



TOWN OF ATHOL
ANNUAL REPORT
2020-2021



REPORTS OF TOWN DEPARTMENTS, OFFICIALS,
BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

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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 2021
ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Citizens of Athol:

This year the Board of Selectmen continued to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic but managed to welcome 2 new Selectmen to the board: Mitchell R. Grosky returned for another 1 year term, filling the remaining year of William Chiasson's term and Andrew J. Sujdak was elected for his first 3 year term, as Lee Chauvette did not seek re-election.

In addition to new Selectmen, the Town wished Mary Ann Murphy, Assistant Town Accountant a happy retirement and welcomed Amy Craven as the new Assistant Town Accountant.

The Town of Athol and its staff continued to circumvent the hurdles of COVID-19 but managed to keep all public buildings open to the public, offered vaccine clinics for all three COVID-19 vaccinations and slowly regained some normalcy to our daily lives.

The Board also established a rent control board for the Millers River/Riverbend Woods Manufactured Homes park, a new committee for the downtown called Parking Benefits District Oversight Committee, reestablished the Charter Review Committee and established a designated area for overnight winter parking for downtown residents.

The Board of Selectmen approved the yearly license renewal for the following businesses:

Class I Automobile License: *None at this time*

Class II Automobile License: *Bills Motor Mart, Dales Auto Body, Flint's Garage Sales, Main Street BP, Wilson & Steely Kustom Coachworks*

Class II Automobile License: *Hayes Auto Body*

Common Victualler License: *110 Grill, American-Lithuanian Naturalization Club, Athol House of Pizza, Athol Cinema 8, Asia Gourmet, Conway Petro, Country Convenience, Cumberland Farms 297 Main, Cumberland Farms 109 Brookside, Dominos Pizza, American Legion, Eight Dragons Restaurant, Ellinwood Country Club, Franco-American Club, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Friendly Town Pizza, Mr. Mikes, Hannaford Supermarket, Larry's Variety, The Dery Bar, Los Agaves, Market Basket, McDonald's Restaurant, Kellie's Breakfast and Lunch, Olde Time New England Seafood Company, Piper's, Dunkin Donuts 2143 Main Street, Dunkin Donuts 1634 South Main Street, Dunkin Donuts 1271 Templeton Road, Starbucks, Subway, Taco Bell, Tea Garden, The Steel Pub, Tool Town Pizza, Verc Athol, Village Grill and Pizza, Wendy's Restaurant, Zedas, Traverse Street Café*

Liquor License, Pouring/All: *110 Grill, American-Lithuanian Naturalization Club, Asia Gourmet, American Legion, Ellinwood Country Club, Franco-American Club, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Los Agaves, The Dery Bar, The Steel Pub, The Tea Garden, Traverse Street Café*

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

Liquor License, Package/All Alcohol: *Athol Spirits, Stan's Liquor Mart, Uptown Package Store*

Liquor License, Package/Wine and Malt: *Country Convenience, The Corner Store, Athol Mini Mart, Verc Athol*

Auto-Amusements: *110 Grill, American-Lithuanian Naturalization Club, Asia Gourmet, American Legion, Franco-American Club, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Los Agaves, The Dery Bar, The Steel Pub*

Live Entertainment & Sunday Entertainment: *110 Grill (both), American-Lithuanian Naturalization Club (both), American Legion (both), Ellinwood Country Club (live only), Franco-American Club (both), Fraternal Order of Eagles (both), The Dery Bar (both), The Steel Pub (both)*

Taxi/Livery License: *None at this time*

Lodging/Boarding License: *Athol Area YMCA, Carl E. Dahl House, Harold Robinson, Providence Cliff House*

The Board also established a new committee; Memorial Building 100th Anniversary Committee to start the planning for the celebration year 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca J. Bialecki, *Chairman*

Alan D. Dodge, *Vice Chairman*

Stephen R. Raymond, *Selectman*

Mitchell R. Grosky, *Selectman*

Andrew J. Sujdak, *Selectman*

**TOWN MANAGER
FISCAL YEAR 2021
ANNUAL REPORT**

Greetings,

This represents my eighth annual report to the citizens of Athol. What an honor it remains to serve as your Town Manager.

While 2021 saw a continued drain on resources associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town also sustained its positive trajectory with respect to tax base, employment, local economy and population. During this year the 2020 U.S. Census determined that Athol's population grew to 11,945 persons – clearly an undercount – but still representing an increase of 3.12 percent over the 2010 Census total.

My sense is that the Town will continue to grow and strengthen its fiscal resiliency despite the lag in the economy and lingering fallout from COVID-19. This is due primarily to the combined efforts of all of our stakeholders including community leaders, taxpayers, private-sector investors, citizens and volunteers.

Since 2014 the Town has established fiscal policies, improved its bond rating, built a new elementary school, completed capital improvements to the high school, reconstructed several obsolete bridges (local and through the state) and completed major infrastructure and roadway improvements throughout Marble, Church and Walnut streets as well as the Fish Park neighborhood in 2021.

The private sector facilitated new construction of roughly 300,000 square feet of commercial property surrounding the “North Quabbin Commons” uptown, construction of a 50,000 square foot new emergency department and medical office building at the hospital, and the continuing phased renovation and reuse of the long-dormant 360,000 square foot mill in the heart of downtown now employing over 100 people and still growing.

Despite the impacts of COVID-19 upon both public and private sector business operations, the Town's staff continued their work on many initiatives such as:

- Reconstructed all sidewalks around Fish Park through a Complete Streets grant.
- Completion of Phase 1 of Walnut Street improvements through CDBG funds.
- Phase II environmental report completed via grant funds for former toy factory site on Canal Street; advanced vision planning for waterfront park or other productive reuse.
- Received grant to design and engineer future access road for a planned hotel development on land owned the Athol Economic Development and Industrial Corp. near North Quabbin Commons.
- Advanced “Greening Lord Pond Plaza” project through state MVP grant.
- additional downtown planning efforts at Lord Pond Plaza

This remarkable progress is only possible through a team effort of elected and appointed officials, an active and caring citizenry, dedicated staff and our volunteers.

As always please email me directly at suhoski@townofathol.org with any questions or suggestions about Athol's local government. I am here to serve you. ***AspireAthol!***

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	7,748
POLLING PLACES	Precinct 1 – 3: Athol Town Hall 584 Main 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. 8:00 AM-5:00 PM Tuesday 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM Friday CLOSED

STATE OFFICIALS

Governor

Charles D. Baker
State House, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133
Tel: 617-725-4005
Toll Free: 1-888-870-7770

Lieutenant Governor

Karyn E. Polito
State House, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133
Tel: 617-725-4005

Attorney General

Maura Healy
One Ashburton Place, 20th Floor
Boston, MA 02108-1698
Main number connecting all bureaus 617-727-2200
TTY: 617-727-2200
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: 617-727-7030
Citizen Information: 1-800-392-6090

Treasurer and Receiver-General

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

State Auditor

Suzanne M. Bump
State House, Room 230
Boston, MA 02133
Tel: 617-727-2075
Fax: 617-727-3014

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

Ann M. Gobi
State House
Room 413-A
Boston MA 02133
Phone: 617-722-1540
District Office: 413-324-3082
Fax: 617-722-1078
anne.gobi@masenate.gov

State Representative (2nd Franklin District)

Susannah Whipps
State House
Room 540
Boston MA 02133
Phone: 617-722-2090
Susannah.Whipps@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
309 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 01103
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
370 Cannon HOB
Washington DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-5759

Leominster Office
24 Church Street, Room 27
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, 2022

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Mitchell R. Grosky, 2022

Stephen R. Raymond, 2022

Rebecca Bialecki, 2023

Alan D. Dodge, 2023

Andrew J. Sujdak, 2024

ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

From Athol:

Tammy Duquette, 2022

Theodore J. Mallet, III, 2022

Kenneth A. Vaidulas, 2022

Lee E. Chauvette, 2023

Mitchell Grosky, 2023

Lonnie Bonnefant, 2024

Deborah Kuzmeskas, 2024

From Royalston:

Charles Pretti, 2023

Nancy D. Melbourne, 2023

Carla Rabinowitz, 2024

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Sharon A. Brighenti, 2022

Margaret Feldman, 2022

John R. Greene, 2023

Nancy Tatro, 2023

Francis W. Foster, 2024

Christine Miranda, 2024

ATHOL HOUSING AUTHORITY

Cathy Savoy, 2022

Edward Ledgard, 2024

Edward C. Sawin, 2025

Kim Hansen, 2026 (Tenant Appointment)

James P. Sullivan, 2026

Joseph Hawkins, 2021 (State Appointee)

CONSTABLES

Kevin Materas, 2022

Randy Mitchell, 2023

Kenneth A. Vaidulas, 2024

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICERS

Alternate Inspector of Buildings/Zoning Agent	Phil Harris
Animal Control Officer	Jennifer Arsenault
Assessor	Lisa Aldrich
Asst. Agent Board of Health	Jane O'Brien
Assistant Collector	Shana Smith
Assistant Gas Inspector	Robert Mallet
Assistant Municipal Coordinator	Jeffrey Parker
Assistant Plumbing Inspector	Rick Geyster
Assistant Superintendent of Public Works	Paul Raskevitz
Assistant Town Accountant	Mary Ann Murphy
Assistant Town Clerk	Carol Bachelder
Assistant Treasurer	Catherine Levreault
Assistant Wire Inspector	Andrew Maroni
Board of Health Agent	Deborah Karan
Civil Defense Director	Joseph Guarnera
Collector/Treasurer	Patrick McIntyre
Deputy Fire Chief	Jeffrey Parker
Director, Council on Aging	Cathy Savoy
Director of Veterans' Benefits & Services	Sarah Custer
Emergency Management Director	Joseph Guarnera
Exec. Asst., Board of Selectmen/Town Manager	Bridget Sullivan
Fire Chief	Joseph Guarnera
Inspector of Animals	Jennifer Arsenault
Inspector of Buildings/Zoning Agent	Robert Legare
Inspector of Gas Piping & Appliances	Daniel Joly
Inspector of Wires	Vacant
Library Director	Jean Shaughnessy
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School Committee	Toni L. Phillips
Municipal Coordinator	Joseph Guarnera
Parking Meter Attendant	Ronny Cote
Plumbing Inspector	Daniel Joly
Police Chief	Craig Lundgren
Police Lieutenant	Ronny Cote
Sealer of Weights & Measures	Phil Harris
Superintendent of Public Works	Richard Kilhart
Superintendent of Schools	Darcy Fernandes
Town Accountant	Christine Mailloux
Town Clerk	Nancy E. Burnham
Town Counsel	John Barrett
Town Manager	Shaun A. Suhoski
Town Planner	Eric Smith

TOWN BOARDS/COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Kim Fitzgerald, 2022
Aimee Hanson, 2022
Pam Browning, 2023
Mary E. Holtorf, 2023
Cathleen O'Keefe, 2023
Vacant –Alternate, 2022
Vacant –Alterate, 2022

ATHOL CULTURAL COUNCIL

Emily Boughton, 2021
Brianna Haskins, 2021
Jean Shaughnessy, 2021
Deborah Taylor, 2021
Robin Brzozowski, 2022
Tabitha DeHays, 2022
Bonnie Hodgdon, 2022
Joann Deacon, 2023
Kristin Riordon, 2022

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Kenneth A. Vaidulas, 2023
Edward Ledgard, 2024
Lisa Aldrich, indefinite

BOARD OF HEALTH

Joan Hamlett, 2022
Martin Miarecki, 2023
Norma Purple, 2024

BOARD OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Calvin Taylor, 2022
David Small, 2023
Jacqueline Doherty, 2024
Richard Hayden, 2025
Duane Truehart, 2025
Aimee Hanson, 2026
Kathy Norton, 2026

BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

Nancy Burnham, 2022
Jean Robinson, 2022
Bridget Sullivan, 2022
Vacant, 2022
Vacant, 2022
Vacant, 2022
Vacant, 2022

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Daniel Carey, 2022
Mark Wright, 2022
Tyler A. Mason, 2022

CAPITAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Robert Muzzy, 2022
Gary Deyo, 2023
James Smith, 2023

Gino Tontodonato, 2024
Heather Butler, 2025
Kathy Norton, 2025
Linda Oldach, 2025

CDBG CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Gary Deyo, 2022
Richard Kilhart, 2022
Eric Smith, 2022
Heidi Stickland, 2022
Jamie Woods, 2022

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Katheryn Harrow, 2022
James Smith, 2022
John R. Greene, 2023
Laura Smith, 2023
Walter Lehmann, 2024
Jamie Mallet, 2024
Robert Muzzy, 2024

Associate Members:

Brian Hall, 2022
David Small, 2022
Nicholas Tarara, 2022
William Wheeler, 2022

COUNCIL ON AGING

Arthur Herk, 2022
Barbara Savoy, 2022
Margaret Young, 2022
Mare Hawthorne, 2023
Jackie Paluilis, 2023
Ann E. Shea, 2023
Lillian Bachelder, 2024
Jean Ryder, 2024
Walter Lehman, 2024

DOWNTOWN VITALITY COMMITTEE

Alan Dodge, 2022
Mary Holtorf, 2022
Paula Robinson, 2022
Steve Wills, 2022
Morgan Woroner, 2022
Vacant, 2022
Vacant, 2022
Vacant, 2022
Vacant, 2022

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION (EDIC)

James W. Meehan, Jr., 2022
Keith McGuirk, 2022
Mark Wright, 2022
Clinton Sykes, 2023
Calvin Taylor, 2023
Richard Plotkin, 20124
Martin Robichaud, 2024

Associate Members:
Vacant, 2022
Vacant, 2022

Robert Mallet, 2021
Jared Robinson, 2021
Paula Robinson, 2021

FINANCE AND WARRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ben Feldman, 2022
Paul Nelson, 2022
Michael Butler, 2023
Kenneth Duffy, 2023
Michele Tontodonato, 2023
Amy Craven, 2024
Gary Deyo, 2024

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Vincent Cerez, 2021
Carolyn Brouillet, 2022
John R. Greene, 2022
Shelly Small, 2023
Jean Shaughnessy, 2023

HOLIDAY DECORATING COMMITTEE

Patrick DiPietro, 2021
Charles Shatos, 2021
Ann Willhite, 2021

INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Carol Bachelder, 2021
Ben Feldman, 2021
Robert Hughes, 2021
Doug Kaczmarczyk, 2021

MEMORIAL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Nancy E. Burnham, 2021
Heather Butler, 2021
Lee E. Chauvette, 2021
Ben J. Feldman, 2021
John R. Greene, 2021
Bridget Sullivan, 2021
Holly Young, 2020

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Joshua Feldman, 2021
Brian Hall, 2021
Travis Knechtel, 2021
Jamie Mallet, 2021
David Small, 2021

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Richard D. Godin, 2021
Gerard Lozier, 2022
Hugh A. Horrigan, 2023
Nancy E. Burnham, Town Clerk

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Anthony Brighenti, 2021
Sharon Brighenti, 2021
Margaret Feldman, 2021
Travis Knechtel, 2021

TOWN ENERGY COMMITTEE

William Aucoin, 2021
Aimee Hanson, 2021
Melissa Orren, 2021
Kenneth Vaidulas, 2021
Vacant, 2020

VACANT & UNOCCUPIED BUILDING COMMITTEE

Rebecca Bialecki, 2021
Lee Chauvette, 2021
Harry Haldt, 2021
Robert Legare, 2021
Jeffrey Parker, 2021
Deborah Vondal, 2021
Bruce Winters, 2021

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Susan Mondy Sykes, 2022
Elvin Chartrand, 2023
Kala Fisher, 2024
Harry Haldt, 2024
Robert Mallet, 2025

Associate Members:

Marc Freeman, 2022

VITAL RECORDS

	7/1/19- 6/30/20	7/1/20- 6/30/21
Births	105	99
Marriages	60	59
Deaths	248	225

WHEN BOARDS & COMMITTEES MEET

DATE	TIME	PLACE
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 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 1 st Wednesday	7:00 PM	Liberty Hall
BOARD OF SELECTMEN 1 st & 3rd Tuesday	7:00 PM	Room 21
CONSERVATION COMMISSION 4th Tuesday	6:00 PM	Liberty Hall
COUNCIL ON AGING 3rd Tuesday	1:00 PM	Senior Center
EDIC 3 rd Wednesday	7:00 PM	Liberty Hall
FINANCE AND WARRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2 nd Tuesday	5:30 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

CHAPTER TWO

FINANCE

Reports of the
Accountant, Collector,
Treasurer & Assessor

**FINANCE AND WARRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FISCAL YEAR 2021
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.

The committee holds monthly meetings throughout the year, meeting with the Town Manager along with various boards, committees and department heads as needed, reviewing any matter of importance that may come up during the year. We also are 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

To say our lives have been impacted over the last fifteen months by Covid-19 would be an understatement. Few if any of us had the vision or understanding how this situation would impact how we operate both personally and publicly. While we are still dealing with the effects of this virus – it appears we are slowly beginning the process of returning to a more normal lifestyle.

From a municipal standpoint, the same can be said. We are still feeling the effects of this issue – but we are slowly seeing progress in returning to normal operations.

Last year, we didn't hold our Annual Town Meeting until the Fall – while operating on a monthly budget starting in July. The town's management team along with department heads and employees worked together under unique and difficult circumstances to navigate the challenges and unknowns of operating in such an environment. There was no "game plan" for such a circumstance – issues and concerns had to be worked on as they came along. While it's rarely a good thing to be in a reactive posture as opposed to a proactive posture – that was the position we were in both as private citizens and public officials.

It was determined by the management team the immediate goal would be to continue operations and services as close to normal as possible for the townspeople, while doing our best to protect town employees as well. While the virus situation took various paths, it became apparent that town management would need to be flexible and nimble in its dealing with this situation. Those of you have been involved with or observed government – either at the federal, state or local levels are well aware the one thing government is not – is "nimble". Government may be many things – but being "nimble" is not one of them.

When the virus hit last March – we were in the last 4 months of the fiscal year 2020. The overall feeling was we would survive the remainder of the fiscal year in decent shape, but the concern would be for the next few budget years. There was a real concern that revenues would be

affected and as a result, we would have to seriously consider making cuts to services, programs and personnel.

For the FY21 budget year that we are currently concluding – we were able to maintain service levels – while at the same time, keep personnel in place.

For the FY22 budget – which you will be reviewing this evening – we have been able to retain staff and service levels while also restoring the summer recreation and beach programs. At the same time, the need to use any one time funding to backfill the budget has been eliminated. Finally, we will continue to strengthen both our General Stabilization and Capital Stabilization Funds.

The town continues to see improvement to its infrastructure, repairing and updating bridges, roads, town buildings and school district buildings. Progress continues – even in these challenging and unique times.

At this time, it needs to be noted publicly the excellent job that the entire town management team has done during this unique period. This includes the Town Manager, the Town Hall finance team, the Board of Selectmen, and all Department Heads.

Working as a management team – putting the interests of their fellow citizens and taxpayers first, we have been able to navigate these challenging times as well as any community in the Commonwealth.

Lastly, I will repeat my words of last fall - a special “tip of the hat” to all municipal employees for their efforts during these challenging times. No matter the department, no matter the responsibility, each and every unit and employee has met the challenge in front of them with little, if any, negative effect to the community at large. To all of you – your efforts on behalf of your fellow citizens, neighbors and friends have been – and continue to be, greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the FWAC – I would like thank the various department heads, boards and committees for their help and cooperation during the past unique and challenging year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Duffy
Chairman FWAC

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

**ATHOL PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEES
FISCAL YEAR 2021
ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Athol:

The year 2020-2021 brought a major change to the Board of Trustees. Nancy Tatro was elected to the board, replacing Margaret Young, who retired after 42 years as a Trustee and 41 years as the Chair of the Trustees. Margaret Young passed away in April 2021 at the age of 97.

Normal library services were still disrupted by Covid, but the library provided a summer reading program for all. The 2020 theme "Imagine Your Story" was held with virtual programs, online reading records through Beanstack, and lots of prizes and incentives provided by the Friends of the Athol Library. Lawn signs proclaiming "A Summer Reader Lives Here", made possible by a generous donation from Valuing Our Children popped up all over town.

Curbside service, which began on June 8, continued successfully. All full-time staff returned to work their regular hours in July. Laptops for use outside, photocopying, FAX, and Notary services were also provided in July. Quarantining of returned items increased from three days to a full week in accordance with REALM guidelines. The library is very fortunate to have the space (large Program Room) to easily store items for a week.

On October 19, 2020, Three of our five part-time staff returned to work and the library building reopened to the public with almost regular hours – Monday – Thursday, 9:30 am – 6:00 pm. The required sign in sheets for contact tracing and hand-sanitizing stations were set up in the lobby, which was staffed by a greeter. At their October meeting, the Trustees voted to become a Fine Free Library! Elimination of fines is recommended by our CWMARS network, the MA Board of Library Commissioners, and the American Library Association as a means of promoting equity of library services to all.

The Prudent Investor Legislation submitted to the MA Legislature several years ago was finally passed, allowing Bartholomew and Company more flexibility to invest the Ralys Fund.

In May, the state relaxed the mask mandate and masks were no longer required. The Trustees, with Board of Health support, voted to continue requiring masks in the building until June 30, to protect unvaccinated children at least until school was out for the summer. Sign in was continued until June 30 to provide statistics, but contact tracing and quarantine of materials was discontinued.

Several other significant changes or improvements were made in FY21. A new ScanPro microfilm reader/printer was purchased to improve access to the newspaper microfilms. The library's WIFI switched to CWMARS with new equipment and increased speed to improve internet access inside and outside the building. Noel's Nursery weeded, mulched, thinned, and trimmed to greatly improve the health and appearance of the library grounds.

Respectfully submitted,
The Trustees of the Athol Public Library

Christine Miranda, Chair
Margaret "Susie" Feldman, Clerk
Sharon Brighenti
Francis Foster
J.R. Greene
Nancy Tatro

**ATHOL HOUSING AUTHORITY
FISCAL YEAR 2021
ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Athol:

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, Clerk/Receptionist (OHA)
Ingrid Willard, Clerk/Receptionist (OHA)
Nicholas Tarara, Maintenance Supervisor (AHA)
Joseph Chiasson, Jr., Maintenance Staff (OHA)
Dean Whitney, Maintenance Staff (AHA)

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

Joseph Hawkins, Chairperson, Governor's Appointee
Ted Ledgard, Vice-Chairperson
Kim Hansen, Tenant Appointee
Cathy Savoy, Commissioner
Jamie Sullivan, Commissioner

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
Athol Housing Authority

TOWN OF ATHOL TREASURER/COLLECTOR'S OFFICE
FISCAL YEAR 2021
ANNUAL REPORT

Catherine Levreault – Assistant Treasurer
Shana Smith – Assistant Tax Collector
Patrick McIntyre - Treasurer/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 2021 the office processed the following tax payments:

Real Estate	\$14,253,233.69
Water Sewer Liens	\$31,490.88
Septic Betterments	\$11,503.90
Personal Property	\$545,837.23
Motor Vehicle Excise	\$1,402,985.46
Water/Sewer	\$2,781,300.54
	<u>\$19,026,351.70</u>

The Town holds accounts at several banking institutions. Below is a list of the cash balances in those accounts as of June 30, 2021.

Athol Savings Bank	\$2,930,920.63
Bartholomew Investments	\$6,343,668.17
Eastern Bank	\$1,872,517.31
Bank ESB	\$3,250,357.98
Mass Municipal Depository Trust	\$311,088.78
TD Bank	\$372,460.53
UniBank	\$719,467.99
	<u>\$15,800,481.39</u>

Respectfully Submitted:
Patrick McIntyre

Name	Department	Hire Date	Salary	Overtime	Total
Adams David L	Fire Call	05/29/2012	\$ 1,022.00		\$ 1,022.00
Adams Jr Steven L	Police	09/21/2015	\$ 52,447.42	\$ 31,781.18	\$ 112,500.41
Aldrich Lisa	Assessors	09/08/1997	\$ 74,964.91		\$ 77,626.04
Andrews Madeleine A	Senior Tax Abatement	12/11/2007			\$ 471.75
Arnot Ben	DPW-Highway	06/12/2018	\$ 47,576.40	\$ 5,836.64	\$ 54,578.88
Arsenault Jennifer	Dog Officer	04/17/2001	\$ 43,877.20	\$ 2,078.18	\$ 48,190.38
Arsenault Rene	DPW-Supt.	09/04/2018	\$ 4,513.00		\$ 4,513.00
Bachelder Carol A	Town Clerk	10/27/2010	\$ 52,389.64	\$ 2,126.54	\$ 55,426.18
Bachelder Sandra E	Library	12/14/2017	\$ 4,396.91		\$ 4,600.91
Balben William G	DPW-Highway	08/25/2015	\$ 51,787.76	\$ 5,797.35	\$ 58,576.23
Bardsley Matthew R	DPW-Water	11/02/2019	\$ 52,944.64	\$ 8,281.82	\$ 68,799.90
Bartus John F	Outside Detail	08/17/2009			\$ 1,023.50
Bass Vernon	DPW-Highway	09/02/1981	\$ 35,226.48	\$ 3,177.04	\$ 78,946.37
Belloli Andrew P	DPW-Water	08/29/2005	\$ 58,304.88	\$ 9,252.23	\$ 79,804.71
Bergquist Elizabeth J	Fire-Reg	11/19/2014	\$ 24,309.26	\$ 1,427.86	\$ 25,737.12
Bergquist SR Robert D	DPW-Water	09/11/2020	\$ 33,421.44	\$ 8,266.68	\$ 44,437.08
Berkall Marcia K	Council On Aging	01/01/2019	\$ 9,601.48		\$ 10,351.48
Berry Virginia S	Library	12/20/2017			\$ 443.00
Bialecki Rebecca J	Selectmen	04/13/2017	\$ 1,735.00		\$ 1,735.00
Bond Andrew R	Fire-Reg	07/08/2019	\$ 46,107.13	\$ 49,022.47	\$ 108,276.60
Boucher Brian D	Fire Call	09/07/2010	\$ 750.00		\$ 750.00
Boughton Emily L	Library	06/28/2010	\$ 36,157.60		\$ 36,161.73
Bowdridge Todd M	Fire Call	09/17/2019	\$ 5,564.80	\$ 3,403.55	\$ 9,614.90
Bowers Kenneth O.	Senior Tax Abatement	03/26/2013			\$ 127.50
Boyd Trinity E	Lifeguard	06/22/2021	\$ 405.63		\$ 405.63
Brailey Travis R	Fire-Reg	09/10/2012	\$ 49,674.43	\$ 8,003.23	\$ 67,576.37
Britt Ernest J	Outside Detail	01/01/2001			\$ 12,293.50
Brown Corey C	Police	02/09/2012	\$ 54,719.50	\$ 1,498.02	\$ 66,989.52
Bruso Jr Brian W	Town Hall	12/19/2019	\$ 43,759.58	\$ 2,482.20	\$ 47,516.78
Brzozowski Robin M	Library	09/27/2010	\$ 34,651.59		\$ 34,655.65
Buck Peter J	Outside Detail	05/23/1994	\$ 8,115.03		\$ 65,367.38
Burnett Jeremy W	DPW-Water	07/29/2016	\$ 52,944.64	\$ 9,466.29	\$ 71,483.37
Butler Heather J	Selectmen	09/30/2002	\$ 935.00		\$ 935.00
Call Courtney	Police	02/05/2018	\$ 52,548.57	\$ 16,582.03	\$ 81,190.77
Carey Amanda M	Dispatcher	02/18/2020	\$ 48,819.44		\$ 49,719.44
Carey Trevor W	Fire Call	08/20/2015	\$ 224.00		\$ 224.00
Caron Janelle D	Dog Officer	06/26/2017	\$ 14,692.00		\$ 14,692.00
Carr David	DPW-Water	10/07/1991	\$ 67,704.64	\$ 12,490.54	\$ 88,475.58
Carra Agustin	Fire Call	11/02/2020	\$ 1,232.00		\$ 1,232.00
Carra Francisco	Fire-Reg	04/14/2016	\$ 45,300.63	\$ 49,852.21	\$ 104,176.26
Casella Christopher	Outside Detail	01/01/2001			\$ 2,604.00
Chauvette Corey J	Police	09/04/2014	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
Chauvette Lee	Selectmen	01/01/2001	\$ 1,084.50		\$ 1,084.50
Chevarie Madison M	Police	09/26/2019	\$ 45,304.30	\$ 7,873.02	\$ 59,866.76
Chiasson William	Selectmen	04/22/2019	\$ 1,084.50		\$ 1,084.50
Choquette Ryder E	Lifeguard	06/22/2021	\$ 481.25		\$ 481.25
Cleveland Jaime Alexis	Dispatcher	12/10/2020	\$ 2,452.50		\$ 2,484.50
Coflesky John P	Outside Detail	11/27/2019			\$ 9,553.54
Cole Jonathan	Outside Detail	08/03/2003			\$ 920.00
Collins Kyle F	Fire Call	09/17/2019	\$ 5,264.00		\$ 5,264.00
Cooley Diana L.	DPW-Supt.	12/22/1997	\$ 51,760.92	\$ 482.65	\$ 53,394.44
Cormier Samantha L	Dispatcher	11/05/2017	\$ 47,317.44	\$ 11,553.80	\$ 63,087.80
Costa Robert N	DPW-Highway	03/13/1985	\$ 66,503.68	\$ 9,831.12	\$ 82,151.28
Cote Ronny R	Police	07/06/1987	\$ 92,961.75		\$ 103,262.55
Craven David S.	DPW-Water	09/11/2006	\$ 58,262.32	\$ 8,318.11	\$ 81,493.09
Croteau Marie L	DPW-Supt.	10/05/2011	\$ 40,629.88		\$ 41,489.88
Custer Sarah C	Veterans Services	02/07/2019	\$ 49,925.99		\$ 49,925.99

Cygan Michael W	Senior Tax Abatement	12/31/2007			\$ 191.25
Deveneau Craig	Police	05/20/1996	\$ 74,655.94	\$ 9,120.40	\$ 95,693.31
Dodge Alan D.	Selectmen	09/08/2003	\$ 1,446.00		\$ 1,446.00
Dubrulle Scott A	Police	08/18/1997	\$ 74,655.94	\$ 2,722.44	\$ 86,083.37
Dubrulle Jr. Bruce	Fire-Reg	07/10/1998	\$ 51,709.00	\$ 18,182.39	\$ 83,283.17
Evans Ellen R	DPW-Supt.	06/13/2019	\$ 9,393.04		\$ 9,399.79
Farley Susan M	Senior Tax Abatement	12/01/2020			\$ 720.37
Ferguson James M	Fire-Reg	09/08/2009	\$ 61,563.91	\$ 31,373.08	\$ 110,352.12
Fisher Kala S.	Zoning/Planning	03/01/2004	\$ 1,197.00		\$ 1,197.00
Forand Paul J	Police	09/28/2020	\$ 17,724.32	\$ 3,760.67	\$ 29,118.00
FORTES GREGORY E.	Police	10/09/2001	\$ 57,426.28	\$ 5,622.91	\$ 126,280.11
Fowler Bruce	Senior Tax Abatement	12/03/2013			\$ 750.00
Fredette Erick J	Police	11/10/2015	\$ 52,447.42	\$ 13,222.77	\$ 78,010.84
Gibree Rachel A	Dispatcher	07/18/2019	\$ 42,886.64	\$ 4,072.55	\$ 52,109.34
Girard Chad M	Fire-Reg	10/15/2012	\$ 51,611.58	\$ 31,642.25	\$ 93,615.97
Glover Matthew P	DPW-Supt.	06/24/2021	\$ 162.00		\$ 162.00
Gonynor Trisha M	Fire Call	11/02/2020	\$ 406.00		\$ 406.00
Griffith Timothy D	Fire Call	05/29/2012	\$ 504.00		\$ 504.00
Grosky Mitchell R	Selectmen	05/26/2015	\$ 361.50		\$ 361.50
Guarnera Joseph P	Fire-Reg	10/08/2018	\$ 117,879.11		\$ 134,063.86
Hager Donald B	Outside Detail	06/30/2014	\$ 35,267.20	\$ 2,251.84	\$ 46,174.80
Hager Kent A	Outside Detail	01/01/2001	\$ 350.00		\$ 1,740.00
Hamilton Jamal L	Fire-Reg	03/16/2010	\$ 47,561.68	\$ 28,235.06	\$ 85,387.19
Hamlett Joan	Health	09/29/2003	\$ 1,563.62		\$ 1,563.62
Hannon William H	Senior Tax Abatement	01/01/2019			\$ 750.00
Harris Adam J	Fire-Reg	06/06/2017	\$ 49,735.65	\$ 23,940.46	\$ 83,100.34
Harris Philip J	Weights & Measures	06/15/2020	\$ 8,225.00		\$ 8,512.50
Heath Kevin	Outside Detail	12/21/1979			\$ 1,790.75
Herk Arthur C	Council On Aging	12/16/2014	\$ 705.00		\$ 705.00
Herk Ryan M	DPW-Water	07/13/2017	\$ 504.65		\$ 504.65
Hogan Ian C	Fire-Reg	06/25/2019	\$ 46,107.13	\$ 11,463.36	\$ 70,717.49
Holtorf Mary E	Senior Tax Abatement	12/05/2019			\$ 750.00
Horrigan Hugh A.	Election	06/24/2002	\$ 408.00		\$ 408.00
Horrigan Kevin S	Fire-Reg	12/01/1987			\$ 60,666.96
Hughes Robert L	DPW-Highway	06/07/2011	\$ 54,882.80	\$ 6,257.98	\$ 65,351.34
Hughes Robert L.	DPW-Water	06/09/1997	\$ 67,704.64	\$ 7,140.91	\$ 86,868.27
Jack Eric R	Fire-Reg	05/13/1996	\$ 63,937.31	\$ 78,145.90	\$ 157,174.76
Jackson James P	DPW-Cemetery	06/09/2016	\$ 2,622.38		\$ 2,622.38
Jackson Jr. Raymond O	Outside Detail	09/02/2008			\$ 1,334.00
Jillson Erin R	Dispatcher	11/25/2019	\$ 44,597.04	\$ 13,785.61	\$ 63,670.39
Joly Daniel J	Building Dept	09/06/2011	\$ 18,685.00		\$ 18,685.00
Jurek Kelsey A.	Library	02/28/2005	\$ 35,986.74		\$ 37,222.78
Kaczmarczyk Douglas	Police	06/30/1997	\$ 72,354.20	\$ 17,082.18	\$ 95,458.39
Kaczmarczyk Kevin	Fire-Reg	09/03/1996	\$ 59,949.03	\$ 46,322.83	\$ 123,460.10
Kay Lori R	Senior Tax Abatement	01/01/2019			\$ 750.00
Keddy Jr. Alan W	DPW-Cemetery	03/24/2008	\$ 54,427.52	\$ 3,308.20	\$ 58,888.92
Kilhart Richard P	DPW-Supt.	04/23/2018	\$ 110,302.76		\$ 110,302.76
Kimball Gregory H	Fire Call	05/29/2012	\$ 616.00		\$ 616.00
King Benjamin	Lifeguard	07/01/1994	\$ 2,400.00		\$ 2,400.00
Knechtel Travis S.	DPW-Cemetery	06/06/2005	\$ 66,292.24	\$ 4,876.97	\$ 77,638.85
LaFountain Roseanna M	Senior Tax Abatement	12/08/2015			\$ 255.00
Ledgard Edward F	Assessors	05/30/2017	\$ 1,446.00		\$ 1,446.00
Legare Robert	Building Dept	01/03/2017	\$ 72,328.57		\$ 77,864.85
Lehmann Marie	Library	10/10/1986	\$ 44,283.21		\$ 46,055.50
Levreault Catherine E	Tax Collector	02/08/2018	\$ 43,890.62	\$ 373.23	\$ 44,263.85
Lichtenberger Jason	DPW-Highway	04/10/2000	\$ 55,560.56	\$ 4,911.25	\$ 63,139.21
Livingston Jordan	Dispatcher	06/27/2018	\$ 44,597.04	\$ 14,020.47	\$ 63,890.75
Lozier Gerard J	Election	12/07/2009	\$ 408.00		\$ 408.00
Lundgren Craig	Police	07/07/2003	\$ 123,300.45		\$ 128,560.00

