

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

Besides a name change for the Town's executive branch, the highlight this year was becoming an MVP Community through the state's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program. The newly established Sustainability Committee is helping Weston plan for climate change resiliency.



## **Section 1: General Government**

## REPORT OF THE SELECT BOARD

At the December 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Town Meeting, the Board of Selectmen presented an article to change the name 'Board of Selectmen' to 'Select Board' and 'Selectman' to 'Select Board Member.' The change, presented by Select Board Member Laurie Bent, was overwhelmingly supported by the attendees of the Special Town Meeting to ensure the titles are gender-neutral and inclusive of all individuals elected to serve in the role.

The Select Board currently includes Harvey R. Boshart, Laurie Bent, and Christopher E. Houston. As it is the custom of the Board to rotate leadership positions, in May, Mr. Houston was elected to serve as Chair of the Board and Ms. Bent as Clerk.

### Town Administration

Weston is managed by an experienced team led by Town Manager, Leon A. Gaumond, Jr. He is joined by Assistant Town Manager/Human Resources Director, Lisa J. Yanakakis, and Finance Director/Town Accountant, Susan Kelley. These professionals are supported by skilled department managers who work with dedication and teamwork to provide services to our residents.

All managers and members of this team continue to focus on dual goals:

- 1) maintaining the level of services that Weston's residents expect; and
- 2) seeking efficiencies in the delivery of these services to control costs.

Ongoing examples of this effort are the shared resources between the School and Municipal departments for facilities management, technology, and vehicle maintenance.

### Fiscal Management

As has been noted in previous years, Weston underinvested in infrastructure in the 1970s through the early '90s like many state and local governments, spending too little on maintenance and renovations at a time when our population and student population were both in decline. Over the past 20 years, Weston has carried out substantial renovations or replacements to virtually all of the Town's buildings. Now, as the Case House renovations are nearing completion and construction funds were approved for the renovation of the Josiah Smith Tavern, that work is largely done. It has taken significant effort to do so, and the Town has had to incur considerable debt in the process. The debt level is high on an absolute dollar basis but as a percentage of the budget, it is well within the range established by the bond rating agency that continues to give Weston the highest possible ratings (more on that below).

Importantly, the financial leadership of the Town – the Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Finance Director, Treasurer/Collector, Select Board, and Finance Committee – has undertaken a range of fiscally prudent steps to ensure that we are carefully managing the Town.

*Longstanding Aaa Rating* - Moody's Investors Service once again reaffirmed the Town's Aaa bond rating, which incorporates a well-managed financial position, a reasonable debt and pension burden, and aggressive funding of OPEB liabilities. This rating helps the Town obtain lower interest rates on its debt and ultimately helps save taxpayer money. Moody's also assigned a MIG 1 rating to the Town's general obligation bond anticipation notes. This reflects the strong long-term credit characteristics, sufficient takeout management, and ample liquidity. Lastly, Moody's confirmed a stable outlook, which reflects its expectation that Weston will maintain a sound financial position bolstered by strong fiscal management. It also incorporates the Town's progress in addressing its long-term liabilities while maintaining a conservative approach to budgeting and expenditure management.

*Operating Budget* - At Annual Town Meeting, the fiscal year 2020 operating budget of \$82,174,083 was adopted, which was a 4.4 percent increase over the fiscal 2019 budget. Salary increases of \$2,584,951 included a net of two new benefit-eligible employees, a higher pension contribution of \$173,257, and

increased funding for roadway maintenance of another \$500,000. These increases were offset by savings due to electricity credits from the solar panel installations on the landfill and the Public Works building rooftop, school enrollment reductions, and one-time capital projects. This brought the overall increase to \$3,467,748. As has been true for many years now, no Proposition 2 ½ override was necessary because new construction in town contributed \$1,035,609 in additional tax revenues allowing increases in the existing tax base to be kept below the cap. Also, the Town has accumulated approximately \$9.4 million in unused tax levy capacity that can be used, if needed.

*Reserves* - The budget continues to include funding of several reserve accounts and in fiscal 2019 this reserve account funding totaled \$3,687,354, the largest amount being \$2,214,656 to fund the Town's long-term liability for retiree health insurance. Through the Select Board's Reserve Policy, the Town seeks to maintain appropriate and sufficient reserves to sustain financial stability and thereby continue its high credit rating.

*Revenue* - More than 85 percent of the Town's revenues came from residential property taxes and only 4.9 percent comes from state aid, so any decline in state aid has less impact on Weston than most cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The property tax rate increased from \$12.59 per \$1,000 of valuation in fiscal 2019 to \$12.83 per \$1,000 of valuation in fiscal 2020. The median residential valuation was \$1,222,900, up 3 percent.

*Expenses* - Salaries and health and pension benefits for municipal and school employees comprise more than 81 percent of the Town's budget, and most of these costs are subject to collective bargaining agreements with the 12 unions that together cover approximately 76 percent of the benefit-eligible employees.

#### Public Works Infrastructure

Under the direction of Public Works Director Thomas Cullen, the Town continued to make well-planned and considerable investments in the maintenance of its infrastructure – roads, sidewalks, water, parks and cemeteries, and stormwater management. With the Town's building stock in good shape, as noted above, focus and resources have shifted toward the maintenance of roadways. Funding for this effort has been gradually increasing over the past five years to reach an annual amount of \$2.0 million between state funding and the Town budget. The fiscal 2020 operating budget included an additional \$250,000 in funding for roadway maintenance, bringing the total anticipated funding level to approximately 88 percent of the desired amount. More details regarding the pavement management program and other programs instituted by the Public Works Department can be found in that section of the Town Report.

#### Town Buildings

Weston is at the forefront of municipal government in the state with its Permanent Building Committee and a town-wide facilities director, Gary Jarowski, who oversees the construction and maintenance of all Town buildings. The Facilities Department provides dedicated building expertise that enables better design and more cost-effective buildings. Also, with detailed long-term maintenance schedules, better care is taken of municipal buildings, maximizing useful life.

The Facilities Department, with the Permanent Building Committee, is currently overseeing the renovation of the Case House school administration building and the reuse of the Josiah Smith Tavern to bring the building up to code for public use, the construction funds of which were approved at the Special Town Meeting in December.

#### Energy Conservation and Sustainability Progress

*Green Community* - Weston has held this designation since 2011, which qualifies the Town to receive state grants that support green initiatives. Early in the program, Weston leaders implemented a five-year plan to reduce the Town's energy consumption by 20 percent. After adjusting for new construction and

additional square footage, energy consumption has been reduced by 9.5 percent since 2011. The new Sustainability Committee, which was appointed by the Select Board at the end of 2018, has renewed Green Community efforts to take advantage of the additional state benefits. The Town is poised to submit lighting replacement projects for the next Green Community grant round.

*Sustainability Committee* - In 2019, Weston was awarded a \$100,000 planning grant through the state's Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) to begin the planning phase of locally relevant and prioritized vulnerability assessments with citizens and staff feedback. The planning will also be used to update Weston's Hazard Mitigation Plan. The planning process examined the town's vulnerabilities and strengths and identified priority actions to build resilience as the climate changes. The planning scope was completed near the end of 2019 and Weston officially became an MVP community. This designation allowed Weston to secure another \$100,000 for Action Grant funding to develop a detailed Climate Action and Resiliency Plan starting in 2020.

*Gas Audit* - With the support of the Sustainability Committee, the local citizens' group, Sustainable Weston Action Group, approached the Select Board with a request for the Town to conduct an independent audit of its gas infrastructure to better understand its full condition. Like many towns in Massachusetts, Weston has a gas leak problem due to aging gas infrastructure. At the end of 2018, National Grid reported 175 unrepaired gas leaks in town, some of which were over 20 years old. Not only are gas leaks a safety concern, but they are also an environmental and health issue. Methane is 86-times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide over the first 20 years in the atmosphere, contributing significantly to the climate crisis. Gas leaks also have a significant negative impact on vegetation and trees, further contributing to climate damage. The results of the final audit in June 2019 confirmed 295 unrepaired gas leaks in town, of which 102 leaks were measured at 2,000 sq. ft. or more. A total of 325 trees were also identified as either already compromised or at risk, due to their location in the gas leak zone.

*Solar Energy* - The solar photovoltaic array placed on the site of the former landfill produced approximately \$454,000 in electricity savings from the generation of solar energy. The panels placed on the roof of the Public Works produced an additional \$18,000 in savings to the Town. A 300-kilowatt solar array is currently being installed on the roof of the Field School, which will provide approximately three-quarters of the school's electricity on an annual basis, offsetting 4,800 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> during the project life of 20 years, at savings to the Town of about \$20,000 in the first year alone.

*Pay-As-You-Throw* - Establishing a Pay-As-You-Thrown program to deal with municipal solid waste has been a priority of the Select Board for the past few years. This year, the Board appointed a special committee to review the subject and to bring a recommendation to the Board for program implementation. The committee is under the leadership of Select Board Member Bent.

