**TOWN CLERK’S REPORT**

**RECORDED MARRIAGES (2) D.O.M.**

Shane Edward Meehan & Colleen Erin Galvin 09/12/2020

Patrick Michael Finamore & Kelly Michelle Baker 10/24/2020

**RECORDED BIRTHS (4)**

**RECORDED DEATHS (7) D.O.D DISPOSITION**

Barbara Louise (Jarvis) Dunleavy 01/15/2020 Cremation

Norma Jane (Blair) Quimby 07/10/2020 Cremation

David Karl White 07/17/2020 Burial Hancock Cemetery

Glenn B Goodrich 08/21/2020 Cremation

Arjun Bala 09/03/2020 Cremation

Anita B Woogen 10/20/2020 Cremation

Edna Mae (Gates) Richardson 12/29/2020 Cremation

**DOG LICENSE FEES # DOGS KENNELS # KENNELS**

Male $10.00 15 4 Dogs or less $20.00 1

Neutered $ 5.00 56 10 Dogs or less $40.00 1

Female $10.00 9 Over 10 Dogs $100.00 0

Spayed $ 5.00 74

**DOG LICENSES ARE DUE BY APRIL 1, 2021**

The By-Law below was passed at the Annual Town Meeting on May 7, 2001 and approved by the Attorney General on August 30, 2001.

C. If the owner/keeper fails to license animals pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 140 and this By-Law, the owner/keeper shall be subject to a fine of **TEN DOLLARD ($10.0**0). If the animal is not licenses within 10 day notification of this violation, owner/keeper shall be subject to a fine of **FIFTY DOLLARS ($50.00)**. **NO EXCEPTIONS**

Town Clerk’s Hours at Town Hall: Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

First Saturday of the month 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. If a holiday falls on a Saturday the clerk’s office will be open on the second Saturday of the month same hours.

**Other Hours By Appointment ONLY** **Website town.hancock.ma.us (for forms)**

Town Clerk/Assessor’s Telephone 413-738-5126 FAX 413-738-5310

Notary Service for Town Residents is no longer available.

Respectfully Submitted: Linda C Burdick, Town Clerk

**BOARD OF HEALTH REPORT**

The Board of Health said good-bye to Matthew Clairmont and thank him for all his help on the Board over the years. We also wish him good luck on his new life in North Carolina. We welcomed Wendy Kipp to the Board for one year**.** Greg Canales, Melanie Jackson and Wendy Kipp will perform all food service and lodging inspections for the Board of Health. Greg Canales will work on the Town’s Emergency Plan as needed. Melissa Leab remains the Board’s RN, dealing with health issues. John Quimby is the Chairman of the Board and deals with the everyday workings of the Board, septic responsibilities, transfer station operations, and is the town’s representative to the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District Board.

Covid-19 has dramatically impacted our lives and livelihood for almost a year but with the vaccination process underway there is optimism of seeing our work, school, and family routines return. As of early February the town has had 18 confirmed cases. The Board of Health has worked alongside the Berkshire Health Alliance team with contact tracing and support. We ask for your continued due diligence and thank the entire community for doing their part.

Landfill operation conditions:

The Town put in a new pad under the compactor and a new retaining wall at the transfer station at a cost of $14,750.00. The Board would like to thank the Selectmen for their help.

**ATTENTION – ATTENTION – ATTENTION**

To enter the landfill, you need a current dump sticker. It must be on your vehicle or on you. If you don’t have a current sticker you will be asked to leave or buy a new one. You also have to sign a form that you will enter the landfill at your own risk (insurance request).

Residents are entering at their own risk.

Residents should not enter the premises until the attendant has deemed it safe and is at the

transfer station itself, not still at the top by the gate.

Residents will take responsibility for their actions on the transfer station property and

understand that all weather conditions cannot be controlled and that they will proceed with

caution.

Scott Krzanik is the Board’s Health Agent.

The Board of Health oversaw the events at Bloom Meadows. We went every Saturday to meet with the caterers, inspect and give them their permits.

There is a clothing and shoe box at the dump. Please put all clothes in there – not in the trash.

There will be a Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, April 24, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Adams DPW Garage on North Summer Street in Adams, MA. You must preregister with the District Office at (413) 743-8208 between April 5 and April 21. More information is available at the Transfer Station.

All restaurant, lodging, pool, and hot tub inspections were completed twice before December 1, 2020, as required.

Routine Board of Health Activities

The Board of Health meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM at Hancock School, but will convene at other times as circumstances require and following appropriate public notice. The primary responsibility of the BOH is disease prevention and control, and community well-being. Duties include: enforcement of State Public Health regulations, development and enforcement of local regulations, reviewing and inspecting proposed developments and projects, public hearings on variances and new regulations, inspecting restaurants, food service facilities, and waste haulers. Other duties include oversight of the State's septic regulations under the Title V program. It oversees and supports the Animal Control Office, Transfer Station Operator, and Certified Sanitarian, Scott Krzanik, who at the BOH’s request, assists with inspections of pools and hot tubs and septic issues.

