

# Town of Williamsburg

## Winter, 2021

A periodic newsletter of the Town of Williamsburg



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### Special Town Meeting, Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2 pm. Anne T. Dunphy School, 1 Petticoat Hill Road, Williamsburg

The Town will host a special town meeting, Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2 pm. Voters will be asked to consider two articles; to appropriate funding for design and construction of a public safety complex and to appropriate funding from sewer enterprise to pay a prior year invoice to the City of Northampton.

The special town meeting will be an outdoor event under a tent behind the Anne T. Dunphy School building. Chairs will be socially distanced, and all attendees will be required to wear masks. This is the same setup we utilized for the annual town meeting in June 2020.

### COVID-19 Vaccine Update

The State of Massachusetts is rolling out the COVID-19 vaccinations in three phases. Each phase has groups to be vaccinated in priority order. Currently the State is in Phase 2 and vaccines across the state are open to individuals who are 75 plus and older. You may find a location to get a vaccination by visiting the State website: <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine>.

The next priority group, which opened up on February 18th, is for individuals 65 and older and those with 2 or more health conditions that put them at high risk for COVID-19 complications. After those groups, phase 2 covers residents and staff of public and private low income and affordable senior housing, educators, employees who work in retail, foodservice facilities, public works, and transportation, and individuals with one health condition that puts them at high risk.

Phase 3 covers everyone in the general public who were not covered in phase 1 or 2. It is scheduled to begin sometime between April and June.

At this time, the town is working with state approved regional vaccination sites. As the state moves through Phase 2 and on to phase 3, town officials will communicate with residents eligible under that phase about how best to sign up to get vaccinated. You should not sign-up until the state is in the phase under which you are eligible. You will be turned away even if you sign up. You may also reach out to your doctor. Cooley Dickinson is reaching out to all patients to help them sign up for a vaccine.

Here is a link to the City of Northampton's vaccine site. Click on the link to sign up: <https://www.northamptonma.gov/2219/COVID-19-Vaccination-Clinics>.

Please beware of scam emails, links and websites regarding vaccinations. For accurate details about the phases and where the state is in the rollout, you may visit the Massachusetts website above (paragraph 1).

Before and after being vaccinated, please take care, wear a mask, and maintain social distance. If you believe you have been exposed, especially if you have symptoms you should get tested. You may call your doctor or see the Mass.gov website for testing locations.

If you have concerns or questions, you may call Board of Health Chair Donna Gibson at 413-268-7421.



- HAMLIN

Painting by local artist,  
Steve Hamlin

Visit [www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org)  
for more information about:  
**Town Committees,  
Boards, Departments,  
Events, and much more!**

## Town Buildings Are Still Closed To The Public

The Town government buildings are still closed to the public, but town employees and town officials are still working hard at home or inside the buildings! Below is a list of department contacts by email and phone. Need to drop paperwork off? There is a drop-box outside the town office building that is checked daily. Need an appointment? Call the department to set that up. We can meet you in the entry way, both with our new barrier shields and us all wearing masks! Can't find what you are looking for or you are just not sure who to talk to? Reach out to the Town Administrator by email: [townadmin@burgy.org](mailto:townadmin@burgy.org) or call 413-268-8418 for assistance. We can still serve you, it will just be different than it was before.

You may reach departments by email and phone. Please see the list below. All tax payments may be made online through <https://www.burgy.org/home/pages/online-payments> or can be mailed to the Town Collector at PO Box 488, Haydenville, MA 01039, or you may drop them at the drop-box outside of the Town Office building.

