



TOWN OF ATHOL ANNUAL REPORT 2017 –2018



Nellie Byron Memorial Fountain
Silver Lake Cemetery
Photo Credit: Diana Cooley

Welcome to Athol

***A community proud of its scenic beauty,
affordable quality of life and enduring mill
town legacy.***

TOWN OF ATHOL
REPORTS OF TOWN DEPARTMENTS, OFFICIALS, BOARDS & COMMITTEES
July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018
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CHAPTER ONE

PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Reports of the
Board of Selectmen,
Town Manager, Town Clerk,
Finance Warrant & Advisory
Committee, Library Trustees &
Housing Authority



ATHOL BOARD OF SELECTMEN FISCAL YEAR 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

To the Citizens of the Town of Athol:

During the Fiscal Year 2018, the Board of Selectmen welcomed a new Treasurer to the Town, Tammy Collier, who came from the Town of Ashburnham as their Treasurer. The Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager, Shaun Suhoski also welcomed a new Administrative Assistant for their office, Bridget Sullivan, who replaced Heather Butler. Heather took a position with the Town of Concord, Ma.

Policy Discussion:

The Board and the Town Manager, and others within the Town continued to encourage growth with new business additions to the North Quabbin Commons by welcoming the 110 Grill, Hobby Lobby, Wendy's and Athol Cinemas 8 movie theater.

Continuing the trend of new growth in the area, the Police and Fire Department's implemented the new Central Dispatch Department, combining dispatch services to one, centralized department housed at the Athol Police Department. The Town also implemented a new emergency notification system for the Town of Athol called CodeRED. This system allows our public safety departments to notify the residents via phone, email and texting of any emergencies the town may experience.

Licensing:

The Board completed its annual licensing by approving the following permits and licenses for the 2018 calendar year:

Class II Automobile: Bills Motor Mart, 12 Lewis Street. Dales Auto Body, 25 Bickford Drive. Flint's Garage Sales, 990 South Main Street. Main Street BP, 223 Main Street. Victory Lane Motors, 22 Chestnut Hill Avenue. Wilson & Steely Kustom Coachworks, 280 Main Street. Class III Automobile: Hayes Auto Body, 81 Rich Place.

Common Victualler: 110 Grill, Global Montello Energy DBA: Mr. Mikes, American-Lithuanian Naturalization Club, Athol Cinema 8, Blind Pig, LLC, Conway Petro, LLC, Country Convenience, Cumberland Farms Store 6688, 297 Main Street, Cumberland Farms Store 6706, 109 Brookside Road, Route 13 Donuts, Inc. DBA: Dunkin Donuts 2143 Main Street, Route 13 Donuts, Inc. DBA: Dunkin Donuts 1634 South Main Street, Edward H. Phillips Post Home, Inc. DBA: American Legion, Eight Dragons Restaurant, Ellinwood Country Club, Franco-American De Naturalization Club, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Athol Orange Aerie #4545, Inc., Hannaford Brothers Co. DBA: Hannaford Supermarket, Larry's Variety, Losier's Café, DBA: The Dery Bar, Mahoney's Restaurant and Pub, Main Street Grill, DeMoulas Supermarket DBA: Market Basket, Nick's Breakfast and Lunch, Niki's Pizza, Olde Time New England Seafood Company, Soup on the Fly, Starbucks, Subway, Tea Garden, The Steel Pub, Tool Town Pizza, Tsolias, Inc. DBA: Friendly Town Pizza, Village Grill and Pizza, Zedas of Athol, Traverse Street Café.

Liquor: Pouring/All: 110 Grill, American Lithuanian Club, Blind Pig, Edward H. Phillips Post Home, Ellinwood

Country Club, Franco-American Club, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Mahoney's Restaurant and Pub, The Dery Bar, The Steel Pub, The Tea Garden, Traverse Street Café.

Liquor: Pouring/Wine and Malt: Athol House of Pizza, Olde Time New England Seafood, Tool Town Pizza.

Liquor: Package/ All Alcohol: Foster Liquor Corp. DBA: Athol Spirits, Stan's Liquor Mart, Uptown Package Store.

Liquor: Package: Wine and Malt: Country Convenience, The Corner Store, Athol Mini Mart.

Auto-Amusement: 110 Grill, one (1) audio, four (4) televisions. American-Lithuanian Club, six (6) videos, one (1) jukebox, two pool tables. Edward H. Phillips Post Home, four (4) videos, one (1) Television. Franco-American Club, six (6) videos, one (1) jukebox, two (2) pool tables. Fraternal Order of Eagles, three (3) videos, one (1) jukebox, two (2) pool tables. Mahoney's Restaurant and Pub, one (1) audio, four (4) televisions. The Dery Bar, four (4) videos, one (1) jukebox, two (2) pool tables. Traverse St. Café, four (4) videos, one (1) jukebox, one (1) pool tables, one 1 pinball. The Steel Pub, eight (8) videos, one (1) jukebox, two (2) pool tables.

Live Entertainment: 110 Grill, Live and Sunday Entertainment. American Lithuanian Club, Live and Sunday Entertainment. Edward H. Phillips Post Home, Live and Sunday Entertainment. Ellinwood Country Club, Live Entertainment only. Franco-American Club, Live and Sunday Entertainment. Fraternal Order of Eagles, Live and Sunday Entertainment. Mahoney's Restaurant and Pub, Live and Sunday Entertainment. The Dery Bar, Sunday Entertainment only. The Steel Pub, Live and Sunday Entertainment.

Taxi/Livery: North Quabbin Livery, William Chiasson.

Lodging: Athol Area YMCA, Carl E. Dahl House, Harold Robinson, Providence Cliff House.

Sincerely,

Stephen R. Raymond, Chairman
William J. Caldwell, Vice Chairman
Lee E. Chauvette
Rebecca J. Bialecki
Holly A. Young

**TOWN MANAGER
FISCAL YEAR 2018
ANNUAL REPORT**

Greetings,

In preparing my fifth annual report I remain optimistic that the town of Athol will continue to see an influx of investment as has been realized over the past several years. Taxpayers and private-sector investors alike have demonstrated their resolve to grow and improve the quality of life and economic health of this iconic community.

Setting the stage for the economic resurgence was the Town's adoption in 2014 of its first set of written financial policies that immediately yielded an improved, investment-grade AA- bond rating by Standard & Poor's. Town staff work closely with the Board of Selectmen and Finance & Warrant Advisory Committee to manage public funds in a pragmatic manner resulting in a stable fiscal posture with sufficient stabilization reserves. This foundation supports job creation, growth in the commercial tax base and sustained public and private investment.

Over the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, my office has sought to align municipal operations and secure assistance for projects including:

- Plan and fund municipal infrastructure improvements including reconstruction of the Exchange Street Bridge, repair and extension of Pleasant Street sidewalks to the school campus and replacement of the DPW barn roof (all anticipated in 2019).
- Formed task force to address marijuana industry concerns and forwarded issues to Board of Planning and Community Development for successful zoning amendments
- Worked with owners of the former Union Twist Drill mill site to encourage redevelopment of the facility for potential housing or marijuana industry use.
- Continued code enforcement through Housing Task Force to improve public safety.
- Initiated downtown planning through a grant authored by the Town Manager.
- Participated in "Route 2 Task Force" and a safety improvements panel for Route 2A.
- Advocate and plan for potential hotel on public land off Templeton Road.

The Town has made significant economic progress over the past several years and I thank the strong commitment of department heads and staff, board and committee volunteers, elected officials and our residents for such success.

Also, I want to wish the Board of Selectmen's and Town Manager's longtime administrative assistant, Heather (Brissette) Butler, great success in her career endeavors. She was a tireless advocate for improving the community. The Board and I also welcome Bridget Sullivan and her outstanding skills to the team as the new administrative assistant.

Email me at ssuhoski@townofathol.org with any questions or suggestions about Athol's local government. I remain honored to serve as your Town Manager.

Sincerely,
Shaun A. Suhoski
Town Manager

FACTS ABOUT ATHOL

HISTORY	April 20, 1733, General Court of Massachusetts laid out the township of Pequage. September 17, 1735, the first five families settled here. March 6, 1762, the township was incorporated and the name changed to Athol.	
LOCATION	North central Massachusetts, 38 miles north of Worcester, and 71 miles west of Boston.	
AREA	Land	32.34 square miles
	Water	.73 square miles
	Total	33.07 square miles
POPULATION	11,584	
REGISTERED VOTERS	6,789	
POLLING PLACES	Precinct 1 – 3: Athol Senior Center 82 Freedom Street	
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION	First Monday in April	
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING	Second Monday in June	
FALL TOWN MEETING	Third Monday in October	
TOWN GOV'T	Open Town Meeting Five Member Board of Selectmen Town Manager	
TOWN HALL OFFICE HOURS	Mon, Wed., Thurs. Tuesday Friday	8:00 AM-5:00 PM 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM CLOSED

STATE OFFICIALS

Governor

Charles D. Baker
State House, Room 360
Boston, MA 02133
Tel: 617-725-4000
Fax: 617-727-9725

Lieutenant Governor

Karyn E. Polito
State House, Room 360
Boston, MA 02133
Tel: 617-725-4000
Fax: 617-727-9725

Attorney General

Maura Healy
One Ashburton Place, 20th Floor
Boston, MA 02108-1698
Main number connecting all bureaus 617-727-2200
TTY: 617-727-4765
Fax: Call for specific fax numbers

Attorney General Hotlines:

Consumer Hotline: 617-727-8400
Elder Hotline Toll Free: 1-888-AG ELDER (243-5337)
Fair Labor: 617-727-3465
Insurance Hotline Toll Free: 1-888-830-6277
Insurance Fraud Tipline: 617-573-5330
Utilities Division Hotline Toll Free: 1-888-514-6277

Secretary of the Commonwealth

William Francis Galvin
State House, Room 340
Boston, MA 02133
Executive Office: 617-727-9180
General Information: 617-727-7030

Treasurer and Receiver-General

Deborah B. Goldberg
State House, Room 227
Boston, MA 02133
Executive Office: 617-367-6900
Connecting all divisions: 617-367-3900

State Auditor

Suzanne M. Bump
State House, Room 230
Boston, MA 02133
Tel: 617-727-2075
Fax: 617-727-5981

State Senator (*Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex*)

Ann M. Gobi
State House
Room 513
Boston MA 02133
Phone: 617-722-1540
Fax: 617-722-1078
anne.gobi@masenate.gov

State Representative (2nd Franklin District)

Susannah Whipps Lee
State House
Room 540
Boston MA 02133
Phone: 617-722-2090
Susannah.WhippsLee@mahouse.gov

FEDERAL OFFICIALS

U.S. Senators

Elizabeth Warren

Boston Office

2400 JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston MA 02203
Phone: 617-565-3170

Springfield Office

1550 Main Street
Suite 406
Springfield MA 01103
Phone: 413-788-2690

Washington Office

317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-4543

Edward Markey

Boston Office

975 JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston MA 02203
Phone: 617-565-8519

Fall River Office

222 Milliken Blvd, Suite 312
Fall River MA 02721
Phone: 508-677-0523

Springfield Office

1550 Main Street, 4th Floor
Springfield MA 01101
Phone: 413-785-4610

Washington Office

255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-2742

U.S Congress (2nd Congressional District)

James McGovern

Washington DC Office

438 Cannon HOB
Washington DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-6101

Leominster Office

24 Church Street, Room 29
Leominster MA 01453
Phone: 978-466-3552

Northampton Office

94 Pleasant Street
Northampton MA 01060
Phone: 413-341-8700

Worcester Office

12 East Worcester Street
Suite 1
Worcester MA 01604
Phone: 508-831-7356

ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

MODERATOR

Lawrence P. McLaughlin, 2019

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

William J. Caldwell, 2019
Stephen R. Raymond, 2019
Rebecca Bialecki, 2020
Holly Young, 2020
Lee E. Chauvette, 2021

ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

From Athol:

Dale H. Lougee, 2019
Joseph F. Maga, 2019
Kenneth A. Vaidulas, 2019
Lee E. Chauvette, 2020
Mitchell Grosky, 2020
Joao Baptista, 2021
Deborah Kuzmeskas, 2021

From Royalston:

Charles Pretti, 2019
Nancy D. Melbourne, 2020
Carla Rabinowitz, 2021

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Sharon A. Brighenti, 2019
Margaret Feldman, 2019
John R. Greene, 2020
Margaret L. Young, 2020
Francis W. Foster, 2021
Christine Miranda, 2021

ATHOL HOUSING AUTHORITY

Edward Ledgard, 2019
Edward C. Sawin, 2020
Cathy Muzzy, 2021
Joseph Hawkins, 2021 (State Appointee)
Cathy Savoy, 2022

CONSTABLES

Kevin Materas, 2019
Randy Mitchell, 2020
Kenneth A. Vaidulas, 2021

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICERS

Admin. Asst., Board of Selectmen/Town Manager	Bridget Sullivan
Alternate Inspector of Buildings/Zoning Agent	Brianna Skowrya
Animal Control Officer	Jennifer Arsenault
Assessor	Lisa Aldrich
Asst. Agent Board of Health	Jane O'Brien
Assistant Collector	Catherine Levreault
Assistant Gas Inspector	Robert Mallet
Assistant Municipal Coordinator	Jeffrey Parker
Assistant Plumbing Inspector	Rick Geyster
Assistant Superintendent of Public Works	Duane Truehart
Assistant Town Accountant	Mary Ann Murphy
Assistant Town Clerk	Carol Bachelder
Assistant Treasurer	Melanie Rajaniemi
Assistant Wire Inspector	Gordon Dickie
Board of Health Agent	Deborah Karan
Civil Defense Director	John Duguay
Collector/Treasurer	Tammy Collier
Deputy Fire Chief	Jeffrey Parker
Director, Council on Aging	Cathy Savoy
Director of Veterans' Benefits & Services	Neil McGuirk
Emergency Management Director	John Duguay
Fire Chief	John Duguay
Inspector of Animals	Jennifer Arsenault
Inspector of Buildings/Zoning Agent	Robert Legare
Inspector of Gas Piping & Appliances	Daniel Joly
Inspector of Wires	Gary Terroy
Library Director	Jean Shaughnessy
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School Committee	Toni L. Phillips
Municipal Coordinator	John Duguay
Parking Meter Attendant	Ronny Cote
Plumbing Inspector	Daniel Joly
Police Chief	Russell Kleber
Police Lieutenant	Kevin Heath
Sealer of Weights & Measures	John R. Greene
Superintendent of Public Works	Douglas Walsh
Superintendent of Schools	Anthony Polito
Town Accountant	Christine Mailloux
Town Clerk	Nancy E. Burnham
Town Counsel	John Barrett
Town Manager	Shaun Suhoski
Town Planner	Eric Smith

TOWN BOARDS/COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Aimee Hanson, 2018
Ranee LaPointe, 2018
Casey Smith, 2019
Pam Browning, 2020
Laurie Parker, 2020

Vacant, 2018

Vacant, 2018

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

John Gostan, 2019
Vacant, 2018
Vacant, 2018
Vacant, 2018
Vacant, 2018

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Daniel Carey, 2019
Mark Wright, 2019

CAPITAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Gary Deyo, 2019
James Smith, 2019
Gino Tontodonato, 2020
Kathy Norton, 2021
Linda Oldach, 2021
John Lambert, 2021
Robert Muzzy, 2022

ATHOL CULTURAL COUNCIL

Robin Brzowski, 2019
Tabitha DeHays, 2019
Bonnie Hodgdon, 2019
Kelsey Matthews, 2019
Joann Deacon, 2020

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Heather Bialecki-Canning, 2019
Gary Deyo, 2019
Eric Smith, 2019
Heidi Stickland, 2019
Thomas Tourigny, 2019

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Kenneth A. Vaidulas, 2020
Edward Ledgard, 2021
Lisa Aldrich, indefinite

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Katheryn Harrow, 2019
Dennis Killay, 2019
James Smith, 2019
John R. Greene, 2020
Laura Smith, 2020
Walter Lehmann, 2021
Robert Muzzy, 2021

BOARD OF HEALTH

Joan Hamlett, 2019
Martin Miarecki, 2020
Norma Purple, 2021

Associate Members:

Jamie Briggs, 2019
Nicholas Tarara, 2019
William Wheeler, 2019

BOARD OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Jacqueline Doherty, 2019
Richard Hayden, 2020
Duane Truehart, 2020
Aimee Hanson, 2021
Kathy Norton, 2021
Calvin Taylor, 2022
David Small, 2023

COUNCIL ON AGING

Arthur Herk, 2019
Stephen Larry, 2019
Margaret Young, 2019
Kathy Cygan, 2020
Linda Grenier, 2020
Barbara Smith, 2020
Lillian Bachelder, 2021
Jean Ryder, 2021
Walter Lehman, 2021

BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

Heather Brissette, 2019
Nancy Burnham, 2019
Toni Phillips, 2019
Jean Robinson, 2019
Holly Young, 2019

DOWNTOWN VITALITY COMMITTEE

Jonathan Eldridge, 2019
Stephen Raymond, 2019
Ann Willhite, 2019

Associate Members:

Paula Robinson, 2019
David Small, 2019
Shelly Small, 2019

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION (EDIC)

Richard Plotkin, 2019
Martin Robichaud, 2019
James W. Meehan, Jr., 2022
Keith McGuirk, 2022
Mark Wright, 2022
Clinton Sykes, 2023
Calvin Taylor, 2023

Associate Members:

Vacant, 2019
Vacant, 2019

FINANCE AND WARRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ben Feldman, 2019
Paul Nelson, 2019
Michael Butler, 2020
Kenneth Duffy, 2020
Erik Euvrard, 2020
Amy Craven, 2021
Gary Deyo, 2021

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Carolyn Brouillet, 2019
John R. Greene, 2019
Shelly Small, 2020
Jean Shaughnessy, 2020
Vincent Cerez, 2021

HOLIDAY DECORATING COMMITTEE

Patrick DiPietro, 2019
Charles Shatos, 2019
Ann Willhite, 2019

INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lisa Aldrich, 2019
Ben Feldman, 2019
Robert Hughes, 2019
Doug Kaczmarczyk, 2019

MEMORIAL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Heather Brissette, 2019
Nancy E. Burnham, 2019
Lee E. Chauvette, 2019
Ben J. Feldman, 2019
John R. Greene, 2019
Bridget Sullivan, 2019
Holly Young, 2019

MEMORIAL HALL REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE

Bonnie Benjamin, 2019
Rene Lake-Gagliardi, 2019
Ethan Stone, 2019

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Jaimee Briggs, 2019
Joshua Feldman, 2019
Brian Hall, 2019
Travis Knechtel, 2019
David Small, 2019

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Gerard Lozier, 2019
Hugh A. Horrigan, 2020
Vacant, 2021
Nancy E. Burnham, Town Clerk

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Anthony Brighenti, 2019
Sharon Brighenti, 2019
Margaret Feldman, 2019
Travis Knechtel, 2019
Robert Mallet, 2019
Paul Robinson, 2019
David Small, 201

TOWN ENERGY COMMITTEE

Bill Aucoin, 2019
Aimee Hanson, 2019
Heidi Strickland, 201
Vacant, 2019
Vacant, 2019

VACANT & UNOCCUPIED BUILDING COMMITTEE

Rebecca Bialecki, 2018
 Lee Chauvette, 2019
 Alan Dodge, 2019
 John Duguay, 2019
 Harry Haldt, 2019
 Robert Legare, 2019
 Deborah Vondal, 2019
 Bruce Winters, 2019

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Kala Fisher, 2019
 Robert Mallet, 2020
 Richard Coburn, 2021
 Susan Mondy Sykes, 2022
 Elvin Chartrand, 2023

Associate Members:

Vacant, 2019
 Vacant, 2019

VITAL RECORDS

	7/1/16- 6/30/17	7/1/17- 6/30/18
Births	107	128
Marriages	52	67
Deaths	207	190

Tuesday As posted Room 15

BOARD OF HEALTH

4th Tuesday 4:00 PM Room 1

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES (no meeting July & August)

3rd Wednesday 6:00 PM Library

BOARD OF PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1st Wednesday 7:00 PM Liberty Hall

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

1st & 3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM Room 21

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

4th Tuesday 6:00 PM Liberty Hall

COUNCIL ON AGING

3rd Tuesday 1:00 PM Room 21

EDIC

3rd Wednesday 7:00 P Liberty Hall

FINANCE AND WARRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2nd Tuesday 6:30 PM Room 21

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

4th Wednesday 7:00 PM Room 21

Meeting notices and agendas are available on the Town of Athol website at www.athol-ma.gov

WHEN BOARDS & COMMITTEES MEET

DATE OF MEETING	TIME OF MEETING	PLACE OF MEETING
ATHOL HOUSING AUTHORITY 1st Wednesday	9:15 AM	21 Morton Meadows
ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE 3rd Wednesday	6:30 PM	Middle

School

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

FINANCE AND WARRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FISCAL YEAR 2018
ANNUAL REPORT

The members of the Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee are appointed by the Town Moderator to be an independent advisory committee, representing our fellow citizens and taxpayers of the Town of Athol in the process of local town government.

