Town of Bernardston Selectboard Meeting Minutes



Board Members

Brian J. Keir

Kenneth R. Bordewieck, Chairman

Brian Hervieux

Minutes for the meeting of May 29, 2024

Meeting held at Bernardston Town Hall 38 Church St, Bernardston, MA 01337

Selectboard Members Present:

Others Present:

Ken Bordewieck Brian Keir Brian Hervieux

See sign-in roster

Ken called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Warrants

Ken motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant in the amount of 48,261.50. Brian seconded and the motion was approved 3-0. Ken motioned to approve the Vendor Warrant in the amount of \$37,907.23. Brian seconded and the motion was approved 3-0.

Minutes

Ken motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on May 15, 2024 and the Special Meeting on May 15, 2024. Brian seconded and the motion was approved 3-0.

Calendar and Announcements

Ken read the calendar and announcements as presented on the attached agenda.

Citizen Concerns: None

Appointments:

-Mr. John Briggs, Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD)
Representative: Mr. John Briggs is here this evening to discuss the surveillance report from 2023 and the work the PVMCD will be doing to serve our communities by suppressing both nuisance and disease-carrying mosquito populations.

-Senior Center Wood Floor Refinishing Proposal: Jennifer Reynolds, COA Director was unable to attend. Ken presented Jennifer's report. Jennifer solicited four (4) vendors to come to the Senior Center and provide a quote for the refinishing of the wooden floors. Only one (1) vendor scheduled a walk-thru and provided a quote. Owner, Daren Dion will finish the dining room, foyer, buff and recoat with two coats of commercial catalyzed water based floor finish for \$2,700.00; sand and finish with four coats of commercial water based floor finish for \$4,200.00 and the stair treads for \$1,600.00.

Ken entertained a motion to accept the bid from Daren Dion for \$8,500.00 to be paid out of existing funds from the Senior Center's budget. Brian Keir seconded the motion and it was approved, 3-0.

New Business

-FY25 Accounting Services - Marcum: On May 21, 2024, Marcum forwarded a letter confirming their understanding of the terms and objectives of our engagement and the nature and limitations of the service they provide to the Town for one year, commencing on July 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2025. The letter together with its attachments (Schedule A & B), comprises the complete and exclusive statement of the agreement between Marcum and the Town of Bernardston. If the Town agrees with the terms of the engagement as described in this letter, please sign this letter and return it to Marcum. Marcum will then send back a fully executed copy.

Brian Keir made a motion to return the engagement letter from Marcum for the services they provide to the Town for one year, commencing on July 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2025 with the following recommended changes:

Page 6, Fees for Services and Key Assumptions, paragraph 4: Marcum wants to know as soon as possible if the Town is unhappy with our services. The Town agrees to notify us of any problems or issues with our service within three (3) weeks of receiving the applicable service;

Page 11, eighth bullet from the top: Schedule one on one meetings during the first quarter of the fiscal year Work with department heads and the Finance Committee to develop and provide standard customized reports;

Page 11, eleventh bullet from the top: Ensure that Marcum employees shall perform Services while physically present in the Town Offices on average (4) business days per calendar month; one (1) business day a week.

Brian Hervieux seconded the motion and it was approved, 3-0.

-Super Site Shed at the Transfer Station: The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District Board voted unanimously on May 15, 2024 to declare the paint shed, located at the Bernardston Transfer Station, as surplus property. The board instructed Jan Ameen to offer to sell the shed "as is" to the Town of Bernardston for \$1,000. If the Town does not want to purchase the shed, then Jan will offer it for \$1,000 to the other 20 member towns. If no town wants the shed, then Jan will advertise the shed for sale to the public for \$1,000. If there is not a public purchaser, then the shed will be demolished.

Another option is for the Town to reconsider and resume services as a supersite. Brian Miner, Highway Department Superintendent has pointed out that we did not budget any of this for FY25. The Transfer Station is now taking electric light bulbs and residents have other ways of getting rid of oil and paint so he recommends that we wait and reconsider resuming supersite services before finalizing the FY26 budget. Brain has created a new space for the bulbs in the electronics trailer so we do not need to have two sheds.

Brian Keir made a motion to deny the offer to purchase the shed for \$1,000 and to have Brian Minor consider supersite services for inclusion into the FY26 budget. Brian Hervieux seconded the motion and it was approved, 3-0.

- -Resignation Eric Almeida, Historical Commission Chair: Ken made a motion to accept the resignation from Eric Almeida as the Bernardston Historical Commission Chair, effective May 17, 2024. Brian Keir seconded the motion and it was approved, 3-0.
- -Mildred Dwight, Certificate of Appreciation: Ken read the certificate of appreciation for Mildred Dwight: We have a certificate of appreciation that is proudly awarded to Mildred Dwight for her invaluable services and contributions to the Town of Bernardston. Her dedication, hard work and generosity have made a significant impact and we appreciate her service! Happy 90th Birthday, Mildred! Respectfully, the Bernardson Selectboard.
- -Appointment orders Jayden Hunter: Ken made a motion to approve the appointment of Jayden Hunter as a Temporary Seasonal Laborer for the Town of Bernardston, effective June 9th thru August 17th, 2024, with no change to his current hourly wage of \$16.50 an hour, (3% increase after July 1, 2024), maximum of 40 hour per week for 10 weeks from June 9th thru August 17 2024. Brian Hervieux seconded the motion and it was approved, 3-0.

-Appointment orders - Jennifer Stennes: Ken made a motion to approve the appointment of Jennifer Stennes as the Summer Camp Director for the Town of Bernardston, effective May 29, 2024 with an hourly wage of \$25.00 an hour, maximum of 50 hour per week for 9 weeks from June 10th thru August 9, 2024. (No 3% increase after July 1, 2024) Brian Hervieux seconded the motion and it was approved, 3-0.

-Appointment orders - River Kuhn: Ken made a motion to approve the appointment of River Kuhn as the part-time Assistant Summer Camp Director for the Town of Bernardston, effective May 29, 2024 with an hourly wage of \$20.50 an hour, maximum of 40 hour per week for 8 weeks from June 17th thru August 9, 2024. (No 3% increase after July 1, 2024) Brian Hervieux seconded the motion and it was approved, 3-0.

Old Business:

Advantech - Preliminary proposal versus Final Proposal: After Annual Town Meeting, the Town Administrator contacted AdvanTech to let them know that the Town approved the recurring IT maintenance package for \$12,720.00 (\$1,060.00 x 12), submitted with their first quote. Advantech responded by saying that it seems that the preliminary proposal was mistakenly submitted for the Town's vote, rather than the complete final version they developed after the thorough walkthrough. Advantech is referring to the IT maintenance package of \$17,844.00 (\$1,487.00 x12), submitted with their last quote, a difference of \$5,124.00. The final proposal presented by Advantech included essential services such as backup solutions and Multi-Factor Authentication, which are crucial for the IT infrastructure's security and functionality. Advantech would like to know if the corrected services can be billed separately?

