

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



For the Year Ending
31 December 2018

In Memoriam

James Borgo, *Department of Public Works*

George 'Gige' Darey, *Selectman, Tree Warden, Conservation Commission,
Lenox Land Trust, High School Cross-Country Ski Coach*

Charles Liston, *Conservation Commission*

Heidi MacLean, *School Committee*

Robert McNinch, *Zoning Board of Appeals*

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GENERAL INFORMATION TOWN OF LENOX

POPULATION:

1767: Fifteen families (required for incorporation)

2016: 5233

2017: 4996

2018: 4791

SCHOOL POPULATION:

2016: 765

2017: 755

2018: 734

REGISTERED VOTERS:

2016: 4018

2017: 3804

2018: 3770

TAX RATE:

2016-17: \$12.21/Residential; \$15.06 Comm./Ind./Pers. Prop.

2017-18: \$12.14/Residential; \$14.98 Comm./Ind./Pers. Prop.

2018-19: \$11.95/Residential; \$14.76 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	Kim Graham	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	Peggy Ammendola	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	Kimberly Merrick	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	Peggy Ammendola	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

Second Tuesday of each month @ 6:00pm

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 Monday 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 2019

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Warren Archey

Term Expires 2020

Edward Lane

Term Expires 2021

Neal Maxymillian

Term Expires 2021

Kenneth Fowler, Chairman

Term Expires 2019

David Roche, Clerk

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 2019

Robert Munch

Term Expires 2020

Frances Sorrentino

Term Expires 2021

Anne Marie O'Brien

Term Expires 2021

Christine Mauro

Term Expires 2020

David Rimmier

Term Expires 2019

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Kimberly Merrick

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS SERVICES

Henry C. Maimin

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Paula King

Term Expires 2021

Thomas Romeo

Term Expires 2019

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 2019

HEALTH INSPECTOR

James Wilusz

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HOUSING AUTHORITY

Marjorie Pero	Term Expires 2022
Linda Messana	Term Expires 2019
Diana Kirby	Term Expires 2021
Theresa Sorrentino	Term Expires 2020
Cathy May	State Appointee

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Barbara Heaphy

PLANNING BOARD

Kathleen McNulty Vaughan	Term Expires 2022
Kameron Spaulding	Term Expires 2020
Pamela Kueber, Chair	Term Expires 2021
Thomas Delasco	Term Expires 2023
Deborah Rimmler	Term Expires 2019

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Boards & Committees

ACADEMY BUILDING TRUSTEE

Victoria Salvatore	Timothy Face	Scott Pignatelli
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ADMINISTRATIVE ALARM BOARD

Chris O'Brien	Kevin Dinan	Steve O'Brien
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AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

Vacancy (Jacobsen)	Olga Weiss
Katie McNulty-Vaughan	Charlene Rosen
Carol Haythorne	

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUSTEES

Charlene Rosen	Term Expires 2020
Katie McNulty-Vaughan	Term Expires 2020
Jackie McNinch	Term Expires 2019
Mindi Morin	Term Expires 2020
Olga Weiss	Term Expires 2019
Marybeth Mitts	Term Expires 2019
Deborah Ferro Burke	Term Expires 2019

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Linda Miller

COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD

Vacancy (Cooney)	Term Expires 2020
Rose Fitzgerald-Casey	Term Expires 2019
Stephen Coon	Term Expires 2021
Anthony Patella	Term Expires 2019
Sheri Gaherty	Term Expires 2021
Frances Sorrentino	Term Expires 2021
Jenifer Picard	Term Expires 2020

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COMMUNITY CENTER DIRECTOR

Kim Graham

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Darlene McCauley

YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR

Amanda McLaughlin

SENIOR SERVICES COORDINATOR/OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Susan Holmes

CUSTODIAN

Mike Sullivan

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Tom Delasco (Planning Board)	Term Expires 2019
Joseph Strauch (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 2019
Eugene Chague (at-large)	Term Expires 2019
Vacancy (at-large)	Term Expires 2020
Anthony Patella, Chairman	Term Expires 2020

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Neal Carpenter, Chairman	Term Expires 2020
Mark Smith	Term Expires 2019
Vincent Ammendola	Term Expires 2021
Rosemarie Fitzgerald-Casey	Term Expires 2021
David F. Lane	Term Expires 2021
Joseph Strauch	Term Expires 2019
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

Paul Thomas Newton-Ireland	Susan Wolf
Susan May	Suky Werman
Harriet Wetstone	David Rimmler
Carolyn Butler	Mark Pignatelli

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

Kristine Cass	Term Expires 2020
Elliott Morss	Term Expires 2019
Joseph Nejaime	Term Expires 2021
Vytas Barsauskas	Term Expires 2020
David Neubert	Term Expires 2019
Vacancy (Rosenstein)	Term Expires 2019
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

Vacancy (Smith)	Term Expires 2020
Kameron Spaulding	Term Expires 2019
Jason Berger	Term Expires 2020
Vacancy (Steinert)	Term Expires 2021
Ken Fowler	Term Expires 2019
Pat Jaouen	Alternate
Vacancy (Kennedy)	Alternate

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Olga Weiss	Term Expires 2021
Lavinia Meeks	Term Expires 2021
Jeanette Chague	Term Expires 2019
Cindy Weiss	Term Expires 2019
Vacancy (Romeo)	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)	Tim Flanagan (Con Com)
Deborah Rimmeler(Planning Board)	Kim Graham (Comm Ctr)
Warren Archey (Board of Selectmen)	Andrew Lane (At-large)
Patty Spector (At-large)	

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LENOX CULTURAL COUNCIL

Erin McNamara
Derrick Holt
Beth Gamble
Anne Meczywor

Arlene Schiff
Katherine Landers
Charles Holt

MINOR TOWN OFFICERS APPOINTED BY SELECTMEN

Vacancy
Don Roy
William Gop
Vacancy

Fence Viewer
Field Driver
Surveyor of Lumber
Sealer, Weights &
Measures
Sexton
Measurer, Wood&Bark
Tree Warden

Vacancy
William Gop
Warren Archey

PERMANENT BUILDING COMMITTEE

Edward Lane, Chairman
Andrew Lane
Jeff Vincent
Neal Maxymillian
Tom Delasco

Term Expires 2019
Term Expires 2019
Term Expires 2019
Term Expires 2019
Term Expires 2019

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Kerry Sullivan
Pamela Scarsi
Percival Williams
Janice Durfee

Term Expires 2021
Term Expires 2021
Term Expires 2020
Term Expires 2019

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Brenda Marra
William Parsley
Christopher Ryan
Kimberly Merrick, ex officio

James Sorrentino
Paula Downer
Tara Romeo

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Barbara Sims
Suzanne Pelton

Lynn Sutton
Katherine Armstrong

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Shawn Considine
Robert Fuster
Clifford Snyder
Ned Douglas
Vacancy (Berg)
Clayton Hambrick
Jed Hall
Robert Fuster, Jr.
Albert Harper

Term Expires 2019
Term Expires 2021
Term Expires 2020
Term Expires 2022
Term Expires 2023
Associate
Associate
Associate
Associate

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

Stephen E. O'Brien, Police Chief
Timothy P. Sheehan, Sr. Officer
William C. Colvin
John Willey
Michael Smith

Tyler Bosworth
Eric Kirby
Paul A. Duval
Sean Ward
Corey Demary

POLICE SECRETARY

Florence "Peggy" Ammendola

**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, Captain
Dan Piretti, Captain
Lawrence Morse
Matthew Williams
Joshua Romeo

RELIEF FIREFIGHTER/EMT'S

Chris Prew
William Hunt
Jackson Reis
Cameron Sibley
Stephen Quinn
Aurelien Telle

Mike Zinchuk
Justin Kimball
Jon Boehm
Bob Gaughran
Matthew Tyer
Cody Schaefer

INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS/SIGN INSPECTOR

BJ Church

LOCAL BUILDING INSPECTOR

Jeff 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
Timothy Sheehan, Assistant

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CONSTABLE

Timothy P. Sheehan
Timothy S. Face (Deputy/Collector)

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE

Edward Lane

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION DELEGATE

Pamela Kueber
Ken Fowler, 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

TOWN TREASURER/COLLECTOR

Brenda Marra

ASSISTANT TREASURER/COLLECTOR

Katherin Phillips

TOWN CLERK

Kerry Sullivan

TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Charles Browne

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

William Gop

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

R. Scott Jarvis

DPW OFFICE MANAGER

Beth Carroll

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES

Stephen Carlton

Jeff Carpenter

Robert Horn

Daniel Kirby

Paul Mahoney

Patrick Reagan

Jim Roche

Paul Vallee

Jeff White

Scott Winslow

TOWN OF LENOX COMMITTEE APPLICATION

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Address: _____
Number/Street P.O. Box City State Zip

Telephone: _____
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.

_____ Academy Building Committee
_____ Ambulance Squad
_____ Americans with Disabilities Act Comm.
_____ Cable TV Advisory Committee
_____ Community Center Board
_____ Conservation Commission
_____ Finance Committee
_____ Historic District Commission
_____ Historical Commission

_____ Kennedy Park Committee
_____ Lenox Cultural Council
_____ Police Department
_____ Special Traffic Officer
_____ Registrar of Voters
_____ Scholarship Committee
_____ Environmental Committee
_____ 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.

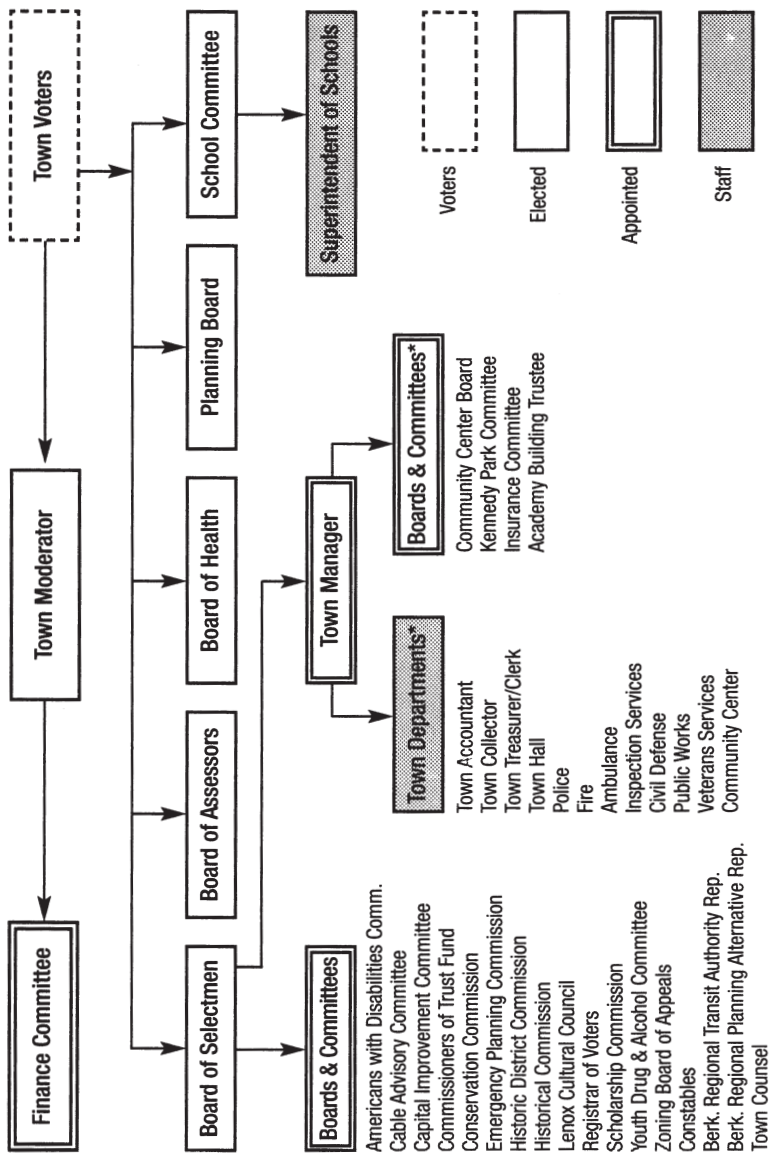
If you wish to be **reappointed** to a position that you currently hold, please complete this section of the form:

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

Lenox continues to benefit from sound fiscal decisions that create financial stability and healthy reserve funds. Our award-winning schools are the model for cities and towns throughout Massachusetts. As residents of Lenox, we enjoy the leisurely pace of small town living while benefitting from the world class culture of our many arts and entertainment venues. Lenox has become known as a destination for exceptional wellness spas and outdoor recreation as we continue to see growth in these areas.

With this growth and recognition comes a price. The pressures of increased traffic, a need for affordable housing, consumer driven demand for visitor lodging and increased retail enterprises in our village have brought challenges that our many boards and committees address in their deliberations. Lenox has seen an explosive growth of on-line lodging and the resulting challenge to our residential neighborhoods. The passage of legal retail sales of marijuana has fostered a robust dialogue among our residents as we attempt to craft a zoning bylaw to address this new industry.

We are fortunate to be a desirable place to live and raise a family and that results in a resident population of some the brightest and most successful individuals from all walks of life and professions. To their credit they are exemplary as volunteers and elected officials in their service to our town. Because we have such a pool of talent, I believe that Lenox will be able to embrace all these changes and challenges in a conscientious and balanced manner without losing our integrity as the small town our residents are proud to call home.

During the last year we achieved many significant accomplishments.