Inspected Frequency Number of Inspections Done

Food services Twice/year 17

Motels Twice/year 9

Percolation Tests April 1-Nov. 15 As requested

New/repaired Septic Systems As requested 8

(Title V)

Complaint Investigation As necessary 2

Pools Twice/year 9

Hot tubs Twice/year 9

Tobacco Sales Intermittently 0

**REPORT OF THE TRANSFER STATION**

**John Quimby, Operator Telephone 597-9882**

**Hours: Monday-Friday 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Saturdays: 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.**

**Closed Sunday and Holidays**

**Certified Trash Haulers: Casella Waste Systems (trash/wood), TAM (recyclables) and Sayers (metal).**

Transfer Station Services: trash disposal, recycling area, metal and wood disposal, electronics recycling including computers, monitors, keyboards, mice, televisions, telephones, stereos, speakers, printers, VCR's, radios, etc. are collected in the red dumpster.

Tires Recycling Charge (Please pay Mr. Quimby at drop-off)

Automobile $2.00 each

Tractor-trailer (rimless) $7.00 each

**PLEASE NOTE**

1. Off-road vehicle tires are not accepted (4-wheel recreational vehicle tires and tractor tires).
2. Recyclables will not be accepted as general waste. Please put these into their respective containers.
3. Sites and dates for hazardous waste collection will be posted at the Transfer Station. Copies of these waste bans may be obtained from John Quimby.
4. Propane tanks and air-conditioners should not be put in the metal dumpster but must be left on the ground. Used hearing aid batteries may be given to the Transfer Station attendant for disposal.
5. All residents must purchase stickers by July 1, 2021 in order to use the Transfer

Station. The cost is $10.00/year for one vehicle. Homes with more than one vehicle

may purchase stickers for $2.00 for each additional car.

**PLEASE BE ADVISED OF RECYCLING RULES**

**Acceptable Items In Paper Box** **Acceptable Items In Bottle & Can Box**

White Envelopes Plastic Containers (marked with numbers 1-7)

Computer, Fax and Copy Paper Aluminum Cans

Kraft Paper (brown grocery bags) Glass Bottles (green, clear, brown)

Magazines and Catalogs Tin and Bi-Metallic Containers

Chipboard/Box Board and Gift Boxes Aseptic Milk/Juice Cartons

White and Colored Ledger Paper Aluminum Foil (pie plates, eg.)

Newspaper Rigid Plastics with Recycling Symbol

Notebook Paper and Wrapping Paper **Unacceptable Items**

Paper Egg Cartons Styrofoam

Construction Paper Plastic Bags

Telephone and Paperback Books – Covers can be left on Caps or Lids

Junk Mail (including envelopes and coupons) Pizza Boxes

**Report of Municipal Solid Waste Removal:**

Solid Waste Cost/Ton Tons Collected Total Cost to Town

’18 Trash (17 hauls) $ 107.00 199.07 $21,367.90

’19 Trash (16 hauls) $ 110.00 185.10 $20,361.00

’20 Trash (20 hauls) $ 97/ton-365/haul 233.00 $29,901.00

Recyclables Cost per ton/haul Tons Collected Total Cost to Town

’18 Wood (7 hauls) $118.50 31.02 $3,697.20

’19 Wood (7 hauls) $122.00 29.10 $3,550.20

’20 Wood (10 hauls) $97/ton-$365/haul 49.0 $7,403.00

’18 Metal (5 hauls) Receive $55.00 23.81 $ 1,310.10 received

’19Metal (4 hauls)Receive $55.00 25.02 $ 1,376.10 received

’20 Metal (8 hauls) Receive $55.00 31.58 $ 1,736.90 received

’18 Paper (16 hauls) $347.86/haul 28.05 $5,565.76

’19 Paper (17 hauls) $366.00 26.77 $6,222.00

’20 Paper (19 hauls) $365.00 30.00 $6,935.00

Plastic, glass, cans

’18 14 hauls $347.86/haul 16.14 $4,870.04

’19 17 hauls $366.00 17.09 $6,222.00

’20 15 hauls $163/ton-$365/haul 18.00 $8,409.00

’18 Electronics (2 hauls) $1,250.00 5.55 $2,500.00

’19 Electronics (3 hauls) $1,250.00 8.97 $3,825.00

’20 Electronics (3 hauls) $1,250.00 9.01 $3,825.00

**NORTHERN BERKSHIRE SOLID WASTE**

**MANAGEMENT DISTRICT REPORT**

For Calendar Year 2020, District Wide Data 842.97 tons of paper, glass, cans, and plastic were recycled. The Town of Hancock recycled 30.13 tons of paper and 18.26 Co-mingle. District Wide Recycling Services, MSW (Trash) 2,048 tons, Demo / Bulky recycling 649-ton, Scrap Metal Recycling 290 Tons generating revenue back to the Towns

$19,053. Congratulations to all the member Towns residents for increasing your recycling from last calendar year. The Textile Recovery recycling program District wide had an increase as well and collected 79,425pounds of textiles. Thank you for keeping from the waste stream and donating. The town’s Transfer Station again this year rated Excellent in your MassDEP Third Party inspection. Congratulations to Transfer Station Attendants and town officials!

