

**ANNUAL TOWN REPORT**  
**of the TOWN OFFICERS**  
**of the**  
**TOWN OF LENOX**  
**Massachusetts**



For the Year Ending  
31 December 2019

***IN MEMORIAM***

**Ruth Billetter**, School Department

**Dr. Robert K. Brown**, Board of Health

**Robert Fuster Sr.**, Zoning Board of Appeals

**Margaret O'Brien**, Town Collector

**Louise C. Omelenchuck**, School Department

**John J. Pignatelli**, Selectman, Finance Committee, Planning Board,  
Youth Drug and Alcohol Commission

**Mary Jane Pignatelli**, School Department

**Wesley VanAlstyne**, Capital Improvements Committee, DPW Board, Finance Committee

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION TOWN OF LENOX**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION OF TOWN OF LENOX**

#### **POPULATION:**

1767: Fifteen families (required for incorporation)  
2017: 4996  
2018: 4791  
2019: 4614

#### **SCHOOL POPULATION:**

2017: 755  
2018: 734  
2019: 756

#### **REGISTERED VOTERS:**

2017: 3804  
2018: 3770  
2019: 3684

#### **TAX RATE:**

2017-18: \$12.14/Residential;	\$14.98 Comm./Ind./Pers. Prop.
2018-19: \$11.95/Residential;	\$14.76 Comm./Ind./Pers. Prop.
2019-20: \$12.10/Residential;	\$14.78 Comm./Ind./Pers. Prop.

#### **LOCATION:**

Center of Town about 1200 feet elevation  
Northern Boundary: Pittsfield  
Southern Boundary: Lee & Stockbridge  
Western Boundary: Richmond  
Eastern Boundary: Washington & Lee  
Highway Mileage: State 10.80 Miles and Town 50.34 Miles and 2.8 Miles of unaccepted roads

#### **CHURCH DIRECTORY:**

##### **Roman Catholic:**

St. Ann's  
St. Vincent de Paul, Lenox Dale

##### **Episcopal:**

Trinity  
St. Helena's Chapel, New Lenox

##### **Advent Christian:**

Hope Church

##### **Congregational:**

Church on the Hill

##### **Methodist:**

United Methodist Church of Lenox

## **TELEPHONE DIRECTORY OF TOWN SERVICES**

### **Local Emergency Numbers**

#### **POLICE**

Local Department 637-2346

State Police 243-0600

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

To report a fire or an emergency  
or to request ambulance assistance 911

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** 637-2346

**TOWN HALL** 637-5500

#### **DEPARTMENT**

#### **TELEPHONE**

Accountant	Charles Browne	X-8
Animal Control Officer	Mike Sullivan	637-2346
Assessors	Randall Austin	X-2
Birth,Death,Marriage Certif.	Kerry Sullivan	X-1207
Building/Sign Inspector	BJ Church	243-5518
Chief Administrative Officer	Christopher Ketchen	X-7
Community Center	Game Room	637-4487
Community Center Director	Darlene McCauley	637-5530
Council on Aging	Susan Holmes	637-5535
Dept. of Public Works	Beth Carroll	637-5525
Dog Licenses	Kerry Sullivan	X-4
Emergency Management Director	Chris O'Brien	637-2347
Fire Dept. Lenox Dale	Station	637-5542
Fire Dept. New Lenox	Station	442-2567
Health Inspector	James Wilusz	243-5540
Highway/Roads	Town Garage	637 5520
Housing Authority	Barbara Heaphy	637-5585
Land Use	Jes Cote	X-6
Lenox Town Beach	Beach House	637-2352
Library	Amy Lafave	637-0197
License	Board Selectmen	X-7
Parks & Recreation	Darlene McCauley	637-5530
Planner	Gwen Miller	X-6
Planning Board	Pamela Kueber	X-6
Plumbing Inspector	Mark Smith	637-0645
Schools	Lenox Memorial	
	Middle High	637-5560
	Morris Elementary	637-5570
School Superintendent	William Cameron Jr.	637-5550
Selectmen	Mary Ellen Deming	X-7
Sewer	Town Garage	637-5520
Taxes, Water, Sewer Bills	Katherin Phillips	X-1205
Treasurer/Collector	Brenda Marra	X-1208
Trees	Public Works	637-5525
Veterans' Agent	Lloyd D. Mann	X-4
Vital Statistics	Kerry Sullivan	X-4
Voting Regulations	Registrar of Voters	X-4
Water	Public Works	637-5525
Wire Inspector	Robert Pensivy	448-8311
Zoning Board of Appeals	Jes Cote	X-6

## **BUSINESS HOURS OF TOWN OFFICES**

8:30am to 4:00pm

### **COUNCIL ON AGING OFFICE**

Monday-Friday 9:00am to 2:00pm

### **BOARD MEETINGS OF TOWN OFFICIALS**

#### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Every other Wednesday @ 7:00pm

#### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Scheduled Mondays @ 7:00pm in the Town Hall

#### **BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

As needed basis

#### **BOARD OF HEALTH**

Quarterly, and as needed basis

#### **HOUSING AUTHORITY**

First Tuesday of each month @ 4:30pm at the Curtis Complex

#### **PLANNING BOARD**

Second & Fourth Tuesday of each month @ 5:30pm

#### **ACADEMY BUILDING TRUSTEES**

Second Tuesday of each month @ 2:00pm at The Academy

#### **COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD**

Third Wednesday of each month @ 7:00pm at the Community Center

#### **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

First & Third Thursday of each month @ 6:45pm

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Scheduled Wednesdays @ 7:00pm

#### **HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

First & Third Tuesday of each month @ 5:00pm

#### **HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Second Thursday of each month @ 4:00pm at The Academy

#### **VETERANS**

First Tuesday of each month @ 7:00pm at The Academy

Office Hours every Tuesday from 4:00-6:00pm at the Town Hall

#### **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

First & Third Wednesday of each month @ 6:30pm

## **TOWN OFFICIALS**

### **MODERATOR**

John McNinch

Term Expires 2020

### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Warren Archey

Term Expires 2020

Edward Lane, Chairman

Term Expires 2021

Neal Maxymillian, Clerk

Term Expires 2021

Marybeth Mitts

Term Expires 2022

David Roche

Term Expires 2020

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Christopher J. Ketchen

### **DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

Mary Ellen Deming

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Molly Elliot

Term Expires 2021

Robert Vaughan

Term Expires 2022

Robert Munch

Term Expires 2020

Frances Sorrentin

Term Expires 2021

Anne Marie O'Brien

Term Expires 2021

Christine Mauro

Term Expires 2020

David Rimmer

Term Expires 2022

### **SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

William Cameron Jr.

### **DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS SERVICES**

Melissa Falkowski

### **BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

Paula King

Term Expires 2021

Thomas Romeo

Term Expires 2022

Wayne Lemanski

Term Expires 2020

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSESSOR**

Randall Austin

### **BOARD OF HEALTH**

John Kearns

Term Expires 2020

Marie Feder

Term Expires 2021

Dianne Romeo

Term Expires 2022

### **HEALTH INSPECTOR**

James Wilusz

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**HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Vacancy (Pero)	Term Expires 2022
Linda Messana	Term Expires 2024
Diana Kirby	Term Expires 2021
Theresa Sorrentino	Term Expires 2020
Cathy May	State Appointee

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Barbara Heapby

**PLANNING BOARD**

Kathleen McNulty Vaughan	Term Expires 2022
Kameron Spaulding	Term Expires 2020
Pamela Kueber, Chair	Term Expires 2021
Thomas Delasco	Term Expires 2023
James Harwood	Term Expires 2024

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

Boards & Committees

**ACADEMY BUILDING TRUSTEE**

Victoria Salvatore      Tim Face      Scott Pignatelli

**ADMINISTRATIVE ALARM BOARD**

Chris O'Brien      Kevin Dinan      Steve O'Brien

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE**

Donna Lefkowitz	Olga Weiss
Katie McNulty-Vaughan	Charlene Rosen
Jon Gotterer	Chris Fenton
Frederick Keator	

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUSTEES**

Charlene Rosen	Term Expires 2020
Katie McNulty-Vaughan	Term Expires 2020
Jackie McNinch	Term Expires 2021
Mindi Morin	Term Expires 2020
Olga Weiss	Term Expires 2021
Marybeth Mitts	Term Expires 2021
Julie Digrigoli	Term Expires 2021

**CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Linda Miller

**COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD**

Donna Lefkowitz	Term Expires 2020
Rose Fitzgerald-Casey	Term Expires 2022
Stephen Coon	Term Expires 2021
Anthony Patella	Term Expires 2022
Sheri Gaherty	Term Expires 2021
Frances Sorrentino	Term Expires 2021
Jenifer Picard	Term Expires 2020

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**COMMUNITY CENTER DIRECTOR**

Darlene McCauley

**YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR**

Amanda McLaughlin

**PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

Caroline Halpin

**SENIOR SERVICES COORDINATOR/OUTREACH COORDINATOR**

Susan Holmes

**CUSTODIAN**

Jonathan Twing

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

Tom Delasco (Planning Board)	Term Expires 2022
Mark Smith (Conservation Commission)	Term Expires 2020
Catherine May (Housing Authority)	Term Expires 2021
Neal Maxymillian (Board of Selectmen)	Term Expires 2021
Olga Weiss (Historical Commission)	Term Expires 2021
Frederick Keator (at-large)	Term Expires 2022
Chuck Koscher (at-large)	Term Expires 2022
Max Scherff (at-large)	Term Expires 2020
Anthony Patella, Chairman	Term Expires 2020

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Neal Carpenter, Chairman	Term Expires 2020
Mark Smith	Term Expires 2022
Vincent Ammendola	Term Expires 2021
Rosemarie Fitzgerald-Casey	Term Expires 2021
David F. Lane	Term Expires 2021
Joseph Strauch	Term Expires 2022
Richard L. Ferren	Term Expires 2020

**EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Stephen O'Brien, Police Chief
Chris O'Brien, Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director
James Wilusz, Tri Town Sanitation
Larry Morse, Ambulance Squad
William Gop, Department of Public Works

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

Susan May	Suky Werman
Harriet Wetstone	David Rimmmler
Andrew Holt	Mark Pignatelli
Susan Wolf	

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### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Kristine Cass	Term Expires 2020
Elliott Morss	Term Expires 2022
Joseph Nejaime	Term Expires 2021
Vytas Barsauskas	Term Expires 2020
David Neubert	Term Expires 2022
Michael Feder	Term Expires 2022
Joan Bruno	Term Expires 2021
Scott Pignatelli	Term Expires 2020
Mark McKenna	Term Expires 2021

### **BOARD OF HEALTH OFFICIALS**

James Wilusz	Health Inspector
Susan Kaufman	Town Nurse
Kerry Sullivan	Recorder
James Leahey	Inspector of Animals, Stables
Mark Smith	Plumbing Inspector

### **HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Cynthia Farkus	Term Expires 2020
Kameron Spaulding	Term Expires 2022
Jason Berger	Term Expires 2020
Vacancy (Steinert)	Term Expires 2021
Ken Fowler	Term Expires 2022
Pat Jaouen	Alternate
Vacancy (Kennedy)	Alternate

### **HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Olga Weiss	Term Expires 2021
Lucy Kennedy	Term Expires 2021
Jeanette Chague	Term Expires 2022
Cindy Weiss	Term Expires 2022
Ray Kirby	Term Expires 2020
Vacancy (Pelton)	Term Expires 2020

### **JOHN DRUMMOND KENNEDY PARK RESTORATION COMMITTEE**

Robert M. Coakley,	Chairman Ruth H. Wheeler
Susan McNinch	Luke Martin
Andrew Breslin	Tom Roche
Terry P. Weaver	Joseph H. Nolan
Ray Kirby	

### **LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Ruth Wheeler (Kennedy Park)	Mark Smith (Con Com)
Deborah Rimmler (Planning Board)	Patty Spector (At-large)
Warren Archey (Board of Selectmen)	Andrew Lane (At-large)
Darlene McCauley (Comm Ctr)	

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**LENOX CULTURAL COUNCIL**

Erin McNamara  
Katherine Holt  
Beth Gamble

Arlene Schiff  
Donna Pignatelli

**MINOR TOWN OFFICERS APPOINTED BY SELECTMEN**

Vacancy	Fence Viewer
Don Roy	Field Driver
William Gop	Surveyor of Lumber
Vacancy	Sealer, Weights & Measures
Vacancy	Sexton
William Gop	Measurer, Wood & Bark
Warren Archey	Tree Warden

**PERMANENT BUILDING COMMITTEE**

Edward Lane, Chairman	Term Expires 2020
Andrew Lane	Term Expires 2020
Jeff Vincent	Term Expires 2020
Neal Maxymillian	Term Expires 2020
Tom Delasco	Term Expires 2020

**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS**

Kerry Sullivan	Term Expires 2021
Pamela Scarsi	Term Expires 2021
Percival Williams	Term Expires 2020
Janice Durfee	Term Expires 2022

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Brenda Marra	James Sorrentino
William Parsley	Paula Downer
William Cameron Jr., ex officio	Tara Romeo

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Shawn Considine	Term Expires 2024
Robert Fuster, Jr.	Term Expires 2021
Clifford Snyder	Term Expires 2020
Ned Douglas	Term Expires 2022
Albert Harper	Term Expires 2023
Clayton Hambrick	Associate
Jed Hall	Associate
Vacancy (Fuster, Jr.)	Associate
Vacancy (Harper)	Associate

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**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Stephen E. O'Brien, Police Chief  
Eric Kirby  
William C. Colvin  
Michael Smith Kennedy

Tyler Bosworth  
Jacob Stringer  
Paul A. Duval  
Corey Demary

**POLICE SECRETARY**

Marjorie Pero

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR,  
FIRE WARDEN, FOREST WARDEN AND  
INSPECTOR OF FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Chris O'Brien

**CAREER FIREFIGHTER/EMT'S**

Chris O'Brien, Fire Chief  
Robert Casucci, Deputy Chief  
Jason Saunders, Deputy Chief  
Dan Piretti, Captain  
Lawrence Morse, FF/Paramedic  
Matthew Williams, FF/Paramedic  
Joshua Romeo, FF/Paramedic  
Dakota Schaefer, FF/Paramedic  
Cameron Sibley, FF/EMT

**RELIEF FIREFIGHTER/EMT'S**

Chris Prew, Lieutenant  
Mike Zinchuk, Lieutenant  
Matthew Tyer, FF/Paramedic  
Aurelien Telle, FF/EMT

William Hunt, FF/EMT  
Jackson Reis, FF/EMT  
Bob Gaughran, FF/EMT  
Stephen Quinn, FF/EMT

**INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS/SIGN INSPECTOR**

BJ Church

**LOCAL BUILDING INSPECTOR**

Vacancy (Clemons)

**BUILDING INSPECTOR CLERK**

Denene Pelkey

**WIRE INSPECTOR**

Robert J. Pensivy

**PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR**

Mark Smith

**VETERANS' AGENT**

Lloyd D. Mann

**ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER**

Michael Sullivan

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**CONSTABLE**

Stephen O'Brien  
Timothy S. Face (Deputy/Collector)

**BERKSHIRE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE**

Edward Lane

**BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION DELEGATE**

Pamela Kueber  
Jim Harwood, Alternate

**GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Charles D. "Charlie" Baker

**REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS**

Edward Markey  
Elizabeth Warren

**UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE**

Richard Neal

**REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT**

**STATE SENATOR**

Adam Hinds

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

Wm. Smitty Pignatelli

**TOWN COUNSEL**

KP Law, P.C.

**TOWN PLANNER**

Gwen Miller

**LAND USE ASSISTANT**

Jes Cote

**TOWN TREASURER/COLLECTOR**

Brenda Marra

**ASSISTANT TREASURER/COLLECTOR**

Katherin Phillips

**TOWN CLERK**

Kerry Sullivan

**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**

Charles Browne

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**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

William Gop

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

R. Scott Jarvis

**DPW OFFICE MANAGER**

Beth Carroll

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES**

Jeff Carpenter

Robert Horn

Daniel Kirby

Paul Mahoney

Chris Prew

Patrick Reagan

Jim Roche

Thomas Smachetti

Paul Vallee

Jeff White

Scott Winslow

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## TOWN OF LENOX COMMITTEE APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last                      First                      Middle

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number/Street	P.O. Box	City	State	Zip

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Work (Hours)

What aroused your interest in serving the town?

\_\_\_\_\_ Newspaper Ad      \_\_\_\_\_ Friend      \_\_\_\_\_ Legal Notice      \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Have you previously served on a Town Committee? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_ Which Committee(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

Work Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Educational Background: \_\_\_\_\_

What are your community interests? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you available on a year-round basis? \_\_\_\_\_

I believe I could contribute \_\_\_\_\_ hours a month.

I would like to serve Lenox and might be interested in serving on the following Committees.

If more than one, please indicate preference, 1, 2, 3, etc.

<u>      </u> Academy Building Committee	<u>      </u> Kennedy Park Committee
<u>      </u> Affordable Housing	<u>      </u> Ambulance Squad
<u>      </u> Lenox Cultural Council	<u>      </u> Americans with Disabilities Act Comm.
<u>      </u> Police Department Special Traffic Officer	<u>      </u> Cable Advisory Committee
<u>      </u> Registrar of Voters	<u>      </u> Community Center Board
<u>      </u> Community Preservation Committee	<u>      </u> Scholarship Committee
<u>      </u> Conservation Commission	<u>      </u> Environmental Committee
<u>      </u> Finance Committee	<u>      </u> Historical Commission
<u>      </u> Historic District Commission	<u>      </u> Zoning Board of Appeals

**RETURN TO:** Board of Selectmen, Town Hall - 6 Walker Street, Lenox, MA 01240

THIS APPLICATION WILL BE PLACED ON FILE FOR REFERENCE WHEN A VACANCY OCCURS.

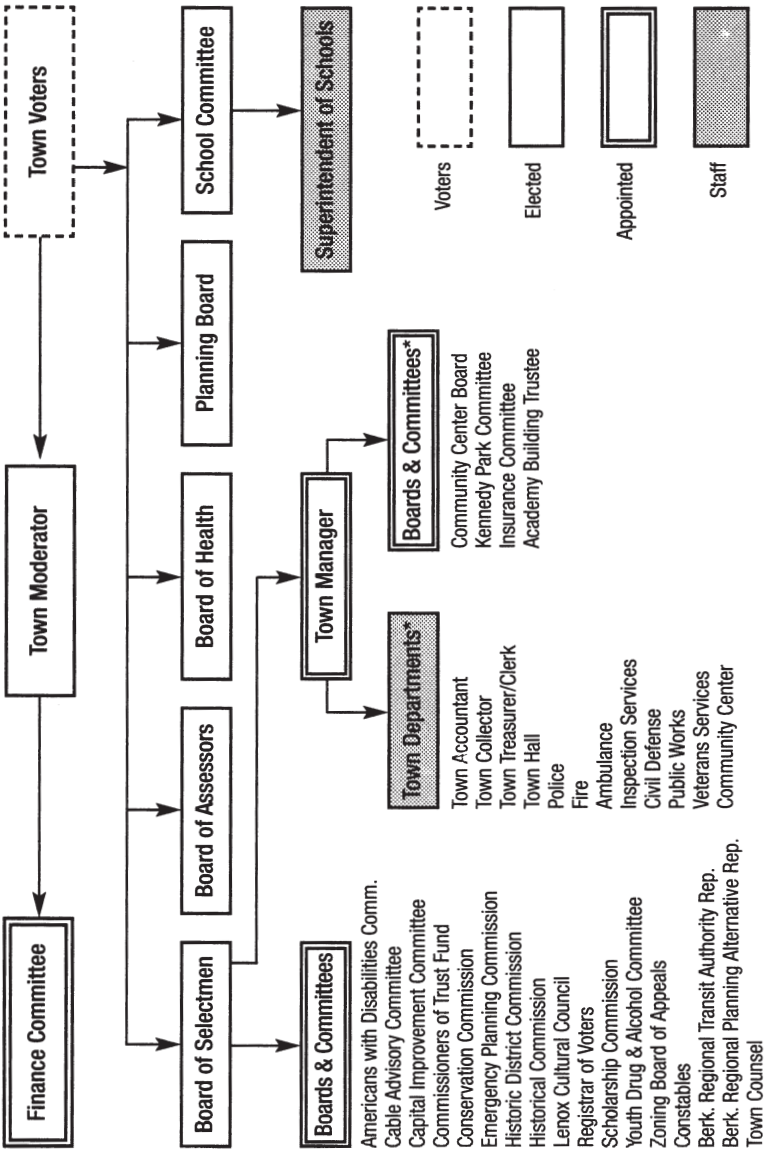
If you wish to be **reappointed** to a position that you currently hold, please complete this section of the form:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position currently held:

Term to be reappointed until:

GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE



\*Appointed by the Town Manager with approval of the Board of Selectmen

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

To the Honorable Citizens of Lenox

As your elected Select Board , we are pleased to report that the Town of Lenox is in fine shape and continues to be a great place to live and do business. Our tourist industry, so vitally important to us, had a banner year. Our strong financial position allows us to fully fund and staff our Public Safety services, Community Center, Library and Department of Public Works. Operations are running well but it we realize and understand that we are facing many complicated and costly challenges in the future. But, as in the past, I have confidence that we will face these challenges, work together and persevere.

This year long time BOS member Ken Fowler chose not to run for his position and was replaced by Mary Beth Mitts on the Board.

We instituted the use of electronic voting at our Annual Town Meeting, proving to be accurate, fast and enthusiastically accepted by the voters. We need to acknowledge Dick Defazio for his leadership and hard work in the implementation of this.

Our newest department in town, The Library, has a new Director Katherine O'Neil and added a Local Historian Amy Lafave as well as adding Sunday hours.

Lenox officially became an established a Cultural District

A Community Garden was created in Lilac Park containing 25 raised beds all built and run by a dedicated volunteer group.

The Planning Board should be acknowledged for doing an outstanding job in the creation of a Short-term Rental By-law and an Adult use Marijuana By-Law. Both very complicated and controversial.

The Town was very fortunate to receive two large donations. The LaGarce Family (long-time family in Lenox dedicated to the welfare of the town) donated a Pavilion erected in Lilac Park to be utilized by all. And Claire Cox Lowenthal a very generous \$200,000.00 to the Lenox Community Center.

Our Intermunicipal Agreement with the town of Lee ends on June 30,2020 and final negotiations are incomplete at this time.

The Permanent Building is currently working on two major projects:

1. Public Safety Building to upgrade the facilities for our Fire/Police/Ambulance services. This long overdue and very important endeavor is challenging not only for funding but actually finding a suitable site.
2. The up-grade to our Waste Water Treatment Plant has been waiting in the wings for many years. We will need to meet federal standards to discharge effluent, which basically means rebuilding our 50 year old facility. Preliminary engineering has begun and cost estimates are incomplete at this point but clearly user fees will unlikely be able to fund the project without taxpayer assistance.

As this report goes to print two major events are happening. First is the long anticipated Rest of the River clean-up. This 13 year project will have a huge impact on the town in several ways. But the most severe event that we will face as a town, nation and world in the next few months will be the Corona virus that has struck. It is way too early to know the impact we pray that by the time you read this the situation will be under control.

