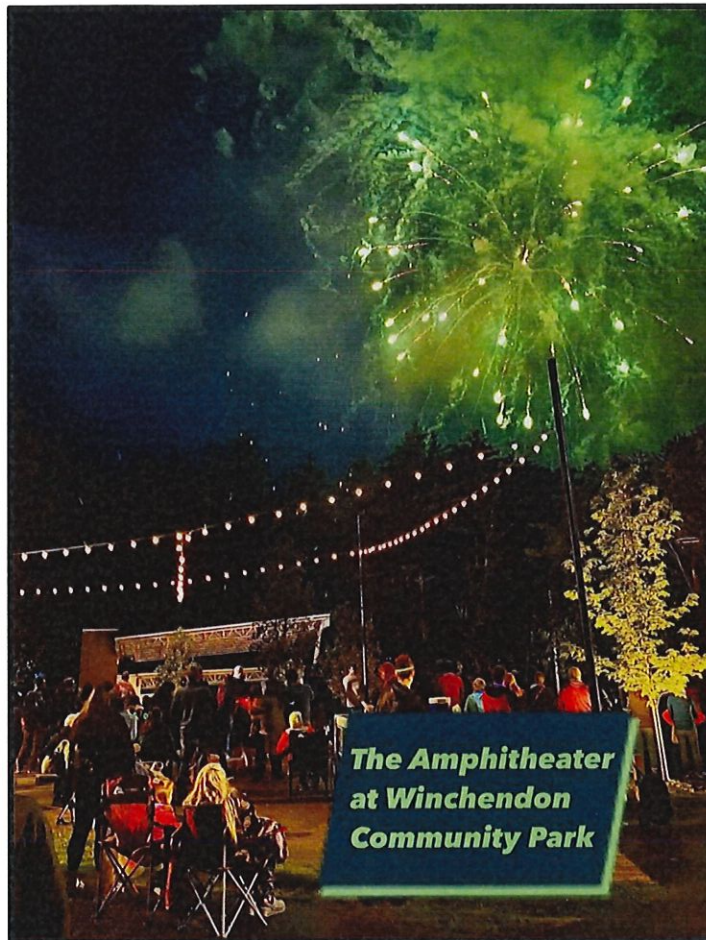


2023 TOWN REPORT



TOWN OF WINCHENDON

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ON THE COVER

Amphitheater Grand Opening-Fire Works Display. Photo courtesy of Linda Daigle.



2023 ANNUAL REPORTS

OFFICERS
OF THE
TOWN OF
WINCHENDON
MASSACHUSETTS

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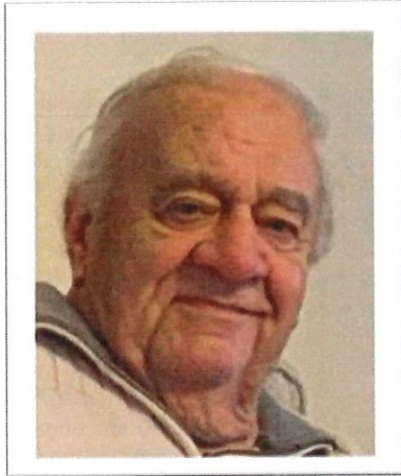
In Memoriam

Please take a moment to remember those who have served our wonderful Town and are now passed on.



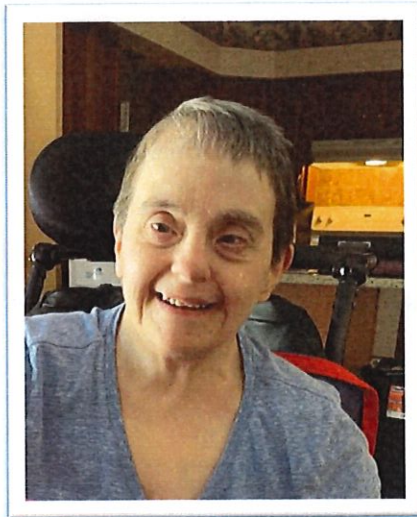
Frederick A. Cloutier
March 2, 1945 – November 29, 2023

Mr. Cloutier was born in Gardner MA. He was a resident of Winchendon, and retired from the town's Law Enforcement, where he held numerous positions including Police Chief, DARE Officer, Safety Officer, Civil Defense Director, and Town Constable. He was a member of the American Legion and the DAV. His dedication, hard work, and his immense love he held for his family will forever be remembered.



Raymond C. Clapp
January 17, 1940-February 1, 2023

Mr. Clapp was born in Winchendon and graduated from Murdock High School class of 1958. He was co-owner of Toy Town Furniture Factory Outlet in Winchendon for many years until his retirement. He served as a member of the Board of Selectmen and was a volunteer member of the Winchendon School Board of Directors.



Lisa Beauvais
June 12, 1963-December 5, 2023

Ms. Beauvais was born in Winchendon. She was a vibrant addition to the community. The Board of Selectmen recognized her on June 28, 2013 as Lisa Beauvais Day for all her accomplishments. Ms. Beauvais was a volunteer at Beal's Memorial Library.



Jim Bevilacqua

October 4, 1959 – December 31, 2023

Mr. Bevilacqua was a long-time resident of Winchendon, before recently residing in Royalston. A member of the Winchendon Fire Department for 15 years, he was also on the Winchendon Dive Rescue Team for nearly 20 years, during which time he achieved Divemaster status. Jim's love of fire service, and underwater skills made him a natural fit to become a trainer for many area firefighters, teaching them ice and water rescue. In addition, he was a member of Fire & Iron Motorcycle Club, Station 857, since 2012, and volunteered his time in the US Coast Guard Auxiliary.

In Memoriam



COMMUNITY PROFILE

Town Incorporated	1764
Form of Government	Open Town Meeting
Annual Town Meeting (Bylaw Article)	No earlier than first Monday in May. No later than second Monday in June.
Annual Election (Bylaw Article)	First Monday in May each year.
Population	9,097
Number of Water Customers Rate: \$6.61 h.c.f.	2,267
Number of Sewer Customers Rate: \$11.53 h.c.f	1,389
Number of Households	
Single Family	2,902
Condos	62
2 Family Units	222
3 Family Units	32
4 to 8 Family Units	50
Number of Commercial Parcels	151
Mix-Use (resident/business combine)	59
Industrial Parcels	68
Tax Rate FY23	\$15.11 per \$1,000 valuation
Highest Elevation	Mt. Pleasant, 1,267 feet
Miles of Town Roads	135
Square Miles of Area	42

ELECTED OFFICIALS

MODERATOR

Dr. Coral Grout	May 2025
-----------------	----------

SELECTMEN

Audrey LaBrie	May 2025
Richard Ward	May 2025
Barbara Anderson	May 2024
Danielle LaPointe	May 2024
Amy Salter (until May 2023)	May 2023
Melissa Blanchard (elected May 2023)	May 2026

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Karen Kast	May 2026
David LaPointe	May 2026
Adam LeBlanc	May 2024 Election
Anthony Findley	May 2024 Election
Jake Catlin	May 2024 Election
Ryan Forsythe (resigned 8/3/23)	May 2024
Alicia Jordan (resigned 7/24/23)	May 2024
Gregory Vine (resigned 7/26/23)	May 2025

BOARD OF HEALTH

Glenn LaRochelle	May 2025
Edward Bond (until 5/2023)	May 2023
Tina Santos	May 2026
Lionel Cloutier	May 2024
Monique Connor	May 2024
Brandon Fournier (resigned 11/6/23)	

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Burton E. Gould, Jr. (state appointed)	April-2025
Jane Leavens (tenant appointed)	May 2024
Leston J. Goodrich	May 2028
David A. Johnson	May 2024
Nancy Romanowski	May 2026

APPOINTED OFFICERS

ACCOUNTANT

Katie Medina	Indefinite
--------------	------------

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Sherry Haley	June 2026
Audrey LaBrie	June 2025
Jordyn Lynds	June 2024
Alicia Trickett	June 2025
Janet Lee	June 2026
Taylor Tower	June 2024
Jake Catlin (appointed 4/6/23)	June 2024
Morgan Ruschioni (appointed 3/28/23)	June 2025
June Girouard, (alternate)	June 2024
Emma Turnbaugh (alternate)	June 2024

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS

Cassandra Tompkins	June 2024
Sara Cadden	June 2026

ANIMAL HEALTH INSPECTORS

Susan Kowaleski	April 2024
Cassandra Tompkins	April 2024

ASSESSORS

Harald Scheid
Robert Heckman
George Bourgault (retired)

BUILDING COMMISSIONER

Geoffrey Newton	Indefinite
-----------------	------------

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Audrey LaBrie	June 2024
David LaPointe	June 2026
Doug Delay	June 2024
Leston Goodrich	June 2024
Michael Barbaro	June 2024

TOWN CLERK

Wendy Stevens	Indefinite
---------------	------------

COLLECTOR/TREASURER

Zoe DuPont	Indefinite
------------	------------

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Matthew Marro, Agent	Indefinite
David Whitaker	June 2025
Kyle Bradley	June 2025
Glenn LaRochelle	June 2026
Melissa Blanchard	June 2026
Lionel Cloutier	June 2024

CONSTABLES

Frederick Cloutier (Election)-resigned May 2023	
David Walsh (Election)-replaced Frederick Cloutier	June 2026
Rick Marinelli (Election)	June 2024
Kenneth MacNeil (Civil Service)	June 2025
Raymond Gonzalez (Civil Service)	June 2025

COUNCIL ON AGING

Judith Mizhir	Gail Casavant
Lynn Murray	Jean Joyal
Rita Amenta	Anne Coderre
Nancy Romanowski	John Webber
Anne Mary Smith	Diane Alexander
Phil White	Sheila Bettro, Director

TOWN COUNSEL

KP Law	Indefinite
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FENCE VIEWER/FIELD DRIVER

Karen Brooks	June 2024
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FINANCE COMMITTEE

Thomas J. Kane Jr.	June 2026
Charles Corts	June 2024
Dr. Maureen Ward	June 2025
Douglas R. Delay	June 2025
Adrian Guerrero	June 2024
James Reed	June 2024

HEALTH AGENT

James D. Abare, Inspector	Indefinite
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HISTORICAL COMMISSION / HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Lois Abare (resigned)	June 2023
Peggy Corbosiero (resigned)	June 2023
Yvonne G. Harrington	June 2025
James McCrohon	June 2024
Mary Harrington	June 2025
Don O'Neil (resigned)	June 2022
Guy Corbosiero	June 2026
Jenelle Sroczyński	June 2026

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Molly Velasco	June 2024
Suzanne Rader	June 2024
Jane LaPointe	June 2026
Cindy Darcy	June 2025
Ronald Muse	June 2025

TOWN MANAGER

William McKinney	Indefinite
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MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Jill Sackett	June 2024
Amanda Phillips	June 2024
Nikki Nickerson	June 2024
Guy Corbosiero	June 2026
Erika Eitland	June 2025
Miranda Jennings	June 2025
Joe Wolski	June 2026

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Guy Corbosiero (Planning Board Appt.)	June 2024
Rick Ward (Alternate)	June 2024

MONTACHUSETT OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Audrey LaBrie

June 2024

REP. TO MONTY TECH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Tamara Estes

June 2026

PLANNING BOARD

Leston Goodrich	June 2026
Guy Corbosiero	June 2024
Burton E. Gould, Jr.	June 2025
Arthur Amenta Jr.	June 2026
Amanda Phillips	June 2024
Thomas Liao (Alt) Replaced Garrett Wante	June 2024
Garrett Wante, (Alt) Resigned	

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Nicole Roberts, Planning and Land Use Coordinator

PLUMBING & GAS INSPECTOR

Edward Tonet

June 2024

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Tiffany Newton, Recreation Coordinator	Indefinite
Dawn Higgins	June 2024
Debra Bradley	June 2025
Andrew Beauvais	June 2026
Debra Kane	June 2026
Dylan Romanowski	June 2026
Gabe Beauvais	June 2026
Melanie Franklin	June 2026
Emily Bradley, Student Rep	June 2024
Emily Croteau, Student Rep	June 2024

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

David Connor	
Michael Barbaro	June 2024
Leston J. Goodrich	June 2025
Kenneth LaBrack	June 2024
Garrett Wante	June 2028

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Terry Lupien	March 2024
Gail Smith	March 2025
Donna Spellman	March 2026
Wendy Stevens, Clerk	Indefinite

ELECTIONS

Dr. Maureen Ward, Warden	Indefinite
Susan Giardini, Deputy Clerk	Indefinite

SEALER, WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Stephen Slocum	June 2024
Stephen Hirons (Alt)	June 2024

TOY TOWN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Elaine Mroz	Arthur Amenta Jr.
George J. Ladeau	Jane LaPointe
Cynthia Boucher	

TREE WARDEN

Brian Croteau	Indefinite
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VETERANS SERVICE DIRECTOR

Stephen Bassett	Indefinite
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WINCHENDON CULTURAL COUNCIL

Jill Sackett	June 2024
Miranda Jennings	June 2024
Linda Hofhaug	June 2024
Linda Dellasanta	June 2026
Joanna Draugsvoid	June 2026
Coral May Grout	June 2026
Greg Vine	June 2025
Quinn Richard	June 2026
Alexis Chanthachack	June 2026
Molly Velasco	June 2026
Linsey Laserte (resigned 11/10/23)	

WINCHENDON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

James D. Abare, Director

Planning Team:

William McKinney – Town Manager
Thomas J. Smith - Fire Department
Dan Wolski - Police Department
Brian Croteau - DPW
Sheila Bettro – COA
Brian Croteau – School
David Connor- Winchendon Housing Authority

WIRING INSPECTOR

Robert Marshall

June 2024

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Cynthia Carvill	June 2024
Christine Miller	June 2025
Richard Stancombe	June 2026
Rob Bushay	June 2025
Teresa Tamblin	June 2026
Thom Schotanus	June 2026



2023 Annual Report of the Board of Selectmen

On behalf of myself and my fellow board members, I am pleased to present to you the Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report of the Winchendon Board of Selectmen.

As it is most years, the one topic of discussion that the Board took up most frequently was the town's finances. While the annual audit report indicated the town was doing all right, it was also stated that the next several fiscal years would present considerable challenges to the town.

Several Tri- and Quad-Board meetings took place, with other attendees from the Finance Committee, School Committee, Audit Committee, Capital Planning Committee as needed. The town has on-going multi-year projects, including the Old Murdock Senior Center, Bull Spit, the renovation of Town Hall and the Amphitheatre at the Winchendon Community Park. Discussions on the expansion/upgrading of the existing fire station building were on-going. The Community Preservation Act Exploratory Committee made their presentation and it was brought to a town hall vote, where it was defeated. The broadcasting equipment at Town Hall received a much-needed upgrade, bringing our broadcast capabilities into the 21st century.

With the departure of Town Manager Sultzbach, Bill McKinney was hired as our Interim, and he was ultimately hired by the Board as our Town Manager.

The board approved close to 30 entertainment licenses. Added to annual events such as Taste of Winchendon, Summer Solstice Celebration, Strawberry Festival, Summer Concert Series, and the Fall Festival were a plethora of events at the new Amphitheater at the Winchendon Community Park. Local businesses, clubs, and churches held functions.

I would be remiss in my duties if, in the course of this report, I didn't thank all of the citizens, volunteers, individuals, groups, commissions, committees, and boards who have worked to make Winchendon the great town that it is today. I would also like to extend our thanks to State Representatives Jon Zlotnik and Susannah Whipps, and Senators Jo Comerford and Anne Gobi for their continued hard work and support, both by their presence at local events and their work on our behalf at the Massachusetts State House.

The coming years will present unprecedented fiscal challenges. We rely on funds from the state for about 47% of our budget. Across the board rising Expenditures coupled with stagnant or only slightly improving Revenue numbers does not bode well. There is no doubt that those who work for and live in Winchendon will work together to weather the coming storm.

Regards,
Audrey LaBrie, Chairman
Winchendon Board of Selectmen

TOWN MANAGER

One of the top highlights of 2023 was the opening of the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation Performing Arts Amphitheater at the Winchendon Community Park. This has already become a town jewel, attracting musical acts and other activities for residents and visitors. That list of events will grow even more in 2024 and beyond.

The Central Street reconstruction project was completed and we are working closely with our State partners and the Redevelopment Authority to bring more businesses to town, including to Central Street.

There was additional funding left over from the Complete Streets project on Maple St and an additional 300 feet of sidewalk was able to be repaired on Central St.

The senior center phase one repairs have been completed and came in under budget with additional work completed in phase one that was proposed for other phases. Staff is currently working to put together a package for the remaining work.

The town was able to secure 3-5 Beech St this year through tax title and the property was turned over to the Winchendon Redevelopment Authority which has worked to remove the existing garage building and getting ready for the installation of a gateway park.

The town's bond rating increased from AA- to AA. However, there will be fiscal challenges ahead so we are working hard to make sure we can continue to keep the town moving forward.

I would like to thank all of the hard working employees of the town for all that they do every single day to provide great customer service to the residents. I would also like to thank the residents and members of the town boards and committees for being so welcoming. I look forward to many years of working together to create the best Winchendon possible.

Respectfully submitted,

William McKinney
Town Manager

TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk – Wendy Stevens
Assistant Town Clerk – Debra Skinner

- Oversees all aspects of elections, voter registration, absentee balloting, early voting, certifies nomination papers and initiative petitions. The office maintains the voter list, street, school, and jury listings
- Records all vital records and marriage licenses; and sends information to the state. The Clerk assists with genealogical research
- The office is responsible for recording & certifying all official actions of the Town; town meeting, elections, Planning & Zoning Board decisions; submitting bylaws and zoning amendments to the Attorney General for approval.
- The Clerk administers the oath of office to all elected and appointed board and committee members and provides them with the Open Meeting and Conflict of Interest laws.
- Further responsibilities include: posting meetings of all government bodies, the keeper of official minutes, dog licenses, business certificates and burial permits, and other licenses.
- The Town Clerk also responds to inquiries from the general public and provides knowledge and assistance to all.



**Election Record
January 19, 2023
Special Town Election**

We met at the Murdock Senior Center, 52 Murdock Ave at: 7:00am

Police Officer Daniel Caputi delivered voter lists and a total of 2,000 official ballots at 7:15am:

P1- 600 P2- 700 P3- 700

The specimen ballots and cards of instruction were posted in the hall and at the entrance.

Ballot boxes were checked and set to zero at 7:05am. The zero reports were displayed for the public to view in the hall.

Polls were declared open at: 8:00am by: Warden, Dr. Maureen Ward

AV ballots were delivered at 11:30am and processed by: Susan Giardini, Deb Skinner, and Maureen Ward.

Police Officer Tracy Flagg relieved Officer Caputi and 3:00pm.

The polls were declared closed at 8pm by Warden Maureen Ward and the unofficial results of the election were announced and posted in the hall. Final counts on ballot boxes: P1-62 P2-56 P3-117

Ballots cast and not cast and voter lists were sealed in proper containers and delivered to the Town Clerk's office by Officer Flagg.

Total voters of the election: 235

Prec. 1: Same Day Voter: 54 Abs ballots: 8 TOTAL:62

Prec. 2: Same Day Voter: 55 Abs ballots: 1 TOTAL:56

Prec. 3: Same Day Voter: 104 Abs ballots: 13 TOTAL:117

Provisional ballots: 0

Registered voters: Active: 6,588 & Inactive: 892 = 7,480 TOTAL Reg Voters
voters= 3% turnout

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy A. Stevens, Town Clerk
Linda St. Laurent, Election Clerk

SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION JANUARY 19, 2023				
DESIGN SERVICES FOR A NEW FIRE STATION				
	P1	P2	P3	TOTAL
QUESTION 1				
YES	33	40	70	143
NO	29	16	47	92
BLANK	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	62	56	117	235



**Election Record
May 1, 2023
Annual Town Election**

We met at the Murdock Senior Center, 52 Murdock Ave at: 7:00am

Police Officer John Coflesky delivered voter lists and a total of 2,000 official ballots at 7:15am:

P1- 600 P2- 700 P3- 700

The specimen ballots and cards of instruction were posted in the hall and at the entrance.

Ballot boxes were checked and set to zero at 6:50am. The zero reports were displayed for the public to view in the hall.

Polls were declared open at: 8:00am by: Warden, Dr. Maureen Ward

EV & AV ballots were delivered at 10am and processed by: Deb Skinner, Linda St. Laurent, Susan Giardini & Maureen Ward.

Police Officer Tracy Flagg relieved Officer Coflesky at 2 pm.

The polls were declared closed at 8pm by Warden Maureen Ward and the unofficial results of the election were announced and posted in the hall. Final counts on ballot boxes: P1- 135 P2-119 P3-151

Ballots cast and not cast and voter lists were sealed in proper containers and delivered to the Town Clerk's office by Officer Flagg.

Total voters of the election: 405

Prec. 1: Same Day Voter: 125 Abs ballots: 10 Ev ballots: 0 TOTAL:135

Prec. 2: Same Day Voter: 116 Abs ballots: 2 Ev ballots: 1 TOTAL:119

Prec. 3: Same Day Voter: 138 Abs ballots: 13 Ev ballots: 0 TOTAL:151

Provisional ballots: 1, not counted

Registered voters: Active: 6,687 & Inactive: 833 = 7,520 TOTAL Reg Voters
voters=5.4% turnout

Respectfully Submitted,
Wendy A. Stevens, Town Clerk
Linda St. Laurent, Election Clerk

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION MAY 1, 2023
OFFICIAL RESULTS**

	P-1	P-2	P-3	TOTAL
BOARD OF SELECTMEN 3 YR (VOTE FOR 1)				
Melissa S. Blanchard	89	76	81	246
Edward W. Ford, Jr.	11	13	18	42
Sharon LaRochelle	26	21	45	92
BLANKS	8	8	7	23
OTHERS (Write-Ins)				
Matthew Hawkins	1	1	0	2
ALL OTHERS				
TOTAL	135	119	151	405
SCHOOL COMMITTEE 3 YR (VOTE FOR 2)				
Karen E. Kast-McBride	59	57	59	175
Michael Barbaro	52	46	61	159
David A. LaPointe	69	72	89	230
BLANKS	69	46	73	188
OTHERS (Write-Ins)				
Matthew Hawkins	17	17	20	54
Kevin Hawkins	2			2
Ryan Forsythe	2			2
ALL OTHERS				
TOTAL	270	238	302	810
BOARD OF HEALTH 3 YR (VOTE FOR 2)				
Tina M. Santos	105	95	118	318
BLANKS	156	134	158	448
OTHERS (Write-Ins)	2	4	12	18
Keith Kent	4		9	13
Ed Bond	3	5	5	13
ALL OTHERS				
TOTAL	270	238	302	810
HOUSING AUTHORITY 5 YR (VOTE FOR 1)				
Leston J. Goodrich, Jr.	116	103	134	353
BLANKS	19	16	15	50
OTHERS (Write-Ins)			2	2
ALL OTHERS				
TOTAL	135	119	151	405

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 13th, 2023**

Worcester, ss:

To either of the Constables in the Town of Winchendon, in the County of Worcester,

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Winchendon qualified to vote in town elections and town affairs to meet at the MURDOCK MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL, 3 Memorial Drive, off Elmwood Road in said Winchendon on

**MONDAY, MARCH 13th, 2023
AT 7:00 P.M.**

then and there to act on the following articles:

Met at the Murdock Middle/High School Auditorium at 7pm with a quorum of 196 voters present. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted. Attorney Matt Sirigu was present representing KP Law. CART service captioning was provided.

REPORTS AND COMMITTEES

ARTICLE 1

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the reports of the Finance Committee, and any other Board or Committee, or act in relation thereto. (usual and customary article)

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN: PASSED OVER FINANCE COMMITTEE: 6-0
PASS OVER**

VOTED: To Passover

Yes: 96% No: 4% Passed over by Majority at 7:03pm

FINANCIAL ARTICLES

ARTICLE 2

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$1,394.86 for payment of prior fiscal year bills as follows:

Fiscal Year	Name	<u>Invoice Amount</u>
FY2022	To Each His Own Design	\$747.62
FY2022	KP Law	\$647.24
Total		\$1,394.86

(submitted by the Town Manager) (Nine Tenths Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 5-0 RECOMMEND FINANCE COMMITTEE: 6-0 RECOMMEND

VOTED: Approved by 9/10th Majority that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$1,394.86 for the payment of prior year bills as outlined in the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Yes: 95% No: 5% Passed by 9/10th Majority at 7:06pm

CAPITAL ARTICLES

ARTICLE 3 - CAPITAL PURCHASE

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$40,000 for Broadcasting Equipment Upgrades and staff support in Town Hall, or to take any other action related thereto.

(submitted by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 5-0 RECOMMEND FINANCE COMMITTEE: 6-0 RECOMMEND

SCHOOL COMMITTEE: 4-0 RECOMMEND

VOTED: Approved by Majority that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$40,000 for Broadcasting Equipment Upgrades and staff support in Town Hall as presented.

Yes: 83% No: 17% Passed by Majority Vote at 7:10pm

OTHER ARTICLES

ARTICLE 4 - GENERAL BYLAW AMENDMENT

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws of the Town of Winchendon as recommended by the Recreation Commission and Winchendon Community Park Committee as shown below with text to be inserted underlined and text to be deleted crossed out:

ARTICLE 24 PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

1. A) There shall be a Parks & Recreation Commission [the Commission] consisting of nine (9) seven (7) members appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The Commission shall consist of not more than two (2) Middle or High School students who reside in Winchendon. ~~One (1) member shall be a Winchendon middle school student in good standing, and one (1) member shall be a Winchendon high school student in good standing.~~
 - (B) Except as provided in subsection 1(D), the terms shall be for three (3) years and so arranged that the term of as nearly an equal number as is possible shall expire each year.
 - (C) Upon the completion of these original terms, each member shall serve for three years, except as provided in subsection 1(D).
 - (D) Middle or High School Student members, if any, shall be appointed annually.
2. The Commission acts in an advisory capacity in matters pertaining to public recreation. ~~The Commission shall~~ makes annual budget recommendations and assists in creating policy and planning a recreation program to stimulate public interest and community wide engagement, including the planning of park and recreation facility maintenance.
3. The stated primary function of the Commission is to expand and enhance the recreation opportunities for the residents of Winchendon as well as to help beautify & maintain the parks and recreation areas within Winchendon.
4. The Commission may make recommendations for the establishment of reasonable fees for use of any recreation facilities and Programs as it deems to be consistent with established Recreation Policy and Bylaws.

The Commission shall submit to the Town Manager its recommendation for an annual budget.
or act in relation thereto.

(Submitted by Recreation Commission and Winchendon Community Park Committee)
(Majority Vote required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 5-0 RECOMMEND
FINANCE COMMITTEE: 6-0 RECOMMEND

RECREATION COMMISSION: 5-0 RECOMMEND
WCPC: 4-0-1 RECOMMEND

VOTED: Approved by 2/3rd Majority that the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws of the Town of Winchendon as recommended by the Recreation Commission and Winchendon Community Park Committee as shown in the Town Meeting Warrant with text to be inserted underlined and text to be deleted crossed out.

Yes: 79% No: 21% Passed by 2/3rd Majority at 7:13pm

ARTICLE 5 - COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT

To see if the Town will vote to accept the Community Preservation Act, G.L. c.44B, §§3-7, and establish a property tax surcharge of 3%, to be effective July 1, 2023, for the three general purposes of the CPA, open space and recreation land, historical preservation and creation and support of community housing, and adopt the following three statutory exemptions:

1. Property owned and occupied as a domicile by a person who would qualify for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in the town would be exempt from the surcharge upon filing an annual application.
2. The first \$100,000 of taxable value of residential real estate would be exempt (automatically applied).
3. The first \$100,000 of taxable value of class three commercial and class four industrial properties would be exempt (automatically applied).

and, further noting that, as required by law, adoption of the act and imposition of the surcharge may occur only if the voters of the Town also approve adoption of the CPA in the form voted by this meeting; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Submitted by Community Preservation Act Exploratory Committee) (Majority Vote required)

The Community Preservation Act is a statewide program dedicating funds to three general purposes: acquisition and preservation of open space and recreation land; historical preservation of land, buildings, and documents of historic value; and creation or support of community housing (with affordability defined by reference to HUD average median income findings). Locally, a property tax surcharge of up to 3% is assessed for such purposes. At the state level, each Registry of Deeds assesses a surcharge on all

transactions, and such amounts are later dispersed to participating communities based upon a formula that includes the amount collected through the local surcharge and the percent surcharge assessed. The Community Preservation Exploratory Committee, Finance Committee and Select Board support adoption of the CPA with a 3% surcharge and all of the available exemptions, and recommend adoption of a financial policy that limits the total amount to be expended annually, so that 5% of annual revenues will remain in the fund, and prohibits borrowing.

If approved by Town Meeting and, later, at an election, a Community Preservation Fund (CPF) will be established to receive the local surcharge and state matching funds. State law requires that each year, 10% of what is collected in the CPF be spent or set aside for each of the four purposes of the CPA. State law also allows up to 5% of what is collected to be appropriated for the annual expenses of a Community Preservation Committee (CPC); any unexpended portion of the annual appropriation closes out to the CPF at the end of the fiscal year. The CPC will be established by by-law, with 5 statutorily required representatives of particular boards and committees, and up to 4 additional elected members. Town Meeting cannot appropriate CPA funds without a recommendation from the CPC, although Town Meeting may reduce or reject the CPC's recommendation.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN:	3-2 RECOMMEND
SCHOOL COMMITTEE:	4-0 RECOMMEND
FINANCE COMMITTEE:	6-0 RECOMMEND
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE:	7-0 RECOMMEND
CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE:	5-0 RECOMMEND
PLANNING BOARD:	4-0 RECOMMEND
CONSERVATION COMMISSION:	4-0 RECOMMEND
HISTORIC COMMISSION:	5-0 RECOMMEND
RECREATION COMMISSION:	5-0 RECOMMEND
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION:	5-0 RECOMMEND

VOTED: Failed by Majority Vote

Yes: 38% No: 62% Failed by Majority at 7:48pm

ARTICLE 6 - WHITNEY POND DAM NON-BINDING REFERENDUM

To see if the Town will vote to recommend the Board of Selectmen seek grant and other available funds for the purpose of making certain improvements to the Whitney Pond Dam such that water levels in the Whitney Pond will be higher and restored to the levels obtained when the Dam was originally installed, rather than proceeding with a more cost effective repair of the existing Dam with available funds that would keep the water level at its current, lower level but permit the Dam to continue functioning as needed for the foreseeable future; or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen) (Majority Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 5-0 RECOMMEND
FINANCE COMMITTEE: 6-0 RECOMMEND

VOTED: Failed by Majority that the Town vote to recommend the Board of Selectmen seek grant and other available funds for the purpose of making certain improvements to the Whitney Pond Dam such that water levels in the Whitney Pond will be higher and restored to the levels obtained when the Dam was originally installed, rather than proceeding with a more cost effective repair of the existing Dam with available funds that would keep the water level at it's current, lower level but permit the Dam to continue functioning as needed for the foreseeable future.

Yes: 49% No: 51% Failed by Majority at 8:01pm

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Special Town Meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
May 15, 2023**

Worcester, ss:

To either of the Constables in the Town of Winchendon, in the County of Worcester,

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Winchendon qualified to vote in town elections and town affairs to meet at the MURDOCK MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL, 3 Memorial Drive, off Elmwood Road in said Winchendon on

**MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023
AT 7:00 P.M.**

We met at the Murdock Middle/High School at 7:00pm. The Special Town Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm with a quorum present of 128 voters. Matt Sirigu was present representing Town Counsel-KP Law.

then and there to act on the following articles:

REPORTS AND COMMITTEES

ARTICLE 1

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the reports of the Finance Committee, or act in relation thereto.

(usual and customary article)

(Majority Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0 TO PASSOVER

Voted: Passed over by Majority

Yes-94% No-6% 7:14pm

ARTICLE 2

To see if the town will transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$260,000 for use by the Board of Selectmen to offset the Snow and Ice deficit in the Department of Public Works Snow and Ice budget, or to take any other action related thereto.

(submitted by the Town Manager)

(Majority Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by Majority vote to appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$260,000 for the payment of the FY23 Snow and Ice Deficit as presented.
Yes-92% No-8% 7:16pm

You are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof at the several places designated by the bylaws of the Town of Winchendon fourteen days at least before the time of holding such meeting and by mailing a copy of this warrant to each household in Winchendon in which a registered voter resides or by publication of the same in a newspaper of local distribution as required by said bylaws.

Hereof, fail not and make due return of said warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of the meeting aforesaid. Given under our hands and seal this 24th day of April 2023.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

Audrey LaBrie, Chairman
Rick Ward, Vice-Chairman
Barbara Anderson
Danielle LaPointe
Amy Salter



**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 15, 2023**

Worcester, ss:

To either of the Constables in the Town of Winchendon, in the County of Worcester,

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Winchendon qualified to vote in town elections and town affairs to meet at the MURDOCK MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL, 3 Memorial Drive, off Elmwood Road in said Winchendon on

**MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023
AT 7:00 P.M.**

then and there to act on the following articles:

The Annual Town Meeting followed the Special Town Meeting

REPORTS AND COMMITTEES

ARTICLE 1

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Finance Committee, the annual report of the Selectmen and of any other officers or committees required to report to the Town, or act in relation thereto.

