

Town of Williamsburg Spring 2018

A periodic newsletter of the Town of Williamsburg



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Annual Town Meeting, Monday, June 4th, 7:00 pm Anne T. Dunphy School, 1 Petticoat Hill Rd, Williamsburg

At the Annual Town Meeting, voters will be asked to consider 41 articles: to allow two firefighters to continue beyond the age of 65, to pay prior fiscal year bills, Fiscal Year 2019 budget articles to support government operations, to support the water and sewer operations and complete sewer work, to upgrade a new server at the police department, to provide initial funding for the town's 250th anniversary celebration, to provide funding to produce the Town Flag, to establish a local meals excise, to purchase a new voting machine for elections for the Town Clerk, to authorize the purchase of four acres of land for a park as part of the Mill River Greenway, to purchase flashing beacon pedestrian lights for the center of Williamsburg, to purchase a rubber-tire excavator for the highway department, to replace the school tractor, to fund carpentry work and painting of the old Town Hall, to authorize the assessors to cease assessing excise for farm animals, machin-



ery and equipment, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a tax agreement for a solar facility, to authorize the lease of town-owned lands and enter into tax agreements for potential solar facilities, seven zoning bylaw articles, which pertain to lot frontage, the expiration of special permits, multi-family dwellings, home occupations, accessory apartments, and distribution of non-medical marijuana and the sales tax, and two articles placed on the warrant by separate petitions to purchase an automated vote tabulation system and a resolution to prevent nuclear war.

A complete copy of the Town Meeting warrant articles including the proposed budget and Capital Plan for FY19 can be viewed at the Town's website, www.burgy.org.

Participate in your town government: Attend Town Meeting at the Anne T. Dunphy School, Monday, June 4th, beginning at 7:00 pm.



Town Flag

If you would like to purchase a 2'x3' double sided flag for your home, please send a \$35 check made payable to the Town of Williamsburg to Town Flags, Board of Selectmen, PO Box 447, Haydenville, MA 01039. Orders for home flags will be taken at the Annual Town Meeting. The official flag, to be hung in the Hall of Flags in Boston, will be hand sewn and should be complete by midsummer. The formal unveiling ceremony to be announced.

Memorial Day

Monday, May 18, 2018 - Memorial Day celebration will be at 11:00 am at the Veterans' Memorial. There will not be a parade this year in order to support Florence's big celebration later in the afternoon.



2017 Annual Town Report Dedication

The Williamsburg Board of Selectmen dedicates the 2017 Annual Report in memory of James W. Locke in recognition of his many contributions to the town and community of Williamsburg. *Photo credit: Gabriel Cooney*



Playground at Helen E. James

The splintered and hazardous wooden structures, wooden curbing, sandbox and garden structures will be removed from the Helen E. James site for safety and insurance reasons. We encourage all residents to utilize the Anne T. Dunphy School playground equipment.

Visit www.burgy.org for more information about:
**Town Committees,
Boards, Departments,
Events,
and much more!**

Water and Sewer Commission

On April 24, 2018, the Water and Sewer Commission approved a sewer rate increase of \$0.50 per 100 cubic feet of water to be used to meet expected budget needs next fiscal year. The new rate will be \$4.00 per 100 cubic feet versus the current rate of \$3.50 per 100 cubic feet. This is the first sewer rate increase in over eight years. The new rate will take effect with the Fall 2018 billing.

For most customers, this will result in a modest increase reflected in the billing done every six months. For example, an actual family-of-three customer who uses an average of 3,300 cubic feet of water every six months currently pays \$115.50 (3,300 ÷ 100 cubic feet x \$3.50 = \$115.50). Under the new rate, this customer will pay \$132 every six months or an increase of \$16.50 over 6 months or \$2.75 per month.

Why the increase? Normal inflation for system maintenance, equipment, supplies, testing, and labor is one reason for the increase. A new method for charging sewer

-only customers is another. Beginning in 2014, the Commission began the changeover to radio or remote read meters for all water and sewer customers. At the same time, residents who were sewer-only customers were paying a flat rate. For most sewer flat rate customers, the charge was \$239 every 6 months.

Like existing water and sewer customers, flat rate users were required to install the new meters and began being charged based on actual water usage like everyone else. For nearly all of the 80+ former flat rate customers, the amount paid for sewer service went down by up to 50 percent. Thus, this decrease in revenue from the change from a flat rate system to a fairer "pay for what you use" system is a major reason for the anticipated budget need for next year.

If you have any questions about this change, please contact the Water and Sewer Commission at 268-8430.

Solarize Hot Water Campaign

Williamsburg, Amherst and Pelham along with the Hampshire Council of Governments (HCG) are excited to introduce Solarize Hot Water Western Massachusetts, a program designed to increase the adoption of solar hot water systems in the Pioneer Valley. Led by a grassroots community effort and supported by a grant from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC), this will amplify the commitment to local, renewable energy through solar hot water installations across Western Massachusetts. Spartan Solar of Greenfield is the official installer for the program.

Incentives to reduce solar hot water installation costs

include: rebates, tax credits, and the new Massachusetts Alternative Energy Certificate (AEC) program. With these incentives, the price of a system could drop over 90 percent. After incentives, installation costs are between \$1000-\$2000. When homeowners are spending \$500 to \$1000 a year heating water, the investment is a huge win for the resident and the planet.

