)	13,308.88	(16,263.56)	(6,517.32)
422	0.00	1,477.41	0.00	1,477.41
423	0.00	1,477.41	0.00	1,477.41
424	772.00	0.00	(551.10)	220.90
425	2.92	0.00	0.00	2.92
428	10,502.42	5,250.00	(10,127.54)	5,624.88
429	676.43	0.00	0.00	676.43
445	0.00	4,291.65	(7,885.51)	(3,593.86)
446	0.00	2,190.35	(6,468.16)	(4,277.81)
Total State & Federal Grants				26,985.41
6CP Capital Projects				4,628.27
715 Capital Project				4,628.27
Total Capital Projects				4,628.27
7Tru Trust Funds				
811	496.00	17.35	0.00	513.35
812	92,604.77	5,285.41	0.00	97,890.18
813	99,383.71	3,472.25	0.00	102,855.96
814	946.28	32.88	0.00	979.16

Town of Bernardston
Funds
06/302023

	Beginning Balance	Revenue	Expense	Balance
Bernardston				
815 V. Hale Trust	10,002.31	350.56	0.00	10,352.87
816 Goodale Fund	24,918.19	864.82	0.00	25,783.01
817 S Charles & Grace Barber Trust	96,094.01	20,171.03	(2,000.00)	114,265.04
818 Cushman Hall	47,349.67	474.62	0.00	47,824.29
819 Cushman Library	7,778.62	1,004.22	(2,725.00)	6,057.84
820 History Reprint Trust Fund	8,921.29	135.37	0.00	9,056.66
821 Library Trust Expendable	13,362.93	72.70	(3,112.11)	10,323.52
822 Kiwanis Trust Fund	114,402.39	3,466.21	(1,000.00)	116,868.60
823 Warner Trust Fund	40,804.33	179.09	0.00	40,983.42
824 PI Morgan Trust Expendable	6,134.51	118.77	0.00	6,253.28
825 ABC Memorial Library Trust	13,297.80	472.32	0.00	13,770.12
826 Streeter Memorial Trust	2,315.30	96.83	0.00	2,412.13
827 Ruby Streeter Collier Trust Fund	1,151.36	64.60	0.00	1,215.96
830 Stabilization Fund	240,061.43	161,333.75	0.00	401,395.18
831 Vehicle Stabilization Fund	154,712.36	88,360.89	(44,450.99)	198,622.26
832 Bridge Stabilization Fund	173,387.30	188.87	0.00	173,576.17
833 OPEB	51,564.96	9,588.20	0.00	61,153.16
Total Trust Funds	1,199,689.52	295,750.74	(53,288.10)	1,442,152.16
8Age Agency Funds				
890 Direct Pay Insurance	(511.96)	14,820.90	(14,345.60)	(36.66)
891 Off Duty Police Detail	(9,305.55)	73,823.19	(74,918.85)	(10,401.21)
892 Firearm ID Cards	8,367.50	6,450.00	(5,662.50)	9,155.00
893 Leyden Police	0.00	85,644.00	(66,770.24)	18,873.76
898 Deputy Collector's Fees	400.54	7,541.00	(6,954.00)	987.54
Total Agency Funds Total Bernardston	(1,049.47)	188,279.09	(168,651.19)	18,578.43
Total Special Revenue Funds	1,814,387.37	1,663,171.58	(1,158,542.62)	2,319,016.33

TOWN OF BERNARDSTON
Office of the Town Clerk



P.O. Box 504, 38 Church St., Bernardston, MA 01337 Email: townclerk@townofbernardston.org
Christina Slocum-Wysk, Town Clerk, Camilla Thacher, Asst. Town Clerk Phone: 413-648-5408

Bernardston, Massachusetts
Town Clerk 2023 Annual Report

The year 2023 has been a busy year in the Town Clerk Office. Camilla and I attended two Massachusetts Town Clerk Association Conferences. The first was held in Devens in February and the second was held in Springfield in September. The conferences provide vital training for town clerks and assistant town clerks. The trainings sessions are conducted by various state departments including Division of Local Mandates, Election Division, Elections Security Division, the Office of Campaign Finance, Ethics Commission, Registry of Vitals and Statistics, and the Attorney General Office. The Elections Division also conducts online webinar trainings. The on-line training opportunities are vital in keeping the office up to date with the changes in laws, policies, and procedures.

Summary of Bernardston 2023 Statistics

Births: 15
Deaths: 23
Marriages: 5
Business Certificates issued: 18
Dog Licenses issued: 401
Kennel Licenses issued: 3
Flammable Storage Registrations issued: 14
Raffle & Bazaar Permits issued: 4

Submitted by,
Christina Slocum-Wysk



TOWN OF BERNARDSTON
NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN CAUCUS
TO BE HELD ON

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2022 BEGINNING AT 7:00PM

Franklin ss:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Bernardston in the County of Franklin:

Greetings:

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 53, Section 121, of the Massachusetts General Laws as adopted by the voters of the Town of Bernardston, the inhabitants of said town qualified to vote in town affairs and elections are hereby notified and warned that a non-partisan Town Caucus will be conducted at the **Bernardston Town Hall, 38 Church Street on Monday, March 6, beginning at 7:00pm in the year Two Thousand and Twenty Three (2023).**

Said caucus is to be conducted for the purpose of nomination, wholly on one ballot, of candidates for all town offices to be elected at the Annual Town Election Monday, May 1, 2023. The following positions will be open for nominations: One Assessor two years, One Assessor three years, One Board of Health three years, One Constable three years, Four Cushman Library Trustees three years, One Moderator three years, Four Powers Institute Trustees three years, One Recreation Commission One year, Two Recreation Commission three years, One Selectboard three years.

The caucus shall be called to order by the Town Clerk and shall close at the time specified by vote of the caucus. This notice shall be posted at least 7 (seven) days before the time of holding said meeting at the 5 (five) places within the town listed:

Bernardston Town Hall, 38 Church Street, Bernardston Post Office, 9 Center Street, Country Corner Store, 44 Church Street, Bernardston Senior Center, 20 Church Street, www.townofbernardston.org (Town Website)

Here of fail not and make due return of this notice with your doing thereon to the Town Clerk at the time and place of said meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands this Twenty second (22nd) day of February, Two Thousand and Twenty three (2023).

Absent
Brian Keir, Chair

Stanley Garland
Stanley Garland

Kenneth Bordewieck
Kenneth Bordewieck

SELECTMEN OF TOWN OF BERNARDSTON

A true copy: .

Attest Christina Slocum-Wysk
Town Clerk, Christina Slocum-Wysk

Pursuant to the above, I have this day posted up copies of this notice at:

Bernardston Town Hall, 38 Church Street
Bernardston Post Office, 9 Center Street
Country Corner Store, 44 Church Street
Bernardston Senior Center, 20 Church Street
www.townofbernardston.org (Town Website)

Heather Montgomerie 2/24/23
CONSTABLE Date



TOWN of BERNARDSTON

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Bernardston Senior Center 20 Church Street;
Bernardston, MA
July 26, 2023
7:00 pm

Moderator: Geoffrey Wilson

Registrars & Check-in: Camilla Thacher, Susan LaCoy

Town Officials Present:

Select Board: Stanley Garland Chair; Kenneth Bordewieck; Brian Keir

Finance Committee: Jane Dutcher, Chair: Stephen Nestanpower,

Town Coordinator: Louis Bordeaux

Town Counsel: Donna MacNicol;

Town Clerk: Christina Slocum-Wysk

Assistant Town Clerk: Camilla Thacher

Four (4) Non-Resident or Unregistered Voters Signed in on July 26th and known to be present. Voters checked in at 6:30pm. 82 registered voters checked in by close of the meeting on July 20 of 1675 registered voters.

The Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and read the Greetings.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Bernardston in the County of Franklin,

GREETINGS :

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote in elections and in town affairs, to meet at Bernardston Senior Center, located at 20 Church Street in said Bernardston, the 26th day of July next, at seven o'clock in the evening, in the year 2023, then and there to act upon the following articles:

Article 1: To hear a report from the Fire Station Building Committee on the status of their work and to field any questions relative thereto.

This article was read, moved and seconded. Peter Shedd, Fire Chief, gave a slide presentation for the Fire Station Building Committee. After the presentation the Article was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared the Article approved unanimous.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to acquire the property, currently known as "Raymond's Repair", located at 167 Northfield Road and

O Merrifield Road from Christopher and Debra Raymond for \$1 500,000.00 (One million, six hundred thousand dollars). Acquisition amount as follows:

1

Transfer from Stabilization Account	\$300 000000
10 year, zero interest mortgage from seller	\$1 300 000.00
For A Total of	\$1,600,000.00

Acquisition subject to the stipulations outlined in the Purchase and Sale agreement or take any vote or votes relative thereto. (A two-thirds majority vote is required for passage.) (The Selectboard and Fire Station Building Committee recommend passage of this article.)

The Article was read, moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved by a 2/3 vote and was Unanimous.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following Town Bylaw, or take any vote or votes relative thereto. (The Selectboard recommends passage of this article.)

Public Shade Tree Removal
Town of Bernardston, Massachusetts

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 87, Section 3 (Public Shade Tree Law) defines all trees within a public way or on the boundaries thereto as public shade trees. If it is doubtful whether the tree is within the public way, it shall be taken to be within the public way until the contrary is shown. Public shade trees cannot be cut, trimmed or removed without a prior written permit from the Tree Warden after a Public Hearing duly advertised. The procedure for securing a permit to cut, trim or remove a public shade tree (Town tree) is as follows:

1. A written request is made to the Tree Warden to remove a public shade tree by calling or sending the written request or an email to the Tree Warden. Contact information is available on the town website. The Tree Warden will assess the tree(s).

2. The Tree Warden will schedule a public hearing for tree removal requests. The public hearing is held by the Selectboard. In circumstances where the public shade tree is located within a scenic road and where the Scenic

Road Act is triggered, the hearing is held with the Selectboard and the Planning Board.

3. Notice of the Public Hearing is given by the Tree Warden, identifying size, type and location of the shade tree or trees to be cut down or removed. The Notice shall be posted in two or more public places in the Town and upon the tree at least seven (7) days before such hearing and, at the applicant's expense, published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town once in each of two (2) successive weeks, the first publication to be not less than seven days before the hearing.

4. The Tree Warden inspects the tree or trees and issues a recommendation to the Selectboard or Planning Board.

5. Upon completion of the Public Hearing, if the tree is approved for removal, the Tree Warden issues a written permit for the removal of the tree or trees.