#### Land Use/Development Projects

*Affordable Housing* - Unfortunately, Boston Properties pulled out of its proposed housing and commercial development at 133 Boston Post Road this year. The initial proposal sought 275 rental units that would have helped Weston meet its 10 percent threshold in a manner identified in the Housing Production Plan. The Planning Board worked with neighborhood abutters and the developer to further develop the plans that would be sensitive to the area; however, Boston Properties cited market uncertainty for its primary tenant and walked away from the project.

Two other developers came forward with 40B proposals. Mill Creek Residential purchased the Woodleigh Farm at 751-761 Boston Post Road with a proposal of 180 rental units on 12 acres of the 62-acre lot, and the Hanover Company proposed 200 rental units on four and a half acres of the nine-and-a-half-acre lot at 518 South Avenue. Both projects are discussed in more detail in the report of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

*Town Center Improvement Project* – the ground was broken this year for the beginning of the largest road project ever taken on by the Town. The March 2019 Special Town Meeting approved construction funding for the project. Additional details can be found in the Land Use, Planning and Zoning section of this report.

*Mass Central Rail Trail* – Work on converting the abandoned Central Massachusetts Railroad line, which covers a three-mile section of Weston, to a rail trail finished this year. The Rail Trail Advisory Committee, along with the help of the Public Works Director of Operations and the Recreation Director, put in exceptional work with incorporating this Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation asset into Weston. The committee also secured much state funding to help offset any Community Preservation Act funding requests. For a full report on this topic, please refer to the committee’s report, which can be found in the Land Use, Planning and Zoning section. A ribbon-cutting and opening day celebration was held on October 19, 2019 with a large group of celebrants walking from Wayland to Weston for the festivities.

#### Communication Between Boards and Committees

On the first Saturday morning in November, the Select Board hosted its fourth annual meeting of all boards and committees at Regis College to share information and improve communication about projects of mutual interest. This meeting was another success by facilitating an exchange of information between Town boards and committees.

In May, the Select Board hosted its third Town Government Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. The dinner gave our volunteers and their families a chance to be spoiled, but also to meet other committee members in a less formal setting. The annual dinner continues to be well-received.

#### Communication with the Public

The Town makes a considerable effort to keep the public informed about what is happening in Town Government.

*Weston Media Center* - The non-profit organization continued to record the Select Board, Planning Board, Community Preservation Committee, Finance Committee, Historical Commission, Rail Trail Advisory Committee, Town Center Planning Committee, and School Committee meetings, as well as other public informational meetings and Town Meeting. The recordings are televised on the local public access cable channels (Verizon 41 and 45 and Comcast 8 and 9) and are also conveniently made available online for on-demand viewing.

*Weston.org* – A wealth of information, including Town Projects coming before Town Meeting, is provided on the Town’s website. Under the Direction of Kara Fleming, Assistant to the Town Manager/Public Information Officer, the site is designed to support civic engagement and provides multiple opportunities for residents to keep informed via email or text notifications. Residents can be alerted to the Latest Town News, postings to the Calendar of Meetings, and postings of committee meeting agendas and approved minutes. Monthly electronic newsletters featuring the “Top 5” issues in town, the Animal Control Corner Blog, weekly Public Works updates, and quarterly Conservation Connections are also available. These notifications are available via subscription at [www.weston.org/StayInformed](http://www.weston.org/StayInformed).

*Social Media* – More residents were engaged on Facebook and Twitter this year than the previous year. News items are shared on both platforms to engage residents and visitors and to communicate Town Government information. The Town Manager has also established his own Twitter account, adding to the opportunities for residents to learn more about the Town and region.

*WestonAlerts* – This is the emergency notification system used during an emergency situation to quickly disseminate important information. Landline numbers are automatically added to the system and

residents can sign up on the Town's website at [www.weston.org/WestonAlerts](http://www.weston.org/WestonAlerts) to choose their preferred communication option, as well as provide household details that may be helpful in the event of a 911 home emergency.

Personnel

The Board wishes to recognize that during 2019, the following employees retired from Town service:

Mark Alonzi	Police Officer	32.5 years of service
Donna Davies	Librarian	32 years of service
Daniel Skinner	DPW Heavy Equipment Operator	25 years of service
David Mosman	Town Hall Custodian	21 years of service
Sara Dosamantes	Manager, Brook School Apartments	11.5 years of service

Closing Comments

The Select Board continues to work on the challenging task of maintaining Town facilities and services at a level Weston citizens expect while limiting the rise in property taxes. Weston has the distinction of both the highest average home value and the highest average property taxes in Massachusetts, and these characteristics require special attention to programs that support diversity and support for those on limited and fixed incomes.

Weston continues to benefit from so many of its citizens who generously volunteer their time on elected and appointed boards and committees, or related non-profit organizations. Each time the Board has advertised for volunteers to serve the Town on various boards and commissions, we have been gratified by the response from well-qualified and generous residents. We are sometimes put in the awkward position of having to turn down volunteers and we hope they will maintain their interest in Town Government because new opportunities for volunteer service arise each year. Without these scores of volunteers and the Town's talented and dedicated employees, the Select Board could not accomplish its goals.



*Christopher E. Houston, Chair*



*Laurie A. Bent, Clerk*



*Harvey R. Boshart*

**LICENSES AND PERMITS ISSUED BY THE SELECTMEN IN 2019**

**Common Victualler's License**

David Gray Associates Inc. - d/b/a Cedar Hill Dairy Joy	331 North Avenue
Coffee and Bagel Brands - d/b/a Bruegger's Bagel Bakery	31 Center Street
Ye Olde Cottage Restaurant Inc.	403 Boston Post Road
MOTAB LLC - d/b/a Theo's Pizzeria and Grill	456 Boston Post Road
Roche Bros. Supermarkets Company - d/b/a Brother's Marketplace	41 Center Street
DiDi Center Street Weston LLC - d/b/a Dumpling Daughter	37 Center Street
P&P Donuts LLC - d/b/a/ Dunkin Donuts	84 Boston Post Road

**License to Dispense Food and Beverages**

Hazel Hotchkiss Wightman Tennis Center Inc.	100 Brown Street
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**Club License for Sale of All Alcoholic Beverages to be Drunk on the Premises**

Pine Brook Country Club Inc. - d/b/a Pine Brook Country Club	42 Newton Street
Weston Golf Club	275 Meadowbrook Road

**License for Sale of Wine & Malt Beverages Only at a Grocery Store**

Roche Brothers Supermarkets Co. - d/b/a Brother's Marketplace	41 Center Street
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**Special One Day Liquor License**

All Alcohol Beverages (not for profit entities only)	Granted - 4
Wine and Malt Beverages Only	Granted - 46

**License to Operate Public Vehicles for Hire**

Veterans Taxi of Newton LLC	224 Calvary Street, Waltham
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**Sign Board Permits**

Granted, various - 90

**One Day Special Event Mobile Food Vendor Permit**

Snowy Joey Frosty Ice Cream	Spring Fling April 27th
The Cod Squad	WCCA Summer Kick-off June 9th
VeeBop's Ice Cream	Lovelane 5k Road Race June 9th
VeeBop's Ice Cream	Summer Concert Series June 19th - July 17th

**Town Green Events**

Weston Recreation Department	Annual Egg Hunt	April 20th
Weston High School Student Council	Spring Fling	April 27th
Weston High School Class of 2019	2019 Graduation	June 7th
Weston Community Children's Assoc.	Summer Kickoff	June 9th
Weston Recreation Department	Concerts on the Green	Wednesdays, June & July
Rotary Club of Weston and Wayland	Antique Car Show	September 29th
Weston High School	Pumpkin Festival	October 12th
Roxbury Weston Programs	Halloween on the Green	October 26th
Weston Community Children's Assoc.	Halloween Parade	October 26th
Women's Community League of Weston	Winter Festival	December 8th

**Bicycle & Road Events**

Weston Kids Pan Mass Challenge	Bicycle Race	May 5th
High School Back Pack Run	Road Race	May 11th
National Brain Tumor Society	Bicycle Race	May 19th
Lovelane Special Needs Horseback Riding Program Inc.	Road Race	June 9th
Land's Sake Harvest Hustle 5k	Road Race	September 14th
St. Julia's Parish Charity Walk	Walk	September 28th
Weston United Methodist Church Annual Crop Walk	Walk	October 6th

**2019 SELECT VOTES TAKEN BY THE SELECT BOARD**

**January 8**

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to call a Special Town Meeting for Monday, March 18, 2019, with a snow date of Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Gillespie. **Approved unanimously**

**January 22**

**MOTION:** Mr. Gillespie moved to approve the sales of general obligation bonds and general obligation bond anticipation notes as follows:

Voted: that the sale of the \$14,670,000 General Obligation Municipal Purpose Loan of 2019 Bonds of the Town dated February 1, 2019 (the "Bonds") to Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC at the price of \$16,176,962.63 and accrued interest is hereby approved and confirmed. The Bonds shall be payable on February 1 of the years and in the principal amounts and bear interest at the respective rates, as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
2020	\$1,140,000	5.00%	2030	\$820,000	5.00%
2021	1,100,000	5.00	2031	810,000	3.00
2022	1,090,000	5.00	2032	760,000	3.00
2023	910,000	5.00	2033	755,000	3.00
2024	860,000	5.00	2034	390,000	3.00
2025	860,000	5.00	2035	380,000	3.00
2026	850,000	5.00	2036	370,000	3.125
2027	835,000	5.00	2037	365,000	3.125
2028	830,000	5.00	2038	360,000	3.25
2029	830,000	5.00	2039	355,000	3.25

Further Voted: to approve the sale of \$9,265,566 General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes of the Town dated February 1, 2019, payable January 30, 2020, to Jefferies LLC (the "Notes") at par and accrued interest plus a premium of \$112,300.

