

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



For the Year Ending  
31 December 2020

***IN MEMORIAM***

**Philip Bailey**, DPW

**Leo Mahoney**, Moderator

**Rita Paysan**, School Department, Town Treasurer, Town Clerk

**Genevieve Powers**, Board of Registrars

**Dawn Williams**, Zoning Board of Appeals Clerk

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION TOWN OF LENOX**

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

#### **POPULATION:**

1767: Fifteen families (required for incorporation)  
2018: 4791  
2019: 4614  
2020: 4819

#### **SCHOOL POPULATION:**

2018: 734  
2019: 756  
2020: 745

#### **REGISTERED VOTERS:**

2018: 3770  
2019: 3684  
2020: 3918

#### **TAX RATE:**

2018-19: \$11.95/Residential; \$14.76 Comm./Ind./Pers. Prop.  
2019-20: \$12.10/Residential; \$14.78 Comm./Ind./Pers. Prop.  
2020-21: \$11.65/Residential; \$14.06 Comm./Ind./Pers. Prop.

#### **LOCATION:**

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

#### **CHURCH DIRECTORY:**

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

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

##### **Episcopal:**

Trinity  
St. Helena's Chapel, New Lenox

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

Hope Church

##### **Congregational:**

Church on the Hill

##### **Methodist:**

United Methodist Church of Lenox

## **TELEPHONE DIRECTORY OF TOWN SERVICES**

### **Local Emergency Numbers**

#### **POLICE**

Local Department 637-2346

State Police 243-0600

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** 637-2346

**TOWN HALL** 637-5500

#### **DEPARTMENT**

#### **TELEPHONE**

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

## **BUSINESS HOURS OF TOWN OFFICES**

8:30am to 4:00pm

### **COUNCIL ON AGING OFFICE**

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

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

#### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Every other Wednesday @ 7:00pm

#### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Scheduled Mondays @ 7:00pm in the Town Hall

#### **BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

As needed basis

#### **BOARD OF HEALTH**

Quarterly, and as needed basis

#### **HOUSING AUTHORITY**

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

#### **PLANNING BOARD**

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

#### **ACADEMY BUILDING TRUSTEES**

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

#### **COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD**

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

#### **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Scheduled Wednesdays @ 7:00pm

#### **HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

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

#### **HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

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

#### **VETERANS**

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

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

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

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

**TOWN OFFICIALS**

John McNinch Term Expires 2021

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Warren Archey	Term Expires 2023
Edward Lane, Clerk	Term Expires 2021
Neal Maxymillian, Chairman	Term Expires 2021
Marybeth Mitts	Term Expires 2022
David Roche	Term Expires 2023

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Christopher J. Ketchen

**DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

Mary Ellen Deming

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Molly Elliot	Term Expires 2021
Robert Vaughan	Term Expires 2022
Robert Munch	Term Expires 2023
Frances Sorrentino	Term Expires 2021
Anne Marie O'Brien	Term Expires 2021
Christine Mauro	Term Expires 2023
David Rimmler	Term Expires 2022

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

William Cameron Jr.

**DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS SERVICES**

Melissa Falkowski

**BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

Paula King	Term Expires 2021
Thomas Romeo	Term Expires 2022
Wayne Lemanski	Term Expires 2023

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSESSOR**

Randall Austin

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

John Kearns	Term Expires 2023
Dr. Noel Blagg	Term Expires 2021
Dianne Romeo	Term Expires 2022

**HEALTH INSPECTOR**

James Wilusz

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### **HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Deb Prew (Unexpired)  
Kim Graham (Unexpired)  
Diana Kirby  
Theresa Sorrentino  
Cathy May

Term Expires 2022  
Term Expires 2024  
Term Expires 2021  
Term Expires 2025  
State Appointee

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Barbara Heapby

### **PLANNING BOARD**

Kathleen McNulty Vaughan  
Laurny Franzoni Pederson  
Pamela Kueber, Chair  
Thomas Delasco  
James Harwood

Term Expires 2022  
Term Expires 2025  
Term Expires 2021  
Term Expires 2023  
Term Expires 2024

### **APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

Boards & Committees

### **ACADEMY BUILDING TRUSTEE**

Victoria Salvatore    Tim Face    Scott Pignatelli

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ALARM BOARD**

Chris O'Brien    Kevin Dinan    Steve O'Brien

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE**

Donna Lefkowitz  
Katie McNulty-Vaughan  
Jon Gotterer  
Frederick Keator

Olga Weiss  
Charlene Rosen  
Chris Fenton

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUSTEES**

Charlene Rosen  
Katie McNulty-Vaughan  
Jackie McNinch  
Vacancy (Morin)  
Olga Weiss  
Marybeth Mitts  
Julie Digrigoli

Term Expires 2022  
Term Expires 2022  
Term Expires 2021  
Term Expires 2022  
Term Expires 2021  
Term Expires 2021  
Term Expires 2021

### **CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Linda Miller    Dennis Arseneau

### **COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD**

Donna Lefkowitz  
Rose Fitzgerald-Casey  
Stephen Coon  
Anthony Patella  
Sheri Gaherty  
Frances Sorrentino  
Jenifer Picard

Term Expires 2023  
Term Expires 2022  
Term Expires 2021  
Term Expires 2022  
Term Expires 2021  
Term Expires 2021  
Term Expires 2023



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**COMMUNITY CENTER DIRECTOR**

Darlene McCauley

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

Jenny Vanasse

**PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

Matt Maffuccio

**SENIOR SERVICES COORDINATOR/OUTREACH COORDINATOR**

Susan Holmes

**CUSTODIAN**

Jonathan Twing

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

Tom Delasco (Planning Board)	Term Expires 2022
Mark Smith (Conservation Commission)	Term Expires 2023
Catherine May (Housing Authority)	Term Expires 2021
Neal Maxymillian (Board of Selectmen)	Term Expires 2021
Olga Weiss (Historical Commission)	Term Expires 2021
Frederick Keator (at-large)	Term Expires 2022
Chuck Koscher (at-large)	Term Expires 2022
Max Scherff (at-large)	Term Expires 2023
Anthony Patella, Chairman	Term Expires 2023

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Neal Carpenter, Chairman	Term Expires 2023
Mark Smith	Term Expires 2022
Vincent Ammendola	Term Expires 2021
Rosemarie Fitzgerald-Casey	Term Expires 2021
David F. Lane	Term Expires 2021
Joseph Strauch	Term Expires 2022
Richard L. Ferren	Term Expires 2023

**EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

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

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### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Kristine Cass	Term Expires 2023
Elliott Morss	Term Expires 2022
David Carpenter	Term Expires 2021
Mindi Morin	Term Expires 2023
David Neubert	Term Expires 2022
Michael Feder	Term Expires 2022
Joan Bruno	Term Expires 2021
Andrea Pignatelli-Simons	Term Expires 2023
Mark McKenna	Term Expires 2021

### **BOARD OF HEALTH OFFICIALS**

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

### **HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Cynthia Farkus	Term Expires 2023
Kameron Spaulding	Term Expires 2022
Jason Berger	Term Expires 2023
Vacancy (Steinert)	Term Expires 2021
Ken Fowler	Term Expires 2022
Pat Jaouen	Alternate
Vacancy (Kennedy)	Alternate

### **HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Olga Weiss	Term Expires 2021
Lucy Kennedy	Term Expires 2021
Jeanette Chague	Term Expires 2022
Cindy Weiss	Term Expires 2022
Ray Kirby	Term Expires 2023
Patricia Jaouen	Term Expires 2023
Kim Christine Duval	Alternate

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

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

### **LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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

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### **LENOX CULTURAL COUNCIL**

Erin McNamara  
Katherine Holt  
Beth Gamble

Arlene Schiff  
Donna Pignatelli  
Ken Fowler

### **MINOR TOWN OFFICERS APPOINTED BY SELECTMEN**

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

### **PERMANENT BUILDING COMMITTEE**

Edward Lane, Chairman	Term Expires 2023
Andrew Lane	Term Expires 2023
Jeff Vincent	Term Expires 2023
Neal Maxymillian	Term Expires 2023
Tom Delasco	Term Expires 2023

### **REGISTRAR OF VOTERS**

Kerry Sullivan	Term Expires 2021
Sonya Bikofsky	Term Expires 2021
Kay Oft	Term Expires 2023
Janice Durfee	Term Expires 2022

### **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

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

### **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Shawn Considine	Term Expires 2024
Robert Fuster, Jr.	Term Expires 2021
Clifford Snyder	Term Expires 2020
Ned Douglas	Term Expires 2022
Albert Harper	Term Expires 2023
Clayton Hambrick	Associate
Jed Hall	Associate
Judith Turtz	Associate
Kimberly Duval	Associate

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**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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

Tyler Bosworth  
Jacob Stringer  
Royanne Hammond  
Dylan Bencivenga

**POLICE SECRETARY**

Marjorie Pero

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

Chris O'Brien

**CAREER FIREFIGHTER/EMT'S**

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

**RELIEF FIREFIGHTER/EMT'S**

Chris Prew, Lieutenant  
Mike Zinchuk, Lieutenant  
Matthew Tyer, FF/Paramedic  
Stephen Quinn, FF/EMT

William Hunt, FF/EMT  
Jackson Reis, FF/EMT  
Aurelien Telle, FF/EMT

**INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS/SIGN INSPECTOR**

BJ Church

**LOCAL BUILDING INSPECTOR**

Vacancy (Clemons)

**BUILDING INSPECTOR CLERK**

Denene Pelkey

**WIRE INSPECTOR**

Robert J. Pensivy

**PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR**

Mark Smith

**VETERANS' AGENT**

Lloyd D. Mann

**ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER**

Michael Sullivan

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**CONSTABLE**

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

**BERKSHIRE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE**

Marybeth Mitts

**BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION DELEGATE**

Lauryn Franzoni  
Pamela Kueber, Alternate

**GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Charles D. "Charlie" Baker

**REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS**

Edward Markey  
Elizabeth Warren

**UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE**

Richard Neal

**REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT**

**STATE SENATOR**

Adam Hinds

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

Wm. Smitty Pignatelli

**TOWN COUNSEL**

KP Law, P.C.

**TOWN PLANNER**

Gwen Miller

**LAND USE ASSISTANT**

Jes Cote

**TOWN TREASURER/COLLECTOR**

Brenda Marra

**ASSISTANT TREASURER/COLLECTOR**

Katherin Phillips

**TOWN CLERK**

Kerry Sullivan

**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**

Charles Browne

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**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

William Gop

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

R. Scott Jarvis

**DPW OFFICE MANAGER**

Jen Picard

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES**

Casey Blair

Jeff Carpenter

Robert Horn

Daniel Kirby

Chris Prew

Patrick Reagan

Thomas Smachetti

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

What aroused your interest in serving the town?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

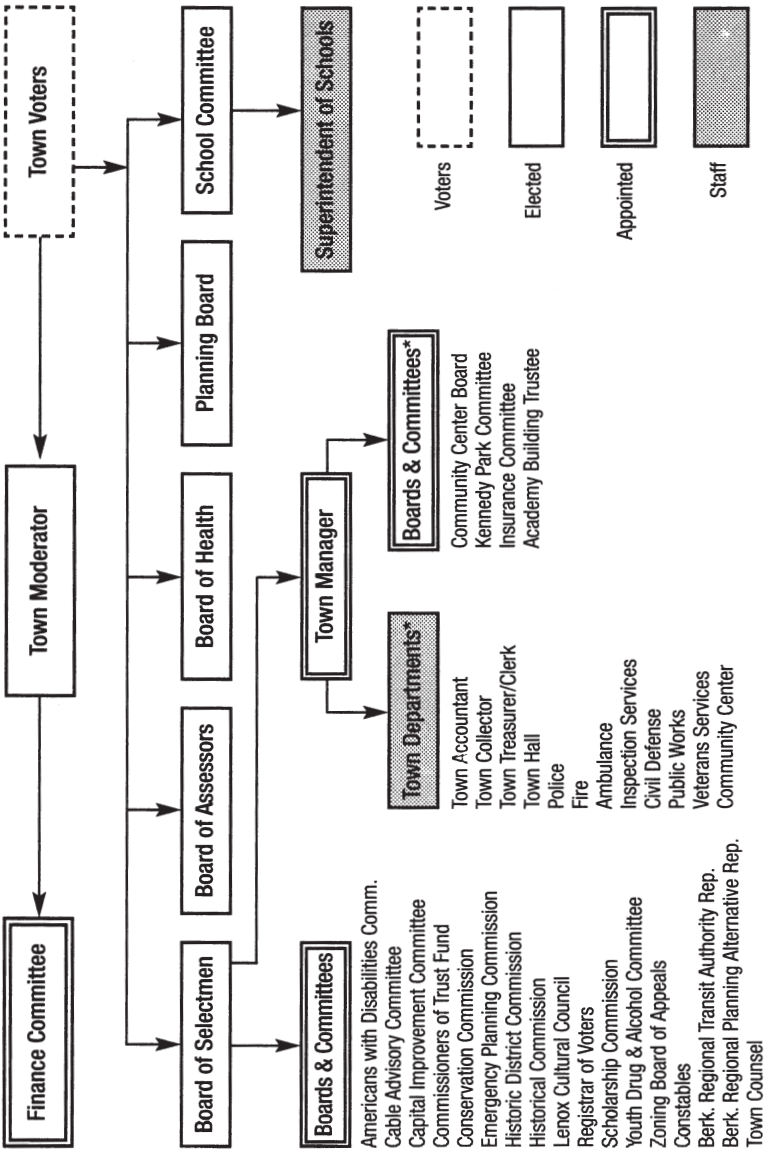
-----  
If you wish to be **reappointed** to a position that you currently hold, please complete this section of the form:

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

Position currently held: \_\_\_\_\_

Term to be reappointed until: \_\_\_\_\_

GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE



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



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

To the Honorable Citizens of Lenox

As your elected Select Board, we are pleased to report that the Town of Lenox is in very good shape after weathering the past year, the most unusual, challenging and difficult year because of the Covid Pandemic that we faced. It is because of the dedicated and hardworking staff of the Fire and Police Departments, the Department of Public Works, Community Center, Town Hall Staff, Library and the scores of volunteers that we were able to overcome and adjust to the difficult challenges given us. Town Manager Christopher Ketchen went above and beyond with his leadership. Sincerely, thank you all.

Because of Covid restrictions, the Annual Town Meeting was postponed until September 26, 2020 causing the Town to approve month-to-month budgets to keep town government running.

Volunteers, through coordination with the Community Center, provided and delivered meals to those in need. Many townsfolk assisted with donations and help.

In an effort to help restaurants and retail survive, rules and regulations regarding outdoor dining were temporarily eased. The DPW did an outstanding job making this happen, along with the Chamber of Commerce. A big "thank you" to Superintendent Bill Gop and his staff. In addition, the Town waived the liquor license fees for the year.

New to most of us, Zoom Meetings became the norm for keeping town business going. Fortunately, with technology allowing us to work from home and communicate, although not perfect, it got us through the bad times.

Our state and town funded Walker Street water/sewer/paving project was finally completed and now is in use.

The long overdue Housatonic River clean-up agreement has been completed. Although not enthusiastically received by all, we believe it is best for future generations. So as we look forward to 2021, it appears that we are quickly heading to our "new" normal.

Lenox Board of Selectmen

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

## **REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER**

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

This year has been defined by our response to COVID-19, the pandemic that has sickened and killed so many here in the Berkshires and throughout the world. These have, indeed, been nervous and uncertain times. For the first time in over a century, our society was threatened by a worldwide health crisis that compelled us to retreat into our homes while shuttering our businesses and institutions.

In the midst of this crisis, the Town's sworn public safety personnel, public health professionals, and their respective families have been asked to shoulder a disproportionate share of the burden that most of us are incapable of carrying ourselves. We are grateful for them and they continue to serve us valiantly. Our school cafeteria workers, volunteers and community center personnel provided food security to residents in need. Our library provided credible, reliable information to combat fraudulent claims, speculation, and other forms of "fake news" that sought to confuse and divide our society. Our public works staff and town hall continued their work despite the encumbrances necessitated by social distancing. Our schools regrouped and once again began providing instruction both virtually and in-person. In every department, we dedicated ourselves to combating the effects of the pandemic.