If written objection is made by one or more persons to the Tree Warden at or before the public hearing, a permit to cut or remove cannot be issued unless approved by the Selectboard.

2

For any nonhazardous Town tree(s) that are cut down, the person(s) receiving the permit are responsible for both the removal and the cost to remove the tree(s). In addition, those person(s) shall donate funds to the Tree Donations special revenue fund in an amount deemed appropriate by the Town Selectboard. Reimbursement to the Town is required for every inch of tree caliper removed. Each measured inch will require a \$100 reimbursement into the Tree Donations special revenue fund. For example, a 5" caliper tree will be \$500, and a 10" caliper tree will be \$1,000, etc. If Town trees are cut down without a written permit from the Tree Warden, reimbursement will be required which is double the above amount, whether the tree(s) were hazardous or not. The purpose of contributing to the Tree Donations special revenue fund is to replant public shade trees within the Town of Bernardston. These tree plantings are often coordinated as an outdoor learning activity with students in town.

The Article was read, moved and seconded, questions and answers pursued. Kenneth Bordewieck made

a motion to amend the article by striking out ~~Reimbursement to the Town is required for every inch of tree caliper removed. Each measured inch will require a \$100 reimbursement into the Tree Donations special revenue fund. For example, a 5" caliper tree will be \$500, and a 10" caliper tree will be \$1,000, etc.~~ and replace with

Striking out

"Reimbursement to the town is required and will be determined by the Tree Warden to reflect the cash of replacement of the tree. If aggrieved by the reimbursement amount, appeal may be made to the Selectboard.

The amendment was read, moved and seconded and was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator approved Unanimous. The Moderator put to vote on the amended article with a standing vote of 61 yes and 16 no. The Moderator declared the amended article passed.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500 (One thousand, five hundred dollars) to increase the salary of the Town Treasurer for the fiscal year 2024, or take any vote or votes relative thereto. (The Selectboard recommends passage of this article.) The Article was read, moved and seconded and after a brief explanation, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it passed unanimous.

Article S: To see if the Town will vote to rescind the borrowing authority granted by the Bernardston Annual Town Meeting held on May 5, 2021, Article 38, or take any vote or votes relative thereto. (The Selectboard recommends passage of this article.) This article was read, moved and seconded. Stan Garland made motion to amend the article by striking out "38" and replace with "36". There was no Article 38 on the May 5, 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The amendment was read, moved and seconded and was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator passed Unanimous. The Moderator put to a voice vote on the amended article which the Moderator declared the amended article passed Unanimous.

The Moderator asked if there is any other town business. Hearing none he put to a voice vote to close the meeting, approved unanimous. Closed at 8:05pm.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am the Clerk of the Town of Bernardston; that as such I have custody of the town records as required by law to be kept in my office; and I do hereby certify that the above is a true copy from said records, as held in the office of the Town Clerk.

Christina Slocum-Wysk

Bernardston Town Clerk



TOWN OF BERNARDSTON

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Bernardston Senior Center
20 Church Street; Bernardston, MA
July 26, 2023
7:00pm

To either of the Constables of the Town of Bernardston in the County of Franklin,

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote in elections and in town affairs, to meet at Bernardston Senior Center, located at 20 Church Street in said Bernardston, the 26th day of July next, at seven o'clock in the evening, in the year 2023, then and there to act upon the following articles:

Article 1: To hear a report from the Fire Station Building Committee on the status of their work and to field any questions relative thereto.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to acquire the property, currently known as "Raymond's Repair", located at 167 Northfield Road and 0 Merrifield Road from Christopher and Debra Raymond for \$1,600,000.00 (One million, six hundred thousand dollars). Acquisition amount as follows:

Transfer from Stabilization Account	\$300,000.00
10 year, zero interest mortgage from seller	\$1,300,000.00
For A Total of	\$1,600,000.00

Acquisition subject to the stipulations outlined in the Purchase and Sale agreement or take any vote or votes relative thereto. *(A two-thirds majority vote is required for passage.) (The Selectboard and Fire Station Building Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following Town Bylaw, or take any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard recommends passage of this article.)*

(continued on following page)

Public Shade Tree Removal
Town of Bernardson, Massachusetts

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 87, Section 3 (Public Shade Tree Law) defines all trees within a public way or on the boundaries thereto as public shade trees. If it is doubtful whether the tree is within the public way, it shall be taken to be within the public way until the contrary is shown. Public shade trees cannot be cut, trimmed or removed without a prior written permit from the Tree Warden after a Public Hearing duly advertised. The procedure for securing a permit to cut, trim or remove a public shade tree (Town tree) is as follows:

1. A written request is made to the Tree Warden to remove a public shade tree by calling or sending the written request or an email to the Tree Warden. Contact information is available on the town website. The Tree Warden will assess the tree(s).
2. The Tree Warden will schedule a public hearing for tree removal requests. The public hearing is held by the Selectboard. In circumstances where the public shade tree is located within a scenic road and where the Scenic Road Act is triggered, the hearing is held with the Selectboard and the Planning Board.
3. Notice of the Public Hearing is given by the Tree Warden, identifying size, type and location of the shade tree or trees to be cut down or removed. The Notice shall be posted in two or more public places in the Town and upon the tree at least seven (7) days before such hearing and, at the applicant's expense, published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town once in each of two (2) successive weeks, the first publication to be not less than seven days before the hearing.
4. The Tree Warden inspects the tree or trees and issues a recommendation to the Selectboard or Planning Board.
5. Upon completion of the Public Hearing, if the tree is approved for removal, the Tree Warden issues a written permit for the removal of the tree or trees.

If written objection is made by one or more persons to the Tree Warden at or before the public hearing, a permit to cut or remove cannot be issued unless approved by the Selectboard.

For any nonhazardous Town tree(s) that are cut down, **the person(s) receiving the permit** are responsible for both the removal and the cost to remove the tree(s). In addition, those person(s) shall donate funds to the Tree Donations special revenue fund in an amount deemed appropriate by the Town Selectboard. Reimbursement to the Town is required for every inch of tree caliper removed. Each measured inch will require a \$100 reimbursement into the Tree Donations special revenue fund. For example, a 5" caliper tree will be \$500, and a 10" caliper tree will be \$1,000, etc. If Town trees are cut down **without** a written permit from the Tree Warden, reimbursement will be required which is double the above amount, whether the tree(s) were hazardous or not. The purpose of contributing to the Tree Donations special revenue fund is to replant public shade trees within the Town of Bernardston. These tree plantings are often coordinated as an outdoor learning activity with students in town.

(continued on following page)

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500 (One thousand, five hundred dollars) to increase the salary of the Town Treasurer for the fiscal year 2024, or take any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard recommends passage of this article.)*

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to rescind the borrowing authority granted by the Bernardston Annual Town Meeting held on May 5, 2021, Article 38, or take any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard recommends passage of this article.)*

You are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting up certified/attested copies thereof at least 14 (fourteen) days before the time of holding said meeting at the 5 (five) places within the town listed below:

Bernardston Town Hall, 38 Church Street
Bernardston Post Office, 9 Center Street
Country Corner Store, 44 Church Street
Bernardston Senior Center, 20 Church Street
<http://townofbernardston.org>

Hereof fail not and make due return of this notice with your doing thereon to the Town Clerk at the time and place of said meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 10th day of July in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three:


Stanley D. Garland, Chairman


Kenneth R. Bordewieck

Brian J. Keir


**SELECTBOARD,
TOWN OF BERNARDSTON**

A true copy:
Attest:


Christina Slocum-Wysk
TOWN CLERK

Franklin, SS. Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Bernardston by posting up attested copies of this Warrant 14 (fourteen) days before the date of said election, as within directed at:

Bernardston Town Hall, 38 Church Street;
Bernardston Post Office, 9 Center Street;
Country Corner Store, 44 Church Street;
Bernardston Senior Center, 20 Church Street;
<http://townofbernardston.org>


CONSTABLE

7/11/23
Date

TOWN OF BERNARDSTON
Office of the Town Clerk



P.O. Box 504, 38 Church St., Bernardston, MA 01337
Christina Slocum-Wysk, Town Clerk

Email: townclerk@townofbernardston.org
Tel: 413-648-5408

Town Election May 1, 2023 Results

Assessor 3 years: Melissa Murphy 54

Board of Health 3 years: Trisha Earl 51

Constable 3 years: Write in Mark Gilmore 5
Write in Shannon Wissman-Hoar 4

Moderator 3 years: Geoffrey Wilson 52

Cushman Library Trustee 4 positions for 3 years:

Lucy Damkoehler 55
Robert Lively 53
Justin Lawrence 54
Veronica Gilmore 52

Powers Institute Trustees 4 positions for 3 years:

Joanne Balzarini 51
Donna Eddy 50
Patriciann Grover 51
Jonathan Pineo 51

Recreation Commission 2 positions for 3 years:

Tara Stone 52
Sarah Wyngowski 56

Recreation Commission 1 year: Kerry Baird 53

Select Board 3 years: Brian Keir 56

TOWN OF BERNARDSTON



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - June 7, 2023 MINUTES

Moderator: Geoffrey Wilson

Registrars & Check in: Linda Raymond, Camilla Thacher, Susan LaCoy

Town Officials Present:

Select Board: Stanley Garland Chair; Kenneth Bordewieck; Brian Keir
 Finance Committee: Brian Hervieux, Acting Chair; Stephen Nestanpower,
 Jody Coleman

Town Coordinator: Louis Bordeaux

Town Counsel: Donna MacNicol;

Town Clerk: Christina Slocum-Wysk

Assistant Town Clerk: Camilla Thacher

Ten (10) Non-Resident or Unregistered Voters Signed in on June 7th and Known to be present. Voters checked in at 6:30pm. 86 registered voters checked in by close of the meeting on June 7th of 1804 registered voters.

The Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:07pm by reading the notice of the warrant and confirming the proper posting thereof and then led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Franklin:

To either of the constables of the Town of Bernardston in the County of Franklin:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town qualified to vote in elections and town affairs to meet at the Kringle Barn Events Center, 219 South Street in Bernardston, Wednesday the 7th day of June next, at seven o'clock in the evening, to conduct the annual business meeting then and there to act upon the following articles:

Article 1: To act upon the reports of the Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, Selectboard, School Committees, all other Town Officers and Committees as contained in the Annual Town Report for 2022, and

Annual Town Meeting, June 7, 2023

- a) to hear an oral report from the Selectboard on the status of the Charity Lot Trust Fund;
- b) to hear a report from the Selectboard;
- c) to hear a report from the Chairman of the Fire Station Building Committee, with time for questions and answers pertaining to the Fire Station Building project;
- d) to hear a report from Finance Committee Chair regarding the FY24 Town budget.