Finance Chair, Jane Dutcher, recommended that the Selectboard make a motion to submit a request to the Finance Committee to transfer funds from the Reserve Fund to the IT Contracted Services Account in the amount of \$5,124.00.

Brian Keir made a motion to submit a request to the Finance Committee to transfer funds from the Reserve Fund to the IT Contracted Services Account in the amount of \$5,124.00. Brian Hervieux seconded the motion and it was approved, 3-0.

<u>Softball Field Expenses Clarification</u>: Back in March 2024, there was a discussion about converting the baseball field into a softball field to avoid having to move the dugouts. The understanding was that it would cost approximately \$1,500.00 for infield material to make the change. It was determined that the \$1,500.00 will need to be transferred from the Kiwanis

Recreation Fund to the Highway Departments budget. The Town Administrator will check the amounts of the funds in the Recreation Commissions budget and prepare the transfer.

Other Business Unknown at time of posting

-<u>Update - FY24 Congressionally Directed Spending - Town of Bernardston</u>: On Wednesday, May 15, 2024, the Selectboard and the Bernardston Fire Station Building Committee agreed to utilize the CDS funds for the acquisition of the property that will house the new fire station by submitting an application that does not involve construction. USDA, Area Director, Anne Correia, forwarded a non-construction type application which the Town has begun reviewing and completing.

-Dredging at Cushman Park: As a refresher, Northeast Land & Water, LLC., prepared a Notice of Intent in 2012 for the Town of Bernardston with the Conservation Commission and Mass DEP so the Town could obtain the proper permitting to dredge the brook at Cushman Park. We are at a point where this work needs to be done again. In January 2024, the Town Administrator and the Highway Superintendent began working with Mr. Ward Smith of Wendell Wetlands to see if he could renew or update the 2012 Notice of Intent and file for the required permits on the Town's behalf with the Conservation Commission and the DEP. Ward stated he would have to do a site plan once the snow melted in order to see if anything has changed from the 2012 Notice of Intent. On May 20th, 2024, Ward met with Brian Miner at the dredging site and on May 21, 2024, he sent an email to the Town Administrator saying that the dredging area has changed and it is not the same as what was previously filed for in 2012. Therefore, a new Notice of Intent has to be completed. Ward recommended contacting Northeast Survey Consultants.

Brian Keir made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to contact Northeast Survey Consultants for a quote to complete a Notice of Intent on the Cushman Park Dredging Project. Brian Hervieux seconded the motion and it was approved, 3-0.

-<u>Time off request</u>: Brian Keir made a motion to approve the Time Off Request for an employee. Brian Hervieux seconded the motion and it was approved, 3-0.

-<u>FY25 Salaries and Hourly Rates</u>: The spreadsheet represents the FY25 salaries and hourly wages for the Town of Bernardston employees based on the FY25 budget presented and approved at the Annual Town Meeting held on April 29, 2024.

Town Administrator Report: as read by the Town Administrator

Other Business Unknown at time of posting

-Moon Tree Planting at Bernardston Elementary School: Bradley Bordewieck, Tree Warden announced that there will be two tree plantings on Thursday, May 30th involving the school children at Bernardston Elementary School. The first tree planting will be a Christmas Tree planting at Cushman Park at 10:30 am with the Bernardston Elementary School Kindergarten class. The second tree planting will be a "Moon Tree" planting at Bernardston Elementary School at 2:00 pm with the sixth and second grade classes. The Tree Warden introduced Amy VanDoran and her father to explain exactly what a "Moon Tree" is: Apollo 14 launched in the late afternoon of January 31, 1971, Five days later Alan Shepard and Edgar Mitchell walked on the Moon while Stuart Roosa, a former U.S. Forest Service smoke jumper, orbited above in the command module. Packed in small containers in Roosa's personal kit were hundreds of tree seeds, part of a joint NASA/USFS project. Upon return to Earth, the seeds were germinated by the Forest Service. Known as the "Moon Trees", the resulting seedlings were still viable and were later planted in communities across the country. NASA was accepting applications and Amy VanDoran applied and her application was approved!

-Friends from Charity Farm Lot, John Lepore, Bill Montiglio & Bradley Bordewieck - Forest Stewardship Plan: Ken opened up the discussion, speaking directly to John, Bill and Bradley about his concerns with the animosity between the Charity Farm Lot personnel and the Tree Warden. John Lepore has been asking Bradley for a copy of the Forest Stewardship Plan since April 2023. Bradley prefers to meet on site with the Forest Stewardship Plan in hand. In addition, Bradley has been working on two amendments to the Forest Stewardship Plan that he would prefer to explain on site. Brian Keir made a recommendation for Bradley to provide a copy of the Forest Stewardship Plan to both John and Bill and then schedule a time to meet at the site. John prefers to read the report and understand it before meeting on site so he can prepare his questions and recommendations, etc. John also pointed out that the due date (end of April 2024) for Bradley to provide a copy of the plan to John has surpassed. John added that he would like a specific date on when he can expect the final copy plan of the with appendices. John emphasized a specific date should be established because this has been going on for a year-and-a-half. Brian Keir reminded John that Bradley still has commitments and responsibilities with his regular Tree Warden duties. John asked for clarification if Bradley was under a separate contract to prepare the Forest Stewardship Plan and Brian Keir responded that this work comes out of his Tree Warden budget. John was unaware of that fact. Copies of the plan were (continued on next page)

proved to both John and Bill. Ken addressed the conflict that was evident in the email exchanges between John, Bill and Bradley and asked them to discontinue unprofessional email communications and to remain professional. John asked again about a deadline for the final plan. Bradley stated that he cannot give a deadline because there are too many unknown variables with the state of Massachusetts regarding the two amendments. Brian Hervieux recommended that Bradley initiate regular and routine meetings (every 90 days) to update John and Bill on the progress of the Forest Stewardship Plan. It was decided that the three gentlemen will schedule a meet-up when John returns from vacation.

Adjourn

Ken made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brian Hervieux seconded the motion and it was approved, 3-0.