The committee, comprised of seven members, reviews all warrant articles including the town budget and advises the citizens attending the town meeting what we feel is the best course of action to take on a given article. Voters are not bound by any recommendations made by the committee.

The committee holds monthly meetings throughout the year, meeting with the Town Manager along with various boards, committees and department heads as needed to review any matter of importance that may come before us during the year. We are also responsible for the administration of the town's annual Reserve Account, where we authorize use of these funds by a majority vote of the committee without the need of town meeting approval for unexpected situations that may occur in a given fiscal year.

I would like to spend a few moments to discuss with the assembly how the town finances its operations yearly. It is important to understand how we get the needed funding to provide the various municipal and educational services that we need and expect.

Annually the municipal budget is funded by four sources. The main source is the tax levy. This source includes real estate taxes –including any “debt exclusions” voted by the townspeople. To clarify – a “Debt Exclusion” occurs when the voters voluntarily vote to increase their taxes for a period of time – for a specific project or issue. In total, the tax levy accounts for roughly 52 percent of any yearly budget.

The next funding source is known as “Local Receipts”. Local Receipts include such items as Motor Vehicle Excise taxes, personal property taxes, ambulance revenues, various license fees and permits, rental of town-owned facilities, parking tickets, along with water and sewer fees. These “Local Receipts” account for about 29 percent of the needed yearly budget funding.

Next, we have “State Aid”. About 13 percent of our yearly budget is funded with this funding source. “State Aid” is known as “Unrestricted General Government Aid”. Simply stated the State gives us this funding to use as needed within the budget – in areas we feel will best serve the community.

Lastly, we have miscellaneous funding. This funding source can be in the form of grants received from the state or federal governments. Funding can also be from the sale of town real estate or property and the sale of properties taken for tax title. Generally miscellaneous funding is a one-time funding source. This last funding source supplies about 6 percent of the funding for a yearly budget.

These are the four funding sources available to the town. All expenses must be covered by these funding sources. And unlike the Federal Government – by law, we must have a balanced budget every year.

Also, at some point tonight you may hear the term “Free Cash”. Simply put, “Free Cash” is unspent funding from operations of the previous fiscal year or actual receipts in excess of revenue estimates. In many cases the “Free Cash” figure is a combination of both unspent funds and higher than projected revenues from a previous year.

The State certified “Free Cash” amount currently stands at \$460,642. This year this funding will be applied to various areas of the town operations including our Stabilization Account, Capital Improvement Program and our program to demolish unsafe and dangerous buildings.

On behalf of the FWAC – I would like thank the various department heads, boards and committees for their help and cooperation during the past year, it has been greatly appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Duffy

Chairman FWAC

FWAC members: Ken Duffy (Chairman) Ben Feldman (Vice Chairman), Amy Craven, Gary Deyo, Mike Butler and Paul Nelson.

ATHOL PUBLIC LIBRARY
FISCAL YEAR 2018
ANNUAL REPORT

To: The Board of Selectman and Citizens of Athol

The library promoted summer reading for all ages with the 2017 "Build a Better World" Summer Reading program. Participation was great with over 400 adults, teens, and children reading and winning prizes. The 109 different programs were attended by 1,651. The library participated in the summer free lunch program and 362 lunches were served in 28 days. The most important improvement of the year was the work on repairing and rejuvenating the landscaping which was undertaken by Noel's Nursery during the summer of 2017. They added 2 ½ yards of loam and compost to the grounds, spread 38 pounds of grass seed, and trimmed the shrubs and trees. Ken Vaidulas, David Brothers, and Tom Henry were instrumental in keeping the sprouting grass seed watered during the summer. The front steps on Main Street and the inside of the fireplace in the Carnegie were nicely repaired by mason, Jay Hopkins. The library was open Saturdays beginning in September 2017. Many special activities and raffles with prizes were featured on Saturdays to entice patrons to visit the library and to remind the public that we are now open on this added day.

Angela Dumas, Children's Librarian, successfully secured an LSTA grant from the MA Board of Library Commissioners for a yearlong "Science is Everywhere" STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) project. This grant allowed us to add many new materials, including kits, robotics, and 3 D pens, hold science programs, and establish a Monarch Butterfly Waystation in the park behind the library.

Anne Cutler-Russo, young adult librarian, retired in December 2017. Emily Boughton was promoted to take her place. The Trustees revised the position of the Children's Librarian to include young adults, creating a position of Youth Services Librarian. Sean Tomlinson was promoted from substitute to fill Emily's position as Children's Room page.

A gift from the estate of Sherman Plotkin was received in February. This bequest will be used for education and/or music enrichment for children.

The library began celebrating its 100th Anniversary in January with at least one special program each month. A concert in collaboration with the Methodist Church, also celebrating its 100th anniversary, kicked off the year and citations were received from Senator Anne Gobi and Representative Susannah Whipps. February featured a coloring contest with pictures of the library, Mini Golf with historical library trivia entertained many on a March weekend and A Page 100 Found Poetry in April brought in many wonderful poems which were read at a reception in April. Corrine Smith, former Assistant Librarian here, presented a program on her mother's correspondence during WWII in April and a Tea with History and Fashion was featured in June 2018.

The "Libraries Rock" Summer Reading Program for 2018 began in June with a concert in the park with live music donated by Charlie Scott and friends and the Lions Club food truck providing refreshments.

The Board of Trustees reorganized in April and Margaret Young stepped down after many years as chair. Officers for the year are: Christine Miranda as chair and Susie Feldman as clerk.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Miranda, Chair
Margaret Feldman, Clerk
Sharon Brighenti
Frank Foster
J.R. Greene
Margaret Young

**ATHOL HOUSING AUTHORITY
FISCAL YEAR 2018
ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

The Athol Housing Authority provides affordable housing to low and moderate income families, as well as to the elderly and disabled. Housing is available based on Federal and State Program Regulations.

The Authority owns 78 Elderly/Handicapped units under the Massachusetts Chapter 667 Housing Program as well as 16 units of Family units under the Massachusetts Chapter 705 Housing Program.

Additionally, the Authority administers housing subsidies for 45 families under the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program and 58 families under the Federal Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Effective January 5, 2015, the Orange Housing Authority (OHA) shares office space with the Athol Housing Authority (AHA). The combined staff is made up of the following:

Christi Martin, Executive Director/Secretary to the Board (AHA)
Diane Praplaski, Program Administrator (AHA)
Connie Parmenter, MRVP Administrator (AHA)
Linda Lefebvre, Receptionist (OHA)
Barbara Smith, Receptionist (OHA)
Nicholas Tarara, Maintenance Supervisor (AHA)
Steven Belanger, Maintenance Supervisor (OHA)
Joseph Chiasson, Jr., Maintenance Staff (AHA)
David Brothers, Maintenance Staff (OHA)

The Authority is overseen by the Board of Commissioners, which meet on a monthly basis. The Board is made up of the following:

Cathy Savoy, Chairperson
Edward Sawin, Vice-Chairperson
Ted Ledgard, Treasurer
Cathy Muzzy, Commissioner
Joseph Hawkins, Governor's Appointee

The office of the Athol Housing Authority is located at 21 Morton Meadows and is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Phone 978-249-4848. Fax 978-249-9604.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christi Martin
Executive Director

CHAPTER TWO

FINANCE

Reports of the
Accountant, Collector,
Treasurer & Assessor

**ATHOL BOARD OF ASSESSORS
FISCAL YEAR 2018
ANNUAL REPORT**

The new FY2018 values were based on figures as approved by the DOR. Real Estate sales show property values in all areas and types of properties across town increased 6.9%. The next triennial revaluation will be for FY2022 and will be conducted by the Firm of Vision Government Solutions Inc. The final payment on the Library Note was made. There are various other town projects above the 2 ½ restrictions, however, the tax rate still decreased by eighty-three cents (.83). New growth for FY2018 was \$124,140. Members of the Board are Kenneth Vaidulas, Chairman, Edward Ledgard and Lisa Aldrich, Principal Assessor (Full Time) and Jean Robinson, Asst. Assessor.

ASSESSING STATISTICS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018:

Total Amt. to be raised \$24,391,828.49

Est. Receipts/Revenues \$10,567,064.85

Tax Levy \$13,824,763.64

Tax Rate \$ 19.57

There were 216 exemptions and work-off program granted in the tax amount of \$125,697.53. Of this amount, \$83,900 given out for qualifying veterans and their wives and \$29,525.00 to qualifying applicants. A total of \$12,272.53 (23) was given out for the Senior Work-Off Program.

The Board of Assessors committed during FY2018 \$13,347,313.37 in Real Estate; \$477,452.77 in Personal Property; \$1,177,944.93 in Excise; \$15,071.48 in Title V Betterments; \$3,513.28 for Omitted (Athol Housing). \$1,126.59 in Roll Back Taxes and \$28,456.92 in Water Sewer Liens. The Town held and Auction and received \$3,923.58 under the PILOT program.

The Board granted \$9,347.25 in Personal Property Abatements and \$147,954.11 in Real Estate Abatements.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kenneth A Vaidulas, Chairman
Lisa M Aldrich
Edward Ledgard
Jean W Robinson, Asst. Assessor

TOWN TREASURER/COLLECTOR
FISCAL YEAR 2018
ANNUAL REPORT

Tammy Collier - Treasurer/Tax Collector
Catherine Levreault – Assistant Treasurer
Donna Britt – Assistant Tax Collector

The Treasurer/Tax Collectors office oversees the Towns investment, cash management and revenue collection. It also manages the issuance of all Town debt and the administration of payroll and employee benefits.

The revenue collection consists of real estate, personal property, motor vehicle excise taxes, water/sewer charges and tax title redemptions. The department also collected other fees and/or charges generated by town departments along with receipts received electronically by the Town. Some examples of electronic payments would be state aid, grant receipts and ambulance service fees.

During Fiscal Year 2018 the office processed the following tax payments:

Real Estate	\$12,918,148.40
Water Sewer Liens	\$22,671.05
Septic Betterments	\$14,078.18
Personal Property	\$469,116.52
Motor Vehicle Excise	\$1,162,534.30
Water/Sewer	\$2,783,163.49
	<u>\$17,369,711.94</u>

The Town holds accounts at several banking institutions. Below is a list of the cash balances in those accounts as of June 30, 2018.

Athol Savings Bank	\$2,440,898.54
Bartholomew Investments	\$4,351,427.38
Eastern Bank	\$1,008,194.11
Bank ESB	\$1,911,733.74
Mass Municipal Depository Trust	\$297,927.96
TD Bank	\$240,937.69
UniBank	\$187,420.13
	<u>\$10,438,539.55</u>

EARNINGS FOR TOWN EMPLOYEES

FISCAL YEAR 2018

Last Name	First Name	Curr Gross	Department-name
BACHELDER	CAROL	48346.33	Town Clerk
WATSON	NANCY E	76857.71	Town Clerk
HORRIGAN	HUGH	408.00	Election
LOZIER	GERARD	408.00	Election
HAMLETT	JOAN	1620.00	Health
MIARECKI	MARTIN	1350.00	Health
O'BRIEN	JANE	21588.06	Health
PURPLE	NORMA	1350.00	Health
VONDAL	DEBORAH	66697.02	Health
ADAMS	WILLIAM	10766.09	Library
ARSENEAU	ASHLEY	44.00	Library
BACHELDER	SANDRA	616.00	Library
BOUGHTON	EMILY	19456.45	Library
BRZOZOWSKI	ROBIN	13480.04	Library
BUCK	BRENDA	16.50	Library
CUTLER-RUSSO	ANNE	38736.34	Library
DUMAS	ANGELA	41721.73	Library
FISK	CAROL	8096.00	Library
GAGNE	RHEBA	9548.00	Library
LEHMANN	MARIE	40954.44	Library
MATTHEWS	JULIANNE	792.00	Library
MATTHEWS	KELSEY	34131.75	Library
MCNIFF	KAREN	38736.39	Library
SHAUGHNESSY	JEAN E	71674.23	Library
SHTULMAN	ROBIN	53189.41	Library
SKINNER	OLIVIA	8184.00	Library
TOMLINSON	SEAN	7232.50	Library
BOYER	JEFFREY	12598.32	Dispatcher
CORMIER	SAMANTHA	18385.84	Dispatcher
CUMMINGS JR	JOSEPH	2960.48	Dispatcher
DAVIS	ANDREW	1305.00	Dispatcher
DAVIS	PATRICE	53400.21	Dispatcher
DIAMOND	JOCELYN	1506.00	Dispatcher
GABRENAS	LISA	32994.90	Dispatcher
HALEY	CHRISTINE	19574.48	Dispatcher
HIPPLER	MELISSA	37146.48	Dispatcher
ISAKSON	BECKY	28170.67	Dispatcher
LONG	MARIE	23270.68	Dispatcher
MALLET	DAVID	5538.60	Dispatcher
MARTIN	THOMAS	21920.43	Dispatcher
MORGAN	ALEXA	890.00	Dispatcher
PARENT	JILLIAN	42467.49	Dispatcher
PURPLE	NORMAN	2535.50	Dispatcher
RUSSELL	CHRISTINE	1977.25	Dispatcher
SMITH	MELISSA	450.00	Dispatcher
THIEM	JAMISON	19020.31	Dispatcher
ARSENAULT	JENNIFER	50022.18	Dog Officer
CARON	JANELLE	10472.14	Dog Officer
GAUDET	LISA	2054.06	Dog Officer
RUSSELL	PATRICIA	4449.94	Dog Officer

MCLAUGHLIN	LAWRENCE	186.45	Moderator
FISHER	KALA	1400.00	Zoning/Planning
BIALECKI	REBECCA	1377.00	Selectmen
BUTLER	HEATHER	17419.80	Selectmen
CALDWELL	WILLIAM	1377.00	Selectmen
CHAUVETTE	LEE	1606.16	Selectmen
RAYMOND	STEPHEN	1422.84	Selectmen
SUHOSKI	SHAUN	126742.79	Selectmen
SULLIVAN	BRIDGET	30581.64	Selectmen
YOUNG	HOLLY	1377.00	Selectmen
MALLETT	JOHNNY	5565.54	Animal Inspector
MOORE	ALYSSA	22996.08	Community Development
SMITH	ERIC	74027.01	Community Development
COLLER	TAMMY	53043.66	Tax Collector
LEVREAULT	CATHERINE	30874.22	Tax Collector
Last Name	First Name	Curr Gross	Department-name
MURPHY	MELISSA	10584.86	Tax Collector
RAJANIEMI	MELANIE	38288.27	Tax Collector
SARGENT	SUSAN	14924.80	Tax Collector
ALDRICH	LISA	60935.71	Assessors
LEDGARD	EDWARD	1237.50	Assessors
ROBINSON	JEAN W.	44997.98	Assessors
VAIDULAS	KENNETH	1514.37	Assessors
GREENE	JOHN R	7075.00	Weights & Measures
FITCH	FEDENCIA	44794.32	Veterans Services
MCGUIRK	NEIL	864.65	Veterans Services
MAILLOUX	CHRISTINE E	75027.25	Accountant
MURPHY	MARYANN	47323.36	Accountant
KIMBALL	DENNIS	51672.66	Town Hall
JOLY	DANIEL	22187.00	Building Dept
LEGARE	ROBERT	65603.62	Building Dept
SKOWYRA	BRIANNA	500.00	Building Dept
YOUNG	BECKY	41174.65	Building Dept
COOLEY	DIANA L.	48888.91	DPW-Supt.
CROTEAU	MARIE	33944.20	DPW-Supt.
KILHART	RICHARD	14566.32	DPW-Supt.
LEBLANC	GARY	91766.29	DPW-Supt.
MUSHNICK	REBECCA	10023.00	DPW-Supt.
SANTA	XAVIER	11778.00	DPW-Supt.
SUPERCHI	DANIEL	91945.54	DPW-Supt.
TRUEHART	DUANE	101165.93	DPW-Supt.
WALSH	DOUGLAS	104991.14	DPW-Supt.
ARNOT	BEN	1220.40	DPW-Highway
BALBEN	WILLIAM	37406.14	DPW-Highway
BASS	VERNON	63524.24	DPW-Highway
COSTA	ROBERT N	70032.72	DPW-Highway
LICHTENBERGER	JASON	54437.74	DPW-Highway
PEIRCE	HERBERT	67586.82	DPW-Highway
ROBIDOUX	JASON	1394.15	DPW-Highway
TURNER	THOMAS	59979.63	DPW-Highway
BELLOLI	ANDREW	67613.97	DPW-Water
BURNETT	JEREMY	53045.25	DPW-Water
CARR	DAVID	55990.34	DPW-Water
CRAVEN	DAVID	59673.77	DPW-Water
HUGHES	ROBERT	50276.07	DPW-Water

HUGHES	ROBERT L.	69234.76	DPW-Water
SEXTON	ROBERT	76804.63	DPW-Water
TESSIER	ANDREW	98433.03	DPW-Water
HERK	RYAN	2975.50	DPW-Cemetery
JACKSON	JAMES	3351.50	DPW-Cemetery
KEDDY JR.	ALAN	55577.59	DPW-Cemetery
KNECHTEL	TRAVIS	57847.13	DPW-Cemetery
LITTLEWOOD	COLE	2618.00	DPW-Cemetery
SMITH	KYLE	37934.73	DPW-Cemetery
SUMMERS	MARK	35501.71	DPW-Cemetery
THIEM	JEFFREY	47683.13	DPW-Cemetery
WATTS	ROGER	3409.25	DPW-Cemetery
AUCOIN	RICHARD	360.00	Outside Detail
BRITT	ERNEST J	1440.00	Outside Detail
CASELLA	CHRISTOPHER	4037.43	Outside Detail
DION	LAURINDA	1534.00	Outside Detail
HAGER	KENT A	1980.00	Outside Detail
MARTIN	RICHARD	5299.54	Outside Detail
POLLARD	JAMES	6030.00	Outside Detail
SEO	JUNGFIL	180.00	Outside Detail
ADAMS JR	STEVEN	84129.18	Police
ANDERSON	TIMOTHY	16846.80	Police
BROWN	COREY	62605.42	Police
BUCK	PETER J	79985.51	Police
CALL	COURTNEY	2244.50	Police
COLONERO	MATTHEW	5433.99	Police
Last Name	First Name	Curr Gross	Department-name
COOLEY	ADAM	41919.60	Police
COTE	RONNY R	72185.87	Police
CUMMINGS	THOMAS	60264.63	Police
DEVENEAU	CRAIG	83184.44	Police
DUBRULE	SCOTT A	93198.68	Police
FORTES	GREGORY	86908.45	Police
FREDETTE	ERICK	62644.32	Police
HAGER	DONALD	75206.45	Police
HEATH	KEVIN	146493.70	Police
KACZMARCZYK	DOUGLAS	79355.93	Police
KLEBER	RUSSELL	105867.67	Police
MORSE	MICHAEL	34742.52	Police
MOUSSEAU	JARRET	94435.70	Police
NEALE	TODD W.	57874.74	Police
O'LARI	ALBERT	80348.81	Police
POTTINGER	BLAKELEY	21467.48	Police
SARDELIS	RYAN	378.00	Police
STANGE	RANDAL	85402.33	Police
BERGQUIST	ELIZABETH	14448.32	Fire-Reg
BRAILEY	TRAVIS	70554.07	Fire-Reg
DISALLE	DANIEL	61798.71	Fire-Reg
DUBRULE JR.	BRUCE	111643.86	Fire-Reg
DUGUAY SR	JOHN L	108355.81	Fire-Reg
ERALI	CHAD	55217.14	Fire-Reg
FERGUSON	JAMES	86180.79	Fire-Reg
GIRARD	CHAD	110994.68	Fire-Reg
HAMILTON	JAMAL	74811.50	Fire-Reg
HARRIS	ADAM	60531.45	Fire-Reg