Residents of Williamsburg interested in learning more about how solar hot water works, or in receiving a free home estimate from Spartan Solar, are encouraged to visit hcgma.org/solar-hot-water.

META Grant for Community Solar Projects on Town-owned Land

The Energy Committee has developed a Request for Proposal (RFP) for solar project development at the wood waste site at the Transfer Station and for land off Roger Bisbee Way. The RFP will seek project proposals from interested developers that focus on providing the benefits of solar electricity, through virtual net-metering credits, for the residents and businesses of Williamsburg who can't install solar panels on the property due to shading, orientation and other constraints.

The RFP process is expected to conclude in late June. A review process, involving the Energy committee, Water/Sewer and the Board of Health will evaluate the proposals in conjunction with our consultant Beacon Integrated Solutions. This process will include public review and input in its decision to move forward with a project on either site. The date and time for a public meeting is not presently known but will likely be in early to mid-July.

2019 Transfer Station Stickers

Stickers for 2019 are available at the Transfer Station on Wednesday or Saturday 9 to 4 or at the Town Clerk's office hours on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday. **Proof of residency must be shown to purchase a sticker!**

Sticker Costs:

- \$75 per household, \$10 for second sticker for vehicle of same household
- \$50 for household with resident 70 years. or older, \$10 for second sticker of same household

All stickers must be purchased by July 1, 2018 and attached to the rearview mirror. Attendants will be checking cars for compliance on a random basis starting on July 1, 2018. Folks without a sticker will not be allowed into the Transfer Station.

Planning Board

PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF NEW BYLAWS AND BYLAW CHANGES FOR VOTE AT THE REGULAR 2018 TOWN MEETING

1: Summary of changes to frontage:

Williamsburg Zoning Bylaw, Section 9.0 — Add language to require lot width to be maintained at no less than 200 feet for 50 feet back from the frontage. This language is added to clarify the meaning and intent of the bylaw.

2: Summary of changes to Special Permit:

Williamsburg Zoning Bylaw, Section 5.10 — Add language that a Special Permit expires if the business it permits is inactive or ceases for 24 consecutive months, or if it is replaced by a new permit. This language is added to clarify that when a business activity is abandoned for at least 24 months, the Special Permit which covers that activity will expire. Renewal of that activity will require a new Special Permit. Likewise, if a new business activity is permitted with a Special Permit, the Special Permit for the previous activity will expire. To continue the old activity will require that it be included in the new Special Permit.

3: Summary of new bylaw covering marijuana for non-medical, adult use:

Proposed new bylaw for Williamsburg — Regulate and allow marijuana businesses in the Town of Williamsburg, including cultivation, testing laboratories, manufacture, transportation, and retail sales. Allow up to two Marijuana Retailers in the Town of Williamsburg. The Town of Williamsburg voted approximately 64% in favor of legalizing adult use of non-medical marijuana. This bylaw is designed to properly regulate marijuana businesses within the Town of Williamsburg. It specifically regulates the number of Marijuana Retailers in the town. The retailers must be at least 500 feet from any school, grades kindergarten through 12.

4: Summary of changes to Accessory Apartments:

Williamsburg Zoning Bylaw, Section 9.1 — Expand the allowable floor space in an accessory apartment from 750 to 1,000 square feet. Limit the number of bedrooms to two. Expand the allowable number of people living in the apartment from three to five. Require that the owner must occupy either the primary dwelling or the apartment. Prohibit any new curb cut or driveway for the apartment. This bylaw change is designed to encourage the development of new alternatives for lower cost housing within the Town of Williamsburg while maintaining the existing character of the town. It also permits more flexibility for older homeowners with fixed incomes and larger homes to have the financial ability to continue living in their homes.

5: Summary of changes to Home Occupation:

Williamsburg Zoning Bylaw, Section 9.11 — Allow by Special Permit a new use, Major Home Occupation, with up to two employees, which can also exist in a detached structure.

This change in the bylaw is designed to address the changing landscape of small businesses, and to encourage more small businesses to be developed and flourish within the Town of Williamsburg.

6: Summary of changes to dwelling units permitted in a multi-family dwelling:

Williamsburg Zoning Bylaw, Section 9.21 — Allow more than four dwelling units in a multi-family dwelling, if the structure is equal to or larger than 3,500 square feet, and if the structure was constructed prior to 1925, or is listed on a Town, State, or Federal historic register. This change is designed to allow more flexibility in the development of economically viable housing units in some of the larger structures within the Town of Williamsburg. It is also designed to encourage the development of lower cost housing within the town. This option is restricted to existing, older and/or historic buildings.

7: Deletion of the moratorium on marijuana for non-medical, adult use:

This is a housekeeping exercise, assuming the new marijuana bylaw is approved. In any case, this moratorium will expire in September. It is likely that the State will not permit an extension.

To Review Proposed Bylaws and Changes to Bylaws:

Complete copies of all the proposed bylaws and changes to existing bylaws will be available for examination and review at the Town Clerk's office. These copies are subject to final legal review and changes prior to vote at the annual Town Meeting. Any questions regarding these proposed bylaws and changes to existing bylaws should be directed to the Planning Board.

Building Permits

Are you planning to do upgrades on your home? Please make sure you get a building permit!

