

Section 1:
General Government



REPORT OF THE SELECT BOARD

The Select Board currently includes Harvey R. Boshart, Laurie A. Bent, and Christopher E. Houston. As it is the custom of the Board to rotate leadership positions. In September, Ms. Bent was elected to serve as Chair of the Board and Mr. Boshart as Clerk. The leadership transition was held off this year due to the delay in the Town Election and Annual Town Meeting.

Town Administration

Weston is managed by an experienced team led by Town Manager Leon A. Gaumont, 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 reports, Weston, like many local governments, underinvested in infrastructure in the 1970s through the early '90s, spending too little on maintenance and renovations at a time when our population and student population were both in decline. Over the past 30 years, Weston has carried out substantial renovations or replacements to most of the Town's buildings. 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 Other Post Employment Benefits (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, as well as the Town's demonstrated ability to manage and pay off short-term debt at the end of the notes' life. 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 2021 operating budget of \$86,764,495 was adopted, which was a 2.7 percent increase over the fiscal 2020 budget. Budgetary highlights included salary increases of \$1,122,954; the addition of a Sustainability Coordinator; an OPEB pension contribution of \$658,314; and funding for roadway maintenance. 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 the deferment of one-time capital projects. This brought the overall increase to \$2,320,756. As has been true for many years now, no Proposition 2 ½ override was necessary because new construction in town contributed \$1,031,604 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 2021 this reserve account funding totaled \$3,875,032, the largest amount being \$2,335,879 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 maintain its high credit rating.



Revenue - More than 83 percent of the Town's revenues came from residential property taxes and only 5 percent came from state aid. The property tax rate increased from \$12.83 per \$1,000 of valuation in fiscal 2020 to \$12.93 per \$1,000 of valuation in fiscal 2021. The median residential valuation was \$1,251,000, up 3 percent.

Expenses - Salaries and health and pension benefits for municipal and school employees comprised 80 percent of the Town's budget, and most of these costs were subject to collective bargaining agreements with the 12 unions that together represent approximately 75 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 few years to reach an annual amount of \$2.0 million; however, funding was decreased in the final fiscal 2021 operating budget than what was originally proposed due to fiscal concerns stemming from the pandemic. The Select Board anticipates returning to the funding goals with the fiscal 2022 operating budget. More details regarding the pavement management program and other Public Works programs can be found in that section of the Town Report.

Town Buildings

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

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 Sustainability Committee has renewed Green Community efforts to take advantage of additional state benefits. The Town is poised to submit lighting replacement projects for the next Green Community grant round. Annual Town Meeting approved funding for a full-time Sustainability Coordinator in 2021 to assist the Town in meeting its climate change goals.

Climate Change and Resiliency - Over the last two years, Weston was awarded two grants through the state's Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) to begin the planning phase of locally relevant and prioritized vulnerability assessments with citizen and staff feedback. In 2020, Weston became a state-recognized MVP Community. Late in 2019, a state grant was received to update Weston's Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was completed in 2020. The town's vulnerabilities and strengths were reevaluated by staff and community stakeholders who also identified priority actions to build resilience in the face of climate change. Being an MVP community allowed Weston to secure another \$100,000 in Action Grant funding to develop a detailed Climate Action and Resiliency Plan. Throughout the year, a series of virtual community forums and meetings were held under the "Weston Ahead" branding. The report is expected to be presented to the Select Board by the spring of 2021.



Solar Energy - The solar photovoltaic array on the site of the former landfill produced approximately \$573,000 in electricity savings this year through the generation of solar energy. The panels on the roof of the Public Works Building produced an additional \$8,100 in savings to the Town. At the start of 2020, the process to install a 300-kilowatt solar array on the roof of the Field School was initiated but construction was delayed due to the pandemic; however, it was installed by the close of the year. The array is anticipated to provide approximately three-quarters of the school's electricity annually, offset 4,800 tons of CO₂ during the project life of 20 years, and save the Town about \$20,000 in the first year.

Pay-As-You-Throw - Establishing a program to reduce residential solid waste has been a priority of the Select Board for the past several years. The Select Board established the Pay As You Throw Working Group to analyze costs at the Transfer Station and provide recommendations to initiate the program in Weston by September 2021. At the request of the Sustainability Committee, the working group was also tasked with reviewing the addition of commercial composting at the Transfer Station, as well. Details are outlined later in this section of the Town Report.

Land Use/Development Projects

Affordable Housing - The Town is currently reviewing two housing development proposals through MGL 40B. 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 is proposing 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 - Major progress was made in 2020 on the largest road project in Weston's history. Stay at home orders during the early months of the pandemic afforded a lot of progress in the layout of the roadway due to the light traffic. The project is expected to be completed in 2021. The Town owes a great debt of gratitude to the Town Center Project Working Group and the Department of Public Works for their work on this incredibly complicated project.

Communication Between Boards and Committees

Typically, the Select Board hosts a spring Town Government Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and an All Committee Meeting on the first Saturday in November where board and committee members are invited

to share information and improve communication about projects of mutual interest. Both events were canceled this year due to public gathering restrictions.

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, and School Committee meetings, as well as other public informational meetings and Town Meeting. With public gathering restrictions, Weston Media hosted additional virtual meeting recordings of the Conservation Commission and the Traffic and Sidewalk Committee. 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. This year, due to Annual Town Meeting being held outside and no presentation equipment being available on the football field, Weston Media hosted video presentations for several warrant articles a week in advance of the proceedings.



Westonma.gov - The Town's website underwent a major redesign and a move to a new, and more secure, URL. The traditional Weston.org is still active and points to the new .gov domain. The updated website meets the Website Content Accessibility Guideline (WCAG) 2.0 AA standards. These accessibility standards ensure individuals with disabilities can adequately obtain information from the Town's website, furthering the transparency of Weston's Town Government.

A wealth of information 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 easily find departmental, financial, and project information while supporting civic engagement by providing multiple opportunities for residents to keep informed on town government via email or text notifications.

Social Media Presence - The Town continued to attract more followers and engagement on its Facebook and Twitter pages this year. News items, community events, conservation and stormwater education, Public Works construction updates, departmental achievements, and public health and emergency alerts are shared on both platforms. Late in 2020, the Town launched its Instagram account for the express purpose of highlighting achievements and showcasing Weston. The Town Manager also has a Twitter account, adding to the opportunities for residents to learn more about the Town and region.

WestonAlerts - This is the emergency notification system used to quickly disseminate important information. Landline numbers are automatically added to the system quarterly and residents can sign up on the Town's website at Westonma.gov/WestonAlerts to choose their preferred communication option, such as text or email alerts. The Weston Alerts system also offers Smart 911, which allows residents to provide important household details that may be helpful in the event of a 911 home emergency, such as the number of pets or impairment that can impact a potential rescue.

Personnel

The Board wishes to recognize that during 2020, the following employees retired from Town service:

Robert Mazerolle	DPW Water Meter Reader	40 years of service
Michael Tuttle	Firefighter/Mechanic	35 years of service
Peter Richardson	Fire Lieutenant	31 years of service

This year was met with unexpected sadness with the deaths of two employees. Fire Captain Dwight “Bucky” Robertson who gave 46 years of active service with the Weston Fire Department passed away in September. In June, the Weston Public Schools Health Director Laurie Melchionda passed away. She was instrumental to the Emergency Management Team’s initial response to the novel coronavirus.

Closing Comments

2020 will be remembered as the year that Covid-19 upended our lives. In March, all public meetings began to be held virtually as both the Commonwealth and the Town declared a state of emergency, which continued through the remainder of the year. Town Hall and all public buildings were closed to the public, and in-person gatherings of all types ceased. Virtual meetings, held via an online meeting platform, allowed for increased citizen engagement and participation. Town Meeting was delayed from May until September; in the interim, the Town adopted three 1/12th monthly budgets. An Emergency Management Team, chaired by Fire Chief David Soar, Emergency Management Director, met at least twice a week to address the evolving pandemic and to manage the Town’s crisis response. That Town operations continued to function relatively smoothly is a testament to the leadership of the Emergency Management Team and the Town Manager’s team. A highlight of the year was the Annual Town Meeting, held outside on the High School football field on a beautiful September day under the leadership of the Assistant Town Manager and a core team of Town and School staff. The Town Clerk, with the able help of Town staff, also managed the Annual Town Election and State Primary in September and local voting in the November Presidential Election, in which voting was predominantly by mail-in ballots. COVID-19 tested us all; the smooth continuation of Town services and government proved that we were up to the challenge.

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. The Town seeks to serve the needs of residents on limited or fixed incomes and encourage diversity in housing options while providing a satisfactory level of service.

Weston continues to benefit from its many citizens who generously volunteer their time on elected and appointed boards and committees, or on 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.

