

Town of Colrain

Annual Report 2022

Rev. 5.16.23

Table of Contents

	<u>Page number</u>
Colrain Transfer Station	1
Town Offices, Board, Committees – Contact Information	2
Elected Town Officers	3
Selectboard Appointments	4
Moderator Appointments	7
Town Office Reports	
Board of Assessors	8
Town Clerk	10
Town Accountant	11
Treasurer	19
Tax Collector	21
Annual Reports	
Building Inspector	23
Colrain Cultural Council	24
Colrain Historical Commission	25
Council on Aging	26
Finance Committee	27
Franklin County Regional Animal Control	28
Franklin County Sheriff’s Office Regional Dog Shelter	29
FRCOG Cooperative Public Health Service	30
FRCOG Franklin Regional Council of Governments	32
Franklin County Solid Waste Management District	35
Griswold Memorial Library	36
The Mary Lyon Foundation, Inc.	39
Carl H. Nilman Scholarship Fund	43
Personnel Committee	44
Police Department	45
Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans’ Services District	46

Schools	
Colrain Central School	47
Mohawk Trail Regional School Principal Report	48
Special Education and Pupil Services Report	52
Superintendent of Schools	54
Franklin County Technical School District	56
Appendix	58
Combined Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2022	59

Colrain Transfer Station Information/Hours

7 Charlemont Road

Saturday 8:00 am—4:00 pm

Summer hours 1st Tues in May to 1st Tues in October 5:30 pm—7:30 pm

General Information

All trash bags must have stickers

15 gal. stickers—\$1.00/each 33 gal. stickers—\$2.00/each 34-55 gal. stickers--\$4.00/each

Stickers are available at the Transfer Station

Bulky Waste open 3rd week in April until it is full in October.

Note: This is a summary. See the Town's [website](#) for a complete listing.

General Recycling

[Reduce, Reuse, Recycle](#) – Paper and containers

Other Recyclables Collected

Scrap Metal	Free
Refrigerators, Freezers,	
Air Conditioners, contain CFC	\$15 each
Tires, Passenger (up to 19")	\$5.00 each with no rims Bulky
Waste (non-construction)	\$5.00 to \$35.00
Monitors, TVs, electronics	\$5 - \$40 (pricing differs depending on equipment type)
Construction/Demolition	\$40/cubic yard - \$60 cu/yd. (\$20 minimum)
Textiles and books (clean)	Salvation Army Box

Hazardous Materials Collected

Motor oil	\$1.50/gal
Oil Filters	\$0.75/each
Anti-Freeze	\$1.00/gallon
Paint	\$5.00 per gallon, \$1.50 per qt. No Latex
Fluorescent	\$0.50/4 ft. or shorter or compacts, \$1 per 8 ft.
Ballasts	\$5.00 each
Thermometer	Free
Thermostats	Free
Switches	Free
20 lb. BBQ Tanks	\$5.00
1 lb. LP Tanks	\$1.00
Larger LP Tanks	\$10.00

Town Officers, Boards, and Committees – Contact Information

	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
Board of Assessors Director		
Alice Wozniak	413-624-3356	assessors@colrain-ma.gov
Building Inspector		
Shawn Kimberley	413-624-4728	buildinginspector@colrain-ma.gov
Colrain Broadband		
Michael Slowinski	413-624-3454	info@colrainbroadband.net
Conservation Commission Clerk		
Alice Wozniak	413-624-3356	assessors@colrain-ma.gov
Council on Aging, Co-chairs		
Michelle Hillman & Betty Johnson		
Animal Control Officer		
Kyle Dragon	413-774-7340	animalcontrol@fcso-ma.us
Emergency Manager Director		
Jim Lyons	413-624-3940	jim@winterberryfarm.org
Finance Committee Chair		
Doug MacLeay	413-624-3454	
Fire Chief		
Nick Anzuoni	413-624-5528	firechief@colrain-ma.gov
Griswold Memorial Library, Director		
Chelsea Jordon-Makely	413-624-3619	griswold@colrain-ma.gov
Highway Superintendent		
Steve Daby	413-624-5500	highway@colrain-ma.gov
Historical Commission, Chair		
David Nims	413-624-3400	
Personnel Committee, Chair		
Ellen Weeks	413-624-5137	eweeks@umext.umass.edu
Planning Board, Chair		
Robert Slowinski		
Alice Wozniak, Clerk	413-624-3356	assessors@colrain-ma.gov
Police Chief		
Christopher Lannon	413-624-3038	police@colrain-ma.gov
Tax Collector		taxcollector@colrain-ma.gov
Treasurer		treasurer@colrain-ma.gov
Paula Harrison	413-624-5549	
Town Accountant		
David Fierro, Jr.	Hill-Town Municipal Accounting & Computer Services	
Town Clerk		
Anna Lavarreda	413-624-7100	townclerk@colrain-ma.gov
Selectboard/Town Administrator		
Kevin Fox	413-624-6306	bos@colrain-ma.gov
Transfer Station	413-625-9012	
Zoning Board of Appeals		
Alice Wozniak, Clerk	413-624-3356	

Elected Town Officers

SELECT BOARD (Three-year term)

	<u>Term</u>
Ben Eastman	2022 – 2025
Thomas Griffin	2021 – 2024
Mike Slowinski	2020 – 2023

TOWN CLERK (Three-year term)

Anna Lavarreda	2022 – 2025
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BOARD OF ASSESSORS (Three-year term)

Nicholas M. Anzuoni, Chair	2022 – 2025
James J. Slowinski	2021 – 2024
Dwight Harrison	2020 – 2023

MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

(Three-year term)

Kate Barrows	2020 – 2023
John Chivers	2022 – 2025

GRISWOLD MEMORIAL LIBRARY TRUSTEES (Three-year term)

Cheli Mennella	2020 – 2023
Jill Horton-Lyons	2020 – 2023
Nancy Rich Turkle	2021 – 2024
Betsy Browning	2022 – 2025
Betty Johnson	2021 – 2024
Martin Lydgate Driggs	2022 – 2025

CONSTABLES (Three-year term)

Tim P. Slowinski	2020 – 2022
Scott F. Sullivan	2020 – 2023
Melinda A. Herzig	2021 – 2024

MODERATOR (Three-year term)

Megan McDonough	2021 - 2024
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Selectboard Appointments

	Term Expires
Animal Control Officer	
Kyle Dragon	2023
Animal Inspector	
Ken Shearer	2023
Board of Health	
Timothy P. Slowinski	2023
Gary Ponce, Chair	2023
Nina Martin-Anzuoni	2025
Kate Minifie	2025
Board of Registrars	
Eugenia M. Shearer	2023
Amy J. Herzig	2024
Building Inspector	
Shawn Kimberley	2023
Carl H. Nilman Scholarship Representative	
Michelle F. Hillman	2025
Cultural Council	
Sharon Wickland-Shearer	2024
Donna Cusimano	2024
Kathleen Mulligan	2025
Betsy Shuipis, Chair	2025
Nancy Turkle	2025
Conservation Commission	
Clarence E. Wheeler, Chair	2023
Matthew G. Slowinski	2023
David W. Nims	2023
Carl A. Herzig	2023
William H. Dornbusch	2024
Marshall L. Denison, Jr.	2024
Benjamin Beas	2023
Council on Aging	
Richard R. Herzig	2025
Amy J. Herzig	2024
Carl Herzig	2025
Russell Barnes	2023
Janice Barnes, Chair	2023
Kathleen A. Phelps	2023
Elaine Stanley	2024
Valeda Peters, Secretary	2023

Betty Johnson	2024
Michelle F. Hillman	2023
Kathleen Steinem	2024

Election Officers

Bobby Slowinski, Warden
Nina Martin-Anzuoni, Clerk

Emergency Management Director

Jim Lyons	2023
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Emergency Response Coordinator

Nicholas M. Anzuoni	2025
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Energy Committee

Peter Brooks, Chair	2025
Bing Waldsmith	2025
Brian Cady	2025

Fire Chief

Nicholas M. Anzuoni	2023
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Fire Station Building Committee

Douglas MacLeay	2023
Gary Ponce	2023
Kevin Worden II	2023
Nicholas M. Anzuoni	2023

Franklin County Technical School Committee

Nicole Slowinski	2024
Thomas Griffin, Alternate	2023

Franklin Regional Council of Governments Representative

Kevin Fox	2023
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Franklin Regional Planning Board Representative

Marybeth Chichester	2023
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Highway Superintendent

Steve Daby	2023
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Historical Commission

Robert P. Ramirez	2023
Joan C. McQuade	2023
David W. Nims, Chair	2023
Beldin R. Merims	2023
Harold (Guy) Wheeler	2023
Sarah Davenport	2023

Administrative Assistant

Betsy Shuipis	2023
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Personnel Committee

Kathleen A. Phelps	2023
Veleda R. Peters	2023
Leslie Fraser	2023
Ellen Weeks, Chair	2023
Lynn DiTullio	2023

Plumbing & Gas Inspector

Kyle Hartnett	2023
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Police Chief

Christopher Lannon	2023
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Police Officers

Derek Worden	2023
Tarrah Demsey	2023
Heather Sonn	2023

Regional Dog Program Representative

Kevin Fox	2023
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Solid Waste Management District Representative

Michael Shuipis	2023
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Town Administrator

Kevin Fox	2023
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Town Accountant

David Fierro	2023
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Treasurer/Collector

Paula Harrison	2023
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Upper Pioneer Valley District Veterans Representative

Thomas Griffin	2023
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Wiring Inspector

James Slowinski	2023
Clinton Dodge	2023

Zoning Board of Appeals

Marshall L. Denison	2023
Howard R. Phelps	2023
Rockwell J. Lively, Chair	2024
Mark A. Thibodeau	2023
John Peters	2023

Moderator Appointments

Finance Committee

Douglas Macleay, Chair	2025
Rachel Glick	2024
Betty Ringwood	2024
Deborah Menard	2024
Michael Shuipis	2025

Franklin County Technical School District Committee Member

Nicole Slowinski	2023
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Planning Board (a seven-member board)

Sara Wik	2023
Greg Olchowski	2023
Robert Slowinski, Chair	2024
Loren Feinstein, Secretary	2025
Mary Beth Chichester	2024
David Greenburg	2023

Town Office Reports

Report of the Board of Assessors

The New Year started out with the Assessors conducting inspections of building permits, demolitions and properties on the town's cyclical inspection list. The Department of Revenue (DOR) requires the Assessors of Massachusetts to visit every property in each town once every ten years. Over a decade ago, the Assessors started a rotation of visiting the properties themselves rather than hiring an outside contractor at a substantial fee to the town. Since many of the contractors are from outside the area, the board felt that keeping the work "in house" would give them a better handle on errors for the future.

In the spring election, Nicholas Anzuoni won a write-in campaign (missed filing deadline) to the Board of Assessors. This is Nick's sixth term as an Assessor. The Assessors' office is the only elected board that is required within two years of taking office to successfully complete a 30-hour course and pass an examination. Failure to do so jeopardizes the DOR approval of the town's tax rate.

In Fiscal Year 2022, the office granted 3 abatements in the amount of \$31,648 of value which translates into \$648.15 of tax dollars. There was one appeal filed at the Massachusetts Appellate Tax Board (ATB) for Fiscal Year 2022.

Most properties in town have been inspected over the last few years, which have greatly reduced our number of abatements. This does not mean that the property record cards are flawless-some can go undetected for years. We encourage all residents to check the information on their property record cards periodically, especially after any building permit or demolition work has been completed.

In late September, we set our Fiscal Year 2023 tax rate at \$19.63/per \$1,000.00 of valuation. This brings the overall decrease in the taxation rate from 2021-23 to \$1.53 due to strong property assessments.

The Colrain Fire District tax rate for Fiscal Year 2023 was \$3.92/per \$1,000.00 of valuation.

The Town of Colrain's parcel count, total assessed values for each major class of properties and their percentage of the Levy Limit is as follows:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Valuation</u>	<u>%</u>
Residential [1,112 parcels]	\$172,627,600	84.5519
Commercial [186 parcels]	\$ 6,007,955	2.9427
Industrial [15 parcels]	\$ 4,109,500	2.0128
Personal Property [38 accounts]	\$ 21,422,510	10.4926
Total amount of 2023 Property Tax Levy	\$204,167,565	100.00%

Our maps and property record cards are available online on the town's website www.colrain-ma.gov under Town Office, Assessors' Office. Please check them out; this is another way to verify the accuracy of your assessments.

There are several property tax exemptions for the elderly varying in amounts from \$175 to \$500. Each exemption is based on income guidelines and as economic times become more difficult. We encourage the elderly to contact the office to see whether you may qualify. Any information that is provided to qualify for these exemptions is strictly confidential and is not available to the general public. Also available are exemptions for the blind and veterans with a service-connected disability.