- The shared services agreement with Lee was renewed.
- Our Library became a Town Department.
- The 250th Committee concluded a year of successful events.
- The Town Beach at Laurel Lake was beautifully updated and improved to allow handicap access.
- A volunteer group launched a Community Garden project that will allow residents to grow vegetables on plots in Lilac Park.
- Our town website was updated and improved.
- The Fire Chief, Daniel Clifford, after many years of steady and competent service retired and was replaced by our own Christopher O'Brien.
- Lenox adopted a Bi-Annual Town Meeting format.
- Our Land Use Department created a wireless installation procedure to address the demand for better coverage.
- The Town experienced larger than normal new growth in several areas.
- The duties of Sealer of Weights and Measures is now a state function.
- A Charter Review Committee and Master Plan Steering Committee has been appointed to help guide the future of our town.

On a personal note, it has been an honor to have served on the Board of Selectmen for the past nine years. I have truly enjoyed the opportunity of working with the many dedicated and passionate people that serve our town. To the residents of Lenox, I can say without reservation and with the utmost conviction that we are very well served by our elected officials, committee appointees and volunteers. I would like to offer the invitation to all Lenox residents to consider serving our town. Local government works best and represents the residents more fairly when everyone is involved.

Lenox Board of Selectmen

Kenneth Fowler, Chairman
David Roche, Clerk
Edward P. Lane
Warren E. Archey
Neal Maxymillian

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. This would allow each community to determine if and how this shared services arrangement was working for them. In 2018, at the one-year mark, both communities voted to renew the agreement for the second of the three years. Now with more than one full year completed, it appears that both communities are happy with the arrangement, and things are running smoothly.

Another significant change in Lenox government was bringing the operational staff of the Lenox Library under the Town's responsibility. Again, with a bit more than a year now completed, I am pleased to report that the transition is coming along very well.

To help guide us into the future, a Charter/Special Act Review Committee and a Master Plan Steering Committee have been appointed. I look forward to receiving the results of both of these committees. In addition, the Town will be seeking a public safety facility needs assessment to determine how best to advance our responsiveness to the community.

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:

Accessibility and infrastructure improvements to the Lenox Town Beach

Volunteer and Community Preservation Committee support for community garden at Lilac Park

Upgrade of the Town website

Appointment of Christopher P. O'Brien as Fire Chief

Larger than normal new growth

State contract for Weights & Measures

Partnership with BNRC on the portion of the High Road project in Lenox

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, 2018

Real Estate Tax	\$14,894,189.96
CPA	356,453.02
Tax Title	33,157.75
Personal Property Tax	457,592.02
Motor Vehicle Excise Tax	783,499.00
Real Estate Interest & CPA Interest	103,596.18
Personal Property Interest	1,487.14
Motor Vehicle Excise Interest	3,964.05
W/S Rates and Interest	3,085,455.88
W/S Liens and Interest	22,886.96
W/S Demand fees	26,213.49
DPW Misc. Fees	64,253.68
Cemetery Fees	11,900.00
Perpetual Care Fees	1,200.00
Cemetery Lot fees	11,500.00
Parking Tickets	1,510.00
Municipal Lien Certificates	1,275.00
Trailer Court Fees	6,720.00
Scholarship Fund	22,772.80
Registry of Motor vehicles Surcharges	540.00
General fund	3,393.84
Deputy Collector Fees	3,350.00
Other	817.03
Total	\$19,900,727.80

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.

Respectfully submitted,

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

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

For the Year Ending December 31, 2018

DOG LICENSES	
Dog Licenses Issued	529
VITAL STATISTICS	
Births	16
Deaths	131
Marriages	39
RAFFLE PERMITS	
Raffle Permits Issued	6
BUSINESS CERTIFICATES	
Business Certificates Issued	46

Respectfully Submitted
Kerry L. Sullivan, Town Clerk

REPORT OF THE TOWN OF LENOX VETERANS' SERVICES

The Veterans' Services office serves the needs of the Veterans' of Lenox and their families, especially in administering Chapter 115 benefits. The Department of Veterans Services Chapter 115 benefits are needs based, and includes temporary financial assistance, medical reimbursement, and assistance in applying for aid from other agencies, both state and federal. 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. There are a few veterans who are temporarily out of work who are helped with financial assistance while they look for employment. All veterans' and their families who meet the requirements, received the benefits they were entitled to. Veterans who were dishonorably discharged are ineligible.

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. This office will also assist with finding and filling out VA requests, but has no part in the approval process. The most asked about VA program is Aid and Attendance, and we have assisted several veterans and their spouses apply for this financial assistance program. We also helped veterans apply for Service Connected, and Non-Service Connected, Disability claims.

The Town of Lenox was able to assist veterans this year with benefits totaling \$53,433, which is down a little more than \$22,000. Of this amount, 75%, or \$40,075.45, will be reimbursed by the state for an actual cost to the Town of \$13,358.49. This included regular benefits, heating assistance, and medical reimbursements.

The decrease in benefits paid was due to several reasons. Some recipients were receiving benefits until they found employment; some recipients moved to other towns; one passed away; and a few became ineligible for benefits.

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 too high for regular benefits. Since it is a needs based program, the asset limits of \$5000 for singles, or \$9800 for married applicants still applies. If the veteran is approved, this program reimburses co-pays, other medical costs, and can even reimburse the cost of Medicare Part B and some supplemental insurances. 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.

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.

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 2019, the Lenox Cultural Council received an allocation of \$4,500 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council for grant distribution plus \$200 in previously undistributed grants for a total budget of \$4,700. After careful consideration of 27 grant applications requesting a total of \$11,000, the Council awarded grants in varying amounts to the following individuals and organizations:

Arts in Recovery for Youth

Berkshire South Regional Community Center

Berkshire Bach Society

Berkshire Lyric Theatre

Berkshire Music School

Berkshire Pulse

Cantilena Chamber Choir

Chesterwood

Community Health Programs (CHP)

Davis Bates & Roger Tincknell

Green Art Workshop

IS183 Art School of the Berkshires

Lenox Library

Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary

Shakespeare & Company

The Stockbridge Sinfonia

WAM Theatre

Arts in Recovery for Youth

Berkshire Ukulele Band and Berkshire Sings

Operating Support

Educational Programs and Concerts

Music Enrichment Program at Morris School

Young Choreographers Initiative at Kimball Farms

MLK Celebration and Open Sing

50th Anniversary & Free Community Day

Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary Field Trip

Universe of Songs & Stories

Whimsical Weavings

Professional Development for Lenox Educators

Lenox Library/Berkshire Museum Collaboration

Trailside Music at Pleasant Valley

2019 Fall Festival of Shakespeare

2019 Concert Series

WAM Theatre Season of Events - Year 10

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, sciences, and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community. Visit www.mass-culture.org/Lenox for further information. Our next grant deadline is mid-October 2019.

We welcome all inquiries, ideas, and suggestions. For more information, please contact a council member.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene D. Schiff, Chair
Beth Tracy Gamble, Treasurer
Erin McNamara, Secretary
Charles Holt
Katherine Holt
Anne Meczywor

REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

For the year ending December 31, 2018

Registered Voters	3770
Democrat	1632
Unenrolled	1760
Republican	346
Libertarian	14
Green-Rainbow	7
Pizza Party	3
American Independent	2
Socialist	2
Inter.3rd Party	2
Latino-Vote Party	1
United Independent Party	1

2018 Elections	Total Votes Cast
Local May 7, 2018	380
State Primary September 4, 2018	1477
State Mid-Terms November 6, 2018	2737

2018 Town Meetings	Attendance
Annual May 3, 2018	170
Special November 1, 2018	477

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, 2018

Cash on hand June 30, 2017	\$22,397,278.34
Cash Receipts July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018	41,630,789.96
Cash Payments July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018	- 41,941,141.82
Balance	<u>22,086,926.48</u>
Funds in Various Banks:	
Checking accounts	119,664.28
Liquid investments	12,878,615.68
Term investments	6,340,909.57
Trust funds	2,747,736.95
All Cash Investments as of June 30, 2018	<u>22,086,926.48</u>

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 guide lines 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 FY2019 was \$1,248,616,460, an increase of 1.5% over the assessed total valuation FY2018.

We were fortunate to add New Growth for FY2019 of \$35,633,396 compared to \$31,203,619 in the previous fiscal year. Taxable new growth revenue was \$456,842 compared to FY2018 of \$417,545. The last two years have seen unprecedented growth for the town averaging new revenue of \$437,194. This new growth contributed to a reduction of the Residential tax rate of \$0.19, going below \$12.00 mark for the first time since FY2013. The Commercial, Industrial & Personal Property tax rate also saw a reduction of \$0.22.

The BOA welcomes Tom Romeo as the new Chairman of the Board. We also want to thank Wayne Lemanski for his dedication shown while fulfilling that role and his continued support as a valued member of the Board.

Assessed Values and Tax Rates for Fiscal Year 2019 are as follows:

FY2019	Lenox Assessed Values	Tax Rate
Residential	\$1,002,001,406	\$11.95
Commercial	\$202,304,674	\$14.76
Industrial	\$9,401,900	\$14.76
Personal Property	\$34,908,480	\$14.76
Lenox Total Value	\$1,248,616,460	
Lenox 2018 Budget	\$30,218,153	
Amount to be raised thru taxation	\$15,613,955	
Exempt Properties	\$159,699,400	
Total # of Taxable Accounts	3,345	

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, 2018**

	Budget Amounts				Variance with	
	Amounts			Actual	Amounts	Final Budget
	Carried	Forward from	Original	Budgetary	Carried	Positive
	Forward from	Prior Year	Budget	Basis	to Next Year	(Negative)
Revenues:						
Property Taxes	\$ -	\$ 15,084,652	\$ 15,147,001	\$ 15,294,013	\$ -	\$ 147,012
Intergovernmental	-	1,903,371	1,903,371	1,941,749	-	38,378
Excise and Other Taxes	-	635,000	635,000	857,114	-	222,114
Hotel Room Occupancy Taxes	-	1,700,000	1,700,000	2,206,420	-	506,420
Licenses, Permits, Fees	-	439,269	439,269	682,881	-	243,612
Charges for Services-Ambulance	-	374,043	374,043	390,039	-	15,996
Interest on Taxes	-	50,000	50,000	101,733	-	51,733
Investment Income	-	29,971	29,971	59,131	-	29,160
Total Revenues	-	20,216,306	20,278,655	21,533,080	-	1,254,425
Expenditures:						
Current:						
General Government	868,176	1,902,394	2,820,570	2,093,053	599,845	127,672
Public Safety	522,820	2,387,399	2,911,719	1,995,930	899,219	16,570
Public Works	389,847	1,154,582	1,923,198	1,460,651	436,779	25,768
Education	286,849	13,069,010	13,355,859	12,657,155	432,810	265,894
Health and Human Services	-	205,976	205,976	205,549	-	427
Culture and Recreation	129,216	648,016	839,581	827,289	100	12,192
Unallocated Employee Benefits and Insurance	-	1,505,392	1,505,392	1,463,582	-	41,810
Intergovernmental Assessments	-	260,737	260,737	226,424	-	34,313
Debt Service:						
Principal	-	280,000	280,000	280,000	-	-
Interest	-	24,000	24,000	21,000	-	3,000
Total Expenditures	2,196,908	21,437,506	24,127,032	21,230,633	2,368,753	527,646
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(2,196,908)	(1,221,200)	(3,848,377)	302,447	(2,368,753)	1,782,071
Other Financing Sources (Uses):						
Operating Transfers In	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Change in Budgetary Fund Balance	(2,196,908)	(1,221,200)	(3,848,377)	302,447	(2,368,753)	1,782,071
Other Budgetary Items:						
Free Cash and Other Reserves	-	1,221,200	1,651,469			
Prior Year Encumbrances	2,196,908	-	2,196,908			
Total Other Budgetary Items	2,196,908	1,221,200	3,848,377			
Net Budget	-	-	-			

REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT

TOWN OF LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS STATEMENT OF NET POSITION - PROPRIETARY FUNDS JUNE 30, 2018

	Business-Type Activities Enterprise Funds		
	Sewer Fund	Water Fund	Total
ASSETS			
CURRENT:			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,444,464	\$ 1,871,624	\$ 3,316,088
Investments	634,751	-	634,751
User Charges, net of allowance for uncollectibles	356,846	247,023	603,869
Total current assets	2,436,061	2,118,647	4,554,708
NONCURRENT:			
Capital Assets, net of accumulated depreciation:			
Nondepreciable	3,358,848	709,168	4,068,016
Depreciable	11,043,804	15,166,641	26,210,445
Total noncurrent assets	14,402,652	15,875,809	30,278,461
Total Assets	16,838,713	17,994,456	34,833,169
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Deferred Outflows related to Pensions	20,204	32,783	52,987
Deferred Outflows related to OPEB	67,434	87,640	155,074
	87,638	120,423	208,061
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT:			
Warrants Payable	74,783	31,251	106,034
Accrued Payroll	6,650	9,260	15,910
Accrued Interest	63,995	12,142	76,137
Bonds Payable	520,000	605,000	1,125,000
Total current liabilities	665,428	657,653	1,323,081
NONCURRENT:			
Compensated Absences	12,074	1,940	14,014
OPEB Obligation Payable	333,932	433,987	767,919
Net Pension Liability	46,994	76,251	123,245
Bonds Payable	8,540,000	4,065,000	12,605,000
Total noncurrent liabilities	8,933,000	4,577,178	13,510,178
Total Liabilities	9,598,428	5,234,831	14,833,259
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Deferred Inflows related to Pensions	19,900	32,290	52,190
Deferred Inflows related to OPEB	662	860	1,522
	20,562	33,150	53,712
NET POSITION:			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	5,342,652	11,205,809	16,548,461
Restricted for Capital Projects	1,207,831	532,605	1,740,436
Unrestricted	756,878	1,108,484	1,865,362
Total Net Position	\$ 7,307,361	\$ 12,846,898	\$ 20,154,259

REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT

TOWN OF LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS JUNE 30, 2018

	General Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 7,691,335	\$ 4,274,753	\$ 11,966,088
Investments	2,005,358	232,252	2,237,610
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectibles:			
Property Taxes	598,645	11,955	610,600
Tax Liens	203,339	3,418	206,757
Excise Taxes	54,455	-	54,455
Departmental	132,600	-	132,600
Due from Other Governments	64,926	411,361	476,287
Total Assets	\$ 10,750,658	\$ 4,933,739	\$ 15,684,397
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES:			
Liabilities:			
Warrants Payable	\$ 134,607	\$ 40,878	\$ 175,485
Accrued Payroll	1,199,536	13,207	1,212,743
Employee Withholdings	235,369	-	235,369
Tax refund Payable	19,500		19,500
Other	20,286		20,286
Total Liabilities	1,609,298	54,085	1,663,383
Deferred Inflows of Resources- Unavailable Revenue	799,689	307,628	1,107,317
Fund Balance:			
Nonspendable	-	232,998	232,998
Restricted	-	4,339,028	4,339,028
Committed	1,937,380	-	1,937,380
Assigned	2,114,842	-	2,114,842
Unassigned	4,289,449	-	4,289,449
Total Fund Balance	8,341,671	4,572,026	12,913,697
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$ 10,750,658	\$ 4,933,739	\$ 15,684,397

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

To the Honorable Board of Selectman and Citizens of Lenox:

The eight 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:

- Reduce 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).
 - Work with Town Manager and Town Accountant to look for 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.