*The reports as contained in the **ANNUAL TOWN REPORT FOR 2022** were distributed to all present and the oral reports of the Select Board including the status of the Charity Lot Trust Fund and the report of the Finance Committee Chair were heard. A motion to accept all of the reports was moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak to the motion, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the **Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.***

Article 2: To see if the Town of Bernardston will authorize the Selectboard to apply for and accept state and/or federal monies and to expend any monies received as set forth in the appropriate application and/or document, or take any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

*The Article was read, moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the **Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.***

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to accept and expend without further appropriation any monies, which may be made available from the Commonwealth through the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for improvements to Town roads, or take any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

*The Article was read, moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the **Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.***

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements for Fiscal 2024, commencing on July 1, 2023 pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, section 53F, or take any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

*The Article was read, moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the **Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.***

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote, under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 41, §108, or any amendments thereto, to fix the salaries of all elected officials for Fiscal Year 2024, and raise and appropriate any sum or sums therefore, and further:

Raise and Appropriate	\$605,870.08
Transfer from Free Cash	\$52,715.81
For A Total of	\$658,585.89

for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, in accordance with the amounts recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the first column of the following table (Table I), or pass any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

TABLE I		FY 2024	FY 2024	FY 2023
* F = Free Cash S = Stabilization T = Transfer	*	Recommended by Finance Committee	Requested	Appropriated
Town Administration				
Moderator				
Annual Meeting		50.00	50.00	50.00
Special Town Meeting (3@\$60)		180.00	180.00	180.00
Total Moderator		230.00	230.00	230.00
Selectboard Department				
Selectboard Stipends: Chairman		2,050.00	2,050.00	2,050.00
2nd Member		2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
3rd Member		2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Town Coordinator Salary		66,154.94	65,901.47	63,366.80
Selectboard Expenses		2,800.00	2,800.00	2,800.00
Town Reports, Printing of		800.00	800.00	1,000.00
Newsletter Stipend				800.00
Newsletter Expense				1,800.00
Newsletter		0.00	0.00	2,600.00
IT Services		2,000.00	2,000.00	4,000.00
Computer Replacement		2,000.00	2,000.00	
Operating & Other Expenses		17,400.00	17,400.00	16,800.00
<i>Sub-Total Town Hall Expense</i>		<i>21,400.00</i>	<i>21,400.00</i>	<i>20,800.00</i>
Total Selectboard Department		97,204.94	96,951.47	96,616.80
Assessor's Office				
Assessors' Stipends Chairman		1,050.00	1,050.00	1,050.00
2nd Member		1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
3rd Member		1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Assessors' Assistant Payroll		40,711.79	38,995.96	38,995.97
Assessors' Expenses		9,665.00	9,665.00	11,165.00
Total Assessors Office		53,426.79	51,710.96	53,210.96
Treasurer's Department				
Salary		25,871.33	24,780.97	24,780.97
Treasurer Certification		1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Assistant Treasurer		1,000.00	1,000.00	
Expense		7,340.00	7,340.00	5,740.00
<i>Sub-total Treasurer's Office</i>		<i>35,211.33</i>	<i>34,120.97</i>	<i>31,520.97</i>

Annual Town Meeting, June 7, 2023

TABLE I		FY 2024	FY 2024	FY 2023
* F = Free Cash S = Stabilization T = Transfer	*	Recommended by Finance Committee	Requested	Appropriated
Town Officers' Bonds		1,000.00	652.00	652.00
Tax Title Expenses		5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Total Treasurer's Dept.		41,211.33	39,772.97	37,172.97
Debt Service				
Interest on Short Term Borrowing		100.00	100.00	100.00
2022-Highway Truck	F	52,715.81	52,715.81	64,000.00
Total Debt Service		52,815.81	52,815.81	64,100.00
Tax Collector's Department				
Salary		22,673.00	21,717.42	21,717.43
Expenses		8,660.00	8,660.00	8,213.00
Total Tax Collector's Dept.		31,333.00	30,377.42	29,930.43
Town Clerk's Dept.				
Salary (18 hrs/wk)		19,297.23	18,483.94	18,483.94
Assistant Town Clerk (10 hrs/wk)		8,338.31	7,986.89	7,986.89
Expenses		3,880.00	9,880.00	3,700.00
Elections/Registration		10,679.50	10,679.50	10,510.00
Registrars' Stipends		480.00	480.00	480.00
Total Town Clerk's Office		42,675.04	47,510.33	41,160.83
Planning Board				
Payroll		3,966.56	3,800.16	4,751.87
Operating & Other Expenses		1,500.00	1,500.00	1,000.00
Total Planning Board		5,466.56	5,300.16	5,751.87
Board of Health				
Board of Health Stipends- - - - -				
Chairman		1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
2nd Member		1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
3rd Member		1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Wetlands				3,000.00
Board of Health Expenses		1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Total Board of Health		4,200.00	4,200.00	7,200.00
Human Services				
Powers Institute Operating Expenses		52,150.00	56,150.00	34,760.00
Council on Aging Payroll		99,182.72	95,595.34	83,987.45
Council on Aging Operating Expenses		7,020.00	7,020.00	4,390.00

Annual Town Meeting, June 7, 2023

TABLE I		FY 2024	FY 2024	FY 2023
* F = Free Cash S = Stabilization T = Transfer	*	Recommended by Finance Committee	Requested	Appropriated
<i>Sub-Total Senior Center</i>		158,352.72	158,765.34	123,137.45
Veterans' Benefits		3,240.00	3,240.00	3,672.00
Veterans' Services		5,303.79	5,303.79	4,943.85
Veteran's Memorial Committee		2,000.00	2,000.00	1,500.00
<i>Sub-Total Veterans Service</i>		10,543.79	10,543.79	10,115.85
Total Human Services		168,896.51	169,309.13	133,253.30
Cushman Library				
Payroll		62,365.16	61,041.76	59,266.35
<i>Payroll - Librarian</i>		46,250.88	45,609.20	
<i>Library Assistants</i>		16,114.28	15,432.56	
Operating Expenses		19,975.00	29,596.00	16,623.00
Total Cushman Library		82,340.16	90,637.76	75,889.35
Appeals Board (Zoning)				
Payroll		359.58	344.43	344.43
Operating & Other Expenses		300.00	300.00	300.00
Total Appeals Board (Zoning)		659.58	644.43	644.43
Conservation Commission				
Payroll		719.17	688.86	688.86
Operating & Other Expenses		882.00	882.00	882.00
Total Conservation Commission		1,601.17	1,570.86	1,570.86
Other Boards & Committees				
Agricultural Commission		1,125.00	1,125.00	1,125.00
Historical Commission		400.00	400.00	400.00
Reserve Fund (FY23: R&A 30,000; Transfer from Free Cash 70,000)		75,000.00	75,000.00	100,000.00
Total Other		76,525.00	76,525.00	101,525.00
TOTAL of ARTICLE		658,585.89	667,536.30	648,256.81
<i>Inc. over prior year:</i>		10,329.08		64,157.10

The Article was read, moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to

FY 2024	
Raise and Appropriate:	\$3,515,464.00
Transfer from Free Cash:	\$11,577.21
for a Total of:	\$3,527,041.21

for Bernardston's share of the education expense in accordance with the amounts recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the first column of the following table (Table II), or pass any vote or votes relative thereto. (*The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.*)

TABLE II	*	FY 2024	FY 2024	FY 2023
* F = Free Cash S = Stabilization T = Transfer		Recommended by Finance Committee	Requested	Appropriated
Schools				
School Committee Stipends				
PVRS-1st Representative		200.00	200.00	200.00
PVRS-2nd Representative		200.00	200.00	200.00
PVRS-3rd Representative		200.00	200.00	200.00
FCTS Representative		200.00	200.00	200.00
Total Stipends		800.00	800.00	800.00
Franklin County Technical School				
Operating Budget		314,300.00	314,300.00	325,872.23
Capital Budget (4th payment)	F	6,577.21	6,577.21	6,580.05
Total FCTS		320,877.21	320,877.21	332,452.28
Pioneer Valley Regional Dist.				
Operating Budget		3,186,284.00	3,186,284.00	3,079,170.00
PVRS Capital Projects				
FY24-Key Cards for Entrance Doors		8,800.00	8,800.00	
FY24 – shades (for library and classrooms facing driveway)		5,280.00	5,280.00	
FY24-Carpet (teachers' lounges)			2,112.00	
FY24-Snack Shack (pathway)			3,168.00	
<i>Sub-Total PVRS Capital Projects</i>		<i>14,080.00</i>	<i>19,360.00</i>	
BES Capital Projects				
Capital Improvements	F	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Total PVRSD		3,205,364.00	3,210,644.00	3,084,170.00

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TABLE II	*	FY 2024	FY 2024	FY 2023
* F = Free Cash S = Stabilization T = Transfer		Recommended by Finance Committee	Requested	Appropriated
Total Schools		3,526,241.21	3,531,521.21	3,416,622.28
TOTAL of ARTICLE		3,527,041.21	3,532,321.21	3,417,422.28
% of budget		55.13%		53.47%
% of Raise & Appropriate		66.62%		67.81%
Inc. over prior year		109,618.93		-13,794.09

The Article was read, moved and seconded. Discussion of the amount of \$5280 not supported by the Selectboard and Finance Committee which they removed from the PVRS District budget. Superintendent Patricia Kinsella and PVRS Business Manager Jordan Burns spoke that if we voted a different amount then Article 6 would fail. Resident, Melissa Gerry, made a motion "to amend Article 6 to increase the amount by \$5280 for a total of \$3,532,321.21." Vote on the motion was approved by a yes vote 49 and no vote 17. A final vote on the amended amount of ~~\$3,531,521.21~~ was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved. Note: Typo by town clerk on final amended amount. Total approved is \$3,532,321.21.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to

Raise and Appropriate	\$531,220.51
Leyden Assessment	\$25,663.42
for a Total of:	\$556,883.93

for Contracted Services, Pension and Insurance Expense in accordance with the amounts recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the first column of the following table (Table III), or pass any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