Lupaczyk Jason T	Town Hall	06/08/2020	\$ 25,848.60	\$ 297.00	\$ 26,145.60
Mailloux Christine E	Accountant	07/28/1987	\$ 82,152.87		\$ 85,078.05
Maroni Andrew J	Wire Inspector	09/17/2019	\$ 8,750.00		\$ 8,750.00
Martin Richard	Outside Detail	01/01/2001	\$ 210.00		\$ 12,318.50
Martin Thomas E	Dispatcher	01/21/2016	\$ 56,124.80	\$ 16,119.96	\$ 77,980.94
Martineau Mary L	Dispatcher	01/28/2019	\$ 24,935.20	\$ 279.44	\$ 26,002.64
Matthews Julianne	Library	03/22/2018	\$ 6,572.70		\$ 6,572.70
McCallum Elizabeth I	Senior Tax Abatement	12/01/2020			\$ 433.50
McIntyre Patrick J	Tax Collector	01/27/2020	\$ 79,530.29		\$ 83,946.94
McLaughlin Lawrence	Moderator	06/24/1999	\$ 204.00		\$ 204.00
Miarecki Martin J	Health	12/08/2011	\$ 1,876.13		\$ 1,876.13
Miller Deborah A	Senior Tax Abatement	12/02/2020			\$ 750.00
Mitchell Randy L	Senior Tax Abatement	12/02/2015			\$ 750.00
Moore Alyssa M	Community Development	05/01/2017	\$ 31,542.60		\$ 31,542.60
Morin Jaden K	Fire Call	11/02/2020	\$ 42.00		\$ 42.00
Morris Sean M	Fire-Reg	08/15/2019	\$ 45,463.71	\$ 7,060.76	\$ 60,363.89
Mousseau Jarret	Police	02/26/1996	\$ 77,763.23	\$ 9,508.64	\$ 111,490.57
Murphy Maryann	Accountant	10/20/2011	\$ 51,760.93		\$ 52,620.93
Muzzy Cathy	Conservation	09/05/2006	\$ 1,800.00		\$ 1,800.00
Neale Todd W.	Police	07/24/1995	\$ 60,879.65	\$ 6,047.90	\$ 72,600.69
Nelson Robbie W	Lifeguard	06/19/2019	\$ 855.50		\$ 855.50
Newell Brandon R	Police	01/27/2020	\$ 47,487.33	\$ 8,387.40	\$ 62,178.67
O'Brien Jane M	Health	12/05/2017	\$ 47,402.12	\$ 199.49	\$ 47,601.61
O'Lari Albert	Police	07/28/1997	\$ 75,807.07	\$ 11,665.63	\$ 115,112.22
Parker Jeffrey	Fire-Reg	10/23/1995	\$ 95,585.05		\$ 100,720.19
Perry Derek	Fire-Reg	01/08/2018	\$ 49,710.33	\$ 32,405.91	\$ 95,916.51
Pinder Charles Frank	Outside Detail	05/01/2019	\$ 24,488.29	\$ 1,088.90	\$ 30,122.19
Piragis Samantha L	Fire Call	11/02/2020	\$ 350.00		\$ 350.00
Pollard James	Outside Detail	01/01/2001	\$ 120.00		\$ 24,506.50
Price Lynn	Council On Aging	04/11/2019	\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00
Publicover William C	Fire-Reg	08/21/2018	\$ 47,372.16	\$ 3,548.40	\$ 65,093.73
Purple Norma	Health	07/02/1993	\$ 1,563.62		\$ 1,563.62
Raskevitz Jr Paul D	DPW-Supt.	11/23/2020	\$ 48,988.37		\$ 48,988.37
Ray Susan J	Senior Tax Abatement	12/02/2020			\$ 750.00
Raymond Allison M	Lifeguard	06/25/2019	\$ 659.75		\$ 659.75
Raymond Stephen	Selectmen	06/01/2010	\$ 1,446.00		\$ 1,446.00
Rice Kyle J	Dog Officer	06/03/2019	\$ 9,976.00		\$ 9,976.00
Robertson Madelyn L	Lifeguard	06/19/2019	\$ 471.25		\$ 471.25
Robidoux Jason M	DPW-Highway	06/11/2018	\$ 49,655.12	\$ 6,395.17	\$ 57,926.04
Robinson Jean W.	Assessors	03/03/1997	\$ 50,086.92		\$ 52,200.22
Roraback William E	Fire Call	08/08/2019	\$ 98.00		\$ 98.00
Rumrill Megan S	Dispatcher	01/02/2011	\$ 3,107.16		\$ 3,253.16
Russell Patricia M.	Dog Officer	03/18/2002	\$ 5,624.00		\$ 5,624.00
Saisa Ryley E	Lifeguard	06/28/2017	\$ 736.25		\$ 736.25
Sampognaro Vincent C	Lifeguard	06/22/2021	\$ 474.38		\$ 474.38
Sandova Dana	Fire-Reg	08/15/2005	\$ 853.31		\$ 65,514.50
Santa Xavier	DPW-Supt.	01/03/2017	\$ 9,331.14		\$ 9,331.14
Savoy Cathy A.	Council On Aging	10/09/2006	\$ 51,747.52		\$ 52,657.52
Schouler Sarah A	Zoning/Planning	05/05/2019	\$ 1,153.00		\$ 1,153.00
Sexton Robert A.	DPW-Water	02/27/2006	\$ 65,847.04	\$ 12,190.70	\$ 91,299.96
Shaughnessy Jean E	Library	01/01/2001	\$ 86,165.69		\$ 87,285.44
Shaw Jennifer J	DPW-Water	10/09/2018	\$ 64,241.48		\$ 64,248.66
Shaw JR Bryan E	DPW-Supt.	05/20/2021	\$ 208.00		\$ 208.00
Shepardson Jr Arthur C	Fire-Reg	07/01/1988	\$ 58,235.23	\$ 34,914.12	\$ 104,868.36
Shtulman Robin	Library	07/01/2010	\$ 55,363.12		\$ 57,235.23
Skinner Olivia M	Library	07/01/2015	\$ 13,551.85		\$ 13,551.85
Small David	Conservation	12/21/2016	\$ 3,125.00		\$ 3,125.00
Smith Betty Ann	Senior Tax Abatement	12/31/2007			\$ 95.63
Smith Eric R	Community Development	04/14/2016	\$ 81,916.44		\$ 83,360.08

Smith Justin Alexander	Outside Detail	04/08/2021	\$ 1,020.00		\$ 1,020.00
Smith Kyle J	DPW-Cemetery	07/10/2017	\$ 48,819.04	\$ 3,831.50	\$ 54,490.50
Smith Shana E	Tax Collector	04/22/2019	\$ 19,457.28		\$ 19,457.28
Smith Sheila	Senior Tax Abatement	01/01/2001			\$ 127.50
Soltysik Andrew	Fire-Reg	08/25/1997	\$ 68,375.72	\$ 51,066.44	\$ 130,644.09
Stange Randal	Police	07/24/2000	\$ 79,259.94	\$ 5,993.72	\$ 95,418.51
Stanley Sarah E	Library	07/07/2008	\$ 48,066.26		\$ 48,071.74
Stepanian John Oscar	Council On Aging	02/06/2019	\$ 3,510.00		\$ 3,510.00
Strickland Adelheid K	Senior Tax Abatement	05/10/2017			\$ 750.00
Suhoski Shaun A	Selectmen	08/06/2014	\$ 136,335.60		\$ 141,242.64
Sujdak Andrew J	Selectmen	04/06/2021	\$ 361.50		\$ 361.50
Sullivan Bridget A	Selectmen	10/23/2017	\$ 55,250.35		\$ 55,250.35
Summers Mark D	DPW-Cemetery	09/05/2017	\$ 52,296.72	\$ 4,366.95	\$ 58,156.35
Sumner Maxwell B	Outside Detail	04/14/2021	\$ 2,480.00		\$ 2,480.00
Sykes Edgar William	DPW-Water	03/29/2021	\$ 9,750.00	\$ 632.93	\$ 10,457.93
Tandy Victoria	Library	10/09/2018	\$ 8,355.16		\$ 8,355.16
Tarara Nicholas V	Conservation	01/03/2017	\$ 2,250.00		\$ 2,250.00
Temple Julia	Senior Tax Abatement	01/01/2020			\$ 637.50
Thayer Judith G	Council On Aging	12/10/2007	\$ 26,167.35		\$ 26,167.35
Therault Katie E	Library	03/11/2020	\$ 5,115.39		\$ 5,115.39
Thiem Jeffrey W	DPW-Cemetery	09/22/2016	\$ 52,457.60	\$ 4,456.83	\$ 59,588.12
Truehart Duane S.	DPW-Supt.	12/10/2001	\$ 65,355.43		\$ 84,104.23
Turner Thomas	DPW-Highway	03/06/2000	\$ 59,766.56	\$ 7,516.03	\$ 69,595.07
Tzikas Margaret	Senior Tax Abatement	12/02/2020			\$ 745.88
Unaitis Elizabeth A.B.	Police	05/01/2019	\$ 48,644.70	\$ 12,529.46	\$ 68,371.97
Vaidulas Kenneth	Assessors	01/01/2001	\$ 1,735.00		\$ 1,735.00
Vitale Mark T	Dispatcher	08/29/2018	\$ 9,438.90		\$ 9,480.90
Vitols Cody J	Dispatcher	11/04/2020	\$ 18,930.00	\$ 1,543.01	\$ 21,665.01
Vondal Deborah K	Health	10/02/2006	\$ 69,662.49	\$ 3,699.30	\$ 75,546.79
Vysocky Sandra L	Senior Tax Abatement	12/01/2020			\$ 750.00
Walsh Douglas	DPW-Supt.	02/02/1986	\$ 26,307.75		\$ 109,109.51
Watson Nancy E	Town Clerk	12/19/1988	\$ 84,150.84	\$ 6,702.19	\$ 93,767.58
Watts Roger J	DPW-Cemetery	07/12/2012	\$ 1,647.00		\$ 2,397.00
Wheeler William P	Conservation	01/03/2017	\$ 2,250.00		\$ 2,250.00
Whiston Jr John F	Fire Call	07/24/2000	\$ 686.00		\$ 686.00
Whitcomb David B	Dispatcher	12/17/2018	\$ 11,925.00		\$ 11,925.00
Winters Bruce	Fire Call	07/01/2009	\$ 672.00		\$ 672.00
Woodbury Ellen M	Senior Tax Abatement	04/01/2018			\$ 750.00
Young Becky J.	Building Dept	04/28/2003	\$ 47,423.70		\$ 48,383.70

**ATHOL BOARD OF ASSESSORS
FISCAL YEAR 2021
ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Athol:

The new FY2021 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 4.2%. The next triennial revaluation will be for FY2022 and will be conducted by the Firm of Vision Government Solutions Inc. There are various town projects above the 2 ½ restrictions, however, for the second year in a row, the tax rate increased by forty-eight cents (\$.48). New growth for FY2021 was \$327,384. 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 2021:

Total Amt. to be raised	\$26,145,164.44
Est. Receipts/Revenues	\$10,898,831.46
Tax Levy	\$15,246,332.98
Tax Rate	\$ 17.66

There were over 203 exemptions and work-off program granted in the tax amount of \$114,843.08. Of this amount, \$87,018.08 was given out to (122) qualifying veterans and their wives and \$27,825 to (81) qualifying applicants. An additional \$13,452.88 was given out for the Senior Work-Off Program.

The Board of Assessors committed during FY2021 \$14,707,376.87 in Real Estate; \$538,956.01 in Personal Property; \$1,418,871.71 in Excise; \$7,588.50 in Title V Betterments; \$8,430.56 for Omitted (Athol Housing, etc.). Roll Back \$5,165.20; \$26,052.56 (Sewer) and \$18,602.68 in (Water) Liens.

The Board granted \$821.19 in Personal Property Abatements and \$4,176.17 in Real Estate Abatements.

It was an interesting year as we managed our way through Covid-19 Pandemic. The office was closed to the public however we still provided the much-needed services to the public. We had numerous Zoom meetings and used emails, fax, drop box, telephone and mail services as need. We thank everyone for their patience.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

CHAPTER THREE

PUBLIC SAFETY

Reports of the
Fire, EMS, Police &
Inspectional Services



**ATHOL FIRE DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2021**

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

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

Again, the department has been tasked with a significant call volume of 3179 in 2021. In the past 5 years the call volume has increased over 25%. Above and beyond the call volume, the department was happy to take part in what resulted in a very successful COVID vaccine clinic right here in Athol. Through a collaboration with Heywood Hospital, many town departments, the Chamber of Commerce, volunteers, and many others, we were able to vaccinate over 3800 doses.

The department was able to secure \$45,842 through the following grants: FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grant \$16,670, Executive Office of Public Safety Equipment Grant \$15,000, Emergency Management Performance Grant \$7,000, and The Department of Fire Service SAFE Grant \$7,172.

The department continues fire and EMS based training throughout the year. This year we have had firefighters attend training at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg Maryland, New Mexico Tech, in Socorro, New Mexico, Life Saving Resources in Kennebunkport, Maine as well as local schools and seminars throughout New England. These trainings include Code Enforcement, Juvenile Fire Setting, Swift Water Rescue, Incident Response to Terrorist Bombing, Fire Prevention, and Large Animal Rescue, to name a few.

I am happy to say we were able to conduct our Firefighter Memorial Sunday this year after missing it last year due to COVID. This event is a tribute and celebration to honor firefighter's both current and past for their sacrifices throughout their careers. This celebration is conducted both nationally and locally, and I am proud to say that the Athol Fire Department is now part of that tradition. Attendees included Members from State and Local government, retired firefighters, families, and the public. A wreath was laid onto the Athol Fire Department Memorial, Career & Call Fire Service awards were awarded, special career recognition awards, and citizen's recognition were presented while bag pipes echoed in the background. This memorial will be held in June of each year, and I am inviting all of you to attend to show support and recognition for the firefighters locally and nationally that keep you safe each day.

The biggest highlight of the year was the delivery of our new Engine 1 which was appropriated through a \$621,000 Assistance to Firefighter Grant in 2020. This new Engine is replacing a 46-year-old pumper which is being donated to the New England Museum of Firefighting so that firefighting enthusiasts can see an antique fire engine that was build right here in Massachusetts. The new Engine 1 was designed by an apparatus committee within the department and designed to meet the needs of the Athol Fire

Department. Most of the equipment to equip the new engine was purchased through a donation to the fire department.

In closing I would like to thank the town officials, residents and taxpayers of the Town of Athol for their continual support of your fire department. I feel that 2021 was a continuation of progress due to the hard work of the members of the Athol Fire Department who again look forward to an even more progressive year in 2022.

Fire Department Calls for Service 2021 – 3,179

Fire Department Vehicles Statistics

Vehicle	Year	Make	Condition
Engine 1	2021	Toyne	Excellent Pump
Engine 3	1998	HME	Extremely Poor Pump Not NFPA Compliant
Engine 4	2012	KME	Good Pump
Special Ops	2006	Ford	Good Rescue Equipment
Ladder 1	2006	E-One	Good
Ambulance 1	2015	Dodge	Good
Ambulance 2	2019	Ford	Good
Chiefs Car	2021	Ford	Excellent
Deputy Car	2017	Ford	Excellent
Training Car	2010	Ford	Poor
Utility Pick Up	2016	Chevy	Good
Utility Pumper	2005	Ford	Good
Brush Truck 2	1970	Farrar	Poor
Fire Alarm Bucket	1980	Ford	Poor

ATV 1	2005	Artic Cat	Poor
ATV 2	2005	Artic Cat	Poor
UTV 1	2018	Polaris	Excellent
UTV 2	2021	Polaris	Excellent
Fire Boat 1	2005	Clark	Good
Fire Boat 2	1963	Star Craft	Fair

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph P. Guarnera, M.Ed., CFO
Chief of Department



**ATHOL POLICE DEPARTMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2021
ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Athol:

The mission of the Athol Police Department is the protection of lives and property, the preservation of peace in our community, and the improvement of the quality of life of all of our citizens. We accomplish these goals through efforts of prevention; the enforcement of state, federal, and municipal laws in accordance with the Constitutions of the United States of America and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and through working in partnership with all segments of our community. We endeavor to provide the delivery of high quality professional police services, making respect for individuals' rights, fairness, and human dignity a priority.

We started Fiscal Year 2021 with 19 sworn officers. This included the Chief, Lieutenant, 3 Sergeants, 2 Detectives, a School Resource Officer, a Court Officer, and 10 Patrolman. Throughout this year we received a few resignations from our staff. In February 2021, Officer Charles Pinder resigned from his full-time patrol position and accepted a full-time position with the US Army and also Officer Donald Hager resigned from his full-time position to accept an offer with our neighbor, the Orange Police Department. These two vacancies were filled with in-house promotions. Reserve Officers Madison Chevarie and Paul Forand were promoted to full-time patrolman bringing us back up to full staffing levels. Officer Elizabeth Unaitis began the full-time police academy in the previous fiscal year. With a slight delay in her academy due to COVID, she was able to graduate in July 2020.

Community engagement continues to be a top priority for our Department. Officer Courtney Call organized the second annual Cram-a-Cruiser event. The day of the event brought a huge snow storm but that did not stop citizens from showing up and filling multiple cruisers with toys. In March 2021, the Police Union held a fundraiser selling Autism patches where proceeds went to an Autism Awareness non-profit organization. In March 2020 and June 2021 we co-hosted our first ever Coffee with a Cop events along with the State Police and the Orange Police Department. In May 2021 Officers Courtney Call and Scott Dubrule participated in the Trunk-or-Treat event at the school. They decorated the cruisers with a luau theme and handed out goodie bags to over a hundred families that drove through. Also in May, our Department participated in a Fill-a-Cruiser Food Drive hosted by the North Central Massachusetts Association of Realtors. In June 2021, K9 Officer Craig Deveneau and K9 Gronk attended Braintree K9 Kitt's funeral services at Gillette Stadium along with hundreds of other K9 Officers.

Our Department strived to make some necessary updates to our station and the overall appearance of our Department. A new marked cruiser went on the main patrol line in December 2020. This cruiser was the start of an updated paint scheme. Some of our officers pitched in to help paint our Roll Call and Reports rooms. We then also had the carpets replaced giving those two rooms a complete refresh.

We are proud to report that Officer Madison Chevarie became a certified Car Seat Technician. This allows us to offer her assistance in making sure children's car seats are installed properly. Sergeant Randal Stange secured grant funding from the Municipal Road Safety Grant to purchase two speed signs that have been installed on Pleasant Street.

The Lion’s Club began raising funds for us to purchase a new K9 cruiser. The generosity of local citizens and businesses was overwhelming. We can’t thank the Lion’s Club and everyone that donated enough. This new cruiser will be very useful for Officer Deveneau and K9 Gronk. Together they are a great resource, as you can see by their FY21 statistics below:

- 8 call outs for criminal tracks
- 4 call outs for narcotic searches
- 7 building searches
- 2 suicidal subject tracks

Unfortunately, we experienced another year of life with COVID. On the bright side, the world began to return back to a “new” normal. Courts opened back up, vaccines became available, school returned to in-person, and businesses reopened. With all of this, we began to see an increase in calls and needs for services. Throughout the entirety of the COVID-19 pandemic, I can say that I am honored and proud to work alongside such a dedicated and professional group of officers. With the ever-changing rules and regulations, our Department never missed a beat and came to work every day with positive attitudes and commitment to their duties. They are an outstanding group of hardworking, dedicated professionals the Town can be proud of.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Craig A. Lundgren

Crime Statistics

Criminal Homicide	0
Manslaughter	0
Kidnapping Abduction	0
Rape	49
Robbery	2
Assault	105
Intimidation	28
Arson	1
Burglary/B&E	18
Larceny	102
Shoplifting	8
Motor Vehicle Theft	9
Counterfeiting/Forgery	1
Fraud	29
Vandalism	46
Drug/Narcotic Violation	28
Weapons Law Violation	11
Disorderly Conduct	23
OUI	12
Liquor Law Violation	5
Town By-Law Violation	162
All Other Violations	211
Identity Theft	37

Total Arrests/Summons/Protective Custody: 344

Traffic Statistics:

M/V Citations	217
Civil	20
Arrest	17
Criminal	45

Calls for Service:

Parking Tickets	241
M/V Accidents	327

Total Call for Service: 18,394

Crime Statistics:

Over \$1000	403
Under \$1000	45

Total Offense Reported: 597

**ATHOL INSPECTIONAL SERVICES
FISCAL YEAR 2021
ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Athol:

In FY20 the Building Department collected \$272,561.00 in permit fees with \$800 in municipal permit fees waived. Vacant and Abandoned properties registration fees of \$3,700.00. 110 inspection fees of \$1,085.00, and zoning fees of \$1,410.00. For a total of \$154,475. The operating budget was \$174,330. The number of building permits that were approved totaled \$148,557, with a total valuation of \$12,912,225.

Building Permits Issued FY20-21	
Single Family Homes	20
Multi-Family Homes	0
Commercial, including Municipal	2
Additions	7
Garages/Carports	6
Decks/Porches	23
Pools	9
Wood/Pellet Stoves	20
Sheds	4
Demo	12
Other, including roofs, siding, & signs	401
Foundation Only	2
Solar Panels	74
Vacant & Abandoned Property	39
CMR 780 sec. 110 Inspections	42
On-site Inspections	544

Plumbing Permits	102
Gas Permits	99
Wiring Permits	420
Total Plumbing and Gas Fees:	\$22,645.00
Total Wiring Fees:	\$95,164.00

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Legare, Inspector of Buildings
Becky Young, Office Manager



**ATHOL BOARD OF HEALTH
FISCAL YEAR 2021
ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Athol:

The Athol Health Department is on the front line of protecting the health and safety of the community and environment each and every day. A wide range of responsibilities are mandated under state law and regulation including the enforcement of the State Sanitary Code (housing), the National Food Code (food establishments) and Title 5 (onsite septic systems). All of our lives were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; the Health Department was deeply involved in contact tracing, tracked COVID cases, cluster outbreaks and community spread, provided isolation and quarantine guidance, provided Department of Public Health COVID information updates to the public, schools and businesses, enforced the governor's orders during this state of emergency and collaboratively coordinated vaccination clinics.

PERMITS ISSUED		INSPECTIONS	
Burial	98	HOUSING:	
Septic Disposal Construction	43	Complaints	23
Septage Hauler	7	Follow-Ups	24
Septic Installer	17	Pre-Rental	2
Well	12	Vacant Abandoned	5
Trash Hauler	20	Lodging House	2
Tobacco	16	TRASH	
Tanning Operator/Salon	1	Complaints	51
Pool/Spa	2	Follow-ups	77
Mobile Home Park	2	Illegal Dumping	0
Lodging House	2	FOOD	
Funeral Director	1	Routine	80
Food Establishment	57	Follow-Ups	25
Retail Food	8	Complaint	10
Temporary Food Establishments	2	Temporary Day Events	4
		SEPTIC	
FEES		Soil Evaluation	43
Food Establishment Plan Review	3	Septic Installation	75
Title 5 Report Review	65	OTHER	
TOBACCO CONTROL ALLIANCE		Pool	2
Access Compliance Checks	35	Tanning	1
Retail Education Checks	40	Nuisance/Miscellaneous	16
Pricing Surveys	16	MISCELLANEOUS	
Referrals:		Court Appearance/zoom	4
Smoke Free Work Place Complaints	0	Office Phone Calls	1074
Quit Line for Nicotine Patch	0	Office Visits	84
\$6000 in Tobacco Fines collected		COVID-19 calls	2016

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Vondal, RS: Health Agent

Marty Miarecki: Board of Health Chair

Norma Purple: Board of Health Member

Jane O'Brien: Assistant Health Agent

Joan Hamlett: Board of Health Vice Chair

CHAPTER FOUR

PUBLIC SERVICE

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

**ATHOL COUNCIL ON AGING
SENIOR CENTER
FISCAL YEAR 2021
ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Board of Selectmen 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 350 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 and Senior Center hours are: Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Later hours can be accommodated by appointment. Hours may be flexible to provide for special senior programming.

This past year the Council on Aging office continued administrative functions and social service programming while organized activities and programming at the Senior Center remained suspended due to the continuation of the COVID pandemic. Staff continued meeting with the public requiring assistance by appointment. Special meeting tables were created using plexiglass to meet with clients. Some of our work was also completed by phone, virtually or home visits.

Over the past year approximately 9,050 units of service were performed for seniors in various capacities by the Council on Aging and Senior Center provided through funding from the Town of Athol, the Executive Office of Elder Affairs Formula Grant, Frank S. Parmenter Trust Fund, LifePath, Inc., Title III B, Friends of the Athol Council on Aging and individual contributors.

The Senior Center congregate dining program, sponsored by LifePath, Inc. and the Town of Athol provides nutritionally balanced congregate dinner meals served at 12noon. Additional meals are offered by the Council on Aging staff and board members outside of the established congregate program. This program was suspended in March 2020 until further notice. No congregate meals were served family style during the fiscal year 2020/2021 due to the continuation of the COVID pandemic status. The COA is looking forward to re-establishing the dining program in early 2022.

Social services available to area seniors and disabled include SNAP (supplemental nutrition) applications, food security counseling, fuel assistance/weatherization, benefits counseling, housing assistance, tax preparation, SHINE, a program of LifePath, Inc., (serving health insurance needs of everyone), RMV host agency, information and referral services as well as other benefits and programming intended to improve an individuals' quality of life.

Activities at the Senior Center include health and wellness related activities and screenings including hearing tests, foot screening, blood pressure clinics, flu clinics, senior fitness, yoga, congregate meals, home safety seminars and educational forums. Social activities include bridge, pitch, bingo, red aces, somba, senior arts, instructional painting and quilting, movies, wood carving, senior club meetings, a lending library and other special events. Through a Title III D Grant administered through LifePath Inc. and the Executive Office of Elder Affairs the Council was able establish a “handyman/repair” program available to seniors. Our innovative Birthday Card Outreach Program continues and is funded through donations. All of these activities were temporarily suspended in March 2020 and gradually reintroduced beginning in the spring of 2021.

The Brown Bag distribution continued with approximately 125 elders receiving perishable and non-perishable food each month. Approximately 50 of the brown bags are delivered to the home-bound by volunteer drivers. The program is led by the COA staff and approximately 12 volunteers, who unload the truck, package the brown bags and distribute at the center or set up for delivery. For a period of time, due to the COVID pandemic, the brown bags arrived at the center already packaged and seniors picked them up by using a drive through system.

The Council on Aging participated in the “Truck to Trunk” program during the FY 2020/2021 year. Frozen meats and cheeses were delivered to the center for distribution to area seniors. The program was organized by LifePath, our area agency on aging and the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. The Council also worked with the Salvation Army to secure food for those in need.

Eighty-four seniors received free assistance in the preparation of their state and federal income taxes through AARP. Through outreach efforts the tax preparation program has demonstrated a significant increase in demand over the past several years. Approximately 18 seniors were assisted with filing the “Circuit Breaker” a State Tax Rebate program. The number of those served through the tax assistance program was reduced due to the COVID Pandemic and limited certified preparers.

The “Shine” program assisted approximately 160 area seniors with health insurance issues and assisted with the Prescription Advantage program and the changes in the H.M.O. programs. The Council currently has one (1) SHINE counselor that has been trained and certified through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and LifePath, Inc. and who continues to participate in monthly trainings to keep up with the changing health care system. Administrative and in-kind support for the program is provided by the Town of Athol, Executive Office of Elder Affairs, the Friends of the Council on Aging and the Frank S. Parmenter Fund. The SHINE services have been available in person, by appointment and via telephone conference.

Following the suspension of the popular foot-clinics, due to the pandemic, the clinics resumed by appointment only on May 26, 2021 and provided 35 screenings in both May and June. The program continues to thrive.

Assistance with applications for Fuel Assistance was available by appointment and 58 seniors were served through the benefits counseling program. The Council also assisted 8 clients in receiving heating system repair or replacement and works closely with the Farmer Workers’ Council, the agency dispersing fuel assistance funding and the Montachusett Opportunity Council, the agency that oversees the weatherization funds for this area.

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 36 seniors for free legal assistance offered through North Central Legal assistance and the Franklin County Bar Association.

On Christmas Day, 250 plus homebound elders and disabled were delivered a complete ham dinner. With the assistance of the COA Board and volunteers, the dinners were cooked, packed & delivered. The Christmas dinner program is a three-day project. This year due to COVID and social distancing approximately 10 volunteers and staff worked on the program.

The Council on Aging provided assistance with the Wm. J. O'Brien Thanksgiving community dinner. 250 meals were cooked and packaged at the Senior Center and distributed by an outside drive through system and volunteer drivers on Thanksgiving Day.

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 groups.

The Council on Aging applied for and received three grants to support various programming for the Fiscal Year 2021.

Due to the COVID Pandemic the annual Volunteer Recognition in June and the annual North Quabbin Senior Picnic was not held this year. Plans are in motion to bring both events back to the community.

The following residents served the Athol Council on Aging Board during FYI 2019:

Arthur (Tim) Herk- Chairperson, Walter Lehman- Vice Chairperson, Debra Miller- Secretary, Lillian Batchelder, Jean Ryder, Jackie Paluilis, Ann Shea and Mare Hawthorne.

The Board would like to thank the many volunteers that make the variety of Council on Aging programs possible. We are indebted to the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, the Massachusetts Councils on Aging, LifePath 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 assistant, 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 Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, town departments 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 the Council office at (978) 249-8986.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy A. Savoy, Executive Director



**ATHOL PUBLIC LIBRARY
FISCAL YEAR 2022
ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Athol:

In July 2020, the library building was still closed to the public with services and programs being offered online or outside. The Summer Reading Program “Imagine Your Story” was held online through Beanstack, books were loaned through curbside service, FAX, photocopies, and notary services were provided, and laptop computers were made available outside under the portico. The library reopened to the public on October 19 with reduced hours – Monday to Thursday, 9:30 – 6:00, allowing people to browse and choose their own materials. A staff greeter in the lobby at all times enforced the mask, sign in for contact tracing, and hand sanitizing requirements.

Adult Services

The “Imagine Your Story” Summer Reading program for 2020 was a virtual experience with registration for all through an online format, Beanstack, what was made available through a grant from the MA Board of Library Commissioners. 78 adults registered, read for 88,774 minutes, completed 478 activities and earned 1,040 badges. Eight prizes provided by the Friends of the Library were awarded. Book Bundles were offered throughout the summer since patrons were not allowed in to browse. After reopening in October 2020, Book and Movie Bundles continued to be popular with “Spooky” (October), “Cookbook” (November & December), and “Gardening” with packages of seeds included (April) being some of the most popular themes. A display of winter birds, on loan from the Athol Bird and Nature Club was the basis of a scavenger hunt in the adult section through the fall and winter with over 50 children and adults claiming prizes. A Winter Reading Challenge was offered to adults through Beanstack and 57 adults read 85,705 minutes to earn 1,063 badges. Mystery Discussion and Booked for Lunch book groups were held through Zoom beginning in October. The Aldrich Astronomical Society provided a Zoom introduction to Astrophotography. Feel Good February focused on circulating many of our games and puzzles along with soliciting “Kindness Cards” to redistribute. In April, Historic Deerfield presented an online introduction to “A Tasty Appetizer from the Past: Pounded Cheese” with attendees making their own at home along with the presenter. An April vacation week Library Egg Hunt for teens and adults rewarded more than 35 patrons with candy or a prize for their find. The Children’s Advocacy Center held a flag-raising event outside at our flagpole and their “Child Abuse Prevention” flag was flown for the month of April. *Vital, Vibrant, Visible: Indigenous Identity Through Portraiture*, was held via Zoom in May and corresponded with a two-month long exhibit here of photographs by Sara K. Lyons of local Indigenous peoples.

The “Tales and Tails Summer Reading program for 2021 got a great start with a kick-off in the Park and parking lot outside of the library. The Friends of the Library held a book give-away and there were activities, snacks, and crafts for all ages. By the end of June 2021, 33 adults had registered and read 13,141 minutes to sponsor a donation from the Friends to the local animal shelter.

Young Adult Department

During the 2020 Summer Reading Program, “Imagine Your Story”, 41 teens registered online, read 52,851 minutes, completed 689 activities, earned 511 badges, and wrote 140 book reviews. In September and October, meetings of Book Bites and ATAC (Teen Advisory) were held through Zoom. Book Bundles and take-home craft kits were popular with teens. A fall reading challenge on Beanstack

attracted 20 teens who read 245 minutes. A very popular People's Candy Choice contest was held online with 467 votes cast for their favorite candy. In November, an in-person Teen Meet was held for 7 teens. A Sketch Book Club began with a steady audience of five that quickly expanded to a weekly participant total of 10 – 15 teens. Book Bundles, Grab and Go Crafts, and Take-Home Kits continue to be popular. BiblioBoxes were introduced in December – a subscription-like monthly service for teens, providing a book, snack, toy or activity all in a take home box. April, May, and June saw the addition of more in-person programs, some held inside and others outside in the park. The April Egg Hunt was enjoyed by 40 teens during April vacation week and the online Star Wars quiz generated 62 winners. Tie Dye, Chalk Art, Anime Bingo, in addition to the Book Bundles, Boxes, and craft kits aimed to keep teens engaged.

Tales and Tails, the Summer 2021 reading program, registered 33 teens reading 26,342 minutes and completing 150 activities and 31 book reviews by June 30.

Children's Department

The Summer 2020 "Imagine Your Story" reading program was held virtually through Beanstack with 120 children registered. Children read for 50,461 minutes, completed 696 activities, earned 1,052 badges, and wrote 84 book reviews. Lawn signs proclaiming "A Summer Reader Lives Here", generously provided by funding from Valuing Our Children, were given to all participants. Story Times, Learn & Play sessions, and Virtual LEGO were offered for programming while the building was closed to the public. Book Bundles and Take-Home Craft Kits were delivered to cars curbside. Story Walks resumed outside in August, returning to inside the library in October. Some programs continued online in the fall, including Book Worms, Read Woke, and 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. Scavenger Hunts, Guess Who and guessing contests, and LEGO were held in the library. October featured the traditional Decorated Pumpkin Contest with 160 votes cast online. The Big Read, an event organized by Valuing Our Children, was held in the library in November. A Winter Painting Contest for all ages had 16 entries in the Child category, 2 in Teen, and 9 in Adult with winners chosen by 207 online votes. A Winter Reading challenge on Beanstack encouraged 22 children to read. Kindness Card Kits were handed out in February and 41 cards were donated from the 18 kits given out. Spring programs included a reading of the book *Don Gateau* by local author, Diane Kane, an Egg Hunt, a Poet-Tree inviting visitors to write and hang a poem, and a Book Mark Contest.