Thank you 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 Brunno

REPORT OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

To The Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

The Lenox Housing Authority had 10 vacancies in 2018 that are now occupied. There were 9 elderly and 1 family. 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., call us at 413-637-5585 for detailed information on eligibility and to obtain an application, or visit our website at www.lenoxha.com. Current net income guidelines apply; Criminal Offense Records and references are investigated.

The State Capital Planning System continues to fund scheduled projects for the authority in order to be proactive with the maintenance of our properties. Two capital projects were completed in 2018: The bathroom at 45 Golden Hill Road was completely renovated at the cost of \$48,748. This property provides a home for four physically and mentally challenged adults and is efficiently managed by BCARC. The second completed project was installation of drainage swale and paved sidewalk replacement at Turnure Terrace at the cost of \$37,250.

Another project completed in 2018 was a new bathroom for the Commercial tenants at the cost of \$31,640. The Community Room at Turnure Terrace was updated with new kitchen cabinets, ceiling and lighting, new paint and furniture for \$14,000.

The Lenox Council on Aging held ice cream socials at both properties last summer. These events are always well attended. The tenants got the opportunity to socialize and eat ice cream. Thank you, Sue Holmes, Counsel on Aging.

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

Catherine May, Chairman/State Appointee
Marge Pero, Vice Chairman
Diana Kirby, Treasurer
Tess Sorrentino, Linda Messana, Members

TRI-TOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

I hereby submit my annual report for the fiscal year 2018.

Following is a summary of our Public Health Prevention programs:

Title 5 On-Site Wastewater Disposal: In Fiscal Year 2018, we experienced a 140% growth in septic systems inspections and permits. 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: In fiscal year 2018, the state DPH made changes to the State Food Code and there have been several trainings to assist health inspectors on the new changes. Although many changes have been made, we don't feel that it will impact our permit holders.

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 is grant funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and provides a variety of tobacco control services for 12 Berkshire County communities. In Fiscal year 2018, we were awarded another RFR contract to serve several Berkshire towns.

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 FY18, 209 vouchers were sold, and 163 clerks were trained. For more information on the Retailer certification program, please visit 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.

Polystyrene/Plastic Bag Initiative: Significant code compliance was achieved in FY18 with respect to the towns meeting local by-laws and regulations. We found 3 locations that had an oversight in meeting compliance, and we were able to work closely with those establishments to be sure they are complying.

Administration:

In fiscal year 2018 we were able to recruit and hire an additional full-time health inspector to meet state requirements and meet the demands of the district. Jonathan Pierce was hired and brings a vast amount of environmental science background to the district. We welcome Jonathan to the district team.

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 2018

Permits Issued: (Lenox only)

Permit Type	Issued
Bakery	6
Beach	1
Biological Waste	1
Catering	14
Disposal Works Construction	14
Disposal Works Installer	11
Emergency Beaver Trapping Permits	3
Food Service	119
Frozen Dessert	7
Garbage Hauler	7
Milk/Cream Dealer	0
Milk/Cream Store	10
Milk/Cream Vehicle	0
Mobile Food	2
Motel/Hotel/Cabin/Trailer	16
Pool	44
Pasteurization	0
Rec. Children's Camp	6
Retail Food	32
Septage Hauler	7
Special Event Food Permit	64
Tanning Establishment	0
Tobacco	8
Well Permit	0

Inspections:	Water Testing:
Children's Camps:	6
Ice Sampling	91
Food Service/Retail:	206
Pool & Hot Tub Testing:	291
Housing Inspections/Reinspection	17
Quality Control:	172
Misc. Complaints/Nuisances:	17
Water Testing Performed- Beaches:	19
Percolation Test Witness:	13
Well Sampling	0
Pool & Hot Tub Inspections:	53
Special Events:	30
T5 Witness:	21

Budget Revenue Information Fiscal 2018

Total Budget:	\$106,341.60
Revenue generated:	\$50,708.28

Breakdown:

Permits	\$34,475.00
Water Testing	\$12,030.00
Septic	\$4,200.00
Misc.	\$3.28

Respectfully submitted,

James J. Wilusz, R.S., Director of Public Health

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

Tom Delasco (vice chair)	May 2023
Pam Kueber (chair)	May 2021
Kathleen McNulty-Vaughan	May 2022
Deborah Rimmmler	May 2019
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 and writes our Zoning Bylaws. It may review Special Permit projects and provide input related to the Zoning Bylaw, site plan characteristics, and accordance with the Master Plan and other community plans to the Zoning Board of Appeals. 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 the board, committee and staff level.

LENOX MASTER PLAN

The first update to the Town's Master Plan since 1999 is now under way, led by a 10-person Steering Committee comprised of members from Lenox boards and committees, Lenox high school students, and stakeholders from the business and cultural community. Guided by state law, the Master Plan will include detailed plans, looking out approximately 10 years, for seven key areas: Land Use, Housing, Economic Development, Natural and Cultural Resources, Open Space and Recreation, Services and Facilities, and Transportation and Traffic.

Land Use Director and Town Planner Gwen Miller has a critical leadership role in guiding the entire process. Following a Request for Proposals process, the Planning Board selected the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to assist in the development of the Plan and to serve as a neutral, third-party consultant who ensures all voices are heard. Continuing to guide and participate in work on the Master Plan will be a principal focus for the Planning Board through May 2020, the target completion date.

BYLAWS ADOPTED IN NOVEMBER 2018

New or revised Zoning Bylaws require a two-thirds vote at Town Meeting. In November 2018, voters agreed to adopt the following six bylaws or bylaw amendments:

- Five amendments aim to increase the creation of smaller and more affordable housing units in Lenox, in line with recommendations in the recently-approved Lenox Housing Production Plan:
 - o Allow multi-family dwellings by-right in the Commercial "C" district in Lenox Village and Lenox Dale, and by Special Permit in the C-1A zoning districts along Route 7.
 - o Eliminate the minimum square foot area for (1) multi-family dwelling units, (2) two-family dwellings/duplexes, (3) dwellings and lot sizes in Mixed-Use Developments, and (4) dwelling units from "Conversion of an Existing Dwelling". Moving forward, adequate dwelling size will be determined by the Building Code and Board of Health.
- Extend the "Temporary Moratorium on the Sale and Distribution of Recreational Marijuana" through June 30, 2019. This will provide the Town additional time to develop local regulations for voter consideration.

BYLAWS REJECTED IN NOVEMBER 2018

Citizens voted against adopting:

- A proposed Zoning Bylaw to regulate Adult-Use Marijuana Establishments.
- A proposed General Bylaw requiring the inspection and registration of Short-Term Rentals.
- In addition, a proposed Zoning Bylaw to regulate Short-Term Rentals was returned to the Planning Board for further work.

BYLAW TO BE PRESENTED TO VOTERS IN MAY 2019

Adult-Use Marijuana Establishments: The Board will present a reworked Zoning Bylaw to regulate Adult-Use Marijuana Establishments at the May 2019 Town Meeting. We must have a bylaw approved by Town voters by June 30, 2019, when our extended moratorium ends, or such Establishments will each then default to current underlying zoning regulations.

BYLAW REVIEWS CURRENTLY UNDER WAY

The Planning Board is currently working on the following possible new or revised Zoning Bylaws:

- Signs: Sincere thanks to Jim Biancolo and Mark Smith, who have reworked our sign bylaw with the goal to make it is easier for businesses to understand (1) sign requirements in their zone, and (2) who they need to contact, in what order, to get their sign approved and up. The Planning Board will now work on refinements to further streamline and improve these rules.
- Three outdated bylaws: The Board sought grant funding from the state's District Local Technical Assistance program for the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to assist us with work to amend three existing bylaws that are outdated or otherwise need attention:
 - 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 the typically exempt uses of 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.
- Short-Term Rentals: The Board's continued work on a proposed Short-Term Rental bylaw is pending further consideration including monitoring the implementation of the state's new Short-Term Rental law.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Special Permit Approved: In 2018, the Board approved a Special Permit for Stone Path Development, Inc. to create an Open Space Flexible Development of nine single-family homes on 9.5 acres at 241 Walker St. Note, the plan includes a proposed conveyance of land to the Town of Lenox, a step that must obtain voter approval before the project moves forward.

Town Of Lenox Annual Report 2018

- Consideration to Rezone a Residential Parcel for a Solar Installation: The Board was asked to consider rezoning a residential parcel so that a commercial ground-mounted solar array could be installed. After due consideration including a site visit, the Board did not proceed, citing concerns over “spot zoning,” which is illegal under state law. The Board acknowledged that in the future it could revisit the issue of siting for solar overall to review whether there is adequate, realistic opportunity for such installations beneficial to meeting environmental goals to proceed.
- Approval Not Required Reviews: The Board reviewed and endorsed four Approval Not Required (Form A) plans. 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 has been a member of the Lenox Community Preservation Committee since 2013.
- Pam Kueber has been Lenox Delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) since 2016, where she also serves on the Regional Issues and Development Committees. She also is a member of the Berkshire County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee.
- Kate McNulty-Vaughan has been a member of the Affordable Housing Committee since 2009 and the Lenox Housing Trust since 2009.
- Deborah Rimmler has been a member and chairman of the Lenox Land Management Committee since 2016.
- Kameron Spaulding has been a 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, and Peggy Ammendola, Land Use Clerk. Many thanks to Selectman Ken Fowler, our Board of Selectmen liaison through May 2018; Ken also was Lenox’s Alternate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission since 2016. Many thanks to new liaison, Selectman Neal Maxymillian. And, we greatly 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

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 thirteen Notices of Intent and six 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. Six Certificates of Compliance were issued. Certificates are issued after the Commission conducts site visits to assure adherence to the Orders of Conditions. The Commission had twenty 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 thirty such site visits.

Additionally, the Commission managed four conservation properties.

Mark Smith was appointed in June as the newest member of the Commission

The Conservation Commission meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall in the Land Use Meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Neal Carpenter
Vince Ammendola
Rosemary Fitzgerald Casey
Dick Ferren
David Lane
Joe 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)
- Joseph Strauch (Conservation Commission)
- Albert Harper (At Large)
- Eugene Chaque (At Large)
- Neal Maxymillian (formerly Channing Gibson)(Board of Selectmen)

In 2018, the Community Preservation Committee reviewed and recommended six (6) projects to Town Meeting. These projects were:

Trinity Church, Historic Preservation \$41,000 to assist with the restoration and repointing of the western elevation of the church building which is on the National Historic Register. This is part of an \$83,000 project.

The Mount, Historic Preservation \$75,000 to assist in restoring the 3,100 square foot terrace at the mansion.

Frelinghuysen Morris House and Studio, Historic Preservation \$19,185 to restore a veranda on the National Register Modern architecture building housing the art collection and open to public tours.

Town of Lenox Community Garden, Recreation \$7,745 for a community garden.

Town of Lenox Shared Use Path Feasibility Study, Recreation \$20,000 to fund a study of potential routes of a communitywide shared use path to connect open space and rec opportunities with cultural and historic sites in Lenox. The deliverable will be an implementation program including costs and land or easement acquisitions necessary to implement the route.

Town of Lenox Affordable Housing Trust, Community Housing \$250,000 (of a \$500,000 request) to help fund implementation of the Town of Lenox Housing Production Plan (HPP).

In addition, the CPC recommended funds for administration, for the continued pay down of the Library purchase, and the allocation of receipts to each Community Preservation category: Historic Preservation, Community Housing and Open Space & Recreation. The Committee has allocated \$500,000 for a future open space purchase over time.

The CPC held a public hearing in Spring 2018 to hear from residents and non-profit organizations about local projects and initiatives that could utilize CPA funds.