(usual and customary article)

(Majority Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

*Voted: Passed by Majority vote to hear and act on the reports of the Finance Committee.
Yes-90% No-10% 7:30pm*

ENTERPRISE ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION ARTICLE

ARTICLE 2

To see if the Town will accept the provisions of Chapter 44, § 53F1/2 of the Massachusetts General Laws and establish a Cable Public Access Enterprise Fund effective fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023; or act in relation thereto.

(submitted by the Town Manager)

(Majority Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by Majority vote establish a PEG Media Enterprise Account and Approve Article 2 as printed.
Yes-89% No-11% 7:36pm

OPIOID SETTLEMENT AUTHORIZATION ARTICLES

ARTICLE 3

To see if the Town will vote to establish an Opioid Abatement Stabilization Fund, in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 5B of the Massachusetts General Laws, to be used, upon further appropriation, for the purposes of implementing the Abatement Strategies set forth in the Massachusetts State-Subdivision Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements, dated March 4, 2022, and consistent with any state guidelines or regulations further clarifying allowable uses of opioid litigation settlement funds; or take any other action related thereto.

(submitted by the Town Manager)

(Two-Thirds Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0
FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by 2/3 vote to establish an Opioid Remediation Stabilization Fund and approve Article 3 as printed, and, further, to accept the fourth paragraph of G.L. c.40, S5B and dedicate 100% of the opioid settlement monies to such fund.
Yes-83% No-17% 7:42pm

ARTICLE 4

To see if the Town will vote to accept the fourth paragraph of Chapter 40, Section 5B, of the Massachusetts General Laws, which allows the dedication, without further appropriation, of all, or a percentage not less than 25 percent, of particular fees, charges or receipts to the Opioid Abatement Stabilization fund established under Chapter 40, Section 5B of the Massachusetts General Laws, to be effective for all fiscal years beginning on July 1, 2023, or take any other action related thereto.

(submitted by the Town Manager)

(Majority Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0
FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by Majority vote to accept the fourth paragraph of Chapter 40, Section 5B, of the Massachusetts General Laws.
Yes-84% No-16% 7:44pm

ARTICLE 5

To see if the Town will vote to dedicate all or a percentage, which may not be less than 25 percent, of the receipts from the Statewide Opioid Settlements, as defined in the State-Subdivision Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements, to the Opioid Abatement Stabilization Fund established in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 5B of the Massachusetts General Laws, effective for the fiscal year 2024, beginning on July 1, 2023, or take any other action related thereto.

(submitted by the Town Manager)

(Majority Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0
FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by Majority Vote to dedicate 100 percent of the receipts from the Statewide Opioid Settlements to the Opioid Abatement Stabilization Fund, beginning on July 1, 2023.

Yes-87% No-13% 7:46pm

REVOLVING FUNDS AUTHORIZATION ARTICLE

ARTICLE 6

To see if the town will vote to fix the maximum amount to be spent during fiscal year 2024 beginning on July 1, 2023 for the revolving funds established in town by-laws for certain departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53 E1/2, or take any other action relative thereto.

<u>Revolving Fund</u>	<u>Department, Board, Committee Agency or Officer</u>	<u>FY 2024 Spending Limit</u>
Agriculture	Agriculture Commission	\$ 1,000
Large Copy Fees	Planning & Development	\$ 1,000
Restitution Fees	Land Use	\$ 1,000
Extended Day	School	\$10,000
Damaged books	School	\$ 5,000
Summer School	School	\$ 1,000
Recycling	Board of Health	\$ 1,000
Composting	Board of Health	\$ 1,000
Arts Lottery	Arts Lottery Commission	\$ 7,500
Wetland Fees	Conservation	\$20,000
Library copy Fees	Librarian/Library Trustees	\$ 8,000
Library Material	Librarian/Library Trustees	\$ 8,000
Student parking	School	\$ 5,000
Community Development	Town Manager	\$25,000
Block Program Income		

(submitted by the Town Manager)

(Majority Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 4-0-1

FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by Majority vote to establish the annual spending limits for the revolving accounts all as preented in Article 6.

Yes-88% No-12% 7:48pm

USUAL AND CUSTOMARY FINANCIAL ARTICLES

ARTICLE 7 Senior Tax Work-Off

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from other available funds the sum of seven thousand seven hundred dollars (\$7,700) for the Senior Tax Work-off Program, or act in relation thereto.

(submitted by the Town Manager)

(Majority Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by Majority vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,700 for the FY2024 Senior Work Off Program

Yes-87% No-13% 7:49pm

ARTICLE 8 Non Profit Assistance

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from other available funds the sum of twenty-seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$27,500) as a grant to the non-profit, Community Action Committee, Inc., in consideration of the numerous services provided to the Town, or act in relation thereto.

(submitted by the Town Manager)

(Majority Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 4-0-1

FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by Majority vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$27,500 as a grant to the Community Action Committee and to authorize the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager to enter into a grant agreement for such purposes.

Yes-82%

No-18% 7:50pm

ORGANIZATIONAL RESTRUCTURING ARTICLE

ARTICLE 9

To see if the Town will vote to accept the Town Manager's proposed 2023 Organizational Change to Staffing as required by Town Charter, which is outlined in a document on file with the Town Clerk.

(submitted by the Town Manager)

(Majority Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 4-1

FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by Majority vote to accept the Town Manager's proposed 2023 Organization Change to Staffing, as required by Article 6 of the Town Charter, all as set forth on a document on file with the Town Clerk.

Yes-68%

No-32% 8:30pm

**USUAL AND CUSTOMARY GENERAL GOVERNMENT
BUDGET ARTICLE**

ARTICLE 10 General Government

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and transfer from other available funds the sum of \$16,744,246 for the operating budget of the Town for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, or act in relation thereto.

(usual and customary article)

(Majority Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by Majority Vote to raise and appropriate and transfer from other available funds the total sum of \$16,744,246 for the operating budget of the Town for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, all as set forth in the warrant under Article 10, with each line item in the budget as appearing in the warrant to be approved as a separate appropriation.

Yes-87%

No-13% 8:37pm

**Town of Winchendon
Summary of Other Available Funds**

Cemetery Trust	\$3,444
Title V Liens Redemption	\$16,747
Infrastructure Investment Fund	\$20,000
Water Indirect Costs	\$193,815
Wastewater Indirect Costs	\$173,097
Transfer Station Indirect Costs	\$13,761
Homeless Transportation	\$20,000
TOTAL OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$ 440,864

GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

DETAIL OF APPROPRIATIONS					
	2023	2023	2024		
	APPROVED	EXPENDED	PROPOSED	INCREASE	PERCENTAGE
	BUDGET	BUDGET - DEC	BUDGET	(DECREASE)	CHANGE
SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION	\$ 1,505,619	\$ 563,902	\$ 1,655,949	\$ 150,330	9.98%
TOTAL SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION	\$ 1,505,619	\$ 563,902	\$ 1,655,949	\$ 150,330	9.98%
YMCA	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	\$ -	0.00%
TOTAL YMCA	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -	0.00%
SELECTMEN					
EXPENSES	\$ 15,240	\$ 2,405	\$ 14,750	\$ (490)	-3.22%
TOTAL SELECTMEN	\$ 15,240	\$ 2,405	\$ 14,750	\$ (490)	-3.22%
TOWN MANAGER					
PERSONNEL	\$ 252,288	\$ 143,160	\$ 284,753	\$ 32,465	12.87%
EXPENSES	\$ 20,640	\$ 8,499	\$ 17,590	\$ (3,050)	-14.78%
TOTAL TOWN MANAGER	\$ 272,928	\$ 151,659	\$ 302,343	\$ 29,415	10.78%
FINANCE COMMITTEE					
PERSONNEL	\$ 1,500	\$ 525	\$ 1,500	\$ -	0.00%
EXPENSES	\$ 174,860	\$ 482	\$ 181,160	\$ 6,300	3.60%
TOTAL FINANCE COMMITTEE	\$ 176,360	\$ 1,007	\$ 182,660	\$ 6,300	3.57%
OPEB STUDY	\$ 7,950	\$ 750	\$ 8,250	\$ 300	3.77%
TOTAL OPEB STUDY	\$ 7,950	\$ 750	\$ 8,250	\$ 300	3.77%

ACCOUNTING					
PERSONNEL	\$ 133,082	\$ 58,361	\$ 152,006	\$ 18,924	14.22%
EXPENSES	\$ 500	\$ 125	\$ 500	\$ -	0.00%
TOTAL ACCOUNTING	\$ 133,582	\$ 58,486	\$ 152,506	\$ 18,924	14.17%
ASSESSOR					
EXPENSES	\$ 103,050	\$ 57,457	\$ 103,560	\$ 510	0.49%
TOTAL ASSESSOR	\$ 103,050	\$ 57,457	\$ 103,560	\$ 510	0.49%
COLLECTOR / TREASURER					
PERSONNEL	\$ 150,687	\$ 69,443	\$ 163,098	\$ 12,411	8.24%
EXPENSES	\$ 70,310	\$ 26,609	\$ 71,534	\$ 1,224	1.74%
TOTAL COLLECTOR/TREASURER	\$ 220,997	\$ 96,052	\$ 234,632	\$ 13,635	6.17%
LEGAL EXPENSE					
EXPENSES	\$ 45,000	\$ 13,929	\$ 42,500	\$ (2,500)	-5.56%
TOTAL LEGAL	\$ 45,000	\$ 13,929	\$ 42,500	\$ (2,500)	-5.56%
DATA PROCESSING					
EXPENSES	\$ 56,900	\$ 43,720	\$ 56,900	\$ -	0.00%
TOTAL DATA PROCESSING	\$ 56,900	\$ 43,720	\$ 56,900	\$ -	0.00%
TECHNOLOGY					
PERSONNEL	\$ 79,380	\$ 37,950	\$ 83,802	\$ 4,422	5.57%
EXPENSES	\$ 31,000	\$ 24,009	\$ 33,000	\$ 2,000	6.45%
TOTAL TECHNOLOGY	\$ 110,380	\$ 61,959	\$ 116,802	\$ 6,422	5.82%
COMMUNICATIONS COM					
PERSONNEL	\$ 23,172	\$ 5,025	\$ 2,417		
EXPENSES	\$ 27,000	\$ 5,178	\$ 7,550	\$ (19,450)	-72.04%
TOTAL COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 50,172	\$ 10,204	\$ 9,967	\$ (19,450)	-38.77%
TOWN CLERK					
PERSONNEL	\$ 111,037	\$ 53,426	\$ 121,026	\$ 9,989	9.00%
EXPENSES	\$ 6,975	\$ 4,175	\$ 14,501	\$ 7,526	107.90%
TOTAL TOWN CLERK	\$ 118,012	\$ 57,601	\$ 135,527	\$ 17,515	14.84%
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS					
PERSONNEL	\$ 1,690	\$ 720	\$ 1,690	\$ -	0.00%
EXPENSES	\$ 64,573	\$ 26,872	\$ 49,590	\$ (14,983)	-23.20%
TOTAL REGISTRAR OF VOTERS	\$ 66,263	\$ 27,592	\$ 51,280	\$ (14,983)	-22.61%
CONSERVATION					
PERSONNEL	\$ 24,550	\$ 6,675	\$ 24,998	\$ 448	1.82%
EXPENSES	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 305	\$ 55	22.00%
TOTAL CONSERVATION	\$ 24,800	\$ 6,675	\$ 25,303	\$ 503	2.03%
PLANNING BOARD					
PERSONNEL	\$ 2,250	\$ 475	\$ 1,750	\$ (500)	-22.22%
EXPENSES	\$ 4,600	\$ 1,133	\$ 3,550	\$ (1,050)	-22.83%
TOTAL PLANNING BOARD	\$ 6,850	\$ 1,608	\$ 5,300	\$ (1,550)	-22.63%

ZONING BOARD					
PERSONNEL	\$ 1,200	\$ 300	\$ 1,050	\$ (150)	-12.50%
EXPENSES	\$ 300		\$ 300	\$ -	0.00%
TOTAL ZONING BOARD	\$ 1,500	\$ 300	\$ 1,350	\$ (150)	-10.00%
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT					
PERSONNEL	\$ 130,437	\$ 26,012	\$ 82,618	\$ (47,819)	-36.66%
EXPENSES	\$ 8,050	\$ 556	\$ 22,850	\$ 14,800	183.85%
TOTAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	\$ 138,487	\$ 26,568	\$ 105,468	\$ (33,019)	-23.84%
TOWN HALL					
PERSONNEL	\$ 35,905	\$ 17,074	\$ 41,862	\$ 5,957	16.59%
EXPENSES	\$ 93,300	\$ 28,925	\$ 86,650	\$ (6,650)	-7.13%
TOTAL TOWN HALL	\$ 129,205	\$ 45,999	\$ 128,512	\$ (693)	-0.54%
POLICE					
PERSONNEL	\$ 1,432,866	\$ 808,787	\$ 1,498,493	\$ 65,627	4.58%
EXPENSES	\$ 153,870	\$ 78,006	\$ 147,409	\$ (6,461)	-4.20%
TOTAL POLICE	\$ 1,586,736	\$ 886,793	\$ 1,645,902	\$ 59,166	3.73%
DISPATCH					
PERSONNEL	\$ 302,545	\$ 147,572	\$ 318,617	\$ 16,072	5.31%
EXPENSES	\$ 2,100	\$ 345	\$ 2,200	\$ 100	4.76%
TOTAL DISPATCH	\$ 304,645	\$ 147,917	\$ 320,817	\$ 16,172	5.31%
FIRE					
PERSONNEL	\$ 1,232,651	\$ 644,899	\$ 1,274,037	\$ 41,386	3.36%
EXPENSES	\$ 98,096	\$ 46,004	\$ 92,136	\$ (5,960)	-6.08%
TOTAL FIRE	\$ 1,330,747	\$ 690,904	\$ 1,366,172	\$ 35,425	2.66%
AMBULANCE					
PERSONNEL	\$ 15,000	\$ 4,779	\$ 13,000	\$ (2,000)	-13.33%
EXPENSES	\$ 132,800	\$ 57,983	\$ 125,150	\$ (7,650)	-5.76%
TOTAL AMBULANCE	\$ 147,800	\$ 62,763	\$ 138,150	\$ (9,650)	-6.53%
LAND USE					
PERSONNEL	\$ 114,912	\$ 58,959	\$ 100,368	\$ (14,544)	-12.66%
EXPENSES	\$ 6,800	\$ 1,718	\$ 7,650	\$ 850	12.50%
TOTAL LAND USE	\$ 121,712	\$ 60,677	\$ 108,018	\$ (13,694)	-11.25%
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT					
PERSONNEL	\$ 2,548		\$ 2,666	\$ 118	4.63%
EXPENSES	\$ 1,450	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,450	\$ -	0.00%
TOTAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$ 3,998	\$ 1,000	\$ 4,116	\$ 118	2.95%
ANIMAL CONTROL					
PERSONNEL	\$ 3,600	\$ -	\$ 3,700	\$ 100	2.78%
EXPENSES	\$ 54,028	\$ 25,895	\$ 55,667	\$ 1,639	3.03%
TOTAL ANIMAL CONTROL	\$ 57,628	\$ 25,895	\$ 59,367	\$ 1,739	3.02%

Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrant
May 15, 2023

DPW ADMIN					
PERSONNEL	\$ 163,415	\$ 82,054	\$ 237,161	\$ 73,746	45.13%
EXPENSES	\$ 15,700	\$ 4,685	\$ 17,450	\$ 1,750	11.15%
TOTAL DPW ADMIN	\$ 179,115	\$ 86,739	\$ 254,611	\$ 75,496	42.15%
DPW HIGHWAY					
PERSONNEL	\$ 357,624	\$ 173,803	\$ 370,617	\$ 12,993	3.63%
EXPENSES	\$ 168,300	\$ 144,897	\$ 183,800	\$ 15,500	9.21%
TOTAL DPW HIGHWAY	\$ 525,924	\$ 318,700	\$ 554,417	\$ 28,493	5.42%
DPW FLEET MAINT					
PERSONNEL	\$ 111,981	\$ 49,375	\$ 114,816	\$ 2,835	2.53%
EXPENSES	\$ 150,500	\$ 111,334	\$ 156,400	\$ 5,900	3.92%
TOTAL DPW FLEET MAINT.	\$ 262,481	\$ 160,608	\$ 271,216	\$ 8,735	3.33%
DPW SNOW & ICE					
PERSONNEL	\$ 60,000	\$ 23,790	\$ 70,000	\$ 10,000	16.67%
EXPENSES	\$ 150,000	\$ 120,778	\$ 160,000	\$ 10,000	6.67%
TOTAL DPW SNOW AND ICE	\$ 210,000	\$ 144,567	\$ 230,000	\$ 20,000	9.52%
DPW STREET LIGHTING					
EXPENSES	\$ 38,500	\$ 19,329	\$ 40,000	\$ 1,500	3.90%
TOTAL DPW STREET LIGHTING	\$ 38,500	\$ 19,329	\$ 40,000	\$ 1,500	3.90%
LANDFILL					
EXPENSES	\$ 23,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 2,000	8.70%
TOTAL LANDFILL	\$ 23,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 2,000	8.70%
DPW CEMETERY					
PERSONNEL	\$ 122,723	\$ 61,753	\$ 164,428	\$ 41,705	33.98%
EXPENSES	\$ 10,000	\$ 4,810	\$ 12,000	\$ 2,000	20.00%
TOTAL CEMETERY	\$ 132,723	\$ 66,562	\$ 176,428	\$ 43,705	32.93%
DPW TREE TRIMMING					
EXPENSES	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 9,000	\$ 1,500	
TOTAL TREE TRIMMING	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 9,000	\$ 1,500	
HEALTH DEPARTMENT					
PERSONNEL	\$ 53,770	\$ 29,133	\$ 56,745	\$ 2,975	5.33%
EXPENSES	\$ 8,005	\$ 1,744	\$ 8,065	\$ 60	0.75%
TOTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT	\$ 61,775	\$ 30,877	\$ 64,810	\$ 3,035	4.91%
BOARD OF HEALTH OUTSIDE SERVICE					
EXPENSES	\$ 2,150	\$ 626	\$ 2,150	\$ -	0.00%
TOTAL HEALTH OUTSIDE SERVICE	\$ 2,150	\$ 626	\$ 2,150	\$ -	0.00%
BOARD OF HEALTH VISITING NURSE					
EXPENSES	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,200	\$ 5,000	\$ -	0.00%
TOTAL HEALTH VISITING NURSE	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,200	\$ 5,000	\$ -	0.00%
COUNCIL ON AGING					
PERSONNEL	\$ 188,836	\$ 89,696	\$ 197,110	\$ 8,274	4.38%
EXPENSES	\$ 32,600	\$ 10,677	\$ 32,400	\$ (200)	-0.61%
TOTAL COUNCIL ON AGING	\$ 221,436	\$ 100,372	\$ 229,510	\$ 8,074	3.65%
VETERANS SERVICES					
PERSONNEL	\$ 19,300	\$ 9,335	\$ 23,011	\$ 3,711	19.23%
EXPENSES	\$ 312,680	\$ 49,550	\$ 163,180	\$ (149,500)	-47.81%
TOTAL VETERANS SERVICES	\$ 331,980	\$ 58,884	\$ 186,191	\$ (145,789)	-43.92%

BEALS LIBRARY					
PERSONNEL	\$ 184,196	\$ 88,482	\$ 191,738	\$ 7,542	4.09%
EXPENSES	\$ 55,800	\$ 38,918	\$ 57,250	\$ 1,450	2.60%
TOTAL BEALS LIBRARY	\$ 239,996	\$ 127,400	\$ 248,988	\$ 8,992	3.75%
RECREATION COMMITTEE					
EXPENSES	\$ 4,050	\$ 1,756	\$ 8,698	\$ 4,648	114.77%
TOTAL RECREATION COMMITTEE	\$ 4,050	\$ 1,756	\$ 8,698	\$ 4,648	114.77%
HISTORIC COMMISSION					
EXPENSES	\$ 1,000	\$ 375	\$ 1,000	\$ -	0.00%
TOTAL HISTORIC COMMISSION	\$ 1,000	\$ 375	\$ 1,000	\$ -	0.00%
DEBT SERVICE PRINCIPAL					
EXPENSES	\$ 692,371	\$ 217,308	\$ 882,227	\$ 189,856	27.43%
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE PRINCIPAL	\$ 692,371	\$ 217,308	\$ 882,227	\$ 189,856	27.42%
DEBT SERVICE INTEREST					
EXPENSES	\$ 112,193	\$ 840	\$ 271,370	\$ 159,177	141.88%
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE INTEREST	\$ 112,193	\$ 840	\$ 271,370	\$ 159,177	141.88%
STATE ASSESSMENT EXPENSE					
EXPENSES	\$ 1,095,030	\$ 441,770	\$ 963,935	\$ (131,095)	-11.97%
TOTAL STATE ASSESSMENT	\$ 1,095,030	\$ 441,770	\$ 963,935	\$ (131,095)	-11.97%
OTHER STATE ASSESSMENT EXPENSES					
EXPENSES	\$ 22,267	\$ 9,282	\$ 18,675	\$ (3,592)	-16.13%
TOTAL OTHER STATE ASSESSMENTS	\$ 22,267	\$ 9,282	\$ 18,675	\$ (3,592)	-16.13%
OTHER REGIONAL ASSESSMENT					
EXPENSES	\$ 32,733	\$ 15,736	\$ 23,473	\$ (9,260)	-28.29%
TOTAL REGIONAL ASSESSMENT	\$ 32,733	\$ 15,736	\$ 23,473	\$ (9,260)	-28.29%
PENSION					
EXPENSES	\$ 2,052,984	\$ 2,052,984	\$ 2,101,010	\$ 48,026	2.34%
TOTAL PENSION	\$ 2,052,984	\$ 2,052,984	\$ 2,101,010	\$ 48,026	2.34%
WORKERS COMPENSATION					
EXPENSES	\$ 163,100	\$ 141,021	\$ 162,000	\$ (1,100)	-0.67%
TOTAL WORKERS COMPENSATION	\$ 163,100	\$ 141,021	\$ 162,000	\$ (1,100)	-0.67%
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
EXPENSES	\$ 50,000	\$ 3,293	\$ 50,000	\$ -	0.00%
TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	\$ 50,000	\$ 3,293	\$ 50,000	\$ -	0.00%
HEALTH INSURANCE - EMPLOYER					
EXPENSES	\$ 2,211,855	\$ 1,078,424	\$ 2,371,102	\$ 159,247	7.20%
TOTAL HEALTH INSURANCE-EMPLOYER	\$ 2,211,855	\$ 1,078,424	\$ 2,371,102	\$ 159,247	7.20%
LIFE INSURANCE - EMPLOYER					
EXPENSES	\$ 13,000	\$ 7,559	\$ 13,000	\$ -	0.00%
TOTAL LIFE INSURANCE EMPLOYER	\$ 13,000	\$ 7,559	\$ 13,000	\$ -	0.00%
MEDICARE TAX					
EXPENSES	\$ 244,700	\$ 126,976	\$ 239,850	\$ (4,850)	-1.98%
TOTAL MEDICARE TAX	\$ 244,700	\$ 126,976	\$ 239,850	\$ (4,850)	-1.98%
PROPERTY / LIABILITY INSURANCE					
EXPENSES	\$ 318,000	\$ 313,366	\$ 354,484	\$ 36,484	11.47%
TOTAL PROPERTY/LIABILITY INSURANCE	\$ 318,000	\$ 313,366	\$ 354,484	\$ 36,484	11.47%
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 895,847	\$ 895,847	\$ -	\$ (895,847)	-100.00%
TOTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 895,847	\$ 895,847	\$ -	\$ (895,847)	-100.00%
TRANSFERS					
TRANSFER OUT	\$ -	\$ 240,593	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTAL TRANSFERS	\$ -	\$ 240,593	\$ -	\$ -	
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 16,897,271	\$ 9,780,314	\$ 16,744,246	\$ (132,570)	-0.78%

USUAL AND CUSTOMARY WATER ENTERPRISE ARTICLE

ARTICLE 11 Water Enterprise

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,012,542.48 for direct costs of the Water Department Enterprise Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and that indirect costs of \$193,815.15 appropriated in the general government budget be funded by Water Receipts, or act in relation thereto.

(submitted by the Town Manager)

(Majority Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0
FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by Majority Vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,012,542.48 for direct costs of the Water Department Enterprise Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and that indirect costs of \$193,815.15 appropriated in the general government budget be funded by Water Receipts.

Yes-86% No-14% 8:38pm

USUAL AND CUSTOMARY WASTEWATER ENTERPRISE ARTICLE

ARTICLE 12 Wastewater Enterprise

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,447,534 (Wastewater Receipts of \$1,002,124 and Betterment Revenues of \$445,410) for the direct costs of the Wastewater Treatment Department Enterprise Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and that indirect costs of \$173,097.40 appropriated in the general government budget be funded by Wastewater Receipts, or act in relation thereto.

(submitted by the Town Manager)

(Majority Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0
FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by Majority to appropriate the sum of \$1,447,534 (Wastewater Receipts of \$1,002,124 and Betterment Revenues of \$445,410) for the direct costs of the Wastewater Treatment Department Enterprise Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and that indirect costs of \$173,097.40 appropriated in the general government budget be funded by Wastewater Receipts.

Yes-87% No-13% 8:40pm

USUAL AND CUSTOMARY TRANSFER STATION ENTERPRISE ARTICLES

ARTICLE 13 Transfer Station Enterprise

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$242,337 from Transfer Station Receipts for direct costs of the Transfer Station Enterprise Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023; and that indirect costs of \$13,761.34 appropriated in the general government budget be funded by Transfer Station Receipts, or act in relation thereto.

(submitted by the Town Manager)

(Majority Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0
FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by Majority Vote to appropriate the sum of \$242,337 from Transfer Station Receipts for direct costs of the Transfer Station Enterprise Fund for the Fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023; and that indirect costs of \$13,761.34 appropriated in the general government budget be funded by Transfer Station Receipts.

Yes-88%

No-13% 8:42pm

CABLE PUBLIC ACCESS ENTERPRISE ARTICLES

ARTICLE 14 Cable Public Access Enterprise Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$111,300 to operate the Public, Education, and Governmental Access Media enterprise for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, or take any other action thereto.

(submitted by the Town Manager)

(Majority Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0
FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by Majority Vote to raise from enterprise receipts the sum of \$111,300 to operate the Public Education and Governmental Access Media Enterprise for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, of which \$35,000 is appropriated for personnel costs and \$76,300 is appropriated for expenses.

Yes-82%

No-18% 8:44pm

USUAL AND CUSTOMARY EDUCATION BUDGET ARTICLE

ARTICLE 15 School Department Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of \$16,983,226 (Required Net School Spending of \$20,130,691 plus \$50,000 of the prior year's override that includes an escalator in increased funding less \$3,197,464.94 for net school spending and eligible indirect costs budgeted in the general government budget for School Expenses) for the operating budget of the Winchendon Public Schools for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, or act in relation thereto.

(submitted by the School Committee)

(Majority Vote Required)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE: BOARD OF SELECTMEN:RECOMMEND 5-0
FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by Majority Vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,983,226 (Required Net School Spending of \$20,130,691 plus \$50,000 of the prior year's override that includes an escalator in increased funding less \$3,197,464.94 for net school spending and eligible indirect costs budgeted in the general budget for School Expenses) for the operating budget of the Winchendon Public Schools for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023.

Yes-75% No-25% 8:47pm

ANNUAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL ASSESSMENT **ARTICLE**

ARTICLE 16 Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$706,060 to fund the Town's assessment for its share of the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, or act in relation thereto.

(submitted by the Town Manager)

(Majority Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0
FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by Majority Vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$706,060 to fund the Town's assessment for its share of the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023.

Yes-73% No-27% 8:48pm

CAPITAL ARTICLES

ARTICLE 17 Appropriation - Capital Improvements for Fiscal Year 2024 – Free Cash

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$224,750 and that the Town be authorized to accept any available grant funds, for the purposes of funding the following capital requests, or take any other action relative thereto.

Department	Description	Amount
BOS/TM	Blair Sq. Phase 3 Pre-Design	\$130,000
DPW	Grove St Parking Lot	\$21,750
DPW	Salt Brine System	\$30,000
DPW	Generator House	\$17,000
Fire	SCBA Replacement Phase 1	\$26,000

(submitted by the Capital Planning Committee)

(Majority vote required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0
FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

*Voted: Passed by Majority Vote to approve Article 17 as printed.
Yes-83% No-17% 8:51pm*

**ARTICLE 18 Appropriation – Capital Improvements for Fiscal Year 2024 –
Five Year Borrowing**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow the sum of \$784,181 for the purposes of funding the following capital requests, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, be authorized to borrow under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Sections 7 or 8 of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, or take any other action relative thereto.

Department	Description	Total Amount	Annual Payment*
BOS/TM	Town Hall Repairs Phase 1 (East)	\$250,000	\$52,500
DPW	6 Wheel Dump (Mack)	\$244,181	\$51,278
Recreation	WCP Barn Exterior	\$140,000	\$29,400
Schools	High School Parking Lot	\$150,000	\$31,500

Intended to demonstrate impact of estimated interest

(submitted by the Capital Planning Committee)
Two-Thirds vote required)

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0
FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0**

*Voted: Passed by 2/3 Vote to borrow the sum of \$784,181 and approve Article 18 as printed.
Yes-73% No-27% 8:53pm*

**ARTICLE 19 Appropriation – Capital Improvements for Fiscal Year 2024
Transfer Station Enterprise Fund – Ten Year Borrowing**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow the sum of \$223,411 for the purposes of funding the following capital requests, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, be authorized to borrow under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Sections 7 or 8 of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, or take any other action relative thereto.

Department	Description	Total Amount	Annual Payment
Transfer Station	Roll Off Truck	\$223,411	\$24,000*

*Intended to demonstrate impact of estimated interest

(submitted by the Capital Planning Committee) **(Two-Thirds Vote Required)**

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0
FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by 2/3 Vote to borrow the sum of \$223,411 and approve Article 19 as printed, provided however, that while these will be general bonds of the Town it is anticipated that the principal and interest for the same will be paid from the Transfer Station Enterprise.

Yes-75% No-25% 8:54pm

ARTICLE 20 Appropriation – Capital Improvements for Fiscal Year 2024 Water Enterprise Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow the sum of \$98,884 for the purposes of funding the following capital requests, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, be authorized to borrow under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Sections 7 or 8 of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, or take any other action relative thereto.

Department	Description	Total Amount	Annual Payment
Water Dep.	Service Truck	\$98,884	\$20,700*

*Intended to demonstrate impact of estimated interest

(submitted by the Capital Planning Committee) (Two-Thirds Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0
FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by 2/3 Vote to borrow the sum of \$98,884 and approve Article 20 as printed.

Yes-74% No-26% 8:56pm

ARTICLE 21 Appropriation - Capital Improvements for Fiscal Year 2024 – Grants/Other Sources

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$136,918 and that the Town be authorized to accept any available grant funds, for the purposes of funding the following capital requests, or take any other action relative thereto.

Department	Description	Total Amount	Grant Source
Police	Police Cruiser Replacement	\$136,918	911 Grant

(submitted by the Capital Planning Committee) (Majority vote required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0
FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by Majority Vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$136,918 and approve Article 21 as printed.

Yes-84% No-16% 8:57pm

ARTICLE 22 Appropriation – Paving Plan – Free Cash

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$550,000 and that the Town be authorized to accept any available grant funds, for the purposes of funding a portion of the Fiscal Year 2024 Paving Plan, or take any other action relative thereto.

(submitted by the Capital Planning Committee) (Majority Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 4-1

Voted: Passed by Majority Vote to approve Article 22 as printed.

Yes-65% No-35% 9:01pm

ARTICLE 23 Appropriation – Paving Plan – 5 Year Borrowing

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow the sum of \$450,000 for the purposes of funding a portion of the Fiscal Year 2024 Paving Plan, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, be authorized to borrow under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Sections 7 or 8 of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, or take any other action relative thereto.

(submitted by the Capital Planning Committee) (Two-Thirds Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by 2/3 Vote to borrow the sum of \$450,000 and approve Article 23 as printed.

Yes-79% No-21% 9:03pm

ARTICLE 24 Appropriation – Cemetery Perpetual Care – Leaf Loader

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds the sum of \$12,250 for the purposes of funding the purchase of a Leaf Loader, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, be authorized to borrow under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Sections 7 or 8 of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, or take any other action relative thereto.

(submitted by the Capital Planning Committee) (Majority Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by Majority Vote to transfer from cemetery Perpetual Care Fund the sum of \$12,250 and approve Article 24 as written.

Yes-81% No-19% 9:04pm

ARTICLE 25 Appropriation – Cemetery Perpetual Care – Cemetery Expansion
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds the sum of \$50,000 for the purposes of funding the expansion of the Town Cemetery on existing town-owned land, or take any other action relative thereto.

(submitted by the Town Manager)

(Majority Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by Majority Vote to transfer from the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund the sum of \$50,000 to expand the Town Cemetery on existing Town-owned property, and, to approve Article 25 as printed.

Yes-80% No-20% 9:06pm

ARTICLE 26 Zoning Bylaws

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 9 of the Zoning Bylaws of the Town of Winchendon, entitled "Signs," by deleting the current Chapter 9 and inserting in its place a new chapter regulating the use of signs in Winchendon, as recommended by the Planning Board in a document entitled "2023 Proposed Zoning Bylaw Revisions" on file in the office of the Town Clerk and available on the Town's website at <http://www.townofwinchendon.com>.