Details and permit forms can be found on the Williamsburg website at www.burgy.org under departments/inspection services.

Williamsburg Firefighters Association News

The Williamsburg Firefighters Association members are the men and women who are current and past members of the Williamsburg Fire Department. The Firefighters Association sponsors social events for its members and their families as well as events for the public. They also raise and receive money from several sources including a voluntary toll booth and rabies clinic. They also receive interest from investments, donations from citizens and have been a recipient from the Florence Savings Bank Community Grants and Valley Gives. They spend the money to benefit the Fire Department and to sponsor social events.

The Firefighters Association spent \$3,800 to purchase a BLITZFIRE monitor to benefit the Fire department. The BLITZFIRE monitor is used to direct a large volume of water onto a fire or where it is otherwise needed. The monitor is highly adaptable to various situations. It can be deployed with minimum manpower and can operate without an operator if necessary. It provides various



fire streams that will remain stationary or oscillate and will turn itself off if tipped over or upset.

The Firefighters Association also purchased an additional GPS which, used in conjunction with other GPS units, will enable a real time tracking system for wilderness and off-road search and rescue and in natural disasters. The GPS units are used in conjunction with a computer to track the position of each device.

Previously the Fire Department was the recipient of a grant to purchase an all terrain vehicle (ATV) which is used for off-road firefighting and rescue. The Firefighters Association purchased an enclosed trailer to transport the ATV and associated equipment.

Roger Bisbee, Secretary
Williamsburg Firefighters Association

The Fire Department wishes to remind people **not to park in the fire lane at the Anne T. Dunphy School**. While it may be convenient or feel as if it is only a short time, please park your car in a designated space. This area must remain clear of all parked vehicles for the purpose of emergency vehicle access; therefore, no car should be left unattended in the circular fire lane area. Thank you for your cooperation.

Police Department News

The Williamsburg Police Department would like to take a moment to highlight some of the things that our officers do each and every day.

We handle the "typical" type calls that are expected of police. These include motor vehicle crashes, harassment issues, domestic violence calls, medical emergencies, alarm calls, disturbance calls, drug overdose calls, drug activity calls, loose animals, road hazards, speeding complaints, breaking and enterings, suspicious activity, telephone scams, identity theft, and many others.

Some of the services we provide that residents may not be aware of are vacant property checks, child car seat installations, safety talks with children and families, business checks, and crime prevention activities.

Police officers from this department are constantly training for emergencies, including active shooter scenarios. We work with our schools and practice shelter-in-place drills and lock-down drills. We practice these drills with the State Police and also with Police Departments from surrounding communities to ensure that everyone is prepared and able to assist in these types of emergencies.

We recently had the opportunity to train in the blue line trailer which is a scenario based, live fire, shoot/don't shoot training. This training placed officers on mock calls in live time and officers had to make real time decisions on whether any force was appropriate. We were fortunate enough to be able to invite our Select Board members to observe and even participate in some of this training.

Williamsburg is a perfect community for one to call home, but the Police Department would like all residents to know that our community is not crime-free. Officers from the Williamsburg Police Department do an amazing job at handling emergencies and addressing criminal activity, most times without most residents knowing it is happening in their neighborhoods.

We do not want to frighten any residents; instead we want to educate everyone on the importance of working together with the Police Department. We encourage everyone to report any and all suspicious activity right away by contacting 911, report any thefts immediately, and speak to officers when you may have information about criminal activity. We all care deeply for our community and are here to help.

Town Picnic

The Board of Selectmen is working with outside of town government organizations to coordinate and host a town-wide picnic in September. If you are interested in making this happen, please contact the Town Administrator at 413-268-8418 or townadmin@burgy.org.

Highway Department News

Well, it was a long and interesting winter, weather wise. The plow season seemed to start late, around Christmas. Then we had to endure that extreme cold snap. Of course, temperatures so low will not produce snow. The cold was followed by late spring temperatures. Although it is enjoyable at the time, you just know we have to pay the piper eventually. So sometime in March that time came. We are now in that phase of the season when you think spring might never come, but it will sooner rather than later. In April, I was driving around town reading water meters and noticed clumps of snowdrops and crocuses in bloom. Daffodils and lilies are about 2 inches high. I also noticed buds on all kinds of trees and bushes. Take heart, winter is almost over.

The Highway Department Christmas Party was a huge success. There is a 9"x13" Pyrex baking dish still in the break room looking for it's home. If it is yours, please stop by and pick it up. This year, we celebrated the holiday season and the retirement of Peter Banister. Pete will be missed on the Highway Department crew but you will see him around town as he will be instrumental in planning the 250th Williamsburg Anniversary Celebration, which is coming up in 2021.

Dan Banister, who came to the Highway Department as a temporary employee in September, applied for the full time position left open by Pete's retirement. He was hired and began the New Year as a permanent, full-time employee. Dan has been an invaluable addition to the highway department crew. Unfortunately, this still left us one employee short of a full crew. Recently, Bryan Osetek was hired to fill this void. He started on April 2nd as a permanent, full-time employee. Bryan already feels as if he has always been one of us. So if you see Bryan around, welcome him to Williamsburg, as we hope he will stay a long, long time.