The Tales and Tails 2021 Summer Reading Program kicked off with a great celebration in the park featuring games, crafts, a roaming dinosaur, snacks, a book giveaway by the Friends of the Library, face painting, and lots of fun. Two programs, funded by the Athol Cultural Council, were held outside in June. Henry the Juggler entertained 68 children and parents, despite the hot sun. Animal World Experience brought several live animals to visit with the 60 children and parents attending. A LEGO Make and Take to Keep was a hit with the 17 children attending.

Memorial Donations

Donations to the library were made in memory of George Roix and Margaret Young.

Friends of the Library Executive Board

President: Lillian Bachelder

Vice-President: Patricia Ray

Treasurer: Muriel Holden

Secretary: Christine Miranda

Directors: Lynn Carpenter, Vera Coupal, Dianna Dugas, Marilyn Firth, Julianna Matthews, Florence Pelletier, Maryann Rabideau, Mary Roberts, Barbara Robichaud, Jean White

Friends of the Library Volunteer Greeters

Sandra Bachelder, Myra Macleod, Patricia Ray, Jean White

Senior Tax Abatement Volunteers 2020-2021

Sandra Bachelder, Virginia Berry, Susan Farley, Deborah Miller, Sandra Vysocky, Ellen Woodbury

Art Exhibitors

Sara K. Lyons – photographs of local Indigenous peoples

Gary Porter – wood carvings and woven baskets

Athol Bird and Nature Club – mounted birds

**Library Staff
Adult Department**

Jean Shaughnessy, *Director*

Robin Shtulman, *Assistant Director*

Marie Lehmann, Emily Boughton (YA), Kelsey Matthews – *Full-Time Library Technicians*

Sandra Bachelder, Virginia Berry, Julianne Matthews, Victoria Tandy – *Part-Time Library Technicians*

Children's Department

Sarah Stanley – *Children's Librarian*

Robin Brzozowski – *Children's Assistant/Full-Time Technician*

Olivia Skinner – *Part-Time Technician*

Katie Theriault - *Page*



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES,
NORTHEAST QUABBIN DISTRICT (NQD)
2021
ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Athol, Phillipston, Petersham, Royalston and Orange:

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts began providing for its veterans and their families in need, 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 FY 2015 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 April 6, 2021, the Director Appointment was renewed to June 30, 2022. March 2021 DVS granted approval for the district to continue operating through June 30, 2023.

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 NQD serves veterans and dependents having a formal residence in Athol, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston and Royalston.

VETERANS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERED AND OR ASSISTED BY THE NORTHEAST QUABBIN 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 FY21 Veterans' Benefits paid, by community, to its eligible veterans and/or dependents. Benefits paid are normally reimbursed at 75% by the Commonwealth. There are exceptions, where some benefits are eligible for 100% reimbursement.

FY21 CHAPTER 115 VETERANS' BENEFITS DATA

Town	Benefits Paid	State	% Reimbursed
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		Reimbursements	
Athol	\$143,492.43	\$107,641.82	75%
Orange	\$74,847.12	\$56,135.34	75%
Petersham	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%
Phillipston	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%
Royalston	\$8,478.36	\$6358.77	75%

3. Burials in one of two Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries, Winchendon and Agawam.
4. 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.
5. Homeless prevention, Transitional Housing and outreach services.
6. Wartime Bonuses, Annuities etc.
7. And more...

2021 ALL OTHER VETERANS' BENEFITS DATA FOR THE NORTHEAST QUABBIN DISTRICT

Veteran Compensation		Veteran Pension		Dependent Compensation		Death Pension		All Awards		Mnthly Avg
# of Vets	\$ Amt	# of Vets	\$ Amt	# of Benef	\$ Amt	# of Benef	\$ Amt	\$ Amt		\$ Amt
464	\$772,091.27	18	\$11,803.00	28	\$40,574.84	3	\$2,245.00	513	\$826,714.11	\$6,661.03

(SOURCE OF DATA FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN SERVICES)

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, income based pensions, dependent compensation (DIC), etc.
 - a. VA Compensation & Benefits (VBA) paid nearly **\$830,000** (MVS_{OA}) dollars in annual compensation to veterans, dependents and surviving spouses living in the Northeast Quabbin District of Athol, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston and Royalston.
 - b. VA Central-Western-Massachusetts Healthcare System – Headquartered at Northampton VA Medical Center, Leeds has five Community Based Outpatient Clinics delivering medical and mental health treatment to over 120,000 veterans with an annual budget of **\$240 M**.
2. Department of Defense (DOD): Military records; medical records; medals, decorations and awards not previously issued; applications to correct Military Records.
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. MassHire Franklin Hampshire
- f. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- g. U.S. Department of Justice
- h. Other Massachusetts & U.S. Departments, Non-Profit Organizations and state agencies.

I continued to see an increase in the numbers of veterans applying for service-connected disabilities, both new and increases. Operating under COVID guidelines since April 2020, has seen some challenges. These challenges continue to be met and overcome with the excellent support of the NQD town offices. With the resurgence of COVID and its variants, the office remains open to the public by appointment only. The office fielded almost 1130 phone calls, in-person appointments and home visits in the last year. The Board and I managed to successfully take care of all supportive needs presented by veterans' and their families.

Veterans with service-connected disabilities are eligible for VA Healthcare. All other veterans may be eligible for VA Healthcare based on defined criteria. Wartime and peacetime veterans may qualify for VA Healthcare.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah C. Custer

Sarah C. Custer
Director, NorthEast Quabbin District
Veterans' Services

CHAPTER FIVE

PUBLIC WORKS

Report of the
Department of Public Works



**ATHOL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
FISCAL YEAR 2021
ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Athol:

The Town of Athol Department of Public Works consists of 26 full-time employees working across multiple divisions within the DPW. Highway, Cemetery/Park/Tree, Water/Sewer and Transfer Station. 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, and bridges, roads and drainage systems operational. The Town of Athol DPW continues to attend professional development trainings to help improve all aspects of the DPW. Efficiency and improving delivery of our services is a priority. We continue to implement best practices.

The Town of Athol is now into its second year of operation with our neighbors to the North; the Town of Royalston. Athol will provide Wastewater services for a fee to the community in the amount of \$60,000 per year. Athol staff will continue to operate their wastewater treatment facility to maintain compliance with State and Federal regulations. The DPW is happy to report, that like Athol, there were no violations in Royalston this year.



Stormwater culverts and drainage piping continue to be a source of concern for the DPW as a result of extreme weather. Small culverts are being repaired or replaced as part of the general operating budget. Planning for large culvert projects is an entirely different process due to the financial constraints. Athol's Planning office is working on a Municipal Vulnerability Grant Phase #2 at the Lord Pond Plaza. Construction and funding of an outfall structure at Lake Ellis is moving slow. Downstream volume may not be possible without considerable expense. Athol DPW continues to work with our partners at the MassDOT to keep the Route 2 Culvert clear of debris to alleviate some of the water levels in this water body.

The Athol Water Division has completed the installation of its replacement Well in the Tully Wellfield. In addition to this full replacement, the DPW also replaced pumps and motors in one of the existing wells as it had become worn, and its pumping capacity was limited. All sources are now active and supplying water to the distribution system.

The Sewer Division continues to inspect and repair the sewer collection system to reduce infiltration of surface and groundwater which ultimately adds to the cost of treatment. Major repairs to the Bickford Avenue and Silver Lake Street sewer line were completed. This involved new manholes and sewer lining. This work was completed with minimal roadway disruption.

Routine sewer cleaning and emergency clearing of sewerage blockages continue to be a major problem in Town. Disposable wipes marketed as "flushable", create troublesome blockages in sewer laterals and main lines causing expensive repairs. We strongly urge sewer customers to dispose of these wipes into their Household trash. In addition to wipes, many are using the toilet to dispose of their Covid masks.

Mask's In The Trash *Please.* 😊



This year the Community Development Block Grant Phase #1 was completed on Walnut Street. Water mains and hydrants were replaced, new 8" sewer mains installed, and drainage was corrected to prevent flooding. Street trees were planted, and street paving was completed. This continues the long-standing tradition of receiving this Federal Funding and placing it back into Athol neighborhoods.

In addition to Walnut Street the Fish Park sidewalk project was completed with Mass DOT Complete Street's funding. This allowed for new sidewalks around the entire park and intersection improvements at Newton and Union Streets. Traffic calming speed signs were added to both East and West bound lanes on Main Street.

The Highway Division completed paving on multiple roadways; Chestnut Hill Road, Silver Lake Street, Pinedale and Pequog Avenues, and a small portion of Exchange Street. Additional roadway crack sealing took place in the Lenox Street neighborhood. This process preserves the roadway from cracking and adds some additional useful life to the roadway network.



This continues to improve the roadway network. Regular sweeping, pothole patching, catch basin repair, plowing and salting continue as well. There are many other tasks and assistance provided to other DPW Divisions upon request. Roadside dumping and graffiti continue to be a big and expensive issue. If you see this kind of activity, please contact the Police Department.

Bridge repair/replacement design work has been completed on the Pinedale Avenue Bridge and is ready to be funded and re-constructed. The Crescent Street sluiceway that carries the Western portion of the sidewalk and the Logan/Fryeville bridge have begun preliminary design and await funding before moving forward.



The Town of Athol DPW has completed the decorative street lighting project. The total of 68 decorative streetlights both in the uptown common and downtown business district have been converted to LED lighting saving the community additional dollars. They look amazing when driving at night. If you have not yet seen them, please take a look next time through town.

The Cemetery Park & Tree Division continue to maintain 9 cemeteries with 60 acres of parks and ball fields. The Division provides assistance to the State DCR in operation of the Athol wood bank. This wood bank recycles town wood. It is cut and split by DCR employees and can be accessed by the public through a voucher system in Town Hall. The wood bank is located off Pinedale Avenue.

The Athol Transfer Station has undergone a major renovation. During the Covid pandemic the existing Bookmobile office was not supplying hand washing facilities or toilet facilities. This bus, although useful to start the program in 2008, became a mold infested unsafe work environment. The DPW was fortunate to secure a used construction trailer and installed a non-potable well and tight tank for septic facilities. This now allows for a much better flow of traffic, safer work environment for the Town employees and visual appearance is appealing to those who use this facility. If you haven't thought about the Athol Transfer Station for your trash and recycling needs, give it a try. Come visit Mike Mallett and check it out.



DPW BUD Permitted Street Sweeping Disposal Project



This DPW funded project with the assistance of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection involved placing over 1000 Tons of legacy street sweepings into a defunct surface water reservoir near the old Water Filtration Plant for a permanent resting place. This regulatory approved location allowed for a trucking and disposal fee savings of over \$600,000.00. This direct savings will be helpful in continuing to rebuild Athol streets and sidewalks.



Projects in the Works

- Walnut Street Phase # 2 Reconstruction Project
- Emergency generator connections at all sewer lift stations
- Green and Kennebunk Street water / sewer design work
- Continued replacement/reallocation of DPW vehicles
- Complete Streets Sidewalks (Ridge Ave. Partial)
- Five Points TIP Reconstruction Project
- Silver Lake Cemetery Expansion
- Stormwater Management Mapping

DPW Fun Facts...Did You Know?

- Sold 1107 Transfer Station Stickers
- Supplied 13 cord/loads of wood for the wood bank
- Issued multiple street numbers & driveway permits
- Pumped 229,152 million gallons of water
- Completed 53 Burials
- Snow & Ice removal costs \$268,454.00
- Processed 350,035,000 gallons of wastewater
- Received 586,630 gallons of septage from Athol residents with no tipping fee (Saving residents approximately \$58,663.00)

Respectfully Submitted with DPW pride,

Richard Kilhart, Superintendent

Department of Public Works

"at your service"

**ATHOL FACILITIES DEPARTMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2021
ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Athol:

The Town of Athol Facilities Department is comprised of 2 full-time and 1 part-time employee. The Facilities Manager and one Facilities Associate are full-time and maintain the day-to-day upkeep of each town building including but not limited to: Town Hall (Memorial Building), Library, Senior Center, Environmental Center, 3 former school buildings and the Bidwell barn. Our part-time Facilities Associates is responsible for the upkeep and cleaning of the Senior Center.

Together, throughout the year the Facilities Department work to complete projects and maintain the buildings. Some of the projects tackled this fiscal year include: completion of the construction of the Customer Portal in the lower level of Memorial Building, the skylight over the rotunda which has been cleaned and new, electronically controlled lighting was added. The Facilities Department also worked hard to transform the Selectmen's meeting room (Room 21 on the second floor of Town Hall) by stripping the old wallpaper, adding a fresh coat of paint, pulling up the carpet and new carpet installed, and replacing an old desk and adding some new chairs for those wishing to attend meetings.

The Facilities Department has once again worked hard over the last year, through the pandemic, to keep all public buildings clean and sanitized, including weekly "fogging" of all rooms and offices with special equipment.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Brusio
Facilities Manager

Jason Lupacyzk, Facilities Associate
John "Oscar" Stepanian, Facilities Associate

CHAPTER SIX

ELECTIONS & TOWN MEETINGS

Report of the
Election Officers & Town Clerk

STATE PRIMARY
SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

In each precinct polling place, the polls were opened at 7:00 a.m. and the ballot box in each precinct registered 0.

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: 733 on the ballot box and 0 in the auxiliary compartment.

Precinct 2: 552 on the ballot box and 0 in the auxiliary compartment.

Precinct 3: 634 on the ballot box and 0 in the auxiliary compartment.

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: 518 Democrat;
208 Republican; 1 Green-Rainbow; 6 Libertarian

Precinct 2: On the ballot clerk's list and on the list at the ballot box : 377 Democrat; 171
Republican; 1 Green-Rainbow; 3 Libertarian

Precinct 3: On the ballot clerk's list and on the list at the ballot box : 476 Democrat; 157
Republican; 0 Green-Rainbow; 1 Libertarian

NUMBER OF BALLOTS CAST

Precinct 1: Number of Ballots Cast: 518 Democrat ; 208 Republican; 1 Green-Rainbow; 6
Libertarian
Spoiled Ballots: 0 Democrat; 0 Republican; 0 Green-Rainbow; 0 Libertarian
Provisional Ballots: 0 Democrat; 0 Republican; 0 Green-Rainbow; 0 Libertarian
Unused Ballots: 99 Democrat; 30 Republican; 48 Green-Rainbow; 48 Libertarian

Precinct 2: Number of Ballots Cast: 377 Democrat ; 171 Republican; 1 Green-Rainbow; 3
Libertarian
Spoiled Ballots: 2 Democrat; 0 Republican; 0 Green-Rainbow; 0 Libertarian
Provisional Ballots: 0 Democrat; 0 Republican; 0 Green-Rainbow; 0 Libertarian
Unused Ballots: 128 Democrat; 155 Republican; 49 Green-Rainbow; 47 Libertarian

Precinct 3: Number of Ballots Cast: 476 Democrat ; 157 Republican; 0 Green-Rainbow; 1
Libertarian
Spoiled Ballots: 2 Democrat; 0 Republican; 0 Green-Rainbow; 0 Libertarian
Provisional Ballots: 0 Democrat; 0 Republican; 0 Green-Rainbow; 0 Libertarian
Unused Ballots: 117 Democrat; 170 Republican; 50 Green-Rainbow; 49 Libertarian

ELECTION OFFICERS

Precinct 1: Warden (U) Allen Hodgdon; Inspectors: (U) Bonnie Hodgdon; (R) James Lake; (U)
Charles Shatos; (U) Donna Briggs; (U) Nicholas Sullivan; (U) Kent Hager; (U) Danielle Fauci

Precinct 2: Warden (U) Kevin Heath; Inspectors: (U) Betty Anne Smith; (U) Ann Cutler-Russo;
(U) Joyce Phinney; (U) Pamela McGrath; (U) Haley McGrath

Precinct 3: Warden (U) Carol Bachelder; Inspectors: (U) Nora Weaver; (U) Bonnie Stewart; (U) Mary Ann Linton; (U) Cathy Leverault; (U) Jared Harvey.

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	PRECINCT	PRECINCT	PRECINCT	TOTALS
DEMOCRAT				
SENATOR IN CONGRESS	1	2	3	TOTALS
EDWARD J. MARKEY	218	138	186	542
JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III	298	237	289	824
WRITE-INS	0	1	0	1
SHIVVA AYYADURAI	1	0	0	1
BLANKS	1	1	1	3
TOTALS	518	377	476	1371
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS	1	2	3	TOTALS
JAMES P. MCGOVERN	464	343	446	1253
SUSANNAH WHIPPS	0	1	0	1
JONATHAN ZLOTNIK	0	1	0	1
KENT HAGER	1	0	0	1
MIKE GRINDLE	1	0	0	1
TRACY LOVVORN	1	0	0	1
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	51	32	30	113
TOTALS	518	377	476	1371
COUNCILLOR	1	2	3	TOTALS
PAUL M. DEPALO	292	214	287	793
PADRAIC RAFFERTY	167	110	124	401
MARK GOLDSTEIN	1	0	0	1
BRENT CASS	1	0	0	1
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	57	53	65	175
TOTALS	518	377	476	1371
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT	1	2	3	TOTALS
ANNE M. GOBI	472	345	445	1262
FRANK CABRERA	0	1	0	1
MAURA CABRERA	0	1	0	1
SUSANNAH WHIPPS	3	0	0	3
KEN FISH	1	0	0	1
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	42	30	31	103

TOTALS	518	377	476	1371
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT	1	2	3	TOTALS
WILLIAM E. LAROSE	417	296	410	1123
SUSANNAH WHIPPS	39	25	21	85
JIM TEDFORD	1	0	0	1
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	61	56	45	162
TOTALS	518	377	476	1371
REGISTER OF PROBATE	1	2	3	TOTALS
JOHN B. DOLAN, III	249	170	242	661
KASIA WENNERBERG	202	141	172	515
STEPHANIE K. FATTMAN	2	2	3	7
PAUL YOUNG	1	0	0	1
WRITE-INS	3	0	0	3
BLANKS	61	64	59	184
TOTALS	518	377	476	1371
REPUBLICAN				
SENATOR IN CONGRESS	1	2	3	TOTALS
SHIVA AYYADURAI	123	85	73	281
KEVIN J. O'CONNOR	81	75	82	238
JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III	0	4	0	4
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	4	7	2	13
TOTALS	208	171	157	536
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS	1	2	3	TOTALS
TRACY LYN LOVVORN	174	142	131	447
SUSANNAH WHIPPS	2	6	0	8
LOUIS G. MARINO	3	1	0	4
KAYLA CAMPBELL	0	1	0	1
LAWRENCE PIEDEL	1	0	0	1
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	28	21	26	75
TOTALS	208	171	157	536
COUNCILLOR	1	2	3	TOTALS
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
SHIVA AYYADURAI	0	0	1	1
JOHN BRUINSMA	0	0	1	1
LOUIS MARINO	1	0	0	1
ALYSON TARARA	1	0	0	1
KIMBERLY KLACIK	1	0	0	1
CHARLES PENKSKY	1	0	0	1
LAWRENCE PIEDEL	1	0	0	1
BLANKS	203	171	155	529

TOTALS	208	171	157	536
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT	1	2	3	TOTALS
STEVEN R. HALL	183	151	135	469
LAWRENCE PIEDEL	1	0	0	1
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	24	20	22	66
TOTALS	208	171	157	536
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT	1	2	3	TOTALS
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
SUSANNAH WHIPPS	18	5	6	29
WILLIAM E. LAROSE	0	2	0	2
LOUIS G. MARINO	4	1	2	7
JAMES SULLIVAN	1	0	0	1
LAWRENCE PIEDEL	1	0	0	1
BLANKS	184	163	149	496
TOTALS	208	171	157	536
REGISTER OF PROBATE	1	2	3	TOTALS
STEPHANIE K. FATTMAN	183	150	136	469
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	25	21	21	67
TOTALS	208	171	157	536
GREEN-RAINBOW				
SENATOR IN CONGRESS	1	2	3	TOTALS
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
THOMAS J. PRESTON	0	1	0	1
JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III	1	0	0	1
BLANKS	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	1	1	0	2
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS	1	2	3	TOTALS
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
JAMES MCGOVERN	1	0	0	1
THOMAS J. PRESTON	0	1	0	1
BLANKS	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	1	1	0	2
COUNCILLOR	1	2	3	TOTALS
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
AYANDA PRESSLEY	1	0	0	1
THOMAS J. PRESTON	0	1	0	1
BLANKS	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	1	1	0	2
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT	1	2	3	TOTALS
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
MICHAEL D.M. WARRICH-PRESTON	0	1	0	1

BLANKS	1	0	0	1
TOTALS	1	1	0	2
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT	1	2	3	TOTALS
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
MICHAEL D.M. WARRICH-PRESTON	0	1	0	1
BLANKS	1	0	0	1
TOTALS	1	1	0	2
REGISTER OF PROBATE	1	2	3	TOTALS
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
KASIA WENNEBERG	1	0	0	1
THOMAS J. PRESTON	0	1	0	1
BLANKS	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	1	1	0	2
LIBERTARIAN	TOTAL	TOTALS	TOTALS	
SENATOR IN CONGRESS	1	2	3	TOTALS
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III	2	1	0	3
EDWARD J. MARKEY	0	1	0	1
ALL OTHERS	2	1	0	3
BLANKS	2	0	1	3
TOTALS	6	3	1	10
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS	1	2	3	TOTALS
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
JONATHAN ZLOTDIK	0	0	0	0
CHARLES H. LARKIN	1	1	0	2
JOHN R. GREENE	1	0	0	1
BLANKS	4	2	1	7
TOTALS	6	3	1	10
COUNCILLOR	1	2	3	TOTALS
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
AYADNA PRESSLEY	1	0	0	1
BLANKS	5	3	1	9
TOTALS	6	3	1	10
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT	1	2	3	TOTALS
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
ANNE GOBI	0	1	0	1
WILLIAM E. LAROSE	1	0	0	1
BLANKS	5	2	1	8
TOTALS	6	3	1	10
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT	1	2	3	TOTALS
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
ANNE GOBI	1	0	0	1
JONATHAN ZLOTNIK	1	0	0	1

BLANKS	4	3	1	8
TOTALS	6	3	1	10
REGISTER OF PROBATE	1	2	3	TOTALS
WRITE-INS	0	0	0	0
STEPHANIE FATTMAN	1	0	0	1
BLANKS	5	3	1	9
TOTALS	6	3	1	10

We have canvassed the returns of votes cast in Precincts 1, 2, and 3, Town of Athol, and the Presidential Primary 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 August 22, 2020 was as follows. viz.-

Precinct	Registered Voters
1	2536
2	2403
3	<u>2327</u>
Total	7266

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

**STATE ELECTION
NOVEMBER 6, 2020**

In each precinct polling place, the polls were opened at 7:00 a.m. and the ballot box in each precinct registered 0.

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:

NUMBER OF BALLOTS CAST

Precinct 1: Number of Ballots Cast, 1,942; Spoiled Ballots, 18; Provisional Ballots, 5; Unused Ballots, 336
 Precinct 2: Number of Ballots 1,798 Cast, Spoiled Ballots, 12; Provisional Ballots, 4; Unused Ballots, 333
 Precinct 3: Number of Ballots Cast, 1,791; Spoiled Ballots, 18; Provisional Ballots, 7; Unused Ballots, 449

ELECTION OFFICERS

Precinct 1: Warden (U) Patricia Kaczmarczyk; Clerk (U) Allen Hodgdon; Inspectors: (R) James Lake; (U) Charles Shatos; (U) Kent Hager; (D) Nancy Tatro; (U) Elizabeth Hager

Precinct 2: Warden (U) Kevin Heath; Clerk (U) Dawn Maroni; Inspectors: (U) Betty Anne Smith; (U) Diane Page; (U) Earle Baldwin; (U) Greg Miller; (U) Jean Robinson; (U) Chris-Ann Baronas

Precinct 3: Warden (U) Carol Bachelder; Inspectors: (U) Nora Weaver; (U) Bonnie Stewart; (U) Mary Ann Linton; (U) Cathy Leverault; (U) Matt Glover; (U) Linda Donaldson; (U) Elizabeth Hager; (U) Rich Riddell; (U) Marie King

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	1	2	3	TOTALS
	TOTAL	TOTALS	TOTALS	
PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT				
BIDEN AND HARRIS	952	811	942	2705
HAWKINS AND WALKER	18	27	12	57
JORGENSEN AND COHEN	36	50	42	128
TRUMP AND PENCE	906	895	778	2579
ALL OTHERS	16	7	10	33
BLANKS	14	8	7	29
TOTALS	1942	1798	1791	5531

SENATOR IN CONGRESS	1	2	3	TOTALS
EDWARD J. MARKEY	967	862	970	2799
KEVIN J. O'CONNOR	877	856	759	2492
DR. SHIVA	61	48	34	143
JOSEPH KENNEDY	0	1	2	3
ALL OTHERS	1	3	0	4
BLANKS	36	28	26	90
TOTALS	1942	1798	1791	5531
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS				
JAMES P. MCGOVERN	1029	908	1031	2968
TRACY LYN LOVVORN	854	844	713	2411
ALL OTHERS	8	2	0	10
BLANKS	51	44	47	142
TOTALS	1942	1798	1791	5531
COUNCILLOR				
PAUL M. DEPALO	1365	1295	1325	3985
PETER STEFAN	11	6	14	31
BLANKS	523	460	416	1399
ALL OTHERS	43	37	36	116
TOTALS	1942	1798	1791	5531
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT				
ANNE M. GOBI	1046	940	1040	3026
STEVEN R. HALL	831	806	695	2332
BLANKS	61	51	53	165
ALL OTHERS	4	1	3	8
TOTALS	1942	1798	1791	5531
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT				
SUSANNAH M. WHIPPS	1281	1233	1171	3685
WILLIAM E. LAROSE	576	487	546	1609
ALL OTHERS	13	8	4	25
BLANKS	72	70	70	212
TOTALS	1942	1798	1791	5531
REGISTER OF PROBATE				
STEPHANIE K. FATTMAN	1083	1055	910	3048
JOHN B. DOLAN, III	651	550	675	1876
ALL OTHERS	2	0	0	2
BLANKS	206	193	206	605
TOTALS	1942	1798	1791	5531
QUESTION 1 - RIGHT TO REPAIR				
YES	1437	1276	1308	4021
NO	454	464	416	1334
BLANKS	51	58	67	176

TOTALS	1942	1798	1791	5531
QUESTION 2 - RANK CHOICE VOTING	1	2	3	TOTALS
YES	589	586	554	1729
NO	1290	1155	1179	3624
BLANKS	63	57	58	178
TOTALS	1942	1798	1791	5531

We have canvassed the returns of votes cast in Precincts 1, 2, and 3, Town of Athol, and the Presidential Primary 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 October 24, 2020 was as follows. viz.-

Precinct	Registered Voters
1	2629
2	2554
3	<u>2492</u>
Total	7675

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

**ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
APRIL 5, 2021**

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

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:

NUMBER OF BALLOTS CAST

Precinct 1: Number of Ballots Cast, 126; Spoiled Ballots, 2; Provisional Ballots, 0; Unused Ballots, 474
Precinct 2: Number of Ballots Cast, 131; Spoiled Ballots, 1; Provisional Ballots, 0; Unused Ballots, 468
Precinct 3: Number of Ballots Cast, 80; Spoiled Ballots, 0; Provisional Ballots, 0; Unused Ballots, 521

ELECTION OFFICERS

Precinct 1: Warden (U) Patricia Kaczmarczyk; Clerk (U) Allen Hodgdon; Inspectors: (U) Charles Shatos; (U) Kent Hager; (U) Chris Casella

Precinct 2: Warden (U) Kevin Heath; Clerk (U) Dawn Maroni; Inspectors: (U) Betty Anne Smith; (U) Ann Cutler-Russo; (U) Greg Miller; (U) David Small

Precinct 3: Warden (U) Carol Bachelder; Inspectors: (U) Bonnie Stewart; (U) Cathy Leverault; (U) Chris-Ann Baronas; (U) Bonnie Hodgdon

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	116	115	73	304
ALL OTHERS	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	10	16	7	33
TOTALS	126	131	80	337
SELECTMAN - 3 YEARS				
ANDREW J. SUJDAK	107	108	69	284
ALL OTHERS	1	1	1	3
KEN DUFFY	0	1	0	1
BLANKS	18	21	10	49
TOTALS	126	131	80	337
SELECTMAN - 1 YEARS				
MITCHELL R. GROSKY	96	100	58	254
DAVID SMALL	0	0	1	1
LEE CHAUVETTE	0	1	3	4
WILLIAM BURTON	1	0	0	1
ROBERT MUZZY	1	0	0	1
ALLEN HODGDON	1	0	0	1
DAVE BISHOP	1	0	0	1
JESSICA VEROCK	0	1	0	1
WILLIAM CALDWELL	0	1	0	1
KATHRYN TYLER	0	1	0	1
ALL OTHERS	1	0	1	2
BLANKS	25	27	17	69
TOTALS	126	131	80	337
SCHOOL COMMITTEE FROM ATHOL - 3 YEARS				
DEBORAH B. KUZMESKAS	31	34	22	87
LONNIE J. BONENFANT	93	94	57	244
ELAINE P. GAUTHIER	102	101	57	260
JESSICA VEROCK	0	1	0	1
ALL OTHERS	0	1	0	1
BLANKS	26	31	24	81
TOTALS	252	262	160	674
SCHOOL COMMITTEE FROM ATHOL - 1 YEARS				
THEODORE J. MALLETT, III	113	119	73	305
ALL OTHERS	0	1	0	1
BLANKS	13	11	7	31
TOTALS	126	131	80	337
SCHOOL COMMITTEE FROM ROYALSTON - 3 YEARS				
CARLA B. RABINOWITZ	90	86	56	232
RYAN BASSO	0	2	1	3
BOBBIE NEWMAN	1	1	0	2
CHRIS WILLHITE	0	1	0	1

ALL OTHERS	5	6	5	16
BLANKS	30	35	18	83
TOTALS	126	131	80	337
LIBRARY TRUSTEE				
FRANCIS W. FOSTER	93	95	52	240
CHRISTINE A. MIRANDA	103	107	69	279
ALL OTHERS	0	0	2	2
BLANKS	56	60	37	153
TOTALS	252	262	160	674
HOUSING AUTHORITY				
JAMES P. SULLIVAN	109	112	67	288
ALL OTHERS	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	17	19	13	49
TOTALS	126	131	80	337
CONSTABLE				
KENNETH A. VAIDULAS	113	118	70	301
ALL OTHERS	0	0	0	0
BLANKS	13	13	10	36
TOTALS	126	131	80	337
#REF!				
Total # of registered voters	7770			
Turnout	5.00%			

We have canvassed the returns of votes cast in Precincts 1, 2, and 3, Town of Athol, and the Presidential Primary 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 16, 2021 was as follows. viz.-

Precinct	Registered Voters
1	2656
2	2575
3	<u>2517</u>
Total	7748

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

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
JUNE 14, 2021**

Pursuant to Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2020 resulting from the COVID-19 Emergency, the Board of Selectmen voted to reduce the Town Meeting quorum to 60.

This is to certify that the 2021 Special Town Meeting which convened on June 14, 2021 was duly called, served and held pursuant to the warrant issued by the Board of Selectmen and in accordance with the town bylaws and town charter.

Voters entering the meeting were checked in on the list of registered voters. The Moderator called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. The number of voters checked as being present was as follows: Precinct 1, 37 ; Precinct 2, 29; and Precinct 3, 21. Total present: 87.

The following is a true record of the votes taken at the June 14, 2021 Special Town Meeting.

Article 1: On the motion of Kenneth Duffy, it was VOTED: That the Town appropriate the remaining amounts borrowed for the following purposes, as approved and no longer necessary to pay costs of that purpose, to pay costs of improvements to the designated purposes as follows:

Authorization Dates	Article	Purpose	Unspent Proceeds	Purpose Transferred To	Authorization Date	Article
10/21/2013 1/13/2014	22 1	Athol Elementary School	\$794,752.30	Town Hall Cupola and Roof	9/14/20	22

Passed by a majority vote.

Meeting dissolved at 7:00 p.m.

Attest:

Nancy E. Burnham
Town Clerk

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
JUNE 14, 2021**

Pursuant to Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2020 resulting from the COVID-19 Emergency, the Board of Selectmen voted to reduce the Town Meeting quorum to 60.

This is to certify that the 2021 Annual Town Meeting which convened on June 14, 2021 was duly called, served and held pursuant to the warrant issued by the Board of Selectmen and in accordance with the town bylaws and town charter.

Voters entering the meeting were checked in on the list of registered voters. The Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The number of voters checked as being present was as follows: Precinct 1, 37 ; Precinct 2, 29; and Precinct 3, 21. Total present: 87.

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

Adelard D. Ares – He was an Athol call firefighter for 25 years

Raynold J. Robichaud – He was the Head Custodian at the Town Hall for many years retiring in 1994.

Bruce G. Dubrule, Sr. – He was an Athol call firefighter for several years. He was on the Board of Directors and producer for AOTV filming the Board of Selectmen meetings for many years. He was awarded Citizen of the Year for his work at AOTV in 2000.

Robert J.E. Labrecque – He worked for the Athol Fire Department for over 30 years and retired as the Fire Inspector.

Margaret L. Young – She taught math in the Athol-Royalston Regional School District for over 20 years. She was an active member of the community serving on several board and committees including: Chairperson for the Library Trustees, Chairperson for the Athol Council on Aging, a member of the Athol Middle School building committee and a member of the Athol Library renovation committee. She also served as an Election worker.

The following is a true record of the votes taken at the June 14, 2021 Annual Town Meeting.

Article 1 On the Motion of Kenneth Duffy, it was **VOTED:** That the Town 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 Ken Duffy presented a report of the Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee.*

Article 3 On the Motion of Ben J. Feldman, it was **VOTED:** That the Town accept all donations and gifts received and turned into the treasury during fiscal year 2022. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 4 On the Motion of Paul W. Nelson, it was **VOTED:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1,

2021, in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 5 On the Motion of Michael J. Butler, it was **VOTED:** That the Town accept all cemetery and other funds received and provided to the treasury during fiscal year 2022. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 6 On the Motion of Amy Craven, it was **VOTED:** That Town authorize the treasurer to enter into a compensating balance agreement or agreements for fiscal year 2022 pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53F of the Massachusetts General Laws. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 7 On the Motion of Gary H. Deyo, 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 2022, for which no additional appropriation by the Town is required. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 8 On the Motion of Rebecca J. Bialecki, it was **VOTED:** That that the Town appropriate \$16,403,375 from taxation to fund the \$16,403,375 fiscal year 2022 budget as follows:

Division/Department	FY20	FY21	FY22	% DIF
Finance				
Accountant	131,831	136,425	149,542	9.61%
Assessor	141,266	145,743	155,166	6.47%
FWAC	85,250	92,250	95,250	3.25%
Capital Planning Committee	1,120	1,120	1,120	0.00%
Collector/Treasurer	2,609,953	2,414,007	2,384,406	-1.23%
Debt Exclusions	1,638,757	2,077,058	2,032,182	-2.16%
Subtotal	4,608,177	4,866,603	4,817,666	-1.01%
Public Safety				
Dept. Inspectional Services	166,870	174,330	188,937	8.38%
Fire Department	1,952,684	2,254,416	2,325,996	3.18%
Health Department	131,430	135,025	143,561	6.32%
Police Department	2,028,173	2,111,987	2,247,869	6.43%
Animal Control (regional)	90,698	92,133	96,638	4.89%
Subtotal	4,369,855	4,767,891	5,003,001	4.93%

Public Services				
Board of Selectmen	548,477	573,556	587,056	2.35%
Council on Aging	128,437	127,021	131,612	3.61%
Conservation Commission	26,900	29,325	29,455	0.44%
Contributory Retirement	1,621,426	1,735,000	1,902,550	9.66%
Elections & Registration	21,344	36,344	19,344	- 46.78%
Library	587,362	582,574	588,078	0.94%
Parking	11,725	11,425	11,525	0.88%
Dept. Planning & Development	117,566	136,945	137,665	0.53%
Professional Services	357,434	360,925	371,436	2.91%
Recreation	23,384	22,020	25,900	17.62%
Beaches	43,121	43,670	48,910	12.00%
Town Buildings	144,662	148,180	222,846	50.39%
Town Clerk	158,631	159,817	164,408	2.87%
Town Manager	145,963	155,609	163,921	5.34%
Veterans Services	246,406	267,154	278,007	4.06%
Zoning Board of Appeals	2,600	2,800	4,700	67.86%
Subtotal	4,185,438	4,392,365	4,687,413	6.72%
Public Works	1,788,656	1,857,442	1,895,295	2.04%
TOTAL GENERAL GOV'T	14,952,126	15,884,301	16,403,375	3.27%

Passed by a majority vote.