Chairman

Attested by: Karen Kelly, Town Administrator



AN-IN SHEET			Phone/Email	413-522-9736 (WW) BILLYMOUTZ · CONCUST. NOT johnic. Enryss & wwsa. gov. 413-512-0644
BERNARDSTON SELECTBOARD - MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET	129/2024	Ø AM(PM)	Address	41 Backside AVENUE - GREENFELD, MANNA 376 BATTUS SAGO 80. 8 Conway 34. S. Dear Reld (PVMCD) 722 Conway 34. S. Dear Reld (PVMCD) 722 Conway 34. S. Dear Reld (PVMCD)
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Town of Bernardston Selectboard Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, May 29, 2024, 6:00PM



Bernardston Town Hall, 38 Church Street, Bernardston MA **Board Members**

Brian J. Keir

Kenneth R. Bordewieck, Chairman

Brian Hervieux

Call to Order - 6:00pm

Warrants: Payroll and Vendor; weeks ending May 25, 2024

Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting May 15, 2024; Special Meeting May 15 2024

Calendar & Announcements

-Board of Assessors Meeting, Thursday, May 30th, @3:15 pm, Town Hall

-Bernardston Senior Center Open House, Friday, May 31st & Saturday, June 1st. Stop by the open house, sign up for membership and learn about all of the Senior Center programs and services. Details of the event are posted on the Town website homepage.

-1st Annual 5K Hop (5K Race & Walk), Saturday, June 8th @9:00am, Pratt Field. Registration details are available on the Town website at townofbernardston.org.

-<u>Three Town Joint Meeting with Selectboard and Finance Committees</u>, Thursday, June 13th, @6:30 pm, Bernardston Senior Center

-Board of Health Meeting, Thursday, June 6th @3:30 pm, Town Hall

-Special Town Election will be held on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, Town Hall, 38 Church Street.

Citizens Concerns

Appointments

-Mr. John Briggs, Mosquito Control District Representative: Review of services

-Jennifer Reynolds, COA Director: Wood floor refinishing

New Business

- -FY25 Accounting Services w/Marcum
- -Super Site Shed at the Transfer Station
- -Resignation Eric Almeida, Historical Commission Chair
- -Mildred Dwight, Certificate of Appreciation
- -Appointment Orders, Jayden Hunter, Temporary Seasonal Laborer
- -Appointment Orders, Jennifer Stennes, Summer Camp Director
- -Appointment Orders, River Kuhn, Assistant Summer Camp Director

Old Business

- -Advantech Preliminary Proposal versus Final Proposal
- -Softball Field Expenses Pratt Field

Town Administrator Report

Other Business Unknown at time of posting

Adjourn

This meeting was posted on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 5:50 pm This agenda was updated on Monday, May 27, 2024 at 9:30 am

INFORMATION: Mosquito Control District - Bernardston

From

Karen Kelly

bos@townofbernardston.org>

Stan Garland <uped@comcast.net>, Brian Keir
brkeir@msn.com>, Brian Hervieux <Brian.Hervieux@fwwebb.com>, Ken Bordewieck

<ken.bordewieck@comcast.net>, Jane Dutcher

<jdutcher55@hotmail.com>

Date

2024-04-29 09:03



Good morning,

Mr. John Briggs is the Mosquito Control District representative for Bernardston. He is scheduled to attend the May 29th Selectboard meeting and will provide an overview of services this coming season.

More importantly, Mr. Briggs highlighted the services below and please note the reduction of the membership fee from \$5000 to \$3000 for FY25. Do we want to consider amending Article 15 to raise and appropriate \$3000 versus \$5000?

Karen A. Kelly

Town AdministratorTown of Bernardston

38 Church St., PO Box 504 Bernardston, MA 01337

Phone: 413-648-5401

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: Mosquito Control District - Bernardston

Date: 2024-04-22 09:38

From: "Briggs, John C (AGR)" < John.C.Briggs@mass.gov>

To: Karen Kelly

bos@townofbernardston.org>

Hi Karen,

Thank you very much for reaching out. I would be more than happy to attend your Selectboard meeting on the 29th at 6 PM and review what services Bernardston is receiving this coming season. I've provided a quick summary below for your reference:

Description	Cost
Membership Fee	\$3,000.00

The membership fee is discounted by 40% and includes arbovirus surveillance/testing, starting in the beginning of June and ending at some point in September or October. PCR testing is conducted by the MA Dept. of Public Health. Depending on collection numbers and species, I usually submit 2 vials per week for each town.

utreach/PE: With additional staff hired, I am also planning to provide weekly arbovirus reports (district-wide), additional PE materials (I can print these out if needed), and summer newsletters.

Catch basin and ground larval treatments: Pilot larval mitigation services are available if we find arbovirus in the area. This would be an additional fee and varies depending on the number and size of Bti applications

made. I'm hoping to offer these services to all member towns as more of a preventative once I'm able to hire more staff.

Ditch maintenance: This service is in the process of being cleared by the State Reclamation Board and should be in place for FY25. Ditch maintenance would be done during the off season at an additional cost.

I can go over both of these source reduction programs in more detail during the Selectboard meeting if needed.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

John

From: Karen Kelly <bos@townofbernardston.org>

Sent: Saturday, April 20, 2024 8:31 AM

To: Briggs, John C (AGR) < John.C.Briggs@mass.gov> **Subject:** Mosquito Control District - Bernardston

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mr. Briggs,

The Selectboard would like to invite you to one of our regular Selectboard meetings in May. The Selectboard will be meeting on Wednesdays, May 1st, 15th or 29th at 6:00 pm, Bernardston Town Hall, 38 Church Street in Bernardston. The Selectboard would like to know what they can expect from the District this coming year with regard to the services that we are paying for.

Please let me know if you are able to attend and which meeting date suits your schedule. Thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Karen A. Kelly

Town AdministratorTown of Bernardston
38 Church St., PO Box 504
Bernardston, MA 01337
Phone: 413-648-5401



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

TOWN OF BERNARDSTON

Quick Summary Page

Primary Vector Species:

- Culiseta melanura, the primary vector for EEE, amplifies the virus within the bird population.
- Culex pipiens amplify WNV within the bird population and will feed on humans, creating a "bridge" for the virus.

Surveillance Data:

- 28 traps were strategically deployed across 10 sites in Bernardston.
- Two types of traps utilized: CDC Trap (attracts mammal-biting mosquitoes) and Gravid Trap (attracts primary WNV vector species).
- 26 pools submitted for testing, focusing on WNV and EEE detection. Majority of mosquito species submitted for testing: Culex pipiens/restuans and Coquillittidia perturbans.
- A total of 751 pools submitted for arbovirus testing district wide.
- Culex pipiens/restuans, Coquillettidia perturbans, and Culex salinarius identified as the most abundant species.
- Over 40,000 mosquitoes were collected and sorted by PVMCD staff.

Arbovirus Detections throughout the Pioneer Valley Region:

- Neither EEE nor WNV were found in Bernardston during the 2023 surveillance season.
- 17 WNV-positive pools detected in the Pioneer Valley Region, impacting many communities.
- 6 pools tested positive for EEE, mainly in Hampden County.
- Confirmation of 2 human cases of WNV in Hampden County.