We want property owners to know that assessing is a complicated field, and the DOR sets forth very strict guidelines with which our office must comply. With that said, our office is open to the public for any questions Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-4:00 PM and our board typically meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 5:00 PM in the Assessor's office. If you would like to set up an appointment to meet with the Board, please call the office at (413) 624-3356 since meeting times sometimes change due to scheduling conflicts.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Assessors

Nicholas Anzuoni, Chairman

James Slowinski

Dwight Harrison

Alice Wozniak, MAA & Director of Assessing

Town Clerk Report 2022

Elections

Town Election, May 3, 2022

Total Voters: 298

Assessor: Nicholas M. Anzuoni

Clerk: Anna Lavarreda

Constable: Tim P. Slowinski

Library Trustees: Betsy L. Browning, Martin Lydgate-Driggs

MRTSD Committee: John M. Chivers

Selectboard: Benjamin R. Eastman

Vital Statistics

Births 12

Deaths 13

Marriages 8

Dog Licenses

Dogs tagged 2022 - 338

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Lavarreda

Colrain Town Clerk 413-624-7100

Town Accountant Report

Town of Colrain

Annual Report of Revenues 6/30/22				
Account Name	Budget		Revenue	
Real Estate Taxes 2021	\$0.00		\$87,399.12	
Misc Non Recurring Rev	\$0.00		\$26,300.24	
Selectmen Liquor Licenses	\$0.00		\$1,000.00	
Selectmen Other Licenses	\$0.00		\$200.00	
Assessors Departmental Fees	\$0.00		\$25.00	
Rollback/Supplemental Taxes	\$0.00		\$3,926.80	
FY19 Personal Property Revenue	\$0.00		\$17,837.34	
FY20 Personal Property Revenue	\$0.00		\$20,254.70	
Personal Property Tax Revenue 2022	-\$426,039.30		\$425,721.52	
FY20 Real Estate Revenue	\$0.00		\$5,360.30	
Real Estate Tax Revenue 2022	-\$3,508,942.13		\$3,393,478.98	
Tax Liens Redeemed	\$0.00		\$29,960.18	
Tax Foreclosures	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Motor Vehicle Excise 2010	\$0.00		\$20.31	
Motor Vehicle Excise 2011	\$0.00		\$103.75	
Motor Vehicle Excise 2012	\$0.00		\$131.25	
Motor Vehicle Excise 2013	\$0.00		\$82.50	
Motor Vehicle Excise 2016	\$0.00		\$8.75	
Motor Vehicle Excise 2017	\$0.00		\$172.19	
Motor Vehicle Excise 2018	\$0.00		\$216.25	
Motor Vehicle Excise 2019	\$0.00		\$1,346.85	
FY20 Motor Vehicle Excise	\$0.00		\$3,872.51	
Motor Vehicle Excise 2021	\$0.00		\$26,950.75	
Motor Vehicle Excise 2022	-\$137,500.00		\$161,744.75	
Penalties & Int on Taxes	-\$10,000.00		\$28,546.65	
Penalties & Int on Excise	\$0.00		\$1,868.03	
Penalties & Int on Tax Liens	\$0.00		\$5,162.42	
Treasurers PILOT Payments	\$0.00		\$20.00	
Collector Departmental Fees	-\$5,000.00		\$12,818.00	
Collector MARK Registry Fines	\$0.00		\$1,920.00	
CS State Owned Land	-\$45,605.00		\$45,605.00	
CS Unrestricted Govt Aid	-\$317,193.00		\$337,097.00	
CS Veterans Benefits	-\$5,696.00		\$6,316.00	
CS Exempt VBS and Elderly	-\$9,266.00		\$1,004.00	
CS Assess MV Nonrenewal	\$1,720.00		-\$2,480.00	
CS Assess Air Pollution District	\$457.00		-\$457.00	
CS Assess Regional Transportation	\$374.00		-\$374.00	
Oth. State Revenues	\$0.00		\$340.32	
Local Occupancy Tax Revenue	-\$6,000.00		\$15,559.26	
RMV Fines	-\$2,000.00		\$4,610.00	
Earnings on Investments	-\$250.00		\$723.40	
Clerk Fees	\$0.00		\$1,050.00	
Police Departmental Fees	\$0.00		\$3,268.75	
Building Permits	-\$7,180.00		\$5,723.00	
Highway Curb Cut Fees	\$0.00		\$25.00	
Transfer Station Disposal Fees	\$0.00		\$8,395.15	
Transfer Station Bag Fees	-\$36,600.00		\$41,414.00	
Transfer Station FCSWMD Recycling	\$0.00		\$6,889.76	
Other Financing Sources	-\$2,274.00		\$0.00	
	Total Budget:	-\$4,516,994.43	Total Fund Revenue:	\$4,731,158.78
Account Name			Revenue	
Fund: 22 - 53E1/2 Revolving				
Zoning 53E1/2			\$250.00	
Fire Inspection Fees 53E1/2 Revolving			\$1,435.00	
Plumbing Permit Fees 53E1/2 Revolving			\$685.00	
Electrical Permits 53E1/2 Revolving			\$1,295.00	

	Dog License Fees 53E1/2 Revolving			\$2,115.00	
				Total Fund Revenue	\$5,780.00
	Account Name			Revenue	
	Fund: 23 - Other Revolving				
	Tax Title Revolving 53E1/2			\$13,887.49	
				Total Fund Revenue	\$13,887.49
	Fund: 24 - Gifts				
	Barnhardt Culvert Donations			\$300,000.00	
	Taxpayer in Need of Relief Fund			\$10,000.00	
	Police Donations			\$600.00	
	Fire Gifts and Donations			\$1,700.00	
	Fire Donations OFS			\$2,505.59	
	COA Meal Donations			\$549.00	
	COA - Foot Clinic Donations			\$2,383.00	
	Veterans Memorial Park Donations			\$1,000.00	
	Library Donations			\$3,000.00	
				Total Fund Revenue	\$321,737.59
	Fund: 25 - Other Special Revenue				
	SSRP Payments			\$7.68	
	SSRP Earnings on Investments			\$33.13	
	Conservation 53G Advertising Fees			\$430.00	
	Planning Board 53G Advertising Fees			\$275.00	
				Total Fund Revenue	\$745.81
	Fund: 27 - Federal Grants				
	ARPA Funds 2021			\$161,314.89	
				Total Fund Revenue	\$161,314.89
	Fund: 28 - State Grants				
	Last Mile Broadband Grant			\$375,226.00	
	Green Communities Revenue			\$64,940.00	
	Division of Ecological Restoration (\$95000.00 Award) Revenue			\$81,794.00	
	Bridge Academy Training (\$2213.00 Award)			\$2,400.00	
	MA Recycling Dividends Program			\$4,200.00	
	Council on Aging Formula Grant			\$4,556.20	
	State Aid to Public Libraries (LIG/MEG)			\$4,452.45	
	Colrain Cultural Council			\$5,000.91	
	Cultural Council Earnings on Investments			\$16.03	
				Total Fund Revenue	\$542,585.59
	Fund: 30 - Chapter 90				
	Mass Highway Ch90 Projects			\$8,141.99	
	Chapter 90 Revenue			\$36,235.20	
				Total Fund Revenue	\$44,377.19
	Fund: 50 - Broadband Network Enterprise				
	Broadband Revenue			\$606,336.39	
	Life Line Credit			\$514.25	
	EBBP Credit			\$13,280.00	
	Miscellaneous Revenue			\$973.44	
				Total Fund Revenue	\$621,104.08
	Fund: 80 - Trust				
	General Stabilization Earnings on Investments			\$1,046.06	
	OPEB Trust Earnings on Investments			-\$51,414.91	
	Davenport Relief Earnings on Investments			\$21.36	
	General Stabilization Transfers In			\$20,000.00	
	Audit Stabilization Earnings on Investments			-\$7.79	
	Assessors Stabilization Earnings on Investments			-\$230.76	
	Technology Stabilization Earnings on Investments			-\$204.65	
	Police Vehicle Stabilization Earnings on Investments			-\$506.33	
	Fire Vehicle Stabilization Earnings on Investments			-\$1,942.46	
	Fire Stabilization Interfund Transfers In			\$102,362.00	
	Quintas Allen Education Earnings on Investments			\$2,487.00	
	Highway Vehicle Stabilization Earnings on Investments			-\$1,543.10	
	Highway Stabilization Interfund Transfer In			\$25,000.00	

	Transfer Station Stabilization Earnings on Investments			-\$312.29	
	Meeting House Cem. Earnings on Investments			-\$0.57	
	E. Colrain Cem. Earnings on Investments			-\$15.03	
	Account Name			Revenue	
	Miller Dennison Cem. Earnings on Investments			-\$2.59	
	A. Browning Lot Cem. Earnings on Investments			-\$4.61	
	Grace A. Tenney Cem. Earnings on Investments			-\$3.11	
	Martha Babbitt Cem. Earnings on Investments			\$0.11	
	Griswold Library Capital Stabilization Interest			-\$676.10	
	Griswold Library Capital Stabilization Fund			\$15,000.00	
				Total Fund Revenue	\$109,052.23

Annual Report of Expenses 6/30/22				
Account Name	Budget		Expenses	
Fund: 01 - General Fund				
Moderator Stipend	\$105.00		-\$105.00	
Moderator Other Expenses	\$60.00		\$0.00	
Personnel Committee Expenses	\$100.00		\$0.00	
Selectmen Salaries	\$9,890.00		-\$8,242.50	
Selectmen Advertising	\$1,000.00		-\$434.30	
Selectmen Other Expenses	\$1,000.00		-\$851.01	
Town Coordinator	\$84,563.00		-\$84,563.00	
Town Common Flag Pole	\$1,850.00		-\$1,850.00	
Town Coordinator Other Expenses	\$500.00		-\$300.00	
Finance Committee Expenses	\$330.00		-\$135.00	
Reserve Fund	\$150.00		\$0.00	
Accounting Software	\$3,619.00		-\$3,619.00	
Accounting Services	\$20,904.00		-\$20,904.00	
Director of Assessing Salary	\$42,624.00		-\$42,624.00	
Assessors Stipends	\$9,849.00		-\$9,849.00	
Assessors Expenses	\$17,055.00		-\$15,233.25	
Treasurer/Collector Salary	\$59,570.00		-\$59,570.00	
Tax Title Custodian	\$5,000.00		\$0.00	
Treasurers Prof Services & Payroll	\$5,008.00		-\$3,344.45	
Treasurer Software	\$7,050.00		-\$6,833.23	
Treasurer Postage	\$4,000.00		-\$4,000.00	
Treasurer Professional Development	\$1,135.00		-\$1,090.06	
Treasurers Supplies	\$1,800.00		-\$1,256.07	
Treasurers Business Travel	\$850.00		-\$341.25	
Treasurers Licenses/Dues	\$60.00		-\$50.00	
Administrative Assistant Wages	\$28,705.00		-\$27,600.00	
Boards & Committee Clerical	\$2,274.00		-\$2,230.02	
Constable	\$200.00		-\$199.50	
Town Office Electricity	\$4,000.00		-\$2,858.98	
Heating	\$3,500.00		-\$1,749.36	
Town Hall Repairs and Maintenance	\$2,500.00		-\$1,269.90	
Town Hall Grounds	\$3,000.00		-\$1,980.00	
Town Hall Security	\$400.00		-\$318.00	
Town Hall Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00		-\$313.06	
Town Hall Forms Supplies and Machinery	\$3,100.00		-\$2,547.06	
Town Hall Internet	\$2,400.00		\$0.00	
Website Support	\$1,200.00		-\$1,140.00	
IT Support/Licensing	\$17,096.00		-\$16,457.99	
Copier Leases	\$3,500.00		-\$3,546.91	
Office Postage	\$1,200.00		-\$236.76	
Office Telephone	\$4,500.00		-\$4,369.56	
Office Professional Development	\$880.00		-\$880.00	
Town Counsel	\$10,000.00		-\$9,856.22	
Tax Title Taking	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Town Clerk Salary	\$23,000.00		-\$23,000.01	
Clerk Election/Registrar Workers	\$2,200.00		-\$1,076.91	
Clerk Other Expense	\$3,626.00		-\$2,529.21	

Conservation Commission Expenses	\$100.00		-\$93.00
Planning Board Expenses	\$1,000.00		-\$319.60
Town Office Custodian	\$5,944.00		-\$5,392.98
Town Reports	\$800.00		-\$357.00
Police Chief Salary	\$30,500.00		-\$38,903.30
Account Name	Budget		Expenses
Police Salaries	\$77,048.00		-\$49,687.54
Police Vehicle Maintenance	\$4,000.00		-\$1,205.85
Police Training	\$6,000.00		-\$5,420.79
Police Office Expense	\$1,800.00		-\$1,344.01
Police Fuel	\$6,820.00		-\$6,298.16
Police Equipment	\$15,535.00		-\$11,479.22
Fire Chief Salary	\$6,273.00		-\$6,273.00
Fire Administrative Assistant	\$2,274.00		-\$2,116.34
Firefighter Salaries	\$34,979.00		-\$34,979.00
Fire Officer Stipends	\$2,698.00		-\$2,698.00
Fire Electricity	\$5,400.00		-\$6,494.50
Fire Building Heat	\$4,900.00		-\$5,209.46
Fire Building Maintenance	\$5,000.00		-\$193.21
Fire Vehicle Maintenance	\$14,000.00		-\$7,275.76
Fire Equipment Maintenance	\$29,150.00		-\$35,182.34
Fire Prof Services	\$4,000.00		-\$250.00
Fire Software Technology	\$1,400.00		-\$1,451.11
Fire Telephone/Internet	\$2,800.00		-\$1,582.92
Fire Radio Maintenance	\$2,982.00		-\$2,981.02
Fire Training	\$10,000.00		-\$8,174.22
Fire Supplies	\$750.00		-\$1,286.47
Fire Fuel	\$1,500.00		-\$1,974.67
Fire Licenses/Dues	\$750.00		-\$250.00
Building Inspector Salary	\$8,925.00		-\$8,925.00
Building Inspector Software	\$3,445.00		-\$3,445.00
Building Inspector Supplies	\$200.00		\$0.00
Building Inspector Dues/Certification	\$870.00		\$0.00
Emergency Management Stipend	\$1,829.00		-\$1,829.00
Emergency Management Expenses	\$2,700.00		-\$2,500.00
FRCOG REPC Assessment	\$150.00		-\$150.00
Animal Control Assessment	\$5,414.00		-\$5,414.00
Inspector of Animals Expense	\$200.00		\$0.00
Franklin Regional Dog Assessment	\$350.00		-\$350.00
Tree Warden Stipend	\$53.00		\$0.00
School Committee Stipend	\$900.00		-\$300.00
Mohawk Trail Regional Assessment	\$2,161,916.00		-\$2,152,296.00
Mohawk Trail Regional Capital	\$54,176.00		-\$54,176.00
Franklin County Technical Assessment	\$336,561.00		-\$334,287.00
Franklin County Technical Capital	\$4,786.00		-\$4,785.28
Highway Salaries	\$307,953.00		-\$223,354.83
Highway Overtime	\$0.00		-\$20,835.29
Highway Electricity	\$0.00		\$0.00
Highway Building Maintenance	\$20,900.00		-\$18,147.19
Highway Machinery Maintenance	\$43,000.00		-\$41,957.56
Highway Bridge Expense	\$2,000.00		-\$380.00
Highway DOT Physicals/Drug & Alcohol Screening	\$2,000.00		-\$1,118.00
Highway Fuel	\$51,550.00		-\$30,747.81
Highway Roadway & Public Works Supplies	\$115,000.00		-\$114,557.49
Winter Equip Maintenance	\$7,300.00		-\$6,136.87
Winter Salt	\$39,550.00		-\$29,956.34
Winter Sand	\$39,550.00		-\$50,287.07
Street Lights	\$5,549.89		-\$5,549.89
Transfer Station Salaries	\$20,592.00		-\$14,536.50
Transfer Station Expenses	\$69,838.00		-\$61,599.53
Solid Waste District Assessment	\$6,405.00		-\$6,104.00