The District contracted with Clean Harbors Environmental for a one-day Hazardous Waste Collection that was held on August 22, 2020, at the Adams DPW Yard. This location is central to the residents of thirteen member towns and we appreciate the Town of Adams for allowing NBSWMD the use of the property for that day. Residents from every member town—155 households and several Town Departments in all—took advantage of the opportunity to dispose of Hazardous Chemicals in a safe way. The cost for this one-day event was $10,150. Next Our HHW collection will be held April 24, 2021, Town of Adams DPW yard. Please view under [www.nbswmd.com](http://www.nbswmd.com), Under Special Collections.

The district April 11, 2020 offered with Pro Shred, paper shredding event; held at the Town Hall in Lanesborough. There was no cost for residents to utilize this collection, we generated 4,8000 PDS of shredded paper. The collection promotes recycling and helps combat identify theft. Many Towns residents had the opportunity to safely shred paper Documents.

Please view our website for events and information/resources on recycling programs.

•Kickoff to Earth Day/Month

• Saturday April 24, 2021 Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Town of Adams DPW yard

•Saturday, May 8, Town of Williamstown Transfer Station Shred Fest Paper. Pro-shred

•The district has been in discussion Williams College Environmental Studies conducted a comprehensive study on a Pilot Project to promote Food Waste reduction. The 2 Models will offer curb side and drop off at the Transfer Station. With possible support from the Cool Committee and Casella Waste systems INC we hope to offer this in the upcoming year. Then introduce to all Member Towns in the District.

* July kicks off Earth Machine (home composting Units) Subsidized food waste diversion program.
* More collections will be offered, [www.nbswmd.com](http://www.nbswmd.com) under special collections.

This year NBSWMD Program Coordinator Linda Cernik filed grant applications and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection awarded “Small Initiative Grants” of $500.00 to 3 towns in the district and $1500.00 to NBSWMD. The Commissioners voted to pool the grants for a shared purchase of 100 (80) Gallon Earth Machines (home composting units), various outreach materials, and to organize special collection events by the community and schools and hold Community Paper Shredding days and HHW collection events. The approved shared purchase will be a benefit to all the member towns and residents. There were ten towns in the district that received Mass DEP Recycling Dividends Program. Each of the member towns contributed $500.00, with NBSWMD contribution of $1500.00 for shared purchase.

The Towns of Adams, Cheshire, Florida, Hancock, Hinsdale, Williamstown, Windsor, and Savoy were again recognized and awarded funds under the Mass. DEP Recycling Dividends Program. The district is proud to announce two newcomers receiving Recycling Dividends Program: towns of Monroe $2,800 and Peru $3,150. This program awards points for achievement. Awards for the district member towns: Adams $5,950, Cheshire $4,550, Florida $3,500, Hancock $3,500, Hinsdale $4,900, Savoy $4,550, Williamstown $4,900, and Windsor $4,550. Towns of Clarksburg, Lanesborough, and New Ashford were awarded Small Scales Awards of $500 and NBSWMD $1,500. Total grants dollars awarded to NBSWMD: $45,350 District wide. This is an increase of 30% from last year’s grant awards. Congratulations, we did it as a team, thank you! The funds are reinvested to promote recycling education, new equipment, or projects. All the towns increased their RDP Grant Awards from last calendar year. My goal is to help all the towns achieve RDP Grant awards. Each year the criteria to achieve the criteria all towns must certify that their school system is contracted with a hauling company and providing recycling. This data was captured in our Solid Waste and recycling surveys submitted January 2021 for all 13 member Towns.

The waste stream continues to evolve, and our programs will continue to evolve as well. Our efforts in the coming year will be aimed at expanding locations for collecting textiles; Compost Distribution Program; Pilot Program with Williams College. Creation of new CHARM Center; Waste reduction; keeping cost down, Kickoff to Earth Day/Month; HHW Collection April 24, 2021; and Community paper Shred Fest scheduled May 8, 2021, expanding our “Green Team” collaboration with our district’s Local Schools, Outreach and Education.

A heartful thank you goes out to Shawn Wright and Amy Broderick and Connor Doherty, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Trial Court, Office of Community Corrections. Over 168 hours of volunteer time were given to the member towns in the district. Your help—with HHW events, packing our Universal Waste Sheds, helping with special events, packing the boxes for pickup, organizing the Town of Hinsdale’s Swap Shop monthly cleaning; and organizing the Town of Williamstown’s Book Shed—is greatly appreciated. There are so many benefits from the sheds at the transfer stations. Many treasures can be found. Thank you all for a great year and partnership. We look forward to working with you in 2021!

To the residents of the member towns: Thank you for your continued support in recycling and waste reduction. Your dedication is what makes the Northern Berkshire community a beautiful place to call home! Stop by your town’s Swap Shop located TS Hinsdale, Savoy and Windsor; there are treasures to be found!

Thank you all for a Great Year with challenging Times we stuck together to make it all possible. The District Thanks all Board of Commissioners, Transfer Station/Recycling Attendants, Contracted Haulers Casella Waste Systems INC, Sayers Scrap Recycling, Bob’s Tires, Next Level Recycling, Clean Harbors Environmental, and our Textile Recycling collections Vendors.

Reuse~ Recycle~ Rethink~ Donate and Recycle whenever Possible.