Arbovirus Detections Throughout the Commonwealth:

- State Laboratory identified 128 WNV-positive mosquito pools across multiple counties. Counties affected: Berkshire, Hampshire, Hampden, Worcester, Bristol, Plymouth, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Middlesex.
- 28 EEE-positive pools found in Hampden, Worcester, Bristol, and Plymouth Counties. High-risk level in Hampden and Worcester Counties, suggesting likely human transmission.
- 2 new positives: Psorophora *ferox* and Aedes *cinereus* showed EEE positives for the first time based on historical data. More data are needed to determine vector competency.
- 6 human cases of WNV reported throughout the state. No reported cases in humans or animals.

Weather Impacts and 2024 Outlook:

- Impact of weather conditions on Culiseta *melanura* populations: Wet weather throughout the year will likely contribute to greater numbers of this species.
- Prediction of a warm and wet winter by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- PVMCD's focus will be on early detection of EEE in Culiseta melanura mosquitoes during the upcoming season.
- Recommended that horse owners time the encephalitis vaccine to provide protection through October of 2024.

A comprehensive FAQ and detailed information about vector species can be found at the end of this report.

Introduction

The Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD) surveillance summary provides an overview of arbovirus testing nd mosquito surveillance efforts conducted in the Town of Bernardston. The surveillance testing period spanned from June 12 to October 12, focusing on the identification and monitoring of potential disease vectors, particularly those carrying West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).

The comprehensive surveillance program not only involved the collection of mosquitoes but also emphasized the testing of targeted mosquito species to identify potential vectors of WNV and EEE. This proactive and targeted strategy contributes to public health efforts by providing valuable data for the early detection and monitoring of mosquito-borne diseases in the Pioneer Valley Region.

Primary Vector Species

Culiseta *melanura* feed primarily on avian species and are responsible for amplifying both EEE and WNV among the wild bird population. Culiseta *melanura* are multivoltine, meaning they have multiple generations throughout the warmer months. Climate plays a major role in how many generations *melanura* can produce each year. For instance, in southern states, *melanura* can produce three or more generations, whereas in Massachusetts, it can reach only two generations. However, this number may increase due to warming temperatures and the extended growing season. Adult *melanura* will die off with the first hard frost, and the larvae will overwinter in what is referred to as "crypts", found in red maple and white cedar swamps.

Culex *pipiens* play a significant role in the transmission cycle of WNV by amplifying the virus within the wild bird population. Similar to *melanura* mosquitoes, *pipiens* prefer avian hosts; however, they will also feed on mammals around dusk. Culex *pipiens* have multiple generations throughout the warm season, and an extended growth season with warmer temperatures in September will result in more generations. Once temperatures begin to cool, adult female *pipiens* will typically seek out man-made structures such as houses, sheds, and discarded tire piles. Regarding habitat, *pipiens* prefer very stagnant water that can be found in catch basins, discarded tires, and "green" swimming pools.

Please see the Targeted Mosquito Species table on the last page of the report for more information regarding medical importance, habitat, and phenology.

Surveillance Data

A total of 28 traps were strategically deployed across 10 trap sites to capture targeted mosquito species in Bernardston. Two distinct types of traps were utilized:

- 1. **CDC Trap:** This trap is baited with carbon dioxide (CO2) and designed to attract a variety of mammal-biting mosquitoes. The use of CO2 mimics the exhalation of potential hosts, making it an effective tool for capturing mosquitoes seeking blood meals from mammals.
- 2. **Gravid Trap:** Characterized by its unappealing aroma, the gravid trap is baited with hay-infused water. This unpleasant scent is specifically attractive to Culex *pipiens* mosquitoes, which are drawn to the trap for egg deposition. This targeted approach aids in the surveillance of a specific mosquito species known for its potential to transmit WNV.

A total of 26 pools (5-50 mosquitoes placed in a PCR tube), consisting of various mosquito species, were submitted for testing, focusing on the detection of WNV and EEE (see table 1). The species making up the majority of submitted pools included Culex *pipiens/restuans* (11 pools), followed by Coquillettidia *perturbans* (4 pools), Culex *salinarius* (3 pools), and iliseta *melanura* (2 pools).

District-wide, there were 751 pools of mosquitoes submitted for arbovirus testing through PVMCD. Of those pools, the most abundant species were Culex *pipiens/restuans* with 245 pools, followed by Coquillettidia *perturbans* (172) and Culex *salinarius* (74). Over 40,000 mosquitoes were collected and sorted for testing by PVMCD staff.

Table 1: Submitted pools for testing. Note, trapping began the week of 6/5/23 and ended the week of 10/4/23 (testing ended the following week). Both CDC and Gravid traps were set up each week throughout the season. Not every trap produced enough targeted species to submit for testing each week. These traps are labeled NCR for no collection recorded or TF for trap failure. These data are not included in the table below but are available upon request.

Trap Set Date	Collection Date	Trap Type	Pool Size	Species	Result
7/3/2023	7/4/2023	CDC Trap	8	Coquillettidia perturbans	Negative
7/3/2023	7/4/2023	Gravid Trap	11	Culex pipiens/restuans	Negative
7/3/2023	7/4/2023	CDC Trap	11	Ochlerotatus canadensis	Negative
7/17/2023	7/18/2023	CDC Trap	34	Coquillettidia perturbans	Negative
7/17/2023	7/18/2023	CDC Trap	10	Culex pipiens/restuans	Negative
7/17/2023	7/18/2023	Gravid Trap	25	Culex pipiens/restuans	Negative
7/17/2023	7/18/2023	Gravid Trap	13	Ochlerotatus japonicus	Negative
7/24/2023	7/25/2023	Gravid Trap	18	Culex pipiens/restuans	Negative
7/31/2023	8/1/2023	Gravid Trap	9	Culex pipiens/restuans	Negative
8/7/2023	8/8/2023	Gravid Trap	6	Coquillettidia perturbans	Negative
8/7/2023	8/8/2023	Gravid Trap	8	Culex pipiens/restuans	Negative
8/14/2023	8/15/2023	Gravid Trap	10	Culex pipiens/restuans	Negative
8/14/2023	8/15/2023	CDC Trap	49	Culex salinarius	Negative
8/14/2023	8/15/2023	CDC Trap	50	Culex salinarius	Negative
8/21/2023	8/22/2023	Gravid Trap	50	Culex pipiens/restuans	Negative
8/21/2023	8/22/2023	Gravid Trap	3	Culiseta melanura	Negative
8/28/2023	8/29/2023	CDC Trap	31	Coquillettidia perturbans	Negative
8/28/2023	8/29/2023	CDC Trap	8	Culex salinarius	Negative
9/5/2023	9/6/2023	Gravid Trap	12	Culex pipiens/restuans	Negative
9/5/2023	9/6/2023	Gravid Trap	11	Ochlerotatus japonicus	Negative
9/12/2023	9/13/2023	Gravid Trap	5	Culex pipiens/restuans	Negative
9/12/2023	9/13/2023	CDC Trap	18	Psorophora ferox	Negative
9/19/2023	9/20/2023	CDC Trap	8	Ochlerotatus japonicus	Negative
9/26/2023	9/27/2023	Gravid Trap	5	Culex pipiens/restuans	Negative
10/2/2023	10/3/2023	Gravid Trap	3	Culiseta melanura	Negative
10/2/2023	10/3/2023	CDC Trap	8	Ochlerotatus trivittatus	Negative