Lenox Board of Selectmen

Edward P. Lane, Chairman  
Neal Maxymillian, Clerk  
Dave Roche  
Warren E. Archey  
Marybeth Mitts

## **REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of Lenox:

In 2017, the Town of Lenox entered into an intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Lee to share administrative services. The two towns decided to enter into a one-year agreement, with an option to renew for two additional years, which would allow each community to determine if and how this shared services arrangement was working for them. The three-year mark will be reached on June 30, 2020, and the two towns will need to decide whether or not to continue with this shared administrative services agreement.

To help guide us into the future, a Charter Review Committee and a Master Plan Steering Committee were appointed. The Charter Review Committee has completed their review, and the recommended changes will be placed on the upcoming Annual Town Meeting warrant for the residents to vote on. The Master Plan Steering Committee continues to make great progress as they continue to work on their plan. In addition, the Town received a public safety facility needs assessment to determine how to address our public safety needs. Our Permanent Building Committee has been meeting to determine how to move this project forward.

Our Administrative Services Director, Mary Ellen Deming, and I are mindful of how fortunate we are to serve a populace that strongly supports the community and its public services. As such, we are profoundly grateful to the people of Lenox for all that they do to make the town a vibrant place to do business and make a home.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher J. Ketchen  
Chief Administrative Officer/Town Manager

### **OTHER MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

Town Meeting passed an adult use marijuana by-law

Town Meeting passed a short-term rental by-law

Town Meeting passed a Historical Commission Demolition Delay by-law

Library offered Sunday hours during the summer

A donated pavilion was erected in Lilac Park

Downtown Lenox was designated by the Massachusetts Cultural Council as a Cultural District

Lenox became the first Town in Berkshire County to utilize electronic voting at Town Meeting

## **REPORT OF THE TOWN COLLECTOR**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

I respectfully submit a detailed description of all revenues as of June 30, 2019

Real Estate Tax	\$15,269,675.70
CPA	367,834.54
Tax Title	88,521.99
Personal Property Tax	527,797.29
Motor Vehicle Excise Tax	809,163.73
Real Estate Interest & CPA Interest	72,623.71
Tax Title Interest	73,850.20
Personal Property Interest	4,547.63
Motor Vehicle Excise Interest & Demand Fees	9,624.61
W/S Rates and Interest	3,090,424.58
W/S Demand fees	43,541.55
W/S Tie in Fees	547,750.00
DPW Misc. Fees	37,554.78
Cemetery Fees	14,550.00
Perpetual Care Fees	4,500.00
Cemetery Lot fees	6,100.00
Parking Tickets	2,860.00
Municipal Lien Certificates	4,005.00
Trailer Court Fees	6,720.00
Scholarship Fund	29,566.77
Registry of Motor vehicles Surcharges	2,520.00
General Fund	6,563.73
Deputy Collector Fees	12,870.00
Other	418.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,033,583.84</b>

Current economic conditions have made it difficult for many taxpayers to pay their taxes, but by working with them, we have set up payment plans and some properties have been redeemed from tax title. We pleased to report that as of this writing there are only 9 properties in Tax Title.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda L. Marra, Treasurer\Collector  
Katherin Y. Phillips, Asst. Treasurer\Collector

## **REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK**

For the Year Ending December 31, 2019

### **DOG LICENSES**

Dog Licenses Issued	556
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### **VITAL STATISTICS**

Births	17
Deaths	140
Marriages	36

### **RAFFLE PERMITS**

Raffle Permits Issued	6
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### **BUSINESS CERTIFICATES**

Business Certificates Issued	46
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Respectfully Submitted  
Kerry L. Sullivan, Town Clerk

## **REPORT OF THE TOWN OF LENOX VETERANS' SERVICES**

To the Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of Lenox:

The Veterans' Services office serves the needs of the Veterans' of Lenox and their families. Chapter 115 benefits are needs based, meaning, in order to receive benefits there is an income and asset limit. These benefits include temporary financial assistance and medical reimbursements. Additionally, we provide assistance in applying for aid from other agencies, both state and federal. It must be noted that there is a difference between the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) and the Veterans Administration (VA). DVS is a state based program, and the VA is federal. This office deals primarily with requests for DVS Chapter 115, however, we will also assist with finding and filling out VA requests.

The need for assistance varies. The greatest need continues to be for senior veterans' and their spouses, or widows, who have very little income and are unable to work. Occasionally there is a veteran who is temporarily out of work. In these cases, we are able to provide financial assistance while they look for employment. All veterans', and their families, who meet the requirements, received the benefits they were entitled to.

The Town of Lenox was able to assist veterans this year with benefits totaling \$24,314.20. Of this amount, 75%, or \$18,235.67, will be reimbursed by the state for an actual cost to the Town of \$6,078.53. This included regular benefits, heating assistance, and medical reimbursements. This amount was down considerably from last year due to the loss of a few clients, either due to death, or becoming disqualified to receive benefits.

For those who received Chapter 115 benefits, there was additional help with heating costs during the winter. Recipients must first apply for, and use, funds from the Low Income Heating Assistance Program. Once these funds were used up, limited funds were made available.

One of the most underused programs available to veterans, is a program that allows a Veteran to receive Medical Only benefits, even if their income is a little too high for regular benefits. Since it is a needs based program, the asset limit of \$5000 for singles, or \$9800 for married applicants, still applies. This program reimburses medical co-pays, some other medical costs, and can even reimburse the cost of Medicare Part B and some supplemental insurance. It must be noted that, Veteran Services does not pay the bills, but reimburses medical bills paid for by the veteran. Lenox Veteran Services has several veterans', or their widows, on this Medical Only program, which has proven to be a great help to them.

The Town of Lenox is served by a part time agent, and the office is in the Town Hall. Office hours are Tuesdays from 4:00 – 6:00 PM. They may email anytime to [LeeVetsAgent@wmconnect.com](mailto:LeeVetsAgent@wmconnect.com).

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug Mann  
Lenox Veterans' Service Officer (Veterans' Agent)

## **LENOX CULTURAL COUNCIL**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of Lenox:

For the fiscal year 2020, the Lenox Cultural Council received an allocation of \$4,800 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and \$4,500 from the Town of Lenox for grant distribution plus \$115 in previously undistributed grants for a total budget of \$9,415. After careful consideration of 33 grant applications requesting a total of \$27,060, the Council awarded grants in varying amounts to the following individuals and organizations:

### **Applicant Program Name**

Barrington Stage Company Youth Theatre  
Berkshire Bach Society Berkshire Bach's Choral Concert  
Berkshire Lyric Theatre, Inc. Educational Programs and Concerts  
Berkshire Pulse Intro to Dance at Morris Elementary  
Berkshire South Regional Community Center Berkshire Ukulele Band & Berkshire Sings!  
Cantilena Chamber Choir Martin Luther King celebration and open sing  
Chesterwood Voices of Poetry - Inside the Studio at Chesterwood  
Community Health Programs Inc. Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary Field Trip  
Great Barrington Public Theater Wet Ink/Bear Tales Series  
IS183 Art School of the Berkshires Professional Development for Lenox Educators: IS18  
John Root A Celebration of Song  
Ken Longstreth Free concert by Jeff Gavioli and his Bad News Jazz  
Marney Schorr Arts in Recovery for Youth (AIRY)  
Mass Audubon Trailside Music Series  
Megan Whilden OLLI Art Show  
MUSIC Dance.edu Hip Hop Around the World!  
Music in Common Amplify Berkshires  
Neil Silberblatt Voices of Poetry - Back at The Mount  
Pied Potter Hamelin Creativity Builds a Better World  
Pittsfield Shakespeare in the Park 2020 Free Summer Production  
Sara Campbell To Indian Territory and Back Again  
Shakespeare & Company 2020 Fall Festival of Shakespeare  
The Stockbridge Sinfonia Inc. Stockbridge Sinfonia 2020 Concert Series  
Trio Candela Festive summer celebration at Reading Park w/ Trio  
WAM Theatre WAM Theatre Season of Events 2020

The Lenox Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

The Lenox Cultural Council is grateful for the Town of Lenox's matching grant which provides us with the opportunity to fund an increased number of programs that foster a rich cultural life for Lenox residents. We are committed to supporting the work of local artists, cultural institutions, schools and groups with a focus on making cultural activities accessible and engaging to all. Visit [www.mass-culture.org/Lenox](http://www.mass-culture.org/Lenox) for further information. Our next grant deadline is mid-October 2020. We welcome all inquiries, ideas, and suggestions. For more information, please contact a council member.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Tracy Gamble, Treasurer  
Erin McNamara, Secretary

Arlene D. Schiff, Chair  
Donna Pignatelli  
Katherine Holt

**REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS**

For the year ending December 31, 2019

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>3684</b>
Democrat	1595
Unenrolled	1717
Republican	341
Libertarian	14
Green-Rainbow	5
American Independent	3
Inter. 3rd Party	3
Pizza Party	2
Socialist	2
Latino-Vote Party 1 United Independent Party	1

<b>2019 Elections</b>	<b>Total Votes Cast</b>
Local May 6, 2019	661

<b>2019 Town Meetings</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Annual May 3, 2018	618
Special November 1, 2018	220

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Kerry L. Sullivan, Town Clerk

## **REPORT OF THE TOWN TREASURER**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

I respectfully submit a detailed description of all revenues as of June 30, 2019

<b>Cash on hand June 30, 2018</b>	<b>\$22,086,926.48</b>
Cash Receipts July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019	44,477,588.31
Cash Payments July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019	- 42,927,666.07

<b>Balance</b>	<b><u>23,636,848.72</u></b>
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### **Funds in Various Banks:**

Checking accounts	3,104,032.82
Liquid investments	10,435,556.42
Term investments	7,485,319.68
Trust funds	2,612,040.80

<b>All Cash Investments as of June 30, 2019</b>	<b><u>23,636,949.72</u></b>
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The Treasurer's Department has the following criteria: to receive receipts and have care and custody of all monies, property and securities of the Town of Lenox; to invest said funds in the best possible way following the guidelines of first Safety, second Liquidity, and third Yield. To negotiate all borrowings, collect financial data necessary for and prepare documents relevant to accurate and current financial planning.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda L. Marra, Treasurer\Collector  
Katherin Y. Phillips, Asst. Treasurer\Collector

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

To the Honorable Board of Selectman and Citizens of Lenox

The primary function of the Assessing Office is the assessment of full and fair market values in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws and regulations, of all real and personal property in Lenox to equitably allocate Lenox's annual tax levy among Lenox taxpayers. We also evaluate any applications for abatement of such property tax. Other duties include administration of motor vehicle excise tax abatement, determination of taxpayer eligibility for statutory exemption from property taxes.

The Town of Lenox offers personal exemptions for the following categories, Blind, Senior, Disabled Veteran, Hardship, Senior Work-off and Low Income CPA exemption. Check with the office to see if you qualify.

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) mandates that every city/town fully update its property assessments each fiscal year to reflect the fair market value. The updated property assessments are submitted to the DOR each fiscal year for their review and approval before Lenox's tax rate can be set by the town's Board of Selectmen.

The Town of Lenox is a quarterly billing community whose Fiscal Year (FY) starts on July 1, and ends on June 30th. The tax bills should arrive on the first day of July, October, January and April and are due within 30 days.

Lenox total assessed valuation in FY2020 was \$1,267,644,810, an increase of 1.51% over the assessed total valuation FY2019.

We added New Growth for FY2020 of \$13,674,730. That translates into \$191,892 of new tax revenue. was \$456,842 compared to FY2018 of \$417,545. That was down from the last two years where we exceeded our average growth rate.

The Board Members remained the same with Tom Romeo as the Chairman of the Board, Paula King as Clerk and member Wayne Lemanski.

Assessed Values and Tax Rates for Fiscal Year 2020 are as follows:

<b>FY2020</b>	<b>Lenox Assessed Values</b>	<b>Tax Rate</b>
Residential	\$1,014,944,441	\$12.10
Commercial	\$206,100,739	\$14.78
Industrial	\$9,502,800	\$14.78
Personal Property	\$ 37,096,830	\$14.78
Lenox Total Value	<u>\$1,267,644,810</u>	
Lenox 2019 Budget	\$29,206,702	
Amount to be raised thru taxation	\$16,015,739	
Exempt Properties	\$159,699,400	
Total # of Taxable Accounts	3,362	

The Assessor's office will be conducting ongoing inspections throughout the town. Inspections are being conducted for permits, sales review, updating photos, and the Department of Revenue requires that we regularly update the records of all properties in town by performing a cyclical review on a 10 year annual basis. Inspectors will have a letter from our office identifying themselves and the purpose of the inspections. They will request permission to inspect the interior and to measure the property. Please feel free to call and to verify if you see someone in your neighborhood, or if someone comes to your door. We will attempt to notify homeowners where inspectors will be working if possible.

Respectfully Submitted

Board of Assessors  
Thomas Romeo, Chairman  
Paula King, Clerk  
Wayne W. Lemanski, Member  
Randall Austin, Administrative Assessor

## REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT

**TOWN OF LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES -  
BUDGETARY BASIS - (NON-GAAP) -  
BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019**

	Budget Amounts				Amounts Carried Forward to Next Year	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Amounts Carried Forward from Prior Year	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual Budgetary Basis		
<b>Revenues:</b>						
Property Taxes	\$ -	\$ 15,517,404	\$ 15,517,404	\$ 15,840,345	\$ -	\$ 322,941
Intergovernmental	-	1,933,709	1,933,709	1,963,417	-	29,708
Excise and Other Taxes	-	655,000	655,000	848,238	-	193,238
Hotel Room Occupancy Taxes	-	1,776,357	1,776,357	2,080,949	-	304,592
Licenses, Permits, Fees	-	432,584	432,584	921,427	-	488,843
Charges for Services-Ambulance	-	495,414	495,414	442,389	-	(53,025)
Interest on Taxes	-	50,000	50,000	133,206	-	83,206
Investment Income	-	60,000	60,000	123,000	-	63,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	-	20,920,468	20,920,468	22,352,971	-	1,432,503
<b>Expenditures:</b>						
Current:						
General Government	599,845	1,569,783	2,199,628	1,667,873	479,311	52,444
Public Safety	899,219	2,286,154	3,185,373	2,801,246	282,961	101,166
Public Works	436,779	1,782,678	3,219,457	1,600,979	1,562,281	56,197
Education	432,810	13,272,915	13,655,725	13,017,725	257,751	380,249
Health and Human Services	-	251,691	251,691	216,457	-	35,234
Culture and Recreation	100	1,068,757	1,068,857	741,494	318,273	9,090
Unallocated Employee Benefits and Insurance	-	1,580,759	1,580,759	1,487,354	-	93,405
Intergovernmental Assessments	-	226,200	226,200	259,191	-	(32,991)
Debt Service:						
Principal	-	280,000	280,000	280,000	-	-
Interest	-	10,000	10,000	7,000	-	3,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	2,368,753	22,328,937	25,677,690	22,079,319	2,900,577	697,794
				22,079,319		
<b>Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures</b>	(2,368,753)	(1,408,469)	(4,757,222)	273,652	(2,900,577)	2,130,297
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses):</b>						
Operating Transfers In	-	-	-	3,950	-	3,950
Operating Transfers Out	-	(275,000)	(325,000)	(327,722)	-	(2,722)
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	-	(275,000)	(325,000)	(323,772)	-	1,228
<b>Net Change in Budgetary Fund Balance</b>	(2,368,753)	(1,683,469)	(5,082,222)	(50,120)	(2,900,577)	2,131,525
<b>Other Budgetary Items:</b>						
Free Cash and Other Reserves	-	1,683,469	2,713,469			
Prior Year Encumbrances	2,368,753	-	2,368,753			
<b>Total Other Budgetary Items</b>	2,368,753	1,683,469	5,082,222			
<b>Net Budget</b>	-	-	-			

## REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT

### TOWN OF LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS STATEMENT OF NET POSITION - PROPRIETARY FUNDS JUNE 30, 2019

	Business-Type Activities Enterprise Funds		
	Sewer Fund	Water Fund	Total
<b>ASSETS</b>			
CURRENT:			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,697,781	\$ 1,869,131	\$ 3,566,912
Investments	660,982	-	660,982
User Charges, net of allowance for uncollectibles	392,557	285,110	677,667
Due from Other Governments	-	15,930	15,930
Total current assets	2,751,320	2,170,171	4,921,491
NONCURRENT:			
Capital Assets, net of accumulated depreciation:			
Nondepreciable	206,993	1,201,397	1,408,390
Depreciable	13,731,925	14,715,782	28,447,707
Total noncurrent assets	13,938,918	15,917,179	29,856,097
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>16,690,238</b>	<b>18,087,350</b>	<b>34,777,588</b>
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>			
Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions	33,464	49,965	83,429
Deferred Outflows Related to OPEB	53,829	69,958	123,787
	87,293	119,923	207,216
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
CURRENT:			
Warrants Payable	101,966	6,079	108,045
Accrued Payroll	7,551	10,576	18,127
Accrued Interest	63,914	18,804	82,718
Bonds Anticipation Notes Payable	50,000	50,000	100,000
Bonds Payable	530,000	625,000	1,155,000
Total current liabilities	753,431	710,459	1,463,890
NONCURRENT:			
Compensated Absences	12,317	1,979	14,296
OPEB Obligation Payable	339,235	440,879	780,114
Net Pension Liability	86,357	128,939	215,296
Bonds Payable	8,010,000	3,440,000	11,450,000
Total noncurrent liabilities	8,447,909	4,011,797	12,459,706
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>9,201,340</b>	<b>4,722,256</b>	<b>13,923,596</b>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>			
Deferred Inflows Related to Pensions	1,198	1,789	2,987
	1,198	1,789	2,987
<b>NET POSITION:</b>			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	5,348,918	11,802,179	17,151,097
Restricted for Capital Projects	1,429,308	801,634	2,230,942
Unrestricted	796,767	879,415	1,676,182
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 7,574,993</b>	<b>\$ 13,483,228</b>	<b>\$ 21,058,221</b>

## **REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT**

### **TOWN OF LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS JUNE 30, 2019**

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Nonmajor Governmental Funds</b>	<b>Total Governmental Funds</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 7,040,616	\$ 4,509,602	\$ 11,550,218
Investments	3,052,122	241,849	3,293,971
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectibles:			
Property Taxes	291,056	5,974	297,030
Tax Liens	240,488	3,875	244,363
Excise Taxes	30,461	-	30,461
Departmental	117,004	-	117,004
Due from Other Governments	38,318	927,492	965,810
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 10,810,065</b>	<b>\$ 5,688,792</b>	<b>\$ 16,498,857</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES:</b>			
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Warrants Payable	\$ 275,555	\$ 3,805	\$ 279,360
Accrued Payroll	1,274,016	32,699	1,306,715
Employee Withholdings	252,949	-	252,949
Other	20,286		20,286
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,822,806</b>	<b>36,504</b>	<b>1,859,310</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources- Unavailable Revenue</b>	<b>616,867</b>	<b>569,715</b>	<b>1,186,582</b>
<b>Fund Balance:</b>			
Nonspendable	-	239,598	239,598
Restricted	-	4,842,975	4,842,975
Committed	2,477,605	-	2,477,605
Assigned	1,483,052	-	1,483,052
Unassigned	4,409,735	-	4,409,735
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>8,370,392</b>	<b>5,082,573</b>	<b>13,452,965</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 10,810,065</b>	<b>\$ 5,688,792</b>	<b>\$ 16,498,857</b>

## **REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

To the Honorable Board of Selectman and Citizens of Lenox:

The nine members of the Lenox Finance Committee meet on a regular basis to review financial issues facing the town. As stated in Mass DOR's Guide to Financial Management for Town Officials, "The finance committee is the official fiscal watchdog for a town. Because it is difficult for all taxpayers to be completely informed about every aspect of a town's finances, finance committees were established so a representative group of taxpayers could conduct a thorough review of municipal finance questions on behalf of all citizens."

Town finance priorities continue to be:

- Reducing unnecessary operating expenses so property taxes remain affordable. We review and question all department budgets with Town Manager and department heads to help insure funds are spent wisely.
- Maintaining appropriate investment levels for financing our retiree health and pension obligations (frequently referred to as OPEB – Other Post-Employment Benefits). We work with Town Manager and Town Accountant to find ways to boost OPEB balances and work toward maintaining a stable level for this contingent liability.
- Making sure there are funds in place for required infrastructure and capital expenses. Our Town's beauty and attractiveness to all is important. Roadways need to be maintained and the Town infrastructure needs to stay current with state and federal codes. We are grateful to the Town Manager and department heads for their careful budget preparation and effective cost management. We also thank the Selectman for their continued dedication to the well being of our town.

Respectively Submitted:

Elliott Morss, Chairperson  
Mark McKenna, Secretary  
Scott Pignatelli  
David Neubert  
Vytas Barsauskas  
Joseph Nejaime  
Kristine Cass  
Joan Bruno  
Michael Feder

## **REPORT OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY**

To The Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

The Lenox Housing Authority had 15 vacancies, 14 elderly and 1 family unit in 2019. They are now occupied. We were able to provide housing for a number of people who lived or worked in Lenox under the "Local Preference". We encourage anyone interested in housing to stop by our office at 6 Main St. or call us at 413-537-5585 for information on eligibility and to obtain an application. You can Also apply on line at [publichousingapplication.ocd.state.ma.us](http://publichousingapplication.ocd.state.ma.us). Visit our brand new website designed by Shannon Cella, administrative assistant at [www.lenoxhousingauthority.com](http://www.lenoxhousingauthority.com). Current net income guidelines apply; Criminal Offense Records and references are investigated.

After 20 years as maintenance mechanic with the Lenox Housing Authority, Pat Boyne retired in August. He was a jack of all trades and a familiar face to all the tenants. He is missed and we wish him all the best in his retirement. Mike Sullivan replaced Pat as the maintenance mechanic. Mike started in July after twelve years as maintenance director of the Lenox Community Center. He is a great fit for this position. He's experienced, hard working and very personable with the tenants.

The State Capital Planning System continues to fund scheduled projects for the authority in order to be proactive with the maintenance of our properties. Complete roof replacement was done at Turnure Terrace this past fall at the cost of \$172,736.

Another project completed in 2019 was new carpeting installation in the Commercial hallway at the cost of \$10,679.

A special thank you to our Lenox Firefighters, Lenox Police Officers, and Lenox Emergency Response Personnel, for keeping our residents and properties safe and secure every day.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Heaphy, Executive Director  
Linda Messana, Chairman  
Catherine May, Vice Chairman/State Appointee  
Diana Kirby, Treasurer  
Tess Sorrentino, Member

## **TRI-TOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

I hereby submit my annual report for the fiscal year 2019.

**Following is a summary of our Public Health Prevention programs:**

**Title 5 On-Site Wastewater Disposal:** In Fiscal Year 2019, we experienced consistent growth in septic systems inspections and permits from the previous year. Due to online permitting, we have been able to fast track a large portion on the applications in order to meet the high-level demand of septic related activities.

**Food Service Sanitation Program:** The required mandate food service inspections are in full compliance with state standards. We continue to see an uptick in the amount of permits/inspections for special events.

**Pool & Spa/Public/Semi Public Beaches:** Health Inspectors are assigned the task of inspecting, sampling and monitoring public, semi-public pools/spas and bathing beaches. Although somewhat challenging to seasonal businesses, regulation requirements are mandated for all public and semi-public beaches to be permitted by the Board of Health.