LICENSES AND PERMITS ISSUED BY THE SELECT BOARD

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

Special One Day Liquor License*

All Alcohol Beverages (not for profit entities only) Granted - 0
Wine and Malt Beverages Only Granted - 3

Sign Board Permits

Granted, various --36

One Day Special Event Mobile Food Vendor Permit*

Town Green Events*

Bicycle & Road Events*

**Due to public health emergency orders prohibiting public gatherings, event-related licenses and permits were not issued during 2020.*

SELECT VOTES TAKEN BY THE SELECT BOARD

January 7

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to approve the Grant of Location for Pine Brook Country Club for the installation of a sewer force main under Newton Street and subject to conditions set by the Department of Public Works. 2nd by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to declare the Weston Select Board supports the intention and substance of the Public Lands Protection Act and its passage. 2nd by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to designate Mr. Boshart as the Select Board's representative to the tree management working group for the public right-of-way and Ms. Bent as the Board's representative to the tree management working group for private property. 2nd by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to designate Leon A. Gaumond, Jr. as the voting representative to the MIIA and MMA Annual Meetings on behalf of Weston. 2nd by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

January 21

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved to approve the 25 percent design for the Rte. 20 improvement project and to submit the design to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's Transportation Improvement Program. 2nd by Mr. Houston. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to approve the sale of the \$26,905,000 General Obligation Municipal Purpose Loan of 2020 Bonds of the Town dated January 29, 2020 (the "Bonds") to Bank of America Merrill Lynch at the price of \$30,482,148.82 and accrued interest. The Bonds shall be payable on January 15 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>
2021	\$1,540,000	5.00%	2031	\$1,495,000	4.00%
2022	1,525,000	5.00	2032	1,495,000	4.00
2023	1,520,000	5.00	2033	1,495,000	2.00
2024	1,515,000	5.00	2034	1,490,000	2.00
2025	1,515,000	5.00	2035	1,265,000	2.00
2026	1,515,000	5.00	2036	905,000	2.125
2027	1,510,000	5.00	2037	905,000	2.25
2028	1,505,000	5.00	2038	905,000	2.25
2029	1,505,000	5.00	2039	900,000	2.25
2030	1,500,000	5.00	2040	900,000	2.375

And Further: to approve the sale of \$3,747,000 General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes of the Town dated January 29, 2020, payable January 29, 2021 (the “Notes”), at par and accrued interest plus a premium of \$32,449.02.

And Further: 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 7, 2020, and a final Official Statement dated January 15, 2020 (the “Official Statement”), each in such form as may be approved by the Town Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

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 January 9, 2020, and a final Official Statement dated January 15, 2020, 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 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.

And Further: that the Town Treasurer and the Select Board 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.

And Further: that the Board 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 Bonds and Notes and to comply with relevant securities laws.

And Further: that each member of the Select Board, 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. Houston moved to sponsor the Community Preservation Act Fund application to update the Town of Weston’s Housing Production Plan. 2nd by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously.**

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved to accept the donation of \$100 from the Lorraine R. Krinsky Gift Fund for deposit into the Town of Weston’s Merriam Fund for the Silent Poor. 2nd by Mr. Houston. **Approved unanimously**

January 23

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to approve the sale of the \$160,000 Water Bond of the Town dated February 24, 2020, to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (the “Authority”), and the Town Treasurer or other authorized Town official is authorized to execute on behalf of the Town a Loan Agreement and a Financial Assistance Agreement with the Authority with respect to the bond. The bond shall be payable without interest on February 15 of the years and in the principal amounts as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Installment</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Installment</u>
2021	\$16,000	2026	\$16,000
2022	\$16,000	2027	\$16,000
2023	\$16,000	2028	\$16,000
2024	\$16,000	2029	\$16,000
2025	\$16,000	2030	\$16,000

And Further: that each member of the Select Board, the Town Clerk, the Town Manager, 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 vote.

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to approve the sale of the \$1,057,997 Water Bond of the Town dated February 24, 2020, to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (the “Authority”), and the Town Treasurer or other authorized Town official is authorized to execute on behalf of the Town a Loan Agreement and a Financial Assistance Agreement with the Authority with respect to the bond. The bond shall be payable without interest on February 15 of the years and in the principal amounts as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Installment</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Installment</u>
2021	\$105,799.70	2026	\$105,799.70
2022	\$105,799.70	2027	\$105,799.70
2023	\$105,799.70	2028	\$105,799.70
2024	\$105,799.70	2029	\$105,799.70
2025	\$105,799.70	2030	\$105,799.70

And Further: that each member of the Select Board, the Town Clerk, the Town Manager, 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 vote. 2nd by Mr. Houston. **Approved unanimously.**

February 11

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to approve the License Agreement with Eric Hersum, 99 North Avenue, to perform some work in the Town’s right of way per the recommendation of the Department of Public Works. 2nd by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Move to grant the request of Julie and David Harmon for an exception to the cemetery regulations that would allow them to have their ashes interred in the Scattering Garden at Linwood Cemetery. 2nd by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit the Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the Weston High School partial roof replacement, as written below:

Having convened in an open meeting on February 11, 2020, the Weston Board of Selectmen, of the Town of Weston, Massachusetts, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated February 14, 2020, for the High School, located at 444 Wellesley Street, Weston, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority categories for which Weston may be invited to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

#5 Replacement of the F Wing Roof that has exceeded its 30-year life expectancy.

And further, specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of Weston to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts Building Authority. 2nd by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit the Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the Middle School roof-top HVAC unit, as written below:

Having convened in an open meeting on February 11, 2020, the Weston Board of Selectmen, of the Town of Weston, Massachusetts, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated February 14, 2020, for the Middle School, located at 456 Wellesley Street, Weston, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority categories for which Weston may be invited to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

#5 Replacement of the Roof Top Heating and Cooling Unit #3 that is failing and has reached its 30-year life cycle.

And further, specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of Weston to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts Building Authority. 2nd by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to adopt the following language, as provided by Town Counsel, regarding Mr. Gaumond's service as a municipal representative on the MIIA Inc. Board of Directors and the Property and Casualty Board, both of which the Town of Weston is represented:

As appointing official, as required by G.L. c. 268A, § 19, the Board of Selectmen has reviewed the particular matter and the possible financial interest identified above by the Town Manager. The Board of Selectmen has determined that the financial interest of MIIA, even if it were considered to be a "business organization" for the purposes of G.L. c.268A, §19, in the Town's consideration about benefits providers is, at best, remote and speculative and, therefore, not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the municipality may expect from the Town Manager, and hereby grant permission as requested to fully engage in any aspect of discussions and recommendations concerning benefits providers and any change with respect thereto. 2nd by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

February 25

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved to deny the issuance of a Commercial Dog Walking License to Greg McKeigue through February 28, 2021, with notice that a single violation can cause the revocation of the 2021 license. 2nd by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to refer the Active Adult Residential Cluster By-law to the Planning Board for a public hearing. 2nd by Mr. Houston. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to adopt the terms of the agreement with the Communications Unit Union as follows: COLA: fiscal year 2020, 2.25 percent; fiscal 2021, 2.25 percent; and fiscal 2022, 2.25 percent. The total cost of the 2.25 percent in fiscal 2020 is \$9,812. In fiscal 2021, an additional \$50 will be added to a \$200 AED stipend for an additional cost of \$250.00, and a \$500 EMT stipend was added for an additional cost of \$900. A nominal stipend was added for current dispatchers to mentor and document the progress of new recruits. The unit agreed to reduce sick leave buyback for new hires from 42 percent to 20 percent and current employees from 49 percent to 45 percent. And further, to subsequently execute the Collective Bargaining Agreement at an upcoming Select Board meeting. 2nd by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

February 27

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to call for a Special Town Meeting to be held on April 6, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium. 2nd by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

March 11

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to establish an income eligibility limit of \$90,650 for the fiscal year 2021 property tax deferral program, as permitted under Chapter 421 of the Acts of 2004; and further, moved to keep the interest rate for all deferrals initiated in fiscal 2021 at 4 percent. 2nd by Mr. Boshart. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved to grant the street opening request at 14 Pollywog Lane subject to conditions as determined by the Public Works Director. 2nd by Ms. Bent. **Approved unanimously**

March 17

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved that in light of the rapidly evolving instances of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth and the burdens it will place on local government, that the Select Board vote to adopt the following declaration of emergency:

Declaration of Emergency - COVID-19

WHEREAS, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a highly contagious and potentially fatal respiratory disease, the prevalence of which is increasing rapidly throughout the world, inclusive of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a Pandemic Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States announced a national declaration of emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, Governor Baker announced emergency actions to respond to the evolving COVID-19 public health emergency impacting the Commonwealth, including prohibitions on public gatherings of twenty-five or more people and prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants from March 17, 2020, until April 6, 2020, as well as suspension of elementary and secondary school educational operations from March 17, 2020, until April 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health, following consultation with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, has determined that COVID-19 presents a major disaster which poses an immediate threat to public health, safety, and general welfare of people residing both within and outside of the Town of Weston; and

WHEREAS, the Weston Select Board and its Board of Health have determined that immediate public action is needed in order to prevent or minimize the spread of COVID-19 by and among the people of Weston; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of the people of Weston; and

WHEREAS, declaring a state of emergency will facilitate and expedite the use of resources to protect persons from the impacts of COVID-19, including but not limited to emergency expenditures pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 31 and limitations on operating hours and access to public buildings; and

WHEREAS, the Select Board and Board of Health recommended that a state of emergency be declared in the town of Weston.

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Select Board and the Board of Health of the Town of Weston, Massachusetts, hereby declare that as of today, March 18, 2020, a state of emergency exists in the Town of Weston. This declaration of emergency shall remain in effect until further notice is given, pursuant to our judgment that the conditions leading to this declaration no longer exist.

2nd by Ms. Bent.

Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Ms. Bent and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to rescind the vote from February 27, 2020, to call a Special Town Meeting for April 6, 2020. 2nd by Mr. Boshart

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

March 24

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to approve the revised notice of remote participation, as follows: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, meetings in the Town of Weston will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. We will strive to provide access to such meetings via a link to call in, or other similar option. In the event we are unable to accommodate the same, despite best efforts, we will post recorded sessions of the meeting as soon as possible following the same. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings. 2nd by Ms. Bent.

Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Ms. Bent and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved that in order to facilitate social distancing as part of the local effort to curtail the spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19, and based upon information provided by the CDC and the Department of Public Health, that there is a risk that transmission can occur even when a person is not symptomatic, and that the virus can be active on hard surfaces for extended periods of time, the Board of Selectmen close all public playgrounds, including standalone playgrounds as well as playgrounds within parks, until at least April 6, 2020, or the Board of Selectmen votes to extend the same in the best interests of the public health and safety. 2nd by Ms. Bent.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to authorize himself to work with the Town Manager to make emergency decisions where convening the Board is not feasible or timely; and further, the Town Manager is authorized to contact another Board member if Mr. Houston cannot be contacted. 2nd by Ms. Bent

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to signal to the residents of Weston that the events scheduled for May 9th and 11th are not going to be held, as originally planned, but possibly Saturday, May 30th for the Annual Town Election and Tuesday, June 2nd for Annual Town Meeting. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Ms. Bent and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

April 21

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to extend the dog licensing period from April 30th to July 31st. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved that the Board vote, in accordance with Section 10 of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 entitled, "An Act to Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities Resulting from COVID-19," to extend the date real estate and personal property taxes are due to the Town and the deadline for application for abatements, until June 1, 2020, all as set forth in said Section 10. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Ms. Bent and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved that the Board vote, in accordance with Section 11 of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 entitled, "An Act to Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities Resulting from COVID-19," to waive the payment of interest and other penalties in the event of the late payment of any excise, tax, betterment assessment or apportionment thereof, water rate and annual sewer use or any other charge added to a tax for any payments with a due date on or after March 10, 2020, all as provided in said Section 11, provided, however, that such payment is made no later than June 30, 2020, all as set forth in said Section 11. 2nd by Ms. Bent

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to authorize Town Counsel to draft a letter with her analysis as discussed regarding an Open Meeting Law Complaint involving Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston posting on the same thread on a private social media page and respond to the Attorney General. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to authorize the use of electronic signatures of the Board or other means the Town Manager finds appropriate. 2nd by Mr. Houston.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved that the Select Board approve and execute the License Agreement with Granite Brook, LLC for the property located at 0 Hobbs Brook Road, said License Agreement memorializing the terms and conditions under which Granite Brook, LLC shall use and occupy the property. 2nd by Ms. Bent.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved that the Select Board approve the Order of Taking to acquire the easements for the Town Center Improvement Project, said easements shown on plans entitled "Easement Plan of Land Town Center Improvement Project Weston, Massachusetts," dated March 1, 2019, revised through April 16, 2020, prepared by Nitsch Engineering, and that the Board members execute the Order of Taking, which is located at Town Hall. Further, Town Counsel is authorized to record the Order of Taking and plans with the Registry of Deeds, and the Town Manager is authorized to pay compensation to those property owners who have not executed a Waiver of Appraisal and Damages. 2nd by Ms. Bent.

Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Ms. Bent and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

April 28

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to appoint Town Engineer Steve Fogg as Perambulator of Boundaries and with the authority to appoint others, as allowed. 2nd by Ms. Bent

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved to install a yield sign at Westerly Road and Buckskin Drive. 2nd by Ms. Bent.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to accept the Preservation Restriction with Historic New England for the Josiah Smith Tavern project as presented, which seeks to modernize the restoration process, subject to further unsubstantial edits. 2nd by Ms. Bent.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to accept the donation of \$1,000 from the Stephen and Jill Kramer Charitable Gift Fund to be added to the Council on Aging's Miscellaneous Gift Account. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

May 12

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved to accept the provisions of the Memorandum of Agreements with the Fire and Public Works unions and to authorize the Select Board to sign them. 2nd by Ms. Bent.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

June 9

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved to approve the fiscal year 2021 1/12th budget for July as presented and to authorize the Town Manager to submit the approved budget to the Bureau of Local Accounts Director for final approval per the Commonwealth's deficit spending requirements due to the COVID-19 state of emergency. 2nd by Ms. Bent.

Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Ms. Bent and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved to adopt the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement to extend the negotiation period for the Town/PEC successor agreement. 2nd by Ms. Bent.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to adopt the terms of the agreement Police Sergeant/Patrol Union Agreement including the cost of living pay increases of 2 percent in 2020 and 2.25 percent in 2021 and 2022, a reduced sick leave buy-back, increases in detail pay (only borne by the Town for Town projects), and a 1.5 percent pay increase if accreditation is achieved. And further, to subsequently execute the Collective Bargaining Agreement at the next Select Board meeting. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.
Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Ms. Bent and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

June 23

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to appoint Maija Cirulis-Gooch to the Recreation Commission to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Zingsheng Zhu and to serve until the Annual Town Election. 2nd by Mr. Boshart
Roll Call Vote: Recreation Commission - Ms. Pendergast, Ms. Dorna, Ms. Crocker, Ms. Johnstone, and Mr. MacDonald voted in the affirmative. Select Board – Mr. Boshart, Ms. Bent and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved to appoint Sharada Tambe to the Weston Cultural Council for a three-year term expiring June 23, 2023. 2nd by Mr. Houston, who added that he will reach out to Mr. Butler to see if he would be amenable to two appointments.
Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Ms. Bent and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to appoint Linda Johnson and Wayne Johnson to the Board of the Council on Aging each to a four-year term expiring June 30, 2024, though with an understanding that Mr. Johnson will step down after three years. And further, to appoint Mr. Paul Bau, Teresa Young, and Melissa Galton as Associate Members, each for a one-year term expiring June 30, 2021. 2nd by Ms. Bent.
Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Ms. Bent and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved to approve the issuance of the Request for Proposal to select a developer for the disposition of 0 Wellesley Street for the purposes of affordable housing; and further, pursuant to the vote under Article 18 of the 2018 Annual Town Meeting, to convey 0 Wellesley Street, Map 28, Lot 104, to the Affordable Housing Trust, for the purpose of developing no more than six units of affordable community housing. 2nd by Mr. Houston
Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Ms. Bent and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved to approve the Local Initiative Program Application for the 24 Local Action Units at Brook School Apartments to be included in the Town’s subsidized housing inventory. 2nd by Ms. Bent.
Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Ms. Bent and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to partially approve the request seeking relief to the roadway cutting moratorium at 43 Pincroft Road by allowing such cutting on or after August 15, 2020. 2nd by Ms. Bent
Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to forward Weston’s updated Hazard Mitigation Plan to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency for final review and approval. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.
Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to forward the potential zoning by-law amendment that seeks to provide a dimensional exemption for Municipal Purpose Use communications towers to the Planning Board for a public hearing. 2nd by Mr. Houston
Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Ms. Bent and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved that the Board approve the Order of Taking for the Merriam Street sidewalk project, and authorize Town Counsel to record the document with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds. 2nd by Mr. Boshart

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to approve the update of the executive session minutes of February 12 and 26 from 2019. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. Ms. Bent abstained. **Approved**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to authorize Town Counsel to prepare and submit a letter in response to the June 5, 2020, Open Meeting Law complaint and authorize Mr. Houston to work with Town Counsel on the final draft. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

July 14

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to authorize the Select Board Chair to work with Town Counsel to pursue a court order on behalf of the Town affirming the validity of a Town Election to be held on a date to be determined in September 2020 and the ballot to be prepared for such election, which shall include the elections for various Town offices and the debt exclusion question previously presented to and discussed by the Select Board. 2nd by Ms. Bent.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. Mr. Boshart recused himself.

MOTION: M. Bent moved to approve that \$5,450,000 of the amount borrowed through the issuance of the Bonds to pay the costs of the Town Center Reconstruction and Repaving Project, so-called, authorized to be borrowed by the vote of the Town under Article 1 of the Warrant at the Town Meeting held on March 18, 2019, shall be reduced on the records of the Town by \$760,000 to \$4,690,000, the amount of such reduction to remain available to be borrowed to pay additional costs of that project at a later date, and in place thereof, a like amount of proceeds of the Bonds shall be allocated instead to pay costs of Town and School Radio System Upgrades, which were authorized to be borrowed by a vote of the Town adopted under Article 17 of the Warrant at the Town Meeting held on May 6, 2019. The amortization of the amounts described in this vote is set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to approve an end-of-year transfer of \$10,000 from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority water assessment line to the Water Enterprise salaries line. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Ms. Bent and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved to approve the charge for the Housing Production Plan Steering Committee 2nd by Ms. Bent.

Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Ms. Bent and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to approve and execute the Development Agreement with the developer of the 255 Merriam Street/11 Hallett Hill Road development project, as presented in substantial form. 2nd by Ms. Bent.

Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Ms. Bent and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

July 28

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to approve the following statement as prepared by Town Counsel: Greatland Realty Partners, the potential assignee from Liberty Mutual of the 20 Riverside Road ground lease, has requested the Select Board's formal consent to the Massachusetts Department of

Transportation's (MassDOT) closure of the direct access ramps to/from the Turnpike, as required by Section 2(a) of the May 2, 2000 Development Agreement for 20 Riverside Road. Liberty Mutual had leased 20 Riverside Road from MassDOT for the last nearly 20 years. The Select Board acknowledges that MassDOT unilaterally removed the direct access ramps and, therefore, that Liberty Mutual is not in violation of the Development Agreement and the 20 Riverside Road improvements can continue to be used and occupied in accordance with the terms of the Development Agreement. However, before granting its formal consent to the closure of the direct access ramps, the Select Board has requested that MassDOT grant to the Town access rights to/from the Turnpike as necessary for Town emergency vehicle turnaround. Greatland Realty Partners has indicated its support of the Town's request and has committed to reasonably cooperate with the Town in seeking access rights from MassDOT. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved to proceed with the installation of a flush island on the western section of North Avenue (Rt. 117) where it intersects with Merriam Street as presented by the Town Engineer. Further, move to approve the installation of a Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon system at the existing crosswalk on North Avenue (Rt. 117) at the intersection of Church Street. 2nd by Ms. Bent.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to grant an abatement to Ken and Vicky Lang of Boston Post Road for the next two invoices by taking their highest six-month usage over the past five years, applying that number under our current billing system, and then charging the lowest water rate for any water usage over that amount. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to approve the debt exclusion question and forward to the Town Clerk the ballot question as follows:

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; and (2) South Side Drainage Improvements?

And furthermore, to authorize the Town Manager to work with Town Counsel to further amend the question to include the networking improvement expenditure. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to approve the monthly budget for August 2020 and to authorize town officials to submit the draft budget to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for review. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to approve and execute the revised development agreement for the 255 Merriam Street/11 Hallett Hill Road Project. 2nd by Ms. Bent.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to approve the request made by Robert Bullard to purchase a two-casket lot in Linwood Cemetery. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

July 31

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to set the date of the Town Election for September 10, 2020, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Town Hall, subject to the Town's receipt of a court order authorizing the Town to hold the election on this date. 2nd by Ms. Bent.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. Mr. Boshart abstained. **Approved**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to set the date of the Annual Town Meeting for September 12, 2020, at Proctor Field starting at 3:00 p.m. with a rain date of September 13, 2020. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to approve the September 12, 2020, Annual Town Meeting warrant as presented by the Town Manager and subject to any formatting and minor corrections of errors as recommended by the Town Manager or Town Counsel. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to approve the monthly budget for September 2020 and to authorize town officials to submit the draft budget to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for review. 2nd by Ms. Bent.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to increase the police detail rate to \$55 per hour effective August 1, 2020. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to support grant submission for the infrastructure project for Land's Sake, Inc. and to approve the permanent infrastructure improvements at 40 Acre Field insofar as is necessary to obtain such grants. 2nd by Ms. Bent.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

September 8

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to approve 2020/2021 Transfer Station Permit Rates effective October 1, 2020, as follows, \$255 for a primary permit, \$155 for the senior permit, \$45 for recycling only permit, \$45 for the secondary permit, \$140 for the horse manure permit, \$70 for the five-day pass, and \$20 for the replacement permit. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to set the 2020 Water Rates effective October 1, 2020, to \$2.20 for tier one, \$6.60 for tier two, and \$13.20 for tier three. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Ms. Bent and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to approve the amended easement agreement for 77 Westerly Road. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to approve the revised Development Agreement Amendment for 255 Merriam Street / 11 Hallett Hill Road. 2nd by Ms. Bent.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

September 24

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to adopt the proposed bulk waste fee structure, subject to minor adjustment, and set up compost bins for a pilot composting program at the transfer station. 2nd by Mr. Houston.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to authorize temporary stop signs creating a four-way stop at School Street, Church Street, and Boston Post Road. 2nd by Ms. Bent.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to approve 25 percent design for the Route 30 Complete Streets project and submit it to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's Transportation Improvement Program 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to approve stepping stone installation in the native garden under the flag pole at Town Hall. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Ms. Bent Moved to appoint Chris Chandor and Cheryl Alpert to serve on the Housing Production Plan Steering Committee. 2nd by Mr. Houston.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

October 6

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to establish the non-union personnel fiscal year 2021 compensation plans, effective retroactively to July 1, 2020, with an increase of 2 percent over the fiscal 2020 amounts. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Mr. Houston, Mr. Boshart and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

October 13

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved to approve the final Ecological Management Plan draft for the Case Estates, and further to approve the recommendation to limit dog walking on the Case Estates to on-leash only and to limit commercial dog walking to up to three dogs on leash. 2nd by Mr. Houston

Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

October 27

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to file the community choice aggregation plan, as presented, to the Department of Public Utilities. 2nd by Mr. Boshart

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to reappoint Sarah Rhatigan and Susan Haber to the Affordable Housing Trust and to appoint Thalia (Buzzy) Price, each for a two-year term, and further to reconfirm Harvey Boshart as the Select Board's representative. 2nd by Ms. Bent

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to reappoint Diana Chaplin to the Agricultural Commission for a three-year term. 2nd by Mr. Boshart

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to reappoint Nathalie Thompson to the Registrars of Voters for a three-year term. 2nd by Mr. Houston

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to reappoint Tom Benson to the Cable Advisory Committee for a three-year term. 2nd by Ms. Bent

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to reappoint Ellen Freeman Roth and Rebecca Loveys to the Conservation Commission, each for a three-year term. And further, to appoint Paula Nicholas, Jeri Cooper, Brian Donahue, and Freddie Wiss as Associate Members, each for a one-year term. 2nd by Mr. Boshart

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to reappoint David Fixler and Anna Melone Pollock to the Crescent Street Historic District Commission, each for a three-year term. 2nd by Mr. Houston

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to reappoint Kathryn Scadden to the Historical Commission for a three-year term. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to reappoint Town Planner Imaikalani Aiu as Weston's representative to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and Public Works Director Thomas Cullen as Weston's TIP Representative, each for a one-year term. 2nd by Mr. Boshart

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to reappoint Jean MacQuiddy as Weston's representative to the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board for a one-year term. 2nd by Mr. Boshart

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to reappoint Jim Polando and Walter Chaffee to the Permanent Building Committee, each for a three-year term. 2nd by Mr. Boshart

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to reappoint Trevor MacDonald to the Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee for a three-year term. 2nd by Mr. Boshart

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to reappoint Sandy Kendall to the Sustainability Committee for a three-year term. 2nd by Ms. Bent.

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to reappoint Andrew Chase and Richard Gula to the Traffic and Sidewalk Committee, each for a three-year term. 2nd by Ms. Bent

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to reappoint Lori Hess and Edward Recka to the Tree Advisory Group, each for a three-year term. 2nd by Mr. Boshart

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to reappoint Mary Shaw to the Trustees of the Merriam Fund for a three-year term. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to reappoint Alan Rose as a Member to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a three-year term. And further, to reappoint Natalie Sawyer as an Associate Member to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a three-year term. 2nd by Mr. Boshart

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to reappoint KP Law as Weston's Town Counsel for another year. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

November 10

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved to approve the proposed amended Memorandum of Agreement to extend the PEC agreement to November 23, 2020. 2nd by Mr. Houston.

Roll call vote: Mr. Houston, Mr. Boshart and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to authorize Weston Forest and Trail Association to construct an outdoor classroom with woodchips and tree stumps to enable school children to have an outdoor classroom. 2nd by Mr. Boshart

Roll call vote: Mr. Houston, Mr. Boshart and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. Approved unanimously

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved that the Select Board sign the draft Certificate of Adoption of the Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Town of Weston as prepared by the Town Manager. Second by Mr. Houston.

Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. Approved unanimously

November 24

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved to approve the installation of the new Site of the Burgoyne Elm sign attached to two wood posts and sited in the vicinity as determined by the Department of Public Works behind the stone wall to the east of the Fiske Law Office. 2nd by Mr. Houston.

Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

December 8

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to wave the Town's right of first refusal for the property at, or adjacent to, 576 North Avenue as presented to the Select Board. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to appoint John Thompson to the Historical Commission for a three-year term expiring June 30, 2023. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to appoint Shirley Small-Rougeau as an at-large member to the Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee with a term expiring June 30, 2022, and subject to approval by the School Committee. 2nd by Mr. Boshart

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to appoint Amit Fernandes and Balaji Krishnamoorthy as Associate members of Tree Advisory Group expiring June 30, 2021. 2nd Mr. Boshart

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved to approve the tax rate of \$12.93 with a residential factor of 1.00 for fiscal year 2021. 2nd Mr. Houston.

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved to authorize the use of Select Board Consulting Account to enter into an agreement with the Collins Center for a Fire Department Study. 2nd by Ms. Bent

Roll call vote: Ms. Bent, Mr. Boshart and Mr. Houston voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

December 22

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to initiate the bulk waste fee program at the Transfer Station on May 1, 2021. 2nd by Mr. Boshart.

Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to adopt the fiscal year 2022 - 2024 successor agreement between the Town and the PEC. 2nd by Mr. Boshart

Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously**

REPORT OF THE CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

During 2020, 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 operated by the 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.

The studio offices of the Weston Media Center were moved in 2019 from the Brook School Apartments to the lower level of the newly opened Art and Innovation Center at the Old Library. But the COVID-19 pandemic required that the Weston Media Center operate remotely. This was accomplished efficiently under the leadership of Executive Director Nathan Suher and Alanna Muldoon. The quarterly revenues from Comcast and Verizon that support the operations of the Weston Media Center are staying relatively stable, with only a slight downward trend, suggesting that there is no large-scale “cord-cutting” (dropping of cable television service) in Weston. 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.