(submitted by Planning Board)

(Two-Thirds Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RECOMMEND 5-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

PLANNING BOARD: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed by 2/3 Vote to amend Chapter 9 of the Zoning Bylaws of the Town of Winchendon, entitled "Signs", by deleting the current Chapter 9 and inserting in its place a new chapter regulating the use of signs in Winchendon, as recommended by the Planning Board and shown in the document entitled "2023 Proposed Zoning Bylaw Revisions" on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

Yes-87% No-13% 9:14pm

ARTICLE 27 Authorization – Stormwater Asset Management Project

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$135,625 for the 2023 Clean Water State Revolving Fund Asset Management Planning total project cost of \$135,625 for the Winchendon Stormwater Asset Management Project. The total project cost of \$135,625 is comprised of a \$81,375 grant (60% of the total project cost) which will be paid to the Town as a reimbursement from MassDEP and the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust. The balance of the project will be comprised of in-kind services provided by the Town valued at \$15,000 and a cash contribution from remaining funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) valued at \$39,250; and to take any other action relative thereto.

(submitted by the Town Manager)

(Majority Vote Required)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN:RECOMMEND 5-0

FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOMMEND 5-0

Voted: Passed that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$135,625 and approve Article 27 as printed.

Yes-87% No-13% 9:16pm

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted and passed unanimously to adjourn the Town Meeting 9:16pm

You are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof at the several places designated by the bylaws of the Town of Winchendon seven days at least before the time of holding such meeting and by mailing a copy of this warrant to each household in Winchendon in which a registered voter resides or by publication of the same in a newspaper of local distribution as required by said bylaws.

Hereof, fail not and make due return of said warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of the meeting aforesaid. Given under our hands and seal this 24th day of April 2023.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

Audrey LaBrie, Chairman
Rick Ward, Vice-Chairman
Barbara Anderson
Danielle LaPointe
Amy Salter

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2023**

Worcester, ss:

To either of the Constables in the Town of Winchendon, in the County of Worcester,

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Winchendon qualified to vote in town elections and town affairs to meet at the MURDOCK MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL, 3 Memorial Drive, off Elmwood Road in said Winchendon on

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023
AT 7:00 P.M.**

It was determined after the warrant was posted that the free cash was not certified and the Town Meeting was planned to be postponed to a future date. On Monday, November 13, 2023 at 7:00pm, the Town Moderator-Coral Grout and myself Town Clerk-Wendy Stevens met at the Murdock Middle/High School. The Moderator called the Special Town Meeting to order and announced "seeing no quorum, this meeting is cancelled and continued to December 11, 2023" at 7:01pm.

On December 11, we met at the Murdock Middle/High School at 7:00pm. The Special Town Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm with a quorum present of 155 registered voters. Attorney Jonathan Murray was present representing Town Counsel-KP Law. After allowing for more voters to check-in, Moderator Grout announced the Pledge of Allegiance to be conducted. Board of Selectmen Chair Audrey LaBrie introduced new Town Manager Bill McKinney and Attorney Jonathan Murray from KP Law.

then and there to act on the following articles:

REPORTS AND COMMITTEES

ARTICLE 1

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the reports of the Finance Committee, and any other Board or

Committee, or act in relation thereto. (Usual and customary article)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 4-0-0 RECOMMEND

FINANCE COMMITTEE: 7-0-0 RECOMMEND

Finance Committee Chairman Tom Kane presented the Finance Committee report- Free cash is not certified, therefore all the free cash money articles will be passed over.

VOTED: Approved by Majority that the vote to hear and act on the report of the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen.

Yes: 85% NO: 15% Passed by Majority at 7:15pm

ARTICLE 2

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$193,469.01 for the payment of bills of a prior fiscal year as follows:

Fiscal Year	Name	<u>Invoice Amount</u>
FY2023	Point Software	\$ 3,913.00
FY2023	Safeguard Business System	\$ 799.34
FY2023	Law Office of Iris Leahy	\$ 560.00
FY2023	M.I.I.A	\$ 187,876.73
FY2023	Verizon	\$ 319.94
Total		\$ 193,469.01

or act in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Town Manager) **Nine-tenths vote required**

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 3-1-0 No Vote At This Time

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

An Amendment was made and seconded to change the funding source from Free Cash to Stabilization.

Yes: 91% No: 9% Amendment passed at 7:20pm

Article was read with the Amendment

Yes: 88% No 12% Amended Article Failed due to 9/10ths vote required

A request was made to reconsider the Article stating if unpaid bills remain unpaid, it may cause a termination of the employee's health insurance.

The vote to reconsider

Yes: 91% No: 9% Voted to reconsider passed at 7:24pm

Final vote was taken: Approved by 9/10th Vote to Transfer from Stabilization Fund the sum of \$193,469.01 for the payment of prior year bills as outlined in the Special Town Meeting Warrant:

Fiscal Year	Name	<u>Invoice Amount</u>
FY2023	Point Software	\$ 3,913.00
FY2023	Safeguard Business System	\$ 799.34
FY2023	Law Office of Iris Leahy	\$ 560.00
FY2023	M.I.I.A	\$ 187,876.73
FY2023	Verizon	\$ 319.94

Total **\$ 193,469.01**
Yes: 92% No: 8% Passed by 9/10th Majority at 7:26pm

FINANCIAL ARTICLES

ARTICLE 3

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the amount of \$ 118,555.00 to the OPEB Trust Account that was established to mitigate the Town's liability for Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB), or act in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Finance Committee)

Majority Vote Required

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 3-0-1 Not Recommend

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Motion was made to Pass over

Yes: 90% No: 10% Passed Over at 7:28pm

ARTICLE 4

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of General Laws Chapter 40, Section 13D relative to establishing a reserve fund for future contractual separation payments upon the termination of a town employee or officer's employment, and further to see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$50,000 to such a Reserve Account established to mitigate the Town's liability for Contractual Separation Pay-outs, or act in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Finance Committee)

Majority Vote Required

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 3-0-1 Not Recommend At This Time

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Motion was made to Pass Over

Yes: 93% No: 7% Passed over at 7:28pm

ARTICLE 5

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of money to the Stabilization Fund, or act in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Finance Committee)

Majority Vote Required

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 3-0-1 Not Recommend At This Time FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Motion was made to Pass Over

Yes: 93% No: 7% Passed Over at 7:29pm

ARTICLE 6

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the additional sum of \$60,000.00 to be added to the Fire Department Houseman account to pay for phase one of a Wage Scale Adjustment, or act in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Town Manager)

Majority Vote Required

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 4-0-0 No Vote At This Time FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Motion was made to Pass Over

Yes: 90% No: 10% Passed Over at 7:30pm

ARTICLE 7

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the additional sum of \$126,245.00 to the Fire Department Spare Houseman account to pay for the additional staffing needed to cover multiple emergency calls, or act in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Town Manager)

Majority Vote Required

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 3-1-0 No Vote At This Time FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Motion was made to Pass Over

Yes: 90% No: 10% Passed Over at 7:31pm

ARTICLE 8

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow the sum of \$442,551.00 for the purposes of purchasing and equipping an ambulance (with an estimated 18-month delivery time) to replace the current 2016 Freightliner ambulance, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board

of Selectmen, be authorized to borrow under and pursuant to Chapter 44 of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, or act in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Town Manager)

2/3 Vote Required

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 4-0-0 RECOMMEND
FINANCE COMMITTEE: 4-3-0 RECOMMEND

VOTED: Approved by 2/3 Vote Required that the Town vote to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow the sum of \$442,551.00 for the purposes of purchasing and equipping an ambulance (with an estimated 18-month delivery time) to replace the current 2016 Freightliner ambulance, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, be authorized to borrow under and pursuant to Chapter 44 of the General Laws, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.

Yes: 82% No: 18% Passed by 2/3 Vote Required at 7:42pm

ARTICLE 9

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the additional sum of \$35,000 to the DPW & Fire Department vehicle repair account, or act in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Town Manager)

Majority Vote Required

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 3-0-1 RECOMMEND
FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Motion was made to Pass Over

Yes: 90% No: 10% Passed Over at 7:43pm

ARTICLE 10

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$158,754.00 from Free Cash, to supplement previously appropriated ARPA funds, for the purpose of funding the purchase of the Fire Department apparatus fire equipment known as Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus ("S.C.B.A."), and all related expenses and costs, or act in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Town Manager)

Majority Vote Required

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 2-1-1 RECOMMEND

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Motion was made to Pass Over

Yes: 91% No: 9% Passed Over at 7:44pm

ARTICLE 11

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$140,000.00, which was previously approved pursuant to a vote under Article 18 of the May 15, 2023 Annual Town Meeting for purpose of funding the Recreation Department - Winchendon Community Park Barn Exterior Project, for the new purpose of funding the Blair Square Project, or act in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Town Manager)

2/3 Vote Required

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 4-0-0 RECOMMEND

FINANCE COMMITTEE: 7-0-0 RECOMMEND

Voted: Approved by 2/3 Vote Required that the Town transfer the sum of \$140,000.00, which was previously approved pursuant to a vote under Article 18 of the May 15, 2023 Annual Town Meeting for purpose of funding the Recreation Department - Winchendon Community Park Barn Exterior Project, for the new purpose of funding the Blair Square Project.

Yes: 80% No: 20% Passed by 2/3 Vote Required

REQUEST TO TRANSFER/ACQUIRE PROPERTY

ARTICLE 12 Lincoln Avenue – Town to the Redevelopment Authority

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the board or commission having the care, custody and control of certain property located at Lincoln Avenue, shown as Assessors Map 2-0-77 and described in a deed recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 50638 Page 37, to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes and the purpose of conveyance, and authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey said property to the Winchendon Redevelopment Authority, for such consideration, which may be nominal consideration, and upon such other terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate, and to take such additional action as may be needed to effectuate the purposes of this vote, including but not limited to execution of instruments and documents to convey said property, or act in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Town Manager)

2/3 Vote Required

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 4-0-0 RECOMMEND

FINANCE COMMITTEE: 7-0-0 RECOMMEND

Voted: Approved by 2/3 Vote Required that the Town to transfer from the board or commission having the care, custody and control of certain property located at Lincoln

Avenue, shown as Assessors Map 2-0-77 and described in a deed recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 50638 Page 37, to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes and the purpose of conveyance, and authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey said property to the Winchendon Redevelopment Authority, for such consideration, which may be nominal consideration, and upon such other terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate, and to take such additional action as may be needed to effectuate the purposes of this vote, including but not limited to execution of instruments and documents to convey said property.

Yes: 89% No: 11% Passed by 2/3 Vote Required

ARTICLE 13 Conveyance to Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center, Inc. for Veterans Housing

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey the Town-owned property located at Oak Street, and shown as Assessors Map 5B2-0-117, being a portion of the Poland and Streeter Schools property, for nominal consideration, to Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center, Inc., or its nominee, being the remaining portion of the property described in a deed recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 742, Page 492, and authorized for conveyance by Article 13 of the October 28, 2019 Special Town Meeting, upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate, and to take such additional action as may be needed to effectuate the purposes of this vote, including but not limited to execution of instruments and documents to convey said property, or act in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Town Manager)

Majority Vote Required

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 3-0-1 RECOMMEND
FINANCE COMMITTEE: 7-0-0 RECOMMEND**

Voted: Approved by Majority Vote the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey the Town-owned property located at Oak Street, and shown as Assessors Map 5B2-0-117, being a portion of the Poland and Streeter Schools property, for nominal consideration, to Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center, Inc., or its nominee, being the remaining portion of the property described in a deed recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 742, Page 492, and authorized for conveyance by Article 13 of the October 28, 2019 Special Town Meeting, upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate, and to take such additional action as may be needed to effectuate the purposes of this vote, including but not limited to execution of instruments and documents to convey said property.

Yes: 97% No: 3% Passed by Majority at 7:56pm

ARTICLE 14: Property Exchange for Bicycle Path

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the care, custody and control of a Town-owned parcel of land containing 100 square feet, more or less, being a portion of the property located at Spruce Street identified as Assessors' Map 5B3-0-173 and acquired by the Town by a deed recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 154, Page 98, said property shown on a sketch plan on file with the Town Clerk, from the Board of Selectmen or other board or officer having custody thereof for the purpose for which said parcel is currently held to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes and for the purpose of conveyance, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey said parcel on such terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Board of Selectmen deems in the best interests of the Town, including, without limitation, in exchange for a parcel of land containing 749 square feet, more or less, being a portion of the property located at Central Street, identified as Assessor's Map 5A3-0-353, said property shown on a sketch plan on file with the Town Clerk, for general municipal purposes; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments on behalf of the Town as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the foregoing, or act in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Town Manager)

2/3 Vote Required

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 4-0-0 RECOMMEND
FINANCE COMMITTEE: 7-0-0 RECOMMEND

Voted: Approved by 2/3 Vote Required to transfer the care, custody and control of a Town-owned parcel of land containing 100 square feet, more or less, being a portion of the property located at Spruce Street identified as Assessors' Map 5B3-0-173 and acquired by the Town by a deed recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Book 154, Page 98, said property shown on a sketch plan on file with the Town Clerk, from the Board of Selectmen or other board or officer having custody thereof for the purpose for which said parcel is currently held to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes and for the purpose of conveyance, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey said parcel on such terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Board of Selectmen deems in the best interests of the Town, including, without limitation, in exchange for a parcel of land containing 749 square feet, more or less, being a portion of the property located at Central Street, identified as Assessor's Map 5A3-0-353, said property shown on a sketch plan on file with the Town Clerk, for general municipal purposes; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments on behalf of the Town as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the foregoing.

Yes: 90% No: 10% Passed by 2/3 Vote Required at 7:58pm

GENERAL BUSINESS ARTICLES

ARTICLE 15

To see if the Town will vote to accept the list of public way the roadways known as, and listed on file in the office of the Town Clerk, and available on the Town's website at <http://www.townofwinchendon.com/> and authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain, the fee to and/or easements in said for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Winchendon and any drainage, access, utility and/or other easements related thereto, or act in relation thereto.
(Submitted by the Town Manager)

Majority Vote Required – Unless road is not shown on a subdivision road approved by the Planning Board, in which case the vote is 2/3

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 4-0-0 RECOMMEND

FINANCE COMMITTEE: 7-0-0 RECOMMEN

PLANNING BOARD: 5-0-0 RECOMMEND

Voted: Approved by 2/3 Vote Required to accept the list of public way the roadways known as, and listed on file in the office of the Town Clerk, and available on the Town's website at <http://www.townofwinchendon.com/> and authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain, the fee to and/or easements in said for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Winchendon and any drainage, access, utility and/or other easements related thereto.

Yes: 89% No: 11% Passed by 2/3 Vote Required at 8:07pm

List of roads shown below:

Street Name	Surface Width/ FT	Length/FT	House Start	House Stop	Book	Page/Plan	Entire Street	Property Name
Non Sub Divison Roads								
COMMERCIAL DRIVE	27	786			45928	206	X	Hill View Buisness Park
HILLSIDE DRIVE	20	330			230	105	X	Monomonoc Lake Shores, Inc.
JEFFERSON AVENUE	22	336			303	77	X	Adams Avenue Project
SHADY GLEN TERRACE	22	427			230	92	X	Monomonoc Lake Shores, Inc.
SUMMER DRIVE	22	548	5	25	407	65		
SUNNY COVE ROAD	22	297			203	68	X	
WENDELL DRIVE	24	420			545	86	X	
MAPLE PLACE B	20	141			290	53	X	
Sub Divison Roads								
BLUE BIRD RD	24	415			576	16	X	Benjamin Hill Estates
LOON ROAD	24	306			576	16	X	Benjamin Hill Estates
PHYLLIS ROAD	24	960			620	9	X	Sandy Heights
CHASE LANE	24	1032			701	69	X	Sandy Heights
CONVERSE DRIVE	24	3220			617	120	X	Winchendon Heights
PRENTICE CIRCLE	24	757			617	120	X	Winchendon Heights
KING PHILLIP WAY	24	1048			617	120	X	Winchendon Heights
HAPGOOD ROAD	24	2327			617	120	X	Winchendon Heights

OTHER ARTICLES

ARTICLE 16

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to G.L. c.43B, §10(a) to amend the Town Charter as recommended by the Charter Bylaw Review Committee in a document entitled, "2021 Proposed Charter Revisions", on file in the office of the Town Clerk and available on the Town's website at <http://www.townofwinchendon.com/>, with text to be inserted underlined and text to be deleted shown in the margins; revisions include but are not limited to: ministerial and clerical amendments such as grammar, capitalization, gender neutrality, internal consistency, and references to and updates based upon state law and other matters; or act in relation thereto.

(Submitted by Charter Bylaw Review Committee in 2021 – Revote needed)

2/3 vote required

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 4-0-0 RECOMMEND

FINANCE COMMITTEE: 7-0-0 RECOMMEND

Explanation: This article passed at ATM of May 2021 and was returned approved by the Attorney General's office. It was required to be placed on the next Town Elections Ballot and was not; therefore, at the guidance of Town Counsel, the article is being resubmitted at Town Meeting the Fall 2023.

Voted: Approved by 2/3 Vote Required Vote Town will vote pursuant to G.L. c.43B, §10(a) to amend the Town Charter as recommended by the Charter Bylaw Review Committee in a document entitled, "2021 Proposed Charter Revisions", on file in the office of the Town Clerk and available on the Town's website at <http://www.townofwinchendon.com/>, with text to be inserted underlined and text to be deleted shown in the margins; revisions include but are not limited to: ministerial and clerical amendments such as grammar, capitalization, gender neutrality, internal consistency, and references to and updates based upon state law and other matters; or act in relation thereto.

Yes: 83% No: 17% Passed by 2/3 Vote Required at 8:11pm

ARTICLE 17

To see if the Town shall accept the renumbering and revision of the Zoning Bylaw of the Town from its original numbering, as amended through May 15, 2023, to the numbering or codification, arrangement, sequence and captions and the comprehensive revisions to the text of the Zoning Bylaw as set forth in the Final Draft of the Code of the Town of Winchendon, dated September 28, 2023; said codification of the Zoning Bylaw having been done under the direction of the Planning Board, and being a compilation and comprehensive revision of the present Zoning Bylaw, including amendments thereto. The Zoning Bylaw shall be codified as Chapter 300 of the "Code of the Town of Winchendon, Massachusetts." or act in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Town Manager)

2/3 Vote Required

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 4-0-0 RECOMMEND AS AMENDED TO UPDATE
THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE CODE TO BE DATED OCTOBER 24, 2023**

FINANCE COMMITTEE: 7-0-0 RECOMMEND PLANNING BOARD: 3-0-0

An Amendment was made to change the date from September 28, 2023 to October 24, 2023.

Vote on the Amendment was Yes: 89% No: 11% Amendment Passed at 8:15pm

Article was Voted with Amendment:

Approved by 2/3 Vote required to see if the Town shall accept the renumbering and revision of the Zoning Bylaw of the Town from its original numbering, as amended through May 15, 2023, to the numbering or codification, arrangement, sequence and captions and the comprehensive revisions to the text of the Zoning Bylaw as set forth in the Final Draft of the Code of the Town of Winchendon, dated October 24, 2023; said codification of the Zoning Bylaw having been done under the direction of the Planning Board, and being a compilation and comprehensive revision of the present Zoning Bylaw, including amendments thereto. The Zoning Bylaw shall be codified as Chapter 300 of the "Code of the Town of Winchendon, Massachusetts."

Yes: 85% No: 15% Passed by 2/3 Vote Required at 8:17pm

ARTICLE 18

To see if the Town shall accept the renumbering and revision of the various bylaws of the Town from their original numbering or their numbering in the former General Bylaw compilation, as amended through May 15, 2023, to the numbering or codification, arrangement, sequence and captions and the comprehensive revisions to the text of the General Bylaws as set forth in the Final Draft of the Code of the Town of Winchendon, dated September 28, 2023; said codification having been done under the direction of the Board of Selectmen and Town Attorney, and said Code being a compilation and comprehensive revision of the present bylaws of the Town. All bylaws of a general and permanent nature, as amended, heretofore in force and not included in the Code shall be repealed, except that such repeal shall not affect any suit or proceeding pending as the result of an existing law, and such repeal shall not apply to or affect any bylaw, order or article heretofore adopted accepting or adopting the provisions of any statute of the Commonwealth. These bylaws shall be referred to as the "Code of the Town of Winchendon, Massachusetts." or act in relation thereto.

(Submitted by the Town Manager)

Majority Vote Required

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 4-0-0 RECOMMEND
FINANCE COMMITTEE: 7-0-0 RECOMMEND**

Voted: Approved by Majority that the Town shall accept the renumbering and revision of the various bylaws of the Town from their original numbering or their numbering in the former General Bylaw compilation, as amended through May 15, 2023, to the numbering or codification, arrangement, sequence and captions and the

comprehensive revisions to the text of the General Bylaws as set forth in the Final Draft of the Code of the Town of Winchendon, dated September 28, 2023; said codification having been done under the direction of the Board of Selectmen and Town Attorney, and said Code being a compilation and comprehensive revision of the present bylaws of the Town. All bylaws of a general and permanent nature, as amended, heretofore in force and not included in the Code shall be repealed, except that such repeal shall not affect any suit or proceeding pending as the result of an existing law, and such repeal shall not apply to or affect any bylaw, order or article heretofore adopted accepting or adopting the provisions of any statute of the Commonwealth. These bylaws shall be referred to as the "Code of the Town of Winchendon, Massachusetts."

Yes: 87% No: 13% Passed by Majority at 8:20pm

ARTICLE 19

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 43B, Section 10(a), to amend the Town Charter to rename the Board of Selectmen as the "Select Board," and, for such purposes, to replace the words "Board of Selectmen" or "Selectmen" with "Select Board", and replace the word "Selectman" with "Select Board member"; and further, to authorize the Town Clerk to make non-substantive ministerial revisions to ensure that gender issues in the Town Charter are revised to properly reflect such change in title; and further, that said "Select Board" and "Select Board member" shall have all powers and authority granted to the Board of Selectmen under any state law or special act; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

2/3 Vote Required

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 4-0-0 RECOMMEND

FINANCE COMMITTEE: 7-0-0 RECOMMEND

Voted: Failed by 2/3 Vote Required the Town will vote, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 43B, Section 10(a), to amend the Town Charter to rename the Board of Selectmen as the "Select Board," and, for such purposes, to replace the words "Board of Selectmen" or "Selectmen" with "Select Board", and replace the word "Selectman" with "Select Board member"; and further, to authorize the Town Clerk to make non-substantive ministerial revisions to ensure that gender issues in the Town Charter are revised to properly reflect such change in title; and further, that said "Select Board" and "Select Board member" shall have all powers and authority granted to the Board of Selectmen under any state law or special act.

Yes: 42% No: 58% Failed by 2/3 Vote Required at 8:28pm

ARTICLE 20

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General Bylaws to rename the Board of Selectmen as the "Select Board," and, for such purposes, to replace the words "Board of Selectmen" or "Selectmen" with "Select Board", and replace the word "Selectman" with "Select Board member"; and further, to authorize the Town Clerk to make non-substantive

ministerial revisions to ensure that gender issues in the General Bylaws are revised to properly reflect such change in title; and further, that said "Select Board" and "Select Board member" shall have all powers and authority granted to the Board of Selectmen under any state law or special act; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Submitted by Board of Selectmen)

Majority Vote Required

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 4-0-0 RECOMMEND
FINANCE COMMITTEE: 7-0-0 RECOMMEND**

Motion was made and Passed Over

Yes: 89% No: 11% Passed Over at 8:29pm

ARTICLE 21

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c. 44, § 54(b) to allow Town trust funds to be invested in accordance with G.L c.203C, the so-called "Prudent Investment Rule", or take any other action relative thereto.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

Majority Vote Required

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 4-0-0 RECOMMEND
FINANCE COMMITTEE: 7-0-0 RECOMMEND**

Voted: Approved by Majority Vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c. 44, § 54(b) to allow Town trust funds to be invested in accordance with G.L c.203C, the so-called "Prudent Investment Rule".

Yes: 81% No: 19% Passed by Majority Vote at 8:30pm

**ARTICLE 22 TEMPORARY SOLAR MORATORIUM NON-BINDING
REFERENDUM**

To see if the Town will seek to amend the Town's Zoning Bylaw by adding a new Section 6.11.19: Temporary Moratorium on the Construction of Solar Energy Collection Systems.

(Submitted by the Board of Selectmen)

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN: 4-0-0 NO VOTE
FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

This vote was basically a poll vote to see if there was interest in moving forward with a temporary solar moratorium.

Yes: 78% No: 22% Passed by Majority vote at 8:46pm

Motion to adjourn Passed and seconded at 8:46pm

You are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies thereof at the several places designated by the bylaws of the Town of Winchendon fourteen days at least

before the time of holding such meeting and by mailing a notice with information on how and where a copy of the warrant can be obtained and where it can be viewed (electronically and/or in person) to be mailed to each household owned or occupied by a registered voter of the Town. Immediately upon posting of the warrant, copies shall be provided to citizens on request and the warrant shall be posted on any Town electronic bulletin board and on the Town website as required by said bylaws.

Hereof, fail not and make due return of said warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of the meeting aforesaid. Given under our hands and seal this 23rd day of October, 2023

BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

Audrey LaBrie, Chair
Rick Ward, Vice-Chair
Barbara Anderson
Danielle LaPointe
Melissa Blanchard

REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT

In accordance with Chapter 41, Section 61 of the M.G.L., the following report reflects the change in Town debts, the receipts and expenditures of the General Fund and a statement of financial position for all funds for the period ended June 30, 2023

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Medina,
Town Accountant

	<u>Account #</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Account #</u>
<u>GENERAL FUND:</u>				
MWPAT Sewer 03-04	017102-591000	166,994		017512-591500
MWPAT Allonge 03-04a	017102-591000	50,099	-	017512-591500
USDA Water Route 140 (1/2)	017102-591000	7,348	11,227	017512-591500
Police Dept - Station Building	017102-591000	150,000	50,697	017512-591500
BANS	017102-591000	297,600	5,639	017512-592500
Fire Dept - Ladder Truck	017102-591000	65,000	12,809	017512-591500
		737,041	80,372	
<u>WATER FUND:</u>				
BANS	604503-591000	75,143	1,424	604503-591500
USDA Water System IMPR A11	604503-591000	29,172	25,212	604503-591500
USDA Water Route 140 (1/2)	604503-591000	7,348	11,227	604503-591500
		111,663	37,862	
<u>SEWER FUND:</u>				
MWPAT Sewer 02-05	654403-591000	175,683		654403-591500
MWPAT Sewer 01-22	654403-591000	218,316		654403-591500
USDA Pump Station Sewer 92-01	654403-591000	7,441	4,392	654403-591500
		401,440	4,392	
Debt Payments - Town (Above)		1,250,144	122,626	
L/T Debt Payments - State Subsidy		106,260	-	
S/T Debt Issued -Sally Port/Street Lights			-	
<u>Net Decrease in Debt</u>		<u>1,356,404</u>		

SUMMARY OF INDEBTEDNESS

	Beg Balance			Ending Balance
	7/1/2022	Increases	Decreases	6/30/2023
ShortTerm Debt	372,743	2,507,688	372,743	2,507,688
Long Term Debt	<u>5,021,289</u>	-	<u>1,099,690</u>	<u>3,921,599</u>
	<u>\$5,394,032</u>	2,507,688	1,472,433	<u>\$6,429,287</u>

TOWN OF WINCHENDON, MA
FY 23 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES
GENERAL FUND

<u>Budgeted Sources & Actual Receipts</u>			
	Final	Actual	
	Budget	Receipts	Variance
Real and Personal Property Taxes	14,279,515	13,211,436	(1,068,079)
Intergovernmental Revenues - State Aid	13,915,209	14,949,654	1,034,445
Motor Vehicle excise Taxes	1,251,798	1,247,300	(4,498)
In Lieu of Taxes	54,111	48,082	(6,029)
Cannabis Tax		223,064	
Meals Taxes	61,206	101,345	40,139
Licenses and Permits	183,952	237,195	53,243
Ambulance & Other Dept. Revenues	855,899	1,103,738	247,839
Penalties and interest on taxes	163,216	147,805	(15,411)
Fines and forfeits	23,410	33,194	9,784
Investment income	50,500	52,095	1,595
Appropriated from free cash & Other G/F Equity		-	-
Operating Transfers (Cemetery Trust)	3,444	3,444	-
Operating Transfers (Title V Liens)	16,747	16,747	-
Operating Transfers (Stab. - Infrastr.)	20,000	20,000	-
Operating Transfers (Other Funds)			-
Operating Transfers - indirect costs water	145,328	145,328	-
Operating Transfers - indirect costs sewer	135,363	135,363	-
Operating Transfers - indirect costs transfer station	9,457	9,457	-
Grand Total Sources	\$ 31,169,155	\$ 31,685,247	\$ 293,028

Appropriations & Actual Expenditures

General Government	Final <u>Budget</u>	Actual <u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Selectmen	25,240	16,397	8,843
Town Manager	252,288	323,316	71,028)
Finance Committee	43,360	41,346	2,014
General Government Special Articles	62,446	38,054	24,392
Accountant	133,582	133,337	245
Assessors	103,050	102,807	243
Treasurer	220,996	233,739	12,743)
Audit	40,000	38,500	1,500
Legal	45,000	45,906	(906)
Data Processing	56,900	56,900	-
Technology	110,380	120,529	10,149)
Communications Committee	50,172	23,212	26,960
Town Clerk	18,001	117,250	751
Registrar of Voters	66,263	51,206	15,057
Conservation Commission	24,800	13,902	10,898
Planning Board	6,850	2,700	4,150
Zoning Board of Appeals	1,500	600	900
Community Development	138,487	55,311	83,176
Town Hall	129,205	131,234	(2,029)
Property and Liability Insurance	318,000	316,148	1,852
	<u>1,946,520</u>	<u>1,862,393</u>	<u>84,127</u>
Public Safety			
Police Department	1,586,736	1,580,608	6,128
Dispatch	304,644	297,890	6,754
Fire Department	1,330,747	1,351,009	(20,262)
Ambulance	147,800	107,674	40,126
Land Use	121,712	125,309	(3,597)
Emergency Management	3,998	3,440	558
Animal Control	57,627	57,246	381
	<u>1,553,264</u>	<u>3,523,176</u>	<u>30,088</u>

	Final	Actual	
Education	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Variance</u>
School Budget	16,365,278	16,299,875	65,403
Bus Transportation & Crossing Guards	1,505,619	142,905	, 362,714
School Special Article - Prior Year Bills			-
Montachusett Regional District			
Assessment	702,108	702,108	-
	18,573,005	17,144,888	1,428,117
Public Works			
DPW	179,114	176,299	2,815
Highway Department	525,924	610,309	(84,385)
Fleet	262,480	280,314	(17,834)
Snow & Ice Removal	470,000	761,927	(291,927)
Street Lighting	38,500	43,738	(5,238)
Landfill	23,000	21,079	1,921
Cemetery	116,320	131,383	(15,063)
Tree Trimming	7,500	7,500	0
	1,622,838	2,032,549	(409,711)
Health and Human Services			
Health Department	61,775	57,310	4,465
Board of Health	7,105	4,365	2,740
Visiting Nurse	5,000	2,250	2,750
Council on Aging	221,436	229,554	(8,118)
Veterans Service	351,280	225,961	125,319
	646,596	519,440	127,156
Culture and Recreation			
Public Library	239,996	243,966	(3,970)
Recreation	4,050	3,887	163
Historical Commission	1,000	900	100
	245,046	248,753	(3,707)
Debt Service			
Debt Service Principal	692,370	590,547	101,823
Debt Service Interest	112,193	91,012	21,181
	804,563	681,559	123,004

State Assessments

State and County Assessments	\$ 1,146,430	1,111,629	34,801
	<u>\$ 1,146,430</u>	<u>\$ 1,111,629</u>	<u>\$ 34,801</u>

Pension and Fringe Benefits

Retirement	2,052,984	2,052,984	-
Workers' Compensation	163,100	141,335	21,765
Unemployment	50,000	19,495	30,505
Health Insurance	2,211,855	2,001,627	210,228
Life Insurance	13,000	15,625	(2,625)
Medicare	244,700	281,412	(36,712)
	<u>4,735,639</u>	<u>4,512,478</u>	<u>223,161</u>

Other Uses

Prior Year Deficits	-	-	-
Transfers Out - Enterprise			
Transfers Out - Spec Rev Funds	24,953	240,953	(216,000)
Transfers Out - Capital Project Funds	895,847	1,120,597	(224,750)
	<u>920,800</u>	<u>1,361,550</u>	<u>(440,750)</u>

Grand Total Uses

<u>34,194,701</u>	<u>\$ 32,998,416</u>	<u>\$ 1,196,285</u>
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WINCHENDON AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Winchendon Agricultural Commission is charged with promoting agricultural-based economic opportunities in town; acting as mediators, advocates, educators and/or negotiators on farming issues; working for the preservation of prime agricultural lands and pursuing all initiatives appropriate to creating a sustainable agricultural community. The positions are appointed by the Town Manager. The Commission consists of seven members and up to five alternates. Open positions exist, and we welcome new members.

The Commission re-organized in the fall of 2023, and is organized as follows: Jordyn Lynds, Chair, Sherri Haley, Vice Chair, Janet Lee, Taylor Field, Jake Catlin, Morgan Ruschioni. Alternate member is Alicia Trickett.

The Winchendon Farmer's Market (formerly the Toy Town Outdoor Market) is overseen by the Winchendon Agricultural Commission. The market was located at the American Legion Park on the corner of Front Street and Pleasant Street. This location has great visibility, and it was a successful year for our vendors. The Market was held late-May through early October, rain or shine, Thursdays from 4 – 7 P.M. and Saturdays from 10 – 1. Products and services offered included meat, produce, plants, crafts, baked goods and animal products. Some vendors accepted WIC and Senior Citizen coupons.