Further Voted: that in connection with the marketing and sale of the Bonds, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated January 9, 2019, and a final Official Statement dated January 16, 2019 (the "Official Statement"), each in such form as may be approved by the Town Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

Further Voted: that in connection with the marketing and sale of the Notes, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated January 9, 2019, and a final Official Statement dated January 16, 2019, each in such form as may be approved by the Town Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

Further Voted: that the Bonds shall be subject to redemption, at the option of the Town, upon such terms and conditions as are set forth in the Official Statement.

Further Voted: that the Town Treasurer and the Board of Selectmen be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver continuing and Significant events disclosure undertakings in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such forms as may be approved by bond counsel to the Town, which undertakings shall be incorporated by reference in the Bonds and Notes, as applicable, for the benefit of the holders of the Bonds and Notes from time to time.

Further Voted: that we authorize and direct the Town Treasurer to establish post issuance federal tax compliance procedures in such form as the Town Treasurer and bond counsel deem sufficient, or if such procedures are currently in place, to review and update said procedures, in order to monitor and maintain the tax-exempt status of the Bonds and Notes.

Further Voted: that each member of the Board of Selectmen, the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.

2nd by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously.**

**MOTION:** Mr. Gillespie moved to award one tuition voucher each to Jeremy Girouard, Emma Kwon, and Jacob Ginga for the spring quarter at Northeastern University. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Gillespie moved to open the 2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant for the submission of petitioned articles until February 28, 2019. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

### **February 12**

**MOTION:** Mr. Gillespie moved to approve the warrant for Special Town Meeting to be held on March 18<sup>th</sup> and to authorize the Town Manager and Town Counsel to make any non-substantive changes for editing purposes or to comply with legal requirements, and subject to any further editorial changes made to the explanations. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Houston. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to obtain an appraisal of the Chapter 61A land at 751 Boston Post Road. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Boshart. Mr. Gillespie recused himself. **Approved unanimously**

### **February 26**

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to approve and execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement between Nicholas W. Danforth and the Town for property located at 500 Wellesley Street, as the said property is described in the Agreement, and subject to the contingencies set forth therein. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Gillespie. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to authorize the use of the remaining balance of the MWRA fund in the Conservation Land Trust to put toward the purchase of 500 Wellesley Street. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Boshart.

**Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved that the Board decline to exercise the option to purchase property, being 54.3 acres, more or less, identified as Parcels 25/4, 26/2, and portions of 26/4, and being a portion of that property locally known as Woodleigh Farms, with an address of 751 Boston Post Road, as outlined in a Notice of Intent to Convert to Residential use, dated February 1, 2019, for a purchase price of \$17,500,000, per an appraisal prepared by Colliers International, dated February 26, 2019, and authorize the Chair, on behalf of the Board, to execute any and all documents evidencing such declination. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Boshart.

Mr. Gillespie recused himself. **Approved unanimously**

### **March 12, 2019**

**MOTION:** Mr. Gillespie moved to approve permission to Eversource Energy, to install approximately 45-foot, more or less, of conduit under Apple Crest Road, westerly from pole 334/4 and approximately 447-foot south of Boston Post Road, as outlined in work order #2304487 and subject to conditions as set forth by the Public Works Department. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Houston. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to establish an income eligibility limit of \$86,240 for the fiscal year 2020 Property Tax Deferral Program, as permitted under Chapter 421 of the Acts of 2004; and further move to keep the interest rate for all deferrals initiated in fiscal 2020 at 4.0 percent. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Gillespie. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to support Article 1 and Article 2 regarding the Town Center Improvement Project on the March 18<sup>th</sup> Special Town Meeting Warrant. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Gillespie. Mr. Houston and Mr. Boshart voted in favor; Mr. Gillespie against.

### **March 26**

**MOTION:** Mr. Gillespie moved to appoint Paul Angiolillo, Christine Martin, Frank Parker, and Jacob Sagrams to the Weston Cultural Council each for a three-year term expiring March 27, 2022. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Houston. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Gillespie moved to approve the Council on Aging's request to appoint all members to four-year terms regardless if the appointment is to fill a vacant term. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Houston. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Gillespie moved to approve for inclusion in the warrant and budget book the Fiscal Year 2020 proposed operating budget. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Houston. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Gillespie moved to support all of the articles in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Houston. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Gillespie moved to approve the 2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant and authorize the Town Manager and Town Counsel to make any non-substantive changes for editing purposes or to comply with legal requirements. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Houston. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to approve the report of the Board of Selectmen for inclusion in the warrant and budget book and authorize the Town Manager to make any non-substantive edits. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Gillespie. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Gillespie moved to place the following question on the ballot for May 4, 2019 Annual Town Election:

**BALLOT QUESTION NO. 1: PROPOSITION 2½ DEBT EXCLUSION**

Shall the Town of Weston be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond(s) issued in order to design, engineer, construct and equip the following, including all costs incidental and related thereto: (1) DPW Drainage Improvements; (2) South Side Drainage Improvements; (3) Cherry Brook Culverts; 4) Radio System Upgrades; 5) Case House Renovations; and Town Center Improvement Project?

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Houston. **Approved unanimously**

**April 9**

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to award one tuition voucher each to Emma Kwon and Jacob Ginga for the summer quarter at Northeastern University. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Gillespie. **Approved unanimously.**

**May 6**

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to authorize Mr. Boshart to work with the Town Manager to prepare the response letter to MassHousing regarding 518 South Avenue. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Boshart. Mr. Gillespie was not present. **Approved unanimously**

**May 14**

**MOTION:** Ms. Bent moved to nominate Mr. Houston as Chair of the Board of Selectmen. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously.**

**MOTION:** Mr. Boshart moved to nominate Ms. Bent as Clerk of the Board of Selectmen. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Houston. **Approved unanimously.**

**MOTION:** Mr. Boshart moved to nominate Ms. Bent as the Board's representative to the Metro West Regional Collaborative. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Houston. **Approved unanimously.**

**MOTION:** Mr. Boshart moved to approve permission to Eversource Electric Company to construct a line of conduit for the transmission of electricity under Crescent Street northeasterly, from pole 52/6 approximately 548 feet, more or less, west of Boston Post Road, a distance of about 36.3 feet, more or less, of conduit, as recommended by the Department of Public Works Director. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Ms. Bent moved to take up to \$30,000 in the Selectmen's consultant fund toward the gas infrastructure audit throughout the town. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to give the Historical Commission the authority to act on behalf of the town in disposing of all personal property located in the Josiah Smith Tavern including the profit from for sale objects pursuant to state and local by-laws and to include the gifting of objects to the local non-profits the Weston Historical Society and the Golden Ball Tavern Museum. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Boshart moved to grant permission for the installation of utility stubs by Land's Sake Inc under the direction of the Public Works Director of Operations. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Ms. Bent moved to approve the following dates: 2019 Fall Special Town Meeting on December 3, 2019; 2020 Town Caucus on Tuesday, March 10 with a snow date of March 11; 2020 Town Election on May 9; and 2020 Annual Town Meeting on May 11 and 13. And further, to move the polling location for precincts 1 and 2 to the Weston Town Hall Auditorium. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to authorize town counsel to send a response to the Attorney General's Office and the complainant, with minor edits, and to release September 12, 2018, November 3, 2016, and the un-redacted minutes from the October 10, 2017 executive sessions. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to authorize the sale of the cremation-sized plot to Nancy and Rufus Wilson and according to the Board of Selectmen's discretion under the Cemetery Regulations, Article 2 Burial Lot Regulations, Section 3, subsection b. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

### May 28

**MOTION:** Mr. Boshart moved to sign the deeds for the 259 and 265 Glen Road land exchange. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Boshart moved to appoint Rebecca Loveys to the Conservation Commission to fill the vacancy left by Laurie Bent with a term expiring June 30, 2020. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Boshart moved to establish the fiscal year 2020 compensation plans, effective July 1, 2019, with an increase of 2 percent over the fiscal 2019 amounts. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to establish summer hours at the Town Hall from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> as follows: Monday – Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

### June 11

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to approve the sale of a \$9,045,000 2.00 percent General Obligation Bond Anticipation Note (the "Notes") of the Town dated June 14, 2019, and payable January 30, 2020, to Eastern Bank at par and accrued interest plus a premium of \$29,396.25.

And further: that in connection with the marketing and sale of the Notes, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated May 30, 2019, and a final Official Statement dated June 6, 2019, each in such form as may be approved by the Town Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

And further: that the Town Treasurer and the Board of Selectmen be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a significant events disclosure undertaking in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the Town, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the Notes for the benefit of the holders of the Notes from time to time.