	Cemetery Maintenance	\$855.00			-\$855.00
	Animal Inspector	\$400.00			-\$400.00
	Board of Health Wages	\$2,500.00			-\$262.35
	Board of Health Expense	\$3,500.00			\$0.00
	FRCOG Regional Health Assessment	\$13,464.00			-\$11,444.40
	Council on Aging Professional Services	\$0.00			-\$7,985.00
	Council on Aging Food & Food Services	\$0.00			-\$5,028.75
	Account Name	Budget			Expenses
	Council on Aging Expenses	\$20,000.00			-\$100.00
	Verterans Services District Assessment	\$3,846.00			-\$3,845.69
	Veterans District (Chapter 115)	\$7,500.00			-\$2,159.72
	Librarian Director Wages	\$35,720.00			-\$35,720.00
	Library Substitute	\$997.00			-\$562.00
	Assisstant Library Director Wages	\$10,418.00			-\$10,087.90
	Library Electricity	\$2,500.00			-\$2,040.38
	Library Building Heat	\$3,300.00			-\$2,280.00
	Library Other Utilities	\$136.00			-\$114.00
	Library Building Maintenance	\$5,750.00			-\$5,271.91
	Library Programming	\$0.00			-\$468.56
	Library Technology/Online Services	\$5,595.00			-\$5,313.99
	Library Professional Development	\$1,000.00			-\$1,424.68
	Library Supplies	\$1,350.00			-\$2,713.33
	Cleaning	\$2,600.00			-\$853.50
	Library Books	\$16,858.00			-\$18,490.56
	Library Business Travel	\$442.00			-\$149.00
	Transfer to Broadband (Raised on Recap)	\$3,847.36			-\$3,847.36
	Historical Commission Expenses	\$100.00			\$0.00
	Memorial Day Celebration	\$700.00			-\$573.50
	LT Debt Principle Payments	\$23,932.11			-\$550.00
	LT Debt Interest Payments	\$6,938.00			\$0.00
	Interest on Short Term Debt	\$0.00			\$0.00
	FRCOG Procurement Services Assessment	\$2,426.00			-\$2,426.00
	FRCOG Core Assessment	\$10,752.00			-\$10,752.00
	Franklin Regional Retirement Assessment	\$107,945.00			-\$105,945.00
	Employer Contr. Group Health Insurance	\$123,587.00			-\$113,142.76
	Property & Casualty Insurance	\$49,100.00			-\$43,856.00
	VFIS	\$7,000.00			-\$7,985.00
	Employee Surety & Bonds	\$1,700.00			-\$1,200.00
		Total Budget	\$4,465,177.36		Total Expended
					-\$4,209,802.03
	Fund: 02 - Special Aritcles & Appropriations				
	FY21 Financial Audit STM 03.10.22	\$500.00			\$0.00
	Security System	\$3,309.00			-\$2,973.41
	FY20 Financial Audit FY21 Art 29 Revised 9/24/20 from FY	\$15,500.00			-\$15,500.00
	FY 22 Audit 06.14.22 ATM RA	\$0.00			\$0.00
	Flooring & Related Costs FY21 Art 27	\$2,261.00			-\$2,208.04
	Network Server FY21 Art 26	\$634.57			\$0.00
	FY23 Computer Network Repairs ATM FC	\$5,500.00			\$0.00
	I/T Upgrades FY20 Art 25	\$0.73			\$0.00
	Restoration & Preservation of Town Records FY21 Art 23	\$225.00			\$0.00
	Records Management Project FY21 Art 28	\$252.00			\$0.00
	FY23 Town Clerk Record Restoration ATM RA	\$2,000.00			\$0.00
	Town Office Repairs FY2016	\$968.03			-\$968.03
	ATM 5/17 Art31 TH Carpet & Workstations	\$13.39			\$0.00
	Outside Detail Adminstrative Stipend	\$130.00			-\$130.00
	Outside Detail Administrative Stipend FY22 Art 23	\$2,000.00			-\$3,028.75
	FY23 Outside Detail Admin Fee	\$2,000.00			\$0.00
	PoliceFire Carport FY21 Art 30	\$750.00			\$0.00
	FY21 12.17.20 STM Police Radio Upgrade Art 2	\$32,195.00			-\$27,053.04
	FY23 Police Cruiser Purchase ATM FC	\$60,000.00			\$0.00
	FY21 12.17.20 STM Art 1 Pay Previous Year Bill	\$8.00			\$0.00
	Dodge 5500 FY21 Art 24	\$625.54			\$0.00

	FY23 Backhoe Purchase ATM FC	\$145,000.00		\$0.00	
	ATM 5/17 Art33 Library Oil Tank Removal	\$3,000.00		\$0.00	
	Fire Pumper Payoff STM 03.10.22	\$228,638.00		-\$228,637.72	
	FY19 Carryover Shrt Term Debt Interest	\$1,715.08		-\$1,715.08	
	Interest on Short Term Debt FY22 Art 7	\$25,435.00		-\$22,284.92	
	FY23 Transfer to General Stabilization ATM FC	\$20,000.00		-\$20,000.00	
	FY23 Transfer to FD Stabilization ATM FC	\$102,362.00		-\$102,362.00	
	FY23 Transfer to Library Stabilization ATM FC	\$15,000.00		-\$15,000.00	
	FY23 Transfer to Highway Stabilization ATM FC	\$25,000.00		-\$25,000.00	
		Total Budget	\$695,022.34	Total Expended	-\$466,860.99
	Account Name			Expenses	
	Fund: 22 - 53E1/2 Revolving				
	Zoning 53E1/2			-\$198.36	
	Fire Insp. 53E1/2 Stipends			-\$945.00	
	Pumbing Insp. 53E1/2 Stipends			-\$1,465.00	
	Electrical Insp. 53E1/2 Stipends			-\$515.00	
	Animal Control 53E1/2 Interfund Trans Out			-\$79.88	
				Total Expended	-\$3,203.24
	Fund: 23 - Other Revolving				
	Tax Title 53E1/2			-\$20,613.61	
				Total Expended	-\$20,613.61
	Fund: 24 - Gifts				
	Taxpayer In Need of Relief Distribution			-\$15,644.65	
	Other Financing Uses			-\$2,247.12	
	Other Financing Uses			-\$69.89	
	Other Financing Uses			-\$188.58	
	CoA Donations Professional Services			-\$103.21	
	Veterans Memorial Park Expenses			-\$4,660.00	
	AA Smith Gift Expenses			-\$2,666.50	
				Total Expended	-\$25,579.95
	Fund: 25 - Other Special Revenue				
	Miscellaneous Expenses			\$4,705.27	
	Conservation 53G Public Hearing Advertising			-\$1,059.43	
	Planning Board 53G Public Hearing Advertising			-\$365.78	
				Total Expended	\$3,280.06
	Fund: 27 - Federal Grants				
	Cares Act Expenditures			-\$3,416.16	
				Total Expended	-\$3,416.16
	Fund: 28 - State Grants				
	Last Mile Broadband Grant			-\$858,069.72	
	Green Communities Grant			-\$36,531.17	
	Division of Ecological Restoration (\$95000.00 Award)			-\$95,500.00	
	Center for Tech and Civic Life Grant			-\$5,000.00	
	Bridge Academy Training (\$2213.00 Award)			-\$546.00	
	FY22 Fire Fighter Grant Expenses			-\$2,612.43	
	Emergency Management Prep Grant			-\$1,552.60	
	MA Recycling Dividends Program Capital			-\$4,936.81	
	COA Formula Grant Expenses			-\$3,726.86	
	Colrain Local Cultural Council Programs			-\$7,477.50	
	Colrain Local Cultural Council Admin Expenses			-\$16.50	
				Total Expended	-\$1,015,969.59
	Fund: 30 - Chapter 90				
	Chapter 90 Expenses			-\$359,793.81	
				Total Expended	-\$359,793.81
	Fund: 50 - Broadband Network Enterprise				
	Electric			-\$3,125.12	
	Middle Mile Access Fee			-\$31,837.90	
	ISP Charge - 1 Gbps Internet			-\$183,422.38	
	ISP Charges Phone			-\$58,252.27	
	Static IPs			-\$631.35	

	Stripe Fees				-\$15,209.53	
	Annual Pole Attachment Licensing Fee				-\$17,754.48	
	Retainer for Third Party R&M				-\$6,847.76	
	Pole Bonding Fee				-\$9,000.00	
	Utility Charges/Services Purchased				-\$1,923.84	
	Repairs and Maintenance				-\$40.00	
	Miscellaneous				-\$3,169.89	
	Insurance				-\$2,525.00	
					Total Expended	-\$333,739.52

TREASURER'S REPORT

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Location of Funds:

People's Bank	SSRP	\$ 41,238.01
People's Bank	Covered Bridge	\$ 22,575.16
People's Bank	Deputy Collector	\$ 8.54
MMDT	General	\$ 2,228.52
MMDT	Arts' Council	\$ 5,404.87
Unibank	General	\$ 638,514.53
Unibank	Payroll 2015	\$ 4,479.18
Unibank	AP 2015	\$(47,071.83)
Unibank	Dept. Online	\$ 1,886.04
Unibank	Collector Online	\$ 2,186.06
Unibank	Allocation Accounts	
	ARPA	\$ 248,272.02
	Barnhardt Culvert Donation	\$ 300,008.44
	Bred Genetics Escrow	\$ 5,000.32
	Flower Escrow	\$ 5,000.32
	LSTA	\$ 4,200.00
	Veterans Memorial Park	\$ 8,879.42
Unibank (non-interest bearing)	Last Mile	\$ 357,805.15
Greenfield Co-operative Bank	General	\$ 49,731.21

Balance as of June 30, 2022 \$1,650,345.96

TRUST FUNDS ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Location of Funds:

People's United Bank		
Martha Babbitt Fund		\$ 763.72
MMDT		
Stabilization Fund		\$ 516,398.04
Davenport		\$ 6,574.44
Bartholomew		
Meetinghouse Cemetery Fund		\$ 1,094.01
Annie Browning Trust Fund		\$ 188.63
Miller-Denison Lots		\$ 188.63
Grace A Teney Fund		\$ 188.63
East Colrain Cemetery Fund		\$ 226.34
Stabilization Assessors Fund		\$ 16,851.98
Stabilization Audit Fund		\$ 568.90
Stabilization Fire Fund		\$ 163,721.50
Stabilization Griswold Library		\$ 65,770.38
Stabilization Highway Fund		\$ 140,017.69
Stabilization Police Vehicle/Equipment		\$ 36,980.19
Stabilization Technology		\$ 14,946.54
Stabilization Transfer Station		<u>\$ 22,810.06</u>

Total Trust Funds June 30, 2022 \$ 987,289.68

BROADBAND ENTERPRISE FUND

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Unibank

Colrain Broadband

\$ 396,832.70

OPEB FUNDS ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Location of Funds:

Bartholomew

OPEB Fund

\$ 287,901.09

TAX TITLE REVOLVING FUNDS ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Tax Title Revolving Fund

Beginning Balance as of 7-1-21

\$ 41,404.28

Revenue

\$ 18,044.86

Expenditures

\$(24,770.98)

Ending Balance as of 6-30-22

\$ 34,678.16

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT FY2022

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

REAL ESTATE

2022	Real Estate	\$ 3,509,792.37
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (3,401,646.73)
	Abatements/Exemptions	\$ (14,123.14)
	Refunds	\$ 10,496.07
	Transfer to Tax Title	\$ (33,532.71)
	Balance as of June 30, 2022	<u>\$ 70,985.86</u>
2021	Real Estate forwarded from June 30, 2021	\$ 118,910.34
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (84,947.48)
	Abatements/Exemptions	\$ (0.00)
	Refunds	\$ (1,212.33)
	Transfer to Tax Title	\$ (32822.19)
	Balance as of June 30, 2022	<u>\$ (71.66)</u>
2020	Real Estate forwarded from June 30, 2021	\$ 10,175.19
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (5,360.30)
	Abatements/Exemptions	\$ (0.00)
	Refunds	\$ 0.00
	Transfer to Tax Title	\$ (787.04)
	Balance as of June 30, 2022	<u>\$ 4,027.85</u>

PERSONAL PROPERTY

2022	Personal Property	\$ 426,039.26
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (425,817.27)
	Abatements	\$ (0.00)
	Refunds	\$ 95.75
	Balance as of June 30, 2022	<u>\$ 317.74</u>
2021	Personal Property forward from June 30, 2021	\$ 380.55
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (0.00)
	Balance as of June 30, 2022	<u>\$ 380.55</u>
2020	Personal Property forward from June 30, 2021	\$ 20,530.88
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (20,254.70)
	Balance as of June 30, 2022	<u>\$ 276.18</u>
2019	Personal Property forward from June 30, 2021	\$ 17,951.73
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (17,837.34)
	Balance as of June 30, 2022	<u>\$ 114.39</u>

MOTOR VEHICLE AND TRAILER EXCISE

2022	Motor Vehicle	\$ 192,110.48
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (163,374.34)
	Refunds	\$ 1,793.49
	Abatements	<u>\$ (2,388.45)</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2022	<u><u>\$ 28,141.18</u></u>
2021	Balance as of June 30, 2021	\$ 34,041.10
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (28,643.32)
	Refunds	\$ 1,073.66
	Abatements	<u>\$ (1,189.78)</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2022	<u><u>\$ 5,281.65</u></u>
2020	Balance as of June 30, 2021	\$ 6,213.60
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (3,875.58)
	Refunds	\$ 140.00
	Abatements	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2022	<u><u>\$ 2,478.34</u></u>
2019	Balance as of June 30, 2021	\$ 3,274.88
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (1,346.85)
	Refunds	\$ 0.00
	Abatements	<u>\$ (0.00)</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2022	<u><u>\$ 1,928.03</u></u>
2018	Balance as of June 30, 2021	\$ 1,870.77
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (216.25)
	Refunds	\$ 0.00
	Abatements	<u>\$ (1,666.06)</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2022	<u><u>\$ (11.54)</u></u>
2017	Balance as of June 30, 2021	\$ 1,227.08
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (172.19)
	Refunds	\$ 0.00
	Abatements	<u>\$ (1,054.89)</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2022	<u><u>\$ 0.00</u></u>
2016	Balance as of June 30, 2021	\$ 802.84
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (8.75)
	Abatements	<u>\$ (814.59)</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2022	<u><u>\$ (20.50)</u></u>
2015	Balance as of June 30, 2021	\$ 895.14
	Payments to Treasurer	<u>\$ (895.14)</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2022	<u><u>\$ 0.00</u></u>

ANNUAL REPORTS

Building Inspector Report 2022

A building permit is required by the State Building Code to construct, reconstruct, alter, repair, remove, or demolish a building or structure, or to change the use or occupancy of a building or structure. If you are not sure whether your project will require a building permit, please call before you begin construction. Applications may be accessed through the Town of Colrain website home page by clicking on the “online permitting” button.