Arbovirus Detections Throughout the Pioneer Valley Region

Neither EEE nor WNV were detected in the Town of Bernardston during the 2023 surveillance season. A total of 17 WNV positive pools were detected in the Pioneer Valley Region (see figure 1 for general locations). Impacted communities cluded Amherst, Deerfield, East Longmeadow, Granby, Hadley, Holyoke, Northampton, Palmer, South Hadley, Springfield, and West Springfield (see figure 2). Additionally, 6 pools tested positive for EEE positive pools detected in the Pioneer Valley Region, mainly in Hampden County. The affected communities included Brimfield, Chicopee, East Longmeadow, and Wilbraham. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health confirmed 2 human cases of WNV in Hampden County.

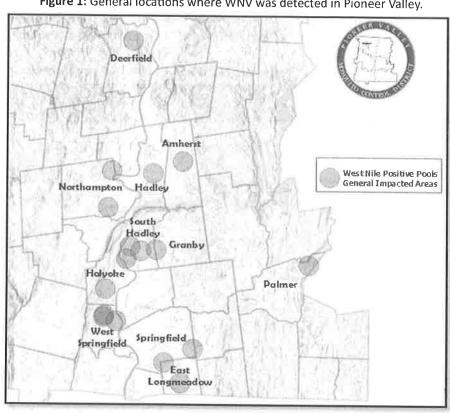
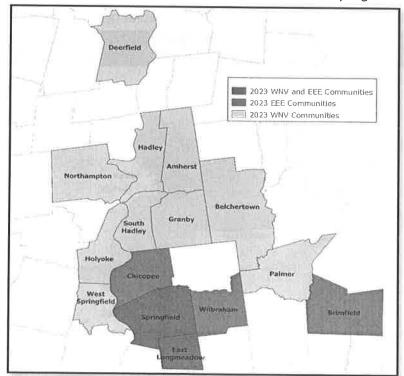


Figure 1: General locations where WNV was detected in Pioneer Valley.

Figure 2: Communities impacted by WNV and EEE in the Pioneer Valley Region during 2023.



Arbovirus Detections Throughout the Commonwealth

The State Laboratory detected a total of 128 WNV-positive pools of mosquitoes throughout the state in the following counties: Berkshire, Hampshire, Hampden, Worcester, Bristol, Plymouth, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Middlesex (see figure 3). The communities affected by WNV had a moderate risk level, indicating that WNV infection had either occurred or was highly probable. For EEE, 28 pools tested positive across Hampden, Worcester, Bristol, and Plymouth Counties (see figure 4). Communities in Hampden and Worcester Counties had a high-risk level, meaning that human transmission was likely. Mosquitoes that tested positive for EEE consisted of Culiseta *melanura* (19), Aedes *cinereus* (3), Coquillettidia *perturbans* (2), Culex *salinarius* (1), Ochlerotatus *canadensis* (1), Psorophora *ferox* (1), Uranotaenia *sapphirina* (1). Based on historical arbovirus data, this year produced EEE positives for the first time in Psorophora *ferox* and Aedes *cinereus*. However, more data are needed to determine vector competency in both *ferox* and *cinereus*. In total, there were 6 human cases of WNV throughout the state, with no cases of EEE reported in either humans or animals.

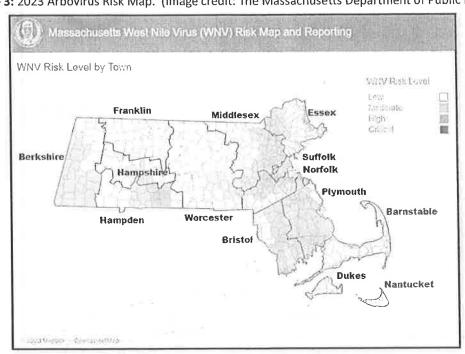
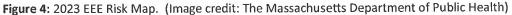
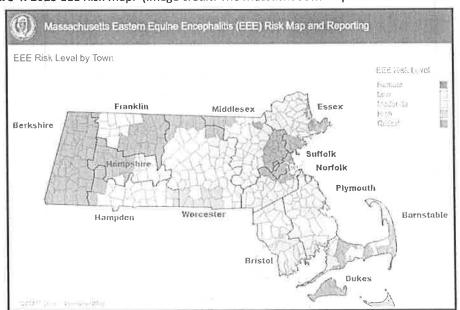


Figure 3: 2023 Arbovirus Risk Map. (Image credit: The Massachusetts Department of Public Health)