Article 9 On the Motion of Rebecca J. Bialecki, it was **VOTED:** That the Town appropriate \$866,000 to fund the fiscal year 2022 Capital Improvement Plan voted by the Capital Program Committee as follows:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Item / Project</u>	<u>FY22 Amount</u>
Public Works	Year 2 lease payment; Highway Div. Dump Trucks	\$150,000
Public Works	Year 4 TIP Engineering; Five Points Improvements	\$ 50,000
Public Works	Non-Chapter 90 Improvement Funding	\$150,000
Public Works	Grant Match Funding	\$ 50,000
Public Works	Purchase Highway Div. Pickup Truck	\$ 45,000
Public Works	Dam Maintenance Project Funding	\$ 25,000
Police Dept.	Purchase two cruisers	\$110,000
Police Dept.	Purchase technology upgrades; camera system	\$ 28,000
Fire Dept.	Purchase administrative vehicle	\$ 55,000
Fire Dept.	Fire department building improvements	\$175,000

Fire Dept.	<u>Purchase utility terrain vehicle</u>	<u>\$ 28,000</u>
	TOTAL CAPITAL REQUESTS	\$866,000

And further that said \$866,000 in costs be funded by transferring \$833,392.35 from free cash and by repurposing \$32,607.65 from the following prior unexpended capital items:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Item / Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
FY09	Phillipston Dam	\$ 756.21
FY13	Senior Center Furniture	\$ 790.72
FY15	Senior Center Build Out Plan	\$ 6,500.00
FY15	Computer Network Wiring	\$ 232.00
FY15	Cruiser Replacement	\$ 776.00
FY16	Cruiser Replacement	\$ 645.00
FY18	Senior Center Repoint Building	\$ 2,872.00
FY18	Town Hall Building Maintenance	\$ 13,454.16
FY18	Cruiser Replacement	\$ 208.80
FY18	ACO Vehicle	\$ 1,500.00
FY18	DPW Dump Body Replacement	\$ 458.00
FY19	DPW Lease Agreements	\$ 887.47
FY20	Board of Health Vehicle	\$ 1,594.00
FY20	<u>DPW Dump Trucks (2)</u>	<u>\$ 1,933.29</u>
	Total Repurposed Funds	\$32,607.65

Passed by a majority vote.

Article 10 On the Motion of Kenneth Duffy, it was **VOTED**: That the Town transfer the sum of \$100,000 from the Water Enterprise retained earnings for the purchase of equipment and infrastructure maintenance and improvements for the Water Division. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 11 On the Motion of Ben J. Feldman, it was **VOTED**: That the Town transfer from the Sewer Enterprise retained earnings the sum of \$100,000 for the purchase of equipment and infrastructure maintenance and improvements for the Sewer Division. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 12 On the Motion of Paul W. Nelson, it was **VOTED**: That the Town transfer from available free cash the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of funding future Revaluations and Interim Year Value Adjustments, as required under MGL c. 58, sections 11A and 3, and MGL c. 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, software and all other tasks deemed necessary for successful completion of state mandated requirements. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 13 On the Motion of Michael J. Butler, it was **VOTED**: That the Town appropriate from taxation the sum of \$5,036,229 for the fiscal year 2022 assessment as follows: \$4,835,338 for operations and \$200,891 for debt service to the Athol-Royalston Regional School District. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 14 On the Motion of Amy Craven, it was **VOTED**: That the Town appropriate from taxation the sum of \$395,851 for the fiscal year 2022 assessment to the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 15 On the Motion of Gary H. Deyo, it was **VOTED**: That the Town set the salaries of several elected officers and appointed positions of the boards of the Town for fiscal year 2022:

Moderator	\$ 210.00
Selectmen, Chair	\$ 1,735.00
Selectmen, all other (4)	\$ 1,446.00
Assessors, Chair	\$ 1,735.00
Assessors, all other (1)	\$ 1,446.00
Constable	- None -
Board of Health, Chair	\$ 1,735.00
Board of Health, all other (2)	\$ 1,446.00
Library Trustees	- None -
School Committee	- None -

Passed by a majority vote.

Article 16 On the Motion of Kenneth Duffy, it was **VOTED**: That the Town appropriate \$1,265,528 to operate the Department of Public Works/Water Division Enterprise Fund as follows:

<u>Water Division</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Operational Expenses	\$ 992,331
Debt Service	\$ 86,769
Health Insurance	\$ 56,428
Overhead	\$ 95,000
Retirement Benefits	\$ 35,000
Total	\$1,265,528

and that \$1,265,528 be raised as follows with any balance in the retirement benefits be transferred to retirement benefit fund balance account:

<u>Water Division</u>	<u>Revenues</u>
Water Rates	\$1,163,528
Water Service	\$ 17,000
Water Interest	\$ 5,000
Water Account Charges	\$ 80,000
Total	\$1,265,528

Passed by a majority vote.

Article 17 On the Motion of Ben J. Feldman, it was **VOTED**: That the Town appropriate \$1,524,205 from available funds to operate the Department of Public Works/Sewer Division Enterprise Fund as follows:

<u>Sewer Division</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Operational Expenses	\$1,009,904
Debt Service	\$ 344,301

Health Insurance	\$ 40,000
Overhead	\$ 95,000
Retirement Benefits	\$ 35,000
Total	\$1,524,205

And that \$1,524,205 be raised as follows with any balance in the retirement benefits be transferred to a retirement benefits fund balance account:

<u>Sewer Division</u>	<u>Revenues</u>
Sewer Rates	\$1,445,205
Sewer Service	\$ 4,000
Sewer Interest	\$ 5,000
Sewer Account Charges	\$ 70,000
Total	\$1,524,205

Passed by a majority vote.

Article 18 On the Motion of Paul W. Nelson, it was **VOTED:** That the Town appropriate \$514,821 from available funds to operate the Department of Public Works /Transfer/Recycling Enterprise Fund as follows:

<u>Transfer Station</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Operational Expenses	\$ 462,240
Debt Service	\$ 35,566
Health Insurance	\$ 17,015
Overhead	\$ 0
Retirement Benefits	\$ 0
Total	\$ 514,821

And that \$514,821 be raised as follows:

<u>Transfer Station</u>	<u>Revenues</u>
Department Receipts	\$ 514,821
Retained Earnings	\$ 0
Total	\$ 514,821

Passed by a majority vote.

Article 19 On the Motion of Michael J. Butler, it was **VOTED:** That the Town transfer the sum of \$36,144 from free cash to the “Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund.” *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 20 On the Motion of Amy Craven, it was **VOTED:** That the Town will reauthorize the following revolving funds for certain Town departments under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½ for fiscal year 2022.

Revolving fund	Authorized spend	to	Revenue source	Use of fund	FY2022 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.	\$10,000
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 Commission	Registration Fees	Program Administration	\$10,000
Memorial Building	Memorial Building Cmte.	Building Use Fees and Donations	Maintenance and Improvements to Memorial Building	\$20,000
Athol Fire HAZMAT Fund	Fire Chief; Fire Department	Fees & Reimbursements	Training, Equipment and Expenses	\$10,000

Passed by a majority vote.

Article 21 On the Motion of Gary H. Deyo, it was **VOTED**: That the Town reauthorize the following revolving funds for certain Town departments under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53C and Section 53F^{3/4} for fiscal year 2022; *or act in relation thereto.*

Revolving fund	Authorized to spend	Revenue source	Use of fund	FY2022 spending limit
Police Detail	Police Chief	Contractors	Pay police	\$200,000
PEG Access and Cable Related	Town Manager	Cable franchise fees and related revenues	In accordance with by-laws and the cable operator franchise agreement	\$200,000

Passed by a majority vote.

Article 22 On the Motion of Kenneth Duffy, it was **VOTED**: That the Town transfer from free cash the sum of \$50,000 for the purposes of demolishing or securing unsafe structures and to remove 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 J. Feldman, it was **VOTED**: That the Town transfer from free cash the sum of \$220,000 for the purpose of paying the outstanding balance due for the town-wide streetlight conversion project. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 24 On the Motion of Ben J. Feldman, it was **VOTED**: That the Town transfer from free cash the sum of \$35,000 for the purpose of reimbursing wage deferrals for certain town employees in fiscal year 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. *Passed by a majority vote.*

- Article 25** On the Motion of Michael J. Butler, it was **VOTED**: That the Town transfer from free cash the sum of \$85,000 for the purposes of completing installation of luminaires and maintenance on the Town’s decorative pedestrian streetlights downtown and at the Uptown Common. *Passed by a majority vote.*
- Article 26** On the Motion of Amy Craven, it was **VOTED**: That the Town transfer from free cash the sum of \$50,000 for the purposes of developing and initiating cyber-security and related upgrades to the information technology infrastructure of various town departments. *Passed by a majority vote.*
- Article 27** **No Motion. No action** taken on “To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate from available funds a sum of money for the purposes of completing capital improvements and repairs to the Veterans Park and its environs; *or to act in relation thereto*”.
- Article 28** On the Motion of Mary Holtorf, it was **VOTED**: That the town accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 40, sections 22A, 22B and 22C, and authorize the Board of Selectmen to establish a parking benefits district in which parking revenue collected therein, may be designated in whole or in part for use in that district through a dedicated fund in the accordance with the purposes and uses listed in section 22A of G.L. c. 40. *Passed by a majority vote.*
- Article 29** On the Motion of Gary H. Deyo, 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 23, 2011 Annual Town Meeting. *Passed by a majority vote.*
- Article 30** On the Motion of Kenneth Duffy, it was **VOTED**: That the Town transfer from free cash the sum of \$225,000 to the Capital Stabilization Fund. *Passed by a majority vote.*
- Article 31** On the Motion of Ben J. Feldman, it was **VOTED**: That the Town transfer from free cash the sum of \$180,718 to the Stabilization Fund. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Meeting dissolved at 8:04 p.m.

Attest:

Nancy E. Burnham
Town Clerk

**FALL TOWN MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 2020**

Pursuant to Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2020 resulting from the COVID-19 Emergency, the Board of Selectmen voted to reduce the Town Meeting quorum to 60.

This is to certify that the 2020 Fall Town Meeting which convened on October 19, 2020 was duly called, served and held pursuant to the warrant issued by the Board of Selectmen and in accordance with the town bylaws and town charter. The Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The number of voters checked as being present was as follows: Precinct 1, 51; Precinct 2, 19; and Precinct 3, 86. Total present: 86.

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

The following is a true record of the votes taken at the October 19, 2020 Fall Town Meeting.

Article 1: On the Motion of Kenneth Duffy, it was **VOTED:** That the Town adopt Part I, Title V, Chapter 33, Section 59: Effect of Military Service on Salary, Seniority and Leave Allowances of Public Employees, of the General Laws. *Passed by a majority vote.*

Article 2: No motion, no action taken on “To see if the Town will vote to accept provisions of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016 ('An Act Modernizing Municipal Finance and Government') Sections 26, 27 and 30, allowing the Town to establish Parking Benefits Districts, in which parking revenue collected therein may be designated in whole or in part for use in that district through a dedicated fund in accordance with the purposes and uses listed in Section 22A of Chapter 40; *or act in relation thereto*”.

Article 3: On the Motion of Kenneth Duffy, it was **VOTED:** That the Town amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws by amending Article II, Section 2.6 by deleting the following language within the 2.6 Intensity of Use Schedule Maximum Building requirements related to Floor Area Ratio:

The language in the Zoning Bylaw currently reads:

	Residence A	Residence B	Residence C	Central Commercial	Neighborhood Commercial	General Commercial	Industrial Commercial
<u>2.6 Intensity of Use Schedule</u>	<u>RA</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>RC</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>CB</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>I</u>

Maximum Building

Maximum Lot Coverage (%)	20	15	15	50	30 ^a	40 ^a	35
Height (feet)	35	35	35	50 ^e	35	45	45
Floor Area Ratio	0.3	0.2	0.2	1.0	0.5a	0.5a	0.4

Proposed Language, by deleting the Floor Area Ration requirements:

	Residence A	Residence B	Residence C	Central Commercial	Neighborhood Commercial	General Commercial	Industrial Commercial
<u>2.6 Intensity of Use Schedule</u>	<u>RA</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>RC</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>CB</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>I</u>
<u>Maximum Building</u>							
Maximum Lot Coverage (%)	20	15	15	50	30 ^a	40 ^a	35
Height (feet)	35	35	35	50 ^e	35	45	45

Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was 71 yes and 0 no.

Article 4: On the Motion of David Small, it was **VOTED:** That the Town of Athol amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws Article III, by adding the following, Section 3.30, Battery Energy Storage Systems to the Athol Zoning Bylaw.

Section 3.30 Battery Energy Storage Systems

3.30.1 Statement of Purpose

This Battery Energy Storage System Law is adopted to advance and protect the public health, safety, welfare, and quality of life of The Town of Athol by creating regulations for the installation and use of battery energy storage systems, with the following objectives:

- A. To provide a regulatory scheme for the designation of properties suitable for the location, construction and operation of battery energy storage systems;

- B. To ensure compatible land uses in the vicinity of the areas affected by battery energy storage systems;
- C. To mitigate the impacts of battery energy storage systems on environmental resources and other protected resources; and
- D. To create synergy between battery energy storage system development and the August 2018 Commonwealth of Massachusetts Act to Advance Clean Energy that established the Clean Peak Standard Energy Storage System.

3.30.2 Definitions

Definitions proposed for this Battery Storage Energy Systems Bylaw have been incorporated directly within Article IV, Section 4.1, the Definitions section of the Athol Zoning Bylaw.

3.30.3 Applicability

- A. The requirements of this by-law shall apply to all battery energy storage systems permitted, installed, or modified in the Town of Athol after the effective date of this by-law, excluding general maintenance and repair.
- B. Battery energy storage systems constructed or installed prior to the effective date of this by-law shall not be required to meet the requirements of this by-law.
- C. Modifications to, retrofits or replacements of an existing battery energy storage system that increase the total battery energy storage system designed discharge duration or power rating shall be subject to this by-law.

3.30.4 General Requirements

- A. A building permit and an electrical permit shall be required for installation of all battery energy storage systems.
- B. All battery energy storage systems, all Dedicated Use Buildings, and all other buildings or structures that (1) contain or are otherwise associated with a battery energy storage system and (2) subject to The Town of Athol by-laws.

3.30.5 Prohibition on Tier 1 Battery Energy Storage Systems

Tier 1 Battery Energy Storage Systems are defined as those that have an aggregate energy capacity less than or equal to 600kWh and, if in a room or enclosed area, consist of only a single

energy storage system technology. Tier 1 Battery Energy Storage Systems shall be prohibited in the Town of Athol until the adoption of adequate fire safety standards.

3.30.6 Permitting Requirements for Tier 2 Battery Energy Storage Systems

Tier 2 Battery Energy Storage Systems are defined as those that have an aggregate energy capacity greater than 600kWh or are comprised of more than one storage battery technology in a room or enclosed area. Tier 2 Battery Energy Storage Systems are permitted through the issuance of a Special Permit within the Battery Energy Storage System Overlay Zoning District, and shall be subject to the site plan application requirements set forth in this Section as well as Section 3.17.3, MCOB Site Plan Review and Section 3.18, Site Plan Review, as applicable.

- A. Site plan application. For a Tier 2 Battery Energy Storage System requiring a Special Permit, site plan approval shall be required as indicated in the preceding paragraph. Any site plan application shall include the following information:
- 1) Property lines and physical features, including roads, for the project site.
 - 2) Proposed changes to the landscape of the site, grading, vegetation clearing and planting,
 - 3) Exterior lighting, and screening vegetation or structures.
 - 4) A one- or three-line electrical diagram detailing the battery energy storage system layout, associated components, and electrical interconnection methods, with all National Electrical Code compliant disconnects and over current devices.
 - 5) A preliminary equipment specification sheet that documents the proposed battery energy storage system components, inverters and associated electrical equipment that are to be installed. A final equipment specification sheet shall be submitted prior to the issuance of building permit.
 - 6) Name, address, and contact information of proposed or potential system installer and the owner and/or operator of the battery energy storage system. Such information of the final system installer shall be submitted prior to the issuance of building permit.
 - 7) Name, address, phone number, and signature of the project Applicant, as well as all the property owners, demonstrating their consent to the application and the use of the property for the battery energy storage system.

- 8) Fire Safety Compliance Plan. Such plan shall document and verify that the system and its associated controls and safety systems are in compliance with the Town of Athol by-laws and the requirements of 527 CMR 1.00.
- 9) Operation and Maintenance Manual. Such plan shall describe continuing battery energy storage system maintenance and property upkeep, as well as design, construction, installation, testing and commissioning information.
- 10) Erosion and sediment control and storm water management plans prepared to Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection standards, if applicable, and to such standards as may be established by the Planning Board.
- 11) A Noise Analysis that includes documentation by an acoustical engineer of the noise levels projected to be generated by both the installation and operations of the facilities as required in Section 7(E).
- 12) Prior to the issuance of the building permit or final approval by the Planning Board, but not required as part of the application, engineering documents must be signed and sealed by a Massachusetts Licensed Professional Engineer.

3.30.7 Design Standards

- A. Utility Lines and Electrical Circuitry. All on-site utility lines shall be placed underground to the extent feasible and as permitted by the serving utility, with the exception of the main service connection at the utility company right-of-way and any new interconnection equipment, including without limitation any poles, with new easements and right-of-way.
- B. Signage.
 - 1) The signage shall be in compliance with ANSI Z535, and Section 3.9 of the Athol Zoning Bylaw, and shall include the type of technology associated with the battery energy storage systems, any special hazards associated, the type of suppression system installed in the area of battery energy storage systems, and 24-hour emergency contact information, including reach-back phone number.
 - 2) As required by the NEC, disconnect and other emergency shutoff information shall be clearly displayed on a light reflective surface. A clearly visible warning sign concerning voltage shall be placed at the base of all pad-mounted transformers and substations.
- C. Lighting. Lighting of the battery energy storage systems shall be limited to that minimally required for safety and operational purposes and shall be reasonably

shielded and downcast from abutting properties. All lighting shall comply with International Dark Sky Standards FSA Certification Requirements.

- D. Vegetation and tree-cutting. Areas within 20 feet on each side of Tier 2 Battery Energy Storage Systems shall be cleared of combustible vegetation and other combustible growth, unless a greater distance is required by the Fire Department. Single specimens of trees, shrubbery, or cultivated ground cover such as green grass, ivy, succulents, or similar plants used as ground covers shall be permitted to be exempt provided that they do not form a means of readily transmitting fire. Removal of trees should be minimized to the extent possible.

- E. Noise. Noise generated by battery storage energy systems and associated equipment such as air conditioners, cooling fans, inverters, and other machinery shall conform at a minimum to applicable state and local noise regulations, including the DEP's Division of Air Quality noise regulations, 310 CMR 7.10 and 3.8.1.1 of the Athol Zoning Bylaw.

Noise reduction shall be considered and incorporated as needed during the design phase of the installation including the location of the noise generator, shielding, noise cancellation, filtering, and noise suppression.

Applicants may submit equipment and component manufacturers' noise ratings to demonstrate compliance. The applicant may be required to provide Operating Sound Pressure Level measurements from a reasonable number of sampled locations at the perimeter of the battery energy storage system to demonstrate compliance with this standard.

F. Decommissioning.

- 1) Decommissioning Plan. The applicant shall submit a decommissioning plan to be implemented upon abandonment and/or in conjunction with removal from the facility. The decommissioning plan shall include:
 - a. A narrative description of the activities to be accomplished, including who will perform that activity and at what point in time, for complete physical removal of all battery energy storage system components, structures, equipment, security barriers, and transmission lines from the site;
 - b. Disposal of all solid and hazardous waste in accordance with local, state, and federal waste disposal regulations;
 - c. The anticipated life of the battery energy storage system;

- d. The estimated decommissioning costs and how said estimate was determined;
 - e. The method of ensuring that funds will be available for decommissioning and restoration;
 - f. The method by which the decommissioning cost will be kept current;
 - g. The manner in which the site will be restored, including a description of how any changes to the surrounding areas and other systems adjacent to the battery energy storage system, such as, but not limited to, structural elements, building penetrations, means of egress, and required fire detection suppression systems, will be protected during decommissioning and confirmed as being acceptable after the system is removed; and
 - h. A listing of any contingencies for removing an intact operational energy storage system from service, and for removing an energy storage system from service that has been damaged by a fire or other event.
- 2) Decommissioning Fund. The owner and/or operator of the energy storage system, shall continuously maintain a fund or bond payable to The Town of Athol, in a form approved by The Town of Athol for the removal of the battery energy storage system, in an amount to be determined by The Town of Athol, for the period of the life of the facility. All costs of the financial security shall be borne by the applicant.
 - 3) An inspection of the completed decommissioned area shall be reviewed by the Board of Planning Communities Development's Peer Reviewing Engineer before the Board approves the decommissioning work in accordance with the Decommissioning Plan. The owner and/or operator shall pay for the cost of this review with such payment being provided by the owner and/or operator prior to the Peer Reviewing Engineer undertaking said review.
- 4 Emergency Operations Plan. The applicant shall provide a copy of the Battery Storage Energy Systems' Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) to the Athol Fire and Police Departments upon filing of the Special Permit Application. Each Department shall review, as part of their review provided under Section 3.18.7(4) and (5), and provide a recommendation to the BPCD. The BPCD shall approve the EOP as part of the issuance of the Battery Storage Special Permit. The approved copy shall also be placed in an approved location to be accessible to facility personnel, fire code officials, and emergency responders. The EOP shall include the following information:
 - a. Procedures for safe shutdown, de-energizing, or isolation of equipment and systems under emergency conditions to reduce the risk of fire, electric shock,

and personal injuries, and for safe start-up following cessation of emergency conditions.

- b. Procedures for inspection and testing of associated alarms, interlocks, and controls.
- c. Procedures to be followed in response to notifications from the Battery Energy Storage Management System, when provided, that could signify potentially dangerous conditions, including shutting down equipment, summoning service and repair personnel, and providing agreed upon notification to fire department personnel for potentially hazardous conditions in the event of a system failure.
- d. Emergency procedures to be followed in case of fire, explosion, release of liquids or vapors, damage to critical moving parts, or other potentially dangerous conditions. Procedures can include sounding the alarm, notifying the fire department, evacuating personnel, de-energizing equipment, and controlling and extinguishing the fire.
- e. Response considerations similar to a safety data sheet (SDS) that will address response safety concerns and extinguishment when an SDS is not required.
- f. Procedures for dealing with battery energy storage system equipment damaged in a fire or other emergency event, including maintaining contact information for personnel qualified to safely remove damaged battery energy storage system equipment from the facility.
- g. Other procedures as determined necessary by The Town of Athol to provide for the safety of occupants, neighboring properties, and emergency responders.
- h. Procedures and schedules for conducting drills of these procedures and for training local first responders on the contents of the plan and appropriate response procedures.

3.30.8 Special Permit Standards

- A. Setbacks. Tier 2 Battery Energy Storage Systems shall have a minimum setback of 200 feet from the front yard and 75 feet from the side and rear yards.
- B. Height. Tier 2 Battery Energy Storage Systems shall comply with the building height limitations for principal structures of the underlying zoning district.

- C. Fencing Requirements. Tier 2 Battery Energy Storage Systems, including all mechanical equipment, shall be enclosed by a 7.5-foot-high fence that shall be placed 6 inches off the ground to allow migration of wildlife with man gates installed that are to be self-closing and self-latching to prevent unauthorized access unless housed in a dedicated-use building and not interfering with ventilation or exhaust ports. In addition, each man gate shall have an Emergency Access System Knox padlock or box at each gate and access is to be maintained for easy opening by Fire and Rescue personnel.

- D. Screening and Visibility. Tier 2 Battery Energy Storage Systems shall have views minimized to the extent reasonably practicable from adjacent properties using architectural features, earth berms, landscaping, or other screening methods that will harmonize with the character of the property and surrounding area and not interfering with ventilation or exhaust ports.

- E. Ownership Changes. If the owner of the battery energy storage system changes or the owner of the property changes, the special use permit shall remain in effect, provided that the successor owner or operator assumes in writing all of the obligations of the special use permit, site plan approval, and decommissioning plan. A new owner or operator of the battery energy storage system shall notify the Zoning Enforcement Officer of such change in ownership or operator within [30] days of the ownership change. A new owner or operator must provide such notification to the Zoning Enforcement Officer in writing. The special use permit and all other local approvals for the battery energy storage system would be void if a new owner or operator fails to provide written notification to the Zoning Enforcement Officer in the required timeframe. Reinstatement of a void special use permit will be subject to the same review and approval processes for new applications under this Local Law.

3.30.9 Safety

- A. System Certification. Battery energy storage systems and equipment shall be listed by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory to UL 9540 (Standard for battery energy storage systems and Equipment) with subcomponents meeting each of the following standards as applicable:
 - 1) UL 1973 (Standard for Batteries for Use in Stationary, Vehicle Auxiliary Power and Light Electric Rail Applications),

 - 2) UL 1642 (Standard for Lithium Batteries),

 - 3) UL 1741 or UL 62109 (Inverters and Power Converters),

- 4) Certified under the applicable electrical, building, and fire prevention codes as required.
 - 5) Alternatively, Field evaluation by an approved testing laboratory for compliance with UL 9540 and applicable codes, regulations and safety standards may be used to meet system certification requirements.
- B. Site Access. Battery energy storage systems shall be maintained in good working order and in accordance with industry standards. Site access shall be maintained and secured in accordance with Section 8(C), including snow removal at a level acceptable to the local fire department.
- C. Battery energy storage systems, components, and associated ancillary equipment shall have required working space clearances, and electrical circuitry shall be within weatherproof enclosures marked with the environmental rating suitable for the type of exposure in compliance with NFPA 70.

3.30.10 Abandonment

The battery energy storage system shall be considered abandoned when it ceases to operate consistently for six months. If the owner and/or operator fails to comply with decommissioning upon any abandonment, The Town of Athol may, at its discretion, enter the property and utilize the available bond and/or security for the removal of a Tier 2 Battery Energy Storage System and restoration of the site in accordance with the decommissioning plan. The Board of Planning and Community Development may allow an additional six month period for the battery storage system to not be considered abandoned upon request of the owner and/or operator, based upon a good cause determination by the Board to grant such an extension.

3.30.11 Severability

The invalidity or unenforceability of any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, provision, or phrase of the aforementioned sections, as declared by the valid judgment of any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional, shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, provision, or phrase, which shall remain in full force and effect.

And to amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws, Article IV, Definitions, by adding the following definitions of terms related to battery storage energy systems within Section 4.1, Definitions;

ANSI: American National Standards Institute

BATTERY(IES): A single cell or a group of cells connected together electrically in series, in parallel, or a combination of both, which can charge, discharge, and store energy electrochemically. For the purposes of this law, batteries utilized in consumer products are excluded from these requirements.

BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: An electronic system that protects energy storage systems from operating outside their safe operating parameters and disconnects electrical power to the energy storage system or places it in a safe condition if potentially hazardous temperatures or other conditions are detected.

BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM: One or more devices, assembled together, capable of storing energy in order to supply electrical energy at a future time, not to include a stand-alone 12-volt car battery or an electric motor vehicle. A battery energy storage system is classified as a Tier 1 or Tier 2 Battery Energy Storage System as follows:

- A. Tier 1 Battery Energy Storage Systems have an aggregate energy capacity less than or equal to 600kWh and, if in a room or enclosed area, consist of only a single energy storage system technology.
- B. Tier 2 Battery Energy Storage Systems have an aggregate energy capacity greater than 600kWh or are comprised of more than one storage battery technology in a room or enclosed area.

CELL: The basic electrochemical unit, characterized by an anode and a cathode, used to receive, store, and deliver electrical energy.

COMMISSIONING: A systematic process that provides documented confirmation that a battery energy storage system functions according to the intended design criteria and complies with applicable code requirements.

DEDICATED-USE BUILDING: A building that is built for the primary intention of housing battery energy storage system equipment, is classified as Group F-1 occupancy as defined in the International Building Code, and complies with the following:

- 2) The building's only use is battery energy storage, energy generation, and other electrical grid- related operations.
- 3) No other occupancy types are permitted in the building.
- 4) Occupants in the rooms and areas containing battery energy storage systems are limited to personnel that operate, maintain, service, test, and repair the battery energy

storage system and other energy systems.

- 5) Administrative and support personnel are permitted in areas within the buildings that do not contain battery energy storage system, provided the following:
 - a. The areas do not occupy more than ten [10] percent of the building area of the story in which they are located.
 - b. A means of egress is provided from the administrative and support use areas to the public way that does not require occupants to traverse through areas containing battery energy storage systems or other energy system equipment.

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED TESTING LABORATORY (NRTL): A U.S. Department of Labor designation recognizing a private sector organization to perform certification for certain products to ensure that they meet the requirements of both the construction and general industry OSHA electrical standards.

NEC: National Electric Code.

NFPA: National Fire Protection Association.

NON-DEDICATED-USE BUILDING: All buildings that contain a battery energy storage system and do not comply with the dedicated-use building requirements.

NON-PARTICIPATING PROPERTY: Any property that is not a participating property.

NON-PARTICIPATING RESIDENCE: Any residence located on non-participating property.

PARTICIPATING PROPERTY: A battery energy storage system host property or any real property that is the subject of an agreement that provides for the payment of monetary compensation to the landowner from the battery energy storage system owner (or affiliate) regardless of whether any part of a battery energy storage system is constructed on the property.

Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was 75 yes and 1 no.

Article 5: On the Motion of David Small, it was **VOTED:** That the Town amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws by amending Article II, Section 2.3, Other Uses by changing the permitted use category of Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations from Y (a permitted use by-right) to SP (use authorized under Special Permit) in the RC zoning district) and from SP to N (not allowed) in the RA, RB, CA, CB, G, and I zoning districts as follows by deleting the following language:

2.3 Use Regulation Schedule

RA RB RC CA CB G I

Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations SP SP Y SP SP SP

SP and replacing it with:

Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations N N SP N N N N

Required a 2/3rd's vote. The vote was 70 yes and 4 no.

Article 6: On the Motion and amendment of David Small, it was **VOTED:** That the town amend the Athol Zoning Bylaws, Article III, by Deleting the existing Section 3.24, Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations, in its entirety and replacing with the following new text in its place.

3.24.1 Purpose

The purpose and intent of this bylaw is to provide standards for the placement, design, construction, operation, monitoring, modification and removal of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations which address public safety, minimize impacts on scenic, natural and historic resources and to provide adequate financial assurance for the eventual decommissioning of such installations. The provisions set forth in this section shall apply to the placement, design, construction, operation, maintenance and/or repair, and environmental effects of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations.

This bylaw aims to balance the rights of landowners to use their land with the corresponding right of abutting and neighboring landowners to live without undue disturbance from noise, traffic, lighting, signage, smoke, fumes, dust, odor, glare, or storm water runoff. To maintain the character of the Town of Athol as a small New England village, this bylaw aims to retain the natural beauty, aesthetic appeal, historic value and scenic attraction of the Town for both residents and tourists.

3.24.2 Applicability

This bylaw applies to commercial and residential ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations greater than 10,000 square feet proposed to be constructed after the effective date of this bylaw. This bylaw also pertains to physical modifications that materially alter the type, configuration or size of the installation. Square footage shall be calculated as follows:

- i. The area within the security fence if a fence is provided, or
- ii. All land area within a polygon (a plane shape-two dimensional-with straight sides) around the entire installation including all solar panels, all appurtenances including but not limited to buildings, storage areas, construction staging and lay-down areas, and

transformers and poles, and parking along with a 15 foot perimeter area around all of the above or

iii. All areas of disturbed land, whichever is

greater. As defined in 3.24.2:

- a) This bylaw does not pertain to ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations installed on residential, commercial or industrial buildings. Those installations are subject to the State Building Code.
- b) Ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations less than or equal to 10,000 square feet shall only need a building permit and meet property setback requirements.
- c) 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.
- d) This bylaw shall not apply to any ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation being developed with the direct involvement of the Town of Athol at the former municipal landfill on West Royalston Road in Athol, MA.

3.24.3 Special Permit Granting Authority

Subject to the requirements of this bylaw, ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations may be permitted in the R-C Zoning District subject to a Special Permit from the Athol Board of Planning and Community Development, pursuant to meeting the Special Permit Criteria and Requirements below. The Board of Planning and Community Development shall be the Special Permit Granting Authority for ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations. 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 of this section. Ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation Special Permit applications shall be filed in accordance with the Board of Planning and Community Development Filing Requirements & Fees.

3.24.4 Requirements for Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic installations

The following requirements shall apply to ground mounted solar photovoltaic installations greater than 10,000 square feet.

1. Compliance with Laws, Bylaws and Regulations

The construction and operation of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall comply with all applicable local, state and federal requirements, including but not limited to all applicable safety, construction, electrical, and communications requirements. All buildings, fixtures and other appurtenance structures forming part of a ground-mounted

solar photovoltaic installation shall be constructed in accordance with the State Building Code.

2. Building Permit

No ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation shall be constructed, installed or modified as provided in this section without first obtaining a building permit

3. Pre-application Conference and Public Outreach

The applicant shall participate in a pre-application conference with the Board of Planning and Community Development prior to the submittal of a formal application. A public outreach plan, including project development timeline, which indicates how the applicant will meet the required site plan review notification procedures and otherwise inform the abutters and the town residents, shall be provided as part of the pre-application conference process. The applicant shall be required to erect a 4-foot by 4-foot double-sided sign perpendicular to the road at the proposed entrance to the project site prior to the pre-application conference.

The sign shall be headed with the following: Notice: This property is the site of a proposed commercial ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation in accordance with Section 3.24 of the Athol Zoning Bylaw. The sign shall also indicate the name of the applicant, the name of the owner of the installation, the size of the proposed facility in both acreage and MW, a contact person for additional information including phone and email address, and assessors plot number for the property.

4. Site Plan Review

Ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations greater than 10,000 square feet shall undergo site plan review by the Board of Planning and Community Development (BPCD) prior to construction, installation or modification as provided in this section as well as section 3.18, Site Plan Review, as applicable. The BPCD shall act as the Special Permit Granting Authority for such site plans with the entirety of the Town of Athol, including the Major Commercial Overlay District.