And further: that we authorize and direct the Town Treasurer to establish post issuance federal tax compliance procedures and continuing disclosure procedures in such forms as the Town Treasurer and bond counsel deem sufficient, or if such procedures are currently in place, to review and update said procedures, in order to monitor and maintain the tax-exempt status of the Notes and to comply with relevant securities laws.

And further: that each member of the Board of Selectmen, the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.

2nd by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Boshart moved to allow an exception in the street opening moratorium for new pavement per Section V of the Street Opening and Occupancy Regulations for 98 Love Lane to connect water only and at the further direction of the Department of Public Works Director and to have a future conversation for the gas connection. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Houston. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Boshart moved to dissolve the Town Center Planning Committee with extreme appreciation for its tremendous work over the last four and a half years; and further, to appoint the following to the Town Center Working Group to serve at the pleasure of the Selectmen: Stephen Larocque, Jay Doyle, Harvey Boshart, Michael Harrity, Neil Levitt, Stephen Oppenheimer, and Kevin Sullivan. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Houston. **Approved unanimously.**

**MOTION:** Mr. Boshart moved to waive the fee associated with the water service connection and the fees for the Road Opening Permit and the Trench Permit for the utility work Land's Sake Inc. is installing at 40-Acre Field. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Houston. **Approved unanimously**

### July 10

**MOTION:** Mr. Boshart moved to approve the petition by National Grid to install gas mains for system reinforcement under the public way of Church Street, from approximately house number 39 northerly to utility pole number 3/30, and in Old Road, from the new main in Church Street to the existing main in Pigeon Hill Road, as described in Work Order no. 1031174 and per conditions set out by the Public Works Department. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to authorize the transfer of \$10,000 from the excluded debt line item to the Police Salaries overtime line item as recommended by the Town Manager as an end-of-the-year fiscal transfer; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to increase the annual spending limit for the Solar Array Revolving Fund from \$700,000 to \$1,000,000; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to keep the Transfer Station Permit fees the same for the 2019/2020 permit period. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to authorize Town Counsel to submit a response on the Public Records complaint by Owen Murphy on the Selectmen's behalf; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

### July 30

**MOTION:** Ms. Bent moved to appoint David Ayer as an at-large member to the Sustainability Committee to fill the vacated term expiring June 30, 2021, and Christopher Jylkka as an at-large member for a term expiring June 30, 2022. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to authorize the Town Manager and Ms. Bent to advance the Rt. 30/Charles River Greenway proposal and to coordinate with the relative municipalities and state agencies; and further, to update the Board at a later date. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

August 29

**MOTION:** Mr. Boshart moved to adopt a water rate increase of \$2 for Tier 1, \$6 for Tier 2, and \$12 for Tier 3. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Ms. Bent moved to refer the proposed zoning by-law amendment regarding a lot bound by a Scenic Road to the Planning Board for a public hearing and report to Special Town Meeting on December 3, 2019. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

September 10

**MOTION:** Ms. Bent moved to direct the Town Manager to develop an article for the upcoming Special Town Meeting to cover the costs to upgrade the Fire Station water service and to add a fire hydrant. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Houston. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Ms. Bent moved to direct Town Manager to develop an article for Special Town Meeting asking residents to explore the idea of Community Choice Aggregation. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

September 24

**MOTION:** Ms. Bent moved to appoint Susan Scott to fill the vacancy on the Board of Library Trustees created by the resignation of Mary Francois to serve until the Annual Town Election in May 2020. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Boshart. Ms. Panagakos, Mr. Mullin, Ms. Delaney, Ms. Freiberg, Mr. Boshart, Ms. Bent, and Mr. Houston all voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Boshart moved to support Massachusetts House Bill 2849/Senate Bill 1940 An Act "For Utility Transition to Using Renewable Energy (FUTURE)" and sign the Resolution. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Ms. Bent moved to direct the Town Manager to develop an article for the upcoming Special Town Meeting to amend the Town's General By-laws to change the title of Board of Selectmen to Select Board. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Boshart moved to refer the petitioned proposed zoning by-law regarding a Transit-Oriented Senior Development to the Planning Board for a public hearing and report to Special Town Meeting on December 3, 2019. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously.**

**MOTION:** Mr. Boshart moved to approve the charge for the Pay As You Throw Working Group, adding to it the exploration of composting, and appoint Laurie Bent as the Selectmen representative. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

October 8

**MOTION:** Mr. Boshart moved to authorize the Public Works Director to initiate night work for the Town Center Project. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Ms. Bent moved to place an article addressing police details and an article addressing civil fingerprinting on the December 3, 2019 Special Town Meeting as recommended by the Police Chief. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

### October 22

**MOTION:** Mr. Boshart moved to amend the Traffic Rules and Order by installing two stop signs on Oxbow Road at the Ridgeway Road intersection and a stop sign on Ridgeway Road at Bullard Road, subject to final review by the Police Chief and the Public Works Director; and further to approve the direct installation of crosswalks on Highland Street, one at Chestnut Street and one at the southern entrance to Highland Meadows development. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

### October 29

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to approve the warrant for the Special Town Meeting to be held on December 3, 2019, and authorize the Town Manager and Town Counsel to make any non-substantive changes for editing purposes or to comply with legal requirements, and subject to any further editorial changes made to the explanations. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Ms. Bent moved to appoint Olga Shulman to the Traffic and Sidewalk Committee to fill a vacant term expiring June 30, 2021. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Houston. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to appoint Phil Saunders and Thomas Darling to serve as at-large members on the Pay As You Throw Working Group to serve at the pleasure of the Selectmen. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Ms. Bent moved to appoint Theodore Bascom to the Permanent Building Committee, subject to approval by the School Committee, to serve a three-year term expiring October 10, 2022. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Houston. **Approved unanimously**

### November 12

**MOTION:** Ms. Bent moved to approve and accept the deed for 500 Wellesley Street. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Mr. Boshart moved to approve the grant of location for Eversource Energy and Verizon New England for the relocation of five utility poles on Merriam Street, as outlined above and in work order no. 2328568, for the purpose of sidewalk improvements being conducted by Weston's Department of Public Works. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

### December 10

**MOTION:** Mr. Boshart moved to adopt a Residential Factor of 1.00 for fiscal year 2020. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

**MOTION:** Ms. Bent moved to amend the Traffic Rules and Order of the Town of Weston by installing a four-way stop sign arrangement at the intersection of Boston Post Road, Church Street, and School Street. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

### December 18

**MOTION:** Mr. Houston moved to approve the Declaration of Restrictions as it pertains to Room 203 of the Josiah Smith Tavern, contingent upon the definition of "employee only" includes Town volunteers, and to be recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously.**

## REPORT OF THE CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

During 2019, the Cable Advisory Committee monitored the performance of the Town's two cable providers, Comcast and Verizon, with respect to their cable television license arrangements with the Town. The Committee also monitored the general operations of the Weston community access channel Weston Media Center and the allocation of service provider equipment pursuant to the license agreements. Further, the Committee reviewed new payment arrangements between the Town and the cable providers that support the Weston Media Center.

This year saw a major change to Weston Media Center. With the Old Library renovated for public reuse, the studio offices were moved from the Brook School Apartments to the lower level of the newly opened Art and Innovation Center. The Committee monitored the arrangements for the move and the necessary connections afforded by the cable providers. The new space will allow for additional programming opportunities and interaction with the public.

The Committee recognizes that local programming, including coverage of Town, Select Board, and various other committee meetings continue and that the Weston Media Center has (a) maintained an expanded staff, (b) added programming to cover meetings of the School Committee, Finance Committee, Rail Trail Advisory Committee, and other special meetings of town-wide interest, and (c) maintained its "on-demand" feature to view all programming on its website.

### 2019 Cable Advisory Committee Members

#### *Appointed by the Select Board*

Edwin E. Smith, Chair	2021	Lee McCanne	2021
Joel Angiolillo	2021	Denis Wu	2020
Tom Benson	2020		

## REPORT OF THE INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT

The Town and School Information Systems staff works to ensure the network communications and server infrastructure can meet the needs of every department and to provide a pathway for the integration of data systems for efficient use by Town departments and residents. We continue to invest in infrastructure projects that both meet immediate departmental needs, as well as our long-term goals that are focused on anticipated future demand for information and communications services. Close collaboration by School and Town Information Technology Services has enabled us to share equipment and services to the benefit of both.

### 2019 Information Systems Department Highlights

- Implemented grant-funded records management program
- Completed Police Department fiber loop project
- Conducted and remediated network security audit for all Town buildings and the Town Library
- Brought the new Art and Innovation Center online with Town IT services
- Began the implementation of a new digital radio system for the Fire Department
- Implemented Munis utility billing module to work with a wireless water meter reading system, allowing us to provide water reports for Town residents

### Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Highlights

- Implemented a Tree Inventory program with consultants' data to track and plan for upcoming tree work throughout the Town

- Working in collaboration with the Fire Department and residents to implement an Adopt a Hydrant program where residents can assign themselves hydrants in town to clear out from snow during and after storms. This effort can save valuable time in cases of emergencies during the winter
- Created a GIS Helpdesk ticketing system to more efficiently organize and assign system requests as they come in
- Continued maintenance on the town-wide planimetric and utility layers in the GIS system to ensure accuracy within the mapping sites
- The Weston parcels system was raised to Level 3 standards, not only adding uniformity but bringing the town into state compliance, which provides opportunities to apply for and secure state grants

### Planning in Action

During the years ahead, the Department will build on the Town's core network infrastructure to support individual departmental goals, as well as the overall core mission of municipal government. We aim to ensure the efficient operation of communications, processes, and records management throughout Town departments and the Schools.