We did do some plowing this winter, of course. Four routes were split up among the three employees, so if it took a little longer to get to your road, we apologize. This was the first year we used salt only to treat the paved roads. This is the recommended application for economic as well as environmental reasons. We think this winter proved salt a success on our roads. When it was not snowing, we did quite a bit of truck and machine maintenance, the yard was cleaned up before the snow began to fly, the shop bathroom and compressor room got a coat of paint and the salt shed was rearranged. With the warmer temperatures came the potholes. We did fill many with

cold patch as usual but this is always a temporary fix. The warmer temps spurred one of the asphalt plants to offer hot patch this winter. It was actually really nice to get out in the sunshine and fill the potholes more permanently using hot asphalt, our hotbox and the roller.

As spring approaches, we have already begun some outside work. You may have seen us repairing sewer manholes, chipping brush or sweeping. More blacktop will be repaired, more brush will be chipped and mowing will begin. The water project will resume on South Main/Fort Hill. There is a tentative plan to chip seal Petticoat, Briar Hill and Cider Mill and crack seal Hemenway, Conway and 143. These projects will depend on grant funding to replace the culvert on Depot Road. If a grant is obtained, this project will take precedence while the funds are available.

The flags will fly again, beginning the season with Memorial Day Weekend. Although the flags looked great last year, we did have some losses due to weather and age. I will remind everyone that this expense is not covered by the town and depends on donations from you. It costs approximately \$20 per flag set up, which includes the pole, flag, bracket and all the hardware to put it together. I want to thank everyone who has supported this project so far and encourage others to donate so we can continue this tradition. You can speak to either Bill Turner or Charlene Nardi if you would like to donate money for flags.

I am really looking forward to this summer. New employees, new projects, new learning opportunities are all exciting to me. I love my job and thank you again for continuing to allow me to serve the Town of Williamsburg.

Jennifer Westlake



Closed for the Holidays

Town Departments will be closed on the following dates. Please note that Town Office Departments are always closed on Fridays.

- * Monday, May 28
- * Wednesday, July 4
- * Monday, Sept. 3
- * Monday, October 8
- * Monday, November 12
- * Thursday, November 22
- * Friday, November 23
- * Tuesday, December 25



Poop Scoop Reminder: When walking your pet on any public property you must pick up after it. This includes the sidewalk areas, school yard, town building grounds, and the water shed property. Please take care of town property!

Williamsburg Senior Center

Programs & Services for Active Living at 60+ Room 102, Williamsburg Town Office - 268-8407

Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8:30 - 1:30
with extended hours for classes and events.
Lunch is served in our Café, Rm 101, each day at 11:45.

Events Calendar

Mondays

Veterans' Agent, 2-4 pm
Monday Meals, every Mon, 11:45 am

Tuesdays

Healthy Bones & Balance, 10:30 am
SHINE Rep, 11-2 (call for appointment)
Congregate Meal, 11:45 am
Intergenerational Bag Sew, 3:15 pm
Yoga for You, 6 pm
Basic Computer Class 6-7 pm (call ahead)
2nd Tues alternate months: Podiatrist, 9 am-1 pm

Wednesdays

Modern/Creative Dance Class, 10 am
Congregate Meal, 11:45 am
3rd Wed: Advisory Board Meeting, 12:15 pm
4th Wed alternate months: Foot Nurse, 9 am-2 pm

Thursdays

Tai Chi, 9:30-10:30 am
Gentle Chair Yoga, 10:45 am
Congregate Meal, 11:45 am
Healthy Bones & Balance, 4 pm
Basic Computer Class, 6-7 pm (call ahead)
Love Your Body, 6-7 pm
2nd Thursdays: Brown Bag, 10 am &
Blood Pressure Clinic, 11:30 am
3rd Thursdays: Men's Group, Snack Bar, 8 am

Fridays

Hadley Mall and/or other trips, by interest

Saturdays

Farmers' Market and/or other trips, by interest

*Special events and programs are listed in the **Living Well Newsletter**, published monthly. To subscribe, call us or email sloomis@burg.org. Get the Newsletter and stay informed!*

If you've never come to the Senior Center, it's time to give it a try—60 is the new 40! We have programs to appeal to a variety of tastes. We are always looking for ways to expand the programming to suit **you**.

If you have an interest or a skill that you'd like to share, let us know and we may be able to set up a workshop or class. If you are a musician or entertainer, we might be interested in putting on a show. We also have many volunteer opportunities—give us a call!

Some highlights of the past 6 months:

- **New Transportation Program** funding carpool drivers was implemented, enabling us to pay drivers to take seniors on errands and pleasure trips. Seniors went on a Fall Mystery Ride, to the Winter Farmers' Market, Steve's Sugar Shack, Hadley Mall, Smith College Bulb Show, Magic Wings Butterfly Conservancy, and a walk at the DAR.
- **New class started:** Love Your Body, a Feldenkrais movement class taught by Michele Wolk.
- **The Intergenerational Bag Sew** donated bags to the Meekins Library for sharing/loan. They are looking for folks who like to sew or help in other ways.
- **The Third Thursday Mens' Group** has grown and regularly has quite a few men who meet at the Snack Bar at 8:00. They have taken field trips, volunteered at the Manna Kitchen, done yard work for a senior, and are looking for more opportunities.
- **A Day at the Dump**, filmed last July at the Transfer Station, was shown in the Senior Center. Created in collaboration with the Meekins Library, this intergenerational project is part of Meekins' Living Archives, filmed by Tom Adams of Reelife Documentary Productions.
- **Toe-tapping entertainment** was provided by Patrick Callinan & Friends, John Porcino, Tim Van Egmond, & Steve Damon.
- **The Intergenerational Pen Pal Project** connected area seniors with sixth graders at the Anne T. Dunphy School. Both seniors and youngsters really enjoyed the rewards of sharing cultures with each other.
- **The Monday Meal program** continues to provide fresh, nutritious meals to 25-30 people every week. Made in-house every Monday, meals are \$3.00 and can be eaten in the Café, picked up or delivered.