**Tobacco Awareness Program:** The Tobacco Awareness Program was very busy in FY19. The boards of health amended regulations to restrict flavor tobacco products and soon after the Governor passed a comprehensive tobacco bill. We continue to support other boards of health in the county to ensure tobacco compliance is met.

**Tobacco Retailer Training Program:** The Tri-Town Tobacco Retailer certification program continues to be a success. We have continued to see reductions in store fine and suspensions due to ongoing training of store employees. In FY19, 371 vouchers were sold, and 249 clerks were trained. For more information on the Retailer certification program, please visit [www.tritownhealth.org](http://www.tritownhealth.org).

**Be Well Berkshires/Mass in Motion Grant:** Health/Wellness Coordinator(s), Amanda Chilson and Morgan Ovitzky are working diligently with the communities and focusing efforts on community accessibility/walkability, promoting the healthier dining program, supporting the schools on the new nutrition regulations, promoting the safe routes to school program, and working with town planners on complete streets. We continue to receive funding from MDPH to deliver these programs.

### **Administration:**

In fiscal year 2019 we hired Jason Dragonetti as the 2nd District Health inspector. Jason brings several years' experience from the food industry.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge Boards of Health for their continued support and assistance and the Tri-Town Health Department staff, and volunteers for their dedication and public service in providing essential public health prevention programs to the communities we serve.

## *Town Of Lenox Annual Report 2019*

Permits Issued: (Lenox only)

<b>Permit Type</b>	<b>Issued</b>
Bakery	8
Beach	1
Biological Waste	1
Catering	13
Disposal Works Construction	16
Disposal Works Installer	14
Emergency Beaver Trapping Permits	2
Food Service	113
Frozen Dessert	9
Garbage Hauler	6
Milk/Cream Dealer	2
Milk/Cream Store	11
Milk/Cream Vehicle	0
Mobile Food	5
Motel/Hotel/Cabin/Trailer	13
Pool	40
Pasteurization	0
Rec. Children's Camp	5
Retail Food	34
Septage Hauler	10
Special Event Food Permit	65
Tanning Establishment	0
Tobacco	9
Well Permit	1

### **Inspections: Water Testing:**

Children's Camps:	6
Ice Sampling	144
Food Service/Retail:	269
Pool & Hot Tub Testing:	313
Housing Inspections/Reinspection	22
Quality Control:	23
Misc. Complaints/Nuisances:	22
Water Testing Performed- Beaches:	23
Percolation Test Witness:	11
Well Sampling	1
Pool & Hot Tub Inspections:	43
Special Events:	39
T5 Witness:	16

### **Budget Revenue Information Fiscal 2019**

<b>Total Budget:</b>	<b>\$158,745.08</b>
<b>Revenue generated:</b>	<b>\$90,071.04</b>

### **Breakdown:**

Permits	\$64,193.67
Water Testing	\$16,419.12
Septic	\$7,428.25
Misc.	\$2,030.00

Respectfully submitted,

James J. Wilusz, R.S., Executive Director/Registered Sanitarian

## **REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD**

Tom Delasco (vice chair)	May 2023
James Harwood	May 2024
Pam Kueber (chair)	May 2021
Kathleen McNulty-Vaughan	May 2022
Kameron Spaulding	May 2020

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of Lenox:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide an update on the activities of the Planning Board over the past year.

### **ROLE**

The Planning Board's principal ongoing role is to develop land-use regulations and plans that address Town needs, taking care to balance individual liberties and the welfare of the community as a whole. The Board researches, writes and amends our Zoning Bylaws. It may review Special Permit projects and provide input on bylaw requirements to the Zoning Board of Appeals related to site plan characteristics and accordance with the Master Plan and other community plans. The Planning Board is the Special Permit Granting Authority for Open Space Flexible Developments and Subdivisions. And, it takes the lead in developing and monitoring progress of the Town's Master Plan, which guides the long-term physical development of the Town and supports decision-making at board, committee and staff levels.

### **BYLAWS ADOPTED IN MAY 2019 and NOVEMBER 2019**

New or revised Zoning Bylaws require a two-thirds vote at a Town Meeting. The following Zoning Bylaws were considered and acted upon by voters at the Town Meeting in May 2019 and the Special Town Meeting in November 2019:

- **Adult-Use Marijuana** -- Voters agreed to amend the Lenox Zoning Bylaw to allow for the location of adult marijuana businesses along the Route 7/20 Corridor and in Lenox Dale subject to a Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals, place a limit on the number of marijuana retail establishments in Lenox, and locate all marijuana uses into one section of Section 5.2, "Schedule of Uses" in the Lenox Zoning Bylaw by deleting the existing Section 8.14, "Temporary Moratorium on the Sale and Distribution of Recreational Marijuana," and replacing it with a new Section 8.13, "Adult Use of Marijuana." (May 2019)
- **Citizen Petition on Adult-Use Marijuana** -- A Citizen Petition to prohibit within the Town of Lenox the operation of Recreational Marijuana Businesses (but not including Medical Marijuana) was rejected by voters. (May 2019)
- **Citizen Petition on Short-Term Rentals** -- A Citizen Petition, Short-Term Rentals Zoning Bylaw for Inclusion in the Lenox Zoning Bylaw, was withdrawn by the petitioners. (May 2019)
- **Short-Term Rentals** -- Voters approved amending the Zoning Bylaw to regulate the Short-Term Rental of Rooms and the Short-Term Rental of Entire Dwellings by repealing Section 8.8.1 and replacing it with the Section 8.4 Short-Term Rental of Residential Property, inserting new definitions in alphabetical order into Section 4, "Definitions," of existing Zoning Bylaw, amending and replacing location of lodging uses, and amending the "Schedule of Uses." (November 2019)

## **LENOX MASTER PLAN**

Work on the first update to the Town's Master Plan since 1999 was under way throughout 2019 and is continuing into 2020. Guided by state law, the Master Plan will include detailed goals, looking out approximately 10 years, for seven key areas: Land Use; Housing; Economic Development; Historic and Cultural Resources; Natural Resources, Open Space and Recreation; Services and Facilities, and Transportation and Circulation. The work is being led by a Steering Committee representing a cross-section of community interests that meets monthly: Many thanks to members Marybeth Mitts (Board of Selectmen and Affordable Housing Trust); Rob Murray (Chamber of Commerce); Suky Werman (Environmental Committee); Elliott Morss (Finance Committee); Olga Weiss (Historical Commission); Julie Monteleone and Isabella Williams (LMMHS); Pam Kueber and Kate McNulty-Vaughan (Planning Board); and Allyn Burrows and Adam Davis (Shakespeare & Co., representing Cultural Anchors). Thanks also to Steering Committee alternates and to the community members and Town staff who participated as part of Core Assessment Teams to gather initial analysis for each chapter, to Town Planner Gwen Miller, to Land Use Assistant Jessica Cote, and to our consultants at the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for their continued hard work and support. Next steps for the Master Plan include taking the initial analytical work of the Steering Committee and Core Assessment Teams to Lenox citizens for their input, so that the Plan can be finalized to ensure it reflects broad community consensus. Work on the Master Plan to a successful completion will be a principal focus for the Planning Board throughout 2020. The Planning Board also is acting as Core Assessment Team for the Land Use Chapter. We are using this opportunity to analyze literally dozens of suggestions received over the past several years to prioritize those that can make the biggest impact for the Town and put them in front of citizens for discussion, input, and consensus.

## **BYLAW REVIEWS CURRENTLY UNDER WAY**

The Planning Board is currently working on amendments to the following Zoning Bylaws:

- **Signs:** Our thanks to Jim Biancolo, Ariel Smith, and Mark Smith, who are continuing to re-work our sign bylaw. Emphasis of the new bylaw is being placed on contributing positively to the Town's character while meeting the real-world needs of businesses and providing clear regulations that allow for identification and advertising. Our goal is to make it easier for business owners and residents to understand the sign requirements for each district and what town approvals must be obtained in applying for sign permits. The Planning Board will work with this team on a final proposal to bring to voters.
- **Outdated bylaws:** The Board sought grant funding from the state's District Local Technical Assistance program for the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) to assist us with work to amend three existing bylaws that are outdated or otherwise need attention. We received the BRPC's analysis and recommendations in 2019, and our Town Planner is now assessing these to propose next steps for the Planning Board:
- o **Wireless Telecommunications Overlay District** -- Lenox lacks consistent wireless coverage, yet existing zoning heavily limits where new wireless technology in its various forms can be located: Review existing language and update it to reflect new technology and to be compatible with new or pending federal law.
- o **Educational and Religious Uses** -- Lenox has special zoning requirements for typically exempt educational and religious uses: Review the existing language and identify necessary changes to be made to ensure the regulations are consistent with federal and state law.
- o **Agricultural Use, nonexempt and Agricultural Uses** -- A zoning bylaw consultant identified a problematic issue with the way agricultural uses are regulated in the Schedule of Uses: Review and identify necessary changes to ensure our regulations are consistent with federal and state law.

## *Town Of Lenox Annual Report 2019*

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

**Approval Not Required Reviews:** The Board reviewed and endorsed five Approval Not Required (Form A) plans in 2019. Such plans pertain to by-right divisions of land not otherwise governed by the Town's Subdivision Control Bylaw.

### **OTHER BOARD AND COMMITTEE WORK**

In our official capacity and affiliated interests, Planning Board members also serve on other boards or committees in the Town and County:

- Tom Delasco -- Member of the Lenox Community Preservation Committee since 2013 and member of the Permanent Building Committee since 2017.
- James Harwood -- Town's Delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission since May 2019.
- Pam Kueber -- Town's Delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission from 2016-May 2019 and member of the Land Management Committee since May 2019.
- Kate McNulty-Vaughan -- Member of the Affordable Housing Committee since 2009 and the Lenox Housing Trust since 2009.
- Kameron Spaulding -- Member of the Historic District Commission since 2015.

### **RECOGNITION**

We are very grateful for the leadership and support provided to our Board by Land Use Director and Town Planner Gwen Miller, AICP; Jessica Cote, Land Use Clerk, and Selectman Neal Maxymillian, our liaison with the Select Board. We also sincerely appreciate all the citizens who come to our meetings and forums and contact us to weigh in on issues under consideration or to call issues to our attention.

### **WEBSITE**

Planning Board agendas, minutes, topical materials and more are available on the Town's new updated website, at [townoflenox.com/planning-board](http://townoflenox.com/planning-board)

Respectfully submitted,

The Lenox Planning Board

## **REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

The Conservation Commission is composed of seven volunteer members appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The Commission administers and enforces the state Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) and the Scenic Mountain Act (SMA). In that capacity, the Commission processes applications to perform work in and near the wetlands, flood plains, rivers, banks, surface waters, other resource areas and the mountain regions. The intent of the WPA is to control activities that involve filling, excavating, or otherwise altering wetlands that can impair their many valuable functions. The intent of the SMA is to protect watershed resources and preserve the natural scenic qualities of the mountain region.

Under the Wetland Protect Act, the Commission processed five Notices of Intent and eleven Requests for Determination of Applicability this year. Each application requires a public hearing or public meeting, review of plans, a site visit and an Order of Conditions or Determination of Applicability. One Certificate of Compliance was issued. Certificates are issued after the Commission conducts site visits to assure adherence to the Orders of Conditions. The Commission had fourteen meetings over the course of the year.

There were no filings under the SMA.

Site visits are also conducted in some cases of new construction or demolition to ensure proper clearance from identified wetlands, prior to the issuance of Certificates of Compliance and in response to questions raised by concerned citizens. During the year the Commission conducted over fifteen such site visits.

Additionally, the Commission managed four conservation properties.

The Conservation Commission meets on the first and thrid Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall in the Land Use Meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal Carpenter, Chairman  
Vince Ammendola  
Rosemary Fitzgerald Casey  
Richard Ferren  
David Lane  
Joseph Strauch  
Mark Smith

## **REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

To the Honorable Board of selectmen and the Citizens of Lenox:

The Community Preservation Committee administers the Community Preservation Act, vetting applications for awards from applicants and recommending projects to Town Meeting.

The Committee is composed of the following community members:

- Anthony Patella, Chair (Lenox Community Center)
- Tom Delasco, Vice Chair (Planning Board)
- Frederick Keator, (At Large)
- Catherine May, (Lenox Housing Authority)
- Olga Weiss (Lenox Historical Commission)
- Mark Smith (Conservation Commission)
- Chuck Koscher (At Large)
- Max Scherff (At Large)
- Neal Maxymillian (formerly Channing Gibson)(Board of Selectmen)

In 2019, the Community Preservation Committee reviewed and recommended six (6) projects to Town Meeting. These projects were:

### **Mass Audubon Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary Historic Barn Improvement: \$300,000**

This project entails renovating the 18th century barn at Pleasant Valley to include ADA compliant, family-friendly restrooms and improve other facilities such as the kitchen and HVAC system to enhance program and event capacity.

### **Berkshire Natural Resource Council (BNRC) North Yokun Ridge Trail Improvements: \$50,000**

BNRC rerouted trail a degraded portion of the North Yokun Ridge Trail to better connect Bousquet Mountain, BNRC's Mahanna Cobble, Olivia's Overlook, Mass Audubon's pleasant Valley Sanctuary, trails in the Lenox watershed and the Town's Kennedy Park. This trail work is better for hikers and for the mountain ecology. Ultimately it will be a segment of the county length High Road trail.

### **Frelinghuysen Morris House and Studio Restoration Work: \$25,000**

This project included restoration work to Patio 4 on the historic building listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a continuation of work begun and completed in 2018 and also funded in part by the Community Preservation Act.

Land Use Director/Town Planner Gwen Miller, AICP provides staff support.

Respectfully submitted,

The Lenox Community Preservation Committee

## **REPORT OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

The Lenox Historic District, located in an area bordered by Franklin, Church and parts of Main and Walker Streets, was established by the Town in 1975 to preserve and protect buildings and spaces significant in the history and architecture of the village of Lenox. The Historic District is administered by the Historic District Commission, a five member oversight board appointed by the Board of Selectmen which applies rules and regulations to protect the district from alteration and development that might compromise its aesthetic integrity or diminish its historic value.

The District is characterized by a variety of streetscapes made up of buildings of many different types, styles or designs, sizes, and settings. Its architecture reflects a range of historical developments, from the early period of Lenox as the county seat through the Gilded Age with its “summer cottages” and attendant residential and commercial architecture, to the late 1930s when Tanglewood furthered Lenox’s reputation as a cultural destination. The result is a District that is characterized by its diversity, not its uniformity.

Alterations to each building must be respectful of that building’s contribution to the District overall. The District’s architecturally and historically significant buildings were constructed by 1923. Maintaining the integrity of buildings dating up to this period is, therefore, a major goal of the District.

During 2019, the Historic District Commission received five applications. The applications were for remodeling, renovations, window replacement and a pavilion addition to Lilac Park.

Jason Berger continues to be the Commission’s liaison to the Building Department in order for better communication between the two. The Building Commissioner, as the Zoning Enforcement Officer, enforces the Historic District Bylaw.

Cindy Farkus was appointed in May as the newest member of the Commission.

The Historic District Commission meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall in the Land Use Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Berger, Chairman  
Ken Fowler  
Kameron Spaulding  
Pat Jaouen  
Cindy Farkus

## **REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR**

**B.J. Church**  
**Building Commissioner**

**Denene Pelkey**  
**Building Inspection Administrative Assistant**

To the honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

The purpose of the Office of the Building Inspector is to provide accurate and consistent plan review, ensure the timely issuance of permits and inspections, provide uniform code enforcement, and serve the customer in an objective and helpful manner, while exercising reasonable judgement and assuring compliance with the Massachusetts State Building Code, Massachusetts General Laws, and the Lenox Zoning Bylaws as they all pertain to projects in Lenox.

I am pleased to present the following written report as required by 780 CMR, the Massachusetts State Building Code, article 1 section 108.0 fully detailing the activities of the department including the number of building permits issued and the duties and services rendered for the preceding calendar year.

Listed below, for your review, is a summary of permits issued for FY19 and the associated permit fee.

<b>Type of Permit</b>	<b>Number Issued</b>	<b>Total Permit Fees</b>
Residential	204	
Commercial	161	
Sheet Metal	15	
Sign Permit	7	
Tent Permit	19	
Trench	33	
Solid Fuel Appliance	4	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>\$447,788</b>

The vast majority of permits issued this year were for renovations to existing structures, both residential and commercial. Included in the total were many projects designed to enhance the energy efficiency of existing residential dwellings and commercial buildings.

As building officials, we are required to periodically inspect existing buildings and structures, and parts thereof, in accordance with Chapter 1, section 110 of Massachusetts State Building Code. Periodic inspections were made this year at schools public and private, churches, restaurants, hotels, motels, lodging facilities, apartment buildings, nursing home, assisted living facilities, theaters and day care centers. The Building Inspection Department performed 197 of these periodic life-safety inspections and issued the required Certificate of Inspection.

Lenox continues to use Permiteyes online permitting program, provided by Fullcircle Technologies, Inc. for building, electric, plumbing and gas permits. The online permitting program continues to provide an efficient process for user and inspector, alike, allowing time for building inspectors to expand the required periodic inspections to uses and buildings which have not previously been

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covered. This Department has combined the Lee and Lenox inspectional services and continues to improve on providing quality service.

Leadership of the Inspections Department continues with B.J. Church as the Building Commissioner for Lenox and Lee. Denene Pelkey continues on as the Inspections Department Administrative Assistant. While the office base has shifted to Lee Town Hall, we are happy to schedule meetings at Lenox Town Hall at your convenience.

I would like to thank Jeff Clemons for his dedication during his time with Lenox & Lee Building Department and would like to wish him well as the new Pittsfield Building Commissioner.

I would like to also thank the Town Hall Staff, all town Boards and Committees, the Citizens of Lenox, and all contractors for their assistance and cooperation during the past year.

Respectfully Submitted,

B.J. Church  
Building Commissioner

## **REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF WIRING**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

Below, for your review, is the annual report of the Electrical Inspector for the 2019 calendar year.

During the year a total of 277 permits were issued and 613 inspections were made. This represents an increase of 60 permits and an increase of 162 inspections from the 2018 calendar year. As in previous years, the amount of time spent on inspections continues to increase due to the large scale and complexity of some of the projects. The majority of inspections in 2019 were done at Cranwell (now known as Miraval at Cranwell) where eleven new buildings were constructed and wired and nine current buildings were remodeled and rewired.

In addition to the amount of time spent at Miraval, inspections were also made for additions to buildings and remodeling projects, new building construction, swimming pools, tent lighting, new sign installations, home and business solar arrays, fire calls and water damage, oil burner, generator and security system installations and other major and minor wiring projects.

I would like to thank all area electricians for their cooperation during 2019. I would also like to thank Scott Pignatelli and Bill Roche for covering electrical inspections in my absence.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Pensivy, Sr.  
Electrical Inspector

## **REPORT OF THE PLUMBING INSPECTOR**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

This is my report of the Plumbing Inspector for the year 2019. 129 plumbing permits were issued and inspections were made. A major amount of the inspections were at the Cranwell-Miraval project, which will be completed this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark J. Smith  
Plumbing Inspector

## **REPORT OF THE GAS INSPECTOR**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

This is my report of the Gas Inspector for the year 2019. 146 gas permits were issued and inspections were made. Inspections were also made for Berkshire Gas Company tag warnings. I am attending continuing education for Massachusetts Gas Inspectors. I would like to thank assistant gas inspector Ronald Paul and all area plumbers and gas fitters for their cooperation.

Respectfully submitted

Mark J. Smith  
Gas Inspector

## **REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

William J. Gop, Superintendent of Public Works • Beth Carroll, Office Manager

Jeffrey A. Carpenter, Operator / Snowplow Coordinator • R. Scott Jarvis, Assistant Superintendent

Daniel T. Kirby, Cemetery Foreman • Paul Vallee, Mechanic

Christopher Prew, Laborer/ Truck Driver • Scott Forbes, Laborer

Patrick Reagan, Water Treatment Plant Operator • Jeffrey L. White, Wastewater Plant Foreman

Robert Horn, Water Department Superintendent • Scott Winslow, Wastewater Plant Operator

TJ Smachetti, Laborer / Truck Driver

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

The mission of the Department of Public Works is to maintain and improve the Town's infrastructure: roads, water and wastewater treatment systems, water distribution system, wastewater collection system, stormwater collection system, parks, and cemeteries. The daily responsibilities of water treatment, wastewater treatment, water and wastewater utility billing system, street maintenance and repair, snow and ice removal, cemetery maintenance and burials, mowing, brush cutting, tree removal, drain cleaning, trash collection, pavement markings and signage are accomplished by a dedicated staff of thirteen whose combined efforts maintain the Lenox roads, infrastructure and its beautiful landscape.

There were fifty-one snow and fifteen ice events in the winter of 2018/2019 requiring responses to treat the Town roads and sidewalks. The events totaled 80 inches of snow.

The Water Division continues to leverage grant funding to help improve the Town's drinking water production and supply. The Department will continue to look for ways to reduce and conserve energy, while also saving the Town money.

The Lenox Water Treatment plant produced 217,865,900 gallons of water this year. Due to abundant rainfall, Lenox did not need to source any water from neighboring towns. Water mains were replaced on sections of West Mountain Road and Walker Street. The Town added one new connection to our system, and replaced/installed 6 new fire hydrants. 415 back flow tests were performed. 33 water meters and 23 water meter radios were replaced. 22 water leaks were repaired, varying from water main breaks to water service line repairs.

Quality drinking water is one of Lenox's most important resources. Lenox needs to continue planning for additional sources of water, and take measures that help to ensure the high quality of water the residents come to expect. One source of additional water that Lenox has relied on for many years is the City of Pittsfield. Through an interconnection with Pittsfield, Lenox can take a daily average of 212,500 gpd and a peak of 430,000 gpd. That amount is about 35% of daily consumption in high use periods of the year. Lenox only uses Pittsfield water when demand exceeds our treatment plant's peak capacity of 1.1 million gallons per day or when we have an insufficient capacity in our own reservoirs. In addition to adding new sources of water, an equally important component of providing an adequate supply is conservation. Water is a limited resource and the conservation and protection of existing sources needs to be a part of any municipal water system plan. Everyone needs to be aware of his or her water consumption and take steps to minimize it. Make sure your home or business is leak free. Check your water meter when you are certain that no water is being used. If the meter reading changes, you have a leak. Repair dripping faucets. One drop per second wastes 2,700 gallons of water per year. Take shorter showers. Operate dishwashers and clothes washers only when they are fully loaded or set to the appropriate water level for the size of the load. Driveways and sidewalks should be cleaned by sweeping, not washing. Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water. If you wash your own car, park on the grass and use a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle. Never pour water down the drain when there is another use for it. Use it to water indoor plants or your garden. Every little bit helps and it will save you money.

The much anticipated, EPA NPDES permit has arrived. The Town has currently been waiting since 2007 for this permit. Now that we have this information we must design and build a new wastewater treatment facility. We will be working with the Permanent Building Committee to hire a firm to design and construct this new facility. We anticipate the new facility to be up and running within 5 years.

