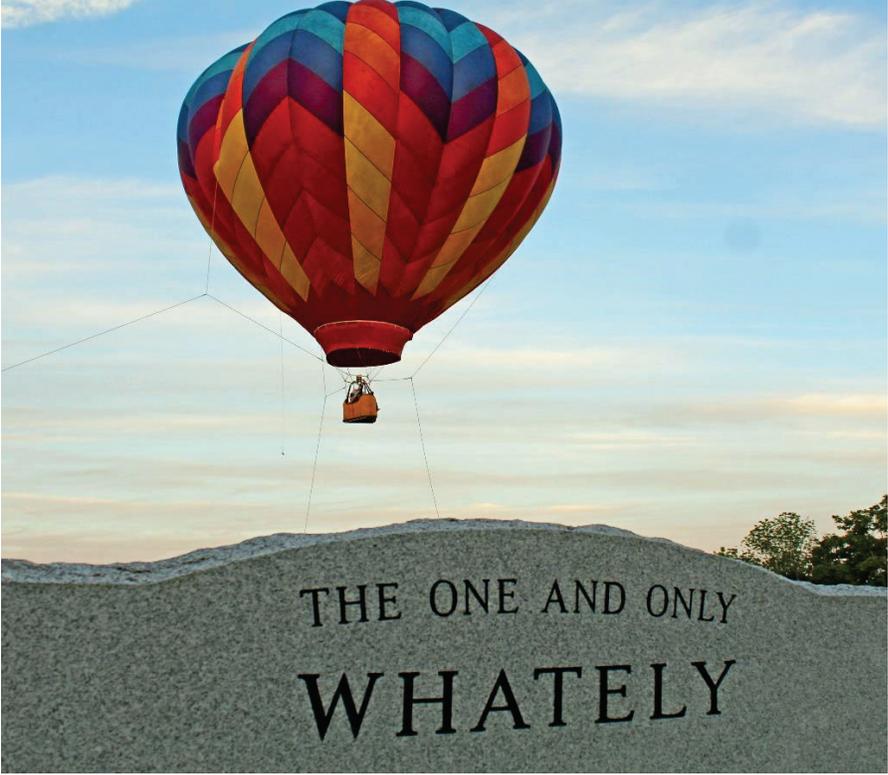
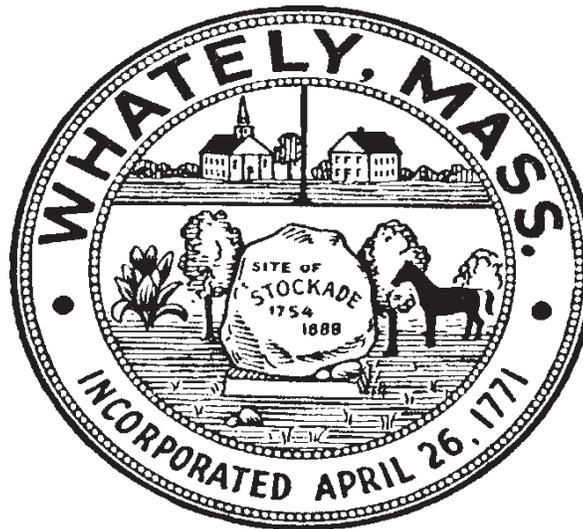


TOWN OF WHATELY 2022



ANNUAL REPORT

Two Hundred and Fifty-Second
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES
of the
TOWN OF WHATELY



For the Fiscal Year Ending
June 30, 2022

This Town Report is Dedicated to Lynn Sibley



I am so happy and proud to dedicate this year's town report to the recently retired Lynn Sibley.

Lynn has been serving Whately residents in some role or another since 1977. Even now in retirement, she is continuing to help train the folks who are moving into some of the positions she has held. Without her willingness to do the training we would not be able to fill important positions that are critical to running our town. This is so typical Lynn – to find a way to stay till the job is really done and truly handed off safely to the next person. We are all very lucky that Lynn is willing and able to provide the continuity for the important jobs she is trying to leave behind (assuming she actually really retires).

Lynn's service to the town is extraordinary, and speaks to the breadth and width of her knowledge of town government in general and our town government in particular. Alongside that knowledge I have always valued Lynn's insight and deeper understanding of how things work, and how they could work better. If she didn't know the answer to a question, which was not that often, she looked into it and came back with an answer. I have found she always gave me both information and insight that helped me move forward on issues that have come before the Selectmen during my 12 years on the board.

All the while, she made every single person she interacted with feel heard. As Town Clerk I recall she would sign the first line on nomination papers for every candidate so they would have a good example for the other signers to follow. She treated everyone fairly, no-matter the issue. I think these are her most important superpowers.

For the record, the posts Lynn has held in Whately are listed here (possibly incomplete) :EMT, Board of Selectmen Secretary, Board of Health Secretary, Municipal Secretary, Town Clerk , Town Administrator , Treasurer-Collector, Emergency Management Director.

Thank you for your years of service, and the best of all to you in your retirement.

Joyce Palmer Fortune,
Chair, Whately Selectboard, March 2023

Whately Town Officials-Elected Officials

Department/Committee

Term Expiration

Selectboard

Joyce Palmer Fortune, Chair

2023

Fred Baron, Vice Chair

2024

Julie Waggoner

2025

Town Clerk

Amy Lavallee

2023

Board of Assessors

Frederick Orloski, Chair

2024

Cathleen Grady

2025

Melanie Chorak

2023

Cynthia Herbert-Ramirez

2023

Board of Health

Francis Fortino, Chair

2024

Michael Archbald

2023

Rebecca Jones

2023

Mark Bushee, Health Agent

School Committee

Bethany Reilly

2025

Maureen Nichols

2023

Robert Halla 2024

Frontier Regional School

William J. Smith 2024

Library Trustees

Robert Smith, Chair 2025

J. Robert Klinger 2024

Cynthia W. Allen 2023

Fred Orloski 2025

Lawrence Ashman 2023

Cemetery Commissioners

Darcy Tozier 2024

Neal Abraham 2025

Ryan Brown 2023

Moderator

Nathanael Fortune 2023

Constables

Kritjan Viise 2025

Thomas Mahar 2025

Elector of the Will of Oliver Smith

Keith Bardwell 2023

Water Commissioners

George Bucala, Jr, Chair	2025
John Lukin	2024
Georgeann Default	2023
Wayne Hutkoski, Superintendent	2023

SELECTBOARD APPOINTMENTS

ADMINISTRATIVE

Town Administrator

Brian Domina	2025
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Assistant Town Administrator

Hannah Davis

Administrative Assistant

Amy Lavallee	2023
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Town Accountant

FRCOG-Dara Laplante

Treasurer/Collector

Amy Schrader
Lynn Sibley, Assistant

Town Counsel

Kopelman & Page

PUBLIC SERVICE

Superintendent of Streets

Keith Bardwell 2023

Keeper of the Pound

Daniel Denehy 2023

Tree Warden

Keith Bardwell 2023

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chief of Police

James Sevigne, Jr.

Sargeant

Donald Bates

Part-time Police Officers

James Purcell

Marc Bryden

Raymond Vandoloski

Joshua Thomas

Kristjan Viise

Adam Zaniewski

Jeffrey Baker, Court Officer

Brandon Lavecchia

Zachary Liebenow

Fire Chief and Forest Warden

John S. Hannum 2023

Emergency Management

Lynn M. Sibley, Director 2023

Alan Sanderson, Jr., Assistant 2023

Animal Control Officer

Richard Adamcek 2023

Hazardous Waste Coordinator

Fran Fortino 2023

Municipal Right to Know Coordinator

John S. Hannum 2023

INSPECTORS AND INSPECTION SERVICES

Franklin County Cooperative Inspection

Program Representative

VACANT

Franklin County Cooperative Inspection

Program

Building Inspector- James D. Hawkins

Wiring Inspector- Tom Macdonald

Plumbing Inspector- Andy French

Inspector of Animals and Barns

Richard Adamcek 2023

Weights and Measures

Northampton CoOp Auction 2023

Janet Land

Kim Reardon

Samantha Vanos

Linda Davenport

Fence Viewers and Field Drivers

David Chamutka 2023

Richard Adamcek 2023

Vacancy

Vacancy

VETERAN'S SERVICES

Veteran's Agent

Upper Pioneer Valley Veteran's District

Town Representative to Upper Pioneer

Valley Veterans District

Donald Sluter 2023

Veteran’s Graves Services

Raymond Billiel 2023

GENERAL GOVERNMENTS

Registrar of Voters

Nathan Nourse 2025

Josh Harris 2025

Theresa Billiel 2023

Amy Lavallee 2023

Community Development Coordinator

VACANT

Zoning Board of Appeals

Roger Lipton, Chair 2023

Debra Carney, Vice Chair 2023

Robert Smith 2025

Alternates

Frederick Orloski 2023

Kristin Vevon 2023

ADA Coordinator

Brian Domina 2023

Conservation Commission

Scott Jackson, Chair 2025

Montserrat Archbald 2023

Ann Barker 2024

George Owens	2025
Andrew Ostrowski	2023

Tri Town Beach Committee

Marc Bussiere	2024
Jonathan Edwards	2023
Vacancy	

Recreation Commission

Chris Williams, Director	
Justin Davis	2023
Wayne Hutkowski	2023
Shelley Yagodzinski	2023
Jake Schrader	2023
Vacancy	
Vacancy	

Historical Commission

Donna Wiley, Chair	2024
Alan McArdle	2025
Judy Markland	2023
Susan Baron	2025
Alison Bell	2025

Energy Committee

Jonathan Edwards	2023
Nathanael Fortune	2023

Paul Newlin 2023

Cultural Council

Nancy Talanian, Chair 2023

Adelia Bardwell 2023

Riina Viise 2024

Jenny Morrison 2024

Paul Jenkins 2024

Perrine Meunier-Jones 2024

Nance Rifanburg 2024

Richard Korpiewski 2025

Montserrat Archbald 2026

Open Space Committee

Jonathan Edwards 2022

Paul Newlin 2022

Vacant 2022

Pete Westover 2022

Alison Bell 2022

Perrine Meunier-Jones 2022

Scott Jackson 2022

Agricultural Commission

Timothy Nourse, Chair 2023

William Obear 2022

David Chamutka 2023

John Devine, Secretary 2022

Margaret Christie	2024
Doug Coldwell	2024
James Golonka	2022

Council on Aging

Maryann Sadoski	2023
Kathryn McGrail	2024
Bill Orloski	2023
Vacancy	
Vacancy	

Cable TV Advisory Committee

Randy K. Sibley	2022
Joyce Palmer-Fortune	2022

Housing Committee

Frederick Orloski	2023
Catherine Wolkowicz	2023
Vacant	2023
Fred Baron	2023
Vacant	2023
Brant Cheikes	2023
Montserrat Archbald	2023

Housing Trust

Frederick Orloski	2023
Catherine Wolkowicz	2023

Vacant	2022
Fred Baron	2022

**Franklin Regional Council of
Governments Representative**

Lynn Sibley	2022
<i>Alternate</i>	
Brian Domina	

Franklin County Solid Waste District

Larry Kutner	2022
<i>Alternate</i>	
Quinton Dawson	2022

Franklin County Transit Authority

Frederick Orloski	2022
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Municipal Building Committee

Fred Orloski, Chair
Adelia Bardwell
Virginia Allis
Judy Markland
Anita Husted
John Wroblewski
Edward Sklepowicz

MODERATOR'S APPOINTMENTS

Finance Committee

Paul Antaya, Chair	2022
Thomas Mahar	2024
Roger Kennedy	2022
James Kirkendall	2023
Donna Wiley	2024
Patricia Devine	2023
Brenda Doherty	2024

Planning Board

Donald Sluter, Chair	2026
Sara Cooper	2022
Brant Cheikes	2025
Judy Markland	2024
Thomas Litwin	2023

OTHER OFFICIALS

Capital Improvement Planning

Committee

- Brian Domina, Town Administrator
- Frederick Orloski, Selectboard
- Katie Edwards, Superintendent Representative
- Darcy Tozier, At Large
- Brant Cheikes, Planning Board
- Roger Kennedy, Finance Committee
- Nicholas Jones, At Large

Community Preservation Committee

Alan Sanderson, Jr., Chair

Andrew Ostrowski

Donna Wiley

Catherine Wolkowicz

Jonathan Edwards

Doug Coldwell

Judy Markland

Selectboard Appointment 2024

Conservation Commission 2022

Historical Commission 2023

Housing Committee 2023

Recreation Committee 2023

Agricultural Commission 2024

Planning Board

Personnel Committee

Joyce Palmer-Fortune

Keith Bardwell

Thomas Mahar

Betty Orloski

Susan Baron

Selectboard Appointment

Elected by Employees

Appointed by Finance Committee

Appointed by Moderator

Appointed by Moderator

South County Emergency Medical Services

Board of Oversight Representative

Jonathan Edwards

Gary Stone

South County Senior Center Board of

Oversight Representative

Jonathan Edwards

Whately Representative

Assistant Assessor

Cynthia Herbert-Ramirez

Appointed by Board of Assessors

Health Agent

Mark Bushee

Foothills Health District

Franklin Regional Planning

Board Representative

Brian Domina

2022

Regional Emergency Planning

Committee Representative

Lynn Sibley

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER
TOWN OF WHATELY, MA
BANK ACCOUNTS – FY 2022**

BANK	BALANCE 6/30/2021	BALANCE 6/30/2022
PEOPLE’S UNITED		
GENERAL CHECKING	\$35,779.62	\$184,310.14
PAYROLL ACCT	\$25.37	\$326.64
SCHOOL LUNCH ACCOUNT	\$20,951.43	\$21,630.44
UNIBANK		
ONLINE COLLECTIONS	\$292,198.36	\$222,703.95
AMBULANCE FUND	\$65,550.23	\$65,560.52
UNIBANK TOWN CLERK	\$9,177.13	\$13,421.39
GENERAL REVENUE ACCT	\$663,293.21	\$111,206.09
SCHOOL ACCOUNT	\$271,541.18	\$132,026.05
RECREATION	\$0.00	\$11,556.64
DEPUTY COLLECTOR	\$69,251.56	\$95,810.36
ADAMS BANK		
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACCT.	\$237,549.79	\$257,663.39
CITIZEN’S BANK		
GENERAL CHECKING	\$1,181.38	\$1,181.50
EASTHAMPTON SAVINGS BANK		
CULTURAL COUNCIL	\$2,680.02	\$6,393.20
GENERAL FUND	\$9,272.14	\$9,276.78
GENERAL CHECKING	\$1,577,439.25	\$2,230,286.53
MMDT		
GENERAL REVENUE	\$23,354.58	\$23,429.56
BARNARD FUND CHURCH	\$1,085.06	\$1,087.77
S. WHITE AGED PERS FUND	\$9,240.09	\$9,269.40
A/C DAVENPORT POOR FUND	\$3,087.43	\$3,097.54
AMBULANCE REPLACE FUND	\$153.16	\$153.31