Lots of community programming is offered by WMC and this year in particular kept many residents entertained and informed while they were staying at home

Near the end of 2020, the Committee began to formulate plans for the upcoming license renewal between the Town and Verizon. The current Verizon license expires on October 14, 2023.

2020 Cable Advisory Committee Members

Appointed by the Select Board

Edwin E. Smith, Chair	2021	Tom Benson	2023
Joel Angiolillo	2021	Lee McCanne	2021

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.

Our planned 2020 activities and goals were largely put aside due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of our efforts were focused on supporting departmental needs and services. These include:

- Enabling remote work options for staff
- Acquiring software tools and licensing to support remote work and remote support requests
- Implementing a .gov domain for the Town website and email
- Migrating the Town financials, procurement, human resources, payroll, and revenues software to the cloud
- Continuing to provide cybersecurity training through the state's Cyber Awareness Program. This was purposely done as cyber threats increased during the pandemic. We had an 82 percent completion rate overall
- Supporting an outdoor High School graduation and Annual Town Meeting
- Advancing the project to move town communications fiber underground via the Town Center Improvement Project
- Planned and received approval for a multi-phase network and wireless systems update at Town Meeting

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Highlights

This year, work continued with Town department heads to improve data transparency between residents and Town departments. The Land Use permit status can now be viewed by the applicant online, including review, pending sign-offs, and notes from the inspectors. This also enables other Town departments greater visibility into residential projects.

The planimetric mapping data was updated for building structures and driveways throughout the town utilizing 2019 flyover data.

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.

Many of our 2020 plans were put on hold but we hope to move forward on or complete the following projects during 2021:

- Completion of the Town Center Improvement Project, which includes having the Town's fiber infrastructure in that area go underground with other utilities
- Completion of the 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 Internet Protocol-based radios by the Fire Department. Our goal is to ensure the stability and redundancies of Town communication links
- Completion of a network switching and wireless system (WiFi) replacement project proposed for fiscal year 2021
- In-building multi-mode fiber cable replacement: This is in conjunction with the Town-wide switch replacement project. The new switching requires updated in-building fiber
- To complete the move of the Town's internet service connections in the server room of Town Hall to the Police Station
- SD-WAN Telephone Project: We will move the town-wide telephone system to digital circuits to provide more reliable transmission technologies and redundancy for our phone communications
- Enhance in-building cellular communications in those areas of town where the signal does not reach inside the structure. This has been a public safety concern
- Complete the implementation of a workflow system allowing multiple departments to be able to process, classify, organize, route, and archive documents either sequentially or in parallel

- Complete the electronic records archival and retention system implementation (multi-year project), including creating a user-friendly public portal that enables the Town to share read-only versions of specific documents with the public
- Place more applications and permits online for public access and use. Our goal is to bring major permits online for residents and contractors to access remotely without the need to come to Town offices. We are currently working toward online Board of Health, Department of Public Works, and Conservation Permits

REPORT OF THE PAY AS YOU THROW WORKING GROUP

Establishing a program to reduce residential solid waste has been a priority of the Select Board for the past several years. The Select Board established the Pay As You Throw (PAYT) Working Group to analyze costs at the Transfer Station and to provide recommendations to initiate the program in Weston by September 2021. Under the leadership of Select Board Chair Laurie Bent, the Working Group met monthly throughout 2020 to review the subject and to bring a recommendation to the Board for implementation of a PAYT program at the Transfer Station. Professional support was provided through a state grant by Julia Greene of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protections.

In July, after researching other municipalities, the Working Group made a recommendation to the Select Board to introduce charging for bulky items at the Transfer Station. Many of our neighboring towns have implemented such fees to defray the expense of disposing of bulky items. The program was set to begin at the start of 2021 but due to a third wave of the novel coronavirus, implementation was delayed until May 2021.

In September, the Working Group made a recommendation to the Select Board to pilot test a commercial composting program at the Transfer Station. The food waste is composted and becomes nutrient-rich soil rather than a waste product that must be incinerated. Removing food waste from residential solid waste dramatically decreases solid waste tonnage. The program was launched in October and was well received.

2020 Members of the Pay As You Throw Working Group

Appointed by the Select Board to serve at its pleasure

Laurie Bent, Chair, Select Board Representative

David Ayer, Sustainability Committee Representative

Thomas Darling, at-large

Elisabeth DiPietro, Board of Health Representative

Philip Saunders, at-large

Leon Gaumont, Town Manager

Tom Cullen, Public Works Director

Jacquelyn Jackson,

Supervisor of Solid Waste and Recycling



REPORT OF THE PERMANENT BUILDING COMMITTEE

During the calendar year of 2020, the following tasks and projects were overseen by the Permanent Building Committee:

- The closing out of the Construction Phase of the Weston Art and Innovation Center, in the former Old Library;
- The continuation of the Construction Phase for the Case House-School Administration Building Renovation;
- The construction and completion of a solar photovoltaic array on the Field School roof;
- The completion of the Design Phase and award of the construction contract for the Josiah Smith Tavern Renovation;
- Replacement of the air conditioning chiller at the Fire Station Headquarters;
- Assisting the Council on Aging Needs Assessment Committee to plan for requesting more usable space;
- Working with the Fire Department to help develop a Request for Proposal to develop concepts for fire department needs;
- Working with the Sustainability Committee to coordinate goals and objectives for municipally-owned facilities; and
- Ongoing maintenance of all municipally-owned facilities.

Weston Art and Innovation Center Project

The Committee, working with the Board of Library Trustees and the Historical Commission, oversaw the Construction Phase of the project and brought it to substantial completion and occupancy on May 1, 2019, except for a few remaining minor issues. These issues were resolved during the first quarter of 2020. The project was officially completed using the funds allocated by the 2017 Special Town Meeting, with a small amount remaining.

Case House-School Administration Building

The Committee worked with representatives of the School Committee and Historical Commission in concert with the architectural team, the Owners Project Manager, and the General Contractor. The project reached substantial completion by March 2020. The School and Facilities departmental staff moved back into the building between March and June. By the end of 2020, all close-out items were completed, except for a newel post cap, and the building was fully utilized. Funds were allocated for the project by the 2018 Special Town Meeting and a small remaining surplus remains.

An Open House for a public tour of the renovated building was planned by the School Committee; however, the state of emergency stemming from the COVID-19 public health emergency prevented the event from occurring.

Field School Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic Array Project

The installation of solar photovoltaic panels and related equipment began in February of 2020 by Solect Energy, which is the owner and facilitator of the project. The array was anticipated to be in full operation by June of 2020 but it was delayed due to the pandemic and associated issues. The array finally went online in



December of 2020. This project was energized by the Sustainability Committee, which is the new driving force for all sustainability efforts in Weston.

Josiah Smith Tavern Renovation

A working group was established for this project, which includes the design team, the Owner's Project Manager, The Friends of the Josiah Smith Tavern, Historic New England, and the general contractor M. O'Connor Construction of West Roxbury, Mass. The team worked throughout the year overseeing, managing, and performing the activities required to move the renovation and restoration work ahead.

Construction is anticipated to take 20 months, with a targeted date of completion expected around July 2021. This timeline excludes the restaurant build, which will be the responsibility of the restaurant tenant.

Fire Station Headquarters Chiller Replacement Project

The replacement of the chiller in the aging and failing air conditioning system was completed this year. The new unit will benefit offices and bunk rooms of Headquarters. New replacement pumps and controls were also installed to provide better performance with the distribution of the cool air. Funding for the project was drawn from the Continuing Capital Facilities Budget and was managed by the Facilities Department.

Sustainability

The Permanent Building Committee continues to support energy-efficient building practices by requiring all new municipal buildings and major additions to meet the Silver LEED level. LEED is the United States Green Building Council's energy conservation system for buildings and sites, and the Silver level was stipulated by Weston's Select Board to adhere to the state's Green Communities Act level for energy performance. The projects meet the LEED Silver standard; however, as a cost avoidance measure, obtaining a plaque for each project is not pursued.

The Art and Innovation Center and Josiah Smith Tavern projects were considered too historically sensitive to strictly adhere to the Silver LEED standards but both projects employed reasonable and acceptable energy conservation and environmentally sensitive measures, including heat-pump heating and cooling systems and non-fossil fuel consuming equipment.

Lastly, Phoebe Beierle of the Sustainability Committee serves as the Permanent Building Committee Representative to the Sustainability Committee with the shared goal of coordinating sustainability practices and objectives for municipally-owned facilities.

Additional Activities and Involvement

In early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic became a specific focus of the Facilities Department to provide physical barriers in many of the Town's buildings and to deep-clean and sanitize. Furthermore, the department documented health safety systems in all public buildings including filter replacements, system testing, and documentation of systems to support adequate ventilation. The activities included adding air purifiers, Plexiglas shields, safety signage, and many other elements in anticipation of reopening buildings to staff, students, and the public.

The Permanent Building Committee was able to maintain all efforts throughout the calendar year in support of the ongoing projects, with appreciation to the exceptional efforts of the Facilities Department staff. Potential new project efforts were curtailed, however, until the workload of the Facilities staff could be refocused.