The Wastewater Division continues to look for ways to improve the collection system and how to treat the wastewater in the most effective and efficient way. We have mapped, monitored and inspected large sections of our collection system to help locate trouble areas in the hopes of reducing the inflow of ground water. Total wastewater flow collected at the Crystal Street Treatment Plant was 237,855,000 gallons for an average 651,657 gallons per day (gpd) out of a capacity of 1,190,000 gpd. Total wastewater flow pumped to the City of Pittsfield wastewater treatment plant from North Lenox was 58,252,232 gallons and an average of 160,034 gpd.

Wastewater flows will continue to increase as the town grows and as the system ages. Just as the conservation of drinking water can be a big factor in maintaining an adequate supply of quality drinking water and controlling costs, conservation can be a big factor in minimizing the amount of wastewater we have to treat resulting in cost savings for all system users. Sump pumps, floor drains, roof gutters, and leaking joints in pipes added an average of 214,360 gallons per day of otherwise clean water to the Crystal Street Wastewater Treatment Plant collection system during the past year. Once it is in the collection system it has to be treated along with the rest of the wastewater. Making sure your sump pump, floor drain, or roof gutters do not discharge into your sewer pipe will significantly reduce the amount of wastewater we have to treat. Replace service pipes when it is determined they have defective joints. Fix leaking toilets and faucets. Take shorter showers. Operate dishwashers and clothes washers only when they are fully loaded or set the water level for the appropriate size of the load. If everyone contributes to some reduction in wastewater flow, we can conserve resources and save money at the same time.

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The Cemetery Division performed 20 burials, at Mt. View Cemetery, New Lenox Cemetery, and Church on the Hill Cemetery. The burial records of the three Town cemeteries can be found on the Town's website, [www.townoflenox.com](http://www.townoflenox.com). Click on Town Departments, Department of Public Works, Cemetery Division.

During 2019, residents made 496 deliveries of leaves, brush and grass clippings to the Town's yard waste collection site located at the Crystal St. Wastewater Treatment Plant. The site was open sixteen Saturdays throughout the year. We encourage residents to make use of this service for disposal of leaves, grass clippings, small limbs, and Christmas trees.

Both the Water and Wastewater Divisions are "Enterprise Funds" which means they are designed to operate on funds received from rates and fees. A Cemetery fee schedule is also available.

The Department would like to give its best wishes to two of our members that have retired in the last year. Paul Mahoney and Jim Roche. They have served the Town well during their time with the department and we will truly miss having them as a part of the team. We wish them the best in their future endeavors.

I would like to say thank you to all Town Boards, Officers, and Departments for their continued collaboration and support of the Department. Especially, I would like to thank the employees at the DPW for their tireless work and dedication to the Town. I believe you can see their dedication throughout Town. I'd also like to thank their families for supporting them, especially during long work days and nights.

On behalf of the Department I would also like to thank the residents of Lenox. We recognize how fortunate we are to work and serve every day in this community. Working alongside all of you, the Department of Public Works will continue to fulfill its mission to maintain and improve the Town of Lenox and its infrastructure.

Respectfully Submitted,

William J. Gop  
Superintendent of Public Works

## **REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Stephen E. O'Brien, Chief of Police

Paul A. Duval, Officer                      Corey F. Demary, Officer                      William C. Colvin, Officer, SRO  
B. Jacob Stringer, Officer, SOR      Michael T. Smith, Officer, SRT                      Joseph A. Kennedy, Officer  
Eric R. Kirby, Officer                      Marjorie J. Pero, Administrative Assistant  
Tyler W. Bosworth, Officer, Investigator

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

The above-listed police personnel represents the current compliment of the full-time officers of the department. Without their determination to serve the public through community policing we could not provide the services that we do. I personally thank each of them for their steadfast dedication and quiet professionalism.

The police department would not operate as well as it does without the able assistance of our part-time workers. My thanks to the Reserve Officers, the Traffic Officers, and Marge Pero for their continued devotion to serving the public.

In 2019 we saw a decrease in all types of arrests and a decrease in the total number of offenses committed as compared to 2018. We also handled fewer felonious criminal activities than in 2018. This is reflected in the case activity statistics reported below. This is the third year in a row that we have seen a decrease in our physical custodies and in felony crimes. This year non-crime related incidents increased 14% from 2018. In 2019 we also investigated 133 motor vehicle crashes with injuries ranging from fatalities to none at all. These statistics represent only a small number of specific events and do not totally comprise the 13,684 calls for service which were skillfully handled by the members of this department in 2019.

2019 offered several changes to the department as a whole. Officer Timothy Sheehan began his retirement. Officer Sheehan is an almost 40-year veteran of the department, consummate professional, and hard worker. Officer Sean Ward also retired after 20 years of service to our town. Peggy Ammendola, our devoted Administrative Assistant, also entered into retirement and recently became a first-time grandmother! We would like to wish the three of them a happy, healthy and rewarding retirement. These openings have created an opportunity to bring on officers with new perspectives and abilities to keep our department moving forward. Nationwide recruitment for policing has become a challenge and we will continue to put forth our best efforts to obtain the highest quality police officers.

As always, it is our goal to attempt to prevent crime, to protect the public, and to serve the residents and visitors in our community. We will continue to look to the members of our public to assist us in many different ways. The Lenox Police Department is appreciative of the overwhelming support that we receive from the Board of Selectmen, the Town Manager and the citizens of Lenox.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen E. O'Brien  
Chief of Police

### **CASE ACTIVITY STATISTICS**

Total Offenses Committed:	291
Total Felonies:	65
Total Crime Related Incidents:	102
Total Non Crime Related Incidents:	129
Total Arrests On View:	28
Total Arrests Based on Warrants:	9
Total Summons Arrests:	85
Total Arrests:	122
Total Juvenile Arrests:	7

## **REPORT OF THE LENOX FIRE DEPARTMENT**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

It is with great pride in this Department that I submit my 2019 Annual Report. The mission of the Lenox Fire Department is to protect the lives and property of those within the town by providing public safety education, performing fire safety inspections and providing emergency response services.

### **Requests for service-**

The Lenox Fire Department responded to 1978 requests for assistance during 2019.

329 fire alarms, 26 fires, 92 service calls, 219 rescues, 63 hazardous conditions, 1218 medical calls and 31 good intent calls (odor of smoke, steam believed to be smoke, etc.).

### **Stations and Equipment-**

The Lenox Fire Department currently operates out of three fire stations that are strategically located throughout the town. This is done to reduce response times and allows us to better serve the citizens of the Town of Lenox. Our average response time (time of dispatch to time on scene of the incident) during 2018 was 4 minutes.

The Central Fire Station, built in 1910, is located at 14 Walker Street and serves as the department's headquarters and administrative offices. Equipment housed in the Central Station is Engine 1, a 2011 Seagrave Marauder II Rescue Pumper and Truck 5, a 1996 Darley – Quint (75-foot aerial ladder truck & pumper).

The Lenox Dale Fire Station, built in 1936, is located at 26 Elm Street and houses Engine 6 a 2008 Seagrave Marauder II pumper. Engine 62 a 1985 Pierce Arrow, reserve pumper and ISU-1 a 2007 Incident Support Trailer

The New Lenox Fire Station, built in 1962, is located at 399 Pittsfield Road and houses Engine 3 a 2018 Seagrave Marauder II, Truck 7 a 1999 Ford Brush Truck, Marine 1 a 19-foot, 5 horsepower rescue boat, Brush 1 a 2003 Honda, All Terrain Vehicle and Brush 2 a 2016 Polaris side by side UTV.

### **Training-**

Throughout the year the Fire Department conducted weekly training to stay proficient in all aspects of fire suppression, rescue techniques and property preservation as well as State mandated training in Hazardous Materials, First Aid, Fire Investigation and Incident Management. This training was conducted both in house and with the Massachusetts Fire Academy. The Lenox Fire Department now has four members assigned to the Western Mass Technical Rescue Team which trains and responds to incident requiring training in high angle rope rescue, confined space rescue, trench rescue and building collapse and two members were assigned to the Western Massachusetts Hazardous Materials Team which operates out of the Pittsfield Fire Department Headquarters.

### **Fire Department Personnel-**

The Lenox Fire Department is currently made up of a Full Time Chief, 8 Career Firefighter/EMT's, 8 Part-time Relief Firefighter/EMT's and 34 Volunteer Firefighters. Our paid staff works out of the Central Fire Station and provides for two on duty FF/EMT's 24 hours a day seven days a week coverage.

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### **Career Firefighter / EMT's**

Christofer P. O'Brien, Chief  
Dan Piretti, Captain  
Joshua Romeo, FF/Paramedic

Jason Saunders, Deputy Chief  
Larry Morse, FF/Paramedic  
Dakota Schaefer, FF/Paramedic

Robert Casucci, Deputy Chief  
Matthew Williams, FF/Paramedic  
Cameron Sibley, FF/EMT

### **Relief Firefighter / EMT's**

Mike Zinchuk, Lieutenant  
Stephen Quinn, FF/EMT  
Aurelien Telle, FF/EMT

Christopher Prew, Lieutenant  
Bob Gaughran, FF/EMT  
William Hunt, FF/EMT

Matt Tyer, FF/Paramedic  
Jackson Reis, FF/EMT

### **Call / Volunteer Firefighters**

Richard Armstrong, Firefighter  
Matthew Bradbury, Firefighter  
Steve Coon, Firefighter  
Paul Duma, Firefighter  
Chris Garrity, Firefighter  
Andrew Lane, Firefighter  
Mike Leahey, Firefighter  
Jake Maturevich, Firefighter  
Steve Omelenchuck, Firefighter  
John Ramos, Firefighter  
Dan Sheehan, Firefighter  
Jim Terry, Captain

Matteo Berger Firefighter  
Elio Casucci, Firefighter  
Max Dolan, Firefighter  
Scott Forbes, Lieutenant  
Bill Gop, Firefighter  
Matt Lane, Firefighter  
Jeff Lynch, Firefighter  
Jordan Meyer, Firefighter  
Jim Prew, Firefighter  
Ben Rivest, Firefighter  
TJ Smachetti, Firefighter  
Orlando Duque Firefighter

Casey Blair, Firefighter  
Bill Colvin, Deputy Chief  
Andrew Dremak, Firefighter  
Cody Garanzuay, Firefighter  
Jeffery Kane, Assistant Chief  
Michael Lane, Lieutenant  
Cam Marcantel, Firefighter  
Jason Miller, Firefighter  
Adam Puntin, Firefighter  
Louis Senecal, Firefighter  
Steben, Thomas, Firefighter

Unfortunately, during 2019, our Department suffered the loss of retired Firefighters John J. Pignatelli of the Lenox Fire Company who also served as a Selectman for many years and Larry Fox of the New Lenox Fire Company. Rest in peace and thank you for a job well done!

### **Prevention and Education-**

This department was busy in many other facets of Public Safety such as Fire Inspections and Fire Education for our Senior Citizens' and Schools. Our personnel continue to attend and receive training in the administering of the Massachusetts Fire Prevention Code.

The Fire Department would like to thank the Board of Selectmen and the citizens of the town for their continued support of our operations. As part of this support we are always looking for new members to fill our ranks. Please contact us if you are willing to volunteer and become a firefighter.

In closing, I want to sincerely thank all the officers and members of the Lenox Fire Department for their time and dedication. Also, without the support of the families of these brave men and women who respond at moments notice to assist others in need, the ranks of our volunteers would be greatly diminished.

Respectfully Submitted

Christopher P. O'Brien, Fire Chief  
Lenox Fire Department

## **REPORT OF THE LENOX LIBRARY**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

2019 continued the tradition of robust programming at the Lenox Library. Katie's Korner was a particularly busy place, with family movie matinees and teen movie nights, handiwork social hours and visits from Franco the Dog. Weekly storyhours included special guests Greta Mathews, Eric Shimelonis, and Abigail Lemanski. Puppet Show Fridays in October were hosted by Little Puppet Studio's Regina D Selig Mason.

We hosted another LMMHS Middle School Art Show in the Welles Gallery, with 200 works from the middle school students of our local high school.

In our second year of our after-school gardening program, we partnered with Berkshire Botanical Garden. We had another successful Summer Reading Program, with the return of Terry a la Berry and Friends. Special programming included "Sir George and the Dragon" by Pumpnickel Puppets, and Casey Carle's BubbleMania. 230 children logged 6,291 hours of reading, figures which nearly doubled those of last year.

The highlight of the year was the magical Day at Hogwarts, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the launch of the Harry Potter book series by J.K. Rowling. Youth Librarian Katie Wallick drafted Dumbledore's Army to make wands, candles, and potion bottles. The Eastover Train from the Lenox 250th parade was remodeled into The Hogwarts Express, stationed outside the Library. The Muggles Make Magic art exhibit in the Welles Gallery featured artwork by local youth, LMMHS art students of Karen Romeo-Leger's 7th grade class, and Lesliejohn Thompson Roche's Art Club & National Art Honors Society. Participants were encouraged to come as their favorite character, which resulted in the greatest concentration of Harry Potters per capita. The price of admission? A donation of socks, which freed 514 house elves.

The Distinguished Lecture Series, moderated by Dr Jeremy Yudkin, included lectures as varied as "Single-Particle Cryo-Electron Microscopy," and "Hungarian Nationalism in Béla Bartók's Music." Dr. Yudkin also provided the very popular Tanglewood Pre-Concert Talks, held in the Sedgwick Reading Room. When this particular space was built in 1889, electricity was a newfangled invention. 130 years later, the town invested in ductless mini-splits, providing much needed air conditioning.

The library installed a new, first floor Information Desk in the New Materials Area. Attractive built-in shelving for the library's new materials flank the fireplace, taking cues from the classic details of the existing trim work. The renovation was funded by a generous gift of William W. Goessel to the Lenox Library Association. Bill wanted to honor his wife Nancy, who was an ardent supporter of the Library.

Our hybrid approach of financial support from the Town of Lenox and the Lenox Library Association has worked well.

2019 also saw a long simmering plan come to fruition. An ongoing conversation about the library's local history collection, with its hidden treasures, brought us to the conclusion that it was time to hire a staff person whose work was dedicated to the elucidation and promotion of Lenox history. Once that decision was made, it became clear that the right person for the position was the current director. Amy Lafave accepted the position of Local History Librarian. She was succeeded by Katherine O'Neil, previously the director of the Stockbridge Library, who took over the helm of the Lenox Library in December 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

For the Town of Lenox:  
Amy Lafave  
Local History Librarian  
[Library Director 2015-2019]

For the Lenox Library Association:  
Edward Richter, President  
David Roche, Vice-President  
Veronica Fenton, Treasurer  
George Raymond, Clerk

## **REPORT OF THE ACADEMY BUILDING TRUSTEES**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of Lenox:

The historic Academy building is one of the oldest public buildings in Lenox. It was known as Lenox Academy for Boys, established in 1803 “for the instruction of youth in piety, morality and the liberal arts”, and quickly became one of the finest schools for the education of young men. Students from the north east and mid Atlantic states came to Lenox Academy and studied along side Berkshire County boys under the tutelage of Mark Hopkins and others. Much later the Academy building would also serve as Lenox’ first high school until the “new” high school opened on Housatonic St. in 1910. It is said that the students carried their own textbooks with them when they walked from the Academy building to the new school. In 1946 the town took over the Lenox Academy building with the goal of using it for “town purposes.” Today this venerable Main St. landmark houses Lenox Historical Society’s Museum of Lenox History on the first floor, with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post on the second floor. Lenox Historical Commission and the Academy Garden Club of Lenox use the second floor space as well, for meetings and events.

As Trustees of the Lenox Academy we are tasked with maintaining the interior and exterior of this historic building. Annual maintenance includes having the gutters cleaned, any chipped or peeling paint touched up, and annual inspections of fire extinguishers and fire alarm system. Projects in 2019 included necessary work on the slate walkway. All stones were removed in order to first realign the walkway with the front steps. New slate stones were purchased to replace the old broken ones.

In coordination with the Lenox Historical Society, two new phone lines and internet have been installed in the building for the convenience of both the Veterans Post and the society. In addition, the historical society has had a security alarm installed in their two museum rooms. We have had discussions with representatives of the town, the Veterans’ Post and historical society about the need for an elevator in the building. The aging lift on the north side, which allows access only to the first floor, has been repaired a number of times over the years. In 2020 we hope to have the advice of a mechanical engineer as to the possibility of having an elevator installed for access to the second floor.

Our projected budget for FY20 was \$7,824.00. As of Dec. 31, 2019 we had used only about 40% of the allotted funds. As Trustees of Lenox Academy we appreciate its historical significance to the town and will continue our efforts to preserve this landmark for future generations. We thank the Board of Selectmen and the citizens of Lenox for their support.

Respectfully submitted:

Timothy Face, Chairman  
Scott Pignatelli  
Victoria Salvatore, Clerk

## **REPORT OF THE RHUBARB FESTIVAL**

To the Honorable Select Board and Residents of Lenox:

**Mission:** Develop annual festival for the town on 2nd Saturday in June. Attract visitors to festival and direct them to Lenox restaurants and shops. Partner with local restaurateurs and merchants to promote their businesses.

The 6th Lenox Rhubarb Festival on Saturday, June 8th, was held next to and in front of the Lenox Library. Thirty-six Lenox businesses participated, on-site and off, up from twenty-six last year. The weather was sunny and 78°; attendance about 1400. The event began with a rhubarb pancake

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breakfast at 8, followed by sales of rhubarb foods, beverages, rhubarb cookbooks and garden ornaments until 3, Savory Rhubarb Contest (\$5) from 11-12:30 (limited to first 250 visitors), live music from 11:15-12:30, and Rhubarb Around Town all weekend.

**Festival Vendors:** Twelve vendors sold rhubarb items: seven Lenox businesses/ organizations: Belvoir Terrace: strawberry-rhubarb pies, Canyon Ranch: steamed buns with blackened shrimp and rhubarb hoisin sauce, Devonshire Estates: strawberry rhubarb ice pops and rhubarb lip balm, Mary's Kitchen Bakery: strawberry-rhubarb pies, Scoop: strawberry rhubarb ice cream and ginger-rhubarb sorbet, Ventfort Hall: rhubarb juice and soda and rhubarb plants, Lenox Rhubarb Festival: rhubarb recipe booklets and bottled raspberry-rhubarb soda; and five western MA vendors: Florence Pie Bar-Florence: rhubarb pies, slices, scones, and rhubarb-limeade, Pleasant and Main Café-Housatonic: rhubarb pancakes and crepes, rhubarb pulled pork, Queen Bee Kitchen-S Egremont: rhubarb and strawberry-rhubarb preserves and concrete rhubarb leaf garden ornaments, Merry Lion Press-Hawley: rhubarb cook books, and The Sweetish Baker-Great Barrington: strawberry-rhubarb pies, slices and rhubarb coffeecake.

**Savory Rhubarb Contest:** Five chefs competed. Blantyre: cornet filled with rhubarb cream, rhubarb compote and duck confit, Canyon Ranch: steamed buns with blackened shrimp and rhubarb hoisin sauce, Olde Heritage Tavern: rhubarb lentil curry with rice, Pleasant & Main Café: rhubarb pulled pork with cheese and onion, and Wheatleigh: tartelette of duck confit and rhubarb compote. Visitors sampled entries and cast a vote with their spoon (\$5.) Blantyre was the winner.

**Live Music:** The Eagles Trombone Ensemble (10 trombones, 2 French horns, 2 clarinets, 1 tuba and drums), led by trombonist Mike Oft of Lenox Dale, returned for the third year to play crowd-pleasing, popular tunes from 11:15-12:30. A short video of the group can be seen at [lenoxrhubarbfestival.com](http://lenoxrhubarbfestival.com). The Trombone Ensemble will entertain again in 2020.

**Rhubarb at Lenox Restaurants:** Alta, Bistro Zinc, Brava, Firefly Gastropub, Gateways Inn & Restaurant, and Shots Café offered rhubarb items on their menus.

**Rhubarb Around Town:** Thirteen Lenox stores either sold rhubarb items: The Bookstore, Nejaime's (rhubarb beer), Price Chopper (rhubarb yogurt and fresh rhubarb) and Yankee Candle (rhubarb scented candles) OR offered complimentary rhubarb treats: Annie Selke, Berkshire Homes and Condos, Fat Face, J. McLaughlin, Lenox Print & Mercantile, MacKimmie Co., Shear Design, and What A Gift.

**B&B Participation:** 33 Main, Apple Tree Inn, Birchwood Inn, Blantyre, Gateways Inn and Whistler's Inn offered rhubarb breakfast items to their guests.

Pictures of all Rhubarb Festivals are at [www.lenoxrhubarbfestival.com](http://www.lenoxrhubarbfestival.com) and on facebook. Contact: [info@lenoxrhubarbfestival.com](mailto:info@lenoxrhubarbfestival.com).

The Lenox Rhubarb Festival is a 501c3 and is self-sustaining. It occurs annually on the second Saturday in June, at 18 Main Street.

The date of the 2020 Rhubarb Festival is Saturday, June 13, 8-2.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne W Pelton  
Founder/Organizer

Volunteers:  
Mary Balle August Danowski MJ Handy  
Bev Hathaway Avery Marcus Estelle Miller  
Alba Passerini Naomi Shafiroff Jake Thompson

## **REPORT OF THE LENOX HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of Lenox:

Lenox Historical Society was founded in 1980 by Eugenia Reinholt and the late Nancy Marasco and incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Through the generosity of the town of Lenox the society operates the Museum of Lenox History located at 65 Main St., in the historic Lenox Academy building.

It is our mission to collect and preserve historical materials and memorabilia that pertain to the history of Lenox and Lenox Dale. All our materials and research are available to the public including early photographs, maps, documents, tax records, historic district survey information, cemetery records, and nearly 400 research papers by 9th grade students of Lenox Memorial High School from 1998-2007, as part of their annual project, "Our Town Ourselves". Since 2008 the society has awarded the Julia Conklin Peters Memorial Scholarship to a graduating senior at Lenox Memorial Middle and High School. Donations to the scholarship fund make it possible to continue this tradition in honor of "Judy", a true Lenox historian who enjoyed sharing her memories of growing up and living in Lenox with the many LMMHS students who showed interest in that earlier time in town. Our congratulations go out to Julie Pehlert, the 2019 recipient.

During 2019 our temporary exhibits have focused on the early East St. families and farms. During 2020 we will expand that focus with an exhibit of early "New Lenox" and "North Lenox" families and businesses.

For the third consecutive year we have partnered with the Academy Garden Club of Lenox and hosted the Lenox Garden and Flower Show at Town Hall. We are now planning for the 2020 show in August.

Our historical society has coordinated with the town and the trustees of Lenox Academy building and have had two new phone lines, internet, and a security system installed in the building. Representatives of the society have met with town representatives on an important issue - lack of display and storage space, and the need for access to the second floor for everyone. The current lift only offers access to the first floor. We hope the town will consider the installation of an elevator to be a priority, so that people of all abilities will be able to attend programs and events on the second floor.

The Lenox Historical Society has more than 200 members whose annual memberships support our programs and exhibits. We welcome new members and volunteers; please consider joining us. Our museum is open year round Thursdays - Saturdays, and also by appointment.

We thank the citizens of Lenox and Lenox Dale and the Board of Selectmen for their support in helping us preserve the history and heritage of our beautiful town.