3.24.4.5 Professional Engineer

All plans and maps shall be prepared, stamped, and signed by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

3.24.4.6 Required Documents to be deemed a complete application.

Pursuant to the site plan review process, the applicant shall also provide the following documents:

(a) A site plan showing:

- i. Property lines and physical features, including both existing and proposed roads, for the project site at a scale of 1 inch equals 40 feet or such scale as may be approved by the Special Permit Granting Authority on standard 24" by 36" sheets and continuation on 8.5 " by 11" sheets as necessary for narrative;
- ii. Blueprints or drawings of the solar photovoltaic installation showing the proposed layout of the system;
- iii. One or three line electrical diagram detailing the solar photovoltaic installation, associated components, and electrical interconnection methods, with all National Electrical Code compliant disconnects and overcurrent devices;
- iv. Proposed wattage of the solar photovoltaic installation solar power generation indicated in both dc (direct current) and ac (alternating current); a notation shall be included explaining the difference, e.g. loss in conversion from dc to ac;
- v. Technical specification of the major system components to be used, including the PV panels, mounting system, and inverter and battery storage;
- vi. Name, address, and contact information for proposed system installer (owner);
- vii. Name, address, phone number and signature of the applicant, as well as all co-proponents or property owners;
- viii. Proposed changes to the landscape of the site, grading, vegetation clearing and planting, exterior lighting, screening vegetation or structures;
- ix. All existing lot lines, with size of each existing lot in acres or square feet, abutting land uses and location of structures within 500 feet of the site;
- x. Names and addresses of all record owners within 500 hundred feet of all property lines along with a map showing the same;
- xi. Locations and details of all security measures for the site;
- xii. Documentation of all soils types, as identified on the United States Natural Resources Conservation Service soils survey, on all land involved with the project;
- xiii. Provision of water including that needed for fire protection;
- xiv. Location of all existing trail networks and woods roads, stonewalls, and historic features;
- xv. All storm water plans as required in Section 3.24.5.11;
- xvi. A calculation of slopes throughout the site as a percentage over consecutive 100-foot distances;
- xvii. A buffer, screening and landscape plan as required in Section 3.24.3;
- xviii. Location and approximate height of tree cover on the site at the time of application filing.
- xix. Location, type of fixture, and height of any proposed lighting as well as documentation of Dark Sky Standards in accordance with Section 3.24.5.7;
- xx. Location of equipment and construction staging area, and

- (b) The name, contact information and signature of any agents representing the applicant;
- (c) A glare analysis and proposed mitigation, if any, to minimize the impact on affected properties and roads, as well as the Orange airport in regards to the proposed solar panels as required in Section 3.24.5.5;
- (d) Names and addresses of all record owners within 500 hundred feet of all property lines along with a map showing the same;
- (e) Documentation by an acoustical engineer of the noise levels projected to be generated by both the installation and operation of the facilities as required in Section 3.24.5.13;
- (f) Documentation of all soils types, as identified on the United States Natural Resources Conservation Service soils survey, on all land involved with the project;
- (g) Documentation of actual or prospective access and control of the project site as required in Section 3.24.7;
- (h) Visual impact analysis as required in Section 3.24.5.5;
- (i) A complete list of chemicals, fuels, and any other hazardous materials to be used in both the construction and operation phase;
- (j) A calculation of earthwork operations listing the amount of soil and rock to be imported or exported from the site. If any material is to be imported, such material shall clean and without contamination by hazardous substances or invasive species and must be obtained from a source(s) approved by the Athol DPW.
- (k) Mitigation Plan as required in Section 3.24.5.4;
- (l) A list identifying all off-site electrical system improvements necessary to the electrical grid to accommodate the power from the proposed installation and identification of what entity is paying for such improvements.

3.24.4.7 Waiver of Submittal Requirements: Upon the written request of the applicant with justification, the Special Permit Granting Authority may waive any of its submission requirements under unique site conditions. In addition, the Special Permit Granting Authority may request any additional data needed to render its decision.

3.24.5 Design Standards

1. Lot and Siting Requirements

- i. Ground-mounted commercial solar photovoltaic array installations shall be permitted on parcels larger than 10 acres located within the RC zoning district and shall have a minimum lot frontage of 160 feet.
- ii. Project generation size shall not exceed 5MW AC, nor shall the installation exceed 20 acres of fenced area, if fenced. If not fenced, the 20 acre area shall be calculated as the area within a polygon around the entire installation including all solar arrays, all appurtenances including but not limited to buildings, storage areas, construction staging and lay-down areas, transformers and poles along with a 15 foot perimeter area around all of the above

iii. No portion of a ground-mounted commercial solar photovoltaic array installation:

- a. Shall be constructed on slopes greater than 10%, (measured over 100-foot intervals.) Cutting and filling to reduce natural slopes shall be prohibited except on short hollows, depressions or high spots. A waiver to increase the slope from 10% to 12% may be requested.
- b. Shall be located on any parcel that contains 50% of Priority Habitat, Core Habitat or Critical Natural Landscape as defined in 225 CMR 20.00 Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) Program, nor shall any trees be removed, or construction of structures, access roads or transmission lines may be placed in these designated areas.
- iv. Ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall be permitted on previously disturbed areas* with an option of adding additional area through land clearing.

If less than 20 acres of contiguous or nearly contiguous previously disturbed area is not present on the lot, then land clearing of up to 5 acres of non-previously disturbed area is allowed for the installation. The acreage for clearing of non-previously disturbed area may be increased to a maximum of 10 acres with a proper waiver request from the developer and with the approval of the waiver request by the Board as authorized under Section 3.24.17. At least 50% of the area of any such installation, with or without a waiver, shall be located on previously disturbed areas.

*Previously disturbed areas shall mean land that meets any one of the following conditions at the time of adoption of these bylaws:

1. Land where the original grade and native material has been altered and/or removed for previous development.
2. Land where ALL existing vegetation has been removed for previous development.
3. Land utilized for sand, gravel or rock excavation.
4. Land that has been utilized for agricultural purposes.

Land that has been utilized for Silviculture*, whether under the Massachusetts Forest Cutting Practices Act (FCPA) or not, or for any of the activities exempt under the FCPA, shall not be considered previously disturbed areas.

*Definition from the UD Forest Service: Silviculture is the art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests and woodlands to meet the diverse needs and values of landowners and society such as wildlife habitat, timber, water resources, restoration, and recreation on a sustainable basis

- v. Location of the entrance road and all utility poles shall be located within the lot's frontage taking into consideration site lines for vehicular traffic and to lessen any visual impacts on abutters.
- vi. Up to three solar photovoltaic installations may be permitted in the Town of Athol on parcels that do not include previously disturbed areas provided the installations are less than or equal to 10 acres in size no less than 1.5 MW AC in generation capacity.

2. Setbacks and Height

i. For all zoning districts except for the Rural Single-Family Residential (RC) zoning district, ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations must observe all yard requirements applicable to the principal structure as defined in Section 2.6, Intensity of Use Schedule. The Special Permit Granting Authority may increase these setbacks in these districts if they determine it to be appropriate.

ii. For the RC zone, setbacks shall be:

- 200 feet for front yard*
- 200 feet for side and rear yard*
- 200 feet from any perennial stream**
- 200 feet from any water body greater than 1 acre and less than 5 acres**
- 400 feet from the shoreline of any water body greater than 5 acres**

* The Special Permit Granting Authority may reduce the minimum setback distance for front, side and rear yards only in the RC District to a minimum of 75 feet as authorized per Section 3.24.17. In addition to the specifics of Section 3.24.17, the applicant shall also be required to submit written consent from all affected abutter(s) for any reduction in setbacks.

However, reduction of the setback on any frontage with a public road is not permitted whether the yard is a front, side or rear yard. The setback between properties of a single owner subdivided per Section 3.24.5.4.4 may be waived to no less than the minimum for existing setback requirements of the RC District per Section 2.6.

**The setbacks for perennial streams and water bodies between 1 and 5 acres are not subject to any waiver of distances under Section 3.24.13. Setbacks for water bodies greater than 5 acres are only allowed to be reduced through a waiver to a minimum distance of 300 feet as long as a natural wooded buffer is maintained, detailed stormwater plans show no further impact to abutting properties versus the 400-foot setback distance, water quality of runoff is not reduced and wildlife and fauna movement is not restricted with the reduced setback. No access roads or transmission lines may be constructed in the setbacks to any water body greater than 1 acre.

- iii. All ground mounted photovoltaic panels in a residential zone shall be limited to a height of 10 feet. For any other zone, the height shall be limited to 15 feet. Other appurtenance structures shall be limited to a height of 15 feet in all zones.

3. Vegetated Buffer, Screening and Landscaping

- 1. Ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall be effectively screened year-round:
 - i. from all abutting properties in all residential zones;
 - ii. from all abutting properties in residential use in all non-residential zones;
 - iii. and from public and private ways in all residential districts.

Except for vehicular and pedestrian passageways and permitted signs, setback areas shall be modified only for additional screening. Where existing vegetation in the setbacks is insufficient to achieve year-round screening, additional screening shall be provided including, but not limited to, planting of dense vegetative screening, fencing, berms, natural ground elevations, land contouring, and/or placement of the solar panels and appurtenant structures on the site, all depending on site specific conditions.

Tree cutting within the required setback area shall not be permitted if it would reduce to any degree the effectiveness of the year-round screening.

- 2. If additional plantings are required for screening, a planting plan shall be submitted:
 - i. Showing the types, sizes and locations of material to be used which shall be subject to the approval of the Special Permit Granting Authority.
 - ii. Plantings shall be a minimum of six (6) feet in height at planting and staggered so as to fill the setback area and keep the arrays from view year round.
 - iii. Using a diversity of plant species native to New England for any screens and vegetative erosion controls. Use of exotic plants, as identified by the most recent version of the “Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List” maintained by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, is prohibited. Cultivars of native plants are acceptable.
 - iv. At least 75% of the plantings shall consist of evergreens and shall be evenly spaced throughout the area of the setback area.

3. Planting of the vegetative screening shall be completed prior to connection of the installation. Plants shall be maintained and replaced if unhealthy by the owner/operator of the installation for the life of the installation.
4. The open area of the site shall be seeded with a pollinator mix and maintained as bird and insect habitat. Mowing is to be done as little as possible to retain a natural functioning of the landscape. Alternative vegetation or cover options may be proposed by the applicant in consideration of soil type and quality, subject to the approval of the Special Permit Granting Authority. Gravel areas that are well drained and stable do not require the addition of topsoil. Topsoil shall not be imported into any project sites unless there is a demonstrated engineering need and must be approved by the Special Permit Granting Authority prior to any introduction. The need to introduce topsoil may be grounds for permit denial.
5. Clearing of natural vegetation shall be limited to what is necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the installation. Existing root structures, flat gravel areas, and topsoil shall be maintained to the maximum extent practicable.
6. Vegetation Management: Herbicides, pesticides, or chemical fertilizers shall not be used to manage vegetation at the ground mounted solar photovoltaic installation.
7. Ground surface areas beneath solar arrays and setback areas shall be pervious to maximize on- site infiltration of stormwater.

4. Mitigation

1. The Special Permit Granting Authority shall discuss construction phasing with the designer of the installation as a means of mitigating erosion and sedimentation.
2. Habitat Fragmentation. A ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation shall, to the greatest extent practicable, be clustered and located in or adjacent to areas of the site where the land has already been cleared of vegetation to avoid habitat fragmentation.
3. Invasive Species. The introduction of invasive species shall be prevented to the greatest extent practicable, during any construction or removal of a solar photovoltaic installation, through the use of current best practices.
4. A ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation shall be considered the principal use of the parcel. Any parcel with an existing residence or other building may be approved for a solar installation with the provision that the residence or building be subdivided from the larger parcel prior to any construction of the solar installation. The parcel with the ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation may not be subdivided for the purpose of development of the divided land until such time as the installation is decommissioned.

5. Visual Impacts and Glare

1. The design of the ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall prevent reflected solar radiation or glare from becoming a public nuisance or hazard to adjacent buildings, roadways, or properties. Design efforts may include, but not be limited to, deliberate placement and arrangement on the site, anti-reflective materials, solar glare modeling, and screening in addition to required landscaping.
2. Any ground-mounted solar photovoltaic array installation proposed within a 5-mile radius of the Orange Airport shall be analyzed for glare utilizing any glare analysis compatible with FAA glare guidelines. [One such software package is Forge Solar, PV Planning and Glare Analysis.]
3. Ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall not be approved unless the system design provides screening and buffers to protect scenic vistas and view sheds from residential uses, public streets and any waterways or water bodies.
4. A visual impact assessment shall be conducted that follows the protocols of the "Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Addition). Such assessment shall produce a map showing all areas within a 5-mile radius of the installation where the installation can be seen and where it cannot be seen.

With input from the Planning Director, the applicant shall utilize additional tools to assess the visual impacts in critical areas of concern such as renderings, line-of-sight studies and/or two or three dimensional visualizations i.e. Photomontage, video montage, animation produced through Spatial Information Systems (SIS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

5. All results of the visual impact assessment shall be taken into account in the design of the installation. When reviewing for compliance with section 3.24.3 Vegetated Buffer, Screening and Landscaping and scenic vistas in Section 3.24.5.3, the Special Permit Authority shall make a definitive judgment that the intent has been achieved.

3.24.5.6 Appurtenant Structures:

All appurtenant structures to ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall be subject to reasonable regulations concerning the bulk and height of structures, lot area, setbacks, and open space, parking and building coverage requirements.

All such appurtenant structures, including but not limited to, equipment shelters, storage facilities, transformers, and substations, shall be architecturally compatible with each other. Whenever reasonable, structures shall be shielded from view by vegetation approved by the Special Permit Granting Authority and/or joined or clustered to avoid adverse visual impacts.

3.24.5.7 Lighting:

Lighting of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall be consistent with local, state and federal law.

Lighting of other parts of the installation, such as appurtenant structures, shall be limited to that required for safety and operational purposes, and shall be reasonably shielded from abutting properties. All lighting shall comply with International Dark Sky Standards FSA Certification Requirements. There shall be no illumination without personnel on site.

3.24.5.8 Signs:

The following signs shall be required:

- i. one that identifies the owner, the street address, provides a 24-hour emergency contact phone
- ii. educational signs providing information about solar photovoltaic panels and the benefits of renewable energy.

Signs shall comply with Section 3.9, Sign Regulations.

Ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall not be used for displaying any advertising except for reasonable identification of the manufacturer or operator of the solar photovoltaic installation.

3.24.5.9 Utility Connections:

Utility connections, as determined by the Special Permit Granting Authority, shall be underground, depending on appropriate soil conditions, shape, and topography of the site and any requirements of the utility provider.

3.24.5.10 Fencing:

The need for fencing shall be determined by the applicant unless such fencing is needed to comply with Section 3.24.3 Vegetated Buffer, Screening and Landscaping, and/or as required per the National Electrical Code. If installed, such fencing shall be no more than 10 feet tall, shall be placed 6 inches off the ground to allow migration of wildlife, and shall have an Emergency Access System padlock or box at each gate.

3.24.5.11 Stormwater and Erosion Control

1. Proposed stormwater management plans detailed below shall conform to the more stringent of any conditions or standards of this subsection and the Department of Environmental Protection's Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook, as amended.
2. All stormwater infrastructure shall be owned and maintained by the owner of the installation and shall be located on the same parcel as the solar installation.
3. All post-development stormwater, up to and including a 50-year return frequency 24-hour storm, shall be retained on the parcel site and infiltrated into the soil thru low impact development, retention and infiltration basins. At no time may stormwater be carried off site.

Emergency overflows for storms in excess of the 50-year return frequency may be permitted provided it is demonstrated that no flooding or damage would be caused by the overflow. Attenuation of the discharge may be required as needed as determined by the Special Permit Granting Authority.

4. All pipes, catch basins and other materials utilized in the stormwater facilities shall be approved by the Athol Superintendent of Public Works, or his designee.
5. Stormwater Management Plan
 - i. The Stormwater Management Plan (four paper copies and one electronic copy in PDF format required) with the permit application shall contain sufficient information for the Special Permitting Granting Authority to evaluate the environmental impact and effectiveness of the measures proposed for retaining stormwater on the parcel site.
 - ii. The Stormwater Management Plan shall fully describe the project in drawings, narrative and calculations. It shall include:
 - a. The site's existing and proposed topography with contours at 2-foot intervals;
 - b. A description and delineation of existing stormwater conveyances, impoundments, environmental resources on or adjacent to the site into which stormwater could flow;
 - c. A delineation of 100-year flood plains, if applicable;
 - d. Estimated seasonal high groundwater elevation in areas to be used for stormwater retention, detention, or infiltration;
 - e. The existing and proposed vegetation and ground surfaces with areas and runoff coefficients for each;
 - f. Calculations for the 2-year, 10 year and 50 year return period utilizing NCRS TR 55 Handbook. Pipe sizes, depth of flow, capacities and velocities shall be included;
 - g. All pipes shall be a minimum 12-inch diameter.

- h. A drainage area map showing pre- and post-construction watershed boundaries, area and stormwater flow paths at a scale that enables verification of supporting calculations;
- i. A recharge area analysis that calculates pre-and post-project annual groundwater recharge rates on the parcel;
- j. A description and drawings of all components of the proposed stormwater management system;
- k. Hydrologic and hydraulic design calculations for the pre-development and post-development conditions for the design storms specified in the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook;
- l. Soils information from test pits performed at the location of proposed Stormwater Management facilities, including soil descriptions, depth to seasonal high groundwater and depth to bedrock. Soils information will be based on site test pits logged by a Massachusetts Certified Soil Evaluator.

6. To ensure proper containment and stabilization of the site during the construction phase, a Stormwater Pollution Plan to control construction-related impacts, including erosion, sedimentation, and other pollutant sources during construction and land disturbance activities (construction period erosion, sedimentation, and pollution prevention plan) shall be developed and implemented. Such plan shall be developed to document compliance with Standard 8 of the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook.

7. A Long -Term Stormwater Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Plan shall be developed and implemented to ensure that stormwater management systems function as designed. Such plan shall be developed to document compliance with Standard 9 of the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook.

The Long-Term Stormwater Operation and Maintenance Plan shall at a minimum include:

- i. Stormwater management system(s) owners;
- ii. The party or parties responsible for operation and maintenance of all aspects of the stormwater management system;
- iii. The routine and non-routine maintenance tasks to be undertaken after construction is complete and a schedule for implementing those tasks;
- iv. A plan that is drawn to scale and shows the location of all stormwater BMPs;
- v. A schedule for routine inspections as well as a description of storms that would trigger immediate inspections following the storm;
- vi. An inspection and maintenance log form
- vii. An estimated stormwater operations and maintenance budget.
- viii. Permission from the operator to allow agents of the Town of Athol to enter and inspect the premises to evaluate and ensure that the responsibility party complies with the Long-Term Stormwater Operation and Maintenance Plan requirements for each BMP.

8. During times of construction and post-construction where stormwater generated from the project area may inadvertently enter the public way, the developer (owner) shall be responsible for direct costs incurred by the town, including but not limited to stormwater related clean up, sanding, salting, street sweeping or other necessary management when required for the protection of public health and safety.

12. Hazardous Materials:

Hazardous materials stored, used, or generated on site shall not exceed the amount for a Very Small Quantity Generator of Hazardous Waste as defined by the DEP pursuant to Mass DEP regulations 310 CMR 30.000 and shall meet all requirements of the DEP including storage of hazardous materials in a building with an impervious floor that is not adjacent to any floor drains to prevent discharge to the outdoor environment.

If any hazardous materials, including, but not limited to, lithium ion (storage batteries) are used within the solar electric equipment, then impervious containment areas capable of controlling and containing any release of hazardous materials to the environment and to prevent potential contamination of groundwater are required. A list of any hazardous materials proposed to be located on the site and a plan to prevent their release shall be provided to the Special Permit Granting Authority and Fire Chief.

13. Noise

Noise generated by ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations, cooling fans, inverters, associated equipment and machinery shall conform at a minimum to applicable state and local noise regulations, including the DEP's Division of Air Quality noise regulations, 310 CMR 7.10 and 3.8.1.1 of the Athol Zoning Bylaw. Noise reduction shall be considered and incorporated as needed during the design phase of the installation including the location of the noise generator, shielding, noise cancellation, filtering, and noise suppression.

3.24.6. Site Plan Review Criteria: In addition to the criteria under Section 3.18.8, the Special Permit Granting Authority shall consider the following matters during Site Plan Review and shall either approve or deny a special permit upon its determination that such matters have or have not been satisfactorily addressed:

1. The right of abutting and neighboring landowners to live without undue disturbance from noise, traffic, lighting, fumes, dust, odor, glare, or stormwater runoff;
2. The adequacy of methods to store, handle, or dispose of wastes, including hazardous materials, to protect air, groundwater, and surface water pollution;
3. The protection of historical and natural environmental features on the site under review and in adjacent areas;
4. The adequacy of stormwater management systems to address non-point-source

pollution.

5. Minimization of erosion of soil both during and after construction.
6. In the case of a residential zone location, the visual impact of the installation on its immediate abutters and the nearby neighborhood have been effectively neutralized through its location on the lot, appropriate design, landscaping and effective screening.
7. The location of the site and the system design provides effective screening and buffers to protect scenic vistas and view sheds from residential uses, public streets, recreational areas and any waterways or water bodies, and
8. The rural character of the general location has been maintained.

3.24.7 Site Control: The applicant shall submit documentation of actual or committed prospective access and control of the project site to allow for construction and the operation of the proposed ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation.

3.24.8 Operation and Maintenance Plan: The installation owner or operator shall maintain the facility in good condition. The applicant shall submit a plan for the operation and maintenance of the ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation along with a signed agreement with a maintenance company. This plan shall include measures for maintaining year-round safe access for emergency vehicle, snow plowing, storm water controls, and general procedures and a yearly schedule for the operation and maintenance of the facilities including fencing, and maintenance of landscaping.

3.24.9 Utility Notification: The applicant shall submit evidence satisfactory to the Special Permit Granting Authority that the utility company operating the electrical grid has been informed in writing of the intent to install a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation and intends to file an Interconnect Agreement in the future and that the utility company has responded in writing acknowledging the plan. Any off-grid system shall be exempt from this requirement.

3.24.10 Emergency Services: The applicant shall provide a copy of the project summary, operation and maintenance plan, electrical schematic, and site plan to the Athol Fire and Police Departments. The applicant and the installation operator shall cooperate with local and regional emergency services in developing an emergency response plan, which will ensure that emergency personnel have immediate, 24-hour access to the facility.

All means of shutting down the solar installation shall be clearly marked on the plan. The operator of the installation shall identify an official representative for public inquiries throughout the life of the installation.

The operation and maintenance plan required in Section 3.24.8 shall be periodically jointly reviewed and updated as necessary by the operator of the installation and the Athol Fire and Police Departments at a frequency to be determined by the Athol Fire Department. Safety personnel may request at any time that the operator provide onsite training in accessing and shutting down the operation of the installation.

The operator shall identify a qualified contact person who will provide assistance to local officials during an emergency. The operator shall update the contact information whenever there is a change in the contact person.

3.24.11 Annual Reporting: The owner or operator of a solar installation shall submit an annual report demonstrating and certifying compliance with the Operation and Maintenance Plan, the requirements of this bylaw, and approvals granted hereunder, including but not limited to continued management and maintenance of vegetation, compliance with the approved plans and any permit conditions, continuation of liability insurance, and adequacy of road access and functionality of stormwater management system. The annual report shall also provide information on the maintenance completed during the course of the year and the amount of electricity generated by the facility. The report shall be submitted to the Board of Selectmen, Special Permit Granting Authority, Fire Chief, and Conservation Commission (if a wetlands permit was issued) no later than 45 days after the end of the calendar year.

3.24.12 Modifications: All material modifications to the installation to be made after the issuance of the initial required building permit shall require approval of the Special Permit Granting Authority through a permit modification.

3.24.13 Discontinuance and Removal: Absent notice of a proposed date of decommissioning or written notice of extenuating circumstances, any ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation not used for a period of one continuous year or more without written permission from the Special Permit Granting Authority, or is operating at less than 25% of its nameplate capacity shall be considered to be discontinued and shall be removed by the owner.

Upon written request from the Building Inspector addressed to the contact address provided and maintained by the owner or operator as required, the owner or operator shall provide evidence to the Building Inspector demonstrating continued use of the installation. Failure to provide such evidence within thirty days of such written request shall be conclusive evidence that the installation has been discontinued.

The owner or operator or landowner shall physically remove the installation no more than 180 days after the date of discontinued operation. The owner or operator or landowner shall notify the Special Permit Granting Authority by certified mail of the proposed date of discontinued operations and submit plans for removal. Removal shall consist of:

1. Physical removal of all parts of and appurtenances of the installation including solar arrays, structures, equipment, security barriers and transmission lines.
2. Recycling of all possible materials and disposal of remaining solid and hazardous wastes in accordance with state and federal waste disposal regulations applicable at the time of disposal.
3. Stabilization and revegetation of the site as necessary to minimize erosion and prevent impacts to wetlands, water courses or water bodies. The Special Permit Granting Authority may allow the owner or operator or landowner to leave landscaping or designated below grade foundations (provided they are filled in) in order to minimize erosion and disruption of existing vegetation. This requirement may be waived if the landowner submits a plan for re-use of the site.
4. Any portion of a site that was deforested for the installation shall be restored so as to encourage native tree growth, including the planting of seedlings, if necessary to establish growth.

As a condition of the Special Permit approval, the applicant and the landowner shall agree to allow entry to remove an abandoned or decommissioned installation. If the owner or operator or land owner fails to remove the installation in accordance with the requirements of this section, the Town of Athol shall have the right, to the extent it is otherwise duly authorized by law, to enter the property and physically remove the installation at a rate of 1.3 times the actual costs incurred. The Town of Athol shall use the financial surety as stipulated in the Financial Surety Section 3.24.14.

3.24.14 Financial Surety: The applicant of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall provide surety in the form of cash, certified bank check, escrow account or bond held by and for the Town of Athol to cover the cost of removal and stabilization of the site in the event the town must remove the installation and remediate the landscape, in an amount and form determined to be reasonable by the Special Permit Granting Authority, but in no event to exceed more than 130 percent of the cost of removal and stabilization costs as well as any compliance with the additional requirements set forth herein.

This surety will be due and payable at the issuance of the building permit. Proof of payment in the form of a receipt from the Town Treasurer will be shown to the Building Inspector before the permits are issued. Such surety will not be required for municipally- or state-owned facilities. The project applicant shall submit a fully inclusive estimate of the costs associated with removal and stabilization prepared by a licensed professional engineer. Such estimate shall be reviewed by the Town of Athol and adjusted as needed to reflect the opinion of the Town as to fair costs. The amount shall include a mechanism for calculating increased removal costs due to inflation.

As a condition of approval, an applicant shall bind itself to grant the necessary license or easement to the Town to allow entry to remove the structures and stabilize the site. The Town shall have the right but not the obligation to remove the facility.

3.24.15 Taxes or Payment in Lieu of Taxes: If the project would otherwise be exempt from the payment of personal or real property taxes, the applicant shall enter into a tax agreement or a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreement with the Town of Athol that provides an equivalent amount of tax revenue to the town as determined by the Board of Assessors. Any tax-related agreement or PILOT shall be approved by the Board of Assessors prior to the issuance of the Building Permit.

3.24.16 Costs of Outside Expertise: The Special Permit Granting Authority may hire, at the expense of the applicant, consultants to review the plans submitted if it determines that independent expert review is appropriate for the interest of the neighborhood and/or the town. The applicant shall pay the estimated cost of said expert(s), including all legal fees and publication fees, to the Town prior to any review being undertaken. No Building Permit shall be approved until the total costs of said review(s) have been paid by the applicant.

3.24.17 Waiver of Design Standards

1. The Special Permit Granting Authority may waive or reduce strict compliance with any requirement of the Design Standards of this bylaw (unless noted otherwise in the bylaw), or any rules and regulations promulgated hereunder, where:
 - a. such action is allowed by federal, state or local statutes and/or regulations;
 - b. it is fully within the public interest;
 - c. it is not inconsistent with the purpose and intent of this bylaw and the purposes and intent of the bylaw can still be met with the waiver or reduction due to special circumstances of the site
 - d. and the full objectives of the bylaws can be met in an alternative manner.
2. The applicant shall submit a written request for any requested waiver at the time of the initial application. Such request shall be accompanied by an explanation or documentation supporting the waiver request and demonstrating that:
 - a. strict application of the bylaws does not further the purposes or objectives of this bylaw,
 - b. due to special circumstances of the site that the objectives of the bylaws can be met in an alternative manner and,
 - c. such a waiver or reduction of the requirements will not derogate from the intent or purpose of the bylaw.
3. All waiver requests shall be discussed during a required a public hearing duly noted in a public agenda and shall require a two-thirds vote in favor to be approved. If the Special Permit Granting Authority deems additional time or information is required in the review of the waiver request, the Special Permit Granting Authority may continue the request for the waiver to a subsequent BPCD meeting.

3.24.18 Rules and Regulations

The Special Permit Granting Authority 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 3.24.14.

3.24.19 Ownership Changes

If the owner of the ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation changes or the owner of the property changes, the special permit shall remain in effect, provided that the successor owner or operator assumes in writing all of the obligations of the special permit, site plan approval, and decommissioning plan. A new owner or operator of the ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation shall notify the Special Permit Granting Authority and the Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer of such change in ownership or operator within thirty (30) days of the ownership change.

The special permit and all other local approvals for the ground-mounted solar array installation system would be void if a new owner or operator fails to provide written notification to Special Permit Granting Authority and the Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer in the required timeframe. Reinstatement of a void special permit, site plan approval and any other local approvals will be subject to the same review and approval processes for new applications under the Town of Athol Bylaws and Regulations.

3.24.20 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 62 yes and 11 no.

Article 7: CITIZEN PETITION: No Motion. No Action taken on "To see if the Town will vote to:

1 Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Photovoltaic Installations

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this bylaw is to promote the development of solar energy facilities and appropriately regulate the creation of large-scale ground-mounted photovoltaic installations. These regulations shall include, but are not limited to, the placement, design,

construction, operation, monitoring, modification and removal that address public safety, minimize impacts on scenic, natural and historic resources and to provide adequate financial assurance for the eventual decommissioning of such installations, consistent with the intent of Chapter 40A Section 3 of Massachusetts General Laws.

1.2 Applicability

The provisions set forth in this section shall apply to the construction, operation, and/or repair of large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations.

This section shall apply to all large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations proposed to be constructed after the effective date of this section as well as to physical modifications to existing installations that materially alter the type, configuration, or size of such systems or other equipment.

1.3 General Knowledge

1.3.1 Compliance with Laws, Ordinances and Regulations

The construction and operation of all large scale solar photovoltaic installations shall be consistent with all applicable local, state and federal requirements, including but not limited to all applicable safety, construction, electrical, and communications requirements. All buildings and fixtures forming part of a solar photovoltaic installation shall be constructed in accordance with the State Building Code.

1.3.2 Building Permit and Building Inspections

The Board of Planning and Community Development shall be the Special Permit Granting Authority for all special permits required for all under the Zoning Bylaw.

The Board of Planning and Community Development shall be the site plan review authority for all site plan approvals required for a Solar Energy System under the Zoning Bylaw.

1.3.3 Fees

The application for a building permit for large scale solar photovoltaic installation must be accompanied by the fee required for the building permit.

1.3.4 Waivers

The Board of Planning and Community Development 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

1.3.5 *Site Control*

The project proponent shall submit documentation of actual or prospective access and control of the project site sufficient to allow for construction and operation of the proposed solar photovoltaic installation. Any special permit submitted under this section shall include a condition stating the above requirement and further stating that, in accepting the special permit the Applicant and Owner grant the Town permission to enter the property for the purpose of assessing and removing an abandoned or discontinued facility. This letter shall be signed and notarized by the applicant and owner

1.3.6 *Site Plan Review*

Ground-mounted large scale solar photovoltaic installations shall undergo Site Plan Review with the Board of Planning and Community Development prior to construction.

1.3.6.1 *General*

All plans and maps shall be prepared, stamped and signed by a Professional Engineer licensed in Massachusetts.

1.3.6.2 *Required Documents*

- a) Plans showing existing conditions and proposed changes to the landscape of the site, grading, vegetation clearing and planting, exterior lighting, screening vegetation and structures.
- b) Blueprints or drawings of the solar energy system signed by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts showing the proposed layout of the system and any potential shading from nearby structures
- c) One- or three-line electrical diagram detailing the solar energy system, associated components, and electrical interconnection methods, with all National Electrical Code-compliant disconnects and overcurrent devices;
- d) A list of any hazardous materials proposed to be located on the site in excess of household quantities and a plan to prevent their release to the environment;
- e) Documentation of the major system components to be used, including the electric generating components, transmission systems, mounting system, inverter, etc.
- f) Name, address, and contact information for the proposed system installer;
- g) Name, address, phone number and signature of the property owners, the applicant, the developer, and any other party that produced material to support the Special Permit Application or the Site Plan;
- h) The name, contact information and signature of any agents representing the owner or applicant;
- i) Provision of water including that needed for fire protection;
- j) Zoning district designation and zoning overlay(s) for the parcel(s) of land comprising the project site (submission of a paper copy of a zoning map with the parcel(s) identified is suitable for this purpose);

k) Proof of liability insurance

1.4 Operations and Maintenance Plan

The Site Plan application shall include a plan for the operation and maintenance of the Large- Scale, Ground-Mounted, Solar Energy System, which shall include measures for maintaining safe access to the installation, stormwater and vegetation controls, as well as general procedures for operational maintenance of the installation.

1.5 Utility Notification

No Ground-Mounted, Solar Energy Systems shall be constructed until evidence has been given to the Board of Planning and Community Development that the utility company that operates the

electrical grid where the installation is to be located has been informed of the solar energy system owner or operator's intent to install an interconnected facility.

1.6 Dimension and Density Requirements

1.6.1 Setbacks

All facilities shall have front, side and rear yard setbacks of at least 75 feet. For any fencing that is required by the Board of Planning and Community Development; fencing shall be required to fully enclose the project. However, that where the lot is located in or abuts a

residential district or abuts a conservation, recreation, or

residential use, the front, side and rear yard shall not be less than 100 feet.

Setbacks from a roadway shall be at least 200 feet. A fifty-foot minimum setback shall be used when the abutting parcel has the same owner. No trees shall be removed outside the limit of work boundary. The Board of Planning and Community Development may allow a lesser setback along a property line where, in its judgment, the proposed facility is not likely to negatively affect an existing or permitted land use on the abutting property or there is no need for the setback to achieve the purpose of limiting visual impact or sightlines of the property.

1.6.2 Appurtenant Structures

All appurtenant structures to a Large Scale Solar Energy System shall be subject to reasonable regulations concerning the bulk and height of structures, building coverage requirements, lot area, setbacks, sound or noise level generated by equipment, open space and parking. All such appurtenant structures, including but not limited to, equipment shelters, storage facilities, transformers, and substations, shall be architecturally compatible with each other. Whenever reasonable, structures shall be screened from view by vegetation and/or joined or clustered to avoid adverse visual impacts.

1.6.3 Siting Requirements

One of the following conditions must be met:

The location of the facility, due to topography, tree lines, and/or vegetation, cannot reasonably be seen from a residence or public way during all seasons of the year.

Or

The location of the facility is so distant from a residence or public way, and/or so obscured by topography, tree lines, and/or vegetation, that the visual impact of the facility is rendered negligible, as determined by the

Board of Planning and Community Development, during all seasons of the year.