The Committee and Facilities Department began the process of developing a request for a proposal to perform a needs assessment of the Fire Department. Unfortunately, the Facilities Department was unable to dedicate the time and staff necessary to move this request forward due to the pandemic. In December

the Select Board engaged the Collins Center for Public Management through the University of Massachusetts Boston to conduct an all-encompassing study of the Fire Department operations. The Permanent Building Committee and Facilities Department will be brought back into the assessment to provide information on the physical needs of the Fire Department once the study is far enough along. This is anticipated to occur in mid-2021.

In late 2019, the Committee was asked to meet with the Council on Aging Needs Assessment Committee to understand the needs and limited space issues of the Council on Aging. This project also fell idle due to the pandemic and there had been no request to re-engage by the writing of this report.

A Town Building Maintenance Budget was submitted to the Select Board this year. The director of the Facilities Department, Gary Jarobski, helped develop the budget and the Committee is appreciative of the work by Mr. Jarobski and his staff in the performance of their duties to support the Town of Weston.

Members of the Permanent Building Committee are grateful to all the individuals who have worked with us and who have served as temporary members. We would also like to thank Henry Stone of the Historical Commission for his continued contributions to the Case House and Josiah Smith Tavern projects. His knowledge of construction on historic structures has added great value to the efforts of the design teams, the Permanent Building Committee, and the Town of Weston. Lastly, special appreciation to former School Committee member Danielle Black who served for many years as a temporary member for many School Department projects. Her input and assistance were significant and invaluable.

2020 Permanent Building Committee Members

Appointed jointly by the Select Board and the School Committee

James N. Polando, Chair	October 10, 2023	Neil Levitt	October 10, 2021
Theodore Bascom	October 10, 2022	Laura Mintz	October 10, 2021
Walter Chaffee	October 10, 2023		

Temporary Members, seated for specific projects:

Adrienne Giske, Josiah Smith Tavern, and Alex Cobb, all school construction projects

REPORT OF THE REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

On December 31, 2020, there were 8,033 active registered voters in the Town of Weston, with 390 voters listed as inactive. Many newcomers register to vote electronically through the Registry of Motor Vehicles, which automatically certifies each voter’s data in the statewide voter registration database.

Every year a census of all residents is taken by the Town Clerk’s Office. If the Clerk does not receive census information for a voter, that person’s name is placed on an inactive voter 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 voter 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:

Party	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Precinct 4	Total
Democrat	587	468	498	473	2,026
Republican	241	260	235	282	1,018
Conservative		2			2
United Independent Party	4	4	7	5	20

<i>Party</i>	<i>Precinct 1</i>	<i>Precinct 2</i>	<i>Precinct 3</i>	<i>Precinct 4</i>	<i>Total</i>
Libertarian	3	5	2	3	13
Green Rainbow			4	2	6
Green Party USA		1			1
American Independent Party		2	3		5
Mass. Independent Party	4			1	5
America First Party		1			1
Interdependent 3 rd Party	3	3		1	7
Pizza Party			1		1
Unenrolled	1,264	1,217	1,142	1,305	4,928
Total Active Voters	2,106	1,963	1,892	2,072	8,033
Inactive Voters	101	105	83	101	390

2020 Registrars of Voters

Appointed by the Select Board

Jacqueline Haas, Democrat 2022
 Vacant, Republican 2021
 Nathalie D. Thompson, Democrat 2023

REPORT OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

The Sustainability Committee has had an extremely busy and productive 2020, despite the challenges presented by the pandemic. The fact that this year was a very successful one for sustainability in Weston is in appreciation to fruitful collaborations with many Town staff, in particular with (but not limited to) Town Manager Leon Gaumond and his office, and the Facilities Department headed by Gary Jarowski.

Our core activities for the year are outlined as follows.

Weston Ahead

Early in the year, Weston was awarded a \$100,000 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant to complete a climate action and resilience plan, following a grant application prepared by the Sustainability Committee, the Town Manager, and his office. The proposed plan will build on Weston’s work during the planning grant phase in late 2019, which resulted in Weston’s becoming an “MVP Town,” and is focused on assessing the Town’s vulnerabilities in the face of climate change.



WESTON AHEAD
 Creating our Sustainable Future

The development of the plan is a 13-month project aimed at guiding Weston through its next steps in sustainability planning, for which Kim Lundgren Associates was hired after a request for proposal process and evaluation of several competing proposals. In a thoughtful process, involving much stakeholder engagement and opportunities for resident input, the name of the plan was chosen to be Weston Ahead and the work continues of prioritizing and setting short- and long-term goals for specific strategies to improve the environment, health, and resilience for all of Weston.

Green Communities Participation

The Sustainability Committee has been working with the Facilities Department to re-energize Weston's participation in the state's Green Communities program. In the summer and fall of 2019, the Facilities Department coordinated a comprehensive, professional lighting audit, which led to a set of feasible, efficient, and realistic set of LED and other lighting upgrade projects summarized in Weston's first Green Communities grant application since 2014, submitted in March 2020. In August, Weston learned we were awarded a grant of \$199,999, and the implementation work is underway. The Facilities Department is hopeful for the work to be concluded in early 2021, and the completed improvements are projected to reduce the town's energy use by approximately 1 percent, which translates to savings of \$50,000 in annual electricity costs.

Field School Solar Photovoltaic Array Update

In January, a 20-year power purchase agreement was signed with Solect Energy and an application to Massachusetts's Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program was submitted. The SMART program is a state funding mechanism for distributed solar arrays. It is structured to have a declining block rate structure, translating into a better incentive the sooner a town enrolls. Despite some delay, Weston secured a favorable contract rate, estimated to yield substantial savings on the yearly electric bill, totaling \$598,000 over 20 years. The interconnection process was completed this winter by Eversource and on December 15th the installation was officially activated. Utilizing this renewable source of electricity is projected to reduce Weston's carbon footprint by 5,100 tons of carbon dioxide over 20 years.

Community Choice Aggregation turned Weston Power Choice

After Weston residents showed their near-unanimous support at the December 2019 Town Meeting and authorized the Town to pursue a Community Choice Aggregation Program, a team composed of the Town Manager, Purchasing Agent, and Financial Analyst Charles Young, Sustainability Committee members Katharina Wilkins and Chris Jylkka, and Debbie Slotpole of the Sustainable Weston Action Group invited two established, qualified brokers-- Peregrine Group and Good Energy--to present their companies' services and approaches.



After careful consideration, including references and recommendations sought from other towns, Peregrine Group was chosen as Weston's broker. As work progressed steadily on the aggregation plan, the official name of Weston's program was chosen to be Weston Power Choice. The Select Board reviewed the draft plan, and a public online presentation was given in June by the project team allowing members of the public to understand key features of the aggregation plan and ask questions. A public comment period followed, allowing easy access to the aggregation plan via westonpowerchoice.com as well as on the town's website. This comment period ended in July and the plans were reviewed by the state's Department of Energy Resources in August. The team continued to work on community outreach throughout the summer. The aggregation plan was approved by the Select Board and submitted to the state's Department of Public Utilities in October. After the Public Utilities Department reviews and approves the plan, Peregrine will issue a request for a proposal for a competitive electric supplier for the aggregation program. It is expected that the entire process will take somewhere between 18 and 24 months to complete.

Energy Analysis

In May 2019, the committee applied to the Massachusetts Area Planning Council (MAPC) for a technical assistance grant and was awarded \$3,000 to have the MAPC assist with a municipal energy use analysis in Weston. Beginning in summer 2020, work on the data analysis began with MAPC's support. Weston's

team included Phoebe Beierle, Gary Jarobski, Katharina Wilkins, Leon Gaumond, and Charles Young, and several meetings were also attended by our Green Community coordinator, Neil Duffy.

The team continued to learn about our town's energy management and gather new ideas about how we could make better use of the annual Green Communities report, which is prepared reliably by Mr. Young. The Comprehensive Municipal Energy Use Analysis and Evaluation report is published on the Sustainability Committee's web page at Westonma.gov/Sustainability and will help inform our upcoming climate action planning as well as identify future grant opportunities through the Green Communities program.

Other Collaborations

Besides the above-mentioned core projects, the Sustainability Committee has supported several other initiatives brought to us by other boards or residents, including Weston High School students.

- David Ayer served and continues to serve as our liaison to the Pay-As-You-Throw Working Group, headed by Select Board Chair Laurie Bent
- After hearing a resident's presentation on the topic, the committee submitted a letter in support of the Public Lands Protection Act, also known as An Act Combating Climate Change by Preserving Open Space, to the Massachusetts House Committee on Ways and Means
- Members voiced our support for a "Meatless Mondays" initiative started by students at the High School by sending a letter of support to the School Committee
- The committee invited a presentation by the newly formed Weston Pollinator Alliance, whose work has already gathered much support and interest among residents as well as other boards and committees
- We supported Land's Sake's application for a MAPC Climate Resiliency Municipal Grant with a letter of support in the summer, after hearing their presentation to us on the matter
- The committee collaborated closely with the Town Manager's office on a job description for a newly-created sustainability coordinator staff position, both in preparation for the recommended fiscal year 2021 operating budget and after the budget was approved by the Annual Town Meeting

Throughout much of this year, while we all were sad to be missing opportunities to connect in person, we continued our efforts to strengthen our community engagement, via those channels that were available to us. The Public Information Officer Kara Fleming was filling this crucial role and kept residents informed on the town's website, e-newsletters supplied to subscribing residents, and the Town's social media accounts. To reach those who may be less technology-inclined, the committee also published several articles in the "Town Crier," highlighting our work.