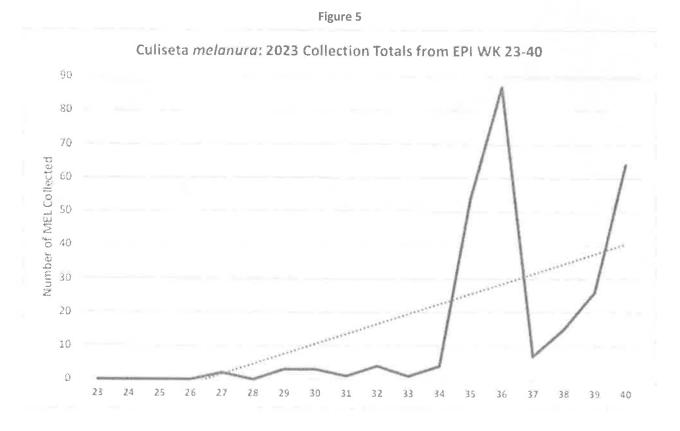


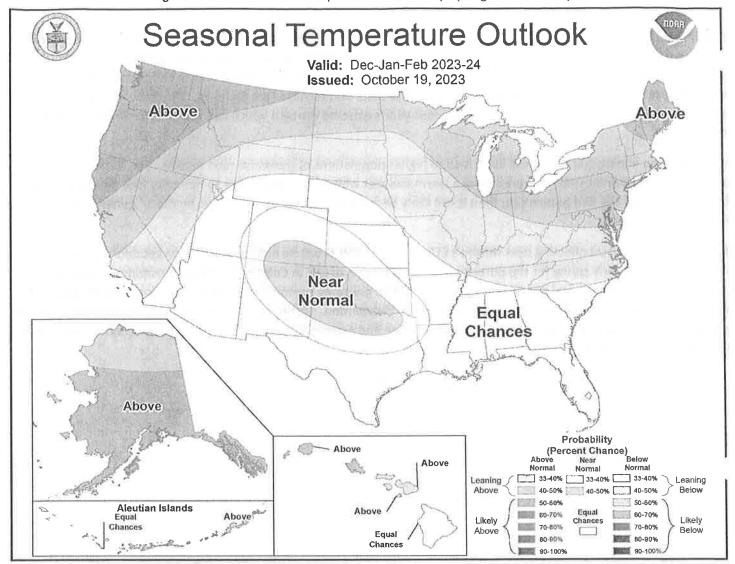
Weather Impacts and 2024 Outlook

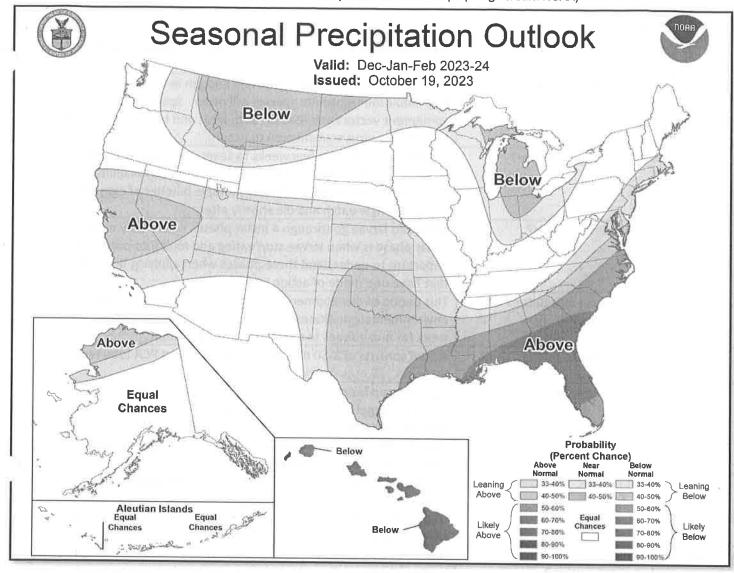
As mentioned earlier in the report, Culiseta *melanura* mosquitoes are the primary vector for EEE. *Melanura* rely on a rmanent water source to breed during the summer and overwinter in the larval phase. The significant rainfall experienced this past season triggered a resurgence in *melanura* populations throughout the entire state. It was not until EPI week 35 that PVMCD started to detect larger numbers of *melanura* (see figure 5). The delay in their appearance in surveillance traps can be attributed to the previous year's extreme drought which had reduced *melanura* numbers considerably.

A wet summer, winter, and spring will likely lead to higher populations of *melanura* next season. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is predicting a warm and wet winter from December to February (see figures 6 and 7). If EEE is present in the bird population, then it will likely be amplified earlier in the season by the 1st generation of *melanura* mosquitoes.

Due to weather impacts affecting next season's EEE outlook, PVMCD will be heavily focusing on establishing vector habitat during the early spring for the purpose of early detection of EEE in Culiseta *melanura* mosquitoes. Moreover, *Melanura* population data and any incidence of virus will be promptly communicated with local Boards of Health, and public outreach/education materials will be available for distribution. Lastly, it is highly recommended that horse owners speak to their veterinarians about the encephalitis vaccine and establishing an appropriate vaccine schedule that ensures protection through October of 2024.







<u>FAQ</u>

FAQ	Answer
What is a primary vector?	A primary vector is a species of mosquito that plays a significant role in the virus cycle.
What is a bridge vector?	Once EEE and/or WNV are amplified enough in the bird population, spill over into other mosquito species will occur. Species that are competent vectors and feed on both birds and humans will create a "bridge" for virus transmission to occur.
How long do mosquitoes live?	Lifespan varies from a few weeks to several months depending on species, environmental conditions, and resource availability. Additionally, some species can lay multiple batches of eggs while others will lay a single batch and die shortly after.
What is an instar phase?	Mosquito larvae go through 4 instar phases where they molt. The 4 th instar phase is when larvae stop eating and molt into pupae. It is important to understand these phases when applying larvicide products that have one mode of action via ingestion.
How long does it take mosquitoes to develop?	This period of development will vary in the spring depending on environmental conditions. In the summer, however, it typically takes a week for mosquitoes to develop from egg to adult.
What are mosquito pools?	A pool consists of 5-50 mosquitoes placed into a PCR tube for arbovirus testing.
What is a Gravid trap?	A gravid trap is one of the two main traps used by PVMCD. The trap primarily targets "gravid" Culex mosquitoes (WNV vector) seeking out suitable habitat to lay their eggs. Culex species look for bacteria rich (foul smelling and stagnant) water to lay their eggs. The Gravid trap essentially replicates an artificial container habitat.
What is a CDC trap?	A CDC trap is the second main trap used by the PVMCD. It is used to target mosquitos that feed on mammals and are capable of transmitting EEEV or WNV to humans. The CDC trap utilizes CO2, which mimics the breath of a potential blood meal.
Why are there pools submitted from one trap but not the other?	Not every trap yields enough targeted vector species to submit for testing. Factors influencing this are weather, habitat, and equipment failures.
What is a "trap failure" (TF)?	Sometimes faulty parts or wear from regular use result in trap failures. Trap failures are inevitable but do not occur that often.
What does "no collection recorded" (NCR) mean?	A "no collection recorded" or "NCR" means no mosquitoes were collected from a trap deployed in the field. This will occur throughout the season but tends to be more frequent during the earlier and later parts of the season.
Does PVMCD offer control services?	PVMCD will have a facility in early 2024 and will likely implement control services in the coming years at a practical level of capacity. Control services will consist of targeting vector species habitat via larvicide granule formulations primarily in the spring to mitigate arbovirus.
What is Bti?	Bti stands for <i>Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis</i> and is naturally occurring soil bacteria that is used to control larval mosquito populations. Bti is safe for humans, animals, and the environment when used as directed. It is effective in reducing mosquito larvae that are feeding during the first 3 instar phases. The timing of application is imperative to Bti's effectiveness in controlling mosquito populations.