1.6.4 *Size*

Height shall not exceed thirty-five (35) feet in height above finished grade. An increase in height may be granted in commercial districts by special permit.

1.7 *Design Standards*

1.7.1 *Lighting*

Lighting of solar photovoltaic installations shall be consistent with local, state and federal law. Lighting of other parts of the installation, such as appurtenant structures, shall be limited to that required for safety and operational purposes, and shall be reasonably shielded from abutting properties. Lighting of the solar photovoltaic installation shall be directed downward and inward and shall incorporate full cut off fixtures to reduce light pollution.

1.7.2 *Signage*

Signs on Ground-Mounted, Solar Energy Systems shall comply with all applicable requirements of the Zoning Bylaws. A sign shall be required to identify only the owner and provide a 24- hour emergency contact phone number. Solar electric installations shall not be used for displaying any advertising except for reasonable identification of the manufacturer or operator of the solar electric installation.

1.7.3 *Utility Connections*

Reasonable efforts, as determined by the Board of Planning and Community Development, shall be made to place all utility connections from the solar electric installation underground, depending on appropriate soil conditions, shape, and topography of the site and any requirements of the utility provider. Electrical transformers for utility interconnections may be above ground if required by the utility provider.

1.7.4 *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.

1.8 *Safety and Environmental Standards*

1.8.1 *Emergency Services*

The large-scale solar photovoltaic installation owner or operator shall provide a copy of the project summary, electrical schematic, and site plan to the Fire Chief. Upon request, the owner or operator shall cooperate with local emergency services in developing an emergency response plan. All means of shutting down the system shall be clearly marked. The owner or operator shall identify a responsible person for public inquiries throughout the life of the installation. This contact information and telephone number shall also be provided to the local emergency dispatch centre.

1.8.2 *Land Clearing Soil Erosion and Habitat Impacts*

Clearing of natural vegetation shall be limited to what is necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance of the large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation or otherwise prescribed by applicable laws, regulations and bylaws.

1.8.3 *Noise*

Noise generated by ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations, cooling fans, inverters, associated equipment and machinery shall conform at a minimum to applicable state and local noise regulations, including the DEP's Division of Air Quality noise regulations, 310 CMR 7.10 and 3.8.1.1 of the Athol Zoning Bylaw. Noise reduction shall be considered and incorporated as needed during the design phase of the installation including the location of the noise generator, shielding, noise cancellation, filtering, and noise suppression.

1.9 *Monitoring and Maintenance*

1.9.1 *Installation Conditions*

The large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation owner or operator shall maintain the facility in good condition. Maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, painting, structural repairs, and integrity of security measures. Site access shall be maintained to a level acceptable to the local Fire Chief, AMLP and Emergency Medical Services. The owner or operator shall be responsible for the cost of maintaining the solar photovoltaic installation and any access road(s), unless accepted as a public way.

1.9.2 *Modification Conditions*

All Material Modifications to a solar energy system made after issuance of the required building permit shall require approval by the Board of Planning and Community Development.

1.10 *Decommissioning and Abandonment*

1.10.1 *Removal*

Any solar energy facility that has reached the end of its useful life or has been discontinued, decommissioned, or abandoned, shall be removed. The owner or operator shall physically remove the solar energy facility within one hundred fifty

(150) days after the date of discontinued or abandoned operations or the date specified in a notice of discontinuance or decommissioning in compliance with the requirements of the Inspector of Buildings. The owner or operator shall notify the Board of Planning and Community Development by certified mail of any proposed date of discontinued operations or decommissioning and submit the plans for removal.

Removal shall consist of:

- a. Physical removal of all equipment from the site, including, but not limited to, the solar arrays, structures, appurtenant equipment, security barriers, and electrical transmission line above and below grade.
- b. Stabilization or re-vegetation of the site as necessary to return the site to its original state, and minimize erosion.
- c. Disposal of all solid and hazardous waste in accordance with local, state and federal waste disposal laws and regulations.

1.10.2 *Abandonment*

Absent notice of a proposed date of decommissioning or written notice of extenuating circumstances, the Large Scale Ground-mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation shall be considered abandoned when it fails to operate for more than one hundred fifty days without the written consent of the Site Plan Review Authority. If the owner or operator of the Large Scale Ground-mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation fails to remove the installation in accordance with the requirements of this section within one hundred fifty days of abandonment or the proposed date of decommissioning, the town may enter the property and physically remove the installation.

1.11 *Financial Surety*

Operators of installations shall provide security, either escrow account, bond, or otherwise, to cover the cost of removal of the system in the event the town must remove it and remediate the landscape. The form and amount of the security shall be determined by the Board of Planning and Community Development. The amount of the security shall reasonably reflect the anticipated cost of such removal and remediation. If the Board and the operator disagree, it shall be determined by a disinterested and qualified independent engineer. Such surety will not be required for municipally- or state-owned facilities. The amount shall include a mechanism for calculating increased removal costs due to inflation.

1.12 *Severability*

If any section of this bylaw is ruled invalid, such ruling will not affect the validity of the remainder of the bylaw.

These proposed Bylaws for the Town of Athol, are compiled as best practice from other Towns in Worcester County Massachusetts and their Zoning Bylaws.

The Bylaws of the following towns were

reviewed: Ashburnham

Auburn

Barre Boylston

Hardwick

Hubbardston

Leicester

Lunenburg New

Braintree

North Brookfield

Oakham

Shrewsbury

Southborough

Spencer

Warren

Webster

Westminster

Winchendon

Or act in relation thereto.

Meeting dissolved at 8:02 p.m.

Attest:

Nancy E. Burnham
Town Clerk

CHAPTER SEVEN

SCHOOLS

Reports of the

Athol Royalston Regional School
District & Montachusett Regional
Vocational Technical School

**ATHOL-ROYALSTON
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR (FY21)**

The Athol-Royalston Regional School District (ARRSD) presents this report to the citizens of Athol and Royalston. This report is organized into three main sections: Students, Curriculum & Instruction, and Finance & Facilities. This format has been chosen in an effort to best communicate who we serve, how we serve them, and the resources used to do so.

STUDENTS

THE CLASS OF 2021

The graduating class of 2021 represents the results of the cumulative efforts of the school system and the community. Eighty Three (83) students graduated from Athol High School (AHS) in 2021, an increase of 4 students over the previous school year. Of these 83 graduates, 37 went on to attend either a two or four year college, a decrease of 10 students. Nine students went on to enroll in a technical school, which is an increase of 5 students from the previous year. The following is a list of the colleges in which AHS students are attending:

Arizona State University
Bentley University
Boston University
Brigham Young University
Fitchburg State University
Keene Beauty Academy
Lineman Institute of the North East
Monty Tech Night Program
Mount Holyoke College
Mount Wachusett Community College
Oberlin College
Regis College
Roger Williams University
Thomas Jefferson University
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Massachusetts Boston
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
University of Puerto Rico
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

THE STUDENT POPULATION

The district enrollment in this year has declined due to COVID. The district had 77 families who chose to do homeschooling. This brought the district numbers down from 1520 to 1443. During the fall and winter months. Once COVID restrictions began to be lifted in April, the school district started to see an increase in the overall number of students. The district is now at 1469 students.

Special Education Students,

24.1 % of the students in the district, have special needs ranging in ages 3 to 22 during the 2020-2021 school year. The District followed all state and federal regulations requiring a full continuum of services for students to ensure access to the general education curriculum. This included testing that had been deferred from the following year and addressing a higher than usual volume of referrals. Approximately 34 students have been served in Out of District (OOD) placements due to their intensive instructional, physical, and/or emotional needs. Extended year services were made available to approximately 60 in-district students in an in-person setting to prevent significant regression in their academic and/or social-emotional skills over the summer break.

English Language Learners

In the 2020-2021 school year, the ARRSD had 39 students, grades Pre-K –12, spread over three schools, receiving direct English language instruction. In addition, there were 32 multilingual students who formerly received direct English language instruction who monitored for academic success according to state and federal laws. For the majority, Spanish is the first language, but Gujarati, Portuguese, Tagalog, Haitian Creole, and Vietnamese were also represented. Multilingual learners overwhelmingly chose a remote model for the majority of the school year.

The district continued the same number of staff in FY21, two ELL teachers and a translator. The district participated in the Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy initiative. Multilingual families built community through a shared newsletter, frequent contact, and a celebratory picnic, complete with potluck desserts, canoeing, and volleyball.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

During the FY21 school year, a shortened version of MCAS was administered. Statewide trends showed a decrease in the % of students meeting/exceeding across all grades for mathematics and across all grades 3-8 in ELA. ARRSD data changes from 2019-2021 were overall less than the state changes 2019-2021, as indicated in the data charts below.

ARRSD District Achievement Data Compared to State

ARRSD ELA Data 2019-2021 Grade and Subject	ARRSD % M/E 2019-2021			State 2019-2021
	District 2019	District 2021	District Diff. 19-21	State Diff. 19-21
GRADE 03 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	50	45	-5	-6
GRADE 04 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	38	45	7	-3
GRADE 05 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	34	31	-3	-5
GRADE 06 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	31	26	-5	-7
GRADE 07 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	33	21	-12	-5
GRADE 08 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	36	24	-12	-11
GRADE 10 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	43	44	1	3

ARRSD Math Data 2019-2021 Grade and Subject	ARRSD % M/E 2019-2021			State 2019-2021
	District 2019	District 2021	District Diff. 19-21	State Diff. 19-21
GRADE 03 - MATHEMATICS	37	25	-12	-16
GRADE 04 - MATHEMATICS	30	41	11	-16
GRADE 05 - MATHEMATICS	30	14	-16	-16
GRADE 06 - MATHEMATICS	38	17	-21	-17
GRADE 07 - MATHEMATICS	45	9	-36	-13
GRADE 08 - MATHEMATICS	37	26	-11	-15
GRADE 10 - MATHEMATICS	34	22	-12	-7

COVID-19 made the 20-21 school year a challenge for all schools across the state. The majority of school districts showed a decline in MCAS scores because many students were remote the majority of the school year. During the 2020-2021 school year, time for learning for students across the state was cut by ten days. Additionally, throughout the school year, students experienced constant changes in their instructional model between in-person and remote models. MCAS results showed that from the fall of 2020 to the fall of 2021, reading scores in the district declined from 64% of students reading at grade level to 57%. In mathematics, the district declined from 60% of students scoring in the average range in math to 53% of the students scoring at the average range in math. In March of 2020, the state closed down school facilities for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Students were given work to complete at home with support for small amounts of time by their teachers as the district could not give out one-to-one devices for students.

Although the district had a decline in MCAS scores, the district did outscore the majority of comparable towns designated by DESE, called DART schools.

2021 MCAS 3-8 DART Trends (% M/E)	ELA 2021	Math 2021
Adams Cheshire (Hoosic Valley)	29	12
Athol-Royalston	32	22
Easthampton	45	24
Gardner	28	15
Greenfield	31	12
North Adams	28	14
Palmer	33	21
Spencer - East Brookfield	35	14
Webster	27	14
Wareham	31	15
Winchendon	33	13

2021 MCAS 10th DART Trends (% M/E)	ELA 2021	Math 2021
Athol High School	44	24
Bartlett High	42	42
Boston Day/Evening	39	22
Cape Cod Voc Tech	57	26
David Prouty High	52	47
MAP Academy	33	22
Murdock High School	39	33
Smith Voc Tech	43	27

Taconic High	35	29
Turners Falls High School	48	41
Westfield Tech Academy	55	32

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

ARRSD is taking major steps to work towards improving the academic achievement of the students and improve the overall quality of education that we offer. The following are some of the steps that have been taken to facilitate our improvement efforts.

Strategic Plan

The district continues to follow the strategic plan revised and implemented in the 2020-2021 school year. This plan has three major objectives.

1. Design classrooms where student literacy skills are consistently the focus of daily instruction.
2. Create and use a tiered system of social, emotional, and behavioral supports to improve overall student engagement in classrooms.
3. Use data to drive decision-making in the areas of curriculum, instruction, student learning, and social-emotional support.

During the 2020-2021 school year, under objective one, the following took place:

- Continue to monitor the implementation and impact of the core ELA/literacy program (PreK-6 Wonders, 7-12 Literacy/novel based, district-wide Keys to Literacy Routines) at all levels while increasing diverse perspectives through curriculum materials, instructional routines, and data analysis. Focus on adjustments to practice and differentiating instruction based on student data.
- Providing PD/training on the implementation of the writing portfolio. Support the initial rollout for all teachers and collect feedback to monitor and adjust.
- Continue training K-5 math teachers in AVMR. In all math classes PK-12, monitor math writing in order to increase conceptual understanding of mathematics in low-achieving areas.
- Adapt goals for academic coaches and supports when prioritizing K-8 needs for in-person and virtual teaching, learning, and assessing. Utilize Lead Teachers, Department Chairs, and/or outside vendors (such as Lesley University and DESE SSoS supports) to support teaching and learning focus areas.

During the 2020-2021 school year, under objective two, the following took place:

- Review, design, and implement best practices in counseling and teaching to support students with social-emotional needs with a particular focus on self-awareness, self-management/regulation, and equity.
- Develop and refine lessons for morning meetings and/or advisory at all schools to support programming designed by school counseling staff that will link self-awareness and self-management/regulation to issues surrounding equity.
- Create opportunities to include families of diverse backgrounds into discussion and decision-making bodies to express their thoughts and perspectives about students' social-emotional wellbeing and achievement.
- Select, train and set expectations for administrators, teachers, paras, and staff in the use of student engagement strategies that incorporate culturally relevant pedagogy while reinforcing self-awareness in relationship to understanding equity and a growth mindset.
- Create professional development on SEL (Self-Awareness and Self-Management) and equity leadership for administrators that supports the continuous building of diverse culture in schools.

During the 2020-2021 school year, under objective three, the following took place:

- Continue working directly with teachers ensuring they are consistently using The FAR Cycle, focusing on formative assessments and specific groups data, through the use of an equity checker as their main strategy for improving student learning.
- Strengthen/develop an equitable process for sharing student data with families to make student outcomes and growth transparent via our Aspen X2 system.
- Continue common planning time meetings and quarterly data meetings for schools by providing support and focusing on the FIRME action step of The FAR Cycle.
- With a focus on student engagement, continue to work with principals on providing quality feedback to teachers that will move student outcomes.

Turnaround Plan

The district worked extremely close with the state. State support personnel attended learning walks at each building, supported building schools' understanding of the data decision-making process, and worked with the literacy team to ensure keys to literacy strategies were implemented in all classrooms. In addition, the state helped to build our district's capacity to understand what equitable schools look like by selecting the district to take part in the Influence 100 program. This program trained a selected leader in the district to build her capacity around equity, and this leader worked with the school committee and superintendent to design a plan.

Professional Development

During the 2020-2021 school year, our professional development plan included a review of The Formative Assessment for Results Cycle, The FAR Cycle, to provide teachers with a data cycle and set of resources to support data analysis and action planning. Additionally, teachers were provided PD sessions focused on rigor and supporting the social-emotional needs of students. High School teachers participated in Research for Better Teaching's Studying Skillful Teacher course. Grade 3-5 math teachers continued with Math Recovery in the course of a fraction that was interrupted due to the closing of schools in March of 202.

Technology

In preparing students to meet the demands of the core curriculum and the state standards for integrating technology in education, the ARRSB technology department focused its attention on updating the schools' technology. Chromebooks were purchased to upgrade and add to the current inventory for every student in the district. Internet speed was upgraded in AHS, ARMS, and ACES to 1000 Mb/sec. RCS received approval to upgrade also to 1000 Mb/sec. with new fiber. After COVID hit in the Spring of 2020, the 2020-2021 school year was planned for having students connect with their teachers either in the classroom or through remote learning as parents decided which to choose. Professional development was given to teachers for a variety of topics including Google Meet, Classroom, Seesaw, and other tools for connecting with remote students. Hotspots were provided for families with no connection to the internet in rural areas. Families were given technology support when having to navigate through different platforms and programs for those doing remote learning. The department provided more devices, computers, and/or monitors to support teachers in the classroom so they could do both in-class and remote teaching. This included more projectors, document cameras, and updated computers in the district.

FINANCE & FACILITIES

Finances

The operating budget for FY21 was approved at \$25,487,755. This was presented as a balanced budget in which anticipated revenues and expenses do match. The actual expenditures were \$24,014,299, and the actual revenues were \$24,492,313. This should result in a positive balance that the district will carry forward in the excess and deficiency account of \$1,166,265. The district funded \$500,000 in revenues for the FY21 general budget from the excess and deficiency account and \$600,000 from the School Choice revolving account. Overall, the FY21 budget represented an increase of 2.80% from the FY20 budget. The school-operating budget covers contractual increases, rising costs in health care benefits, and building operations. FY21 financial statements and salaries will follow this report.

Grants

In addition to the operating budget, ARRSD receives additional grant funding. ARRSD received \$2,890,796 in FY21 entitlement allocations. These funds were primarily used for COVID-19 expenses, special education services, Title I interventions, school redesign at ACES, and professional development. All of these funds must be spent according to the restrictions placed on them by the particular grant. Grant funds must be used to supplement the budget, not to supplant existing expenses that the district has for its regular programming.

Athletics

	<i>VARSITY</i>	Participants	Paid Coaches	Volunteer Coaches	Record	Tournament Appearance
1	Football	25	2	0	2-2	N/A
2	Boys Soccer	17	1	1	0-8	N/A
3	Girls Soccer	18	1	0	1-6	N/A
	Girls					
4	Volleyball	12	1	0	6-4	N/A
5	Field Hockey	14	1	0	2-5-1	N/A
	Football					
6	Cheerleading	0	0	0	n/a	n/a
	Boys					
7	Basketball	11	1	0	3-5	N/A
	Girls					
8	Basketball	9	1	0	1-7	N/A
9	Wrestling	13	1	1	2-1	n/a
	Winter					
0	Cheerleading	0	0	0	n/a	n/a
1	Boys Indoor					
1	Track	0	0	0	0-0	n/a

1	Girls Indoor					
2	Track	1	2	0	0-5	n/a
1						
3	Baseball	11	1	0	5-5	Yes
1						
4	Softball	12	1	3	6-4	Yes
1	Boys					
5	Volleyball	8	1	0	4-4	Yes
1	Boys Track					
6	and Field	9	2	0	0-6	n/a
1	Girls Track					
7	and Field	5	2	0	0-6	n/a
		165	18	5		

***JUNIOR
VARSITY***

1	Football	0	1	0		
2	Boys Soccer	0	1	0		
3	Girls Soccer	0	1	0		
	Girls					
4	Volleyball	13	1	0		
5	Field Hockey	0	1	0		
	Boys					
6	Basketball	10	1	0		
	Girls					
7	Basketball	9	1	0		
8	Wrestling	0	1	0		

9	Baseball	10	1	0
1				
0	Softball	7	1	0
1	Boys			
1	Volleyball	9	1	0
		58	11	0

***MIDDLE
SCHOOL***

1	Football	18	2	0
2	Boys Soccer	Not offered	0	0
3	Girls Soccer	Not offered	0	0
4	Field Hockey	0	0	0
5	Boys Basketball	Not offered	0	0
6	Girls Basketball	Not offered	0	0
8	Winter Cheerleading	0	1	0
9	Baseball	14	1	0
1				
0	Softball	12	1	0
		44	5	0

Facilities

During the FY 2020 school year, the district focused on improving all schools HVAC systems to ensure proper airflow to combat the pandemic. In addition, the district invested in purchasing chromebooks and IPADS to ensure all students had one to one devices starting in the FY 21 school year. The district met this goal.

COMMUNICATION

Please go to the ARRSD website at www.arrsd.org for more information. You can find recent news, contact information reports from the state and other agencies, and school committee agendas and minutes there. Additionally, you can follow the ARRSD on our Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com>, and search for Athol-Royalston Regional School District. Finally, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the office of the superintendent at (978) 249-2400.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mitch Grosky, Chair, ARRSD School Committee

Darcy Fernandes, Superintendent of Schools, ASSRD

Athol Royalston School District

Budget Assessment Sheet

FY21

State and Town Support	
Assessments	\$5,390,582
Chapter 70	\$18,121,257
Regional Transportation	\$548,779
Charter Tuition Reimbursement	\$17,315

Total State and Town Support	24,007,933
Other Revenue Sources Available	
Excess and Deficiency Transfer	\$500,000
School Choice Revolving Transfer	\$600,000
Miscellaneous	\$18,000
Interest Income	\$26,822
Medicaid	\$265,000
Total Transfer and Tuition Funding	\$1,409,822
Total Appropriated Budget Funding	\$25,487,755
Above Minimum Contribution	\$432,088
Debt Portion of Budget	\$50,000
Transportation less estimated reimbursement (75%)	\$1,292,657

Athol-Royalston Regional School District - FY21 Salaries

		BAPTISTA, VANESSA	\$13,430
ADAMS, JENNIFER L	\$50,699	BARTLETT, LYDIA L	\$72,673
ALLEN, TERESA M	\$24,611	BASSETT, LYNN M	\$127,884
AMES, JENNIFER L	\$78,266	BASSO, JENNIFER A	\$36,945
ANDERSON, KURT M	\$74,106	BEAUCHAMP, DAVID P	\$12,840
ANDERSON, TIMOTHY J	\$8,973	BEAULAC, CARRIEANNE L	\$61,019
ANDRESS, KATIE A	\$40,249	BELDEN, DEVIN A	\$44,965
ARPIDE, JENNIFER L	\$75,122	BELLABARBA, STACEY A	\$19,233
AUFIERO, CAITLIN M	\$56,320	BENOIT, HEATHER A	\$630

BERLIN, HEATHER J	\$65,441	CASTAGNA, GENO A	\$24,793
BERLINGER, JOHN A	\$50,699	CETTO, HOLLY A	\$75,453
BERTHIAUME, NANCY E	\$21,284	CHAGNON, MELISSA L	\$10,875
BERUBE, LINDSEY R	\$51,844	CHANDLER, LYNETTE A	\$22,315
BEVIS, DANIEL R	\$90,750	CHASE, LAURA I	\$40,849
BILLINGHAM, DIANE L	\$54,101	CHAUVETTE, SHARON A	\$27,984
BLAKE, EVAN S	\$594	CHIASSON, SCOTT A	\$44,463
BLAKE, KATHLEEN M	\$66,057	CLEVELAND, TAYLOR S	\$4,263
BLANCHARD, DEBORAH M	\$78,296	CLEVELAND, TIMOTHY L	\$3,528
BLEA, JASMINE K	\$2,247	COATES, JENNIFER L	\$62,016
BOLASEVICH, LORI J	\$5,500	COLE, HOLLY S	\$71,416
BOMMARITO, JAMIE A	\$645	COLE, JEFFREY A	\$2,829
BOUCHARD, JULIE M	\$26,014	COMEAU, LINDSAY M	\$52,267
BOUCHER, BRIAN D	\$3,114	CONWAY, KERRY E	\$57,029
BOUTELL, DONNA	\$26,539	COOLEY, BRANDI L	\$64,339
BRAILEY, JENNIFER MARIE	\$28,842	COSME, LUIS F	\$7,251
BRITT, SCOTT M	\$1,430	COSTA, DANIELLE M	\$6,145
BROWN, CAROLYN A	\$53,906	COSTA, LEIGH-ANNE	\$10,996
BULLARD, SARAH A	\$55,101	COSTON, REBECCA D	\$15,587
BURKE, SARAH M	\$21,037	COVIELLO, MARISA D	\$75,816
BYLER, LINDSEY A	\$59,724	CROOK, DONNA L	\$105
CALVI, MYRA J	\$83,026	Culver, Tricia F	\$2,145
CAPUZZO, JOSEPH A	\$35,252	CUTLER, MONA L	\$5,590
CASELLA, EMILY K	\$1,799	DAVIS, ARIC A	\$67,272
CASSINARI, ELISABETH M	\$24,337	DEASY, MICHAEL J	\$81,301

DEBARROS, ANN T	\$35,697	FEMINO, STEPHEN A JR	\$88,148
DEGRACE, KAYLEE R	\$1,154	FERNANDES, DARCY M	\$162,313
DELORME, LINDSAY N	\$45,426	FIELDS, MARGARET M	\$7,937
DEMPSEY, MARYKATE	\$60,065	FIFIELD, WILLIAM M	\$23,102
DEROSA, AMANDA L	\$49,933	FLANNERY, KELLY M	\$19,019
DEVENEAU, ANGELA J	\$25,067	FLOOD, CHRISTOPHER C	\$60,522
DIAMOND, LISA M	\$46,984	FOSTER, THERESA L	\$24,952
DIAS, CAITLYN B	\$57,394	FOX, TATUM D	\$1,094
DICKSON, ROBERT	\$79,726	FRITZ, CHRISTY E	\$10,198
DIMAURO, AMANDA L	\$56,942	GABRENAS, JOSHUA P	\$53,107
DINARDO, DANIELLE L	\$56,504	GALLAGHER, SAMANTHA L	\$9,569
DIVOLL, MOLLY	\$1,344	GESNER, LAURA A	\$64,141
DIVOLL, REBECCA J	\$58,675	GIANCATERINO, JENNIFER L	\$65,085
DOE, CHRISTINA S	\$68,841	GIANSANTO, ASHLEE N	\$3,752
DOHERTY, SHAELYNN B	\$727	GINGRAS, KATHLEEN M	\$16,174
DREW, CYNTHIA L	\$82,551	GLADDEN, COLLEEN R	\$24,881
DUKETT, ANN L	\$75,704	GODIN, DEBBIE J	\$26,435
DUPRAY, AMIE L	\$2,977	GOLDTHWAITE, DARLENE E	\$78,760
EASTMAN, DEBRA A	\$82,101	GONZALEZ, MELISSA J	\$4,950
EDMONDS, GRACEMARIE S	\$4,422	GORDON, JUSTINE E	\$49,444
EDMONDS, KENDRA A	\$16,694	GOSPODAREK, ELIZABETH A	\$83,565
ELIASZ, CHRISTINE L	\$69,351	GOSS, MELISSA L	\$21,144
ELLIS, LISA M	\$39,919	GRAHAM, ELIZABETH A	\$12,093
FAULKNER, KRISTEN B	\$59,587	GRAY, HEIDI S	\$76,634
FEMINO, SHERYL A	\$36,856		

GRUTCHFIELD, MARY SCHISSEL	\$79,016	JACK, LEAH C	\$2,781
GUERIN, TYLER J	\$3,923	JACK, MELINDA M	\$23,226
GUILBAULT, PETER B	\$59,011	JANDA, BECKY	\$78,621
HAGER, BETHANY S	\$50,133	JARVIS, HEIDI R	\$48,637
HALL, EMILY R	\$55,061	JEFFERY, BRANDON J	\$4,524
HALL, SHEILA D	\$72,594	JEFFERY, BRETT R	\$2,145
HANLON, KRISTEN E	\$51,724	JELLEY, CHERYL A	\$73,755
HARDER, KARLA J	\$7,676	JENNINGS, LAURIE J	\$14,227
HASKELL, HEATH W	\$16,748	JETTE, BENJAMIN C	\$46,974
HAYDOCY, TERRI-LYNNE	\$24,277	JOHNSON, TRACY E	\$75,716
HERMES, BRITTANY N	\$7,179	JOHNSTONE, SHERRY A	\$26,018
HEUER, JOHANNE L	\$1,071	JONES, LEAH M	\$82,055
HICKS, BRIAN A	\$74,166	KACZMARCZYK, KELLY R	\$74,626
HILL, FRANK DANIEL	\$92,500	KALINOWSKI, MELISSA M	\$13,193
HILL, KATHARINE M	\$46,084	KAPISE, STEPHANIE R	\$18,566
HOEGEN, CHRISTINE M	\$65,763	KENNEDY, CYNTHIA M	\$103,000
HUBBARD, KAREN A	\$28,319	KILLAY, KRISTEN E	\$44,754
HUGHES, CYNTHIA A	\$42,261	KIMBALL, KIMBERLY P	\$39,177
HUGHES, MARGERY E	\$82,101	KIMBALL, RICHARD E JR	\$45,673
HUME, JAIME D	\$64,001	KING, DAVID P	\$117,300
HUME, LORNE K	\$25,793	KING, DENISE M	\$23,160
HUMPHREY, DENNIS R	\$4,935	KING, LILY K	\$1,269
HUNTER, ELLY T	\$78,697	KING, SARAH S	\$80,535
HUNTER, SCOTT A	\$81,020	KIRK, MALLORY R	\$57,029
JACK, COREY R	\$12,141	KITZMILLER, ANGELA C	\$43,539

KOZIAK, AMY-BETH	\$74,803	MARKS II, FREDERICK P	\$14,651
LABRUNA, ELIZABETH S	\$21,933	MARTINEAU, ALANA J	\$70,811
LACHARITE, DONALD A	\$76,626	MCBRIDE, CADY L	\$11,171
LAJOIE, DONNA R	\$91,503	MCBRIDE, TAMMY	\$29,589
LAJOIE, HANNAH R	\$5,206	MCCARTHY, DONNA M	\$74,271
LAJOIE, KAREN M	\$804	McDANIEL, LAURA L	\$60,907
LAJOIE, MARIE A	\$2,909	MCDOWELL, ANITA M	\$10,363
LANDRY, NICOLE M	\$47,079	MCGRATH, ANDREA J	\$65,000
LANGDON, AMY MB	\$93,892	MCGRATH, PAMELA J	\$12,287
LAROCHE, JENNIFER	\$75,354	MCLAUGHLIN, MARYELLEN A	\$75,969
LAROSE, WILLIAM P	\$87,424	MELANSON, APRIL D	\$74,024
LEAZOTT, JODY L	\$41,850	MELANSON, BAILEY D	\$14,977
LEBLANC, AVA P	\$1,041	MELANSON, DEANNA M	\$27,984
LEESHA, KIMBERLY M	\$80,873	MELANSON, VICTOR G	\$44,088
LEFEVRE, MARY E	\$52,392	MERWIN, LINDA M	\$27,171
LEPOUTTRE, JENNIFER L	\$18,532	MICKIEWICZ, JACLYN M	\$88,072
LEWANDOWSKI-HARDING, TINA M	\$80,052	MITCHELL, SHIRLEY A	\$47,754
LEWIS, KYMBERLY J	\$975	MOLINA-JIMENEZ, FERNANDO E	\$25,439
MACDONALD, SEAN C	\$3,227	MOOMAW, CHRISTINA GRACE	\$20,891
MAHAN, KATELYN J	\$827	MOORE WHEELER, HANNAH M	\$59,971
MAILLET, VICKI M	\$75,182	MORANDI, SHAWN M	\$61,291
MAILLOUX, RYAN W	\$2,480	MORRIS, KAITLYN A	\$44,626
MALLET, DAYNA R	\$23,576	MORRISSEY, CONOR S	\$39,323
MANN, THERESA L	\$25,867		
MARCOUX, LISA M	\$49,585		

MULLEN, CHRISTINE A	\$91,761	PEREZ, AISLYN E	\$1,775
MURNANE, PATRICK T	\$21,901	PEREZ, MELISSA J	\$84,529
MURRAY, CHERI J	\$875	PIEROPAN DETHIER, MARIA D	\$82,720
NEEDLE, JENNIFER E	\$15,634	PINARD, LAURA L	\$24,415
NEEDLE, JOSEPH G	\$52,788	PISCITELLO, ALECIA M	\$77,776
NELSON, MEAGHAN M	\$3,745	PLOTKIN, CORLENA M	\$11,855
NEWTON, ELLEE JB	\$5,248	POMAINVILLE, BRENDA L	\$21,161
NOYES, ANNA	\$35,692	PROGEN, SHAWN T	\$40,630
NYSTROM, LYNN C	\$1,245	PROVENCHER, KATHLEEN	\$6,319
O'BRIEN, HEIDI A	\$24,754	QUINTON, JOSEPH P	\$83,102
O'BRIEN, ROSEMARY	\$10,732	QUINTON, SALLY A	\$84,905
ODEMIS, MUSTAFA	\$17,812	RATHBURN, MARK A	\$8,401
OLIVO, NANCY L	\$63,337	RATHBURN, VERONICA L	\$11,547
OLSEN, JEANNE M	\$29,228	RAYNER, DAVID S	\$39,380
OUELLETTE, AMMIE L	\$58,043	REED, GRACE M	\$25,077
OUELLETTE, MIKHAILA M	\$15,494	REED, JENNIFER M	\$20,966
PAGAR WEIN, AMANDA BETH	\$91,800	REEVES, MICHAEL J JR	\$4,000
PARKER, CHERYL A	\$29,105	RENAUD, ROBERT A	\$37,264
PARKER, LAURIE R	\$19,844	REXROAD, KAREN	\$26,324
PARKER, RACHAEL M	\$42,284	RICE, SHELLEY M	\$56,183
PARKER, RENEE A	\$21,802	RICHARD, SARAH J	\$1,365
PARSONS, JENNIFER C	\$26,767	RICHTER, ALICIA L	\$46,632
PATRIA, BRIAN E	\$3,227	RICKSON, MARY JANE	\$7,333
PATRIQUIN, ROBYN D	\$74,057	RIORDON, MAREN S	\$1,320
PAYNE, JODYE H	\$76,541	RIVERS, BRIANNA L	\$3,009

RIX, DENISE M	\$25,560	SCHWAB REHORKA, RACHEL A	\$78,392
ROBERTS, ANN-MARIE	\$36,573	SHAUGHNESSY, MEGAN E	\$51,767
ROBERTSON, ROBERT E	\$3,528	SHERIDAN, ROBERT L II	\$28,515
ROBERTSON, ROBYN C	\$33,353	SIMKEWICZ, EMMA G	\$3,255
ROBERTSON, RUTH K	\$16,455	SIMKEWICZ, LAUREN J	\$74,371
ROBIDEAU, KAYLA M	\$3,227	SKUTNIK, EDWARD W	\$106,926
ROBINSON, LAURA L	\$78,313	SMITH, JASMINE L	\$72,428
ROBINSON, LINDA A	\$80,627	SMITH, NEVONYA	\$2,705
ROGERS, CAROL	\$35,345	SMITH, SAMANTHA G	\$44,851
ROMAG, LAUREN A	\$50,661	Smith, Sophia A	\$7,951
ROMERO DA SILVEIRA, JENNIFER L	\$2,100	SONGER, REBECCA A	\$57,056
ROSS, DEBRA A	\$80,376	SONNABEND, JEANNE M	\$14,711
ROULEAU, MICHAEL R	\$35,529	SQUALLI, AISHA T	\$42,860
ROULEAU, THERESA A	\$46,499	STANLEY, JULIE A	\$103,585
RUSSELL, JULIE M	\$50,924	STARKEY, CHARLES D	\$42,311
Saalfrank, Elise R	\$7,581	STAUDER, PAMELA T	\$76,371
SABACINSKI, JEFFREY M	\$12,142	STEVE, KAITLYN J	\$39,496
SAISA, RYLEY E	\$1,799	STEVE, KATHRYN A	\$24,002
SALOVARDOS, JOHN M	\$118,345	STJEAN, DAVID D	\$91,097
SAURINO, JACOB K	\$26,424	STJEAN, DENNIS J	\$379
SAUTTER, JEFFREY M	\$60,997	STJEAN, EILEEN M	\$81,661
SAWIN, JOY D	\$29,903	SULLIVAN, MARY J	\$50,379
SCANLAN-EMIGH, ANNE F	\$1,288	SUPERCHI, MOLLY J	\$110,891
SCHOFIELD, ASHLEY M	\$169	TALBOT, GWEN L	\$27,330
SCHUBERT, THEODORE J	\$1,632	TALBOT, JOSHUA M	\$66,451

TALBOT, MATTHEW S	\$2,145	WHITE, JOSEFINA C	\$38,214
TAMULEVICH, CHRISTOPHER W	\$46,667	WHITE-CLEVELAND, SHANNON L	\$116,525
TARBELL, LISA A	\$26,410	WHITESTONE, JANICE A	\$39,985
TARBELL, MAYSIN D	\$10,330	WHITMORE, PETER D	\$77,131
TARGETT, KELLEY M	\$85,763	WHITNEY, JEFFREY W	\$51,126
TASK, CARRIE E	\$46,364	WILDER, ZIOLA M	\$6,198
TEIXEIRA, KASEY E	\$54,530	WILLHITE, JESSICA L	\$69,816
TELICKI, THOMAS D	\$102,893	WINTERS, SUSAN J	\$28,379
TORRACO, CELESTE M	\$2,289	WOOD, ANGELA M	\$944
TORRES, GLADYS M	\$28,169	WRIGHT, DENNISON S	\$42,061
TRIOZZI, DAVID M	\$17,125	WRIGHT, JAKE D	\$3,120
TSIPENYUK, ROMAN	\$10,901	YOUNG, AARON L	\$39,248
TURNER, DAWNA L	\$21,528	YOUNG, KATHLEEN L	\$80,797
VARGELETIS, VIVIAN K	\$65,982		
VEROCK, JESSICA M	\$73,971		
VITELLO, MARIA L	\$2,170		
VOUTILA, CYNTHIA A	\$80,985		
WARREN, DAVID C	\$7,608		
WARRINGTON, ALEXANDRA V	\$36,827		
WATKEVICH, EMILY A	\$16,876		
WEBB, SHEILA M	\$78,202		
WENTZ, ANGELA C	\$11,151		
WHEELER, CHERYL A	\$49,128		
WHEELER, JAMES S	\$45,171		

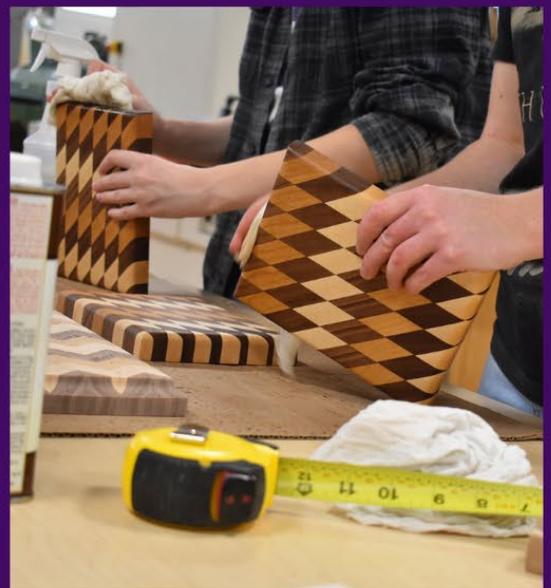
ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Montachusett Regional
Vocational Technical
School District

1050 Westminster Street
Fitchburg, MA 01420

(978) 345-9200

www.montytech.net



MONTY TECH

When schools across the country shuttered in March of 2020, no one could imagine the long-term effects the pandemic would have on our school systems. The summer of 2020 was spent purchasing and installing air filtration systems and plexiglass barriers, sourcing mass quantities of PPE and working with local departments of public health to determine how to safely bring students and staff into the building. When guidance from the state's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education was released, school leaders were faced with rolling out a learning and instruction model that had never been attempted before. We would offer a Hybrid Learning Model, and a rotating daily schedule that would allow half of the student body to come into the building, while the other half would learn from home.

