

# ***Town of Hamilton Massachusetts***

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## **Annual Town Report**



**2021**

**Town of Hamilton**  
**Massachusetts**  
**July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021**



**Board of Selectmen**

Shawn Farrell, Chair

William Olson, Vice-Chair

Darcy Dale, Clerk

Rosemary Kennedy, Selectman

James Knudsen, Selectman

**Town Manager**

Joseph J. Domelowicz Jr.

Incorporated: June 21, 1793

Government  
Open Town Meeting  
Five-member Board of Selectmen with Town Manager

Annual Town Meeting  
First Saturday in April

Annual Town Election  
First Thursday in April following Town Meeting

Town Census: 7,883

Area: 14.99 Square Miles

Fiscal 2021 Tax Rate: \$17.85

Tax Levy: \$30,399,200

Congressional District: Sixth  
Senatorial District: First Essex and Middlesex  
Representative District: Fourth Essex  
Councilor District: Fifth

State Officials  
Congressman: Seth Moulton, Representative 6th District  
Senator: Bruce E. Tarr, Gloucester  
Representative, Brad Hill, Ipswich

Schools:  
Winthrop Elementary School (PK-5)  
Cutler Elementary School (K-5)  
Buker Elementary School K-5)  
Miles River Middle School (6-8)  
Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School (9-12)

Town Website  
[www.hamiltonma.gov](http://www.hamiltonma.gov)

Town Hall Hours  
Monday: 8:00AM - 4:30PM  
Tuesday: 8:00AM - 6:30PM  
Wednesday: 8:00AM - 4:30PM  
Thursday: 8:00AM - 4:30PM  
Friday: 8:00AM - 12:30PM

## 2020-2021 HAMILTON ELECTED OFFICIALS

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<b>BOARD OF SELECTMEN</b>	<b>(Elected 3 year term)</b>
Shawn M. Farrell, Chair	2021
William A. Olson	2021
Darcyll C. Dale	2022
Rosemary I. Kennedy	2022
James Knudsen	2023
<b>TOWN CLERK</b>	<b>(Elected 3 year term)</b>
Carin A. Kale	2023
<b>BOARD OF ASSESSORS</b>	<b>(Elected 3 year term)</b>
Steven G. Ozahowski, Chair	2021
Christopher S. Campbell	2022
Joseph S. Shaktman	2023
<b>PLANNING BOARD</b>	<b>(Elected 3 year term)</b>
Brian D. Stein, Chair	2021
Frederick G. Mitchell	2021
Corey Beaulieu	2022
Emil Dahlquist	2022
William C. Wheaton	2022
Richard L. Boroff	2023
Margaret M. Crouch	2023
<b>HOUSING AUTHORITY</b>	<b>(Elected 5 year term)</b>
Sheryl L. Leonard, Chair	2021
Michelle F. Horgan	2022
Leon Purington, State Appointed	2023
Theresa Mimi Fanning	2024
Joanne Copeland	2025
<b>TOWN MODERATOR</b>	<b>(Elected 1 year term)</b>
William Bowler	2021
<b>H-W LIBRARY TRUSTEE</b>	<b>(Elected 3 year term)</b>
Julie Clay (Wenham)	2021
Dianne L. Johnson (Hamilton)	2021
Judith Bubriski (Wenham)	2022
Nichole R. Gray (Hamilton), Chair	2022
Mary Jane Brown (Hamilton)	2023
Dorothy A. Goudie (Wenham)	2023
<b>H-W REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE</b>	<b>(Elected 3 year term)</b>
Stacey L. Metternick (Wenham)	2021
Peter A. Wolczik, Jr. (Wenham)	2021
Michelle Bailey (Wenham), Chair	2022
Michelle Horgan (Hamilton)	2022
David Polito (Wenham)	2022
Dana Allara (Hamilton)	2023
Anna Siedzik (Hamilton)	2023



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## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

As the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, I am pleased to provide the following overview for the FY 2021 Annual Report. The Board of Selectmen functions as the Chief Executive body of the Town. Its five members are elected to three-year terms, with one or two seats up for election each year. The Board acts as the chief policy-making body of the Town and directly supervises the activities of the Town Manager. The Town Manager is responsible for supervising the day-to-day operation of all town departments falling under the direct control of the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen meets every other Monday at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are usually held in the Memorial Room at Town Hall. Meetings are broadcast live on your local cable public access station. Comcast subscribers can view the meeting on Channel 10, Verizon subscribers can view it on Channel 37, or meetings can be viewed after the fact on HWCAM's YouTube channel.