WHATELY GRANGE FUND	\$71.67	\$71.67
PEOPLES BANK		
SCHOOL VENDOR ACCT	\$18.40	\$18.20
BARTHOLOMEW		
AMB CAP STABILIZATION	\$911.24	\$917.87
GEN CAP STABILIZATION	\$192,797.35	\$194,200.94
VEHICLE STABILIZATION	\$63,451.95	\$83,983.90
TOWN BUILDING STABILIZATION	\$0.00	\$25,095.97
SEPTIC	\$17,287.25	\$17,413.07
CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE	\$60,756.22	\$60,523.29
STABILIZATION	\$389,925.57	\$363,662.74
ENA CANE LIBRARY	\$4,301.86	\$4,333.16
OLIVE K DAMON LIBRARY	\$12,464.09	\$12,352.43
ANNIE DANFORTH LIBRARY	\$780.35	\$450.72
S. WHITE DICKINSON LIBRARY	\$93,927.17	\$87,097.43
PAUL F FIELD LIBRARY	\$5,313.27	\$5,298.53
JAMES FILIPKOWSKI	\$1,737.91	\$1,125.04
S & S FILIPKOWSKI LIBRARY	\$5,621.68	\$5,659.96
LOUIS KANDZ LIBRARY	\$1,246.72	\$182.24
J & J MAIEWSKI LIBRARY	\$3,169.18	\$1,043.08
ALICE RYAN ROBINSON	\$3,749.47	\$3,263.31
AFFORDABLE HOUSING	\$121,546.85	\$122,431.71
OPEB	\$176,968.95	\$216,289.97
CHECKS OUTSTANDING	(\$68,259.12)	(\$66,411.55)
PETTY CASH	<u>\$600.00</u>	\$600.00
TOTAL FUNDS	\$4,381,243.55	\$4,539,994.88

REPORT OF THE TOWN COLLECTOR
TOWN OF WHATELY, MA
JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022

YEAR	TYPE OF TAX	COMMITTED OR BALANCE FORWARD	B/L OR TAX PAID	ABATEMENTS EXEMPTIONS	REFUNDS	WRITE OFF		OUTSTANDING 6/30/2022
						TAX TITLES OR LIENED	ADJUST BAD DEBT	
							or SMALL BAL	
2022	REAL ESTATE	4,271,062.74	4211380.65	17453.79	9271.92		-1.35	51,501.57
	CPA/WATER	101,375.41	99869.16	621.77				884.48
	PERSONAL PROPERTY	210,915.04	203353.39		1164.72			8,726.37
	MOTOR VEHICLE	320,229.79	304255.75	3029.17	767.76			13,712.63
	WATER	130,994.40	123760.04		591.59			7,825.95
	FARM ANIMAL	7,800.25	6782.25					1,018.00
2021	REAL ESTATE	87,058.92	65193.81	1402.75	1372.64	21,633.95	-2.11	203.16
	CPA/WATER	1,993.99	1312.92	2.01	2.01	642.16		38.91
	PERSONAL PROPERTY	8,001.56	10546.2	2026.96	4571.6			0.00
	MOTOR VEHICLE	61,594.18	54878.25	1911.42	1695.77			6,500.28
	WATER	16,437.92	11552.59	0.21	3.42	4064.83		823.71
	FARM ANIMAL	344.05	67.05					277.00
2020	REAL ESTATE	12,456.34	11682.32	1399.31	2852.6	1,611.04		616.27
	CPA/WATER	246.08	242.84	0.85				2.39
	PERSONAL PROPERTY	2,408.13	306.27	2173.89	72.02		-0.01	0.00
	MOTOR VEHICLE	7,934.78	5225.16				-1.30	2,710.92
	FARM ANIMAL	919.82	7.32	912.5				0.00
2019	REAL ESTATE	512.16						512.16
	CPA/WATER	0.00						0.00
	PERSONAL PROPERTY	5,068.27	363.50	1,559.06				3,145.71
	MOTOR VEHICLE	2,140.73	898.99					1,241.74
	WATER	-0.36					-0.36	0.00
	FARM ANIMAL	242.50	117.50	125.00				0.00
2018	REAL ESTATE	126.43						126.43
	COMMUNITY PRES ACT	3.80						3.80
	PERSONAL PROPERTY	2,598.60						2,598.60
	MOTOR VEHICLE	724.37	32.29					692.08
	FARM ANIMAL	185.00	60.00	125.00				0.00
2017	REAL ESTATE	3,705.40						3,705.40
	COMMUNITY PRES ACT	64.36						64.36
	PERSONAL PROPERTY	3,143.15		8.33				3,134.82
	MOTOR VEHICLE	616.19	93.75					522.44
	WATER	0.00						0.00
	FARM ANIMAL	210.25	60.00	150.25				0.00
2016	REAL ESTATE	3,456.52						3,456.52
	COMMUNITY PRES ACT	58.85						58.85
	PERSONAL PROPERTY	2,747.99	113.53	23.94				2,610.52
	MOTOR VEHICLE	614.18	85.00					529.18
	FARM ANIMAL	150.25		150.25				0.00
2015	REAL ESTATE	3,709.82						3,709.82
	COMMUNITY PRES ACT	62.78						62.78
	PERSONAL PROPERTY	9,161.54		25.87			6,314.00	2,821.67
	MOTOR VEHICLE	663.02						663.02
	FARM ANIMAL	188.25		150.25				38.00
2014	REAL ESTATE	3,618.05						3,618.05
	COMMUNITY PRES ACT	61.23						61.23
	PERSONAL PROPERTY	2,777.16		25.23				2,751.93
	MOTOR VEHICLE	606.88	70.00	536.88				0.00
2013	REAL ESTATE	3,429.33	865.42					2,563.91
	COMMUNITY PRES ACT	56.68	14.38					42.30
	PERSONAL PROPERTY	3,096.94		24.64				3,072.30
	MOTOR VEHICLE	721.25		721.25				0.00
2012	PERSONAL PROPERTY	2,560.01		\$436.88				2,123.13
	MOTOR VEHICLE	1,816.06		\$1,816.06				0.00
2011	PERSONAL PROPERTY	1,264.30		618.88				645.42
	MOTOR VEHICLE	531.04		\$531.04				0.00
2010	PERSONAL PROPERTY	613.25		\$613.25				0.00
2009	PERSONAL PROPERTY	1,043.76		\$1,043.76				0.00
2008	PERSONAL PROPERTY	68.44		\$68.44				0.00
2006	PERSONAL PROPERTY	31.99		\$31.99				0.00

2022 Annual Report of the Town Clerk

2022 was a busy year in the Town Clerk's Office. We conducted 3 elections during the calendar year: June 14, 2022, Annual Town Election, September 6, 2022, State Primary and the November 3, 2022, State Election. The office was also involved in the Annual Town Meeting and one Special Town Meeting. For copies of those minutes, please go to the website www.whately.org. Due to COVID-19, the Annual Town Election, State Primary and State Election were held at the Town Hall and the Annual Town Meeting was held in the field next to the Elementary School. Both locations offered the space we needed to socially distance and conduct one-way traffic for the election.

In 2022, the Legislature adopted the VOTES Act for elections, this allowed early vote by mail, early in person voting, and changes to voter registration sessions. Unlike Absentee voting, early voting allowed people to vote early without a reason. Many residents took advantage of early vote by mail. Early Voting in person was also adopted by the VOTES Act for the September and November elections. Whately voters participated at all elections in great numbers but turned out for the November election with a whopping 88.7%. Thank you for taking voting seriously!

As a reminder to all the hunters and fishermen out there, you may obtain your licenses locally at Dick's Sporting Goods, Walmart or online at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/licensing/>. Vital Records and Dog Licenses may be purchased online, by mail, or in the office. If your dog has been registered in Whately before and has a valid rabies certificate on file with the Town Clerk, you may use the online service.

Vital Records and Dog Licenses may be purchased online, by mail, or in the office. If your dog has been registered in Whately before and has a valid rabies certificate on file with the Town Clerk, you may use the online service. For Vital Records, it is a good idea to call first just to make sure we have the record that you are seeking. To pay online, just go to www.whately.org and go to Pay Bills then click on Whately Town Clerk and follow the instructions. You can pay with your bank account with a fee of .50 cents or with a Master Card, Visa or Discover card with considerably higher fees depending on the price of the purchase.

My hours in the Whately Town Offices, 4 Sandy Lane are Monday 8:00am -7:00pm and Tuesday – Thursday 8:00am – 3:00pm and Friday - closed. As always, I am willing to set up appointments for special circumstances outside of these hours.

The following is a summary of the activities of the Town Clerk's Office for the year 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy M. Schrader, Town Clerk

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
14	18	10	14	14	9	10

MARRIAGES

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
13	10	7	5	8	16	16

DEATHS

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
6	18	12	13	18	11	13

2022 DOG LICENSES

16	Male Dogs @ \$15.00	\$ 240.00
141	Neutered Male Dogs @ \$10.00	1,410.00
18	Female Dogs @ \$15.00	270.00
<u>166</u>	Spayed Female Dogs @ \$10.00	<u>1,660.00</u>
341		\$3,580.00
	Licenses for 2021 paid in 2022	135.00
	Plus, Fines Charged for Late Licensing	<u>750.00</u>
	Total turned over to Treasurer	\$4,600.00

OTHER FEES COLLECTED BY TOWN CLERK

Zoning Board – Appeals	750.00
Planning Board – ANR – Other Filings	400.00
Sale of Street Listing	21.00
Gas Renewal Permits	200.00
Vitals	975.00
Business Certificates	445.00
Notice of Intent & Wetland Fees	0.00
Miscellaneous	30.00
Sale of Zoning Bylaws	7.00
Copying	41.07
Public Hearing Advertising	<u>2,352.93</u>
Town Treasury in Clerk Receipts	\$5,222.00

Selectboard report for CY 2022

Joyce Palmer Fortune – Chair

submitted March 31, 2023

When the year started, we were emerging from the pandemic and were looking forward to the celebration of our town's 250th Birthday. Public meetings were continuing in-person with the remote option, and we were all looking forward to things getting closer to normal.

I feel like one big theme of the year was steady and strong applications for grant money. Our now departed Community Development Administrator brought the Selectboard a steady stream of funding source ideas and possibilities. Our role was to help the CDA focus on programs and projects that were most appropriate and needed for our town. Their success impressed us all as grant after grant came back with positive decisions for us.

We approved of grant applications to numerous programs: District Local Technical Assistance grants, Community Compact Efficiency & Regionalization grant, Shared Streets & Spaces grant, One Stop for Growth grant, Green Communities grant, Complete Neighborhood Partnership grant, Gap III competitive grant. Community Compact Municipal Best Practices grant program, Municipal Energy Technical Assistance grant program

Many of these grant applications have been successful, perhaps most famously the MVP grant awarded to Whately for a solar energy installation at the Town Offices with storage batteries. Another very visible result of grant awarded to the town are the traffic control signs you now see around town telling you your speed, and urging you to slow down if you speed is too high. We are also starting to see the upgrades to Herlihy park, another grant funded project.

We also decided to participate in some programs (free to us) that are poised to give us good information for future grant applications. Thanks to Energy committee Chair Paul Newlin, we were able to get some free work done by the Umass Clean Energy Center's program for the development of a Community Solar Action Plan for the town. Thanks to our CDA, we got some free work done by the Conway School of Design whose students have prepared a climate resilience plan focused on water resources for our town. These may seem like 'just another report', but they are worth their weight in gold when it comes to planning ahead and applying for grant funding to implement projects in these areas

One really big project that was in the works for a few years came to pass this year – the merger of the town's water department and the Whately Water District.

Other projects this year – we improved the offices at 4 Sandy lane; We continue to look for ways to utilize some town properties that are not utilized currently, like the Whately Center School and the DiMaio Property on State road.

And, with our neighbors Deerfield and Sunderland, we witnessed the rebirth of the South County Senior Center post-pandemic, and welcomed our new director, who has done a fabulous job making whitely seniors feel welcome. We continue to work on finding a permanent home for the senior center.

WHATELY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION REPORT for 2022

The Whately Agricultural Commission's activities in 2022 primarily focused on our continued support of Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) projects in town. We continue to work with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources which provides the majority of project funding. We also submit recommendations to the Whately Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for supplemental funding through the town's Community Preservation Act (CPA). We are thankful for the successful efforts of these groups in preserving Whately farmland.

Thanks to all Residents and Town Officials for their commitment to preserve and protect farmland in Whately.

If you are considering the State's Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program as a means to preserve your farmland, but don't know where to start. Please bring your questions to our committee. We can answer most questions and assist with the application documents.

2022 Activities included:

- The continued encouragement and support of the sustainability of Whately agriculture.
- The continued encouragement of solar energy as a renewable resource on Whately farms.
- The continued encouragement of value-added products to improve the profitability of Whately farms.
- The continued encouragement of Ag. Plastic Recycling through the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District.

The following Disclosure Notification (Section 4 of the Whately Right-To-Farm By-Law) is required to be published by the Town of Whately on an annual basis in the town report

DISCLOSURE NOTIFICATION

“ It is the policy of this community to conserve, protect and encourage the maintenance and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food, and other agricultural products, and also for its natural and ecological value. This disclosure notification is to inform landowners and occupants of the Town of Whately that the property they own or occupy lies within a town where farming activities occur. Such farming activities may include, but not limited to, activities that cause noise, dust and odors. Landowners and occupants are also informed that the location of their property may be impacted by commercial agricultural operations by existing right of ways or rental agreements already in place for such property under certain circumstances.”

Members of the Agricultural Commission:

Doug Coldwell (Chair and Secretary)

David Chamutka

Margaret Christie

John Devine

Jim Golonka

Timothy Nourse

William Obear

Animal Control Officer -2022

The Animal Control Officer received 143 calls for service this year. The breakdown for calls is as follows:

Missing Dog-2

Found Dog-12

Dog Returned to Owner-11

Dog Taken to Shelter-4

Barking Dog-4

Dogs Running Loose-6

Aggressive Dog-10

Dog Bite-3

Dog attack Wildlife-2

Dog Attack-2

Animal Cruelty-19

Problem Dog-13

Feral Cat-2

Injured Cat-5

Found Cat-3

Rehome Cat-2

Missing Cat-3

Large Cat Sighting-2

Quarantines Issued- 10

Loose Pigs-1

Loose Horse-2

Loose Cows-2

Problem Bear-5

Injured Bear-5

Dispose of Dead Wildlife-1

Injured Hawk-3

Sick Fox-2

Skunk-2

Meetings Attended-3

Assist MSPCA-2

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Adamcek

Animal Control Officer

Animal Inspector 2022

The Animal Inspector issued 10 quarantines this year- 4 for dog bites and 6 for wounds of unknown origin.