Sing-along at the Senior Center, April 2018



Collector's Corner

Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Bills

**Have you sold or disposed of your vehicle?
Has your mailing address changed??**

Excise Tax bills are generated and billed by the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles. The first bills of the year use information in their system as of January 1st.

If you no longer own your vehicle, you must take some kind of action on the license plate to stop the billing.

While you no longer have to return the plates to the registry, you do have to cancel the registration with the RMV. You can do this at the RMV or online at their website. Keep a copy of the Plate Cancellation Receipt for your records. **If this is not done, you will continue to be billed by the RMV.**

If you change vehicles during the year, abatements/adjustments to the "new" vehicle tax bill are not automatic. Each bill is separate. You must apply to the Board of Assessors for an abatement on the "old" vehicle for the portion of the year you do not own the vehicle. The abated amount will then be refunded to you. You have three years to apply for the abatement. Application forms are available at www.burgy.org under the Board of Assessors. Please be sure to sign the form and provide the two required forms of documentation.

PLEASE NOTE As stated on the back of all excise bills - AN APPLICATION FOR ABATEMENT DOES NOT STAY (or negate) COLLECTION OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE TAX.** Timely payment within thirty days of the date of issue of the bill will avoid all interest and other additional charges and fees. In the event an abatement is granted

due to sale, trade, theft, total loss, or overvaluation, the amount abated will be refunded to you (Mass. Gen. Laws Ch 60A). No abatement shall be granted for less than \$5 and no amount shall be refunded below \$5. Applications for abatement must be received by the Board of Assessors within three years after the excise was due, or one year after the excise was paid, whichever is later. To preserve your right to appeal you must file on time.

The Town of Williamsburg Collector and Assessors do not have access to the RMV records. **If your address changes, you must and are responsible for notifying the RMV of the change.** Non receipt of the bill does not stay the collection of the bill.

Excise bills are calculated by the RMV – this includes the value of the vehicle. Questions regarding the calculation or value must be made to the RMV.

Excise tax values change for a period of five years with the fifth AND ALL SUCCEEDING YEARS remaining at 10% of the manufacturer's suggested retail price.

Most importantly – **Do not ignore an excise tax bill even though you may have moved, sold, traded or otherwise disposed of the vehicle.** If the bill remains unpaid and outstanding more than thirty (30) days after its issue date, it will continue to accrue interest and other charges and fees for which **you will be responsible.** Your driver's license and/or vehicle registration will also be submitted to the RMV for non-renewal action.

If you have questions, you can reach the Assessors at (413) 268-8403.



Williamsburg 250th Anniversary Celebration

Following two informational meetings held in February and March 2018, a committee has been appointed to oversee the planning and implementation of the 250th Anniversary Celebration in 2021. The committee is composed of the following individuals:

Peter Banister, Chair
Dan Nye, Vice Chair Advertising and Displays
Tracy Magdalene, Vice Chair Fundraising
Delia Crocker, Vice Chair Programs and Events
Marilyn Fifield, Vice Chair Parade
Brenda Lessard, Secretary
Eric Weber, Historian

The proposed dates for the celebration are July 3, 2021, in Haydenville and July 16-18 in the center of Williamsburg. Proposed activities include a block dance and barbecue, a road race, fireworks, live music, children's activities, a parade and much more.

The committee is now seeking financial sponsors and donations of time, funds, materials and services, as well as your valued commitment to making the 250th anniversary celebration a special one. If you are interested in becoming involved with this important milestone in the town's history, please contact the committee or come to a meeting. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at the Town Office in Haydenville. If you would like to make a monetary donation, checks may be made out to Town of Williamsburg and include the notation, "Williamsburg 250th".

The committee can be reached via email at Williamsburg250@gmail.com or by calling (413) 268-8402.

Updates will be posted on the town website and in future newsletters. We look forward to celebrating with you all in 2021!

Mill River Greenway Committee

The Mill River Greenway Committee is in its sixth year of planning this long-sought and transformative project. At the Town Meeting in 2017, voters overwhelmingly approved \$65,000 in start-up funds for engineering and route survey work, which will also benefit other town departments and projects. The surveyors that you may have seen working along Route 9 over the last few months are engaged in this critical first step. In addition, the Town has received two substantial grants from the Mass DCR Trails and Greenways Program, a small Healthy Hampshire grant, generous donations from the local business community, and numerous donations in honor of the late “local hero” Jim Locke. The Town was also recently awarded \$30,000 in Mass. Transportation Bond funding for use in the design of the Greenway.