A few of our departmental plans for 2020 include:

- Town Center Improvement Project, which includes having the Town's fiber infrastructure in that area go underground with other utilities
- Implement a process workflow system allowing for a multi-departmental process either sequentially or in parallel before moving to the next step
- Continue with electronic records archival and retention system implementation (multi-year project)
- Reconfiguration of Town Fiber loops to account for Town Center Project, the move of the main Town server room to the Police Department (several years ago), and the move to IP (Internet Protocol) based radios by the Fire Department. Our goal is to ensure the stability and redundancies of Town communication links
- A network switching and wireless system (WiFi) replacement project proposed for fiscal year 2021

## **REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE**

The last Monday in May is designated annually as Memorial Day, a day to remember and honor those men and women who have selflessly served their country through times of conflict. The May 27th Observance in Weston recognized all men, women, and their families who have served in all wars and during peacetime throughout the history of our country.

Per tradition, the Weston Girl Scouts rang the 1801 Paul Revere Bell at the First Parish Church at 9:15 a.m. calling the residents of the town to gather in the Horace Scudder Sears Auditorium at Weston Town Hall for the 2019 Memorial Day Observance. Guests were met in the auditorium with refreshments as the Weston High School Marching Band played a rousing medley of the traditional songs for each branch of the Armed Services. The program officially began as the Weston Police Department and Weston Fire Department Honor Guard, along with the Weston Boy Scouts Troop 157, presented the colors. The Weston Boy and Girl scouts led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Catherine Marcus Bassick, chair of the Memorial Day Committee, gave welcoming remarks, the recognition of Weston veterans, and the introduction of Reverend Jeff Barz-Snell of the First Parish Church who offered the invocation, as well as the Benediction after the program. Corporal Scott Allen of the United States Marine Corps from 2004 to 2008 was the guest speaker. He served in two combat tours

to Iraq from August 2005 through April 2006 and August 2007 through August 2008 as a Crash Fire Rescue Specialist where he served a vital role in the rescue and recovery efforts of fallen comrades. During his deployments, he assisted in over 200 emergency evacuations of wounded service members. Corporal Allen was awarded accommodation for the recovery of two pilots whose aircraft was shot down by enemy fire. He, along with a small team of five, volunteered for a mission to recover the pilots who perished in the crash.

The musical salute of "God Bless America" was played by the West High School band under the direction of Weston Public School's music director Christopher Memoli and Weston High School band instructor Steven Fulginiti. Two additional patriotic songs played during the program were "My Country 'Tis of Thee" and "God Bless America."

Others who were of great assistance to the annual observation included Richard DeVito, Jr. for his assistance with planning the day's activities, to the Police Chief Michael J. Goulding and Fire Chief David Soar for the Honor Guard participation by officers from their departments, and to the Weston High School and its directors for providing the musical salute and accompaniment. Lastly, Sarada Kalpee, director of the Weston Suburban Veterans' Services District, for her outreach to our veterans.

Guests then gathered outside in front of Town Hall for the traditional conclusion of the observance where representatives from Weston Boy Scout Troop 157 and Weston Girl Scout Council with local veterans, laid a wreath at the World War I memorial located at the foot of the Town Hall flagpole as "Taps" and the echo were played by Peter Diebold and Benjamin Tremblay. The Weston High School Marching Band, led by Kayla Silverman and Carter Namkung, led the parade of the Honor Guard, Boy and Girl scouts, and vintage automobiles with our veterans down Boston Post Road for the commemorative wreath-laying at the Fiske Memorial, Old Farmers' Central Cemetery, and Linwood Cemetery. "Taps" was rendered at each laying.

#### 2019 Member of the Memorial Day Committee

*Appointed by the Moderator*

Catherine Marcus Bassick

### **REPORT OF THE PERMANENT BUILDING COMMITTEE**

During the calendar year of 2019, the Permanent Building Committee projects include:

- Ongoing construction of the Weston Art and Innovation Center, in the former Old Library;
- Commencement of the Construction Phase for the Case House-School Administration Building Renovation;
- Initiation of a contract to place a solar photovoltaic array on the Field School roof;
- Initiation of the Design Phase of the Josiah Smith Tavern Renovation; and
- Ongoing maintenance of all Town-owned facilities.

#### Weston Art and Innovation Center Project

*Construction funds approved by 2017 Special Town Meeting*

The Committee, working with the Board of Library Trustees and the Historical Commission, oversaw the construction phase of the project and was able to bring the project to substantial completion and occupancy by May 1st, except for a few punch-list items. The Committee continued through the end of 2019, working to complete and close out those remaining minor issues.

The project was completed within the funds allocated by Town Meeting, leaving a small remaining surplus.

#### Case House School Administration Building

*Construction funds approved by 2018 Special Town Meeting*

The Committee, working closely with the School Committee, recommended the award of the construction contract to G.V.W. Incorporated General Contractors, in December 2018. The School Administration staff vacated the building and the building was turned over to the contractor in January of 2019, allowing them to commence their work, with anticipated completion in 13 months or at the end of January 2020.

The Committee worked throughout the year of 2019 with the School Committee and the Historical Commission representative in concert with our architectural team, the Owner's Project Manager, and the General Contractor, to oversee all construction activities. By the end of 2019, the project was 90 percent complete, which aligned with the scheduled January 2020 anticipated date for construction completion.

The project remains within the funds allocated for the project at Town Meeting.

#### Field School Solar Photovoltaic Array Project

In March of 2019, the School Department requested assistance from the Committee to add a solar photovoltaic array to the roof of the Field School, based on a proposal from Solect Energy as the owner and facilitator of the project. The Committee worked with the School Committee and Town staff to navigate the myriad issues required to facilitate the project, which resulted in the signing of a contract that will place the panels on the roof of the school's classroom wings for 20 years. This project included working with the newly formed Sustainability Committee, as a driving force for all sustainability efforts in the town.

The installation of the panels and related equipment is expected in early 2020.

#### Josiah Smith Tavern Renovation

*Design funds approved by 2017 Annual Town Meeting and 2018 Annual Town Meeting*

*Construction funds approved by 2019 December Special Town Meeting*

The Committee, working with the design team, Owner's Project Manager, and Historic New England, were able to complete the Design Phase of the project in 2019. The Friends of the Josiah Smith Tavern, the preferred proponent for the reuse of the tavern, presented at the December 2019 Special Town Meeting and secured the funds for construction. The funds are intended to fully renovate the Tavern, Barn, and Connector to make the building accessible to all, provide office space for select town non-profit organizations, and for public meeting space. Additionally, a "white box" space will be built and ready to house a restaurant. The restaurant interior finishes, furniture, and equipment will be purchased and completed by a restaurateur yet to be selected.

The project construction phase was awarded to M. O'Connor Construction of West Roxbury, Mass. and the building will be turned over to the contractor in January 2020. The construction is anticipated to take 17 months to complete, placing the reopening after July 2021, except for the restaurant fit-out.

#### Ongoing Maintenance of Town-owned Facilities Projects

*Main Fire Station Chiller Replacement* - Replace aging and failing air conditioning chiller at the main fire station. The 34-year-old chiller and associated equipment at the Fire Headquarters were required to be replaced due to constant component failure and end of life-cycle of the equipment. The new unit was publicly bid and the construction is about 80 percent complete. The new unit will provide air

conditioning to headquarters offices and bunk rooms. New replacement pumps and controls were installed to provide better performance with the distribution of the cooling.

Additional Activities and Involvement

Working with the director of facilities, Gary Jarobski, the Committee developed and submitted an overall Town Building Maintenance Budget to the Select Board. The Committee greatly appreciates the work of Mr. Jarobski and his staff as they perform their duties in support of the Town of Weston.

The Committee is also grateful to all the individuals who have worked with and served as temporary members of the Permanent Building Committee as project-specific representatives. Mr. Henry Stone, a member of the Historical Commission, contributed throughout the construction phase for the Weston Art and Innovation Center and the Case House, as well as through the design phases of the Josiah Smith Tavern project. His thoughtful input and sharing of his knowledge of construction on historic structures have added great value to the efforts of the design teams, the Permanent Building Committee, and the Town of Weston.

In May, Phoebe Beierle of the Sustainability Committee was appointed as the Committee’s liaison to the Sustainability Committee. Her efforts over this year have proved both valuable and critical in assisting the Facilities Department in the drafting of grants for funding work for the benefit of the Town.