Despite the virus' persistent grip on our society, the business of governing continued to move forward. The towns of Lenox and Lee voted to continue with the historic intermunicipal agreement to share administrative services. The Town successfully held two elections and an outdoor Town Meeting. The Master Plan Steering Committee continues to make great progress as they continue to work on their plan. It is anticipated that this document will be ready for final approval in 2021. In addition, the Permanent Building Committee has been meeting to determine how to move forward the wastewater treatment plant and public safety facility projects. As a further response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town worked with the local restaurants, allowing them to offer outside dining, not only on their surrounding property, but also in the Town's parks.

This pandemic will abate. Our society will fully reopen. Our economy will recover. Like our forebearers, we will get through this. Our management of the Town and our recommendations for the budget reflect this historically-based certainty.

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

## **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, 2020

Real Estate Tax	\$15,302,320.82
CPA	369,610.70
Tax Title	58,441.79
Personal Property Tax	545,098.09
Motor Vehicle Excise Tax	732,505.77
Real Estate Interest & CPA Interest	38,832.81
Tax Title Interest	60,575.50
Personal Property Interest	854.36
Motor Vehicle Excise Interest & Demand Fees	4,816.64
W/S Rates and Interest	3,216,448.50
W/S Demand fees	32,648.88
W/S Tie in Fees	29,700.00
DPW Misc. Fees	43,769.15
Cemetery Fees	9,300.00
Perpetual Care Fees	4,800.00
Cemetery Lot fees	1,600.00
Parking Tickets	2,145.00
Municipal Lien Certificates	6,605.00
Trailer Court Fees	8,880.00
Scholarship Fund	20,150.63
Registry of Motor vehicles Surcharges	2,120.00
Deputy Collector Fees	4,330.00
Other	210.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,495,763.64</b>

Current economic conditions have made it difficult for some taxpayers to pay their taxes, we are continuing to work with them to avoid placing them in tax title or foreclosing on properties already in tax title. We currently have 15 Properties in Tax Title.

Respectfully submitted,

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

## **REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK**

For the Year Ending December 31, 2020

### **DOG LICENSES**

Dog Licenses Issued	430
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### **VITAL STATISTICS**

Births	20
Deaths	146
Marriages	31

### **RAFFLE PERMITS**

Raffle Permits Issued	0
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### **BUSINESS CERTIFICATES**

Business Certificates Issued	22
Business Certificates Renewed	10

Respectfully Submitted

Kerry L. Sullivan, Town Clerk

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

To the Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of Lenox:

The Veterans' Services office serves the Veterans' of Lenox and their families. We assist veterans in processing requests for Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) Chapter 115 benefits. Chapter 115 benefits are needs based, and include temporary financial assistance, medical reimbursement, and assistance in applying for aid from other agencies, both state and federal. Veterans with a dishonorable discharge are not eligible.

The Veterans' Service Officer (VSO) also assists veterans and their spouses with federal Veterans' Administration requests. We advise veterans on what is available, and can assist in filling out and submitting the necessary paperwork, but it must be noted that we do not have any input in the approval process. However, the majority of assistance is through Chapter 115 benefits.

With the onset of Covid-19, and the necessary closing of Town offices, this office continued to assist Lenox veterans and their families. We coordinated with the Veterans' Services office in Lee, which remained open and was available for in person meetings, with all Covid-19 protocols being adhered to. While the veteran could email, mail, or phone in their requests, some veterans took advantage of the in person meetings. All requests were handled in a timely manner. We will continue to operate this way until the Town Hall is open to the public and we can return to our normal hours of operation (Tuesdays 4:00 – 6:00 pm).

The Town of Lenox was able to assist veterans this year with Chapter 115 benefits totaling \$25,068.23. Of the total benefits, 75%, or \$18,801.17, will be reimbursed by the state for an actual cost to the Town of \$6,267.06. This included regular benefits, heating assistance, and medical reimbursements. This also included a burial allowance, payable when the veterans' estate has insufficient resources to pay for the cost of the funeral and burial, and the total cost of the funeral is less than \$5,000. If the requirements are met, then up to \$4,000 will be paid to the funeral home.

The case load of Lenox Veterans' Services has remained fairly constant. The greatest need continues to be for senior veterans' and their spouses, or widows, who have very little income and are unable to work. As noted in previous reports, 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 this is a needs based program, the asset limit (money in the bank) of \$5,000 for singles, and \$9,800 for couples still applies. 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.

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 2021, the Lenox Cultural Council received an allocation of \$4,900 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and \$4,800 from the Town of Lenox for grant distribution plus \$2,900 in previously undistributed grants for a total budget of \$12,600. After careful consideration of 36 grant applications requesting a total of \$25,704, the Council awarded grants in varying amounts to the following individuals and organizations:

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Program Name</b>
Natalie Tyler	WildFire Sculpture
Rob Zammarchi	Elijah T. Grasshopper & Friends
Trio Candela	Festive summer celebration at Reading Park w/ Trio Candela
Mary Jo Maichack	Three of Nine Reading & Discussion of J.D. Salinger Stories
Berkshire Theatre Group	BTG PLAYS! Summertime
Amy Lafave	Virtual Winter Children's Concert
Music in Common	Berkshires Worldwide
Berkshire Opera Festival	Much Ado About Shakepeare
Pittsfield Shakespeare in the Park	Pittsfield Shakespeare in the Park's 2021 Season
Chester Theatre Company	Chester Theatre Company's 2021 Season
Berkshire Bach Society	Bach to the Future
Gregory Maichack	Express yourself in pastel and Sketch Your Berkshire Neigh
Mass Audubon Berkshire Sanctuaries	Bringing Nature to You
Shakespeare & Company	2021 Fall Festival of Shakespeare
Berkshire Pulse	Berkshire Pulse Dance Outdoors Festival
Berkshire Music School	2021 Lenox Loves Music Series
New Stage Performing Arts Center Inc	Rites of Passage: 20/20 Vision
Jenise Lucey	Berkshire Ukulele Band and Berkshire Sings!
The Stockbridge Sinfonia	Stockbridge Sinfonia 2021 Concert Series
Marney Schorr	Arts in Recovery for Youth
SculptureNow	IceFire 2021
Sara E. Campbell	To Indian Territory and Back Again
WAM Theatre	WAM Theatre Season of Events 2021
Cantilena Chamber Choir	Talking Choral Music Youtube Channel
Cantilena Chamber Choir	Outdoor concert series
Berkshire Children's Chorus	Take the Lead! program

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

The Lenox Cultural Council is grateful for the Town of Lenox's matching grant which provides us with the opportunity to fund an increased number of programs that foster a rich cultural life for Lenox residents. We are committed to supporting the work of local artists, cultural institutions, schools and groups with a focus on making cultural activities accessible and engaging to all. Visit [www.mass-culture.org/Lenox](http://www.mass-culture.org/Lenox) for further information. Our next grant deadline is mid-October 2021.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Tracy Gamble, Treasurer  
Erin McNamara, Secretary

Arlene D. Schiff, Chair  
Donna Pignatelli  
Katherine Holt

## **REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS**

For the year ending December 31, 2020

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>3918</b>
Democrat	1677
Unenrolled	1887
Republican	326
Libertarian	12
Conservative	3
Green-Rainbow	3
Inter. 3rd Party	3
America First Party	1
American Independent	1
Green Party USA	1
Latino-Vote Party	1
Pizza Party	1
Socialist	1
United Independent Party	1

<b>2020 Elections</b>		<b>Total Votes Cast</b>
Presidential Primary	March 3, 2020	1755
Local	*June 29, 2020	94
State Primary	Sept. 01, 2020	1879
State Election	Nov. 03, 2020	3330

<b>2020 Town Meetings</b>		<b>Attendance</b>
Special	*June 11, 2020	187
Annual	*Sept. 26, 2020	166

\*Dates are the actual dates Elections/Town Meetings were held due to the postponements of the Elections/Town Meetings dates based on Town Bylaws due to the Coronavirus.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry L. Sullivan, CMMC  
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, 2020

<b>Cash on hand June 30, 2019</b>	<b>\$23,636,848.72</b>
Cash Receipts July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020	47,944,684.54
Cash Payments July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020	-45,617,971.78

<b>Balance</b>	<b><u>25,963,561.48</u></b>
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### **Funds in Various Banks:**

Checking accounts	4,155,429.40
Liquid investments	10,542,484.73
Term investments	7,991,700.19
Trust funds	2,963,561.48

<b>All Cash Investments as of June 30, 2020</b>	<b><u>\$25,963,561.48</u></b>
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The Treasurer's Department has the following criteria: to receive receipts and have care and custody of all monies, property and securities of the Town of Lenox; to invest said funds in the best possible way following the guidelines of first Safety, second Liquidity, and third Yield. To negotiate all borrowings, collect financial data necessary for and prepare documents relevant to accurate and current financial planning.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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

To the Honorable Board of Selectman and Citizens of Lenox

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

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

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

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

Lenox total assessed valuation in FY2021 was \$1,315,959,650, an increase of 3.67% over the assessed total valuation FY2020. With this new growth we added \$515,498 of new tax revenue. The increase in assessments resulted in a residential tax rate decrease from \$12.10 to \$11.65 and a commercial/industrial/personal property tax rate decrease from \$14.76 to \$14.06.

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

Assessed Values and Tax Rates for Fiscal Year 2021 are as follows:

<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>Lenox Assessed Values</b>	<b>Tax Rate</b>
Residential	\$1,035,267,676	\$11.65
Commercial	\$231,542,714	\$14.06
Industrial	\$9,580,800	\$14.06
Personal Property	\$39,568,460	\$14.06
<b>Lenox Total Value</b>	<b>\$1,315,959,650</b>	
Lenox 2021 Budget	\$28,503,017	
Amount to be raised thru taxation	\$16,007,398	
Exempt Properties	\$161,200,200	
Lenox Real Estate Accounts	2,785	
Personal Property Accounts	560	
Total Taxable Accounts	3,345	

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, 2020**

	Budget Amounts				Amounts Carried Forward to Next Year	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Amounts Carried Forward from Prior Year	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual Budgetary Basis		
<b>Revenues:</b>						
Property Taxes	\$ -	\$ 15,899,796	\$ 15,899,796	\$ 15,859,530	\$ -	\$ (40,266)
Intergovernmental	-	1,957,540	1,957,540	1,970,823	-	13,283
Excise and Other Taxes	-	675,000	675,000	776,349	-	101,349
Hotel Room Occupancy Taxes	-	1,797,000	1,797,000	2,384,076	-	587,076
Licenses, Permits, Fees	-	452,584	452,584	556,963	-	104,379
Charges for Services-Ambulance	-	475,414	475,414	461,722	-	(13,692)
Interest on Taxes	-	50,000	50,000	88,970	-	38,970
Investment Income	-	66,000	66,000	149,982	-	83,982
<b>Total Revenues</b>	-	21,373,334	21,373,334	22,248,415	-	875,081
<b>Expenditures:</b>						
Current:						
General Government	479,311	2,229,035	2,705,812	1,998,548	553,174	154,090
Public Safety	282,961	2,190,023	2,472,984	2,313,959	46,146	112,879
Public Works	1,562,281	1,587,776	3,684,769	2,783,774	807,331	93,664
Education	257,751	13,806,853	14,088,138	13,365,217	145,855	577,066
Health and Human Services	-	258,192	258,192	211,483	-	46,709
Culture and Recreation	318,273	836,850	1,155,123	802,970	266,196	85,957
Unallocated Employee Benefits and Insurance	-	1,033,770	1,033,770	988,163	-	45,607
Intergovernmental Assessments	-	252,915	252,915	316,379	-	(63,464)
Debt Service:						
Principal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	-	13,000	13,000	4,644	-	8,356
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	2,900,577	22,208,414	25,664,703	22,785,137	1,818,702	1,060,864
<b>Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures</b>	(2,900,577)	(835,080)	(4,291,369)	(536,722)	(1,818,702)	1,935,945
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses):</b>						
Operating Transfers In	-	-	-	29	-	29
Operating Transfers Out	-	(225,000)	(225,000)	(225,000)	-	-
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	-	(225,000)	(225,000)	(224,971)	-	29
<b>Net Change in Budgetary Fund Balance</b>	(2,900,577)	(1,060,080)	(4,516,369)	(761,693)	(1,818,702)	1,935,974
<b>Other Budgetary Items:</b>						
Free Cash and Other Reserves	-	1,060,080	1,615,792			
Prior Year Encumbrances	2,900,577	-	2,900,577			
<b>Total Other Budgetary Items</b>	2,900,577	1,060,080	4,516,369			
<b>Net Budget</b>	-	-	-			

## REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT

### TOWN OF LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS STATEMENT OF NET POSITION - PROPRIETARY FUNDS JUNE 30, 2020

	Business-Type Activities Enterprise Funds		
	Sewer Fund	Water Fund	Total
<b>ASSETS</b>			
CURRENT:			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,806,268	\$ 1,858,960	\$ 3,665,228
Investments	672,600	-	\$ 672,600
User Charges, net of allowance for uncollectibles	293,038	217,333	510,371
Due from Other Governments	-	82,612	82,612
Total current assets	2,771,906	2,158,905	4,930,811
NONCURRENT:			
Capital Assets, net of accumulated depreciation:			
Nondepreciable	533,145	1,247,999	1,781,144
Depreciable	13,201,932	14,986,747	28,188,679
Total noncurrent assets	13,735,077	16,234,746	29,969,823
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>16,506,983</b>	<b>18,393,651</b>	<b>34,900,634</b>
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>			
Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions	25,030	37,546	62,576
Deferred Outflows Related to OPEB	5,971	38,943	44,914
	31,001	76,489	107,490
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
CURRENT:			
Warrants Payable	95,781	21,227	117,008
Accrued Payroll	8,847	11,415	20,262
Accrued Interest	51,507	8,701	60,208
Bonds Anticipation Notes Payable	419,000	581,000	1,000,000
Bonds Payable	540,000	635,000	1,175,000
Total current liabilities	1,115,135	1,257,343	2,372,478
NONCURRENT:			
Compensated Absences	13,832	2,789	16,621
OPEB Obligation Payable	17,597	203,131	220,728
Net Pension Liability	60,478	90,717	151,195
Bonds Payable	7,470,000	2,805,000	10,275,000
Total noncurrent liabilities	7,561,907	3,101,637	10,663,544
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>8,677,042</b>	<b>4,358,980</b>	<b>13,036,022</b>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>			
Deferred Inflows Related to Pensions	21,123	31,684	52,807
Deferred Inflows Related to OPEB	6,471	42,200	48,671
	6,471	42,200	48,671
<b>NET POSITION:</b>			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	5,306,077	12,213,746	17,519,823
Restricted for Capital Projects	1,838,144	714,451	2,552,595
Unrestricted	689,127	1,109,079	1,798,206
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 7,833,348</b>	<b>\$ 14,037,276</b>	<b>\$ 21,870,624</b>

## REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT

### TOWN OF LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS JUNE 30, 2020

	General Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 6,664,072	\$ 5,603,415	\$ 12,267,487
Investments	3,285,122	244,279	3,529,401
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectibles:			
Property Taxes	379,656	8,200	387,856
Tax Liens	249,431	4,014	253,445
Excise Taxes	59,748	-	59,748
Departmental	93,464	40,061	133,525
Due from Other Governments	16,564	540,198	556,762
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 10,748,057</b>	<b>\$ 6,440,167</b>	<b>\$ 17,188,224</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES:</b>			
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Warrants Payable	\$ 541,692	\$ 66,299	\$ 607,991
Accrued Payroll	1,375,269	30,164	1,405,433
Employee Withholdings	296,263	-	296,263
Other	20,285		20,285
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>2,233,509</b>	<b>96,463</b>	<b>2,329,972</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources- Unavailable Revenue</b>	<b>634,863</b>	<b>360,111</b>	<b>994,974</b>
<b>Fund Balance:</b>			
Nonspendable	-	243,198	243,198
Restricted	-	5,740,395	5,740,395
Committed	1,544,005	-	1,544,005
Assigned	274,697	-	274,697
Unassigned	6,060,983	-	6,060,983
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>7,879,685</b>	<b>5,983,593</b>	<b>13,863,278</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 10,748,057</b>	<b>\$ 6,440,167</b>	<b>\$ 17,188,224</b>

## **REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

To the Honorable Board of Selectman and Citizens of Lenox:

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  
Kristine Cass, Secretary  
Mark McKenna  
David Neubert  
Joan Bruno  
Michael Feder  
Mindi Morin  
Dave Carpenter  
Andrea Pignatelli-Simons

## **REPORT OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY**

To The Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

The Lenox Housing Authority had 10 vacancies: 8 elderly and 2 family unit in 2019. We were able to provide housing for a number of people who lived or worked in Lenox under the “Local Preference”. We encourage anyone interested in housing to stop by our office at 6 Main St. or call us at 413-637-5585 for information on eligibility and to obtain an application. You can Also apply on line at [publichousingapplication.ocd.state.ma.us](http://publichousingapplication.ocd.state.ma.us). Visit our website at [www.lenoxhousingauthority.com](http://www.lenoxhousingauthority.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. The Parking Lot at the Curtis was resurfaced and paved this past fall. Seven additional parking spaces were added for the tenants. The final cost once seeding and planting of new trees is done this spring, will be \$92,500.