Assessors	<a href="mailto:assessors@burgy.org">assessors@burgy.org</a>	413-268-8403
Board of Health	<a href="mailto:foothills@burgy.org">foothills@burgy.org</a>	413-268-8404
Board of Selectmen	<a href="mailto:selectmen@burgy.org">selectmen@burgy.org</a>	413-268-8400 Ext 9
Fire Department	<a href="mailto:chief@williamsburgfire.com">chief@williamsburgfire.com</a>	413-268-7233
Highway Department	<a href="mailto:burgyhighway@burgy.org">burgyhighway@burgy.org</a>	413-268-8405
Meekins Library	<a href="mailto:meekins@cwmars.org">meekins@cwmars.org</a>	413-268-7472
Police Department	<a href="mailto:wicklandd@williamsburgpd.org">wicklandd@williamsburgpd.org</a>	413-268-7237
Senior Center	<a href="mailto:seniorcenterdirector@burgy.org">seniorcenterdirector@burgy.org</a>	413-268-8407
Town Administrator	<a href="mailto:townadmin@burgy.org">townadmin@burgy.org</a>	413-268-8418
Town Clerk	<a href="mailto:townclerk@burgy.org">townclerk@burgy.org</a>	413-268-8402
Town Collector	<a href="mailto:towncollector@burgy.org">towncollector@burgy.org</a>	413-268-8401
Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@burgy.org">treasurer@burgy.org</a>	413-268-8415
Veterans Agent	<a href="mailto:tgeryk@northamptonma.gov">tgeryk@northamptonma.gov</a>	413-587-1299

The Transfer Station remains open. We ask that you remove your trash and recycling from your vehicle expeditiously and to not remain on the premises to visit. You must have a **VALID Sticker** in plain view and you must wear a mask to use the transfer station!

We thank you for your understanding as we make decisions to reduce the spread of the virus, protect the health of our town employees and to maintain governmental functions under the threat of the Coronavirus.

### Who Do I Call When I Notice...?

**Pothole** – 413-268-8405

**Water Leak** – 413-268-8405

**Slippery Street** during normal hours – 413-268-8405

**Slippery Street** outside of normal work hours –  
Dispatch @ 413-586-1508

**Downed Trees** without wires during business hours –  
413-268-8405

**Downed Trees** without wires after hours –  
Dispatch @ 413-586-1508

**Downed Trees** with wires – Dispatch @ 413-586-1508

**Suspicious Activity or Crime** – 911



The Williamsburg 250th Anniversary Committee has voted to postpone this year's planned, in-person, anniversary celebrations until the summer of 2022 (or such time as public health conditions allow). We look forward to seeing everyone then. In the meantime, stay tuned as we work on putting together several smaller virtual and/or socially distanced projects to mark the anniversary throughout this year.



### 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 Town of Williamsburg website, [www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org) under departments/inspection services.

## From the Collector's Corner

What a year it has been! Hopefully spring is around the corner and there is light at the end of the tunnel! I hope you are staying well and continue to do your part by wearing your mask, social distancing, etc.

Welcome to all the new property owners! Please take the time to notify the Board of Assessors of your new mailing address to be sure the property tax bills get to you. If you have town water and/or sewer, please also notify the Collector of your mailing address. It is also important to notify the Registry of Motor Vehicles of your new residence and mailing address. The town does not have access to the RMV records and if you do not receive and pay your excise bills, they are then turned over to the Deputy Collector and ultimately "marked" at the RMV so that you are prevented from conducting any business with them until those bills and fees are paid.

For you new-to-Williamsburg owners and a reminder for all, Real estate bills are mailed twice a year. Our fiscal year begins July 1<sup>st</sup>, the preliminary bills are mailed by that date. There are two payment coupons, one for August 1<sup>st</sup> and one for November 1<sup>st</sup>, with that mailing. Then the tax rate is set and actual tax bills are sent by January 1<sup>st</sup>, with coupons for February 1<sup>st</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>. If your quarterly payments are not received timely, interest applies beginning the day after each installment is due. Water and/or sewer bills are mailed twice a year, spring and fall. Excise bills are generated and mailed by the RMV, typically in Feb/Mar for the calendar year, and again during the year if you change or add new vehicles.