TABLE III	*	FY 2024	FY 2024	FY 2023
* F = Free Cash S = Stabilization T = Transfer		Recommended by Finance Committee	Requested	Appropriated
CONTRACTED SERVICES				
FRCOG Statutory/Core Services		13,362.00	13,362.00	13,375.00

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TABLE III	*	FY 2024	FY 2024	FY 2023
* F = Free Cash S = Stabilization T = Transfer		Recommended by Finance Committee	Requested	Appropriated
FRCOG Fees for Service:				
Accounting Program			33,552.00	31,792.00
Procurement		2,850.00	2,850.00	2,669.00
Public Health		18,695.00	18,695.00	17,933.00
Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC)		150.00	150.00	150.00
Building Inspection		7,600.00	7,600.00	7,600.00
Emergency Communications		8,647.00	8,647.00	8,538.18
<i>Sub-Total FRCOG</i>		<i>51,304.00</i>	<i>84,856.00</i>	<i>82,057.18</i>
Accounting Services		48,000.00		
Franklin County Solid Waste Management District		8,783.00	8,783.00	8,000.00
Town Counsel		15,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
Street Lights		10,000.00	10,000.00	4,900.00
Cell phones (COA, Fire, Highway)		3,360.00	3,360.00	3,360.00
Total Contracted Services		136,447.00	114,999.00	106,317.18
PENSIONS AND INSURANCE				
Franklin Regional Retirement System		137,771.00	137,771.00	131,521.00
Social Security		100.00	100.00	100.00
Medicare		16,000.00	16,000.00	13,941.35
Unemployment Insurance		2,000.00	2,000.00	19,000.00
Insurance: buildings, vehicles, equipment, liability town officers		69,880.00	69,880.00	68,968.00
Employee health insurance		183,852.00	166,851.00	154,493.28
Employee dental insurance		10,131.45	8,963.85	10,127.52
Employee life insurance		702.48	638.64	686.56
<i>Sub-Total Employee Ins.Benefits</i>		<i>194,685.93</i>	<i>176,453.49</i>	<i>165,307.36</i>
Total Pensions & Insurance		420,436.93	402,204.49	398,837.71
TOTAL of ARTICLE		556,883.93	517,203.49	505,154.89
<i>Increase over prior year</i>		<i>51,729.04</i>		<i>49,355.49</i>

The Article was read, moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to

Raise and Appropriate	\$1,165,936.29
Transfer from Landfill Receipts	\$93,080.00
Transfer from Transfer Station Recycling Account	\$2,200.00
Transfer from Free Cash	\$22,500.00
Leyden Assessment	\$69,360.59
For a Total of	\$1,283,716.29

for Public Services in accordance with the amounts recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the first column of the following table (Table IV), or pass any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

TABLE IV	*	FY 2024	FY 2024	FY 2023
* F = Free Cash S = Stabilization T = Transfer		Recommended by Finance Committee	Requested	Appropriated
Public Services				
Fire Department				
Stipends		15,800.00	12,800.00	12,800.00
Payroll		61,137.22	58,560.00	58,560.56
Operating Expenses		72,750.00	72,750.00	72,250.00
Ambulance Service	F	12,500.00	12,500.00	10,000.00
Total Fire Department		162,187.22	156,610.00	153,610.56
Emergency Management				
Payroll (Prior to FY24=Stipend)		10,000.00	10,000.00	5,000.00
Supplies		6,950.00	6,950.00	6,400.00
Total Emergency Management		16,950.00	16,950.00	11,400.00
Police Department				
Payroll		358,123.46	297,242.47	299,315.42
Operating Expenses		49,880.00	41,400.40	39,875.00
Animal Control Officer		6,359.00	6,359.00	6,375.25

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TABLE IV	*	FY 2024	FY 2024	FY 2023
* F = Free Cash * S = Stabilization * T = Transfer		Recommended by Finance Committee	Requested	Appropriated
Total Police Department		414,362.46	345,001.87	345,565.67
Highway Department				
Payroll		274,065.20	279,762.50	219,879.93
Operating Expenses		134,100.00	134,100.00	124,250.00
Snow & Ice		61,880.00	61,880.00	56,850.00
Snow & Ice payroll		26,559.36	26,088.00	25,440.00
<i>Sub-total Snow & Ice</i>		<i>88,439.36</i>	<i>87,968.00</i>	<i>82,290.00</i>
Total Highway Department		496,604.56	501,830.50	426,419.93
Transfer Station				
Payroll		10,960.15	19,950.30	20,460.00
Operating Expenses (incl \$2200 Ann. Recycling Rolloff replacement from Transfer Station Recycling) plus FY24 trans 85,000 from Landfill Receipts; FY23 trans 85,000 from Landfill Receipts FY22 trans 65,000 from Landfill Receipts; FY21- trans \$50,000 fm landfill receipts; FY20-trans \$66,450 from Landfill Receipts	T	141,702.00	141,702.00	125,095.00
Landfill Testing (transfer from Landfill Receipts Account)	T	8,080.00	8,080.00	7,825.00
Total Transfer Station (FY24- 2,200 fm TS Recycling, 93,080 fm Landfill receipts & R&A- 65,482.15)(FY23-2,200 fm TS Recycling, 92,825 fm Landfill receipts & R&A-71,030.54)		160,742.15	169,732.30	153,380.00
Tree Warden				
Tree Warden Payroll		9,469.90	8,667.80	6,419.88
Tree Warden Operating Expenses		10,900.00	10,900.00	7,600.00
Tree Removal	F	10,000.00		
Total Tree Warden		30,369.90	19,567.80	14,019.88
Other Public Works				

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TABLE IV	*	FY 2024	FY 2024	FY 2023
* F = Free Cash S = Stabilization T = Transfer		Recommended by Finance Committee	Requested	Appropriated
Municipal Animal Inspector (incl. Barn Inspections & Animal Control- see State description)		1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Charity Farm Lot		1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Memorial Day		500.00	500.00	500.00
Total Other Public Works		2,500.00	2,500.00	1,500.00
TOTAL of ARTICLE		1,283,716.29	1,212,192.47	1,106,896.04
<i>Inc. over prior year</i>		176,820.25		145,230.47

The Article was read, moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to

Raise and appropriate \$150,000

for the Stabilization accounts in accordance with the amounts recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the first column of the following table (Table V), or pass any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

TABLE V	*	FY 2024	FY 2024	FY 2023
* F = Free Cash S = Stabilization T = Transfer		Recommended by Finance Committee	Requested	Appropriated
Stabilization Accounts				
Special Purpose Stabilization Fund – Vehicle replacement		50,000.00		50,000.00
Stabilization Fund (Capital)		100,000.00		100,000.00
Total Stabilization Accounts		150,000.00	0.00	150,000.00
TOTAL of ARTICLE		150,000.00	0.00	150,000.00
<i>Inc. over prior year</i>		0.00		74,100.00

The Article was read, moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.

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Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the amount of \$4,963.40 for payroll for the Recreation Commission Account and, further, to transfer from the Kiwanis Expendable Interest Account the sum of \$1,000.00 to the Kiwanis Recreation Equipment Fund to be expended by the Recreation Commission for Recreation Programs and Field Maintenance, or take any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

*The Article was read, moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the **Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.***

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$25,000.00 for an FY23 Town Audit, or take any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

*The Article was read, moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the **Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.***

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$2,400.00 for the fifth of five installments, for the Board of Assessors FY24 revaluation, or take any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

*The Article was read, moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the **Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.***

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$4,000.00 for the fifth of five installments for the Board of Assessors Ten-Year Reinspection Program, or take any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

*The Article was read, moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the **Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.***

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$1,200.00 for maintenance at the Village Cemetery (formerly called Old Cemetery), or take any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

*The Article was read, moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the **Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.***

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$300.00 for the Flag Replacement Account, or take any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

The Article was read, moved and seconded. After a few questions were answered it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$5,000.00 for the Mosquito Control District, or take any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

The Article was read, moved and seconded. After a few questions were answered it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$130,000.00 for the Fire Station Building Account, or take any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

The Article was read, moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$10,000.00 for Grant Writer/Town Planner Services, or take any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

The Article was read, moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,000.00 to be added to the Employee Retirement/Separation Account, or take any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

The Article was read, moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the amount of \$5,000.00 to be added to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund or take any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)* *The Article was read, moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.*

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the amount of \$15,000.00 for the Renovate/Construct Town Buildings Account, or take any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

*The Article was read, moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the **Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.***

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the following spending limits for Revolving Funds in accordance to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, section 53E½ and the Town of Bernardston Bylaw for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, or take any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend passage of this article.)*

Revolving Fund	Spending Limit
Council on Aging Donations	\$10,000.00
Board of Health	\$15,000.00
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$1,000.00
Planning Board	\$2,000.00
Fire Department	\$2,000.00
Dog Licenses	\$3,000.00
Public Safety	\$15,000.00
Transfer Station Recycling	\$37,000.00
Cushman Library	\$5,000.00
Agricultural Commission	\$5,000.00
Newsletter	\$2,000.00
Street Flag Replacement Fund	\$5,000.00

*The Article was read, moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the **Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.***

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to Petition the General Court for Special legislation to allow Chief Peter Shedd, A Town of Bernardston Call Firefighter, notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, to serve in such position until the age of seventy (70), or until the date of his retirement or non-reappointment, whichever occurs first; provided, however that no deductions from the regular compensation of Peter Shedd shall be made under chapter 32 of the General Laws subsequent to his reaching the age of sixty-five (65) in connection with his service to the Town for retirement or pension purposes, provided, however,

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that the General Court may make clerical and editorial changes of form only to the bill unless the Selectboard approves amendments to the bill prior to enactment by the General Court, and to authorize the Selectboard to approve such amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public's objectives of the petition, or take any votes relative thereto. *(This article was requested and submitted by Chief Peter Shedd.)*

*The Article was read, moved and seconded and after no one asked to speak, it was put to a Voice Vote following which the **Moderator declared it approved Unanimously.***

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to purchase and install a convenience Drop Box at Town Hall, to be purchased with SLFRF (ARPA) funds, not to exceed \$2,500.00 or take any vote or votes relative thereto. *(The Finance Committee recommends passage of this article.)*

The Article was read, moved and seconded. After discussion it was put to a Voice Vote which the Moderator was unable to determine the result. A standing vote count was conducted and the article passed with 39 yes and 28 no voter. The Moderator declared the article passed.