2019 Permanent Building Committee Members

*Appointed jointly by the Select Board and the School Committee:*

James N. Polando, Chair	October 10, 2020	Neil Levitt	October 10, 2021
Theodore Bascom	October 10, 2022	Laura Mintz	October 10, 2021
Walter Chaffee	October 10, 2020		

Temporary Committee members seated for specific projects:

- John Thompson, Weston Art and Innovation Center
- Adrienne Giske, Josiah Smith Tavern
- Danielle Black, Case House-School Administration Building

**REPORT OF THE REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**

On December 31, 2019, there were 7,615 active registered voters in the Town of Weston, with 569 voters listed as inactive. Many newcomers register to vote electronically through the Registry of Motor Vehicles. This system automatically certifies each voter’s data in the statewide voter registration database. This system has been in effect since 1995 following the state’s adoption of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

Any citizen aged 18 or over may register to vote in the Town Clerk’s office during regular hours. Also, the Clerk’s office is open until 8:00 p.m. for a special registration session three weeks before each election and Town Meeting. Mail-in registration forms are also available in a variety of public places around the town and the state. Online voter registration is available at [www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr)

Every year a census of all residents is taken by the Town through the Town Clerk’s Office. If the Clerk’s Office does not receive census information for a voter, that person’s name is placed on an inactive voters’ list. If the individual does not vote in two consecutive biennial state elections, the person is then notified by mail that his or her name will be removed from the inactive voters’ list. Only registered voters may vote in state and Town elections and at Town Meeting.

Following is a summary of all voters by party and by precinct:

<b>Party</b>	<b>Precinct 1</b>	<b>Precinct 2</b>	<b>Precinct 3</b>	<b>Precinct 4</b>	<b>Total</b>
Democrat	551	452	467	452	1,922
Republican	238	274	237	285	1,034
Conservative	1	1			2
United Independent Party	5	5	8	8	26
Libertarian	2	6	4	4	16
Green Party USA		1			1
Green Rainbow		2	4	2	8
Pizza Party			1		1
Mass. Independent Party	4		1	1	6
America Independent		1	3		4
Interdependent 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party	3	3		1	7
American First Party		1			1
Unenrolled	1,180	1,152	1,039	1,216	4,587
<b>Total Active Voters</b>	1,984	1,898	1,764	1,969	7,615
Inactive Voters	144	149	143	133	569

2019 Registrars of Voters

*Appointed by the Board of Selectmen*

Jacqueline Haas, Democrat	2022
James R. Johnson, Republican	2021
Nathalie D. Thompson, Democrat	2020

**REPORT OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**

The Sustainability Committee has had an extremely busy and productive 2019 and our activities are outlined here in chronological order.

Field School Solar Photovoltaic Array

Beginning early in 2019, committee members engaged with several other town groups, including the Facilities Department, the Permanent Building Committee, and the School Committee, in supporting a proposal for the installation of a 306kW photovoltaic array on the Field School roof. This project is anticipated to save the town approximately \$30,000 in annual electricity costs, or approximately \$598,000 over its 20-year duration. Simultaneously, Weston’s carbon footprint will be reduced by 5,100 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, the equivalent emissions of 1,083 passenger vehicles driven for one year.

The entire process of shepherding this project toward implementation, from educating ourselves to contract negotiations, was a true showcase of the multidisciplinary nature of sustainability and the power of different groups coming together. The project proposal was reviewed by several Town committees and Town Counsel, a time-consuming process involving many stakeholders that took until late fall. It was great to end the 2019 year with the news that a contract with Solect Energy, the solar vendor, had been signed, and we look forward to supporting the Facilities Department through the installation.

The rooftop solar arrays will be a great way to make renewable energy more visible and accessible to Weston residents and especially our students. We will be working with the Field School leadership to identify and implement educational opportunities that will connect students to the project throughout its life-span.

### Lighting Audit

A grant opportunity for funding through the Green Communities program, aimed at reducing energy consumption, was available in March 2019. The Sustainability Committee was not able to identify a suitable project (based on the 2012 Energy Cost Reduction Study) and find support in time for the deadline. However, we learned from this process and began immediately to collaborate with the Town Manager and the Facilities Department to identify opportunities for a 2020 grant submission. A comprehensive lighting audit was performed at all municipal buildings and potential savings totaling a little under \$200,000 per year in electric bills were identified this summer and into early fall. From there, the Facilities Department was able to define a feasible, efficient and realistic scope for LED and other lighting upgrade projects, and Weston will be able to submit a Green Communities grant application in March 2020, its first one since 2014.

### Energy Analysis

In May, the committee successfully applied for a Department of Energy Resources (DER) Regional Energy Planning Assistance grant for technical assistance, and was awarded \$3,000 to have the Massachusetts Area Planning Council (MAPC) assist with energy data analysis in Weston. As we were learning more about our town's operations, the committee realized that more focus could be placed on energy management and that the Town would benefit from making better use of the Green Communities report. This report summarizes our town-wide energy consumption and is prepared annually by Weston's Purchasing Agent and Financial Analyst. We look forward to the data analysis work being conducted by MAPC in early 2020 and hope it can help inform our upcoming climate action planning and help to identify future grant opportunities through the Green Communities program.



*Solar panels were installed on the roof of the Field School*

### Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP)

Beginning in early 2019, the committee also learned about Massachusetts' Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program, which provides support for cities and towns in Massachusetts to begin the process of planning for climate change and implementing priority projects to improve resilience. On the suggestion and with the full support of Leon Gaumond, the Sustainability Committee embarked on the planning process required to make Weston an "MVP Town" and submitted a planning grant in April.

Weston was awarded a \$26,500 grant to hire professional pre-qualified facilitators for the prescribed planning process and also for updating Weston's Hazard Mitigation Plan. After interviews and research, the committee chose to hire Kim Lundgren Associates (KLA). The goal of the MVP planning process was to identify climate-related risks and vulnerabilities for Weston, in four different categories: drought, flooding, heat, and intense storms. To this end, a core team meeting, two workshops with various town stakeholders, and one public listening session were held in the early fall. Several Town departments, including Fire, Police, Facilities, Public Works, Board of Health, Council on Aging, and Conservation, as well as Town committees, community groups, and many residents, were part of this process, as were other local stakeholders. All feedback was recorded and will feature in the MVP Summary of Findings Report, which is expected to be completed by KLA in the spring of 2020.

With the planning phase diligently completed on schedule in October, Weston's new status as an MVP town opened Action Grant funding opportunities. The Sustainability Committee submitted a grant proposal in November, supporting the need for a comprehensive Climate Action and Resilience Plan for the Town of Weston. This plan will bring the committee closer to its goal of formulating overarching sustainability goals, actions, and metrics for the Town. More importantly, it will allow the whole community to engage in a deep and equitable process to understand Weston's needs and priorities as they relate to preparing for and addressing, climate change. We will discern what a sustainable and resilient future looks like for Weston, identify solutions that make sense and emerge with a three to a five-year action plan for the Town and all its community partners. The Action Grant, which was awarded in early January of 2020, will provide \$100,000 to hire professional support to lead a 13-months-long intensive planning process. We look forward to embarking on this new project throughout 2020 and beyond.

Looking ahead, Weston's MVP status also opens substantial opportunities to other town groups and departments that we hope will be pursued to make Weston a more climate-resilient community.



*MVP Planning workshop in October, attended by several town staff and committee members*

### Community Choice Aggregation

In the fall of 2019, the Sustainability Committee supported the Sustainable Weston Action Group with its goal of bringing Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) to our town. CCA has a proven track record in Massachusetts and several other states in increasing the amount of renewable energy in the residential electricity supply while providing stable and competitive rates to residents. The Sustainability Committee supported Article 12 at the December Special Town Meeting, where overwhelming support authorized the Town Manager to pursue CCA for Weston. The Sustainability Committee will continue to support the implementation of CCA in 2020.

### Membership Changes

The committee has had several membership changes throughout 2019.

As Ed Heller's term on the School Committee ended, we welcomed Rachel Stewart as our new liaison to the School Committee. Our previous liaison to the Permanent Building Committee, Walter Chaffee, was replaced by Phoebe Beierle, previously an at-large member. Her extensive professional experience with school buildings in particular is a great fit and asset in this role. The Select Board appointed two new at-



**May**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lea Oriol of Switzerland and Chase Remington McAleese of Warrenton, Va.  
8<sup>th</sup> Feng Cao and Dan Wang, both of Weston, Mass.  
8<sup>th</sup> Virginia Hueber Kerrigan and John P. Floyd, both of Dallas, Texas  
17<sup>th</sup> Rebecca Paige McCourt of Harvard, Mass. and Ryan P. Andrews of Weston, Mass.

**June**

- 8<sup>th</sup> Alison Taylor Holdway and Gregory Morris Pearson, both of Boston, Mass.  
8<sup>th</sup> Rebecca Jean MacDonald and Samuel Patrick Breslin, both of Weston, Mass.  
9<sup>th</sup> Wesam Manassra of San Francisco, Calif. and Nadeen Abu-Hasan of Weston, Mass.  
19<sup>th</sup> Josephine Sung of Ashland, Mass. and Brynmor Arthur Watkins of Newton, Mass.  
21<sup>st</sup> Matthew Walter Hanley of Melrose, Mass. and Katherine Mary Tilton of Weston, Mass.  
21<sup>st</sup> Alexandria Nicole Lowe and Matthew Arthur O'Connor, both of Atlanta, Ga.  
27<sup>th</sup> Adam B. Finkel and Iryna O. Simsek, both of Waltham, Mass.  
30<sup>th</sup> Han Han Lee and Garrett Samuel Rich, both of San Francisco, Calif.