Barn inspections were completed, and the results are as follows:

Dairy Cattle- 82

Beef Cattle-188

Oxen-7

Goats- 35

Sheep-3

Swine-6

Equine-34

Chickens-650

Turkeys- 65

Waterfowl-33

Game Birds-1

Rabbits- 3

I also stopped by and spoke with several residents with free-range poultry to discuss Avian Flu. If I missed you with the barn inspection please contact me at 413-665-8027. The State relies on this information in developing and implementing a response to emergencies, either weather or disease related.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Adamcek

Animal Inspector

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE – 2022

Established in 1995, the Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC) is responsible for the long-range planning of capital projects on an on-going basis. The CIPC studies the need for capital projects submitted by town departments, boards and committees and makes recommendations on the priority of each proposed project. A ten-year plan has been developed by the CIPC and is updated each year based on the changing needs of the Town's departments, boards and committees.

Over the past year a number of important projects, both small and large have been completed which will allow the Town to continue providing a high level of services to residents. Please see below for some of the projects completed.

Herlihy Park: The construction of accessibility improvements at Herlihy Park have begun. When the project is finished the restrooms will be renovated and handicapped accessible and the driveway and parking lot will be resurfaced and striped to provide for handicapped accessible parking. The project will also include a sidewalk from the parking lot to the pavilion/restrooms, as well as new plantings and fencing.

Highway Department: The Highway Department purchased a new tractor to improve the department's efficiency and to increase the capabilities of the department at the work site.

Library: The accessibility improvements at the S. White Dickinson Library have been completed. The lift now provide access for people with mobility issues to both the first and second floor, including the recently renovated accessible restrooms.

Water Department: The construction of the pumping station adjacent to the Center Cemetery has been completed and commenced operations in October of 2022. The installation of the pumping station was necessary to allow the Water Department to serve the members of the Whately Water District and for the operations of the District to be discontinued.

The CIPC has reviewed and discussed all of the capital projects submitted for the upcoming fiscal year and has provided the following recommendations to the Finance Committee and Selectboard.

PRIORITY A: *Urgent, high priority projects which should be done if at all possible. A special effort should be made to find funding for all projects in this group.*

- Flooring Replacement (Whately Elementary School Pre-K Restrooms)
- Window and Chimney Repair/Restoration (Library)
- Electrical System Safety and Plumbing Upgrades (Library)
- New Dump Truck and Plow (Replace 2008 Ford F550) (Highway Department)
- New Pick-up Truck (Replace 2013 Ford F150) (Highway Department)
- New Tasers, Body Cameras and Software (Police Department)
- Christian Lane Culvert – Final Design (Infrastructure)

PRIORITY B: *High priority projects should be done as funding becomes available.*

- Replace Communication Pagers (Fire Department)
- Cataloging Town Maps/Plans

PRIORITY C: *Worthwhile projects to be considered if funding is available; may be deferred to a subsequent year.*

- Install double lane batting cages
- Install surveillance system

Note: *The CIPC took no action on a request to install air conditioning mini-splits at the Whately Elementary School.*

Respectfully submitted: Capital Improvement Planning Committee

Dan Kennedy, Fred Baron, Maureen Nichols, Nicholas Jones, Darcy Tozier, Brant Cheikes, Brian Domina
(Town Administrator ex-officio)

Whately Cemetery Commission Annual Report
2022

We would like to recognize the passing of Paul Fleuriel by expressing our appreciation for his many years of tireless work as a Whately Cemetery Commissioner. His enthusiasm, energy and generosity of time and resources helped us lift the cemeteries into a better state of repair and maintenance. His warm, social ease helped guide many families through the challenging steps of laying loved ones to rest. He will be missed.

Kai Nalenz of Gravestone Services of New England returned this fall to complete the remaining stone repairs needed in West and East Cemetery. He also did his best to puzzle the pieces back into place of the Bardwell stones at the rear of Center Cemetery. He used a couple of stone backers for extra support. Thank you all for supporting the CPA grant funding that allowed us to complete such a daunting task.

East Cemetery fencing has been replaced with split rail to allow for easier trimming and maintenance and to deter the overgrowth of vines and weeds. Thank you to Neal for making this happen and to L&L fence for their excellent work. They also removed the deteriorating gate at the entrance to West Cemetery. Thanks again CPA. The boundary fence along the north side of Center Cemetery is being replaced as part of the pump house project.

We have funding for the installation of several benches scattered throughout each cemetery and would appreciate any input from frequent visitors for best placement.

We continue to mow and trim in each cemetery on a regular basis during the growing season. We are searching for a third Cemetery Commissioner to replace Ryan Brown. If anyone is interested in helping with the maintenance of the cemeteries, burials and paperwork please let us know. We are also looking for Sextons, to work part-time in paid hourly positions, to help with the mowing and trimming.

Some future projects are: digitization of cemetery records and maps, digital software for mapping, burials and plot sales. We also need to address on an annual basis the tipping or fracture of headstones from weather, winter ground heaving, and/or grave settlement.

Activity in 2022:

Center Cemetery	West Cemetery	East Cemetery
Plot sales: 2	Plot Sales: 4	Plot sales: 0
Burials: 7	Burials: 0	Burials: 1

Respectfully Submitted,
Whately Cemetery Commission
Darcy Tozier
Neal Abraham

2022 Conservation Commission Annual Report

The Conservation Commission is charged with implementing the state's Wetlands Protection Act using regulations written by the MA Department of Environmental Protection. Over the course of the past year, the Commission:

- Received two Requests for a Determination of Applicability (determinations as to whether or not a wetland permit is required) and issued two Determinations
- Reviewed three Notices of Intent (permit applications) and issued three Orders of Conditions (wetland permits)
- Issued one Emergency Certificate to facilitate work needed to address an urgent threat to public health
- Responded to questions from residents about the wetland regulations and the permitting process

In addition to actions taken to implement the MA Wetlands Protection Act, the Conservation Commission was also involved in the following activities.

- The Conservation Commission participated in a feasibility study conducted by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments into the possibility of establishing one or more shared conservation agents to assist Conservation Commissions in nine Franklin County towns.
- The Commission sent a letter to the Select Board and Town Administrator expressing concern about increased activity at Baystate Blasting site off Chestnut Plain Road and urging them to diligently monitor the situation to ensure that all activities conducted at that site are fully in compliance with restrictions in the Aquifer Protection Overlay District.
- Andrew Ostrowski represents the Conservation Commission on the town's Community Preservation Committee.
- George Owens represented the Conservation Commission on the Resource Replacement Fee Working Group
- Ann Barker represented the Conservation Commission at Planning Board meetings focused on establishing a Floodplain Protection Bylaw
- Scott Jackson worked with the Planning Board and Franklin Regional Council of Governments on a floodplain bylaw to meet requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Montserrat Archbald served as the Commission's representative on a town Housing Committee providing input on the creation of a Housing Production Plan for the Town of Whately

Scott Jackson, Chair
Andrew Ostrowski
George Owens
Montserrat Archbald
Ann Barker

Whately Cultural Council

Annual Report for 2022

The Whately Cultural Council held an open, remote meeting via Zoom on December 9, 2021, to elect officers and to award 2022 grant funds of \$6,391. Of the grant funds to be awarded, \$5,000 came from the Mass. Cultural Council for 2022 programs, and the remaining \$1,391 were from bank interest plus unspent funds previously granted for events that did not take place. The Cultural Council did not do any fundraising to generate additional resources to award in support of cultural activities.

The Council members agreed to continue our established funding priorities with a preference to grant applications from local institutions, organizations and community events, with priority given to programs that benefit children or seniors. Additionally, the Whately Cultural Council gives priority to performers that have sponsorship from a local institution, organization or community event. Such sponsorship must be evidenced by a letter from an authorized representative of the relevant institution, organization or community event.

By the October 2021 closing deadline for applications, the Council received 33 applications seeking awards totaling \$17,230.

The Cultural Council made 20 awards totalling \$6,391 to the following grant applicants for 2022 programs:

- Pioneer Valley Symphony (for Whately Elementary School)
- Frontier Regional CFCE/Union 38 Family Network (for students from middle school through high school)
- Hilltown Village
- Whately Historical Society for music and other entertainment for the town's annual spring and fall festivals
- Franklin County Pride
- Anna Sobel hand puppet show (for Whately Elementary School)
- Belding Memorial Library, Ashfield (for students from middle school through high school)
- Janet Ryan (for children from preschool through elementary school)
- Tanglewood Marionettes (for Whately Elementary School)
- Jeff Gavioli and His Bad News Band (for a free concert to celebrate Whately's 250th anniversary)
- Friends of the Whately Library (for its Summer Music Series and Annual Tree Lighting)
- Racial Justice Rising
- Timothy Van Egmond (for spring performance at the South County Senior Center)
- David Neill (for performance at South County Senior Center picnic)
- Edward L. Cope (for a program at the Whately Library)

Thirteen requests were not funded because the applications did not sufficiently meet the local criteria for awards from the Whately Cultural Council.

Members of the Council for 2022 are as follows:

Adelia Bardwell
Paula Jenkins
Richard Korpiewski
Perrine Meunier-Jones
Jenny Morrison
Nance Rifanburg
Nancy Talanian
Riina Viise

The officers for 2025 are:

Nancy Talanian, Chair
Perrine Meunier-Jones and Jenny Morrison, Vice Chairs
Richard Korpiewski, Treasurer
Nance Rifanburg, Secretary

For questions or information, please contact the Whately Cultural Council, 4 Sandy Lane, Whately or visit the Massachusetts Cultural Council website for the Whately Cultural Council at <https://www.mass-culture.org/> . The deadline for applications for grants to be spent in 2024 will likely be October 15, 2023; details will be posted on the Massachusetts Cultural Council website where those interested can also find application instructions.

Nancy Talanian, Chair
culturalcouncil@whately.org

2022 Emergency Management Report

2022 was quiet year for the Emergency Management team. The Board of Health continued to manage COVID responsibilities so the Emergency Management team had little involvement with COVID issues. It is important to note, however, that we must still remain vigilant in keeping our exposures to COVID limited and also to maintain our vaccination status. Thankfully, there were no other serious incidents that required Emergency Management staff oversight.

Record keeping and filing of COVID grant paperwork continued throughout the year. Most of these grant requirements are now in the capable hands of our Town Administrator who is keeping on top of the ever-changing rules and acceptable expenses.

During 2022 other emergency management items continued to need attention. I again reviewed our Emergency plans for the South Deerfield Water District and the Francis P. Ryan reservoirs and updated Whately's information in those plans. I also continued a review of our Community Emergency Management Plan and Continuation of Operations of Government plan (COOP Plan). These are ongoing projects for the Emergency Management Director.

The 2022 EMPG grant was used to buy a new portable radio that is compatible with the new emergency communication system in Franklin County, CoMirs. The grant for this year will be used to buy thermal imaging devices for use by the Police and Fire Departments.

I would like to remind people to register their phone numbers and email addresses with Connect CTY, the town's emergency notification system. As many people have eliminated their landlines in favor of cell phones, it is important to add those cell phone numbers to the system. The newly upgraded system allows residents to sign on and register or make changes to their own accounts through our website but if you would rather have the town make those changes, just let me know at 413-665-4400 Option 2. I receive many nice comments about Connect CTY. It is a great mechanism to get the word out to people quickly regarding non-emergency messages as well as emergency notices.

In closing, I would like to thank the emergency personnel here in Whately especially the Board of Health for their continued management of COVID related issues. The Fire Department, South County Ambulance, Police, Highway, Board of Health, Selectboard, Town Administrator, FRCOG staff and emergency volunteers are all experienced staff members that know what needs to be done during an emergency. It is comforting to know that emergencies will be handled efficiently even when key members of the team are not present. I would also like to thank our residents for their continued cooperation with COVID challenges. We ask you to "hang in there", get vaccinated and stay safe.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Sibley
Emergency Management Director

2022 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FOOTHILLS HEALTH AGENT WHATELY

During 2022, the department issued 1 Campground permit, 18 septic system permits, 5 Septic installers, 12 Food permits, 1 Lodging permit, 3 Refuse Haulers, 3 Tobacco permits, 7 Septic Pumpers and 3 Wells. We also witnessed 11 Perc Tests and 25 Septic system inspections. A total of \$19,900 was collected in fees.

Our department expanded from one to four staff members. Janet Scully is our Office Manager. Niki Vaughan as the Health Inspector, Michael Archbald is the Public Health Nurse and Mark R. Bushee as the Health Director.

The following is a general breakdown of the many responsibilities handled on a regular basis by your Board of Health and the Foothills Health District:

- Witnessing percolation tests for all new and replacement septic systems
- Permit review and on-site inspections for all septic repairs and installations
- Housing code inspections and enforcement
- Infectious disease investigation and reporting
- Tobacco regulation enforcement
- On-site inspections for all beaver conflict permits
- Handling the numerous public health-related questions and complaints
- Camp inspections
- Bathing Beach test review
- Food establishment permitting and inspections

We can be reached at 413-268-8404. Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Written messages or mail should be directed to me at P.O. Box 447 Haydenville, MA 01039, or via email at Foothills@Burgy.org. I look forward to another productive year.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark R. Bushee
Health Director
Foothills Health District



**FCAT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022
BY JONATHAN A. BOSCHEN**

SUBMITTED FEBRUARY 16, 2023

2022 was a productive year for Frontier Community Access Television. In February 2022, Jonathan A. Boschen was appointed as the General Manager, following the passing of the station's previous manager Chris Collins. Since his appointment, Boschen has reorganized FCAT and was hard at work on several different infrastructure projects for the station. Throughout 2022, FCAT was involved with covering numerous events and government meetings for the four towns of Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland and Whately, and also functions put on by Frontier Regional School. FCAT also managed the community bulletin boards on FCAT channels 12 and 23, and on the channel 15's for Deerfield and Sunderland. All of the work FCAT completed throughout 2022 was made possible by its staff and volunteers.

In regards to local government, FCAT was behind the scenes documenting various meetings and a large number of Selectboard meetings throughout 2022. FCAT oversaw the documentation of the town's Annual Town Meetings, Special Town Meetings, and other presentations, hearings, etc. Selectboard meetings throughout 2023 were held in a hybrid fashion, and therefore FCAT's role in covering them varied by town. FCAT video recorded the meetings of Deerfield and Sunderland, while the towns of Conway and Whately recorded their own Selectboard meetings utilizing Zoom technology and the automated Meeting Owl 360° Cameras.

For non-Government related events, FCAT covered numerous events ranging from Conway and Whately Historical Society presentations, and also events by Frontier Regional School. As the Covid-19 Pandemic was still ongoing throughout 2022, not as many historical society presentations or common interest events occurred throughout the year. The vast majority of non-government projects was covering Frontier school sports, concerts, and other events. Coverage of these events was overseen by FCAT youth coordinator and Frontier teacher Kevin Murphy. Amongst some of the FCAT volunteers that assisted with these school video projects were Frontier students who were recruited by Mr. Murphy. This opportunity gave students first hand experience working on a professional video set.