Article 25: To see if the Town will change the definition of the word "restaurant", as appears in the current Bernardston Zoning Bylaws, Article VI from "Shall mean a permanent structure at which the principal activity is the preparation and retail sale of food or beverage" to "Any business establishment, temporary or permanent, principally engaged in the retail sale of food, drink or refreshments, whether prepared on or off the premises." *(This article was petitioned by Alexander Fiorey)*

*The Article was read, moved and seconded. After town counsel discussed the process for a petitioned article, the Selectboard must give the petition to the Planning Board and follow the process of amending the Zoning Bylaws by holding a public hearing. It was put to a Voice Vote following which the **Moderator declared it approved.***

Article 26: To see if the Town will adopt a bylaw to eliminate the sale of single use plastic products and to limit the type of products that may be furnished in the Town of Bernardston or take any vote or votes relative thereto. Proposed bylaw is on a separate handout. *(This article was petitioned by Lucy Damkoehler)*

*The Article was read, moved and seconded. After discussion of the process for a petitioned article, the petitioner will come to the Selectboard to discuss this further. It was put to a Voice Vote to table this article following which the **Moderator declared it approved and tabled by a 2/3 vote.***

Motion to adjourn moved and seconded, Moderator declared meeting adjourned at 8:44pm._

Minutes Submitted, Christina Slocum-Wysk June 9, 2023

Article 30

To see if the Town will vote or take votes to update the Floodplain Overlay District to meet the State of Massachusetts floodplain bylaws or take any other action there to. *(This is recommended by the Planning Board.)*

3.6. Floodplain Overlay District (added May 29, 2013)

A. Purpose. The purposes of the Floodplain Overlay District are to:

- 1) Ensure public safety through reducing the threats to life and personal injury;
- 2) Eliminate new hazards to emergency response officials;
- 3) Prevent the occurrence of public emergencies resulting from a reduction in water quality, contamination, and/or pollution due to flooding;
- 4) Avoid the loss of utility services which if damaged by flooding would disrupt or shut down the utility network and impact regions of the community beyond the site of flooding;
- 5) Eliminate/Reduce costs associated with the response and cleanup of flooding conditions;
- 6) Reduce damage to public and private property resulting from flooding waters.

B. Floodplain District Boundaries and Base Flood Elevation and Floodway Data

- 1) The Floodplain District is herein established as an overlay district. The District includes special flood hazard areas designated on the Bernardston Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Panels 1-7, issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the administration of the NFIP dated July 2, 1980, as Zones A, A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A7 and A10, and the FEMA Flood Boundary & Floodway Map dated July 2, 1980, both maps which indicate the 100-year regulatory floodplain. The exact boundaries of the District may be defined by the 100-year base flood elevations shown on the FIRM and further defined by the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report dated January 2, 1980. The FIRM, Flood Boundary & Floodway Map, and FIS report are incorporated herein by reference and are on file with the Town Clerk, Planning Board, and Building Inspector.
- 2) Floodway Data: In Zones A, A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A7 and A10 along watercourses that have not had a regulatory floodway designated, the best available Federal, State, local, or other floodway data shall be used as outlined in the State Building Code to prohibit encroachments in floodways which would result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.
- 3) Base Flood Elevation Data: Base flood elevation data is required for subdivision proposals or other developments greater than three lots or five (5) acres, whichever is less, where a portion of the proposed development would be located within any unnumbered A Zone flood hazard area.

C. Administration.

- 1) Abrogation and Greater Restriction: The floodplain management regulations found in this Floodplain Overlay District section shall take precedence over any less restrictive conflicting local laws, ordinances or codes.
- 2) Disclaimer of Liability: The degree of flood protection required by this bylaw is considered reasonable but does not imply total flood protection.
- 3) Severability: If any section, provision or portion of this bylaw [ordinance] is deemed to be unconstitutional or invalid by a court, the remainder of the ordinance shall be effective.

C.D. Definitions

ANIMAL FEEDLOT is any site used regularly for the feeding of ten (10) or more animals for agricultural/commercial purposes.

AREA OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD is the land in the floodplain within a community subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. The area may be designated as Zone A, AO, AH, A1-30, AE, or A99.

BASE FLOOD means the flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (also known as the "one-hundred-year flood").

DEVELOPMENT means any manmade change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to building or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations or storage of materials.

DISTRICT means floodplain district.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) administers the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA provides a nationwide flood hazard area mapping study program for communities as well as regulatory standards for development in the flood hazard areas.

FLOOD BOUNDARY AND FLOODWAY MAP means an official map of a community issued by FEMA that depicts, based on detailed analyses, the boundaries of the 100-year and 500-year floods and the 100-year floodway. (For maps done in 1987 and later, the floodway designation is included on the FIRM.)

FLOOD HAZARD BOUNDARY MAP (FHBM.) An official map of a community issued by the Federal Insurance Administrator, where the boundaries of the flood and related erosion areas having special hazards have been designated as Zone A or E. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM) means an official map of a community on which FEMA has delineated both the Areas of Special Flood Hazard and the Risk Premium Zones applicable to the community.

FLOODWAY means the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation.

FUNCTIONALLY DEPENDENT USE means a use which cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out in close proximity to water. The term includes only docking facilities, port facilities that are necessary for the loading and

unloading of cargo or passengers, and ship building and ship repair facilities, but does not include long-term storage or related manufacturing facilities. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59] Also [Referenced Standard ASCE 24-14]

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS means any substance or mixture of physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics posing a significant, actual, or potential hazard to water supplies or other hazards to human health if such substance or mixture were discharged to land or water. Hazardous materials include, without limitation: synthetic organic chemicals; petroleum products; heavy metals; radioactive or infectious wastes; acids and alkalis; solvents and thinners in quantities greater than normal household use; and all substances defined as hazardous or toxic under M.G.L. c.21C and 21E and 310 CMR 30.00.

HIGHEST ADJACENT GRADE means the highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed walls of a structure. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

HISTORIC STRUCTURE means any structure that is:

(a) Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register;

(b) Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district;

(c) Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior; or

(d) Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:

(1) By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or

(2) Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.

[US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

LOWEST FLOOR means the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement or cellar). An unfinished or flood resistant enclosure, usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access or storage in an area other than a basement area is not considered a building's lowest floor, provided that such enclosure is not built so as to render the structure in violation of the applicable non-elevation design requirements of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Regulations 60.3.

MANUFACTURED HOME means a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and is designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities. For floodplain management purposes the term "manufactured home" also includes park trailers, travel trailers, and other similar vehicles placed on a site for longer than 180 consecutive days. For insurance purposes, the term "manufactured home" does not include park trailers, travel trailers, and other similar vehicles.

MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION means a parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land divided into two or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale.

NEW CONSTRUCTION. Structures for which the start of construction commenced on or after the effective date of the first floodplain management code, regulation, ordinance, or standard adopted by the authority having jurisdiction, including any subsequent improvements

to such structures. New construction includes work determined to be substantial improvement [Referenced Standard ASCE 24-14] NEW CONSTRUCTION means, for floodplain management purposes, structures for which the "start of construction" commenced on or after the effective date of a floodplain management regulation adopted by a community. For the purpose of determining insurance rates, new construction means structures for which the "start of construction" commenced on or after the effective date of an initial FIRM or after December 31, 1974, whichever is later.

ONE-HUNDRED-YEAR FLOOD - see BASE FLOOD.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE means a vehicle which is:

(a) Built on a single chassis;

(b) 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection;

(c) Designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and

(d) Designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

[US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

REGULATORY FLOODWAY - see FLOODWAY.

RIVER means a natural flowing body of water that empties to any ocean, lake, or other river and which flows throughout the year.

RIVERINE means relating to or resembling a river, or located beside a river.

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA The land area subject to flood hazards and shown on a Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard map as Zone A, AE, AI-30, A99, AR, AO, AH, V, VO, VE or VI-30. [Base Code, Chapter 2, Section 202] means an area having special flood and/or flood related erosion hazards, and shown on an FIRM or FIRM as Zone A, AO, AH, AI-30, AE, or A99.

START OF CONSTRUCTION. The date of issuance for new construction and substantial improvements to existing structures, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, placement or other improvement is within 180 days after the date of issuance. The actual start of construction means the first placement of permanent construction of a building (including a manufactured home) on a site, such as the pouring of a slab or footings, installation of pilings or construction of columns. Permanent construction does not include land preparation (such as clearing, excavation, grading or filling), the installation of streets or walkways, excavation for a basement, footings, piers or foundations, the erection of temporary forms or the installation of accessory buildings such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main building. For a substantial improvement, the actual "start of construction" means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor or other structural part of a building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building. [Base Code, Chapter 2, Section 202]

STRUCTURE means, for floodplain management purposes, a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured home. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59] means, for floodplain management purposes, a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured home. Structure, for insurance coverage purposes, means a walled and roofed building, other than a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground and affixed to a permanent site, as well as a manufactured home on foundation. For the latter purpose, the term includes a building in the course of construction,

alteration, or repair, but does not include building materials or supplies intended for use in such construction, alteration, or repair, unless such materials or supplies are within an enclosed building on the premises.

SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT means any repair, reconstruction, or improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure either (a) before the improvement or repair is started, or (b) if the structure has been damaged and is being restored, before the damage occurred. For the purposes of this definition, "Substantial Improvement" is considered to occur when the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of the building commences, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the structure.

SUBSTANTIAL REPAIR OF A FOUNDATION. *When work to repair or replace a foundation results in the repair or replacement of a portion of the foundation with a perimeter along the base of the foundation that equals or exceeds 50% of the perimeter of the base of the foundation measured in linear feet, or repair or replacement of 50% of the piles, columns or piers of a pile, column or pier supported foundation, the building official shall determine it to be substantial repair of a foundation. Applications determined by the building official to constitute substantial repair of a foundation shall require all existing portions of the entire building or structure to meet the requirements of 780 CMR. [As amended by MA in 9th Edition BC]*

VARIANCE means a grant of relief by a community from the terms of a flood plain management regulation. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

VIOLATION means the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community's flood plain management regulations. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other evidence of compliance required in §60.3(b)(5), (c)(4), (c)(10), (d)(3), (e)(2), (e)(4), or (e)(5) is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

ZONE A means an area of special flood hazard without water surface elevations determined

ZONE A1-30 and ZONE AE means area of special flood hazard with water surface elevations determined

ZONE AH means areas of special flood hazards having shallow water depths and/or unpredictable flow paths between (1) and (3) feet, and with water surface elevations determined

ZONE AO means area of special flood hazards having shallow water depths and/or unpredictable flow paths between (1) and (3) ft. (Velocity flow may be evident; such flooding is characterized by ponding or sheet flow.)