Respectfully submitted for the board:

Charles Flint, President

Deb Cote, Vice President

Jan Chague, Clerk

Jen Picard, Treasurer

Victoria Salvatore, Curator

Pat Jaouen

Lucy Kennedy

Edward Kirby

Theresa Noyes

Shirley Vincent

(the late) Dawn Williams

Percy Williams

## **REPORT OF THE LENOX HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

To the Honorable Select Board and Citizens of Lenox:

The Historical Commission (HC), whose members are appointed by the Select Board, is the primary advocate for the protection of the Town's Historic assets. The Commission's mission is to identify, preserve, protect and develop historic sites, including places, buildings, structures, objects, areas, burial grounds, landscape features, and other sites that are of historical, architectural, or archaeological importance to Lenox. In fulfilling this mission the commissioners do the following:

- Identify and inventory historic sites to create a permanent register of their significance through records, photographs, oral history and other documentation.
- Preserve and protect those sites the commission has identified as historic landmarks by reporting the significance of the site(s) to the board of selectmen and to the Massachusetts Historical Commission.
- Seek funding to provide for the identification, inventory, preservation and protection of those historic sites through the Community Preservation Act, state and federal agencies, and private sponsors.
- Educate the public as to the significance of the historic sites of Lenox through presentations at meetings, lectures, seminars and press releases.
- Provide guidance and information to the Select Board on the impact of their action on historic sites.
- Work with and support the Town of Lenox boards and commissions and other groups whose interests intersect with the mission of the Historical Commission, by providing guidance and information on the impact of decisions of these boards and historic sites. Boards and commissions include, but are not limited to: Historic District Commission, Village Improvement Committee, Community Preservation Committee, Conservation Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Economic Development Committee as well as non-governmental groups such as the Lenox Historical Society and Chamber of Commerce.
- Work and co-operate with the Massachusetts Historical Commission and State Archaeologist to support the mission of the Historical Commission.

**Meetings:** second Thursday of the month at 4:00 pm, at the Academy, 2nd floor.

**Historic Preservation Plan for the Town of Lenox:** the major focus of the LHC during 2019 was the implementation of the Historic Preservation Plan. Our consultants, Heritage Strategies, LLC, prepared an excellent comprehensive preservation plan that provides a framework for the LHC and the Town to coordinate a long term program of historic preservation actions.

The first item on our agenda was the development of a Demolition Delay Bylaw. Over time the LHC has fought for and lost major historic buildings such as the Mahanna House on 50 Church Street. The implementation of the DD Bylaw, used by many towns in Massachusetts, offers a means of delaying demolition while alternate solutions are sought for preservation and repurposing. The LHC brought the DD Bylaw to the Town Meeting and it was passed by a majority of the voters. This vote reassured the LHC that preservation of our historic assets is important to the town, and we want to thank all those who support our efforts.

The DD Bylaw goes into effect on March 1, 2020.

**Church on the Hill Cemetery:** This foremost historic asset, dating from the 1760's and owned by the Town, with over 2,000 gravestones, was the focus of a multi-year restoration project begun in 2012. With Master Plan in hand and funding from the Community Preservation Committee, 500 gravestones have been repaired through June 2017, including monuments in danger of falling and headstones leaning and at risk of breaking. The Town has continued maintenance to prevent

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further deterioration and the cemetery is in good repair.

For visitors to this historic site the LHC has prepared a sign with a map of the cemetery, designed by Bart Arnold, listing the locations and brief histories of notable internees. The sign will be installed in the spring of 2020.

**Westinghouse Street Lamps:** in 1916 the town had 149 Westinghouse lights, by 2003, due to neglect and accidents, only 10 of these lights remained and only two working. A civic-minded group of residents worked to raise funds to repair these historic lights and to replace the standard modern ones with historic recreations. Currently there are 47 recreated Westinghouse lights in town.

On October 23, 2019, the LHC unveiled a plaque, located on the northwest corner of Walker and Church, honoring these early contributors. The plaque honors Bob and Marcy Brown, Canyon Ranch, Pam Kueber and David Fisher, Jonathan Molk, Suzanne W. Pelton, Janet Pumphrey and Al Harper, Ned Roche, Charles Schulze, Andrea and Daniel Winter, and Richard and Rebecca Wise. Not included on the plaque, but recognized at this installation were Jim Biancolo, Linda Massana, Mark Smith and Greg Federspiel.

**Historic Property Surveys:** 124 Form Bs\* (86 inside the HD and 38 outside the HD), is complete and was published in 2014. Additionally, to satisfy requirements for National Register designation, approximately 200 Form As\*\* were completed in 2018.

There are many more buildings in need of form Bs and the HC anticipates a continuation of this project.

**Date Markers (Plaques) for Historic Houses:** the BOS agreed to fund purchase of 36 date markers, 4 for town owned public buildings and 32 for privately owned historic buildings in Lenox. This project was completed in 2018. Plaques are now available from the LHC, upon request, for a small fee.

**National Register Designation:** Lenox has been identified by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) as a candidate for National Register (NR) designation. This an honorary status conferred to recognize historic places worthy of preservation. The advantages of NR designation are the enhancement of historical tourism, access to funding for historic restoration, and listing on the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places Official Website, (a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources). This designation **does not impose any regulation**, but does have historical guidelines for the awarding of funds used for historical restoration.

The LHC is awaiting final approval from the MHC. This process has taken a very long time, but we anticipate designation before the end of 2020.

**Commissioners:** Olga Weiss, Chair; Lucinda Weiss, Clerk; Jan Chague; Lucy Kennedy; Ray Kirby.  
**Volunteers:** Jim Biancolo

Respectfully submitted,

Olga Weiss

*\*Form B: a standard form issued by the MHC that catalogues the historic assets of a community.*

*\*\*Form A: an MHC designation that catalogues all the buildings in an area, but with less detail about individual buildings than found in Form Bs*

## **REPORT OF THE LAND USE DEPARTMENT**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of Lenox:

The Land Use Department plans and regulates land use and development in the community through the following boards and commissions:

- Planning Board
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Conservation Commission
- Historic District Commission
- Affordable Housing Trust and Committee
- Community Preservation Committee
- Land Management Committee

All of these boards and committees are volunteer positions, with members appointed by the Board of Selectmen or elected.

The Land Use Department is open five days a week during the regular hours of Town Hall. The Town of Lenox website offers a great deal of information in case you can't make it during these hours, including project descriptions, zoning bylaws, and maps.

2019 was a year of transition in the Land Use Department. We said farewell to Peggy Ammendola who provided years of diligent assistance to many volunteers, residents and developers who make their way through the Land Use Department. Enjoy retirement, Peggy! We welcomed Land Use Assistant Jessica Cote. Jes has been a tremendous asset to the Land Use Department and to Town Hall. Welcome, Jes!

### **COMPLETE STREETS**

Raised crosswalks and curb extensions were installed over the summer on Main Street. A new crosswalk was created on Old Stockbridge Road.

### **HOUSING**

Two proposals were submitted for mixed-income housing development on the Sawmill site. Though a developer was selected, Town Meeting was unable to muster the 2/3 vote required to go forward with any housing development on the site.

### **OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION**

The Shared Use Path Feasibility Study neared completion, suggesting two main alignments to connect from the southeast corner of Lenox to the northeast corner. Funds were secured to address invasive species at Post Farm and to continue the removal of Hardy Kiwi at Kennedy Park, along with adjacent properties to help curb the spread of the vine.

### **LILAC PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN**

The inaugural season of the first Lenox Community Garden was a success! Hopefully you enjoyed seeing the vegetables and flowers members grew over the summer and into the fall. Our next effort will be finding a location in Lenox Dale or North Lenox if there is neighborhood interest.

## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

The Historic District Commission made some amendments to their bylaw and guidelines to make permitting a little easier on property owners going forward.

## **LENOX CULTURAL DISTRICT**

Lenox received Cultural District designation from the Massachusetts Cultural Council! The Cultural District Steering Committee has met regularly since the formal designation and received grant funding for programs and projects it hopes to implement going forward.

## **MASTER PLAN**

The first Master Plan effort in Lenox since 1999 continues onward. Keep your eye out for opportunities for your input. The Master Plan looks ahead ten to twenty years and informs policy-making and decision-making at all levels of municipal government in relation to the physical growth and development of the community.

Sincerely,

Land Use Director/Town Planner Gwen M. Miller, AICP  
Land Use Assistant Jessica Cote

# **REPORT OF THE LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of Lenox:

The Land Management Committee was formed to guide implementation of the community's current Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP).

The Land Management members in 2019 were:

- Deborah Rimmner, Chair and Planning Board Member
- Kameron Spaulding
- Warren Archey, Selectman
- Kim Graham, Community Center
- Tim Flanagan
- Ruth Wheeler, Kennedy Park Committee
- Patty Spector, Lenox Land Trust
- Andrew Lane, At Large

While not active in 2019, they will be involved going forward in the update of the 2015 Open Space and Recreation Plan set to expire in December 2020. Stay tuned for opportunities to participate in that effort.

Respectfully submitted,

The Lenox Land Management Committee

## **REPORT OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

The Zoning Board of Appeals is a quasi-judicial body that operates under the authority of Chapter 40A of the General Laws of the Commonwealth for the purpose of promoting the health, safety, convenience, and general welfare of the Town of Lenox. Residents or businesses seeking relief in the form of a special permit or a variance initiate virtually all matters that come before the Board. We endeavor to make decisions that are timely, transparent, and consistent as allowed within the Lenox Zoning Bylaw. We also endeavor to create an environment where applicants are treated fairly and the entire staff works to that end.

The Zoning Board of Appeals is a nine member board, appointed by the Selectmen. Five are regular members and four serve as alternates. The board is currently seeking two more alternate to fill the board.

The Board issues decisions on the following:

- Special permits as allowed under the Zoning Bylaw
- Variances from the requirements of the Zoning Bylaw
- Comprehensive permits under Chapter 40B of the General Laws of the Commonwealth
- Site plan approval of the Zoning Bylaw
- Appeals from the decisions of the Inspector of Buildings

In 2019 the Lenox Zoning Board of Appeals held public hearings to review twenty-three applications for special permits, variances, site plan approval and modifications to previously granted projects. One of the applications was withdrawn by the applicants. Three variances were granted, and all but one of the special permit requests was granted.

The Board normally meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Fuster Jr., Chair  
Shawn Leary Considine  
Ned Douglas  
Cliff Snyder  
Albert Harper

Alternates:  
Jedd Hall  
Clayton Hambrick

## **LENOX AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE**

To the Honorable Board of selectmen and the Citizens of Lenox:

The Lenox Affordable Housing Trust was chartered in 2009 in order to provide for the preservation and creation of affordable housing in Lenox for the benefit of low-and moderate-income households. The Trust maintains an account balance of \$414,098.96. In 2019, the Trust and Committee provided one (1) first-time homebuyer grant, helping one (1) Lenox community member to buy their first-time home in Lenox.

The Trust explored several opportunities to grow the Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI) in Lenox in 2019. While the effort to develop mixed-income housing units on the Town-owned Sawmill site did not obtain the requisite 2/3 vote at the May 2019 Town Meeting, it did secure a majority of votes, perhaps demonstrating that there is broad support in the community for increasing housing opportunity for residents and future residents of all economic backgrounds.

Other efforts included:

Exploring the opportunity to assist in the preservation of “market” affordable rental units so they can become deed-restricted affordable ownership units for the Lenox workforce;

Exploring the opportunity to assist a local non-profit organization in utilizing some of their property for the development of deed-restricted affordable ownership units;

The Trust welcomed new member Julie DiGrigoli, while the Committee welcomed Jon Gotterer, Frederick Keator, Christopher Fenton and Donna Lefkowitz.

### **Trust Committee**

Marybeth Mitts, Chairperson  
Jackie McNinch  
Kathleen McNulty Vaughan  
Mindi Morin  
Julie DiGrigoli  
Donna Lefkowitz

Charlene Rosen  
Kate McNulty Vaughan  
Jon Gotterer  
Frederick Keator  
Christopher Fenton

Staff support is provided by Land Use Director/Town Planner Gwen Miller, AICP and Land Use Assistant Jes Cote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lenox Affordable Housing Trustees and Committee Members

## **REPORT OF THE LENOX COMMUNITY CENTER**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen;

The Lenox Community Center is committed to providing a safe and respectful environment for all who organize a/o participate in a variety of services offered through the center. The staff and Board of Directors will do their best to have open and honest communication. We will work in a productive and pro-active manner in order to continue providing these diverse services.

The Community Center not only said goodbye to 2019 but also to Kim Graham who retired this past summer after 17 amazing years as Director. Kim touched so many lives while helping families, seniors and children during her tenure. It was her vision to see the Community Center and Council on Aging under one roof and that model continues to be successful today. Her contributions to Lenox are priceless; renovating the Community Center's back yard as well as Orebed and Tillotson Parks and the beautiful town beach which is now considered an "all ability" friendly environment; a passion Kim always advocated for. Her contributions also included many updates and renovations to the Community Center building. We thank Kim for her service and wish her a very happy retirement.

The Community Center received two very generous bequests from Claire Cox Lowenthal and George "Gige" Darey. The Community Center Board of Directors and our staff are extremely grateful and are committed to honoring their wishes to continue the good work in our community.

Our vision for 2020 is to enrich the lives of our Lenox residents through education, exercise, as well as providing social opportunities for seniors, youth and residents of all ages by continuing to add more programming and welcome all who enter through our doors. Caroline Halpin was hired in April as our Program Coordinator and she has proven to be a wonderful asset adding programs for our seniors and children. She has already planned many interesting, engaging and educational coffee hours. Caroline was instrumental in starting our Community Helper program this year as the staff felt it was important for our children to give back to the Community and learn about being a good citizen. To date, they have decorated the front steps with kindness rocks, made appreciation candy bouquets for our Lenox Police and Fire Departments, made thank you cards for veterans and crafts for our senior friends. We are looking forward to expanding the program in the coming years.

Our Youth programs continue to thrive and grow. We currently have 140 registered afterschool program participants. Our Youth Services Coordinator, Amanda McLaughlin, continues to add new, energetic, fun and creative classes to our Youth program. She has added a new art class and boot camp to her already popular afterschool classes. We thought it was important for our middle school participants to have access to laptops for homework purposes and we were able to purchase two with the very generous bequests made to the Center last year. These donations also helped fund our Garden Club. Our children are not only learning about compost and planting, but helped decorate our front yard with flowers and scarecrows this fall. This program helps give our children a sense of pride in knowing they were part of something everyone can enjoy. Looking forward, Amanda has wonderful new ideas for our Summer Camp this year to keep the children engaged.

Jonathan Twing also joined our team this year replacing Michael Sullivan "Sully". Jonathan has been doing a wonderful job maintaining our building as well as the grounds at the Center, Lenox Beach, Orebed and Tillotson parks. Everyone at the Center has enjoyed his kindness and helpfulness as he greets everyone who comes across his path. Building renovations included a new roof over our game-room, and handicap entrance and fixing our back porch including replacing several support pillars. Plans are underway to update our game-room and hardwood floors throughout the building as well as other needed repairs. Thank you to all the taxpayers for your support.

Our Senior Services Coordinator, Susan Holmes, continues to be a strong support system and advocate for our local seniors. The Council on Aging continues to offer transportation to our senior population to and from medical appointments, shopping and social events. Sue continues to keep

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our seniors engaged, and provide social opportunities by organizing our weekly/monthly luncheons, exercise classes, and crafts offered at the center. Sue's outreach includes providing our seniors with the option of meeting in the convenience of their home, at the Community Center or over the phone to assist them in defining their needs and facilitating access to services. These services may include a referral for outside agencies such as Elder Services, providing assistance with meals through SNAP or our Brown Bag Program, solving transportation issues, setting appointments to see our Shine Counselor for Medicare assistance, Side Bar for free legal advice or free tax preparation appointments to name a few.

Our seniors have been excited to participate and give back by attending our Days for Girls International sewing program. This program has been extremely successful in bringing our seniors together, sharing conversation, and working together for one common purpose; helping other women. They cut, sew, iron, package and ship feminine hygiene items that can be laundered by women and girls in under-developed countries. Many thanks to our Board member, Jen Picard for bringing, implementing and running the program here at the Center.

I truly feel honored to step in as the new Director of the Community Center and look forward to enhancing our programs and enrich the lives of our families, seniors and children. As always, the Community Center Staff and Board of Directors are grateful for the continued support from the Board of Selectmen, our Chief Administrative Officer, Chris Ketchen and the residents of Lenox. It is our pleasure to serve you all.

Respectfully Submitted;

Darlene McCauley, Director

Anthony Patella, Chairman

Sheri Gaherty, Co-Chair

Francie Sheehan-Sorrentino, Clerk

Rose Casey-Fitzgerald

Jen Picard

Donna Lefkowitz

## **REPORT OF THE LENOX SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to report that in June of 2019, \$28,000 was awarded through the Town of Lenox Scholarship Program to residents looking to further their education. Through the support of our donors, we were able to assist 13 graduates of the LMMHS class of 2019 and 16 post-graduate students. Awards ranged from \$500 to \$2,000.

This scholarship program is a credit to all the citizens of Lenox who continue to support our graduates.

The Lenox Scholarship Fund was established in 1989 to offer financial support to students who wish to pursue higher levels of education, graduate school, trade school, and other educational institutions. Over the years, we have generally been able to increase the size of the program and the amount of awards due to the generosity of our community. While the program has grown, we continue to be increasingly dependent on a smaller group of contributors and the committee is considering ways to expand the program's fund raising. Each year, the fund is enhanced by a generous donation from the Kimball Farms Residents' Association. The fund also periodically receives donations from a variety of community organizations and in memory of community members. The annual Lenox Town report lists many of the donors and benefactors.

The Scholarship Committee wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the 227 contributors this year for their financial support of this program.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. William J. Cameron, Ex-Officio  
Paula Downer  
William E. Parsley  
Tara Romeo  
Christopher Ryan  
James Sorrentino

### **FY19 LENOX SCHOLARSHIP LIST OF DONORS**

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## **REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Molly Elliot	May 2021
Christine Mauro	May 2020
Robert Munch (vice-chair)	May 2020
Anne Marie O'Brien	May 2021
David Rimmner	May 2022
Francie Sorrentino	May 2021
Robert Vaughan (chair)	May 2022

To the Honorable Board of Selectman and Citizens of Lenox:

At the beginning of this annual report, the School Committee wishes to once again set out the Lenox School Committee's Mission Statement.

Superintendent Dr. Kimberly Merrick resigned in early October for personal reasons; the School Committee hired Dr. William J. Cameron to serve as Interim Superintendent through the 2019-2020 school year while conducting a search for the next Superintendent. With the retirement of longtime Director of Business Services Hank Maimin, we hired Melissa Falkowski as our new Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations (November, 2019). We also have in place a new Director of Student Services, Kimberly Dion, who began in January, 2020.

### **MISSION OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

The School Committee's primary responsibility is to establish those purposes, programs, and procedures that will best produce the educational achievement needed by our students. The Committee is charged with accomplishing this while also being responsible for wise management of resources available to the school system.

**Purpose:** The Committee is responsible for the selection and termination of the Superintendent, and shall review and approve budgets for public education in the district. It shall also establish educational goals and policies for the schools in the district consistent with the requirements of law and statewide goals and standards established by the board of education, as well as for continuing improvement of the educational programs provided by the school district.

**Passion:** The Committee serves as the elected chief advocates for the public school students of Lenox, Massachusetts. The Committee promotes critical and creative thinking, literacy and social responsibility within a school environment that nurtures personalized education and values integrity and the pursuit of excellence.

**People:** The Committee is responsible for providing adequate and direct means for keeping the local citizenry informed about the progress and needs of the schools and for keeping itself and the school staff informed about the needs and wishes of the public.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

The Lenox School District is now in the final year of the five-year (2016-2020) strategic plan. There are five areas of strategic planning goals - Academic Excellence, School Finance, Leadership, School Culture, and Professionalism. For each of these five strategic goal areas a number of action steps were developed, are being addressed now, and will help drive school and administrative goals and budgeting priorities over the next two years. The School Committee, along

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with a Strategic Planning Subcommittee, is in the process of creating the new strategic plan to cover the five-year period 2021-2025.

### **PROPOSED BUDGET**

Our operational budget being presented at Annual Town Meeting for the 2020-21 (FY'21) year has gone through a four-month process of development, arriving at the budget before the town meeting. The reality of tight economics and level enrollments will affect planning and operation of our school district for the foreseeable future. The district continues to explore collaborative options with neighboring districts, alternative ways to deliver education, and opportunities to create additional efficiencies. The school administration has followed a zero-based budgeting process that reevaluates every aspect of the program while identifying the educational needs. Working with our Interim Superintendent, Dr. William J. Cameron, the School Committee has reviewed each program in detail and with consideration for revenue projections and program efficacy. In this manner we strive to meet the objectives of our mission statement. We, the School Committee, recognize that we must balance the needs of our schools with the responsibility to residents to be fiscally sound in our budgeting.

### **FACILITIES**

Lenox continues to see that maintenance and repair are occurring with greater frequency. Building maintenance competes with resource demands for technology and instructional improvements. The district's five-year capital needs are profiled to match historical expenditures. Over the past five years the capital budget has allowed for many major repairs to occur. We have been assessing the remaining life expectancy of our building roofs to better align the timing of their substantial replacement costs with the town's bond planning - the Massachusetts School Building Authority has informed us that roofs younger than 30 years are not being considered for funding at this time.

We have ahead of us the reconstruction and repaving of our high school parking lot scheduled for the summer of 2021. The revelation that the walls of the 1966 wing of the high school had slowly shifted resulted in using nearly all of our capital budget in the summer of 2019 to resolve that issue. We are in the process of evaluating our high school Science classrooms (not renovated since 1966) and determining a course of action that will bring them to 2020 standards for high school science spaces.

### **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

Our educational program again is among the strongest in the region and state. Student SAT & MCAS scores continue to surpass state and national averages. The Morris Elementary School attained its Blue Ribbon status while Lenox Memorial Middle & High School has received the Gold Medal in rankings by US News & World Report in 2016, 2017 and again in 2018. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in its new accountability system has determined LMMHS to be a School of Recognition (92 percentile) for High Achievement and Morris is at the 85th percentile among elementary and middle schools.

Our schools are led by our Interim Superintendent, Dr. William J. Cameron, Elementary Principal Peter Bachli, LMMHS Principal Michael Knybel, and Director of Student Services Kimberly Dion. We are grateful for the thoughtful and caring leadership from these four outstanding educators.

### **ENROLLMENT**

Currently, we have 785 students in grades pre-K through 12, a slight increase over last year. Choice students now stand at 297 and comprise 39% of the student population served. Lenox demographics mimic those countywide in that the population of young school-age children is shrinking although we have had a slight increase in resident students the past three years and there appears to some stability in the numbers of students entering Morris. Part of the School Committee's charge is to

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develop a plan to deal with declining enrollments while maintaining quality programming with fiscal responsibility.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

Subcommittee assignments demand a good deal of members' time. These subcommittees were combined for better alignment with the five strategic goals for 2016-2020. In addition to committee assignments, we continue to have member representation on other town subcommittees.