Collaboration between the Commission and the organizations Heal Winchendon and Growing Places is ongoing. We continue to work to address the "food desert" designation that was applied to Winchendon a few years ago.

The Commission is looking forward to a great year. The commission meets as needed at the Winchendon Town Hall. We hope you will stop by the Winchendon Farmer's Market and support our local farmers and craftspeople.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey LaBrie, Former Chair



ANIMAL CONTROL



2023 Annual Report for Winchendon Animal Control

Lt. Kevin Wolski	Animal Control Supervisor
Cassandra Tompkins	Senior Animal Control Officer
Sara Cadden	Animal Control Officer
Kristen Salerno	Animal Control Officer

Animal control for Winchendon is provided by the joint service of the Winchendon Templeton Regional Animal Control (WTRAC). The WTRAC aims to promote responsible pet ownership, prevent animal cruelty, and enforce animal-related laws and regulations. WTRAC provides enforcement of state and local animal control laws, as well as care and protection of domestic, wild, and farm animals for the towns of Winchendon and Templeton. The WTRAC Animal Control Officers (ACOs) are responsible for issuing citations for non-compliance; investigating animal cruelty cases; impounding stray or loose animals to be reunited with owners or adopted out; responding to emergency calls for both domestic and wild animals; and facilitating limited low-cost spay/neuter services through a partnership with the Mass Animal Fund. WTRAC ACOs also conduct kennel and barn inspections to ensure compliance with state and local regulations. WTRAC strives to educate the public about animal welfare and safety through social media, and community engagement.

The WTRAC frequently collaborates with other agencies and organizations, such as the Winchendon police, fire, and health departments; the Animal Rescue League of Boston; the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA); Massachusetts Environmental Police; and Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR).

2023 saw the acquisition of a new Animal Control shelter for both the town of Templeton and Winchendon which includes improved office, kennel, and storage space. The new location which is property of the town of Templeton located at 381 Baldwinville Rd., formerly housed the Ahimsa Haven and was allocated to the WTRAC at the end of 2023. The acquisition of this property was spearheaded by our dedicated ACOs Cassandra Tompkins, Sara Cadden, and Suzie Kowaleski (ret.). This shelter space is a considerable upgrade from the previous location on River St. in Winchendon and comes at no extra cost to the town of Winchendon. This greatly improved facility would not be possible without the cooperative efforts of Templeton Town Administrator Adam Lamontagne and Winchendon Town Manager Bill McKinney.

In 2023 WTRAC responded to 625 calls for service in Winchendon for the following categories:

Abuse / Neglect	22
Animal Complaint	65
Assistance	64
Barking Dog	20
Dog Bite	30
Farm / Wildlife	98
Investigations	153
Lost / Loose	171
<u>Rescue</u>	<u>2</u>
Total Animal Control Calls	625

The Town of Winchendon licensed 1,716 dogs in 2023 for which it received \$20,242 in licensing fees, and \$9,230 for fines issued. In comparison to 2022 there were twenty nine (29) fewer dogs registered with a \$197.00 increase in licensing revenues; and an increase in fines of \$1,960.00. There were only fifteen (15) impoundments for 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin E. Wolski, Lieutenant

WINCHENDON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Board holds public hearings on applications, in the form of an Administrative Appeal, from persons aggrieved because they were unable to obtain a building permit or an enforcement action from the Building Inspector related to interpretation(s) of the Winchendon Zoning Bylaws. Public hearings are also held on applications for Special Permits as provided for in the Zoning Bylaws as well as requests for Variances from certain, clearly specified, provisions of the Bylaws. The process takes a minimum of two months from the time of the application to the time of a signed decision. Hearings are held at regularly scheduled Board meetings on the third Wednesday evening of each month. The hearings must be published in a local newspaper at least 14 days before the hearing. Notices of the hearing, as well as the resulting decision, are sent by first class mail to all property owners on the same side of the street within 300 feet of the subject property as well as to those property owners located directly across the street of the subject property. After a decision is written, signed, and filed with the Town Clerk, parties aggrieved by the Board's decision have 20 days in which to appeal the decision in Superior Court.

The volunteer Board is composed of Chair Cynthia Carvill, members Richard Stancombe, Christine Miller, Teresa Tambling, Rob Bushay, alternates Thom Schotanus and Rick Morin Jr.

Brianna Roberts-Recording Secretary

Nicole Roberts-Planning and Land Use Coordinator

We are grateful that we have a full board along with 2 new alternates. Thank you to our Members who volunteer their time to be part of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The Zoning Board of Appeals held hearings to discuss the following:

February 15-

Special Permit and Variance- 6 Island Road, to increase the square footage of a Pre-existing non-conforming dwelling-continued until March 15, 2023

Variance- 102 Royalston Road North, request to allow for the housing of poultry within 100' of the property line-granted

- March 15-
Special Permit and Variance-6 Island Road, continued from February 15, 2023 to increase the square footage of a Pre-existing non-conforming dwelling-granted
Special Permit-33 Walnut Street, conversion of an existing 2 family dwelling to a 3 family dwelling-granted
- April 19-
Special Permit and Variance- 86 Ingleside Dr. construction of a new sign-granted
Special Permit-226 Lakeview Drive- for pre-existing non-conforming dwelling, raze and rebuild-granted
Special Permit-271-273 Central Street, to operate a non-profit cat shelter-granted
- October 18
Special Permit and Variance-6 Second Street, increase the square footage of an

Pre-existing non- conforming dwelling- hearing continued

- November 15
Meeting cancelled-no quorum
- December 20
Special Permit modification-6 Island Road, change house plans of the pre-existing non-conforming dwelling- granted Special Permit and Variance-6 Second Street-increase the square footage of a pre-Existing non-conforming dwelling- applicant withdrew the application without prejudice
Special Permit-16 Second Street, raze and rebuild single family dwelling- applicant withdrew the application without prejudice

Respectfully Submitted,

Zoning Board of Appeals Board

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The Town of Winchendon's tax rate decreased this year by \$1.71 per thousand dollars of valuation in FY23, with the tax rate being set at \$13.40. The tax rate has dropped incrementally over the last 6 fiscal years, representing the Town departments' impressive efforts to keep their budgets balanced. Valuations have continued to trend upward, reflecting a lively real estate market with limited inventory. Assessments must be maintained at or near their market valuation as per Department of Revenue (DOR) guidelines. They are based on a "full and fair cash value" of the property as of Jan. 1st, preceding each fiscal year. The Town of Winchendon's next cyclical revaluation will be in FY 2026.

On our recommendation, the Selectboard also voted to maintain a single tax shift factor of 1.000 with a corresponding CIP shift of 1.000. In layman's terms, this means we will continue to have a single tax rate for all property in town, including commercial, industrial, and personal property.

Arguably, the most important role of the Board is to generate equitable assessments. To that end, we continually strive to maintain an accurate property database and refine valuation tables and formulas that reflect both impartial and justifiable assessments.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Board of Assessors 2024
Harald Scheid — Chairman
Robert Heckman Jr. — Member

Fiscal Year 2023 Assessments and Property Tax Revenue Summary				
<i>Property Class</i>	<i>Levy %</i>	<i>Valuation by Class</i>	<i>Tax Rate</i>	<i>Tax Levy</i>
Residential	90.2150	\$ 955,944,048.00	\$ 13.40	\$ 12,809,648.70
Commercial	4.2670	\$ 45,214,592.00	\$ 13.40	\$ 605,872.31
Industrial	1.5385	\$ 16,302,500.00	\$ 13.40	\$ 218,451.97
Personal Property	3.9795	\$ 42,167,451.00	\$ 13.40	\$ 565,050.13
TOTALS	100.0000	\$ 1,059,628,591.00		\$ 14,199,023.11

Valuation and Tax History					
<i>Fiscal Yr</i>	<i>Tax Rate</i>	<i>Total Valuation</i>	<i>Accounts</i>	<i>Tax Levy</i>	<i>Change %</i>
2023	\$ 13.40	\$ 1,059,628,591.00	4,655	\$ 14,199,023.11	3.148
2022	\$ 15.11	\$ 911,032,946.00	4654	\$ 13,765,707.81	4.946
2021	\$ 15.72	\$ 834,412,776.00	4665	\$ 13,116,968.84	3.720

Abstract of Assessments			
<i>Property Class Code & Description</i>	<i>Accts</i>	<i>Class Valuation</i>	<i>Avg. Value</i>
101 Residential Single Family	2,902	\$ 817,338,660	\$ 281,646.68
102 Residential Condominiums	62	\$ 4,731,400	
Miscellaneous Residential	21	\$ 6,755,300	
104 Residential Two-Family	222	\$ 45,692,300	
105 Residential Three-Family	32	\$ 8,308,200	
111-125 Apartments	50	\$ 19,669,100	
130-132 & 106 Vacant Land	875	\$ 27,933,100	
300-393 Commercial	151	\$ 38,683,500	
400-452 Industrial	68	\$ 14,010,800	
501-552 Personal Property	52	\$ 42,167,451	
600-821 Chapter 61, 61A, 61B	161	\$ 1,168,460	
012-043 Mixed Use Properties	59	\$ 33,710,320	
TOTALS	4,655	\$ 1,059,628,591	
Exempt	388	\$ 142,222,630	

Assessor's Account for Exemptions and Abatements			
<i>Description</i>	<i>FY2023</i>	<i>FY2022</i>	<i>Fy2021</i>
Assessors' Overlay	\$ 93,546.15	\$ 123,311.89	\$ 127,438.92
Chargers through 6/30	\$ 91,522.00	\$ 85,014.00	\$ 86,102.00
Overlay Bal. through 6/30	\$ 29,497.04	\$ 41,337.00	\$ 40,497.11
Potential ATB Liability	\$ 851,038.13	\$ 912,996.00	\$ 597,887.92

New Growth Revenue			
<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Added Valuation</i>	<i>PY Tax Rate</i>	<i>New Revenue</i>
2023	\$ 6,846,623	\$ 15.11	\$ 103,453
2022	\$ 10,687,647	\$ 15.72	\$ 168,010
2021	\$ 20,855,624	\$ 16.28	\$ 339,529

BOARD OF HEALTH
Annual Report
January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

PURPOSE

The Board of Health, according to various statutes in the Massachusetts General Laws, is responsible, among other things, for inspections and enforcing the State Sanitary Codes for restaurants, retail food establishments, and minimum housing standards that include the proper storage of solid waste. The Board is also responsible for enforcing State Sanitary Codes that cover recreational camps, ice rinks, and public swimming pools. The Board is also responsible for enforcement of the State Environmental codes regarding the disposal of solid waste and proper subsurface sewage disposal under Title 5.

PERSONNEL

The Town of Winchendon Board of Health is a five-member elected Board who works along with a Health Agent, James Abare, R.S. Members of the Board are elected at the annual Town election in May. Current membership with the year their term expires is:

Glen LaRochelle	May (2025)
Monique Connor	May (2024)
Tina Santos	May (2026)
Lionel Cloutier	May (2024)
Brandon Fournier	May (2024)

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Town of Winchendon through The Board of Health is part of the Board of Health Tobacco Control Alliance with emphasis on the health dangers of tobacco use and preventing youths from purchasing tobacco and related products.

The Board has also joined the Montachusett Public Health Network. The MPHNN is a network of thirteen Health Departments from the Montachusett Region which meets monthly and is committed to making the Montachusett Region the healthiest region in Massachusetts.

The Health Department Staff witness soil testing for septic systems and reviews and approves septic system plans, inspects the installation of septic tanks, pump chambers, pumps, distribution boxes and leaching areas. Residents can meet with staff during regular office hours.

The Health Department Staff also conduct restaurant and retail food store inspections as well as housing inspections on a regular basis in addition to investigating trash and nuisance complaints. Educational material is available to the public in the Board of Health office on a wide range of issues including quitting tobacco use, diet and nutrition, reducing heart disease and stroke, and strategies for lowering risk of contracting various diseases.

Annual Report
The following is a report of the activities of the
Board of Health for the calendar year 2023

PURPOSE OF PERMIT

	Count#
Subsurface Sewage Disposal Inspections	75
Soil Testing for repairs	18
Soil Testing for new lots	10
Reviewed and approved Septic System plans	35
Restaurant Inspections	103
Housing Inspections	18
Trash complaints	14
Public Swimming Pool Inspections	2
Recreational Camp for Children Inspections	1
<hr/>	
<i>total</i>	276

Total Departmental Payments to Treasurer	\$ 35,012.00
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COLLECTOR/TREASURER

TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND
TO THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWN OF WINCHENDON
I HEREBY SUBMIT MY ANNUAL REPORT

	BALANCE AS OF JULY 1, 2021	COMMITMENTS	ABT/EXEM	REFUNDS	TAX TITLE & ADJ.	COLLECTIONS	BALANCE AS OF JUNE 30, 2022
REAL ESTATE	\$ 787,292.85	\$ 13,297,691.74	\$ (87,995.82)	\$ 25,937.34	\$ (104,374.09)	\$ (13,135,785.62)	\$ 782,766.40
SEWER BETTERMENTS	\$ 1,609,933.65				\$ (3,909.35)	\$ (248,075.56)	\$ 1,357,948.74
WATER LIENS	\$ 13,639.79	\$ 23,783.17			\$ (1,474.35)	\$ (28,883.22)	\$ 7,065.39
SEWER LIENS	\$ 12,226.05	\$ 36,165.58			\$ (2,590.24)	\$ (38,919.33)	\$ 6,882.06
PERSONAL PROPERTY	\$ 125,702.78	\$ 557,316.40	\$ (4,123.05)	\$ 2,222.19		\$ (613,148.58)	\$ 67,969.74
M.V. EXCISE	\$ 313,448.98	\$ 1,355,155.21	\$ (63,246.43)	\$ 30,861.06		\$ (1,326,492.70)	\$ 309,726.12
TITLE V	\$ -						\$ -
TOTALS	\$ 2,862,244.10	\$ 15,270,112.10	\$ (155,365.30)	\$ 59,020.59	\$ (112,348.03)	\$ (15,391,305.01)	\$ 2,532,358.45

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Zoe DuPont
TREA SUPR/ COLLECTOR



*Building Community ...
Working Together...
Changing Lives...*

WINCHENDON CAC ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Working Together...Works!

The Winchendon CAC is a non-profit 501c3 organization located at the Winchendon Works Community Hub, 5 Summer Drive in Winchendon. This year marked a major point of growth for the organization as we sold our previous building and purchased a new, larger building which was a former bowling alley! At the Winchendon CAC, we foster an inclusive environment through Building Community, Working Together, and Changing Lives. We meet all people with compassion and respect, ensuring the essential needs of every family and individual are met and supporting them to define and meet their goals. We are dedicated to building a collaborative network of community members and partners to enhance the well-being of our community, envisioning a Winchendon where every individual has the opportunity and tools to thrive.

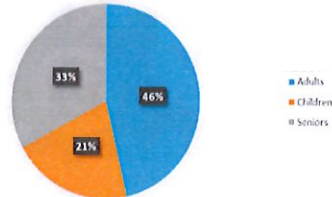
The CAC has continued to grow in capacity and impact with our household and client numbers increasing this year from 450 families to 820 households. We have met this increase in demand through innovative programs and through working together. The invaluable support and hard work of our volunteers, donors and community partnerships "Working together" is truly what makes the CAC function and what creates the warm welcoming sense of community. This year, local residents and students donated over 10,000 hours of volunteer time with a monetary value of at least \$150,000 donated to the community. Additionally, residents contributed over \$7000 through our annual appeal, donated hundreds of gifts and food items for the holidays, brought in bags and hundreds of pounds of clothing for the clothing closet.

The CAC firmly believes that we are stronger together and we are grateful for the partnerships with organizations including the Winchendon Public Schools, MWCC United Way Youth Venture, The HEAL Collaborative, Fidelity Banks, Growing Places, GALA, Alyssas Place, The Winchendon School, GFA Credit Union, Parks and Recreation, the Winchendon Senior Center, Winchendon Housing Authority, and many more!

Who do we serve?

- 820 Households / 2111 Residents (approximately 20% of Towns Population).
- 33% of our members are Senior Citizens
- 68% of CAC clients are on SSDI/SSI and 54% are on SNAP
- Only 30% of our members own a home and 15% experienced or are currently experiencing homelessness.
- 12.3% of Winchendon residents had an income below the poverty level compared with 10.5% MA
- 18.8% of children under 18 living below the poverty line
- 40.1% of children under the age of 5 are living below the poverty line

Age Breakdown of CAC Members



Services Provided:

Food Pantry: Provided over 150,000 pounds of (over \$60k value) in 2023 including fresh produce. We partner with Our Neighbors Kitchen to provide ingredients for free community meals.

Holiday Gifts and Events: Through the generosity of our community, we were able to provide holiday gifts and meals to over 300 families over the winter holidays. The American Legion generously hosts the Winter Holiday Party and GFA bank sponsored school supply donations for over one hundred local children.

Clothing Closet: Gently used clothing is available to Winchendon residents and donations are always accepted.

Haven of Hope: Resource center for residents experiencing homelessness.

Emergency Financial Assistance: The CAC distributed over \$32,000 of aid to local families experiencing crisis of eviction, homelessness, lack of heat, utility shut off, etc.



SNAP/HIP registration is available to members on site through a WCAC staff that is DTA certified through Growing Places.



Sunshine Youth Cafe: The CAC partners with HEAL and the Youth Changemaker program to host the location for the youth-led Sunshine Cafe. The Sunshine Cafe began in 2021 when a group of teenagers saw an absence of a teen space and a lack of pride, belonging, employment, and skill-building opportunities in Winchendon. The Cafe employs local youth and hosts monthly teen events free for local youth through grants from the Cultural Council.

Healthy Food Access: Through our partnership with Fidelity Banks, the CAC continued to grow the "From Our Pantry to Yours" cooking program to showcase easy, affordable and healthy meals that can be prepared using ingredients from the Food Pantry and Growing Places. Samples and meal kits with recipes and ingredients are given out free of charge at the CAC for members. Thanks to Growing Places, we distributed over 600 Fresh Boxes of local produce to residents in 2023, totaling a value of over \$20,000.

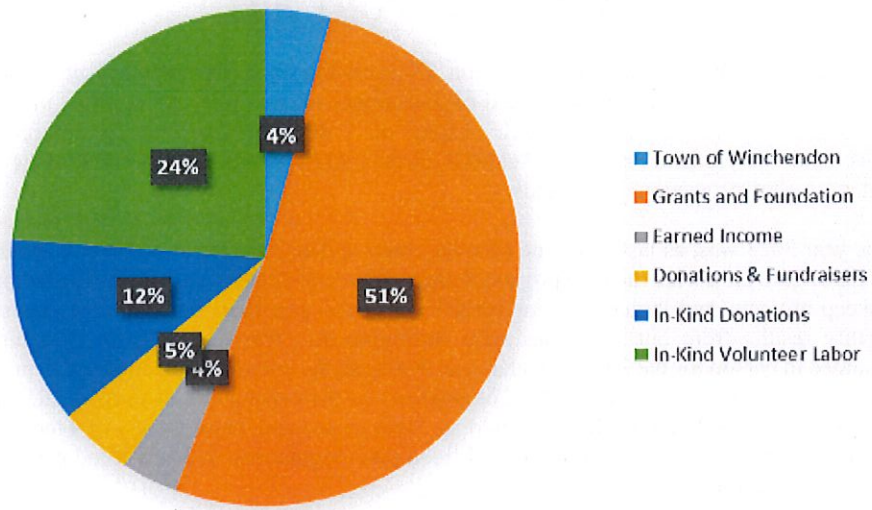
Economic Empowerment Hub & Fresh Start Program: The CAC offers free financial coaching, life coaching, access to matching funds, wrap around service support including SNAP / HIP Enrollment, housing and healthcare application support, and referrals to other services. We also offered training in leadership, financial literacy, and college readiness free of charge to residents in partnership with local organizations & volunteers. This year we piloted the Fresh Start program, working with a small cohort of residents to identify goals and then engage in coaching and training to reach their goals!

Youth Empowerment: The CAC partnered with HEAL, MWCC and Mass Hire to run a summer youth leadership and employment program, providing jobs to ten local youth. Our partnership with the public schools Life Skills program has taken off, engaging Life Skills students volunteering and life skills development. On a weekly basis ALL students prepare baked goods to sell at the Sunshine Cafe.

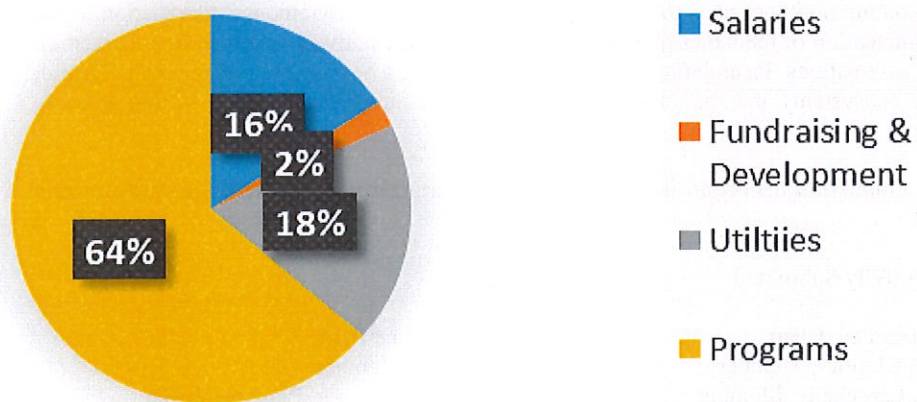
Local Makers Hub: Through our partnership with HEAL we support the creation of a local makerspace for entrepreneurs to build their businesses and increase income and wealth. This past year, over 20 local makers engaged in Local Makers Hub programs including classes, Makers Alley and special events.

Community Bowling and Events: With our new and expanded space, the CAC is able to provide community recreational opportunities to residents. Through generous grants and donations, many of the programs are free including Trivia, Teen Nights, and different classes and workshops. When there is a fee or suggested donation, all proceeds from bowling and space rental for events go to fund CAC programs and operations.

FUNDING



EXPENSES



CONSERVATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The Town of Winchendon Conservation Commission is a five-member commission, appointed to 3 year terms by the Board of Selectmen, whose duties are codified under the Conservation Commission Act MGL chapter 40 s 8C. The Commission enforces the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act MGL chapter 131 s 40 and Article XXIX of the local bylaws for the protection of wetlands.

The year 2023 was, as last year, one of a very busy and active agenda with public hearings and meetings for a wide range of projects from commercial development, small single family upkeep projects, and larger scale industrial/commercial proposals and continues to ensure quality results from our numerous solar developments. The Conservation Commission resumed in person for the 2023 calendar year. Staff and the commission continued to provide uninterrupted customer service. The Commission for the current and upcoming calendar is working with the Planning Board, Building Department and Mass Office of Flood Plain Management on examining required local flood plain regulations and new flood plain maps to come out within the next two years

The Commission Agent continues to examine the local by-law and any potential revisions to comply with ever changing federal and state standards more fully. Staff also has maintained a cloud repository to enable the commission to review plans for public hearings remotely. The Commission continues to work with the town on implementing new storm water mandates from the EPA and working towards compliance both by procedure and with any necessary codification as well as aiding the community with EPA under the "MS4" regulations. The Commission is also actively participating in the implementation of local stormwater regulations. The Commission Agent has worked towards management of locally owned open space. Yearly monitoring by the agent of Conservation Restricted lands continues to show our open spaces to be in wonderful condition.

The Commission continues to work closely with the Lake Monomonic Association in the implementation of their management plans, by becoming actively involved in continuation of the associations 'formulating updates designed to give a better picture of the overall health of the ecosystems and the various ways to ensure continued protection of this valuable resource.

The Commission thanks all the town agencies for a great year and look forward to many more!

Respectfully Submitted,

Kyle Bradley, Chair	David Whitaker, ViceChair
Lionel Cloutier, Member	Melissa Blanchard, Member
Glenn Larochelle, Member	Nicole Roberts, Coordinator, Planning Office
Lionel Cloutier, Member	
Matthew S. Marro, Conservation Commission Agent	



WINCHENDON COUNCIL ON AGING ANNUAL TOWN REPORT 2023



The Winchendon Council on Aging (COA) serves our local Seniors and other residents with the mission of enriching the lives of our community senior population by providing educational programs, recreational activities, referral and social services assistance and advocacy for our seniors, all of which will improve the overall health and wellbeing of our community.

The Winchendon COA is located at 52 Murdock Avenue in the Old Murdock Senior Center building. Funding is provided through the Town of Winchendon, MART and the EOEI Formula Grant along with generous

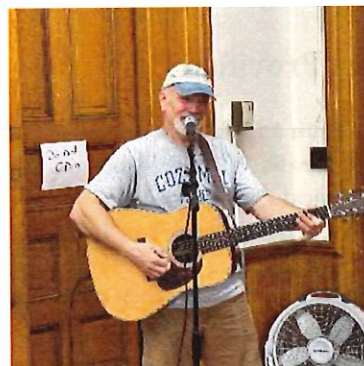
donations and support from local foundations. We are grateful for the support of our community partners including Robinson Broadhurst Foundation, Winchendon CAC, The HEAL Collaborative, Friends of Old Murdock, Growing Places, the Winchendon Fire Department and other generous supporters and partners.

Services Provided

- **Health and Fitness:** Pickleball, Line Dancing, Fitness Room, Yoga
- **Recreation:** Billiards, Peanut Auction, Bingo, Holiday and Birthday Celebration, Musical Performances,
- **Educational Program:** Identity Theft Prevention, Red Cross Programs, Arts and Craft Classes,
- **Social Services:** SHINE Counseling, Integrity Medicare to assist seniors with their health insurance needs, SNAP Registration, Housing Assistance, Veterans Support Group, Adult Day Care Placements, COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic, and Blood Pressure Clinic.

- **Town Events:** Winchendon Farmers Market, Health and Wellness Fair, Voting, Vendor Fairs, HEAL Winchendon Community Partnership events, Cake Auction, events in partnership with Parks and Recreation.
- **Transportation:** Over 1200 rides provided for medical appointments, lunches, shopping trips and other destinations. Additionally we partnered with the Winchendon CAC to deliver food pantries for senior residents and residents with disabilities.
- **Meals:** Over 20,000 meals were provided to residents both on site at the Senior Center and through home delivery through our partnership with Meals on Wheels.

All of our programs and services would not be possible without our fantastic staff and volunteers who dedicate endless hours and energy providing meals, rides, programs, transportation and social services support and general operations of the Senior Center. We are proud to serve our community and appreciate all of the generous support and volunteers that have given their time and resources to the Senior Center. Looking to the future, we hope to build out programming in the facility to increase membership and community engagement.



CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Winchendon Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils (LCCs) serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community. Statewide, more than \$7 million will be distributed by local cultural councils in 2024.

Yearly the Winchendon Cultural Council (WCC) meets in the fall to review and award grants to cultural programs town-wide. This year we received 38 applications totaling over \$58,400 in requested funding. We were pleased to allocate over \$14,000 which will partially or fully fund 22 of those programs. Our funded programs include:

Beals Memorial Library - multiple programs
Community Action Committee (CAC) - youth nights at the Hub
Senior Center - vocal concert
UU Church of Winchendon - children's craft workshop
Winchendon Music Festival - salon concert series
Winchendon Recreation Commission - multiple GAR park and amphitheater programs
Winchendon Winds Concert Band - summer series
Wyndonshire Renaissance Fair - theatre training, entertainment

For a complete listing of grantees and dollar amounts awarded, please visit www.mass-culture.org/Winchendon.



We encourage the community to attend these wonderful local programs, all of which are free or low-cost.

Decisions about which activities to support are made at the community level by a board of municipally appointed volunteers. The members of the Winchendon Cultural Council are: Alexis Chanthachack, Linda Dellasanta, Joanna Draugsvold, Coral Grout, Miranda Jennings, Quinne Richards, Jill Nicholson Sackett, Molly Velasco and Greg Vine.

We always welcome new members who have a demonstrated interest in the Arts.

The Winchendon Cultural Council will receive applications again in the fall. For guidelines and complete information on the Winchendon Cultural Council, contact Chair Jill Sackett at jill@sackett.com or visit the Town website at: www.townofwinchendon.com/cultural-council. Applications and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at www.mass-culture.org.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Nicholson Sackett, Chair



THE WINCHENDON FINANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR FY2023

The Winchendon Finance Committee is pleased to present its annual report for the 2023 fiscal year. The Finance Committee began the year with a full committee of seven members, including Thomas Kane, Chairman, Dr. Maureen Ward, Vice Chairman, Charles Corts, Douglas Delay, Adrian Guererro, Philip Levine and Robert O'Keefe. In October, Philip Levine resigned and James Reid was appointed to that seat. In February, Robert O'Keefe resigned and Anthony Dickson was appointed to that seat. Over the course of the year, the Finance Committee met twenty-four times in regular or joint meetings and public hearings. Brianna Roberts was our recording secretary for the fiscal year.

Early in the fiscal year, the Finance Committee adopted a number of goals to focus on during the year. They include the following. Increase monitoring of Town fiscal issues and actions. Add standing agenda items for updates of fiscal initiatives. Develop a five-year projection of increasing fixed budget costs to better understand their impact on the overall budget. Advocate for Tri-Board discussions to explore strategies, including regionalization, to address the challenges of the scarcity of qualified candidates for key town government positions. The Finance Committee held a public hearing on the warrant for the October 24 Special Town Meeting. Included on the warrant were four articles submitted by the Finance Committee to fund Reserve Accounts. Article 7 requested a transfer of \$110,593 from Free Cash to the OPEB Reserve Account. This represents 5% of the Town's employee and retiree health insurance costs for FY23. Article 8 requested a transfer of \$50,000 from Free Cash to the Separation Benefits Reserve account. Article 9 requested a transfer of \$80,000 from Free Cash to the Town's Stabilization Fund. Article 10 requested transferring \$50,000 from Free Cash to be added to the \$40,000 Finance Committee contingency account to address unanticipated fuel and energy costs. At the Fall Special Town Meeting held on October 24, the Finance Committee presented an overview of the Certified Free Cash and explained the rationale for the reserve account requests. The Town voted to pass each of these articles. On March 13, the Town held another Special Town Meeting to consider adopting the Community Preservation Act (CPA), which the Finance Committee recommended. Towns that adopt the CPA agree to increase local real estate taxes by up to 3% to be used for three specific purposes; increasing affordable housing, preservation of historic properties, and open space projects. The state would match the extra local funding, thus doubling the funds set aside for the purposes outlined in the law. The article, which required a majority vote, was defeated at the meeting.

The development of the FY24 budget began in January 2023 with the presentation of the Five-Year Budget and Revenue projections by Town Manager Sultzbach to the Quad-Board meeting on January 17. The Finance Committee met jointly with the Board of Selectmen on February 13 to review the capital planning report that recommended projects totaling \$2,480,394, including \$1M for road paving projects. On March 20, we met jointly with the Board of Selectmen when Town Manager Sultzbach reviewed the draft town budget. The Finance Committee met with Monty Tech Superintendent Thomas Browne and Business Manager Tammy Crockett on March 16 to review the Monty Tech budget. The Town's assessment of \$706,060 was a decrease from FY22 due to a drop in enrollment from 109 students to 107 students. On March 28, the Finance Committee met with Superintendent Thad King and School Committee Chair Forsythe to review the School Department budget totaling \$19,729,832, which included \$16,983,226 in local and state funding and \$2,746,606

in grants and other sources. On March 30, the Finance Committee met jointly with the Board of Selectmen for a presentation of the final Town Budget of \$34,872,870. On April 26, 2023, the Committee held a public hearing of the Town Meeting Warrant. The Committee recommended approval of all the Articles on the warrant.

At the Annual Town Meeting held on May 15, 2023, the Finance Committee Report focused on Free Cash expenditures during the fiscal year. At the beginning of the fiscal year, the Town's Free Cash was certified at \$1,909,508. With the passing of the proposed articles at the Town Meeting, the balance ending the year would be \$202,770. The report highlighted the rising costs of the Snow and Ice accounts which has run a deficit of nearly \$500,000 in each of the past two years, which directly reduces the Free Cash balance. The Committee Report advocated for increasing the funding for Snow and Ice in future operating budgets.

The Finance Committee oversaw several contingency funds during the course of the year. During the year, the Committee approved requests totaling \$26,500 from the budget contingency account of \$40,000 including \$10,000 in costs related to an attempted cyber ransom attack. The \$93,000 Snow and Ice contingency was released in January. The Town had voted a special fuel and energy contingency fund of \$50,000 at the October Special Town Meeting. At the end of the fiscal year, the Committee approved several transfers totaling \$37,120 to cover shortfalls in several energy related accounts.

During the second half of the fiscal year, the Finance Committee expressed concern that the monthly Year-To-Date reports were not up to date. This concern was manifested at the joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen held on July 13 to approve budget transfers to balance the final budget accounts. Several transfers were from the health insurance account, which appeared to have a significant end of the year balance because not all the payments had been recorded. This unpaid bill would need to be addressed at the next Town Meeting.

As the year ended, Thomas Kane was reappointed to the Committee.