Most of the building projects in 2022 were photo-voltaic installations and insulating/weatherization projects. It appears we may be lining up to see a couple of new houses in 2023 but nothing has been filed for yet. In 2022 the Town had to demolish a house by order of the Building Department. This was the result of the building being found to be abandoned, open to the weather, structurally unsafe, and especially unsafe in case of fire, by myself as well as a Board of Survey. The Town was responsible for the demolition costs. A lien was then placed on the property.

The online permitting software still has some glitches, mostly involving application entry issues. I should be able to walk you through the process if problems arise.

My office hours are every Wednesday night between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Town Office. My office telephone number is 413-624-4728. I can also be reached at home, weeknights before 9 p.m., at 413-624-9621.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Kimberley
Colrain Building Inspector

Colrain Cultural Council Report

The Colrain Cultural Council supports cultural activities in our community and surrounding areas for children and adults. Funded programs include art, lectures, music, dance, theater, workshops, performances in schools, and entertainment venues. The Colrain Cultural Council is funded by the Local Cultural Council (LCC) program of the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Every year the Colrain Cultural Council meets to discuss and vote on submitted grant applications.

For 2022, the Colrain Cultural Council received \$5000 from the Cultural Council Massachusetts to be distributed. We received 32 applications of which 22 were approved and 10 were declined. Twenty applicants completed their projects in 2022.

In 2022, the Colrain Cultural Council distributed about 500 community input questionnaires to Colrain residents to learn what cultural events are important to them. 64 questionnaires were returned. The favorites were “Arts in School” and “Public events like concerts, theater, lectures”. Thank you to all participants. A community input is required by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Colrain Cultural Council formulated it at the last meeting in 2021.

In 2022, the Colrain Cultural Council met twice. The first meeting was on May 21, 2022, to discuss the community input results and update our priorities. We welcomed two new members: Nancy Rich Turkle and Betsy Shuipis.

The second meeting was on November 30, 2022, to discuss and vote on the new applications for the year 2023. The Massachusetts Cultural Council granted \$5500 to be distributed for 2023. We received 34 applications of which 25 were accepted and 9 were declined.

Starting in January 2023 Betsy Shuipis will be the new Chair.

Members of Colrain Cultural Council in 2022:

Donna Cusimano
Inge Jockers (Chair)
Nancy Rich-Turkle
Betsy Shuipis
Sharon Wickland-Shearer

Colrain Historical Commission Report

The Historical Commission met once in 2022 on April 2.

We wrote Brenda Le Duc, co-owner of the historic Brick Meetinghouse, expressing our concern for the integrity of the structure, given the missing vertical board on the steeple.

Attempts to get the State to erect two “Covered Bridge” signs on Route 112 in Lyonsville have been unsuccessful.

Plans for the coming year include looking to restore or replace the welcome signs designed by the late Hale Johnson and placed on the three entrances to the village. One of the signs had to be removed from its position at the approach at the foot of the mountain, and the others have deteriorated.

Signed: David Nims, Chairman, Joan McQuade, Bob Ramirez, Sarah Davenport Clough, Guy Wheeler, and Belden Merims

Colrain Council on Aging Report

February 1, 2023

Chairperson: Betty Johnson, Co-chair; Michelle Hillman

Secretary: Valeda Peters, Co-secretary; Amy Herzig

Treasurer: Janice Barnes, Co-treasurer; Betty Johnson

Members: Richard Herzig, Amy Herzig, Carl Herzig, Elaine Stanley, Valeda Peters, Russell Barnes, Janice Barnes, Kathy Phelps, Michelle Hillman, Betty Johnson, Kathy Steinem.

The main objective of the Council on Aging is to make certain services available to the senior population in Colrain such as a monthly foot clinic, meal, social time, and depending on time of year, other activities.

A monthly foot clinic was held at the town garage, then was successfully moved to the fire station break room in December. Our participant numbers are increasing as awareness of this great service has gained attention.

This past year we had 8 senior meals at the Eagles in Shelburne Fall, 1 picnic meal catered by Pine Hill Orchard in July, and obtained food vouchers from Catamount Country Store or Pine Hill Orchard when the Eagles facility was not available. The COA also covered the cost of a senior's meal when a food event was put on by the Colrain Fire Department or the Colrain Central School. The COA invited the Shelburne Falls Military band to come to Colrain in August with the Colrain Fire Dept serving hamburgers and hot dogs. The COA covered the cost of the band and food provided to the Colrain seniors. In September, we held our annual "Apple Day" at Pine Hill Orchards, where seniors get to pick their own apples, have coffee/cider & donuts along with social time. During the good weather months seniors were able to travel to Town Line Ice Cream for ice cream. We also had a monthly senior social time at Pine Hills Gazebo where coffee & donuts were available. A weekly craft time is available in the downstairs of the town office throughout the year, along with a low impact exercise time and a social time for seniors to meet on Thursdays, weather permitting.

We hope to keep continuing our present activities and adding new ones as the year progresses.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Barnes

COA Treasurer

Colrain Finance Committee Report

January 2023

The Finance Committee is about to start work on the budget for the coming fiscal year for presentation at the annual town meeting. It appears that the worst of the pandemic is behind us, however, it is still a concern.

As we begin work on a new budget, we find Colrain to be in very good financial condition. The Broadband is complete and running in the black and the debt has been bonded for significantly less than the town meeting authorized amount. The new cell tower is operating and there is reception in a significant area of town not previously served. The recently approved tower in Heath may improve reception in some areas which presently have no signal or a weak signal.

The finance committee having survived most of the pandemic with only enough members for a quorum now has five members.

The Colrain center project is basically complete, and we have a new town common, which includes a new veterans memorial. A grant has been received to repave Greenfield Road from the Shelburne line to Colrain center.

The job of the Finance Committee is made easier and the town is in better financial condition due to the quality of work being done by employees in the town office.

The school budgets continue to be a large portion of our annual expenditures with currently no expectation of improvement. There seem to be a number of factors driving this: a decline in the school age population, school choice, the cost of running the Mohawk Campus with an enrollment well below its capacity and the cost of busing in a district with many road miles. There is some hope of improved funding going forward with a new governor and a state surplus.

Colrain is alive and well and a beautiful place to live.

Respectfully submitted,























Douglas MacLeay, Chair
Rachel Glick
Betty Ringwood
Deborah Menard
Michael Shuipis

Franklin County Regional Animal Control Report

In 2019, the Towns of Buckland, Colrain, Gill, Heath, Monroe, Northfield, and Shelburne join in partnership with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office to create the Franklin County Regional Animal Control program to provide full-time services to these towns.

During 2022, the Regional Animal Control Program welcomed the Towns of Bernardston, Conway, Leyden, and New Salem. With the addition of these (4) towns, the Regional Animal Control Program now provides Animal Control Services for (12) Towns. We also welcomed the addition of a part-time Animal Control Officer (Judie Garceau) to the program.

During 2022, Franklin County Regional Animal Control logged 693 calls for service between January 1st and December 31st 2022.

<u>Calls for Service:</u>	<u>Breakdown of calls by Town:</u>
 21 call(s) for animal bites investigations.	 Bernardston: <u>40</u>
 21 call(s) for animal welfare checks.	 Buckland: <u>53</u>
 147 call(s) for animal complaints.	 Charlemont: <u>29</u>
 84 call(s) regarding found animals.	 Colrain: <u>74</u>
 15 call(s) for inspections.	 Conway: <u>5</u>
 16 call(s) for sick or injured animals.	 Gill: <u>55</u>
 50 Mutual Aid Requests.	 Heath: <u>48</u>
 45 Hearings, Meetings or Trainings.	 Leyden: <u>15</u>
 11 Animal Surrenders.	 Monroe: <u>2</u>
<i>*Note: The above does not represent all the calls that were received</i>	 New Salem: <u>29</u>
	 Northfield: <u>72</u>
	 Shelburne: <u>56</u>
	 Other*: <u>215</u>

In the spring of 2022 with the assistance of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter and local veterinarians Amy Rubin and Amy Tuominen we were able to host rabies clinics in Turners Falls and Heath.

We have also worked with local food pantries to keep them stocked with pet food for residents in need. If you are struggling to obtain food for your dog or cat or know of a pantry in need of pet food, please reach out.

Anyone with Animal Control questions or issues can contact us by email at animalcontrol@fcso-ma.us or by phone at **413-774-7340**. If you have an urgent or immediate situation, please contact the Shelburne Falls Regional Communications Center at **413-625-8200**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kyle Dragon, Lead Regional Animal Control Officer

Judie Garceau, Part-Time Regional Animal Control Officer

Franklin County Sheriff's Office Regional Dog Shelter

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office Regional Dog Shelter has been in operation since 2012. The shelter was started by Sheriff Christopher Donelan who saw the need in the community for a dog sheltering facility and is currently the only brick and mortar dog shelter in Franklin County.

As of this date, the dog shelter provides services to 23 of the 26 Franklin County towns. During the course of 2022, the Regional Dog Shelter logged 190 canine intakes (164 were brought in as strays, and 26 were Surrender, Transferred or Returned to our facility).

- 102 were returned to their owners.
- 74 were adopted into new fur-ever homes.
- 11 were transferred to another facility to better meet their specific needs.

While we are primarily a dog facility with the addition of the Sheriff's Office Regional Animal Control position, the shelter assisted in the holding and transfer of 18 felines. At this time, the shelter does not have the capability to process cat adoptions, therefore, all felines are transferred to an appropriate agency.

Working with the Community:

Food Pantries: If you are struggling to feed your pet or know of a food pantry that could use dog/cat food, please let us know!

Rabies Clinics: In 2022, the shelter partnered with (2) local veterinarians to sponsor rabies clinics in Turners Falls and Heath.

Dog Licensing: Some Town Clerks have granted the ability for the shelter to issue a dog license for a dog that was brought in and not licensed, as Massachusetts General Law requires every dog be licensed and vaccinated for rabies before it can be released from the shelter. This ability has drastically reduced the time that an owned dog must stay at the shelter if it was unlicensed upon intake.

Volunteers: Volunteers are essential to the smooth operation of the shelter, without them, we would not have the success that we have today. Donating over 6,167 hours in 2022, volunteers helped with Daily Kennel Chores, Foster Homes, Event Staffing and providing Enrichment specific to each dog's needs. We are always in need of new volunteers. If you are interested in joining our volunteer team, please check out the volunteer application on our website.

Did you know? The overall average length of stay for a dog at our kennel is 30 days. During this time, all their costs and care are covered by the Friends of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter.



Cooperative Public Health Service Services to Colrain – 2022



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

The Town is a comprehensive member of the CPHS, a health district based at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. FRCOG's regional health staff provide professional support to the Board of Health for all public health issues. Other neighboring towns sharing the same public health staff include Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leyden, Monroe, Rowe, and Shelburne, and the nursing only towns of Ashfield, Erving and Northfield. The Town's regional staff include Program Manager Randy Crochier, Health Agent Kurt Schellenberg, Public Health Nurses Lisa White and Meg Ryan, and Epidemiologist/Health Educator Maureen O'Reilly. CPHS activities on behalf of the Board of Health in Colrain during 2022 included:

- Hosted Walk-in Wellness nursing hours at Griswold Memorial Library: saw 35 different people for a total of 41 separate visits.
- Offered sharps collection and box exchange in collaboration with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District at all CPHS Walk-in Wellness hours: 118 boxes exchanged.
- Facilitated COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics between state mobile vendors and local schools and senior centers. These clinics served over 1,000 individuals in West County, including many Colrain residents. Additionally, the Public Health Nurses gave 363 Flu and 548 COVID vaccinations at CPHS Walk-in Wellness hours, vaccination clinics, and home visits. Among these, Colrain residents received 50 vaccines.
- Completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance/contact tracing and reporting for communicable disease cases in district member towns, including 255 Colrain cases, 228 of which were COVID-19.
- Partnered with local libraries, Better Life Partners, and other local recovery groups on a West County community training on how to identify an overdose and what to do.
- Served on the Mohawk Trail Regional School District COVID-19 Task Force on behalf of the Board of Health.
- Offered tick prevention materials and help for residents accessing tick tests. Of the 10 ticks tested at TickReport.com by residents of Colrain, 44% tested positive for the Lyme Disease Pathogen, and 11% for the Babesiosis pathogen.
- Supported the Franklin County Age- and Dementia- Friendly Communities initiative by enrolling 5 new towns including Colrain, conducting a survey of needs and 4 focus groups for early 2022, and gathering participants for work groups to identify priorities from survey results.
- Provided guidance and training to the Board of Health members serving as agents for the Town.
- Assisted businesses with the on-line permitting system and provided technical support for applications of annual permits. Processed 21 annual permits for Colrain, including regional permits.
- Organized two low-cost 3-in-1 Food safety trainings (ServSafe®, Mass Allergens Awareness and Choke Saver w' use of EpiPen® and Narcan®) for town residents and business employees. Four Colrain residents attended.
- Enforcement of the Title-5 (septic) code for the town included: Conducting 15 soil evaluations for septic systems; reviewing 14 septic system plans, visiting these sites, conducting final

installation inspections, and preparing Certificates of Compliance; witnessing 18 Title-5 inspections prior to property transfer; and issuing 1 local upgrade approval and DSCP (septic) permit.

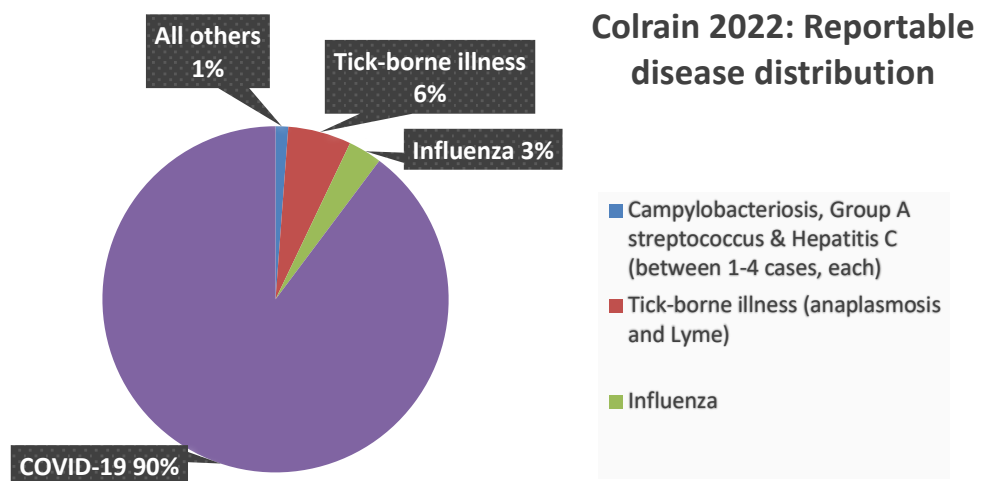
- Conducted 7 retail food inspections, permitted 8 wells, and assisted Colrain businesses and residents with sanitary code compliance.
- Provided oversight and guidance to work through needed variances to allow a long-standing, never-permitted, private club that was operating as a family style campground to operate legitimately.
- Inspected multiple housing units with varying degrees of complexity.
- Met with stakeholders to start discussions related to the closing of the Barnhart plant and the negative impacts on at least 19 local homes.
- Licensed and inspected 3 short-term rental units.