Human Resources – Robert Munch, Anne Marie O'Brien, Robert Vaughan

Finance – Molly Elliot, Christine Mauro, Robert Vaughan

Learning and Teaching – Molly Elliot, Robert Munch, David Rimmmler

School Culture and Community Relations – Robert Munch, David Rimmmler, Francie Sorrentino

Governance and Leadership – Christine Mauro, Robert Munch, Robert Vaughan

### **BERKSHIRE COUNTY EDUCATION TASK FORCE**

The Berkshire County Education Task Force, comprised of school leaders and school committee chairs or representatives from most of the county school districts, as well as some members of the business community, have been meeting for over four years. The BCETF has been working on the complex issues and unique opportunities related to public school and district organization in the Berkshires focusing on equity and access to quality educational offerings.

The BCETF 2.0 version is a smaller group and is looking at course offerings among the 10 high schools to see where there are gaps or inequities of opportunity and will reach out to school committees, students, and district- and secondary-level teachers and leaders for input moving forward. At this point, under the leadership of Project Manager Jake Eberwein, the BCETF is looking intensively at the complex issues and modeling around educational quality, finance, and public outreach and engagement.

### **RECOGNITION**

We are greatly indebted to the Morris School PTO members, our two School Councils, the Special Education Parents' Advisory Council, and the ever-active athletic booster organizations.

We would also like to take this moment to acknowledge all our teachers, our administrators and our entire staff. Each of them is a valuable member of our team and we are grateful for their contributions, commitment and dedication to our school community. We had several long-time and valued faculty members retire in 2019 – we will miss the skills and passion they brought to our students – congratulations and thanks to Denise Jezak, Lynn Schmitter, Pam Mason, Daria Woodger and Donna Belanger at Morris, Anne Engelberger, Gary Miller, and Lisa Fraser at LMMHS, and Hank Maimin from the central office.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Elliot  
Christine Mauro  
Robert Munch  
Anne Marie O'Brien  
David Rimmmler  
Francie Sorrentino  
Robert Vaughan (chair)

## **SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of Lenox:

The Lenox Public Schools operates as a one-town municipal school district. Its governance structure consists of a seven member elected School Committee whose members serve staggered terms of three years. In addition, the district is led administratively by a Superintendent of Schools, a Business Administrator, a Director of Student Services, a Principal and Vice-Principal at Lenox Memorial Middle-High School (LMMHS) and a Principal at Morris Elementary School. During the 2018-2019 school year the Lenox Public Schools employed the full-time equivalent of 76.5 teachers (where, e.g. a full-time teacher is 1.0, as are two half-time teachers).

As of the October 1, 2018 official count of students reportable to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE), Lenox enrolled 756 students. Twenty-three of these students were enrolled in pre-Kindergarten programming, which takes place at Morris Elementary School. The October 1 K-12 enrollment for 2018-2019 was 733 students. The K-5 population of students at Morris totaled 302, and the secondary students (6-12) population at Lenox Memorial Middle-High School was 431. Through an interesting coincidence, the male portion of the student population was identical to the female portion: 378 students in each. Of note, too, is that 39% of the K-12 student population were attending Lenox's public schools under inter-district school choice (MGL c. 71 § 12B).

The district's teacher-student ratio in 2018-2019 was an impressive 9.9 to 1. By way of comparison, the 2018-2019 ratio for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a whole was 12.9 to 1. Under the Massachusetts school accountability system the Lenox Public Schools achieved a rating from DESE of "meeting or exceeding targets." The graduation rate from LMMHS in 2018-2019 was one hundred percent.

The administration of the Lenox Public Schools and School Committee continued the constructive relationship with the Town of Lenox's administration, as described in last year's Town Report. A significant capital project that improved the educational opportunities for students attending Lenox's schools was the construction of a computer-assisted design (CAD) room at LMMHS. Investments in computer hardware included additional Chromebooks, which, with DESE's phase-out of paper and pencil testing, are needed now and in the future for students to participate in the Commonwealth's Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) testing.

### **Lenox Memorial Middle and High School**

Mr. Michael E. Knybel, Principal

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School's vision is that each student will be provided with a plethora of academic and extracurricular opportunities in a safe and secure environment to ensure their maximum potential.

We continue collaborative work with internal and external committees to evaluate the current school schedule, grading systems, communication, and curriculum.

Currently, Lenox High School requires students to earn 104 credits for graduation; most students graduate with 128 or more credits. Students must earn a minimum of 16 credits each in English and Math; 12 credits each in Social Studies and Science; 8 credits in World Language; 2 credits each in the Arts and Technology; and 8 credits in Health & Wellness. Our requirements meet the standards set by the National Commission on Excellence in Education. In the spring of 2019, 88% of graduating seniors continued their post-secondary education with approximately 70% attending four-year colleges and universities, and 18% attending two-year colleges. Vocational

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education continues to be an option for Lenox students through a cooperative arrangement with the Pittsfield Public Schools that allows students to attend Taconic or Pittsfield High School Vocational Programs and earn diplomas and certificates accordingly. Our Internship Program allows juniors and seniors to spend up to half of their school day interning with local businesses while continuing their academic program at school.

The spring 2019 MCAS scores remained significantly higher than the state average scores. This classified Lenox Memorial Middle and High School as a School with an Accountability percentile of 92 making “Substantial Progress towards Targets”. Once again, grades 6-8 took the Next Generation MCAS 2.0 on a computer-based platform, while grade 9 for Science and Technology and grade 10 for ELA and Math were tested on a computer-based platform for the first time with the Next Generation MCAS test. In comparison with other Berkshire County schools, students in grades 6-8 at LMMHS performed as the top scorers in ELA and Math when compared to other schools of similar size. For Grade 10 MCAS, 83% of students scored Meeting or Exceeding Expectations in ELA and 71% Meeting or Exceeding Expectations in Math. On the Grade 9 Biology and Physics MCAS, 88% of students scored Proficient or Advanced.

In 2019, Lenox Memorial Middle and High School was recognized as a top 3% school in the nation for the sixth year in a row by the U.S. World News and Report. LMMHS was 32nd in the state and 777th in the nation. The Washington Post listed Lenox as one of America’s Most Challenging Schools and LMMHS was named to the Fifth Annual College Board AP Honor Roll for the continuous improvement of our AP programs. SAT scores continue to be strong and remain high above county, state, and national averages. Lenox students’ SAT average scores were the second highest in Berkshire County for Reading and 4th highest for Math, out of 14 schools in Berkshire County. In June of 2019, Lenox Memorial Middle and High School was recognized with a Certificate of Recognition for High Achievement as a Massachusetts School of Recognition presented by Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley.

Working in collaboration with Shakespeare & Company, Lenox students produced two plays; one involving high school students in November and one for our middle school students in January. Our high school students also performed in our annual musical production in the spring and the middle school students produced a spring musical production as well. Students from Band and Chorus have proven their excellence as many have been selected for the Western District and All State Band, Orchestra, Jazz Band or Chorus. In addition to the excellent performance of our students on stage, our technical students do a superb job of mastering the sophisticated light and sound systems built into the theater.

Extracurricular clubs and activities at the Middle and High School level include: Peer Education, Middle School Literary Magazine, Mock Trial, FTC Robotics Club, Peer Tutoring, Student Council, Student Government, Middle School Yearbook, Quiz Team, National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, SAVE, Student Relief Club, Mountain Biking Club, Middle School French Club, Middle School Art Club, Senior Yearbook, H.S. Spanish Club, Evergreen Club, Cine Club, Middle School Peer Leadership Club, French Travel Club, Art Club, ASAP, High School Photography Club, Chess Club, Middle School Spanish Club, Middle School Science Club, and many more. Our FTC Robotics Club, Mock Trial Club and Quiz Team have all been recognized as top performers within league tournaments.

Lenox’s athletic programs continue to expand and serve the important goals of developing teamwork, sportsmanship, and lifelong learning. In the past year, more Lenox student-athletes have demonstrated excellence by being named to All Berkshire County and All Western Mass Teams. When looking back at the past few years in sports, all teams have experienced post-season play, as well as Divisional and Western MA Championships. In keeping with our commitment to cooperate with neighboring school systems, we are continuing a number of cooperative team arrangements with neighboring towns. LMMHS offers the following sports:

## *Town Of Lenox Annual Report 2019*

FALL: Soccer, Cross-Country Running, Golf, Crew (non-MIAA), Volleyball, Football (with Lee High School)

WINTER: Basketball, Cross-Country Skiing, Alpine Skiing (host team with Lee), Swimming (with MMRHS), Hockey (with Mt. Everett)

SPRING: Baseball, Softball, Tennis, Track (host team with Lee), Boys Lacrosse (with MMRHS), Girls Lacrosse (with Lee), Crew (as a club)

### **Morris Elementary School**

Mr. Peter J. Bachli, Principal

I hope that you find this report informative as a glimpse into Morris Elementary School. After three years as the Principal at Morris and 33 in education, I will be retiring in June of 2020. I have appreciated the many people of the Lenox community that I have met and worked with over the years. Thank you for your support of your schools. It is a big part of the success we have experienced in education our children. Morris Elementary currently has an enrollment of 320 students in grades Pre-K through five. Morris continues to have three classrooms in each grade level for grades one through five. We have all rooms in use in the building and it is a busy place.

The educational staffing level at Morris has stayed consistent from the previous year. At the close of the 2018-19 school year Morris School veteran reading and Title I teacher Lynn Schmitter and long-time technology teacher Denise Jezak retired. Two other retirements occurred in the fall of 2019 with school nurse Daria Woodger in October and first grade teacher Pam Mason in November after 35 years of teaching in Lenox. Paraprofessional Donna Belanger retired from Morris in the fall as well. As a result, new staff members were hired including Shannon O'Brien in first grade, Kathleen Shove as the nurse, Kate Olender as the technology specialist and Christine Jackson as a K Para. Jennifer Culver transitioned to the Title I coordinator position from the interventionist position she previously held. While we will miss those people who were a key part of the Morris School community, we welcome the new staff aboard. Each year always brings about some changes and we are fortunate to continue to have a hard working and dedicated staff at Morris.

The Morris Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) meets monthly to provide extra programs for the children and to plan fun events throughout the year. Any parent is welcome to join this organization. They meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the school library. Please feel free to contact the school or check out the web page to find out more about being a part of this helpful group.

Instruction at Morris Elementary in our kindergarten through fifth grade classes takes place in 17 self-contained classrooms. Reading/English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies are taught by elementary teachers who are generalists. Morris School continues to align its curriculum to the Massachusetts Frameworks in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. In the area of ELA, Morris faculty implement a balanced literacy approach. This approach entails a balance of basic skills (phonics, decoding, etc.) with rich and meaningful encounters with literature. In K-2, there is a common phonics instructional program called Foundations. In grades 1 and 2, literacy helpers assist teachers in providing targeted instruction at children's individual skill levels. In upper grades, children are supported at their level with an emphasis on helping children choose books at their appropriate reading level. In addition, children explore texts in a number of settings, including independent reading, small book groups, and whole class lessons. In every setting, the focus is on having rich conversations and writing about books. Children read and write widely across genres and analyze text structure, character, voice, and author's purpose. At its core, our approach to reading instruction aims to foster a love of reading and writing in and out of school.

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Mathematics instruction at Morris School is implemented through our core math program, GoMath! (Houghton-Mifflin). GoMath! is aligned with the Common Core Standards and seeks to build a strong foundation in numeracy and operational fluency while delving deeply into understanding the mathematical concepts behind the traditional algorithms historically taught in math classrooms. It is nice to see the success with this program.

In 2016, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education adopted a new set of Curriculum Frameworks in the area of Science, Technology, and Engineering. Teachers have reviewed these standards and are working to develop their third unit of study based on the new requirements. We are also reviewing and “shopping” for curriculum offerings to explore options for a comprehensive Science curriculum for our classrooms.

Morris continued to perform very well on this round of state testing and was ranked in the “Meeting or Exceeding Expectations” category, which is the top level. Morris’s success on standardized testing is what led the school to be named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. While the state testing is one measure of a school’s success, we strive to educate the whole child. Regular instruction in Music, Physical Education, Art, Technology/Computers, and World Languages rounded out the academic offerings of Morris School in the past year. In art classes, students have been working with multiple media, integrating content from the classroom curriculum. Music is offered weekly to all students (PK-5) and instrumental music is offered to students in grades 4 and 5. A very well attended choral music program offers students in grades 2-5 more opportunities for musical expression. Technology and computer instruction continue to be an important part of the school’s instructional program. All classrooms utilize advanced technology for instruction and student use. The children continue to enjoy weekly instruction in technology and computers. Physical Education is taught twice a week as we work to keep this generation moving. Our school library continues to be an asset for students and teachers who seek resources to enhance learning.

Morris School continues to offer a full spectrum of supplemental services to assist students who struggle to make academic progress within the school setting. Special educators in all grades provide intervention and specialized support to students within the classroom or in a separate resource room. Additional services in occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, and physical therapy are provided to students by licensed clinicians who are members of the Morris faculty. Title I tutors provide intervention for students who show a delay in reading skills as well as students who struggle in mathematics. Morris employs one full-time teacher of English as a Second Language. A school adjustment counselor and a guidance counselor both work part-time to help maintain a safe and welcoming school environment through individual and group work.

The Morris School Council, a group of parents, staff and community members who advise the principal on school improvement, met throughout the school year. The main focus of the Council is to develop a school committee approved School Improvement Plan (SIP). The council also helps make decisions regarding policy and procedures for the school.

The staff and students work hard to be sure we are providing a strong foundational education for the youngest members of this town as well as those students who enroll from neighboring communities through school choice. We work with the Lenox Police and Fire Departments as well as the Massachusetts State Police to ensure school safety and appreciate their support. Our school also serves as a hub for town activities like the youth athletic programs and the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, keeping our facility a vibrant community facility. We are pleased to host members of the Lenox “Super-Genarians” Group who come to Morris to walk during inclement weather after school hours. We also give our thanks to the members of the Lenox Public Schools School Committee for your work and support of the educational opportunities we have.

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All of the students and staff are grateful to you, the citizens and taxpayers of Lenox for your wonderful support of the education of Morris School students. Our success is directly related to the support of our community.

### **Department of Student Services**

Cynthia F. Dinan, Interim Director of Student Service

It is a privilege to return to the Lenox Public Schools as the Interim Director of Student Services. Looking back, the overall structure of the Department of Student Services in the Lenox Public Schools has remained consistent. The Department is comprised of three primary areas that provide services for students who attend the Lenox Public Schools: Special Education, English Language Education, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Special education programs are designed for students from the preschool level through either high school graduation or until the student's twenty-second birthday, if they are not able to meet with success in the regular program as the result of their disabilities. The special education department serves approximately 10% of the school-wide population. During the FY 19 school year, the district budgeted for a full-time School Psychologist. In prior years, psychological services were contracted out. Having someone on staff provides the ability not only to complete special education assessments but expands consultative services for students, staff, and families. All other programs and services within the department remain consistent and intact.

Student Services also oversees English Language Education, which provides instruction to meet the needs of those students whose primary or native language is other than English. Approximately 20-25 students receive ELE services annually. This number has varied greatly in recent years, and sometimes, fluctuates even during the school year.

The Director of Student Services is also responsible for overseeing district implementation of and compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, which is a law that prohibits discrimination against staff and students with handicapping conditions. Section 504 ensures that appropriate accommodations and/or services are provided in order to prevent discrimination due to a disability.

## **PERSONNEL OF LENOX PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2019-2020**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>YEAR HIRED</b>
Dr. William J. Cameron	Interim Superintendent	J.D. Western New England College School of Law, 1990 Ph.D. University of Toronto, 1978 M.A. SUNY - Albany, 1971 B.A. Canisius College, 1969	2019
Melissa J. Falkowski	Asst. Superintendent of Business and Operations	M.B.A. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2017 B.S. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2011	2019
Kimberly M. Dion	Director of Student Services	M.A. Framingham State College, 2010 M.Ed. Cambridge College, 1999 B.A. College of Our Lady of the Elms, 1987	2020

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Peter Bachli	Principal, Morris	M.Ed. Lesley University, 1995 B.A. North Adams State College, 1982	2017
Michael Knybel	Principal, Lenox Memorial Middle and High School	M.Ed. East Tenn. State University, 1998 B.A. Westfield State College, 1987	2011
Brian Cogswell	Assistant Principal Lenox Memorial Middle and High School	M.A. Endicott College, 2008 B.A. Springfield College, 1987	1997

### **FACULTY**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>YEAR HIRED</b>
Virginia Ardouin	Preschool, Morris	M.Ed. American International College, 2012 B.S. Skidmore College, 2008	2018
Amber Rose Arnold	Speech & Language Pathologist	M.S. Worcester State University, 2018 B.S. Springfield College, 2016	2018
Elizabeth Baer	Latin, LMMHS	M.A. Harvard University, 1990 B.A. Brown University, 1986	2014
Amy Bainbridge	Spanish, LMMHS	M.A. Middlebury College, 2011 B.A. Valley Forge Christian College, 2004	2018
Joseph Bazzano	Math, LMMHS	M.A. Endicott College, 2010 B.S. Northeastern University, 1987	2013
Kyle Betters	Grade 5, Morris	B.S. Westfield State University, 2016	2017
Lisa Budzek-Burr	Speech/Language Pathologist	M.S. Worcester State College, 1996 B.A. Rider College, 1984	1996
Courtney Buratto	Preschool, Morris	B.S. Westfield State University, 2017	2016
Sarah Burdsall	Physical Education, LMMHS	M.S. Ithaca College, 1990 B.S. St. Lawrence University, 1984	2004
Jonathan Cade	Music, LMMHS	B.A. Westfield State College, 1985	2001
Mary Cherry	Middle School Math, LMMHS	M.A. Notre Dame College, 1987 B.A. Trinity College, 1985	2013
Melissa Clay	ESL, LMMHS, Morris	B.A. University of Massachusetts, 2001 M.Ed. American College of Education, 2019	2013
Pamela Codey	Grade 4, Morris	M.Ed. Cambridge College, 2006 B.A. Westfield State College, 1992	2016
Simona Collins	ESL, LMMHS	M.S. Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, 2007 B.A. Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, 2003	2018
Stephen Conuel	Special Education, LMMHS	M.A. University of Notre Dame, 2000 B.A. Western New England College, 1987	2012
Janine Cote	Math, LMMHS	M.S. University of Massachusetts, 1998 B.S. Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 1993	2017

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Matthew Cote	CAD/Technology, LMMHS	M.Ed. University of Massachusetts, 2000 B.S. Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 1993	2000
Brenda Crane	Grade 1, Morris	M.S. SUNY - Albany, 1992 B.S. SUNY - Geneseo, 1988	1992
Jennifer Culver	Title I, Morris	M.Ed. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2003 B.S. Skidmore College, 1994	2014
James Currie	Science, LMMHS	M.A. Boston University, 1992 B.S. Boston University, 1991	2012
Jennifer Drees	School District Nurse	B.S. Grand Canyon University, 2014	2017
Anne Dunn	Grade 1, Morris	M.S. Hunter College, 2003 M.A. Yale University, 1984 B.A. Fordham University, 1983	2010
Anne Dupuis	French, LMMHS	M.A. Middlebury Language School, 2005 B.A. Smith College, 1999	2007
Ryan Evangelisto	Special Needs, LMMHS	M.Ed. Simmons College, 2017 B.A. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2015	2017
Ellen Farris	Special Education, LMMHS	M.A. Cambridge College, 1994 B.A. Trinity College, 1983	1999
Thomas Fielding	English, LMMHS	M.Ed. Cambridge College, 1998 B.A. University of Massachusetts, 1990	2019
Shannon Gamberoni	Special Education, Morris	Ed.S. Simmons College, 2012 M.A. Cambridge College, 2003 B.A. Westfield State, 1999	2012
Sarah Gerney	Grade 3, Morris	M.S. SUNY New Paltz, 2009 B.A. SUNY Geneseo, 1996	2010
Robin Getzen	English, LMMHS	M.Ed. Harvard University, 2000 B.A. Vassar College, 1977	2004
Evelyn Gonzalez*	Spanish, Morris	B.A. Purdue University, 1984	2004
Matthew Gottfried	Math, LMMHS	M.A. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2017 B.S. University of Minnesota, 1990	2010
Elizabeth Gray	Social Studies, LMMHS	M.A. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2008 B.A. Wellesley College, 1992	2005
Sara Hamilton	History, LMMHS	B.S. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2015 B.A. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2015	2016
Amanda Hanlin-Hochler	K-8 ELA Specialist	M.Ed. Providence College, 2007 B.S. Ed. Westfield State College, 2004 B.A. Westfield State College, 2004	2013
Sam Harb	French/Spanish, LMMHS	M.A. SUNY-Albany, 1997 B.S. SUNY-Plattsburg, 1992	1995

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Katherine Harding	Biology, LMMHS	Ph.D. Columbia University, 1988 B.A. Middlebury College, 1980	1997
David Hilfinger	MS Guidance Counselor	M.Ed. Alfred University, 2008 B.A. SUNY, 2004	2013
Michelle Johnson	Special Education, Morris	M.A. SPED, Bay Path College, 2014 M.A. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2007 B.A. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 1996	2015
Deborah Kain*	Art, Morris	M.A. University of Hartford, 1988 B.A. University of Hartford, 1976	1990
Brooke Kamienski	Science, LMMHS	M.Ed. American International College, 2010 B.A. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2002	2015
Alexis Kennedy	Librarian, LMMHS	M.A. Simmons College, 2010 B.A. University of Massachusetts, 2004	2010
Maureen Kennedy	Physical Education, Morris	M.A. Westfield State, College, 2003 B.S. Westfield State College, 2000	2000
Shaun Kennedy	Kindergarten, Morris	M.Ed. American International College, 2012 Westfield State College, 2001	2016
Kelley Khoury-Cady	Social Studies, LMMHS	M.A. Cambridge College, 2006 B.A. Mass College of Liberal Arts, 1989	2006
Matthew Knodler	Social Studies, LMMHS	M.Ed. Framingham State College, 2006 B.A. Westfield State College, 2002	2006
Jess Latimer	Math, LMMHS	M. Ed. Westfield State College, 2010 B.A. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2004	2011
Gabrielle Lavinio	Social Studies, LMMHS	B.A. Western New England University, 2017	2018
Nan Leighton	Special Education, LMMHS	M.Ed. Sage Graduate School, 1994 B.S. Saint Rose, 1983	2015
Casey Lennon	Math, LMMHS	M.A. Western New England University, 2018 B.S. Framingham State College, 2009	2014
Kerry Martinez	Spanish, LMMHS	M.A. University at Albany, 1997 B.A. SUNY - Binghamton, 1992	2018
Paul Mays	Special Education, LMMHS	M.Ed. Westfield State College, 1993 B.A. Salem State College, 1987	2011
Laura McCarthy	Health & Wellness, LMMHS	M.Ed. Springfield College, 2013 B.S. Springfield College, 2011	2015
Karen Miller	Grade 2, Morris	M.A. Simmons College, 2006 B.S. Russell Sage College	2006
Aimee Munday	Preschool, Morris	M. Ed. Cambridge College, 2009 B.A., St. Michael's College, 1998	2006
Karen Murphy	Grade 3, Morris	M.Ed. American International College, 2010 B.A. Bridgewater State College, 1991	2000