The CPC plan and application materials continue to be available on the Town website for your review.

In 2018, Lenox collected \$358,201.00 in local revenue and \$99,939.00 in state matching funds. Interest of \$4,716 brought the total collection to \$462,856.

Land Use Director Gwen Miller 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 2018 the Historic District Commission received twelve applications, the same as the previous year. Seven of the applications were for signs, while others included remodeling, renovations, adding garage/carport and porches.

Jason Berger continues to be the liaison to the Building Department in order for there to be better communications between the two and to insure that there are no violations and if so to see that they are brought into compliance. The Building Commissioner, as the Zoning Enforcement Officer, enforces the Historic District Bylaw.

In 2018 Jason Berger brought forward work he had started in 2017 to streamline the process for sign requests. The Commissioners discussed in several meetings over the course of the year and Jason produced the HDC Sign Inventory and Guidelines in October. A public hearing was held on November 20, 2018 and the Commission voted to approve the documents.

During the year Mark Smith resigned from the Commission. He continued to attend and participate in meetings in which the proposed streamlined sign process was discussed.

The Commission meets in the Town Hall Land Use meeting room on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. and welcomes residents who seek a volunteer opportunity to serve as a full-time commission member or alternate. Interested residents should contact Town Hall to learn more about the responsibility and how they can be appointed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Fowler, Chair
Jason Berger
Kameron Spaulding
Pat Jaouen

REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR

B.J. Church
Building Commissioner

Jeffery Clemons
Building Inspector

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 FY18 and the associated

Type of Permit	Number Issued	Permit Fee
Residential	273	
Commercial	101	
Sheet Metal	13	
Sign Permit	20	
Tent Permit	32	
Trench	20	
Solid Fuel Appliance	10	
TOTAL	469	\$119,536

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 205 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, with capable assistance from Jeff Clemons, the Local Inspector. 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 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 2018 calendar year.

During the year a total of 217 permits were issued and 451 inspections were made. This represents a decrease of 8 permits and an increase of 21 inspections from the 2017 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. Work completed in 2018 included the addition to Montessori School, the condominiums at Lenox Woods and Canyon Ranch, renovations at Ventfort Hall and the relocation of the charging station at Cranwell. On going projects include construction of seven new buildings and completion of renovations at Cranwell and relighting of buildings for the Town.

In addition to the projects mentioned above, 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 2018. 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 2018. 101 plumbing permits were issued and inspections were made. Inspections were also made for Tri-Town Board of Health. I am attending continuing education for Massachusetts Plumbing Inspectors and meetings of the Berkshire County Plumbing and Gas Inspectors Association. I wish to thank assistant inspector Ronald Paul and all the area plumbers for their cooperation

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 2018. 143 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
Jeffrey A. Carpenter, Laborer / Snowplow Coordinator
Daniel T. Kirby, Cemetery Foreman
Paul G. Mahoney, Equipment Operator
Patrick Reagan, Water Treatment Plant Operator
Robert Horn, Water Department Foreman
Stephen Carleton, Laborer / Truck Driver

Beth Carroll, Office Manager
R. Scott Jarvis, Assistant Superintendent
Paul Vallee, Mechanic
James J. Roche, Equipment Operator
Jeffrey L. White, Wastewater Plant Foreman
Scott Winslow, Wastewater Plant Operator

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 forty-seven snow and thirteen ice events in the winter of 2017/2018 requiring responses to treat the town roads and sidewalks. The events totaled 110.5 inches of snow.

The Water Division continues to leverage grant funding to help improve the Town's drinking water production and supply. This past year, the water division received \$90,000 in grant money to help conserve energy by replacing a pumping motor with a variable frequency motor at the water plant and various upgrades. 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 204,882,200 gallons of water this year. Due to abundant rainfall, Lenox did not need to source any water from neighboring towns. We added six new connections to our system, and replaced three Hydrants. We also performed 409 back flow tests.

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.

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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 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 280,347,000 gallons for an average 768,073 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 64,337,098 gallons and an average of 176,266 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 383,000 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 which can 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 size of the load. If everyone contributes to some reduction in wastewater flow, we can prolong the life of our wastewater treatment plant and put off spending millions of dollars on upgrading its capacity.

The Cemetery Division performed twenty 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. Click on Town Departments, Department of Public Works, Cemetery Division.

During 2018 residents made 362 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 included.

I would like to say thank you to all Town Boards, Officers, and Departments for their continued collaboration and backing 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

Timothy P. Sheehan, Senior Officer
Paul A. Duval, Officer
William C. Colvin, Officer, SRO
Sean F. Ward, Officer
Michael T. Smith, Officer, SRT

John W. Willey, Officer
Eric R. Kirby, Officer
Tyler W. Bosworth, Officer
Corey F. Demary, Officer
Peggy Ammendola, Administrative Assistant

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

The above-listed personnel represent 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 Peggy Ammendola, our Administrative Assistant, for their continued devotion to serving the public.

In 2018 we saw a 6% decrease in all types of arrests and a 6.6% increase in the total number of offenses committed as compared to 2017. We also handled 13% fewer felonious criminal activities than in 2017. This is reflected in the case activity statistics reported below. This is the second year in a row that we have seen a decrease in our physical custodies and in felony crimes. This year non-crime related incidents also decreased 1.5% from 2017. In 2018 we also investigated 156 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 14,379 calls for service which were skillfully handled by the members of this department in 2018.

2018 was a busy year for our agency as we try to deliver the best community-oriented policing that we possibly can. Our officers continue to be well trained and attentive to detail, while having to deal with some of the most difficult situations, all the while maintaining their own safety, as well as the safety of our community.

As always, it is our goal to attempt to prevent crime, to protect the public, and to serve the residents of our community. We will continue to look to the members of our public to assist us in many different ways. The department as a whole 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: 415	+6.6%
Total Felonies: 105	-13%
Total Crime Related Incidents: 97	-8.5%
Total Non Crime Related Incidents: 113	-1.5%
Total Arrests (On View): 23	-52%
Total Arrests (Based on Incident/Warrants): 11	-8.3%
Total Summons Arrests: 135	+12.5%
Total Arrests: 169	-6%
Total P/C's: 2	-33%
Total Juvenile Arrests: 1	-89%

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 2018 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 1780 requests for assistance during 2018.

257 fire alarms, 24 fires, 89 service calls, 159 rescues, 67 hazardous conditions, 1147 medical calls and 37 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 recently acquired 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-

On October 18, 2018 at 15:00 the Town of Lenox had a changing of the guard at the position of Fire Chief. Chief Clifford a 37-year veteran of the Department 20 of the years as Chief was replaced by Deputy Chief Christopher O'Brien a 32-year veteran of the Department. Chief Clifford was a chief who "sweated the details" to teach every aspect of the profession- from the commonplace to the most challenging. His knowledge was vast and he continued the progress made by many others before him. We wish Chief Clifford well in his new career called retirement.

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The Lenox Fire Department is currently made up of a Full Time Chief, 6 Career Firefighter/EMT's, 12 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.

Career Firefighter / EMT's

Christofer P. O'Brien, Chief
Larry Morse, FF/EMT-P
Josh Romeo FF/EMT-P

Robert Casucci, Deputy Chief
Dan Piretti, Captain

Jason Saunders, Captain
Matthew Williams, FF/EMT-P

Relief Firefighter / EMT's

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

Christopher Prew, Lieutenant
Justin Kimball, FF/EMT-P
Cameron Sibley, FF/EMT
Jon Boehm, FF/EMT-P

Matt Tyer, FF/EMT-P
Cody Schaefer, FF/EMT-P
Jackson Reis, FF/EMT
William Hunt, FF/EMT

Volunteer Firefighters

Mattoe Berger Firefighter
Elio Casucci, Firefighter
Steve Coon, Firefighter
Chris Garrity, Firefighter
Chris Hunt, Firefighter
Matt Lane, Firefighter
Mike Leahey, Firefighter
Jake Maturevich, Firefighter
Steve Omelenchuck, Firefighter
Ben Rivest, Firefighter
TJ Smachetti, Firefighter
Jim Terry, Captain

Matt Boulais, Firefighter
Linda Clifford, Firefighter
Max Dolan, Firefighter
Lior Gazit, Firefighter
Jeffery Kane, Assistant Chief
Mike Lane, Lieutenant
Jeff Lynch, Firefighter
Justin Mercer, Firefighter
Jim Prew, Firefighter
Louis Senecal, Firefighter
Jacob Stevens, Firefighter

Steve Carleton, Firefighter
Bill Colvin, Deputy Chief
Scott Forbes, Lieutenant
Bill Gop, Firefighter
Andrew Lane, Firefighter
Kyle Lanoue, Firefighter
Cam Marcantel, Firefighter
Jason Miller, Firefighter
John Ramos, Firefighter
Dan Sheehan, Firefighter
Jake Stringer, Firefighter

Unfortunately, during 2018, our Department suffered the loss of retired Firefighter's Goerge (Gige) Darey of the Lenox Fire Company who also served as a Selectmen for many years and Brendan W. Fitzgerald also of the 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:

2018 was a musical year at the Lenox Library, our 162nd as an institution, and our first year as a municipal library. The theme for the 2018 Summer Reading Program was “Libraries Rock!” With sing alongs in the Roche Reading Park by Terry a la Berry, mysterious pianos in the Wild West, and concerts by Roger Tinknell and Grammy award winner Bill Harley, we were truly rocking in the Youth Department. The summer’s programs inspired 126 children (a 125% increase from the previous summer) to log 3,407 hours of reading.

The Reading Park was one of sixteen locations to host a piano from the Berkshire Music School’s Painted Piano Project, in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the birth of Leonard Bernstein. The pianos, all decorated by artists representing their various communities, were on public display around Berkshire County.

Speaking of Bernstein, we celebrated the 75th anniversary of an event held at the library. In 1943, the Berkshire Symphonic Festival at Tanglewood had been cancelled due to gas rationing in the midst of WWII. To make up for the loss of the season, Maestro Serge Koussevitzky hosted a series of lectures and recitals in Sedgwick Hall (now the Sedgwick Reading Room), with Bernstein, a 25 year old protege of Dr. Koussevitzky, at the piano. Bernstein’s recital was recreated in the Reading Room, which was attended by 260 and simulcast at the Town Hall auditorium.

The concert was arranged by Dr. Jeremy Yudkin, Professor of Music at Boston University, whose Tanglewood Pre-Concert Lectures were free for the first time, thanks to funding provided jointly by the Town of Lenox and the Lenox Library Association. 782 attendees benefitted from this program, including a music lover who recommended the lectures to a family friend with a teenage son. “Because the lectures were free of charge, they attended and thus had the opportunity to learn more about the music they were about to hear that day at Tanglewood. And their teenage son was thrilled with the talk.”

The music theme was not confined to summer. We started the year with a coffeehouse performed by Dugway, and ended with a World Music Program for kids, with a ukulele workshop in between. We also added three ukuleles for circulation (!) and a digital piano outfitted with headphones for the public to use.

The ukuleles made an appearance in the hugely successful “A Novel Night Out,” a fundraiser presented by the Lenox Library Association, which still has an obligation to fund roughly 30% of the library’s operating budget.

The year was not without its share of hardship. On the morning of August 18, volunteers for the 23rd Annual Book Sale discovered that the sale tent had collapsed from the weight of the previous night’s rainfall. But we all rolled up our sleeves, salvaged what we could, and in the end, pulled off a successful book sale, despite the challenges. We were forced to close the non-fiction stacks while we remediated water damage in the basement. then again, it could always be worse - at least we didn’t have to close the entire library, as we did in 1918, due to an outbreak of influenza.

As a promoter of local culture, the library collaborated with Chesterwood, the Historic Artists’ Homes and Studio Program, the Frelinghuysen-Morris House and Studio, and Connoisseur Magazine to provide a lecture by Dr. Karen Zukowski on the NYC and Berkshire homes and studios of Daniel Chester French, George L.K. Morris and Suzy Frelinghuysen. We partnered with The Bookstore & Get Lit Wine Bar for an International Women’s Day celebration with WRITING FIRE editors Jennifer Browdy, Jana Laiz, and Sarah Bateson Brubeck. Three local theater groups performed in the Reading Room: the Berkshire Theatre Group dramatic staging of “Billy Budd in the Breadbox” by Jana Laiz, Barrington Stage Company’s “James and the Giant Peach,” and the Nutshell Playhouse’s “Top Bananas!”

The Lenox Library Youth Department paired with Woven Roots Farm to offer an Incredible Edibles gardening program for elementary-aged students. The local Greenagers installed three raised beds outside the Youth Department. The goal? “By sharing and promoting skills to grow, prepare and have access to fresh food, we empower the changemakers of the next generation.” In the same gardening vein, a twelve drawer card catalog cabinet has been re-purposed for use as a seed library. We hope to have gardeners donate surplus seeds from their collections, and swap with other gardeners’ donations.

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In a survey of library services, when asked what they like best about the library, the highest number of responses (30 of 67) mentioned the excellent staff. They were described as kind, helpful, considerate, friendly, and welcoming [“they know the regulars by name”]. Katie Wallick, The Judy Conklin Peters Youth Librarian, was singled out for frequent praise. The Youth Department has seen a wide variety of programs in addition to the ones listed above, with program attendance at 5,134 for the year, a 73% increase over the previous year. Overall, library visits were up 53%, an indication of the level of service consistent with the town departments we have joined. May we always keep it turned up to 11.