In addition, FRCOG staff:

- Provided information on the Mass in Motion Age-friendly municipal planning initiative and a memorandum of understanding to the Selectboard for work to be done in 2023.
- Provided funding for efforts to increase school-connectedness through a school-wide community service learning project focused on the library at Colrain Central School.
- Provided funding and facilitation support to the Mary Lyon Foundation for the creation of the West County People Supporting People Network, which met quarterly to bring together providers from the county's healthcare and human service sectors with community stakeholders in West County.

We thank the residents of Colrain for the opportunity to serve them and look forward to working closely together to improve the health of the community in the coming year!

Colrain's representatives to the CPHS Oversight Board in 2022 were Nina Martin-Anzuoni and Gary Ponce, Board of Health members. For more information about the Board or the district, visit www.frcog.org.





Franklin Regional Council of Governments Services to Colrain in 2022

The FRCOG provides planning services, programming, and advocacy to all Franklin County municipalities. Our municipal service programs – Collective Purchasing, Cooperative Public Health, Cooperative Inspection, and Town Accounting – are available to any municipality. The Community Health programs provide substance use and chronic disease prevention; the Planning Department assists with local planning and larger regional projects; and the Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Programs prepare and train first responders and health officials.

The following pages list services specific to Colrain.

Climate Resilience and Land Use

- Assisted the town coordinator with completing the FY22 MA Green Communities Annual Report.
- FRCOG was awarded a planning grant to complete a Colrain Town Pollinator Action Plan as part of a Franklin County Regional Pollinator Habitat Corridor Acton Plan, with work to begin in 2023.
- Began work on a MassDEP 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant to develop an assessment and scoring system for stormwater runoff from dirt roads, with recommended best management practices. Pilot work with Colrain and Ashfield will begin in 2023.
- Prepared a floodplain overlay district zoning bylaw for the planning board in accordance with the new model prepared by the MA Flood Hazard Management Program, so the town maintains eligibility for the US Flood Insurance Program.

Community Health

- Conducted the annual student health survey to assess attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD) administrators on results from 112 Mohawk students, representing 82% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant writing and program planning.
- Provided resources to the school district for advancing racial justice in schools.
- Provided coaching on restorative practices in the MTRSD.
- Provided training, materials, and technical assistance for the new, evidence based PreVenture substance use prevention and mental health promotion program in the MTRSD.
- Provided information on the Mass in Motion Age-friendly municipal planning initiative and a memorandum of understanding to the select board for work to be done in 2023.
- Provided funding and technical assistance for efforts to increase school-connectedness for students in the Mohawk Trail Regional School Supported Classroom program, including food safety and CPR/first aid training for students.
- Provided funding for a school-wide community service-learning project focused on the library at Colrain Central School.
- Provided funding and facilitation support to the Mary Lyon Foundation for the creation of the West County People Supporting People Network, which met quarterly to bring together providers from the county's healthcare and human service sectors with community stakeholders in West County.

Economic Development

- Provided information to the town administrator about state grant programs to support property redevelopment.
- Met with the select board to discuss the municipality's priority town projects seeking funding.

Shared Municipal Services

- Colrain contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment; heating and vehicle fuel; school district fire extinguisher services; and dog tags and licenses. Staff also conducted a demolition bid for a property on Main Road.
- Colrain is a comprehensive member of the Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS), a health district based at the FRCOG. CPHS staff:
 - Hosted CPHS Walk-in Wellness nursing hours at Griswold Memorial Library: saw 35 different residents for a total of 41 separate visits.
 - Offered sharps collection and box exchange in collaboration with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District at all CPHS Walk-in Wellness hours: 118 boxes were exchanged.
 - Facilitated COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics between state mobile vendors and local schools and senior centers. These clinics served over 1,000 individuals in West County, including many Colrain residents. Additionally, nurses gave 363 Flu and 548 COVID vaccinations at CPHS Walk-in Wellness hours, vaccination clinics, and home visits. Among these, Colrain residents received 50 vaccines.
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 - Collaborated with local libraries, Better Life Partners, and other local recovery groups on a West County community training on how to identify and respond to an overdose.
 - Served on the MTRSD COVID-19 Task Force on behalf of the board of health.
 - Offered tick prevention materials and help for residents accessing tick tests. Of the 10 ticks tested by Colrain residents, 44% were positive for the Lyme disease pathogen and 11% were positive for the Babesiosis pathogen.
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 - Provided guidance and training to the board of health members serving as agents for the town.
 - Assisted businesses with the on-line permitting system and provided technical support for applications of annual permits. Processed 21 annual permits for Colrain, including regional permits.
 - Enforcement of the septic (title 5) code for the town included: Conducting 15 soil evaluations for septic systems; reviewing 14 septic system plans, visiting these sites, conducting final installation inspections and preparing Certificates of Compliance; witnessing 18 septic inspections prior to property transfer; and issuing 1 local upgrade approval and septic permit.
 - Conducted 7 retail food inspections, permitted 8 wells, and assisted Colrain businesses and residents with sanitary code compliance.
 - Provided oversight and guidance to work through needed variances to allow a longstanding, never-permitted, private club that was operating as a family style campground to operate legitimately.
 - Inspected multiple housing units with varying degrees of complexity.
 - Met with stakeholders to start discussions related to the closing of the Barnhart plant and the possible impacts on the 26 housing units now served by the factory's sewer treatment plant.
 - Licensed and inspected 3 short-term rental units.

Training and Education

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops, roundtables and training sessions that Colrain public officials, staff, and residents attended, and the number in attendance.

Municipal Officials' Continuing Education

State Funding for Western MA – 1

Town Administrator Roundtable (qtrly) – 1

Highway Superintendents Roundtable – 1

Planning, Conservation & Development

Planning Board Roles & Responsibilities – 1

Diversifying Rural Housing Opportunities – 2

Small Town Housing – 9

Public Health & Community Awareness:

Youth Mental Health – 1

How to Administer Naloxone/Narcan™ – 3

Three-In-One Food Safety Training – 4

Public Health Roundtable (monthly) – 1

Additionally, FRCOG staff organized and facilitated educational information meetings for town energy committees, including presenting information on various topics and conducting follow-up communication.

Transportation

- Conducted traffic counts on Charlemont Road, Greenfield Road, and Jacksonville Road.
- Conducted assessments and prepared a preliminary Colrain Complete Streets Prioritization Plan.
- Inventoried and assessed all culverts on municipally maintained roads in town.
- Created on-line registration map for Earth Day clean up on local roads.
- Completed planning and pre-implementation work for the installation of Franklin County Bikeway wayfinding signs.

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

To the Residents of the Solid Waste District:

The Solid Waste District was formed in 1989 to help Franklin County towns manage all aspects of their solid waste – recyclables, organics, hazardous waste, wastewater treatment sludge, and trash. We continue to provide assistance to twenty-one member towns through administrative support, professional consultation, trainings, and outreach to residents and businesses.

A review of recycling tonnage for 2022 shows a decrease of 200 tons of recycling compared to 2021. District residents recycled just over 2,500 tons of paper and containers. The recyclables were processed at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility and sold, primarily to domestic companies, to be recycled.

We returned to holding our Clean Sweep bulky waste collections in 2022 with events in May and October. Events were held at Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Northfield highway Garage, and Whately transfer station. The May event was the first one held since October 2019 due to the pandemic. Combined, the events served almost 600 households and collected over 60 tons of bulky waste, scrap metal, appliances, electronics, propane tanks, tires, and other items.

We held our annual household hazardous waste collection in September 2022 at Greenfield Community College and Orange transfer station. This event allows residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, automotive products, pesticides, and other toxic products. A total of 374 households participated in this event. Residents have access to other hazardous waste collection events in the Pioneer Valley.

We applied for and received grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection worth \$101,400 for District towns. This grant funding is a result of a town's successful waste management infrastructure.

If you have questions about District programs, call us at 413-772-2438 (MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 TTY/TDD), visit our website at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org or visit us at 117 Main St. in Greenfield.

Jan Ameen - *Executive Director*

Terry Narkewicz, Shelburne - *Vice-Chair*

Chris Boutwell, Montague - *Chair*

M.A. Swedlund, Deerfield - *Treasurer*



Griswold Memorial Library

Annual Report

Respectfully submitted January 18, 2023 by Chelsea
Jordan-Makely, Library Director

A welcoming environment and inspiring programs:

If you visited the library in 2022, then you likely noticed some of the changes we made to our spaces, including new cushions in the window benches, a new area rug in the children's area, and bean bag chairs for kids and teens. We also made more space for studying and meeting, and we put up pop-up tents to create shade and meeting spaces outdoors for anyone looking to get out from under the hot summer sun.

Besides these improvements, our traveling "pop-up library" was back and better than ever, with six appearances at the Colrain transfer station. These outreach events help us to connect with the community and to promote programs, such as our one-on-one tech training service.

This year, the library launched a new initiative, "Wellness Wednesdays," with the public health nurses from FRCOG. Beginning in July, nurses were at the library the third Wednesday of each month to answer questions and even offer flu shots and Covid vaccines and boosters, and to take blood pressure or help dispose of sharps. This helps to close the gap for people who may have difficulty making travel arrangements to meet with their health care providers, and provides another opportunity for people to make connections and access the resources to pursue healthy and active lives.

The library built a new outdoor stage for events and programs, thanks to funding from the Friends of the Library, and hosted several concerts and events, including an Earth Day Jam with musician Hannah French and the Colrain Water Dancers; Jewish Life in Song, with Yosl Kurland and Aaron Bousel of the Wholesale Klezmer Band; "Walk, Move, Stretch," with Kathy Steinem; "Dye-ing to wear it," (a tie-dye workshop funded by the local Cultural Council); William Apess Day; and, last but not least, Fix-It Day! We also hosted Candidates' Night, a monthly program known as the Carol Purington Poetry Collective, and a book club that read and discussed *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler, *Through an Indian's Looking Glass* by Drew Lopezina, and *The 1619 Project*, edited by Nikole Hannah-Jones.



Photo: Performer Hannah French shares props with participants at the "Earth Day Jam" in April.

Besides these in-person programs, we also hosted a virtual story hour in March and April, and every month, Ms. Betty's "Take and Make Crafts" were shared via the library's YouTube channel. More than 1,300 people attended programs at the library throughout the year, not counting these online video views.

Supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs

GML supports local businesses and entrepreneurs whenever possible! For example, we teamed up with Pine Hill Orchard to bring another StoryWalk® to Colrain this year, featuring *Hector Fox and the Giant Quest* by

Astrid Sheckels, a local author/illustrator who came to our launch party and offered a drawing demonstration and signed copies of her book! This event brought 42 people out to Pine Hill, but the StoryWalk® was on display throughout the pick-your own season, where it was enjoyed by hundreds of visitors.

The library's Summer Reading Club launch party was also held at Pine Hill Orchard, in June, with local musician Hannah French, and featured music and s'mores, which were enjoyed by 26 participants. In October, we hosted a "spooky" Halloween concert at the same site, with Mr. Dave Herrera, a local puppeteer and



Photo: Enjoying the StoryWalk® at Pine Hill Orchard

musician, who performed for an audience of 31 people in total. Folks stuck around after the show to help carve pumpkins for the Ookie Spooky bridge!

In total, 124 people signed up for Summer Reading Club in 2022! All children who participated (80 in total) received prizes, and we held a raffle to choose one adult prize winner. The prizes for kids were gift certificates from local businesses: Hager's Farm Market, Pine Hill Orchard, Boswell's Books, Catamount Country Store, Moldavite Dreams, and Mo's Fudge Factor. The adult prize was a gift basket from Pine Hill Orchard, which was awarded to Karen Gangne!

As in years past, the library received a helping hand from several generous and skillful local entrepreneurs, including Scott Barrows, Aaron Foster, Nick Giard, Clint Dodge, Guardian Angel Concierge Services, Jeff Brisson, Lanoue Tree & Landscape Service, Joe's Window Cleaning, Heartwood Window Restoration, Shoestring Farm, Spatcher Farm, and Northeast IT. We'd like to also give thanks to Pine Hill Orchard, Hager's Farm Market, and Catamount Country Store for all of their support!

Saving Colrainers time and money

It's not possible to put a price tag on the ways that libraries make life better, but we used a "return on investment" calculator from "ilovelibraries.org" to estimate the savings to all of those who used the library in 2022. According to this calculator, the "value of use" for all the books, eBooks, DVDs, and magazines that we loaned in 2022, plus program attendance, was \$296,374.50. Considering that the library's budget was \$86,666, this represents a 242% return on investment for local taxpayers. Other services the library offers, such as printing and scanning, and one-on-one tech help, help to save people time insofar as they can accomplish these tasks locally, without needing to drive to Greenfield or another nearby town.



Photo: Prints of Hale Johnson's "Brick Meeting House" are on sale as a library fundraiser

In addition to the funding that GML receives from the state and municipality, we greatly appreciate the support of the Friends of the Library and individual donations. This year, we received a special bequest from the estate of Hale Johnson, which included a number of prints of his "Brick Meeting House" painting, now available for purchase through the Friends of the Library.

The library received two grants in 2022, both from the LSTA. One of these will fund a local history podcast, and the costs of audio-recording equipment that can be borrowed, while the other covers the costs of library services and outreach to the Franklin County Jail, meaning that these programs are offered at no cost to local taxpayers. The library will apply for two new grants in the coming year, one for digitizing materials in the library's local history collection, and the other for a feasibility study to improve the library grounds, accessibility, and security, and remediate drainage problems that cause the library basement to flood periodically.

The local energy committee led the charge for the library to get new energy-efficient window inserts that help us to regulate the library's temperature and also protect against UV damage, an upgrade that will help us to save costs on heating/cooling the building for years to come.