**July**

- 11<sup>th</sup> Fan Wu and Yan Wang, both of Weston, Mass.  
19<sup>th</sup> Amanda McLoughlin and David Barr, both of Weston, Mass.

**August**

- 17<sup>th</sup> Jennifer Anne Kaplan and Edward David Tepper, both of Weston, Mass.  
24<sup>th</sup> Genovefa ReQua Lysak and Michael Paul Rigby, both of Weston, Mass.  
James Timothy Grandmaison of Manchester, N.H. and  
25<sup>th</sup> Lisiele Moraes Farias Bonzanini of Stow, Mass.  
31<sup>st</sup> Andrew Timothy Adams, Jr. and Rosalie Gael Doolan, both of Philadelphia, Pa.

**September**

- 21<sup>st</sup> Rachel Amanda Villani and Leonard Jeremiah Silverman, both of Derry, N.H.

**October**

- 10<sup>th</sup> Senhua Guo and Zhen Song, both of Weston, Mass.  
12<sup>th</sup> Anne F.Z. Lobel and Grant Alexander Harrelson, both of Rockland, Md.  
12<sup>th</sup> Anokh Prashanth Palakurthi and Kimberly Elizabeth Armstong, both of Boston, Mass.

**November**

No Recorded Marriages

**December**

No Recorded Marriages

## DEATHS RECORDED IN WESTON

### January

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Place of Birth</i>	<i>Age</i>
6 <sup>th</sup>	Corcoran, Clarence	Massachusetts	86
9 <sup>th</sup>	Phillips, Thomas Leonard	Turkey	94
10 <sup>th</sup>	Lipinski Jr., Joseph Floyd	Pennsylvania	78
10 <sup>th</sup>	Faass, Regina A.	Connecticut	91
11 <sup>th</sup>	Gunderson, John G.	Wisconsin	76
12 <sup>th</sup>	Pearson Jr., Henry G.	Massachusetts	72
13 <sup>th</sup>	Daher, Elizabeth	Brazil	93
19 <sup>th</sup>	Hestnes, Harold	Norway	82
28 <sup>th</sup>	Rosen, Greta	New York	89
29 <sup>th</sup>	Greenberg, Harold	Massachusetts	90
29 <sup>th</sup>	O'Leary Jr., Thomas Bernard	Massachusetts	97
30 <sup>th</sup>	McLane, John J.	Pennsylvania	81

### February

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Foreman, Earl J.	Connecticut	89
4 <sup>th</sup>	Gilmartin, Paul P.	Massachusetts	86
5 <sup>th</sup>	Mannick, Virginia C.	Illinois	91
5 <sup>th</sup>	Shea, Luke	Illinois	19
8 <sup>th</sup>	Berg, Naomi N.	New York	90
13 <sup>th</sup>	Labbe, Nancy	Massachusetts	78
18 <sup>th</sup>	Faflick, Simone L.	France	96
18 <sup>th</sup>	Harrington Jr., Clifford F.	Massachusetts	99
18 <sup>th</sup>	Gallarelli, George A.	Massachusetts	91
18 <sup>th</sup>	Rawley, Veronica	New York	94
19 <sup>th</sup>	Chatalbash, Roy Stefan	Massachusetts	51
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Coppola, Ermelinda	Italy	94
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Maurer, Louis H.	Massachusetts	92
25 <sup>th</sup>	Wolfenden, Edwin D.	Massachusetts	93
25 <sup>th</sup>	Critchley, Nancy E.	New Jersey	91
28 <sup>th</sup>	Panichella, Filomena	Italy	92

### March

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Arbabi, Mansur	Iran	88
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Brodie, Robin G.	Massachusetts	80
9 <sup>th</sup>	Connolly, Charles B.	Massachusetts	73
9 <sup>th</sup>	Healy Jr., Frank C.	Massachusetts	84
10 <sup>th</sup>	Miller, Frieda T.	New York	88
15 <sup>th</sup>	Sennett, Paul E.	Massachusetts	88

21 <sup>st</sup>	Rosen, Muriel	Connecticut	94
23 <sup>rd</sup>	O'Brien, Eugene J.	New York	92
30 <sup>th</sup>	Kananovich, Evelyn	Massachusetts	95

#### April

1 <sup>st</sup>	Dosamantes, Sara	New York	58
8 <sup>th</sup>	Ulbrich, Gudrun	Germany	95
8 <sup>th</sup>	Harrison, Gertrude	Massachusetts	89
9 <sup>th</sup>	McSherry, James Michael	Pennsylvania	87
18 <sup>th</sup>	Gold, Richard Louis	Wisconsin	93
21 <sup>st</sup>	Patel, Jashbhai B.	India	90
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Visco, Diane M.	Massachusetts	59
24 <sup>th</sup>	Booker, Donald Edmund	Massachusetts	71
28 <sup>th</sup>	Von der Heyde, Kathleen	Massachusetts	65

#### May

3 <sup>rd</sup>	LeBaron, Emily J.	Ohio	86
8 <sup>th</sup>	Shann, Mary H.	New York	73
11 <sup>th</sup>	Pace, Margaret Teresa	Massachusetts	82
11 <sup>th</sup>	Croatti, Marie I.	Rhode Island	95
13 <sup>th</sup>	Galle, Donald E.	Massachusetts	75
14 <sup>th</sup>	Doyle, Michael John	Massachusetts	72
20 <sup>th</sup>	Robinson, Elizabeth J.	Massachusetts	83
20 <sup>th</sup>	Desai, Sarvamitra	India	92
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Weinstein, Milton	Massachusetts	95
30 <sup>th</sup>	Nehra, Lila Vati	India	81

#### June

4 <sup>th</sup>	Morales, Andres	Colombia	93
5 <sup>th</sup>	Burmon, Jeanne Herwitz	Massachusetts	93
6 <sup>th</sup>	LeBlanc, Robert A.	Massachusetts	65
7 <sup>th</sup>	Pesek, Joan Marie	New York	66
10 <sup>th</sup>	Epstein, Nancy Steg	Ukraine	91
11 <sup>th</sup>	Grzybowski, Hedwig M.	Germany	74
20 <sup>th</sup>	Schmidt, Phyllis L.	Massachusetts	95
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Bird, Gertrude	Massachusetts	101
24 <sup>th</sup>	Peters, Janet M.	Massachusetts	75
27 <sup>th</sup>	Bogdan, Ethel M.	Rhode Island	92
30 <sup>th</sup>	Johnson, Marion R.	Canada	81

#### July

5 <sup>th</sup>	McLellan, Julia C.	Massachusetts	100
6 <sup>th</sup>	Clancy, Flora	Massachusetts	102

7 <sup>th</sup>	Percher, Evelyn	New York	95
10 <sup>th</sup>	Goldstein, Constance	New York	86
12 <sup>th</sup>	Patey, Patricia Gladys	Massachusetts	65
13 <sup>th</sup>	Stuart, Leora M.	Indiana	94
14 <sup>th</sup>	Stewart, Barbara A.	Massachusetts	100
17 <sup>th</sup>	Saarse, Urve	Estonia	82
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Santamaria, Enrico	Italy	73
30 <sup>th</sup>	Baron, Natalie	Massachusetts	85
31 <sup>st</sup>	Choras, Peter T.	Greece	85

### August

5 <sup>th</sup>	Datta, Mamata	India	76
5 <sup>th</sup>	Russo, Peter Thomas	Massachusetts	87
8 <sup>th</sup>	Creamer, George W.	New York	68
9 <sup>th</sup>	Pickering, Mary Doris	Massachusetts	96
12 <sup>th</sup>	Goldhaber, Ethel Renee	New York	93
20 <sup>th</sup>	McArthur, John Hector	Canada	85
21 <sup>st</sup>	Stern, Marvin Alan	Massachusetts	87
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Timperio, Raffaele	Italy	85
26 <sup>th</sup>	Hartman, Allan S.	New York	90
29 <sup>th</sup>	LeBlanc, Diana Lee	Massachusetts	80

### September

4 <sup>th</sup>	Hanlon, Robert M.	Massachusetts	87
5 <sup>th</sup>	Pratt, James F.	Massachusetts	65
8 <sup>th</sup>	Martin, Jr., Richard P.	Massachusetts	78
13 <sup>th</sup>	Livingston, Lorraine M.	Illinois	96
14 <sup>th</sup>	Fischer, Henry T.	Germany	87
18 <sup>th</sup>	Poillucci, George Edward	Massachusetts	81
19 <sup>th</sup>	Spencer, Carole Lynn	Massachusetts	72
16 <sup>th</sup>	Mo, Xiaomin	China	69
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Moran, Phyllis L.	Massachusetts	98
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Cinar, Yasar	Turkey	69
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Fleischmann, Una	New York	91
27 <sup>th</sup>	Quinlan, Geraldine J.	Massachusetts	89
28 <sup>th</sup>	Adelson, Jeanne Valerie	Massachusetts	92