Another project completed in 2020 was brick repointing and repair on the lower section of the front and back of the Curtis building at the cost of \$9,000.

Because the cell service in Town is so poor, The Housing Authority have been exploring the option of a cell antenna on the roof of the Curtis. A decision to move forward has not been determined to date.

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  
Diana Kirby, Treasurer  
Tess Sorrentino, Member  
Debbie Prew, Member  
Kim Graham, Member

## **TRI-TOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

I hereby submit my annual report for the fiscal year 2020.

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

**COVID-19 Pandemic:** Fiscal Year 2020 started out like anything else, normal. As we advanced through the fiscal year, staff and board members continued to collaborate and work together towards many grants and projects, including a revamping of the 17 town Southern Berkshire Household Hazardous Waste Collection program. When March of 2020 hit, the Tri-Town District was in position to immediately respond. From schools closing, to responding to a high volume of complaints, violations, and general inquiries, we met the challenge. Throughout the remainder of FY20, the staff continued to work in various ways to meet the needs of the community. From March through June, we fielded over 200 plus phone inquiries and investigated dozens of formal complaints. We continue to work in close partnership with BHS, other BOH and agencies including our distinguished Police, Fire, and EMS Departments. I would like to thank Chief's Stephen O'Brien and Chris O'Brien for working with us very closely to respond to the needs of our community. Lastly, we need to recognize all our Health Department Staff and Board members for rallying to meet the needs of the community during an extreme and challenging time. As we move forward, we will continue to collaborate, plan, and deliver vaccination clinics to ensure the community is protected from COVID-19 so we can move forward to a healthy and prosperous 2021.

**CARES ACT and Public Health Trust Funding:** Tri Town Health District in amidst a pandemic was able to secure \$90,000 of CARES act funding and PHTF funding to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Resources were used to retrofit town halls to meet safety standards, PPE, supplies and staffing to respond to the pandemic. We anticipate securing more grant funding into FY21.

**Regional Household Hazardous Waste Program:** In Fiscal year 2020 the HHW collection program offered a Spring collection in which 207 households registered for and we collected 4,200 gallons of chemical waste. The 17-town collaborative has been functioning for the past 18 years and in FY20, the Tri-Town Health District assumed administrative and operational responsibility to ensure it will continue for several more years. Smaller towns working together to create a sustainable program reflects great collaboration efforts and in addition protects the environment. We thank all of those involved to offer this service to the community.

**Food Service Sanitation Program:** The required mandated food service inspections are in full compliance with state standards up until COVID-19 hit. We made several operational adjustments in how to conduct virtual inspections.

**Tobacco Awareness Program:** The Tobacco Awareness Program was very busy in FY20. Boards of Health around the county adjusted to the new state law restricting flavors and vapes soon after the Governor passed a comprehensive tobacco bill. We secured an additional \$97,000 in grant money to work on post enactment strategies due to new state law changes.

**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 FY20, 247 vouchers were sold, and 177 clerks were trained. For more information on the Retailer certification program, please visit [www.tritownhealth.org](http://www.tritownhealth.org).

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 2020*

## Permits Issued: (Lenox Only)

<b>Permit Type</b>	<b>Issued</b>
Bakery	6
Beach	0
Biological Waste	1
Catering	12
Disposal Works Construction	11
Disposal Works Installer	14
Emergency Beaver Trapping Permits	2
Food Service	87
Frozen Dessert	4
Garbage Hauler	5
Milk/Cream Dealer	1
Milk/Cream Store	9
Milk/Cream Vehicle	0
Mobile Food	3
Motel/Hotel/Cabin/Trailer	11
Pool	37
Pasteurization	0
Rec. Children's Camp	1
Retail Food	30
Septage Hauler	9
Special Event Food Permit	40
Tanning Establishment	0
Tobacco	6
Well Permit	1

## **Inspections: Water Testing:**

Children's Camps:	1
Ice Sampling	111
Food Service/Retail:	124
Pool & Hot Tub Testing:	209
Housing Inspections/Reinspection	10
Quality Control:	200
Misc. Complaints/Nuisances:	4
Water Testing Performed- Beaches:	23
Percolation Test Witness:	13
Well Sampling:	0
Pool & Hot Tub Inspections:	37
Out of Town:	17
Special Events:	40
T5 Witness:	24
COVID-19 Investigations:	12
COVID-19 Positive cases:	13

**Total Budget:** **\$166,481.08**

**Revenue generated:** **\$86,296.94**

## **Breakdown:**

Permits	\$61,795.00
Water Testing	\$14,476.49
Septic	\$10,025.45
Misc.	\$0.00

Respectfully submitted,

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

## **REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD**

Tom Delasco (vice chair)	May 2023
James Harwood	May 2024
Pam Kueber (chair)	May 2021
Kathleen McNulty-Vaughan	May 2022
Lauryan Franzoni Pederson	May 2025

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

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

### **ROLE**

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

### **LENOX MASTER PLAN**

Work on the first update to the Town's Master Plan since 1999 continued and is scheduled for completion in June 2021. Guided by state law, the Master Plan will include detailed goals looking out approximately the next 10 years in seven key areas: Land Use; Housing; Economic Development; Historic and Cultural Resources; Natural Resources, Open Space and Recreation; Services and Facilities, and Transportation and Circulation. The work is being led by a Steering Committee representing a cross-section of community interests that meets monthly. Many thanks to members Marybeth Mitts (Board of Selectmen and Affordable Housing Trust); Rob Murray (Chamber of Commerce); Suky Werman (Environmental Committee); Elliott Morss (Finance Committee); Olga Weiss (Historical Commission); Julie Monteleone and Isabella Williams (LMMHS); Allyn Burrows and Adam Davis (Shakespeare & Co., representing Cultural Anchors); and Pam Kueber and Kate McNulty-Vaughan (Planning Board). Thanks also to Steering Committee alternates and to the community members and Town staff who participated as part of Core Assessment Teams to gather initial analysis for each chapter, to citizens who participated in community meetings, to Town Planner Gwen Miller, to Land Use Assistant Jessica Cote, and to our consultants at the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (Exec. Dir. Tom Matuszko, Community Planner Phil Arnold, and Senior Planner Laura Brennan) for their continued hard work and support.

The Planning Board also acted as Core Assessment Team for the Land Use Chapter of the Master Plan. We used this opportunity to analyze dozens of suggestions for zoning changes received over the past several years for input to the Master Plan and to focus the Planning Board's goals for the future. Final prioritization of these goals will occur based on Master Plan community feedback sessions in February and March 2020.

### **BYLAW REVIEWS CURRENTLY UNDER WAY**

The Planning Board is currently working on amendments to the following Zoning Bylaws, which are outdated or otherwise need attention:



## *Town Of Lenox Annual Report 2020*

- **Agricultural Uses** – The Board has reviewed and identified recommended changes to our Agricultural Uses bylaw and plans to present the bylaw for a vote at the May 2021 Annual Town Meeting. The changes bring the bylaw into compliance with state law on farms, and create or refine regulation of farm stands and backyard chickens.
- **Wireless Telecommunications Overlay District** -- We have engaged and are under way in our work with Cityscape Consultants, Inc. to update the Town's regulatory framework for wireless communications infrastructure, including ensuring compatibility with new or pending federal law.
- **Educational and Religious Uses** -- We are reviewing the existing language and identifying necessary changes within this bylaw to ensure the regulations are consistent with federal and state law.
- **Signs**: Our thanks to Jim Biancolo, Ariel Smith, and Mark Smith, who are continuing to re-work our sign bylaw. The new bylaw emphasizes a positive approach to signage that contributes to the Town's character while meeting the real-world needs of businesses and providing clear regulations that allow for identification and advertising. Our goal is to make it easier for business owners and residents to understand the sign requirements for each district and what town approvals must be obtained in applying for sign permits. The Planning Board will work with this team on a final proposal to bring to voters.

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Approval Not Required Reviews: The Board reviewed and endorsed four Approval Not Required (Form A) plans in 2020. Such plans pertain to by-right divisions of land not otherwise governed by the Town's Subdivision Control Bylaw.

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

The Planning Board also is responsible for naming members to the following Town boards or committees and current delegates are:

- Lenox Community Preservation Committee: Tom Delasco.
- Berkshire Regional Planning Commission: Lauryn Franzoni Pederson, delegate; Pam Kueber, alternate.

### **RECOGNITION**

We are very grateful for the leadership and support provided to our Board by Land Use Director and Town Planner Gwen Miller, AICP; Jessica Cote, Land Use Assistant, and Selectman Neal Maxymillian, our liaison with the Select Board. Many thanks to former Planning Board member Kameron Spaulding, who served from 2013 to 2020. We also sincerely appreciate all the citizens who come to our meetings and forums and contact us to weigh in on issues under consideration or to call issues to our attention.

### **WEBSITE**

Planning Board agendas, minutes, topical materials, and more are available at [townoflenox.com/planning-board](http://townoflenox.com/planning-board).

Respectfully submitted,

The Lenox Planning Board

## **REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

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

Under the Wetland Protect Act, the Commission processed four Notices of Intent and eleven Requests for Determination of Applicability this year. Each application requires a public hearing or public meeting, review of plans, a site visit and an Order of Conditions or Determination of Applicability. Three Certificates of Compliance was issued. Certificates are issued after the Commission conducts site visits to assure adherence to the Orders of Conditions. The Commission held ten 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 15 such site visits.

Additionally, the Commission managed four conservation properties.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

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

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

The Community Preservation Committee is the guardian of the Community Preservation funds contributed by the taxpayers and the state.

These funds are allocated toward three special project categories:

Historic Preservation

Community Housing

Open Space and Recreation

The nine member committee includes at large representatives, and representatives of appointed and elected boards such as the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Community Center, Historical Commission and Affordable Housing Trust. The 2020 members were: Anthony Patella (Chair), Tom Delasco, Olga Weiss, Catherine May, Frederick Keator, Neal Maxymillian, Max Scherff, Chuck Koscher and Mark Smith.

In 2020, the Town of Lenox collected:

\$373,333 in local receipts

\$159,412 in state match

And awarded the following Community Preservation projects funds:

Lenox Club, \$15,000 for restoration of the stick-style Ice House

Trinity Church, \$113,264.50 for the restoration of mosaic floor on the Parish House, to restore front stone/wood porch on the Rectory, and to restore the chimney on the south side of the church.

Lenox Pickleball, \$158,500 for new multi-use courts at the Community Center to be used for pickleball and other court sports.

The Mount, \$125,000 for a Landscape Master Plan.

Our meetings are posted and open to the public, and you are welcome to submit applications for your organization or community project. There is more information available on the Town's website:

[www.townoflenox.com/community-preservation-committee](http://www.townoflenox.com/community-preservation-committee)

Sincerely,

Anthony Patella, Chair

## **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 2020, the Historic District Commission received four applications for remodeling, renovations and window replacements.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Berger, Chairman  
Ken Fowler  
Kameron Spaulding  
Pat Jaouen

# REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR

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

**Don Fitzgerald, Building Inspector**

**Rian Dowd, Building Inspector**

**Denene Pelkey, Building Department 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 FY20 and the associated permit fee.

<b>Type of Permit</b>	<b>Number Issued Total</b>	<b>Permit Fee</b>
Residential	251	
Commercial	82	
Sheet Metal	8	
Sign Permit	12	
Tent Permit	10	
Trench	17	
Solid Fuel Appliance	8	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>\$133,370</b>

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

As building officials, we are required to periodically inspect existing buildings and structures, and parts thereof, in accordance with Chapter 1, section 110 of Massachusetts State Building Code. Periodic inspections were made this year at schools public and private, churches, restaurants, hotels, motels, lodging facilities, apartment buildings, nursing home, assisted living facilities, theaters and day care centers. The Building Inspection Department performed 194 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 covered. This Department has combined the Lee and Lenox inspectional services and continues to improve on providing quality service.

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Leadership of the Inspections Department continues with B.J. Church as the Building Commissioner for Lenox and Lee. Denene Pelkey continues on as the Inspections Department Administrative Assistant for Lenox & Lee. 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 welcome Don Fitzgerald back as one of our part time local inspectors & Rian Dowd as our new part time local inspector.

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 2020 calendar year.

During the year, a total of 237 permits were issued and 502 inspections were made. This represents a decrease of 40 permits and a decrease of 111 inspections from the 2019 calendar year, primarily due to the completion of the Miraval project. As in previous years, the amount of time spent on inspections continues to increase due to the large scale and complexity of some of the projects. The majority of inspections in 2020 were done at Cranwell (now known as Miraval at Cranwell) where eleven new buildings were constructed and wired and nine current buildings were remodeled and rewired.

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

I would like to thank all area electricians for their cooperation during 2020. 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 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

William J Gop, Superintendent of Public Works • Jen Picard, Office Manager  
Jeffrey A. Carpenter, Operator / Snowplow Coordinator • R. Scott Jarvis, Assistant Superintendent  
Daniel T. Kirby, Cemetery Foreman • Paul Vallee, Mechanic  
Christopher Prew, Laborer/ Truck Driver • Scott Forbes, Laborer  
Patrick Reagan, Water Treatment Plant Operator • Jeffrey L. White, Wastewater Plant Foreman  
Robert Horn, Water Department Superintendent • Scott Winslow, Wastewater Plant Operator  
TJ Smachetti, Laborer / Truck Driver • Casey Blair, Wastewater/Highway Laborer

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

A simple thank you is not enough to show my appreciation to the entire DPW Staff during this challenging year. Their dedication went above and beyond, keeping things running as smoothly as possible. From basic needs, to special requests to make outdoor dining possible, to quick cleanup and unforeseen issues, they were always at the ready.

Working as a team, town departments came together to enhance life for Lenox residents in these trying times. Many thanks to Jim Wiluz and his dedicated staff at Tri-Town Health for their help in guiding us through a troubling time. Questions were abundant and answers unknown but we could count on our entire team from Chris Ketchen to every department member to pitch in to make the best decisions for everyone. Special thanks are also due to our Fire Chief, Chris O'Brien, Police Chief Steve O'Brien and Community Center Director Darlene McCauley for making the lives of Lenox Residents remain as near normal as possible. Thank you All!

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 fourteen whose combined efforts maintain the Lenox roads, infrastructure and its beautiful landscape.

There were thirty-seven snow and ten ice events in 2020 requiring responses to treat the Town roads and sidewalks. The events totaled 61 inches of snow.

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

The Lenox Water Treatment plant produced 193,479,900 gallons of water this year. 2020 was a very dry year but with the help and cooperation of its residents Lenox did not need to source any water from neighboring towns. The Town added one new connection to our system. 451 back flow tests were performed. 40 water meters and 53 water meter radios were replaced. 18 water leaks were repaired, varying from water main breaks to water service line repairs.