The Massachusetts DOT has issued the greenway project an official project number, which puts it in their formal planning queue, an important step in the process. The Town has hired the engineering firm VHB to conduct the survey work and begin the pre-construction design development study. In close collaboration with the Town Highway Department and the City of Northampton, work has been progressing on connecting our upcoming Greenway to the existing regional network of greenways and trails via improvements to South Main St. in Haydenville and the transitional path connecting the roadway to the old rail bed. The surfacing of the pathway on the rail bed will be completed this year.

The Committee remains motivated by our understanding of the many benefits that the Greenway, designed to be a linear park, will bring to the Williamsburg community: safe alternative transportation, fishing and recreational opportunities, links to historical and cultural sites, economic development and a boost to the local business community, a safe route to school for our local students, environmental stewardship of the Mill River corridor, and so much more.

Projects like this don't come cheap, but the return on investment is real, and significant. The Mill River Greenway Committee is committed to minimizing the impact on the Town's taxpayers as much as possible by raising funds from a variety of sources. Much of our work going forward will pivot from planning to fundraising. Just as we believe the Greenway will be a benefit to the Town, we also believe it ought not be a financial burden.

Would you like to help? The committee would welcome the help of an experienced, knowledgeable and enthusiastic fundraiser. If you have such experience and talent and would like to assist/advise the committee as we make this dream come true, please let us know.

The Greenway Committee is grateful for the continued support of the Town's residents and elected leaders as we move this dream towards reality.

Please contact us at millrivergreenway@burgy.org if you would like to get involved!

Meekins Library

Summer Reading Program, 2018

Kick-off Program: Caravan Puppets presents

Journey to the Moon!

Saturday, June 23 at 10:30 am

Come in on this day to sign up!



The theme this year is “Libraries Rock!”

The benefits to readers in a (free!) summer reading program include:

- encouragement that reading become a lifelong habit
- reluctant readers can be drawn in by the activities
- reading over the summer helps children keep their skills up
- kids who don't read during the summer are at risk of falling behind
- the program can generate interest in the library and books
- There are incentives for reading; the more you read, the more you win
- and it being summer, the program can just be good fun and provide an opportunity for family time

We always have some great prizes for children of all ages who sign up and read. Summer Reading isn't just for kids, though! We have some great raffle prizes for the adults who sign up and read, too!

We will have loads of great activities throughout the six weeks of Summer Reading. On Saturday, July 28th we will have our Grand Finale featuring a rockin' good time with the Expandable Brass Band performing from 11 – 12:30.

Summer reading is sponsored by the Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries and by Acme Surplus.



Board of Health

Recycling

The Board of Health thanks the residents for their continued efforts to recycle! We are currently at about 40% of recycling and have a goal of increasing this to 50%. If we are able to maintain or increase this level, we will not have to move towards a throw per bag fee which many of the surrounding Towns have had to initiate. Our current yearly permit of \$75 (\$50 for persons 70 or older) is the lowest in the area.

New permits will be sold at the Transfer Station starting on May 15, and are due July 1. Remember to bring your proof of Town residency with you when you obtain your permit (car registration or mail with address).

Compost bins are available for purchase for \$45 at the Transfer Station. Contact us if you are interested.

In 2018 the Board of Health received two grants from the State DEP towards the purchase of the newly installed Cardboard Compactor. The compactor is not only easier for residents to use, it has saved the Town money in the cost of transporting the loads of paper to the recycling center in Springfield.

Did you know that Williamsburg is one of only two towns in Hampshire County that did not switch to a single stream recycling system? This has proved to be a big advantage for the Town, and the Board appreciates everyone's help with recycling. Because the bottles and plastic are separated from the paper, the recyclables are a better quality. The Town receives money for the recyclables because they are separated. Recycling also saves money because there are fewer costs in trash hauling fees. Towns with single stream recycling do not receive funds for their recyclables.

Our Board just received a check for \$1276 for the period of 7/1/17-12/30/17. This money goes into the Open Box Fund which supports the Transfer Station general expenses. The Attendants are Town Employees and their salaries are part of the Annual Town Warrant.

Again, THANKS everyone for making the effort to recycle!



HRMC: Recycling Textiles—Donate, Don't Dispose

Did you know that 95% of all textiles can be recycled or reused?

Don't put textiles in your trash—Put them in the Salvation Army Drop Box! The Salvation Army Drop Boxes at HRMC member Town Transfer Stations accept a wide variety of items: Bedding, towels and linens, clothing, accessories and footwear. These items can be stained, ripped, have broken zippers, missing buttons, but must be DRY. If possible, please place damaged items in a plastic bag before putting them in the drop box. Items should be free of solvent and oil stains.

The average person throws away more than ten pounds of used clothing every year. Unwearable or unsellable items can be recycled into wiping cloths, insulation, and stuffing. In 2017, Williamsburg residents placed 6.4 tons of materials in the Salvation Army box.

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR DONATED ITEMS?

- About 45% are sold as 2nd-hand apparel. Clothing textiles that don't sell in the Salvation Army Store are baled and sold to textile brokers. Both activities generate revenue to support the Salvation Army's core mission.
- Another 30% is turned into industrial wiping cloths.
- Approximately 20% is sent to fiber converters like Millbury Textile Recycling (Millbury, MA) where textiles are broken down into their basic fiber components to be remanufactured into insulation for autos and homes, carpet padding, or sound proofing materials.