Linda Cernik, NBSWMD Program Coordinator

John Quimby, Board of Commissioner

**ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER’S REPORT**

We had a number of loose dogs reported this year. Please remember there is a leash law that requires you to have your dogs on a restraint of some kind or kept in a fenced-in area so that they don't wander out of your yard. It isn't fair to those that keep their dogs under control when they are out walking or in their own yards.

Just a reminder to have your cats and dogs spayed or neutered.  Don't forget to get your dog(s) vaccinated and bring your proof of vaccination with you to the Town Clerk's office when you go in to get your dog(s) license(s) that are due by April 1st of each year.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Animal Control Officer/Inspector, Donald L. Cassavaugh

**The Board of Health would like to thank John Quimby for keeping the Transfer Station working so smoothly, Shawn Derby, Sr. for packing our wood and metal dumpsters, Melanie Jackson for all her help at the Transfer Station, all Boards, Committees, Departments, and Town Secretary, Lydia Cassavaugh, for their help throughout the year. We also want to thank Jeff for helping unload vehicles at the transfer station.**

**Respectfully submitted:** BOARD OF HEALTH

John Quimby, Chair; Melanie Jackson, Melissa Leab,

Greg Canales and Wendy Kipp

**CEMETERY COMMISSION REPORT**

The lawns in the main cemetery and the secondary cemeteries have been mowed and trimmed regularly.

Once again we would like to thank Hiram and Hunter Greene for the work that they have done behind the scenes.

Please remove the gravestone decorations at the end of each season. Thank you.  Please contact the Cemetery Commission before having any monuments and/or corner stones installed.

The Cemetery is closed from November 15th thru April 1st.  If the chains are up do not unhook them and drive into the Cemetery.  Feel free to park in the Town Hall parking lot or on the side of Route 43 and walk in when the cemetery is closed.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Cemetery Commission

Donald Cassavaugh, Chair, Lydia Cassavaugh and Tanya Rathbun

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT**

The Conservation Commission continues its state-mandated review of projects affecting the wetland areas protected by the Wetlands Protection Act, Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 40.  The act prohibits any filling, excavation, or other alteration of land surface, water levels or vegetation in wetlands regardless of ownership without permit from the local Conservation Commission.  All projects within 200’ of a river or stream or within 100’ of a wetlands area must be brought before the Commission.

Our mission is to protect our natural resources while considering the rights of residents to legally use their land as they see fit.

During the 2020 calendar year the Commission reviewed applications and held hearings on activities including work off Potter Mountain Road to access and replace transmission line poles, new septic system on Whitman Road, new construction on Brodie Mountain Road.

Due to Covid virus restrictions meetings during the year were conducted by Skype or Zoom meetings. Conservation Commission meetings are held monthly, on the 3rd non-holiday Monday of the month at 7:30 PM and are open the public.  Public Hearings are held to review projects filed with the Commission, as the need arises.  All such Hearings are posted as required by Massachusetts General Law, the Department of Environmental Protection, and Town of Hancock bylaws.  We welcome all inquiries and participation by any and all town residents.

We are seeking one or more individuals who have the time to commit to this important mission and are interested in the nature of the work engaged in by the Commission. Volunteers should contact the Town Selectmen.

**Respectfully submitted**:  Conservation Commission

Kevin Nichols, Rob Leab, Pete Morin, Robin Keeney, Rick Ehle and Paul Hyde

**HANCOCK FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

The Hancock Fire Department made the following responses during 2019:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **INCIDENT TYPE** | **# INCIDENTS** |
| 111 - Building fire | 3 |
| 113 - Cooking fire, confined to container | 1 |
| 138 - Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire | 1 |
| 142 - Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire | 2 |
| 300 - Rescue, EMS incident, other | 1 |
| 321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | 46 |
| 322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries | 6 |
| 324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries. | 3 |
| 341 - Search for person on land | 2 |
| 353 - Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator | 1 |
| 424 - Carbon monoxide incident | 2 |
| 444 - Power line down | 2 |
| 460 - Accident, potential accident, other | 1 |
| 500 - Service Call, other | 1 |
| 520 - Water problem, other | 1 |
| 611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route | 1 |
| 622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address | 1 |
| 700 - False alarm or false call, other | 1 |
| 731 - Sprinkler activation due to malfunction | 1 |
| 733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction | 3 |
| 735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction | 6 |
| 736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction | 2 |
| 743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional | 18 |
| 744 - Detector activation, no fire - unintentional | 1 |
| 745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional | 8 |
| 746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO | 1 |
| 800 - Severe weather or natural disaster, other | 2 |

**Total Incidents 118**

The following permits were issued:

Fire Works 0

Oil Burner Installation 2

Propane Tank Installation 12

This year has been like no other. Covid-19 has had a drastic impact on the Fire Department’s Day to Day Operations. The dedication and support of the Department Members and their families cannot be overstated.

All fire department permits (excluding open burning permits) are $20.00. This includes Oil Burner inspections, Oil tank installations, Oil tank removals, LP Tank installations, Fire Works Permits, and Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Detector Inspections.