As most of you are aware, the town offices have been closed to the public. I am working from home and I feel the transition has gone smoothly and is working very well. Many of you have now become familiar with making online payments through the town website/Unibank. As you may have discovered, this is available to you 24/hrs. a day, 365 days a year. You can look your bill up by name or address or just put the bill number in and your amount due will populate for you. Yes, partial payments can be made, other than for excise which must be paid in full. The payments will be date- and time-stamped. Electronic transfers from your account have a fee of just twenty-five cents – cheaper than a stamp! Debit card fees can be up to \$4.95 and credit card fees are on a sliding scale based on the amount charged. The fees charged are retained by Unibank, not the town. You will be given a total that will be charged prior to submitting payment so you do have a chance to change your mind if you do not want to pay the fee. PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY PAYMENTS MADE THROUGH UNIBANK WILL BE REFLECTED HERE UNTIL THE NEXT BILLS ARE UPLOADED.

There is a black drop box on the exterior wall of the town offices near the entry door from the parking lot. You can also mail your payments, but please allow time for mailing so that it is received in my office by the due date. By law, postmarks are not accepted, so interest and possible fees would apply for late payments.

## BEWARE of SCAMS

There are still several scams operating by phone calls and emails that try to trick you into supplying your personal or financial information or giving money! Don't fall for it. If you get a phone call from the IRS or someone saying you are under investigation, hang up. The IRS will NEVER call you if there is a problem. You will get an official letter delivered by the United States Postal mail. If you get an email from your bank or other financial institution asking for information, do NOT provide any information! If someone is calling about your warranty and can't give you details about it, hang up. Do NOT respond to the email or open any link in the body of the email. Your bank will not ask for your personal information by email. If you are ever in doubt, you should call your financial institution yourself or call a friend to talk it through. Always call the number from your official documents or by independently looking the phone number up, to make sure you know you are speaking with an employee of the institution. Keep your personal information safe! NEVER share your personal information or credit card information with someone who called you!

## Town Flags

The flags will fly again beginning with Memorial Day Weekend. If you have noticed, we are flying the flags a bit longer and keeping them up between two holidays because we have heard from townspeople that they like seeing the flags up and it also cuts down on the time the Highway Department has to spend putting them up and taking them down. The flip side of that is that the longer the flags are up, the more of a beating they take. Every year we lose some to weather and age.

The Highway Department estimates we need to replace about 60 of the flags this year. Each flag set up, which includes the pole, flag, bracket and all the hardware to put it together, costs about \$20. As we do not have a dedicated budget line for these, we have relied on the generous donations of residents and businesses along with the occasional town meeting article. If you would like to donate money to the flag fund to help maintain the flags along the road, please make your check payable to the Town of Williamsburg and put "flag fund" in the memo line. You can drop your donation off in the drop box outside town offices or mail it to **Town of Williamsburg, Attn: Board of Selectmen, PO Box 447, Haydenville, MA 01039**. Thank you for all your support in keeping the flags flying.

# Williamsburg Senior Center

## Programs & Services for Active Living at 60+

Williamsburg Town Office Bldg, Room 102  
413-268-8407

**Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8:30 - 1:30**

2020 started with a January trip to Magic Wings in Deerfield, a great way to start the year! In February, we were musically entertained by singer Duane Carlson, who puts on a great show. In mid-March we had A Celtic Celebration with Davis Bates, always lots of fun! Thanks to the Williamsburg Cultural Council and YOUR donations, these programs were fun and entertaining!

On March 9th **Melissa Wilson** became our new Director. She was there for a week before the Covid-19 shutdown happened. Then things at the Senior Center became more challenging!

The first order of importance was getting meals out to seniors who regularly ate at the Senior Center Café. Highland Valley Elder Services immediately picked up the slack and we delivered meals five days a week to 12-15 homes for the rest of the year. The Brown Bag program continued with the Food Bank of Western Mass providing pre-boxed packages of food monthly to about 20 seniors. The Take and Eat program had already started, with fresh-made meals delivered to as many as 40 seniors every Saturday. Williamsburg Congregational Church and Our Lady of the Hills Church alternated Saturdays for this great program. Our meal site coordinator ran a Farm Share Program, which distributed a bag of locally grown food weekly to about 50 people for a very low price. Every program depended on many volunteers to make it all happen, and we are eternally grateful for each one!