This past year the Board of Selectmen and most of the world were still using video conferencing for its meetings because of the ongoing Global Pandemic and safety precautions not to spread Covid-19. We moved to a hybrid meeting format in which many boards meet in person and allow video conferencing as well for board members and residents to attend and participate. The pandemic has caused us as a town to continue to adapt to change and overcome many challenges this past year, as in the previous one that was caused by the disruption of normalcy. We have continued to serve our community's needs and be proactive in helping our citizens deal with the pandemic's effects. With the help of our Board of Health, our Public Health Nurse, and the Fire Department, we organized Covid-19 testing clinics as well as vaccination clinics for our residents. We even did home visits to vaccinate our elderly population. We worked closely again this past year with our Board of Health and Public Health Nurse to inform the public of safety protocols and track the spread of the virus in our community. We worked closely with them to hold two safe and successful town meetings under a large tent so that we could continue to do town business. The Board of Health has put in countless hours to help keep our residents informed and safe, and we are truly thankful for the work they continue to do. Our Council on Aging began a search for a new director in FY 2021 with the departure of Mary Beth Lawton. Our police department continues to provide great "Community Policing" while maintaining full accreditation. The Board of Selectmen worked with Chief Stevens to lower the speed limit on Woodbury Street from 40mph to 30mph.

We maintained our AAA bond rating and had a clean audit by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP again. The town hired a new Finance Director, Alex Magee. We continue to follow the financial policies developed several years ago and will continue to develop more over the next year. Our stabilization funds are at or above the recommended minimums. As a small town, to help save money, we have worked to regionalize many of our services; schools, library, human resources, inspectional services, IT, veterans' services, our energy agent, and recreation department are some of the joint ventures we are engaged in and are among if not the best in the region. The Board of Selectmen instituted a mandatory composting policy to help reduce our trash tonnage as tipping costs escalate and the state is running out of landfill space. This policy is also in line with rising environmental concerns about waste management. The Ameresco Solar Array on the former landfill site is up and running and is producing around \$20,000 a year in revenue for the town. The Cell Phone Tower behind Town Hall has been constructed, and we're waiting for Verizon's installation. When connected it will begin to generate revenue for the town while providing better cell coverage for our residents. The Board of Selectmen invited the public to a Community Conversation about life in Hamilton and the role of the new Hamilton Human Rights Commission that was established to address issues in the community and spread the positive message of inclusion and tolerance. Our town hall renovation project didn't pass at the polls twice but continues to require much needed work to fix ADA, space restrictions, fire suppression, employee bathrooms, structural improvements, and many other issues.

The Master Plan Steering Committee has been working hard to complete the master plan before the next Annual Town Meeting. Presently the existing conditions part of the plan is being worked on with the consultant. The next part of developing the plan is crunching all the data and getting public input. The Board of Selectmen continued to work on improving communication between different groups this year. A part of improving communication was the continued meetings of an umbrella group consisting of all the board chairs or a board representative to share and discuss what each group is working on. This group met several times over the year to help to eliminate siloing of information and decisions. Our Affordable Housing Trust partnered with Habitat for Humanity to build 10 units of affordable housing on Asbury Street. The Hamilton Development Corporation and Traggorth Construction finished the development of the property at 59/63 Willow Street into 18 rental units, of which ½ are affordable. All 18 units count towards the affordable housing goal of 10%. The Hamilton Wenham School District hired Eric Tracey as interim Superintendent, and we have been working closely to align our capital needs. We are working on improving our relationship with the Hamilton Wenham School Committee by continuing to have more joint meetings to understand each other's goals and the financial impact of each other's needs to help our taxpayers and maintain a high-ranking school district. The district has helped to put together a group with members from both communities to work toward improving the high school athletic fields. We foresee an upcoming town meeting article to help fund new AstroTurf and facilities at the high school in the future.

We welcome the input of all our residents with participatory meetings, surveys, community events, and many appointed boards and committees. As always, the Board of Selectmen encourages residents to become involved and informed about the issues facing our Town. We are available to answer questions, provide background and context to any issue, and welcome any input, questions, ideas, and engagement. The more residents learn and participate, the stronger our community becomes. The Board and I wish to acknowledge and thank the many citizens of Hamilton who volunteer countless hours of community service as members of appointed boards and commissions. The Board also would like to thank all the excellent employees who keep our town running well. And, of course, we thank the taxpayers of Hamilton who provide the funds to pay for the services that make our town such a wonderful place to live. On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, we appreciate you taking the time to read our town report. Thank you.