Still, the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year was fraught with concern for student, faculty and staff safety and a deep-rooted knowledge of how students learn best – in-person. School leaders worked tirelessly to develop a schedule that would bring as many students back into the building as possible, safely, while attempting to balance academic and vocational in-person learning time. Instructors were provided with additional technology supports and added professional development days, to write and create curriculum that could be delivered remotely. This, in itself, would be a challenge. How do you teach a student how to prepare and present a meal, or demonstrate fine-motor skills required to give a haircut, in a virtual learning environment? How do you assess a student's understanding of residential electrical wiring, without having the ability to observe and manipulate his/her work? How can you teach students to safely restrain an animal, with no pet interaction? I am proud to say that the Monty Tech instructors rose to this incredible challenge, and for much of the 2020-2021 school year, delivered an effective educational program, using the resources that were available to them.

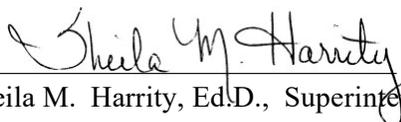
While face-to-face instruction was provided, that, too, looked and felt different to students and staff. On those days when students were scheduled to attend in-person lessons, they found things had changed. Traffic patterns were rerouted, and signage on floors, hallways and doors reminded them to wear a mask and maintain distance. Seating on busses and in the cafeteria was assigned and closely monitored. A place that had always encouraged connection with fellow classmates was now insisting on distance. Though it may have been uncomfortable for both students and staff, the school wide adherence to these new rules seemed to be a quiet demonstration of their understanding. And on May 3, 2021, their compliance was rewarded - Monty Tech was allowed to return to full, in-person learning. With just over a month remaining in the 2020-2021 school year, students and staff welcomed the change, anxious for the halls and classrooms to return to a more normal capacity. While masks, social distancing and numerous hand sanitizing stations were still present, the return of students into the building was a welcome sight for all.

In 2020-2021, it was disappointing that so many traditional annual events had to be cancelled, including VIP, Tour Day, College Fair, and Career Awareness Night; however, where possible, the district continued to operate at a high level. Examples include:

- To help our faculty and staff return to work, daycare issues had to be addressed, and, as a result, an important relationship with the Boys and Girls Club of Fitchburg and Leominster developed. The club provided daycare and homework help, Monday through Friday, to school age children of Monty Tech faculty and staff.
- Thanks to more than \$670,000 in competitive grant awards, Monty Tech was able to renovate and expand the welding/metal fabrication shop and retrofit one science lab. The school launched an all new evening training program that provided no-cost training and job placement to qualified participants. With grant funds, we also established a Safe and Supportive Schools Team to review school policies and procedures and target those in need of improvement, with an overarching goal of providing all students with safe and appropriate learning environments.
- In an effort to build connections with our school supporters and to “show off” the talents of our students, we held our first Holiday Sale, which quickly sold out! More than 400 charcuterie trays, designed and handcrafted by our Cabinetmaking students were sold, and all proceeds went to the Class of 2021 Scholarship Fund.

The 2020-2021 school year was unexpected, challenging, and at times, disappointing, yet there were so many moments to be proud of. I remain humbled and honored to lead such an outstanding organization, and thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,



Sheila M. Harrity, Ed.D., Superintendent-Director

Our Mission

Every student will graduate from Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School with the skills, knowledge, and abilities to be a productive and effective member of an ever-changing society.

Our District

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School is a four-year career and technical high school serving the member towns of:

Ashburnham
Ashby
Athol
Barre
Fitchburg
Gardner

Harvard
Holden
Hubbardston
Lunenburg
Petersham
Phillipston

Princeton
Royalston
Sterling
Templeton
Westminster
Winchendon

Leadership

The leadership team at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School is comprised of ten talented administrators whose varied educational backgrounds, professional experiences, and areas of expertise contribute to the success of the school. Working collaboratively, and under the direction of the Superintendent and Principal, the team has transformed the school into one of the most sought-after high schools in North Central Massachusetts.

Sheila M. Harrity, Superintendent-Director

Tom Browne, Principal

Dayana Carlson, Assistant Principal

Tammy Crockett, Business Manager

Christina Favreau, Director of Academic Programs

Jim Hachey, Director of Vocational Programs

Michael Gormley, Director of Facilities

Donald Kitzmiller, Director of Technology

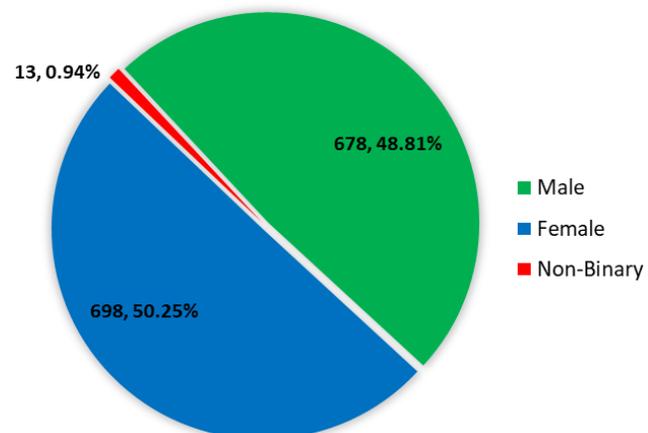
Katy Whitaker, Development Coordinator

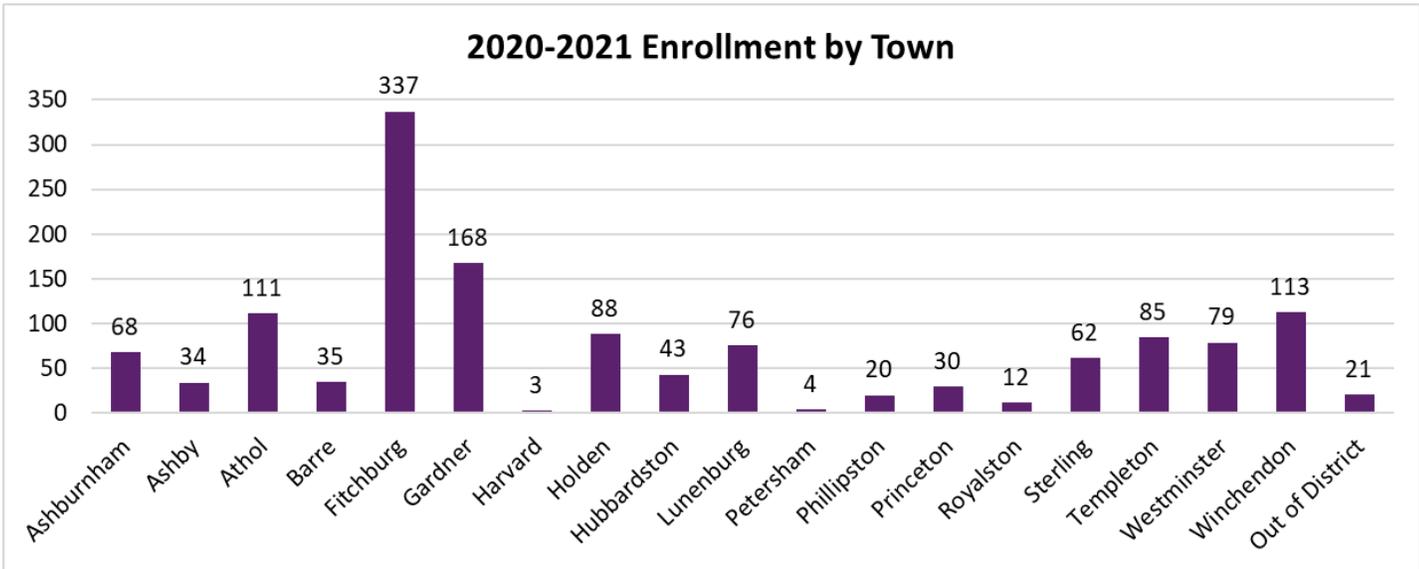
Victoria Zarozinski, Director of Student Support Services

Enrollment

On June 1, 2021, student enrollment at Monty Tech included 1,389 students in grades nine through twelve, representing each of the district's eighteen sending communities. Each class of students is comprised of a relatively equal balance of male vs. female students, and each student attending Monty Tech has elected to do so, prepared to explore an interest in one of the school's twenty-one rigorous vocational-technical programs. While the school currently offers only five programs non-traditional for male students, and twelve programs non-traditional for female students, we are proud to have a student population that is well-balanced by gender and a variety of academic interests and achievements.

2020-2021 STUDENT ENROLLMENT





Class of 2021 Awards

Members of the Class of 2021 were awarded approximately \$200,000 in scholarships, tools, and equipment. The Monty Tech Foundation generously provided \$35,500 in scholarships to graduating seniors, ranging in amounts of \$250 to \$2,000. The Foundation also awarded \$3,250 to the Practical Nursing graduates. Once again, local and state organizations, as well as generous individuals, continue to recognize the ability and potential of Monty Tech graduates in the form of financial donations. The School Committee, administration, faculty, and graduates are grateful for this support.

Articulation Agreements with local colleges also play an important role in helping reduce the cost of higher education. Qualified Monty Tech students are eligible to receive college credits through a number of articulation agreements with public and private colleges across the country. Approximately 36% of the graduating class of 2021 reported plans to enroll at a 4-year college/university upon graduation. By earning college credits while still in high school, these students will save both time and money as they pursue advanced educational programs.

Financial Report

In an effort to develop a cost-effective budget for the fiscal year 2020-2021, a great deal of effort was put forth by the School Committee, administration, and staff. The final fiscal year 2020-2021 Educational Plan totaled \$28,814,865 which represents a 0.19% increase over the 2019-2020 Educational Plan. The District’s FY21 budget only exceeds the minimum spending required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 70 by \$899,640 or 3.5%.

The District was audited in December 2021 as part of the yearly financial audit by the accounting firm of Melanson, Heath and Co. from Greenfield, MA and expects to receive a good report.

Grants and Contracts

Monty Tech continues to pursue grant funding on an annual basis. These funds help provide many educational and social services to the student population. For fiscal year 2021, state and federal grant sources provided the school with \$2,037,076. Programs funded by these grants include: Coronavirus Prevention and Relief, Improving Teacher Quality, Special Education Services and Program Improvement, Title I Support, Perkins Occupational Education, Vocational Capital Equipment initiatives, Student Support and Academic Enrichment and Marine Corp Junior Reserve Officer Training.

Academic Achievement

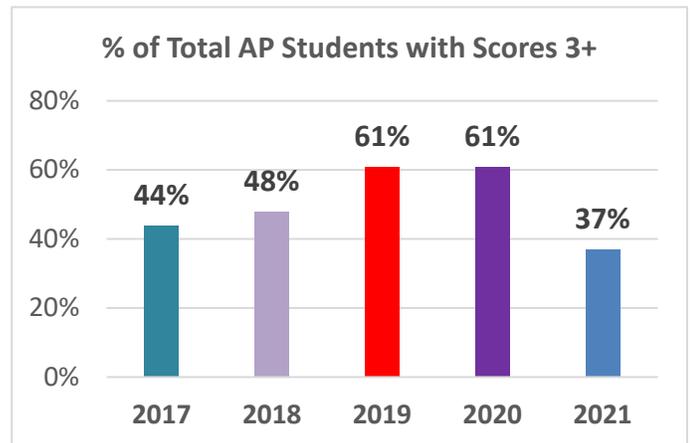
During the spring of 2021, administration of MCAS examinations was disrupted due to the pandemic and changes to educational delivery across the Commonwealth. Here at Monty Tech, 284 Freshman students qualified to take the Biology MCAS exam, having successfully completed the Grade 9 Biology course - 3 of whom were classified as Remote Learning Only. 349 students in Grade 10 took only the ELA and Math MCAS exam - 39 of those students were classified as Remote Learning Only. Finally, 32 Juniors opted to complete both the English and Math MCAS exams, in order to qualify them for scholarship opportunities such as the John and Abigail Adams Award.

Monty Tech remains committed to providing students with rigorous STEM learning opportunities, and so when an opportunity to apply for a Massachusetts Life Science Center grant presented itself, instructors were eager to apply. Working closely with the school's Development Coordinator, science instructors proposed the addition of an all-new science course that would introduce students to Microbiology and career pathways that are emerging in this recent health crisis. After developing a comprehensive proposal, and soliciting (and acquiring) support from business partner Bristol Meyers Squibb, the school's MLSC application was approved for funding, infusing the Monty Tech science department with approximately \$110,000. These funds will be used to renovate a science lab (replicating a biomedical facility), purchase all new course materials, equipment and technology, and provide opportunities for instructors to attend the National Science Teachers Association's national conference in 2022.

During the spring of 2021, students at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School continued to demonstrate high academic achievement, earning commendable scores on AP exams, though we did see our first decline in students who scored a 3 or better on the exam. It is important to remember that these exams took place during a difficult year of Hybrid Learning and Instruction. We anticipate a return to improved performance in the coming years, as students return to full-time, in-person learning.

The school is in its 9th year of administering Advanced Placement exams, and students enrolled in AP courses continue to improve their performance.

- In the spring of 2021, 70 out of 188 (37%) exams earned qualifying credit - the highest number of test takers the school has ever seen.
- This year, more than half of the students who tested in the following subjects received qualifying scores: Computer Science Principles, AP Language and Composition, and AP US History. Qualifying scores by these students exceeded the "state" averages in Massachusetts. In addition, students who completed the AP US History exam exceeded "global" averages.
- The AP subject with the highest number of students with qualifying scores was AP Language & Composition with 26 out of 44 students (59%).



	Spring 2017 (SY16-17)	Spring 2018 (SY17-18)	Spring 2019 (SY18-19)	Spring 2020 (SY19-20)	Spring 2021 (SY20-21)
MT AP Courses	6	7	7	7	7
MT AP Student Enrollment	151	135	157	179	187
Students with Qualifying Scores	53 (44%)	46 (48%)	68 (61%)	89 (61%)	70 (37%)
AP Test Takers	120	95	111	146	188
Total # of Qualifying Exams	65 (44%)	58 (43%)	79 (54%)	75 (71%)	60 (43%)
Total # of AP Exams	148	134	146	106	140

Vocational Projects in the District Communities

2020-2021 challenged vocational instructors to rewrite curriculum, so that any lesson may be delivered effectively remotely. For so many years, the value of a Monty Tech vocational education has been our commitment to hands-on learning, which, due to the pandemic and an inability to safely have all students in the building, was limited. However, instructors across the school worked with local municipalities, community service agencies, and within the building to find meaningful opportunities for students to demonstrate their technical skills and proficiency. While projects may have been smaller and even taken a bit longer to complete in 2020-2021, their educational value was immense, and we are forever grateful to our vocational instructors for their diligence in reimaging vocational education under these challenging and unforeseen circumstances.

Advanced Manufacturing: Beginning 2020-2021, what was formerly known as Machine Technology would now be called Advanced Manufacturing, a name that better aligns with local workforce needs, job titles and qualifications, and may aide in job placement for qualified students and program graduates. In FY21, program instructors also adopted the newly revised frameworks, and reviewed and developed curriculum to address any changes noted. 124 NC3 Certifications were earned by students, now skilled in Advanced & Precision Measuring Instrument (PMI). Advanced fusion CAD/CAM software training was completed, and Makerbot Method Carbon was also added to the training program. All Freshman students successfully completed safety training, earning an OSHA 10-hour general industry certification. Eight Seniors earned co-op placements, working and learning in area machine shops. (Total student enrollment: 46)

Auto Body Collision Repair Technology: Monty Tech Auto Body students and instructors prioritized earning valuable credentials in 2020-2021. Students earned the OSHA 10 hour general industry card, EPA 6H Rule spray certification, I-Car Pro Level One in Refinishing and I-Car Pro Level One in Non-Structural Repair. Five Seniors also earned co-op placements, and were reported to be valuable contributors in local repairs shops in the area. Due to the pandemic, the program restricted shop work to that of Monty Tech staff, but remained surprisingly busy throughout the year. Students performed quite well at the SkillsUSA District competition, earning a gold medal and a bronze in Collision Repair; which several students for the State competition. (Total student enrollment: 62)

Automotive Technology: Automotive Technology students benefited from the addition of two new certification opportunities (digital multimeters and scan tool applications) that were made available to students, using the newly purchased Snap-On NC3 certified training equipment. These industry-recognized credentials and the new equipment will enhance the students' level of competency within the automotive industry for years to come. Due to the pandemic, hands-on learning opportunities and in-house repairs were limited to faculty, staff, school, and student vehicles only; yet, surprisingly, the shop remained very busy. Students performed repairs that included transmission replacements, intake manifolds, brake work, and various other technical repairs, demonstrating technical skills that are required for any service technician in our area. Three Seniors and two Juniors earned co-op placements, while instructors continued to utilize e-learning program options to keep the remaining students on track and engaged during the hybrid schedule. (Total student enrollment: 66)

Business Technology: Monty Tech's Business Technology program continues to benefit from a unique partnership with Workers Credit Union. The opportunity to participate in teller training and financial literacy workshops has been met with great enthusiasm from students, who completed nine modules and earned a financial literacy certificate. Instructors, in collaboration with their post-secondary colleagues, continue to refine and develop new articulation agreements. The agreement with Mount Wachusett Community College will provide qualified students with college credits at no cost to the student. Students are eligible to receive 24 credits from Mount Wachusett Community College. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the Gear House School Store and the Monty Tech Greenhouse were not operational. Program instructors hope to reopen these important training facilities in the coming year, allowing all freshmen, sophomores, and juniors to be successfully trained in the day-to-day operations of retail sales. Four Seniors and three Juniors were out on co-op placements during the 2020-2021 school year. (Total student enrollment: 64)

Cabinetmaking: Monty Tech Cabinetmaking students are called upon for a number of projects small and large, across the campus and beyond. During the 2020-2021 school year, students completed projects that included: designing and constructing Barre Cemetery arches, manufacturing button chairs for the town of Royalston's Phineas S. Newton Library,

and designing and installing cabinetry for the Fitchburg Fire Department kitchen. Student work was featured during the school's first-ever Holiday Sale, where 400 charcuterie trays that were designed and handcrafted by our students were sold to community members. The items were so well received that they sold out quickly, and community members have requested similar sales in the future, so that they may benefit from the creative and beautiful work done by these students. Eight Seniors and seven Juniors earned co-op placements, representing the program so well. A sophomore student also won gold in the SkillsUSA District Competition. (Total student enrollment: 62)

CAD/Drafting & Design: In 2020-2021, Monty Tech CAD/Drafting & Design students adjusted quite well to the Hybrid Learning Model, and were able to complete the curriculum easily through the online platform. Students were also able to achieve a number of valuable industry-recognized certifications, including AutoCAD, Inventor, Revit, and Solidworks. While the school's COVID protocol curtailed the number of community service jobs that these students could complete, the senior class was able to work on an important community design project for the Town of Lunenburg. One student competed in the SkillsUSA States competition, representing the program well, while two Senior students were proud to earn coveted co-op placements. (Total student enrollment: 62)

Cosmetology: The Monty Tech Cosmetology program is one of the only programs that students may leave and directly enter the industry, fully-licensed and ready for a career. The state-approved program is rigorous and provides students with countless opportunities to refine their cosmetology skills on clientele who understand and appreciate the learning environment. During the 2020-2021, instructors collaborated with college partners to develop and sign articulation agreements with Mount Wachusett Community College & Quinsigamond Community College that will grant qualified students with college credits, should they choose to pursue advanced training and education. 17 out of 22 Seniors earned their cosmetology licenses, as the Juniors look forward to scheduling their own exams. Seniors also earned certifications in COVID Barbicide, and Pravana. Two Seniors were out on co-op, which was beneficial to their training, as COVID prohibited the opening of our own on-site Salon until May 2021. (Total student enrollment: 82)

Culinary Arts: In a typical year, Monty Tech Culinary Arts students and instructors operate a full-service restaurant and bakery, serving 90-120 patrons daily. They might also showcase their talents at regional events and fundraisers, working side-by-side with some of the area's finest chefs. But 2020-2021 was a different year. Due to COVID, and the hybrid schedule, the school's Mountain Room Restaurant opened to offer take-out meals only to faculty and staff, three days per week. This also included bakery items and desserts. In April, the restaurant was approved to open to the public, though on a very limited basis. Students and instructors found creative ways to keep busy, applying their talents. In February 2021, Culinary Arts students baked more than thousand cookies and chocolates for the Monty Tech Foundation Valentine fundraiser. These "cookie boxes" were extremely popular, providing community members with an opportunity to support the school and students, while also enjoying a sweet treat. All proceeds benefitted student scholarships. The program also continued to donate leftover baked goods to Our Father's House in Fitchburg. Curriculum was reimaged, from a traditional in-person format to the required virtual platform, which proved to be challenging for the culinary trade. Instructors were dedicated to their craft and their students and performed well with the resources that were available to them, seeking meaningful opportunities for students to continue to develop in their chosen trade. Junior Students had an opportunity to earn ServSafe Certifications, Sophomores earned the Massachusetts Allergen Training, and Freshmen earned their OSHA 10 hour Culinary certification. (Total student enrollment: 93)

Dental Assisting: Monty Tech Dental Assisting instructors have emphasized the need for students to earn valuable industry-recognized credentials, as a means to demonstrate technical skill and proficiency. As a result, all students work and prepare for Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) certification exams. In 2020-2021, 93% of Sophomores passed the DANB Infection Control exam, and 100% of the class passed the DANB Radiology exam. This excellent pass rate is a true testament to the high quality instruction in the Monty Tech Dental Assisting program, and something the school continues to be so proud of. A total of 14 students (nine Seniors and five Juniors) earned co-op placements, while the remaining Juniors and Seniors remained in-house, due to COVID restrictions; affiliation/externship experiences in area dental clinics and offices were postponed due to the pandemic. All Seniors & Sophomores received the American Red Cross CPR/AED certification. One Senior won the gold medal at SkillsUSA districts and went on to compete at the state competition. (Total student enrollment: 61)

Early Childhood Education: Students and instructors in the Monty Tech Early Childhood Education program are committed to community service activities, but due to the pandemic, were only able to work on in-house on student-centered projects. Three students earned co-op placements, gaining valuable experience working with young children

in area daycare and educational centers. Six Seniors earned the National Child Development Associate credential, while all 13 seniors qualified and applied for the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care Teacher certification. One student was awarded a Gold medal in the SkillsUSA district competition. In 2020-2021, the Monty Tech Child Care Center continued to operate on a much smaller scale (due to enrollment protocols), providing meaningful hands-on learning opportunities for all students in the Early Childhood Education program. (Total student enrollment: 55)

Electrical: Throughout 2020-2021, students and instructors in the Monty Tech Electrical program wired numerous machines, equipment, computers, and lights throughout the school. Students and instructors successfully transitioned lighting in the Auto Body welding stations and the Welding/Metal Fabrication shop to all LED lights. Students also successfully wired a new sand blaster and car lift in Automotive Technology, helping complete a much-needed update in that shop. Students worked in Lunenburg, installing, servicing and adding lighting and electrical plugs to the garage associated with the town's cemetery. With guidance from program instructors, students also began wiring the Habitat for Humanity house being built in Athol. Sixteen Seniors and seven Juniors earned co-op placements, which allowed them to gain important on-the-job skills and additional training in the industry. The Freshman class was filled with 24 first choice students, and all successfully completed the 10-hour OSHA training and certification. (Total student enrollment: 93)

Engineering Technology: The Engineering Technology program at Monty Tech is a rigorous program, infused with a nationally certified curriculum provided by Project Lead the Way, and countless hands-on learning opportunities that provide students with opportunities to demonstrate creativity, make connections with prior learning, and earn college credits. Engineering Technology students continue to benefit from the new technology available in the A.R.M. Lab, including three Amatrol tabletop mechatronics learning systems with Pegasus robots, one Fanuc LR Mate 200ID/4S robot, one Festo MPS 203 mechatronics system, and one Stratasys F270 3D printer. New lessons and training available because of the added technology will only open additional career pathways for students interested in pursuing engineering as an occupation. All Freshmen student completed the OSHA 10-hour General Industry training and certification program, while five Seniors participated in meaningful co-op placements. (Total student enrollment: 54)

Graphic Communications: Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, students in the Graphic Communications program produced numerous projects for our district cities and towns, and a variety of non-profit organizations within the district. As the COVID-19 pandemic continued, hands-on learning opportunities and time spent in the school were limited by the change to a Hybrid Learning Program, so students were unable to complete all community service projects that were requested of them. One Senior and one Junior pursued and earned co-op placements, which allowed them to continue their on-the-job training in a real world work setting. Of the twenty-one talented Seniors who graduated from the Graphic Communication program in 2021, 17 were accepted to college, and four entered the workforce in related careers. Graphics students consistently perform well at SkillsUSA competitions, and 2020-2021 was no exception, with students taking gold, silver & bronze medals at the state competition in in screen printing; a gold medal was also earned in photography, a bronze was awarded in Advertising Design, and silver and bronze medals were achieved in Graphic Imaging Sublimation, making program instructors quite proud. (Total student enrollment: 85)

Health Occupations: The Health Occupations program continues to be one of the more competitive programs here at Monty Tech, providing a rigorous education grounded in current medical knowledge and practice, balanced by hands-on learning opportunities in the on-site Sim Lab and through the use of state-of-the-art Anatomage technology. As our shop continues to utilize the Skills Capital Grant of \$180,246 that was awarded in the summer of 2019, we continued to improve the instructional spaces, technology and equipment for student training purposes. 14 Seniors were partnered with area clinics, through the co-op program, where they continued to learn and flourish in their chosen field, while back on campus, students focused on achieving important industry-recognized credentials. All Juniors and Sophomores obtained their CPR and First Aid certifications. 29 Sophomores and 26 Juniors received Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, CMS targeted Covid-19 training for Frontline Nursing Home Staff certifications. Eight Seniors obtained their Home Health Aide Certification, and 19 seniors took the NHA Clinical Medical Assistant Certification (CCMA) exam and passed. (Total student enrollment: 108)

House Carpentry: Though the school has shifted to a Hybrid Learning Model, opportunities to support communities in the district were ever-present. The Monty Tech House Carpentry program completed a number of projects, large and small during this challenging time, that included: constructing and installing the little free library for Ruggles Lane School, and building an 8'x12' cooling shed for the Harvest Community Project – both projects were completed by

Sophomores. These Sophomore students also handcrafted a number of beautiful Adirondack chairs, which will be used for charitable donations in the months to come. Juniors and Seniors, meanwhile, completed the Habitat for Humanity building project in Ashburnham, and also framed, installed a roof, and sided the equipment garage for the Town of Lunenburg Cemetery Department. Students and instructors assisted with framing of the Habitat for Humanity house in Athol, installed a complete truss roof system, all exterior trim details, and roofing and siding materials. 13 Juniors received their HotWorks certifications, while four Senior students earned co-op placements, and enjoyed working with area businesses representing the carpentry and construction trades. (Total student enrollment: 56)

HVAC & Property Maintenance: To complement the programs theory and technical skill lessons, Monty Tech HVAC and Property Maintenance students and instructors participate in the home building project each year, installing the HVAC system and a number of other tasks associated with residential construction efforts. In 2020-2021, Monty Tech HVAC students and instructors works with other trades at the school to complete the Ashburnham Habitat for Humanity community service project. In addition, the venting was completed in the Habitat for Humanity house in Athol. On campus, students removed and installed the mini split system in the school's Bakery. Four Seniors and three Juniors were placed in area businesses through the school's popular co-op program. All Juniors earned EPA 608 Certification, and two Sophomores and one Junior performed well, earning honors at the SkillsUSA State competition. (Total student enrollment: 55)

Information Technology: The Information Technology program continues to offer students opportunities to earn a wide range of industry-recognized certifications that affirm the technical skill proficiency needed for entry-level careers in networking and information technology. In 2020-2021, all Freshmen completed the OSHA 10-hour General Industry training. Sophomore students passed the Test-out PC Pro Certificate exam, the Cisco IT Essential course for computer repair and maintenance, and the Introduction to Networking course. All Juniors completed the CIW Web Curriculum, and Seniors completed the Cisco Python Programming curriculum. Seven seniors completed the AP-CSP curriculum, and five took the finishing exam. Juniors in the program participated and did quite well in the Cyberpatriot and CyberStart America cybersecurity competitions. Two Seniors were on co-op placements applying their technical skills in area businesses. In total, approximately 100 hours of technical support were completed at the program's Help Desk, where students worked on hardware and software troubleshooting on desktops, laptops, printers, and mobile devices. (Total student enrollment: 31)

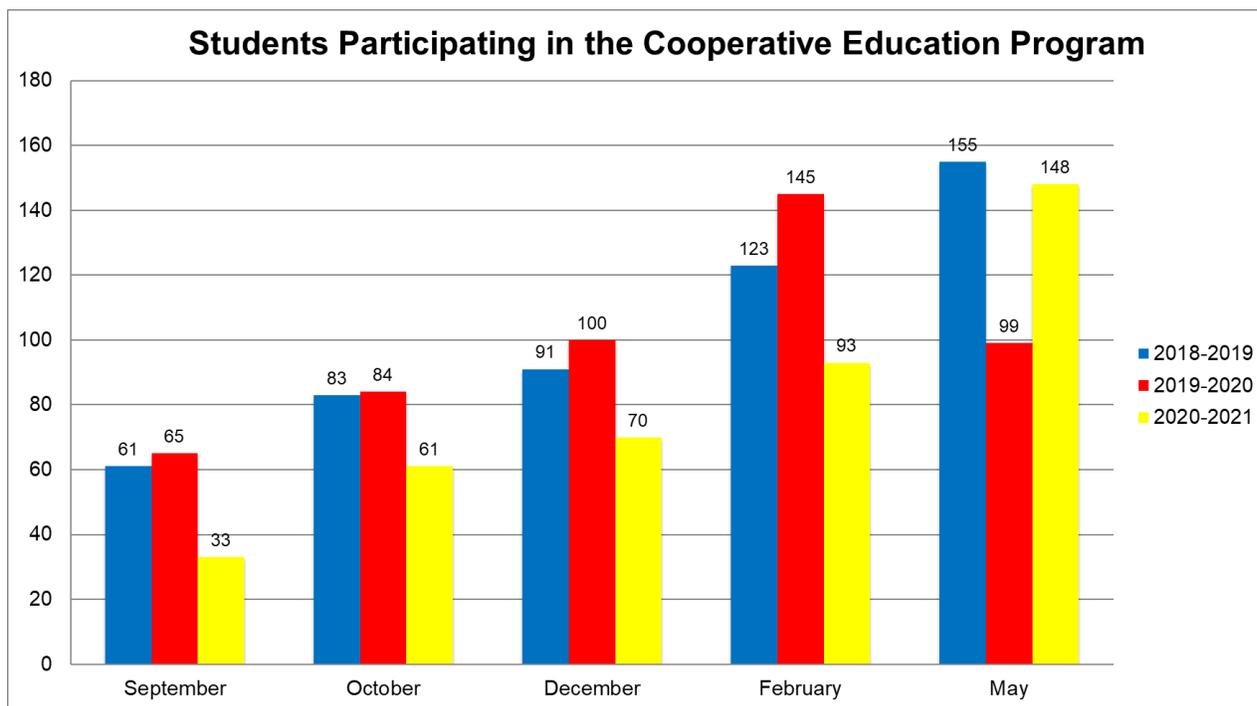
Masonry: The talents of Monty Tech Masonry students are on display throughout district communities, as projects that were completed during the 2020-2021 school year include: constructing scaffolding at the Habitat for Humanity house in Athol, replacing a concrete walk at Hubbardston Council on Aging, and repairing a granite wall at the Fay Club in Fitchburg. A creative solution to restrictive in-person guidelines, Monty Tech Masonry students and instructors designed, placed and finished a 24 'x 24' concrete slab outside, creating an outdoor classroom so that students could continue to work on important projects, yet remain socially distant and safe. Students continued to maintain the OSHA silica standard, in a program that operates in compliance with all trade regulations. Three Seniors earned co-op placements, and continued to refine their skills working with business partners through the school's co-op program. One Senior won a silver medal at the SkillsUSA State competition, and all juniors completed the industry-standard HotWorks Certification. (Total student enrollment: 45)

Plumbing: Like programs across the school, the Monty Tech Plumbing program struggled with delivering hands-on lessons that would rival their in-person instruction. However, talented instructors in the school's popular shop worked diligently to rewrite curriculum and design lessons that could be adapted. With a focus on theory and technical knowledge, instructors aimed to embed certification opportunities where possible. To that end, students in grades 10, 11 and 12 successfully completed their HotWorks safety training and earned that important credential. Freshmen also completed the 10-hour OSHA general industry safety training, while Sophomore students completed the 10-hour OSHA Construction safety training and certification. Students and instructors collaborated with other trades to complete two single family house building projects, both located in Ashburnham. Students and instructors also began rough plumbing for the Habitat for Humanity single family home in Athol. Back on campus, students replaced three water coolers with combination filtered bubbler/bottle filler units. Seven students (four Seniors and three Juniors) earned co-op placements, which allowed them to continue to grow in the trade, working with plumbing professionals in the area. All graduates received either a Tier 1 or Tier 2 completion toward MA plumbing licensure. (Total student enrollment: 67)

Veterinary Science: 2020-2021 was the 4th year for the school's newest vocational training program - Veterinary Science. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, traffic in the community clinic was somewhat limited. The clinic did, though, provide low cost veterinary care to 421 families with 635 pets within our district. 14 Seniors earned the CVA (Certified Veterinary Assistant) certification; 20 Seniors achieved their Recover CPR Certification; 21 Juniors achieved their Fear Free Certification; and 22 Freshman successfully completed OSHA 10-hour Healthcare training and certification. Freshmen and Sophomores learned about the use of animals, anatomy, disease, laboratory skills and client service. Junior and Senior lessons in pharmacology, surgical and nursing care, and anesthesiology proved to be invaluable to the students working in the clinic, applying their knowledge with purpose alongside veterinarians and veterinary technicians. (Total student enrollment: 85)

Welding/Metal Fabrication: The 2020-2021 school year brought some exciting news to the Welding/metal Fabrication program. Thanks to a partnership developed while working on a Skills Capital Grant, the Monty Tech Welding/Metal Fabrication program became the first pre-apprenticeship program in the school's history. This 5-year agreement with the Plumbers & Pipefitters Union #4 will help create a meaningful pathway for students to enter into a registered apprenticeship program leading them into high-wage, high-skill career opportunities. Numerous projects were completed by talented students, including more than fifty requests for individual projects from community members residing in the school's sending district. Students also fabricated and installed copper inlay on two archways for the Barre cemetery, fabricated an aluminum cupola for the Town of Royalston gazebo, fabricated two art display racks for Fitchburg Riverfront Park, and fabricated and welded three clothing racks for the Town of Hubbardston Senior Center. Five Seniors and four Juniors participated in the popular co-op program, and eight Seniors earned the AWS D1.1 Structural Welding Code Qualification Test. All grade 9 students completed 10 Hour OSHA training. (Total student enrollment: 57)

Co-operative Education and Student Placement



The Cooperative Education Program is an extension of the student's technical education that combines classroom instruction with on-the-job-training. The Co-op Program provides students with an opportunity to further develop academic, technical and employability skills in an industry work environment. All students are eligible to participate in the Co-op Program, provided they satisfy state and school grade, attendance and performance requirements. All Co-op students have completed the OSHA recognized Career Safe online health and safety course.