Amongst one of the 2022 events FCAT was honored to be a part of and involved with documenting, was the Whately 250th celebration in June 2022. (A celebration originally scheduled for 2021, but postponed to 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic). This special week long celebration which was composed of numerous community events, music concerts, and parades, etc. was extensively documented by the station resulting in the completion of numerous video productions. Amongst one of these productions was a 40 to 45 minute highlight video entitled "Whately's Belated Birthday Party" documenting and chronicling the entire celebration. It is hoped that this video, along with the other 250th videos, will be cherished by Whately, and also serve as a fun look back in 2071 during Whately's tricentennial.

Moving forward during 2023, FCAT will continue to proudly serve its four towns, and will also focus on building its volunteer base. FCAT plans to offer workshops on video production to both Frontier students and adults within our four towns. Some of these workshops will even focus on producing videos with iPhones, to give community members basic understanding on how to use them and make effective videos. FCAT will also work with its four towns to help address issues with audio and video that occur during hybrid meetings. The station will be extremely busy this year, but is looking forward to the tasks that lay ahead.

Jonathan A. Boschen
FCAT General Manager

**FRANKLIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Residents of the Solid Waste District:

The Solid Waste District was formed in 1989 to help Franklin County towns manage all aspects of their solid waste – recyclables, organics, hazardous waste, wastewater treatment sludge, and trash. We continue to provide assistance to twenty-one member towns through administrative support, professional consultation, trainings, and outreach to residents and businesses.

A review of recycling tonnage for 2022 shows a decrease of 200 tons of recycling compared to 2021. District residents recycled just over 2,500 tons of paper and containers. The recyclables were processed at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility and sold, primarily to domestic companies, to be recycled.

We returned to holding our Clean Sweep bulky waste collections in 2022 with events in May and October. Events were held at Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Northfield highway Garage, and Whately transfer station. The May event was the first one held since October 2019 due to the pandemic. Combined, the events served almost 600 households and collected over 60 tons of bulky waste, scrap metal, appliances, electronics, propane tanks, tires, and other items.

We held our annual household hazardous waste collection in September 2022 at Greenfield Community College and Orange transfer station. This event allows residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, automotive products, pesticides, and other toxic products. A total of 374 households participated in this event. Residents have access to other hazardous waste collection events in the Pioneer Valley.

We applied for and received grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection worth \$101,400 for District towns. This grant funding is a result of a town's successful waste management infrastructure.

If you have questions about District programs, call us at 413-772-2438 (MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 TTY/TDD), visit our website at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org or visit us at 117 Main St. in Greenfield.

Jan Ameen - *Executive Director*

Terry Narkewicz, Shelburne - *Vice-Chair*

Chris Boutwell, Montague - *Chair*

M.A. Swedlund, Deerfield - *Treasurer*

FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

82 Industrial Boulevard

Turners Falls, Massachusetts 01376

TEL: 413-863-9561

FAX: 413-863-4231

www.fcts.us

Richard J. Martin
Superintendent



FY24 Annual Report to Towns

We submit this annual report for 2022-23 school year on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff and students. As a reminder, the FY24 budget represents October 1, 2022 count, which is always a year behind the state budget process. FCTS has an enrollment submission of 559 students with town breakouts as follows:

Bernardston	25	Erving	28	Montague	93	Sunderland	9
Buckland	17	Gill	15	New Salem	11	Warwick	6
Colrain	21	Greenfield	117	Northfield	40	Wendell	9
Conway	9	Heath	8	Orange	94	Whately	22
Deerfield	25	Leyden	1	Shelburne	9		

Franklin County Technical School awarded 113 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2022. Massachusetts students are required to pass the MCAS in order to receive a high school diploma and once again our students were very successful in meeting this high academic standard. The state has adjusted their measures for evaluating district/school accountability and FCTS maintained the equivalent of a Level 2 accountability status out of a 5-point scale with 1 being the highest and 5 the lowest. Additionally, the district is meeting targets set by the Department of Education for passing rates of students of high risk with disabilities.

FCTS has the advantage of utilizing vocational students and licensed instructors from carpentry, electrical, plumbing and landscaping to provide maintenance and repairs to our school grounds and facility saving member towns tens of thousands of dollars annually. These shop programs also saved member towns an estimated \$100,000 with the bond authorization projects.

Franklin County Technical School students are learning the value of paid work opportunities through a newly revamped Cooperative Education Program (Coop). In 2019 FCTS had approximately 50% of our seniors involved in paid Coop jobs related to their vocational field of study. FCTS offers excellent academic offerings with increased courses in Advanced Placement, Honors, Foreign Language, credit recovery, and special education to provide all students with the opportunity to be prepared for college and career readiness.

Franklin County Technical School continues to experience increased enrollment and popularity within Franklin County, which has translated to new vocational technical programs in the fields of Veterinary Animal Science, Medical Assisting, and a future new Aviation Technician program. These new vibrant programs are the first new vocational programs at FCTS in more than 40 years and bring the total number of Chapter 74 vocational-technical programs to 14 and soon to be 15. Unlike other school districts which may offer a 45-minute course in a trade, FCTS students must follow strict Chapter 74 guidelines where students are in their vocational shop program for 6.5 hours per day for a full week to meet industry standard competency guidelines and in academics the next week.

FCTS is in the final process of completing a new 4800 sq. ft. Veterinary Science Learning Center and Clinic. The new building is located on Industrial Blvd next to FCTS. The facility is planning to open in the fall of 2023 and will be used for our relatively new FCTS Veterinary program and provide students with real world experiences in the veterinary field.

The new Aviation program is slated to start during the 2024-25 school year. This program will provide students with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) credentials to be certified as an Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT). FCTS was fortunate to receive a 4.1 million-dollar grant to build a new 12,000 sq. ft. aviation hangar, which will include airplanes, equipment,

engine simulators, and tools and materials required by the FAA to start a new program. FCTS is planning to become one of the few high schools in the United States to offer a credentialed FAA program.

FCTS is nearly 50 years old and is one of the few remaining regional vocational schools in Massachusetts without a Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) funded facility. FCTS has been invited into the eligibility stage of the process during the 2022-23 school year and then will move into the Design Phase followed by a Feasibility Study during the next several years. FCTS anticipates going out to towns for a district wide vote for a core building project as part of a Feasibility Study in the next several years.

Franklin County Technical School's technical programs continue to improve and evolve through the use of competitive Skills Capital Grants. FCTS has received more than 6.2 million dollars in grants over the last 6 years without using tax dollars from member communities. These funds have significantly enhanced our Welding, Medical Assisting, Veterinary Science, Machine Technology and Aviation vocational technical programs. FCTS also partners with the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board and Greenfield Community College to offer an evening program for underemployed and displaced workers to obtain a certification in Advanced Precision Machining using our 21st Century modernized CNC machines. Through the highly competitive skills grant FCTS also received \$500,000 to build a mobile welding simulator lab to be used to develop technical skills towards certification. FCTS reached out to the Franklin County House of Corrections to utilize the new mobile welding simulator lab as an opportunity to help inmates acquire advanced technical skills which can lead to employment upon release. The welding mobile simulator lab should be ready by the Spring of 2023.

In addition, FCTS applied and received a \$660,000 grant to start adult evening training programs through the Commonwealth's Career Technical Initiative (CTI). During the Fall of 2022, FCTS initiated two adult training courses in Welding and Auto Technology through the CTI grant, and plans to add two more programs for the Spring of 2023. FCTS also started it's own Electrical adult program and plans to add more in the near future. To accomplish these goals to meet community needs, FCTS hired a full-time adult coordinator.

Franklin County Tech's Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, and Landscaping programs established a foundation in collaboration with the Greenfield Savings Bank to build a new home for the community on an annual basis. FCTS has finished its second new home in Erving and is beginning a new home building project in Greenfield.

FCTS vocational programs consistently reach out to support community needs to save tax payer dollars. Plumbing and Electrical students continues to work on the House Project and recently completed the Conway D.P.W. Electrical students support camera hookups, computer and telecommunication cables, rewiring switches, outlets, changing halogen lighting to LED, laying conduit and pipe for outside service, and retrofitting offices at the Heath Town Hall. Cosmetology is open to the public and provide outreach to the Athol, Poet Seat, Linda Manor Nursing Homes and provide service to the Bernardston Senior Center. Welding students built a water wheel to power a home, building a steel gate for Highland Cemetery, and building steel carts for Judd Wire. Culinary Arts is open to the public for lunch, provide special luncheons for the Western MA. SROs, Franklin County Supt. Award Banquet, and Montague Housing Authority. The Health Technology/Medical Assistant students organized a hygiene drive to donate to the needy and homeless, have public blood pressure clinics and nail care for the Erving Senior Center and volunteer at the Arbors and Regal Care in Greenfield. Landscaping did fall cleanup for the Hill Cemetery in Shelburne, Source to Sea River cleanup in Turners, and the Franklin County Fairgrounds tree planting and fence installation in Greenfield. Landscaping students also provide maintenance to FCTS grounds care, installation of sprinkler system, and provide plants and flowers for events and for the community.

Franklin County Tech is forward thinking as it continues to review labor demand and market analysis to add new programs and skills to support students to obtain competencies and training to make them competitive in the workplace, college, and career.

Our partnerships with our communities are important for our programs, and we thank those which allow our students the opportunity to practice their trades out in the field.

Respectfully,



Mr. Richard J. Kuklewicz
School Committee Chairman



Mr. Richard J. Martin
Superintendent-Director

Sandra A. Hanks
Board Chair

Angelina J. Bragdon
Council Member

Gabriele H. Voelker
Elected Member

FRANKLIN REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM
101 MUNSON STREET, SUITE 108
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01301-9675

Paul J. Mokrzecki
Vice Chair

Mary A. Stokarski
Elected Member

Dale C. Kowacki
Executive Director

Annual Report for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2021

To the reader:

The Franklin Regional Retirement System is a government agency that serves the 627 retirees, 50 beneficiaries, 1,086 active employees, and 681 inactive members of the towns and agencies in Franklin County. We are organized under Chapter 34b, and subject to the provisions of Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws. We receive oversight on the state level from the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC). We contract with an independent auditor to do a full audit of our system each year. We also contract with an actuary to perform a complete actuarial valuation every two years. PERAC audits our operations and financial records every three years.

The retirement benefit we provide replaces participation in the Social Security system and is described as a “defined benefit”, which means that we pay monthly retirement benefits based on the age, salary, and number of years worked at the time a member of our system retires. To be a member, an employee in one of our government units must be working in a permanent position scheduled at 20 hours or more per week and earning \$5,000 or greater annually. Funding of these benefits begins with deductions from the member, and combined with matching funds from the employing unit, are invested in a mix of stocks, bonds, and indexed funds. Investment earnings are a large part of the funding of retirement benefits, and the allocation of those funds are spread to a variety of sectors to take advantage of positive activity as it occurs in each sector. Please make note of our investment performance percentages in the chart on the next page.

Up until 1988, we were a “pay-as-you-go” system. In 1988 it was legislated that we begin saving to become “fully funded” over the ensuing 40 years. Fully funded means we have enough in reserves to pay for all the current and future potential benefits of our present membership. At the end of 2021, we are 97.7% funded at 33 years (82.5%) into the 40-year mandate.

Our fiscal year is the calendar year; therefore our annual report is not filed until May of the subsequent year, and as a consequence the information provided herein will be a year old by the time you read this. Current reports and information can be found on our website:

www.FRRSMA.com.

What follows is a synopsis of our annual report, as filed with our state oversight commission, PERAC. The full PERAC report can be read on the “Finances” page of our website.

	CY 2021	CY 2020	CY 2019
<u>Balances</u>			
Cash	1,428,506	1,492,254	1,579,892
Investments	207,207,180	174,179,165	155,459,951
Receivables	97,899	101,506	73,637
Payables	2,581,944	2,209,591	2,988,090
Annuity Savings (members)	33,909,443	32,662,132	31,675,249
Retirement Reserves	170,813,691	140,901,202	125,438,231
<u>Revenues</u>			
Member's contributions	4,423,787	3,955,793	4,368,605
Towns, Schools, Agencies	7,684,673	7,268,256	6,871,971
Retirement Cost Sharing	546,491	565,436	516,330
Miscellaneous Revenue	21,318	11,867	10,781
Investment Income (net)	35,121,918	20,436,491	24,332,594
<u>Expenses</u>			
Retirement Benefits	12,576,161	12,010,238	11,329,395
Operating Expenses	605,897	590,757	567,347
Investment Expenses	1,056,568	820,937	837,388
Retirement Cost Sharing	1,808,102	1,956,450	2,262,262
Refunds to Members	591,658	409,606	390,827
<u>Investment Performance</u>			
Target	7.75%	7.75%	7.75%
Since 1984	8.89%	8.59%	8.47%
10 years	11.26%	9.31%	9.57%
5 years	12.32%	10.14%	7.79%
Current Year	20.40%	12.65%	17.92%
<u>Demographics</u>			
	01/01/2022	01/01/2020	01/01/2020
Members' Average Age	48.00	47.50	47.50
Members' Average Service	9.50	9.20	9.20
Members' Average Salary	41,628.00	37,982.00	37,982.00
Retirees' Average Age	72.90	72.80	72.80
Retirees' Average Pension	18,949.00	17,171.00	17,171.00
Disabled Members' Average Age	60.60	60.30	60.30
Disabled Members' Average Pension	28,793.00	29,998.00	29,998.00

Dale Kowacki
 Executive Director
 Franklin Regional Retirement System

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Sheriff

FRANKLIN COUNTY

CHRISTOPHER J. DONELAN
SHERIFF



LORI M. STREETER
SUPERINTENDENT

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REGIONAL DOG SHELTER:

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office Regional Dog Shelter has been in operation since 2012. The shelter was started by Sheriff Christopher Donelan who saw the need in the community for a dog sheltering facility and is currently the only brick and mortar dog shelter in Franklin County.

As of this date, the dog shelter provides services to 23 of the 26 Franklin County towns. During the course of 2022, the Regional Dog Shelter logged 190 canine intakes, (164 where brought in as strays, and 26 where Surrendered, Transferred or Returned to our facility)

- 🐾 102 where returned to their owners;
- 🐾 74 where adopted into new fur-ever homes; and
- 🐾 11 where transferred to another facility to better meet their specific needs.

While we are primarily a dog facility with the addition of the Sheriff's Office Regional Animal Control Position the shelter assisted in the holding and transfer of 18 felines. At this time, the shelter does not have the capability to process cat adoptions, therefore all felines are transferred to an appropriate agency.

Working with the Community:

Food Pantries: If you are struggling to feed your pet, or know of a food pantry that could use dog/cat food please let us know!

Rabies Clinics: In 2022, the shelter partnered with (2) local veterinarians to sponsor rabies clinics in Turners Falls and Heath.