Respectfully submitted,

For the Town of Lenox:
Amy Lafave
The Jim Chervenak Library Director

For the Lenox Library Association:
Barbara Sussman Goldberg, President
David Roche, Vice-President
Edward Richter, Treasurer
Mary Jane Incorvia Mattina, Clerk

REPORT OF THE ACADEMY BUILDING TRUSTEES

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

The Lenox Academy building (c1803) at 65 Main St. is one of Lenox’s most historic landmarks and one of the oldest public buildings in Lenox. The Lenox Academy opened its doors in 1803 and quickly became one of the finest institutions for the education of young men. Students from all over the east coast received the necessary education that prepared them for the rigors of college. At the time, it was said that graduating from Lenox Academy “was a passport to the finest colleges in the country.” The Academy building also served as Lenox’s first public high school; the class of 1909 was the last to graduate from this historic school building.

Tenants of the Academy building are Lenox Historical Society and the Museum of Lenox History on the first floor, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #12079 on the second floor. In addition, Lenox Historical Commission and the Academy Garden Club of Lenox use the building for meetings and events.

During 2018 we continued to reap the benefits of the efficient gas-fired furnace that was installed in 2013. Storm panels installed last winter on the Palladium window on the 2nd floor and the sidelights of the main entrance door have helped to make a big difference in conserving heat.

Last year we installed a dehumidifier in the basement which has helped to alleviate the dampness in the space. This allows the historical society to utilize some parts of the basement for storage.

In the coming year we hope to have the walkway redone, first building up the ground, then repositioning and replacing the slate where necessary. Also on our list of improvements is having areas of the exterior of the building repainted, where chipping and peeling have occurred.

As Trustees of the Lenox Academy we appreciate its historical significance to the town and focus our efforts on preserving this venerable building for decades to come.

We thank the Board of Selectmen and the citizens of Lenox for their support in our efforts as stewards of the Lenox Academy building.

Respectfully submitted:

Timothy Face, Chairman
Scott Pignatelli
Victoria Salvatore, Clerk

REPORT OF THE RHUBARB FESTIVAL

To the Honorable Select Board and Residents of Lenox:

The 5th Lenox Rhubarb Festival on Saturday June 9th, was held next to and in front of the Library. Twenty-six Lenox businesses participated in the Lenox Rhubarb Festival, onsite and off, up from ten last year. The weather was sunny and 76°; attendance about 1200. The event began with a pancake breakfast at 9, savory rhubarb tastings from 11-12:30, sales of rhubarb foods, beverages, plants and cook books until 3, and music from 11-12:30.

Rhubarb Vendors: Seven Lenox businesses/organizations sold rhubarb items: Scoop: strawberry rhubarb ice cream and ginger-rhubarb sorbet, Trinity Church: rhubarb lemonade and fresh rhubarb, Mary's Kitchen Bakery: strawberry-rhubarb pies, Diane Gordon: rhubarb ginger ale, Canyon Ranch: rhubarb tacos, Devonshire Estates: strawberry rhubarb cake, and Barefoot Gardener Company: rhubarb plants. Eight more vendors were: Sweetish Baker-Great Barrington (rhubarb pies and galettes), les collines-Craryville (rhubarb preserves), Kripalu-Stockbridge: rhubarb bread, Florence Pie Bar-Florence (rhubarb pies, scones, muffins), Pleasant & Main Cafe-Housatonic (rhubarb pancakes and crepes), Ayelada-Pittsfield (rhubarb frozen yogurt), KoffeeKup Bakery-Springfield (rhubarb pies), Merry Lion Press-Hawley (rhubarb cook books.)

Savory Rhubarb Contest: five Lenox restaurants participated. Visitors were invited to sample each offering and then cast a vote with their spoon (\$5). Competing chefs offered Rhubarb Chili (Cranwell Resort & Spa), Rhubarb Pulled Pork (Olde Heritage Tavern), Rhubarb Salad Cups (Firefly Gastropub), Pate with Rhubarb Compote (Blantyre) and Rhubarb Tacos (Canyon Ranch.) Winner: Canyon Ranch. Recipes can be found online at lenoxrhubarbfestival.com.

Rhubarb On Menus at five Lenox restaurants: Alta, Bagel & Brew, Bistro Zinc, Gateways Inn & Restaurant, On A Roll.

Rhubarb Around Town eight Lenox stores sold rhubarb items: Nejaimes (rhubarb beer), Price Chopper (rhubarb yogurt and fresh rhubarb) and Yankee Candle (rhubarb scented candles) or offered complimentary rhubarb treats to patrons: Annie Selke, Fat Face, McKimmie Co., Shear Design, and The Wit Gallery.

B&B Participation: Apple Tree Inn offered rhubarb breakfast items to their guests.

The Eagles Trombone Ensemble (10 trombones, 1 French horn, 1 tuba and drums), led by trombonist Mike Oft of Lenox Dale, returned to play crowd-pleasing, popular tunes from 11-12:30. The Ensemble plans to make a third appearance in 2019.

Photographs of all Rhubarb Festivals are at www.lenoxrhubarbfestival.com and on facebook. Contact: info@lenoxrhubarbfestival.com

The Lenox Rhubarb Festival is a registered 501©3. It is expected the Lenox Rhubarb Festival will continue annually on the second Saturday in June. The date of the 2019 Rhubarb Festival is Saturday, June 8, 9 am-2 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne W Pelton
Founder/Chair

Volunteers:	August Danowski	Remy Frisch	Mary Jean Handy
Bev Hathaway	Lucy Kennedy	Judith Lerner	Erika Mueller
Alba Passerini	Scott Pelton-Stroud	Beverle Reimann-Marcus	Mary Spina
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 Karley Deets, the 2018 recipient.

Lenox Historical Society holds a variety of lectures, programs and related exhibits each year. During 2018 we hosted an exciting temporary exhibit, Baseball in the Berkshires: A County's Common Bond. This exhibit focused on the history of baseball in Lenox and celebrated decades of the sport being played by our high school teams, the old "Brotherhood" sponsored teams and semi-pro teams. The items featured in the exhibit were part of the permanent collection at the Baseball in the Berkshires venue at Berkshire Mall.

In 2018 we partnered again with the Academy Garden Club of Lenox and hosted the second annual Lenox Garden and Flower Show in August. Exhibitors created beautiful displays of flowers and vegetables which attracted more than 130 visitors over the two days. Plans are under way for the 2019 show to be held once again in Town Hall.

Currently there are more than 200 members of the historical society whose annual memberships help support our programs and events. We welcome new members and volunteers. Please consider joining us. Our museum is open year round Thursday - Saturday from 11-3, 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
Deborah Cote, Vice-President
Jan Chague, Clerk
Jen Picard, Treasurer
Victoria Salvatore, Curator
Pat Jaouen
Lucy Kennedy
Edward Kirby
Theresa Noyes
Dawn Williams
Percy Williams
Shirley Vincent

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 2018 was the development of the Historic Preservation Plan, funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). Our consultants, Heritage Strategies, LLC, prepared an excellent comprehensive preservation plan that will aid the LHC and the Town coordinate a long term program of historic preservation actions and guide its work over time.

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.

Currently the LHC is preparing a sign for visitors with a map of the cemetery, designed by Bart Arnold, and listing the locations and brief histories of notable internees. The sign will be installed in the spring of 2019.

Town Of Lenox Annual Report 2018

Westinghouse Street Lamps: the LHC has a bronze plaque commemorating the Westinghouse contribution to electrifying Lenox and to those who made major donations to current recreations. It will provide historic context and information for historical tourism. Installation of the plaque will take place in 2019.

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.

Commissioners: Olga Weiss, chair; Lucinda Weiss, clerk; Jan Chague; Suzanne Pelton; Lavinia Meeks
Volunteers: Lucy Kennedy; Jim Biancolo; Ray Kirby.

Respectfully submitted,

Olga Weiss, Chair

*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
- 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. We are trying hard to make sure you can get information on the website too, since we know work and other obligations keeps many from getting to Town Hall during regular business hours.

Looking back over the year, much from 2017 continued, while some new initiatives took off:

COMPLETE STREETS

Designs for a safer Main Street and pedestrian crossing at Old Stockbridge Road by Town Hall were developed and finalized. Implementation will begin in Spring 2019. The Walker Street project was finalized as well, and that implementation will begin in 2019.

HOUSING

The Housing Trust received additional funds from the Community Preservation Committee and Town Meeting to help their first time home buyer grant program, as well as pursue other affordable housing preservation and production strategies. In addition, a Request for Proposals was released soliciting affordable housing development on the town-owned Sawmill property across from Caligari's. A few revisions to the Lenox Zoning Bylaw at the November Special Town Meeting are intended to encourage production of affordable housing in the "C" district (Village Center and Lenox Dale) and ease unit and lot size requirements for mixed-use development.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

The Department received funds to develop a Shared-Use Path feasibility study from the Community Preservation Committee. This path would link from Pittsfield to Lee, with spurs connecting Lenox's cultural, historic and scenic attractions to each other. Additionally, the department received funds from the Community Preservation Committee to launch the Town's pilot community garden. Work was continued in Kennedy Park to treat the invasive Hardy Kiwi vine.

LILAC PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN

Speaking of the pilot community garden...a committee consisting of Tom and Dianne Romeo, Ed Lane, Sue Dunleavy, Jen Picard, Ginny Akabane, Jessie Berick, Eugene Jura and Kathy DeVylder formed to help identify a site for the garden, and identified Lilac Park as a great location. They have worked hard to fundraise additional sources to help make the garden a beautiful place befitting its location. Extra funds will be used to launch another garden site. To date there are 25 garden

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members, all of whom will have their own 4' X 8' bed. The garden would not be possible without generous donations received in 2018 from: Academy Garden Club of Lenox, Adams Community Bank, the Arcadian Shop, Berkshire Bank, Berkshire Health Systems, Jessie Berrick and Eugene Jura, Canyon Ranch, George Darey and Ginny Akabane, Bill and Sue Dunleavy, Greylock Federal Credit Union, Kimball Farms, Lee Bank, Lenox Garden Club, J.H. Maxymillian Inc. (donating soil), New England Fence Company, The Piretti Family in memory of Peter Piretti, Deborah and David Rimmmer, Tom and Dianne Romeo, and the Keator Family in memory of Katie and John F.X. Keator.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Lenox now has a complete Communitywide Historic Preservation Plan, available on the Land Use Department webpage for your review. It identifies a number of ways to continue honoring and celebrating Lenox's rich history while building awareness of the many benefits of historic preservation, cultural and heritage landscapes planning, and the creative economy.

LENOX CULTURAL DISTRICT

Lenox began seeking Cultural District designation from the state's Massachusetts Cultural Council in 2018. A cultural district is a defined geographic area with a rich concentration of history, arts, and culture for residents and visitors. Designation offers another way to promote the town of Lenox and its wonderful attractions. We hope to see designation in Spring 2019.

MASTER PLAN

A competitive process for consultant selection was completed in 2018, along with the finalization of a work scope. A steering committee was appointed by the Board of Selectmen to guide the work of the consultant, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, and the planning process will continue through 2019. Look for opportunities to participate in defining Lenox in 2038 and identifying how the town will get there. As part of initial Master Plan work, the Land Use Department worked with two groups of graduate students from the Columbia University Sustainability Management program. Not only did they assist the Land Use Department, they also provided targeted recommendations to the Department of Public Works related to water and wastewater treatment.

Sincerely,

Land Use Director/Town Planner Gwen M. Miller, AICP
Land Use Clerk Peggy Ammendola

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, Variance and/or Site Plan Approval 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 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 2018 the Lenox Zoning Board of Appeals held public hearings to review twenty applications for special permits, variances and modifications to previously granted projects. Four of the applications were withdrawn by the applicants. Five Variances were granted, and all but one of the Special Permit requests were granted.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Considine, Chair
Ned Douglas
Cliff Snyder
Robert Fuster Sr.

Alternates:
Robert Fuster Jr.
Jedd Hall
Albert Harper
Clayton Hambrick

REPORT OF THE LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and 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 2018 were:

- Deborah Rimmmler, 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

The Committee did not review project proposals or undertake any new initiatives in 2018 at meetings, though through the Land Use Department several goals of the OSRP were furthered through applications made to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC), such as funding for a shared use path feasibility study and funding for a pilot community garden.

Respectfully submitted,

The Lenox Land Management Committee

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 \$419,819.00 and to date has provided ten (10) grants to income qualified first time homebuyers in Lenox, ranging in amount from \$7,000 to \$10,000. Four banks work with the Town and homebuyers to provide this grant: Lee Bank, Adams Community Bank, Greylock Federal Credit Union and Pittsfield Coop. Information is available on the Town of Lenox website for first time home buyers. The Trust received new funds from the Community Preservation Committee and Town Meeting to help implement the Housing Production Plan, and continues to explore ways it can most effectively and sustainably use these resources to preserve and create affordable housing.

Members of the Trust have engaged in continued development to increase their knowledge and expertise in the creation of affordable and middle market housing opportunity, including attending the annual Massachusetts Housing Partnership's Housing Institute.

The Trust reviewed and approved a Request for Proposals soliciting affordable housing development for the Sawmill site. The Request for Proposals was released in late 2018, and members of the Trust are involved in the selection committee to review submitted proposals, of which there are two.

The Trust & Committee is composed of the following community members:

- Marybeth Mitts, Chair
- Jackie McNinch
- Olga Weiss
- Kate McNulty Vaughan
- Mindy Morin
- Charlene Rosen (Committee)

Land Use Director Gwen Miller, AICP provides staff support

Respectfully submitted,

Lenox Affordable Housing Trustees and Committee Members

REPORT OF THE LENOX COMMUNITY CENTER

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox,

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.