Targeted Mosquito Species

Species Name	Description	Habitat	Months Active
ि'ıliseta <i>melanura</i>	Melanura mosquitoes are a primary vector for EEE. Melanura feed mainly on avian species and are responsible for amplifying the virus to the point that it spills over into bridge vectors	Tree root cavities or "crypts" covered by peat moss in red maple and cedar swamps.	May-December Peak July-August and mid- September
Culex pipiens and restuans	These two mosquito species are also very abundant in Massachusetts and are capable of amplifying WNV in the wild bird population and infecting humans. While <i>pipiens</i> have been implicated more so in WNV transmission, both <i>pipiens</i> and <i>restuans</i> are grouped together because there is no way to differentiate between the species with 100% reliability.	Artificial containers such as "green" swimming pools, catch basins, discarded tires, buckets, etc.	May-October Peak: July-August
Coquillettidia perturbans	Cq. perturbans are one of the most abundant species of mosquito in Massachusetts and are implicated as a bridge vector for both EEE and WNV. Pertubans will feed on both birds (reservoir for EEE) and mammals, which is why it is considered a bridge vector.	Permanent bodies of water with emergent vegetation such at cattails.	May-September Peak: July
Ochlerotatus (Aedes) canadensis	Another common species in Massachusetts, canadensis can transmit both EEE and WNV to humans.	Woodland/vernal pools.	May-October Peak: June
Culex salinarius	Salinarius are considered bridge vectors for both EEE and WNV, readily feeding on mammals.	Brackish and freshwater swamps.	May-November Peak: August
Other species	There are many other species that we send into the Arbovirus Surveillance Laboratory at DPH for testing. These species are considered potential vectors or "suspects" in transmitting arboviruses. All other non-vector species are not submitted for testing.		*

Report Prepared by: John Briggs, PVMCD Director

john.c.briggs@mass.gov

401-580-6397

Fwd: Senior Center

From

Director <coa@townofbernardston.org>

o.

Bernardston Selectboard

bos@townofbernardston.org>

Date

2024-05-21 14:45



Jennifer Reynolds
Bernardston Senior Center and COA, Director
PO Box 504
Bernardston, MA 01337
coa@townofbernardston.org
Direct line: 413.648.5413 Mobile: 413.364.6133

----- Original Message ------

Subject: Senior Center

Date: 2024-05-06 9:25 am

From:Daren Dion <dionflooring@gmail.com>

To:Director <coa@townofbernardston.org>

Dining room, Foyer

Buff and recoat with two coats of commercial catalyzed water based floor finish 2,700.00

Sand and finish with four coats of commercial water based floor finish.

Room that has cleaning residue 4,200.00.

Stair treads 1,600.00 (treads only we don't do the skirts or risers)

Daren DionOwner



A. DION & SON FLOOR CONTRACTORS, LLC

P.O. Box 656 74 Russell Street, Hadley, MA 01035

Phone: 413-584-6170

Fax #: 413-584-8573

** Please send all payments to: P.O. Box 656**

Re: Fwd: Senior Center

From

Brian Miner <dpw@townofbernardston.org>

0

Director <coa@townofbernardston.org>

Сс

Bernardston Selectboard

bos@townofbernardston.org>

Date

2024-05-13 14:23

If there is money in budget I think this is a great idea. Definitely needs to be done. The price does not seem overly high with the amount of labor that is involved.

On 2024-05-13 06:59, Director wrote: Quote on Wood Floor refinishing. I have had 3 look at it and this so far is the only quote I received back. Jennifer Reynolds Bernardston Senior Center and COA, Director PO Box 504 Bernardston, MA 01337 coa@townofbernardston.org Direct line: 413.648.5413 Mobile: 413.364.6133 ----- Original Message -----SUBJECT: Senior Center DATE: 2024-05-06 9:25 am Daren Dion < dionflooring@gmail.com> Director < coa@townofbernardston.org> Dining room, Foyer Buff and recoat with two coats of commercial catalyzed water based floor finish 2,700.00 Sand and finish with four coats of commercial water based floor finish. 1 Room that has cleaning residue 4,200.00. Stair treads 1,600.00 (treads only we don't do the skirts or risers) Daren Dion Owner ** Please send all payments to: P.O. Box 656**

Brian Miner Superintendent Bernardston DPW 13-522-8377 roundoube 🔷

Subject Contract for FY25 Outsourced Accounting Services

From Karen Kelly <bos@townofbernardston.org>

Jane Dutcher <jdutcher55@hotmail.com>, Treasurer <treasurer@townofbernardston.org>, Assessors

<assessors@townofbernardston.org>, Bernardston Tax Collector

<bernardstontaxcollector@gmail.com>, Townclerk

<townclerk@townofbernardston.org>

Cc Brian Keir
brkeir@msn.com>, Brian Hervieux

<Brian.Hervieux@fwwebb.com>, Ken Bordewieck

<ken.bordewieck@comcast.net>

Date 2024-05-22 09:44

Bernardston - FY25 Outsourced Accounting Contract - Unsigned Final.pdf(~213 KB)

Good morning,

Attached is the contract for FY25 accounting services with Marcum. At a minimum, please review the document and acknowledge receipt. This document will be presented to the Selectboard at the regular Selectboard meeting on Wednesday, May 29th. Therefore, if you have any comments or suggestions, send them to me by Tuesday, May 28th.

Thank you!

Karen A. Kelly

Town Administrator

Town of Bernardston 38 Church St., PO Box 504 ernardston, MA 01337 Phone: 413-648-5401

 Original	Message	

Subject: Contract for FY25 Outsourced Accounting Services

Date:2024-05-22 08:46

From: "Campbell, Tanya" < Tanya. Campbell@marcumllp.com>

To: "bos@townofbernardston.org" < bos@townofbernardston.org >

Good morning,

Attached is the contract for accounting services for fiscal year 2025. Please have a member of the Select Board sign, return to me, and then I will sign and send you a fully executed copy.

Thank you and have a great day!

Tanya Campbell, CPA

Partner
101 Munson Street, Suite 120
Greenfield, MA 01301
P: (413) 775-6130
anya.Campbell@marcumllp.com



<u>Bio</u>



super site shed - surplus property

From

Jan Ameen-FCSWMD <fcswmd@crocker.com>

To

Bernardston BOS
bos@townofbernardston.org>

ate

2024-05-16 11:47



I hope this finds you well.

I'm writing to inform you that the District board voted unanimously last night to declare the "paint shed" as surplus property. This is the shed on the left.

The board instructed me to offer to sell the shed "as is" to the Town of Bernardston for \$1000. If the town does not want to purchase the shed, then I am instructed to offer it for \$1000 to the other 20 member towns. If no town wants the shed then I am to advertise the shed for sale to the public fro \$1000. If there is not a public purchaser then I am instructed to have it demolished.

I am available to discuss this issue further. I am hopeful that the town and the district can come to a mutually agreeable resolution.

Sincerely, Jan Ameen



RE: super site shed - surplus property

From

Jan Ameen-FCSWMD <fcswmd@crocker.com>

TO

'Karen Kelly' <bos@townofbernardston.org>

ate

2024-05-23 10:36

Hi Karen,

I've answered your questions below in blue. I have a meeting from 11-11:45 then noon-1.

Feel free to call my cell if I don't get back by email. I've been tied up with our OSHA training and my email is piling up. 802-258-8281.