ZONE A99 means area of special flood hazard where enough progress has been made on a protective system, such as dikes, dams, and levees, to consider it complete for insurance rating purposes. (Flood elevations may not be determined.)

ZONES B, C, AND X means areas of minimal or moderate flood hazards or areas of future-conditions flood hazard. (Zone X replaces Zones B and C on new and revised maps.)

ZONE V means area of special flood hazards without water surface elevations determined, and with velocity, that is inundated by tidal floods (coastal high hazard area)

ZONE VI-30 and ZONE VE (for new and revised maps) means area of special flood hazards, with water surface elevations determined and with velocity, that is inundated by tidal floods (coastal high hazard area)
ZONE A means the 100-year floodplain area where the base flood elevation (BFE) has not been determined. To determine the BFE, use the best available federal, state, local, or other data as outlined in the State Building Code.

ZONE A1-A10 means the 100-year floodplain area where the base flood elevation (BFE) has been determined.

ZONE B AND C are areas identified in the community Flood Insurance Study as areas of moderate or minimal flood hazard. Zone X replaces Zones B and C on new and revised maps.

D.E. The Town of Bernardston hereby designates the position of Franklin County Regional Building Inspector to be the official floodplain administrator for the Town.

E.F. NOTIFICATION OF WATERCOURSE ALTERATION AND NEW

TECHNICAL DATA

In a riverine situation, the Bernardston Conservation Commission or Building Inspector shall notify the following of any alteration or relocation of a watercourse:

- Adjacent Communities
- Bordering States
- NFIP State Coordinator
- Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
- 251 Causeway Street, Suite 600-700
- Boston, MA 02114-2104

- NFIP Program Specialist
- Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region I
- 99 High Street, 6th Floor
- Boston, MA 02110

If the Town acquires data that changes the base flood elevation in the FEMA mapped Special Flood Hazard Areas, the Town/City will, within 6 months, notify FEMA of these changes by submitting the technical or scientific data that supports the change(s.)

Notification shall be submitted to:
FEMA Region I Risk Analysis Branch Chief
99 High St., 6th floor, Boston, MA 02110

And copy of notification to:

Massachusetts NFIP State Coordinator
MA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation, 251 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02114

G. Variances to Building Code Floodplain Standards

The Town will request from the State Building Code Appeals Board a written and/or audible copy of the portion of the hearing related to the variance, and will maintain this record in the community's files.

The Town shall also issue a letter to the property owner regarding potential impacts to the annual premiums for the flood insurance policy covering that property, in writing over the signature of a community official that (i) the issuance of a variance to construct a structure below the base flood level will result in increased premium rates for flood insurance up to amounts as high as \$25 for \$100 of insurance coverage and (ii) such construction below the base flood level increases risks to life and property. Such notification shall be maintained with the record of all variance actions for the referenced development in the floodplain overlay district.

F-H. Use Regulations

1) Reference to Existing Regulations.

All development in the Floodplain District, including structural and non-structural activities, whether permitted by right or by special permit, must be in compliance with Chapter 131, Section 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws (the Wetlands Protection Act) and with the following:

- Sections of the Massachusetts State Building Code (780 CMR) which address floodplain hazard areas;
- Wetlands Protection Regulations, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) (currently 310 CMR 10.00);
- Inland Wetlands Restriction, DEP (currently 310 CMR 13.00); and
- Minimum Requirements for the Subsurface Disposal of Sanitary Sewage, DEP (currently 310 CMR 15, Title 5).

A variance from these floodplain bylaws must meet the requirements set out by State law, and may only be granted if: 1) Good and sufficient cause and exceptional non-financial hardship exist; 2) the variance will not result in additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, or fraud or victimization of the public; and 3) the variance is the minimum action necessary to afford relief. Any variances from the provisions and requirements of the above referenced state regulations may only be granted in accordance with the required variance procedures of these state regulations.

2) Permits are required for all proposed development in the Floodplain Overlay District.

The Town of Bernardston requires a permit for all proposed construction or other development in the floodplain overlay district, including new construction or changes to existing buildings, placement of manufactured homes, placement of agricultural facilities, fences, sheds, storage facilities or drilling, mining, paving and any other

development that might increase flooding or adversely impact flood risks to other properties.

3) Assure That All Necessary Permits Are Obtained.

Barnardston's permit review process includes the use of a checklist of all local, state and federal permits that will be necessary in order to carry out the proposed development in the floodplain overlay district. The proponent must acquire all necessary permits, and must submit the completed checklist demonstrating that all necessary permits have been acquired.

4) Subdivision Proposals.

All subdivision proposals and development proposals in the floodplain overlay district shall be reviewed to assure that:

- a. Such proposals minimize flood damage.
- b. Public utilities and facilities are located & constructed so as to minimize flood damage.
- c. Adequate drainage is provided.

2)5) Permitted Uses.

The following uses with low flood damage potential and causing no obstructions to flood flows are allowed provided they are permitted in the underlying district and they do not require structures, fill, or storage of materials or equipment:

- a. Agricultural uses such as farming, grazing, truck farming, horticulture, aquaculture, etc.
- b. Forestry and nursery uses.
- c. Outdoor recreational uses not requiring structures, including fishing, boating, soccer fields, etc.
- d. Conservation of water, plants, wildlife.
- e. Wildlife management areas, foot, bicycle, and/or horse paths.
- f. Temporary non-residential structures used in connection with fishing, growing, harvesting, storage, or sale of crops raised on the premises.
- g. Buildings lawfully existing prior to the adoption of these provisions.

2)6) Prohibited Uses

- a. No altering, dumping, filling, or removal of riverine materials or dredging is permitted. Maintenance of the floodway may be done under requirements of M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, and any other applicable laws, by-laws, and regulations, and must be done using best management practices.
- b. No new impoundments, dams, or other water obstructions may be constructed within the district.
- c. Commercial or industrial uses are prohibited in the district.
- d. Manufactured homes placed on a site for longer than 180 consecutive days and manufactured home parks or subdivisions are prohibited in the district.

- e. Storage of vehicles or equipment within the floodway is prohibited. The Zoning Board of Appeals may consider whether a variance from this prohibition is warranted, where a hardship exists due to lot size or configuration.
- f. Dumping of trash, garbage or other materials in the floodway is prohibited.
- g. Construction of any kind on slopes of greater than 25% within the district is prohibited.
- h. Storage or processing of hazardous materials is prohibited.
- i. All other uses not specifically permitted (or allowed by site plan approval or Special Permit) within the floodplain district are prohibited.

4)7) Restricted Uses

- a. No cutting of forest or vegetation shall occur within fifty (50) feet of the floodway. In the area between fifty (50) and one hundred (100) feet from the floodway, no more than 50% of existing forest shall be cut. Exempted from the requirements in this section are: the cutting or management of state-listed invasive species; removal of woody or flood debris; or restoration activities permitted by the Conservation Commission.
- b. Fenced animal grazing areas must be located at least fifty (50) feet from the floodway, with a naturally vegetated fifty-foot (50-foot) buffer strip to reduce runoff, and a fence to prevent animals from encroaching on the buffer strip.
- c. Within Zones AO and AH on the FIRM, adequate drainage paths must be provided around structures on slopes, to guide floodwaters around and away from proposed structures.
- b.d. In AI-30, AH, AE Zones, VI-30, VE, and V Zones, all recreational vehicles to be placed on a site must be elevated and anchored in accordance with the zone's regulations for foundation and elevation requirements or be on the site for less than 180 consecutive days or be fully licensed and highway ready.

5)8) Uses Allowed by Special Permit

- a. No structure or building in the Floodplain District shall be erected, constructed, substantially improved, reconstructed, or otherwise created or moved; no earth or other materials dumped, filled, excavated, or transferred, unless a Special Permit is granted by the Planning Board.
- b. The following uses may be allowed by Special Permit in accordance with the Special Permit regulations of this Zoning Bylaw, Section 5300, and all requirements of Section 3500:
 - i. Single family residences or residential subdivisions.

- ii. Residential accessory uses including garages, driveways, private roads, utility rights-of-way and on-site waste-water disposal systems.
- iii. Manufactured homes for not more than 180 consecutive days between May 1 and October 31 of each year.

6)9) _____ Special Permit Procedures

a. The following Special Permit requirements apply in the Floodplain District:

- i. Within Zone A, where base flood elevation is not provided on the FIRM, the applicant shall obtain any existing base flood elevation data as outlined in the State Building Code,
- ii. No encroachments (including fill, new construction, substantial improvements to existing structures, or other development) shall be allowed unless it is demonstrated by the applicant that the proposed development, as a result of compensating actions, will not result in any increase in flood levels during the occurrence of a 100-year flood in accordance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's regulation for the National Flood Insurance Program.
- iii. Construction on slopes of 10-25% within the floodplain district shall require the preparation and submittal of an erosion and sedimentation control plan describing best management practices which will be employed to prevent construction-related impacts to water quality.
- iv. Utilities and facilities shall be so located and constructed in order to minimize or eliminate flood damage.
- v. Adequate methods shall be provided for the periodic disposal of sewage, refuse and other wastes resulting from the uses permitted on the site.
- vi. The proposed use shall comply in all respects to the provisions of the underlying district in which the land is located.
- vii. The Board may specify such additional requirements and conditions as it finds necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public and the occupants of the proposed use.
- viii. There shall be established a "routing procedure" such that within 10 days of the receipt of the application, the Town Clerk will transmit one copy of the development plan to the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Building Inspector. The reviewing parties should forward recommendations to the Planning Board within thirty-five (35) from the date of transmission of the application from the Town Clerk to the reviewing parties.

- ix. Existing and proposed contour intervals of the site and elevations of existing and proposed structures must be included on plan proposal. To the maximum extent feasible, structures shall be located outside of the Floodplain District.
 - x. All plans submitted for development in the Floodplain District must be prepared by a registered professional engineer, registered architect, registered landscape architect, or registered land surveyor.
- b. In addition to complying with the provisions of Section 5300 Special Permits of the Bernardston Zoning Bylaws, in order to issue a Special Permit, the Planning Board shall find that the proposed use and any associated public utilities or facilities in the Floodplain District must:
- i. Not create flood hazards which are detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare and will minimize flood damage.
 - ii. Comply in all respects to the provisions of the underlying District within which the land is located.
 - iii. Comply with all applicable State and Federal laws, including the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40).
 - iv. Be situated in a portion of the site that will most likely conserve wetland vegetation.
 - v. Be integrated into the existing landscape through features such as vegetative buffers.
 - vi. ~~Be located outside of the Floodplain District~~ to the maximum extent feasible.
 - vii. Not result in erosion or sedimentation.
 - viii. Not result in water pollution.
 - ix. Not result in drainage onto abutting properties and must provide adequate drainage on-site to reduce exposure to flood hazards.