Membership Updates

Incoming School Committee member Alyson Muzila replaced Rachel Stewart as Sustainability's liaison to the School Committee. The committee expresses its heartfelt gratitude to all members, present and past, for their service and hard work, and to the Town Manager's office, the Select Board, and all other town committees for their collaboration and support.

What Will You Do to Move WestonAhead?

Weston's Facilities Department was awarded \$199,000 from the state to swap out lights in Town-owned buildings for energy efficient LEDs.

This move is projected to have an **annual savings** in municipal energy costs of about **\$50,000** and is helping **move #WestonAhead** to be a sustainable community.

October is #EnergyAwarenessMonth
WestonAhead.org

In summary, the Sustainability Committee has met with and continued collaborations with several other town committees, groups, and departments; has connected with residents including students, and successfully secured \$199,999 in grant funding in 2020.

We are working in full swing to secure and implement additional opportunities for the town in 2021 and are looking forward to a new year of impactful projects, productive collaborations, and lots of positive change for all of Weston.

2020 Sustainability Committee Members

Appointed by the Select Board

Katharina Wilkins, Chair, Select Board Representative, term expires 2021

David Ayer, at-large, term expires 2021

Christopher Jylkka, at-large, term expires 2022

Sandy Kendall, at-large, term expires 2023

Alyson Muzila, School Committee Representative

Leslie Glynn, Planning Board Representative

Phoebe Beierle, Permanent Building Committee Representative

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

Births, marriages, and deaths recorded in the Town Clerk's Office of the Town of Weston for the year 2020:

Number of births - 84

Number of marriages - 36

Number of deaths - 123

Weston Residents - 104

Non-Residents - 19

The population of the Town of Weston (2020 census): 11,283

The following detailed report of births, marriages, and deaths recorded during 2020 is printed to bring to the attention of interested persons the facts which appear on the official records of the Town Clerk. Please check the names and other data for errors, and notify the Town Clerk's Office.

MARRIAGES RECORDED IN WESTON IN 2020

January

No recorded marriages

February

1st Allison Kelly Peters and Jeffrey Matthew Jones, both of Weston, Mass.

15th Emily Loughry Mullin and Trenten Davies Lynch, both of Weston, Mass.

March

9th Narumol Palosilp and Kamon Phosakhar, both of Watertown, Mass

14th Mary-Jane Burke and Paul L. Donahue, both of Weston, Mass.

20th Michele Lynn Grzenda and Joshua Trevor Matt, both of Newton, Mass.

April

No recorded marriages

May

No recorded marriages

June

20th Kathryn Ann Kuchefski and Kyle Joseph Cousin, both of Weston, Mass.

July

3rd Anne Fielding Davey of New York, N.Y. and Stefan A. Lysak of Weston, Mass.

25th Caroline Elizabeth Riedel and Cody Lee Smith, both of Westford, Mass.

25th Jennifer Eve Sacks and Welles Edward Sutton Vydra, both of Boston, Mass.

August

1st Kristine Marie Peters and Derek Mitchell Gaul, both of Concord, Mass.

1st Rebecca Lee Jesurum and Michael Johnson Spoeri, both of Madison, Wis.

7th Nancy Ann Monaghan and Thomas Hamre Larsen, both of Weston Mass.

14th Martha Faith Allen and Alexander Lawrence Biehl, both of Long Island City, N.Y.

21st Victoria Kathryn Robson of Weston, Mass. and Alexander Joseph Bradford of Brookline, Mass.

22nd Christina Elizabeth M. Kallapurakal and Jose Kalapura James, both of Rochester, Minn.

22nd Mariah E. Duncan and Charles A. Young, both of Boston, Mass.

30th Nicole Alexa Kraus of Boston, Mass. and Jonathan Michael Struhl of New York, N.Y.

September

3rd Jessica Loren Budz and Hayden Cox, both of Portland, Maine

3rd Jessica Leigh Ehrens of New York, N.Y. and Daniel Rome Bendetson of Boston, Mass.

5th Lauren Randolph Foote of Boston, Mass. and Jonathan Scott Levine of Huntington, N.Y.

5th Anne Elizabeth Charlip of Boston, Mass. and Gregory Finnegan Nugent of Providence, R.I.

6th Lucy Alejandra Bermudez of Lima, Peru and Ian Joseph Stearns of Concord, Mass.

6th Madeleine Claire Laupheimer of Boston, Mass. and Jonathan Joseph Turner of Philadelphia, Pa.

12th Maiah Alyse Johnson of Boston, Mass. and Andrew Nathan Dunn of D.C.

12th Alexandra Virginia Richlen and Nelson William Dillaway, both of Boston, Mass.

18th Christina Elena Ryan of Boston, Mass. and Joseph Christopher Capone of Stoneham, Mass.

19th Victoria Adams Kinnealey of Newton, Mass. and Mathieu Garavaglia of Borgomanero, Italy

19th Hannah Sullivan Chory and Graham Hochschartner Boyd, both of Boston, Mass.

October

3rd Kathleen Mary Campanella of Weston, Mass. and Roger Mario Marino of Naples, Fla.

7th Yanyi Jiang of Weston, Mass and Alexander Ramirez of Randolph, Mass.

11th Jessica Pauline Crew and Spencer Metzger Honeyman, both of Boston, Mass.

17th Manon Elisabeth von Csiky-Sessoms and Ryan Steven Innarelli, both of Boston, Mass.

November

27th Kimberly Ann Granfield and Joseph Donald Segal, both of Marlborough, Mass.

December

4th Francisca Iracema De Oliveira and Paulo Sergio Schulz, both of Weston, Mass.
 31st Yevgeniya Yurivna Raleigh and William Francis Mulroy, both of Weston, Mass.

DEATHS RECORDED IN WESTON IN 2020

January

Date	Name	Place of Birth	Age
5 th	Paynter, Elizabeth Storer	Massachusetts	90
8 th	Thomas, Sheila	Massachusetts	96
16 th	Bennett, Devon A.	Jamaica	62
18 th	Gagliardi, Laura Ann	Massachusetts	50
21 st	Iacovino, Noreen A.	Massachusetts	92
23 rd	Jacques, Marjorie Mae	Massachusetts	86
28 th	Bounds, Allen E.	New Mexico	89
28 th	Lunderville, Agnes E.	Massachusetts	88
29 th	Chaplain, Sylvia Harriet	Massachusetts	94
29 th	Luchetti, George James	Massachusetts	91

February

2 nd	Hochberger, Elizabeth R.	New York	59
3 rd	Aliapoulios, Menelaos A.	New Hampshire	89
11 th	Gahtan, Robert Ruben	France	86
13 th	Brown, Henry Thomas	Ohio	87
13 th	Cronin, Thomas J.	Massachusetts	84
15 th	Bonica, Genoveva	Argentina	92
19 th	Tomkinson, Diana L.	Hawaii	60
20 th	Raffo, Laura	Italy	90
24 th	Giampapa, Thomas S.	Massachusetts	77
27 th	Matthews, Audrey Loise	Massachusetts	79

March

2 nd	Warren, Rita Joy	California	79
2 nd	Weymouth, Douglas P.	California	68
4 th	Gotschlich, Anna-Lisa	Thailand	83
6 th	Siek, Patricia Stivers	New York	89
10 th	McKearney, Suzette B.	Illinois	92
11 th	Abraham, Nicholas P.	Massachusetts	45
18 th	Hariri, Ezzat K.	Iran	93
24 th	Moore, Katherine A.	Massachusetts	84
27 th	Connolly, Nancy	Massachusetts	72
27 th	Damon, Jeffery	Connecticut	42

April

2 nd	Greenberg, Barbara L.	Massachusetts	87
2 nd	Reiss, Shirley Jean Richardson	Massachusetts	86

3 rd	Schlossman, Anne	New York	97
4 th	Wolf, Jane Roberts	New York	99
4 th	Crum, Susan W.	Massachusetts	63
7 th	Lucchetti, Pasqualina	Italy	90
9 th	Lowe, James E.	Connecticut	74
10 th	Coppelman Schneider, Ina M.	Massachusetts	89
13 th	Twarog, Bettina D.	New York	80
15 th	Hagberg, John George	Massachusetts	82
15 th	Douglas, Berenice M.	Massachusetts	95
15 th	Melone, Barbara Adler	Massachusetts	92
15 th	Sargent, John Edmond	Massachusetts	68
16 th	Parello, Landa M.	Massachusetts	93
19 th	Landry, Janet Fay	Massachusetts	86
20 th	Whitmore, Bruce W.	Massachusetts	82
22 nd	McDonald, Marguerite	Canada	83
22 nd	Starr, Sherman Harold	Massachusetts	94
23 rd	Krudy, Charlotte M.	Hungary	85
23 rd	Farrar, Ross William	Ohio	82
24 th	Jakras Oghlo, Anazik	Turkey	86
24 th	Salvo, Angelina R.	Massachusetts	92
24 th	Prescott, Sandra	New York	83
25 th	Lukitsh, Mary Margaret	Pennsylvania	91
25 th	Mardell, Carol D.	Illinois	84
25 th	Esposito, Marie T.	Massachusetts	90
26 th	Wilck, Claude A.	Argentina	94
27 th	Farrow, Helen Patricia	Massachusetts	86
28 th	Chamberlain, Helen L.	Massachusetts	91
29 th	Ross, Audrey Claire	Massachusetts	89
30 th	Golub, Ruth Bronstein	Massachusetts	96