GML by the numbers:

- GML loaned a total of 17,040 books, DVDs, and other physical materials in the calendar year 2022. We also loaned 2,699 eBooks and digital audiobooks via OverDrive and Libby.
- Colrainers borrowed an average of 12.3 items per capita in 2022. There are 816 registered library users, though many families share just one card.
- There are 9,877 items in our collection, including books, DVDs, audiobooks, magazines, museum passes, and the Library of Things. In 2022, we added 1,228 new books, DVDs, and other items to our collection.
- GML was open a total of 194 days in 2022, and served 4,372 visitors—about 2.7 people every hour. The library is open 32 hours per week, 52 weeks per year.

GML in the news:

- ["Select board, town clerk races top ballot,"](#) by Chris Larabee, *Greenfield Recorder*, April 30, 2022
- ["Colrain library expanding health care access with Wellness Wednesdays,"](#) by Bella Levavi, *Greenfield Recorder*, June 27, 2022
- ["Griswold Memorial Library receives \\$7.5k grant for Local History Podcast,"](#) by Bella Levavi, *Greenfield Recorder*, July 22, 2022
- ["Grant to expand jail's literary programs 'opening up a new world' for Greenfield inmates,"](#) by Bella Levavi, *Greenfield Recorder*, July 27, 2022

Acknowledgments

Besides the folks who are already mentioned above, GML wishes to give special thanks to our exceptional team, including Dominique Beausoleil and Sasha Rojas, and our Board of Trustees: Nancy Turkle, Betty Johnson, Betsy Browning, Cheli Menella, Jill Horton-Lyons, and Marty Dagoberto Lydgate-Driggs. Thank you to Ellen Weeks, Sara Wik, Judith Roberts, Sandy Peck, and the Friends of the Library for your support, as well as to everyone who contributes to the upkeep of the library gardens and decorations, year-round. We are especially grateful also to our "Graphic Design Department," Nancy Turkle, for helping us to promote our programs and make our library more visible to the community. Thank you to the Town of Colrain, especially Kevin Fox, Paula Harrison, Betsy Browning, and Anna Lavarreda for the support you regularly provide. Last but not least, we wish to remember our friend and patron Robin Brooks, with a poem that was shared with the Carol Purington Poetry Collective, in her memory:

The Canoe, by Alison Luterman

When I was young, years ago, canoeing on the green
Green River, with my young first husband,

I wriggled out of my shorts, eased over the lip
of our little boat, and became eel-woman,

naked and glistening, borne along in the current.
He paddled, I floored and spun,

and let the ripples take me.
Even an hour of that kind of freedom

can last for years and years,
can become a touchstone you return to

long after the rented canoe has been returned,
and the road trip has ended, and then the marriage,

and then the husband's brief life, and you yourself
have become someone else entirely; still

you return in your mind to the days
you could set up a tent in the dark,

and build a small fire
from birch bark and newspaper

and sit beside it, sipping tea, savoring your muscles' sweet ache,
As one by one the uncountable stars came out.



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**Mary Lyon Foundation Annual Report
October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022**

Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) was a record year for the Mary Lyon Foundation. We exceeded our expectations in the silent phase of our *Campaign for Student Success* and raised \$2,082,635.69 toward our goal of \$5,000,000 over five years. Total campaign revenue since the Campaign began on October 1, 2020, is \$2,827,668.

The *Campaign for Student Success* is a bold initiative that allows us to invest in the most pressing needs facing our students, families, and educators.

The Mary Lyon Foundation is working tirelessly to ensure that all students come to school ready to learn, succeed academically, socially, and emotionally and thrive in the wider world. Our goal is to provide families with access to the services needed to foster a healthy and stable learning environment at home and school. We strive to ensure that Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont School District educators have the tools and resources they need to give our students the best possible education possible.

The Foundation’s programming and services have expanded substantially in FY22 to meet the ongoing needs of our community.

Some program highlights are below:

- We expanded our scholarship offerings to graduating students living in the Mohawk Trail Regional School District.
- Our food scarcity program has grown, and the Foundation currently delivers groceries to 140 People every other Tuesday. This program has doubled since its inception in July of 2021.
- We supported all educator assistance requests that promoted reimagination and innovation in the classroom.
- We provided funding for students to help with driver's education, CPR and first aid certification, serve-safe certificates, computers for college, and much more.
- Our Adopt a Child/Family program provided 73 children with gifts during the holidays, thanks to our partnership with Greenfield Savings Bank.
- Thanks to our partnership with the United Way and the Warm the Children Program, two hundred children in our community received funds so parents could buy winter clothing and boots.
- Due to the generosity of our community and the DAR, we gave warm winter hats, mittens, and scarves to the six schools in the school district and Valley Play School.
- Through our Walmart Gift Card Program, 158 gift cards were distributed to parents so they could purchase school supplies and other items to prepare their children for school.
- We partnered with the Salvation Army to help families with groceries, clothing, and utility bills through their Hometown Endowment Program.
- We funded scholarships to families so their children could attend summer and vacation camps and programs while parents worked.
- We provided parents of newborn babies with helpful supplies in collaboration with the DAR and the Good Neighbors knitting groups.
- We organized the West County People Who Support People Consortium in partnership with FRCOG and Community Action. This group of seventy service providers meets quarterly to discuss how we can connect our community to the programs and services available to our families and students.
- In partnership with MTRSD and Foxtown Diner, we supported a district-wide celebration of learning and gave graphic novels and dinner to children and families throughout the district.
- We partnered with The Optician to provide glasses for many children within the community.
- We provided emergency relief to families who needed help with their utility bills.
- We initiated a Period Poverty Program in the district, giving young women sanitary products.
- We provided funding for the Preschool Assessment of Stereopsis with a smile, a program that measures children's and nonreaders' depth perception.
- We provided funding for the senior class's Franklin County Fair Fundraiser. The senior class raises funds to pay for prom and other school-wide events throughout the year.
- We funded four seniors so they could fulfill their capstone projects.
- We partnered with MTRSD and helped fund a teacher appreciation ice cream social.

Campaign Highlights:

- The Mary Lyon Foundation endowed the Mohawk Trail Sustainability Endowment through an anonymous donor.
- A campaign pledge funded the Paulyne and Harper Gerry Student Assistance Endowment.
- A campaign pledge funded Guardian Angel Endowment.
- We provided funding to build a new Career and College Readiness Center at the high school.
- We provided grant funding to multiple organizations to better serve the surrounding community.
- We funded the before- and after-school programs at Hawlemont Regional School through an anonymous donation.
- Through the generosity of Marion and Gordon Taylor, we created the Marion J. and Gordon E. Taylor Endowment, which will provide funding in perpetuity in areas of greatest need.
- In partnership with Gloriosa, we hosted our first campaign event and raised \$40,000 for the Marion J. and Gordon E. Taylor Endowment.

Through our campaign fundraising, the Mary Lyon Foundation has significantly increased our program and service delivery in FY22. As a result, we hired a part-time Program Coordinator to help manage, maintain, and expand our programming.

In FY22, many students and families faced extraordinary challenges. With the support of our constituents and community partners, the Mary Lyon Foundation expanded existing programs. It developed new initiatives to help meet the needs of our community across the district.

Through our *Campaign for Student Success*, we will continue to fundraise for the next few years to expand existing programs and underwrite our operating endowment. The Campaign will secure the Foundation's future and ensure that we will provide funding so that all students come to school ready to learn, succeed academically, socially, and emotionally and thrive in the wider world.

Revenue and Expenditure Descriptions:

Special Projects: Donations the Foundation receives are earmarked for other programs, such as

- the Buckland Recreation Department's Pool Project
- Career and College Counseling Center

Scholarships: Scholarship funding received and established by the Mary Lyon Foundation paid out to Mohawk Trail Students.

Unrestricted Endowment: Income from unrestricted donations is given to the Mary Lyon Foundation for use where needed most.

Educator Assistance: Funding for educators in the Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont School Districts to support reimagination and innovation in the classroom.

Emergency Assistance: This category supports the Guardian Angel, Paulyne and Harper Gerry Student Assistant Funds. These funds support the family and children of the district by providing

assistance for groceries, and clothing, avoiding shut off of utilities, etc.

Literacy: Funding to support literacy in children from birth through high school.

Operations: Annual fundraising to support the Mary Lyon Foundation's daily operations.

Restricted Endowments: Income from restricted endowments underwrite the Mary Lyon Foundation's programs, services, and scholarships in perpetuity. (e.g.) Student Assistance, Emergency Assistance, Literacy, and Educator Assistance.

Campaign Fundraising: Unrestricted funding for immediate use where it is needed most.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristen Tillona Baker
Executive Director

Learn • Succeed • Thrive

MaryLyonFoundation.org
office@marylyonfoundation.org | 413.625.2555
26 Ashfield Road | P.O. Box 184
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

Carl H. Nilman Scholarship Fund Annual Report 2022

The Fund was established under the provisions of the Will of Carl H. Nilman for the purpose of providing scholarships. Recipients shall reside in the School District and be graduates of the Mohawk Trail Regional High School who desire and are deemed worthy of post high school education or training and who are in need of financial assistance.

This year (2022) the Awards Committee read 25 applications. 16 were from seniors and 9 were from graduates. We used 30% of our allotted monies for seniors and 70% for graduates. The Committee feels that seniors have multiple scholarship opportunities from other sources while graduates have fewer resources.

15 scholarships totaling \$10,775.00 were awarded to seniors and 9 scholarships totaling \$25,200.00 were awarded to graduates. Due to a decline in applications this year from both seniors and graduates we were able to award larger scholarships compared to previous years.

From 1991 - 2022 a total of \$1,130,800.00 has been awarded in scholarships. Mohawk seniors have received \$ 346,250.00 and \$784,550.00 has been awarded to graduates.

The Mohawk community owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Nilman for his foresight in supporting higher education for the students of Mohawk Trail Regional High School. The Committee members are honored to bring the wishes of his Will to fruition.

Students of any age who are graduates of Mohawk (and living in the nine-town area at the time of graduation) are encouraged to apply for scholarships to help meet their continuing education needs.

Applications are available either online or they can be obtained at Mohawk School.

Please call Student Services at Mohawk, 413-625-9811, Ext.1503 for information regarding requirements and deadlines.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion E. Scott, Secretary

Report of the Personnel Committee

March 15, 2023

Members: Ellen Weeks, Chair

Leslie Fraser

Kathy Phelps

Valeda Peters

Lynn DiTullio

The five member Personnel Committee acts as an advisory group to the Board of Selectmen, researching, drafting, and recommending policies regarding the town's employees, and participating in interviewing applications for new hires.

In 2021, the Town received a grant from the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management at UMass Boston to provide recommendations and training for updating personnel policies. For over a year, the Personnel Committee has been reviewing and updating the Town's Personnel Policies and Procedures, updating the existing policies where needed to be more current and incorporating recommended material provided by the Collins Center. This has been a very long and time-consuming process involving considerable discussion. By the time this Town Report is printed, the final draft of the revised and updated policies will be in the hands of the Selectboard for their review and acceptance. The process will end with some employee training provided by the Collins Center, which was included in the grant.

The status of the Town's employees stayed relatively stable in 2022. The Highway Department saw the departure of Scott Sullivan and the hiring of Steve Daby as the new Highway Superintendent. With the currently very tight and competitive labor market, there were only two applicants for this position. The Interview Committee met with both applicants, reviewed their resumes, and followed up with their references. The Selectboard conducted a follow up interview with each applicant before making the final hiring decision.

Upcoming, the Personnel Committee will start updating job descriptions and developing an employee annual performance review process.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Weeks, Chair

Police Department Annual Report

Reflecting back on 2022, the Police Department faced many challenges and accomplishments. Examples would be calls for service, Police Reform training, updated technology, and specialized training. For 2022, the Police Department handled approximately 1000 calls for service, this includes calls received through the regional dispatch and officer initiated. Officers worked closely with other area departments such as Shelburne, Buckland, Charlemont, Rowe, Heath, and State Police by assisting or receiving assistance.

The Peace Officer Standard and Training Committee (POST) oversees the training requirements of the Police Reform Bill. During the course of three years, part-time officers in the Commonwealth have to complete what is called a "Bridge Academy". Each year is assigned by the letter of the Officers last name, and they have a year to complete all required training. Training consists of the following required training: 40 hours of firearms, 40 hours of Defensive Tactics, 40 hours of Emergency Vehicle Operations and 80 hours of online training, and complete four exams. This is a large challenge for members of the department as they continue to work their full-time jobs, complete the required annual 40 hours of refresher training, and complete shifts for the department.

Officer Tarrah Dempsey has completed bridge training and is a certified Police Officer. Congratulations to Officer Dempsey for this accomplishment. Chief Lannon has started the training for the 2022-2023 training period with potential certification by July 1, 2023.

Officers continue to seek and further their involvement within the town, from being involved in the school to meetings with the Council on Aging. Officer Worden continues to work with the school as a certified School Resource Officer. Officer Sonn has been working with the Council on Aging to provide services to the elder community.

During 2022, the department applied for a grant with the state and was awarded training, printers, and installation costs for electronic citations. This system allows officers to use the mobile computers and issue citations that are printed. This technology helps cut down on the average time on a traffic stop and is uploaded instantly to the registry. It also saves time and money with review of the paper citations and the mailing to the registry on a weekly basis.

As the world of policing is changing, the members of the Colrain Police Department seek to enhance knowledge through training and the need of the community. In closing, I would like to thank Derek Worden, Heather Sonn and Tarrah Dempsey for their compassion for the Colrain Community as they all reside outside the town and are always available.

As a reminder, please do not request an officer through Facebook as our page is not monitored 24/7. Any emergency should be directed to 911 and requests to speak with any member of the department should be made by calling 625-8200 or 624-3038.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Lannon, Chief

Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District

District Annual Report CY22

Mission Statement: To advocate for veterans, their spouses, dependents, widows, or widowers for Veterans' Benefits on the Local, State and Federal levels.

Member Towns

Ashfield

Bernardston

Buckland

Charlemont

Colrain

Conway

Deerfield

Erving

Gill

Greenfield

Hawley

Heath

Leverett

Leyden

Monroe

Montague

New Salem

Northfield

Plainfield

Rowe

Shelburne

Shutesbury

Sunderland

Warwick

Wendell

Whately

The office has maintained continued outreach operations across the district. We have dramatically increased the amount of VA claims we have been completing due to increased VA Presumptive diseases for numerous eras of service:

➤ District now brings in \$1,850,500.00 in Federal and State money **per month** from all sources (VA, State Reimbursements, State Annuities, and sales).

➤ Tim Niejadlik retired in October of 2022, with Chris Demars taking over as Director.