As we got a better understanding of the Covid situation, some programs came back in a different way. Joan Griswold of Goshen offered a Strength & Cardio class via Zoom and Michele Wolk started "Yoga for You" Zoom classes. Marty Phinney's Tai Chi class began practicing outside as long as the weather permitted, as did Susan Waltner's Contemporary Dance Class. Thanks to all the instructors who adapted and offered classes in new and different ways!

The Third Thursday Men's Group met every month with Zoom meetings, as did the Caregiver's Support Group. In the summer a small group of seniors went kayaking at local lakes for socially distanced relaxation.

Many thanks to YOU and to the Council on Aging Advisory Board for constant and dependable support. We couldn't run the Senior Center without you!

We look forward to opening up the Center as soon as we can. When restrictions are lifted, we will be adding new programs and events as possible. Be sure to check our Living Well Newsletter to see what is happening with the Senior Center and what we can do for you!

*Programs and special events are listed in the Living Well Newsletter, published monthly. To subscribe for free, give us a call, 268-8407, or email [sloomis@burgy.org](mailto:sloomis@burgy.org). Get the Newsletter (or a digital version) and stay informed!*



Contemporary Dance Class

Seniors Who Kayak



## Events Calendar

### Mondays

Tai Chi, Weather permitting, 9:30-10:30 am  
Highland Valley Meal Delivery  
Veterans' Agent, 2-4 pm

### Tuesdays

SHINE Rep, (call for appointment)  
Highland Valley Meal Delivery  
Yoga for You Zoom group, 6 pm

### Wednesdays

Modern/Creative Dance Class, Weather permitting, 10 am  
Highland Valley Meal Delivery  
**3rd Wed:** Advisory Board Zoom Meeting, 12:15 pm,  
*Public Welcome*

### Thursdays

Cardio & Strength Exercise, Zoom group, 10:15 am  
Highland Valley Meal Delivery  
**1st & 3rd Thurs:** Caregiver Support Grp., Zoom, 11 am  
**2nd Thurs:** Brown Bag, 10 am  
**3rd Thurs:** Men's Group Zoom mtg., 8 am

### Fridays

Highland Valley Meal Delivery

### Saturdays

Take and Eat Meal Delivery

**Call us to see what we can do for you!**

## Mill River Greenway Project

The Mill River Greenway Committee has had a productive year despite the best efforts of COVID to slow us down. MA DOT's design and engineering of the Route 9/Mill River Greenway Shared Use Path is moving forward, with a current timeline of achieving the important "25% Design" threshold projected for end of 2021. This keeps the project on track for potential groundbreaking in 2025 or 2026.

We are working closely with other town committees including the Water/Sewer Commission, Public Safety Complex (OPM Steering Committee), and the Open Space Committee to ensure that all the major town projects are working together to coordinate timing, connectivity, and design. We are also coordinating with project engineers VHB to ensure that the MA DOT's project to replace the two Mill River bridges to South Main Street integrates the connection from the Haydenville-Williamsburg Route 9 Greenway, which ends at the Brassworks, to the MassCentral Trail dismount in Haydenville. We are pursuing multiple funding sources in hopes of being able to construct the last stretch of this connection along the eastern section of South Main Street, which we hope will include a new pedestrian bridge to connect walkers and bikers safely to the trail switchback.



Students in Katie Joyce's 5th grade class at the Anne T. Dunphy School are collaborating with the Greenway Committee for the second year, participating in a design exercise to envision a park where the Greenway ends at the Helen E. James School building site. Last year, students created art and poetry about the Mill River that was compiled into an on-line audio book (<https://read.bookcreator.com/6xOrSGCuKPR6L1CsZ8Lt5C8m6Xq1/51oj5JoFT6OnrflaaWRx2w>) and also resulted in an exhibit at the Meekins Library.