Every year along with old goals, we set new ones. The goal for the year of 2018 was to be bring more, as well as different programming for all ages. Along with our newly hired Assistant Director, Darlene McCauley and Youth Services Coordinator, Amanda McLaughlin came new energy and ideas. The Halloween Trip to Salem Ma, Trunk or Treat, LCC Chorus, STEM classes, Berkshire Humane Society collaboration, Yoga at the Town Beach, Vision Screening and so much more, are just some of the results of that new energy.

Our newly renovated Town Beach opened with grand enthusiasm from all those who attended. The landscape, the new beach house, it is all so inviting. One of the major differences is the accessibility. A natural boardwalk created to and from the handicapped accessible parking area to the beach house, along with the water-sand wheelchair provided, makes it an "all ability" friendly environment. As summer comes to an end, we can now enjoy our new heating system that was completed this past Spring. It is a pleasure to have consistent heat and comfort throughout the building. Thank you to all the taxpayers for your support.

The Council on Aging continues to offer transportation to our senior and disabled population to and from medical, shopping and social appts. Weekly/monthly luncheons, exercise classes, educational coffee hours, and crafts are just a few of our programs offered at the center. The Board of Selectmen signed a commitment to support an AGE FRIENDLY community. This can be done when planning street, sidewalk, and park renovations. Housing, socialization is also an integral part of aging in place while remaining healthy and independent.

Our Youth programs continue to thrive. The afterschool program and summer camp are at an all-time high of over 134 registered participants. Serving both the young and the "older" population within our community facilitates intergenerational activity. It could be a simple conversation in the hallway, to lunch and bingo in the lunchroom. Crafts, movies and drumming were also are some of the joint experiences shared.

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;

Kim Graham, Director

Anthony Patella, Chairman

Sheri Gaherty, Co-Chair

Francie Sheehan-Sorrentino, Clerk

Rose Casey-Fitzgerald

Jen Picard

Michael Cooney

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 2018, \$20,200 was awarded through the Town of Lenox Scholarship Program to residents looking to further their education. Due to the needs of our students, this past year we saw the largest number of applicants in over a decade. Through the support of our donors, we were able to assist 21 graduates of the LMMHS class of 2018 and 19 post-graduate students. Awards ranged from \$250 to \$1,100.

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 172 contributors this year for their financial support of this program.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Kimberly Merrick, Ex-Officio
Paula Downer
William E. Parsley
Tara Romeo
Christopher Ryan
James Sorrentino

LENOX SCHOLARSHIP LIST OF DONORS

William & Amy Parsley	Sergey & Dr. Natalya Yantovsky DMD
Kimball Farms Residents Association	Nathan Doctrow
Joan Bancroft-Grody	Claire Mooney
Hannah & Matthew Keator	Jane P. Layton
Beth & Bruce Gamble	Parker & Anne Opperman
Willow Creek Corporation	Paul & Lisa Gamache
Carol Murray & John Kuster	Jeffrey Vincent
Virginia & Francis Vahle Sr.	Bordon/Van Agtmael
Paula McLean	Bart Natoli
Carl & Iris Krieger TTEE	Tim & Kathy Face
Lawrence Friedman & Aviva Wichler	Jeremy & Susan Judd
Reginald & Shirley Vincent	Lawrence Frisman
Madga Gabor-Hotchkiss	Kristine & Oren Cass
Judy & Mara Bebert	H. Alan & Eleanor J. Frank
Pamela Wheeler	John & Renee Mizia
Jenifer Picard	Heather Wells Heim & Matt Heim
Noel & Paula Blagg	Michael & Suzanne Shepardson
Ralph & Mary Helen Ford	Paul & Meryl Delasco
Richard & Maureen Jarvis	Christine Mauro & Clayton Peterson
Lorraine & Paul Bourassa	Mahesh & Priyabala Patel

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Clifford Oil
Sharon & David Drucker
Bernard Berofsky
Mary Helen
David J. & Amy Noble Novitsky
Kerry Stern
Jeffrey Kochman
Hope Hagler
Marilynn Bloch
Susan Lyman & Larry Lane
French Family
Lefkowitz Family
Pam & Peter D'Ambrosio
Lane Lyman
Tibbets Family
Bobby & Tammy Lahart
Claudia E. Wells
Helen Wesolowski
Louis Soloway
James & Kim Sorrentino
Lawrence & Bette Sue Rosenthal
Stephanie & Fred Rothenberg
David Lyon
Joe & Betsy Strauch
Austin & Lynda Brazee
AS Potter
Rick Gregg & Linda Smothers
Ken & Carol Kelly
Gige Darey
Carl & Laurie Foote
Paul & Kathy Nash
Marjorie Lieberman
Mary Lou Jarvis
Alice & Donald Roth
Eleanor & Ed Bloom
Carol & Jim Edelman
Mark & Jennifer Shapp
Dennis Arseneau
Lawrence & Gwendolen Hurst
Thomas W. Gaherty
Helaine Rose
Victoria Choy & Robert Miller
Terry & Lois Weaver
Loiver & Cynthia Curme
John Kuster & Carol Murray
Deborah & Frank Cote
John Mizia
Elise & Alan Sosenko
Roberta Hope Waller
Jay & Dawn Carberry
Paul & Lisa Gamache
Philip & Eileen Knowles
Richard & Janet Kassir

Stephen Turner & Sue Farley-Turner
Richard Sussman
Jeff Pringle
Karen Chase & Paul Graubald
Jeremy & Susan Judd
The Parkinson Family
Lawrence & Anne Frisman
Judith & Alan Benjamin
Paula & Tom Skinner
Louise Omelenchuck
Dan & Paula Almgren
Bonnie & Terry Burman
Olga Weiss
Ed & Robin Lane
Drs. Leonard & Gail Silverman
Berkshire Natural Resources Council Inc.
Rabbi Don Weber & Rabbi Shira Stern
Beth & Peter Levin
Kathryn A. Cafiero
Bob & Kate McNulty-Vaughan
Scott & Maureen Jarvis
Robert T. Wheeler
Barbara & Bruce Schickmanter
Robert & Lynne Horvath
Helen Cooper
Cecilia Hamilton
Donna Lefkowitz
Edward & Jennifer Culver
Tom and Debbie Roche
William & Beverly A. Rudge III
Jennifer Lester & Gregory Merklin
George & Marilyn Haus
Robert & Mary Ann Coakley
Barbara M. French
Arcadian Shop
Mike & Sue Shepardson
Al & Noreen Favero
Lois & Harold Brown
Bonnie Fraser
Charles F. Thompson
Michael & Sibylle Baier
Piretti Real Estate
Gerald Roth & Roberta Roth
Deborah Raptopoulos
Elizabeth Weibrecht
Sean & Jan Ward
Maryjane & Jerry Fromm
Scott & Joan Robinson
Mike & Wendy Coakley
Ann L. Phillips
Wes & Suzanne Ross
Margaret R. O'Brien
Lawrence Strauss & Francine Weinberg
Anonymous

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 Rimmmler	May 2019
Francie Sorrentino	May 2021
Robert Vaughan (chair)	May 2019

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.

The School Committee conducted an accelerated Superintendent search in April and May of 2018 following the resignation of then Superintendent Timothy Lee. We were pleased to offer the Superintendency to Dr. Kimberly Merrick for a one-year contract which has subsequently been changed to three years.

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 development of policy as guides for administrative action and for employing a Superintendent who will implement its policies. The Committee is responsible for adoption of a budget that will enable the school system to carry out the Committee's policies. The Committee is responsible for establishing educational goals and policies that will guide the Committee and staff for the administration and 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 fourth year of the five-year (2015-2020) 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. We anticipate that the School Committee will shortly embark on the creation of a subsequent strategic plan to carry us through the next five years.

PROPOSED BUDGET

Our operational budget being presented at Annual Town Meeting for the 2019-20 (FY'20) 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 superintendent, Kimberly Merrick, the School Committee reviews 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.

At the time of this writing (January), the FY20 target is in its formative stage. 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 2020. The revelation that the 1966 wing of the high school has slowly been sinking has resulted in the need to resolve this solution in the months ahead – we expect that this will use all or most of our capital budget for the upcoming year. 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 (95 percentile) for High Achievement and Morris is at the 88th percentile among elementary and middle schools.

Our schools are led by our Superintendent, Kimberly Merrick, Elementary Principal Peter Bachli, LMMHS Principal Michael Knybel, and Director of Student Services Ellen Farris. We are grateful for the thoughtful and caring leadership from these four outstanding educators.

ENROLLMENT

Currently, we have 753 students in grades pre-K through 12, approximately the same as last year. Choice students now stand at 281 and comprise 37% of the student population served. Lenox demographics mimic those county-wide 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. Part of the School Committee's charge is to 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 5 strategic goals for 2015-2020. 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, Francine 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 three years. In July 2017, the BCETF recommended that the schools in the county work toward establishing a single Berkshire County school district in ten years – along the way allowing for smaller alliances to form as districts look for ways to collaborate both for stronger student opportunities and outcomes as well as improved central office efficiencies. This has been a controversial recommendation with one of our neighboring districts pulling out of the BCETF.

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.

The Southern Berkshire Educational Future committee now holds regular meetings with all four South Berkshire districts on what the future of education might look like for south county districts and how we might collaborate in the best interests of our students in the near future.

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 four long-time and valued faculty members retire in 2018 – we will miss the skills and passion they brought to our students – congratulations and thanks to Marion Vanasse, Mary Kay Pinkham, Evelyn LaRagione, and David Fisher.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Elliot
Christine Mauro
Robert Munch
Anne Marie O'Brien
David Rimmmler
Francine 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, serving about 755 students in grades PreK through 12 this past school year. Recent years have seen changes to the landscape of public education throughout our region. While declining numbers in the school-age population around the county have caused some districts to close schools and reduce programs, Lenox, bolstered by the enrollment of non-resident Choice and tuition students, continues to provide a robust educational program-offering a wide range of courses and extra-curricular activities that allow our diverse group of students to grow and succeed. Our two district schools continue to be known for their excellence and continue to be recognized locally and nationally as examples of public education that works.

Continuing our tradition of quality education amidst demographic changes and ever increasing demands from the state has required that the town and the school department work together closely in budgeting, capital planning, and resource management. The last two years have seen a new level of collaboration between town and school administration to meet common needs. One example is the completion of a 2017-18 project involving the upgrade of HVAC controls at LMMHS. The project, which involved the complete replacement of heating control systems and upgrades to many of the mechanical systems, resulted in energy savings of between 25% to 40%. The project was paid for by a state Green Communities Grant and incentives from our utilities providers, and facilitated by town government. The schools, in turn, strive to meet budget targets established by the town leadership. These and other two-way efforts have brought both town and schools to a new, enviable place of functionality, where both are well positioned to achieve their respective and common goals.

Our district goals are described in our 2015 - 2020 Strategic Plan and are reflected in the work of both of our district schools and our Department of Student Services.

Morris Elementary School

Mr. Peter J. Bachli, Principal

It is my pleasure to be submitting this report as the Principal of Morris Elementary School for the second year. We are currently at an enrollment of 323 students in grades Pre-K through five. In 2017-18 Morris had two sections of Kindergarten and was also home to two full-day pre-school classes. 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 2016-17 school year Morris School retired two veteran staff; Betty Bean and John Evans. Two staff members were hired during the summer including Kyle Betters and Lyndsay Osterhoudt. Two additional staff moved from Unit C to Unit A positions including Cheryl Zaretsky and Courtney Buratto. 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.

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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 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.

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 prepare to purchase a comprehensive Science curriculum for our classrooms.

Back in 2011, all public schools were ranked according to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education accountability system which measures effectiveness at meeting the needs of all students. This accountability system ranks schools on a 1-5 level according to how well the school 'narrows the gap' between current performance and proficiency for all students. (A Level 1 school meets all of its performance targets. A level 5 school is "chronically underperforming" in its efforts to meet those targets.) In 2016, Morris remained a "level 1" school for the fourth year in a row based on MCAS performance that showed students were hitting challenging educational targets. In the spring of 2017, the state tests were revised and renamed the "Next Generation Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System" or MCAS 2.0. Since the test was new and in a trial period, all schools were held "harmless" and were not given a ranking. DESE resumed this process for the spring 2018 assessments. Morris continued to perform very well on this next round of testing and was ranked in the "Meeting 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.

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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.

Morris is a welcoming educational community and we hope that citizens of Lenox will visit and see what a great school we have, 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 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 were pleased to be able to host members of the Lenox “Super-Genarians” Group who came to Morris to walk during inclement weather after school hours this year. We give our thanks also to the members of the Lenox Public Schools School Committee for your work and support of the educational opportunities we have.

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.

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School

Mr. Michael 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 2018, 94% of graduating seniors continued their post-secondary education with approximately 71% attending four-year colleges and universities, and 22% attending two-year colleges. Vocational 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.

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The spring 2018 MCAS scores increased significantly as compared with the past year. This increase classified Lenox Memorial Middle and High School as a School of Recognition for High Achievement. 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 with the Legacy MCAS paper-based. In comparison with other Berkshire County schools grades 6-8, LMMHS students performed as one of the top two high scorers when compared to other schools of similar size. For Grade 10 MCAS, 97% of students scored Proficient or Advanced in ELA and 87% Proficient or Advanced in Math. On the Grade 9 Biology and Physics MCAS, 88% of students scored Proficient or Advanced.