### October

1 <sup>st</sup>	McDonald, Margaret Mary	Massachusetts	81
6 <sup>th</sup>	Wechsler, Ruth	New York	90
11 <sup>th</sup>	Flowers, Woodie C.	Louisiana	75
11 <sup>th</sup>	Frumkin, Barnett A.	New York	93
17 <sup>th</sup>	Picariello, Anthony R.	Massachusetts	89

23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sullivan, Francis A.	Massachusetts	97
24 <sup>th</sup>	Wells, Eilene	Massachusetts	88
29 <sup>th</sup>	Mulligan, William	Massachusetts	86
30 <sup>th</sup>	Morales Castillo, Marco Tulio	Guatemala	45

**November**

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Harak, Gabriel Simon	Connecticut	71
4 <sup>th</sup>	Sidhom, Samir Fahmy	Egypt	84
6 <sup>th</sup>	Sanchez Rios, Felicita	Puerto Rico	90
16 <sup>th</sup>	Lewis, Leon D.	South Africa	71
17 <sup>th</sup>	Donahue, Ruth Mary	Massachusetts	82
19 <sup>th</sup>	Valle, Marie J.	Massachusetts	94
21 <sup>st</sup>	Newbury, Francis W.	Massachusetts	81
21 <sup>st</sup>	Desorcy, Paul J.	Massachusetts	75
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Lesanto, Salvatore Thomas	Massachusetts	95
24 <sup>th</sup>	Hastings, Parker Wilson	Massachusetts	95
29 <sup>th</sup>	Butler, Joyce W.	New Jersey	94

**December**

9 <sup>th</sup>	Cummins, Robert E.	Illinois	97
10 <sup>th</sup>	Grape, Caroline Oldham	Massachusetts	20
11 <sup>th</sup>	Wrean, Wendy Kurth	Wisconsin	82
13 <sup>th</sup>	Jones, Geraldine M.	Massachusetts	82
13 <sup>th</sup>	Masland, Richard	Pennsylvania	77
14 <sup>th</sup>	McCarthy, Richard Joseph	Massachusetts	78
18 <sup>th</sup>	Ritvo, Phyllis T.	Massachusetts	82
21 <sup>st</sup>	Lurie, Rochelle D.	New York	70
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Lusch, Daniel J.	Connecticut	86
24 <sup>th</sup>	Cohen, Renee Emily	New York	91
28 <sup>th</sup>	Reno, Helen	Massachusetts	94
29 <sup>th</sup>	Chorbajian, Janet L.	New Jersey	77

**LICENSE REPORT - DOGS**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Total</b>
96	Male/Female	\$ 25.00	\$2,400.00
876	Spayed Females/Neutered Males	15.00	13,140.00
11	Late Fees	25.00	275.00
<i>Total collected</i>			<b>\$ 15,815.00</b>

## REPORT OF THE TREE ADVISORY GROUP

The Tree Advisory Group (TAG) is charged with promoting community tree health, in coordination with the Tree Warden, Town Committees and Boards, and state agencies to ensure the long-term survival and annual care of public and private trees in Weston. TAG's efforts are grouped into Tree Installations and Removals, Town Project Support, and Special Projects. The following is a sampling of some of our 2019 activities.

### Tree Installations and Removals

*Installations:* Early in 2019, TAG members continued to monitor the eight assorted deciduous trees planted at Case Campus and the red oak planted at the Field School, as well as state-sponsored plantings along Route 30, east of Wellesley Street. Members researched and assisted with nine spring tree installations:

- one redbud for Field School
- one Wyman crab apple at the Weston Library
- three native dogwoods for Case Park
- three crabapples for North Avenue

These trees were purchased by Eversource and installed by Weston Nurseries in Hopkinton.



*Wellington Farm Removals:* Extreme weather is a continuing concern for Weston's Trees. Five old maples blew down in a February microburst that hit town land at Wellington Farm along Wellesley Street. TAG worked with the Conservation Commission to oversee contractors on tree trunk removals and repairs to the land. All 10 young sugar maples, which TAG planted along this alley in 2006, were not harmed. Hartney Greymont arborists had embarked on a new mulching and pruning program here in 2016, intending to protect these historic trees. This was the last year of their generous donation to the Town of Weston.

*Eversource Scenic-Road Tree Removals:* Members of TAG joined the Planning Board to complete on-site evaluations of 173 trees recommended for removal by Eversource on Weston's Scenic Roads. TAG created an Evaluation Factor list to facilitate the decision-making process and to keep the process objective as possible.

### Town Project Support

*Town Center Improvement Project:* Nearly 200 trees will be planted in the revitalized Town Center design. TAG reviewed the tree selection list, which had been thoughtfully crafted by Richard Burk, Associates. Upon TAG's recommendation, the Town Center Project Working Group, with support from the landscape architect, accepted TAG's proposal to diversify the types of disease-resistant Elm cultivars to be planted.

*Tree Inventory:* Over 15,000 public street trees were inventoried during a three-year, three-phased process that concluded this fall. TAG met with Davey Resource Group, who conducted the survey and Public Works Director and Tree Warden Tom Cullen to gain an understanding of Weston's tree canopy and to inform planning to support our street trees in 2020 and beyond.

### Special Projects

*Case Park Revitalization:* Case Park, located across from Weston's Public Library and next to the Scout House, was found to have highly acidic, compacted soil, which created an inhospitable environment for new and existing plantings. To prepare the grounds for a new planting plan, a multi-month soil remediation process began in October and will continue through 2020.

*Tree By-law Research:* Many of Weston’s neighbors, including Concord and Wellesley, have tree by-laws. Continuing research that began in 2018, TAG worked informally with Weston’s Planning Board to investigate how and why other towns were managing trees and which, if any, aspects could be useful in Weston.

2019 Members of the Tree Advisory Group

*Appointed by the Select Board*

Lori Hess, Chair	2020
Nina Danforth	2022
Marilyn Doyle	2021
Barbara Fullerton	2021
Edward J. Recka	2020
Kristin Barbieri (Associate Member)	2020

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE MERRIAM FUND**

The Merriam Fund originated in a gift made by Charles Merriam in 1865 who wanted to modestly assist Weston residents caught in a temporary situation of financial hardship. The gift was accepted at the Annual Town Meeting held in 1865. Trustees of the Merriam Fund are appointed by the Select Board for a term of three years.

In Weston today there are more people on limited incomes for whom paying the basics, like utilities, can be a problem. Sometimes it can be embarrassing for them to ask for help, even from relatives and friends, which is why the Merriam Fund is for the “silent poor of Weston” – in place to help residents in difficult, short-term situations. On June 30th, the Merriam Fund had a principal balance of \$32,469 with income only to be distributed. In fiscal year 2019, the Trustees of the Merriam Fund made two distributions totaling \$1,713 to Weston residents. As of June 30th, the Trustees had \$4,243 of income available to distribute in the coming year.

During this year, the Trustees continued to meet with representatives of other local organizations to understand their role in assisting Weston residents with financial needs and to acquaint these organizations with our role in aiding Weston residents in need.

The Committee also devoted time to plan for fundraising to increase the amount in the Merriam Fund that would be available to assist Weston residents.

2019 Members of the Trustees of the Merriam Fund

*Appointed by the Select Board*

John Doyle	2021	Hannah Peters	2022
Nancy Allen	2021	Mary Shaw	2020
Jill Lenhardt	2022		

## REPORT OF THE WEST SUBURBAN VETERANS' SERVICES DISTRICT

The West Suburban Veterans' Services District includes the towns of Weston, Wayland, Wellesley, and Needham. The district board is comprised of four members each designated by the Board of Selectmen from each community. The district office assists and facilitates the needs of veterans and their families with financial benefits from both the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Veteran Affairs. The central office is located in the Wellesley Town Hall with satellite offices in each member town to provide services more conveniently for veterans and their families.

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Sarada Kalpee is the Director of Veterans' Services for the district towns. Ms. Kalpee has served in the U.S. Army Reserves since 2002.

Ms. Kalpee will continue to carry out the functions assigned to the Veterans' Office by Chapter 115 of the General Laws of Massachusetts by assisting in applying for U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs



benefits, maintaining a depository of discharges and records of veterans, and overseeing the disbursements of veterans' benefits. *The monthly Veterans' Breakfast held at Weston's Council on Aging*

Office hours in Weston are Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Weston Town Hall and 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Council on Aging. A full range of benefits and services are available to veterans and their families based on certain qualifications and eligibility requirements. The office may also be contacted at 781-850-5504 with questions or to schedule appointments.

During 2019, Ms. Kalpee spoke with many Weston veterans, spouses, widows of veterans and relatives of veterans either in person, on the telephone, through email, or home visits. Many inquiries included picking up flags and markers for the graves of a family member and obtaining a copy of discharge papers to file for veteran benefits, burial benefits, and various other available benefits.

### 2019 Highlights

- Provided \$2,827 in Chapter 115 benefits to Weston residents
- Attended several veteran-related events at the Council on Aging
- Advised and assisted many veterans with the veteran benefit application process
- Offered support to the Memorial Day Committee and annual Veterans Day observation planning
- Attended formal training sessions provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services on current veterans benefits and services

### West Suburban Veterans' Services District Board Representative

*Appointed by the Select Board*

Leon A. Gaumont, Jr., Town Manager