Burning permits for burning brush are available online at bcburnpermits.com, or on the town website *town.hancock.ma.us* in ‘Departments’ & ‘Fire Department’, daily January 15 thru

May 1 from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM. To see if permits are available for that day, click on ‘click here’. If you would like get a burning permit, click on ‘Hancock’ from the list of towns issuing permits that day, fill in the blanks, click on ‘Apply’ and then print your permit. Or paper permits can also be obtained from Bob’s Camper and RV’s from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM Monday thru Saturday or by contacting the Chief.

The Hancock Fire Department continues to sponsor the Memorial Day Parade and ceremony. Please join us in remembering and honoring our past and present veterans.

**SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES.**

**Don’t forget to change the batteries in your detectors at least once a year and to test them regularly.**

**DIAL 911 FOR ALL EMERGENCIES.**

**Respectfully submitted: Fire Chief**

**Michael Williams**

**BUILDING INSPECTOR’S REPORT**

The Building Department has no fixed hours. Appointments may be made by calling Rob Rosier at (518) 653-4565 or email at Hancockbuildinginspector@gmail.com. Permit applications may be obtained at the Town Hall during regular hours, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon or on the town website *town.hancock.ma.us* under ‘Forms’.

During the period from July 1, 2019 until June 30, 2020, the Building Commissioner issued 43 permits. These consisted of 2 new homes, 6 accessory structures, 1 renewable energy, 4 roof replacements, 2 tents, 7 wood/pellet stoves, and 21 renovations.

22 annual inspections were performed on commercial structures to ensure continuing compliance with life safety requirements. State Building Code requires such annual inspections on all restaurants, places of assembly, and transient lodging facilities.

**Respectfully submitted**: Building Commissioner

Rob Rosier

**GAS PIPE INSPECTOR & PLUMBING INSPECTOR REPORT**

The Gas Pipe / Plumbing Inspector has no fixed hours. Appointments may be made by calling Thomas DiCicco at 413-738-5750. Permit applications may be obtained at the Town Hall during regular hours Monday through Friday, 9:00am to noon or on the town website *town.hancock.ma.us* under ‘Forms’.

The Gas Pipe / Plumbing Inspector issued 35 permits consisting of 16 plumbing permits and 19 gas permits.

**Respectfully submitted:** GAS PIPE & PLUMBING INSPECTOR

Thomas DiCicco

**WIRING INSPECTOR’S REPORT**

The Wiring Inspector has no fixed hours. Appointments may be made by calling Shawn L. Derby, Jr. at 413-738-5410 or 413-884-3535. Permit applications may be obtained at the Town Hall during regular hours, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon or on the town website *town.hancock.ma.us* under ‘Forms’.

The wiring inspector issued (18) permits consisting of: (2) HVAC systems, (2) Service upgrades, (2) Solar systems, (1) Addition, (4) Remodels, (1) New pool, (3) Communication distribution, (1) New Service, (1) Garage and (1) Agricultural improvement.

**Respectfully submitted:** Wiring Inspector

Shawn L. Derby, Jr.

**COUNCIL ON AGING**

As with all other organizations during this past year of the COVID pandemic, Council on Aging was mostly unable to play its regular part in keeping the town’s elderly active and socially engaged after our March 9 meeting. At that meeting, local attorney Barbara Markessinis spoke on the topic of Elder Law and Estate Planning, giving us fairly in-depth information about wills, probate, trusts, and more.

With Town Hall closed to the public for health safety reasons, the Balance class was able to make an adjustment and meet in the fresh air at the pavilion for the summer, distanced and masked, as has become the norm for any gatherings and outings this past year. Weekly yoga class and coffee hour meetings were cancelled after the beginning of March, as we mostly hunkered down on our own properties to avoid infection and possible death from this scary new virus, probably all thankful that we have plenty of open land in Hancock on which to breathe safe, uninfected air.

In December, we were able to put a different spin on our traditionally highly-attended catered Christmas dinner by offering the meal as take-out. Not the same as visiting with friends and neighbors, but at least a bit of a treat.

**Respectfully submitted: Council on Aging**

**Margaret Fenander, Director Kathy Gideon, Chairman**

**Marjorie Feathers, Publisher of** *The Silver Source*

**Joan Burdick Lydia Cassavaugh**

**HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

With COVID 19 restrictions in place from March on throughout the town and state, the Historical Commission was almost completely inactive for the year. Our one and only meeting was in February. In June, we did hire Derrick Taylor of Taylor and Son from Pownal to grind the huge tree stump at the entrance to the Ely Cemetery, since the broken gate would at that time allow his machine the room to work there. We ended up getting a fantastic deal from Derrick, as he also ground several of the other stumps near the front of the cemetery without even charging for some of them.

**Respectfully submitted:** Chairman Marjorie Feathers, Elna Rodda, Jennifer Fenander,

Hiram Greene, Kathy Gideon, Cynthia Grauman, Nancy Derby

**ASSESSORS REPORT**

The Interim adjustments for tax year 2021 were completed with the first half tax bills going out November 21 with a tax rate of $2.98 up $.20 cents from FY 2020. The second half semi-annual billing will be mailed April 1, 2021 with a May 1, 2021 due date. The contract with Patriot Properties, Inc., for all Interim Year and Recertification Year Valuation Adjustments and Certification with the State, will continue through Interim Year 2022. The Board of Assessors continues to work on updating and maintaining the data base to insure that all residents are assessed at fair market value. The Assessors would also like to inform town residents that we will be taking photographs of your residence and updating Property Record Cards during the warmer months. Linda Burdick who has been working in the Assessor’s Office since 2007, has tendered her resignation to become effective with the May 2021 election.