HORRIGAN	KEVIN S	133870.88	Fire-Reg
JACK	ERIC R	162398.35	Fire-Reg
KACZMARCZYK	KEVIN	99109.87	Fire-Reg
LANDRY JR	PAUL	118083.82	Fire-Reg
PARISI	TRAVIS	3809.68	Fire-Reg
PARKER	JEFFREY	89041.11	Fire-Reg
PERRY	DEREK	34742.32	Fire-Reg
RICHARDSON	TINA	4162.04	Fire-Reg
SANDOVA	DANA	59056.39	Fire-Reg
SHEPARDSON JR	ARTHUR C	141048.86	Fire-Reg
SOLTYSIK	ANDREW	132624.11	Fire-Reg
ADAMS	DAVID	1540.00	Fire Call
BOUCHER	BRIAN	1950.00	Fire Call
CAREY	TREVOR	1382.00	Fire Call
CARRA	FRANCISCO	3724.00	Fire Call
GRIFFITH	TIMOTHY	1008.00	Fire Call
KIMBALL	GREGGORY	2856.00	Fire Call
NOLETTE	CODY	462.00	Fire Call
WINTERS	BRUCE	1616.00	Fire Call
ABARE	TIMOTHY	200.00	Council On Aging
HERK	ARTHUR	583.00	Council On Aging
MITCHELL	RANDY	8927.00	Council On Aging

SAVOY	CATHY	58326.62	Council On Aging
TARARA	SALLY	2405.00	Council On Aging
THAYER	JUDITH	22815.51	Council On Aging
BRIGGS	JAIMEE	2250.00	Conservation
MUZZY	CATHY	1776.33	Conservation
SMALL	DAVID	1500.00	Conservation
TARARA	NICHOLAS	2250.00	Conservation
WHEELER	WILLIAM	2250.00	Conservation
DICKIE	GORDON J	4235.49	Wire Inspector
JENKS	WARREN	325.00	Wire Inspector
TERROY	GARY	28191.88	Wire Inspector
ANDERHOLM	OWEN	3008.13	Lifeguard
BRISSETTE	JACOB	4722.82	Lifeguard
CAPUZZO	JOSEPH	3425.07	Lifeguard
DYER	BROCK	70.50	Lifeguard

Last Name	First Name	Curr Gross	Department-name
GUYER	DANA	375.00	Lifeguard
KING	BENJAMIN	5500.00	Lifeguard
MARSHALL	SAMANTHA	488.58	Lifeguard
MOSHER	CAMDEN	934.25	Lifeguard
REICKER	AARON	258.50	Lifeguard
SAALFRANK	ELISE	2538.75	Lifeguard
SAISA	KAINEN	4125.88	Lifeguard
SAISA	RYLEY	2832.50	Lifeguard
SIMKEWICZ	JUSTIN	2568.13	Lifeguard
SMITH	SOPHIA	129.25	Lifeguard
ADAMS	LARRY	44632.61	Senior Tax Abatement
BERRY	VIRGINIA	250.25	Senior Tax Abatement
BOWERS	KENNETH	748.00	Senior Tax Abatement
BULBUK	KAREN	750.00	Senior Tax Abatement
BUTLER	LINDA	748.00	Senior Tax Abatement

CYGAN	MICHAEL	750.00	Senior Tax Abatement
DODGE	HOWARD	572.00	Senior Tax Abatement
FOWLER	BRUCE	750.00	Senior Tax Abatement
GIANNAKAKOS	LOUIS	748.00	Senior Tax Abatement
GOGUEN	ANN	632.50	Senior Tax Abatement
GOYETCHE	PAUL	750.00	Senior Tax Abatement
HEBERT	PETER	748.00	Senior Tax Abatement
HENRY	THOMAS	605.00	Senior Tax Abatement
HERSH	WILLIAM	750.00	Senior Tax Abatement
KIELY	PAULINE	750.00	Senior Tax Abatement
LAFOUNTAIN	ROSEANNA	750.00	Senior Tax Abatement
O'CONNOR	THOMAS	748.00	Senior Tax Abatement
PRASINOS	GEORGE	750.00	Senior Tax Abatement
ROIX	GEORGE	385.00	Senior Tax Abatement
SMITH	BETTY ANN	528.00	Senior Tax Abatement
SMITH	SHEILA	528.00	Senior Tax Abatement
STODDARD	GLORIA	750.00	Senior Tax Abatement
STODDARD	KAREN	1759.00	Senior Tax Abatement
STRICKLAND	ADELHEID	750.00	Senior Tax Abatement
DEEGAN	YVONNE	924.00	Recreation
FINDLAY	MICHAEL	2250.00	Recreation
JOBST	JEFFREY	4800.00	Recreation
KACZMARCZYK	KELLY	3000.00	Recreation
MAILLOUX	SHELBY	1023.75	Recreation
MASON	COLBY	891.00	Recreation
O'REGAN	HALEIGH	1434.38	Recreation
RIDDELL	ALICIA	1069.50	Recreation
ROBIDEAU	KAYLA	1443.25	Recreation
SANTANA	XAVIER	1243.00	Recreation
WHITE	RYAN	1280.75	Recreation
Grand Total 240			7098949.30
Records			

CHAPTER THREE

PUBLIC SAFETY

Reports of the
Fire, EMS, Police &
Inspectional Services



**ATHOL FIRE DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2018**

To: The Honorable Board of Selectman and the Citizens of Athol

The Athol Fire Department takes pride in our commitment to provide professional fire service protection, emergency medical service, and other fire service functions to the citizens of Athol.

I would first like to say that it is my honor to be the newly appointed Fire Chief in your town. I am privileged to be working with such a great group of firefighters who do much more than what is expected of them on a daily basis. The members of this department have done what I have asked them to do and more, and to that I am greatly appreciative.

The department has been tasked with a significant increase in call volume. The call volume has gone up 16% from FY18 to FY19, and is projected to go up 27% in FY20. This increase has incurred a great strain on our minimal staffing capabilities. Besides a drastic need to increase staffing, the department is in great need of updated equipment notably fire apparatus, SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus), and training.

In 2018, two firefighters were hired to fill vacancies yet still leaving two other vacancies. The department has been trying to fill current vacancies with two Firefighter Paramedics. The Athol Fire Department is currently a Civil Service fire department so this process has to be completed off of the current Civil Service eligibility list. Our attempts to hire off of the current Civil Service eligibility list have not been very successful. It has taken many months exhausting multiple Civil Service eligibility lists and we have had one person interested and has begun the process of being hired full time. As for the second opening, we are still working on that. On a good note, we are hoping to make two Captains promotions within FY20.

Through the generosity of private donations, the department was able to buy two much needed positive ventilation fans, workout equipment, and send two members to become Ice Rescue Technicians, and outfit the full time members with new, NFPA compliant Structural Firefighting gear. The older, but still compliant gear will be used for new members of the call force.

Due to the increase of the population, buildings, and industry, building inspections are to the point where we are having a difficult time keeping up with them above and beyond fire and medical calls. I ask that the citizens be patient while waiting for these inspections as we are doing the best we can with the manpower we currently have.

One of my major concerns is keeping the firefighters up to date and competent in their training. As Chief I advocate as much training as possible. With staffing and budgetary constraints this too is trying, but I will do what is necessary to keep these members safe in all that they do.

In closing I would like to thank the residents and taxpayers of Athol for their continual support of your fire department. Please note that I have an open door policy and would like to meet with anybody who has a question, concern, or just wants to say hello.

FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE STATISTICS

<u>Vehicle</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Make</u>	<u>Condition</u>
Engine 1	1976	Maxim	Very Poor Pumper – Spare/Front Line
Engine 3	1998	HME	Poor Pumper – Front line
Engine 4	2012	KME	Good Pumper – Front line
Engine 2	2006	Ford	Excellent Mini Pump Not for Structural Firefighting
Ladder 1	2006	E-One	Good
Ambulance 1	2015	Dodge	Good
Ambulance 3	2010	Chevy	Fair
Chiefs Car	2010	Ford	Fair
Deputy Car	2017	Ford	Excellent
Utility Pick Up	2016	Chevy	Excellent
Brush Truck 1	2005	Ford	Good
Brush Truck 2	1970	Farrar	Fair
Fire Alarm Bucket	1980	Ford	Poor
ATV 1	2005	Artic Cat	Fair

ATV 2	2005	Artic Cat	Fair
UTV 1	2018	Polaris	Excellent
Fire Boat 1	2005	Clark	Good
Fire Boat 2	1963	Star Craft	Fair

Fire Department Calls for Service 2018

<i>Total Calls</i>	<i>3087</i>
Overpressure Explosions No Fire	3
Rescue & Emergency Medical Services	131
Hazardous Conditions	41
Service Calls	53
Good Intent Calls	57
False Alarms & False Calls	12
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	3
Special Incidents	440
Structure Fires	23
Motor Vehicle Fires	5
Vegetation Fires	5
Acreage of Vegetation Fire	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents	94
Motor Vehicle Extrications	5
Rescues	2
Basic Life Support Responses	404
Advanced Life Support Responses	1235
Received Mutual Aid	-----
Provided Mutual Aid	295
How Many of the Mutual Aids Were Fires	13
Inspections	471

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Guarnera
Chief of Department



ATHOL POLICE DEPARTMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2018
ANNUAL REPORT

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Athol Citizens;

2018 was a year of change. But with change brought many new and exciting opportunities. From a new Lead Dispatcher, a new Administrative Assistant, and a new Officer to a new cruiser and Chief. Things are moving forward and moving well.

I would like to thank every member of the Athol Police Department from the officers to the Dispatchers and everyone in between that help keep our town safe. Their efforts and dedication to this town is commendable and their performance has been exceptional.

With the forward movement and dedication of these individuals, we will continue to grow and succeed.

Thank you to all of the other town departments, committees, officers, agents and elected officials, as well as the taxpayers and residents of Athol for their continued support of the Athol Police Department and helping us continue to serve and protect.

Respectively Submitted,

Craig Lundgren, Chief of Police
and
Kim Filieo, Administrative Assistant

CRIME STATISTICS

Criminal Homicide	0
Manslaughter	0
Kidnapping Abduction	1
Rape	6
Robbery	1
Assault	51
Intimidation	0
Arson	0
Burglary/B&E	77
Larceny – Theft (no vehicles)	195
Shoplifting	16
Motor Vehicle Theft	11
Counterfeiting/Forgery	1
Fraud	80
Vandalism	77
Drug/Narcotics Violation	30
Weapons Law Violation	1
Disorderly Conduct	532
OUI	62
Liquor Law Violation	1
Town By-Law Violation	26
All Other Violations	423
Identity Theft	7

Total Arrests/Summons/Protective Custody **610**

Traffic Statistics:

M/V Citations	542
Civil	45
Arrest	79
Criminal	119

Call for Service:

Parking Tickets	344
M/V Accidents	279

Total Call for Service: **16358**

Crime Statistics:

Over \$1000	268
Under \$1000	12

Total Offenses Reported: **419**

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2018
ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen & the Citizens of the Town of Athol:

In FY18 the building department collected \$114,182.00 in permit fees with 3 municipal permit fees waived (totaling \$17,215.00). Vacant and Abandoned properties registration fees of \$7,150.00. 110 inspection fees of \$5,527.00, and zoning fees of 1,350.00. For a total of \$128,209.00 The operating budget was \$156,488.00. The number of building permits that were approved totaled 458 with a total valuation of \$32,965,961.00

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED FY18	
Single Family	11
Multi-Family	0
Commercial, including Municipal	4
Additions	6
Garages/Carports	16
Deck/Porches	13
Pools	5
Wood/Pellet Stoves	24
Sheds	5
Demo	10
Other, including roofs, siding, signs	332
Foundation Only	3
Solar Panels	27
Vacant and Abandoned Property	75
CMR 780 Sec. 110 Inspections	81
On-site Inspections	458
Total Building Permits Issued	1070

Plumbing Permits	107
Gas Permits	62
Wiring Permits	297
<i>Total Plumbing & Gas Fees:</i>	<i>\$20,615.00.</i>
Total Wiring Fees:	\$51,345.00

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Legare
Inspector of Buildings



ATHOL BOARD OF HEALTH FISCAL YEAR 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

To: The Honorable Board of Selectman and the Citizens of Athol

The Athol Board of Health has a wide range of responsibilities mandated by state law and regulation to protect the health and safety of our community each and every day. Areas of focus are:

1. Ensuring food safety by inspecting restaurants, school cafeterias, church kitchens, mobile food trucks, nursing homes, hospital, day cares and food concession stands according to the National Food Code.
2. Protection of our water supply by enforcing Massachusetts Title 5 regulations; approximately one third of Athol properties have private onsite septic systems. Title 5 reports are reviewed, soil evaluation/perc tests observed, onsite septic plans are reviewed and repairs and installation of new systems are inspected along with review of well installation applications.
3. Safe and healthy housing for everyone by enforcing the MA State Sanitary Code and the MA Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Regulations. Housing issues occur year-round with complaint based and pre-rental inspections to ensure minimum housing standards are met. A multi Department Housing Task is in place to collaboratively address difficult property cases. The Board of Health (BOH) works actively with the Attorney General's Distressed Property Receivership Program to help mitigate the impact of foreclosures and combat its negative impact on neighborhoods.
4. Investigate nuisance (air, odor and noise) and trash complaints, illegal dumping and participate in a hazardous waste collection day. Residents are able to drop off hazardous materials free of charge at this yearly event funded by the Health Department. The BOH funds the Sharps collection Kiosk at the Athol Police Station.
5. Emergency Preparedness mandated by the federal government. The Health Department participates in the Region 2 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition consisting of seventy four cities and towns in Worcester County. Computer drills are conducted randomly by the Department of Public Health to keep local boards of health trained for emergency response. The Athol Board of Health has an Emergency Dispensing Site Plan and would be able to activate it within 24 hours' notice.

6. The BOH is a member of the Montachusett Public Health Network (MPHN) consisting of 11 cities and towns to increase the capacity of each Health Department. The MPHN public health nurse provides infectious disease follow-up, 12 cases were investigated. MPHN provides the seasonal swimming beach testing at Silver Lake and Lake Ellis. The Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative and the Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative through MPHN help to provide a regional response to opioid misuse/abuse and addresses underage drinking.
7. The BOH inspects public/semipublic pools, recreational children's camp, tanning salon. The BOH proactively addresses a number of health issues related to mosquitoes and ticks, low lead screening rates for children and many other concerns when alerted by the Department of Public Health.
8. The BOH issues retail nicotine delivery device/tobacco permits to local businesses; one method to help prevent the sale of tobacco products to minors. The Tobacco Control Alliance conducts compliance checks of retail stores and investigates Smoke-Free Work Place smoking complaints.

PERMITS ISSUED		INSPECTIONS	
Burial	119	Housing:	
Disposal Septic Construction	18	Complaints	43
Septage Hauler	8	Follow-ups	60
Septage Installer	10	Pre-Rental	10
Well	7	Vacant Abandoned	25
Trash Hauler	20	Trash:	
Tobacco	16	Complaints	46
Tanning Operator/Salon	2	Follow-ups	95
Pool /Spa	3	Illegal Dumping	1
Recreational Camp	1	Food:	
Mobile Home Park	2	Routine	115
Lodging House	2	Follow-ups	41
Funeral Director	1	Complaint	11
Food Establishment	36	Temporary Day Events	6
Retail Food	33	Septic:	
Temporary Food Establishments	17	Soil Evaluations	16
FEES		Septic installation	44
Food Establishment Review	5		
Title 5 Review	48	Pool	3
		Recreational Camp	2
Tobacco Control Alliance		Tanning	2

Access Compliance Checks	21	Nuisance/Miscellaneous	30
Retail Education Checks	23		
Pricing Survey Inspections	16	Miscellaneous:	
Smoke Free Work Place complaints	7	Court appearances	10
Referrals:		Office Phone calls	1577
Smoke-free housing website	4	Office Visits	651
Quit line for nicotine patch	11		

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Vondal, RS	Health Agent
Jane O'Brien:	Assistant Health Agent
Marty Miarecki:	Board of Health Chair
Joan Hamlett:	Board of Health Vice Chair
Norma Purple:	Board of Health Member

CHAPTER FOUR

PUBLIC SERVICE

Reports of the
Council on Aging, Public Library,
Veterans Services &
Sealer of W&M

ATHOL COUNCIL ON AGING
FISCAL YEAR 2018
ANNUAL REPORT

To: The Honorable Board of Selectpersons and Citizens of Athol

Mission Statement

Councils on Aging are the principal agencies of local government that serve older adults. First authorized by special legislation in 1956, there are now over 347 Councils in the Commonwealth. The three core responsibilities of the Councils on Aging are but not limited to:

- To identify the needs of senior citizens along with the available resources within the community.
- To educate the community at large in the challenges of aging and advocate for the needs of its senior citizens.
- To design, promote and put in place services that are needed and to coordinate the efforts of agencies which serve older people.

The Athol Council on Aging office and Senior Center is located at 82 Freedom Street in Lord Pond Plaza. The COA office hours are: Mon. Wed. & Thurs. 8:00-5:00, Tues. 8:00-8:00 and closed Fridays. The Senior Center is open 8:00-3:30 Monday through Thursday with occasional night and weekend activities. Hours are flexible and may accommodate special senior programming.

Over the past year approximately 8,000 units of service were performed for seniors in various capacities by the Council on Aging and Senior Center by the numerous programs provided through funding from the Town of Athol, the Executive Office of Elder Affairs Formula Grant, Frank S. Parmenter Trust Fund, LifePath, Inc. (formerly known as Franklin County Home Care Corporation), EOE Title IIIB, Friends of the Athol Council on Aging and individual contributors.

The Senior Center congregate dining program, sponsored by LifePaths, Inc. and the Town of Athol provided approximately 1,044 nutritionally balanced congregate dinner meals served at 12 noon on Tuesday's and Wednesday's. Additional meals were offered by the Council on Aging staff and board members outside of the established congregate program.

Activities at the Senior Center include health and wellness related activities and screenings including, hearing tests, foot screening, blood pressure clinics, flu clinics, preventive dental services, senior fitness, yoga, congregate meals, home safety seminars and educational forums. Social activities include bingo, red aces, Somba, senior arts, painting, quilting, card making, movies, wood carving, meetings, a lending library and other special events. Social services include food stamp applications, food security counseling, fuel assistance, benefits counseling, tax preparation, SHINE, a program of LifePaths, Inc., (serving health insurance needs of everyone) and information and referral services.

Through a Title III D Grant administered through LifePaths Inc. and the Executive Office of Elder Affairs the Council was able to offer a “Wellness for Life” program “Yoga for Every Body” facilitated by Pat Roix. Our innovative Birthday Card Outreach Program continues and is funded through donations.

Through Formula Grant funding, the Council was able to continue the well-attended “Senior Fitness” program, instructed by certified staff of the Athol area YMCA two mornings a week. The fitness program served 48 unduplicated seniors for 98 sessions. The fitness and wellness classes are extended year round.