Dog Licensing: Some Town Clerks have granted the ability for the shelter to issue a dog license for a dog that is brought in and not licensed. As Massachusetts General Law requires every dog be licensed and vaccinated for rabies before it can be released from the shelter. This ability has drastically reduced the time that an owned dog must stay at the shelter, if it was unlicensed upon intake.

Volunteers: Volunteers are essential to the smooth operation of the shelter, without them, we would not have the success that we have today. Donating over 6,167 hours in 2022, volunteers helped with Daily Kennel Chores, Foster Homes, Event Staffing and providing Enrichment specific to each dog's needs. We are always in need of new volunteers, if you are interested in joining our volunteer team; please check out the volunteer application on our website.

Did you know? The overall average length of stay for a dog at our kennel is 30 days? During this time, all their costs and care are covered by the Friends of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter.

Franklin Regional Council of Governments Services to Whately in 2022

The FRCOG provides planning services, programming, and advocacy to all Franklin County municipalities. Our municipal service programs – Collective Purchasing, Cooperative Public Health, Cooperative Inspection, and Town Accounting – are available to any municipality. The Community Health programs provide substance use and chronic disease prevention; the Planning Department assists with local planning and larger regional projects; and the Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Programs prepare and train first responders and health officials.

The following pages list services specific to Whately.

Climate Resilience and Land Use

- Assisted the planning board with preparing a floodplain overlay district bylaw in accordance with the state and federal requirements and assisted with the public hearing process.
- Worked with the housing committee to create a Whately Housing Production Plan, to be completed in 2023.
- Prepared a scope of work to assist the Whately Community Development Administrator in securing grant funding for a housing production plan.
- Prepared a scope of work to assist the Whately Community Development Administrator with securing a MA Community Compact grant to initiate a Whately Master Plan.

Community Health

- Conducted a Teen Health Survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Frontier Regional School administrators on results from 224 Frontier students, representing 71% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant writing and program planning.
- Provided coaching on restorative practices in Frontier Regional School District.
- Provided resources and direct technical assistance for advancing racial justice in schools to the district.
- Provided training, materials, and technical assistance for the new, evidence-based PreVenture substance use prevention and mental health promotion program to the school district.
- Provided information on the Mass in Motion age-friendly municipal planning initiative and a memorandum of understanding to the Selectboard for work to be done in 2023.

Economic Development

- Held a meeting with new municipal staff to review planning programs and services.
- Provided technical assistance to municipal staff.
- Met with the town administrator and community development director to discuss the municipality's priority town projects seeking funding

Shared Municipal Services

- Whately contracted with FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment, vehicle fuel, and school district fire extinguisher services.
- The FRCOG Cooperative Inspections program issued 97 building permits, 62 electrical permits, 53 plumbing/gas permits, and 3 certificates of inspection for Whately in 2022.
- The FRCOG Town Accounting program produced biweekly vendor warrants, and provided monthly budget reports to all officials. Accountants certified free cash and submitted a schedule A at year-end; assisted in completing the recap for tax rate submission; and customized, developed, and distributed

reports for committees and departments. They assisted with the annual audit, if necessary. Accounting data was accessible over a secure internet connection to a server at the FRCOG office, and backed-up daily.

- Staff completed a feasibility study for a shared conservation commission agent based on a survey of 9 participating towns. The study included options for sharing an agent, a draft job description, a draft inter-municipal agreement and the survey results.

Training and Education

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops, roundtables and training sessions that Whately public officials, staff, and residents attended, and the number in attendance.

Municipal Officials' Continuing Education

State Funding for Western MA – 2

Highway Superintendents Roundtable – 1

Planning, Conservation & Development

Small Town Housing -- 5

Public Health & Community Awareness:

Pre-Rental Housing Inspections – 2

Public Health Roundtable (monthly) – 1

Additionally, staff organized and facilitated educational information meetings for members of town energy committees, including presenting information on various topics and conducting follow-up communication.

Transportation

- Assisted with advancing the Haydenville Road project through a transportation improvement process.
- Created multiple maps for planning Whately parade routes and celebration locations.
- Continued to administer the marketing campaign for the Valley Flyer to support passenger train operation in the region.

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Building dynamic learning communities, one student, one teacher, one family at a time.

As Superintendent of the Frontier Regional and Union #38 Schools, I am pleased to submit the 2022 Superintendent's Annual Report on behalf of the dedicated teachers and administrators of the district. Frontier Regional and Union #38 schools continue to serve our communities by providing excellent Public education with an ongoing focus on meeting the individual needs of students.

Opening Statement:

This September, after over two years of Covid restrictions, our students, staff and families enjoyed a refreshingly normal start to the school year. Although Covid-19 is still with us, the stress it caused has diminished and we are pleased to have returned to pre-Covid programming in our schools.

I am grateful for the ongoing support of our families and communities during this time. Despite the distractions and inconveniences the pandemic created, our dedicated faculty and staff inspired students to remain focused on learning and students persevered in their academic efforts. The experience of the last three years has confirmed my belief that our schools are strong and get better every year. I look forward to a successful completion of the current year and to continuing to serve our communities and schools.

In Service,

Darius Modestow,
Superintendent of Schools

Overview: Frontier Regional School opened in 1954 in the town of South Deerfield, Massachusetts. The school includes students in grades 7 through 12 with an enrollment of 616 students. This is an increase of 6 students from the October 1, 2021 enrollment figures of 610 students.

The class of 2022 had 92 graduates; 62% planned to attend a four-year college, 15% a two-year college, 1% plan to attend vocational schools, 0% planned on a post-grad year, 0% will enter military service, 4% will take a gap year, 9% plan to enter the labor market, and 9% plans are unknown. This is different from previous years. There were 98 graduates in the class of 2021: 69% planned to attend a four-year college, 18% a two-year college, 2% vocational schools, 2% military, 1% prep school, 7% planned to enter the labor market and 1% plans were unknown.

Curriculum and Professional Development

Frontier Regional

Members of the Frontier Regional school community are involved in a number of initiatives and professional development experiences to expand the support and opportunities available to students.

Restorative Practices

Social emotional well-being and academic success for all students continue to be a focus in the ongoing efforts to recover from the impact of the pandemic. Towards that end faculty and support staff participated in workshops and the implementation of a restorative practice model of student support. Restorative practices is a whole school teaching and learning approach that encourages positive relationships and repair to others and the community when an individual's actions cause harm. The model uses restorative circles to allow students to be seen and heard as a member of a classroom community.

Culturally responsive teaching and learning

Recognizing and valuing all learners in our school community continues to be a focus of professional development. Faculty are working to implement the five pursuits of culturally and historically responsive teaching outlined by Gholdy Muhammad: identity, skills, intellectualism, criticality, and joy. A presentation by Liza Talusan provided faculty with a framework of practical strategies for creating an inclusive classroom community through the model outlined in her book *The Identity-Conscious Educator*.

Project Based Learning

The social studies department engaged in a professional development series to transform the social studies classroom into an environment where students engage in learning projects that allow them to connect with historical content.

Innovation Pathways

Frontier was designated an Innovation Pathways School. Innovation Pathways are programs within Massachusetts high schools that are designed to connect students to industry sectors that are in demand in the regional and state

economy. Frontier is partnering with a number of community organizations and businesses to offer students an opportunity to be exposed to careers in the healthcare and social services and advanced manufacturing and engineering industries. Some of our partners include: Baystate Medical, Community Health Care Center, Pelican Industries and hosts of other businesses that are offering our students internship opportunities as well as providing guest speakers for industry related courses that are offered at Frontier. Grant funding support allowed for the implementation of the IP program, with funding available to purchase equipment for the hands on training components of this program.

My Career and Academic Plan (MYCAP)

A development team of faculty and administrators is engaged in the planning process to implement the MYCAP program. *My Career and Academic Plan* prepares students for college, career and civic readiness. The MyCAP process engages students in authentic postsecondary planning through a continuum of learning focused on the individual student's interests, skills and talents. Frontier students will collect representative work samples in a portfolio during their courses at Frontier. The portfolio will allow students to collect important information for later presentation to colleges or employers as they transition from Frontier to post graduation education or work environments.

Staff:

Retired Faculty: Lisa Winter, School Nurse; Sandra Spiewak, Speech/Language Pathologist; William Benoit, Technology Education Teacher; Karen Ziomek, Guidance Counselor;

Faculty Resignations: Kristin McLaughlin, Science (MS); Carolyn Eddy, Special Education Team Leader; Kelly Wilkerson, Special Education Teacher, Karen Johnston, Physical Therapist

New Faculty: Reina Dastous, School Nurse; Daniel Murphy, Woodshop/Fab Lab Teacher; Casey Gavin, Occupational Therapist; Sigal Kadden, Guidance Counselor; Rema Mills, Speech/Language Pathologist; Axel Anderson, English (HS); Danielle Manna, Science/Math; Sarah Crawford, Special Education Team Leader; Kristine Bourque, Special Education Teacher; Grant Bialek, Restorative Practice Coordinator, Sarah Berger, Physical Therapist

Special Thanks

We are pleased to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of Frontier Regional School Committee Members: **Chair Robert Halla, Vice Chair William Smith, Secretary Christopher White, Members Mary Ramon, Lyn Roberts, Philip Kantor, Keith McFarland, Damien Fosnot, Olivia Leone, and Melissa Novak.** I look forward to continuing our work together.

Thank you to the citizens of our four towns for being supportive of public education and our wonderful schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Darius E. Modestow
Superintendent of Schools

Annual Report
From the
Office of the Superintendent of Schools

Frontier Regional School
For 2021-2022

January 2023

FRONTIER SCHOOL REPORT

Robert Halla, Chair
Frontier Regional School District Committee
South Deerfield, MA 01373

Dear Mr. Halla:

I respectfully submit the 2022 Frontier Regional School Annual Report.

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
* Robert Halla, Chair, Whately	2023
William Smith, V. Chair, Whately	2025
Christopher White, Secretary,	2025
Olivia Leone, Member, Deerfield	2024
* Philip Kantor, Member, Conway	2023
* Mary Ramon, Member, Deerfield	2023
* Keith McFarland, Member, Sunderland	2023
Melissa Novak, Member, Deerfield	2023
Lyn Roberts, Member, Sunderland	2023
Damien Fosnot, Member, Deerfield	2025
Jared Campbell, Member, Conway	2025

*Representing the local Elementary School Committees for a one-year term.
Regular meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, in the Media Center, Frontier Regional School, South Deerfield, Massachusetts at 6:00 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent of Schools	Darius Modestow
Director of Business Administration	Shelley Poreda
Director of Student Services	Karen Ferrandino
Director of Secondary Education	Sarah Mitchell
Director of School Facilities	William Hildreth
Director of Instructional Technology	Scott Paul
Director of Food Services	Geoffrey McDonald

SUPPORT STAFF

Executive Assistant to Superintendent	Jennifer Shumway
Administrative Assistant (Special Ed.)	Penny Smiarowski
Administrative Assistant/Facilities	Mary Jane Whitcomb
Receptionist/Substitute Coordinator	Sarah Butler
Payroll Specialist, FRS/Union #38	Brenda Antes
Accounts Payable/Bookkeeper, FRS	Donna Lloyd
Treasurer	Michael DeBarge
Grants Accountant	Stephan Shepherd
SIS Data Specialist	Megan Donovan
Network Administrator	Stuart Dusenberry
Information Technology Specialist	Keith VanBuren

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL

George Lanides
Scott Dredge
Roberta Reiter
Deb Mason
Kelly Blanchette
Michelle Russell
Mary Lapinski

Principal
Assistant Principal
Principal's Secretary
School Secretary
Special Education Secretary
Attendance Secretary
Guidance Secretary

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL
ENROLLMENT - OCTOBER 1, 2022

Grade	Conway	Deerfield	Sunderland	Whately	School Choice	Tuitioned In	Total
7	13	33	28	5	35	0	114
8	14	36	12	13	30	1	106
9	9	29	24	6	25	1	94
10	15	38	11	10	27	0	101
11	12	28	14	5	41	0	100
12	8	36	16	6	25	0	91
SP	0	3	2	1	3	1	10
Total	71	203	107	46	186	3	616

FRONTIER REGIONAL
UNIT A SALARY SCHEDULE

2021-2022

STEP	Bachelors	Masters	M+30	CAGS/DOC
0	\$45,337	\$47,522	\$50,199	\$52,710
1	\$47,6747	\$49,587	\$52,099	\$54,703
2	\$49,652	\$51,706	\$54,064	\$56,767
3	\$50,875	\$55,623	\$56,099	\$58,903
4	\$52,655	\$55,623	\$58,158	\$61,066
5	\$54,035	\$57,446	\$60,342	\$63,359
6	\$56,361	\$59,279	\$62,334	\$65,449
7	\$57,847	\$61,161	\$64,343	\$67,559
8	\$59,379	\$62,702	\$67,248	\$70,608
9	\$62,333	\$66,265	\$70,236	\$73,748
10	\$65,601	\$70,105	\$73,318	\$76,986
11	\$66,690	\$72,689	\$76,702	\$80,537
12	\$69,281	\$75,375	\$79,452	\$83,425
13	\$70,320	\$76,505	\$80,643	\$84,675
*20	\$71,320	\$77,505	\$81,643	\$85,675
**25	\$72,320	\$78,505	\$82,643	\$86,675

*Placement on Step 20L occurs when an individual has completed 19 years of service as a Frontier Regional School faculty member.

** Placement on Step 25L occurs when an individual has completed 24 years of service as a Frontier Regional School faculty member.

FRONTIER REGIONAL

UNIT C INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS SALARY SCHEDULE

2021-2022

Step	HOURLY RATES		
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
		2%	2%
*2	\$14.57	\$14.87	\$15.16
3	\$15.09	\$15.39	\$15.70
4	\$15.57	\$15.89	\$16.20
5	\$16.10	\$16.42	\$16.75
6	\$16.59	\$16.93	\$17.26
7	\$17.14	\$17.48	\$17.83
8	\$17.61	\$17.97	\$18.33
9	\$18.15	\$18.51	\$18.88
10	\$18.67	\$19.05	\$19.43
11	\$19.20	\$19.58	\$19.98

Unit C Educational Support Nurses

Step	HOURLY RATES		
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
	1%	2%	2%
1	\$23.47	\$23.94	\$24.42
2	\$24.48	\$24.97	\$25.47
3	\$25.48	\$25.99	\$26.51
4	\$26.48	\$27.01	\$27.55
5	\$27.48	\$28.03	\$28.59
6	\$28.48	\$29.05	\$29.63
7	\$29.49	\$30.08	\$30.68
8	\$30.50	\$31.11	\$31.73
9	\$31.51	\$32.14	\$32.79
10	\$32.49	\$33.14	\$33.80

WHATELY FIRE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

The officers and members of the Whately Fire Department continue to proudly serve and represent the citizens of our great community. In 2022 the Whately Fire Dept. responded to seventy five emergencies calls. The calls included emergency medical services, motor vehicle accidents, rescues, and fire emergencies. Whately continues to be part of the Tri State Fire Mutual Aid which is a valuable system that benefits everyone, there is an endless list of resources available in every emergency situation, and Whately has benefited from this system more than once this year. Dedication, training, planning and knowledge prevail to help with life safety issues and to mitigate potential hazards.