7)10) Enforcement and Penalties

a. Violations

Any development activity that has commenced or is conducted contrary to this bylaw may be restrained by injunction or otherwise abated in a manner provided by law.

b. Notice of Violation

- c. When the Building Inspector determines that an activity is not being carried out in accordance with the requirements of this bylaw, he/she shall issue a written notice of violation to the owner of the property. The notice of violation shall contain:
 - i. the name and address of the owner applicant;

- ii. the address when available or the description of the building, structure, or land upon which the violation is occurring;
- iii. a statement specifying the nature of the violation;
- iv. a description of the remedial measures necessary to bring the development activity into compliance with this bylaw and a time schedule for the completion of such remedial action;
- v. a statement of the penalty or penalties that may be assessed against the person to whom the notice of violation is directed;
- vi. a statement that the determination of violation may be appealed to the municipality by filing a written notice of appeal within fifteen (15) days of service of notice of violation.

d. Restoration of Lands

Any violator may be required to restore land to its undisturbed condition. In the event that restoration is not undertaken within a reasonable time after notice, the Town of Bernardston may take necessary corrective action at the owner's expense, the cost for which will be secured by a lien in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 58 (Municipal Charges Lien Statute).

**Bernardston, Massachusetts
Appointed Positions - Annual Town Report 2023**

Appointed Positions	First Name	Last Name
Agricultural Commission Member	Wendy	Abramson
Agricultural Commission Member	Paul	Bocko
Agricultural Commission Member	David	Duprey
Agricultural Commission Member	Rebecca (Rena)	Grover
Agricultural Commission Member	Gloria	Meluleni
Agricultural Commission Member	William R.	Pratt
Agricultural Commission Member, Chair	Clarissa	Coffin
Animal & Farm Building Inspector	Peter	Shedd
Animal Control Officer	Kyle	Dragon
BNCTV Board Representative	Donald	Fraser
BNCTV Board Representative	Robert	Raymond
BNCTV Board Representative	Kenneth	Wysk
Burial Agent	Christina	Slocum-Wysk
Chief Procurement Officer	Karen	Kelly
Conservation Agent	Savannah	Kitchin
Conservation Commission Member	Kerry	Baird
Conservation Commission Member	Damien	Moody
Conservation Commission Member	OPEN	
Conservation Commission Member	Andrew	Rawcliffe
Conservation Commission Member, Chair	Bill	Hill
Council on Aging, Director	Jennifer	Reynolds
Council on Aging Member 6/30 cycle	Chris	Beaulieu
Council on Aging Member 6/30 cycle	Nancy	Bordewieck
Council on Aging Member 6/30 cycle	Donna	Giard
Council on Aging Member 6/30 cycle	Leah	Gibson
Council on Aging Member 6/30 cycle	Marcella	Hebert
Council on Aging Member 6/30 cycle	Kathy	Porrovecchio
Council on Aging Member 6/30 cycle	Nancy	Pride
Council on Aging Member 6/30 cycle Assoc	Deb	Allen
Council on Aging Member 6/30 cycle Assoc	Donna	Newton

**Bernardston, Massachusetts
Appointed Positions - Annual Town Report 2023**

Appointed Positions	First Name	Last Name
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer	Karen	Kelly
E911 Coordinator	Peter	Shedd
Election Poll Worker	Judith	Beckwith
Election Poll Worker	Katrina	Damkoehler
Election Poll Worker	Patriciann	Grover
Election Poll Worker	Normand	LaCoy
Election Poll Worker	Susan	LaCoy
Election Poll Worker	Donald	LaCoy
Election Poll Worker	Louise	LeGouis
Election Poll Worker	Anne-marie	Mallon
Election Poll Worker	Carly	Nartowicz
Election Poll Worker	Donna	Newton
Election Poll Worker	Janet	Page
Election Poll Worker	Beth G.	Watrous
Election Poll Worker	Shannon	Wissman-Hoar
Election Poll Worker-	Alex	Taylor
Election Poll Worker, Special Age 17	Ethan	Boliski
Election Poll Worker, Special Age 17	Maeve	Byrne
Election Warden	Paul	Abbey
Election Warden	Robert	Lively
Election Warden	Janet	Page
Emergency Management Committee Member	Lloyd	Grover, Deputy
Emergency Management Committee Member	OPEN	
Emergency Management Committee Member	Roxene	Shedd, Deputy
Emergency Management Committee Member	Peter	Shedd, Director
Emergency Management Service Task Force	Kenneth	Bordeweick
Emergency Management Service Task Force	Peter	Shedd
FC Solid Waste Representative	OPEN	
FC Solid Waste Representative	OPEN	
FCTS Council Representative	Bradley	Stafford

**Bernardston, Massachusetts
Appointed Positions - Annual Town Report 2023**

Appointed Positions	First Name	Last Name
Finance Committee Member	Jody	Coleman
Finance Committee Member	Jane	Dutcher, Chair
Finance Committee Member	Brian	Hervieux
Finance Committee Member	Stephen	Nestanpower
Finance Committee Member	Tammy	Powell
FRCOG Council Representative	Stanley	Garland
FRCOG Council Representative Alternate	OPEN	
FRCOG FCCIP Representative	OPEN	
FRCOG FRPB Representative/ PB	Shannon	Wissman-Hoar
FRCOG FRPB Representative/ SB	Stanley	Garland
FRCOG REPC Representative	Peter	Shedd
Friends of Charity Farm Lot Member	John	Lepore
Friends of Charity Farm Lot Member	William	Montiglio
Friends of Charity Farm Lot Member	Kathleen	Montiglio
FRTA Representative	Jennifer	Reynolds
Green Committee Member	Clayton	Cardin
Green Committee Member	Jane	Dutcher
Green Committee Member	Brian	Keir
Green Committee Member	Frank	Ribeiro
Green Committee Member	Christina	Slocum-Wysk
Hazardous Material Consultant	Peter	Shedd
Historical Commission Member	Eric	Almeida
Historical Commission Member	Celt	Grant
Historical Commission Member	Roberta	O'Keefe
Historical Commission Member	Mark	Gilmore
Historical Commission Member	Christine	Pineo
Historical Commission Member	Marsha	Pratt
LEPC - Local Emergency Planning Committee	Peter	Shedd
Local Cultural Council Member	Marge	Anderson
Local Cultural Council Member	Sheila	Damkoehler

Bernardston, Massachusetts
Appointed Positions - Annual Town Report 2023

Appointed Positions	First Name	Last Name
Local Cultural Council Member	Elisabeth	Galluzzo
Local Cultural Council Member	Annette	Mackin
Local Cultural Council Member	Jess	Schulte
Local Cultural Council Member	OPEN	
Planning Board Clerk / Assistant	Sarah	LaValley
Planning Board Member	Rawn	Fulton
Planning Board Member	Peter	Nai
Planning Board Member	Pamela	Nuovo
Planning Board Member	Christina	Slocum-Wysk, Chair
Planning Board Member	Shannon	Wissman-Hoar
Planning Board Member Alternate	John	Lepore
Police Department, Chief	James	Palmeri
Police Department, Police Officer	Thomas	Chabot
Police Department, Police Officer	Darren	Gale
Police Department, Police Officer	Michael	Kelly
Police Department, Police Officer	Mitchell	Waldron
Police Department, Police Officer	OPEN	
Police Department, Police Officer	Jordan	Zukowski
Police Department, Sergeant	John	Richardson, Sergeant
Public Records Access Officer	Karen	Kelly
Regional EMS Task Force	Kenneth	Bordewieck
Regional EMS Task Force	Peter	Shedd
Six Town Regional School District Planning Committee	Jennifer	Coffin
Six Town Regional School District Planning Committee	Jane	Dutcher
Six Town Regional School District Planning Committee	Renee	Keir
Six Town Regional School District Planning Committee	Michelle	Morrissey
Board of Registrars	Susan	LaCoy
Board of Registrars	Linda	Raymond
Board of Registrars	Christina	Slocum-Wysk
Board of Registrars	Camilla	Thacher

**Bernardston, Massachusetts
Appointed Positions - Annual Town Report 2023**

Appointed Positions	First Name	Last Name
Sexual Harassment Officer	Marvin	Shedd
Town Administrator	Karen	Kelly
Town Clerk	Christina	Slocum-Wysk
Town Clerk Assistant	Camilla	Thacher
Town Treasurer	Susan	Bobe
Veterans Agent Representative	Marvin	Shedd
Veterans Memorial Committee Member	Stanley	Garland
Veterans Memorial Committee Member	Daniel	Shedd
Veterans Memorial Committee Member	Marvin	Shedd
Zoning Board of Appeals Member	Gary	Cote
Zoning Board of Appeals Member	Russell	Deane
Zoning Board of Appeals Member	Daniel	Devine, Chair
Zoning Board of Appeals Member	Mark	Fitzpatrick
Zoning Board of Appeals Member	Jack	Patch

**Bernardston, Massachusetts
Elected Positions - Annual Town Report 2023**

Elected Position	First Name	Last Name
Assessors [3]		
Assessor	William	Deane
Assessor	Melissa	Murphy
Assessor	Russell L.	Deane
Board of Health [3]		
Board of Health Member	David I.	Powers
Board of Health Member	Trisha	Earl
Board of Health Member, Chair	Barbara	Killeen
Constables [3]		
Constable	Byron L.	Call
Constable	Mark	Gilmore
Constable, Lead	Peter A.	Shedd
Cushman Library Trustees [12]		
Cushman Library Trustee	Lucy	Damkoehler
Cushman Library Trustee	Veronica	Gilmore
Cushman Library Trustee, Vice Pres	Justin Phelps	Lawrence
Cushman Library Trustee	Robert E.	Lively
Cushman Library Trustee	Elizabeth	Demarco
Cushman Library Trustee	Joel	Finnell
Cushman Library Trustee	Jeana	Bachinski
Cushman Library Trustee	Karen L.	Fitzpatrick
Cushman Library Trustee	Zoe	Darow
Cushman Library Trustee	Wendolyn J.	Abramson
Cushman Library Trustee, President	Brandon	Grover
Cushman Library Trustee	Anne-Marie	Mallon
Moderator [1]		
	Geoffrey A.	Wilson