Bottom line for me is that I would love to restart this program as a service to Bernardston residents and surrounding towns. And, I am willing to work with the town on changes that will make the program work better for the town, such as checks only for payment.

We would need to meet with Brian and make sure we are in agreement about how the materials are to be managed. The issue with him (or another highway employee) siphoning off the motor oil was never addressed. I don't want to restart the program and find ourselves in the same place that got us here. So, I'm hopeful that we can close that door and serve residents with this program.

Jan

From: Karen Kelly [mailto:bos@townofbernardston.org]

ent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 6:59 AM

To: Jan Ameen-FCSWMD <fcswmd@crocker.com> **Subject:** Re: super site shed - surplus property

Hi Jan,

I am preparing my pitch to the Selectboard about the option to reconsider and resume services as a Super Site Transfer Station. What is required regarding staffing? The sheds were open on the 1st Saturday of each month; 8-12 May-November and 9-12 Dec-April. Those hours can be reduced. 10-12 warm weather and 11-12 cold weather? We can certainly adjust according to the town's best interests with attendants. FYI: I believe the attendants were taking lamps and other items any time they were open. This was their choice. We can have non-residents only come on the 1st Saturday and let the town decide if they want Bernardston residents to have access any time the site is open. Have improvements been made removal of items in a more timely manner (oil, paint, etc.)? We do our best to have waste removed quickly but as a small volume site in western Mass the state contract vendors don't always prioritize us. If the shed re-opens I would suggest that a pickup is called in when containers are ½-3/4 full to allow for a 3-week delay in pickup. If the site is truly only open on the 1st Saturday of the month, this is less an issue. Lastly, we are a no-cash Transfer Station. Checks only. Brian mentioned hat as a Super Site, we are obligated to take customer's cash? I may have misunderstood what he was saying...can you explain? There is no obligation to take cash. The town had been willing to take cash from non-residents using the site. Brian and his predecessor would then turn that in to me. In Colrain, the attendants take cash



for the super site sheds and turn it in with daily receipts. Then I invoice the town based on the tracking forms. If the town prefers not to take any cash at all then that is how it will be advertised.

See this page for how we list Bernardston's regional mattress program (i.e. checks only) https://franklincountywastedistrict.org/mattress-recycling I would do the same for the super site.

This may be easier to talk on the phone. If you have at 11:00 am today for a phone call, that would be great.

Karen A. Kelly

Town Administrator

Town of Bernardston 38 Church St., PO Box 504 Bernardston, MA 01337 Phone: 413-648-5401

On 2024-05-16 11:47, Jan Ameen-FCSWMD wrote:

Hi Karen,

I hope this finds you well.

I'm writing to inform you that the District board voted unanimously last night to declare the "paint shed" as surplus property. This is the shed on the left.

The board instructed me to offer to sell the shed "as is" to the Town of Bernardston for \$1000. If the town does not want to purchase the shed, then I am instructed to offer it for \$1000 to the other 20 member towns. If no town wants the shed then I am to advertise the shed for sale to the public fro \$1000. If there is not a public purchaser then I am instructed to have it demolished.

I am available to discuss this issue further. I am hopeful that the town and the district can come to a mutually agreeable resolution.

Sincerely, Jan Ameen

Fwd: Resigning as Chair of Bernardston Historical Commission

From

Christina Slocum-Wysk <townclerk@townofbernardston.org>

T0

Karen Kelly

bos@townofbernardston.org>

Jate

2024-05-19 15:59



FYI!

5500

Christina Slocum-Wysk

Bernardston Town Clerk

413-648-5408

P.O. Box 504

38 Church St., Bernardston MA 01337

Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am to 1pm, Wednesdays 3pm to 6pm, Other times by appointment

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Resigning as Chair of Bernardston Historical Commission

Date:2024/05/17 02:01 PM

From: Eric Almeida <almeida.ericp@gmail.com>

To:Christina Slocum-Wysk <townclerk@townofbernardston.org>

Afternoon Chris,

I am formally resigning as the Chair of Bernardston Historical Commission. Please inform the Selectboard that the commission is in need of new leadership. The existing members are not in a place to step into a leadership role.

All the best,

Eric Almeida
Mental Health Coach
www.TheGuidingMind.com
Cell: 845-323-1532
Check in with Eric
Facebook & LinkedIn
Podcast

Re: Fwd: Softball field

From

Karen Kelly <bos@townofbernardston.org>

)

Brian Keir

brkeir@msn.com>

Date

2024-05-17 11:22



Hi Brian! Yes, we can put it on the agenda! We will be looking at the rec budget on Monday night too, so maybe we can address it then. I recommend voting on the amount of money for the ball field so we can capture it in minutes. I noticed on this past warrant that MARCUM is cracking down on having proof of votes, etc. Does that make sense?

Karen A. Kelly

Phone: 413-648-5401

Town AdministratorTown of Bernardston
38 Church St., PO Box 504
Bernardston, MA 01337

On 2024-05-17 08:49, Brian Keir wrote:

Karen

Please see the email correspondence from a couple months ago the Brian Miner sent me after he and I talked. Can we put this on the agenda for the board to clarify how we want to assist or not the highway department for the ball field expenses. Additionally we should check the recreation department spending year to date as they do have a line item for field maintenance maybe they still have monies remaining that can go towards this expense. Thanks

Brian

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Brian Miner <dpw@townofbernardston.org>

Date: May 16, 2024 at 12:22:26 PM EDT

To: Brian Keir

Subject: Fwd: Softball field

Brian, this is all can can find from that conversation

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Softball field Date: 2024-03-06 18:57

From: Brian Keir

brkeir@msn.com>

To: Brian Miner <dpw@townofbernardston.org>
Cc: Karen Kelly <bos@townofbernardston.org>

Brian

Stan, Ken and I all remember the same thing, make what is now the baseball field the softball field. The biggest reason is so you won't have to try and move the dugouts without having them fall apart. The board also has the understanding that you will need to spend about \$1500 for infield material to make that change. We didn't actually talk about who would pay the \$1500 but I'm sure we can find the monies for that. Thanks if you have questions let me know

Brian

Sent from my iPhone

Brian Miner Superintendent Subject Senior Center

From Daren Dion < dionflooring@gmail.com >

To Director <coa@townofbernardston.org>

Date 2024-05-06 9:25 am



Dining room, Foyer

Buff and recoat with two coats of commercial catalyzed water based floor finish 2,700.00

Sand and finish with four coats of commercial water based floor finish.

1 Room that has cleaning residue 4,200.00.

Stair treads 1,600.00 (treads only we don't do the skirts or risers)

Daren Dion

Owner



A. DION & SON FLOOR CONTRACTORS, LLC

P.O. Box 656 74 Russell Street, Hadley, MA 01035

Phone: 413-584-6170

Fax #: 413-584-8573

** Please send all payments to: P.O. Box 656**