I would like to thank the officers and members for a job well done. I would also like to wish all our members a safe and healthy career. All members are listed below.

DC Keith Bardwell	DC Gary Stone	Capt. Wayne Hutkoski	
Capt. J P Kennedy	Lt. Joshua Clemons	Lt. Jason Clemons	
Jeffrey LaValley	Dalton DeForest	John LaSalle	
Brandon Sevine	Alex Ross	Scott Hutkoski	
Bill Smith	Zach Smith	Dylan Uzdavinis	
Chris Sullivan	Brian Belder	Ben Drake	Navi Weis

The Whately Fire Department is always searching for interested citizens that would like to become involved with any aspect of the Department. The small numbers are critical. If anyone would like to join or has any questions about the Fire Department, please contact either me (JSHannum@comcast.net) or one of the officers. Training this year was impossible again with the active pandemic but, as soon as possible they will be brought up to speed.



In 2022 the Whately Fire Department as the Whately Firefighters Association took an active role in Whately's 250 th birthday celebration. Department members through a committee planned, organized and sponsored events for the entertainment and pleasure of the community. The Chicken Barbeque, Fireworks, Firemen's Muster and the Celebration Parade were all amazing events. I would like to thank everyone who donated their valuable time to help pull off such miracles one after the other, you helped make us and Whately look good and proud to be part of a great organization and community.



Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) coordinator. One of his responsibilities is to educate our children in the school to recognize the dangers of fire and how to be safe. The facts are the average number of fire deaths of children under the age of 18 has fallen by 72% since the start of the SAFE Program in 1995. There is also a Seniors Grant that includes house number signs and smoke detector installation for qualified residents.

Franklin County is keeping the same process of issuing Burning Permits and Whately is part of this system. The system is electronically operated and managed on the internet. The site (www.fcburnpermits.com) is user friendly. This year's Burning Season opens January 15 and closes May 1. Hazardous weather conditions may shorten the season so don't procrastinate; open burning should be completed early in the season.

The Fire Department has instituted a fining system for illegal burning that has been approved by the Select Board. Hopefully this new system will help deter burning without a permit when conditions are not favorable. The ultimate goal of this fining program is to protect the citizens and property in Whately. Outside fires should always be permitted, safe and monitored. The potential for an out-of-control fire is always present.

This is a bittersweet report to write, it is my last as the Fire Chief. Some reports don't change too much but they have all been written on a computer over the last 20 years and some have a hidden agenda. The legislation is mandating retirement which happens in June. I am leaving a career position which comes above most things in my life. I love this job. I learned

early in my career to surround myself with experts. With that being said, I must thank two of my officers for their extra time, commitment and expertise to help manage this department. The Fire Chief's position is not a one-person job, I could not have made it without their help, thank you. The future of this department lies in excellent hands.

I would like to remind everyone to report a Fire or Emergency to dial 911, please be clear and concise with your message. Also, answer all the questions that the Dispatcher asks and stay on the line as long as necessary. For other Fire Department, related communications, the Dispatch Center business number is 625-8200.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief John S. Hannum

Whately Fire Dept.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

We have received another Complete Streets Grant which will enable us to complete the sidewalk on Chestnut Plain Rd. from the Veteran's Memorial southerly to the area of the Congregational Church along with another cross walk. This area has become popular for residents to safely enjoy a nice walk while getting some exercise. Another project that is slated to be addressed is the intersection of Conway Rd and Williamsburg Rd. The goal is to create traffic calming and reduce the speed as vehicles approach the intersection from the North. We have also received a grant for the design and engineering to replace the culvert on Christian Lane just east of Rt.5. The culvert is a stone culvert that is centuries old and has had many failures in the past. We continue to pursue many other grant opportunities to maintain our infrastructure.

Claverack Rd., Swamp Rd., and Westbrook Rd were chip sealed and a portion of River Rd. was crack sealed as regular maintenance. The department assisted the Water department in the beginning of the water department merger with the center town district. This project will be completed in 2022. Other projects were the Veteran's Memorial and the Kestrel Land trust property on Chestnut Plain Rd. known as the Whately Woods. The existing culvert was replaced, and a parking area was created. This is another area that has been preserved and established as a recreation area.

In September Mass DOT notified us that the bridge on Christian Lane over Mill River needed to be closed or be reduced to a single lane. The bridge was built in 1950 and has wooden piles that help hold it up. Some of the piers on the North side have deteriorated to the point that this was necessary. There are many factors and components that go into a bridge rating. While the few piers are deteriorated the other aspects of the bridge are in good condition which meant that the bridge did not see a reduction in the weight posting. There are over 5,000 bridges in Massachusetts of which this bridge is ranked 3,883. Unfortunately, it will remain this way for some time.

The section of Haydenville Rd. from Conway Rd. to the Williamsburg Town line continues to move forward and construction is slated for 2025. The design is at the 25% phase and as it moves forward will require environmental permits and meeting with property owners to address their concerns.

I'd like to Welcome Eric Elliott to our crew and if anyone has any concerns, I can be reached at 665-2983.

Respectfully Submitted,
Keith Bardwell
Highway Superintendent

WHATELY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

We completed Hidden History, a digital map of lesser-known aspects of Town history, including links to relevant photographs and historic texts, in time for the Town's week-long 250th celebration in June. The map is dynamic and we will add additional material over time. We appreciate the support of many Town residents who answered questions about aspects of Whately history from the 18th to 20th century; of Dereka Smith and other members of the Whately Historical Society; of Brian Domina, Amy LaVallee, Amy Schrader, and Lynn Sibley in Town Offices; and of the 250th Committee for its \$900 grant to support the assistance of a web designer. A link to the map can be found on the Historical Commission page of the Town website.

We decided to update the Massachusetts Historical Commission inventory form for the Whately Diner in order to get a determination of its current eligibility for National Register listing. The current form may be viewed on MACRIS (the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System), along with nearly 300 others for Whately neighborhoods (areas), buildings, and structures.

The Planning Board has agreed to include as a general condition for site plan reviews a statement we drafted about action required upon discovery of archaeological artifacts or remains during excavation, renovation or construction. We are developing a statement of indicators of likely archaeological activity, which we will complete in 2023.

We reviewed CPA historic preservation funding requests for restoration work on the windows at the Whately Congregational Church and for restoration of one of the masonry silos at Quonquont and determined both to be eligible for funding under the state's CPA legislation. The application from the church was the first for work on a privately-owned building, which led us to develop a list of additional eligibility criteria for historic preservation applications for CPA funding from private entities.

In response to an inquiry from a UMass undergraduate, Zachary Fouser, we studied historic stone walls across Whately, which served both as property boundaries and animal enclosures. We also improved our facility with the MassGIS system, particularly LIDAR mapping.

Donna Wiley (Chair)

Susan Baron

Allison Bell

Judy Markland

Alan McArdle

S. WHITE DICKINSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

In 2022 we saw things beginning to return to normal here at the library. We were fully open for our patrons and were able to offer some in person programs. We also partnered with local libraries to cohost in person and online events. Thanks to grants from the Whately Cultural Council and additional funding from the Friends of the Library we were able to offer Campfire Magic tricks with Ed the Wizard. The music duo Hungrytown performed for the first time ever in Whately. The Pax Sax, Ray Mason & crowd favorite T.J. & the Peepers performed for delighted crowds in the backyard.

In June we hosted Bad News Jazz and Blues Orchestra as part of the Whately 250th celebration. Over 100 people came to enjoy the music, tethered hot air balloon ride and panini's from Caravan Kitchen. That night the Whately 250th Committee dedicated the town gift of a stone bench and panoramic map to the town. The time capsule was also dedicated and later buried with the time capsule from the Whately 200th celebration.

2022 again saw staffing changes here at the library. In July Ashley Janes left us to take a full-time position at UMASS Amherst. In August we welcomed Julie Cavacco and Kimber Sprinkle as our new Library Associates.

In May construction was completed on the limited use lift making the library accessible to all patrons. One of the bathrooms was also updated as part of the accessibility project.

Our loyal trustees have worked extremely hard to make sure the library stays the beautiful and dynamic place it is. Thank you to the Trustees: Bob Smith, chair, Jim Ross, Sheila Powers, Cynthia Allen and J. Robert Klinger for your constant and continued support. In November Sheila Powers resigned from her position as a Trustee. Thank you, Sheila, for your years of service and dedication to the library. It is truly appreciated. Lawrence Ashman graciously agreed to come back and fill out the remainder of Sheila's term.

Our twelfth year as a member of the C/WMARS network confirms our patrons are pleased with the many resources available to them. Circulation statistics for the year totaled 9,001 items. Being a member of CWMARS has allowed our patrons access to many library items. Overdrive, or Libby allows patrons to borrow books and audio books to read and listen to on their devices. Patrons also enjoyed using the online streaming service Kanopy to download and watch videos.

The theme of this year's Summer Reading Program was Read Beyond the Beaten Path.

For the fourth year in a row Whately was a part of the multi library Libraries in the Woods Community Read. This year's selection was A Dirty Life by Kristen Kimball.

Special thanks to our dedicated members of the Friends of the Library; MaryEllen Smith, Katie Ross, Karen Kirkendall, Ellen Skroski, Jane Theoharides, Janice Paran, Daniel LaPenta and Virginia Selman.

Thank you to LaSalle's for helping supply the flowers to keep our flower boxes beautiful all year, and to the Chamutka family for the beautiful seasonal decorations and holiday wreaths, and to patrons who donated books to our collection.

Finally, thank you to all the residents of Whately for your support of the library! Please remember that you are always welcome to use all our library services.

Cynthia Steiner, Library Director

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – 2022

The Personnel Committee makes recommendations to the Selectboard and Finance Committee on all personnel matters, including but not limited to salaries and wages, job descriptions and personnel policies.

Each year the Personnel Committee collects and analyzes the salary and wage information from ten similar communities based on population, geographic proximity to Whately, average single-family tax bill, annual total tax levy, median household income, equalized value, CIP% of total assessed value, and road mileage. The ten communities identified by the Personnel Committee as similar to Whately are Shelburne, Westhampton, Ashfield, Buckland, Conway, Hatfield, Hinsdale, Leverett, Pelham and Shutesbury.

Based on the salary and wage study and other information, the Personnel Committee made the following recommendations to the Finance Committee and Selectboard:

- To increase the hourly wage rate of the Assistant Treasurer-Collector from \$25.22 to \$26.36
- To increase the hourly wage rate of the Senior Operator/Laborer from \$26.28 to \$26.74
- To increase the hourly wage of the Operator/Labor (3+ years) from \$23.96 to \$24.42
- To increase the hourly wage of the Operator/Labor (0-3 years) from \$23.18 to \$23.64
- To increase the hourly wage of the Fire Fighter from \$17.99 to \$19.75
- To increase the hourly wage of the Board Clerk from \$18.91 to \$19.47
- To increase the annual salary of the Highway Superintendent from \$77,592.13 to \$79,542.13
- To increase the hourly wage of the Treasurer-Collector from \$29.36 to \$34.00 and to increase the weekly hours from 30 hours to 33 hours
- To increase the annual salary of the Fire Chief from a \$10,200 stipend plus hourly rate to a flat salary of \$31,200
- To increase the wages of the officers of the Fire Department, above the Fire Fighter hourly wage, based on rank and level of responsibility as follows (Lieutenant +\$1/hour), (Captain +\$2/hour), (Deputy Chief +\$3/hour)

The Personnel Committee also sent recommendations to the Library Trustees and Water Commissioners suggesting that they review the salary of the Library Director and Water Superintendent respectively.

The Personnel Committee also voted to recommend that all town (non-school) salaries and wages be increased by a 7.1% cost of living adjustment based on the double digit increase in inflation over the past two years.

The Personnel Committee is made up of two representatives appointed by the Moderator, one representative from the Selectboard, one representative from the Finance Committee, and one town employee elected by the town employees. The Town Administrator serves as a non-voting member.

The Personnel Committee believes it has balanced the financial resources of the town with the need to offer competitive wages to attract and retain employees in order to make responsible salary and wage recommendations for FY24.



TOWN OF WHATELY, MASSACHUSETTS

WHATELY PLANNING BOARD, Donald Sluter – Chair
Sara Cooper, Brant Cheikes, Tom Litwin, Judy Markland – Members

PLANNING BOARD YEAR END REPORT- 2022

The Planning Board had held eleven public meetings this year, dealing with site plan reviews, zoning changes, interpretations of zoning bylaws, a solar bylaw revision, and subdivision matters.

The Board received two Approval Not Required (ANR) applications for review and signing, and conducted three site plan reviews. Two of the site plans concerned marijuana grow cultivation and processing facilities, and one described a landscaping company business office to be constructed on State Road. All three site plans were approved.

With technical support from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), the Board drafted a revised Floodplain Bylaw based on a new state template. The Board sent notification letters to 158 potentially affected property owners of parcels lying within Whately flood zones as determined by Federal Emergency Management Agency maps. An information meeting was held to discuss the bylaw revision and to solicit feedback from residents, which has led to further work on the project.

During the summer, the Board worked with Nexamp, the operator of the Whately Renewables solar generation facility at 134 Christian Lane, to address site screening issues and resolve abutter concerns about placement of trees.

A joint public hearing with the Whately Tree Warden was held to discuss and approve the removal of five trees along North Street and Chestnut Plain Road.

We proposed changes to the bylaws, adding marijuana delivery and courier businesses. These changes were approved at town meeting. We approved the resource replacement fee formula called for in the solar bylaw and developed in conjunction with the Conservation and Agriculture Commissions, and revised the subdivision regulations to allow digital plan submissions and reduce the number of paper submissions and to comply with the town's APR protection policy.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Sluter - Chair

Police Department Report 2022

To provide the level of service Whately deserves, our police officers continue to train and educate themselves to be the best officers they can be. Whether it be continued education earning college degrees, specialized police training, police instructor training, or dozens of hours of in-service training, officers continue to show their level of commitment to our community without fail. As police reform regulations continue to evolve in Massachusetts, our part-time officers are required to meet additional standards of training. We have officers that are working on and have completed an additional 200 hours of training. This includes more in-depth training in areas such as, Defensive Tactics/De-Escalation, Emergency Vehicle Operation and Control, Firearms, criminal law and criminal procedure, motor vehicle law, police investigations, and much more. Over 120 hours of this training forces officers to take time off their regular careers so they can achieve their certification as required by Massachusetts law. This training will continue until June of 2024 when all officers will have completed the training. Our officers absolutely deserve recognition for their level of commitment, so I thank them for their continued services to our community. I also thank the community for their support and for investing in your police department so we can continue to provide you with the highest-level service we can.