The Brown Bag distribution continues with approximately 135 elders receiving surplus food each month. Approximately 50 of the brown bags are delivered by volunteer drivers. The program is supervised and led by the COA staff and 25 volunteers, who unload the truck, package the brown bags and distribute at the center site or deliver to homebound seniors and the disabled.

One hundred and thirty seniors received assistance in the preparation of their state and federal income taxes through AARP and the Council on Aging. Through outreach efforts the tax preparation program has shown a significant increase in demand over the past several years. Fifteen seniors were assisted with filing the “Circuit Breaker” a State Tax Rebate program.

The “Shine” program assisted over 500 area seniors with health insurance issues and assisted with the Prescription Advantage program and the changes in the H.M.O. programs. Two volunteer SHINE counselors have been trained through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and LifePath, Inc. and continue to participate in monthly trainings to keep up with the changing health care system. In-kind support for the program is provided by the Council on Aging.

The Council has maintained the foot-screening clinic available to seniors twice a month. Two- hundred thirty- six (236) screenings were performed during the 24 sessions.

Fuel assistance – One hundred forty four (144) elders were assisted with Fuel Assistance applications for the FY18 season. Twenty Six (26) were informed of and referred to other weatherization and enrolled social service programs

Through the generosity of the North Worcester County Board of Realtors and their “Adopt an Elder” Christmas program, the Council was able to identify and deliver 50 Christmas gifts to isolated and less fortunate elders.

The Council on Aging provided assistance and referral services to 32 seniors for free legal assistance offered through North Central Legal assistance and the Franklin County Bar Association.

On Christmas Day, 225 homebound elders and disabled were delivered a complete ham dinner. With the assistance of the COA Board and the **MANY** volunteers, the dinners were cooked, packed & delivered. The Christmas dinner program is a three day project.

The Council on Aging provided assistance with the Wm. J. O’Brien Thanksgiving community dinner where over 100 community residents were served a sit down meal on Thanksgiving Day that is annually held at the Athol American Legion.

Throughout the year the Council on Aging Director contributed time to the Friends of the Athol Council on Aging board, AARP, the Golden Ages Club, the Athol Housing Authority, Life Path Inc., and various facilitated meetings and focus groups.

The Director and Board members participated in the Mass. Council on Aging, Western Mass. Council on Aging, Mass. Public Health Assoc., local school programs, (Inter-generational) and numerous other senior and municipal connected classes and seminars.

The Council on Aging applied for and received four grants to support various programming for the Fiscal Year 2018.

In June, a Volunteer Recognition luncheon was held at the Athol Senior Center with 76 volunteers present. State and municipal representatives were among those who honored the volunteers for their commitment in assisting the COA with the many programs it offers to elder and disabled community residents. Guest Speakers David Small and Mr. Rich presented a power point and introduction to the new handicapped accessible boat dock located at the Alan Rich Park anticipating that elders would take advantage of the access point to the Millers River.

The Friends of the Athol Council on Aging (a non-profit 501c3 organization) conducted their annual membership drive and raffle fundraisers with proceeds to benefit programming and other educational and social events for seniors at the Center.

The following are current members of the Athol Council on Aging Board members:

Margaret Young, Chairperson
Jean Ryder
Walter Lehman
Lillian Batchelder
Barbara Savoy

Arthur (Tim) Herk
Linda Grenier
Jackie Paluilis
Raymond Dufort

The Board would like to thank the 160 volunteers that make the many Council on Aging programs possible. We are indebted to the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, the Massachusetts Councils on Aging, LifePaths Inc., the Friends of the Athol Council on Aging, the Frank S. Parmenter Trust Fund, Athol Hospital, the local Cultural Council grantors, Senior Dining Center Mgr., meal site volunteers, AARP tax assistants, Western Mass Food Bank, the Athol Public Library, the North Central County Board of Realtors, and many other clubs, organizations and individuals.

In conclusion, the Council on Aging wishes to thank the Town Manager, Board of Selectmen and the citizens of Athol for their support and assistance throughout the year. If any citizen has questions regarding our services and programs please do not hesitate to contact our Council office at (978) 249-8986.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy A. Savoy, Executive Director
Judy Thayer, Program Coordinator

Athol Public Library
FISCAL YEAR 2018
ANNUAL REPORT

To: The Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of Athol

“A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert.” – Andrew Carnegie

A quote from Andrew Carnegie seems fitting as we celebrate the 100th anniversary year of the Carnegie library building. The library customers and staff enjoyed their fifth year in the new building and renovated Carnegie Library. Many special anniversary year programs added to the variety of great programs and activities that continued to happen both inside the library and outside in the park.

The Art Committee continued to provide the library with wonderful exhibits. Artists who displayed their art during the year, July 2017-June 2018, were: Barbara Ellis (collection of Ann Powers), Stephen Rabideau, Jane Duderstadt, Ami Fagin, Jenny Gabrenas, Mari Rovang, Mitch Grosky, and entrants in the Millers River Watershed contest. There are exhibitions already lined up through the next year. Please be sure to stop by and see them. Some of the artists held receptions with refreshments and were in attendance to answer questions.

The new spaces were also attractive to many outside groups for meetings and events. Literacy Volunteers held trainings, testings, and tutoring sessions, Reliable Temps and several businesses held interview sessions, the MA Legislative Task Force on Child Sexual Abuse held a public information session, MA Waterworks held a water department training series, the MBLC held a library design workshop, the Urban Land Institute, MA Department of Mental Health, Foster Families, MA Rehab, and the town’s safety committee all held meetings, and the annual meetings of Quabbin Harvest and Valuing Our Children were held in the Program and Conference Rooms. Speedwings Production Roleplay group, Dungeons and Dragons, Quabbin Lyme Support, class reunion committees, and ESL families met weekly or frequently. Riverbend Preschool held their graduation ceremony in the Program Room. The Erving Public Library building committee toured the building. The library hosted a Legislative Breakfast attended by local and state political representatives.

Adult Services from Robin Shulman

The year started out with our summer reading program, the theme of which was “Build a Better World.” Adults were encouraged to participate in the Summer Reading program by submitting their name into a drawing for prizes – one entry for each book read. There were 548 entries and 94 prizes were awarded to the 75 adults registered. Audiences enthusiastically attended programs on the best ways to contact our legislators (and be heard), staying safe from tick-borne illnesses in the woods, and improving access to healthy food in the North Quabbin region. Later in the year, the Athol Library hosted a well-attended legislative breakfast, at

which several patrons and our town manager shared some of their thoughts about the importance of libraries with MA legislators who attended.

This was also the summer of the solar eclipse, and significantly more than 100 people turned out for our eclipse viewing party, sharing eclipse-safe eyewear, home-made pinhole viewers, and making eclipse cookies.

The fall brought us several series that extended the popular summer theme. Patrons had an opportunity to improve their personal world via two multi-week yoga series. The library also partnered with North Quabbin Energy to host 9 films and conversations on the topic of climate justice. These were well attended by patrons from all over our extended area. We closed out this thoughtful series on a hopeful note with a spring presentation by Shelley Small on gardening for pollinators. Later in the spring, (but not part of the series), the library invited researchers from the Harvard Forest to discuss their collaborative public art and education program on the demise of hemlock trees due to the arrival of the woolly adelgid.

For fun, the library hosted a 4 week series on astrology, a Banned Books Week trivia contest, a needle felting craft workshop, floral swag making, an information session on essential oils, a program on increasing your personal energy, and a local author with stories and recipes with rhubarb. Cooking with Coffee, 10 Minute Meals, and Feasting from Literature rounded out our offerings of cooking and food programs. Jenna Elliott helped attendees get organized to start the new year of 2018.

The APL once again partnered with Mount Wachusett Community College, serving as a site for an author event about the first woman to play professional baseball in the Negro Leagues as part of MWCC's National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

In response to patron requests for historical programs, the library hosted a presentation by author Alison O'Leary on German U-boats along the coast of the United States during WW2. Other authors offering programs and/or book-signings were: Stephen Katz – "Ware's Boys of Summer", Mitch Grosky – "Journey to Africa", Judge Michael Ponser, Allen Young, Donna Jensen, and the Quabbin Quills writing group.

January 2018 marked the start of our grand 100th anniversary celebration. The library held many, many commemorative events, among them a Page 100 Found Poetry Contest and Reading, which saw high participation. On a Saturday and Sunday afternoon in March, the library, with donations from many generous sponsors, hosted an 18 hole indoor mini-golf course complete with library and historical trivia and refreshments at the 19th hole. In May, Corrine Smith, former assistant library director, presented a program based on her mother's letters to service men during World War II. The mid-point in our anniversary year was celebrated in June with a Sunday afternoon tea, fashion show, and history of the library in Athol.

Booked for Lunch, the noontime book discussion group, led by Robin Brzozowski, met to enjoy lunch and dessert while discussing a variety of books during the year. The evening Mystery Discussion group, facilitated by Karen McNiff, discussed mysteries monthly during the fall and spring. The Adult Coloring group continued to meet one evening a month, David Price and Clint Eklund led the adult chess players, and the Knit Wit knitting group met weekly.

The APL provided delivery service to more than a dozen home-bound readers, thanks to our senior tax abatement volunteers Virginia Berry and Randy Mitchell. Our private study rooms continue to be very useful and popular with tutors, counselors, and students.

Young Adult Department from Anne Cutler-Russo and Emily Boughton

The theme of the 2017 summer reading program for young adults was “Build a Better World”, so related activities included painting Kindness Rocks to place in the park behind the library, and creation of a Build a Better World collage. There were 140 teens signed up for the summer reading program and 141 attended one or more of the 37 programs held, including a Readers Ice Cream Party.

ATAC, the teen advisory council at the library, met monthly throughout the year, enjoying pizza provided by the Friends of the Library, talking about books, and helping to plan teen events for the year.

The enthusiastic members of the Minecraft Club met weekly throughout the school year using Minecraft Edu, purchased by the Friends of the Library, to play together in online worlds which they cooperatively constructed.

The Wild Knights Chess Club with David Price and Clint Eklund met weekly throughout the summer and during the school year, while the Anime group, Book Worms book group, teen coloring club, and Minecraft Club were also available to teens.

Jean White continued to meet weekly during the school year with her group of Knit-Wits. This program is made possible by donations of supplies. Jean also taught teens to sew a quilted bag at a four session sewing instruction class during the summer.

Community Reading Day was held at the middle school in the fall of 2017. Volunteer readers visited all English classrooms at the middle school to read and discuss selected books. Community Reading Day is a collaborative program involving the staffs at the public library and the schools.

In December 2017, Anne Cutler-Russo retired and Emily Boughton was hired for her position.

Children's Department from Angela Dumas

The summer of 2017 concluded with the national summer reading program, "Build a Better World". It ran from the last week of June through the first week of August. 186 children registered for summer reading and 1231 people attended events in July and August. Some of the more popular programs were the monthly scavenger hunt, with 60 participants, Life-Size Candy Land, with 52 attendees, a concert with Dave Polansky, with 46 attendees, and the summer lunch program, with 362 participants through July and August. In addition, APL's Book Club for Kids collaborated with AOTV and acted in the play *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* by Robert C. O'Brien, which later aired on AOTV.

In the fall, ongoing programs: LEGO Club, Baby and Toddler Time, Preschool Story Times, Minecraft Club, Story Walks, Craftastic Kids, and APL's Book Club for Kids successfully continued. The Preschool Stroll and the 2nd Annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest were popular in October with 461 participants; approximately 1100 people attended programs in September and October. The Children's Library was also awarded a \$7,500 federal LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) grant in October from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) to add new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs and materials to the Children's Library.

Decorating candy Winter Castles, LEGO Club, Story Times, and Story Walks brought in the most people in the winter months; about 1400 people came in for programs. The first two grant-funded STEM workshops took place, and by January, sixteen new grant-funded and STEM-based backpacks and resources were added to the Children's Library. In March, on Read Across America Day, 40 members of the community volunteered to read to preschool and elementary children in 32 classrooms for Community Reading Day.

During April, a pottery demonstration run by Rick Hamelin brought in 40 attendees and the second annual Peeps Diorama Contest, with voters and entries, had 75 participants. In May, with the warmer weather, 173 people attended bi-weekly Story Walks. April and May brought in a total 1033 people.

With the school year closing, classroom visits were made to every preschool and elementary classroom in the Athol/Royalston school district to promote the summer reading program, "Libraries Rock!" On June 25, 200 people attended the Kick-off, and 89 children had already signed up for summer reading. 447 people came to the first week of summer reading and enjoyed a family concert with Matt Heaton, an ice cream social with ice cream donated by Anne's Dairy Drive-In, a makeshift play space with Knucklebones, a STEM Open House with the new science resources, a Minecraft party, and the free summer lunch program. By June's end, 755 people used the Children's Library.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Materials were purchased in memory of:

Theresa Obue, David Goldsher, Arlan Butler, Barbara Corey, and Doris P. Valois.

Many contributions were also received for the Young Adult Collection Development Fund in honor of Anne Cutler-Russo.

YOUR LIBRARY STAFF

ADULT DEPARTMENT

Jean Shaughnessy, *Director*

Robin Shtulman, *Assistant Director*

Marie Lehmann, Anne Cutler-Russo, Kelsey Matthews, Emily Boughton *Senior Library Technicians*

Robin Brzozowski, Carol Ann Fisk, Rheba Gagne, *Part Time Library Technicians*

William Adams, *Part Time Custodian*

Brenda Buck, Sean Tomlinson *Substitutes*

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Angela Dumas, *Children's Librarian*

Karen McNiff, *Children's Assistant*

Olivia Skinner, Sean Tomlinson, *Pages*

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD

President: Lil Bachelder

Treasurer: Jean White

Secretary: Patricia Ray

Trustee Rep: Margaret Young

Library Staff Rep: Jean Shaughnessy

Directors: Lynn Carpenter, Vera Coupal, Nancy Griffin, Julianne Matthews, Florence Pelletier, Mary Roberts, Barbara Robichaud.

Join the Friends Today!

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY VOLUNTEER GREETERS

Stacy Anderson, Sandi Bachelder, Karen Bulbuk, Mike Cygan, Cynthia Day, Muriel Holden, Randy Mitchell, Patricia Ray, George Roix, Tina Smedley, Patricia Vandenberg.

SENIOR TAX ABATEMENT VOLUNTEERS 2016 and 2017

Sandra Bachelder, Virginia Berry, Karen Bulbuk, Michael Cygan, Tom Henry, Randy Mitchell, George Roix, Jean White.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean E. Shaughnessy, Library Director

STATISTICS

CIRCULATION FY16

Adult	64,602
Young Adult	3,752
Children's	<u>27,378</u>

TOTAL	95,732
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Interlibrary Loan

Received from other libraries	14,893
Provided to other libraries	11,096
Nonresident circulations	21,949

Programs

Adult	79
Adult attendance	1,883
Young adult	192
Young adult attendance	1,484
Children	307
Children's attendance	4,948

<u>Registered borrowers</u>	6,222
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Volunteers

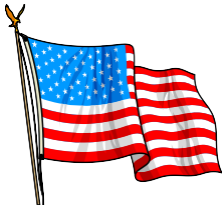
Number	80
Approximate hours worked	4,800

<u>Website hits</u>	57,423
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<u>Computer Use</u>	28,600
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Library Space/Room Use
for library programs
and by outside groups –

1,412



NORTHEAST QUABBIN VETERANS' SERVICES DISTRICT 584

FISCAL YEAR 2018

ANNUAL REPORT

To the Citizens of the Northeast Quabbin Veterans' Services District:

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts began providing for its needy veterans immediately following the Revolutionary War. In 1861, at the start of the Civil War, the state legislature formalized the assistance provided to veterans by establishing Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 115 and the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services (DVS).

DVS is the state's lead agency for overseeing the general welfare of the Commonwealth's nearly 400,000 living veterans. DVS establishes policy, proposes legislation, provides annual training, and ensures compliance with MGL Chapter 115 and other laws and regulations germane to serving veterans.

MGL Chapter 115: Section: 3B was passed into law by the Commonwealth during FY15 establishing the mandatory requirement whereby Directors of Veterans' Services/Veterans' Services Officers (VSO) must become legally certified. Mandatory recertification is required every three-years.

MGL Chapter 115 authorizes an eligible veteran to receive certain financial, medical, and other benefits earned by their military service. Services are available through the local area Director of Veterans' Services/Veterans' Services Officers living in one of the Commonwealth's 351 communities.

DISTRICT GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

The Secretary – DVS authorized the Northeast Quabbin Veterans' Services District to begin operations in January 2006. DVS requires the district to reapply every two years to continue operations. On March 7, 2017 DVS granted approval for the district to continue operating through June 30, 2019.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 115: Section 11, for every authorized district, there shall be a Board of Directors. The board consists of a representative appointed by the Board of Selectmen from each member community. The Board establishes By-Laws to define district administration and operations compliant with MGL Chapter 115.

Led by the Director of Veterans' Services, the district serves veterans and dependents having a formal residence in Athol, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston and Royalston.

VETERANS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERED BY THE DISTRICT

A. MGL Chapter 115

1. A program of financial and medical assistance that may be available to veterans and/or dependents based on eligibility requirements.
2. The following chart represents FY18 Veterans' Benefits paid, by community, to its eligible veterans and/or dependents. Benefits paid are reimbursed at
3. 75% by the commonwealth.

FY18 VETERANS' BENEFITS DATA

Town	Benefits Paid	State Reimbursements	% Reimbursed
Athol	\$203,273.24	\$152,465.07	75%
Orange	\$85,182.16	\$63,792.14	75%
Petersham	\$520.00	\$390.00	75%
Phillipston	\$8958.00	\$6718.50	75%
Royalston	\$0.00	\$0.00	75%

4. Burials in one of two Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries, Winchendon and Agawam.
5. Women Veterans' Network – Provides women veterans with information on benefits, expand awareness of the needs, and identify health and human resources to meet those needs.
6. Homeless prevention, Transitional Housing and outreach services.
7. Wartime Bonuses, Annuities, etc.
8. And more...

B. UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

1. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): Applications for Agent Orange illnesses, Mesothelioma, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Military Sexual Trauma (MST) service-connected disabilities, pensions, Dependency & Indemnity Compensation, healthcare, veterans' grave markers, and more.
 - a. VA Compensation & Benefits (VBA) paid nearly **\$7.6M** dollars in annual compensation to veterans, dependents and surviving spouses living in the district.
 - b. VA Central-Western-Massachusetts Healthcare System – Headquartered at Northampton VA Medical Center, Leeds has five Community Based Outpatient Clinics delivering medical treatment to over 25,000 veterans with an annual budget of **\$162.2M**.
2. Department of Defense (DOD): Military records; medical records; medals, decorations and awards not previously issued; applications to correct Military Records, and more.
3. Other Agencies including:
 - a. Massachusetts Department of Health & Human Services

- b. Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development
- c. U.S. Social Security Administration
- d. U.S. Department of Labor
- e. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- f. U.S. Department of Justice
- g. Other Massachusetts & U.S. Departments and Agencies.

The office has seen an increase in the numbers of veterans applying for service-connected disabilities including most notably Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Agent Orange illnesses, Mesothelioma, and more.

Veterans with service-connected disabilities are eligible for VA Healthcare. All other veterans may be eligible for VA Healthcare based on defined criteria. Due to the Affordable Care Act, wartime and peacetime veterans may qualify for VA Healthcare.

I look forward to serving veterans, spouses, surviving spouse of a deceased veteran, and dependents formally residing in one of the District's communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Fedencia P. Fitch
Director of Veteran's Services

"To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan." – A Lincoln

Serving the Towns of Athol, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston and Royalston

**SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
FISCAL YEAR 2018
ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Town Manager, Board of Selectmen, and citizens of Athol

Devices Tested	Sealed	Adjusted	Not Sealed	Condemned
Weights & scales	228	0	1	0
Gas Pumps	88	0	1	0
Fuel Trucks	5	0	0	0
Scanning systems	2	0	0	0
Bottle return	4	0	0	0

Commodities tested and found correct: 10

Fees collected amounted to \$3,943.00, which has been deposited with the town treasurer, whose receipts I hold.