**Bernardston, Massachusetts
Elected Positions - Annual Town Report 2023**

Elected Position	First Name	Last Name
Powers Institute Trustees [12]		
Powers Institute Trustee	Donna	Eddy
Powers Institute Trustee	Jonathan	Pineo
Powers Institute Trustee	OPEN	
Powers Institute Trustee	Patriciann	Grover
Powers Institute Trustee	Kenneth	Bordewieck
Powers Institute Trustee	Janice F.	Deane
Powers Institute Trustee	Eric	Almeida
Powers Institute Trustee	OPEN	
Powers Institute Trustee	Ingrid	Wiemers Skiff
Powers Institute Trustee	Robert	Eddy
Powers Institute Trustee	Greta	Shores
Powers Institute Trustee	Janet	Wrightson
Recreation [6]		
Recreation Commission Member	Andrew	Easton
Recreation Commission Member	Jenna	Skutnik-Sheffield
Recreation Commission Member	Tara	Stone
Recreation Commission Member	Clayton	Cardin
Recreation Commission Member	Jennifer	Stennes
Recreation Commission Member	Kerry	Baird
School Committee [3]		
School Committee Member	Jennifer	Coffin
School Committee Member	Kelton	Gretchen
School Committee Member	Melissa	Gerry
Selectboard [3]		
Selectman, Chair	Stanley	Garland

**Bernardston, Massachusetts
Elected Positions - Annual Town Report 2023**

Elected Position	First Name	Last Name
Selectman	Brian	Keir
Selectman	Kenneth	Bordewieck
Tax Collector [1]	Mona A.	Minor
Tree Warden [1]	Bradley W.	Bordewieck
Warner Fund Trustee [1]	Marsha E.	Pratt

TREASURER'S 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Checking/Savings/Investment

UniBank Depository	\$	1,592,363.88
Vendor Checking/Sweep Investment	\$	158,074.65
Payroll Account	\$	1,906.80
TD Bank Investment	\$	430,626.29
GFLD Co-op Investment	\$	43,132.02
Total Checking/Savings/Investment	\$	2,226,103.64

Certificates of Deposit

Warner Fund	\$	37,203.50
Cushman Hall	\$	35,537.91
Total Certificates of Deposit	\$	72,741.41

Fixed Assets: Trusts

Barber	\$	97,387.04
Burrows	\$	513.36
Charity Farm	\$	97,033.60
Goodale	\$	25,783.01
Isaac B. Snow	\$	979.16
J.V. Hale	\$	10,352.87
Kiwanis Recreational Fund	\$	117,866.48
Library ABC	\$	13,976.46
Cushman Library Fund	\$	29,599.60
Powers Trust	\$	102,855.96
Ruby Collier/Streeter	\$	1,902.01
Streeter Memorial	\$	2,863.55
Stabilization Fund	\$	571,397.48
Bridge Stabilization	\$	173,535.97
Vehicle Stabilization Fund	\$	149,826.63
OPEB Trust Fund	\$	61,153.16
TD Bank Escrow	\$	59,352.38
Total Fixed Assets/Trusts	\$	1,516,378.72

Grand Total	\$	3,815,223.77
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Respectfully Submitted,

Susan M. Bobe
Treasurer

Bernardston, Massachusetts Tree Warden Annual Report 2023

I am pleased to report that this year a lot of tree work was completed in Bernardston. We worked hard on several town roads pruning back the vegetation that had grown over the roads so that the bigger vehicles like school buses and plow trucks could get through without hitting the branches. That work was made possible by the use of the use of an aerial lift, which allowed us to take down multiple hazardous trees and limbs. In addition, we focused on some intersections, pruning back low limbs and deadwood to improve visibility and make them safer. We also teamed up with the utilities to remove lots of hazardous trees around town that endangered the roads and power lines, that project helped to make the roads a lot safer and strengthened the tree canopies along the power lines which has made a big difference in reducing the number of outages and road closures. In addition to the hazardous tree removal project, we worked with the utilities to prune back sections roads that were particularly vulnerable to power outages by increasing the tree clearance along the power lines. It's been a very successful project that we are hoping to continue around town in phases. One of my goals as Tree Warden has been to work with the utilities to prioritize Bernardston's trees to make sure that the trees in our town are healthy and growing appropriately around the utilities to avoid tree failures and outages. I will continue to meet with residents to discuss options for pruning and removing hazardous trees and limbs. Another fun project has been to celebrate Arbor Day with the students in town each spring. It's been a tradition with the Bernardston Elementary School to connect with several classes so each one can get outside and get their hands dirty while learning more about the trees and how to plant and care for them. Some classes have helped to bag up and distribute tree seedlings at school which they can home to plant with their families. You can see the trees we planted on the field trips, mostly in the center of town in the Cushman Park and across the street by the Powers Institute. The students have done a great job and had a lot of fun outside planting trees together.

As always, I encourage anyone with a tree question to contact me. Email: brad.bordewieck@comcast.net, Cell: (413) 834-5736

Bernardston, Massachusetts Tree Warden Annual Report 2023 - Continued

Forest Health Update

The New England landscape is constantly changing with pests moving through Massachusetts, so it remains very important that landowners continue to monitor their property for problems with their trees. The leaves on the tree can tell you a lot about how it's doing. If they don't look normal, there's likely something going on behind the scenes that the tree is trying to overcome. There are several insects moving through Massachusetts that are particularly destructive. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is one which is threatening our Ash trees, it a non-native insect that attacks the Ash tree's tissue, causing a girdling affect that slowly kills the tree. In response to the EAB's presence, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) issued a quarantine zone around the state, to discourage the further spread of the destructive insects through movement of forest products such as lumber and firewood. The Asian Long-horned Beetle (ALB) is another insect which is still an active threat to our Maple forest in New England. Its favorite trees are maples, elms, and willows, though ALB has a total of 15 host trees that it will attack. The Eastern hemlock trees have also been in decline, there are concerns regarding needles dropping and thinner crowns. The hemlock trees are likely suffering from the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, or the needle scale, both of which can be very stressful to the tree. Unfortunately, there are lots more diseases and insects out there that stress out the trees in our landscape, I'd be happy to take a look if you're unsure what might be happening to a tree nearby. Luckily, there's often options available to solve the problem and preserve the trees when caught early.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if anyone has further questions.

Look forward to another safe year,

Brad Bordewieck, MCA, MLF
Bernardston Tree Warden

Bernardston, Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Committee

To the townspeople of Bernardston,

I am pleased to provide an update regarding the improvements the Veterans Memorial Committee has made to the Veteran's Monument in Cushman Park. Our first task was to clean up the grounds surrounding the monument. Working closely with the Cushman Park Committee, we agreed to remove several trees that were old and decaying. Under the guidance of Ed Snow, of Snow & Sons Landscaping, we cleared the bank directly behind the monument and planted flowers. With the help from two Franklin County Technical School students, we created a cement walkway to provide better access to the POW stone.

We have added three granite benches and will be adding two upright granite slabs. One will feature quotes from Bernardston residents and the other will list the names of Bernardston veterans who have served since we dedicated this memorial in 2002. The gathering of names will be ongoing. If you feel that you belong on this monument, reach out to a committee member and they will guide you through the process. We take great pride in being the first town in Franklin County to honor veterans who fought in the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts.

A project like this requires many hands and the list of folks to be acknowledged is long. I'd like to thank the Selectboard as well as former Town Coordinator, Lou Bordeaux for their support in this project. I would especially like to thank the Bernardston Veterans Organization for following through on their pledge of support by sponsoring one of the granite benches. I would like to thank the Bernardston Fire Department and Scott DiGeorge for helping us with a faulty flagpole.

When we first applied for the Veterans Heritage Grant, we weren't sure how it would work or what the result would be. We need not have worried as Blythe Robinson of Capital Strategic Solutions guided us through the whole process with a skilled and steady hand. Key to that effort were letters of support written by townspeople that were submitted with the application. I am grateful to Louella Atherton, Jim Palmeri, Bill Montiglio and Chris Demars, Director of the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Office, for writing stellar letters of support. Finally, and arguably, most importantly, I wish to thank my committee, Stan Garland and Danny Shedd, for their efforts on this project and their commitment to this memorial in general. I get to write the annual report but the two of them provided the spark that started and kept this mission on track.

Bernardston, Massachusetts
Veterans Memorial Committee Continued

I would be remiss if I did not also acknowledge and express appreciation to Kim Garland, Lizzy Shedd and Sue Shedd for their support of this project in countless ways.

When we initially began to conceive of and plan the construction of this new memorial nearly a quarter of a century ago now, I envisioned a place where townspeople and visitors alike could sit in quiet contemplation. I hoped it would be a fitting tribute to the men and women from Bernardston who served, and a place where one could reflect on the sacrifices made by the families they left behind. Thanks to all who have made that vision a reality.

Marvin Shedd
Chairman- Veterans Memorial Committee



Department of Veteran Services
UPPER PIONEER VALLEY VETERANS' SERVICES DISTRICT
Veteran Resource and Referral Center located in Greenfield, satellite locations throughout the district

District Annual Report CY23

Mission Statement: To advocate for veterans, their spouses, family members, widows or widowers for Veterans' Benefits on the Local, State and Federal levels. The office has maintained continued outreach operations across the district. We have dramatically increased the amount of VA claims we have been completing due to increased VA Presumptive diseases for numerous eras of service:

- District now brings in over \$2,005,921.53 in Federal money **per month** from the VA in Disability Compensation, Veteran Pension, DIC Compensation and Death Pension. This is an increase of VA Benefits from CY22 of 341,580.51 a month.
- District hired a new Deputy Director Stacey Geneczko who has completed all her National Certifications for the VA.
- District hired new Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Jeffrey Cochran who has completed all his National Certifications for VA. This brings the office from 1 to 3 VA Certified VSO now in the office.
- VSA Laura Thorne has maintained her SHINE certification and is helping veterans and their dependents, taking some of the load off the Senior Centers. The Director Chris Demars conducted a Chapter 115 presentation with GCTV for outreach.
- Expect a significant increase to Chapter 115 benefits for all City and Towns due to inflation and cost of living adjustments by the State of Massachusetts.
- We project a slight increase of the overall operational budget Fiscal Year 25 budget while continuing to expand services in 2024. The Office has produced 143 claims and 46 appeals with VA for Veterans and their family members this year.

Christopher Demars, Director
Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services