As we all recover from the COVID pandemic and get back to a more normal existence, activities resumed throughout 2022. We continue to work with our senior residents through our involvement with the South County TRIAD Committee, our regional Senior Center, and local Grange. Our seniors are some of our most treasured community members and we have worked hard to help protect them from becoming victims of fraud, scams, and identity theft. We continue to meet with seniors and provide training and education, or sometimes just have “Coffee with a Cop” (or tea in my case) just to talk about their concerns. We also started installing free key lock boxes on senior homes so emergency responders can access the residence during an emergency to render aid. Please call the police station if you are a senior interested in a lock box.

Many of you have had the pleasure of meeting “Shamus” who is our departments first Therapy/Comfort dog. We have been training hard throughout 2022, attending group classes, and private training sessions, as well as daily training to provide a service to the community that I feel is very valuable. Life is more and more challenging each day, and mental health calls are becoming an all-too-common occurrence. If Shamus can provide a little bit of comfort to at least one person who is dealing with tough times or a traumatic event, then we have achieved our goal. We hope to start providing assistance soon to students and staff at our schools, as well as at our Senior Center. We are making progress but have more work to do.

There were 5017 calls for service in 2022. Calls for service included 911 calls (120), house/building/location checks (2,810), officer wanted (63), alarm calls (75), civil matters, general citizen assists, mutual aid to other neighboring towns (40), general complaints, investigations (65), criminal complaints (30), motor vehicle violations (460), crashes (80), assist fire/EMS (141), community policing activities, paperwork service, court hearings, administrative duties, and other miscellaneous responses. For a more detailed list of activities, please visit the Whately Police Department’s website where our police logs are posted monthly.

Please have a safe 2023.

James A. Sevine Jr.

Chief of Police

www.whately.org/police-department www.facebook.com/whatelypolice www.instagram.com/whatelypolice

Town of Whately
Recreation Commission
Annual Town Report 2022

The Whately Recreation Commission is delighted to announce successful seasons for all of our sports. The 2022-2023 seasons have gathered up one hundred & eighty-nine registrations. This is an increase of 30+ registrations from last year. This level of interest offers the ability to earn resources that will be funneled back into purchasing the safest equipment for athletes and updating facilities. Developing participation numbers will continue to be the mission for the upcoming baseball season and moving on into future 2023-2024 seasons for young people.

There have been numerous upgrades both on and off the field. Rec Desk, our new software has continued to be an enormous success! Families have provided endless feedback of how much they appreciate the convenience of having access to this means of operation. Registrations, adding new programs, scheduling practices and games, communicating with families, etc. It has been great! Whately has also purchased a new scoreboard for our youth baseball field at Herlihy Park. Not to mention, the infield for the “big” diamond, the little field, and our softball fields were edged out and cleaned up before the winter. The outfield in the softball field was reseeded.

It has been rewarding to see so many different age groups out at Herlihy Park every season. There are youngsters playing soccer in the fall with their friends, while Frontier Regional’s elite soccer programs take on local rivals. The middle and high school baseball teams utilize availability, hosting practices and games, and the new softball field makes for as proud a ballpark as any around here. Over-30 and Over-50 baseball leagues are out practicing and playing from Spring to Fall. A true mark of the longevity and passion baseball offers for those who compete.

We are currently in the process of purchasing a double lane batting cage to accommodate the multiple teams that utilize our fields simultaneously. Dry infield mix and grass dying in the summer has been a challenge for us. Our goal is to organize a project to create an irrigation system that will preserve our fields. The rewards will be beautiful to see!

As we look forward into 2023, the future of Whately’s recreational activities is bright. The Recreation Commission is confident in the efforts working toward our vision. We will inspire participation and bring families together from various settings to maximize skill development, social awareness, emotional and physical health, along with friendship and the drive to pursue achievement on and off the field.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Williams
Recreation Director

\$25,119 TOTAL BENEFICIARY GIFTS PAID FYE 1/31/2023

The Trustees of The Smith Charities

During the past fiscal year, February 1, 2022 - January 31, 2023, the following beneficiary activity has occurred within the nine (9) designated communities of Amherst, Deerfield, Easthampton, Greenfield, Hadley, Hatfield, Northampton, Whately, and Williamsburg:

Brides – Gifts permanently doubled from \$100 to \$200.

- Three (3) brides each received a \$200 marriage gift. \$ 600 Total

Nurses – Gifts doubled from \$600 to \$1200 for this fiscal year period.

- One (1) new student nurse was enrolled.
- One (1) nurse graduated this year and each received a \$1200 nurse gift. \$ 1,200 Total

Tradespersons – Gifts doubled from \$600 to \$1200 for this fiscal year period.

- No new tradespersons were enrolled.
- One (1) tradesperson received a \$1200 apprentice gift. \$ 1,200 Total

Widows – Gifts permanently doubled from \$300 & \$100 to \$600 & \$200.

- No new widows.
- Sixteen (16), who renewed, were paid annual gift. \$11,200 Total

\$14,200 Beneficiaries Total

The total sum disbursed as gifts to beneficiaries, was \$25,119 which includes the *\$5,919 that will be paid to the City of Northampton, after our monthly Trustees meeting on February 15, 2023, for the account of Smith’s Agricultural School, being the net income from the permanent fund established for the school. Also included in this figure is the \$5,000 cash donation given directly to the school with payment made out to “Friends of the Farm” as a result of the May 23, 2022 fire.

Since the provision of the Will went into effect, the beneficiaries from the nine (9) communities have been paid the following:

\$1,498,500 Bride’s Gift (originally designated in the Will as Indigent Young Women)
 \$ 816,533 Nurse’s Gift (originally designated in the Will as Indigent Female Children)
 \$2,929,500 Tradesperson’s Gift (originally designated in the Will as Indigent Boys)
 \$1,845,479 Widow’s Gift
 \$1,573,340 Smith’s Agricultural School Yearly Distribution
 \$ 5,000 Cash Donation to Smith’s Agricultural School for 2022 fire damage
 \$ 35,374 Annuities
\$ 613,717 Taxes
\$9,317,443 Total Amount Paid to Date

Current Trustees

David A. Murphy, Leslie Dwight, & Carol Gray

*Special Note: The amount to be paid to the City of Northampton for the benefit of Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School has been rounded to the nearest dollar; the exact amount disbursed will be \$5,918.79.

South County Emergency Medical Services Annual Report for 2022

South County EMS (SoCEMS) is the premier regional EMS service in the state. As a municipal “third-service” that provides only medical-related services, our budget, infrastructure, training focus, and culture is 100% devoted to providing the best emergency medical care possible. In 2022 our department experienced the busiest year-to-date with an 8% increase over 2021, and we expect the requests for response to continue increasing through 2023. To meet these demands, South County EMS is always considering ways to provide better care more efficiently, and solidify itself as a public good our citizens can be proud of.

Our agency provides Paramedic level response to Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately by staffing one transporting ALS ambulance 24/7 with predominantly full-time staff. For our busiest times we add per diem responders for the anticipated increased demands for service. Last year SoCEMS responded to 1,071 calls for medical emergencies in our primary coverage area and an additional 145 to neighboring communities. Of the patients we treated, 83% required and received Advanced Life Support (ALS) interventions. In addition to the medical related emergencies, SoCEMS also responded to over 95 calls including Fire, Search and Rescue, HAZMAT, and Law Enforcement issues, where we provided both medical support and subject matter expertise. Our full time and per diem staff represent some of the highest and most diversely trained emergency responders in the state.

In 2022, South County hired additional full-time staff to cover our primary ambulance staffing, and reduce the dependency on per diem employees who are not always available on account of their full-time positions elsewhere. By adjusting our scheduling and shift coverage, we have been able to increase our ability to adapt and respond to outside forces while also decreasing the likelihood of medical provider burnout which has become all too common in recent years.

Additionally, South County EMS continues to work closely with our Franklin County and Western MA public safety partners. As a well-respected agency in the region, and a golden model of what can be accomplished when multiple towns come together, South County has become the go-to place when other agencies or communities are looking for insight in providing outstanding emergency medical care.

I’d like to thank our talented and compassionate team of providers who work here at South County EMS. Every day they give back to this community in ways that are not always obvious. Through studying and researching so that they can provide better care, by advocating for EMS and patients on the regional, state, and federal level, and by taking time on calls to provide companionship to community members, they truly go above and beyond what is typically expected from our pre-hospital medical providers. The people who wear the South County EMS patch are amongst the finest around.

And as always, I wish to thank the members of our community for your support over the years. Our team of providers were chosen because of their skill, knowledge, compassion, and dedication, and they would not be able to serve the community in the way that they know is right, were it not for the championing many of you do on our behalf. It is your support that has made South County such a rewarding and respected place to serve.

Thank you.

Statistics

Here is the breakdown of the 2022 calendar year stats:

EMS Patient Responses by Type	EMS Patient Responses by Town
Total: 1,216	Deerfield: 600
ALS Transports: 700	Sunderland: 313
BLS Transports: 140	Whately: 158

Paramedic Intercepts: 17	Mutual Aid: 145
Refusals: 264	
Other: 95	

We look forward to continuing to provide high-quality and state-of-the-art emergency medical care to our community and supporting public health and education initiatives in 2023.

More information about our department can be found on our website: www.SoCEMS.org

Respectfully,

Chief Z. Smith, Paramedic
South County Emergency Medical Services

South County Senior Center
67 N Main St., South Deerfield, MA 01373
413.665.2141 • 413.665.9508

Email: scsc@town.deerfield.ma.us

Website: <https://www.deerfieldma.us/senior-center>

Jennifer M Remillard, Director

Susan Corey, Program Coordinator

Chris Goudreau, Outreach Coordinator

Tom Fydenkevez, Chair, Board of Oversight (Sunderland)

Trevor McDaniel, Board of Oversight (Deerfield)

Joyce Palmer-Fortune, Board of Oversight (Whately)

The South County Senior Center provides services to Seniors who reside in Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately. We also welcome seniors from other communities who find value in our programming. Programs are regularly offered on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Since November 2021, Programming has taken place at Holy Family Parish, Pope John Paul II Hall, located at 29 Sugarloaf St., South Deerfield. During 2022, we also moved to 22 Amherst Road, Sunderland. It hosts our Administrative Office for staff, our food pantry (open to anyone), a computer lab, a lending library, an arts center, a television area, a sitting area, and space to host up to 45 people for small programs.

Staffing

In January 2022, the South County Senior Center welcomed its new Director, Jennifer Remillard. In April, we welcomed our new Outreach Coordinator, Chris Goudreau. During 2022, he has been able to provide support to more than 52 seniors with services. Our Director has supported 23 seniors with services.

During 2022, the SCSC has increased membership by 94 members. This brings the total number of members who have attended events or received services from the SCSC to 295 individuals in 2022. In addition to new members, 176 guests age 60+ and 27 guests under 60 have attended the SCSC during 2022. *This is an increase of 63%, 111 people, becoming members from the last full program calendar year of 2019 (pre-COVID).* 18 individuals became members prior to 2022.

Programs

During 2022, the South County Senior Center hosted more than 950 events. These events include Fitness/Exercise Classes, Arts & Crafts programs, Cultural Events, Information Sharing programs, Recreation, Socialization, Congregant Meals, and Food Support.

Our average Daily Attendance for programs during 2022 was 39. Based on information in MySenior Center, our database used to capture statistical data at the Senior Center, the average number of individuals in attendance on a program day has increased from an average of 31, per day, per month (Jan-Aug 2022), to 60 per day per month (Sept-Dec 2022). *This is an increase of 97% in attendance at the SCSC.* The highest daily average of individuals attending program, per day, per month for 2022 (Jan-Nov)

was 68 during the month of November. The lowest daily average of individuals attending program, per day, per month for 2022 (Jan-Nov) was 26 individuals in the month of January.

Through our partnership with LifePath, 65 seniors were able to regularly receive daily Grab n' Go meals (weekdays only), with more than 3,091 meals distributed amongst them.

Our food truck distribution program which occurs on the second Wednesday of each month is one of our most attended days at the Center. We average between 50-75 households who receive support. During 2022, we had more than 185 individuals receive support from our monthly pop-up food truck. This event is through our community partnership with the Franklin Area Survival Center.

In addition to our monthly food truck distribution program, the SCSC partners with The Food Bank of Western Mass to offer the Brown Bag program. This program has approximately 32 recipients each month. It offers a free bag of groceries to those who meet specific income guidelines.

We have also added a food pantry to our Sunderland space where we can store and offer items to our community daily. We will begin offering regular hours each week when the Outreach Coordinator begins his full-time status in February 2023.

During the fall of 2022, the South County Senior Center became partners with the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) and UMass to become an application site for SNAP benefits. In doing so, we can reach more individuals in our community who may be experiencing food insecurity.

In August we hosted our first Informational Fair & Cruise night offering connection to more than 15 community partners. More than a 100 people were in attendance.

During the holiday season in 2022, we offered a Friendsgiving in November. 106 individuals attended for the congregant meal. It is also on a date which LifePath has an administrative day where no meals are provided or delivered to the seniors.

With the success of Friendsgiving, we worked with the community to deliver more than 53 meals to seniors who otherwise may not have a meal for Christmas Day. We had a large volume of volunteers come together from the community to prepare, package, and deliver meals across South County. With the success of these events, they will continue annually.

Funding

Our funding comes from the three towns of Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately. In addition to the funds the Towns provide, we receive funds during FY22/FY23 from the Commonwealth; the Service Incentive Grant and the Formula Fund Grant and private funds; grants through LifePath, and the Fred G. Wells Trust.

We received \$13,135.05 for the Service Incentive Grant. During FY24 this grant will no longer be guaranteed to the current 18 communities who receive it. It will become a competitive grant which we will apply for.

We initially received \$27,252 for the Formula Fund Grant. During 2022, the Commonwealth used the estimated 2020 Census Data provided through UMass, until the Federal Government officially released the Census data. The Commonwealth provides \$12/per senior age 60+ to each community. Based upon the increase in the population we received an additional \$12,504 for a total of \$39,756.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREE DEPARTMENT

The replacement chipper that we received has been performing well. With the use of the excavator, it makes cleanup of a tree more efficient than in the past. We continue to remove dead and hazard trees as we can. The cost for outside contracting continues to go up, requiring increases in the budget. We continue to deliver wood chips (if available) to our residents and have limited amounts of cord wood available for sale. Contact me with any concerns you have at 665-2983.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Bardwell

Tree Warden

Town Hall use for 2022

Neal Abraham, Steward

The 2022 year was a busy one for the Town Hall, despite continued caution because of COVID. Over 220 events used one or both of the meeting rooms (Virginia Allis Community Room, Auditorium). These events were sponsored by 22 different Whately-affiliated organizations. Activities included concerts, musical rehearsals, dances, dance rehearsals, fitness events, private group meetings, talks/presentations, and exhibits. In addition, the Whately Historical Society museum in Town Hall was open for visitors 50 times during the year.