The Sealer's office is in the basement of the Memorial Building. In closing, I would like to thank all businesses for their cooperation, and note that there were no major problems during the past fiscal year.

J.R. Greene
Sealer

CHAPTER FIVE

PUBLIC WORKS

Report of the
Department of Public Works

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

FISCAL YEAR 2018

ANNUAL REPORT

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of Athol:

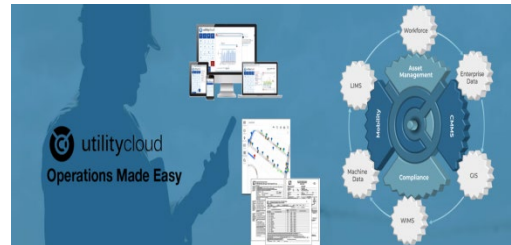
The Town of Athol Department of Public Works consists of 29 full time employees working across multiple divisions within the DPW. Highway, Cemetery/Park/Tree and Water/Sewer. The Department is fortunate to have multiple professionals representing all disciplines across the DPW keeping your water safe to drink, wastewater flowing, cemeteries and parks maintained, roads and drainage systems operational. With the passage of new laws Municipalities have been required to improve worker safety as it relates to public works projects. The Town of Athol has become a leader in the industry using existing Athol facilities to host multiple safety trainings throughout the year. These trainings provide valuable training and practical experience to our employees and surrounding communities wishing to attend. These trainings help Athol save money by reducing the Town's insurance rate. It provides the ability to apply and ultimately implement what has been learned. The DPW has applied for and received safety grants for the purchase of lifting equipment and night lighting for the DPW.



Stormwater culverts and drainage piping are in desperate need of repair Town wide. There are miles and miles of old corrugated/ribbed steel drainage culverts that have exceeded their useful life. The Town of Athol will be applying for culvert repair grant funding in the coming year but grants cannot fill the entire gap of repair and replacement of these aging and sometimes undersized culverts. We have attempted to add a small amount of funding to the DPW budget to supplement the replacement process.

The Town of Athol has hosted and participated in multiple trainings covering a wide spectrum of topics including all DPW personnel have been trained in CPR and AED portable defibrillation, Road side mowing, electrical hazards with respect to tree trimming and brush chipper training for our Cemetery/Park/Tree. Confined space, trench safety & competent person and backflow prevention training for our Water/Wastewater. UMASS Baystate Roads highway programs and Hot Box paving applications in cold weather training for our Highway. The DPW was asked to host a Department of Public Safety voluntary inspection of the Town's wastewater treatment plant. This request by the State of Massachusetts was welcomed and no violations were found at the plant. This was attended by other area communities to better understand what can be expected in future inspections.

The Athol Water Division began replacement of one of its three wells in the Tully Wellfield. This replacement well will supply the maximum allowed withdrawal and required replacement as the existing well had structural deficiencies that would not allow for proper withdrawal.



The DPW has also added a much needed position of Technology Coordinator. This position has been operational since early October. The position is tasked with inventory of all water and sewer assets including water mains, sewer collection mains, fire hydrants, pumps, motors, lift stations, and many other components too numerous to list. The process allows for the DPW to move into the technology era by loading infrastructure information and making available to field crew by iPad, iPhone saving valuable time in the event of emergencies, improving efficiency by not having to return to the office to retrieve data. The process has allowed the startup of an electronic work order system therefore streamlining work-loads. It is our hope this position will lead to also identifying all stormwater management structures logging areas of concern for repair and replacement. This program may also lead to street light identification, cemetery plots and tree work identification. Most importantly it places data in an accessible location available to multiple divisions virtually at their fingertips.

The Wastewater Division was previously recognized for an EPA excellence award and were requested to host a young professional's day at the Athol plant and this took place in the Fall of 2018. I am happy to report we are currently working with one of our UMASS attendees from the event to evaluate wastewater effluent and its effects on the Millers River. It was an excellent experience for our employees. The mixture of operators, vendors and young professionals hoping to enter into the profession allows for a crossover of thoughts and ideas with the hope that some of these folks enter the business full time. The average age of the water/wastewater operator is 60 years old nationwide.



The sewer division replaced 600' of sewer line on D Street and performed a groundwater Infiltration study of sewer manholes in the High Knob area of town. The Division continues to provide routine cleaning of troublesome areas of the sewer collection system.

Community Development Block Grant was completed on Winter & Wilder Streets this past summer. Water mains were replaced; pressure sewer mains were added to allow for residents with septic systems to tie into Town sewer. Drainage and street paving were completed in the Fall. This continues the long standing tradition of receiving this Federal Funding and putting it back into Athol neighborhoods.

The Cemetery Park & Tree Division continues to maintain 9 cemeteries, 60 acres of parks and ball fields. oversight of our operational wood bank. This wood bank recycles town wood cut and split by volunteers and can be accessed by the public through a voucher system in Town Hall. This program receives assistance from Mass DCR. This division has been kept very busy do to extreme weather events that have led to many down trees and limbs.

Projects in the Works

- Glen Street
- Marble Street
- Pleasant Street sidewalks & paving
- Doe Valley Road (portion) paving
- Exchange Street Bridge.
- Crescent Street Bridge.
- Pequig Sewer repair/replacement.
- Continued replacement/reallocation of DPW vehicles.
- Starrett Ave & McGregor Ave.

DPW Fun Facts... *Did You Know?*

- \$37,000 Complete Streets Grant to fund a prioritization plan for sidewalks
- \$ 6,000 Safety Equipment Grant
- Issued multiple street numbers & driveway permits
- Pumped 279,546 million gallons of water
- Replaced hydrants, drains, sewer manholes & patched pot holes.
- 62 Burials this year
- \$467,124 Snow & Ice removal costs
- Trucked and landfilled 200 tons of catch basin cleanings
- Athol has 110 miles of roadway to maintain.
- Over 15,000 meter readings annually
- 26 Buildings to oversee.

Respectfully Submitted with DPW pride,

Department of Public Works

“at your service”

CHAPTER SIX

ELECTIONS & TOWN MEETINGS

Report of the
Election Officers & Town Clerk

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION APRIL 2, 2018

In each precinct polling place, the polls were opened at 10:00 a.m. and the ballot box in each precinct registered 0.

Ballots received in each of the polling places were as follows:

Precinct 1: 600 Regular Ballots and 2 Absent Voter Ballots
Precinct 2: 599 Regular Ballots and 2 Absent Voter Ballots
Precinct 3: 599 Regular Ballots and 3 Absent Voter Ballots

The polls in each precinct were closed at 8:00 p.m. and after all the ballots, including absent voter ballots, were cast, the ballot boxes registered as follows:

Precinct 1: 129 on the ballot box and 0 in the side pocket.
Precinct 2: 91 on the ballot box and 0 in the side pocket
Precinct 3: 99 on the ballot box and 0 in the side pocket

The number of names checked on the voting list was as follows:

Precinct 1: On the ballot clerk's list and on the list at the ballot box : 129
Precinct 2: On the ballot clerk's list and on the list at the ballot box : 91
Precinct 3: On the ballot clerk's list and on the list at the ballot box : 99

NUMBER OF BALLOTS CAST

Precinct 1: Number of Ballots Cast, 129; Spoiled Ballots, 6; Provisional Ballots, 0; Unused Ballots, 466
Precinct 2: Number of Ballots Cast, 91; Spoiled Ballots, 1; Provisional Ballots, 0; Unused Ballots, 509
Precinct 3: Number of Ballots Cast, 99; Spoiled Ballots, 0; Provisional Ballots, 0; Unused Ballots, 503

ELECTION OFFICERS

Precinct 1: Warden (U) Patricia Kaczmarczyk; Clerk; (U) Allen Hodgdon; Inspectors: (U) Nancy Daub; (U) Chris Casella; (R) James Lake; (U) Bonnie Hodgdon; (U) Kent Hager

Precinct 2: Warden (U) Ann Shea; Clerk (U) Madeleine Andrews; Inspectors: (U) Betty Anne Smith; (U) Jean White; (U) Cathy Foster; (U) Joan Starrett; (U) Margaret Feldman; (U) Muriel Holden

Precinct 3: Warden (U) Ben Feldman; Clerk (U) Carol Bachelder; Inspectors: (U) Mary-Ann Linton; (U) Claire Butler; (D) Linda Lozier; (U) Bonnie Stewart; (U) Julia Temple; (U) David Small

Greeter: (U) Cathy Muzzy

In each precinct, all of the election officers were sworn in by the warden.
The votes were canvassed, counted, recorded and declared by law as required, and were as follows:

OFFICE/CANDIDATE				
TOTALS	1	2	3	TOTALS
MODERATOR				
LAWRENCE P. MCLAUGHLIN	113	89	86	288
JAMES MEEHAN	1	0	0	1
ALL OTHERS	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	15	2	13	30
TOTALS	129	91	99	319
SELECTMAN - 3 YEARS				
LEE E. CHAUVETTE	102	79	81	262
KENNETH DUFFY	0	1	0	1
BRIAN GELINAS	1	0	0	1
DAVID RUNYAN	1	0	0	1
ALL OTHERS	2	0	1	3
BLANKS	23	11	17	51
TOTALS	129	91	99	319
SCHOOL COMMITTEE FROM ATHOL - 3 YEARS				
JOAO M. BAPTISTA	87	72	69	228
DEBORAH B. KUZMESKAS	102	73	82	257
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	69	37	47	153
TOTALS	258	182	198	638
SCHOOL COMMITTEE FROM ATHOL - 1 YEAR				
KENNETH A. VAIDULAS	110	88	86	284
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	19	3	13	35
TOTALS	129	91	99	319
SCHOOL COMMITTEE FROM ROYALSTON - 3 YEARS				
CARLA B. RABINOWITZ	99	76	80	255
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	30	15	19	64
TOTALS	129	91	99	319
LIBRARY TRUSTEE				
FRANCIS W. FOSTER	95	71	77	243
CHRISTINE A. MIRANDA	102	80	82	264
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	61	31	39	131
TOTALS	258	182	198	638

CONSTABLE				
KENNETH A. VAIDULAS	108	87	82	277
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	21	4	17	42
TOTALS	129	91	99	319
QUESTION 1 - EXCHANGE ST. BRIDGE, DPW BARN & PLEASANT ST. SIDEWALK				
YES	88	61	66	215
NO	40	30	33	103
BLANKS	1	0	0	1
TOTALS	129	91	99	319
QUESTION 2 - REPAIRS ACCELERATED REPAIR PROJECT ATHOL HIGH SCHOOL				
YES	104	73	74	251
NO	24	18	25	67
BLANKS	1	0	0	1
TOTALS	129	91	99	319
Total # of registered voters				
Turnout	6789			
	4.75%			

We have canvassed the returns of votes cast in Precincts 1, 2, and 3, Town of Athol, and the Annual Town Election this date, and declare the foregoing to be so.

In accordance with the requirements of General Laws, chapter 51, section 61, as amended, we certify that the number of registered voters in each voting precinct in the Town of Athol at the close of registration on March 14, 2018 was as follows. viz.-

Precinct	Registered Voters
1	2365
2	2220
3	<u>2204</u>
Total	6789

Nancy E. Burnham
Hugh A. Horrigan
Gerard Lozier
REGISTRARS OF VOTERS



**TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
FALL TOWN MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2017
CERTIFICATION**

The 2017 Fall Town Meeting was held on October 16, 2017 in Memorial Hall. Voters entering the meeting were checked in on the list of registered voters and there were 68 present when the Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The number of voters checked as being present was as follows: Precinct 1, 26; Precinct 2, 24; and Precinct 3, 19. Total present: 69.

Town Clerk, Nancy Burnham, read the return of service from Constable Kevin Materas.

The Moderator called for a moment of silence for the following:

Elwin E. Bacon – He served as Constable for the Athol Conservation Area for over 40 years. The following is a true record of the votes taken at the October 16, 2017 Fall Town Meeting.

Nancy Burnham, Town Clerk swore-in the following tellers to count at Town Meeting: Heather Brissette, John Maroni and Hugh Horrigan.

Article 1 On the Motion of Kenneth Duffy, it was VOTED: That the Town of Athol amend
theAthol Zoning Bylaws Article III, by adding the following, Section 3.28, Mill
Revitalization Overlay District (MROD) to the Athol Zoning Bylaws.

Section 3.28. Mill Revitalization Overlay District

3.28.1. Purpose

The intent of this section is to create an overlay district that allows for the adaptive reuse of existing historic mills in the Town of Athol that are underutilized. These regulations are to encourage redevelopment by providing greater flexibility for redevelopment of large scale, underutilized historic mill properties while upholding the interests of public health, safety, and welfare through guidelines for neighborhood compatibility and other standards.

The Mill Revitalization Overlay District is intended to:

- Promote the economic health and vitality of the Town by encouraging the preservation, reuse and redevelopment of underutilized historic mill properties;
- Allow for the conversion of Athol's existing historic mills in a way that preserves the character of nearby residential and commercial neighborhoods; and

- Encourage mixed-use development that includes, but is not limited to light manufacturing, offices, commercial, retail and/or service establishments, community facilities, and multi-family housing.

3.28.2 General

The Mill Revitalization Overlay District (MROD) is hereby established as an overlay district. All requirements pertaining to the underlying district(s) shall continue to be in full force and effect, except where these regulations supersede such underlying requirements or provide an alternate to such requirements. Existing mill structures of more than twenty thousand (20,000) square feet of floor area can be converted to a Mixed Use Development subject to the requirements of this Section 3.28. An historic mill is defined as an existing structure at least 50 years old that was at one time used for manufacturing and has historic value to the Town of Athol. Where a Special Permit is required for any of the provisions of this MROD Zoning Bylaw or underlying district zoning requirement, the Board of Planning and Community Development shall act as the Special Permit Granting Authority.

One of the purposes of this bylaw is to retain large mill structures on the site as historic resources. To that end, pre-existing buildings that are part of the MROD development shall retain their original external look and form and feel consistent with their historic character to the greatest extent possible.

Demolition of any structure or portion thereof that totals greater than 5% of the existing mill complex square footage shall require a Special Permit.

3.28.3 Location

The MROD is located and bounded as shown on a map entitled "Mill Revitalization Overlay District (MROD), Athol, MA, prepared by the Director of Planning and Community Development, dated June 7, 2017," and on file with the offices of the Town Clerk, Building Department and Planning and Development. Inclusion of additional parcels in the Town of Athol for other mill buildings may be added in the future subject to approval by 2/3 of Athol Town Meeting Voters.

3.28.4 Application Procedures

3.28.4.1 Single Point of Contact

The Director of Planning and Community Development shall serve as the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for all parties for all projects submitted under the MROD Bylaw. All submissions, applications, plans, drawings, etc. shall be submitted to the SPOC, who will then distribute to the appropriate town officials and boards within three (3) business days (unless a greater time period is agreed upon by the Applicant). It shall be the responsibility of the Town officials and boards to provide their comment and input to the SPOC who will provide the Applicant with a consolidated report.

3.28.4.2 Pre-Application Review Meeting

Any applicant for a Mill Revitalization Overlay District project is strongly encouraged to present general sketches to the Town of Athol prior to an official application in an informal capacity. This process shall be in the format of a pre-application review meeting to take place during normal business hours and include the Director of Planning and Community Development, the Town Manager, Building Inspector, and representation from the Board of Planning and Community Development, Conservation Commission, Department of Public Works, Fire Department, Police Department, Board of Selectmen, Historical Commission, and Board of Health.

3.28.4.3 Site Plan Review process. The application procedures, plan requirements and Board of Planning and Community Development Action process under Section 3.18 shall govern the MROD application process with the exception of having a SPOC per Section 3.28.4.1.

3.28.4.4 Fees

Application fees charged for minor or major site plan review within the MROD shall be consistent with the standard fee as established by the Board of Planning and Community Development for non-MROD developments but shall have a maximum fee of \$5,000.00.

3.28.5 Uses

3.28.5.1 Within a MROD, all of the use provisions of the underlying zoning district shall apply, except for the following uses which shall be allowed by-right:

- multi-family over two families,
- Residential use of upper floors in building used for commercial purposes
- artist's and hand craft lofts,
- dance studios
- music academies,
- Art center,
- Community Center, and
- Re-occupation of space previously approved as part of a Special Permit for any use customarily allowed by-right or by Special Permit within the MROD overlay;

3.28.6 Dimensional Requirements

Renovation or redevelopment of existing structures within the MROD are exempt from Section 2.6, Intensity of Use Schedule. New additions or structures added within the MROD development must meet the required setback distance and height requirements of Section 2.6. However, the Special Permit Granting Authority may reduce front, side and rear yard setbacks, minimum lot area, and minimum frontage to as low as zero feet as part of a Special Permit. If a new subdivision of existing parcels is created with reduced frontage, approval by the SPGA is required and shall include an agreement that provides for cross-parking and access among the lot(s) with adequate access ensured from the public way to said lot(s).

3.28.7 Number of Parking Spaces

The applicant shall provide adequate parking to serve all anticipated uses on the property, with information detailing the method of computation of parking spaces. In lieu of the requirements of Section 3.6 Parking, the number of parking spaces shall be computed using the following: 1.2 spaces per residential dwelling unit and 1.5 spaces for each one thousand (1,000) square feet of other permitted uses. The Special Permit Granting Authority may reduce the required number of parking spaces where the applicant demonstrates that an adequate number of spaces will be provided. For example, parking for non-competing uses such as daytime commercial/business uses and nighttime residential may be shared. In a MROD Development, parking shall not be required to be maintained upon the same lot but must be within 1,000 feet of the property which it is intended to serve, measured from property line to property line. The minimum dimensions for off-street parking spaces, exclusive of drives and maneuvering spaces, shall be as follows:

Space	Equivalent 90° Width	Equivalent 90° Depth
Regular	8 1/2 feet	18 feet
Compact Car	7 1/2 feet	16 feet
Handicapped	12 feet	18 feet

In all parking facilities, a combination of regular and compacted spaces may be provided; however, no more than thirty-five (35) percent of the required spaces shall be designated for compact cars.

3.28.8 Loading Requirements – A minimum of 1 shared loading berth shall be provided. Additional loading berths may be required by the Special Permit Granting Authority based on projected uses and the need for adequate off street loading and unloading.

3.28.9 Signs

In lieu of the requirements of Section 3.9 of the Zoning By-law, signs for a MROD Development shall comply with the standards hereby enumerated below. The set of sign types indicated in numbers 1-6 shall also require a Building Permit in addition to meeting these zoning requirements.

1. Principal signs are those located at the main entrance of a building and shall not exceed 10% of the area of the wall to which they are affixed. The area of the sign shall be calculated inclusive of any lettering or logos.
2. Signs affixed to a building in a parallel manner shall not extend more than twelve (12) inches from the wall to which they are affixed. Signs affixed to a building in a perpendicular manner shall not extend above the height of the building.
3. Roof mounted signs existing prior to the date this By-law was adopted and in existence prior to the redevelopment of an MROD site are grandfathered and can remain or be replaced by a sign of equivalent or smaller size. Wording, logos, or other content on a grandfathered sign can be changed from time to time as uses and names change. Sign content shall be for identification purposes only.
4. Secondary signs are allowed at side entrances of the building. These signs shall not occupy more than 10% of the wall to which they are affixed.