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School was recognized again in 2018 by the U.S. World News and Report as a Gold Medal School, which ranked LMMHS as 4th in the state and 202nd in the nation. The Washington Post listed Lenox as one of America's Most Challenging Schools and LMMHS was named to the 5th 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 2nd highest in Berkshire County for Reading and 4th highest for Math, out of 14 schools in Berkshire County. In May of 2018, Lenox Memorial Middle and High School was recognized with an Official Senate Citation for consistently placing in the top 2% nationwide in regards to college readiness.

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 and 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:

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)

Department of Student Services

Ms. Ellen Farris, Director

The Department of Student Services in the Lenox Public Schools oversees three primary areas of student need: 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 18 school year, the district expanded services in pre-school, creating a second full-day classroom. All other programs and services within the department remained relatively the same.

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 20-30 students are given ELE services annually. This number has varied greatly in recent years. 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.

District Finance Highlights: 2017-2018

During the July 2017 to June 2018 fiscal year, the Lenox Public Schools operated on a gross budget of \$11,284,692 to serve a total student enrollment of about 755. This operating budget was offset by the receipt of just over \$1.5 million in applied revenues, in the form of school choice receipts, tuition, rent and fees. The district received several federal grants to supplement the efforts of the town. These grants include Title I: \$166,423 (targeted student assistance); Title IIA \$24,368 (improving teacher quality); Special Education \$217,723; and Title IV, \$4,696. By May of 2018, district administration projected that a portion of the town-appropriated FY18 budget would not be needed, mainly due to savings on utilities after efficiency improvements. The school district returned to the town \$79,681 in operating funds at the close of the 2018 fiscal year. As permitted under a new state statute, the School Committee and the town established a new revolving fund for the beginning of FY18 known as the Special Education Stabilization Fund. This account is intended to provide insurance against unforeseen extraordinary costs for Special Education.

Recognition and Gratitude:

The district enjoys the support of other town departments and community agencies in meeting its objectives. The Police and Fire Departments provide ongoing consultation to the schools on matters of student and staff safety. The Lenox Community Center provides a fun and educationally supportive after-school care option for students across a wide span of ages. The district is indebted to the Lenox Department of Public Works who have provided ongoing assistance with grounds and facilities, especially during the winter months.

The district is additionally indebted to its business partners: Kimball Farms, Canyon Ranch, Lee Bank, Shakespeare and Company and Adams Bank. Their contributions make possible several special events and activities including the Senior Retreat.

Finally, the Lenox Schools offer sincere thanks to the citizens of Lenox, who invariably demand and support high-quality public education for the town's young people.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kimberly Merrick,
Superintendent

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

November 1, 2018

At 7:14 PM a Special Town Meeting held at the Lenox Memorial Middle and High School's Duffin Theater was called to order. A quorum for the meeting was met with over 31 present at the opening. 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 on voice votes.

ARTICLE 1: It was moved, seconded and approved unanimously that the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,683,205.23 for capital expenditures in the Department of Public Works; and, further, to provide for said appropriation, to transfer the following sums:

1. \$950,000 from Free Cash as certified on July 1, 2018
2. \$700,000 from Retained Earnings in the Water Enterprise Fund as certified on July 1, 2018
3. Unencumbered balance of \$33,205.23 appropriated and borrowed under Article 17 of the May 5, 2016 Annual Town Meeting warrant, in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws and which balance is no longer needed to complete the project for which it was initially borrowed.

ARTICLE 2: It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Town appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to the Permanent Building Committee for planning, design and consultant expenses related to facilities for Police, Fire and Ambulance operations; and, further, to provide for said appropriation, to transfer said sum from Free Cash as certified on July 1, 2018.

ARTICLE 3: It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept a gift of land located at 179 Housatonic Street and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute such documents and instruments or take any action needed to effectuate the vote taken hereunder, upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may deem appropriate.

ARTICLE 4: It was moved, seconded and approved by a voice vote that the Town amend the Zoning Bylaw by amending Section 5.2, "Schedule of Uses", and amending Section 9.1, "Multifamily and Townhouse Buildings" with a new subsection, 9.1.5, "By Right Provision".

ARTICLE 5: It was moved, seconded and approved by a voice vote that the Town amend the Zoning Bylaw by deleting the definition of Apartment in Section 4, "Definitions" so there is no longer a minimum square foot area for multi-family dwelling units.

ARTICLE 6: Amendment proposed by Kathleen McNulty-Vaughan, 10 Post Rd.

I move that the Town vote to amend Article 6 by revising Section 9.1.4, Dwelling Two Family (Duplex) by removing 1. "No unit contains more than two families" to be replaced with 1. "Only one family shall reside in each unit". Amendment was moved, seconded and approved by a voice vote.

It was then moved, seconded and approved by a voice vote that the Town amend the Zoning Bylaw by revising Section 9.1.4, "Dwelling, Two Family (Duplex)" so that the size requirement is stricken.

ARTICLE 7: It was moved, seconded and approved by a voice vote that the Town amend the Zoning Bylaw so that minimum area requirements for dwelling units and lot sizes are removed from Section 9.5, "Mixed Use Development".

ARTICLE 8: It was moved, seconded and approved by a voice vote that the Town amend the Zoning Bylaw so that the minimum area requirement for a dwelling unit is removed from Section 9.6.1, "Conversion of an Existing Dwelling".

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ARTICLE 9: It was moved that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw Adult Use of Marijuana in Lenox as noted below:

Insert, into Section 4, Definitions, the following:

Marijuana Establishment: A marijuana cultivator, independent testing laboratory, marijuana product manufacturer, marijuana retailer, or any other type of marijuana-related business, subject to regulation under G.L. 94G; provided, however, that a Registered Medical Marijuana Dispensary shall not be deemed to be a Marijuana Establishment.

Insert into Section 5.2 Schedule of Uses (under new Section J. “Marijuana Businesses”

	R3A	R1A	R30	R15	C3A	C1A	C	I
23. Marijuana Establishments								
- Marijuana Retailer	N	N	N	N	BA	BA	N	N
- Marijuana Product Manufacturer	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y
- Marijuana Research Facility	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y
- Marijuana Cultivator	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y
- Craft Marijuana Cooperative	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y
- Marijuana Laboratory (Independent Testing, Standards Testing)	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y
- Marijuana Transporter	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y

Delete the existing Section 8.13 and replace with the following new Section 8.13, Adult Use of Marijuana (Non-Medical):

Amend Table of Contents so that Section 8.13 will read “Adult Use of Marijuana (Non-Medical)”

8.13.1. Purpose

The purpose of this section is to provide guidelines for siting Marijuana Establishments in suitable locations in the Town of Lenox in accordance with An Act To Ensure Safe Access to Marijuana, Chapter 55 of the Acts of 2017, and all applicable regulations, including 935 CMR 500.00.

8.13.2. Site Plan Approval

All Marijuana Establishments in Lenox shall be subject to Site Plan Approval by the Lenox Zoning Board of Appeals per the procedures of Section 3.5 of the Lenox Zoning Bylaw.

8.13.3. On-site Consumption

On-site consumption of marijuana and marijuana products, as either a primary or accessory use, shall be prohibited at all Marijuana Establishments. The prohibition of on-site social consumption shall include private social clubs or any other establishment which allows for social consumption of marijuana or marijuana products on the premises, regardless of whether the product is sold to consumers on site.

8.13.4. General Requirements for Marijuana Establishments

- There shall be no publicly visible indication of marijuana cultivation, production, processing, testing, transportation or retail at any marijuana establishment in Lenox. This includes outside storage and activities necessary for business operation, except at open-air, outdoor cultivation facilities, which shall conform to the regulations of the Cannabis Control Commission.

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- b. Marijuana Establishments shall conform to the outdoor lighting requirements of Section 7.3 “Lighting” of the Zoning Bylaw.
- c. Marijuana Cultivators shall not illuminate growing operations between dusk and dawn, unless within a fully-enclosed, opaque building.
- d. Marijuana Establishments shall conform to the signage requirements of Section 7.2 “Signs” of the Zoning Bylaw.
- e. Marijuana Establishments shall conform to the parking and loading requirements of Section 7.1 “Off Street Parking and Loading Requirements” of the Zoning Bylaw.
- f. There shall be no noxious odors emitted from the cultivation or processing of marijuana and marijuana products.
- g. No use shall be allowed by a Marijuana Establishment which creates a nuisance to abutters or to the surrounding area, or which creates any hazard, including but not limited to, fire, explosion, fumes, gas, smoke, odors, obnoxious dust, vapors, offensive sound or vibration, flashes, glare, objectionable effluent or electrical interference, which may impair the normal use and peaceful enjoyment of any property, structure or dwelling in the area.

8.13.6. Severability

The provisions of this Bylaw are severable. If any provision, paragraph, sentence, or clause of this Bylaw or the application thereof to any person, establishment, or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or application of this Bylaw.

After much discussion both for and against cultivation, recreational and medicinal uses of marijuana an Amendment was brought forth by Rinaldo DelGallo, 24 Orchard St.

I move that the Town vote to Amend Article 9 as follows: to allow marijuana by right for commercial/retail if bylaws are met and Strike Special Permit - Add by-right. Motion to amend as written was defeated. It was moved, seconded and defeated by a 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 (Non-Medical)”.

YES 252 NO 138

ARTICLE 10: It was moved, seconded and approved by a voice vote that the Town extend the time frame of the “Temporary Moratorium on the Sale and Distribution of Recreational Marijuana” in existing Section 8.13, so that the moratorium will remain in effect through June 30th, 2019.

ARTICLE 11: It was moved by Selectman Neal Maxymillian that the Town take no action on Article 11 to impose an excise on the retail sales of marijuana for adult use at the rate of 3% as Article 9 did not pass making Article 11 unnecessary.

ARTICLE 12: It was moved that the Town vote to adopt a general bylaw requiring the Inspection and Registration of all Short-Term Rentals. Applicants for Short-Term Rental uses must complete a registration application with the Town Clerk of Lenox. 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, sanitary, Board of Health, 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 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) Notarized affidavit certifying the location of the host's domicile and primary legal residence. Documentation may be requested including Homestead Exemption, state tax filing, voter registration, etc. For Short-Term Rental-Entire Dwelling Units, information for a local contact responsible for the property 24/7 if the owner/leaseholder is not available.
- c) 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.

3. Annual Renewal

Annual renewal through the Building Inspections Department is required and will be granted subject to continuing evidence of adherence to local and state zoning, building, safety, sanitary 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.

5. Effective Date

This Bylaw shall take effect as of approval by the Attorney General. Enforcement of said General Bylaw shall begin on May 1, 2019.

Article 12 resident comments:

Ted Silverman, 520 East St. – He understands the State will be taking up this issue, why overburden our Bldg. Dept?

Henry Nadig, 146 Hubbard St. – Very onerous; this will criminalize folks who ignore this; it's not clear

Danielle Villette, 27 Schermerhorn Pk. – Read a letter from Deborah Rimmmler, from PB. Letter stated that this feels like a ban and can the Planning Board come back in May with a clear plan.

Thomas Villette, 118 Plunkett St. – Believes what is property is the 1700's definition, property through labor.

Eric Federer, 35 Cliffwood St. – This is about business; not personal. Rental property on his street are being advertised as Estates, Suites, Berkshire Cottages; feels STR's should be limited.

Beth Tracy Gamble, 47 Tucker St. – Moved for a Secret Ballot which failed.

Steven Seltzer, 921 East. – Shocked by Warrant not having clarification about inspections per cease and desist letter. Urged fellow voters to vote No as the State needs to weigh in.

James Harwood, 34 Walker St. – Onerous article, will be a quagmire if STR is reclassified, sprinklers, elevators are not necessary and some will try and take advantage of the system

Mark Manoli, 178 Housatonic St. – Let State weigh in, rentals are needed to augment income here and to keep a healthy economy.

Tjasa Sprague, 55 Kemble St. – concerned about regulations regarding Historic Homes.

David Fisher, 25 Kneeland Ave. – Purchased a home in a Residential Zone so he thought he'd always be in a Residential Zone.

Ralph Petillo, 303 Housatonic St. – Rooms Tax here is Huge. Can we charge tax on Short Term Renters? The State must weigh in.

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Susan Foulds, 44 Walker St. – Thank you Planning Board, very complex issue.

Kameron Spaulding, 27 Housatonic St. representing the Planning Board began discussing inspections of Rental of Homes and Inspections of Rental of Rooms, Ronald Maitland, 2 Coldbrooke South Dr. Called the Question; motion carried. It was moved, seconded and opposed that the Town adopt a general by-law requiring the inspection and registration of all Short-Term Rentals in Lenox.

ARTICLE 13: It was moved that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw by deleting existing Section 8.8.1, inserting new definitions in alphabetical order into Section 4, “Definitions” of the existing Zoning Bylaw, and inserting two new subsections into Section 9, “Special Residential Regulations” of the existing Zoning Bylaw.

Add to Section 9 as Section 9.10, Short-Term Rentals

9.10.1 PURPOSES:

The provisions of this bylaw section are intended to clarify the limits and uses of residential housing for Short-Term Rentals in Lenox:

- To protect neighborhoods from undue commercial activity, maintaining their character and livability;
- To minimize public safety risks for guests and visitors and to minimize possible nuisances for abutters;
- To sustain the supply and affordability of residential housing available to community families and individuals who live and work in the region.

9.10.2 GENERAL STANDARDS:

- All Short-Term Rental property owners or leaseholders shall ensure that renters refrain from activity and behavior producing noxious light, odor, dust, fumes, amplified sound, excessive noise, and other nuisances.