➤ VSA Laura Thorne has maintained her SHINE certification and is helping veterans and their dependents, taking some of the load off the Senior Centers. Brian Brooks, Veteran Service Officer, was named the Massachusetts Marine Corps League Commandant, representing Marine Veterans across Massachusetts for the second year in a row.

➤ Office participated in numerous protests against potential VA closures, this seems to have helped along with our local elected officials in keeping VA Leeds open for now.

➤ We project a slight increase for Fiscal Year 24 budget while continuing to expand services in 2023.

Christopher Demars, Director
Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District

Colrain Central School

Annual Report 2022

After several years of interrupted instruction, remote/hybrid school, etc. it was wonderful to return to a “normal” school year this year. We continue to provide 7 classrooms (1 classroom per grade), plus preschool and a network of professional and support staff to help meet the needs of all our students. We were happy to welcome several students from Heath into our school community this year. During the 2022-2023 school year, we had 105 students in grades PK-6 enrolled at Colrain Central School.

This year we adopted and have begun implementing a new English Language Arts curriculum titled “Expeditionary Learning” or EL for short. This rigorous program enables teachers to dive deeper into various content areas while simultaneously providing reading instruction. The students are really enjoying the books they are reading through this program and the conversations they are beginning to have with each other about what they are reading and learning is rich. We look forward to becoming more familiar and comfortable with this program next year.

Service Learning continues to be our approach to education. If that is an unfamiliar term to you, it is the idea that content information is taught through a hands-on, service-focused delivery model. Think of it as project-based learning with an emphasis on community service. We work with community partners to help students solve real world problems connected to the academic content areas and “learn by serving”. We continue to look for ways to expand our connections with our community and welcome you to bring “problems” that students can study, learn about, and see what may be feasible by way of solutions.

Some of the facility maintenance and improvement projects that happened in 2022 included: HVAC and plumbing repairs: Serviced and cleaned boilers. Replacement of belts and motors for unit vents as needed. Replaced thermostat controls in 6 classrooms. New faucets in several sinks. Replace air valve in library. Cleaned grease trap in kitchen. Replaced hot water expansion tank. Drain repair in staff room. Toilet repairs (wax rings, bolt sets, flange rings etc.).

Inspections: Boilers, fire panel, smoke detectors, horns, and strobes (replaced as necessary). Fire extinguishers (recharged and replaced as necessary). AHERA three-year reinspection. Emergency lighting (replaced as necessary). Integrated Pest Management plan. Kitchen Hood. Propane pressure test.

Yard and Grounds: Survey for design for the paving project. Paving of the parking lot and sidewalks. Replaced flower beds out front. Added playground mulch for the play area. Serviced mower. Serviced snowblower. Garage trim repairs. Tick control. Replace some swings and brackets for the swing set.

Water and Sewer: Monthly bacteria testing and quarterly water quality sampling per MassDEP schedule (sampling reports results on file at Colrain Central School). Sewer was pumped December 9, 2022.

Misc. Maintenance: Sand and recoat the gym floor with urethane. Flame proof stage curtains. Shade replacement. Tile replacement in halls and classrooms. Glass repair, café door. Painted classroom 1,2,6,12,13, and 14. Repair Paxton door swipe. New rugs for back entrance. Phone software upgrade. Kitchen reach in refrigerator door gasket replacement.

As always, I invite you to explore and see the wonderful things happening in our school. Our dedicated, hardworking staff continues to go above and beyond to meet the needs of all students and prepare them to be active, involved citizens and strong, creative problem solvers. I continue to be honored to serve this town and its families and children as principal.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy K. Looman

2022 Annual Report of the Principal Mohawk Trail Regional School

Feedback and Communication

Starting in January of 2022 I established routes for feedback and communication from all MTRS stakeholders. These included bi-monthly drop-in hours, a student advisory group, as well as quarterly *How are we doing?* Surveys to students, families, and staff. These ongoing structures continue to provide opportunities for community members to give immediate feedback on what goes on at MTRS. In addition to the Local Educational Committee and the Outdoor Advisory Committee, these mechanisms also provide input into both the school and district improvement plans.

Barr funding and Innovation

In October of 2022 MTRS received \$160,000 from the BARR foundation. This represented the final payment for the grant awarded to support the continued redesign of Mohawk Trail Regional School. This payment has allowed us to continue to implement new initiatives and curricular programming to redesign the school experience for all students. Over the course of the past two years, students, staff, and community members have engaged in professional development and working groups in order to implement the new Trailblazer Model; Most recently seven teachers attended a site visit at Casco Bay School district to help inform and refine our model of teaching and learning:

Mohawk Trail Regional School is tailoring the most innovative work in the field of education to fit our rural district as we design the Trailblazer Model. We are building on the best of what we have while challenging the status quo to make education relevant and meaningful for our students. They will acquire 21st century skills while pursuing their individual passions, as they blaze a trail to graduation. Students will lead their own learning, break down the boundaries of traditional classes, and learn by doing. Experiences at MTRS will move our students beyond textbook knowledge. They will use research to solve real problems, intern at local businesses, design independent projects, and take courses at local colleges. In return, our community will flourish from the increased partnership with our school. MTRS graduates will be curious, adaptable, independent, and motivated citizens who seek to do good work in the world.

The Trailblazer Model has six key focus areas: high quality instruction, advisory and social emotions learning, communications and community outreach, distributed leadership, portfolios and equity. This model engages all stakeholders in a transformational school experience including:

- Internships and work study opportunities, on campus and off
- Interdisciplinary courses such as STEM, Bioethics, Artglish, and American Democracy
- Social Emotional Learning supports including advisory model for all grades 7-12, site based therapeutic services, and college and career planning
- Portfolio of student work
- Senior Capstone project culminating with a site based internship
- Community outreach including a Trailblazer Community Group comprised of staff, parents, students and community members that meets several times a year

We have continued to partner with national education organizations: Next Generation Learning Challenges (NGLC) and EL Education. NGLC and EL Education have been working with MTRS teachers and administrators to transform classrooms to be more student-centered and to develop rigorous and diverse ways in which

students can demonstrate their learning. In addition, EL Education continues to assist teachers in the development of interdisciplinary, hands-on activities that will engage students in rigorous community-based projects. NGLC and EL have continued to support our Instructional Leadership Team and Portfolio Working Group to develop a comprehensive portfolio model and to prepare students to drive student-led conferences. Teachers will continue to guide students through the compilation of an individualized portfolio that demonstrates who they are as a learner and goals they set for themselves. NGLC and EL will also work with teachers to develop assessments that connect to 21st century skills and the real world.

In addition to EL Education and NGLC, MTRS has partnered with Firefly Worldwide Inc and their founder and CEO Cheyenne E. Batista. Ms. Batista continues to work with the MTRS Equity Council in their implementation of an anti-racism strategic plan with a focus on curriculum, communication, and policy.

Culture Building

We continue to make significant community building strides as we “come back” after COVID-19. This intention is personified through the three slogans in the entry lobby at MTRS:

- I am part of this community
- I can contribute in a positive way
- I will be accountable for my words and actions

We continue to focus on relationship strengthening and community building through our advisory program in 7-12 as well as regular student-led whole school assemblies on Wednesday mornings.

Distributed Leadership and District-Wide Structures

A number of staffing changes have been made in service of continuing to promote and support the Trailblazer model of distributed leadership and increased Social and Emotional Learning student need: The school admin team was reconfigured to provide greater student culture support through the role of Dean of Culture. In addition, the role of Athletic Director was enhanced to be District Athletic Director in order to focus on the growth and promotion of sports in the district as well as a specific intention to have students continue to remain at MTRS in grades 6 and 9, the point at which they might change schools and districts.

Distributed leadership continues to be evident through the work of the teacher based Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) and their work in designing and delivering staff PD on Standards Based Teaching and Learning development as well as piloting Student-led Conferences.

Academic structural changes have also come about as a result of a continued focus on student need, distributed leadership and helping support students returning to school from COVID-19. In the current school year, these include the creation of the role of a District Literacy coordinator to help support the district focus on literacy and Middle school staff as they piloted EI and Wit and Wisdom ELA curriculum.

College and Career Supports

MTRS continues to focus on supporting students taking their learning beyond the classrooms. This is evident through the links that the Work based learning and Internship coordinator makes with Capstone students in grade 12 and also through the 7-12 project week in the late Spring semester.

In addition to our continued dual enrollment relationship with Greenfield Community College (GCC), we are pleased to be a partner in their Incubator grant, intended to increase student attendance in higher education in Franklin County. 2022/23 will see plans to work with GCC to provide more early college opportunities for

MTRS students in grades 7-12.

Finally, we are incredibly grateful for the help and support of the Mary Lyon Foundation who secured a \$28,000 donation specifically to build a College and Career speakers center in the library. This was officially opened at the Open House in September

Tiered Student Supports

In addition to our Mohawk Trail Separate Classroom and Vocational programs, this year we are piloting a new program as part of our tiered intervention support for some of our learners. Bridge for Resilient Youth in Translation (BRYT) program provides clinical support and academic coordination services for students who are reintegrating back into full time education after missing extensive learning due to health, medical or life transition challenges.

Field Trips

While transport costs are still challenging, we continue to look at innovative ways to provide students with learning experience outside of the classroom. To date this year, teachers have led field trips to the following locations:

Smith College, GCC, UMASS Amherst, Springfield College, Amherst Art Museum, Boston Aquarium.

Technology

This year has seen the district transition to SUZOR for software, hardware and school data management. Additionally, MTRS has invested \$130,000 in 34 Cleartouch devices for teaching and learning in all specialist classrooms.

Community Involvement

We continue to be thankful for parents and care providers for their active involvement in MTRS life through the Local Education Committee (LEC) and also the newly formed Outdoor Advisory Committee (OAC). The former is a great way to have family input and feedback on school improvement planning and the latter has been instrumental in providing community voices on how we continue to seek to use teaching and learning spaces and environment as effectively as possible. The OAC has been vital to helping develop our outdoor classroom and in helping the district with its solar panel project at MTRS.

Other community wide opportunities such as Open House, the Celebration of Learning and the Mohawk Trail Athletic Association (MTAA) organized Spring Fling continue to imbibe MTRS with positive community spirit.

Music and Theatre

We are really pleased with the resurgence of music and drama at MTRS in the past year. As well as a spring musical in 2022, *Bits of Broadway*, and a district Spring concert, Fall of 2022 saw two performances of *Axe of Murder*, our Winter play.

Athletics

The Mohawk Trail Athletic Department has gone through a restructuring process in FY23 by hiring Ashfield's Greg Lilly to assume the role of District Athletic Director. In contrast to previous Athletic Directors, Mr. Lilly is now responsible for overseeing Mohawk Trail's athletic programs district wide, K-12. This change was made to ensure the health of our high school programs by investing time and resources into the sustainability of our youth and feeder programs.

This past fall, our West County Youth Soccer program had 187 participants from grades K-6 from our elementary schools. These are unprecedented numbers for a youth sports program in our district. Much of the

credit for such high participation numbers goes to Ashfield's Tina Miller and Buckland's Jake Thurber, along with dozens of other coaches and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to give our students every opportunity to succeed on the pitch.

This winter also saw never before seen participation numbers in our Hilltown Basketball League! The district was able to field a total of 15 teams between our three elementary schools, Hawlemont, and New Hingham Elementary. All told, there were 158 elementary students playing hoops this past season. Also, for the first time in 4 years, Mohawk Trail was able to field a 5th and 6th grade Suburban travel team, coached by Shelburne's Fred Redeker and Buckland's Tim Budrewicz. This group had the opportunity to travel all over Western Massachusetts and face an extremely high level of competition.

At the Middle and High School levels, our athletes and teams have been struggling with low enrollment numbers. However, this has not prevented them from succeeding at the absolute highest level! Participation levels for athletics at Mohawk Trail are WELL above state and national averages and should remain that way for the foreseeable future.

This past fall, our Middle School Football team enjoyed an UNDEFEATED season, while also getting the opportunity to play night games under the lights on Pollard Field for the first time in history! In addition to this, our Volleyball, Girls Cross Country, and Boys Cross Country teams all qualified for the MIAA state tournament. All told, 7 of our 8 fall teams came away with winning records!

This winter is also shaping up to be one for the record books! Both our Boys and Girls Alpine Ski teams are looking to continue a 40-year tradition of dominance on the slopes. The Boys are well on their way to another league championship, while our Ladies are poised to repeat as STATE CHAMPIONS!

Another bright spot for the Mohawk Trail Athletic Department is the Girls Middle School basketball team! They suffered only two losses on the season while playing a schedule against high school competition! The future is very bright for our ladies.

With the end of the pandemic, The Mohawk Trail Athletic Association has also seen a resurgence, and is always looking for volunteers to help coordinate its many fundraising efforts. The MTAA is the district's primary athletic booster, and aids our student-athletes by purchasing uniforms, athletic equipment, and anything else that our teams need to help them succeed! The future of Mohawk Trail Athletics is very bright, and our entire athletic family is working tirelessly to ensure it stays that way!

Student Numbers

At the mid-point of the 2022-2023 school year, student enrollment in grades 7-12 is 286. Current enrollment numbers for middle school include approximately 73 students in seventh grade and 68 students in eighth grade. Enrollment for ninth grade is 42 students; 10th grade with 36 students; 39 members of the Junior class, and 26 MTRS seniors. We have 4 students enrolled in our post-graduate program.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Buckland
Principal

2022 Annual Report

Special Education and Pupil Services Report

The Mohawk Trail Regional and Hawlemont Regional Special Education Department serve students in the Sanderson, Colrain, Hawlemont, Buckland-Shelburne, and Mohawk Trail Regional Middle and High Schools. The primary function is to ensure that students with an IEP (Individual Education Plan) or a 504 are being serviced at a level required to make effective progress with supports outlined in their IEP or 504. The Department of Pupil Services oversees special education, Title IX, Civil Rights, and ELL.