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Pamela Murray	Guidance Counselor, LMMHS	M.A. American International College B.A. Bay Path College, 1994	2014
Lynne Nilan	English, LMMHS	M. Ed. Cambridge College, 1999 B.A. University of Notre Dame, 1982	2013
Shannon O'Brien	Grade 1, Morris	M.Ed. Lesley University, 2007 B.A. Gordon College, 2004	2019
Katrina Olender	Technology Instructor, Morris	M.A. Indiana University, 1998 M.A. Boston University, 1996 B.A. Simmons College, 1992	2019
Lindsay Osterhoudt	Math Specialist, Morris	M.Ed. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2016 B.A. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2005	2017
Michelle Perkins	Grade 2, Morris	M.Ed. American International College, 2010 B.A. Berkshire Christian College, 1981	1996
Anna Pettus	Grade 3, Morris	M.S. Simmons College, 2017 B.A. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2013	2014
Ann Piekos-Barber	Business Computers, LMMHS	M.A. North Adams State College, 1985 B.A. Salem State College, 1975	1990
Marjorie Pollard	Music, Morris	M.A. University of Hartford, 2011 B.A. University of Hartford, 1985 (Hartt School of Music)	2008
Megan Porter	History, LMMHS	M.Ed. Westfield State University, 2018 B.A. Smith College, 2013	2014
David Pugh	Math, LMMHS	M.A. Eastern Michigan University, 2001 B.S. University of Toledo, 1996	2012
Thomas Renton	Woodshop, LMMHS	B.S. Westfield State College, 2003	2019
Leslie John Roche	Art, LMMHS	M.Ed. Lesley College, 2001 B.F.A. Paier College of Art, 1986	2003
Helen Rock	Grade 5, Morris	M.Ed. North Adams State College, 1997 B.S. Southern Connecticut State College, 1981	2003
Ann-Marie Rodriguez	Spanish, LMMHS	Ph.D. American International College, 2016 M.A. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 1986 B.A. Salem State College, 1982	2006
Tara Romeo	Guidance Counselor, LMMHS	M.A. Cambridge College, 2000 B.S. Boston College, 1992	2010
Karen Romeo-Léger	Art, LMMHS	M.Ed. Mass. College of Liberal Arts, 2005 B.F.A. Syracuse University, 1996	1997
Richard Sanders	Science, LMMHS	M.Ed. Westfield State University, 2006 B.S. Bloomsburg University, 1994	2001
Ashley Scherben	Grade 4, Morris	M.Ed. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2011 B.A. Eastern Connecticut State University, 2007	2011

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Francine Shelhamer	Grade 4, Morris	M.Ed. Lesley University, 2004 B.A. Mass. College of Liberal Arts, 2000	2002
Brian Shepardson	Special Education, LMMHS	M.A. Westfield State College, 1999 B.S. North Adams State College, 1994	2001
Amanda Soar	English, LMMHS	M.A. Boston College, 2006 B.S. Vanderbilt University, 2005	2019
Mary Sorrentino	Math, LMMHS	M.A. University of Massachusetts, 1997 B.S. University of Vermont, 1990	2000
Peter Starenko	History, LMMHS	Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, 2003 M.A. University of Oregon, 1990 B.A. Augustana College, 1987	2007
Jeanne Teasdale	Health, LMMHS	B.S. University of Memphis, 1977	1997
Brian Tolan	Science, LMMHS	M.S. University of California, Riverside, 1998 B.S. University of Massachusetts, Lowell, 1996	2000
Eric Tyer	Physical Education, LMMHS	M.A. MCLA, 2015 B.S. Springfield College, 2004	2007
Scott Wade	English, LMMHS	M.A. Stephen F. Austin State University, 2002 B.A. Stephen F. Austin State University, 2000	2017
Benjamin Weaver	English, LMMHS	Ph.D. Duke University, 2000 M.A. Duke University, 1995 B.A. Columbia University, 1992	2007
David Wehry	School Psychologist	Psy.D. University of Hartford, 2012 M.A. Boston College, 2004 B.A. Sienna College, 2002	2019
Donna Weber*	School Adjustment Counselor	M.A. SUNY Albany, 1987 B.A. Trenton State College, 1975	1992
Lisa Wespiser	English, LMMHS	M.S. Simmons College, 2016 B.A. Pennsylvania State University, 2002	2011
Laurie Wetherbee	Science, LMMHS	M.A. Brown University, 1990 B.S. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 1986	2010
Jenna White	Grade 5, Morris	M.A. Fitchburg State, 2013 B.A. Assumption College, 2008	2015
Aviva Wichler	Kindergarten, Morris	M.A. Hunter College, 1989 B.A. State University of New York, 1983	2005
Emily Wood	Grade 2, Morris	M.Ed. College of Our Lady of the Elms, 2015 B.A. College of Our Lady of the Elms, 2011	2018
Cherilyn Zaretsky*	Guidance Counselor, Morris	M.Ed. Fordham University, 2006 B.A. Boston College, 1999	2016
Kyle Zinchuk	Science, LMMHS	B.S. University of Notre Dame, 2010	2012

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## **SUPPORT / SERVICE STAFF (LISTED ALPHABETICALLY)**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>YEAR HIRED</b>
LuAnn Auger*	Food Services, LMMHS	2019
Betsy Baczek	Special Education Paraprofessional	2018
Suzanne Baczek*	Food Services, Morris	2013
Jill Barnoski	Principal's Secretary, Morris	2009
Regina Boino	Special Education Paraprofessional, Morris	2004
Ruth Boorady-Bloom	Kindergarten Paraprofessional, Morris	2016
Nicole Brooks	Special Education Paraprofessional, LMMHS	2017
Debra Caffrey	Student Services Secretary, Morris	2014
Linda Clifford*	Bus Driver	2010
Linda Consolini	Special Education Paraprofessional, Morris	2001
Helen Coty-Curtin	Food Services Supervisor, Morris	2004
Carol Deets	Guidance Secretary, LMMHS	2011
Kristina Derouin*	Food Services, Morris	2017
Courtney Dinan	Special Education Paraprofessional, Morris	2013
Christine Drosehn	Building Clerk, Morris	2016
Elizabeth Engelhard	Special Education Paraprofessional, Morris	2017
Lorraine Goodfellow	Food Services Director	2000
Nancy Greenwald	Instructional Paraprofessional – Title I, Morris	2007
Gina Guachione	Instructional Paraprofessional – Title I, Morris	2017
Susan Hanson	Accounting Assistant, Superintendent's Office	2004
Noreen Hoag	Special Education Paraprofessional, Morris	2017
Victoria Holt	Instructional Paraprofessional, LMMHS	2006
Christine K. Jackson	Kindergarten Paraprofessional, Morris	2019
Michael Jackson	District Technology Director	2004
Karen Joyner	Library Paraprofessional, Morris	1988
Kathy Koscher	Building Paraprofessional, Morris	1999
Catherine Lefkowitz*	Instructional Paraprofessional, Morris	2019
Mikki Lennon	Special Education Paraprofessional, LMMHS	2019
Elaine Lovato	Principal's Secretary, LMMHS	1998
Susan Love*	Instructional Paraprofessional – Title I, Morris	2017
Timothy Lufkin	District Technology Support Technician	2016
Andrea Lynch	Special Education Paraprofessional, LMMHS	2016
Michelle Lyon*	Instructional Paraprofessional, Morris	2016
Carrie Mead	Special Education Paraprofessional, Morris	2019
Judy Miller	Instructional Paraprofessional, LMMHS	2018
Rebecca Miller	Kindergarten Paraprofessional, Morris	2005
Amy Noble Novitsky	Executive Assistant to the Superintendent	2013
Bobbi Omelenchuck	Registrar, LMMHS	1997
Nicole Patella	Clerical Paraprofessional/Receptionist, LMMHS	2016
Melissa Pehlert*	Library Aide, LMMHS	2008
Kathy Pezze	Intervention Specialist, Morris	1998
Tabitha Pickett-Vahle	Special Education Paraprofessional, LMMHS	2016
Amy Pires	Special Education Paraprofessional, Morris	2019
Kathy Piretti	Special Education Paraprofessional, Morris	1990
Maggie Rivers	Student Support Center Supervisor, LMMHS	2018
Renee Robbins	Special Education Paraprofessional, Morris	2016
Donna Rooney-Stalker	Special Education Paraprofessional, Morris	2019
Albert Saldarini	Theater Manager and Computer Technician	2000
Sandra Schilling	Special Education Paraprofessional, Morris	2020
Kathleen Shove	Health Room Assistant	2019
Frances Sorrentino*	Food Services, LMMHS	1999
Janet Tone*	Physical Education Paraprofessional, Morris	2015
Cathy Touponce*	Food Services, LMMHS	2015
Anna Van Lingen*	Food Services Supervisor, LMMHS	1996
Karen Zinchuk	Assistant Principal's Secretary, LMMHS	2004
Laura Zink*	Non-Instructional Paraprofessional, Morris	1997

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### **CUSTODIAL STAFF**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>YEAR HIRED</b>
Jeffrey Ano	Head Custodian, LMMHS	1987
Dale Armstrong	Custodian, LMMHS	1996
Michael Bohin	Custodian, LMMHS	2006
Dominic Boschetti	Custodian, LMMHS	2017
Tom Hynes, III	Head Custodian, Morris	2014
Margaret MacDowell	Custodian, Morris	2006
Gordon Roosa	Custodian, Morris	2010
Nicholas Saldarini	Custodian, LMMHS	2012
Liam Toole	Custodian, Morris	2015
Peydon Twing*	Custodian, LMMHS	2013

\* Part-time

### **LENOX PUBLIC SCHOOLS FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES**

The following is a summary of the actual appropriation and expenditures for 2018-2019:

<b>Program</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual Expenditures</b>
Elementary Education	\$ 2,353,201	\$ 2,459,840
Secondary Education	5,350,090	5,284,085
Special Education	1,764,830	1,777,758
Other School Services	252,710	224,587
Administration/Support Services	761,575	726,267
Operations/Maintenance	<u>1,045,775</u>	<u>983,091</u>
	\$11,528,181	\$11,455,628

### **LOCAL REVOLVING FUNDS, STATE & FEDERAL GRANTS**

In addition to expenditures handled through the regular operating budget, there are certain expenditures for school-related activities that are funded through the proceeds of local revolving funds and/or State and Federal grants.

#### **SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (Revolving Fund)**

Beginning Balance July 1, 2018:		\$ 71,168
Receipts:		
Sales	\$ 163,859	
USDA Claims	<u>94,908</u>	\$258,767
Expenditures:		
Food and Other Exp.	\$ 121,138	
Labor	<u>145,391</u>	\$266,529
Cash Balance June 30, 2019:		\$ 63,406

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**ATHLETIC REVOLVING ACCOUNT (Revolving Fund)**

Beginning Balance July 1, 2018:	\$81,315
Cash Receipts:	\$43,241
Expenditures:	\$51,411
Ending Cash Balance June 30, 2019:	\$73,145

**SCHOOL REIMBURSEMENTS RECEIVED BY TOWN DURING FISCAL 2019**

Chapter 70 - School Aid	\$1,257,705
Chapter 71 - School Transportation	\$ 0
Chapter 645 – School Construction	\$ 0
Medicaid Reimbursements	\$ 32,729
Charter Tuition Reimbursement	\$ 0

**TUITION RECEIPTS RECEIVED BY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT DURING FY 2018**

School Choice - Tuition Receipts	\$ 1,534,531
Non-Choice Tuition Receipts	74,224
SPED Circuit Breaker	54,124

**FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDS RECEIVED BY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT DURING FISCAL 2019**

Title I	\$156,523
PL 94-142	253,523
Title IIA	24,929
Title IID	0
Title III	0
Title IV	0
Title V	0
City of Pittsfield – BTEP	0
SPED Early Childhood	8,023
SPED Professional Development	0
SPED E.C. Program Improvement	0
Carl Perkins Grant	7,512
BCREB	2,000
ARRA – SFSF	0
ARRA-IDEA	0
ARRA-Title I	0
ARRA-Early Childhood	0
ARRA – Ed Jobs	0
Academic Success [MCAS]	0
BCARC [SPED]	0

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**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SALARY SCHEDULES FOR 2018-2019**

<b>Unit A Instructional</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
BA	\$42,020	\$74,182
BA+30	43,490	76,779
MA	45,012	79,466
MA+15	46,588	82,247
MA+30	48,218	85,126
MA+45	49,906	88,105
MA+60	51,653	91,189

<b>Unit C Support Staff (rates are per hour)</b>	<b>New Employee Hourly Rates</b>
Instructional	15.44
Instructional with Associates Degree	19.12
Non-Instructional	14.83
Clerical / Administrative Assistant	16.70
Clerical / Administrative Assistant w/ Assoc. Degree	20.37
Food Service Worker	14.83
Food Service Supervisor	18.71
Transportation [Bus Driver]	18.71

<b>Custodial/Maintenance Staff</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
Custodian	17.01	23.82
Head Custodian	30.02	30.02

## TOWN OF LENOX SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

November 7, 2019

At 7:03 PM a Special Town Meeting held at the Lenox Memorial Middle High School's Duffin Theater was called to order. A quorum for the meeting was met with over 27 present at the opening. Moderator John McNinch introduced Greg Alexander, Senior Account Executive with Turning Technologies and asked voters to allow him to explain electronic voting to the town residents. It was unanimously allowed. Turning Technologies agreed to let the town use the response devices or "clickers" as a trial at this Special Town Meeting free of charge. A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the warrant and return of service thereof and to authorize the moderator to declare a 2/3rd vote.

ARTICLE 1: It was moved, seconded and approved unanimously by a voice vote that the Town appropriate the sum of \$534,712 for capital expenditures in the Department of Public Works and, further, to provide for said appropriation, to transfer the sum of \$534,712 from Free Cash as certified on July 1, 2019.

ARTICLE 2: It was moved that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw to regulate the Short-Term Rental of Rooms and the Short-Term Rental of entire Dwellings by repealing Section 8.8.1 and replacing it with Section 8.4 Short-Term Rental of Residential Property, inserting new definitions in alphabetical order into Section 4, "Definitions" of existing Zoning Bylaw, amend and replace location of lodging uses, and amend the "Schedule of Uses", exactly as published in the warrant for this Town Meeting. Moderator McNinch recused himself and Janet H. Pumphrey took over as Moderator. This bylaw was unanimously approved by the Planning Board and also approved by the Board of Selectmen.

**Table 5.2 - Schedule of Uses:**

		R3A	R1A	R30	R15	C3A	C1A	C	I	References
H.	Accessory Uses and General Off-street Parking									
1	Short-Term Rental of Rooms	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Section 8.4
2	Short-Term Rental of Entire Dwelling Units up to 75 days per calendar year	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Section 8.4
3	Short-Term Rental of Entire Dwelling Units an additional 35 days (up to 110 days total)	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	Section 8.4

### 8.4 Short-Term Rental of Residential Properties

#### Definition

**Short-Term Rental** – An accessory lodging use in an owner-occupied, tenant-occupied or non-owner occupied dwelling unit including, but not limited to, an apartment, house, accessory dwelling unit, cottage, condominium, or a furnished accommodation that is not a hotel, motel, inn, resort, lodging house, or bed and breakfast establishment, where at least 1 room or unit is rented to an occupant or sub-occupant for 1-31 consecutive calendar days; and all accommodations are reserved in advance; except for certain lodging types excluded from such regulation by Massachusetts General Law.

#### 8.4.1 Purposes

Short-Term Rentals (STRs) as defined in this section are allowed for residential properties in conformance with the following regulations. These regulations aim to balance private, neighborhood, and public interests by establishing middle-ground intensity limits that will:

1. Protect and maintain the residential character of existing neighborhoods.
2. Preserve housing options for new residents by deterring commercial interests from buying housing to use primarily as short-term rental businesses.

- 3.Enable residents to earn extra money from their properties to better afford to live here, maintain their properties, and contribute to the community.

#### **8.4.2 General Requirements for all Short-Term Rentals**

- 1.During the Short-Term Rental use:
  - a.All overnight parking must be within the property's driveway or garage.
  - b.Events that include tents or amplified music or which would customarily require a license or permit are not allowed.
- 2.Signs advertising the Short-Term Rental are not allowed.
- 3.A Short-Term Rental is not allowed on any property with outstanding violations of the Building Code, Fire Code, Board of Health, or Town General Bylaws.
- 4.Except as allowed in 8.4, the regulations of the underlying districts apply.

#### **8.4.3Short-Term Rental of Rooms**

- 1.Up to two bedrooms in a dwelling unit may be rented year-round by right provided that the owner or tenant is occupying the dwelling unit at the time of the rental.

#### **8.4.4Short-Term Rental of Entire Dwelling Units**

- 1.An entire dwelling unit may be rented up to 75 days per calendar year by right.
- 2.An entire dwelling unit may be rented for an additional 35 days (up to 110 days) per calendar year by Special Permit.

#### **8.4.5Multiple Dwelling Units on a Parcel**

- 1.If more than one dwelling unit exists on a single parcel:
  - a.The above totals apply to the parcel. The day limits defined above shall be apportioned among those dwelling units.
  - b.Only one dwelling may be used for either Short-Term Rental of Rooms or Short-Term rental of an Entire Dwelling Unit on the parcel at a time.

Amendment: Rinaldo DelGallo, 24 Orchard St. moved to amend the motion as follows: Adding the following language at the bottom of Special town Meeting Warrant Article 2 The aforementioned text shall be referred to as THE AMENDMENT TO THE LENOX ZONING BYLAWS TO REGULATE SHORT TERM RENTALS.”

In ADDITION, should a MAJORITY VOTE BE SECURED of this TOWN MEETING formally petitions the General Court pursuant to Section 8 of Article II of the Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as amended from time to time, (i.e., what is commonly called a “home rule petition” or “special legislation”) that legislation be adopted precisely as provided in “THE AMENDMENT TO THE LENOX ZONING BYLAWS TO REGULATE SHORT TERM RENTALS.” The General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Lenox Planning Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court. The Lenox Planning Board are hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition. If a vote on the preceding proposed “AMENDMENT TO THE LENOX ZONING BYLAWS TO REGULATE SHORT TERM RENTALS.” Submitted to the Lenox Town Meeting pursuant to c. 337 of the Acts of 2018 entitled “An Act Regulating and Insuring Short-term Rentals,” ALSO obtains the 2/3 vote that is required under Mass. Gen. L. c 40A §5 (entitled “Adoption or change of zoning ordinances or by-laws: procedure”) it shall so be adopted, and nothing in this ADDITIONAL effort to seek a Home Rule Petition pursuant to Section 8 of Article II of the Articles of the Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution shall be interpreted as meaning that short-term rental amendments to the Lenox Zoning bylaw is ineffective or contingent upon approval by the legislature of the additional home rule petition.

It is the intent of this warrant article to SIMULTANEOUSLY pursue an “ordinary” amendment to the Lenox zoning bylaws (pursuant to c. 337 of the Acts of 2018, entitled “An Act Regulating and Insuring Short-term Rentals,” under the procedure to establish zoning bylaw amendments under Mass. Gen. L. c. 40A §5) AND ALSO to pursue a home rule petition under Section 8 of Article II of the Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

Moderator Pumphrey deemed this amendment beyond the scope so no vote was taken.

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**Amendment:** Danielle Villette, 27 Schermerhorn Park moved to amend the motion as follows:

8.4.4 Short-Term Rental of Entire Dwelling Units

1. An entire dwelling unit may be rented.
2. Delete,

Vote on the amendment using “clickers”

Yes 65

No 149

Amendment fails.

**Amendment:** Jackie L. Wong, 35 Hubbard St. moved to amend the motion as follows:

8.4.4 Short-Term Rental of Entire Dwelling Units

1. An entire dwelling unit may be rented up to 110 days per calendar year by right.
2. Delete.

Vote on the amendment using “clickers”

Yes 84

No 126

Amendment fails.

**Amendment:** Ariel Dawn Smith, 59 Jaynes Rd. B moved to amend the motion as follows:

8.4.4.

2. An entire dwelling unit may be rented for additional days by Special Permit.

Vote on amendment using “clickers”

Yes 65

No 128

Amendment fails.

Judy Moss, 177 West St. Called the Question and it was unanimously agreed.

Moderator Pumphrey asks for a vote on the original Motion,

That the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw to regulate the Short-Term Rental of Rooms and the Short-Term Rental of entire Dwellings by repealing Section 8.8.1 and replacing it with Section 8.4 Short-Term Rental of Residential Property, inserting new definitions in alphabetical order into Section 4, “Definitions” of existing Zoning Bylaw, amend and replace location of lodging uses, and amend the “Schedule of Uses”, exactly as published in the warrant for this Town Meeting.

Vote on original Motion using “clickers”

Yes 151

No 61

Motion passes with more than 2/3 votes.

ARTICLE 3: Selectmen Chairman Ed Lane moved that the Town vote to amend the By-laws of the Town of Lenox, Massachusetts, by adding a new Chapter XXVIII, Inspection and Registration of Short-Term Rentals, exactly as published in the warrant for this Town Meeting. Approved by Board of Selectmen

### **Chapter XXVIII**

#### **Inspection and Registration of Short-Term Rentals**

Applicants for short-term rental uses must complete a registration application with the Town Clerk. Requirements include:

##### **1. A Certificate of Compliance from the Building Commissioner**

The Building Inspections Department shall inspect the premises to determine adherence to applicable zoning, building, safety and housing codes and to determine maximum occupancy, and will issue a Certificate of Compliance if the premises meet all applicable requirements. If the Department and applicant are unable to schedule an inspection within sixty (60) days, a temporary

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registration number may be issued.

Applicants may need to apply for a Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA).

### **2. Registration with the Town Clerk**

Upon receipt of applicable zoning and building permits as may be needed, the Town Clerk shall issue a registration number and certificate. To complete the registration, the following information is required:

- a) Name, address, telephone number(s), email address.
- b) The registration number shall be displayed at all times in online listings, or any other form of listing, and at the short-term rental property.
- c) Local contact (name, address, telephone number(s) and email address) on file if owner of record does not reside in Berkshire County.

### **3. Annual Renewal**

Annual renewal through the Building Inspections Department is required and will be granted subject to continuing evidence of adherence to zoning, building, safety and housing codes as well as annual inspection.

### **4. Fees**

The Select Board or its designee may set and periodically revise a schedule of fees for registration, permit application, and inspections of short-term rental properties.

Amendment: Ed Lane, Chairman of the Selectmen, 101 Crystal St. moved to amend the motion and explained that the Board isn't ready and realized this after their last Selectmen's Meeting. He'd like to STRIKE the words "Inspection and" from the title STRIKE Section 1, Section 3, and Section 4 in their entirety STRIKE the title from Section 2 STRIKE the first two sentences from Section 2 ADD the following sentence to the end of the bylaw: "The application shall be in a format approved by the Board of Selectmen. The Town Clerk will issue a registration number upon approval of an application."

Vote on amendment using "clickers"

Yes 132

No 46

Amendment passes

Amendment: Rinaldo DelGallo, 24 Orchard St. moved to amend the motion:

2. Registration with the Town Clerk

- d.) Provide State Department of Revenue (DOR) number as proof of registration with the DOR.

Vote on amendment using "clickers"

Yes 127

No 55

Amendment passes.

Moderator Pumphrey asked for a vote on Article 3 Motion as Amended:

Vote on the Motion as amended using "clickers"

Yes 173

No 23

Motion passes.