Quality drinking water is one of Lenox's most important resources. Lenox needs to continue planning for additional sources of water, and take measures that help to ensure the high quality of water the residents come to expect. One source of additional water that Lenox has relied on



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

The Wastewater Division will be working with the PBC and engineers to design the new wastewater treatment facility in the coming year.

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 196,557,000 gallons for an average 538,512 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 52,228,171 gallons and an average of 143,091 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 151,521 gallons per day of otherwise clean water to the Crystal Street Wastewater Treatment Plant collection system during the past year. Once it is in the collection system it has to be treated along with the rest of the wastewater. Making sure your sump pump, floor drain, or roof gutters do not discharge into your sewer pipe will significantly reduce the amount of wastewater we have to treat. Replace service pipes when it is determined they have defective joints. Fix leaking toilets and faucets. Take shorter showers. Operate dishwashers and clothes washers only when they are fully loaded or set the water level for the appropriate size of the load. If everyone contributes to some reduction in wastewater flow, we can conserve resources and save money at the same time.

The Cemetery Division performed 19 burials, at Mt. View Cemetery, New Lenox Cemetery, and Church on the Hill Cemetery. The burial records of the three Town cemeteries can be found on the Town's website, [www.townoflenox.com](http://www.townoflenox.com). Click on Town Departments, Department of Public Works, Cemetery Division.

During 2020, residents made 573 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

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Seventeen Saturdays throughout the year. We encourage residents to make use of this service for disposal of leaves, grass clippings, small limbs, and Christmas trees.

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

I would like to say thank you to all Town Boards, Officers, and Departments for their continued collaboration and support of the Department. A special thank you to the families of DPW staff who supported them during this challenging year.

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  
Michael T. Smith, Sergeant  
William C. Colvin, Patrolman & School Resource Officer  
Eric R. Kirby, Patrolman  
Tyler W. Bosworth, Patrolman & Investigator  
Joseph A. Kennedy, Patrolman  
B. Jake Stringer, Patrolman & Sex Offender Registry  
Dylan Bencivenga, Patrolman  
Royanne K. Hammond, Patrolman  
Marge Pero, Administrative Assistant

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

The above-listed police personnel represents the current compliment of the full-time officers of our department. Our department continues to serve the public through community policing thanks to their determination, professionalism, empathy and courtesy. Thanks also go out to our Reserve Officers and Traffic Officers for their continued devotion to serving the public. All personnel have worked through a world-wide pandemic that has created an influx of people to Lenox like we have never seen before. Our department has taken all the necessary precautions to keep our department and the public safe and healthy.

2020 offered several changes in our department. Officer Paul A. Duval retired as a Lenox Police Patrolman. Officer Duval was a 33 year veteran of Lenox Police. A Lenox native who was an asset to our community with both his knowledge and commitment. We wish him good health and happiness in his retirement! With the retirement of Senior Officer Timothy Sheehan in 2019 and Officer Paul Duval in 2020, I am proud to report that we have hired Dylan Bencivenga and Royanne Hammond as Patrolmen. Both Dylan and Royanne bring a wealth of experience and they are welcome additions to Lenox Police. In 2020 there was a first for the Lenox Police Department and the Town of Lenox. I am proud to announce that Michael T. Smith has been promoted to Sergeant. Congratulations to Sergeant Smith!

In 2020 we saw a decrease in arrests and a slight decrease in the total number of offenses committed as compared to 2019. Felonious criminal activities saw a small increase in activity versus 2019. This is the first year in the past 48 months that we have seen an increase in felony crimes. The number of non-crime related incidents did have a decrease from 2019. In 2020 we investigated 93 motor vehicle crashes, a decrease from 2019, perhaps due to the advice of the CDC to stay home during the pandemic. I am pleased to report there were zero motor vehicle fatalities. These statistics represent only a small number of specific events and in no way comprise the 13,025 calls for service which were skillfully handled by the member of the Lenox Police Department in 2020.

2020 has seen an increase in reported scam activity. We urge the public to be careful when receiving telephone calls or suspect emails. The scammers can be very convincing and people of all ages may fall victim to scams. If you feel you have been targeted or a victim by a scammer, please call us or contact the Federal Trade Commission's Scam Reporting Division or the Attorney General's Office.

It is our goal to prevent crime; to protect the public; and to respectfully serve the residents and visitors in our community. We will continue to look to the members of the public to assist us in many different ways.

The Lenox Police Department is appreciative of the overwhelming support that we receive from the Board of Selectmen; the Town Manager; and especially the citizens of Lenox.

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### CASE ACTIVITY STATISTICS

o	Total Offenses Committed: 284
o	Total Felonies: 66
o	Total Crime Related Incidents: 86
o	Total Non-Crime Related Incidents: 106
o	Total Arrest on View: 19
o	Total Arrests Based on Warrants: 18
o	Total Summons Arrests: 90
o	Total Arrests: 127
o	Total Juvenile Arrests: 8

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen E. O'Brien  
Chief of Police

## **REPORT OF THE LENOX LIBRARY**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

By nearly every measure, 2020 was a challenging year.

The Lenox Library had ended 2019 with a positive outlook for the year ahead. Amy Lafave transitioned to her new role as Local History Librarian when Katie O'Neil came on board as Director in December. The Library's strategic plan was due for renewal in 2020 and the year got off to a strong start with the formation of a strategic planning committee and the structure for creating a new plan put into place.

In February, Amy held a hugely popular program entitled "Stories of the Curtis Hotel," a history of the hotel using images and items from the Library's special collections; 108 people attended. Shortly before the program began, a donor who wished to remain anonymous brought a large Curtis Hotel sign that had been stolen from the Hotel and deposited it at Woody's Roadhouse. The sign is now part of the Library's historical collection.

On March 4, Youth Librarian Katie Wallick announced that she had accepted another job and would be leaving her role as Youth Librarian. During her years with the Library, she made an enormous impact on the Lenox Library and in the community. She brought passion to her work and created a welcoming and special space for the children of Lenox. Her last day was March 14.

Little did we know that we would need to close the Library building to the public just a few days later on March 17 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff remained working in the building until March 24 when Governor Baker's emergency order directed employers to "close their physical workplaces and facilities to workers, customers and the public" if they did not provide COVID-19 essential services. Library staff continued to work from home to remotely provide information and entertainment resources to patrons, including the COVID-19 resources page on the Library's website that Amy spent hours creating. In April, the Town instituted a spending freeze and implemented temporary layoffs across departments; only the Director and Local History Librarian remained on Library staff.

Together they continued to work remotely, striving to offer as many online services as possible that would both inform and entertain the community during the state's stay-at-home order. Amy maintained the COVID-19 resources page and offered daily "Where Is It?" Facebook postings featuring images from the Library's digitized historical collection. Katie O'Neil began holding weekly virtual story times for children via the Library's Facebook page and planning a safe, social distancing-friendly community wide event for families to enjoy in the late spring. She also crafted procedures and policies to meet the state mandated safety standards and sector-specific protocols that were announced in May to address COVID-19.

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From June 8 through 14, laminated pages from the Caldecott Award-winning children's book *Where the Wild Things Are*, written and illustrated by Maurice Sendak, were placed in storefront windows or attached to wooden stakes along an outdoor path throughout downtown Lenox. Sponsored by the Lenox Library Association and The Scoop, the Library's StoryWalk® began at the Community Center and ended at the Library, with 20 stops in between. Approximately 130 people enjoyed the walk, which inspired many other libraries throughout Berkshire County to host StoryWalks® of their own throughout the summer and fall months.

June also saw the return of an additional staff member, who joined Katie and Amy back in the Library building. We kicked off the "Imagine Your Story" summer reading season with the creation of a fairy garden in Roche Reading Park and the introduction of new Library resident Gnorbbitt the Reading Gnome. Terry a la Berry and Friends graciously agreed to perform their traditional weekly summer concerts via Facebook Live and our partners from Berkshire Museum adapted to the COVID environment to offer their GSK Science in the Summer™: Be a Chemist! Program by way of packaged materials kits to be picked up and live virtual "hangouts" with Museum educators. We also offered several craft kits, created a sidewalk obstacle course, and launched a new Virtual Gaming Club for kids ages 8 and up as part of the summer reading program.

For the summer season, the Library leveraged its Massachusetts Broadband fiber Internet connection to offer free public Wi-Fi in Roche Reading Park with a new wireless access point. In July, Dr. Jeremy Yudkin took his popular annual Tanglewood Talks virtual via Zoom and library network CWMARS resumed interlibrary loan delivery. In August, Amy Lafave created a "Town of Lenox 2020 Voting Q&A with Kerry Sullivan" video for election reason and we hosted weekly "Understanding Financial Risk and Becoming More Financially Literate" virtual discussions. We also transitioned from curbside appointments to holds pickup from the Welles Gallery, which enabled us to serve many more patrons despite the library building still being closed to the public.

In September, the 14th season of our Distinguished Lecture Series, also organized and hosted by Dr. Yudkin, resumed virtually; the first event of the season featured Martin Baron, Executive Editor of *The Washington Post*. Amy Lafave recorded another program with CTSB, this time for an interview with Terry Hall to celebrate his recently published memoir, *Just a Kid*. That month Berkshire Magazine named Library Director Katie O'Neil one of its 2020 Berkshire 25, which honors "the most dedicated, the most creative, and the most influential people in their fields in our community."

Following the Annual Town Meeting, we were delighted to welcome back the remainder of the Library's furloughed staff on October 15 and open the Library building to the public for browsing on October 26, seven months after we closed our doors. Upon reopening, we debuted a newly decorated youth area embracing the theme "reading gives you wings," featuring original artwork and flying creatures – and flying books! – of all kinds. Special children's programs followed with a Virtual Halloween Costume Contest, a Gnome Sleepover, and our Annual Holiday Pajama Night, held virtually for the first time with great success.

Just before yearend, we announced the exciting news that Jenney Maloy, M.Ed, MLIS would join our staff as Youth Librarian. Jenney may be a familiar face to many of you, as she worked as Assistant Youth Librarian here in Lenox from 2014-2016 before her most recent role as Youth Librarian at the Stockbridge Library, Museum & Archives. Also in December, Librarian Vanessa Dion completed her coursework for her Master of Library and Information Science Degree from Simmons University. Vanessa began her journey at the Lenox Library as a volunteer, joining the circulation staff a few months prior to entering her graduate program. We are very proud to have both Jenney and Vanessa as members of our department.

Here, as elsewhere, 2020 was an exercise in patience, adaptability, creativity, and teamwork. Services may not look the same as in the past, and likely will continue to evolve as we move forward, but the Library strives to be a strong and integral part of the Lenox community. We look forward to a brighter and better 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine O'Neil, MLIS  
Library Director

## **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 2020 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. This year added a new challenge to the Department with the ongoing pandemic of COVID-19. We have had to change some protocols regarding our request for assistance to ensure the health and safety of the members of the department and the residents of the Town of Lenox. The department has been continually working with the Board of Health, Community Center, Department of Public Works and other local and state agencies to ensure that we are able to provide Fire and EMS services to the best of our ability. We have been working with the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office and MEMA to provide proper personal protective equipment to the members. We would also like to thank Lenco industries Inc. for donating a large amount PPE as well.

### **Requests for service-**

The Lenox Fire Department responded to 1654 requests for assistance during 2020.

301 fire alarms, 31 fires, 41 service calls, 111 rescues, 54 hazardous conditions, 1078 medical calls and 38 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 2020 was 4 minutes.

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

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

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

### **Training-**

Training provided another new challenge with all of the COVID-19 related guidelines put out by the State. The Department was able to train in person when applicable in compliance with guidelines set forth by the State. When we were not able to meet in person the members of the Department have been provided virtual training.

### **Fire Department Personnel-**

The Lenox Fire Department is currently made up of a Full Time Chief, 8 Career Firefighter/EMT's, 7 Part-time Relief Firefighter/EMT's and 28 Volunteer Firefighters. Our paid staff works out of the Central Fire Station and provides coverage for two on duty FF/EMT's 24 hours a day seven days a week.

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

Christoher P. O'Brien, Chief  
Robert Casucci, Deputy Chief  
Larry Morse, FF/Paramedic  
Joshua Romeo, FF/Paramedic  
Cameron Sibley, FF/Paramedic

Jason Saunders, Deputy Chief  
Dan Piretti, Captain  
Matthew Williams, FF/Paramedic  
Dakota Schaefer, FF/Paramedic

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

Mike Zinchuk, Lieutenant  
Matt Tyer, FF/Paramedic  
Aurelien Telle, FF/EMT  
William Hunt, FF/EMT

Christopher Prew, Lieutenant  
Stephen Quinn, FF/EMT  
Jackson Reis, FF/EMT

### **Call / Volunteer Firefighters**

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

Matteo Berger Firefighter  
Elio Casucci, Firefighter  
Scott Forbes, Lieutenant  
Bill Gop, Firefighter  
Matt Lane, Firefighter  
Jeff Lynch, Firefighter  
Jordan Meyer, Firefighter  
Jim Prew, Firefighter  
TJ Smachetti, Lieutenant

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

Unfortunately, during 2020, our Department suffered the loss of retired Firefighter's Gary F. Pignatelli of the Lenox Fire Company and James "Joe" Healy a retired Captain of the Lenox Dale Fire Company. Both Gary and Joe had been employed by the Town of Lenox Fire Department. 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 a moment's 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 HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

To the Honorable Select Board and Citizens of Lenox:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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further deterioration and the cemetery is in good repair.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Olga Weiss

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

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

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

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

While 2020 was not the year we envisioned, the Land Use Department has strived to continue providing timely and effective service to all during this strange time. Most meetings and public hearings have continued albeit virtually, and the Zoning Board enjoyed some lovely outdoor hearings in Lilac Park and at the Community Center this summer and fall. The Community Garden provided a respite for gardeners, and the many acres of open space and miles of trails in Lenox provided a haven for visitors and residents alike. Art in and around the village center, including live music hosted by the Cultural District and Chamber in privately owned spaces developed by the Town for public use, coupled with relaxed outdoor dining restrictions, demonstrated how vibrant and enjoyable the downtown is for all walks of life, and how it's never just one stakeholder or entity to make something positive happen...it's many hands, ideas and collaboration that result in such positive lemonade, even in a year bent on a lemon harvest.

The Land Use Department has continued to shepherd the update of the community's 1999 Master Plan, seek and obtain grant funding for municipal initiatives, including a MassDOT "Shared Streets and Spaces" grant award to help make the village center a safe and attractive destination for all users during the 2020 summer of Covid-19. Prior to the pandemic, we sought CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds for housing rehabilitation for income-qualified households. Though we weren't successful in that application, we were able to secure a regional grant award to help income-qualified small businesses respond to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic in Lenox.

Land Use in Lenox is in good hands through the dedicated volunteers who compose the Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission, Historic District Commission, and Planning Board. Thank you all!

We hope to adopt the Master Plan update this spring, and will be looking at new ways to continue connecting places and people while sustaining the community's rich array of natural resources, cultural and historic attractions, recreation amenities and welcoming new businesses and residents of all backgrounds and ages.

Many thanks go to the ever reliable and can-do Land Use Assistant Jessica Cote and Administrative Assessor Randy Austin.

Please don't hesitate to reach out Land Use staff if you have any questions, comments or concerns. You can find land use policies, regulations and mapping resources on the website, along with past and current planning documents: <https://www.townoflenox.com/land-use-department>

Please stay well, and enjoy some of the awesome places in Lenox! It is a unique and special place, and you and your work make it so.

Sincerely,

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

## **REPORT OF THE LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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

The Land Management Committee was formed to provide a collaborative approach to the management, maintenance, and use of the many well-known and little-known conservation and recreation lands in Lenox. They offer recommendations to other Boards and Committees.

This past year has been quiet, but the Committee will play an active role in updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan, whose update is required for certain state funding opportunities.

The Land Management Committee is:

Ruth Wheeler (Kennedy Park)

Warren Archey (Bd of Selectmen)

Patty Spector (At-large)

Darlene McCauley (Comm Ctr)

Andrew Lane (At Large)

Mark Smith

It is an appointed committee.