May

1 st	Temkin, Robert H.	Massachusetts	76
3 rd	Goldstein, Irving	Massachusetts	99
4 th	Sweeney, Alice P.	Massachusetts	91
6 th	Roy, Lois W.	Maine	103
6 th	Quan, Lock John	China	96
8 th	Park, Chan Jin	South Korea	66
9 th	Brown, Patricia	Massachusetts	79
13 th	Prince, Emily Taliaferro	Virginia	58
14 th	Percher, Marvin J.	New York	94
16 th	Gumbakis, Luz Angelica	Peru	85
18 th	Alvord, Phyllis	Massachusetts	92
29 th	Trebino, Theresa	Massachusetts	98

June

6 th	Koob, Ortrud I.	Germany	88
8 th	Nichols, Elizabeth Dunn	Massachusetts	80

13 th	Daly, Julian	New York	90
13 th	Solakian, Barbara Haroian	Massachusetts	81
15 th	Wentworth, Ralph Ludemann	Missouri	98
18 th	Nemrow, Rhoda	Massachusetts	92
14 th	Travers, David	Massachusetts	85
22 nd	Mandile, John J.	Massachusetts	94

July

2 nd	Goos, Charlotte K.	Massachusetts	93
14 th	Oliver, William Parker	Pennsylvania	79
20 th	Punjabi, Rupwanti	India	88
20 th	Hutcheson, Martha S.	Massachusetts	98
20 th	Foley, Peter E.	Massachusetts	59
30 th	Deblois, Robert E.	Rhode Island	86

August

2 nd	LaTucky, Gregory	New York	78
18 th	Simeone, Salvatore Benjamin	Massachusetts	97
29 th	Ranan, Rita F.	New York	96

September

2 nd	Buttolph, Audreey J.	New York	92
6 th	Mccue, Anna M.	Massachusetts	91
9 th	Torf, Lois Beurman	Massachusetts	93
9 th	Brasco, Carmela C.	Massachusetts	93
10 th	Costello, Ora Ann	New York	89
11 th	Costello, John Walter	Massachusetts	93
14 th	Swain, Charles Root	New York	79
15 th	Reny, Elizabeth S.	Massachusetts	90
21 st	Goos, Julius James	Maine	98
29 th	Berg, Muriel	New York	96
29 th	Cinelli, Susan	Massachusetts	100

October

2 nd	Lipson, Manuel J.	Massachusetts	83
13 th	Potts, Mary Lister	Egypt	95
18 th	Limpiris, James J.	Greece	87
20 th	Volman, Carole Edith	Massachusetts	80
25 th	Ver Planck, Mary Ann	District of Columbia	88
28 th	Evans, Kathryn A.	Massachusetts	70
28 th	Hernandez, Mathias Javier Striar	Massachusetts	18
31 st	Baghdady, Virginia Rose	Connecticut	90

November

1 st	Skehan, James W.	Maine	97
4 th	Currid, Frances Marie	New York	83
5 th	Basmajian Sr., Vasken	Syria	78

14 th	O'Leary Jr., Thomas J.	Massachusetts	75
18 th	Bhatia, Raj	India	86
21 st	Devine, Ann L.	Connecticut	87

December

2 nd	Staples, Dale	New Jersey	80
3 rd	Grant, Barbara	New Jersey	95
7 th	Morello, Marie A.	Massachusetts	86
10 th	Grant, Cornelia	California	86
15 th	Pollock, Anna Melone	Massachusetts	82
18 th	Barry, William A.	Massachusetts	90
19 th	McElligott, James Thomas	Massachusetts	77
28 th	Bush IV, Samuel Dacre	Massachusetts	66

LICENSE REPORT - DOGS

Number	Type	Fee	Total
43	Male/Female	\$ 25.00	\$1,075.00
857	Spayed Females/Neutered Males	15.00	12,855.00
waived due to COVID-19	Late Fees	25.00	0
Total collected			\$13,930.00

REPORT OF THE TREE ADVISORY GROUP

The Tree Advisory Group, commonly referred to as TAG, is charged with promoting community tree health, to ensure the long-term survival and annual care of public and private trees in Weston. Through education, stewardship, and support of municipal initiatives, TAG will aid Weston’s tree infrastructure as it faces the pressures of climate change.



While the COVID-19 pandemic slowed some progress, TAG was able to further refine our new approach to goals and community collaboration for 2021 and beyond. The goals for 2021 are posted to the committee’s web page at Westonma.gov/TAG. The following is a summary of this year’s activities.

Arbor Day Tree Plantings

Continuing the Tree City USA tradition, Arbor Day trees were planted; however, they were not planted until the fall due to strict in-person gathering restrictions in April. Native species were chosen for site compatibility and their ability to benefit the local ecosystem. The selection included crabapple, hawthorn, witch hazel, willow, and red twig dogwood. Special appreciation to Jacquelyn Jackson, the new Parks and Cemeteries Supervisor, and her Public Works team for their planting and watering efforts.

Tree Stewardship: Case Estates Tree Preservation Project

The goal of this project is to improve and preserve two historic trees at the Case Estates. These trees are legacy orchard trees descended from the time when the Case Estates was a functioning orchard: 1) a

Heritage Butternut Tree and 2) a persimmon tree. Both tree types are unusual in Weston; however, the butternut tree is of particular note. While the butternut tree, also known as white walnut, was a fixture in Northeastern towns, an invasive fungus infected almost the entire native population east of the Mississippi. The tree has all but disappeared from the local landscape. Fortunately, the specimen at Case Estates has survived the fungus. It is in immediate need of pruning to improve structure and cabling to improve its performance during storm events. The persimmon tree, with a location adjacent to the butternut, has recently suffered major storm damage and requires pruning to mitigate further deterioration. This work will benefit the town by preserving examples of Weston's agricultural history. An estimate for the work was provided in the winter. TAG has applied for funding through the Community Preservation Act and if approved, the work will be completed in 2021.



Wyman crabapples planted on North Avenue for Arbor Day

Municipal Support

TAG members participate in two municipal working groups that are examining Weston policies, practices, and regulations that impact the health of Weston's tree infrastructure. One group is focused on public right of way trees and the other is focused on trees located on private land. The work began in early 2020 and will continue into 2021.

At the close of 2019, Weston completed its multi-year Tree Inventory, which cataloged over 15,000 public right of way trees. Critical data about the composition, age, and condition were collected. TAG is analyzing this data to create a narrative about the status of Weston's street trees, which will help inform the public right of way tree working group discussions and future initiatives.

Special Projects: Case Park Revitalization Project

Case Park is a two-acre park located adjacent to the Scout House. It is listed as part of Case's Corner Historic District, on the National Register of Historic Places. Deeded to the town in 1946, the park's original landscape design was implemented in the 1950s; however, in the last two decades, tree removals due to disease, storm damage, and deteriorating soil conditions have contributed to the park's current status.

The primary goal of the Revitalization Project is to sustainably bring life to this underused landscape through 1) the planting of native North American flora to support beneficial Lepidoptera; and 2) the maintenance of the landscape using the latest in climate-smart, ecological best-practices. This will in turn benefit both birds and mammals by providing much-needed food and habitat while also providing a beautiful, practical, and educational example of sustainable and resilient landscaping for the Weston community to enjoy and perhaps emulate in their yards.

In 2020, TAG researched ecological landscape architects for the project. Proposals will be received in early 2021. Additionally, soil remediation continued to lower the soil's high pH levels to get it ready for new

planting in fall 2021. Much appreciation goes to Fields and Grounds Coordinator Ben Polimer and his team for their efforts on this.

Membership Changes

Sincere gratitude to Marylin Doyle, former chair, who retired from TAG in April. Her many years of service and love of all things green is appreciated. Also, Kristin Barbieri departed to spend more time with the Weston Forest and Trail Association. Her contributions to Arbor Day efforts and the establishment of the Field School 5th Grade annual tree planting have been a benefit to the community.

In the fall, TAG welcomed two new Associate Members Amit Fernandes and Balaji Krishnamoorthy who will assist with a technology project that will further TAG’s mission in protecting Weston’s tree inventory and education.

2020 Members of the Tree Advisory Group

Appointed by the Select Board

Lori Hess, Chair, 2023	Edward J. Recka, 2023
Nina Danforth, 2022	Amit Fernandes, Associate Member, 2021
Barbara Fullerton, 2021	Balaji Krishnamoorthy, Associate Member, 2021

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 30, 2020, the Merriam Fund had a principal balance of \$44,940 with income only to be distributed. In fiscal year 2020, the Trustees of the Merriam Fund made three distributions totaling \$1,926 to Weston residents. As of June 30, 2020, the Trustees had \$3,843 of income available to distribute in the coming year.

The major fundraising project this year, led by Nancy Allen and Hannah Peters, increased the principal balance of the Fund by 38 percent. Gifts from Weston residents ranged from \$5 to \$1,000. The Trustees are grateful for the support from many residents, which improves our ability to assist Weston residents with short-term needs.

2020 Members of the Trustees of the Merriam Fund

Appointed by the Select Board

Nancy Allen	2021	Hannah Peters	2022
John Doyle	2021	Mary Shaw	2023
Jill Lenhardt	2022		