Respectfully Submitted:

Thomas Kane, Chairman, Dr. Maureen Ward, Vice-Chairman, Charles Corts, Douglas Delay, Anthony Dickson, Adrian Guerrero, and James Reid

Winchendon Fire Department

Town Report 2023



I am pleased to submit the following Annual Report
Chief Thomas J. Smith

Mission Statement

"The Winchendon Fire Department shall endeavor to protect life and property through emergency response and non-emergency assistance. We will strive to promote public safety through inspection, enforcement, and education".

Department Statistics:

From Jan.1, 2023 - December 31, 2023, the Department responded to 2,315 requests for services as shown below. Even though each year consistently stretches our resources, the Fire Department proudly and professionally continues to protect the citizens of Winchendon. The table below gives what the call actually turned out to be. Many times a call is dispatched as one thing due to the information given only to actually be something different upon arrival. This is just another part of our department's challenge to protect the community.

INCIDENT TYPE	QTY
Fire / Explosion	34
Severe Weather	3
Ambulance / Rescue Calls	1685
Hazardous Conditions	64
Service Calls	232
Good Intent Call	109
False Call	188
TOTAL	2315

Personnel:

Over the past year the Winchendon Fire Department has proudly served your community to the best of its ability. Forty-five men and women make up the fire department throughout the year and have provided the Town of Winchendon with emergency services whenever requested to the best of their ability and availability. As members of the fire department, these dedicated individuals have spent numerous hours training on both fire and medical topics in an effort to best be able to protect the community. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to put the lives of every responder and their families in some form of danger during every call. The ongoing mental health crisis in this country continues to affect the fire department with many calls involving patients in some form of crisis. Unfortunately many of these calls have turned violent which places our responders in another form of danger.

The families and friends of these members have had to make their own sacrifices by having their loved ones away for hours at a time helping others without knowing if they would safely return. Without this understanding by families and friends, our firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians would not be able to demonstrate the commitment necessary to be a member of the Winchendon Fire Department.

One of the most difficult staffing situations was the reduction of fire staff from four per shift to three. This reduction was strictly due to ARPA funds no longer being available from the Federal government. This reduction has greatly impacted the department's ability to provide EMS services for more than one call at a time. Just from July to December we have needed to rely on ambulances from neighboring communities in the vicinity of fifty times. The department is working with Town Manager William McKinney to solve this issue within the budget constraints.

Fire Chief Thomas J. Smith has now been on board for twelve years leading the department in a forward direction to protect the citizens of Winchendon. Over this past year the Winchendon Fire Department had the privilege to promote three individuals from the rank of Lieutenant to Captain. Brian Croteau, Andrew Harding and Martin Scott all whom have shown the leadership and commitment needed for this promotion. The training committee has continued to be led by Deputy Chief Bryan Vaine in an effort to improve the overall training of the department. This training committee has faithfully continued to meet in order to provide our department with interesting yet informative training opportunities.

During the past year the Winchendon Fire Department has experienced two incredibly difficult individual responder situations. First was the retirement of Captain William Brown in July. This retirement was well deserved after twenty-four years of service to the Winchendon Fire Department. Captain Brown's leadership skills and dedication will greatly be missed and we wish him nothing but the best in his future endeavors. The second situation was much more devastating to not only Winchendon but also surrounding communities. Divemaster/FF James Bevilacqua passed away unexpectedly. This came as an incredible shock to our department. Jim trained firefighters around the region in water rescue and ice rescue for over fifteen years. Members know that Jim will forever be guiding them through emergencies; especially anything around the water. Jim will be missed in more ways than words can say.

The following list shows the rank and individual by name so they can be properly recognized for their many sacrifices. Some members may have only been on the department for brief periods during the year but you can be assured that in one way or another they helped mold the Winchendon Fire Department into the highly respected department we are today. One of the most common statements around the station is that everyone is appreciated for their contributions and efforts to the department no matter how big or small.

Fire Chief –	Thomas Smith
Deputy Chief -	Bryan Vaine
Captains –	William Brown (retired), Brian Croteau, Andrew Harding, Martin Scott
Lieutenants -	Richard Sevigny, Garrett Wante,
Chaplain -	Calvin Miller
Firefighters &	

EMTs - Joseph Arsenault, Troy Ashmore, James Bevilacqua (deceased), Kyle Blouin, Daniel Brown, Heather Butler, Patrick Connor, John Cyganiewicz, Kyle Daniels, Joshua Emerson, Mark Fleming, Ethan Girouard, Natan Hagopian, Alan Hanley, Everard Hayes, Rebecca Hicks, Ronan Kast-McBride, Clayton Landry, Emily Latour, Corey Leary, Andrew LeBel, Ray Lemek, Edward Lindsay, Nicholas MacKenzie, Cameron Milewski, James Nicholson, Tyler Pelkey, Nathan Schulz, Andrew Seamans, Justin Sevigny, Anthony Spuria, Emily Thibeault, Melissa Vaine, Dan Voutila, Jon Williams

Admin Assistant – Sheila Beane

Service Delivery:

The Winchendon Fire Department is a full-service department delivering emergency medical, fire suppression, hazardous materials, technical rescue, fire investigation, public safety education, fire prevention and specialized community services. The department is always looking to the community for ideas that could improve our services or additional services that should be provided. It is especially encouraging how well the fire department comes together under any circumstance to ensure the safety of Winchendon residents and guests. Our firefighters have been ecstatic that visits to the station have resumed during the past year. These times of being able to share “our house” with the public are very special to the department members. The continued ability to provide fire education opportunities in the schools and at town festivals have also been shining stars in our department’s fire education program.

Permits:

188	Brush Burning
13	Blasting / Tanks / Suppression / Welding
11	Fire Safety Inspections
9	Liquor License
56	L.P. Gas
55	Oil burner
153	Smoke Detector
	Total - 487
	Total Permit Revenue Collected: \$ 11,550.00

Continued use of our electronic inspection systems (Station Smarts and PS Trax) has allowed more accurate and consistent inspection processes which is welcomed by our firefighters and customers alike. Both of these systems are now expanding which will allow our department to become even more efficient than our current well-oiled machine.

Grants Received:

The Winchendon Fire Department continues to recognize the difficult financial times that are facing the community for various reasons. It is because of this that we have worked harder than ever in an effort to secure various grant funding. We are proud to have been successful in the following grants during 2023 totaling **\$98,651** for just this one year.

SAFE Grant – (\$3,781.00). This grant comes from the Executive of Public Safety Department of Fire Services. The main focus of the grant is to provide fire prevention

education to children of the community in an effort to reduce child fire risks and injuries. This money is used for fire prevention materials given out to the children at the elementary schools and at other events throughout the year including festivals, open houses and Halloween.

SENIOR SAFE Grant – (\$2,077.00). This grant comes from the Executive of Public Safety Department of Fire Services. This grant is focused on the senior members of the community. This grant allows our department to get information out to the elders of our community in the areas of cooking safety and home hazard reduction. We have given out cooking safety kits along with pamphlets on reducing hazards. File of Life packets have also been distributed to those in need to help give a consistent place for their medical information both at home and in their wallets or purses. We have also started a lockbox program to assist elders if they have a medical emergency and are unable to unlock their door.

Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation Grant – (\$92,793.00). This gracious grant combined with town funds, allowed the Winchendon Fire Department to purchase 25 new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and 50 air bottles. This purchase is to replace the breathing units and bottles that were approaching end of life dates. These SCBA units have been placed into service and are serving the department well. This use will be continued well into the next decade. The Winchendon Fire Department has been extremely fortunate to be continuously supported by the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation.

Emergency Medical / Rescue Services:

In calendar year 2023, the Winchendon Fire Department responded to one thousand six hundred eighty-five (1685) requests for some type of medical assistance or rescue. Outside of these medical/rescue calls, there were many times that our ambulance personnel assisted at fire related incidents as well. Transports resulting from these ambulance requests brought in \$784,359.50 in ambulance receipts to the town coffers. This is a substantial increase over the previous year in the amount of \$56,177.36 additional dollars. This does not include the additional \$63,602.14 in secondary Medicare revenues that were brought in also to supplement ambulance amounts.

Ambulance Apparatus:

Description	Year	Funding Source	Condition	Replacement Year
Ambulance 2	2021	Town Funds	Good	2029
Ambulance 1	2016	Robinson-Broadhurst	Poor	2024

At the 2023 Fall Town Meeting it was voted to replace the above 2016 Ambulance. The ambulance specs were developed and the vehicle ordered in December with an estimated delivery time of twenty months from date of order.

Fire Apparatus:

The following chart illustrates the state of the department's fire apparatus. The Fire Department is also extremely fortunate to have such support from the community. The town has stepped up and recognized the need to replace a majority of the large apparatus over the past several years. This cost to taxation combined with grant funding have shown the desire of the community to ensure their safety through proper vehicle replacement.

Apparatus	Year	Funding/Donation Source	Condition	Replacement Year
Engine 1	2019 KME	Taxation	Good	2038
Engine 2	2002 Ford E-1	R/B *	Very Poor	2020
Engine 3	2022 E-One	Taxation / DERA	Excellent	2042
Tower 1	2014 KME	Taxation	Good	2039
Forestry 1	2014 F350	Taxation	Good	2024
Forestry 2	1969 Mack1500 gal	DEM **	Poor	2010
Car 1	2019	R/B *	Good	2028
Car 2	2008	Refurbed Housing	Very Poor	2021

* R/B = Robinson Broadhurst Foundation Grant

** DEM = Department of Environmental Management Surplus Equipment Program

As you can see by the above list there are several important pieces of apparatus that are needing replacement. The replacement years have passed on a few which eventually will create very expensive repairs and safety concerns for the town if not addressed soon.

Building Needs:

The building was erected in 1978 and has served the town proudly for well over forty years. Currently the fire department has outgrown the fire station. The necessary apparatus has not only become larger but also the need for additional equipment has caused us to leave equipment outside many times throughout the year. In the winter months our only tanker must come out of service due to the freezing temperatures outside where the truck is stored. The station living quarters are currently inadequate also, with all the bunk beds in one large room. The need for a training area is exceptional along with additional safety items throughout the station. The firefighters are working hard to make this building last as long as possible during these tough financial times without jeopardizing the public safety of the community or the safety of your firefighters; however the need for a fire station replacement has arrived. On January 19th the second part of our building project took an overwhelming step forward when it passed at ballot for a debt exclusion for the architectural design of a new fire station. Steps towards completing this design have continues throughout the year with large amounts of input from both the firefighters and public alike.

Contact Information:

The Fire Station is located at 405 Central Street Winchendon, MA 01475

Phone: 978-297-2324 (non-emergency)

911 – **EMERGENCY CALLS**

Email: wfd@winchendon-ma.gov

Closing Statement:

The Winchendon Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens for their continued support of the fire department and its members. Our firefighters and medical personnel strive to provide you all with the best service possible in extremely stressful situations. As a department, we look forward to continuing our good working relationship with not only the other town departments but also each and every citizen in need of our services. We are committed to making Winchendon the best possible community it can be.

HISTORICAL DISTRICT COMMISSION 2023

Members

Mary Louise Harrington, Chair - Term expires 2025

Yvonne Harrington, Vice Chair -2024

Jay McCrohon - 2024

Guy Corbosiero - 2026

Jenelle Sroczyński – 2026

From January to May 2023, members of the Town of Winchendon Historic District Commission (HDC) included Chair Guy Corbosiero; members Yvonne Harrington, Peggy Corbosiero, Don O'Neil and James McCrohon; alternate Mary Harrington; and recording secretary, Jenelle Sroczyński.

In May, member Don O'Neil announced resignation; Chair Guy Corbosiero announced intention to continue only as a member; and Peggy Corbosiero announced decision not to renew. In July, member Lois Abare resigned.

The remaining members reorganized in June with Mary Harrington as chair, Yvonne Harrington, Vice Chair, Guy Corbosiero and James McCrohon, members. In October, the Board of Selectmen appointed Jenelle Sroczyński as a member, and she continued as Recording Secretary. The two alternate member seats remained vacant.

By statute, the HDC includes five members and two alternates, appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Organization, duties and responsibilities are outlined in the Town Charter, Article 3, and provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 40, Section 8D, "Historical commission; establishment; powers and duties"; Chapter 40C, "Historic Districts"; Town of Winchendon Bylaws, Article 15, "Historic District," and Article 16, "Preservation of Historically Significant Buildings."

Summary

Throughout the year, topics at monthly meetings included maintenance of the militia field, Old Centre trees, electrical lines and signage, Community Preservation Act Exploratory Committee (CPAEC), demolition of historic structures, and the Master Plan. The HDC made no progress and reached no resolutions on these items. Jill Sacket from the Master Plan Committee attended several meetings early in the year to help guide and sync.

In May, the commission supported the demolition of the commercial property located at 54 Mechanic Street, due to the state of disrepair and associated hazards.

At Spring Town Meeting on May 1, the Town voted against adopting the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act (CPA). This was the first time the CPA was on a ballot in the Town of Winchendon. The CPA would provide the Town access to funds from the state CPA trust, a one-of-a-kind investment for Historic Preservation. According to state data, on average it takes three ballot votes for a town to adopt the CPA. Chaired by David

Romanowski, CPAEC members included Debra Bradley, Marc Dorwart, Pam Smith, Kyle Bradley, Adrian Guerrero, Amanda Phillips and Mary Harrington. CPAEC gained momentum from inception in Spring 2022 until the May 1, 2023 Town vote against the proposal.

The CPA would help fund community priorities in four specific areas: Open Space, Historic Preservation, Recreation and Housing. A local, mandated committee would determine the specific expenditures, based on recommendations from the Town and residents. The Town would most likely receive 100% match, an estimated \$500k total return, based on town economics and dependent on market conditions.

The Board of Selectmen recommended support of the CPA with the vote of 3 to 2. Associated town committees and commissions recommended unanimous support including School, Finance, Capital Planning, Conservation, Historic, Recreation, and Agricultural. However, residents did not support at this time.

In July and August 2023, Chair Mary Harrington addressed BOS as new Chair, and met with interim Town Manager Bill McKinney, DPW Director Brian Croteau, and Building Commissioner Geoff Newton to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the HDC, and ongoing and renewed Town support and collaboration.

Submitted by Chair, Mary Louise Harrington

**Report of the Building Department
Fiscal Year 2023
July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number of permits</u>	<u>Fees Collected</u>
Building Permits	280	\$82,581.00
Deck	20	\$2,201.00
Demolition	7	\$300.00
Electrical Permits	298	\$33,250.00
Foundation only	3	\$1,840.00
Garage	8	\$1,598.00
Gas Permits	51	\$3,155.00
Single Family	20	\$22,840.00
Plumbing Permits	72	\$96.20
Pool-above ground	6	\$195.00
Pellet stove/inspection	4	\$200.00
Residential additions	5	\$3,225.00
Roof replacement	65	\$8,105.00
Shed	2	\$300.00
Sign	5	\$1,150.00
Sheet Metal	1	\$50.00
Solar panels-roof mounted	69	\$13,790.00
Electrical temporary service	1	\$50.00
Woodstove /inspection	27	\$1,350.00
Total permits/fees	944	\$176,276.20

Beals Memorial Library

In 2023 the Beals Memorial Library continued to serve the Town as a resource for the informational, cultural, educational and recreational needs of its residents through its collection of books, DVDs, audio books, e-resources, streaming video, databases, magazines, newspapers and Library of Things, as well as through its programs and events. Our membership in the C/W MARS resource-sharing network and the Massachusetts Library System allows our patrons access to materials from hundreds of other libraries throughout the state and around the country.



Infrastructure Project:

We were able to accomplish all of the above (and all that you will see below) despite having to move our library operations to the ground floor during the six-month long, 1.1 million dollar, infrastructure project that upgraded the Library's outdated electrical system, installed a fire suppression system, and repaired and painted cracked and peeling plaster walls and ceilings. The work was completed at the end of June 2023 when we were able to move back to the main and top floors of the Library to resume our normal operations and service to the community. Please come in and see our beautiful, new and improved, library interior.

Highlights for 2023:

The Library was the lucky recipient of a \$10,000 Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) grant. This funding allowed the Library to offer programming to the community we wouldn't ordinarily afford to provide. This included the Town-wide Read Project that brought the community together to read the graphic novel, *Hey Kiddo*, by Jarrett Krosoczka. The initiative included four community conversations on issues that the book discussed, and brought the author to town for talks to both the students at Murdock Middle/High School, and to the general public. 100 copies of the book were purchased to distribute to community members free of charge. Approximately 600 residents participated in this four month-long project, either by reading the book, contributing to the community discussions or attending the author talk. Other LSTA grant funded programs included the Frame x Frame Mural Project, the Portrait Project, and the Beals Prize for Young Writers Poetry Competition of which Cassandra Santos was the winner.

In June, we also received a \$10,000 Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC) grant that staff member Alexis Chanthachack wrote to provide programming around the issue of autism inclusion. The program is called *Seeing Beyond the Spectrum*, and was one of only 250 grants funded nationwide by the American Library Association. In 2023, the grant funded the updating and improvement of the library's collection of autism related subjects. It also provided a sensory-friendly browsing hour, as well as a movie, one Saturday a month. In December, it brought a sensory-friendly visit from Santa Claus to autistic children who would be overwhelmed by a visit to a mall Santa.

Other highlights included our annual visit from Animal Adventures where over 200 children and their families got to meet exotic animals from around the world. Our Summer Reading Club programs included a night of live opera for adults, an improv workshop for teens, a ventriloquism workshop for kids, a theater program for pre-teens, and Movies on the Library

Lawn for families, which in 2023, featured puppet shows before each movie. The 4th annual Beals Prize for Poetry was awarded to Sara Letourneau of Foxboro.

On-going Programs:

On-going library programs included the Dungeons & Dragons Club, LEGO Club, the Beals Teen Advisory Board, the On the Same Page Book Club, the Beals Book Club, Yoga for adults & teens, the Knitting & Crochet Club, and movie showings for adults, teens and kids.

Circulation Statistics:

The Library had 19,467 patron visits in 2023. Circulation totaled 19,805 items. The Library circulated 13,883 books, 4,524 videos, 248 periodicals, 524 audio books, 57 music CDs, 311 video games, 35 Hotspots, and 12 Museum Passes. Beals patrons received 4,071 items through interlibrary loan and other libraries were loaned 3,101 items from our collection. In 2023, the Library had 3,840 registered patrons and held 22,309 items in its physical collection with a total value of \$511,622. The Library received \$ \$28,475 in State Aid.

Fee-based Services:

Fax and printing services were available. These fee-based services helped to defray the cost of maintaining the equipment.

Museum Passes:

Free museum passes or coupons for discounts on museum admission offered to patrons in 2023 included the New England Aquarium, the Boston Museum of Science (funded by the Friends of the Library), the U.S.S. Constitution Museum, and the MassParks Pass.

The Friends:

The Friends of the Beals Memorial Library continued to offer the on-going Book Sale on the Library's ground floor. The proceeds helped to support the many programs that the library provided for the residents of Winchendon. Call or drop by the library to find out how you can become a member of this active group as they plan future library events and programs.

Thank You:

We would like to thank our faithful volunteers, especially Meghan Thayer, Suzanne Rader, Jane LaPointe, Julia Cardinal, Rick Ward, Tom & Deb Kane, Renee Eldridge, Genevieve Kane-Howse, and everyone who helped us with our move back upstairs to the main and top floors after the infrastructure project was completed. Thanks also to the Winchendon Cultural Council for funding many of the programs we offer, and the Clark YMCA who allowed us to use their space for our Town-wide Read Community Conversations. We also wish to thank the Library staff, Manuel King, Melissa Thayer, Alexis Chanthachack, Kayla Charlonne, Patti Stanko and Keith Bussiere, for all they do to serve the people of Winchendon within an extremely limited budget. Another big thank you to Caela Provost for her dedicated service to the Library and the town, through her work on the Library Board of Trustees.

Respectfully submitted,

The Board of Library Trustees

Ron Muse, Chair (2024)

Jane LaPointe (2023)

Cindy Darcy, Vice Chair (2024)

Caela Provost (2023)

Suzanne Rader, Clerk (2024)

Molly Velasco (2024)

Camille Hart (Student Representative)

MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (MPIC)

The Master Plan Implementation Committee was appointed in November 2021 and officially kicked off in January 2022. We have just completed our second year of operation.

The Winchendon Master Plan describes the will of the people of Winchendon. All town boards, commissions, committees, staff and citizens should use this Plan to guide their work in creating the future everyone seeks. There are nine action areas in the Plan:

- Land Use
- Open Space and Recreation
- Economic Development
- Housing
- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Transportation
- Services and Facilities
- Community Health and Well-being
- Communication and Engagement

We encourage all residents to familiarize themselves with this document as it outlines the work to be prioritized over the next 5-10 years. The full Master Plan is posted on our Town web page: <https://www.townofwinchendon.com/master-plan-implementation-committee>



The MPIC is charged with overseeing its execution and is working with the Town Manager and Responsible Leads. MPIC specific responsibilities include:

- Coordinate and monitor implementation
- Collaborate with players to develop and track execution goals
- Assist with goals that require additional resources
- Encourage ongoing citizen engagement
- Assess status of specific actions, evaluate priorities, and suggest new implementation techniques where appropriate

- Identify successful strategies and barriers to progress
- Periodically evaluate the plan
- Create a mechanism to provide updates and progress reports to the Board of Selectmen

This past year the MPIC met with a number of groups, both municipal and non-municipal, to map their activity to the Master Plan. We have mapped activity to a little over a third of the 230 individual strategies listed in the Plan and have confirmed that there is a lot of good and relevant work being done.

There are roles both big and small for Winchendon residents to help execute our Master Plan. If you'd like to get involved on any of the nine action areas that may interest you, please contact the Chair below.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Nicholson Sackett, Chair (224) 567-3635

Current MPIC Members:
Jill Sackett, Chair
Amanda Phillips, Secretary
Nikki Nickerson, Project Manager
Guy Corbosiero, Member
Erika Eitland, Member
Miranda Jennings, Member

**MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL
TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**
1050 Westminster St., Fitchburg, Mass.



As a first-year Superintendent, I could not have asked for a better, more productive 2022-2023 school year. While I have been a part of this extraordinary educational community for ten years, the perspective from which I am now able to view our work, our accomplishments, and certainly our student achievements, has shifted and given me new purpose. I am honored and humbled to lead Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District, and am proud to share a few highlights in the following report.

Workforce training continues to be a priority at the local, state and federal levels, with additional funding meant to incentivize schools like Monty Tech to get creative, and develop new training programs for high school students and adult learners seeking a career change. Monty Tech School of Continuing Education has expanded outreach to market all-new, no-cost vocational training programs to unemployed or underemployed individuals. Having received more than \$1.6M in workforce training funds from Commonwealth Corporation to support this effort, the School of Continuing Education now offers free vocational training programs in Carpentry, CNC Operation, Culinary Arts, Electrical, HVAC Repair, Plumbing, and Welding. These programs are designed to provide participants with opportunities to earn valuable industry-recognized credentials, hands-on learning experiences, and job placement services upon program completion. At press, 42 adult learners have successfully completed their programs, been placed in jobs that align with their newfound skillset, and have been successfully employed for more than 3 months. This is an effort we continue to be so proud of.

While we have enjoyed expanding access to our instructional spaces, training equipment, and technology to serve our evening students, we remain committed to seeking competitive grant funding that will allow us to improve and update instructional spaces so that our high school students stay ahead of the curve in their training and career aspirations. With more than 230 students participating in the popular co-op program, working and learning from experienced tradesmen and women in our area, our commitment to align our training programs to serve the needs of our region's workforce has never been more important. In 2022-2023, we heard from a local metal fabrication employer who asked us to consider adding a specific certification to our curriculum, so our graduates would be better prepared to enter the workforce without a delay or need for additional training. So without hesitation, our instructors added the necessary lessons, and embedded an OSHA 10 Construction certification into the program. We heard from a local restaurant owner who asked if we could expand our training to include more sous vide preparation and improved knife skills to the students' training regimen. That request was honored immediately, and a student is currently working with that restaurant owner, demonstrating his improved skillset. We know that training students on new and improved equipment, while adapting and modifying our curriculum to address

immediate workforce needs will, in the end, serve our students best – our ultimate goal. Monty Tech is steadfast in its commitment to providing a highly-skilled workforce to its industry partners throughout our region.

Finally, and perhaps the most transformative accomplishment in 2022-2023, is an innovation that does not serve the immediate Monty Tech school community, but rather will benefit high school students enrolled in Fitchburg, Gardner and Narragansett Regional School Districts. While we have significantly expanded and updated our training programs, there are still so many young people without access, who would benefit from meaningful career and technical education. To that end, we researched, applied for, and received a \$1.9M grant that will allow us to develop an all-new vocational training space, designed to serve high school students during the day, and even more adult learners in the evening. Dubbed the Montachusett Vocational Partnership (MVP) Academy, this new training space will open its doors to more than 80 students in Fall 2024. We are honored to lead this trailblazing partnership, and expect it to become a model other vocational schools will emulate in the coming years.

Thank you for your continued support of Monty Tech – a school that I am so honored to lead.
Respectfully submitted,

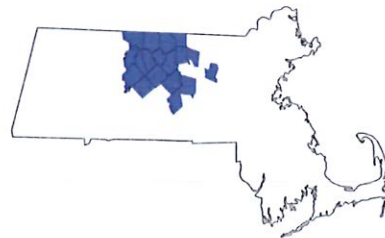
Thomas R. Browne
Superintendent-Director

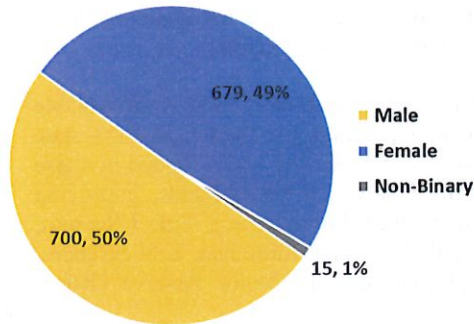
Our School Community

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

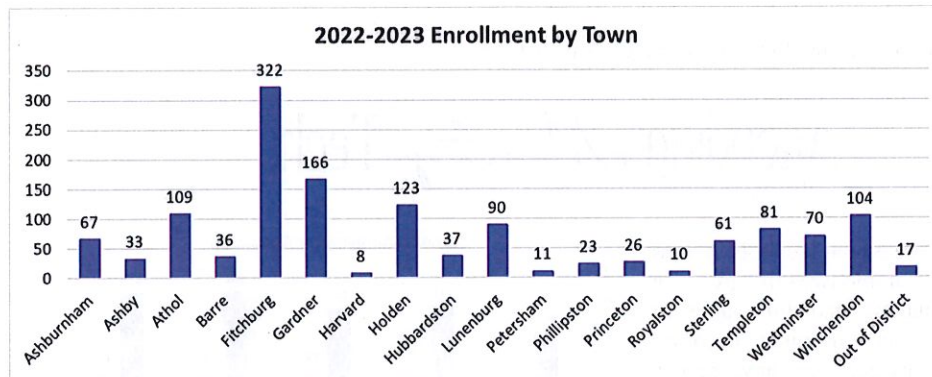
Phillipston
Princeton
Royalston
Sterling
Templeton
Westminster
Winchendon





On June 1, 2023, student enrollment at Monty Tech included 1,394 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 and female students, and each is prepared to explore an interest in one of the school's twenty-one rigorous vocational-technical programs. While the school currently offers only five non-traditional programs for male students, and twelve non-traditional programs 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.



Financial Report

FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Educational Plan • \$28,814,865	Educational Plan • \$28,605,425	Educational Plan • \$30,796,896
Grants • \$1,721,880	Grants • \$3,734,533	Grants • \$2,963,607

In an effort to develop a cost-effective budget for the fiscal year 2022-2023, a great deal of effort was put forth by the School Committee, administration, and staff. The final fiscal year 2022-2023 Educational Plan totaled \$30,796,896 which represents a 7.6% increase over the 2021-2022 Educational Plan which is driven largely in part by the 7.6% increase in the

District's required minimum spending established by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The District's FY23 budget only exceeds the minimum spending required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 70 by \$60,000 or 0.20%.

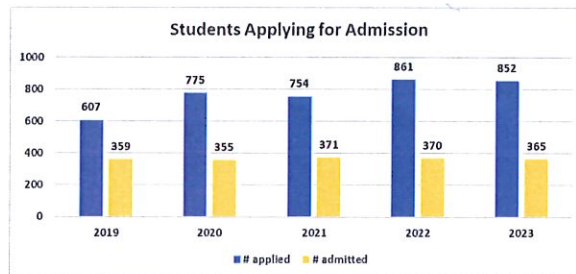
To supplement the local budget, school officials pursue grant funding to provide valuable educational and social services to the diverse student population. For fiscal year 2023, state and federal grant sources provided the school with \$3,552,996. Programs funded by these grants include: Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Funds, Improving Teacher Quality, Special Education Services and Program Improvement, Title I Support, Perkins Occupational Education, Vocational Capital Equipment Initiatives, Life Sciences, Student Support and Academic Enrichment and Marine Corp Junior Reserve Officer Training.

The District will participate in an annual financial audit, conducted by the accounting firm of Melanson, Heath and Co. from Greenfield, Massachusetts. School officials anticipate a good report.

Expenses for the 2022-2023 school year include:

Attending *Monty* Tech

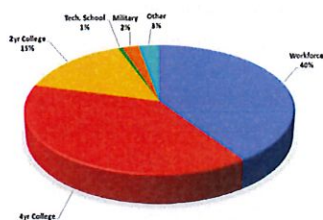
As vocational schools across the Commonwealth grow in popularity, and the value of vocational training becomes more evident, we have seen a steady increase in the number of students applying for admission to Monty Tech.



With seats available limited only by our building capacity, and a deep understanding of the increasing demand, school leaders continue to work with area school and business leaders to develop and expand programs to address this concern. Whether these new programs are offered in the evening through the School of Continuing Education, or even during the traditional school day, our goal is to expand access so that students who hope to enter the workforce may do so with a set of valuable skills and industry-recognized credentials that will make them more employable, and better equipped to grow and learn in the occupation of their choosing.

While Monty Tech continues to ensure that students are job ready immediately after graduation, not all students who graduate from Monty Tech choose to enter the workforce upon completion. In fact, several of the school's vocational training programs prepare students for advanced education and training in high-wage, high-skill careers in engineering, allied health, business, education and computer sciences, field that demand a bachelor's and even master's degree. As such, it is imperative that the school also prepare those students for college level coursework.

CLASS OF 2023 POST GRADUATE PLANS



Students who attend Monty Tech must successfully complete all of the same academic requirements that students in comprehensive high schools complete, but at Monty Tech, students are only in academic classes every other week. Many students may find adjusting to this week on – week off schedule challenging, but it is this same schedule that provides Monty Tech students with time to explore and learn in a chosen vocational program at a deeper level. Whether running the school’s on-site, full-

service restaurant, operating the School Store, building a home for Habitat for Humanity, or performing community services across our sending communities, Monty Tech students are developing technical skills, while also learning critical time management and study skills. We are confident that whether our graduates choose to pursue college or career pathways, they are prepared for what lies ahead.



Academics

While students attending Monty Tech benefit from project-based, hands-on learning often associated with a vocational-technical high school experience, they must also complete all of the same academic requirements that their peers in comprehensive districts accomplish. At

Monty Tech, we believe a well-rounded high school experience includes rigorous and meaningful academic lessons. We are proud of our students’ accomplishments in the classroom, as well as in their vocational shops.

During the Spring of 2023, 10th grade students took the Next Generation MCAS in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Biology. Select 9th graders also sat for the Next Generation MCAS Biology exam. Students performed well across all subject areas, with remarkable passing rates of 98% in English Language Arts, 98% in Mathematics, and 98% in Biology.

Monty Tech’s academic programs continue to evolve to prepare graduates for diverse and challenging college and career pathways, and are widely known to effectively prepare students at all levels to reach their goals. A focus in recent years has been the incorporation of new and updated materials and coursework to expand STEM opportunities for students. In FY23, Monty Tech was awarded a Massachusetts Life Science Center grant, developed in collaboration with our post-secondary partners at Fitchburg State University. Using the \$110,000 award, Monty Tech instructors worked collaboratively to align course expectations with FSU’s Anatomy & Physiology class, laying a foundation for a first-ever articulation agreement with FSU. Additionally, students who successfully complete the course will earn 4 college credits at FSU, saving them time and as much as \$1,900 as they consider pursuing STEM college pathways. This grant has also provided funds to help modernize another science lab classroom to meet 21st Century lab requirements.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total AP Students	113	106	142	120	184
Number of Exams	148	146	189	162	244
AP Students with Scores 3+	69	75	61	82	104
% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+	61.06%	70.75%	42.96%	68.33%	56.25%

In May of 2023, our students participated in Advanced Placement (AP) exams and student performance showed outstanding results. A record number of students (184) participated in AP Exams, taking 244 AP Exams collectively. 104 of these students were eligible to receive college credit with qualifying scores of 3+. Although the percentage of qualifying scores at 57% is lower than last year's percentage, the total number of students earning qualifying scores is the highest we've seen in 5 years. With regard to specific exams, AP Chemistry had the highest number of test takers in 5 years with 88% of students receiving a qualifying score (14 total). AP English Language and Composition had 72 test takers (an increase of 32 since 2022) and the highest number of exams since 2019. Finally, we had 17 AP Scholars - an AP Scholar earns a qualifying score on at least 3 AP exams.