5. Free-standing signs shall be permitted to be maintained at the vehicular entrances to a MROD Development, provided the height of such ground sign shall not exceed twenty (24) feet and the sign area shall not exceed 150 square feet per side. Signs shall be placed such that they do not block vehicular or pedestrian visibility causing an unsafe condition.
6. Directional signs within the parking areas shall be permitted. Off-site directional signs shall be permitted in accordance with Section 3.9.1.6.
7. Lighting for signs shall be provided by steady illumination internal to the advertising matter, by steady backlighting, or by lighting exterior to the advertising matter by white steady stationary light shielded and directed solely at the sign. Signs illuminated internally or by backlighting shall be illuminated, situated or screened so as to avoid causing glare into neighboring residential premises that existed at the time this By-law was adopted.
8. Flashing or animated signs, strings of flags, spinners or other similar devices which tend to divert the attention of motorists shall not be permitted.
9. Temporary signs shall be allowed (up to 12 months) per the following:

SIGN TYPE	NUMBER PERMITTED	MAXIMUM SIZE IN SQUARE FEET	LOCATION/OTHER	TYPE OF PERMIT
a.Sale or Rent	2		Unlighted	None
b.Construction	1		Unlighted	None
c.Window	Unlimited		Illuminated by Bldg	None
d.Special Event	2	32 sq. ft.	Unlighted	On-site: None Off-site:Board of Selectmen
e.Directionals	Unlimited	40 sq. ft.	Unlighted	Building
f.Political	Unlimited		Unlighted	None
g.Banners			Unlighted	Building

Signs for an MROD Development that do not comply in all respects with the standards set forth above in this section 3.28.8 shall require and be subject to the issuance of a signage special permit by the Special Permit Granting Authority. In granting any such permit the Special Permit Granting Authority shall find that the location, nature, and use of the premises are such that the proposed sign or signs may be permitted in harmony with the general purpose and intent of this Section. In granting any such permit, the Authority shall specify the size, height, type, and location of the sign and impose such other terms, restrictions, and conditions as it may deem to be in the public interest.

3.28.10 Special Permit Procedures. Where an application for a Special Permit is required as part of permitting a MROD development, said application shall be filed in accordance with the requirements of the underlying zoning that applies to the special permit requirement and the

Board of Planning and Community Development Filing Requirements & Fees, as most recently adopted, with the exception of having a SPOC per Section 3.28.4.1.

3.28.11 Special Permit Criteria. In addition to the findings required in Section 1.2.6.2, the Special Permit Granting Authority, as designated pursuant to Section 3.28.2, must also find that the proposal does not contravene the purposes of this section.

Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was unanimous.

Article 2 On the Motion of Ben J. Feldman, it was **VOTED**: That the Town will amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws Article III Sections 3.18.6.1(2) and (3), by deleting the following language:

(2) Applicants for Minor Site Plan Approval shall submit a copy of the Site Plan and narrative as defined in sections 3.18.6.3 and 3.18.6.4, to the Town Clerk. Applicants shall also submit a copy of the Site Plan and narrative as defined in 3.18.6.3 and 3.18.6.4 to the Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Historical Commission, Department of Public Works, Fire Chief, Zoning Agent/Building Inspector and Police Chief for their advisory review and comments.

(3) The applicant shall submit proof of receipt from all of the departments listed above together with eight (8) copies of the application to the Town Clerk who will deliver seven (7) copies to the Planning Board. In addition, the application submission to the Town Clerk shall also include a labeled or clearly marked electronic copy (CD or other medium) of all materials with each submittal.

And replacing it with the following:

(2) Applicants for Minor Site Plan Approval shall submit a total of sixteen (16) copies of the Site Plan and narrative as defined in sections 3.18.6.3 and 3.18.6.4 with the Board of Planning and Community Development. The Office of the Board of Planning and Community Development shall acknowledge receipt of these plans by endorsing them by signature and the date of receipt. One copy of the site plan, application form and narrative, along with the filing fee shall be given by the applicant to the Town Clerk to be kept on file. The date of the receipt by the Town Clerk shall be the official filing date. In addition, the application submission to the Town Clerk shall also include a labeled or clearly marked electronic copy (CD or other medium) of all materials with each submittal.

(3). The Office of the Board of Planning and Community Development shall distribute copies of the Site Plan and narrative to the following municipal departments, boards and commissions for review and comment: Conservation Commission, Building Inspector/Zoning Agent, Department of Public Works, Board of Health, Board of Selectmen, Fire Department, Police Department, and Historical Commission.

Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was unanimous.

Article 3 On the Motion of Paul W. Nelson, it was **VOTED:** That the Town will to amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws Article III Sections 3.18.7.1(3) and (4), by deleting the following language:

(3) Applicants for Major Site Plan Approval shall submit a copy of the Site Plan and narrative as defined in sections 3.18.7.3 and 3.18.7.4 to the Town Clerk. Applicants shall also submit a copy of the Site Plan and narrative as defined in sections 3.18.7.3 and 3.18.7.4 to the Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Historical Commission, Department of Public Works, Fire Chief, Zoning Agent/Building Inspector and Police Chief for their advisory review and comments.

(4) The applicant shall submit proof of receipt from the all of departments listed above together with eight (8) copies of the application to the Town Clerk who will deliver seven (7) copies to the Planning Board. In addition, the application submission to the Town Clerk shall also include a labeled or clearly marked electronic copy (CD or other medium) of all materials with each submittal.

And replacing it with the following:

(3) Applicants for Major Site Plan Approval shall submit a total of sixteen (16) copies of the Site Plan and narrative as defined in sections 3.18.7.3 and 3.18.7.4 with the Board of Planning and Community Development. The Office of the Board of Planning and Community Development shall acknowledge receipt of these plans by endorsing them by signature and the date of receipt. One copy of the site plan, application form and narrative, along with the filing fee shall be given by the applicant to the Town Clerk to be kept on file. The date of the receipt by the Town Clerk shall be the official filing date. In addition, the application submission to the Town Clerk shall also include a labeled or clearly marked electronic copy (CD or other medium) of all materials with each submittal.

(4). The Office of the Board of Planning and Community Development shall distribute copies of the Site Plan and narrative to the following municipal departments, boards and commissions for review and comment: Conservation Commission, Building Inspector/Zoning Agent, Department of Public Works, Board of Health, Board of Selectmen, Fire Department, Police Department, and Historical Commission.

Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was unanimous.

Article 4 On the Motion of Michael J. Butler, it was **VOTED:** That the Town amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws Article II Section 2.3, Other Uses by changing the permitted use category of Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations by deleting the following language:

2.3 Use Regulation Schedule	RA	RB	RC	CA	CB	G	I
Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

And replacing it with the following:

Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was unanimous.

Article 5 On the Motion of Amy Craven, it was **VOTED:** That the Town amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws Article III Section 3.24.2 by adding the following language:

This bylaw does not pertain to solar carport canopies over existing rows of parking spaces. Such installations are considered Accessory Uses under Section 2.3 and are subject to the State Building Code.

Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was unanimous.

Article 6 On the Motion of Gary Deyo, it was **VOTED:** That the Town amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws Article III Section 3.24.8.1 by deleting the following language:

3.24.8.1 Setbacks: For ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations, front, side and rear setbacks must observe all yard requirements applicable to the principal structure as defined in section 2.6, Intensity of Use Schedule. The Permit Granting Authority may increase these setbacks if they determine it to be appropriate.

And replacing it with the following:

3.24.8.1 Setbacks: For ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations, front, side and rear setbacks must observe all yard requirements applicable to the principal structure as defined in section 2.6, Intensity of Use Schedule, for all zoning districts except the Rural Single-Family Residential (RC) Zoning District. The Permit Granting Authority may increase these setbacks in these districts if they determine it to be appropriate. For ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations in the RC Zoning District front, side, and rear setbacks are all required to be at least 75 feet. The Permit Granting Authority may reduce the minimum setback distance in the RC District as appropriate based on project and site-specific considerations, such as solar array type, topography, tree cover, etc., to allow for consideration of factors that may mitigate glare and other impacts to abutters, e.g. topography, tree cover, solar array technology, etc., which may reduce visual impacts, or written consent of the affected abutter(s), if the project satisfies all other criteria for the granting of a building permit under the provisions of this section. In no case, however, shall the front, side or rear yard setback be less than the setbacks of the RC zoning district per Section 2.6.

Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was unanimous.

Article 7 On the Motion of Kenneth Duffy, it was **VOTED:** That the Town amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws Article III Section 3.24.8 by adding the following language, creating subsection 3:

3.24.8.3 Lot Size Requirements.

Ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall be permitted on lots larger than 5 acres in the Rural Single-Family Residential (RC) Zoning District. In all other districts, the minimum lot area requirements of Section 2.6 shall apply.

Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was unanimous.

Article 8 On the Motion of Ben J. Feldman, it was **VOTED:** That the Town will amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws Article III Section 3.24.9 by adding the following language, creating subsection 4:

3.24.9.4 Design Siting Criteria for Agricultural or Existing Open Space Locations

In consideration of approving ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations on land that is in agricultural use, prime agricultural farmland, or other pervious open space locations, the Planning Board has developed the following design criteria in siting such installations:

- a) no removal of all field soils;
- b) existing leveled field areas left as is without disturbance;
- c) where soils need to be leveled and smoothed, such as filling potholes or leveling, this shall be done with minimal overall impact with all displaced soils returned to the areas affected;
- d) ballasts, screw-type, or post driven pilings and other acceptable minimal soil impact methods that do not require footings or other permanent penetration of soils for mounting are required, unless the need for such can be demonstrated;
- e) any soil penetrations that may be required for providing system foundations necessary for additional structural loading or for providing system trenching necessary for electrical routing shall be done with minimal soils disturbance, with any displaced soils to be temporary and recovered and returned after penetration and trenching work is completed;
- f) no concrete or asphalt in the mounting area other than ballasts or other code required surfaces, such as transformer or electric gear pads;
- g) address existing soil and water resource concerns that may be impacted to ensure the installation does not disturb an existing soil and water conservation plan or to avoid creating a negative impact to soil and water conservation best management practices, such as stimulating erosion or water run-off conditions;
- h) limited use of geotextile fabrics; and maintain vegetative cover to prevent soil erosion

Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was unanimous.

Article 9 On the Motion of Paul W. Nelson, it was **VOTED:** That the Town amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws Article III Section 3.24.10 by adding the following language, creating subsection 3:

3.24.10.3 Landscaping and Screening.

Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations shall be screened from view by a staggered and grouped planting of shrubs and small trees. Such plantings shall use native plants and a mix of deciduous and evergreen species and may be located within the setback area. The species mix and depth of screening shall be determined by the Planning Board during site plan review based on site specific conditions with existing natural vegetation being used to the greatest extent possible.

Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was unanimous.

Article 10 On the Motion of Michael J. Butler, it was **VOTED:** That the Town amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws Article III Section 3.24.10 by adding the following language, creating subsection 4:

3.24.10.4 Control of Vegetation

Herbicides may not be used to control vegetation at the solar electric installation. Mowing and grazing underneath the solar array are possible alternatives.

Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was 47 yes and 9 no.

Article 11 On the Motion of Amy Craven, it was **VOTED:** That the Town amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws Article III Section 3.24 by re-numbering the existing section entitled, Section 3.24.13 Severability, to a new Section 3.24.15:

3.24.15 Severability

If any provision of this bylaw is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the bylaw shall not be affected thereby.

Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was unanimous.

Article 12 On the Motion of Gary Deyo, it was **VOTED:** That the Town amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws Article III Section 3.24 by adding the following language, creating section 3.24.13 Waivers:

3.24.13 Waivers

1. The Planning Board may waive strict compliance with any requirement of the Design Standards, Safety and Environmental Standards section of this bylaw, or any rules and regulations promulgated hereunder, where:

(a) Such action is allowed by federal, state and local statutes and/or regulations;

(b) It is in the public interest:

(c) It is not inconsistent with the purpose and intent of this by-law.

2. Any applicant may submit a written request to be granted such a waiver. Such a request shall be accompanied by an explanation or documentation supporting the waiver request and demonstrating that strict application of the by-laws does not further the purposes or objectives of this by-law.
3. All waiver requests shall be discussed and voted on by the Planning Board.

If the Planning Board deems additional time or information is required in the review of a waiver request, the Planning Board may continue the request for a waiver.

Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was unanimous.

Article 13 On the Motion of Kenneth Duffy, it was **VOTED:** That the Town amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws Article III Section 3.24 by adding the following language, creating section 3.24.14 Rules and Regulations:

3.24.14 Rules and Regulations

The Planning Board may adopt, and from time to time amend, Rules and Regulations consistent with the provisions of this bylaw and G.L. c. 40A and other provisions of the General Laws, including the Subdivision Rules and Regulations of Town of Athol, Massachusetts, and shall file a copy of said Rules and Regulations with the Town Clerk. Said Rules and Regulations may provide for an application fee schedule for ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation application submittals and methods for calculating the financial surety required under Section 3.24.12.3. *Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was unanimous.*

Article 14 On the Motion of Ben J. Feldman, it was **VOTED:** That the Town transfer \$10,707.88 from the Board of Selectmen – Insurance line item to pay a fiscal year 2016 invoice from Cabot Risk Strategies. *Required a 9/10's vote. The vote was unanimous.*

Article 15 On the Motion of Paul Nelson, it was **VOTED:** That the Town transfer \$9,285.66 from Retirement – Employee Retirement line item to pay fiscal year 2014 and 2015 invoices from the Worcester Regional Retirement System. *Required a 9/10's vote. The vote was unanimous.*

Article 16 On the Motion of Michael J. Butler, it was **VOTED:** That the Town transfer \$25,110 from the capital stabilization fund to pay its portion of costs for a feasibility study of Athol High School for the Massachusetts School Building Assistance program. *Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was unanimous.*

Article 17 On the Motion of Amy Craven, it was **VOTED:** That the Town amend Article 8 of the June 11, 2012 Annual Town Meeting and repurpose \$35,000 to replace the boiler at

Pleasant Street School to fund general repairs at Pleasant Street School. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 18 On the motion of Gary Deyo, it was **VOTED:** That the Town transfer \$25,000 from the capital stabilization fund to pay costs associated with centralizing police, fire and emergency medical dispatch functions at the Athol Police Department. *Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was unanimous.*

Article 19 On the Motion of Ben J. Feldman, it was **VOTED:** That the Town raise and appropriate from taxation the sum of \$54,000 for the following items:

\$12,000 to Fire Department – firefighter salaries

\$42,000 to Police Department – dispatcher salaries

Passed by a majority vote.

Article 20 On the Motion of Paul Nelson, it was **VOTED:** That the Town amend Section IV Compensation Schedule of the Personnel Bylaws by deleting the following language:

Hourly Paid Employees	Minimum	Maximum
Dispatchers, Part Time	9.73	15.00

and replacing it with the following:

Hourly Paid Employees	Minimum	Maximum
Dispatchers, Part Time	Minimum Wage	Step 1 Dispatcher Rate per collective bargaining agreement

Passed by a majority vote.

Article 21 On the Motion of Michael J. Butler, it was **VOTED:** That the Town authorize and direct the Board of Selectmen to file with the Massachusetts Legislature a petition for special legislation to remove the Part-Time Officers of the Athol Police Department from the provisions of M.G.L. c. 31, the civil service law and the regulations promulgated thereunder, provided that such legislation shall not impair the civil service status of incumbents in the position of fulltime and part-time police officers upon the effective date of such legislation. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Meeting dissolved at 8:22 pm

Attest:

Nancy E. Burnham, CMC/CMMC
Town Clerk

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

MARCH 5, 2018

The 2018 Special Town Meeting was held on March 5, 2018 in Memorial Hall. Voters entering the meeting were checked in on the list of registered voters and there were 156 present when the Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The number of voters checked as being present was as follows: Precinct 1, 69; Precinct 2, 49; and Precinct 3, 43. Total present: 161.

Town Clerk, Nancy Burnham, read the return of service from Constable Randy Mitchell.

The Moderator called for a moment of silence for the following:

Charles J. "Chuck" Winn – He was a member of several boards and committees in town including: Athol Housing Authority, Contributory Retirement Board, Program for the Performing Arts and the Industrial Park Committee.

Norman F. Harrow – He was a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals from 2002-2010.

Glenn R. Frenette – He was a member of the Traffic Safety Committee from 2004-2010 and the Memorial Building Committee from 2005-2010.

Michael J. Verock – He served the Commonwealth for 20 years retiring as a Sergeant for the Massachusetts State Police. He served as a Constable for the Town of Athol from 1996-2009.

The following is a true record of the votes taken at the March 5, 2018 Special Town Meeting.

Nancy Burnham, Town Clerk sworn in the following tellers to count at Town Meeting: Paul Blanchard, Gerard Lozier and Hugh Horrigan.

Article 1 On the Motion of Kenneth Duffy, it was **VOTED:** That the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of by sale or lease a portion or the entirety of the land and improvements known as the former Pleasant Street School, 1060 Pleasant Street, Athol, as shown on Athol Assessors Map 47, Lot 29, and Map 47, Lot 35. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 2 On the Motion of Ben J. Feldman, it was **VOTED:** That the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to lease a portion of the former municipal landfill site known and numbered at 1010 West Royalston Road, Athol, as shown on Athol Assessors Map 1, Lot 69, for any lawful purpose, for a term of up to 30 years. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 3 On the Motion of Michael J. Butler, it was **VOTED:** That the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of by sale, lease or gift, the so-called Bates Power Reservoir Dam and property, located in Phillipston, as shown on Phillipston Assessors Map 35, Lot 33. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 4

On the Motion of Paul W. Nelson, it was **VOTED**: That the Town appropriates the following sums of money for the following purposes:

- a) \$2,640,000 to pay costs of designing, engineering and undertaking repairs to the Exchange Street Bridge,
- b) \$575,000 to pay costs of replacing the roof of the DPW Barn; and
- c) \$280,000 to pay costs of constructing and reconstructing the Pleasant Street sidewalk from Main Street to the school campus access, including for each project the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amounts under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. No amounts shall be borrowed or expended hereunder unless the Town shall have voted to exclude the amounts required to repay any such borrowing from the limits on total property taxes set forth in M.G.L. c. 59, §21C (Proposition 2 ½). Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with M.G.L. c.44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount. *Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was 134 yes and 6 no.*

Article 5

On the Motion of Amy Craven, it was **VOTED**: That the Town hereby approves the \$10,016,786 borrowing authorized by the Athol-Royalston Regional School District, for the purpose of paying costs of an accelerated repair project at the Athol High School, located at 2363 Main Street, Athol, Massachusetts, consisting of the repair/replacement of the roof, windows, boiler and exterior doors of the building, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended at the direction of the School Committee; that the Town acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities; provided further that any grant that District may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) seventy-nine and fifty-eight hundredths percent (79.58%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; provided that the approval of the District's borrowing by this vote shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt its allocable share of the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes

imposed by M.G.L. 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2 1/2); and that the amount of borrowing authorized by the District shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA. *Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was 140 yes and 3 no.*

Article 6 On the Motion of Gary H. Deyo, it was **VOTED:** That the Town amend Section IV of Chapter IX of the bylaws relating to the Administration of Personnel by deleting the following:

<u>Hourly Paid Employees</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Custodian	7.14	12.24
Library Technicians	10.20	14.11
Library Pages	6.89	7.14

And replace with the following:

<u>Hourly Paid Employees</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Custodian	MA Minimum Wage	Grade 3, Step 7 per SEIU collective bargaining agreement
Library Technicians (part-time)	MA Minimum Wage	Grade 3, Step 7 per SEIU collective bargaining agreement
Library Pages	MA Minimum Wage	Grade 3, Step 1 per SEIU collective bargaining agreement

Passed by a majority vote.