DEFINITIONS (For inclusion in Section 4, “Definitions” of the existing Zoning Bylaw):

- **Dwelling Unit:** A single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one (1) or more persons including permanent provision for living, sleeping, cooking and sanitation.
- **Short-Term Rental:** All or part of a residential dwelling unit that is used to provide overnight accommodations for any rental period less than 30 consecutive days.
- **Primary Residence:** The dwelling unit that is the domicile and legal residence of the owner or leaseholder.
- **Residential Use:** The use of a dwelling, or room or group of rooms within a dwelling, used or intended for use by one family or household for living, sleeping, cooking and eating for 30 consecutive days or more.

	R3A	R1A	R30	R15	C3A	C1A	C	I	References
Short-Term Rental of Rooms	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Section 9.10
Short-Term Rental of Rooms within an Accessory Dwelling Unit Permitted Prior to 11/1/18	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Section 9.10, Section 9.2

TABLE OF USES: Y=By-Right

9.10.3 SHORT-TERM RENTAL OF ROOMS:

The following requirements shall apply:

1. Rental of up to two bedrooms shall be permitted year-round.
 - a. Up to two bedrooms in an Accessory Dwelling Unit so long as the Accessory Dwelling Unit received a Special Permit under Section 9.2 of the Lenox Zoning Bylaw prior to November 1, 2018.
2. The owner or leaseholder shall occupy the home during the rental period.
3. The home shall be the primary residence of the owner or leaseholder with lodging as an accessory use.
4. Registration and inspection:
 - a. A Certificate of Compliance and Registration are required;
 - b. Premises shall be subject to annual inspection;
 - c. One type of Short-Term Rental Registration may be held per address per year.
5. Except for a home occupation that complies with this Bylaw, no other uses shall be permitted on the property.
6. Parking must be off street, on premises, with one (1) space per bedroom rented and one (1) per owner available.
7. No additions or external modifications may be made to the property for lodging use.
8. Only continental breakfast from the common family kitchen is permitted.
9. This Zoning Bylaw shall take effect as of the positive Town Meeting vote. Enforcement of said Zoning Bylaw shall begin on May 1, 2019.

	R3A	R1A	R30	R15	C3A	C1A	C	I	References
Seasonal Short-Term Rental of Entire Dwelling Units	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	BA	9.10
Short-Term Rental of Entire Accessory Dwelling Units	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Section 9.10, Section 9.2

TABLE OF USES: BA=Special Permit required from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

9.10.4 SEASONAL SHORT-TERM RENTAL OF ENTIRE DWELLING UNITS

The following requirements shall apply:

1. Rentals shall be permitted from Memorial Day through Labor Day, and weekends only through Columbus Day.
2. The dwelling unit shall be the primary residence of the owner or leaseholder with lodging as an accessory use.
3. Registration and Inspection:
 - a. A Certificate of Compliance and Registration are required.
 - b. Premises shall be subject to annual inspection.
 - c. One type of Short-Term Rental Registration may be held per address per year.

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4. The Special Permit shall be issued only to the primary resident of the property and shall not be transferable. Subsequent owners shall apply for a Special Permit in their own name.
5. Parking must be off street, on premises, with a maximum of two (2) vehicles used by renters.
6. Except for a home occupation that complies with this Bylaw,
 - a. no other uses shall be permitted on the property, and
 - b. no special events accessory to the Short-Term Rental may be held on the premises.
7. No additions or external modifications may be made to the property for lodging use.
8. This Zoning Bylaw shall take effect as of the positive Town Meeting vote. Enforcement of said Zoning Bylaw shall begin on May 1, 2019.

Comments from Residents:

Paul Marshall, - 35 Hubbard St. – Rents out as Air B&B to benefit us. We can rent rooms, have them inspected etc. but it doesn't help Short Term Renters who sometimes rent rooms on a Short Term basis.

Billy Keen, Pittsfield was allowed to speak on behalf of the Board of Realtors. Berkshire County Relators feels this is Unjust, sales way down in Lenox due to Short Term Rental bylaws.

Susan Lyman, 28 Schermerhorn Pk. – approves of the amendment as STR's degrade the neighborhood.

Danielle Viletto, 27 Schermerhorn Pk. – Rents her home, vets her people very carefully and rents to good people.

Beth Tracy Gamble – 47 Tucker St. – Houses are being purchased for Investment properties; this will adversely affect our community schools. Vote Yes.

Thomas Viletto, 118 Plunkett St. – Feels we are trying to change the meaning of property ownership.

James Harwood, 34 Walker St. – proposed an amendment which was very permissive, Town Council felt the bylaw very restrictive and Mr. Harwood withdrew his amendment, all verbally,

Steven Seltzer, 921 East St. – You are taking away our rights, no one knows the tax loss, Kameron Spaulding and Joel Bard had a side bar over BAN vs Restriction. Mr. Seltzer asked the PB to please put your thinking caps on again.

Ted Silverman, 520 East St. – felt this was not about Registration; Why limit folks to May – Sept?

Mary Jo Miller, 194 Main St. – spoke of her commitment to the Town, urged citizens to compromise and vote Yes; neighborhoods must be Residential, Values of home must be protected, Keep Residential Commercial Free – against absentee homeowners.

Rinaldo DelGallo, 24 Orchard St. – I propose that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw Section 9.10.4. 1. Rentals shall be permitted for the entire dwelling all year and strike Memorial Day through Labor Day and weekends only through Columbus Day.

Sarah Hitchcock, 81 Walker St. – wants sense of community, Halloween Trunk or Treat is a PLUS, loves the town, and has stayed in B&B, against absent homeowners and landlords.

Christopher Fenton, 38 Taconic Ave. – Asked question of PB member Kameron Spaulding, Can a homeowner who owns 2 homes in Lenox rent 1 for Long/Short Term Rental? Mr. Spaulding replied: No.

Thomas Romeo, 54 Reynolds Ave. – I rent STR's, there should be a Residency requirement. Please Vote Yes on DelGallo Amendment No on Article.

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Kathleen McNulty Vaughan, 10 Post Rd. – Should we Table this and Take a Hiatus from this.

Moderator McNinch asked for Vote on DelGallo Amendment to amend 9.10.4. 1. Rentals shall be permitted for the entire dwelling all year and strike Memorial Day through Labor Day and weekends only through Columbus Day. Amendment passed.

Kameron Spaulding, 27 Housatonic St. – I move that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw by deleting Section 9.10.4.2 in its entirety and amend Section 9.10.4. 4. To delete the phrase “primary resident” and replace it with “owner.” Subsequently withdrawn.

Suzanne Merritt, 99 New Lenox Rd. – We’ve lost half of our audience. We have no idea what’s going on. Please table this.

James Harwood, 34 Walker St. – Motion to refer Article 13 to the Planning Board. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to refer Article 13 to amend the Zoning Bylaw by deleting existing Section 8.8.1, inserting new definitions in alphabetical order into Section 4, “Definitions” of the existing Zoning Bylaw, and inserting two new subsections into Section 9, “Special Residential Regulations” of the existing Zoning Bylaw to the Planning Board.

ARTICLE 14: It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Town take no action on Article 14 to Vote on the acceptance of a local option tax on Short-Term rental occupancy.

ARTICLE 15: It was moved, seconded and approved unanimously that the Town amend Chapter IX, Financial Affairs, Section 6 Departmental Revolving Funds of the Town Bylaws by adding a new subsection 5.3, to establish and authorize a revolving fund for use by the Land Use Department under MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E ½.

It was voted unanimously to dissolve the meeting at 9:31 PM.

Attest:

Kerry L. Sullivan

Town Clerk

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

May 3, 2018

At 7:09 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 155 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.

ARTICLE 1. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved 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

The Town Manager Christopher Ketchen presented a power-point overview of the budget and announced a Fall Meeting is planned for Thursday, November 1, 2018.

ARTICLE 2. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to appropriate the sum of \$49,768.77 for snow and ice removal costs, said sum to be transferred from Free Cash as certified on July 1, 2017 and added to the amount appropriated to the Snow and Ice line item under Article 2 of the Warrant for the May 4, 2017 Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 3. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to raise and appropriate funds for the operating expenses of the Town for Fiscal Year 2019 as follows.

DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT	FY 19 <u>JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019</u>
1. Admin. & Finance	243,727
2. Town Treasurer/Clerk	147,363
3. Town Collector	85,261
4. Compensation Reserve	70,000
5. Operations Support	96,200
6. Elections & Registration	8,870
7. Economic Development	90,000
8. Town Debt & Interest	290,000
9. Audit, Reserve Account	628,718
10. Insurance & Bonds, OPEB	1,076,641
11. Land Use Department	485,691
12. Town Buildings	108,097
General Government Subtotal	3,330,568
13. Police Department	1,138,874
14. Fire Department	531,030

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15. Emergency Management	30,201
16. Ambulance Squad	400,049
Public Safety Subtotal	2,100,154
17. Lenox Public Schools	12,917,715
18. Vocational Education	85,000
Education Subtotal	13,002,715
19. Highway Department	604,264
20. Snow & Ice	257,005
21. Other Storm Emergencies	0
22. Cemetery	111,409
Public Works Subtotal	972,678
23. Board of Health	181,578
24. Veterans Services	70,113
Human Services Subtotal	251,691
25. Community Center	373,766
26. Academy Building	7,824
27. Historical Commission	10,950
28. Celebrations	2,200
29. Historic District Commission	0
Cultural & Recreation Subtotal	394,740
30. Lenox Library	341,251
Lenox Library Subtotal	341,251
Totals	20,393,797

ARTICLE 4. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to appropriate to fund the Fiscal Year 2019 budget for the Water Department;

1. Water Operations	\$630,285
2. Debt Service	\$712,475
3. Capital Expenditures	<u>\$ 50,000</u>
	\$1,392,760

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

User Charges	\$1,342,760
Retained Earnings	<u>\$ 50,000</u>
TOTAL	\$1,392,760

ARTICLE 5. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to appropriate to fund the Fiscal Year 2019 budget for the Sewer Department;

1. Sewer Operations	\$834,433
2. Debt Service	\$774,244
3. Capital Expenditures	<u>\$320,000</u>
	\$1,928,677

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

User Charges	\$1,608,677
Retained Earnings	<u>\$ 320,000</u>
TOTAL	\$1,928,677

ARTICLE 6. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,708,940 for the following capital expenditures:

1. Highway Department Expenditures	\$ 810,000
2. School Department Expenditures	\$ 270,200
3. Fire Department Expenditures	\$ 25,000
4. Police Department Expenditures	\$ 30,000
5. Town Buildings/Equipment Expenditures	\$ 66,000
6. Academy Building	\$ 5,000
7. Community Center Expenditures	\$ 353,740
8. Land Use Expenditures	\$ 10,000
9. Town Clerk Expenditures	\$ 8,000
10. Ambulance Expenditures	\$ 131,000

And further, to provide for said appropriations, to transfer from Free Cash as certified on July 1, 2017, the sum of \$1,683,469.

ARTICLE 7. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to vote to 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 appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues in the amount recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for project debt service in fiscal year 2019.

Library Debt Service (General Unreserved)	\$123,500
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ARTICLE 9. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved 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 2019, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation.

Appropriations:

FY 2019 estimated revenues for Administrative Expense	\$ 18,750
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Reserves:

FY 2019 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve	\$ 37,500
FY 2019 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve	\$ 37,500
FY 2019 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve	\$ 37,500
FY 2019 estimated revenues for General Unreserved	<u>\$243,750</u>
Total	\$375,000

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Estimated new surcharge collections for FY 2019	\$300,000
Estimated State Match for FY 2019	<u>\$100,000</u>
Total	\$400,000

ARTICLE 10. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved 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 2019 with each item to be considered a separate appropriation.

Trinity Church (Historic Preservation/Unreserved)	\$41,000
The Mount (Historic Preservation/Unreserved)	\$75,000
Frelinghuysen Morris House (Historic Preservation/Unreserved)	\$19,185
Town of Lenox/Comm.Garden (Recreation/Unreserved)	\$7,745
Town of Lenox/Shared Use Path (Recreation/Unreserved)	\$20,000
Town of Lenox Affordable (Community Housing/Unreserved) Housing Trust	\$250,000

ARTICLE 11. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to appropriate the sum of \$6,100,000 to pay the costs of designing and constructing a new water main, sewer main, and sidewalk along Old Stockbridge Road, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, subject to the execution of an agreement between the Board of Selectmen and the developer of the Elm Court property to pay all related costs associated with the aforementioned design and construction; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount in accordance with G. L. c. 44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G. L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

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 School Department under Article 2 of Warrant for the May 4, 2017 Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 13. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

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- ARTICLE 14. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to raise and appropriate the sum of \$175,000 for the Fire Engine Stabilization Fund.
- ARTICLE 15. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 41, Section 111F regarding leave with pay for incapacitated employees.
- ARTICLE 16. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to establish a Charter Review Committee for the purpose of reviewing the Town's Special Act Charter, created under Chapter 155 of the Acts of 1991, as amended. Said committee shall consist of five members appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The committee shall prepare a report of their review, to include recommendations for any proposed amendments to said Special Act Charter, to be completed on or before January 15, 2020. Upon receipt of the report, the Board of Selectmen shall, within 30 days, hold a public hearing to receive community input on the report.

It was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting 8:12 PM and to reconvene on Monday, May 7, 2018 at the Lenox Town Hall for the purpose of voting for Town Officers.

Attest:

Kerry L. Sullivan
Town Clerk