Respectfully submitted,

The Lenox Land Management Committee

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

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Lenox:

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

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

The Board issues decisions on the following:

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

In 2020 the Lenox Zoning Board of Appeals held public hearings to review twenty-four applications for special permits, variances, site plan approval and modifications to previously granted projects. Two of the applications were withdrawn by the applicants. Two variances were granted, and all but one of the special permit requests was granted.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

Alternates: Kimberly Duval  
Clayton Hambrick

## **LENOX CULTURAL DISTRICT**

To the Citizens of Lenox,

The Lenox Cultural District is a state-approved geographic area recognized for its rich concentration of cultural attractions, businesses, and activities. Officially designated in 2019, the Lenox Cultural District footprint is the downtown village center, but its reach is much broader and includes our cultural stalwarts such as BUTI, Ventfort Hall, Tanglewood, the Mount, Shakespeare & Company, and the Mass Audubon Society.

The Cultural District is guided by a steering committee. Its membership in 2020 was:

Gwen Miller, Town Planner, Co-Chair  
Jennifer Nacht, Chamber Director, Co-Chair  
Beth Tracy Gamble, Lenox Cultural Council  
Marybeth Mitts, Lenox Selectboard  
Eileen Mahoney, Trinity Church  
Natalie Neubert, Berkshire Music School  
Moriarty, Shakespeare and Company  
Hilary Respass, BUTI  
Amy LaFave, Lenox Library  
Cassandra Sohn, Sohn Fine Art  
Derrick Holt

A partnership between the Town and Chamber of Commerce manages the District. The Massachusetts Cultural Council provides funds as well as grants and budget appropriations as suitable.

2020 was the first active year of the District, and, despite the once-in-a-lifetime global pandemic, the District helped to attract residents and visitors through its LenoxLovesMusic series (it hosted four in partnership with the Berkshire Music School and BUTI) and helped deck the halls for Lenox WinterLand, when local business sponsored and artist decorated holiday trees, making the streets festive for the holidays. Families enjoyed looking for glass pickles on each tree through the New Year.

The District has adapted and looks forward to 2021, with continued LenoxLovesMusic concerts in the village center, an expanded holiday celebration, scavenger hunts, a COVID-19 safe ArtWalk and ArtWeek. The goal is to continue promoting the district and its habitant businesses and attractions, along with those beyond its boundaries. It also intends to expand programming and activities into the shoulder seasons.

Laura Brennan, Senior Planner at the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, and Dierdre McKenna of the Lenox Chamber of Commerce have provided great support in the work of the District.

The steering committee meets monthly and has bi-annual public gatherings to get feedback. We hope you will join us sometime! Please subscribe to our e-newsletter at:  
<https://mailchi.mp/48681fc7a943/enewsletter>

We hope you will visit the landing page: <https://lenox.org/lenox-cultural-district/> and check out social media (FB & Instagram) to keep your eye out for upcoming Cultural District events and program!

Thank you!  
Gwen Miller & Jenn Nacht

## **LENOX AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE**

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

The Lenox Affordable Housing Trust and Committee were formed in 2010 with the goal of creating, preserving and supporting affordable housing in Lenox.

The Trust is composed of seven voting members, and the Committee has two advisory members. The Committee exists to advise the Trust, provide research and support of community housing activities and program goals and objectives: to provide decent, safe and affordable housing options for all residents in the Town of Lenox, regardless of income level. In FY21, the Trust proposes to fold the remaining Committee members into the Trust as alternate voting members of the Trust.

**Housing Activities of the Trust:** The Trust works with local lenders participating in the Federal Home Loan Bank's First Time Homebuyer's program by providing income eligible households with deferred payment loan/grant of up to 10,000 to purchase an affordable home in Lenox. Community Preservation Act funds, for which the Trust applies to the Community Preservation Committee annually, are used to provide the funds for this DPL/grant amount. The program has provided grants for 14 households between 2014-2020 (\$113,667). The activity in this program is variable, having available CPA funds in the Trust when low to moderate income buyers find an affordable home is important. These funds leverage FHLB monies along with private funds from local lenders.

**Affordable (deed restricted) Homeownership.** In 2020, the Trust has been working toward the purchase of properties in Town to sell to income-qualified homebuyers subject to a deed restriction, ensuring these housing opportunities remain affordable in the long-term. In November 2020, the Trust purchased a rehabilitated 3-bedroom unit for resale to an income eligible homebuyer. The Trust has two additional units it plans to acquire before the end of the town's fiscal year. The Trust plans to affirmatively fair market all three units, open a 60 application cycle, qualify income eligible households and hold a lottery to resell the three deed restricted units to achieve long term affordability of each unit.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trust instituted an **Emergency Rental Payment Assistance program** in April 2020, administered by Construct, Inc., to determine income eligibility and make rental payments to Lenox landlords for households in danger of lapsed rental payments relating to COVID-19 illness or job loss. The Trust allocated \$50,000 in funds and has made more than 25 payments to over 13 landlords in Lenox. By helping Lenox tenants stay in their homes, this program has provided necessary public health security to all Lenox residents by not displacing them during a pandemic.

The Trust can accept donations, in the form of financial gifts or real property.

If you are interested in working with the Affordable Housing Trust and Committee toward affordable housing in Lenox, please consider how you would like to be involved. The Trust appreciates your support and we are eager to work with additional community members: in tried and true ways, and in new ways.

Trust members in 2020 were:

Marybeth Mitts, Chair  
Jackie McNinch  
Frederick Keator

Kate McNulty Vaughan  
Julie DiGrigoli

Olga Weiss  
Charlene Rosen

Committee members in 2020 were:

Donna Lefkowitz

Christopher Fenton

Jon Gotterer

Sincerely,  
Marybeth Mitts, Chairperson

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

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen;

The Lenox Community Center is committed to providing a safe and respectful environment for all who organize and or 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.

2020 challenged us as a Country, State, Community and as individuals. The Community Center, Town Departments and the Lenox community worked together to support and answer these challenges. The true spirit of this community was overwhelmingly strong, committed and resilient during a global pandemic.

Although, the Community Center doors were closed to the public, our services continued with safety being our main concern. We separated the Lenox Council on Aging entrance and only utilized half of the building for our senior services. This allowed us to help our essential Town employees by opening a Day Program remote learning classroom in the other half of the building.

### **Council on Aging Services**

- **Elder Services Community Meals** - Traditionally served at the LCC Monday & Friday. Now served as Grab & Go Monday – Friday.
- **Brown Bag Western Mass Food Bank** – Continued monthly throughout the pandemic. The LCC distributed 36-40 bags to seniors each month. We also coordinated with the USDA Food Box Distribution Program Offered by Elder Services over 4 months to distribute meat, cheese and produce to our local seniors in need.
- **COA Van** – Brought our seniors to essential appointments throughout the pandemic.
- **Our SHINE Program** – Helping seniors with Medicare Insurance was a challenge this year but with a lot of coordination and patience, our Elder Services volunteer Shine Counselor, Gini Titterton, was able to help our seniors through phone appointments. Thank you, Gini!
- **Side Bar** - Thank you to our volunteer lawyers for helping some of our seniors over the phone; giving some advice and easing our seniors' minds during this pandemic.
- **AARP Tax Assistance**- We were able to complete all of our AARP Tax Assistance appointments in person with COVID 19 precautions in place.
- **Foot Nurse** - An important service for many seniors continues in person by appointment with COVID19 precautions.
- **Exercise Classes** – Our early morning exercise class met outside at the LCC and moved into our ballroom with COVID19 precautions when the weather got too cold to remain outside. Thank you, Christine Ford, for donating your time and keeping our seniors moving!
- **Chair Yoga** - Available through Zoom Tuesdays and Thursdays. We have heard our seniors are even logging on early to talk to one another before class begins. Thank you, Dolores Mannix, for donating your time and keeping our seniors engaged and moving at home.
- **Sand Buckets** - This year we offered to deliver buckets of Sand to local seniors who may have been unable to drive to the DPW to pick it up. Those who participated were very thankful.

### **Community Outreach**

- **Town Free Meal Program** - The Community Center became the call center for the Town's Meal Program and also organized volunteer drivers. Thank you, Fran Sorrentino & local restaurants for cooking, LCC Board members and the many local volunteers for helping deliver over 10,000 meals to local residents in need.

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- **Free Masks** – Thank you to the many volunteer sewers for making masks for the Community Center to offer free to residents.
- **Shopping** – Thank you to the volunteer shoppers for helping our most at-risk senior population so they could quarantine safely at home.
- **Flu Clinic** - The Community Center hosted a Flu Clinic with COVID19 safety protocols.
- **Back Porch Coat Drive** - Our coat drive was moved to our back porch. Thank you to all who donated!
- **Holiday Gift Giving** - Thanks to the support of local residents and businesses, we were able to help many families in need this year! Your continued support during a difficult year for everyone was a true inspiration to the community spirit of Lenox!

### **Community Partnerships**

- **LCC & DPW Arbor Day social distance celebration** - The Community Center collaborated with the DPW and coordinated distribution of free saplings to local residents. Thank you to The Mount for helping us care for the saplings before distribution.
- **LCC and Fire Department's Largest Sprinkler** – We coordinated with the Lenox Fire Department, DPW & School Department to offer a way for children to cool off this summer. It was pure delight to see the children running through the sprinkler and spending time with friends!
- **Pop with a Cop** – Police Chief O'Brien shared popsicles with our children while showing them the new police car and answering questions.
- **Town Ambassadors** - We were able to keep our beach staff and counselors working this year as Town Ambassadors. They walked throughout Town, guided and informed visitors, cleaned picnic tables, as well as the public restrooms at Town Hall, and helped set up and take down the Farmer's Market. Fire Chief O'Brien was kind enough to let them work out of the Fire Department. They received training and support from our Town Manager, Fire Chief O'Brien, Police Chief O'Brien and Superintendent of Public Works, William Gop.
- **Lenox Cultural District & Lenox Chamber** – We provided a senior tax work-off volunteer to help with Lenox Loves Music Sunday Concert Series.
- **LCC & Lenox Public Schools Smile Project** - Students created artwork and inspirational quotes that we shared in delivered meals to spread some cheer.
- **LMMHS Nordic Ski Team** - The Lenox Nordic Ski Team decorated the LCC front lawn. It was a joy to see the students together! We often found visitors stopping to take pictures! Students also interviewed some of our senior friends to write their story. Thank you to the Team!
- **LCC & Pleasant Valley Sanctuary** - We collaborated to offer an afterschool nature program for children which was well received! We are looking forward to future partnerships!
- **Lenox Library & Lenox Chamber** – the LCC collaborated with the Library and Chamber to offer holiday fun for families and children.
- **Bousquet Lesson Program** – Collaborated with Bousquet again this year to offer a 6-week program.
- **LCC Night at the Mount** - A special thank you to The Mount for inviting LCC families to enjoy the Nightwood Walk! It was thrilling to see over 300 of our friends enjoy the beautiful grounds, lights and artwork! It was a very special night!

### **Parks & Recreation**

- **Social Distance Easter Egg Hunt**– Thank you to the Easter Bunny and all of our Town Departments for joining us as we delivered Easter Eggs throughout Town. It was so nice to see the many smiles from residents who came out and waved to us from the safety of their homes.



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- **Lenox Town Beach** - Developed COVID 19 Protocols to open the Lenox Town Beach. Thank you to beach guests for your patience and following implemented COVID19 beach procedures to keep everyone safe!
- **Trunk or Treat** - Thank you to Lenox Memorial Middle & High School for letting us use the parking lot this year and to our volunteers who decorated their trunks and embraced the cold weather to bring some fun during a very difficult year!
- **Drive Through Santa Visit** – What an amazing event! We were able to offer over 130 children an opportunity to visit with Santa safely during a pandemic. The Spirit of Christmas was enjoyed by not only the children, but the adults as well!
- **Letter to Santa** – We received 64 letters from eager children and ensured each one received a letter from Santa with the help of our senior friends! Everyone involved was delighted!
- **Virtual Tree Lighting** - While gathering restrictions would not allow us to watch the tree lighting in person this year, LCC was successful in bringing residents an opportunity to watch the tree lighting from the safety of their homes!

### **Building and Grounds**

Building renovations included refinishing hardwood floors throughout the building.

### **LCC Team**

This year we said good bye to our Senior Services Coordinator, Sue Holmes. We thank Sue for her 15 years of service helping seniors and enhancing their lives through education, exercise entertainment and support. Although, we will miss her, we wish her a very happy retirement.

We welcomed some familiar faces to the LCC Team. Jenny “Lemberg” Vanasse returned as Assistant Director and Matthew Maffuccio joined us as Program Coordinator. We are happy to have them on board! Jonathan has been busy cleaning, sanitizing and keeping our building and grounds safe during a pandemic. We are excited about the coming year, and eager to welcome our seniors, children and families back into our building! Until then, our team will be working hard to offer safe, healthy and engaging programs for both seniors, children and families.

The LCC slogan, “Where community spirit lives” has never been so apparent than during this past year. It is an honor to work for such a wonderful community! I am so proud of our LCC Staff for working to serve our seniors and families during a stressful & difficult year. I am thankful and appreciative for all of the volunteers who offered to help, for the LCC Board Members’ guidance and continued support.

As always, the Community Center Staff and Board of Directors are grateful for the continued support from the Board of Selectmen, our Chief Administrative Officer, Chris Ketchen, and the residents of Lenox. It is our pleasure to serve you all.

Respectfully Submitted;

Darlene McCauley, Director

Anthony Patella, Chairman

Sheri Gaherty, Co-Chair

Francie Sheehan-Sorrentino, Clerk

Rose Fitzgerald-Casey

Jen Picard

## **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 2020, \$27,750 was awarded through the Town of Lenox Scholarship Program to residents looking to further their education. Through the support of our donors, we were able to assist 15 graduates of the LMMHS class of 2020 and 17 post-graduate students. Awards ranged from \$500 to \$1,500.