Informational brochures and forms are located outside of the Assessors’ office and are available Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to noon or can be found on the Town website at town.hancock.ma.us under the Assessor tab.

If you are filing for an abatement on your motor vehicle excise tax bill and you transferred your plates to a new vehicle or returned your plate to RMV, please provide the Assessors with a copy of your new registration, bill of sale, or disposition of vehicle and plate return receipt so that we can grant your abatement in a timely manner. You may leave the information in our mailbox at Town Hall or mail to P.O. Box 1097, Hancock MA 01237.

The Assessors hours are Tuesday from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. or by appointment. Our phone number is 413-738-5126 and the fax number is 413-738-5310. You may also e-mail [BOATOWNOFHANCOCK@aol.com](mailto:BOATOWNOFHANCOCK@aol.com).

**Respectfully submitted:** Board of Assessors

Linda Burdick, Chairman, Renee Hanson, Christie Moran

**PLANNING BOARD REPORT**

The Planning Board meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 5pm, excluding July and August. Anyone requesting to be on the Agenda must do so 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

While it has been an unprecedented year, the Board did review several Form A Applications. An increase to the minimum frontage requirement to be proposed at Town Meeting was discussed but was not pursued do the COVID-19 restrictions mandated by the governor. We will continue to pursue this at a later date in an effort to keep our Town from being over developed with an increase in the number of people moving to the Berkshires to get away from the cities.

We thank you for trusting us to look out for your best interest concerning this beautiful Town we are thankful to call Home.

**Respectively Submitted** - Christie Moran - Chair, Sherman Derby, Sr., Barbara Markessinis, Zach Hanson and Leo Laviolette

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

The Emergency Management Director continues to ensure the town is 100% NIMS compliant.

There were no Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) mobilization incidents in the town this year.

The Emergency Management Department did receive a $2,500.00 grant from MEMA and was used to purchase a new AED (Automatic External Defibulator) for the Emergency Operation Center.

We currently are members in The Central Berkshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee that meets every month. I will continue to attend these meetings as well as the quarterly MEMA meetings virtually.

Continuing to review the Emergency Sheltering Plans and the Emergence Dispensing Sites (EDS) with the Board of Health and the Selectmen.

Continuing to update the Towns Resource Manual and our Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and converting them to the Electronic version (ECEMP).

We received PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) from MEMA and Federal agencies for the COVID 19 pandemic.

In the coming year we plan to update COOP (Continuity Of Operation Plan) with Town leaders.

We upgraded the emergency generator at the Emergency Operation Center from a 15KW generator to a 30KW generator.

**Respectfully submitted:** EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

David Rash

**Taylor Memorial Library 2020 Annual Report**

The library continues to offer new titles and is taking requests for new items to add to our collection. Despite being closed/limited hours in the spring we had a total of 525 patrons. Some of the events we hosted were the end of the Summer Reading program Ice Cream Social supported by our Friends of TML group with 31 participants and Halloween with 43 participants. The Seed Exchange was used and appreciated by many. We also held virtual Craft Nights, during those 3 months we had 59 participants. A total of 622 items were checked out of the library.

Our hours continue to be

Monday 2pm-6pm and 6:30pm to 8pm (Craft Night)

Thursday 9:30am to 11:30am and 2pm-6pm

Saturday from 10am to noon

There were several activities at the Library including Craft Nights on Monday, Movie Night on the third Friday of the month. With due caution we closed the library during the COVID outbreak. During later spring into summer, we did provide curbside service and virtual Craft nights.

White Wolf Septic continues to provide an ADA compliant portable restroom and seasonal handwashing station at no cost. A well was drilled to further the project on having indoor facilities.

We thank the town and community for their continuing support.

**The Trustees of Taylor Memorial Library**

**Town of Hancock**

**Report of the Superintendent**

As the new Superintendent of the Hancock and New Ashford School Districts, I have had the privilege of working with students, families, faculty, and community members to ensure that students are provided a robust and rich academic experience within the Hancock Elementary School. As a nation, we have faced unprecedented challenges over the past year which have impacted all aspects of our lives, including the manner in which we educate our children. It is clear from the dedication and commitment of all stakeholders that providing in person education to students was, and continues to be, a priority. We are fortunate to have our doors open and children in the classroom which has allowed us to maximize learning and provide a comprehensive support system for our students.

Despite the challenges the pandemic has presented, the school continues to provide a host of opportunities for students. Academic instruction has shifted to address social distancing requirements; however, a multitude of creative and innovative ideas has helped to keep the focus on teaching and learning. Although we were unable to enjoy many of the wonderful community building activities that have been a staple of the school culture, everyone has worked hard to ensure that students and staff are provided a balanced educational experience.

Faculty have participated in several trainings and professional development opportunities. The focus of these activities has been on remote learning, differentiated instruction, tiered systems of support, and curriculum. Looking forward, the curriculum committee will develop a long-range curriculum review and implementation plan, teachers will continue to develop a data collection, review, and tracking process, and afterschool and summer programming will be implemented to address identified learning gaps.