Looking ahead to Spring 2021, plans are in the works to engage other town stakeholders including the Council on Aging and residents of the South Main Street neighborhood, to ensure that all of these projects are designed to best meet the needs and preferences of our community.

The Mill River Greenway Committee meets the first Thursday of every month at 7pm and welcomes your questions, ideas, and energy as we carry this exciting project forward!

### Sidewalk Snow Removal Reminder

The Town Bylaws require that all sidewalks must be cleared after a storm. The tenant, occupant, owner, or person having care of a property abutting upon any highway or town way is responsible for clearing the sidewalk within 24 hours after the storm. Please be courteous and help keep your neighbors, who use the sidewalks, safe as they move about the town village and center.

### Protect Your Mailbox

As a general rule it is not the plow that damages a mail box but the snow that comes off the end of the plow. In most cases simply standing a board up on the side of the mail box (the oncoming traffic side) will protect the mail box from snow.

### Winter Parking Ban

No overnight parking is allowed on any street between December 1 and March 31. Vehicles found in violation can be ticketed. Vehicles impeding snow removal could also potentially be towed. We thank everyone in advance for keeping our roads clear during the winter months.

### Poop Scoop Reminder

When walking your pet on any public property you must pick up after it. This includes sidewalk areas, school yard, town building grounds, public trails and the watershed properties. Please take care of our town property!

# News from the Anne T. Dunphy School

This certainly has been a unique school year at Anne T. Dunphy! We have made it to February only with the support and flexibility of our families during these challenging times!

This fall, the decision was made that we would begin our year in a "hybrid" model. This meant that half of each class would come to school in-person on Monday/Tuesday, and the other half of the class would be in-person on Thursday/Friday. Wednesday would act as a fully remote day for all students. All of our students were provided with laptops (4-6) or iPads (K-3) to support remote learning during their at-home days. We also worked with families to support internet connectivity in areas with no access.

As we were fine-tuning schedules, the school also completed lots of internal and physical logistics planning and ordering throughout the summer. In addition to health and safety supplies like PPE (personal protective equipment) and hand sanitizer, other equipment was purchased to allow for continued learning in a safe way. Some examples are:

- Plexiglass barriers to allow teachers to work 1:1 with students
- Tents and additional picnic tables for outdoor learning
- Portable outdoor desks
- Yoga mats for each student to provide an outdoor space to sit, or an alternative seating area in the classroom

Our custodians were amazing over the summer and had our facility ready to go on the first day for students. Teachers also participated in ten days of professional development prior to the students' arrival, to help increase their skills in approaching remote learning and to better be able to support students' social emotional needs during a pandemic.



1. The Highway Department made us three different snow mountains for each of our cohorts to play on during recess.
2. Kindergarteners learning in their outdoor classroom.
3. Students work outside on their portable desks.
4. Students were still able to participate in our modified gardening program last fall.

Our students have been engaged in exciting new learning despite our unique circumstances! They have been rock stars in managing all of our safety protocols, and are still excited to come to school each day. Teachers have found creative ways to have students work with partners while being socially distanced, we have instrumental lessons taking place outside, socially distanced PE games, virtual field trips, virtual Family Game Night, and have even found safe ways to celebrate holidays such as Halloween and Valentine's Day!

We are keenly aware that our students are experiencing missed opportunities this year, despite all of our best efforts. We know that there are field trips being missed, enrichment activities not taking place, and whole school events that can't be planned. Where possible, we are working to recreate these events or create new traditions, but it's also important that we are able to acknowledge to students that it **does** feel different, and there are losses that they are feeling.

Since this summer, the Williamsburg School Committee has volunteered countless hours in the process of working to make their best, informed decisions for the Anne T. Dunphy School. They individually read, researched, and communicated with community members, and together they managed many public meetings during which community members expressed passionate, thoughtful, and opposing perspectives. Their dedication to their roles is admirable and we appreciate their ongoing support.