ARTICLE 7 ***No Motion. No Action*** taken on “To see if the Town will vote to rescind Article 5 of the March 20, 1916 Annual Town Meeting to include Full-Time Officers of the Athol Police Department under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 31, the civil service law and the regulations promulgated thereunder, provided that such action shall not impair the civil service status of incumbents in the position of full-time police officers on the effective date of such action; *or take any action in relation thereto.*”

ARTICLE 8 ***No Motion. No Action*** taken on “To see if the Town will vote to authorize and direct the Board of Selectmen to file with the Massachusetts Legislature a petition for special legislation to remove the Full-Time Officers of the Athol Police Department from the provisions of M.G.L. c. 31, the civil service law and the regulations promulgated thereunder, provided that such legislation shall not impair the civil service status of incumbents in the position of full-time police officers upon the effective date of such legislation; *or take any action in relation thereto.*”

ARTICLE 9 On the Motion of Kenneth Duffy, it was **VOTED**: That the Town accept the provisions of MGL c. 64N, section 3 and impose a local sales tax upon the sale of recreational marijuana originating within the Town by a vendor at a rate of three (3%) percent of the gross receipts of the vendor from the sale of recreational marijuana, marijuana products, marijuana edibles and ancillary products, said excise to take effect on the first day of the calendar quarter commencing at least thirty days after such vote by Town Meeting. *Passed by a majority vote.*

ARTICLE 10 On the Motion of Kenneth Duffy, it was **VOTED**: That the Town amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws, Article 1, Administration and Procedure, to create a new Section 1.7, Severability, as follows:

“1.7 Severability: The provisions of this zoning bylaw are severable. In the event that any provision of this zoning bylaw is determined to be invalid for any reason, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect. *Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was 128 yes and 4 no.*

ARTICLE 11 On the Motion of Amy Craven, it was **VOTED**: That the Town amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws Article III Section 3.26.4.1, by deleting the following:

3.26.4.1 Registered Marijuana Dispensaries, sited in the General Commercial (G) or Industrial Commercial (I) zoning districts, which

- dispense marijuana
- cultivate marijuana at an outdoor location shall not be located within 500 feet of the following:
 - a. A residential dwelling
 - b. A structure used for educational or religious purposes
 - c. A structure or parcel owned, operated or maintained by the federal government, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or the Town of Athol for use by, or with activities open to the general public, such as a library, municipal building, park, playground or recreational area
 - d. A structure or parcel used for a licensed childcare facility registered with the town
 - e. Any facility in which children commonly congregate
 - f. Any establishment that serves or sells alcoholic beverages that are consumed on the premises, except restaurants

And replace with the following:

3.26.4.1 Registered Marijuana Dispensaries, sited in the General Commercial (G) or Industrial Commercial (I) zoning districts, which

- dispense marijuana
- cultivate marijuana at an outdoor location shall not be located within the following distances:
 - a. Five hundred (500 feet) from a structure used as a pre-school with outdoor play areas that is licensed with the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care or a private or public school providing education in kindergarten or any of grades 1 through 12.

- b. Two-hundred and fifty (250) feet from the following Town of Athol-owned parks, playgrounds and/or recreational areas:

- i. Alan E. Rich Environmental Park
- ii. Fish Park
- iii. Lake Ellis Park
- iv. Lake Park
- v. Millers River Park
- vi. Silver Lake Park
- vii. Uptown Common

Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was 127 yes and 5 no.

ARTICLE 12 On the Motion of Gary H. Deyo, it was **VOTED**: That the Town of Athol amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws Article III, Section 3.26.4.2, Measure of Distance, by deleting the following:

3.26.4.2 Measure of Distance: The distance specified above shall be measured by a straight line from the point of the structure for which the proposed Registered Marijuana Dispensary is to be located, which is nearest the point of the other designated uses set forth above.

And replace with the following:

3.26.4.2 Measure of Distance: The distance specified above shall be measured by a straight line from the point of the front door for which the proposed Registered Marijuana Dispensary establishment is to be located to the property line for the lot of the school structure, or park, playground or other recreational area.

Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was 136 yes and 1 no.

ARTICLE 13: On the Motion of Michael J. Butler and amended by Shaun A. Suhoski, it was **VOTED**: That the Town amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws Article III, by adding a new stand-alone section, Section 3.29, Licensed Marijuana Establishments, to the Athol Zoning Bylaws, as follows:

3.29 Licensed Marijuana Establishments

3.29.1 Purpose and Intent

3.29.1.1 The purpose and intent of this bylaw is to provide criteria for the placement of Licensed Marijuana Establishments (LME) in the Town of Athol and to ensure that proper security measures are in place in order to prevent adverse impacts on public health, property values of residential and commercial properties, the business climate and the general quality of life in the community.

3.29.1.2 Massachusetts General laws Chapter 94 G Section 3 sets forth the framework for the adoption of zoning provisions by municipalities that "impose reasonable safeguards on the operation of marijuana establishments provided they are not unreasonably impracticable" and are not in conflict with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 94G, which is for the regulation of the use and distribution of

marijuana not medically prescribed, and regulations promulgated by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission. This zoning bylaw provides criteria for the siting of Licensed Marijuana Establishments in the Town of Athol for these purposes.

3.29.2 Licensed Marijuana Establishment by Special Permit

3.29.2.1 A Licensed Marijuana Establishment in the Town of Athol shall require a Special Permit from the Athol Board of Planning and Community Development (BPCD).

3.29.2.2 Licensed Marijuana Establishments that involve the retail sales, testing, cultivation, processing, distribution, and or any other of marijuana and/or other licensed marijuana related business or businesses, shall be allowed by Special Permit only in the following zoning districts:

- Central Commercial (CA)
- General Commercial (G)
- Industrial Commercial (I)
-

3.29.2.3 Onsite consumption of marijuana is not permitted at any Licensed Marijuana Establishment.

3.29.2.4 A special permit must be approved for each Licensed Marijuana Establishment location.

3.29.2.5 No activity shall be conducted at the Licensed Marijuana Establishment other than that for which the special permit has been issued.

3.29.2.6 The Special Permit shall not be reassigned or transferred.

3.29.2.7 Any special permit granted for a Licensed Marijuana Establishment shall:

- Be specific to the applicant, shall be in effect concurrent with the applicant's ownership or leasehold on the property and shall expire upon expiration of the applicant's lease or upon sale or transfer of the applicant's property or business.
- Expire upon the expiration or termination of the applicant's License by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission
-

3.29.2.8 A new Special Permit application or Special Permit application for renewal must be submitted and approved for a Marijuana Establishment to continue operations in the event of a lapsed Special Permit.

3.29.2.9 The holder of the Special Permit shall notify the Zoning Enforcement Officer and the Board of Planning and Community Development in writing within 48 hours of the cessation of operation of the Licensed Marijuana Establishment or the expiration or termination of the Special Permit holder's License with the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission.

3.29.3 Standards and Conditions

3.29.3.1 Setbacks: Licensed Marijuana Establishments shall not be located within the following distances:

- c. Five hundred (500 feet) from a structure used as a pre-school with outdoor play areas that is licensed with the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care or a private or public school providing education in kindergarten or any of grades 1 through 12.
- d. Two-hundred and fifty (250) feet from the following Town of Athol-owned parks, playgrounds and/or recreational areas:
 - i. Alan E. Rich Environmental Park
 - ii. Fish Park
 - iii. Lake Ellis Park
 - iv. Lake Park
 - v. Millers River Park
 - vi. Silver Lake Park
 - vii. Uptown Common

3.29.3.2 Measure of Distance: The distances specified above shall be measured by a straight line from the point of the front door for which the proposed Licensed Marijuana Establishment is to be located to the property line for the lot of the school structure, or park, playground or other recreational area.

3.29.3.3 Off street parking for licensed marijuana establishment shall be provided in accordance with the most applicable provisions of Section 3.6 Parking Requirements.

3.29.3.4 No licensed marijuana establishment may be located in a building or structure that contains the following uses:

- a. Residential dwellings or group homes
- b. A licensed childcare facility registered with the town
- c. A structure or parcel owned, operated or maintained by the federal government
- d. A structure used for educational or religious purposes
- e. A structure where children commonly congregate

3.29.3.5 The hours of operation for marijuana retailers shall be established by the Special Permit Granting Authority, but in no event shall a facility be open to the public beyond the following operating hours: 10:00am-8:00pm Monday-Saturday and 12:00pm-6:00pm Sunday.

3.29.3.6 No odor from marijuana or its processing shall be detected by a person with an unimpaired and otherwise normal sense of smell at the exterior of the Licensed Marijuana Establishment or at any adjoining use or property.

3.29.3.7 No marijuana product or any accessory paraphernalia shall be visible to the general public from the exterior of the building or property line.

3.29.3.8 All licensed marijuana retailer dispensaries shall be required to have a double door entry system. The first door can be unlocked, but the second door must have a secured entry with persons of only legal age allowed to enter.

3.29.4 Licensed Marijuana Establishment Security Requirements

3.29.4.1 The applicant for a special permit for a Licensed Marijuana Establishment shall provide the Athol Police Department with the following information:

- a. All information described in section 3.26.5.1 a – i.
- b. All information necessary to demonstrate compliance with 935 CMR 500.110, Security Requirements for Marijuana Establishments and other relevant security regulations that may be promulgated by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission for Licensed Marijuana Establishments.

3.29.4.2 The Athol Police Department shall provide the applicant documentation that the information in section 3.26.5.1 has been provided and the date it was received.

3.29.4.3 The Athol Police Department shall have thirty (30) days to review the information provided by the applicant. Upon completion of the review period, if the Athol Police Department determines that additional security requirements not addressed in 105 CMR 725.110 are warranted, they shall inform the applicant and the BPCD in writing.

3.29.5 Licensed Marijuana Establishment Special Permit/Site Plan Approval Application Requirements.

3.29.5.1 Applications for Licensed Marijuana Establishments Special Permit and Site Plan Review (if required) shall include all the submission requirements for Site Plan Review in Sections 3.18.7.3 and 3.18.7.4 unless the certain non-applicable requirements are waived by the Board of Planning and Community Development and the following additional information:

- a. Address of the Licensed Marijuana Establishment
- b. A statement declaring the activities that will be conducted at the Licensed Marijuana Establishment which shall include one or more of the following:
 - i. dispensing marijuana
 - ii. cultivating marijuana
 - iii. processing marijuana
 - iv. testing of marijuana
 - v. marijuana distribution facility
 - vi. other licensed marijuana business or businesses

- c. Name, address and phone number of the legal owner of the Licensed Marijuana Establishment - The individual(s) or entity issued, or applying for, the Certificate of Registration from the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission
- d. Name, address and phone number of the legal owner of the property
- e. Name, address, phone number, and after-hours contact information of the manager of the Licensed Marijuana Establishment
- f. Description and illustration of the physical layout of the premises
- g. Plan and accompanying documentation on how the applicant will address and mitigate odor control at the premises.
- h. The applicant shall submit a line queue plan to ensure the movement of pedestrian and/or vehicle traffic along the public right of ways and on the premises will be adequately addressed.
- i. Documentation of Athol Police Department's receipt of the information listed in Section 3.29.4.1

3.29.5.2 The applicant shall provide the information defined in section 3.29.5.1 a - i, to the Building Inspector/Zoning Agent, the Conservation Commission, the Historical Commission, the Department of Public Works, Board of Selectmen, Board of Health, and the Fire Chief for their advisory review and comments. The applicant shall submit proof of receipt from each of these departments to the BPCD.

3.29.5.3 Agents for the departments listed in section 3.29.5.2 shall have thirty (30) days to review the information provided by the applicant and to submit written comments to the BPCD. Failure to respond to the BPCD within this timeframe shall be construed as lack of opposition to the application as submitted.

3.29.5.4 Conditions, Safeguards and Limitations, for Licensed Marijuana Establishments In granting a special permit, the Board of Planning and Community Development may impose additional conditions, safeguards and limitations on the permit.

3.29.6 Licensed Marijuana Establishment Operational Requirements

3.29.6.1 Before the Licensed Marijuana Establishment becomes operational, the applicant must provide the Police Department, the Athol Board of Health and the Building Department, a copy of the License issued by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission.

3.29.6.2 The Licensed Marijuana Establishment shall post the License issued by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission in a conspicuous location on the premises approved by the Zoning Enforcement Officer

3.29.7 Number of Marijuana Retail Establishments

The number of Licensed Marijuana Retail Establishments in the Town of Athol shall not exceed 20% of the number of licenses issued for the sale of alcohol not to be consumed on the premises under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 138, Section 15, said number to be rounded up to the next whole number.

3.29.8 Special Permit Procedures The Special Permit application shall be filed in accordance with the requirements of this section and the Planning Board Filing Requirements & Fees, as most recently adopted.

3.29.9 Special Permit Criteria In addition to the findings required in Section 1.2.6.2, the Special Permit Granting Authority must also find that the proposal does not contravene the purposes and intent of this section.

And to amend the Athol Zoning By-Laws, Article IV, Definitions, by adding the following definitions of terms related to recreational marijuana establishments within Section 4.1, definitions;

4.1 Definitions

Marijuana: All parts of the plant *Cannabis sativa* L., whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; and resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of the plant, its seeds or resin. It does not include the mature stalks of the plant, fiber produced from the stalks, oil, or cake made from the seeds of the plant, any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of the mature stalks, except the resin extracted therefrom, fiber, oil or cake or the sterilized seed of the plant which is incapable of germination. The term also includes MIPs except where the context clearly indicates otherwise.

Marijuana cultivator, an entity licensed to cultivate, process and package marijuana, to deliver marijuana to marijuana establishments and to transfer marijuana to other marijuana establishments, but not to consumers.

Marijuana establishment, a marijuana cultivator, marijuana testing facility, marijuana product manufacturer, marijuana retailer, any other type of licensed marijuana-related business or businesses at a single location, or any combination thereof at a single location.

Marijuana product manufacturer, an entity licensed to obtain, manufacture, process and package marijuana and marijuana products, to deliver marijuana and marijuana products to marijuana establishments and to transfer marijuana and marijuana products to other marijuana establishments, but not to consumers.

Marijuana products, products that have been manufactured and contain marijuana or an extract from marijuana, including concentrated forms of marijuana and products composed of marijuana and other ingredients that are intended for use or consumption, including edible products, beverages, topical products, ointments, oils and tinctures.

Marijuana testing facility, an entity licensed to test marijuana and marijuana products, including certification for potency and the presence of contaminants.

Marijuana retailer, an entity licensed to purchase and deliver marijuana and marijuana products from marijuana establishments and to deliver, sell or otherwise transfer marijuana and marijuana products to marijuana establishments and to consumers.

Marijuana transportation or distribution facility, an entity with a fixed location or service that delivers marijuana and marijuana products to marijuana establishments and transfers marijuana and marijuana products to other marijuana establishments, but not to consumers. This shall include the temporary storage of marijuana products on premises associated with their transportation and distribution.

Zoning Enforcement Officer: The Building Inspector is the Zoning Enforcement Officer for the Town of Athol.

And to amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws Article II, Section 2.3, Use Regulation Schedule, by adding, under the category of **COMMERCIAL USES**, the sub-category **Licensed Marijuana Establishments**, which would be allowed by Special Permit, indicated as such by “SP” in Central Commercial (CA), General Commercial (G) and Industrial Commercial (I), but not allowed in other Athol Zoning districts (indicated as such by “N”).

<u>2.3 Use Regulation Schedule</u>	Residence A	Residence B	Residence C	Central Commercial	Neighborhood Commercial	General Commercial	Industrial Commercial
COMMERCIAL USES	<u>RA</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>RC</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>CB</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>I</u>
Licensed Marijuana Establishments	N	N	N	SP	N	SP	SP

Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was 138 yes and 2 no.

ARTICLE 14: On the Motion of Kenneth Duffy and amended by David Small, it was **VOTED:** That the Town amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws by adding a new Section 3.29, TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON LICENSED MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS, that would provide as follows, and further to amend the Table of Contents to add Section 3.29 “Temporary Moratorium on Licensed Marijuana Establishments:”

Section 3.29 Temporary Moratorium on Licensed Marijuana Establishments

On November 8, 2016, the voters of the Commonwealth approved a law regulating the cultivation, processing, distribution, possession and use of marijuana for recreational purposes (new G.L. c. 94G, Regulation of the Use and Distribution of Marijuana Not Medically Prescribed). The law, which allows certain personal use and possession of marijuana, took effect on December 15, 2016 and (as amended on December 30, 2016 by Chapter 351 of the Acts of 2016 and thereafter, on July 28, 2017 by Chapter 55 of the Acts of 2017) requires a Cannabis Control Commission to issue regulations regarding the licensing of commercial activities by March 15, 2018 and to begin accepting applications for licenses no later than April 1, 2018. Currently under the Zoning Bylaw, a non-medical Marijuana Establishment (hereinafter, a "Licensed Marijuana Establishment"), as defined in G.L. c. 94G, §1, is not specifically addressed in the Athol Zoning Bylaw.

The regulation of recreational marijuana raises novel legal, planning, and public safety issues, and the Town needs time to study and consider the regulation of Licensed Marijuana Establishments and address such issues, as well as to address the potential impact of the State regulations on local zoning and to undertake a planning process to consider amending the Athol Zoning Bylaw regarding regulation of Licensed Marijuana Establishments. This temporary moratorium on the use of land and structures in the Town for Licensed Marijuana Establishments will allow sufficient time to address the effects of such structures and uses in the Town and to enact bylaws in a consistent manner.

A. Definition

"Licensed Marijuana Establishment" shall mean a "marijuana cultivator, independent testing laboratory, marijuana product manufacturer, marijuana retailer or any other type of licensed marijuana-related business."

B. Temporary Moratorium

For the reasons set forth above and notwithstanding any other provision of the Zoning Bylaw to the contrary, the Town hereby adopts a temporary moratorium on the use of land or structures for a Licensed Marijuana Establishment and other uses related to recreational marijuana. The moratorium shall be in effect through December 31, 2018 or until a recreational marijuana bylaw is passed by the Town and approved by the Attorney General, whichever occurs first. During the moratorium period, the Planning Board, on behalf of the Town of Athol, shall undertake a planning process to address the potential impacts of recreational marijuana in the Town, and to consider the Cannabis Control Commission regulations regarding Licensed Marijuana Establishments, and shall consider adopting new Zoning Bylaws in response to these new issues.

Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was 114 yes and 10 no.

ARTICLE 15: *No Motion. No Action* taken on "To see if the town will vote to amend Chapter VII of the General By-Laws of the Town of Athol by adding a new Section 12, LICENSED

MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS, that would provide as follows, and further to amend the Table of Contents to add Chapter VII, Section 12, "Licensed Marijuana Establishments":

Chapter VII, Section 12 - Licensed marijuana establishments

Consistent with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 94G, Section 3(a)(2), the number of licensed marijuana establishments, including all types of non-medical "marijuana establishments" as defined in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 94G, Section 1, including marijuana cultivators, marijuana testing facilities, marijuana product manufacturers, marijuana retailers or any other type of marijuana-related businesses, within the Town of Athol, not exceed 20% of the number of licenses issued within the Town for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages, not to be drunk on the premises where sold under Section 15 of M.G.L. Chapter 138, nor shall the number of any type of marijuana establishments be limited to a number fewer than the number of medical marijuana treatment centers registered to engage in the same type of activity in the Town."

Meeting dissolved at 8:05 p.m.

Attest:

Nancy E. Burnham, CMC/CMMC
Town Clerk

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

JUNE 11, 2018

The 2018 Annual Town Meeting was held on June 11, 2018 in Memorial Hall. Voters entering the meeting were checked in on the list of registered voters and there were 233 present when the Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. The number of voters checked as being present was as follows: Precinct 1, 109; Precinct 2, 66; and Precinct 3, 65. Total present: 240.

Town Clerk, Nancy Burnham, read the return of service from Constable Kenneth Vaidulas.

The Moderator called for a moment of silence for the following:

Elizabeth L. Lilley – She was the Tax Collector for the Town of Athol for 20 years with the distinction of being the first accredited female tax collector in Massachusetts.

Mark A. MacDonald – He worked for the Massachusetts State Police for 26 years rising through four ranks to the rank of Lieutenant before retiring in 1994. He also worked as a Bail Commissioner for the local and State Police agencies in the Athol/Orange/Gardner area for 12 years retiring in 2017. He served as Selectmen for the Town of Athol from 1995-1997. He also served on the Route 2 Task Force and was a liaison to the Police Department.

Cynthia Hager – She was a paraprofessional working one on one with children diagnosed with Autism in the Petersham and Athol School Districts since 1995.

Vicky Janik – She was a member of the Council on Aging Board from 2005 – 2011.