The Town has allocated funds to purchase automatic door openers for the outside doors and the inside doors to give better access to the meeting rooms and restrooms. The Town is getting bids for the work from several vendors before commissioning the modifications.

Reminder: To make a room reservation, use the reservation form available on the Town Website.



UPPER PIONEER VALLEY VETERANS' SERVICES DISTRICT

Veteran Resource and Referral Center located in Greenfield, satellite locations throughout the district

Member Towns

- Ashfield*
- Bernardston*
- Buckland*
- Charlemont*
- Colrain*
- Conway*
- Deerfield*
- Erving*
- Gill*
- Greenfield*
- Hawley*
- Heath*
- Leverett*
- Leyden*
- Monroe*
- Montague*
- New Salem*
- Northfield*
- Plainfield*
- Rowe*
- Shelburne*
- Shutesbury*
- Sunderland*
- Warwick*
- Wendell*
- Whately*

District Annual Report CY22

Mission Statement: To advocate for veterans, their spouses, dependants, widows or widowers for Veterans' Benefits on the Local, State and Federal levels

Office has maintained continued outreach operations across the district. We have dramatically increased the amount of VA claims we have been completing due to increased VA Presumptive diseases for numerous eras of service:

- District now brings in \$1,850,500.00 in Federal and State money **per month** from all sources (VA, State Reimbursements, State Annuities and sales).
- Tim Niejadlik retired in October of 2022, with Chris Demars taking over as Director.
- VSA Laura Thorne has maintained her SHINE certification and is helping veterans and their dependents, taking some of the load off the Senior Centers. Brian Brooks, Veteran Service Officer, was named the Massachusetts Marine Corps League Commandant, representing Marine Veterans across Massachusetts for the second year in a row.
- Office participated in numerous protests against potential VA closures, this seems to have helped along with our local elected officials in keeping VA Leeds open for now.
- We project a slight increase for Fiscal Year 24 budget while continuing to expand services in 2023

Christopher Demars, Director
 Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District

WHATELY WATER DEPARTMENT – 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



2022 water consumption was higher than the previous year, as the town used 4,397,316 gallons, or 12.2% more water than in 2021. The two tables below reflect the monthly consumption figures (in gallons).

	<u>2021</u>	<u>Daily Average</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Daily Average</u>	<u>% Change</u>
January:	1,795,437	57,918	1,936,820	62,478	+8
February:	1,805,796	64,493	1,792,100	64,004	-1
March:	2,248,765	72,541	2,053,986	66,258	-9
April:	2,583,045	86,101	2,466,849	82,229	-4
May:	3,877,068	125,067	4,001,130	129,069	+3
June:	4,929,499	164,317	4,652,744	155,091	-6
July:	3,794,563	122,405	6,109,894	197,093	+61
August:	4,326,201	139,555	5,926,063	191,164	+37
September:	3,635,032	121,168	3,921,495	130,717	+8
October:	2,755,505	88,887	2,798,123	90,262	+2
November:	2,052,001	68,400	2,420,918	80,697	+18
December:	1,975,916	63,739	2,096,132	67,617	+6
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>35,778,828</u>	<u>98,025</u>	<u>40,176,254</u>	<u>110,072</u>	<u>+12</u>

2022 was a busy year for the Water Department. Many aging parts of the infrastructure were replaced or upgraded. In the treatment plant a Scada system was added which allows us to remotely monitor the well pumps, tank level and chlorine residual along with multiple other things that go along with the operation of producing clean water. We hope to keep adding other things to this system every year including tying the Westbrook and Center stations into it. Having this system allows a quicker response in case of an emergency.

As most of you might have seen by now, there is a new building next to the center cemetery. The building houses three 75 gallon per minute pumps and three 350 gallon per minute pumps to supply the center of town with drinking water and fire protection. With the help of the Highway department, and members of the water district the new booster station was completed and went online in the middle of October. The Water Commissioners would like to thank all that were involved in the process of making the project a success We would especially like to thank Nicholas Jones and Keith Bardwell for the time and effort they put in. Without their help and knowledge this would have been allot more expensive and took more time.

The commissioners would like to thank Katherine Fleuriel for the donation of a storage box. With the help of the Highway Department, it was moved down to the treatment plant, and will help in the storage of miscellaneous items.

The Department received a grant to start the design and permitting phase of installing an eight-inch main under the railroad tracks on Egypt road. Running this main will join the south end of State Road to the southern end of Long Plain Road. This will increase the water quality on that section of town and also give us another way to get water to the east end of town in case something should happen to the main on Christian Lane.

We are always looking for ways to keep the cost of producing water to a minimum. In late 2022 we applied for a grant to have solar panels installed on the roof of the treatment plant. We are happy to say we have received it and hope to have them up and running in 2023. It is estimated to save us around \$6,000 a year on electricity ounce they are in. We are also working with an engineer to Develop a Capital Improvement Plan so we can have a better idea of where water rates need to be, in order to replace aging equipment, and keep providing safe drinking water.

The Commissioners would like to thank the citizens for their continued support in our upgrade efforts.

The Commissioners would like to bid a fond farewell to Mr. Paul Fleuriel. The founding father of both the Water Department and the Water District passed away in 2022.

Normally Meetings of the Water Commission are on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. at the town offices on Sandy Lane. For the near future we have been holding our meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 10:00 AM. We can be reached at 665-3080.

Respectfully submitted,

Whately Water Commissioners

Georgeanne Dufault, Chairman

George Bucala

John Lukin

January 2023

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
WHATELY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

District Mission Statement

Building dynamic learning communities, one student, one teacher, one family at a time.

District Vision Statement

Vibrant, collaborative, engaging, and inclusive learning communities promoting the growth of every student.

Opening Statement:

This September, after over two years of Covid restrictions, our students, staff and families enjoyed a refreshingly normal start to the school year. Although Covid-19 is still with us, the stress it caused has diminished and we are pleased to have returned to pre-Covid programming in our schools.

I am grateful for the ongoing support of our families and communities during this time. Despite the distractions and inconveniences the pandemic created, our dedicated faculty and staff inspired students to remain focused on learning and students persevered in their academic efforts. The experience of the last three years has confirmed my belief that our schools are strong and get better every year. I look forward to a successful completion of the current year and to continuing to serve our communities and schools.

In Service,

Darius Modestow,
Superintendent of Schools

Enrollment & School Choice: The October 1, 2022 enrollment for Whately Elementary School totaled 128 (PreK-6) students. This is an increase of 5 students from the October 1, 2021 (PreK-6) enrollment figures of 123 students. Of those 128 (PreK-6) students, 37 were School Choice students. This is neither an increase nor decrease of students from the October 2021 (PreK-6) School Choice enrollment figures of 37 students.

Curriculum and Professional Development:

Members of the Union 38 educational community have participated in professional development and committee work in order to align curriculum materials and classroom instruction with current educational research.

English Language Arts (ELA)

In response to research on the importance of implementing regular screenings for dyslexia and providing explicit, systematic instruction in foundational skills in grades K-3, we have adopted DIBELS 8 as our dyslexia screener and will make a final selection regarding a foundational reading skills program in April. Additionally, research tells us that students with more core knowledge have stronger reading comprehension, so we are in the final stages of selecting language arts curriculum materials that emphasize the acquisition of core knowledge. Ten teachers have participated in LETRS, a curriculum-agnostic training about the science of reading. We are setting up more LETRS training opportunities for the fall of 2023.

Math

The district is uniting around several projects. This fall, we began implementing a universal screener for number sense in grades K-2, which we will expand to all grades in 2023-24. The district purchased Bridges Intervention materials for K-6 mathematics in all schools. For 6th grade, to align with grades 7 and 8, the district purchased ALEKS, a digital platform for independent math practice that provides acceleration and enrichment at individualized levels and pacing. Finally, the district is in the process of selecting core curriculum materials that are updated and aligned with standards of math practice.

Health

With support from a grant for Comprehensive School Health Services, the district acquired up-to-date curriculum resources for 5th and 6th grade health classes. We are in the process of documenting the scope and sequence of health topics that are taught K-6 by a combination of classroom teachers, PE teachers, counselors, and nurses.

Social Studies

With support from a Civics grant, the district acquired curriculum resources from Cornerstones for Civic Education. This is an engaging curriculum that draws on primary sources and puts students in the position of “thinking like historians”. Teachers are working together to pilot lessons from this program and to create a scope and sequence of lessons for 3rd and 4th grade.

Nature’s Classroom

The district is sending all 6th graders to Nature’s Classroom in Ivoryton, CT for a three day/two night outdoor education experience. In addition to participating in hands-on science and social studies classes, students will explore ecosystems and work through team building challenges; a goal for the experience is to provide positive social and academic connections among members of the class of 2029.

Staff:

We are pleased to announce the addition of Lara Ramsey as Director of Education, Elementary Focus who replaced Kimberly McCarthy. Kimberly McCarthy has replaced Aimee Smith-Zeoli as the Director of Early Childhood.

Faculty Resignations:

Faculty Retirements: Jennifer Kellogg, Grade 3

New Staff: Rachel Gibson, Music Teacher; Sarah Chapdelaine, Grade 1 Teacher

Special Thanks: We are pleased to acknowledge the dedication of Whately School Committee members Chair Maureen Nichols, Vice Chair Robert Halla and Secretary Bethany Reilly. The members of the Committee work tirelessly on behalf of the children in Whately. Together, I look forward to working with this group to continue to strive for the best educational experience for our students.

Respectfully submitted,

Darius E. Modestow, Superintendent of Schools

Annual Report
From the
Office of the Superintendent of Schools

Whately Elementary School
for 2021-2022

January 2023

WHATELY SCHOOL REPORT

Maureen Nichols, Chair
Whately School Committee
Whately, MA 01093

Dear Ms. Nichols:

I respectfully submit the 2022 Annual Report for the Whately Elementary School:

WHATELY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Maureen Nichols, Chair	2023
*Robert Halla, Vice Chair	2024
Bethany Reilly, Secretary	2025

*Representative to Frontier Regional School Committee

ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent of Schools	Darius Modestow
Director of Business Administration	Shelley Poreda
Director of Special Education	Karen Ferrandino
Director of Elementary Education	Lara Ramsey
Director of Early Childhood	Kimberly McCarthy
Director of Instructional Technology	Scott Paul
Director of School Facilities	William Hildreth
Director of Food Services	Geoffrey McDonald
Principal	Kristina Kirton

SUPPORT STAFF

Executive Assistant to Superintendent	Jennifer Shumway
Administrative Assistant (SPED)	Penny Smiarowski
Administrative Assistant/Facilities	Mary Jane Whitcomb
Receptionist/Early Childhood Assistant	Sarah Butler
Payroll Specialist, FRS/Union #38	Brenda Antes
Accounts Payable/Bookkeeper	Michelle Melnik
Grants Accountant	Stephan Shepherd
Secretary to Principal	Mary Lesenski

WHATELY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ENROLLMENT - OCTOBER 1, 2022

Grade	Resident Students	School Choice Students	Tuition-In Students	Total
PK	16	0	0	16
K	13	7	0	20
1	8	5	0	13
2	13	4	0	17
3	11	4	0	15
4	11	5	0	16
5	7	7	0	14
6	12	5	0	17
TOTAL	91	37	0	128

Union #38 Teacher Salary Schedule

Effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

STEP	B	B+15	M	M+15	M+30	CAGS
3	\$45,969	\$47,404	\$48,884	\$50,415	\$51,990	\$53,535
4	\$47,404	\$48,884	\$50,415	\$51,990	\$53,616	\$55,162
5	\$48,884	\$50,415	\$51,990	\$53,616	\$55,291	\$56,837
6	\$50,415	\$51,990	\$53,616	\$55,291	\$57,015	\$58,560
7	\$51,990	\$53,616	\$55,291	\$57,015	\$58,796	\$60,341
8	\$53,616	\$55,291	\$57,015	\$58,796	\$60,635	\$62,181
9	\$55,291	\$57,015	\$58,796	\$60,635	\$62,529	\$64,075
10	\$57,015	\$58,796	\$60,635	\$62,529	\$64,482	\$66,027
11	\$58,796	\$60,635	\$62,529	\$64,482	\$66,496	\$68,042
12	\$60,635	\$62,529	\$64,482	\$66,496	\$68,576	\$70,121
13	\$62,529	\$64,482	\$66,496	\$68,576	\$70,723	\$72,269
14	\$68,447	\$70,515	\$73,056	\$75,253	\$78,233	\$79,793
20	\$70,571	\$72,679	\$75,272	\$77,514	\$80,554	\$82,116

Nature's Classroom Teacher: One hundred dollars (\$100) per day of attendance by a teacher. Workshop Presenters: \$30 per hour of presentation and reimbursement for reasonable expenses. Tutoring Rate: \$33.00 per hour. Head Teachers: \$1,500. Placement on Step 20 occurs when a teacher has completed 19 years as a teacher in Union #38. Mentors: \$500 per each new teacher, \$250 for second-/third-year teacher, \$250 for each additional teacher being mentored, to a maximum of three (3) in any year. The Town of Whately currently pays 80% of the health insurance premium contribution, with the eligible employees who elect to participate in the Town offered health insurance paying the remainder 20% of the health insurance premium contribution.

UNION #38 INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS' SALARY SCHEDULE
CONWAY, DEERFIELD, SUNDERLAND, WHATELY

2021-2022	
Step 1	\$14.85
Step 2	\$15.36
Step 3	\$15.87
Step 4	\$16.39
Step 5	\$16.90
Step 6	\$17.41
Step 7	\$17.94
Step 8	\$18.45
Step 9	\$18.97
Step 10	\$19.52

UNION #38 EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT NURSES, LPN, COTA, SLPA & PTA

2021-2022	
Step 1	\$24.42
Step 2	\$25.47
Step 3	\$26.51
Step 4	\$27.55
Step 5	\$28.59
Step 6	\$29.63
Step 7	\$30.68
Step 8	\$31.73
Step 9	\$32.79
Step 10	\$33.80

Report of the Zoning Board of Appeals 2022

The Zoning Board of Appeals met seven times in 2022: a less active year than we have had in the recent past. All of our meetings took place virtually via Zoom due to the continuing COVID 19 pandemic. This year, ZBA Board Members approved two special permits related to marijuana cultivation: one for Greenjeans Farms on Christian Lane and the other for DMCTC on River Road. Additionally, the ZBA approved a special permit for a new sign advertising Whately Self Storage on State Road.

As always, the Board Members appreciate the input of Whately citizens at the public hearings and site views we conduct.

Finally, the Board Members would like to remind citizens that the ZBA is an appeals board only and has no authority over zoning violations; nor can the ZBA monitor the conditions we place on the special permits and variances we grant. Citizens concerned about all potential zoning violations should report them to the Franklin County Building Commissioner who has the power to determine zoning compliance and enforce the Bylaws.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Carney

Vice-Chair, Zoning Board of Appeals