I also want to be sure to thank all of the community members of Williamsburg. The forethought that the town put into this facility made the return to in-person schooling possible this fall. Had the community not supported the renovation of the Anne T. Dunphy School, or annually provided the funding to maintain and supply it, a safe in-person return would have been impossible to consider. The children of this community are benefitting from that support. Thank you, Williamsburg!

—Stacy Jenkins, Principal  
Williamsburg Schools

See more pictures on pages 5 and 8

## Hampshire Regional News and Updates

The students and staff at Hampshire Regional have shown an incredible amount of resilience and perseverance in these past ten months. We have learned quite a bit, grown more than we can imagine and still found ways to celebrate the accomplishments of our amazing students throughout the global pandemic.

Students in grades 8-12 started the 2020-2021 school year in a remote model. Students in grade 7 began the year in a half day hybrid model, putting the beautiful grounds at HRHS to good use. All students were provided with a MacBook computer after a \$350,000 grant was received from the state for technology integration in schools. Staff participated in two weeks of rigorous professional development training to learn new instructional strategies for the school year. New staff members included:

- Emily Krems—Middle School Counselor
- Mya Holmes—School Psychologist
- Cayce Williams—Special Education Teacher
- Melissa Zazzaro-Williams—Spanish Teacher
- Kristin Brouillette—English Teacher
- Jules Marciano, Adam Burt, Keri Doldoorian, Andi Moriarty, Sarah Manley, and David Cook—Para Educators
- Josh Lane, Kasey Soderberg, and Nora Penn— one year Leave Replacements
- Kevin Marsh and Dan Charco—Cafeteria Helpers

During the first ten weeks of school, HRHS contracted with Jamrog HVAC and Conserve Thru Control (CTC) to complete the large HVAC upgrade project that was approved by all district towns at the last round of ATMs. This project was initially proposed to ensure that univents in all classrooms were working properly to heat classrooms since over 90% of control systems in classrooms were not communicating with the main system. Given the concerns of COVID and air exchange, school committee member and retired engineer Paul Kennedy worked with school administration and contractors to include outside and filtered air circulation as an additional component addressed throughout this project.

Starting in December, all grades began a hybrid model with the opportunity to stay fully remote. HRHS teachers are working to deliver high quality in-person instruction in the morning and then adapt their lesson to teach online later in the afternoon. Even with the increased population of students in the building, there is no evidence of the virus being transmitted at HRHS due to the careful and diligent safety measures being implemented including thorough handwashing, 100% mask wearing, and distancing of

at least six feet in all classrooms. The school committee, administration, and teachers work collaboratively to review local and state data to continue to assess the learning model for HRHS.

Notably, Williamsburg member Carl Schlerman decided to continue to be an active member of the HRHS School Committee but to no longer serve as chair after guiding the committee with thoughtfulness and grace since 2016. His leadership and valuable input continues to be appreciated.

As we continue to teach and learn in new ways this year, HRHS would like to extend its sincere and heartfelt thanks to our community for being flexible and patient with us during this challenging time.

Seventh grade students learn science outside. They are in the process of building individual green houses with Mrs. Axtell and Mr. Letendre (not pictured).



The class of 2021 found creative ways to bond and had several outdoor activities including a movie night approved by the Board of Health.



Photos and article by Principal Kristen Smidy

### Scholarships Available

There is a list of scholarships available for high school seniors and one for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year college students posted on the website at [www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org) under town news.

## OPM Committee Recommendation for Public Safety Complex

Within the last few weeks, the Owners Property Management Committee (OPM Committee) released its recommendation to the select board and community related to next steps for Public Safety Complex. This recommendation includes both building a new, modest safety complex (for police, fire and emergency services) on the grounds of the Helen E. James school and taking down the existing school building to do so.

This was not an easy or casual recommendation. Rather it came as the result of hundreds of hours of deliberations, review of more than one hundred possible building sites, a formal request for proposals for available land, and multiple community information sessions over the past two years.