This scholarship program is a credit to all the citizens of Lenox who continue to support our residents pursuing their education.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

### **FY20 LENOX SCHOLARSHIP LIST OF DONORS**

Kimball Farms Residents Association	Casablanca
Arcadian Shop	Oren & Kristine Cass
Dennis Arseneau	Karen Chase & Paul Graubard
Aspinwall Acquisition LLC	Theodore & Gloria Chin
Sybil Baier	Clifford Oil Co
Robert Bayard & Amelia Asplund Field	Robert & Mary Ann Coakley
Mary Frances Benko	Barbara Cohen
Judy Bergman	Nancy & Phil Considine
Elliott Bird	Helen Cooper
Eleanor & Ed Bloom	Oliver & Cynthia Curme
Tom & Lorita Bosworth	Pam & Peter D'Ambrosio
Albert & Janis Bravo	Lee & Carol Deets
Lynda & Austin Brazee	Alessandro & Sarah Degregori
Beverly Brown	Paul & Meryl Delasco
Lois & Harold Brown	Kevin & Cindy Dinan
Thomas & Beverly Brunette	Michael Disiena
Katharine Burnett	Nathan Doctrow
James Cahillane	Peg Dotchin
Thomas Canning Jr	Jack Fabiano & Nod McCoy

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Clarence Fanto  
Al & Noreen Favero  
Robin Fleet & Phil Coleman  
Flynn Nominee Trust  
Carl & Lauren Foote  
Donna Fork  
Bonnie Fraser Trustee  
Barbara & Carroll French  
Lawrence & Anne Frisman  
MaryJane & Jerry Fromm  
Magda Gabor-Hotchkiss  
Bruce & Beth Gamble  
Arnold & Maureen Goldberg  
Paul & Karen Graubard  
Carol & Buzz Gray  
In Memory of Donald R. Gray  
Cecilia Hamilton  
Scott & Ellen Hand  
George & Marilyn Haus  
Richard & Salata Jane Hayes  
Judith & Marc Herbert  
Thomas Higgins Family Trust  
Lois Hill  
Miriam Hinds  
Bill & Judy Hopper  
Robert & Lynne Horvarth  
Sharon Hughes  
Lawrence & Gwendolen Hurst  
Phyllis Jaffe  
Scott Jarvis & Maureen Wehry  
Richard & Janet Kassar  
Charlotte Kaufman  
Ken & Carol Kelly  
Jeffrey Kochman  
Joan & Paul Kopperl  
Jill Korostoff & Richard McCallum  
John Kuster & Carol Murray  
Robert & Mary-Tammy Lahart  
Edward & Robin Lane  
Carlos Lazalde  
Lois Lenehan & Bart Hanback  
Milla Lewis & Edward Moulin  
Marjorie Lieberman & Sam Seager  
Holley Ann Linscott  
Ronald & Iris Maitland  
Phil & Amy Mamolito  
Matthew & Mary Lo  
Christine Mauro & Clayton Peterson  
Paula McLean  
Ellen Merritt  
Nancy Milbauer

Estelle Miller  
Robert Miller & Victoria Choy  
Martin Mistretta  
John & Renee Mizia  
Paul & Kathryn Nash  
Bartholohew Natoli  
Sheila Newman  
Dana & Lukasz Niedzielski  
David & Amy Noble Novitsky  
Anne & Parker Opperman  
Scott & Kendra Parkinson  
William Parsley  
Claudia & Steven Perles  
The Peters Family  
Ann Phillips  
Jenifer Picard  
Scott Pignatelli & Kathleen McNinch  
Pignatelli Electric  
Piretti Real Estate  
Janet Pomerantz  
Asta Potter  
Donald & Frances Putnoi  
Deborah Raptopolous  
David & Deborah Rimmmler  
Tom & Debbie Roche  
Susan & Michael Rodgers  
John & Judith Rogers  
Helaine Rose  
James Rosenstein  
Jeffrey & Karen Ross  
Margaret Ross  
Donald & Alice Roth  
Fred & Stephanie Rothenberg  
Renee Rotta  
Jeremy & Susan Rudd  
John Sauer  
Thomas & Nancy Scrimo  
Mike Schiffer  
Mark & Jennifer Shapp  
Brian Shepardson  
Mike & Sue Shepardson  
Barbara & Bruce Shickmanter  
Gail & Leonard Silverman  
Tom & Paula Skinner  
Michael & Milena Solo  
Louis Soloway  
Frances & Michael Sorrentino  
Jim & Kim Sorrentino  
St. Ann's Church  
Kerry Stein  
Neil Stein & Judith Blank

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Alvin & Shirley Steiner  
Harvey Stoller  
Joe & Betsy Strauch  
Lawrence Strauss & Francine Weinberg  
Charlie & Nancy Thompson  
Tom & Madeline Tiktin  
Virginia & Francis Vahle  
Emily Van Agtmael & Ross Borden  
Glenn & Kathleen Van Orman  
Robert & Kathleen McNulty Vaughan  
Jeff & Sally Vincent  
Shirley & Reginald Vincent  
Roberta Waller  
Margaret L. Ward  
Terry & Lois Weaver  
Olga Weiss  
Albin & Helen Wesolowski  
Robert Wheeler  
Aviva Wichler & Larry Friedman  
Willow Creek Corp  
Felicity Young  
Rena Zimmerman Trustee  
Jack & Anita Zwick  
Anonymous

## **REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Molly Elliot	May 2021
Christine Mauro	May 2023
Robert Munch (vice-chair)	May 2023
Anne Marie O'Brien	May 2021
David Rimmler	May 2022
Francie Sorrentino	May 2021
Robert Vaughan (chair)	May 2022

To the Honorable Board of Selectman and Citizens of Lenox:

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

In light of the Superintendent search coinciding with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the School Committee asked Interim Superintendent Dr. William J. Cameron if he would continue to serve for the 2020-2021 school year while the Committee conducted a search for the next Superintendent. We are grateful that he accepted, as the myriad duties, details, and decision-making that were and continue to be required have been in very steady and capable hands, for which the Committee cannot thank Dr. Cameron enough.

### **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 School Committee, along with a Strategic Planning Subcommittee, is in the process of creating the new strategic plan to cover the five-year period 2021-2026. A draft of the strategies prepared thus far was presented to the full School Committee in late January, 2021, for initial reflection; the full narrative will be available in late winter. As we hope students will return to full in-person instruction in late Spring or Fall, 2021, the Strategic Plan will need to reflect strategies that will assist students and faculty in reintegrating into their schools and take into account the stresses and possible losses in learning that may have taken place over the last sixteen months.

### **PROPOSED BUDGET**

Our operational budget being presented at Annual Town Meeting for the 2021-22 (FY'22) year has gone through a four-month process of development arriving at the budget before the town

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meeting. The pandemic created concerns about revenue shortfalls for FY22 and perhaps FY23 and the Committee is working closely with Finance Committee representatives and the Town Manager to see if it is possible to maintain the current program within the Town's constraints. The reality of tight economics and level enrollments will affect planning and operation of our school district for the foreseeable future. The district continues to explore collaborative options with neighboring districts, alternative ways to deliver education, and opportunities to create additional efficiencies. The school administration has followed a zero-based budgeting process that reevaluates every aspect of the program while identifying the educational needs. Working with our interim superintendent, Dr. William Cameron, the School Committee has reviewed each program in detail and with consideration for revenue projections and program efficacy. In this manner we strive to meet the objectives of our mission statement. We, the School Committee, recognize that we must balance the needs of our schools with the responsibility to residents to be fiscally sound in our budgeting.

### **FACILITIES**

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

The high school Science classrooms (not renovated since 1966) are in serious need of repairs and perhaps reconstruction; the School Committee will work with our new Superintendent during FY22 to determine a course of action that will bring them to 2022 standards for high school science spaces.

### **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

So much changed for our students and faculty at the end of 2019-2020 and during the 2020-2021 school year. In an effort to keep students safe, most traditional end-of-year activities at both schools did not take place. All extracurricular and athletic activities had to conclude in March. The end of the 2019-2020 school year saw the schools closed from March 16, 2020, to the end of the year. Per Massachusetts DESE guidelines, instruction took place remotely with uneven success for the final months of the FY20 school year. The LMMHS graduation was done in the high school parking lot with strong support from class advisors and the community to make sure this was a meaningful experience for our Seniors, even with the limits that did not allow for the usual large numbers of family and friends.

In preparation for the 2020-2021 school year and with funding from a Berkshire Remote Learning Initiative, faculty and staff received training using the online platform Canvas; the faculty became determined to offer remote learning in a robust and meaningful fashion. The first three weeks of instruction were done remotely, followed in October by the hybrid learning model with a morning cohort and an afternoon cohort with some students receiving synchronous learning remotely with their in-school peers. Morris students attended five days a week while LMMHS students attended four days with one day fully remote. A Joint Labor Management Committee for Health and Safety reviews the COVID data at least weekly to determine if and when a change in mode of instruction may be necessary. The School Committee wishes to recognize the efforts of the full administration, teachers, and support staff who have continued high-level instruction in the face of the many obstacles presented during the coronavirus period. Most teachers were constantly in front of a camera or projector for dual modes of instruction.

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

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### **ENROLLMENT**

Currently, we have 744 students in grades pre-K through 12, somewhat lower than last year as several families chose other options in light of COVID. Choice students now stand at 283 and comprise 38% of the student population served. Lenox demographics generally mimic those countywide, in that the population of young school-age children is shrinking. 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.

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 five years. The BCETF has been working on the complex issues and unique opportunities related to public school and district organization in the Berkshires focusing on equity and access to quality educational offerings.

The BCETF 2.0 version is a smaller group and is looking at course offerings among the 10 high schools to see where there are gaps or inequities of opportunity and will reach out to school committees, students, and district- and secondary-level teachers and leaders for input moving forward. At this point, under the leadership of Project Manager Jake Eberwein, the BCETF is looking intensively at the complex issues and modeling around educational quality, finance, and public outreach and engagement. The BCETF very actively engaged educators and several school districts in a Portrait of a Graduate project as well as initiating the Berkshire Remote Learning Initiative for all county school districts.

### **RECOGNITION**

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

We would also like to take this moment to acknowledge all our teachers, our administrators and our entire staff. Each of them is a valuable member of our team and we are grateful for their contributions, commitment and dedication to our school community. We had several long-time and valued faculty and staff members retire in 2020 – we will miss the skills and passion they brought to our students. Congratulations and many thanks to Peter Bachli, Morris principal; Debby Kain, Art teacher at Morris; Jill Barnoski, Morris Principal's Secretary; Debra Caffrey, Student Services Secretary; Karen Joyner, Morris Library Paraprofessional; Gordon Roosa, Morris custodian; and Al Saldarini, Theater Manager at LMMHS. It is unfortunate that their final working days were spent remotely and that their years of success could not be honored at the close of the 2019-2020 school year.

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. Its governance structure consists of a seven member elected School Committee whose members serve staggered terms of three years. The district is led administratively by a Superintendent of Schools, a Business Administrator, a Director of Student Services, a Principal and Assistant-Principal at Lenox Memorial Middle and High School (LMMHS), and a Principal at Morris Elementary School. During the 2019-2020 school year the Lenox Public Schools employed the full-time equivalent of 79.5 teachers (where, e.g. a full-time teacher is 1.0, as are two half-time teachers).

As of the October 1, 2019 official count of students reportable to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE), Lenox enrolled 776 students. Twenty-six of these students were enrolled in pre-Kindergarten programming, which takes place at Morris Elementary School. The October 1 K-12 enrollment for 2018-2019 was 756 students. The K-5 population of students at Morris totaled 291, and the secondary students (6-12) population at Lenox Memorial Middle-High School was 459. In the 2019-2020 school year, as in the prior school year, approximately 39% of the K-12 student population were attending Lenox's public schools under inter-district school choice (MGL c. 76 § 12B).

The district's teacher-student ratio in 2019-2020 was an impressive 9.8 to 1. Under the Massachusetts school accountability system the Lenox Public Schools achieved a rating from DESE of "meeting or exceeding targets." The graduation rate from LMMHS in 2019-2020 was once again one hundred percent.

The administration of the Lenox Public Schools and School Committee continued the constructive relationship with the Town of Lenox's administration, as described in last year's Town Report. In terms of expenditures, of particular note for 2019-2020 were investments in computer hardware, especially in acquiring additional Chromebooks. The use of these devices has been necessitated in recent years by Mass. Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education's phasing out of paper and pencil testing required under the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) law. Moreover, expansion of the district's use and distribution of Chromebooks has been essential to our ensuring that every student enrolled has the means to deal adequately with the challenge we face as a district of operating a sound and supportive education program while beset by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the pandemic spread and worsened in the late winter of 2020, the Lenox Public Schools closed to in-person instruction starting on March 16, 2020. By an executive order issued shortly thereafter, Gov. Baker ordered Massachusetts schools to remain closed to in-person instruction through the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Neither Lenox nor any other public school system in Massachusetts, was well-prepared for the need to turn, so to speak, on a dime and educate all students remotely – that is, by means of computer-based instruction -- for three months. Teachers and students, as well as students' families, found it difficult, especially at the outset, to manage fully remote teaching and learning. But we persevered.

That so many teachers succeeded in developing effective lessons and meaningful interactions with students during this period, and that so many children, despite the hurdles they faced, increasingly benefitted from their teachers' efforts, is evidence of two things for which we should all be thankful. One is the commitment the Lenox Public Schools has, even under extreme and unforeseeable duress, to the academic and social success of its students. The other is the dedication of those students' families to building and maintaining a cooperative, collaborative relationship with the teachers and administrators charged with educating their children. Our community's



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management of K-12 education during the pandemic showed us not only how much we needed to learn about remote instruction and the vulnerabilities of many students under these circumstances, but also how much we could count on the support of parents, guardians, and the Lenox community at large in helping us to improve our efforts day by day, week by week.

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

Mr. Michael E. Knybel, Principal

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

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

Currently, Lenox High School requires students to earn 104 credits for graduation; most students graduate with 128 or more credits. Students must earn a minimum of 16 credits each in English and Math; 12 credits each in Social Studies and Science; 8 credits in World Language; 2 credits each in the Arts and Technology; and 8 credits in Health & Wellness. Our requirements meet the standards set by the National Commission on Excellence in Education. In the spring of 2020, 80% of graduating seniors continued their post-secondary education with approximately 67% attending four-year colleges and universities, and 13% 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.

The spring 2020 MCAS was postponed due to the Covid-19 global pandemic. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Schools held all accountability ratings as they were in the 2019-2020 school year. In the 2019-2020 school year scores remained significantly higher than the state average scores. This classified Lenox Memorial Middle and High School as a school with an accountability percentile of 92 making "Substantial Progress towards Targets". DESE closed all schools in the state to in-person learning on March 13, 2020. LMMHS halted instruction as advised by the Department of Education and in two weeks resumed online remote instruction for all students through Google Classroom for the remainder of the school year.

In 2020, the U.S. World News and Report recognized Lenox Memorial Middle and High School as a top 3% school in the nation for the seventh year in a row. LMMHS was 32nd in the state and 906th 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. Moreover, Newsweek.com recognized Lenox Memorial Middle and High School as a Top STEM School, ranking #1677 in the Top Five Thousand Schools of the Nation. LMMHS's SAT scores continue to be strong and remain high above county, state, and national averages. Lenox students' SAT average scores were the highest in Berkshire County for Reading/Writing and the highest for Math, out of 14 high schools in Berkshire County.

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 mid-year and the middle school spring musical production was cancelled due to the pandemic. Students from Band and Chorus have proven their excellence as many were selected for the Western District and All State Band, Orchestra, Jazz Band or Chorus. In addition to the excellent performance of our students on

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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 and many more. Our FTC Robotics Club, Mock Trial Club, As Schools Match Wits Team and Quiz Team have all been recognized as top performers within league tournaments.

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

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

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

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

### **Morris Elementary School**

Mrs. Brenda J. Kelley, Principal

This is my first year as Principal of Morris Elementary School. Previously, I was Principal of an elementary school in Pittsfield Massachusetts for six years. Prior to becoming Principal, I was a Reading Specialist for 12 years. Morris Elementary School currently has an enrollment of 302 students in grades Pre-K through five. There are three classrooms in each grade level. Morris is fortunate to offer the following specialist classes: Physical Education, Art, Music, Spanish, Technology and Library.

Planning for the 2020/2021 school year had its challenges due to the pandemic. During the summer of 2020, I met with each teacher to discuss the upcoming school year. All schools in Massachusetts were forced to close in March of 2020 and begin remote learning in the spring. Although challenging, the Morris staff began remote learning with the tools they had at the time. Preparing for fall of 2020 the district adopted Canvas, an online learning management system. Staff received professional development with this online tool as well as many others. Our goal was to develop a rigorous online instructional program to meet the needs of our students.

In early fall, some students returned to in-person learning and other students remained at home for remote instruction under a hybrid schedule. Teachers were tasked with instructing both students at home and in-person simultaneously. Teachers used the new online programs to enhance their instruction and encouraged student engagement whether at home or in-person. Each student is assessed three times per year in ELA and Math. After each benchmark assessment classroom

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teachers, Reading and Math Specialists, Title 1 Coordinator and Special Education Teachers meet to discuss the results and plan interventions for students in need.

At Morris School, we utilize a balanced literacy approach in which we blend whole -language technique with explicit phonics instruction. We develop foundational skills in reading by implementing the Wilson Foundations program in grades K-2. Working within the scope and sequence of this program, students gain knowledge of sound/symbol relationships, rules for decoding, sight word recognition skills, and knowledge of basic grammar. In grades 3-5, we continue to build word knowledge through word study with the Words Their Way program.

Our highly qualified staff differentiates reading instruction to address the needs of individual learners by planning for and implementing flexible guided reading groups. Teachers develop lessons that incorporate the Common Core state standards. They select leveled texts of various genres and provide targeted, differentiated instruction to ensure that students are exposed to tiered vocabulary, comprehension strategies, and guided practice for written response to text. In addition to flexible guided reading groups students also practice reading and writing in the content areas at various other times of the day. Whether reading silently, collaboratively with peers, or by participating in a teacher led read aloud, students at Morris school are afforded many opportunities to grow into fluent, confident, independent readers.