To support the expansion of AP course offerings, Monty Tech added AP Seminar as an elective course for juniors. Notably, 94% of students who took the AP Seminar exam in 2023 earned qualifying scores (18 students) - outstanding results for the first year of implementation! Monty Tech continues to provide the following AP opportunities for students:

AP English Literature & Composition
AP Language & Composition
AP Calculus, AP Statistics

AP Environmental Science
AP Chemistry
AP Seminar

Vocational Training

Preparing students for high-skill, high-wage careers requires technical proficiency, an ability to break down complex lessons into "bite sized" concepts, and a lot of patience. Our team of vocational instructors are not only skilled tradesmen and women, they are patient, collaborative and talented teachers, responsible for training the next generation's workforce. Their commitment to student achievement, community service, and advanced technical knowledge and skills is unmatched, and we are so grateful that they have chosen this profession, sharing their expertise with our students. 2022-2023 was a busy year across the District, with students working and learning in shops, on off-campus construction sites, and with area business leaders, refining their skills. We are proud to highlight some notable accomplishments.



Advanced Manufacturing: Advanced Manufacturing students now work and learn in a state-of-the-art machine shop, and may earn a number of industry-recognized credentials to demonstrate their technical capacity. All 15 Junior students completed NC3 Precision Measurement Instruments (PMI) training and earned 6 stackable credentials in measurement. The program's 6 Seniors earned an additional 6 credentials in Advanced Measuring Instrument (AMI), demonstrating expertise in advanced measuring skills. All 14

Sophomores passed MACWIC level 1, while all Freshman students successfully completed safety training, earning an OSHA 10-hour general industry certification. Six Seniors and eleven Juniors earned co-op placements, working and learning in area machine shops. (Total student enrollment: 52)

Auto Body Collision Repair Technology: Monty Tech Auto Body students earned valuable industry credentials in the 2022-2023 School year. Students earned the OSHA 10 hour general industry card, EPA 6H spray certification, and MACS Air Conditioning Certificates. Seniors completed I-Car Pro Level One in Refinishing and in Non-Structural Repair. Two Seniors earned co-op placements, and were reported to be valuable contributors in local repairs shops. At the SkillsUSA District Competition, Sophomore students won 1st, 2nd & 3rd in collision repair, and one advanced to the state competitions, taking home a bronze medal. The program's training equipment was upgraded, with the replacement of the frame measuring system, now allowing students to learn on the latest technology, which will lead to more career opportunities. (Total student enrollment: 65)

Automotive Technology: Ten Seniors in Automotive Technology earned their NC3/Snap On Apollo D8 Scan Tool Certification, and all Juniors earned the NC3/Snap on 525F Digital Multimeter certification. The Sophomores received the NC3 Shopkey Pro Service & Repair Information Level 2, while the program's Freshmen earned the OSHA 10 Safety Certification & the NC3 Shopkey Pro Service & Repair Information Level 1 certification. These industry-recognized credentials will demonstrate the students' level of competency within the automotive industry for years to come. Eight Seniors and six Juniors earned co-op placements. The program serviced, repaired, and diagnosed four hundred vehicles throughout the year, with work including basic maintenance, inspections, alignments, brakes, exhaust, tires, and advanced electric diagnosis.



Business Technology: Monty Tech's Business Technology program continues to benefit from the financial literacy initiative. All Juniors and Seniors earned a financial literacy certificate from the MassMutual Foundation FutureSmart program. Instructors, in collaboration with their post-secondary colleagues, continue to refine and develop new articulation agreements. The latest agreement with Mount Wachusett Community College will provide qualified students with college credits at no cost to the student. Students are eligible to receive 9 credits in the college's Business Administration Career program and 12 credits in the Administrative Assistant Certification program. Students were exposed to rebranding, marketing and retail experiences, as the school store underwent a complete renovation. Students were trained in the effective use of a new and streamlined point of sales system, and the daily/weekly/monthly financial report features associated with store sales. The Greenhouse opened in May, and Business Technology students handled all financial transactions professionally. Four of the program's students placed in the Technical Computer Applications competition for SkillsUSA, two students placed in the Customer Service competition, and one placed in the Employment Application competition – all advanced to

compete at the District and State levels. Five Seniors & seven Juniors earned co-op placements during the 2022-2023 school year. (Total student enrollment: 58)

Cabinetmaking: Monty Tech Cabinetmaking students are called upon for a number of projects small and large, across the campus and beyond. During the 2022-2023 school year, students completed projects that included: designing and installing a custom kitchen in the Ritter Memorial building for the Town of Lunenburg, cutting and assembling 120 trophies for MWCC's Arts Department, and fabricating maple benches for the locker rooms at Winchendon's Clark Memorial YMCA. Along with the community projects, students built new downdraft tables and custom cabinetry for the school's Dental Assisting program, storage cabinets and countertops for the Business Office, custom display cases and service counters for the Monty Tech School Store, and also built and installed new handicapped accessible cabinetry and storage for the Early Childhood program and Child Care Center. Five Seniors and nine Juniors earned co-op placements, representing the program so well. Sophomores and Freshmen completed important safety training exercises, earning OSHA Construction 10-hour and OSHA Careersafe 10-hour certifications, respectively. (Total student enrollment: 66)

CAD/Drafting & Design: In 2022-2023, five Monty Tech CAD/Drafting & Design Senior students and six Juniors earned co-op placements. Students achieved a number of valuable industry-recognized certifications including AutoCAD, Inventor, Revit, and Solidworks Part 1 & 2. Freshmen students completed safety training, and earned valuable OSHA CareerSafe credentials. The shop completed a variety of signs, banners, and posters for the school and non-profit organizations including: MVP Academy renovation layout work, Lunenburg Senior Center kitchen layout, and cabinetry planning for the improved Early Childhood Education training space. (Total student enrollment: 65)

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 2022-2023 school year, the Senior class collectively earned 25 trade-specific certifications in advanced nails, hair cutting and coloring techniques from BehindtheChair.com, Pravana.com, CND.com and Barbacide.com. Instructors signed articulation agreements with Mount Wachusett Community College, Quinsigamond Community College, and Keene State College, resulting in three college credits in Business at MWCC and QCC and nine general elective credits at Keene



State. All students participated in Beauty School Battles at Franklin County Technical School in Turners Falls, MA. One Freshman received 1st place in formal style, one Junior placed 2nd place for textured hair style, and two Seniors placed in fantasy hair style and formal nails. Seniors and Juniors also participated in Mental Health Day, providing spa services to

teachers/staff/students to raise funds for awareness. Finally, all 12 Seniors earned their cosmetology licenses – a wonderful testament to the program’s talented students and instructors! (Total student enrollment: 80)



Culinary Arts: Monty Tech Culinary Arts students and instructors operate a full-service restaurant and bakery, serving 70-90 patrons daily. The FY23 school year began with a Welcome Back/New Teachers reception, where students prepared and served hors d'oeuvres and mini pastries for 60 guests. Students were asked to prepare a luncheon for Principals and Counselors Day for 30 school leaders in October, and were asked to prepare dinner for both of the school's Program Advisory meetings, serving more than 380 at each event. Baking students prepared 200 apple pies for the

Lunenburg Lions club, catered an offsite Christmas buffet luncheon for 107 people at the Westminster Senior Center for the Ryan Patrick Jones Foundation, and continued to donate leftover baked goods to Our Father's House in Fitchburg. Students prepared and served delicious meals/treats for onsite MAVA Directors meetings and lunch for a statewide Masonry competition, as well as for National Honor Society events and our own high school graduation ceremony. Throughout the year, the busy restaurant hosted several groups that included: Gardner AARP, Towns of Phillipston, Ashby, Barre, Templeton, and Rindge, NH, and Fitchburg State University. Two students earned co-op placements, and all students sat for the ServSafe Manager exam, earning valuable industry-recognized credentials. (Total student enrollment: 71)

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 2022-2023, 93% of students passed the DANB Radiology exam. This outstanding 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 nine Seniors and 3 Juniors earned co-op placements, while the remaining Juniors and Seniors earned experience in affiliation/externship experiences in area dental clinics and offices. All Seniors and Sophomores earned American Red Cross for Basic Life Support CPR/AED certifications. Demonstrating a commitment to community service, the program enjoyed collaborating with local dental practitioners through the Community Health Connections Caring for Kids Program. While qualified Monty Tech students received free dental cleaning, radiographs, and sealants, Dental Assisting students assisted “chairside” in these procedures. (Total student enrollment: 58)

Early Childhood Education: Seven Seniors and one Junior in the school's popular Early Childhood Education program earned co-op placements, gaining valuable experience working with young children in local childcare centers. Three Seniors and four Juniors also gained experience on externships. All Sophomore and Senior students completed First Aid/CPR training and earned this valuable certification. Eight Seniors also earned the Child Development Associate National certification. Instructors are proud to report that all 12 Seniors applied for the MA Department of Early Education and Care Teacher certification, while Juniors planned a mock baby shower, donating diapers, wipes and clothing to the Montachusett Opportunity Council to benefit families in our region. The Monty Tech Child Care Center continues to provide all students enrolled in the Early Childhood Education

program with meaningful hands-on learning opportunities, giving them a glimpse into the day-to-day job functions of early education and care teachers. (Total student enrollment: 48)

Electrical: Throughout 2022-2023, students and instructors in the Monty Tech Electrical program wired numerous machines, equipment, computers, cameras and lights throughout the school. Fifteen Seniors and fifteen Juniors earned co-op placements, which allowed them to gain important on-the-job skills and additional training in the industry. Instructors collaborated with trade partners to obtain critical support for a Lab Modernization Grant application, which was submitted and approved in the amount of \$1.8M. These funds will allow the school to replicate the excellent training happening in our Electrical program, expanding access to students from Fitchburg, Gardner and Narragansett schools. With guidance from program instructors, students performed all wiring services at the Habitat for Humanity house building project in Fitchburg, while others were asked to wire the Lunenburg Town Hall break room. Instructors are pleased to report the program continues to be a highly sought-after experiences, with 24 Freshmen students choosing Electrical as their top choice! All 24 successfully completed the 10-hour OSHA training and certification. (Total student enrollment: 95)

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. Instructors continue to add creative “benchwork” or hands-on activities to supplement the curriculum, so that students can put their theoretical learning into practice. The program’s automation, 3D printing lab area and the Amatriol software continue to support all areas of the Engineering Frameworks. Seven Seniors and four Juniors earned co-op placements, while all 16 Freshmen completed the OSHA 10-hour General Industry training and certification program. (Total student enrollment: 61)

Graphic Communications: Throughout the 2022-2023 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. Students worked diligently to complete four middle school yearbooks for schools in our sending district. Students also completed a tourist map for the town of Sterling and printed Oakmont’s Graduation Programs. Two Seniors earned co-op placements, which allowed them to continue their on-the-job training in a real-world work setting. Graphics students consistently perform well at SkillsUSA competitions, and this year was no exception. The program is proud of its Gold Medal winners in the State Pin Design and National T-shirt Design contests. (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. We continue to improve the instructional spaces, technology and equipment for student training purposes. 19 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. 25 students passed their Certified Medical Assistant exam to become nationally certified medical assistants. All students

passed their Nurse Aide Exam, and 6 students passed the Home Health Aide exam. All Sophomores obtained their CPR, First Aid, and Alzheimer's Association certifications, while all Freshmen completed safety training and earned an OSHA certification. Two students received silver medals at the SkillsUSA State competition (in Basic Healthcare and Nursing Assisting), and another received a bronze medal in Nurse Assisting. Finally, five Seniors received their Phlebotomy Technician certification, a valuable industry-recognized credential. (Total student enrollment: 107)

House Carpentry: The Monty Tech House Carpentry program completed a number of projects, large and small during this 2022-2023 school year. Juniors and Seniors were proud to work on a single family residence for Habitat for Humanity in Fitchburg, where they completed all framing, roofing and exterior trim details, and installed all exterior doors and windows. Students worked with instructors to complete exterior renovations to a barn for the Town of Hubbardston Highway Department, a full kitchen renovation for the Town of Lunenburg, exterior weatherization for the Town of Barre Fire Station, and covered a bus stop unit for the City of Fitchburg (MART). Prioritizing community service, House Carpentry students supported local charitable organizations with donations of our Adirondack chairs built by Freshmen students in the program. Eighteen Sophomores received their OSHA safety credentials. 15 Juniors and 11 Seniors received their Hot Works Certification, while six Seniors and three Juniors were working and learning side-by-side with area carpenters and construction professionals through the popular co-op program. (Total student enrollment: 62)

HVAC & Property Maintenance: 2022-2023 was the first year that a Monty Tech student competed in the Facilitron, Leadership in Facilities Management competition for the SkillsUSA competition, and remarkably, the student was awarded a gold medal and advanced to the state competition. Six Seniors and four Juniors earned co-op placements in area businesses, and one top student received a PHCC Award as the Outstanding HVAC student, receiving more than \$400 in tools. 11 Juniors earned the EPA Universal License to work with HVAC Refrigerants, while the program's Sophomore and Freshmen students earned important OSHA safety credentials. Students and instructors also assisted in the construction of a Habitat for Humanity house in Fitchburg, applying energy auditing and building envelope concepts learned using the new energy audit trainer and equipment that was purchased with a recent grant award. This equipment and the students' new skillset allowed students to complete a comprehensive energy audit for the Town of Lunenburg Municipal Building, as well. (Total student enrollment: 58)

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 2022-2023, all Freshmen completed the OSHA 10-hour General Industry training, while Sophomore students earned Test-out PC Pro, Cisco IT Essentials, and Cisco Introduction to Networking credentials. Juniors and Seniors participated in the CyberStart America Cybersecurity competition, which resulted in one Senior and five Juniors qualifying for scholarships. Two Juniors and one Senior passed the CompTIA A+ Exams. Four students earned 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: 36)

Masonry: The talents of Monty Tech Masonry students are on display throughout district communities, as projects that were completed during the 2022-2023 school year include: concrete sidewalk repairs at Fitchburg High School and brick repairs at Fitchburg South Street School. Students placed and finished a concrete slab in Phillipston for an Eagle Scout project, and completed brick repairs at the Ritter Building in Lunenburg. The Monty Tech campus also benefitted from the work of our talented Masonry students, who constructed a block wall in the boys' locker room, replaced the paver floor in the Greenhouse, and installed concrete pads for the new ticket booth and ROTC storage pods. Sophomores received valuable safety training and earned the 10-hour OSHA Construction certification, while Freshmen completed the 10-hour General Industry certification. Seven Seniors earned co-op placements, and continued to refine their skills working with business partners through the school's co-op program. (Total student enrollment: 48)

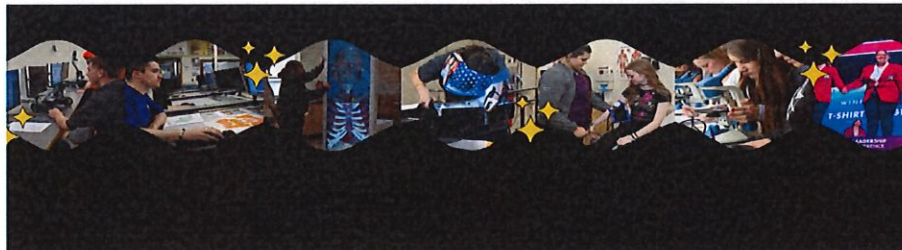


Plumbing: The 2022-2023 school year began with Plumbing students rough plumbing at the single family house building project for the Habitat for Humanity Program. Students and instructors also installed a new kitchen sink, utility sink and a kick-space heater at the Lunenburg Town Hall break room. On campus, numerous plumbing issues including leaks, drain cleaning, water heater repair and replacement, water cooler replacements, faucet replacements, and gas leaks were addressed in a timely and professional manner by the students. Juniors 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. Ten Seniors and two Juniors earned co-op placements, which allowed them to continue to grow in the trade, working with plumbing professionals in the area. Sophomores and Seniors were trained in Viega PEX/copper press, earning another valuable certification. One Senior earned the Plumbing All Star Award given by the Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Contractors Association of Massachusetts, and was given a scholarship for his continuing education. Another talented student was awarded the Central Mass Plumbing & Gas Inspectors Association Scholarship, which will assist in his continuing education. (Total student enrollment: 68)

Veterinary Science: For the 2022-2023 school year, the Monty Tech Veterinary Clinic completed 1,200 appointments, of which 222 were grooming services. 750 pets from 260 underserved families in our sending districts were provided high quality veterinary care. All Juniors earned the CVA (Certified Veterinary Assistant) certification, with a 100% pass rate on this important national exam. All Freshmen completed OSHA 10-hour Healthcare training and certification. Three Juniors were able to attend the USDA AgDiscovery Camp, which is a free summer outreach program to help teenagers explore careers in agricultural sciences, learning from university professors and USDA experts and gaining hands-on experience. Finally, ten Seniors and four juniors earned co-op placements, working in local

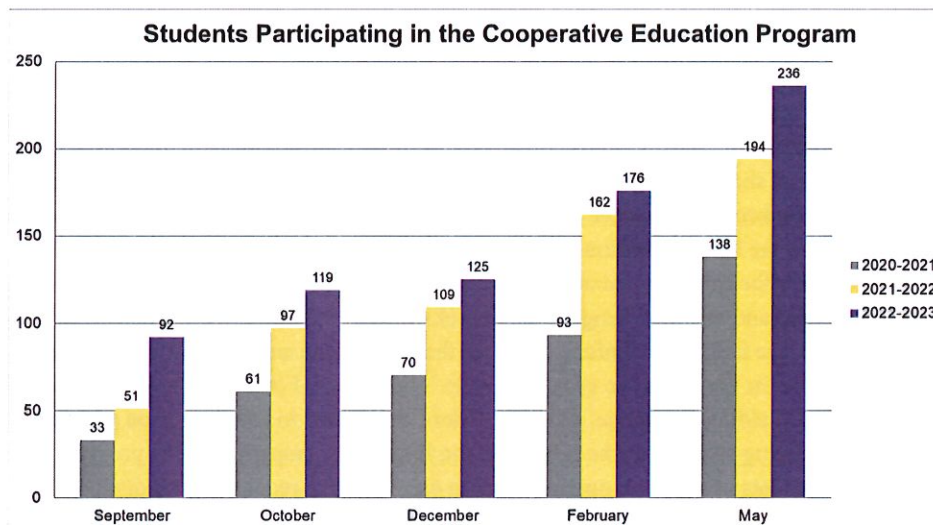
clinics, shelters and animal hospitals, applying the skills gained in this popular vocational training program. (Total student enrollment: 80)

Welding/Metal Fabrication: The Welding/Metal Fabrication program completed more than 30 community service projects in the 2022-2023 school year, including the fabrication and installation of metal shoes for trail maps at Coggs Hall Park in Fitchburg, fabricating stainless steel legs for the locker benches at the YMCA in Winchendon, and creating a metal archway for the entrance at the Music Pavilion in Winchendon. In-house projects included repairing the school plow for the school's maintenance team and repairing the floor in the warehouse. Students fabricated and installed hanging metal racks for the Plumbing Department to help organize their storage unit and cylinder mounts for their propylene tank, as well as more than 10' of floor covers for the hydraulic system in Auto Technology. Four students participated in the Notch Pipe Welding Challenge, and two Seniors were asked to collaborate on a project with WPI Engineering students at the New England Regional Competition. The program is proud to offer students at all levels opportunities to earn industry-recognized credentials. In 2023, Freshmen completed OSHA 10-hour General Industry training and certification requirements, Juniors completed the Hot Works Certification, and all students completed the OSHA 10-hour Construction Certification. All Juniors also earned the AWS D1.1 FCAW 1G Limited Certification while Seniors earned the AWD D1.1 SMAW 3G Limited Certification. A total of 15 students (4 Juniors and 11 Seniors) earned co-op placements. (Total student enrollment: 64)



Cooperative *Education*

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



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 proficiency and employability skills, and making industry connections enhances post-graduate employment opportunities. The Co-op Program also allows students to earn while they learn, which has allowed many students to learn valuable life skills, financial literacy skills, and gain a deeper understanding of the importance of career advancement and self-advocacy.

Employer benefits include addressing workforce needs in an efficient manner. Co-op students provide a pool of trained talent, ready to assume temporary, part-time or even full-time opportunities, thus reducing employer training costs. Co-op work hours may also be tailored to suit the needs of partnering employers.

In 2022-2023, the school saw a return to the workplace, and significant increases in the number of students placed in this valuable training program. With approximately 100 area employers participating in Cooperative Education, providing valuable experience to 236 students by the end of the 2022-2023 school year, school officials remain grateful for their continued support, and look forward to future collaborations.

Student *Support* Services

Monty Tech's Department of Student Support Services has prioritized the district's effort to educate the whole child, ensuring the young adults we serve have access to support in academic and vocational programming, as well as services related to social and emotional wellness. We have focused support around the growing concerns and struggles with age appropriate interactions, use of social media and need for meaningful connections. Creating safe and supported opportunities, we have embraced themes and models that challenge our students to reflect, grow, and learn in all areas of their experiences. The department continues

its important mission to break the stigma of mental health, shifting our perspective to find balance and mental wellness. This unified approach, support, and collaboration helps our student body display resilience, grow individually and meet success.

At Monty Tech, we strive to implement thoughtful tiered services that promote a feeling of comfort for students when accessing this support. In addition to the department's current school-based counseling services, Monty Tech and LUK, Inc. collaborated throughout 2022-2023 with the Department of Public Health to provide services to at-risk students and their families. The district also partnered with LUK to create a direct pipeline for telehealth referrals and increased access to counseling support, beyond the traditional school day. Programs such as the Hope Matters, a peer to peer mental wellness and suicide prevention program, Project AMP, a program to prevent substance abuse among youth, and Students Taking A New Direction (STAND), a program to support students displaying at-risk behaviors, have all been implemented successfully. In 2022-2023, Monty Tech also joined forces with CareSolace, an organization committed to matching individuals with mental health and/or substance abuse counselors. CareSolace Coordinators address the growing need to locate support and match individuals with therapists saving students and families hours of time, phone calls, waitlists and frustration. CareSolace supports the matching process and follows up with individuals to ensure each connection was a success. Most importantly, CareSolace Match Services are FREE to our students, family, staff and community. <https://caresolace.com/site/montytech>

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. Courses and activities designed to promote mindfulness, understanding, and social emotional wellness are part of the many course offerings within our school. 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.

During the 2022-2023 school year, Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District provided specialized services to approximately three hundred students – measuring progress of over two hundred students on Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and approximately one hundred students adhering to individualized Section 504 plans. While the Student Support Services Department encompasses special education, the department provides support that is available to all Monty Tech students, who have access to direct tutoring both before and after school. School counselors are available to assist students with vocational placement and post-secondary planning, and are equipped with the skills to engage students in workshops and groups that support the development of social resilience and finding balance, for those experiencing struggles.

The Student Support Services department includes a full-time nursing staff that continues to respond to CDC advisories and noted trends, administers medications, performs state-mandated health screening exams, and provides, when necessary, health information to the special education team for a student's IEP meetings. 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, proper food and clothing, and military status deployments. The school is also fortunate to have on staff a full-time psychologist, who evaluates all students referred for an initial evaluation or who may require a three-year re-evaluation. In addition, we have a full-time

speech language pathologist, available to assist students with disabilities, assess these students and consult with teachers. Finally, 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.

Technology @ Monty Tech

Technology and learning go hand-in-hand at Monty Tech, and 2022-2023 was no exception. Monty Tech's talented Technology Department led the transition to a new Student Information System – PowerSchool. The new system, coupled with the school's previous adoption of Performance Matters and Google Classroom has led to increased communications between school and home. For teachers, student outcomes are easier to track and analyze, while noted accomplishments and areas of concern can be brought to the attention of parents/guardians quite easily through these new technologies. The Director of Technology, School Principal, and Director of Academic Programs traveled to Nashville, TN to participate in training so that they could provide in-house support and important solutions, strategies, and techniques to the Monty Tech faculty and staff who would be new to this comprehensive new educational tool



The Technology Department was also called upon to work with the Dean's Office in an effort to mitigate vaping issues. Verkada vape sensors were installed, notifying the Deans and security personnel in the event a sensor is activated. Student safety efforts are ongoing and remain a priority for the technology team, who also installed a comprehensive guest registration system, which uses the guest's state issued ID to run a preliminary background check on any guest entering the school before he/she may be

admitted. Interactive learning displays, all new computers in vocational areas, new fiber lines, and an upgraded phone system rounded out the team's 2022-2023 efforts, resulting in a more efficient, more secure working and learning environment for all.

Finally, Department personnel was expanded to include a second Educational Technologist to the team. The two technologists provide valuable, personalized instruction to both academic and vocational teachers, as they expand their instructional delivery models and rely on available technology to provide and deliver important school-to-home communications.

The Monty Tech Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MCJROTC), is a leadership program based on the foundations of instilling the values of citizenship, service, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment. The program provides students with countless opportunities to serve as ambassadors in their communities, through the routine demonstration of student leadership development, volunteerism, perseverance, and dedication.



During the 2022 - 2023 school year, Monty Tech MCJROTC Cadets participated in more than 2,000 hours of community service and volunteerism. Cadets began the busy school year supporting two separate running events - the Fitchburg Veterans 5K and the Rock n Roll 5K at the Wachusett Brewery- providing assistance with vehicle parking, run route coordination, and vendor support. Another community event that was a highlight for our students was the Annual Blacksmith Festival held in Fitchburg, MA. Monty Tech cadets assisted competitors and vendors, and while doing so, learned a great deal about community volunteerism and the craft of blacksmithing as a fine art.

Cadets were able to sponsor and participate in a Veterans Day and Marine Corps Birthday Celebration. This event included a full USMC Birthday ceremony, marching in the USMC birthday cake cutting ceremony, and recognition of the guest of honor, Mr. Matt LaRose.

As in years past, Cadets were actively involved with assisting the Salvation Army, and proudly collected more than \$98,000 in donations throughout the 2023 holiday season. Their efforts greatly contributed to the much needed support of those less fortunate throughout the Monty Tech district. Cadets were also invited to participate in the Gardner Centennial Parade celebrating its 100th year as a city, and were asked to provide crowd and traffic control along various places of the parade route.

Assisting with color guards, presenting the Nation's Colors and the Marine Corps Battle Colors, is a particular honor and highlight for our young cadets. In 2022-2023, these special events were numerous, with as many as fifteen color guards to include all of the Monty Tech home football games, Fitchburg State graduate and undergraduate ceremonies, local civic ceremonies, as well as numerous veteran ceremonies in and around veteran holidays.

Finally, more than 150 Monty Tech cadets made their way to Fall River to experience Battleship Row. During this visit, cadets were able to walk on and around the USS Massachusetts and the maritime museum. Visits to local historic attractions are one of the many reasons cadets pursue this leadership program. In the Summer of 2023, 70 additional cadets travelled to Prince William Forest Campground located in Triangle, VA for a



weeklong leadership trip that included team building skills, physical fitness, and visits to local area attractions. Additionally, 15 cadets attended three separate leadership trips where they learned basic aviation, Cyber/Stem awareness, and advanced leadership techniques. These week-long leadership trips took place in Boswell, PA and Fork Union, VA.

Evening Programs

In recent years, Monty Tech's popular School of Continuing Education, has been the recipient of more than \$1.5M in funding from Commonwealth Corporation, to provide unemployed or underemployed individuals with no-cost training and job placement services in the region's most critical industries/occupations. These grant-funded training opportunities are an example of the collaboration between the MassHire Workforce Investment Board, the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and generous sponsorship from Commonwealth Corporation, making it possible for Monty Tech to offer meaningful job readiness training in occupations with high demand and self-sustaining wages.

In 2022-2023, school leaders were pleased to offer 200 hour training programs in culinary, electrical, CNC operation, and welding, at no cost to qualified participants. These FY23 training cohorts resulted in 33 individuals having secured full-time employment in their chosen occupations. In addition to these grant-funded opportunities, the School of Continuing Education, continues to offer the area's most affordable and comprehensive cosmetology training program, effectively preparing participants to sit for the Massachusetts State Board examinations. In FY23, four cosmetology students graduated from the program, and all have passed the licensing exam.



Recognizing a need to support social emotional wellness of our non-traditional students, many of whom would be returning to a classroom after many years of not participating in academic endeavors, program staff initiated a creative and beneficial monthly "Mental Health Breaktime," providing with food and community resources for enrolled students. This was a well-attended addition to the evening program, and is expected to become a regularly scheduled event in the coming years.

Finally, Monty Tech held its annual public job fair on May 4, 2023. The event was extremely well-attended, with more than sixty (60) area employers visiting on-site with both day and evening students seeking job opportunities. The strength of any Monty Tech training program is dependent upon mutually beneficial relationships between the school and our business partners. Serving more than 1,400 community members annually, the School of Continuing

Education is proud to offer meaningful training to a non-traditional student population, while working to develop new and important relationships with business partners in need of a talented candidate pool.

The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School Practical Nursing Program strives to create and provide a high-quality educational experience to each individual student seeking to establish a successful career in nursing. 2023 marked the Practical Nursing Programs silver anniversary. Since its inception, the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School Practical Nursing Program has graduated more than 700 nursing professionals.

Our program stresses the importance of developing the clinical judgement and skills needed to function safely, effectively, and productively in an ever changing technical and diverse society. By providing our students with an exceptional nursing education, we graduate outstanding healthcare professionals with the ability to make a difference for our local communities and beyond.

Nurses at all levels play a vital role in providing care and compassion to patients in need. Monty Tech Practical Nursing Program graduates continue to seek admission to the "LPN to BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing)

Bridge" with Fitchburg State University (FSU). This opportunity provides a seamless pathway for our graduates to enhance their clinical skills, deepen their theoretical knowledge, and embrace leadership roles in the nursing profession. The graduating class of 2023 volunteered for the United Way Days of Caring. The student nurses engaged in various community activities including painting playgrounds and community buildings, as well as neighborhood and garden clean-ups. The collaboration between student nurses and United Way exemplifies the spirit of altruism and the pursuit of practical knowledge in service to society. It's a reciprocal relationship enriching both the students' learning experiences and the communities served.

On June 22, 2023, a class of 30 students graduated ready to enter the nursing profession. The class of 2023 has achieved a 90% pass rate on the NCLEX-PN exam (National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses). The 2023 program graduates are currently employed working in various health care settings, such as long-term care, sub-acute care, acute care, acute rehabilitation care, mental health/substance abuse facilities, physicians' offices, correctional medicine, pediatric extended care, and school nursing.



Looking Ahead

Monty Tech is known for its innovation and creative programs that prepare young people for high skill and high wage job opportunities. While we are so proud of our annual accomplishments, school leaders maintain an eye to the future – always seeking improvement. School leaders are confident that our efforts to develop and maintain a responsible local budget, coupled with our pursuit of competitive grant funding will ensure our training programs stay current and aligned with industry standards. Our relationships with area business leaders, community service agencies and post-secondary partners will improve student outcomes, whether our graduates choose college or career pathways upon graduation. Our endeavors, as the region's leading workforce training provider, to increase access to valuable training opportunities remain a top priority. A few of the more notable initiatives that we expect to have a positive impact on our school and students in the coming years include:

New partnerships to increase access to vocational programs:

In FY23, Monty Tech proudly entered into a partnership with Fitchburg Public Schools, Gardner Public Schools, and Narragansett Regional School District, in an effort to provide students in those districts with meaningful vocational training opportunities. Monty Tech found and secured a vacant property close to campus, and was awarded a record-setting \$1.88M grant to renovate and equip the facility, turning it into a state-of-the-art training center for carpentry, electrical and plumbing occupations. Students and instructors are tasked with building out the new training spaces throughout the 2023-2024 school year, so that doors can open to the Montachusett Vocational Partnership (MVP) Academy in September 2024. School leaders will continue to promote the innovative partnership and modified "After Dark" schedule, as a model program that, if funded properly, could satisfy concerns for lack of access to vocational programming across the Commonwealth. Monty Tech officials look forward to communicating with local and state leaders, advocating for increased funding for such endeavors, and building upon this exceptional partnership that is expected to serve as many as 125 students when all programs are in operation.



Grant funding to improve and expand training programs: In FY23, Monty Tech applied for its ninth Skills Capital Grant, in the amount of \$500,000. The school's Development Coordinator worked closely with Culinary Arts

instructors to craft a comprehensive proposal that, if funded, will bring much needed improvements to the program. School leaders will be able to purchase commercial kitchen equipment that is updated, more efficient, and reflects the same equipment used in our partner's kitchens, and to purchase a food truck, which will allow instructors to develop all-new curricula in street food, quick service and community service opportunities. All equipment will be used to improve the existing day program, and to establish all-new, 100-hour evening training programs for adult learners. School officials look forward to award notification in 2023-2024 school year, with enhancements to the program beginning Fall 2024.

Monty Tech Leadership

The district continues to benefit from a talented leadership team 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, the team has transformed the school into one of the most sought-after high schools in North Central Massachusetts.

Thomas R. Browne, Superintendent-Director

Dayana Carlson, Principal

Tammy Crockett, Business Manager

Kim Curry, Co-Operative Education Coordinator

Taryn DiVito, Data Analysis and Accountability Coordinator

Christina Favreau, Director of Academic Programs

Michael Gormley, Director of Facilities

Donald Kitzmiller, Director of Technology

Christine Leamy, Dean of Admissions

Ryan Rege, Director of Vocational Programs

Kathryn Schmidt, Assistant Principal

Katy Whitaker, Development Coordinator

Victoria Zarozinski, Director of Student Support Services

In addition, 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 2022-2023 School Committee for their outstanding service.