According to state data-

Mohawk Trail Regional 2021-22

Title	% of District	% of State
First Language not English	0.9	23.9
English Language Learner	0.8	11.0
Low-income	48.4	43.8
Students With Disabilities	21.9	18.9
High Needs	56.8	55.6

Hawlemont 2021-22

Title	% of School	% of District	% of State
First Language not English	5.5	5.5	25.0
English Language Learner	5.5	5.5	12.1
Low-income	59.3	59.3	42.3
Students With Disabilities	25.3	25.3	19.4
High Needs	68.1	68.1	55.1

Services provided to students are in several areas: speech and language, occupational therapy (OT), physical therapy (PT), counseling, academics, and English as a second language. The OT and PT spend about one day in each school. All schools have a full-time Speech Language Pathologist vs sharing an SLP and an assistant. This model changed two years ago to increase consistency and support for our students while being cost-effective. With an increased need for counseling services for all students, each school has begun to increase this level of support. BSE, Colrain, and Sanderson have a full-time school psychologist. Due to staffing, Hawlemont has a counselor and contracts out for psychological assessments. The Middle and High Schools have two full-time Adjustment Counselors (vs an additional guidance counselor) and School psychologist. The need for counseling support has increased dramatically and the ability for our students to access counseling in the community is extremely limited due to our location and size of wait lists. The level of services in each building is based on population, need, and level of services legally required by an IEP. During the 2021-22 schoolyear, we have returned to full in-person learning and are not serving students remotely. We do continue to offer virtual IEP meetings for caregivers, which supports their work-life needs. The district is legally obligated to support a SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Committee). A small core group of parents began the process in the spring of 2021 to reinvigorate the SEPAC. At this time, both parents have stepped down because their students are no longer involved in special education. We will continue to seek out new parents to support the SEPAC.

The district continues to support several substantially separate programs for students.

- Students requiring the support of a BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst): The program is located at BSE and currently serves seven students. When the program began, students spent more than 50% of their time within the program. Currently, those students are in their mainstream classes more than 80% of the time.
- Mohawk Supported Classroom, located in the Middle and High School: The program supports students with social and emotional needs. Students receive educational support both in the program and within the general education setting.
- The district has a program in the middle school that supports students with intellectual delays and requires a substantially modified program. Additionally, there is a vocational program at the secondary level that supports eligible students until they are 22. The goal of the program is to develop work habits and interests and support community-level jobs. Students participate in community job sites such as Berkshire East and Aubuchon. We are grateful to the local businesses for supporting our students.

Respectfully Submitted,
Leann Loomis
Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Superintendent of Schools Town Report - 2022

It is a pleasure and honor to continue serving as your Superintendent of Schools. It has been a year with much to celebrate as students and staff have experienced a spring and fall of in-person learning. As we learn to manage the lingering effects of the pandemic, we are focusing on ensuring students have the learning support they need to be successful every day. I am incredibly grateful for the collaboration with local town officials, community members, and families as we move forward to address the challenges and celebrate our successes.

The school districts have continued to focus on improving our technology infrastructure for in-person instruction through device replenishment and touch screen projection equipment. Every classroom in every school in Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD) now has a Clear Touch instructional projection device. In the Hawlemont Regional School District (HRSD), additional touch screens have been purchased and shared throughout the school. Our capital improvement projects in MTRSD have been completed. Again, thank you to the Capital Improvement Working Group for their time and thoughtful approach to ensuring our schools receive the needed attention and repairs necessary. We are excited to begin our solar project for MTRSD at the middle high school. While the project will create important savings in our operating budget, it will also generate green energy for the school. Thank you to our Outdoor Learning Committee for bringing this proposal forward and through completion.

We continue to advocate for the unique needs of students, families, and schools in our rural district and across the Commonwealth to sustain high quality, equitable education for our communities. We have worked with Representative Natalie Blais to ensure that the Rural Commission Report Recommendations are a key priority in legislation moving forward. We have support from the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, Massachusetts Association of School Committees, the Massachusetts Teachers Association, and the Massachusetts Municipal Association to advocate for the recommendations that would address the goals of the Student Opportunity Act beyond the initial phase of supporting districts and communities with substantial high need student populations.

Literacy continues to be a key focus area for both districts. Our District Literacy Leadership Team has chosen Wit and Wisdom for grades 7 and 8 and EL Education for Kindergarten through grade 6. Our work with the Hill for Literacy on the science of reading has continued as well as support from EL Education for implementation of our new curriculum. In addition, all elementary schools now have a common schedule so that students across the district have the same access to rigorous curriculum and instruction. We have continued our partnership with the Mary Lyon Foundation in support of our literacy focus and extend our sincere appreciation for their collaboration.

A third key curriculum priority in all schools continues to be social-emotional learning. Our students continue to build resiliency in our post-pandemic and very digital world. Our guidance and adjustment counselors are key personnel in this effort throughout both districts. Our ESSR II and ESSR III funds continue to support enrichment and summer programming for our students and these programs demonstrate the amazing kinds of experiences our students have! Our biking program, hiking, winter animal tracking, ski club, STEM, kayaking and babysitting classes are just a few examples.

We continue to implement our [strategic plan](#) and the four key priority areas designed to move our district

forward. These priority areas include building community, innovating, investing in our shared future, and fostering an inclusive community of learners. HRSD has also developed a strategic plan to address the challenges and build on the unique and special nature of being a small rural elementary school. It's exciting to see the enthusiasm for our learning community. Our students are amazing athletes, musicians, artists, leaders, and friends and demonstrate what it means to be a Trailblazer: we are unique and our educational paths are filled with exploration, curiosity, individualized learning, community involvement and deep connections. This is evident in so many areas of our districts. I continue to be extremely proud of our students, families, staff, and community as we have worked together to celebrate our learning community and look to the future to address the unique challenges facing our rural community. I look forward to continuing this collaboration in the years to come.

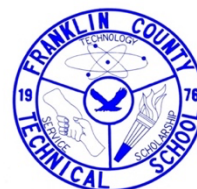
Sheryl L. Stanton
Superintendent
Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional School Districts

FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

TEL: 413-863-9561

FAX: 413-863-4231

www.fcts.us



Richard J. Martin
Superintendent

FY24 Annual Report to Towns

We submit this annual report for 2022-23 school year on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff, and students. As a reminder, the FY24 budget represents October 1, 2022 count, which is always a year behind the state budget process. FCTS has an enrollment submission of 559 students with town breakouts as follows:

Bernardston	25	Erving	28	Montague	93	Sunderland	9
Buckland	17	Gill	15	New Salem	11	Warwick	6
Colrain	21	Greenfield	117	Northfield	40	Wendell	9
Conway	9	Heath	8	Orange	94	Whately	22
Deerfield	25	Leyden	1	Shelburne	9		

Franklin County Technical School awarded 113 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2022. Massachusetts students are required to pass the MCAS in order to receive a high school diploma and once again our students were very successful in meeting this high academic standard. The state has adjusted their measures for evaluating district/school accountability and FCTS maintained the equivalent of a Level 2 accountability status out of a 5-point scale with 1 being the highest and 5 the lowest. Additionally, the district is meeting targets set by the Department of Education for passing rates of students of high risk with disabilities.

FCTS has the advantage of utilizing vocational students and licensed instructors from carpentry, electrical, plumbing and landscaping to provide maintenance and repairs to our school grounds and facility saving member towns tens of thousands of dollars annually. These shop programs also saved member towns an estimated \$100,000 with the bond authorization projects.

Franklin County Technical School students are learning the value of paid work opportunities through a newly revamped Cooperative Education Program (Coop). In 2019 FCTS had approximately 50% of our seniors involved in paid Coop jobs related to their vocational field of study. FCTS offers excellent academic offerings with increased courses in Advanced Placement, Honors, Foreign Language, credit recovery, and special education to provide all students with the opportunity to be prepared for college and career readiness.

Franklin County Technical School continues to experience increased enrollment and popularity within Franklin County, which has translated to new vocational technical programs in the fields of Veterinary Animal Science, Medical Assisting, and a future new Aviation Technician program. These new vibrant programs are the first new vocational programs at FCTS in more than 40 years and bring the total number of Chapter 74 vocational-technical programs to 14 and soon to be 15. Unlike other school districts which may offer a 45-minute course in a trade, FCTS students must follow strict Chapter 74 guidelines where students are in their vocational shop program for 6.5 hours per day for a full week to meet industry standard competency guidelines and in academics the next week.

FCTS is in the final process of completing a new 4800 sq. ft. Veterinary Science Learning Center and Clinic. The new building is located on Industrial Blvd next to FCTS. The facility is planning to open in the fall of 2023 and will be used for our relatively new FCTS Veterinary program and provide students with real world experiences in the veterinary field.

The new Aviation program is slated to start during the 2024-25 school year. This program will provide students with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) credentials to be certified as an Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT). FCTS was fortunate to receive a 4.1-million-dollar grant to build a new 12,000 sq. ft. aviation hangar, which will include airplanes, equipment, engine simulators, and tools and materials required by the FAA to start a new program. FCTS is planning to become one of the few high schools in the United States to offer a credentialed FAA program.

FCTS is nearly 50 years old and is one of the few remaining regional vocational schools in Massachusetts without a Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) funded facility. FCTS has been invited into the eligibility stage of the process during the 2022-23 school year and then will move into the Design Phase followed by a Feasibility Study during the next

several years. FCTS anticipates going out to towns for a district wide vote for a core building project as part of a Feasibility Study in the next several years.

Franklin County Technical School's technical programs continue to improve and evolve through the use of competitive Skills Capital Grants. FCTS has received more than 6.2 million dollars in grants over the last 6 years without using tax dollars from member communities. These funds have significantly enhanced our Welding, Medical Assisting, Veterinary Science, Machine Technology and Aviation vocational technical programs. FCTS also partners with the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board and Greenfield Community College to offer an evening program for underemployed and displaced workers to obtain a certification in Advanced Precision Machining using our 21st Century modernized CNC machines. Through the highly competitive skills grant FCTS also received \$500,000 to build a mobile welding simulator lab to be used to develop technical skills towards certification. FCTS reached out to the Franklin County House of Corrections to utilize the new mobile welding simulator lab as an opportunity to help inmates acquire advanced technical skills which can lead to employment upon release. The welding mobile simulator lab should be ready by the Spring of 2023.

In addition, FCTS applied and received a \$660,000 grant to start adult evening training programs through the Commonwealth's Career Technical Initiative (CTI). During the Fall of 2022, FCTS initiated two adult training courses in Welding and Auto Technology through the CTI grant and plans to add two more programs for the Spring of 2023. FCTS also started its own Electrical adult program and plans to add more in the near future. To accomplish these goals to meet community needs, FCTS hired a full-time adult coordinator.

Franklin County Tech's Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, and Landscaping programs established a foundation in collaboration with the Greenfield Savings Bank to build a new home for the community on an annual basis. FCTS has finished its second new home in Erving and is beginning a new home building project in Greenfield.

FCTS vocational programs consistently reach out to support community needs to save taxpayer dollars. Plumbing and Electrical students continues to work on the House Project and recently completed the Conway D.P.W. Electrical students support camera hookups, computer and telecommunication cables, rewiring switches, outlets, changing halogen lighting to LED, laying conduit and pipe for outside service, and retrofitting offices at the Heath Town Hall. Cosmetology is open to the public and provide outreach to the Athol, Poet Seat, Linda Manor Nursing Homes and provide service to the Bernardston Senior Center. Welding students built a water wheel to power a home, building a steel gate for Highland Cemetery, and building steel carts for Judd Wire. Culinary Arts is open to the public for lunch, provide special luncheons for the Western MA. SROs, Franklin County Supt. Award Banquet, and Montague Housing Authority. The Health Technology/Medical Assistant students organized a hygiene drive to donate to the needy and homeless, have public blood pressure clinics and nail care for the Erving Senior Center and volunteer at the Arbors and Regal Care in Greenfield. Landscaping did fall cleanup for the Hill Cemetery in Shelburne, Source to Sea River cleanup in Turners, and the Franklin County Fairgrounds tree planting and fence installation in Greenfield. Landscaping students also provide maintenance to FCTS grounds care, installation of sprinkler system, and provide plants and flowers for events and for the community.

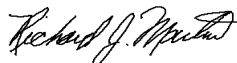
Franklin County Tech is forward thinking as it continues to review labor demand and market analysis to add new programs and skills to support students to obtain competencies and training to make them competitive in the workplace, college, and career.

Our partnerships with our communities are important for our programs, and we thank those which allow our students the opportunity to practice their trades out in the field.

Respectfully,



Mr. Richard J. Kuklewicz
School Committee Chairman



Mr. Richard J. Martin
Superintendent-Director

APPENDIX

(Please see next page)

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Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups as of June 30, 2022 (Unaudited)

ASSETS										
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	820,190.19	\$	1,186,907.71	\$	(254,061.73)	\$	269,216.14	\$	1,296,447.77
Investments									\$	3,318,700.08
Receivables:									\$	-
Personal property taxes	\$	1,088.86							\$	1,088.86
Real estate taxes	\$	71,973.68							\$	71,973.68
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	\$	(56,044.80)							\$	(56,044.80)
Tax liens	\$	100,325.82							\$	100,325.82
Deferred taxes	\$	10,629.05							\$	10,629.05
Motor vehicle excise	\$	33,205.76							\$	33,205.76
Foreclosures/Possessions	\$	112,925.22							\$	112,925.22
Total Assets	\$	1,094,293.78	\$	1,186,907.71	\$	(254,061.73)	\$	269,216.14	\$	-
									\$	1,296,447.77
									\$	-
									\$	3,592,803.67

LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY

Liabilities:										
Accrued payroll	\$ 15,974.97								\$	\$ 15,974.97
Withholdings	\$ 1,197.19								\$	\$ 1,197.19
Deferred revenue:										
Real and personal property taxes	\$ 17,017.74								\$	\$ 17,017.74
Tax liens	\$ 110,954.87								\$	\$ 110,954.87
Foreclosures/Possessions	\$ 112,925.22								\$	\$ 112,925.22
Motor vehicle excise	\$ 33,205.76								\$	\$ 33,205.76
Tallings	\$ 731.26								\$	\$ 731.26
Agency Funds						\$ 23,960.83			\$	\$ 23,960.83
Notes payable		\$ 2,400,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,960.83	\$ -	\$ -	\$	\$ 2,400,000.00
Total Liabilities	\$ 292,007.01	\$ 2,400,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,960.83	\$ -	\$ -	\$	\$ 2,715,967.84
Fund Equity:										
Reserved for expenditures	\$ 210,500.00								\$	\$ 210,500.00
Reserved for continuing appropriations	\$ 27,352.04	\$ (1,213,092.29)	\$ (254,061.73)	\$ 269,216.14					\$	\$ 27,352.04
Undesignated fund balance	\$ 564,434.73			\$ 269,216.14					\$	\$ 638,983.79
Total Fund Equity	\$ 802,286.77	\$ (1,213,092.29)	\$ (254,061.73)	\$ 269,216.14	\$ -	\$ 1,272,486.94	\$ -	\$ -	\$	\$ 876,835.83
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	\$ 1,094,293.78	\$ 1,186,907.71	\$ (254,061.73)	\$ 269,216.14	\$ -	\$ 1,296,447.77	\$ -	\$ -	\$	\$ 3,592,803.67

(revised 06/02/2022)