Writing instruction at Morris school is taught using the Empowering Writers program for grades K-5 and the Framing Your Thoughts Program. Teachers use the common vocabulary and graphic organizers from these programs along with selected lessons to teach students about the various phases of the writing process. Students are carefully guided through writing personal narrative, creative narrative, expository, and opinion pieces of writing. Many teachers use this program in conjunction with a Writer's Workshop model. During writing instruction times students have the opportunity to confer with an adult and to make improvements to their writing.

Our goal in Mathematics is to produce mathematically powerful thinkers and problem-solvers who are confident and feel comfortable using math in their daily lives. In 2011, Morris adopted GoMath! as its K-5 math program. GoMath! is aligned with the Common Core Standards and is more focused on deeper mastery of a smaller set of math concepts. It is designed to serve the needs of a variety of math learners and features core lessons for all followed by a re-teach lesson, practice, or enrichment. In addition to GoMath!, Morris students participate in daily math fact practice and parents are encouraged to extend this daily practice at home. We are fortunate to have an online component that enables students to access a variety of materials and manipulatives from home.

Morris has an active parent group, whether they are volunteering their time to organize events through the Parent-Teacher Organization or volunteering on Morris' School Council. The School Council meets regularly with the principal and assists in identifying educational needs of the school.

In 2016, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education named Morris a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Morris continues to perform well on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System. Morris recognizes that state testing is one measure of a student's academic performance. Morris offers other extracurricular activities including drama, music and science programs.

Our goal for the 2021-2022 school year is to continue our rigorous standards based instruction while developing students' social and emotional competencies. The staff at Morris will implement the Second Step Curriculum daily in their classrooms. This program will promote a respectful student culture and decrease inequities. The staff at Morris Elementary School strive to promote students onto the middle and high school with a solid academic foundation, individuals that make successful choices, and encouragement to become a productive member of the Lenox Community.

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### **Department of Student Services**

Kimberly M. Dion, Director of Student Services

It has been a privilege and honor to work for Lenox Public Schools as the Director of Student Services this past year. The Department of Student Services oversees a continuum of appropriate educational programming and support for students and families. The responsibilities of the Department comprise Special Education, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act Of 1973, English Language Education for students whose first language is not English, Early Childhood Education/Integrated Preschool, and McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act services to homeless students. The Department strives to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to maximize student achievement based on individual learning styles and unique abilities.

Special Education programs are designed for students from the preschool level through high school graduation or when the student reaches their twenty-second birthday, if because of their disabilities are unable to meet with success in the regular program. The Special Education department serves approximately 10 % of the school-wide population. This percentage has remained constant over the past few years. The Department's staff is dedicated to providing equitable services to ensure each student succeeds towards meeting his or her goals in the least restrictive environment.

The English Language Education staff provide instruction that best meets the needs of those students whose primary or native language is other than English. Approximately 20 students receive ELE services annually. The ELE staff use specific strategies to facilitate students' English language development and ensure accessibility to academics.

The Department is also responsible for ensuring that students who have a physical or mental impairment within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are identified, evaluated and provided with appropriate educational services.

The Integrated Preschool Program is designed to provide developmentally age-appropriate experiences in a safe and nurturing environment for students ages three and four years old. Students with special needs work along-side peers in an integrated model that follows an early childhood curriculum.

The Director of Student Services is also responsible for ensuring that students identified as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act receive support and services that afford them equal access to a free and appropriate public education comparable to what we provide to their peers.

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

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>YEAR HIRED</b>
Dr. William J. Cameron	Interim Superintendent	J.D. Western New England College School of Law, 2019 Ph.D. University of Toronto, 1978 M.A. SUNY - Albany, 1971 B.A. Canisius College, 1969	1990
Melissa J. Falkowski	Asst. Superintendent of Business and Operations	M.B.A. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2017 B.S. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2011	2019
Kimberly M. Dion	Director of Student Services	M.A. Framingham State College, 2010 M.Ed. Cambridge College, 1999 B.A. College of Our Lady of the Elms, 1987	2020
Brenda Kelley	Principal, Morris	Ed.S. Simmons College, 2006 M.Ed. Cambridge College, 2001 B.A. North Adams State College, 1992	2020

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Michael Knybel	Principal, Lenox Memorial Middle and High School	M.Ed. East Tenn. State University, 1998 B.A. Westfield State College, 1987	2011
Brian Cogswell	Assistant Principal Lenox Memorial Middle and High School	M.A. Endicott College, 2008 B.A. Springfield College, 1987	1997

### FACULTY

NAME	POSITION	EDUCATION	YEAR HIRED
Caroline Altieri	Science, LMMHS	B.S. Providence College, 2013	2020
Virginia Ardouin	Preschool, Morris	M.Ed. American International College, 2012 B.S. Skidmore College, 2008	2018
Amber Rose Arnold	Speech & Language Pathologist	M.S. Worcester State University, 2018 B.S. Springfield College, 2016	2018
Elizabeth Baer	Latin, LMMHS	M.A. Harvard University, 1990 B.A. Brown University, 1986	2014
Amy Bainbridge	Spanish, LMMHS	M.A. Middlebury College, 2011 B.A. Valley Forge Christian College, 2004	2018
Joseph Bazzano	Math, LMMHS	M.A. Endicott College, 2010 B.S. Northeastern University, 1987	2013
Kyle Betters	Grade 5, Morris	M.A. Western New England University, 2020 B.S. Westfield State University, 2016	2017
Lisa Budzek-Burr	Speech/Language Pathologist	M.S. Worcester State College, 1996 B.A. Rider College, 1984	1996
Sarah Burdsall	Physical Education, LMMHS	M.S. Ithaca College, 1990 B.S. St. Lawrence University, 1984	2004
Jonathan Cade	Music, LMMHS	B.A. Westfield State College, 1985	2001
Mary Cherry	Middle School Math, LMMHS	M.A. Notre Dame College, 1987 B.A. Trinity College, 1985	2013
Melissa Clay	ESL, Morris	B.A. University of Massachusetts, 2001 M.Ed. American College of Education, 2019	2013
Pamela Codey	Grade 4, Morris	M.Ed. Cambridge College, 2006 B.A. Westfield State College, 1992	2016
Simona Collins	ESL, LMMHS	M.S. Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, 2007 B.A. Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, 2003	2018
Stephen Conuel	Special Education, LMMHS	M.A. University of Notre Dame, 2000 B.A. Western New England College, 1987	2012
Janine Coté	Math, LMMHS	M.S. University of Massachusetts, 1998 B.S. Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 1993	2017

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

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Katherine Harding	Biology, LMMHS	Ph.D. Columbia University, 1988 M.A. Columbia University, 1985 B.A. Middlebury College, 1980	1997
Amy Higgins	Adjustment Counselor, LMMHS	M.S. Stetson University, 2003 B.S. Cornell University, 1996	2020
David Hilfinger	MS Guidance Counselor	M.Ed. Alfred University, 2008 B.A. SUNY, 2004	2013
Michelle Johnson	Special Education, Morris	M.A. SPED, Bay Path College, 2014 M.A. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2007 B.A. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 1996	2015
Brooke Kamienski	Science, LMMHS	M.Ed. American International College, 2010 B.A. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2002	2015
Alexis Kennedy	Librarian, LMMHS	M.A. Simmons College, 2010 B.A. University of Massachusetts, 2004	2010
Maureen Kennedy	Physical Education, Morris	M.A. Westfield State, College, 2003 B.S. Westfield State College, 2000	2000
Shaun Kennedy	Kindergarten, Morris	M.Ed. American International College, 2012 Westfield State College, 2001	2016
Kelley Khoury-Cady	Social Studies, LMMHS	M.A. Cambridge College, 2006 B.A. Mass College of Liberal Arts, 1989	2006
Matthew Knodler	Social Studies, LMMHS	M.Ed. Framingham State College, 2006 B.A. Westfield State College, 2002	2006
Jess Latimer	Math, LMMHS	M. Ed. Westfield State College, 2010 B.A. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2004	2011
Courtney Larkin	Preschool, Morris	B.S. Westfield State University, 2017	2016
Gabrielle Lavinio	Social Studies, LMMHS	B.A. Western New England University, 2017	2018
Nan Leighton	Special Education, LMMHS	M.Ed. Sage Graduate School, 1994 B.S. Saint Rose, 1983	2015
Casey Lennon	Math, LMMHS	M.A. Western New England University, 2018 B.S. Framingham State College, 2009	2014
Kerry Martinez	Spanish, LMMHS	M.A. University at Albany, 1997 B.A. SUNY - Binghamton, 1992	2018
Paul Mays	Special Education, LMMHS	M.Ed. Westfield State College, 1993 B.A. Salem State College, 1987	2011
Laura McCarthy	Health & Wellness, LMMHS	M.Ed. Springfield College, 2013 B.S. Springfield College, 2011	2015
Karen Miller	Grade 2, Morris	M.A. Simmons College, 2006 B.S. Russell Sage College	2006
Aimee Munday	Kindergarten, Morris	M. Ed. Cambridge College, 2009 B.A., St. Michael's College, 1998	2006

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Karen Murphy	Grade 3, Morris	M.Ed. American International College, 2010 B.A. Bridgewater State College, 1991	2000
Pamela Murray	Guidance Counselor, LMMHS	M.A. American International College B.A. Bay Path College, 1994	2014
Lynne Nilan	English, LMMHS	M. Ed. Cambridge College, 1999 B.A. University of Notre Dame, 1982	2013
Shannon O'Brien	Grade 1, Morris	M.Ed. Lesley University, 2007 B.A. Gordon College, 2004	2019
Katrina Olender	Technology Instructor, Morris	M.A. Indiana University, 1998 M.A. Boston University, 1996 B.A. Simmons College, 1992	2019
Lindsay Osterhoudt	Math Specialist, Morris	M.Ed. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2016 B.A. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2005	2017
Michelle Perkins	Grade 2, Morris	M.Ed. American International College, 2010 B.A. Berkshire Christian College, 1981	1996
Anna Pettus	Grade 3, Morris	M.S. Simmons College, 2017 B.A. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2013	2014
Ann Piekos-Barber	Business Computers, LMMHS	M.A. North Adams State College, 1985 B.A. Salem State College, 1975	1990
Marjorie Pollard	Music, Morris	M.A. University of Hartford, 2011 B.A. University of Hartford, 1985 (Hart School of Music)	2008
Megan Porter	History, LMMHS	M.Ed. Westfield State University, 2018 B.A. Smith College, 2013	2014
David Pugh	Math, LMMHS	M.A. Eastern Michigan University, 2001 B.S. University of Toledo, 1996	2012
Thomas Renton	Woodshop, LMMHS	B.S. Westfield State College, 2003	2019
Lesliejohn Roche	Art, LMMHS	M.Ed. Lesley College, 2001 B.F.A. Paier College of Art, 1986	2003
Helen Rock	Grade 5, Morris	M.Ed. North Adams State College, 1997 B.S. Southern Connecticut State College, 1981	2003
Ann-Marie Rodriguez	Spanish, LMMHS	Ph.D. American International College, 2016 M.A. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 1986 B.A. Salem State College, 1982	2006
Tara Romeo	Guidance Counselor, LMMHS	M.A. Cambridge College, 2000 B.S. Boston College, 1992	2010
Karen Romeo-Léger	Art, LMMHS	M.Ed. Mass. College of Liberal Arts, 2005 B.F.A. Syracuse University, 1996	1997
Richard Sanders	Science, LMMHS	M.Ed. Westfield State University, 2006 B.S. Bloomsburg University, 1994	2001



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Ashley Scherben	Grade 4, Morris	M.Ed. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 2011 B.A. Eastern Connecticut State University, 2007	2011
Francine Shelhamer	Grade 4, Morris	M.Ed. Lesley University, 2004 B.A. Mass. College of Liberal Arts, 2000	2002
Brian Shepardson	Special Education, LMMHS	M.A. Westfield State College, 1999 B.S. North Adams State College, 1994	2001
Kathleen Shove	School Nurse, Morris	B.S. The Sage Colleges, 2011	2019
Amanda Soar	English, LMMHS	M.A. Boston College, 2006 B.S. Vanderbilt University, 2005	2019
Mary Sorrentino	Math, LMMHS	M.A. University of Massachusetts, 1997 B.S. University of Vermont, 1990	2000
Darcy Stall	Art, Morris	B.A. Westfield State, 2012	2020
Peter Starenko	History, LMMHS	Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, 2003 M.A. University of Oregon, 1990 B.A. Augustana College, 1987	2007
Jeanne Teasdale	Health, LMMHS	B.S. University of Memphis, 1977	1997
Brian Tolan	Science, LMMHS	M.S. University of California, Riverside, 1998 B.S. University of Massachusetts, Lowell, 1996	2000
Eric Tyer	Physical Education, LMMHS	M.A. MCLA, 2015 B.S. Springfield College, 2004	2007
Scott Wade	English, LMMHS	M.A. Stephen F. Austin State University, 2002 B.A. Stephen F. Austin State University, 2000	2017
Benjamin Weaver	English, LMMHS	Ph.D. Duke University, 2000 M.A. Duke University, 1995 B.A. Columbia University, 1992	2007
Donna Weber*	Adjustment Counselor, Morris	M.A. SUNY Albany, 1987 B.A. Trenton State College, 1975	1992
David Wehry	School Psychologist	Psy.D. University of Hartford, 2012 M.A. Boston College, 2004 B.A. Sienna College, 2002	2019
Lisa Wespiser	English, LMMHS	M.S. Simmons College, 2016 B.A. Pennsylvania State University, 2002	2011
Laurie Wetherbee	Science, LMMHS	M.A. Brown University, 1990 B.S. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 1986	2010
Jenna White	Grade 5, Morris	M.A. Fitchburg State, 2013 B.A. Assumption College, 2008	2015
Aviva Wichler	Kindergarten, Morris	M.A. Hunter College, 1989 B.A. State University of New York, 1983	2005
Emily Wood	Grade 2, Morris	M.Ed. College of Our Lady of the Elms, 2015 B.A. College of Our Lady of the Elms, 2011	2018
Cherilyn Zaretsky*	Guidance Counselor, Morris	M.Ed. Fordham University, 2006 B.A. Boston College, 1999	2016

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## SUPPORT / SERVICE STAFF

NAME	POSITION	YEAR HIRED
LuAnn Auger*	Food Services, LMMHS	2019
Betsy Baczek	Special Education Paraprofessional	2018
Suzanne Baczek*	Food Services, Morris	2013
Stefan Billups	Theater Manager, LMMHS	2020
Regina Boino	Special Education Paraprofessional, Morris	2004
Ruth Boorady-Bloom	Kindergarten Paraprofessional, Morris	2016
Nicole Brooks	Special Education Paraprofessional, LMMHS	2017
Linda Clifford*	Bus Driver	2010
Linda Consolini	Special Education Paraprofessional, Morris	2001
Helen Coty-Curtin	Food Services Supervisor, Morris	2004
Carol Deets	Guidance Secretary, LMMHS	2011
Courtney Dinan	Special Education Paraprofessional, Morris	2013
Christine Drosehn	Building Clerk, Morris	2016
Elizabeth Engelhard	Special Education Paraprofessional, Morris	2017
Annie Fielding	Classroom Supervisor, LMMHS	2021
Amy Freeman	Principal's Administrative Assistant, Morris	2020
Lorraine Goodfellow	Food Services Director	2000
Nancy Greenwald	Instructional Paraprofessional – Title I, Morris	2007
Gina Guachione	Instructional Paraprofessional – Title I, Morris	2017
Susan Hanson	Accounting Assistant, Superintendent's Office	2004
Noreen Hoag	Special Education Paraprofessional, Morris	2017
Victoria Holt	Instructional Paraprofessional, LMMHS	2006
Christine K. Jackson	Kindergarten Paraprofessional, Morris	2019
Michael Jackson	District Technology Director	2004
Kathy Koscher	Building Paraprofessional, Morris	1999
Catherine Lefkowitz*	Instructional Paraprofessional, Morris	2019
Michelle Loubert	DSS Administrative Assistant, Morris	2020
Elaine Lovato	Principal's Administrative Assistant, LMMHS	1998
Susan Love*	Instructional Paraprofessional – Title I, Morris	2017
Timothy Lufkin	District Technology Support Technician	2016
Andrea Lynch	Special Education Paraprofessional, LMMHS	2016
Judy Miller	Instructional Paraprofessional, LMMHS	2018
Rebecca Miller	Kindergarten Paraprofessional, Morris	2005
Jamie Minacci	Special Education Paraprofessional, Morris	2020
Amy Noble Novitsky	Executive Assistant to the Superintendent	2013
Tyra Nurmi	Instructional Paraprofessional, Morris	2020
Bobbi Omelenchuck	Registrar, LMMHS	1997
Kelly Palubeckis	Special Education Paraprofessional, LMMHS	2020
Nicole Patella	Clerical Paraprofessional/Receptionist, LMMHS	2016
Melissa Pehlert*	Library Aide, LMMHS	2008
Kathy Pezze	Intervention Specialist, Morris	1998
Tabitha Pickett-Vahle	Special Education Paraprofessional, LMMHS	2016
Amy Pires	Special Education Paraprofessional, Morris	2019
Kathy Piretti	Special Education Paraprofessional, Morris	1990
Maggie Rivers	Student Support Center Supervisor, LMMHS	2018
Renee Robbins	Special Education Paraprofessional, Morris	2016
Donna Rooney-Stalker	Special Education Paraprofessional, Morris	2019
Sandra Schilling	Special Education Paraprofessional, LMMHS	2020
Frances Sorrentino*	Food Services, LMMHS	1999
Janet Tone	Library Paraprofessional, Morris	2015
Anna Van Lingen*	Food Services Supervisor, LMMHS	1996
Karen Zinchuk	Assistant Principal's Administrative Assistant, LMMHS	2004
Laura Zink*	Non-Instructional Paraprofessional, Morris	1997