Eric Commodore, Gardner
Chair

John Columbus, Templeton
Vice Chair

Julie Marynok
Secretary

Jeffrey Gallant
District Treasurer

Diane Swenson, Ashburnham
Peter Capone, Ashby
Jeffrey Raymond, Athol
Whitney Marshall, Barre
Robert Campbell, Fitchburg
Michael Hurley, Fitchburg
Dr. Ronald Tourigny, Fitchburg
Melanie Weeks, Fitchburg
James S. Boone, Gardner
Jeanne Bartlett, Harvard

Donna Lafayette, Hubbardston
Barbara Reynolds, Lunenburg
Eric Olson, Phillipston
John P. Mollica, Princeton
Sara Dilg, Royalston
William Brassard, Sterling
John Columbus, Templeton
Ross Barber, Westminster
Tamarah Estes, Winchendon



Respectfully Submitted By:
Thomas R. Browne, Superintendent-Director

January 31, 2024

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School 1050 Westminster Street
Fitchburg, MA 01420
(978) 345-9200
www.montytech.net

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Planning and Development serves as the Town's planning, community and economic development office. The Department provides staff support to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board, Winchendon Redevelopment Authority, and the Conservation Commission. Annual reports of the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board.

Staffing: The Planning and Development Department is staffed by myself Nicole Roberts, Planning and Land Use Coordinator I oversee the Planning and Land Use Department, working to assist the Building, Planning and Zoning Departments to streamline the permitting process. Tara Rivers joined the Town of Winchendon in May of 2023 serves as the part-time Land Use Clerk supporting both the Planning and Building Departments.

Functions: In addition to providing staff support for the above listed committees and commissions, the Department of Planning and Development oversees the preparation and administration of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the Green Communities Grant, numerous other grant programs (see below), facilitates the preparation and update of various municipal planning documents, coordinates project design review, and assists in the administration of various Municipal development activities. The Department works closely with regional planning commissions (RPC) as well as with local Commerce and Social Service agencies in all areas of Planning, Community and Economic Development.

Grant Activity:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

2020 CDBG – CDF – \$715,510.00 Railroad Street Reconstruction & fuel assistance

CDBG-CV program – \$131,500.00 (Winchendon's share) Small business & homelessness assistance

Total CDBG Awards (since 2016): **\$2,404,376.00**

Green Communities Grant program

FY21 Green Communities Grant: **\$196,510.00**

\$84,043, Memorial School— LED lighting, phase 2

\$42,875, Murdock High School— Building controls update

\$57,412, DPW— Infrared heaters, fuel conversion

\$10,000, Town — Hybrid cruiser purchase (2)
\$2,180, Town—Building Operator Certification training

FY23 Green Communities Grant: **\$ 66,449**
\$66,449, Town- Air source heat pump
Total Green Communities Awards to date: **\$ 875,704.00**

Brownsfield Assessment/Remediation – Mass Development

4 Summer Dr.
\$150,200.00 Building materials remediation and additional soil assessment Total
Brownsfield Assessment/remediation to date: **\$233,000.00**

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP)

MVP Planning Grant -\$36,400.00 Total
MVP grant to date: **\$36,400.00**

Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund - Emergency Assistance –

\$50,000.00 Old Murdock Senior Repairs
Total Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund Awards (since 2016): **\$50,000.00**

Mass DOT Shared Streets grant –

\$ 243,000.00 Construction of ADA ramps/pavement markings/bus shelters Total
Shared Streets Awards to date: **\$243,000.00**

Mass DOT Complete Streets grant-

\$399,831.00 Central St/Maple Street Intersection Redesign Total
Complete Streets Awards to date: **\$449,831.00**

Robinson Broadhurst Foundation –

\$ 21,500.00 – 2 MP Chapters and printing of the document
Total Robinson- Broadhurst Foundation grants (since 2016): **\$21,500.00**

Central Street grant

\$4,810,698.00- Central Street redesign and infrastructure

Total grants: **\$6,891,398.00**

Additional grant opportunities are sought as appropriate or directed by the Town Manager.

In addition to grant activity, the Department has 3 primary focus areas; Economic Development, Community Development & Planning. Much of the work performed in the Department interrelates with multiple offices, committees and initiatives. To promote these areas of focus, some of the projects the Planning & Development department were part of throughout 2022 include:

1. 4 Summer Dr. – Master Plan Strategy (MPS) ED 5.1, 5.2
2. Gateway Park design – Lake St. MPS OS, 5.1 OS 5.2

3. Blair Sq. redesign – MPS ED 2.3
4. Maple St/Central St intersection redesign – MPS ED 2.3, TR 4.3
5. Upper Central St ADA facilities & shelters– MPS TR 4.3, HO 4.1, HW 2.2
6. Develop Municipal Vulnerability Plan – MPS SF 6.2
7. Railroad St. reconstruction – MPS TR4.3, HO 3.1 HO 4.1
8. Wayfinding and Branding implementation – MPS ED 2.5, TR 1.1
9. ARPA Funded Water/Sewer assistance program – MP Goal HW 5
10. CDBG Supplemental Fuel Assistance, MP Goal HW 5
11. Hillview Business Park -business development MPS ED 2.13
12. Central Street reconstruction easements – MPS ED 5.5, TR 2.2
13. Research Extending Bike Trail Network – MPS OS 2.1, OS 2.2
14. Safe Routes to Schools Bike Rodeo/Grant – MPS HO 4.2
15. Green Communities Individual Projects – MPS LU 2.1, SF 6.1
16. Fallfest 2022– Oct. 22, 2022 MPS ED 2.7, 2.10
17. Revitalization of Beech Street properties – MPS ED 2.6, OS 5.2

Looking Ahead: The Department of Planning and Development remains committed to playing an important role in the vitality of Winchendon. One measurement of our success is indicated by the opportunities provided to the town. We are excited to see many of the revitalization projects that we have worked on with your help, come to fruition in the coming year. As our guide, the department will continue to work towards providing additional opportunities to the town by following the goals and strategies outlined in the Winchendon Master Plan. The first projects slated in 2022 include an update to the Zoning Bylaws (MPS LU 1.4, ED 5.4, HO 2.2), Design Guidelines (MPS ED 2.4) and compiling a Housing Production Plan (MPS HO 1.1, HO 1.2, HO 2.4, HW 3.1, HW 3.2). We encourage anyone interested in being involved in these projects to attend Planning Board meetings, reach out to any Planning Board member with comments or questions, or contact Department of Planning & Development staff.

Our success is only possible with the support of the Town Manager, The Select Board, fellow town departments, boards and staff, and the numerous townspeople who remain engaged in the municipal process. We look forward to continuing to work with you in 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Roberts
Planning and Land Use Coordinator



PLANNING BOARD

This year's full Board with Guy Corbosiero (Chair), Lester Goodrich, Burton E. Gould Jr., Art Armenta, Garrett Wante and Alternate Amanda Phillips. In the later part of the year we welcomed Thomas Liao as an alternate member.

The Board was well served in 2023 and could not of succeed without the help of Planning and Land Use Coordinator Nicole Roberts. Tara Rivers was hired in May of 2023 as the Land Use Clerk to assist the Planning and Development Office and Building Department.

The Board's regular schedule had them meeting twice a month. In 2023 they held fifteen (15) meetings. Meetings were carried on cable TV, as well as the Town of Winchendon website, we appreciate this exposure, as we want and the citizens of Winchendon to know what we are doing as their representatives. This is especially true since we frequently have very few attendees in our live audience. Citizen participation is essential in making our Board and all board's actions a mirror of the wants and needs of the community.

TRAINING: The spring training conference in Worcester conducted by the Citizen Planner Training Collaborative. The Board always urges members to take advantage of the various training opportunities available and all have at various times. The Board continued their membership in the American Planning Association so they could take advantage of the numerous training and educational benefits offered.

APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED PLANS: ANR plans are a process unique to the Massachusetts Subdivision Control Law. This year six (6) ANR plans were submitted and endorsed. SUBDIVISIONS: There were no Preliminary Subdivision Plan submitted for this year.

LOOKING AHEAD: The Board tries to see the long-range view when taking on a project. We feel the need to plan well into the future, not just short term; it is our wish to leave Winchendon a better place at the end of the day. Our purview is not limited to just land use and zoning issues, though those occupy the largest portion of our time.

The board is very appreciative of the support and assistance of Nicole Roberts, Planning and Land Use Coordinator; Tara Rivers, Land Use Clerk; Brianna Roberts Recording Secretary and Jean E. Cristy, P.E. from Tighe and Bond, engineering consultant for the Board; the Conservation Commission and the other town boards and officials that have assisted in the work of this Board. We would also like to welcome our new Town Engineer, Patrick Wood as this will expedite review of plans and provide his expertise in the field.

Respectfully submitted, Guy C. Corbosiero, Chairman

THE WINCHENDON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ANNUAL REPORT

Police Department Staff

Chief Daniel Wolski	Ptl. Derek Blair
Lt. Kevin Wolski	Ptl. Richard Oinonen
Sgt. Raymond Anair	Ptl. James Maynard
Sgt. Gerald Gagne	Ptl. Brandon Lucier
Sgt. Joseph Champney	Ptl. Justin Smith
Det. Caleb Similia	Ptl. Dylan Mei
SRO. Tracy Flagg	Ptl. Daniel Caputi
Ptl. James Wironen K-9 Handler	

Executive Assistant

Marla Watkins

Dispatchers

Robert Coulombe, Head Dispatcher
Jaime Holden, Admin Dispatcher
Dillon Walsh
Ariana Deery
Tamie Charbonneau

Per Diem Dispatchers

Marla Watkins
Richard Ward
Jessica Hunt
Deena Leblanc
Jennifer Caisse
Samantha Cass

OFFENSES FOR YEAR 2023

Rape/Sexual Assault	10
Statutory Rape	3
Aggravated Assault	38
Simple Assault	99
Intimidation	19
Arson	1
Kidnapping/Abduction	1
Robbery	2
Burglary/Breaking and Entering	37
Extortion/Blackmail	1
Larceny Shoplifting	7
Larceny from Building	1
Larceny of Motor Vehicle Parts	1

Larceny from Motor Vehicle	1
All Other Larceny	29
Counterfeiting/Forgery	8
Fraud False Pretenses/Swindle	1
Fraud Credit Card/ATM	18
Fraud Impersonation	1
Stolen Property Offenses	43
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	5
Drug/Narcotics Violations	83
Pornography/Obscene Material	19
Weapon Law Violations	5
Disorderly Conduct	24
Drunkenness	4
Driving Under the Influence	8
Liquor Law Violations	2
Trespass of Real Property	26
All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	232
Traffic, Town-By-Law Offenses	243

ACCIDENTS FOR YEAR 2023

Fatal Injury	1
No Apparent Injury	346
Suspected Serious Injury	8
Suspected Minor Injury	50
Possible Injury	7
School Bus Involved	3
Total Accidents Reports Processed	223

VEHICLE CITATIONS ISSUED FOR YEAR 2023

Civil Charges	87
Criminal Complaints	136
Arrests (Traffic)	30
Warnings	148
Fine Total	\$9,390.00

PARKING CITATIONS ISSUED FOR YEAR 2023

Violation Issued	13
Fine Total	\$295.00

GRANTS AWARDED 2023

FY24 E911 Support/Incentive Grant	\$180,868.00
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FY24 E911 Training Grant	\$19,876.74
FY24 Body Worn Camera Grant	\$12,490.00

FUNDS COLLECTED FOR YEAR 2023

License to Carry/FID Fee Town Share	\$5,362.50
Special Agency Administration Fee	\$3,328.85

EMERGENCY DISPATCH CENTER

Answered Calls for Service	17,619
Total E911 Calls Answered	2,643

POLICE DEPARTMENT TOWN REPORT 2023



For the first time in more than twenty years the department contracted the services of a professional photographer to capture an image of the entire police force. The revived historical *Artisan Building*, which now exists as the Town's police station was a well-fitting backdrop for the occasion.

The Winchendon Police Department currently consists of 15 full-time police officers. The police department is responsible for public safety within the 42 square miles and 135 road miles that comprise the town of Winchendon. The Winchendon Regional Communication Center, located within the Winchendon Police Station, consists of five full time, one permanent/part-time and four per diem dispatchers. The Winchendon Communication center is responsible for dispatching Police, Fire and EMS for both the Town of Winchendon and the Town of Royalston.

Maintaining law and order within a town of more than 10,000 people is a challenge for our relatively small police force. However, the department's staff proudly face this challenge and honorably carry out their duties with the utmost effort. The department's mission remains to deliver professional, courteous and unbiased police services to all citizens and visitors of the town. We strive to build partnerships with the community and its businesses to maintain and enhance the quality of life for the town's people. We engage and involve the community in policing through mutual trust, respect and understanding, and our overall goal is to have a positive impact on the lives of those we serve.

2023 was an eventful year for the department, filled with many changes and accomplishments. Two veteran officers, Alan Ross and Brennan Jacoby retired in the early part of the year. Alan Ross' police career spanned twenty six years, the first fifteen of which as a patrolman for the City of Fitchburg. Ofc. Ross rose to the rank of Detective during his tenure with the Winchendon Police Department. Officer Brennan Jacoby protected and served the community for a total of ten years. Both Officers Ross and Jacoby were competent and dedicated policeman. We wish them well in retirement and thank them for their years of valued service.

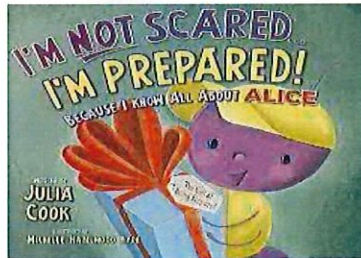
Body Worn Cameras

The police department was proud to be among the first law enforcement agencies in the commonwealth to adopt a body worn camera program. The entire police force was equipped with body worn cameras in the early part of the year. We believe that body worn cameras increase transparency, improve officer accountability and protect the public as well as officers.

Post Overdose Support Team

The police department has continued its outreach efforts through the work of the POST Overdose Support Team (POST). The POST team is comprised of one Winchendon police officer and social workers from the GAAHMA organization of Gardner. The team responds to the homes of those afflicted by substance abuse disorder, following an overdose to offer support and resources. Engaging citizens in this fashion develops trust and builds positive relationships with members of the community. The POST program exemplifies a proactive approach to addressing community needs and concerns and demonstrates the benefit of a broader police function in the community. Ofc. James Maynard is the POST Program's coordinator. Ofc. Maynard is a compassionate and dedicated officer, whose attributes are integral to the success of this worthwhile program.

ALICE Training



School Resource Officer, Tracy Flagg, assisted by Ofc. James Maynard and Ofc. Brandon Lucier, prepared teachers, administrators and students of our public schools, by conducting ALICE training (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate). ALICE training helps prepare individuals to handle the threat of an Active Shooter. ALICE training teaches individuals to participate in their own survival, while leading others to safety. The ALICE program was authored by a police officer to keep his wife, an

elementary school principal, safe after the tragic events at Columbine. ALICE continues to be the leading active shooter response program in the U.S. It is an unfortunate reality that such steps in preparedness have to be taken, however tragic incidents have become an all too common occurrence in schools across our nation. We hope our community takes some comfort in knowing the police department conducts this training to promote preparedness and safety.

RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) Program

The Department was pleased to offer residents an opportunity to participate in the RAD program. RAD is a program of realistic, self-defense tactics and techniques. It is a comprehensive course for women that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance, while progressing on to the basics of hands-on defense training. The RAD program, which was well attended in 2023 was coordinated and presented by Officer Tracy Flagg and Officer Jim Wironen.

Internet Scam Awareness/Prevention

Officer Derek Blair conducted presentations for the benefit of seniors in the community. A class in August at Ipswich Drive and another in September provided information on measures citizens can take to prevent becoming victims of internet crime. The classes were well attended and the information well received.



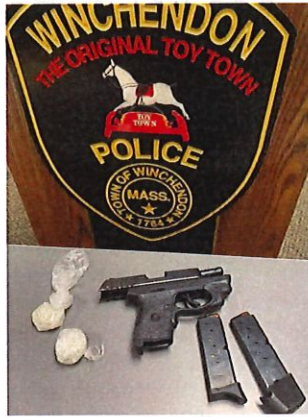
K-9 Program



K-9 Blitz completed the New England State Police Administrator Conference (NESPAC) 240-hour narcotics school in the spring of 2023. K-9 Blitz hit the ground running, assisting in multiple search warrants with the North Worcester County Drug Task Force, where he assisted in locating hidden narcotics. K-9 Blitz also had numerous deployments on the street. On his second tracking deployment, he had a lifesaving find of a female party in medical distress. K-9 Blitz continues to be a force multiplier by being available on all the calls he responds to with Officer Wironen.

The team continues to train monthly with the Massachusetts State Police K-9 unit to keep their skills sharp, and the yearly Houndsmen man-trailing seminar is in the fall. We continue to receive support from Winchendon's generous businesses and citizens, who help take care of his financial needs, including medical treatments, equipment, training, and K-9 insurance.





Drug Enforcement

A multi-faceted approach to mitigating the negative effects of drug activity in a town are necessary. In addition to having compassionate outreach programs like POST, aggressive investigation and prosecution of drug dealers is an essential component to improving quality of life in a community. Detective Caleb Similia as well as the patrol staff were proactive and aggressive, and their diligence yielded several notable drug arrests in 2023.

(1/16/2023) Officer Joseph Champney and Officer Brandon Lucier seized quantities of crack cocaine, fentanyl, crystal methamphetamine and an illegal firearm during the course of an investigation which lead to an arrest

(4/6/2023) Officer James Wironen, Officer Joseph Champney and Officer Dylan Mei seized 14 grams of crack cocaine, 4 grams of fentanyl, an illegal firearm, digital scales and nearly \$3,000 in cash during the course of an investigation that lead to an arrest. The narcotics were packaged in a manner consistent with street level drug distribution.

(5/25/2023) Officer Champney seized 10 grams of suspected crack cocaine and 95 illegally possessed Gabapentin capsules. The narcotics were packaged in a manner consistent with street level drug distribution. This investigation, preceded by a motor vehicle stop for speeding led to an arrest.

(12/1/2023) Detective Caleb Similia conducted a search warrant of a residence in which drug trafficking activity was suspected. Quantities of fentanyl and methamphetamine were discovered and seized during the search. The target of the investigation was arrested and charged with Trafficking Fentanyl and being in Possession of Methamphetamine.



(12/15/2023) Detective Caleb Similia conducted a search warrant of a residence which led to the seizure of quantities of suspected crack cocaine, heroin, fentanyl, \$1,982 cash. The narcotics were packaged in a manner consistent with street level drug distribution. The target of the search warrant was arrested and charged.

Staffing Updates

Due to vacancies created by retirements of veteran officers, members of the departments reserve staff (Ofc. Justin Smith, Ofc. Dylan Mei & Ofc. Daniel Caputi) were all elevated to full time. Unfortunately, language in the Police Reform Bill passed by the Massachusetts Legislature in 2020 effectively eliminated reserve officers, as we know them. In accordance with the Bill, the reserve/intermittent academy which certified officers to work on a part-

time basis, is no longer available. As a result, it is virtually impossible to replace or maintain a part-time/reserve force. The Winchendon Police Department has relied heavily on the existence of reserve officers over the years. To put the matter into perspective, Ofc. Caputi, Mei and Smith worked a combined 3,935 hours as part-time officers from July 1st 2020 to December 31st 2022. To compensate for the challenges created by the lack of a reserve staff, the department sought funding to hire one additional full-time police officer. We are happy to announce that we currently have a candidate attending the (23 week long) Boylston Basic Recruit Academy.

The Winchendon Regional Communication Center (Dispatch) has experienced increased call volume year after year. This is beginning to become an untenable burden on the E911 Dispatchers. Due to budgetary constraints and staffing levels, we currently have only one E911 Dispatcher on duty at any given time. The Communication Center's E911 Dispatchers handle over 15,000 calls per year. They are responsible for the communications of the on duty Police, Fire, E.M.S. and Department of Public Works for both Winchendon and Royalston. The Communication Center received 3,600 more calls in 2023 than it did the previous year. The Communication Center's goal is to provide safe, prompt and effective communications to the agencies it serves. It also seeks to function in a manner in which citizens feel as comfortable and confident as possible when calling for police, fire or medical. In order to better meet this objective the department is seeking funding for one additional permanent/part time dispatcher. This small staffing increase will afford the ability to provide additional coverage during peak hours on the evening shift.

Closing Statement

As we reflect on the time and achievements of 2023 we look forward to the opportunities that lay ahead in 2024. Our goal is to continue to foster relationships and work with organizations in town to tackle challenges that face our community. It is easy for the police department to be part of the fabric of the community because so many of its officers grew up in and live in the community. We all have a vested interest in the peace and prosperity of our town. Fortunately, the men and women who comprise the Winchendon Police Department, work exceptionally well together. Their respect for one another and their sense of duty to the town and loyalty to the department's mission, is outstanding. I am grateful to lead such an extraordinary team.

Lastly, as the Town's Police Chief, I wish to express that I am honored and humbled to be able to serve the community in which I grew up and to wear the uniform of the Winchendon Police Department. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Daniel C. Wolski
Chief of Police



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Brian Croteau

Town Engineer

Patrick Wood

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Brittany Ellis

CLERK

Shelley Berry

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Working Foreman - Paul Hachey and Phillip Tousignant

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

**Phillip Tousignant, Glenn Larochelle, Zachary Blair, Austin Lyman, Chris Duval,
George Brooks,**

The Town's Highway Department maintains more than 130 miles of primary and secondary roadways. The majority of these roadways are paved while there are several miles of dirt/unpaved roadways. The equipment utilized for maintaining these roads is comprised of thirteen pieces: 2 front-end loaders, 1 backhoe, 4 truck/sander combinations, 2 one-ton dump trucks, 3 one-ton pickup trucks and 1 grader. During snow storms, we also may use Water Department equipment, if needed.

During the course of the year, the Highway Department graded all public gravel roads several times, painted crosswalks, repaired and installed new regulatory and street signs throughout town, swept streets and sidewalks, patched potholes, cleaned catch basins and drop inlets, cut and chipped brush from town roads, removed numerous large dead or dying hazardous trees, and repaired or replaced culverts and storm drains throughout town. In addition, DPW personnel plowed and sanded all town-owned roadways and removed snow from the downtown area as necessary. We also plow a section of the bike path, the Winchendon Community Park and Grout Park. A total of approximately 2,712.52 tons of salt and 524.62 tons of sand were utilized to treat roadways during the 2023 winter season. This year we used our bucket truck to cut trees and board up abandoned buildings.

There were several major roadway projects completed in 2023. The Community Park at Ingleside as well as the Amphitheater were completed. Central Street was completed. Grant funds were procured to extend the rail trail. The abandoned garage on Beech Street was torn down to make room for a future park. The Riverside Cemetery expansion is underway. The DPW garage got a new roof. 19 roads got repaved.

TRANSFER STATION

Foreman - Josh Harris

Attendant – Sue Garno

This year, the Transfer Station continued the popular program of Single Stream Recycling. Templeton residents with a purchased dump sticker continued to utilize the Transfer Station, increasing revenue to help pay the rising cost of operating a transfer station.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Chief Operator - Mark Frye

Operators - Charles Weaver & Richard Garno

The Water Department maintains Winchendon's 61 miles of water mains, water service connections, 336 fire hydrants, two water storage tanks, and three water booster/pump stations. We began a new initiative to update water meters in Town to allow more efficient reads. Another benefit of the new meters is the ability for homeowners to have a unique insight to their water usage. These meters come with an app that users can download on their phones. These meters also have the ability to notify homeowners and the Water Department of astronomical increases in water usage, catching leaks early and saving money and water. Currently, we have 2,199 water and 1,389 sewer customers.

Water Department and Public Works Department personnel responded to a total of thirteen (13) water main breaks over the course of 2022. Water main breaks are primarily the result of aging water mains that Winchendon and most other cities/towns are facing across the country. Breaks can be exacerbated by inconsistent weather which causes the ground to freeze and then thaw, thus heaving the pipes and placing stress on already aging water mains and pipes. DPW employees assisted on each water main break to facilitate the repair and return water service as quickly as possible. Upon the repair of each break, impacted water mains were thoroughly flushed and returned to service. Roadways damaged and/or excavated during the repair of each water main break were patched and restored to the fullest extent possible by DPW employees.

Water Department personnel also responded to a number of water service line and fire sprinkler system leaks/breaks (serving individual buildings/houses) over the course of 2023. In these situations, water was shut off at the street so that the respective property owner could have repairs completed by us or a contractor or plumber, depending upon the location of the leak.

In 2023, we continued the flushing of all fire hydrants routinely to ensure clean water to all residents on the water system. Fire hydrants were replaced or repaired as needed.

All cross connection control and backflow prevention devices in town were inspected and tested in accordance with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Cross Connection Control regulations. Owners of failed devices were required to make repairs and return the equipment to operable service in a timely manner to ensure that the Town's water system was properly protected from contamination by back-siphonage. DPW Clerk Shelley Berry worked hard on her initiative to update Backflow records and create a more efficient process for the Water Department and DPW office to follow.

WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

AWJWT

The Ashburnham/Winchendon Joint Water Treatment Plant on Lake Road in Ashburnham treats water from Upper Naukeag Lake for distribution to the Towns of Winchendon and Ashburnham. Veolia Water North America of Houston, TX is contracted by Winchendon/Ashburnham to operate, maintain, and repair the water treatment plant and is required to do so in accordance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations. The costs of operating and maintaining the treatment plant are divided between Winchendon and Ashburnham based on the quantity of water delivered to each town. During 2023, a total of 18,282,767cf of water was treated and pumped to Winchendon, for an average of 136,755,097 gallons per year.

WATER QUALITY TESTING

The Water Department collects 9 drinking water samples each month at predetermined locations throughout the distribution system for microbiological testing. These samples are analyzed by a state-certified laboratory and the results reported to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP). The Town also samples the drinking water for asbestos, disinfection-byproducts (DBPs), volatile organic compounds (VOC's), inorganic compounds (IOC's), nitrates, nitrites, radionuclides, and synthetic organic compounds (SOC's). The sampling schedule and locations are approved by MA DEP.

LEAD AND COPPER

Winchendon's testing requirements for lead and copper have been reduced by MA DEP from 20 samples once a year to 20 samples every (3) three years due to the fact that samples were below the 90th percentile for several consecutive monitoring periods. In accordance with the sampling plan approved by MA DEP, sampling/testing for lead and copper were collected/analyzed in 2023. The report found us to be in compliance on both lead and copper. The drinking water is tested for lead and copper in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the corrosion control program employed at the Ashburnham/Winchendon Joint Water Authority Treatment Plant. The next lead and copper testing will be done in September of 2024.

SEWER/WATER DEPARTMENT

While the Town contracts with Veolia on the treatment of water and sewer, Town staff is still responsible for the distribution of water and the maintenance of the equipment and infrastructure used to distribute water and sewer to and from the treatment plants. The town's sewer collection system consists of all sewer interceptors and collection mains, manholes, and two lift/pump stations. The two sewer lift/pump stations, located on Spring Street and Spring Place, are inspected on a daily basis, including weekends and holidays. Water Department personnel are also responsible for clearing the occasional blockages that occur in sewer collection mains, typically utilizing a high-pressure water jet flushing machine. As preventative maintenance, sewer manholes and collection mains are also inspected, utilizing remote video equipment when necessary, and maintenance completed as needed, including cleaning of partially-blocked sewer lines before back-ups occur. More comprehensive rehabilitation work is completed on sewer collection mains and manholes when problems arise or are identified during preventative maintenance inspections. There were five sewer main backups in 2023. One sewer main was replaced on Western Ave. All sewer backups were cleared by Water Department personnel by jetting/flushing/rodding the blockages. Typically, these blockages are the result of grease buildup in the sewer collection system.

SUMP PUMPS AND OTHER ILLEGAL DISCHARGES

Over the course of recent years, it has been observed that flows to the wastewater treatment plant have not increased this year significantly. The fact that water usage in town, as indicated by flows from the water treatment plant in Ashburnham, have generally been in a downward trend over the last year. In past years, Sewer/Water Department personnel have made efforts to identify sump pumps in homes/businesses that were illegally connected to the sanitary sewer system. Owners were required to disconnect these sump pumps and find an alternate means of disposing of the discharge from the sump pumps. Discharges from sump pumps to the sewer system are not permitted as they generate additional flows that must be treated at the wastewater treatment plant. These additional flows impact the operation of the plant and increasing electrical, chemical, and sludge disposal costs, resulting in higher sewer rates for all users. On 12/20/23 a Sewer Surge Overflow was filed for sewer discharge due to heavy rain.

CEMETERY & PARKS DEPARTMENT CEMETERY FORMAN - George Labarge EQUIPMENT OPERATOR – Edward Jiminez

The Cemetery and Parks Department includes a Working Foreman and one Equipment Operator. These personnel are responsible for maintaining the bike path, Riverside, Old Centre, and New Boston Cemeteries, along with Legion Park, VFW Park, GAR Park, Old Centre Common, Norcross Square, Grout Park and the Winchendon Community Park. In addition, lawn areas at Old Murdock and Poland/Streeter School buildings are also mowed and trimmed regularly. In total, there are approximately 110 acres of cemeteries and parks that are maintained by the two employees of the Cemetery and Parks Department. During the summer months, when the budget allows, two temporary employees are hired to assist the Cemetery/Parks Department during the peak grass growing season.

Depending upon the season of the year, employees mowed, trimmed and maintained all grounds, picked up trash and litter, installed monument foundations and Veterans' markers, planted flowers, trimmed hedges and trees, removed fallen leaves and wood debris, dug, back-filled and restored burial plots, filled in sunken grave sites, and reseeded fall/winter burials along with damaged lawn areas. Workers also continue to improve and expand the new section of Riverside Cemetery, which is located behind the Glen Cafe on Glenn Allen Street. Repairing, up-righting, and straightening headstones in town-owned cemeteries was continued.

WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLAN

The Town of Winchendon's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), is located on River Street, and is operated by Veolia of North America.

An upgrade of the WWTP was completed in 2005, increasing the design flow rate from 0.5 million gallons per day (MGD) to 1.1 MGD. The upgraded plant, together with the replacement of the main sewer interceptor line from Lake Street to the WWTP on River Street, allowed the Town to gain the additional capacity necessary to allow new sewer connections for both business and residential customers and also improve the quality of the effluent discharged to Millers River.

The WWTP processes the Town's raw sewage and treats it to standards required by the Town's NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

The sewage and waste treated by the WWTP include both inorganic and organic solids. Inorganic solids do not break down or decompose in the system and are retained in the settled sludge or discharged in plant effluent. Inorganic solids retained in the system are collected in the various treatment units (primary and secondary clarifiers and aeration basins), then removed (pumped to a tanker truck) for offsite disposal. The organic wastes break down and decompose and settle in the primary and secondary clarifiers. The aeration basins provide an environment for the breakdown of organic solids by bacteria. The decomposed organic solids contained in the aeration basin effluent (mixed liquor) are removed as settled sludge in the secondary clarifiers and disposed of off-site along with the inorganic solids. However, a portion of the settled solids is returned to the aeration basin for maintaining the bacteria population.

FLEET MAINTENANCE CHIEF MECHANIC – George Brooks

The DPW's Fleet Maintenance Department consists of a Chief Mechanic and an Assistant Mechanic. The Fleet Maintenance Department services and repairs all town-owned light/heavy motor equipment and vehicles, including those operated by: Public Works, Police, Fire/Ambulance, and Council on Aging, School Department, Town Hall, and Civil Defense. Detailed service records are maintained by the Chief Mechanic for all equipment and vehicles. The Fleet Maintenance Department has a fully equipped repair area at the town's public works garage on Glen Allen Street. The Fleet Maintenance Department is also responsible for maintaining the town garage, which houses all DPW equipment, and generators at water pump and sewer lift stations.

Engineer Patrick Wood-

The DPW is proud to announce Patrick Wood has joined our team and is an asset to have. Pat assists in the daily operations of the DPW in all departments. Pat is taking on a huge role in the water line replacement project. Pat notifies residents of property violations such as results from smoke testing in the sewer service. Pat is able to assist residents with permits and other DPW business. Having his assistance has been crucial as the responsibilities of the DPW grow



Respectfully submitted,

Brian Croteau
Public Works Director
Town of Winchendon

WINCHENDON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

The Commission was formed by and is part of the Town Bylaws, Our Commission has 9 seats, including 2 student seats

Goals and Duties of the Commission

The Commission acts in an advisory capacity in matters pertaining to public recreation, makes annual budget recommendations, and assists in planning a recreation program to stimulate public interest as well as works to beautify our parks. The stated primary function of the Commission is to expand and enhance the recreation opportunities for the residents of Winchendon.

The Parks and Recreation Commission provides standard activities that our community can look forward to each year as well as new opportunities that excite our community to take park in.

2023 Initiatives

- In March of 2023 the Town voted to change the bylaw and merge the Winchendon Community Park Committee with the Winchendon Recreation Commission to become the Winchendon Parks & Recreation Commission
- Parks and Recreation hosted 57 events in 2023 with over 9 ticketed events at our new amphitheater in 2023.
- Community Days were brought back to the WCP and 7 were hosted in 2023 with hundreds of attendees.
- Parks & Recreation hosted 3 completely sold out Murder Mystery Dinners in 2023
- We have been working to build our volunteer base and have recruited a few regular volunteers
- We have increased advertising and that has helped with attendance to our events. We will be continuing to grow using more avenues in 2024.
- Our Commission is full and we have been able to maintain full membership for several months now.
- The garage and barn are still in need of funding and work but there are ideas in the process of being executed.
- We successfully launched a sponsorship program and have been able to bring in over \$15,000 in sponsorships.
- We worked diligently to bring in grant money to supplement our budget and were successfully able to secure over \$17,000.