The Cooperative Education Program is beneficial for both student and employer. For the student, it is a chance to gain

on-the-job training that improves both their technical and employability skills. Additionally, making industry connections enhances post-graduate employment opportunities. The Co-op Program allows students to earn while they learn.

Employer benefits include addressing workforce needs in an efficient manner. Co-op students provide a pool of temporary and potential full-time employees who are already trained, thus reducing employer training costs. Co-op work hours may be tailored to suit the needs of partnering employers. While overall co-op placements experienced a slight decline, due primarily to business closures in response to the recent pandemic, qualified students (Juniors and Seniors) continue to work, learn and apply their technical skills in businesses across North Central Massachusetts.

Student Support Services

The 2020-2021 school year forced the world to respond to a pandemic with ripple effects to be felt for years to come. It goes without saying that we needed to pull together, respond, and unite as partners in order to ensure our special populations, and all students regardless of identified disability, remained at the center of decisions. Individuals needed to be met where they were at and all services provided needed to allow for individual needs to be met in new and innovative ways. The health and safety of our school community and their families dictated our decisions and actions. As the district responded to the unforeseen COVID-19 related closure, the hybrid model, and reopening events that occurred throughout the 2020-2021 school year, it did not go unnoticed that our Student Support Service staff, students, and families displayed great resilience as they worked together to address individual needs and tackle these challenging times. While we hope to never experience these events again, we did share a number of experiences that have proven to increase communication and collaboration. Some of our greatest lessons learned came from this experience and we want to extend our sincere gratitude for the efforts put forth during such unprecedented times.

During the 2020-2021 school year, Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District provided special services to approximately three hundred students – measuring progress of over two hundred students on Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and just under one hundred students adhering to individualized Section 504 plans. While the Student Support Services (SSS) Department encompasses special education, the department provides support and is available to all Monty Tech students.

The department includes a full-time nursing staff that responded to, and continues to respond to, COVID-19 data, administers medications, performs state-mandated health screening exams, and provides, when necessary, health information to the special education team for a student's IEP meeting. The department benefits from a full-time school social worker that participates in departmental meetings and assists students who have needs concerning finances, family issues, homelessness, maternity, health issues, and proper food and clothing. During the 2020-2021 school year, the department in conjunction with our School Social Worker, doubled down on our efforts to address food insecurity and ensure community agency supports were extended to families in need. The school is also fortunate to have on staff a full-time psychologist, whose role it is to evaluate all students referred for an initial evaluation or who require a three-year re-evaluation. In addition, we have a full-time speech language pathologist, who is available to assist students with disabilities, assess these students and consult with teachers. Our students also have access to the services of a full-time adjustment counselor and part-time school psychologist. All of these individuals are available for scheduled counseling sessions, mental health emergency treatment, medical/mental health re-entry and transition support services, as well as crisis intervention.

The school's Director of Student Support Services oversees the District's Special Education Program, which is reviewed annually in May, in accordance with regulatory requirements. The comprehensive review and evaluation are done in collaboration with the Parent Advisory Council, and the results of the evaluation are used to improve the special education procedures and programs in place at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School.

During the 2020-2021 Montachusett Regional Technical School District's Department of Student Support Services made a concerted effort to increase social, emotional, and community based supports. In addition to our current re-entry and school based counseling services, Monty Tech and LUK, Inc. joined forces with the help of the Department of Public Health to provide services to at-risk students and their families. Further, the district partnered with LUK to create a direct pipeline for Telehealth referrals and access to counseling supports. Couple this with the further expansion of our partnership with the SHINE Initiative, it has allowed the district to build upon our mission to provide opportunities for

all students to be engaged, lead, and access the supports necessary to improve their social and emotional wellbeing. The Department of Student Support Services has taken the necessary measures to ensure Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is in the forefront of conversations when supporting students as they acclimate to returning to school full time after lengthy periods of time experiencing various educational models throughout the pandemic. As we establish a full time school routine, we recognize the experiences all students have had over the past few years has varied. Courses and activities designed to promote mindfulness, understanding, and social emotional wellness are part of the many course offerings. Yoga and Meditative Art, Visual Arts, Directed Studies with Social Emotional Learning lessons are all part of the efforts being implemented to ensure we address the needs of all students and support their individual growth and development in a post pandemic world. More about tiered interventions can be found on our website. However, it is worth noting that we continue to build and refine our services for all students as we recognize the importance of developing the whole student and ensuring they are equipped with the necessary to become productive citizens that can compete and adapt in a rapidly changing economy.

Technology

The 2020-2021 school year proved to be a test in many ways for the Monty Tech educational community, requiring flexibility as students and instructors balanced both in-person and remote learning expectations. The shift in instructional delivery, however, was no match for the school's Technology Department. Because of forward thinking on the part of the department's Director and the school's leadership team, 2020-2021 was the school's 5th year for the 1:1 Chromebook initiative, so students and instructors had previous experience with the tools and technology needed to learn in a remote or hybrid setting. To support the additional and now required use of this technology, the Technology Department spent countless hours during the school year upgrading the network and increasing the bandwidth coming into the school to sustain video and audio conferencing.

Department personnel upgraded the learning experience for students, by purchasing laptops for students and teachers, building new iMacs for the Graphic Communications program, and rebuilding surplus computers for full remote students in CAD Drafting & Design, Graphic Communications, Business Technology, and Engineering, so that they may work from home on their vocational assignments. A ZOOM license was purchased, and the Instructional Technologist worked diligently to purchase and deploy software for all teachers. Camcorders, wireless headsets, interactive displays and a variety of apps were purchased, installed, and put into the hands of our educators to engage learners at all levels.

Finally, to ensure "business as usual," we invested in Splashtop, VPN client and configured the firewall, so that faculty and staff laptops could be fixed remotely if a software issue presented itself, and so that the Business Office would have remote access into the school to maintain a secure working environment, even when the building was closed.

Marine Corps JROTC

The Monty Tech Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MCJROTC) remains one of the school's most worthwhile and engaging programs available to our students. This outstanding leadership program, based on the foundations of instilling a value of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment, provides students with countless opportunities to serve as ambassadors in their communities, through the routine demonstration of student leadership development, volunteerism, perseverance, and dedication.

Due to outstanding performance throughout the year, Monty Tech's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program was, once again, designated as a Marine Corps Honor School. Selection for the Marine Corps Honor School means that the school's Marine Corps JROTC program was in the top 15% of the 68 other programs in Region 1, which includes schools from the mid-Atlantic and Northeast U.S. The selection is based on several criteria including:

- *Inspector General's inspection results*
- *Number of cadets in the program*
- *Number of community service hours conducted*
- *Number of public affairs events attended by cadets*
- *Number of academic awards presented to cadets*
- *Participation in drill team competitions, marksmanship competitions, physical fitness competitions, and field*

trips that support the growth and development of the cadet

During the 2020 - 2021 school year, MCJROTC Cadets participated in more than 5,000 hours of community service and volunteerism. Cadets assisted the Salvation Army by collecting more than \$25,000 in donations, which were used to countless families in need during the holiday season. These donations will go on to support community members that are in need of assistance, especially during the holiday season.

The Monty Tech MCJROTC has assisted with color guards and participation in community parades, which provides the cadets and community members the opportunity to be involved with civic and veteran ceremonies.

Finally, the Monty Tech Cadet Corps provided 11 Color Guards for local civic and veteran ceremonies, a highlight for students and instructors alike.

Monty Tech School of Continuing Education

The Monty Tech School of Continuing Education had an exciting FY21, receiving the program's first-ever training grants. School leaders applied for and received Career Technical Initiative Grants (Rounds 1 & 3), totaling \$290,000, as well as a \$30,000 Rapid Reemployment Grant. These grants allowed the School of Continuing Education to rollout new training programs, offered to qualified participants (must be unemployed or underemployed) at no charge. In addition, each participant who successfully completed the training would be offered job placement with a business partner. Comprehensive 200-300 hour programs that culminated in industry-recognized credentials in Welding, HVAC and Allied Health were developed and advertised. While the Allied Health (CNA) program did not see enough interested participants to field a cohort, HVAC and Welding were successful in their initial endeavor. Program leaders continue to track student progress and placements, and expect to pursue additional funding for future offerings.

As we continue to monitor workforce needs and skills gaps, the School of Continuing Education works closely with the MassHire North Central Career Center to determine specific training programs that are most in-demand. Our overarching goal to support the North Central Massachusetts workforce readiness pipeline with an increase in career and licensure courses is evident in new programs that are developed, existing programs that are refined and in traditional journeyman/apprenticeship programs that remain a hallmark of our institution.

The pivot to a hybrid learning model seemed to be beneficial to both our career/licensure students as well as our personal enrichment students. During the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 sessions, we realized the resiliency of our students and their willingness to persevere with their training despite the challenges. Our instructors worked tirelessly to maintain training programs timelines.

Our medical students' skill set was and continues to be in high demand due to the pandemic. We were able to support our local medical facilities with newly licensed healthcare workers, to include Pharmacy Technicians, Medical Billing and Coding Specialists, EKG Technicians, Phlebotomists, and Patient Care Technicians. We hope to offer another CNA training program in the future, as the need for trained Assistants remains great.

Practical Nursing Program

The Monty Tech Practical Nursing Program is designed to prepare graduates to practice safely and ethically in a caring manner for patients who are experiencing common variations in health status in diverse health care settings.

On June 24, 2021 a graduating class of 28 students completed the Practical Nursing Program and entered the nursing profession. The class has thus far achieved a pass rate of 75% graduates passing the NCLEX-PN exam (National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses). Program graduates are currently employed in the health care profession throughout Massachusetts, working in various health care settings, such as long-term care, sub-acute care, mental health/substance abuse facilities, physician's offices and correctional medicine.

The Monty Tech Practical Nursing Program continues to strengthen the “LPN to BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) Bridge” relationship with Fitchburg State University (FSU). Former graduates have successfully transferred into seats in the LPN to BSN Bridge program at FSU and will continue their education to a Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing (BSN). Many class applicants cited their attraction to Monty Tech as the opportunity to complete a ten-month accelerated program and then bridge to Fitchburg State University. In the seven -year history of the Bridge Program, all of Monty Tech’s Practical Nursing graduates reaching graduation at FSU have passed their NCLEX-RN exam. These former graduates have gone on to work in hospital settings including Lahey, Beth Israel, and Baystate Medical Center, while others have pursued advanced degrees as Critical Care Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Educators, and Family Practice Nurse Practitioners.

In 2020-2021, Monty Tech Practical Nursing students were asked to complete patient scenarios in the Sim Lab on a weekly basis in Terms 2 and 3. The Faculty Sim team has implemented National League of Nursing (NLN) patient scenarios and authored several others consistent with the National Council of State Board of Nursing Detailed Test Plan. Instructors have also utilized the Sim lab setting to instruct students in developing nursing skills that they may not be experiencing in the clinical setting.

By successfully developing and implementing a vast library of scenarios reflecting INASCAL Standards (International Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning), we hope to prepare our students for any experience they may encounter as a newly licensed Practice Nurse. In Maternity Sim Lab Boot Camp, for example, students utilize the simulation models to imitate the birthing process, from obstetric office visits through labor and common postpartum complications. Well newborn care is also taught. Student feedback has been positive regarding these maternity scenarios, stating it better prepares them for an unexpected outcome during a delivery. This expanded content also better prepares students for NACE (Nursing Acceleration Challenge Exam) success at FSU.

Substance abuse and the mental health setting job opportunities have increased with more funding being provided to combat the opiate crisis. In addition to having specialty clinical rotations, students participate in simulation scenarios involving substance abuse and mental health clients, to help to prepare our graduates to work in a substance abuse clinical setting.

The Monty Tech practical Nursing Program recently completed an accreditation visit from the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing, highlighting goals that include stabilization of faculty positions and pursuance of ACEN (Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing) accreditation to more accurately reflect the changing environment in nursing education.

Looking Ahead

Undoubtedly, the 2020-2021 school year was challenging and difficult for students and staff, yet the school community demonstrated a remarkable resilience and commitment to education and service that proves, yet again, that Monty Tech is truly a special place to work and learn. While adapting curriculum to the needs of all students both at home and in-person, adhering to state and federal safety and health guidelines, and finding opportunities for students to demonstrate their creativity and technical skills, certainly kept staff busy, there was always an element of improvement, vision, and forward-thinking that kept moving the school forward. Successful grant applications, new coursework, and increased school-to-business partnerships that came about during this difficult year are a few of the more notable initiatives that we expect to have a positive impact on our school and students in the coming years:

Grant funding to improve and expand training programs: Monty Tech has applied for and received six Skills Capital Grants, totaling \$2,029,686. School officials anticipate a FY22 application may be forthcoming, and as a result, have met to determine which program is in need of a shop renovation, updated equipment, and/or new technology that reflects current industry standards. The school’s Dental Assisting program, which effectively prepares students to enter the dental field may be the next vocational program to benefit from grant funding, should an application be approved. Instructors have advocated for a renovated instructional space, as well as new chairs, tools, and equipment, so that students are trained using the exact instruments and technology found in area clinics. This improved facility would certainly benefit our high school students, and would also allow Monty Tech’s School of Continuing Education to develop an all-new evening training program, which would help address the critical shortage for trained Dental Assistants

in North Central Massachusetts. We look forward to an opportunity to apply for grant funding that would allow us to extend this training opportunity to young adults in our area, who may not have had the benefit of a vocational high school experience.

New coursework that aligns to STEM career pathways: With the successful application of the FY21 Massachusetts Life Science Center Grant, school officials have been working to renovate an outdated science lab to create a more state-of-the-art instructional space that replicates a microbiology laboratory. As the school looks to update classrooms and vocational areas, it is critical that we do so in a manner that will allow our instructors to deliver information and train students in careers that present high-skill, high-wage job opportunities. The proposed Microbiology course, which was developed by Monty Tech science instructors as a means to engage students in the sciences, may be more critical now than ever before. Seeking partnerships with biomedical companies in our area, so that our instructors may work and learn from skilled scientists will not only benefit our students and strengthen the Monty Tech academic educational program, it may also help feed a struggling STEM workforce pipeline. Whether learning from our industry-immersed colleagues, or gaining new instructional resources and techniques from colleagues attending the National Science Teachers Association's national conference, Monty Tech science instructors are prepared to deliver new course materials that engage students in important and timely science concepts.

Building partnerships for improved job placement: 2020-2021 brought the school's first-ever approval for a Pre-Apprenticeship program – a designation that we expect may improve our graduates' chances of retaining employment with a framework for upward mobility. While Welding/Metal Fabrication students already enjoy this new appellation, school officials may consider seeking approval for other programs in the coming years. To do so, we must first seek and acquire an approved Apprentice Sponsor. This sponsorship and collaboration will serve as a testimony to the strength of Monty Tech's vocational programming, and will increase student opportunities for employment and continued education and training. Business partners that serve on Program Advisory Boards, as Co-Op employers, or who even graduates who now own and operate their own businesses may be interested in such a unique collaboration. In an effort to prepare students for careers, it is incumbent on us to ensure that training does not stop when a student leave Monty Tech, and an approved apprenticeship would ensure students will have continued support and training as they enter a competitive and demanding workforce.

The Monty Tech School Committee

The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District Committee is comprised of twenty-two dedicated individuals, whose expertise proves invaluable in advising the district's operations, policies, and procedures. Our students continue to benefit from the broad scope of their experiences and varying perspectives, and we are thankful to the following members of the 2020-2021 School Committee for their outstanding service.

Eric Olson, Phillipston
Chair

Melanie Weeks, Fitchburg
Vice Chair

Julie Marynok
Secretary

Norman J. LeBlanc
District Treasurer

Diane Swenson, Ashburnham
Peter Capone, Ashby
Toni L. Phillips, Athol
Whitney Marshall, Barre
Robert Campbell, Fitchburg
Dr. Ronald Tourigny, Fitchburg
Brian J. Walker, Fitchburg
Matthew Vance, Gardner
James S. Boone, Gardner
Amy Morton, Harvard

James Cournoyer, Holden
Kathleen Airoidi, Hubbardston
Barbara Reynolds, Lunenburg
Edward Simms, Petersham
John P. Mollica, Princeton
Mary C. Barclay, Royalston
William Brassard, Sterling

John Columbus, Templeton
Ross Barber, Westminster
Dr. Maureen Ward, Winchendon

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sheila M. Harrity, Ed.D., Superintendent-Director January 21, 2022

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CHAPTER EIGHT

COMMITTEES

Reports of the
Boards and Committees of the
Town



**ATHOL CULTURAL COUNCIL
FISCAL YEAR 2022
ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Athol:

The Athol Cultural Council held three meetings between July 2020 and June 2021 – two on Zoom and one in person at the library. At the January 2021 meeting, members elected the following slate of officers:

Chair – Robin Brzozowski
Treasurer – Bonnie Hodgdon
Secretary – Kristin Riordon
Publicity – Emily Boughton

Results of the most recent Community Input Survey were reviewed and planning started for the next survey which will need to be completed before the October 2021 grant cycle.

The Council reviewed grants and encumbered funds from the previous cycle, FY20, that will need to be extended due to Covid. After a procedure review and member conflict of interest disclosures, the FY21 grant applications were reviewed and awarded funding. A total of \$13,000 was allocated to the 14 applications were approved for funding.

A meeting was held in February 2021 to make additional allocations with extra funds.

The final meeting for the year was held in June 2021. Plans were made for the new Community Input Survey. The FY20 and FY21 grants that have still not been used were reviewed. Plans were made to follow up with the applicants to check on progress or to grant extensions.

Submitted,
The Athol Cultural Council

**ATHOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FISCAL YEAR 2021
ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Athol:

The Athol Historical Commission did not hold any meetings during the year.

Members and officers remained as voted in FY2021:

Chair – J.R. Greene

Clerk/Secretary – Jean Shaughnessy

Members –

Carolyn Brouillet

Shelley Small

**ATHOL BOARD OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT (BPCD)
FISCAL YEAR 2021
ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Athol:

The Board of Planning and Community Development (BPCD) consists of the following members:

- David Small (Chair)
- Aimee Hanson (Vice-Chair)
- Jacqueline M. Doherty (Clerk)
- Rick Hayden
- Kathy Norton
- Marc Morgan
- Duane Truehart

The BPCD is supported by Eric R. Smith, AICP, Director of Planning and Community Development, and Sarah-Ann Schouler, who serves as the Board's Recording Secretary.

The BPCD generally met on the first Wednesday of the month, for 1-2 hours. There were months, however, the Board met twice a month depending on the agenda items and the projects being worked on. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board held all their meetings during FY 2021 virtually via Zoom-based meetings.

FY 2021 was the fifth full fiscal year that the BPCD completed the additional responsibilities of the former Athol Planning Board, which consist of reviewing and endorsing Approval Not Required (ANR) plans, Site Plan Reviews, various Special Permits, development/reviewing various zoning bylaw amendments and other town planning-related projects. The BPCD provides recommendations on zoning bylaw amendments and makes recommendations on all matters concerning the physical, economic, and environmental development of the Town per the Town of Athol Town Charter.

During FY 2021, the BPCD members reviewed the following plans, zoning bylaw amendments, and other related planning matters:

ANR Plans reviewed and endorsed:

- property located off of Pinedale Avenue (Map 12 Parcel 203 and Map 13 Parcels 34 & 206)
- property located off of Old Keene Road (Map 1 Parcel 5)
- property located off of Pleasant Street (Map 47 Parcel 238)
- property located off of Brickyard Road (Map 17 Parcel 4)
- property located off of South Athol Road (Map 54 Parcel 23)
- property located off of Secret Lake Road (Map 44 Parcels 29 and 31)
- property located off of South Athol Road (Map 19 Parcel 21)
- property located at 3824 Chestnut Hill Avenue (Map 1 Parcel 24)
- property located off of Brickyard Road (Map 17 Parcel 4 and 42)
- property located at 188 and 210 North Orange Road (Map 14 Parcels 28 and 29)

Special Permits reviewed and endorsed:

- Minor Modification #1 from the Benwoods OSRD Special Permit for a revision to Condition #6 to allow up to six (6) lots to be sold before the Covenant that addresses the requirements of Section 3.16.6.7 of the OSRD Bylaw shall be approved by the Planning Board and Town Counsel
- Licensed Marijuana Establishment Special Permit for We Can Deliver Boston, LLC, for a marijuana delivery service establishment, for property located at 22 Chestnut Hill Avenue
- Licensed Marijuana Establishment Special Permit Modification for The Blue Jay Botanicals, Inc. for a licensed marijuana retail establishment, for property located at 22 Chestnut Hill Avenue; approved request to move the licensed marijuana retail establishment location to within a newly constructed 2,645 square-foot building on the subject parcel.
- Licensed Marijuana Establishment Special Permit Modification for We Can Deliver Boston, LLC, for a marijuana delivery service establishment, for property located at 22 Chestnut Hill Avenue; approved request to move the licensed marijuana delivery service establishment location to within a newly constructed 2,645 square-foot building on the subject parcel.
- Licensed Marijuana Establishment Special Permit application for Uma Cultivation, LLC, for marijuana cultivation and processing, for property located at 706 Petersham Road (approval also was for Minor Site Plan for the construction of a 10,000 square-foot building)
- Approved a request for a Licensed Marijuana Establishment Special Permit Approval Decision Extension by 1620 Labs, LLC for an adult use marijuana cultivation and processing establishment at property located at 503 South Street and 20 Tunnel Street, Athol, MA. Approval was granted on November 7, 2018, which was valid for two years, unless extension requested by Applicant and granted by BPCD based on good cause determination. Due to State Legislation passed under Section 17 of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 (An act to address challenges faced by municipalities and state authorities resulting from COVID-19), the Applicant remained eligible for a good cause determination, which was granted by the BPCD.
- Flag Lot Special Permit application for William M. Jardus and Elizabeth Hanlon, Trustees of the Edward C. Jardus Living Trust for property located at 3824 Chestnut Hill Avenue (Map 1 Parcel 24)
- Approved a request for Licensed Marijuana Establishment Special Permit Approval Decision Extension by Ceres Labs for an adult use marijuana independent testing lab, for property located off at 134 Chestnut Hill Avenue (Map 31 Parcel 20). Approval was granted on June 19, 2019, which was valid for two years, unless extension requested by Applicant and granted by BPCD based on good cause determination. Extension was granted by the BPCD.

Site Plans Reviews reviewed

- Major Site Plan Review approved for NewVue Affordable Housing Corporation for a 22,000+/- square-foot new building addition to provide twenty (20) 1-bedroom senior housing units and the core of the amenity spaces as part of a redevelopment project of the former Ellen Bigelow and Riverbend school buildings that would total fifty-three (53) housing units, for property located at 184 Riverbend Street (Parcel 031-219) and 129 Allen Street (Parcel 031-229).
- Approved a request for Major Site Plan Review Approval Decision Extension by Clean Focus Renewables for a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation, for property located off of Thrower Road and White Pond Road (Map 51 Parcel 30). Approval was granted on January 23,

2019, which is valid for two years unless extension requested by Applicant and granted by BPCD based on good cause determination.

- Denied a Major Modification to Site Plan Approval request submitted by Davey Resource Group to amend Condition #10 of the Site Plan Approval granted for ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation to Borrego Solar System, Inc at 328 Partridgeville Road. The original Site Plan Approval was granted on July 5, 2017. Condition #10 states that “No herbicides/pesticides shall be applied to the subject Partridgeville Road property (Map 18 Parcel 193) property. A modification of this Site Plan Review approval shall be required prior to the application of any herbicides/pesticides.” Condition #10 remains in full force and enforceable.
- Approved a request for Major Site Plan Review Approval Decision Extension by Sunpin Energy Services, LLC for a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation, for property located off of Conant Road (Map 55 Parcel 33). Approval was granted on June 5, 2019, which is valid for two years unless extension requested by Applicant and granted by BPCD based on good cause determination.

Subdivision Reviews and Approval Processes:

- Approved a request by Peter K. Lyman for the Benwoods OSRD Definitive Plan and Special Permit to provide \$42,000 performance guarantee for remaining infrastructure items to be completed, approval of Covenant Agreement for the Definitive Plan and approval for six Lots (Lot #20 - Lot #25) to be released from the Covenant Agreement.

Other activities included:

- Facilitated a Pre-Application Conference request from PS Renewables per Section 3.24.4.3 of the Athol Solar Zoning Bylaw (as approved at the Oct. 19, 2020 Annual Town Meeting) for a proposed ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation at property owned located at 1354 Chestnut Hill Avenue (Map 7 Parcel 8)
- Facilitated a presentation and Discussion on Town of Athol’s Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Plan and Lord Pond Plaza MVP Action Grant Project

Zoning Bylaw Amendments Reviewed:

- Amendments to the Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations section of the Zoning Bylaw (Section 3.24) and use changes from by-right to Special Permit in the R-C District and from Special Permit to not allowed in all other Zoning Districts (passed at the October 19, 2020 Town Meeting)
- Battery Energy Storage Systems Zoning Development (passed at the October 19, 2020 Town Meeting)
- Amendment to the Athol Zoning Bylaw to eliminate Floor Area Ratio (FAR) requirements that had been included in Section 2.3, Intensity of Use Schedule, Maximum Building Requirements (passed at the October 19, 2020 Town Meeting)
- Discussion of potential amendments to the Athol Zoning Bylaw to combine Registered Marijuana Dispensaries (Section 3.26, which govern medical marijuana) and the Licensed Marijuana Establishments (Section 3.29, which govern adult use/recreational marijuana) into one combined set of marijuana zoning under the jurisdiction of the Board of Planning and Community Development (subsequently passed at the October 18, 2021 Town Meeting).

- Discussion on potential for zoning bylaw amendments to allow marijuana cultivation in the Residential-C Zoning District (the allowance of indoor marijuana cultivation subsequently passed at the October 18, 2021 Town Meeting; whereas the allowance of outdoor marijuana cultivation subsequently was denied passage at that October 18, 2021 Town Meeting)
- Discussion on potential Downtown Athol-related Zoning Bylaw Amendments (an expansion of the Central Commercial Zoning District subsequently passed at the October 18, 2021 Town Meeting)
- Discussion on potential zoning bylaw amendments to address parcels in Athol that are split between more than one zoning district (provisions to rezone split-zoned parcels between Walnut and Main Street to be located in a single zoning district as well as deleting restrictive language that governed such split-zoned parcels town-side subsequently passed at the October 18, 2021 Town Meeting.
- Discussion on potential zoning bylaw amendment to facilitate the development of Bed and Breakfasts in Athol (such provisions subsequently passed at the October 18, 2021 Town Meeting)

**ATHOL AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
FISCAL YEAR 2021
ANNUAL REPORT**

To: The Honorable Board of Selectpersons and the Citizens of Athol,

The Athol Agricultural Commission is responsible for the Athol Farmers Market, and Rosie's Community Garden, and any other agricultural related issues that might arise within the town. Our meetings are regularly held on the 2nd Monday of every month at 5:00 p.m. in Liberty Hall in the Memorial Building. Meetings were relocated to the community garden to comply with Covid-19 requirements and this allowed the board to have much needed meetings leading up to the growing season and market days.

We have a board of six Voting Members. They are Aimee Hanson, Kim Fitzgerald, Cathleen O'Keefe, Sec'y/Treas., Pam Browning, and Ch. Mary Holtorf.

The Agricultural Commission received a stipend of \$750 which was used for maintenance and improvements to the Rosie's Community Garden. There have been discussions about the future of the garden related to issues at the present location. There is the potential to relocate to town property with access to water and bathroom facilities. This may be incorporated into the Lord Pond Plaza planning.

The Athol Farmer's Market was scheduled to open Sat May 29 but was rained out. The weather cooperated and June 5th was our opening day at the Millers River Center, 100 Main St.. We are still a small market but sales have been very good. For most of us sales at the Athol market exceed sales at larger markets. Our last market was October 2nd, which was almost a month later than expected. High demand, good crops, and nice weather kept the market open for a longer season. In a normal year the market ends just after Labor Day due to the many other fall weekend events in the region. The success of the market might be contributed to more activity in Downtown Athol, desire for local market and local goods, and general conditions for the economy in Athol

Speeding traffic continues to be an issue. This year the new flashing speed limit signs have been installed. We hope this helps and will monitor the impact. We may need an additional sign as once cars pass Exchange St heading west their speed picks up by the time they reach the market space and leave the busier downtown area which, by default, has more traffic calming. We are considering another pedestrian crossing warning sign before the crosswalk. Although there are tall metal street signs they do not have the desired impact.

Cathleen O'Keefe is the contact person for Rosie's Garden and assignment of beds. The area has been cleaned up, brush cut back, fresh compost was added to the beds, and mulch was spread between the beds for weed control. Two gardeners returned and two new gardeners signed up. All beds were planted by volunteers and we continue to look for new gardeners.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Holtorf, Chairman
Aimee Hansen
Kim Fitzgerald,
Cathleen O'Keefe, Secretary/Treasurer
Pam Browning

**DOWNTOWN VITALITY COMMITTEE
FISCAL YEAR 2021
ANNUAL REPORT**

To: The Honorable Board of Selectpersons and the Citizens of Athol,

The Athol Downtown Vitality Committee is focused on improving the business activity and the downtown environment. Our meetings are regularly held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall.

We have a board of seven Voting Members. They are Alan Dodge, Selectboard member, Steve Wills, downtown property owner, Ann Wilhite, downtown business owner, Diane Dipietro, clerk, downtown business and property owner, Morgon Woroner, resident, Paula Robinson, resident, and Mary Holtorf, chairman. We have two Associate Members, Dave Small and Shelley Small.

With the hard work of the DPW the street lights have been repaired and upgraded. The appearance of Main St. after dark has greatly improved. DPW was also instrumental in installing trash receptacles, and keeping the streets swept. And made the installation of the Holiday Decorations and lights possible.

The Holiday Decorating Committee is still in need of members and volunteers. The Christmas décor is getting some much needed attention. The space within the town owned building at Lord Pond Plaza is temporarily available for this work and short-term storage of the decorations.

The DVC was successful in sponsoring the adoption of the Parking Benefits District warrant article at Town Meeting. Parking meters have been repaired and receipts collected and deposited to the Parking Benefits account. The Parking Benefits District Committee was formed and is working on administering the District.

Our board members are:

Mary Holtorf, Chairman
Diane Dipietro clerk, resident, business, and Main St. property owner
Alan Dodge, Selectboard
Morgon Woroner, resident
Ann Wilhite, business owner
Steve Wills, resident and Main St property owner, business owner
Paula Robinson, resident

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary E. Holtorf, Chairman

**PARKING BENEFITS DISTRICT COMMITTEE
FISCAL YEAR 2021
ANNUAL REPORT**

To: The Honorable Board of Selectpersons and the Citizens of Athol,

The Athol Parking Benefits District Committee was adopted in 2021 through a Town Meeting vote. Our meetings are regularly held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 5:00 p.m. in Room 21, at the Athol Town Hall.

We have a board of seven Voting Members. They are Alan Dodge, Selectboard member, Gary Dayo, Finance and Warrant Committee, Mike Butler, Finance and Warrant Committee, Marc Morgan, Planning Board, Mark Wright, Sara Lyman, and Mary Holtorf, chairman.

The DVC was successful in sponsoring the adoption of the Parking Benefits District warrant article at Town Meeting. Parking meters have been repaired and receipts collected and deposited to the Parking Benefits account. The Parking Benefits District Committee was formed and is working on administering the District.

We will work with the Athol Police Department on hiring and supervising a Parking Ambassador whose duties will include serving as a downtown liaison to the public and writing parking violations in the downtown. The APD will continue to collect meter receipts and deposit them to the PBD Meter Receipts account.

The board will also make recommendations on the use of the meter receipts for Town Meeting approval. Some potential recommendations might include additional funding for the Parking Ambassador, sidewalk snow removal assistance for property and business owners to improve safety and accessibility during the winter months, and beautification projects.

Our board members are:

Mary Holtorf, Chairman
Alan Dodge, Selectboard
Gary Dayo, Fin Com
Mike Butler, Fin Com
Marc Morgan, Planning Board
Mark Wright
Sara Lyman

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary E. Holtorf, Chairman