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### **CUSTODIAL STAFF**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>YEAR HIRED</b>
Jeffrey Ano	Head Custodian, LMMHS	1987
Dale Armstrong	Custodian, LMMHS	1996
Michael Bohin	Custodian, LMMHS	2006
Dominic Boschetti	Custodian, LMMHS	2017
Larry Decker	Custodian, Morris	2020
Tom Hynes, III	Head Custodian, Morris	2014
Margaret MacDowell	Custodian, Morris	2006
Nicholas Saldarini	Custodian, LMMHS	2012
Liam Toole	Custodian, Morris	2015
Peydon Twing*	Custodian, LMMHS	2013

\* Part-time

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

The following is a summary of the actual appropriation and expenditures for 2019-2020:

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual Expenditures</b>
Program		
Elementary Education	\$ 2,495,868	\$ 2,498,461
Secondary Education	5,510,871	5,308,495
Special Education	1,914,935	1,866,893
Other School Services	311,215	288,272
Administration/Support Services	763,410	747,417
Operations/Maintenance	<u>1,035,330</u>	<u>979,565</u>
	\$12,031,629	\$11,689,103

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

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

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

Beginning Balance July 1, 2019:		\$ 63,406
Receipts:		
Sales	\$ 131,274	
USDA Claims	67,958	
Other (Interest)	<u>1,200</u>	
		\$200,870
Expenditures:		
Food and Other Exp.	\$ 91,033	
Labor	<u>111,486</u>	
		\$202,518
Cash Balance June 30, 2020:		\$ 61,758

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**ATHLETIC REVOLVING ACCOUNT (Revolving Fund)**

Beginning Balance July 1, 2018:	\$73,145
Cash Receipts:	\$36,296
Expenditures:	\$52,435
Ending Cash Balance June 30, 2019:	\$57,006

**SCHOOL REIMBURSEMENTS RECEIVED BY TOWN DURING FISCAL 2020**

Chapter 70 - School Aid	\$1,272,525
Chapter 71 - School Transportation	\$ 0
Chapter 645 – School Construction	\$ 0
Medicaid Reimbursements	\$ 14,876
Charter Tuition Reimbursement	\$ 0

**TUITION RECEIPTS RECEIVED BY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT DURING FY 2020**

School Choice - Tuition Receipts	\$ 1,628,455
Non-Choice Tuition Receipts	69,421
SPED Circuit Breaker	39,573

**FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDS RECEIVED BY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT DURING FISCAL 2020**

Title I	\$161,093
PL 94-142	247,060
Title IIA	24,313
Title III	1,327
Title IV	10,552
Title V	0
ESSER (School Reopening)	94,863
SPED Early Childhood	8,183
BCREB	2,500
Academic Success [MCAS]	0
BCARC [SPED]	0

**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SALARY SCHEDULES FOR 2019-2020**

Unit A Instructional	Minimum	Maximum
BA	\$42,860	\$75,666
BA+30	44,360	78,314
MA	45,913	81,055
MA+15	47,520	83,892
MA+30	49,183	86,829
MA+45	50,904	89,868
MA+60	52,686	93,013

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Unit C Support Staff (rates are per hour)

New Employee Hourly Rates

Instructional	16.17
Instructional with Associates Degree	19.92
Non-Instructional	15.12
Clerical / Administrative Assistant	17.03
Clerical / Administrative Assistant w/ Assoc. Degree	20.78
Food Service Worker	15.12
Food Service Supervisor	19.08
Transportation [Bus Driver]	15.12

Custodial/Maintenance Staff

Minimum

Maximum

Custodian	17.35	24.30
Head Custodian	30.62	30.62

## **TOWN OF LENOX SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

June 11, 2020

At 7:11 p.m. a Special Town Meeting held in the parking lot of Lenox Memorial Middle High School was called to order. Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and to comply with Governor Charlie Baker's orders relating to the pandemic, voters remained in their vehicles, social distancing when possible was enforced and masks were worn by moderator, town manager and selectmen, election workers and voters. A quorum for the meeting was met with over 27 presents at the opening.

Moderator John J. McNinch addressed the voters and asked to recuse himself due to a conflict with the warrant article and appointed Janet H. Pumphrey temporary moderator. It was voted unanimously to waive the reading of the warrant and return of service thereof.

Chair Edward Lane summarized the amendment to the bylaw which was sponsored by the Board of Selectmen at the request of the Town Manager Christopher J. Ketchen to facilitate the ease of permitting outdoor dining in Lenox. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to amend the Town bylaws exactly as they appear in Article 1 of the warrant for this Special Town Meeting.

Janet H. Pumphrey recognized Whitney Asher, 21 Kneeland Ave. who moved to amend the motion as it relates to Chapter XXVI, Section 7, by striking the first reference to \$5,000,000 and replacing it with \$1,000,000 and, further, by striking the second reference to \$5,000,000 and replacing it with \$2,000,000. Amendment was moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

It was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

A true copy.  
Attest: /s/ Kerry L. Sullivan  
Lenox Town Clerk

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

Annual Town Meeting September 26, 2020

At 1:00 PM our Annual Town Meeting held in the JV Field behind the Lenox Memorial Middle High School was called to order. Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and to comply with Governor Charlie Baker's orders relating to the pandemic, voters sat in their own lawn chairs on the field, being mindful of social distancing protocols. A quorum for the meeting was met with over 50 present at the opening. \*(see last page)

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 so. Moderator McNinch asked the voters to keep comments to 2 minutes.

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.

ARTICLE 2. It was moved to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the treasury, money for the operating expenses of the Town for Fiscal Year 2021 as follows, or any other sum; and, further, to provide for said appropriation, transfer the sum of \$406,978 from Free Cash, so called, as Certified on July 1, 2020; or take any other action in relation thereto.

	JULY 1. 2019 - JUNE 30. 2020	JULY 1. 2020 - JUNE 30. 2021
1. Admin. & Finance	247,081	256,071
2. Town Clerk	69,689	70,687
3. Town Treasurer/Collector	129,380	137,026
4. Compensation Reserve	93,000	70,000
5. Operations Support	96,468	98,397
6. Elections & Registration	13,420	24,290
7. Economic Dev/Advertising	90,000	109,400
8. Town Debt & Interest	13,000	13,000
9. Audit, Reserve Account	655,816	761,025
10. Insurance & Bonds, OPEB	1,033,770	491,790
11. Land Use Department	521,480	490,285
12. Town Buildings	117,227	105,703
<b>General Government Subtotal</b>	<b>3,080,331</b>	<b>2,627,674</b>
13. Police Department	1,182,006	1,157,148
14. Fire Department	538,519	613,766
15. Emergency Management	30,958	32,258
16. Ambulance Squad	410,040	438,195
<b>Public Safety Subtotal</b>	<b>2,161,523</b>	<b>2,241,367</b>
17. Lenox Public Schools	13,399,103	13,785,126
18. Vocational Education	108,550	108,550
<b>Education Subtotal</b>	<b>13,507,653</b>	<b>13,893,676</b>
19. Highway Department	613,063	684,248
20. Snow & Ice	257,005	257,005
21. Cemetery	112,708	31,764
<b>Public Works Subtotal</b>	<b>982,776</b>	<b>973,017</b>
22. Board of Health	188,079	198,077

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23. Veterans Services	70,113	70,080
<b>Human Services Subtotal</b>	<b>258,192</b>	<b>268,157</b>
24. Community Center	381,046	397,461
25. Cultural Council Grants	4,500	4,800
26. Academy Building	7,824	7,824
27. Historical Commission	10,950	10,950
28. Celebrations	2,200	2,200
<b>Cultural &amp; Recreation Subtotal</b>	<b>406,520</b>	<b>423,235</b>
29. Lenox Library	415,004	424,524
<b>Lenox Library Subtotal</b>	<b>415,004</b>	<b>424,524</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$20,811,999</b>	<b>\$20,851,650</b>

Approved by the Board of Selectmen  
Approved by Finance Committee  
Approved by School Committee (Line #17)

There was a question by Charles S. Koscher, 15 Chestnut Lane, asking how much Free Cash is used in the budget and Town Manager Ketchen answered zero; Mr. Ketchen explained that they take a conservative approach, Free Cash may have a large balance but it's needed to keep the town running. Richard A. DeFazio, 22 Pine Knoll Rd. questioned Line Item 7, Economic Development. Asking how they come up with the amount of their request, Neal Anthony Maxymillian told Mr. DeFazio there is a report on the formula and he will make it available to him.

Seeing no further questions or requests, the article was moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 3. It was moved seconded and unanimously approved to make the following appropriations, or any other sum, to fund the Fiscal Year 2021 budget for the Water Department;

1. Water Operations	\$652,542
2. Debt Service	\$731,876
3. Capital Expenditures	\$ 78,150
	\$1,462,568

And further, to provide for said appropriations from the following sources of revenue and available funds; or take any other action in relation thereto.

User Charges	\$1,384,418
Retained Earnings	\$78,150
TOTAL	\$1,462,568

ARTICLE 4. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to make the following appropriations, or any other sum, to fund the Fiscal Year 2021 budget for the Sewer Department;

1. Sewer Operations	\$877,852
2. Debt Service	\$756,569
3. Capital Expenditures	\$220,000
	\$1,854,421

And further, to provide for said appropriations from the following sources of revenue and available funds; or take any other action in relation thereto.



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User Charges	\$1,634,421
Retained Earnings	\$ 220,000
TOTAL	\$1,854,421

ARTICLE 5. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved 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; or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 6. 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 project debt service in fiscal year 2021, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Library Debt Service	\$124,000 (General Unreserved)
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ARTICLE 7. 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, community preservation projects and other expenses in fiscal year 2021, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation; or take any other action in relation thereto.

### Appropriations:

FY 2021 estimated revenues for Administrative Expense	\$18,750
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### Reserves:

FY 2021 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve	\$37,500
FY 2021 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve	\$37,500
FY 2021 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve	\$37,500
FY 2021 estimated revenues for General Unreserved	\$262,500
	Total \$375,000
Estimated new surcharge collections for FY 2021	\$300,000
Estimated State Match for FY 2021	\$ 75,000

ARTICLE 8. It was moved 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 2021, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Trinity Church Parish House Restoration	\$113,265
Master Landscape Plan - The Mount	\$125,000
Pickleball Court Construction	\$158,000
Lenox Club Ice House Restoration	\$ 15,000

Richard A. Riedel, 423 New Lenox Rd. questioned if the Lenox Club House will be available for the public and the Chair Anthony Patella answered in the affirmative.

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Kathleen McNulty Vaughan., 10 Post Rd., questioned Chair Anthony P. Patella, 133 Housatonic St. about the dimensions of the Pickleball Court for ice skating and he said they have a few different dimensions but assured the voters they are not infringing upon other offerings at the Lenox Community Center to construct this court and the shell they use for ice skating now the new court will be similar in size or larger.

Seeing no further questions, the article was moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 9. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$50,000 to the Special Education Reserve Fund; or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 10. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to appropriate or otherwise provide, the sum of \$750,000, or any other sum, for capital expenditures in the Department of Public Works; and, further, to provide for said appropriations, to transfer the following sums; or take any other action in relation thereto:

1. \$400,000 from available capital funds in the water enterprise fund.
2. \$350,000 from Retained Earnings in the Water Enterprise Fund as certified on July 1, 2020.

ARTICLE 11. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide, the sum of \$550,000, or any other sum, for capital expenditures in the Department of Public Works; and, further, to provide for said appropriations, to transfer the following sums and, further, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, s.20, the unencumbered balance of \$550,000 for sewer system improvements appropriated and borrowed under Article 16 of the May 5, 2016 Annual Town Meeting warrant, which balance is no longer needed to complete the project for which it was initially borrowed; or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 12. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to endorse the Board of Selectmen to enter into a new Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Lee to share the services of a "Chief Administrative Officer" who will serve as the Town Manager in the Town of Lenox and Town Administrator in the Town of Lee; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 13. Ellen A. Mendel, 36 Brown St., by Citizens Petition moved to advise the Board of Selectmen to rescind their support of the River Settlement agreement and renegotiate terms that shall not include a dump site in the Town of Lenox, MA.

Selectmen Neal Anthony Maxymillan recused himself of voting due to a conflict.

Ellen A. Mendel, 36 Brown St., Sonya Bykofsky, 225 Main St., Debra J. Kelly, 74 West St., Marie T. Field 154 Housatonic St., Richard J. Mendel Sr., 36 Brown St., Christine Mauro, 39 Cliffwood St., Rinaldo DelGallo, 24 Orchard St., Jennifer Crews, 41 Cliffwood St., Richard A. Riedel, 423 New Lenox Rd., Virginia M. Schwerin, 458 Walker St., Francis E. Johnson, 7-8 Rolling Hills, spoke for the petition as written. Most felt their voices weren't heard and negotiations were done behind the scenes. Some spoke of anxiety and fear that goes with having a dump in Lenox Dale and those trucks will be driving through the town spilling PCB's all over the county. Voters wondered what "to advise" means and how can the Town get

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out of this agreement. Many voters think the town can do better and feel PCB's are dangerous, we need to hold the corporate greed of GE accountable.

Edward Lane, 101 Crystal St., Deborah F. Burke, 216 Hubbard St., Channing Gibson, Lenox Rest of River Representative, 141 Cliffwood St. and Joel Bard, Town Counsel spoke to the voters about the other groups behind this agreement, BEAT, Mass Audubon and their trust in Science, Technology and Engineering. Town Counsel Bard told the voters that the contract is already signed and monies have been paid and placed in Escrow so we would be in Breach of Contract if we rescinded and it was noted that we cannot renegotiate. It was also noted that 11 groups have come together to work on a solution and that comes with confidence that this is a good thing.

Richard J. Burke, 216 Hubbard called the question. Electronic Voting utilized, the Moderator told the Voters a Yes Vote move to advise the Selectmen to rescind their support of the River Settlement agreement and a No Vote against the advisement. and Joel Bard, Town Counsel

The article was moved, seconded and defeated by electronic voting:

72 Yes

65 No

ARTICLE 14. Edward Corbett, 32 Old Stockbridge Rd., by Citizens Petition asked the Town Meeting members to vote to enforce against any fire works pysoknecs or explosives of any type, in the wetlands of Lenox, Parsons March, and any other wetlands of Lenox with a 300 foot buffer zone in perpetually. The motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

It was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 PM

A true copy.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Kerry L. Sullivan  
Lenox Town Clerk