The next step will be a vote at the Special Town Meeting on Saturday, April 3, 2021, (See page 1) followed by an all-day vote, the date still to be determined.

We are grateful for the robust dialog that has begun and encourage all town residents to learn about the

process that has led up to this point and to share their thoughts. Information is posted on the town website on the OPM Committee page of the website below.

In the spirit of community engagement, the committee presented the recommendation to all town boards and committees on February 18, and members have stood out in public locations (transfer station, Williamsburg Market, Williamsburg Post Office and Haydenville Post Office) on February 20<sup>th</sup> to share information and hear feedback.

There will also be two additional online information sessions where residents can ask questions and share their opinions. We hope you will join us at one of these events, which will take place on Wednesday, March 3rd at 6 pm., and Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. Access to the Zoom links are available on the website at <https://www.burgy.org/owners-project-manager-steering-committee-public-safety-complex> under the agendas listed on the right side of the page.

## A Bit of History

In August 1901, Mr. Edwin A. Grozier, publisher of the *Boston Post*, forwarded to the Selectmen of 431 towns a gold-headed cane with the request that it be presented with the compliments of the *Boston Post* to the oldest male citizen of the Town, and at the time of his death, passed to the next oldest male citizen of the Town. In 1930 eligibility for the cane was opened to female citizens. The Board of Selectmen is the Trustee of the Cane, and as such is empowered to pass it to the oldest Citizen of the town.

### The Boston Post Cane

The Board of Selectmen awarded the Boston Post Cane to **Betty Levrat** of Williamsburg on Thursday, January 28, 2021. The Board presented Ms. Levrat with a signed certificate, a replica of the Boston Post Cane and an African violet plant.

The Boston Post Cane is awarded to the oldest citizen in town.

**Our congratulations to you, Ms. Levrat!**



Anne T. Dunphy staff created fun ways to deliver socially-distanced Halloween candy!



## Williamsburg Libraries - Meekins

Most would agree that this year has been unlike any other in our memory. Meekins has dug deep to bring books, DVDs, magazines, craft projects, digital offerings and Zoom classes to the community in a safe process for staff and patrons. We have depended on social media and the internet to share our resources, and lots of information is available on our website. We are planning fun with Zoom book clubs, speakers, and kids' programming during the winter months. Federal and state tax forms are available in our lobby for pick up and by email request. We can print any schedules that you may need.



Meekins staff and Trustees are most excited that in 2021 we will undertake development of our Long Range Plan to guide our library in our community over the next five years. This process depends on the input, ideas and suggestions of all members of the Williamsburg community. Please consider sharing your voice and concerns when the time comes.

We look forward to hearing from all members of our community.

As always, call us at **413-268-7472** or email us at [meekinsbooks@cwmar.org](mailto:meekinsbooks@cwmar.org). You may also visit our website at [www.meekins-library.org](http://www.meekins-library.org), or our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/meekinslibrary>.



### Williamsburg Board of Library Trustees

Our Annual Fund Drive is underway! If you have not yet given, we ask for your help in raising the outstanding \$7000 needed to meet this year's goal of \$18,500. Donate online at [meekins-library.org](http://meekins-library.org) or send your tax deductible check made out to **Williamsburg Libraries Annual Fund**, PO Box 772, Williamsburg, MA 01096-0772.

### Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries

The Friends have had to suspend our normal fund-raising activities, most notably the annual October Book Sale, though our Fall membership drive was successful! We also received a generous Florence Bank Community Service grant. Friends have continued to support the Library by buying Museum passes, and by contributing to the Halloween event and a distanced Valentine's event for children. We polished up our Mission Statement, which is posted on the Friends page of the Library website. Friends' biggest contribution to the Library was the purchase of furniture for the newly renovated Black Reading Room.



**We look forward to the re-opening of the Library and a return to our "normal" fundraising and community event programming—Meanwhile we Zoom!**