I am continually impressed with staff members' ability to skillfully balance multi-grade classrooms while actively embracing the belief that students thrive in a positive, safe, and rigorous educational setting. This only happens when students are the center of all discussions and decisions. It has been a pleasure to be part of the Hancock community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Rebecca R. Phillips

Superintendent of Schools

**Hancock School Committee**

Town Report 2020

**Community**

As part of School Union #70, Shaker Mountain School District we continue to be connected to the New Ashford and Richmond School Committees. We continue our collaboration with Lanesborough Elementary in terms of curriculum coordination and sharing activities (i.e. the Cape Cod field trip).

We continue to strive to strengthen the lines of communication at both Mount Greylock and New Lebanon. Sixth graders are given an opportunity to visit both schools. We invite representatives from both schools to meet with parents to discuss curriculum, sports and musical opportunities.

**Staff**

We thank Jenevra Strock for her many years of dedicated service and wish her well in Retirement.

We thank the Berkshire Hills Regional School District (BHRSD) and Superintendent Peter Dillion for the years of shared services with the Shaker Mountain School Union. Due to a greater need of Superintendent Peter Dillon’s time at Berkshire Hills, the SMSU and the BHRSD choose not to continue the shared services after the 2020 school year.

We welcome Rebecca Phillips, ED. D. as the Superintendent and Special Education Director of the Shaker Mountain School Union. Rebecca has worked in the field of education for the past 30 years

serving as a Special Education Teacher, Education Director, Elementary School Principal, and most recently as the Director of Special Services. Rebecca has a long history of working in rural

communities supporting the needs of students, staff, and families.

**Committee changes**

Melissa Turner was re-elected for a 3-year term.

**Programs**

We maintained our unofficial Level 1 standing on the MCAS testing done last spring, which is a great reflection on the combined strengths of the leadership, faculty and staff, and families all working towards the mission statement of Hancock School (To create a positive, safe and rigorous educational setting that fosters a student-centered learning environment based on mutual respect). To prepare our students for an ever-changing world, we believe education is the shared responsibility of the student, home, school, and community.

The public is invited to attend School Committee Meetings. We meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month (except for July) at 6:00 P.M. at the school. Please visit our website: www.hancockschool.org for information about our school, teachers, specialists, school calendar and more.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Alex Kastrinakis, Chair

Patricia Bishop, Mark Gaskill, Melissa Turner and Bruce Weiner

**Hancock Elementary School Principal’s Report**

On March 13, 2020 the school community learned we would be closed for two weeks dues to the pandemic. Two weeks quickly became three, then six, and finally we learned we would not be returning. From the moment we learned school was closing, our teachers and staff adapted and worked hard to meet the needs of the students. Packets and computers were sent home, teachers learned how to set up and run a class on Zoom, and all worked to accommodate the needs of students and their families. The teachers did an amazing job, didn’t complain, and ended the year looking forward to a return to in person learning.

July saw us welcoming a new Superintendent/Director of Special Education, Dr. Rebecca Phillips. Dr. Phillips immediately made her presence known as she integrated herself into the school and district community. As the summer rolled on she and I, along with help, support, and insight from the staff, focused on putting procedures in place for in person learning. The staff spent two weeks before welcoming students reorganizing rooms, hallways, recess locations, lunch procedures, and planning for remote learning should the need arise. We fully opened on September 9 and have continued to be one of the few schools across the state that has offered full time, in person learning for all students. Great job staff, students, families, and the larger Hancock community! Without everyone working together, we would not be fully open.

Both in person and on the remote days we have had, teachers continue to incorporate mindfulness, creativity, social-emotional learning, cooperation, perseverance, and movement into the day, while not forgetting the importance of core subjects and foundational skills with which students will build upon throughout their lives. Covid has made some things more challenging, but through ingenuity we are always adapting.

This year we saw another influx of Hancock residents in our upper grades and stability among our returning students which led our student population to grow to over 50 students. For the first time since I have been here, we had to turn away school choice applicants, much to the disappointment of those families. With a graduating class of nine, we are expecting enrollment to be stable in the upcoming school year. This stability is a testament to our outstanding staff as well as the support the town provides to the Hancock School.

We were sad that so much of the community involvement we look forward to had to be put on hold this year. While we were unable to host the annual Community Thanksgiving celebration for seniors from the town, students sent cards letting everyone know we miss them - and look forward to the tradition returning in 2021! Drumming, led by Marge and Mel Feathers, was held outside through the fall; we are looking forward to it returning with warmer weather in the spring.

John Quimby continues to quietly and consistently step in and do all the little (and big!) tasks that keep our school running smoothly, arriving well before the faculty in the morning and returning late in the evening. His help has been especially important this year with all the moving and cleaning.

Hancock School is a unique, very special school. In addition to a strong academic program, students learn what it means to be part of a community. Our mission ends with the sentence “To prepare our students for an ever-changing world, we believe education is the shared responsibility of the student, home, school, and community.” This has been especially true this past year when school closed last spring and then reopened in the fall with many new procedures in place. Our students are blessed to have such a wonderful school and the support of the Hancock community. On behalf of the Hancock School, thank you for your support!