Priorities for 2024

The top priority for the Winchendon Parks & Recreation Commission in 2024 is to better all the offerings we have and continue to bring quality events at an affordable price.

- To create and maintain a trail maintenance stewardship program.
- Continue to grow our base of volunteers from the community
- To modernize our systems and processes to best utilize our limited resources
- Bring our first immersive Renaissance Experience to Winchendon in the form of a 2 day Wyndonshire Renaissance Faire.

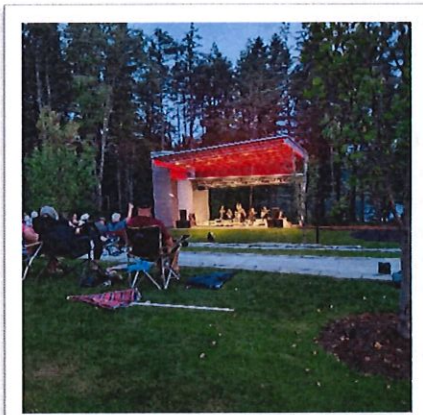
- Increase the marketing for our Community Park and Amphitheater to grow our following and attendance at events
- Work to seek funding to fix and renovate the barn

Members

Debra Bradley (chair), Andrew Beauvais (vice chair), Dawn Higgins, Debra Kane, Emily Bradley, Emily Croteau, Gabe Beauvais, Melanie Franklin, & Dylan Romanowski

If you have specific questions, ideas or are interested in volunteer opportunities, email the Recreation Coordinator at Tnewton@townofwinchendon.com or visit www.townofwinchendon.com/winchendon-recreation.

To stay current on the Winchendon Recreation Commission, visit our Facebook page, Winchendon Recreation Commission, Follow us on Instagram @winchrecreation, or the www.townofwinchendon.com website and find the Winchendon Parks & Recreation Commission or Winchendon Community Park





WINCHENDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS REPORT

Superintendent of Schools Office

175 Grove Street
Telephone: (978) 297-0031

Memorial School

32 Elmwood Road
Telephone: (978) 297-1305

Toy Town Elementary School

175 Grove Street
Telephone: (978) 297-2005

3 Memorial Drive
Telephone: (978) 297-1256

Murdock Academy for Success

175 Grove Street
Telephone: (978) 616-1477

WINCHENDON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Karen Kast-McBride, Chair	Term Expires 2026
David LaPointe, Vice-Chair	Term Expires 2026
Anthony Findley	Term Expires 2024
Adam Leblanc	Term Expires 2024
Jake Catlin	Term Expires 2024

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Ruthann Petruno-Goguen, Ed.D.	Interim Superintendent of Schools
Charlotte King	Interim Director of Pupil Services
Kelsey Garcia	Interim Assistant Director of Pupil Services
Cory Rogers	Interim Assistant Director of Special Education & Title I
Jonathan Landman, Ed.D.	Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Thomas Osborn	Interim Director of Finance & Operations
Bill Clinton	Director of Technology
Brian Croteau	Director of Public Works & Facilities
Anthony Findley	Athletics Co-Director
Jennifer Murphy	Athletics Co-Director
David Fredette	Interim Principal, Murdock High School
Andrew Bloch	Interim Assistant Principal, Murdock High School
Craig Murdock	Interim Principal, Murdock Middle School
Heidi Bevacqua	Interim Dean of Students, Murdock Middle School
Anne Diaz	Principal, Toy Town Elementary
Laura Lambert	Interim Dean of Students, Toy Town Elementary
Bobbie French	Interim Principal, Memorial Elementary School

STUDENT ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Breakdown of Pupil Enrollment (As of October
1, 2023)

Pre-Kindergarten	79
Kindergarten	79
Grades 1 – 2	223
Grades 3 – 5	276
Grades 6 – 8	290
Grades 9 - 12	267

Total Enrollment: 1219

****Resident students: Home Instruction 87**

SCHOOL BUDGET 2023 – 2024

Districtwide	\$5,347,462.93
Murdock High School	\$3,968,592.49
Murdock Middle School	\$2,969,801.00
Toy Town Elementary	\$2,750,786.83
Memorial School	\$3,948,592.38

Total School Dept. Operating Budget:	\$18,985,235.63
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Town Assessment Indirect Cost:	\$3,197,464.94
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FROM WINCHENDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Special Education

The Winchendon Public School District is committed to providing each student with access to educational learning within its community schools. Students can access learning through various options, from full inclusion programs to specifically designed, substantially separate programs. From preschool through high school, students are afforded a spectrum of programs that provide for their unique needs and learning styles.

This year the department welcomed Charlotte King to the role of Interim Director of Pupil Services, Kelsey Garcia to the role of Interim Assistant Director of Pupil Services, and Cory Rogers as Interim Assistant Director of Special Education and Title I to help support our Special Education Department.

Winchendon provides all students with access to a variety of specialized services which includes but is not limited to: speech and language, occupational, physical, behavioral, therapeutic mental health, vision, hearing, assistive technology, specialized academic instruction, English Language Learning, life skills, vocational training, and job coaching. Winchendon understands the importance of continuity for student learning and provides Extended School Year (ESY) programs for eligible students to prevent regression of acquired skills during the summer months.

The Winchendon Public Schools has provided professional development activities for staff that promote inclusionary practices so that students with disabilities have the same access to learning as their neuro-typically developing peers. The special education department assures that each student must be placed in the least restrictive setting. By providing inclusionary practices in the general education classroom by highly trained staff, students are more likely to participate successfully in the learning environment. Additional emphasis has been placed on trauma-informed practices to further support the individual needs of students within the general education setting. The Winchendon Public Schools utilizes a district-wide tiered system of supports to meet the student's social, emotional and behavioral needs. The tiered system is a data driven, prevention-based framework for improving learning outcomes for every student through a layered scale of evidence-based practices and systems.

For more information about Special Education Services and Programs, please contact Charlotte King, Interim Director of Pupil Services at 978-616-1453 or email, at cking@winchendonk12.org or through the district website www.winchendonk12.org

Memorial School

Memorial School is our primary school serving students in preschool through grade 2. Memorial School fosters a love of learning and reading in a nurturing environment. We believe in creating a vibrant and inclusive environment where all students are accepted, appreciated and empowered to excel according to their individual strengths and talents. Our Vision is for students to leave Memorial School as fluent, independent readers who love to learn, with strong literacy and numeracy skills, prepared to thrive as they embark on the next part of their educational journey. Our students will embody the core values they have developed and demonstrate them within their school community and beyond.

Memorial continues to focus on strong Tier I foundational skills for our youngest learners. We continue to implement the IM (Illustrative Math) and SRSD (Self-Regulation Strategy Development) Writing programs. We are excited to be launching our Wit & Wisdom reading program which will be vital in building our students' background knowledge. At Memorial, foundational reading skills are our priority with a goal of all students reading on grade level by the time they leave second grade. Our teachers continue to use ECRI (Enhanced Core Reading Instruction) for phonics instruction and Heggerty for phonemic awareness in Tier I. Our Tier 2 interventionist uses a combination of ECRI practices and other reading multisensory strategies. At Tier 3, our special education teachers are using Orton Gillingham instructional strategies and methodology.

Teachers and staff have had continued professional development in all of these curriculum areas throughout the school year. They also focus on their instruction practices during common planning times each week. Our teachers strive to be the best and are always looking for ways to improve their instructional practices.

We recently updated our school's vision and mission statement as well as deciding to focus on the values of integrity, respect, responsibility and resilience. These values, the 3 R's, will be incorporated into our updated PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) program. Students will learn what it means to embody and display the values of respect, responsibility, and resilience in all areas of the school. Our school community also chose a new mascot: the moose. We are embracing everything moose and creating a positive school culture where all students and staff want to come each day.

Memorial School also focuses on the social emotional well being of our students. Our two school adjustment counselors provide a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS). They provide Tier I social skills lessons to all students; they also provide Tier 2 supports and interventions for students that need a little more. They offer small groups and 1:1 counseling and social skills sessions. At Tier 3, our counselors work with students with trauma or disabilities that necessitate a higher level of support.

Memorial Preschool

The Winchendon Public Schools offers a preschool inclusive program to support students with typical and diverse learning needs. The preschool program has seven partial day class options which include a 2-day morning program, a 4 day morning program or 4 day afternoon programming. Three- and four-year-old preschool students are provided opportunities to learn alongside their peers. The curriculum focuses on kindergarten readiness as well as providing special education services for students with Individualized Education Plans. This year, our preschool staff, along with Headstart, have implemented the Heggerty reading program in order to develop students' pre-reading skills to better prepare them for kindergarten.

Community residents may register for the annual lottery to enroll in either a three-year-old or four-year-old classroom. Students are randomly selected and notified of either acceptance into the program or if the student is placed on the waitlist in June of each year for the following school year. In order to meet the program age guidelines, students must turn age three or four by August 31st of that year. Families of eligible students, made available to the program through the Town Hall, receive a packet in April explaining the enrollment and lottery process. Within the paperwork, there is a voluntary Pre-K Developmental Screening registration form. Any family that suspects their child may have a disability or would like to learn more about their child's development is welcome to participate in the screening. Screenings are scheduled annually in May or June. Should a student be identified for further evaluation to determine if they have a suspected disability, families are provided a consent to evaluate form for the school to formally complete the evaluation process with the student.

The Winchendon Preschool Program is tuition-free for all residents. We believe it is important to provide early educational experiences for all students, regardless of income. Transportation services are available for students with an identified disability, for which Special Education services are required, free of charge. Students without identified special

needs are able to apply for transportation on a first come, first served basis for a small fee. The Winchendon Preschool Program is committed to a developmentally appropriate approach to early education, which offers a combination of play-based, socially supportive and academically rigorous curriculum. The curriculum is aligned to the standards established by the Massachusetts State Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) and the Guidelines for Preschool Learning Experiences. Our program believes in nurturing the whole child. It is our goal to foster the social-emotional, academic and physical development needed in order to provide all students with the opportunity to learn from each other and build a foundation for respecting human differences and embracing cultural competencies.

The Winchendon Preschool Program offers a supportive structure which utilizes Positive Behavior Supports (PBS). This PBS philosophy explicitly teaches behavioral expectations, provides each student the opportunity to learn appropriate, real world understanding of emotions, problem solving and emotional regulation. Students are also able to access specific social skills groups to practice with an on-staff behavior specialist. Students are provided the opportunity to make choices within the classroom between several learning centers in which to explore pre-readiness skills that foster future school success. Students experience outdoor play, in-class gross motor and movement activities, small and large group learning tasks, and multiple activities to promote early literacy and mathematical knowledge.

The Winchendon Public Schools, in collaboration with funding by EEC through the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement, hosts weekly Community Playgroups for children from birth to age five at Memorial School. The playgroups emphasize parents as a child's first teacher and provide evidence-based approaches to early literacy. All residents remain welcome to engage in the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), in which families are provided an age-appropriate questionnaire to complete based on their expert knowledge of their child's development. The ASQ provides information about how the child is progressing in all developmental domains and provides tips and suggestions for further growth in each area. For more information on the Community Playgroups or the Ages and Stages Questionnaire, please contact Kristen Moran at 978-297-3436 or via email at kmoran@winchendonk12.org or via the Winchendon Community Playgroups Facebook page.

For more information about the Winchendon Preschool Program, please contact Bobbie French, Memorial Principal via email at bfrench@winchendonk12.org or by accessing the district website www.winchendonk12.org

Toy Town Elementary

At Toy Town Elementary School, we aim to support all learners—academically, socially, and emotionally. We continue improving organizational structures that support a shared leadership model by strengthening Tier 1 instruction using data-driven planning and improving our consistency and effectiveness in supporting our most at-risk learners.

This year, Toy Town Elementary welcomed Interim Dean of Students, Laura Lambert. Students in grades 3-5 are making significant progress in writing with the implementation of the new SRSD (Self-Regulation Strategy Development) writing curriculum, a great source of pride for Toy Town faculty.

Toy Town Elementary has continued the adoption of IM (Illustrative Math) curriculum, and looks forward to the launch of Wit and Wisdom, a new reading program which will be instrumental in continuing to build our students' knowledge and skills, making them successful readers. Grade 5 is piloting the state Social Studies curriculum called Investigating History, which is a high quality, standards-based curriculum that offers students an engaging and challenging look into history and social studies.

Last year, thanks to the generosity of the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation and Murdock Trust, each grade level participated in a field trip designed to enrich their learning opportunities. Grade 3 went to the Hanover Theater and saw the play, Percy Jackson. Grade 4 went to the EcoTarium, and Grade 5 went to Nature's Classroom in Ocean Park, Maine.

Toy Town Elementary also launched a band and chorus program with most students participating in a school-wide concert. We had our first Toy Town Talent Show and Growth Party at the end of the year, where we focused on celebrating individual academic achievement.

Toy Town staff pride themselves on meeting students where they are and fostering positive attitudes about learning, as well as a deep commitment to providing every opportunity for students to learn and grow academically and personally.

Murdock Middle School

At Murdock Middle School, we work diligently to meet our three main goals of personalization, learning experiences, and communication.

During this school year, we continue to focus on the social and emotional learning of our students through the implementation of our mentoring program and our Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) program. In addition, we foster an academic mindset that encourages a personalized pathway for success. We continually explore opportunities to provide optimal learning experiences for every student in the classroom and beyond. Our core values of Pride, Accountability, Respect, and Teamwork (PART) in all academic and social settings of our school, set the tone for this productive learning.

The Spring 2023 MCAS was the second year since 2019 that students in Massachusetts had a full administration of the assessment. Disruptions caused by the pandemic affected students statewide, and many students in Massachusetts struggled to meet statewide requirements or make adequate growth on both the 2022 and 2023 MCAS exams. However, this was not the case for our students at Murdock Middle School. Since the release of the next generation MCAS in 2017, Murdock Middle has struggled to improve above the 10th percentile in our State Accountability rating. However, during the Spring 2022 administration of MCAS, Murdock Middle School made a 16-point improvement to an overall accountability rating of 23. Moreover, Murdock Middle School improved by an additional 8 points in the Spring 2023 MCAS. This means that Murdock Middle School performed better than 31% of other schools in Massachusetts that serve grades 6-8.

Another area of improvement was seen in our student growth. All student groups are expected to demonstrate annual growth in student performance. Massachusetts uses Student Growth Percentiles (SGP) to measure how a group of students' achievement has grown or changed over time, and our target is to be at or above 50%. Murdock Middle School students saw continued growth in ELA and Math.

Murdock Middle School created an experience based on three components to help drive these outcomes: Mentoring, Projects, and Self-Direction.

- **Mentoring:** students work with their mentor to set long and short-term goals and receive feedback on their progress.
- **Project Time:** students apply the content they've learned to rich, real-world projects, developing essential and transferable lifelong skills.
- **Self-Directed Learning:** students make their way through a range of resources, choosing how they want to learn content in line with their personal needs and preferences. Students are empowered to set goals and deeply understand content by consuming it in a way that is best for them.

The adoption of this model has allowed us to provide a stable, rigorous curriculum and structure for our students. The drive for the upcoming academic year is to combine these components into one W.I.N (What I Need) block of instruction embedded in the schedule.

Murdock High School

Our mission is to collaboratively provide a safe, inclusive, and engaging learning environment to create compassionate and powerful critical thinkers in an ever-changing world.

Our vision is to provide an equitable and excellent well-rounded education that will prepare every student for success in college, career, and life!

In Fall of 2023, Interim Principal David Fredette began the year working to navigate these pursuits. The initial focus was on the safety and security of the building, its students, and staff. Structures were implemented to provide for proper communication and succinct plans around Crisis Management and Emergency Protocols. Staff were trained in A.L.I.C.E as a response to immediate emergency and active shooter scenarios. Staff and students, in conjunction with the Winchendon Police and Emergency Services, have practiced these drills. In addition to the whole building and large-scale security, the school has implemented a classroom pass system and strengthened the existing cell phone policy to promote better attention in class, and accountability among the students.

Classroom instruction and assessment continue to be addressed as the needs of students change. The updated 2024-2025 Program of Studies reflects the changing needs and interests of students as we develop more concise learning pathways that not only address college needs, but for those who will enter the workforce as well. The additions of required Personal Finance coursework and Community Service requirements are geared towards preparing

students for life outside of school and to be a contributing member of their community and society.

As of February 9, 2024, our enrollment totaled 248 students - sixty (60) in grade 9, seventy-eight (78) in grade 10, fifty-nine (59) in grade 11, and forty-six (46) in grade 12.

Some of our school wide data reflects the hard work done by staff and students the last year as well as this one. We utilize STAR (Renaissance) as a standardized assessment to gauge student proficiency in reading and math. Our winter data for Reading is showing a positive growth percentile of 68.6% proficiency, which is an increase of 17% points from the fall and 5 points over our target goal. Unfortunately, that success is not being realized in our math data as our proficiency rate has dropped from fall to winter from 68.3% to 53.4%. While not meeting our goal of 65% or better, there are factors that may have contributed to this, including an implementation dip of the new Illustrative Math (IM) program as well as the increased rigor and difficulty of material. We will continue to analyze our data around this and look for ways to improve moving forward.

We continue to offer challenging and varied opportunities for our students including a Dual Enrollment program. This year, we have partnered with Mount Wachusett Community College and Worcester State University to offer courses both in-person and via Zoom. We have 18 students enrolled in the program and all take part in in-school opportunities as well as internships outside of school in the community and school district.

Advanced Placement courses are offered to our students in English Math, Science, and History. We have many students taking advantage of these incredibly rigorous and challenging courses.

Murdock High School continues its relationship with the districts that surround us. New partnerships in the Fall of 2021 include working closely with the CAC as well as HEAL Winchendon to further civic engagement and food stability for our students. We are appreciative of the CAC's help to fill the shelves of our food pantry on a weekly basis!

In regards to sports, we were able to field a Varsity Football team and Cross-Country team this fall. We joined a co-op for field hockey. In the winter, we had Boys' Junior and Varsity basketball teams, as well as a Girls' basketball team and Indoor Track. We again joined a co-op for ice hockey and swimming.

Murdock pride runs deep here, and we continue to look for new ways to move Murdock forward and with distinction.



VETERANS SERVICES

As projected this past year was a productive one for the Veterans Services Department. The ever rising cost of living did result in an increase in recipients of Chapter 115 financial assistance benefits with this trend expected to continue.

The number of veterans filing for service connected disability claims leveled off slightly but remains an important component of the services this office provides.

The increase in need from the community resulted in additional office hours being offered daily to the veterans and family members in town.

This was another year of loss in town with the loss of longtime residents of Winchendon:

**Korean War Army veteran Paul A. Cochran.
Vietnam War Era Army veteran Daniel Demary.
Vietnam War Navy veteran Thomas Conrad
Korean War Air force veteran Richard Boisvert
Air Force veteran Keith Otto.
Air force veteran Robert Hanks.
USMC veteran Theron "Buddy" Flint Jr.
Korean War Era Army veteran John LaPointe
Vietnam War Era Veteran James Livesay
USMC Vietnam Era Veteran Richard McAllister
Air Force veteran Pierre Veilleux**

An essential component of remaining effective in the ever changing environment of veteran's services includes continued training and education throughout the year. This year I attended the Executive Office of Veterans Services training and recently completed a training course to attain certification as a Veterans Court Peer for Justice involved veterans. These trainings will increase the scope of services to the veterans of Winchendon at no additional cost to the residents here in town.

I look forward to another year of service the veterans and family members of Winchendon.

Veterans Service office,

Respectfully,
Stephen Bassett, Veterans Agent

WENDELL P. CLARK MEMORIAL YMCA ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

March 2024

It is my pleasure to recap the services that the Wendell P. Clark Memorial YMCA, a non-profit, charitable 501.c3 organization, has provided to the town of Winchendon.

Facility Access:

The Clark YMCA provided community access to the YMCA outdoor facilities including:

- Access to the children's playground (for children ages 10 years and under)
- Year-Round Access to the ¼ mile walking track
- Seasonal access to the outdoor Basketball and Tennis courts
- Seasonal access to Clark YMCA Athletic fields
- Year-Round landing zone for a life-flight helicopter on the YMCA athletic field.

Emergency Services:

The YMCA is proud to provide services when able such as serving as a location for an Emergency Station for showers during loss of water, cooling station in severe hot weather and as a warming station in winter during loss of heat and to work with the Board of Health to coordinate these services. The Clark YMCA also provides availability to the Winchendon Fire Department for trainings with life-flight helicopter, and pool time for the WFD Dive Team.

Community Events:

The YMCA annually hosts the Summer Solstice Festival and Parade, Halloween Trunk-or-Treat, numerous fun walks/run for all ages throughout the year. Further, we also provide use of the facility to a number of community groups & non-profit organizations such as WIC (Women, Infants & Children), Scouts, Town Wide Read Speaker Series, Kiwanis, DCF (Department of Children and Family Services), and Vaccine Clinics.

Youth Programs:

The YMCA operates numerous programs and activities for youth such as Soccer, Basketball, Summer Day Camp, Sports Camps, as well as licensed Before & After-School Childcare for a nominal fee. Additionally, the Clark YMCA provides a summer literacy and STEM program during the summer months. As always, Financial Assistance is available to qualifying families, as "No one is turned away for inability to pay".

The Clark Memorial YMCA is proud to be a contributing member of the community and to serving families since 1954.

Respectfully,
Michael Quinn, Executive Director





The Winchendon Housing Authority hereby presents its Annual Report for our fiscal year ending September 30, 2023.

The Winchendon Housing Authority was formed in 1962 through M.G.L. 121B and is a quasi-governmental agency. Funding for our programs comes directly from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. We have over 60 Year of Service to the

Town of Winchendon. The Board of Commissioners and Staff are looking to continue this service for many years to come. At the annual meeting of the Board of Commissioners that was held in May 2023 the election of officers was held and as follows:

Slate of Officers

Chairperson
Vice-Chairperson

Name of Officer

Burton E. Gould
David A. Johnson

Term of Office

Apr 2025 (State Appointed)
May 2024

Treasurer	Leston J. Goodrich	May 2028
Asst-Treasurer	Jane Leavens	May 2027
Secretary	Nancy Romanowski	May 2026
Secretary ex-officio	David P. Connor	Contractual

The Board of Commissioners meet at the Ipswich Drive Community Building on the 2nd Tuesday of each Month at 1:30pm and the Annual Election of Officers is held in May of each year. Public posting of each meeting and its location is at the Town Hall, Ipswich Drive office and the WHA Website for anyone wanting to attend our public Board meetings.

The Executive Director is the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority and is responsible for the daily operation and serves as the Contracting and Purchasing Officer.

The Winchendon Housing Authority's office is located at 108 Ipswich Drive in Winchendon and is open to the public between the hours of 8 AM and 4 PM Monday through Friday unless otherwise posted. The staff at the housing authority at the end of Fiscal Year 2021 is as follows,

WHA Staff:

Ms. Amanda Phillips Assistant Executive Director	Mr. Rocky Flint Maintenance Supervisor/Inspector
Ms. Cyndee LaFreniere Financial/ Procurement Coordinator	Mr. Patrick White Pearl Drive Maintenance Mechanic /Oil Burner Tech
Ms. Kylie LaFreniere Tenant Coordinator	Mr. Arthur Rocheleau Ipswich/ 14-16 Ready Drive Maintenance Mechanic
Ms. Linda Bond Hyde Park Maintenance Mechanic	Mr. Alec Barrows Scattered Sites / 1-12 Ready Drive Maintenance Mechanic
Ms. Daira Marciano-Ferrer Resident Services Coordinator/ Admin Assistant	Vacant Position Maintenance Mechanic/Carpenter

Housing Mission Statement:

To provide Decent, Safe and Sanitary housing that is in good repair within Winchendon and surrounding communities. To assist with the rents of eligible families, elderly and handicapped people living in private rental housing.

Federal Housing:

There is a total of 131 units of public housing breaking down as follows, 80 units of conventional 1-bedroom Elderly housing at Ipswich Drive, 34 units of conventional 1-2-3 - 4-bedroom Family housing at Pearl Drive, 17 units of conventional scattered site 1,2,3,4-bedroom Elderly and Family housing throughout the community. The Housing Authority has a waiting list for all applicants that meet the income requirements for Federal Housing. The Winchendon Housing Authority has been designated by the U.S. Department of Housing and

Urban Development as a **HIGH PERFORMER** for our administration and oversight of this program.

We also have 38 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers program that is used to help extremely low and very low-income people keep or find apartments within the private housing market. This type of assistance is becoming more popular for people that want to keep living in a neighborhood environment and help landlords get the fair market rents (FMR) for that area the apartment is located.

In April of 2018 the WHA received a funding award from HUD for 6 VASH (Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) vouchers that the WHA has partnered with MVOC (Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center) in Gardner to use the vouchers in our service area. These vouchers will help some local veterans that are receiving services from MVOC rental assistance while rebuilding their lives.

There is a waiting list for all our federal housing units. Please, if you are interested in applying for housing you should apply early.

Federal Modernization:

We have 3 active programs of federal modernization:

Capital Fund FY 2021:

We were awarded \$282,640 in June 2021. These funds will be used to complete the following work items.

Ipswich Drive
Roofing Upgrade
Bond Payment 504 Upgrade

Scattered Sites
Site Paving Work

Pearl Drive
Bond Payment 504 Upgrade
Architectural Work Roofing Upgrade

Capital Fund FY 2022:

We were awarded \$340,000 in April 2022. These funds will be used to complete the following work items.

Ipswich Drive
Roofing Upgrade
Bond Payment 504 Upgrade

Scattered Sites
Site Paving Work

Pearl Drive
Bond Payment 504 Upgrade
Architectural Work Roofing Upgrade

Capital Fund FY 2023:

We were awarded \$271,000 in April 2020. These funds will be used to complete the following work items.

Ipswich Drive
Bond Payment 504 Upgrade

Scattered Sites
Site Paving Work

Pearl Drive
Phase III Roofing Upgrade

Over the past 21 years the Winchendon Housing Authority has been designated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development a **HIGH PERFORMER** in both the Public Housing and Section 8 Program. This is a great time for the WHA and with the highest designation from HUD allows us to operate our programs with greater flexibility.

State Housing:

There is a total of 119 units of State public housing breaking down as follows, 77 units of conventional 1-bedroom Elderly/ Handicap housing at Hyde Park Drive. 10 units of Congregate 1-bedroom Elderly/ Handicap housing at Ready Drive, there is 12 units of conventional 2 - 3-bedroom Family housing at Ready Drive. 12 units of conventional scattered site Family housing units within Winchendon and 8 units of Physical and Mentally Handicapped housing of which the Winchendon Housing Authority has contracted the department of Mental Health to manage these units for us. Again, we have a waiting list for these units and people need to fill out an application.

The 10 congregate housing units at 16 Ready Drive have two vacancies currently. The WHA staff has works hard to fill these units and to keep them filled. If you meet the eligibility requirements set by the MAT Team, the Housing Authority will be able to lease you immediately. Anyone interested in a tour of the congregate units please call the office at 978-297-2280.

We also have 17 Mass Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) vouchers that are used to assist people in the private sector housing market find and keep their apartments. All vouchers are tenant based and are used within the Winchendon area. These stay with each tenant until they request removal, or the voucher subsidy ends.

State Modernization:

The WHA received notification in February 2021 from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) funds in the amount of **\$147,567** for work to be performed at Hyde Park Drive and our other State Scattered sites here in Winchendon over fiscal years 2020, 2021 and 2022. For the past 22 years the WHA has received over 3 million dollars in state modernization funding for Hyde Park Drive and our other State housing sites here in Winchendon. This is a great achievement from the combined efforts by the Local Board of Commissioners, our State Representative Jon Zlotnik, Representative Susannah Whipps and State Senator Joanne Comerford are working together for the benefit of our residents at state housing programs.

Anyone interested in applying for Housing for any of our units please feel free to come see us at 108 Ipswich Drive or call us at (978) 297-2280 we will be happy to answer any of your questions or help assist you in any of your housing needs. You can also visit our website at

www.winha.org to find out more about our programs and services that we offer to our community and residents.

I would like to thank the people of Winchendon for supporting and allowing the Winchendon Housing Authority the opportunity to supply decent, safe, and sanitary housing that is in good repair located in Winchendon and the surrounding communities.

Respectfully Submitted:

David P. Connor
Executive Director/ Secretary Ex-Officio

WINCHENDON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT for 2023

The Winchendon Redevelopment Authority (WRA) was established in 2004 with a five-member board, four appointed by the Town Manager and one appointed by the state. The Town Manager is the WRA Executive Director, and the Director of Planning and Development to assist the Town Manager in helping this board develop plans for growth in Winchendon. Also, in 2022 the town assigned the Toy Town Partnership Committee (TTCP) as a subcommittee of the WRA. Meetings are currently held on the second Monday of each month at 5:00 PM in the fourth floor Robinson-Broadhurst Conference room with an open invitation for all of Winchendon's residence.

The board has five positions seated and is comprised of: Chairman Kenneth LaBrack, State appointee David Connor, Vice Chairman Leston Goodrich, Michael Barbaro clerk, and Garret Wante. As in past years, this committee has progressively been active in community and economic development. The authority continues their work focusing on bringing new business to Town with an emphasis on job creation and increasing tax revenues.

The Authority currently holds \$ 256,903.92 in 2 bank accounts and \$1,1288,353.92 total land assets. These assets are all in the form of property to be developed residentially, commercially, industrially, or recreationally. While this sounds like a lot of assets, the value is determined by the assessment and not for what they might sell for. Some of these parcels are undevelopable for various reason, wetlands, etc. However, the Authority is actively working with a local realtor (Morin Real Estate) to market those parcels that are viable. The WRA took ownership of two Beech Street properties, they sold the house, and the garage was razed. The lot has been cleared of contaminates and will be turned into a small park focusing on the history of Winchendon related to Millers River.

In addition, the Authority actively seeks out potential new commercial/industrial clients, communicating with them on available parcels, attempting to sell Town of Winchendon as their new home. In early January 2023 the Authority sold a lot on for a medical marijuana cultivation facility in the Hillview Business Park off route 140. Since that time the WRA has been in negotiations with them on building a \$1,000,000 road to access their grow facility parcel, which will give the Authority access to other parcels to sell.

This committee remains solidly committed to the Town of Winchendon and the successful development and redevelopment of its commercial, residential, and recreational areas. They are constantly evaluating new ideas and putting plans together to boost Winchendon's community development.

WINCHENDON TOWN HALL DIRECTORY

109 Front Street
Winchendon, MA 01475
Hours: Monday 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Tuesday -Thursday 8:00AM - 5:00 PM
Fridays - CLOSED

EMERGENCY SERVICES: DIAL 911

Town Manager	978-297-0085	Collector/Treasurer.....	978-297-0152
Assessor.....	978-297-0155	Town Clerk.....	978-297-2766
Veterans Services.....	978-297-0500	Town Accountant.....	978-297-5400
Health Agent.....	978-297-4179	Planning/Development.....	978-297-5414
Conservation Agent.....	978-297-5410	Information Technology...	978-297-5403
Beals Memorial Library.....	978-297-0300	Land Use.....	978-297-3537
Dept. of Public Works.....	978-297-0170	<i>(Building Commissioner, Wiring Inspector, Plumbing/Gas Inspector)</i>	
<i>(Highway, Water, Sewer, Landfill)</i>			

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

653 River Street - 978-297-0395

Open Thursday through Saturday - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Closed Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Additional Hours Open June 1st through Sept. 30th
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Thursdays

Vehicle Sticker Required

BOARDS AND COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES

Meeting times can be found on corresponding posted agendas

Board of Selectmen	2 nd & 4 th Mondays of the month
Planning Board	1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays of the month
Zoning Board of Appeals.....	3rd Wednesday and as posted
Board of Health	1st Monday and as posted
Conservation Commission	2 nd Thursday of the month or as posted
Finance Committee	2 nd Tuesday of the month
Library Trustees	4 th Tuesday of the month
Board of Assessors	8:00 a.m. Thursdays as scheduled
Housing Authority	2 nd Tuesday of the month, 1:30 p.m. 108 Ipswich Drive
School Committee	1 st and 3 rd Thursdays of the month
Redevelopment Authority.....	3 rd Monday of the month
Recreation Commission.....	1 st and 3 rd Tuesdays of the month

UNITED STATES SENATORS

Senator Elizabeth Warren
317 Hart Senate
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4543

2400 JFK Federal Building
15 Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203
617-565-31700

Senator Edward Markey
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-2742

2nd MASSACHUSETTS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Precinct 1

Congressman James McGovern
438 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-6101 F A X : 202-225-5759

24 Church Street
Leominster, MA 01453
978-466-3552
FAX: 978-466-3973

3rd MASSACHUSETTS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Precinct 1A, 2 & 3

Lori Trahan
1607 Longworth HOB
Washington DC 20515
(202) 225-3411 FAX 202-226-0771

Fitchburg Office
FSU - Professional Studies
150B Main Street
Fitchburg, MA
202-225-3411

GOVERNOR

Governor Maura Healey
Executive Office
888-870-7770
Boston, MA 02133

State Citizens Governor's
Information State House
Room 360
In State: 888-870-7770

2nd WORCESTER DISTRICT

Senator Joanne Comerford
Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin District
Room 513, State House
Boston, MA 02133
617-722-1540 FAX: 617-722-1078

Representative Jon Zlotnik
State House, Room 26
Boston, MA 02133
617-722-2425

District Office
26 City Hall 212
95 Pleasant Street
Gardner, MA 0144
978-410-9559