Textile recycling decreases the amount of trash we bury in landfills.

Thank you for doing your part to recover textiles!

Williamsburg Redemption Group

If you enjoy the flowers along Route 9 in Williamsburg Center and the emerging River Gardens at the Meekins and Haydenville Library sites, then please consider joining our intrepid crew of bottle and can sorters who work on Saturday and Wednesday to sort and pack redeemable plastic, glass, and aluminum containers that are redeemed at Pat's to help support ongoing care and expansion of the Public Gardens. Even though we transmute glass, plastic and aluminum into gold each week, no prior training in Alchemy is required. Each volunteer covers one day per month. With additional help, we all could do less!



River Garden at Meekins *Photo Credit: Daria Darienzo*

Hampshire Regional News and Events

New Program Updates:

The **Transition Intervention Program** was added in the 2017-2018 School Year to support students who have been absent from school for an extended time due to a medical or mental health reason. This program is thriving, supporting 15 students transition from home/hospital back to school and keeping up to five students in district who would have been considered candidates for out of district placements. Additionally, the school has saved money on home tutoring because students are able to come back to school through the program instead of needing a transition period at home.

The Department of Education is pushing for mandatory computer science courses for all students to take before graduating, and the school committee felt strongly about adding courses for students to take before the mandate is pushed through. **This is the first year that students can take Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science or Exploring Computers Science as a college preparatory course.** There has been great interest with 19 students enrolled in the courses this year and 35 signed up for next year.

Awards:

With support from families, **Hampshire Regional High School was awarded \$1193 from Florence Bank as a recipient of one of their Customers' Choice Community Grants.** The money will be used to support students' extracurricular activities directly that would not be otherwise funded. We appreciate the support from the community that helped us obtain these funds as we continue to push for as many opportunities as possible to engage students in our learning community.

Each year, Hampshire Regional has the opportunity to honor one teacher with the **Grinspoon Teacher of Excellence award. This year, Jeff Carreiro was selected to receive this award.** Mr. Carreiro is a teacher in our program for students with autism and cognitive delays and serves our community in a number of different roles including as the JV Baseball Coach, Assistant Cross Country Coach and Special Olympics volunteer. He skillfully uses technology in his classroom to engage students to grow and learn.

Graduation: Friday, June 1, at John M. Greene Hall at Smith College.

Thank you for your continued support of our school, programs and students.

Scholarships

There is a list of scholarships available for high school seniors and one for 3rd and 4th year college students posted on the website at www.burgy.org under town news.

Williamsburg School Committee News

The Williamsburg School Committee has been busy this year. We, together with the other town school committees in our region, embarked on a review of the policy manuals to make sure that all of the policies are consistent and up to date with current practice. We conducted the final annual review of our Superintendent, Craig Jurgensen, who will retire on June 30, 2018. The district hired Aaron Osborne as the new superintendent for the Hampshire Regional School District. Most recently, we put together the budget for the fiscal year 2019 school year. We will be sharing this at town meeting on June 4th so we hope to see you there.

Finally, we would like to thank Kayla Solomon for her dedication, concern, time and expertise in leading the Williamsburg School Committee over the past 6ish years. Her strong presence will be missed on the committee and we appreciate all of her service to the Anne T. Dunphy School as well as the Regional system.

Please feel free to reach out to anyone on the School Committee if you have questions about our work. Contact information can be obtained on our website: http://www.edline.net/pages/Hampshire_RegionalSD/School_Committees/Williamsburg_School_Committee

Greta Carey

On behalf of the Greta Carey project committee, I'd like to thank everyone in town for their support for the Greta Carey art exhibits, sales, and receptions that took place at Meekins Library and the Grange this April. These events attracted many out-of-town visitors as well, a testament to the enduring appeal of Greta's work. Many thanks also to the twenty local businesses that helped sponsor the events, and of course to Willo Carey, whose generous gift of her mother's paintings made it all possible. A total of 65 paintings were sold, with all proceeds benefiting the Williamsburg Libraries, Grange, and Historical Society.

I'd like to extend special thanks to our Select Board for officially declaring April 2018 as Greta Carey Month. Willo recently wrote to the municipal authorities in Greta's hometown of Widnau, Switzerland, to let them know about our festivities. They were delighted to learn about Greta's work and reputation. In fact, they decided to designate April as Margrit Köppel (Greta's maiden name) Month in Widnau in her honor and wished our town much success. Perhaps Williamsburg may one day have a sister city in Switzerland.

Pat Billingsley
Coordinator, Greta Carey Project Committee

News from Anne T. Dunphy School

Although the lack of spring weather has made it difficult to envision, the remaining days in the 2017-2018 school year are quickly dwindling at the Anne T. Dunphy School! With the spring break behind us, we are approaching the time of year that is filled with celebrations of accomplishments, and field trips that culminate units of study ~ a busy and exciting time of year!

This April, the Anne T. Dunphy School held our 4th annual spring musical, *The Lion King, Jr.* Once again, the community was incredibly supportive of the work of our students, selling out both performances again! The school is truly grateful to the community members who stepped into some very big shoes as directors and production crew! This show was a labor of love made possible by a fantastic group of dedicated adults from the school staff and community. We were so excited this year to have the opportunity for our students to benefit from some workshop-style feedback from members of the Hampshire Regional musical theater group who offered their time to work with our students after the completion of HRHS' musical. We are looking forward to cultivating that relationship in the future!