The following is a true record of the votes taken at the June 11, 2018 Annual Town Meeting.

Nancy Burnham, Town Clerk swore-in the following tellers to take count if needed at Town Meeting: John Maroni, Hugh Horrigan and Robert Brighenti.

In accordance with M.G. L. chapter 39, section 15, Moderator Lawrence McLaughlin asked for a vote not to take a count and record the vote if a two-thirds vote of a town meeting is required by statute; and provided, further, that if the vote is unanimous, a count need not be taken, and the clerk shall record the vote as unanimous. The vote was unanimous.

Article 1 On the Motion of Kenneth Duffy, it was **VOTED:** That the Town vote to choose all necessary Town Officers not already elected. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 2 On the Motion of Kenneth Duffy, it was **VOTED:** That the Town review and act upon the reports of Town Offices and to receive the reports of any committee. *Passed by a majority vote. Chairman Duffy presented a report of the Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee.*

Article 3 On the Motion of Ben Feldman, it was **VOTED:** That the Town accept all donations and gifts received and turned into the treasury during fiscal year 2019. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 4 On the Motion of Paul Nelson, it was **VOTED:** That the Town accept all cemetery and other funds received and provided to the treasury during fiscal year 2019. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 5 On the Motion of Michel Butler, it was **VOTED:** That the Town authorize the treasurer to enter into a compensating balance agreement or agreements for fiscal year 2019 pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53F of the Massachusetts General Laws. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 6 On the Motion of Amy Craven, it was **VOTED:** That the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen and or the Town Manager to apply for, accept and expend any and all State and Federal grants for fiscal year 2019, for which no additional appropriation by the Town is required. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 7 On the Motion of Kenneth Duffy, it was **VOTED:** That the Town appropriate \$14,349,294 to fund the fiscal year 2019 budget to be funded as follows: \$14,337,294 from taxation and by transfer of \$12,000 from parking meter receipt account.

Division/Department	FY17	FY18	FY19	% DIF
Finance				
Accountant	120,966	124,793	127,345	2.04%
Assessor	116,191	122,634	132,951	8.41%
FWAC	80,250	83,150	84,530	1.66%
Capital Planning Committee	1,120	1,120	1,120	0.00%
Collector/Treasurer	2,811,141	2,803,945	2,857,148	1.90%
Debt Exclusions	2,344,029	2,298,673	1,520,855	-33.84%
Subtotal	5,473,697	5,434,315	4,723,949	-13.07%
Public Safety				
Dept. Inspectional Services	142,516	150,869	156,488	3.72%
Fire Department	1,739,634	1,821,477	1,816,456	-0.28%
Health Department	110,924	121,339	122,282	0.78%
Police Department	1,685,138	1,738,090	1,887,447	8.59%

Animal Control (regional)	78,698	84,897	86,248	1.59%
Subtotal	3,756,910	3,916,672	4,068,921	3.89%
Public Services				
Board of Selectmen	521,915	534,483	527,497	-1.31%
Council on Aging	102,538	108,592	112,719	3.80%
Conservation Commission	13,800	19,300	23,350	20.98%
Contributory Retirement	1,718,246	1,355,412	1,474,103	8.76%
Elections & Registration	31,744	18,344	29,344	59.97%
Library	498,451	534,491	545,968	2.15%
Parking	10,375	11,125	11,125	0.00%
Dept. Planning & Development	99,467	104,105	111,404	7.01%
Professional Services	297,022	317,064	324,798	2.44%
Recreation	19,565	21,950	21,525	-1.94%
Beaches	34,160	37,876	38,335	1.21%
Town Buildings	121,227	135,671	136,050	0.28%
Town Clerk	140,644	152,560	145,809	-4.43%
Town Manager	124,983	135,887	138,860	2.19%
Veterans Services	211,140	217,962	244,529	12.19%
Zoning Board of Appeals	2,400	2,400	2,500	4.17%
Subtotal	3,947,677	3,707,222	3,887,916	4.87%
Public Works	1,437,462	1,592,954	1,668,508	4.74%
TOTAL GENERAL GOV'T	14,615,746	14,651,163	14,349,294	-2.06%

Passed by a majority vote.

Article 8 On the Motion of Ben Feldman, it was **VOTED:** That the Town appropriate \$345,096 by transferring \$295,206 from free cash, and \$49,890 from the capital stabilization account, to fund the fiscal year 2019 Capital Improvement Plan as voted by the Capital Program Committee as follows:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Item/Project</u>	<u>FY19 Amount</u>
Public Works	DPW Lease Agreements	\$102,457
Public Works	Five-Points Intersection – TIP Commitment	\$112,000
Public Works	DPW Grant Match	\$ 50,000
Public Works	DPW Infrastructure	\$ 40,000
Police	Front-line Police Cruiser	\$ 40,639

Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was 172 yes and 1 no.

Article 9 On the Motion of Paul Nelson, it was **VOTED:** I move to appropriate \$109,000 to pay costs of accessibility improvements to the 100 Main Street building and improvements to the Senior Center building, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, approximately \$64,000 of which shall be expended for the 100 Main Street Building improvements and approximately \$45,000 of which shall be expended for the Senior Center Building improvements; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G. L. c. 44, §7 (1), or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G. L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount. *Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was unanimous.*

Article 10 On the Motion of Michael Butler, it was **VOTED:** That the Town transfer from the Water Enterprise retained earnings the sum of \$250,000 for the purchase of equipment and infrastructure improvements for the Water Division. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 11 On the Motion of Amy Craven, it was **VOTED:** That the Town transfer from the Sewer Enterprise retained earnings the sum of \$225,000 for the purchase of equipment and infrastructure improvements for the Sewer Division. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 12 On the Motion of Kenneth Duffy, it was **VOTED:** That the Town appropriate from free cash \$48,500 for the purpose of funding future Revaluations and Interim Year Value Adjustments, as required under M. G. L. Ch. 40, Section 56, Ch. 58, Sections 1, 1A & 3 and Ch. 59, Section 2A. Such funding is to cover all aspects of revaluation including, but not limited to, statistical analysis, sales analysis, video imaging, field reviews and all other tasks deemed necessary for successful completion of these state mandated requirements. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 13 On the Motion of Ben Feldman, it was **VOTED:** That the Town appropriate from taxation \$4,485,122 for the fiscal year 2019 assessment to the Athol-Royalston Regional School District. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 14 On the Motion of Paul Nelson, it was **VOTED:** That the Town appropriate from taxation \$304,420 for the fiscal year 2019 assessment to the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 15 On the Motion of Michael Butler, it was **VOTED:** That the Town set the salaries of several elected officers and appointed positions of the boards of the Town.

Moderator	\$ 200.00
Selectmen, Chairman	\$1652.00
Selectmen, all other (4)	\$1377.00
Assessors, Chairman	\$1652.00
Assessors, all other (1)	\$1377.00
Constable	None
Board of Health, Chairman	\$1652.00
Board of Health, all other (2)	\$1377.00
Library Trustees	None
School Committee	None

Passed by a majority vote.

Article 16 On the Motion of Amy Craven, it was **VOTED:** That the Town appropriate \$1,249,478 from available funds to operate the Department of Public Works/Water Division Enterprise Fund.

Water Division	Expenses
Operational Expenses	\$ 858,244
Debt	\$ 198,048
Health Insurance	\$ 42,690
Overhead	\$ 90,496

OPEB	\$ 60,000
Total	\$1,249,478

and that \$1,249,478 be raised as follows with any balance in the OPEB be transferred to an OPEB fund balance account:

Water Division	Revenues
Water Rates	\$1,149,478
Water Service	\$ 15,000
Water Interest	\$ 5,000
Water Account Charges	\$ 80,000
Total	\$1,249,478

Passed by a majority vote.

Article 17 On the Motion of Kenneth Duffy, it was **VOTED:** That the Town appropriate \$1,507,319 from available funds to operate the Department of Public Works /Sewer Division Enterprise Fund.

Sewer Division	Expenses
Operational Expenses	\$ 977,888
Debt	\$ 365,006
Health Insurance	\$ 47,929
Overhead	\$ 90,496
OPEB	\$ 26,000
Total	\$1,507,319

And that \$1,507,319 be raised as follows with any balance in the OPEB be transferred to an OPEB fund balance account:

Sewer Division	Revenues
Sewer Rates	\$1,430,319
Sewer Service	\$ 2,000
Sewer Interest	\$ 5,000
Sewer Account Charges	\$ 70,000
Total	\$1,507,319

Passed by a majority vote.

Article 18 On the Motion of Ben Feldman, it was **VOTED:** That the Town appropriate \$445,682 from available funds to operate the Department of Public Works/Transfer/Recycling Enterprise Fund.

Transfer Station	Expenses
Operational Expenses	\$ 391,216
Debt	\$ 37,450
Health Insurance	\$ 17,016
Overhead	\$ 0

OPEB	\$ 0
Total	\$ 445,682

and that \$445,682 be raised as follows:

Transfer Station	Revenues
Departmental Receipts	\$ 441,942
Retained Earnings	\$ 3,740
Total	\$ 445,682

Passed by a majority vote.

Article 19 On the Motion of Paul Nelson, it was **VOTED:** That the Town appropriate \$10,000 from free cash to fund to the "Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund.
Passed by a majority vote.

Article 20 On the Motion of Michael Butler, it was **VOTED:** That the Town reauthorize revolving funds for certain Town departments under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½ for fiscal year 2019.

Revolving fund	Authorized to spend	Revenue source	Use of fund	FY2019 spending limit
Plumbing Inspection	Selectmen	Plumbing Inspection fees	Pay plumbing insp. & asst. plumb. insp.	\$20,000
Recycling	Board of Health Town Manager	Grants, bulky waste, PAYT, recycling containers, compost bins	Expenses and equipment	\$20,000
Gas Inspections	Selectmen	Gas inspection fees	Pay gas insp. & asst. gas insp.	\$2,500
Waste Facility Debt	Town Manager	Sewer user fees	Pay upgrade debt	\$60,000
Trench Permit	Building Dept.	Permit Fees & Reimbursement	Enforcement	\$5,000
Vaccinations	Board of Health	Insurance Reimbursements & User Fees	Public Health Administration	\$25,000
Recreation	Recreation	Registration Fees	Program Administration	\$10,000

	Commission			
Total Spending				\$142,500

Passed by a majority vote.

Article 21 On the Motion of Amy Craven, it was **VOTED:** That the Town reauthorize the revolving fund for certain Town departments under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53C for fiscal year 2019.

Revolving fund	Authorized to spend	Revenue source	Use of fund	FY2019 spending limit
Police Detail	Police Chief	Contractors	Pay police	\$100,000

Passed by a majority vote.

Article 22 On the Motion of Kenneth Duffy, it was **VOTED:** That the Town appropriate \$50,000 from free cash for the purpose of demolishing or securing unsafe structures, removal of debris and other materials for the health and safety of the public and ancillary costs thereto. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 23 On the Motion of Ben Feldman, it was **VOTED:** That the Town reimburse the Stabilization Account from money received from New England Equestrian Land Management Conservation Corporation for the construction of a road in the Equestrian Park for vehicle traffic as voted at the June 13, 2011 Annual Town Meeting. *Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was 176 yes and 1 no.*

Article 24 On the Motion of Paul Nelson, it was **VOTED:** That the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of by sale or any other lawful means the buildings and land comprising the former Sanders Street Elementary School and adjacent environs more particularly shown on an illustrative plan entitled "Proposed Disposition of Sanders Street School and Environs" available for public inspection during regular business hours at the office of the Town Clerk, upon said property being declared as no longer necessary for the purpose for which it was originally acquired and upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall determine to be in the best interests of the Town. And to further authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any actions necessary to effect the purposes of this article. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 25 On the Motion of Michael Butler, it was **VOTED:** That the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of by sale or any other lawful means the following parcels of land located in the town of Phillipston and identified as follows:

<u>Location</u> <u>Deeds</u>	<u>Assessor Record</u>	<u>Worcester Dist. Registry of</u>
State Road, Phillipston:	Map 37, Lot 2	Book 1660, Page 218
State Road, Phillipston:	Map 37, Lot 7	Book 1836, Page 133
Ward Hill Road, Phillipston	Map 37, Lot 3	Book 2569, Page 326
and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any actions necessary to effect the purposes of this article.		

Passed by a majority vote.

Article 26 On the Motion of Amy Craven, it was **VOTED:** That the Town rescind Article 55 of the March 20, 1916 Annual Town Meeting to include Full-Time Officers of the Athol Police Department under the provisions of MGL chapter 31, the civil service law and the regulations promulgated thereunder, provided that such action shall not impair the civil service status of incumbents in the position of full-time police officers on the effective date of such action. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 27: On the Motion of Kenneth Duffy, it was **VOTED:** That the Town, pursuant the provisions of MGL chapter 59, section 38H(b), authorize the Board of Assessors, on behalf of the Town of Athol, to negotiate and execute Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement(s) (PILOTs) with 978 Solar Development and Partridgeville Road Solar, LLC, the lessees /operators of electric generating facilities located at 927 White Pond Road, Athol, and 328 Partridgeville Road, Athol, respectively, upon such terms as the Board of Assessors shall deem to be in the best interest of the Town. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 28 On the Motion of Ben Feldman, it was **VOTED:** That the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire the following land parcels and or rights in land parcels for the purpose of obtaining a secure and public right of way. This will allow for the construction and roadway safety improvements for Crescent Street over the Millers River Bridge #A-15-008 (16G).

	Total # Parcel	Area (Square Feet)
Permanent Easements	<u>4</u>	<u>987</u>
Temporary Easements	<u>3</u>	<u>2252</u>

And further that the Town approve and accept the layout of a portion of Crescent Street as a public way as shown on plan entitled "Layout Plan of Crescent Street over Millers River," prepared by Green International Affiliates, Inc. dated June 4, 2018, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, written and described as follows:

TOWN OF ATHOL

CRESCENT STREET

It is necessary to alter and lay out a section of Crescent Street in the Town of Athol more fully described as follows:

Section of highway hereby altered and laid out by the Town of Athol establishes a location of a portion of Crescent Street on the easterly side thereof and is bounded by the location line of the town layout of the Main Street as shown on the town layout plan S-E1 dated February 1921, the easterly location line of 1880 Town layout of said Crescent Street and by the line described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the northerly location line of the aforesaid Town layout of Main Street at the point of curvature on Crescent Street, at N 3042326.6918, E 460411.3484, said point bearing S 79°28'08" E and being 17.50 feet distant from station 0+70.43 of the baseline location of the aforesaid May 1937 (Layout No. 2600) County layout of Crescent Street and extending thence, leaving said location northeasterly N 14°59'02" E 283.98 feet; thence N 1°48'07" E 39.26 feet; thence N 86°25'28" W 0.98 feet; thence N 1°48'53" E 19.98 feet; thence S 89°04'56" E 1.01 feet; thence N 1°43'16" E 127.99 feet; thence N 88°17'24" W 0.66 feet; thence N 1°34'12" E 13.98 feet; thence S88°20'49" E 0.51 feet; thence N 1°59'22" E 46.35 feet; thence N 86°06'03" W 1.03 feet; thence N 1°47'40" E 10.64 feet; thence S 87°32'14" E 1.67 feet; thence N 1°19'48" E 56.84 feet to the ending point on the location line of the southerly location line of S 88°16'48" E and being 26.10 feet distant from station 6+63.63 of the 2018 baseline location (extension of the 1937 County baseline) as shown on the layout plan hereinafter referred.

Further that the Selectmen may acquire these parcels, or modification of these parcels or other required parcels through all legal means. This includes donations, purchase or eminent domain. The subject parcels are currently identified on plans drafted by Green International Affiliates, Inc. entitled "Crescent St. over Millers River" and dated March 2, 2018, and Layout Plan of Crescent Street prepared by Green International Affiliates, Inc. dated June 4, 2018, available for public inspection during regular business hours at the office of the Town Clerk, and further to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum or sums of money to defray any associated right of way expenses connected with this project.

Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was 206 yes and 1 no.

Article 29 On the Motion of Paul Nelson, it was **VOTED:** That the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire the land parcels and or rights in land parcels for the purpose of obtaining a secure and public right of way to allow for the construction and roadway safety improvements for Washing Ave Bridge #A-15-005.

	Total # Parcel	Area (Square Feet)
Permanent Easements	6	3572
Temporary Easements	3	3786

Further that the Selectmen may acquire these parcels, or modification of these parcels or other required parcels through all legal means. This includes donations, purchase or eminent domain. The subject parcels are currently identified on plans drafted by BETA, Inc. entitled "Washington Avenue" and dated February 14, 2018, available for public inspection during regular business hours at the office of the Town Clerk, and further to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum or sums of money to defray any associated right of way expenses connected with this project. *Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was 200 yes and 2 no.*

Article 30 NO MOTION, NO ACTION taken on "To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to the Capital Stabilization Fund, *or act in relation thereto*".

Article 31: On the Motion of Stephen Raymond, it was **VOTED:** That the Town transfer \$56,936 from free cash to the stabilization fund. *Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was 198 yes and 7 no*

Article 32 On the Motion of Joan Gross, it was **DEFEATED:** That the Town "rescind" the "Plastic Bag Reduction Bylaw" as voted on June 12, 2017. *Defeated by a majority vote.*

Meeting dissolved at 9:27 p.m.

Attest:

Nancy E. Burnham, CMC/CMMC
Town Clerk

CHAPTER SEVEN

COMMITTEES

Reports of the
Boards and Committees of the
Town

MEMORIAL BUILDING COMMITTEE
FISCAL YEAR 2018
ANNUAL REPORT

Town Bylaws Chapter IV, Section 1(b) states "The town hall building, dedicated as a memorial to Athol's soldiers and sailors of all wars, shall be known as Memorial Building. The Memorial Building Committee is responsible for the care, custody, and control of the entire Memorial Building Committee. The Committee shall consist of three Selectmen and four voters appointed by the Town Manager. This Committee with the aid of the Town Manager shall employ necessary janitors and caretakers, and attend to the lighting, heating, care and repair of the building, and make reasonable rules and regulations not inconsistent with these bylaws for the use and occupancy of said building."

The Memorial Building Committee met as needed July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018. The following are the highlights of the meetings:

- Requested and was approved at Town Meeting \$25,00 for Lighting Improvements, and \$25,000 for Building Maintenance
- Discussed removing walls in Memorial Hall and restoring to original size
- Discussed increase of rental of halls since the Elks in Orange closed. Committee voted to raise fee to a \$100. The Town reserves the right to waive the fee with the approval of the Building Superintendent and Town Manager.
- Dennis Kimball, Building Superintendent is retiring at the end of June. Town Manager would like to see the position fall underneath the Asst. DPW Superintendent and hire a part-time custodial person to assist with the day-to-day cleaning.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben J. Feldman, Chairman

Heather Brissette

Nancy E. Burnham

Lee E. Chauvette

John R. Greene

Holly Young

MEMORIAL BUILDING COMMITTEE

ATHOL HISTORICAL COMMISSION
FISCAL YEAR 2018
ANNUAL REPORT

The Athol Historical Commission met on January 16, 2018. Eric Smith of the town's planning department presented information on the MA Historical Commission's grants for historic districts and suggested that this commission apply for a grant to establish a downtown historic district.

A new member was welcomed to the commission – Vincent Cerez.

Officers for the coming year were elected:

Chair – J.R. Greene

Vice-Chair – Shelley Small

Secretary – Jean Shaughnessy

Members – Carolyn Brouillet and Vincent Cerez.

At the March 27, 2018 meeting, Bernie Brouillet spoke about this year being the 150th anniversary of Laroy Starrett meeting John C. Hill on the train, joining him when he got out at the Athol Depot, and eventually choosing Athol as the site of his company – June 4, 1868. Eric Smith sent information that the grant cycle for historic districts will be next year, but that we should start collecting letters of support and informing people on what this designation will mean. Shelley Small suggested a power point to use to start informing people about the town's history and the value of an historic district designation.

Respectfully submitted,

Athol Historical Commission