Respectfully submitted,

John G. Merselis III (Jay), Principal

413-738-5676

jmerselis@hancockschool.org

**School Committee**

Alex Kastrinakis, Chair 464-1700

Patricia Bishop 204-7355

Mark Gaskill 458-5575

Melisa Turner 738-5099

Bruce Weiner 738-5488

**Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Rebecca Phillips 738-5676

**Special Education Director**

Dr. Rebecca Phillips 738-5676

**Administrative Assistant to Superintendent and Special Education Director**

Amy Scott 698-4001

**Principal**

John G. Merselis III 738-5676

**Hancock Central School Staff and Specialists**

Secretary Mary Talbot

Art Teacher Lori Signer

Custodian John Quimby

Music Teacher Mary Talbot

Occupational Therapist Rachel Mendelowitz

Phys. Ed, Technology, Science Brian Keller

School Nurse Erin Tullock, RN

School Adjustment Counselor Jane Shiyah

Speech, Language Pathologist Phoebe Chestna

Special Ed Teacher Donna Beguin

Teacher Paraprofessionals Janice Derby

Lisa Buell

Lori Signer

**School Entrance Regulations**

A child should have reached the age of five on or before September 1 in order to be eligible to enter the Kindergarten class in September. To enrol in Cricket Cove a child must be three years old on or before September 1. Hancock residents on a qualified Individual Education Plan may enrol at 2 years nine months. Any and all Hancock residents who meet the age requirements are welcome at the Hancock School. No child may begin school until she/he presents a birth certificate.

**Total Number of Students as of January 1, 2021 (55)**

**Miss Cummings, Cricket Cove (8)** -3 residents

5 nonresidents (Lanesborough (2), Williamstown (2), Stephentown)

**Mrs. Dowling, Mrs. Buell, Sapphire Room (14) -** 11 residents

3 school choice (Lanesborough (2), North Adams)

**Mrs. Dix, Mrs. Derby, Ruby Room (10) -** 3 residents

7 school choice (Lanesborough (3), Adams (3), Williamstown)

**Mrs. Tremblay, Mrs. Derby, Diamond Room (14) -** 10 residents

4 school choice (Adams (2), Lanesborough, Williamstown)

**Mrs. Mills, Ms. Singher, Emerald Room (9)** - 8 residents

1 school choice (Adams)

**HANCOCK TUITION/CHOICE STUDENTS**

2019-2020 as of 12/28/20

**\*RICHMOND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL**

Grade K: 2 (t)

Grade 3: 1 (t)

Grade 5: 1 (t)

Grade 7: 1 (sc)

**\*MT GREYLOCK REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

Grade 7: 3 (t)

Grade 8: 4 (t)

Grade 9: 5 (t)

Grade 10: 7 (t)

Grade 11: 4 (t)

Grade 12: 3 (t)

**\*C.H. McCANN TECHNICAL SCHOOL**

Grade 9: 2 (t)

Grade 10: 2 (t)

Grade 11: 1 (t)

Grade 12: 3 (t)

**\*TACONIC HIGH SCHOOL**

Grade 9: 1 (t)

**\*NEW LEBANON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL**

Grade 10: 1 (t)

Grade 12: 1 (t)

**Hancock Community Christmas Committee Report 2020**

The Hancock Community Christmas Committee coordinated with the Hancock School to provide a holiday program for the community. One hundred and thirty-three (133) Gifts bags were prepared for the children and were filled with an age-appropriate gift, age-appropriate book, a variety of fresh fruits and candy.

We sent postcards to all residents of Hancock and posted posters, letting all know about the Community Christmas event. Our program depends on donations and even in tough economic times, the Hancock community came through for our children. We appreciate and thank the folks who were able to deliver bags to children that could not make the event.

This year’s committee included Carrie Pause, Tanya Derby, Amanda Lahey, Lynsey Kastrinakis, Katie Wetherell, Ana Bradbury, and Cahill Lebarron. We thank all those who donated time and/or money to make this year’s event successful.

Treasurer’s Report

Hancock Community Christmas

2020



Respectfully submitted by Carrie Pause, Chair

2020 Community Christmas Committee

**TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT**

**FISCAL 2020**

Real Estate Personal Property Motor Vehicle

Committed $851,628.10 $29,256.89 $87,635.63

Collected $840,160.42 $28,373.79 $61,226.55

Abated $3,050.00 $338.20 $631.53

Refunded $5,246.94 $28.07 $6.32

Outstanding $13,664.62 $572.97 $25,783.87

Pilot Payments:

$150,000.00 Wind Turbines First Phase

$50,000.00 Wind Turbines Second Phase

Report Submitted by Julie Williams, Tax Collector

Telephone 413-738-5129 Fax 413-738-5310

Tax Collector’s Office Hours:

Tuesday Mornings: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday Afternoons: 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**INFORMATION REGARDING MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE**

When registering or re-registering a motor vehicle please make sure that **HANCOCK** is listed as your place of residence at both the Registry of Motor Vehicles and your insurance company. There is a line designated for those of us who have a different mailing address from our residential address.