Throughout the winter, the Anne T. Dunphy School building was a busy place! Aside from the busy school days, the Williamsburg Recreation Department utilized the building to provide an active recreation and travel team basketball program for both girls and boys from 1st through 6th grade. More than 30 basketball games were held in the Earl Tonet Gymnasium in addition to many weekly practices and other adult community sports groups.

Each Friday, from 10:00-11:30, our school continues to host a weekly playgroup for any area children, ages 0-5. This playgroup is funded by the Hampshire Regional Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant, and is typically led by our preschool teacher, Lucy Gertz. We welcome all area families with young children to drop in! On Friday, May 18th there was a special presentation by the Talking Hands Theatre. We invited all families with young children to attend.

Our **Kindergarten Visitation and registration was May 11th**. If you have a child who will be 5 years old on/before

September 1, 2018, please contact the school at 268-8421 for information about how to register for kindergarten!

If you visit the Meekins Library in the near future, be sure to take a peek at our sixth grade "Peace Posters" on display in the community room. These are the result of the combined efforts of our sixth grade classes, our art teacher Natalee Dias, and the Williamsburg Lions Club. We are grateful for the connection of the Lions Club, and the students look forward to the opportunity to participate when they reach sixth grade. Congratulations to Julie Guiel, who was selected as the winner of the Peace Poster Contest by the Williamsburg Lions Club.

We are also grateful for connections made between our sixth grade students and Williamsburg Senior Center members throughout this school year. Earlier in the year, our sixth graders were matched with senior pen pals. They exchanged letters with each other, and have had the opportunity to share lunch together twice this winter. We love to see these relationships develop and hope that they continue in the community after these students leave ATD!

As we near the end of this school year, we are preparing to say farewell to two long-time members of our staff. After dedicating a combined 54 years of service to the Williamsburg school communities, sixth grade teacher Lisa Pelouquin and Preschool/Special Education teacher Sherrie Marti will be heading off to enjoy their well-deserved retirements! They have both contributed so much to our school community ~ it will be hard to say goodbye! Please watch for information about a community reception to honor these two special educators later in the spring.

We continue to feel so grateful for our wonderful facility, and are so pleased at the ease with which we can open our school to our families, and to the larger community, for many events throughout the year. We are so appreciative of our supportive Williamsburg and Haydenville communities!

~Stacey Jenkins
Anne T. Dunphy School, Principal

Cast members of *The Lion King, Jr.* pose for some photos after opening night!
(Photo by Jennifer Burdick)



Sixth grade students share a special lunch with their Senior Pen Pals, who then attended the sixth grade student-created Egyptian Art Museum



Sixth grade and first grade buddies share some special reading time together to celebrate Read Across America Day!



Kindergarteners had a chance to try eating with chopsticks during their study about Japan!



First graders design and build a nest for a "chick," part of their life science unit of study in which they hatched real chicks.



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Invasion of the Invasives

The species native in our town have co-evolved with other native species to maintain a balance of population sizes and competition for available resources. Invasive species are those plants and animals that have been introduced to an area and have no natural curbs to their growth or spread.

When non-native species are introduced into an ecosystem in which they did not evolve, their populations can increase dramatically. In a natural or native community, species evolve together into an ecosystem with many checks and balances -- such as predators and diseases -- that limit the eventual dominance of any one species. However, when an organism is introduced into an ecosystem in which it did not evolve naturally, it no longer has those limits and its population often dramatically increases, disrupting natural communities and ecological processes.

Invasive species can cause harm to the native species in an ecosystem through outcompeting for resources with native plants and animals. Over time, this can change the makeup of a habitat. Non-native invasive species can actually lead to extinctions; for example, the American chestnut blight was caused by a fungus native to Asia. Even if native species are not completely eliminated by invasives, the ecosystem often becomes much less diverse. In natural systems, species diversity is key to success and survival.

Invasive species can degrade, change, or displace native

habitats and native wildlife, and the Williamsburg Conservation Commission is very concerned about the impacts of non-native invasive species on our town's lands and waters. Some invasive non-native plant species occurring in Williamsburg are Asian bittersweet, autumn olive, Japanese barberry, garlic mustard, glossy buckthorn, Japanese knotweed, multiflora rose, and purple loosestrife. There are many books and online resources that can assist you in identifying our most common invasive species.

If you find invasive species on your property, it is up to you to decide if you want to try to eradicate or control them. There are three main methods used for control of invasive species -- biological, mechanical, and chemical. Biological control is the intentional introduction of natural enemies, such as *Gallerucella* beetles for purple loosestrife. Mechanical control includes mowing, hoeing, cultivation, and hand pulling, such as mowing multiflora rose in a pasture. Chemical control is the use of herbicides, such as spraying Japanese knotweed with glyphosate. You can also use a combination of these three methods in an integrated weed management approach, such as cutting bittersweet vines close to the ground and painting the stumps with herbicide.

If you intend to use any method to treat or remove invasive plants within 200 feet of a stream or 100 feet of a wetland, please contact the Conservation Commission at conservation@burgy.org for guidance to stay in compliance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.