ARTICLE 4: It was moved, seconded and approved by voice vote that the Town amend the By-laws of the Town of Lenox, Massachusetts, by adding a new Chapter XXIX, Preservation of Historically Significant Buildings, exactly as published in the warrant for this Town Meeting. Approved by Board of Selectmen and Historical Commission

## **CHAPTER XXIX**

### **Demolition Delay Bylaw for Preservation of Historically Significant Buildings**

This bylaw will take effect March 1, 2020.

#### **Intent and Purpose**

This bylaw is enacted for the purpose of preserving and protecting significant buildings, streetscapes and neighborhoods within Lenox which constitute or reflect distinctive features of the architectural, cultural, economic, political or social history of the town and to limit the detrimental effect of demolition on the character of the town. Through this bylaw, owners of preferably preserved buildings are encouraged to seek out alternative options that will preserve, rehabilitate or restore such buildings and residents of the town are alerted to demolitions of significant buildings. By preserving and protecting significant buildings, streetscapes and neighborhoods, this bylaw promotes the public welfare by making the town a more attractive and desirable place in which to live and work. To achieve these purposes the Historical Commission is authorized to advise the Building Inspector with respect to demolition permit applications. The issuance of demolition is regulated as provided by this bylaw.

#### **Definitions**

**APPLICANT** - Any person or entity who files an application for a demolition permit. If the applicant is not the owner of the premises upon which the building is situated, the owner must indicate on or with the application his/her assent to the filing of the application.

**APPLICATION** - An application for the demolition of a building.

**BUILDING** - Any combination of materials forming a shelter for persons, animals or property.

**BUILDING COMMISSIONER** - The person occupying the office of Building Commissioner or otherwise authorized to issue demolition permits.

**COMMISSION** - The Lenox Historical Commission or its designee.

**DEMOLITION** - Any act of pulling down, destroying, removing, dismantling or razing a building or commencing the work of total or substantial destruction. Substantial destruction is further defined as destruction of the street facing facade. Interior demolition and routine maintenance are excluded as is demolition within the Historic District, which is covered by separate bylaw.

**DEMOLITION PERMIT** - The building permit issued by the Building Inspector for a demolition of a building, excluding a building permit issued solely for the demolition of the interior of a building.

**PREFERABLY PRESERVED** - Any significant building which the Commission determines, following a public hearing, that it is in the public interest to be preserved rather than demolished. A preferably preserved building is subject to the twelve-month demolition delay period of this bylaw.

**SIGNIFICANT BUILDING** - Any building within Lenox which is in whole or in part seventy-five years old or older which has been determined by the Commission or its designee to be significant based on any of the following criteria:

- The Building is importantly associated with one or more historic persons or events, or with the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic or social history of Lenox or the Commonwealth; or
- The Building is historically or architecturally important (in terms of period, style, method of building construction or association with a recognized architect or builder) either by itself or in the context of a group of buildings.
- The Building is a component of a neighborhood of buildings of similar age and or style.

#### **Procedure**

No demolition permit for a building which is in whole or in part seventy-five or more years old shall be issued without following the provisions of this bylaw. If a building is of unknown age, it shall be assumed that the building is seventy-five years or more old for the purposes of this bylaw.

An applicant proposing to demolish a building subject to this bylaw shall file with the Building Commissioner an application including:

- 1.The owner's name, address, email, and telephone number
- 2.Description of the demolition

Upon receipt of this information, the building inspector shall alert the Historical Commission.

If the Commission determines the demolition is significant, additional information as follows will be requested:

- 1.The address and Town Assessor's Map, block and lot designation of the structure to be demolished;

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2. The date of structure establishment as determined by the Assessor's information, deed or other documentation verifying year of construction;
3. The reason for requesting a demolition permit;
4. A brief description of the proposed reuse, reconstruction or replacement and
5. A photograph or photograph(s) of the structure.

The Building Commissioner shall, within seven days, forward a copy of the application to the Commission. The Commission shall, within fifteen days after receipt of a satisfactorily completed application, make a written determination of whether the building is significant.

Upon determination by the Commission that the building is not significant, the Commission shall so advise the Building Commissioner and applicant in writing. The Building Commissioner may then issue the demolition permit.

Upon determination by the Commission that the building is significant, the Commission shall so notify the Building Commissioner and the applicant in writing.

No demolition permit may be issued at this time. If the Commission does not notify, the Building Commissioner may proceed to issue the demolition permit.

If the Commission finds that the building is significant, it shall hold a public hearing within thirty days of the written notification to the Building Commissioner. Public notice of the time, place and purpose of the hearing shall be properly posted according to local and state law by the municipality and shall be for a period of not less than seven days prior to the date of said hearing.

The applicant, the owners of all adjoining property, the Building Commissioner and the Board of Selectmen shall be sent a copy of the notice.

The Commission shall decide at the public hearing or within fourteen days after the public hearing whether the building should be preferably preserved. If agreed to in writing by the applicant, the determination of the Commission may be postponed.

If the Commission determines that the building is not preferably preserved, the Commission shall so notify the Building Commissioner and applicant in writing. The Building Commissioner may then issue the demolition permit.

If the Commission determines that the building is preferably preserved, the Commission shall notify the Building Commissioner and applicant in writing. No demolition permit may then be issued for a period of twelve months from the date of the determination unless otherwise agreed to by the Commission. If the Commission does not so notify the Building Commissioner in writing within twenty-one days of the public hearing, the Building Commissioner may issue the demolition permit.

Upon determination by the Commission that a building is preferably preserved, no building permit for new construction or alterations to the subject building shall be issued for a period of twelve months from the date of the determination unless otherwise agreed to by the Commission.

No permit for demolition of a building determined to be a preferably preserved building shall be granted until all plans for future use and development of the site have been filed with the Building Commissioner and have been found to comply with all laws pertaining to the issuance of a building permit or, if for a parking lot, a certificate of occupancy including without limitation any necessary zoning variances or special permits, must be granted and all appeals from the granting of such approvals must be concluded, prior to the issuance of a demolition permit under this section.

The Building Commissioner may issue a demolition permit or a building permit for a preferably preserved building if the Commission notifies the Building Inspector:

- a. The owner has made continuing bona fide and reasonable efforts to locate a purchaser willing and reasonably able to preserve, rehabilitate or restore the subject structure and that such efforts have been unsuccessful. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "continuing, bona fide and reasonable efforts to locate a purchaser" shall mean retaining a licensed broker to market the property in the usual manner over a substantial period, obtaining an appraisal from a reputable appraiser and providing evidence of good faith

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negotiations with potential buyers of the property. These efforts to sell the property shall be deemed unsuccessful only upon a finding that either there were no offers to purchase the property, that no offer from a willing and reasonably able buyer was for at least the reasonable appraised value of the property, or that no agreement to sell the property pursuant to an offer of at least the reasonable appraised value of the property could be reached despite good faith efforts to do so; and

- b. There is no reasonable likelihood that any person or group is willing to purchase, preserve, rehabilitate or restore such structure.

Demolition approval by the Commission is valid for two years.

### **Administration**

The Commission may adopt such rules and regulations as are necessary to administer the terms of the bylaw.

The Commission may delegate authority to make initial determinations of significance to one or more members of the Commission.

### **Emergency Demolition**

If after an inspection, the Building Commissioner finds that a building subject to this bylaw is found to pose an immediate threat to public health or safety due to its deteriorated condition and that there is no reasonable alternative to the immediate demolition of the building, then the Building Commissioner may issue an emergency demolition permit to the owner of the building. The Building Commissioner shall then prepare a report explaining the condition of the building and the basis for his/her decision which shall be forwarded to the Commission.

### **Enforcement and Remedies**

The Commission and/or the Building Commissioner are each specifically authorized to institute any and all actions and proceedings, in law or equity they may deem necessary and appropriate to obtain compliance with the requirements of this bylaw or to prevent a threatened violation thereof.

Any owner of a building subject to this bylaw that demolished the building without first obtaining a demolition permit in accordance with the provisions of this bylaw shall be subject to a fine of not more than Three Hundred Dollars. Each day the violation exists shall constitute a separate offense until a faithful recreation of the demolished building is completed or unless otherwise agreed to by the Commission.

If a building subject to this bylaw is demolished without a demolition permit being first obtained, no building permit shall be issued for a period of two years from the date of the demolition on the subject parcel of land or any adjoining parcels of land under common ownership and control unless the building permit is for the faithful recreation referred to above or unless otherwise agreed to by the Commission.

### **Historic District Act**

Following a determination that the building is significant and preferably preserved, the Commission may recommend to town meeting that the building be protected through the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 40C, the Historic Districts Act. The steps required under M.G.L. Chapter 40C shall be followed prior to the establishment of a local historic district. Nothing in this by-law shall be deemed to conflict with the provisions of the Historic District Act, Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40C. If any of the provisions of this bylaw do so conflict, that act shall prevail. Buildings included within the boundaries of a local historic district established under M.G.L. Chapter 40C shall not be subject to this bylaw so long as the proposed demolition is regulated by the local historic district bylaw.

### **Severability**

In case any section, paragraph or part of this by-law be for any reason declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court, every other section, paragraph, and part shall continue in full force and effect.

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ARTICLE 5: It was moved, seconded and approved unanimously by voice-vote to transfer the sum of \$21,000 from Free Cash as certified on July 1, 2019 for vocational education expenses

Moderator McNinch asked the voters if they liked electronic voting. It was shown by “clicker vote” that 140 are in favor and 7 against.

It was voted unanimously to dissolve the meeting at 9:19 PM.

Attest:

Kerry L. Sullivan  
Town Clerk

## **TOWN OF LENOX ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

- May 2, 2019

At 7:19 p.m. the Annual Town Meeting held at the Lenox Memorial Middle High School was called to order. A quorum for the meeting was met with over 137 present at the opening. It was voted unanimously to waive the reading of the warrant and return of service thereof and to authorize the moderator to declare a 2/3rds vote on voice votes if he deems it so.

The Moderator John J. McNinch addressed the attendees to remind them that all non-voters sit to the far right towards the back. Point of Order request from Kathleen McNulty Vaughan, 10 Post Rd.: Please ask non-voters to move to the cafeteria. Moderator McNinch stated they are already separated and we have the overflow attendees in the cafeteria with 2 assistant Moderators, Linda Procopio Messana and Jenifer Picard. Outgoing Selectman Kenneth Fowler is not seeking reelection so he took time before introducing Christopher J. Ketchen's budget presentation to thank the Boards, Town Administrative Officer Christopher J. Ketchen, the Board of Selectmen, the Department of Public Works, his wife Fran Fowler, recently retired Florence "Peg" Ammendola as well as fondly remembering, George L "Gige" Darey and John J. Pignatelli.

The moderator recognized Theodore S Silverman, 520 East St. who made a motion to Table his Citizen's Petitions, Articles 20 and 19 at this time. Both motions were moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

ARTICLE 1. It was moved, seconded and approved unanimously to authorize the Selectmen to choose all Minor Town Officers to wit: Field Drivers, Pound Keepers, Fence Viewers, Surveyors of Lumber, Wood and Bark, Sextons and Sealer of Weights and Measures.

ARTICLE 2. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Town appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for snow and ice removal costs, said sum to be transferred from Free Cash as certified on July 1, 2018 and added to the amount appropriated to the Snow and Ice line item under Article 3 of the Warrant for the 2018 Annual Town Meeting. (It was noted during the reading of the motion that the motion was edited from the published Town Meeting Warrant which read under Article 2 of the Warrant for the 2018 Town Meeting)

ARTICLE 3. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Town raise and appropriate from available funds for the operating expenses of the Town for Fiscal Year 2020 as follows:

DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT	FY 19 JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019	FY 20 JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020
1. Admin. & Finance	243,727	247,081
2. Town Clerk	147,36	369,689
3. Town Treasurer/Collector	85,261	129,380
4. Compensation Reserve	70,000	93,000
5. Operations Support	96,200	96,468
6. Elections & Registration	8,870	13,420
7. Economic Dev/Advertising	90,000*	90,000
8. Town Debt & Interest	290,000	13,000

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9. Audit, Reserve Account	628,718	655,816
10. Insurance & Bonds, OPEB	1,076,641	1,033,770
11. Land Use Department	485,691	521,480
12. Town Buildings	108,097	117,227
<b>General Government Subtotal</b>	<b>3,330,568</b>	<b>3,080,331</b>
13. Police Department	1,138,874	1,182,006
14. Fire Department	531,030	538,519
15. Emergency Management	30,201	30,958
16. Ambulance Squad	400,049	410,040
<b>Public Safety Subtotal</b>	<b>2,100,154</b>	<b>2,161,523</b>
17. Lenox Public Schools	12,917,715	13,399,103
18. Vocational Education	85,000	87,550
<b>Education Subtotal</b>	<b>13,002,715</b>	<b>13,486,653</b>
19. Highway Department	604,264	613,063
20. Snow & Ice	257,005	257,005
21. Cemetery	111,409	112,708
<b>Public Works Subtotal</b>	<b>972,678</b>	<b>982,776</b>
22. Board of Health	181,578	188,079
23. Veterans Services	70,113	70,113
<b>Human Services Subtotal</b>	<b>251,691</b>	<b>258,192</b>
24. Community Center	373,766	381,046
25. Cultural Council Grants	0	4,500
26. Academy Building	7,824	7,824
27. Historical Commission	10,950	10,950
28. Celebrations	2,200	2,200
<b>Cultural &amp; Recreation Subtotal</b>	<b>394,740</b>	<b>406,520</b>
29. Lenox Library	341,251	415,004
<b>Lenox Library Subtotal</b>	<b>341,251</b>	<b>415,004</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$20,393,797</b>	<b>\$20,790,999</b>

APPROVED BY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

APPROVED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE (Line #17)

\* ALL ITEMS APPROVED BY FINANCE COMMITTEE (COMMITTEE BELIEVES AN  
INCREASE IN LINE #7 WOULD ENHANCE TAX REVENUE)

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ARTICLE 4. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Town make the following appropriations to fund the Fiscal Year 2020 budget for the Water Department;

1. Water Operations	\$635,219
2. Debt Service	\$717,525
3. Capital Expenditures	<u>\$130,000</u>
	\$1,482,744

And further, to provide for said appropriations from the following sources of revenue and available funds.

User Charges	\$1,352,744
Retained Earnings	\$ 130,000
TOTAL	\$1,482,744

ARTICLE 5. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to make the following appropriations to the Fiscal Year 2020 budget for the Sewer Department.

1.Sewer Operations	\$855,727
2.Debt Service	\$765,619
3. Capital Expenditures	\$ 480,000
	\$2,101,346

And further, to provide for said appropriations from the following sources of revenue and available funds:

User Charges	\$1,631,585
Retained Earnings	\$469,761
TOTAL	\$2,101,346

ARTICLE 6. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to authorize the Town to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,214,500 for the following capital expenditures:

1. Highway Department Expenditures	\$605,000
2. School Department Expenditures	\$370,200
3. Fire Department Expenditures	\$25,000
4. Police Department Expenditures	\$3,500
5. Town Buildings/Equipment Expenditures	\$160,000
6. Community Center Expenditures	\$40,800
7. Land Use Expenditures	\$10,000

And further, to provide for said appropriations, to transfer from Free Cash as certified on July 1, 2018, the sum of \$1,060,080.

ARTICLE 7. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Town accept funds being provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the provisions of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, to pay for such costs as allowed by appropriate legislation in connection with the maintenance, repair, and construction of Town ways and bridges.

ARTICLE 8. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to authorize the Town to raise and appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for project debt

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service in fiscal year 2020, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation.

Library Debt Service      \$124,000 (General Unreserved)

ARTICLE 9. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to authorize the Town to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation annual revenues in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in fiscal year 2020, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation.

### Appropriations:

FY 2020 estimated revenues for Administrative Expense	\$ 18,750
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### Reserves:

FY 2020 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve	\$ 37,500
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FY 2020 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve	\$ 37,500
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FY 2020 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve	\$ 37,500
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FY 2020 estimated revenues for General Unreserved	\$ 262,500
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Total	\$ 375,000
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Estimated new surcharge collections for FY 2020	\$ 300,000
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Estimated State Match for FY 2020	\$ 75,000
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Total	\$ 375,000
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ARTICLE 10. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to authorize the Town to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee administrative expenses and community preservation projects and other expenses in fiscal year 2020 with each item to be considered a separate appropriation. Chair of the Community Preservation Fund, Anthony P. Patella thanked Albert B. Harper and Eugene R. Chague for their dedication to the Committee.

Frelinghuysen Morris House	\$25,000 (Historic Preservation)
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BNRC North Yokun Ridge Trail	\$50,000 (Open Space/Rec, Undesignated)
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MA Audubon Barn Improve.	\$300,000 (Undesignated)
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ARTICLE 11. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to raise and appropriate the sum of \$175,000 for the Fire Engine Stabilization Fund.

ARTICLE 12. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to transfer the sum of \$50,000 to the Special Education Reserve Fund from funds appropriated to the Lenox Public Schools under Article 3 of Warrant for the May 3, 2018 Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 13. It was moved, seconded and approved by a voice vote to authorize the Town to transfer the care, custody and control of a parcel of land, being a portion of certain property, commonly known as Kennedy Park, located on Main Street, being Assessor's Map 21, Parcel 8, said parcel containing 1.546 acres, shown as Lot 1 on a plan entitled "Survey of Land in Lenox, Massachusetts Prepared for John Fontaine," dated February 26, 2019; and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey

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said parcel on such terms and conditions, and for such consideration, as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate; and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to submit a petition to the General Court for a special act authorizing the transfer of said parcel under Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution; and further, to satisfy the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' "no net loss policy," to acquire and dedicate a parcel of land, being a portion of certain property, located at 66 Hubbard Street, being Assessor's Map 47, Parcel 1, said parcel shown on a plan entitled "Plan of Land Prepared for John G. Paladino and Emily Rechnitz, Hubbard Street, Lenox, MA," dated March 10, 2019, for conservation and open space purposes, to be held by the Conservation Commission, pursuant to G.L. c. 40, s. 8C, and/or such other parcel or parcels of land dedicated by the Board of Selectmen in its discretion, and dedicate said property to conservation and open space purposes in perpetuity, with the foregoing dedication of the land located at 66 Hubbard Street and/or the parcels dedicated by the Board of Selectmen to become effective upon the enactment of the Article 97 legislation.

ARTICLE 14. It was moved, seconded and approved by a voice vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by gift, from John G. Paladino and Emily Rechnitz, or the current owner, a certain parcel of land, containing twenty-five acres, more or less, said parcel shown on a plan entitled "Plan of Land Prepared for John G. Paladino and Emily Rechnitz, Hubbard Street, Lenox MA," dated March 10, 2019, said land being a portion of property at 66 Hubbard Street, described in a deed recorded with the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 3706, Page 95, being Tax Map 47-1-0, said property being acquired for the purpose of park, conservation and open space and also as mitigation for the conveyance by the Town of a parcel containing 1.546 acres, as shown on a plan entitled "Survey of Land in Lenox, Massachusetts Prepared for John Fontaine," dated February 26, 2019; and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take such actions and execute such documents as are deemed necessary to acquire said property, upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate.

Moderator McNinch recused himself for Article 15 and Article 16 and appointed temporary moderator Janet H. Pumphrey, 317 Under Mountain Rd.

ARTICLE 15. Marybeth Mitts, Chair of the Affordable Housing Committee asked Moderator Pumphrey if Elton Ogden of the Berkshire Housing Development Corporation and Tim Geller of the Community Development Corporation of Southern Berkshire could speak to the voters. Moderator Pumphrey asked the voters and they unanimously approved by hand count. Mr. Geller and Mr. Ogden spoke of the history of the project dating back to 2011 which the ownership model was preferred but soon became unattainable due to the economy. In 2015 and 2016 grants became available to continue with rental and ownership. Mr. Ogden spoke of the collaborative history Berkshire Housing Development Corporation has in the Berkshires, showing slides of similar projects in the community.

ARTICLE 15. Motion was made to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey, for no monetary consideration, a parcel of land known as the Sawmill Brook Property, or Map 45, Parcel 1 on the Lenox Assessors Map, to the Berkshire Housing Development Corporation and its partner the Community Development Corporation of Southern Berkshire, for the purpose of constructing affordable rental housing subject to the conditions of a Developer Designation Agreement, to be negotiated and

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executed between the Town of Lenox and the Berkshire Housing Development Corporation and its partner the Community Development Corporation of Southern Berkshire, pursuant to a proposal submitted by the Berkshire Housing Development Corporation and its partner the Community Development Corporation of Southern Berkshire dated February 5, 2019.

Rinaldo DelGallo, 24 Orchard St. asked about Environmental, Financial and Traffic studies. Mr. DelGallo handed the Moderator an amendment to Article 15 in writing but he declined to read it or make the motion. Chair Mitts stressed that until the land is conveyed to BHDC and CDC of SB these studies can't be done.

Motion Not Made on Amendment 15.

Peter Arment, 27 Bentrup Ct. made the motion that this project is very controversial and asked for a secret ballot. Moderator Pumphrey asked the voters; motion was tabled until the assistant moderators in the cafeteria were polled which they did before the vote began. It was unanimously approved to conduct a secret ballot on Article 15.

Motion was defeated by secret ballot that failed to garner 2/3 of the 565 votes.

Yes 304

No 261

ARTICLE 16. It was moved, seconded and approved by a 2/3 voice vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw by inserting adult marijuana uses into Section 5.2, "Schedule of Uses", and deleting the existing Section 8.13, "Temporary Moratorium on the Sale and Distribution of Recreational Marijuana", and inserting a new section 8.13, "Adult Use of Marijuana" as on file in the Office of the Town Clerk.

Richard A. Defazio, 22 Pine Knoll Rd., felt that with the uncertainty of his Citizens Petition and other State Regulations, please vote Yes on Article 16.

Rinaldo DelGallo, 24 Orchard St. filed an amendment to delete the words "subject to a special permit" and replace it with "by way of right" and to delete the language "place a number of the marijuana retail establishments allowed in Lenox". Amendment defeated by voice vote.

ARTICLE 17. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to accept G.L. c. 64N, s. 3 to impose an excise on the retail sales of marijuana for adult use at the rate of 3%.

ARTICLE 18. Richard A. Defazio, 22 Pine Knoll Rd. by Citizens Petition moved to amend the Town's Zoning Bylaw by deleting Section 8.13, "Temporary Moratorium on the Sale and Distribution of Recreational Marijuana," in its entirety and replacing it with a new Section 8.13, "Prohibited Recreational Marijuana Establishments," as follows:

8.13 PROHIBITED RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS

Consistent with G.L. c.94G, § 3(a)(2), all types of non-medical adult use “marijuana establishments” as defined in G.L. c.94G, §1 and 935 CMR 5001.002, including marijuana cultivators, independent testing laboratories, marijuana product manufacturers, marijuana retailers or any other types of licensed adult use marijuana-related businesses, shall be prohibited within the Town of Lenox.

And further, this bylaw shall take effect upon passage of a ballot question at a Town election approving this bylaw. Citizen Petition

After a voice vote motion does not carry.

It was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 PM.

A true copy attest:

/s/Kerry L Sullivan

Kerry L. Sullivan  
Lenox Town Clerk