Respectfully, Shawn Farrell, Chair of Hamilton Board of Selectmen



## BOARD OF ASSESSORS

For Fiscal Year 2021, the total assessed taxable valuation of Hamilton was \$1,736,105,104 with a property tax levy of \$30,399,200. The fiscal year 2021 tax rate as certified by the Department of Revenue was \$17.51 up \$.53 from the previous year. Building permits issued in FY2021 resulted in \$357,253 in tax levy growth for FY2021.

In FY2021, the Board of Assessors completed their interim values, adjusting properties in the town of Hamilton as required by the Department of Revenue. Under Massachusetts law, this Board is required to value all of Hamilton's 2,946 properties at 100 percent of their full and fair cash valuation, thereby insuring an equitable distribution of the property tax levy. The town's average residential single-family valuation was \$623,300.

More importantly, the Assessors office believes that we have met our statutory obligation to re-establish proper assessment level and uniformity throughout the town of Hamilton. Final Department of Revenue certification of assessed valuations was granted in December and property tax bills were subsequently mailed at the end of December. The current valuation and levy percentages based upon property class are as follows:

<b>Class</b>	<b>Valuation</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Tax Levy</b>
Residential	\$1,666,008,450	95%	\$29,171,808
Commercial	\$55,412,526	3%	\$970,273
Industrial	\$834,700	1%	\$14,616
Personal	\$13,849,428	1%	\$242,503
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,736,105,104</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$30,399,200</b>

Also in FY2021, the Assessors office processed applications for excise abatements, Chapter 91 senior tax exemption, Elderly and Veteran exemptions and Community Preservation Act surcharge exemptions.

We would like to assure all property owners that the Board of Assessors will continue its effort to meet the challenge of maintaining equitable assessments in this current real estate market.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Ozahowski, Chairman

Chris Campbell, Member

Joe Shaktman, Member

## CAPITAL COMMITTEE

The Capital Committee (CapCom) was created in the spring of 2019 as an Advisory Committee to the Town Manager providing additional information on short- and long-term Town Capital items. CapCom held its first meetings in FY 20. That was a building year. In 2021, there was no change in Committee membership and the Committee provided advice to the Town Manager on Department Head recommended Capital Projects. The attached table shows the capital expenses presented at Town Meeting. In the middle of this FY, Covid lockdowns moved meetings on line, but town business and recommendations continued. In addition to the recommendations on the table, the CapCom also provided details on known and anticipated future large capital expenditures for schools, Town Hall, DPW, and joint Wenham services, stressing the need for future Capital budget planning. All of these discussions will continue into future FY's.

For the FY 2021 (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021), the Capital Committee consisted of:

Heather Ford, Chair

Jack Lawrence, Vice Chair

Robert Woodbury, Clerk

David Thompson

Bill Wilson

Fiscal Year 2021 Special Town Meeting Capital Program				
Department	Priority	Item	Cost	Funding Source
ECO	1	Radio Repeaters (2 of 3)	\$56,000.00	Free Cash
Fire	1	Ballistic vests	\$6,000.00	Operations
Highway	1	NPDES Phase III-V Compliancy	\$54,000.00	Free Cash
Police	1	Patrol SUV (1 of fleet of 7)	\$55,000.00	Free Cash
Water	1	Water Treatment Plant	\$1,000,000.00	Water Bonding
Facilities	3	DPW Fuel Station Replacemet	\$250,000.00	Free Cash
Facilities	3	Town Hall Renovation Project	\$5,300,000.00	Bonding
Library	3	Replace Roof	\$49,463.00	Operations
Library	3	Replace Server	\$11,871.00	Operations
Water	3	Water Meter Replacement	\$15,000.00	Operations
Water	3	Hydrant and Gate Valve Replacement	\$15,000.00	Operations
Water	3	Water Storage Tank Eval and Plan	\$30,000.00	Operations
Water	3	Water Supply Feasibility Study	\$100,000.00	NOT FUNDED
Total Water Bonding			\$1,000,000.00	
* Total Bonding			\$5,300,000.00	
Total Free Cash			\$415,000.00	
Total Operations			\$127,334.00	
Total NOT Funded			\$100,000.00	

## **FINANCE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Finance and Advisory Committee (“FinCom”) consists of five registered voters who serve without compensation for three-year terms. Members are appointed by the Town Moderator and approved by the Board of Selectmen. In addition to reviewing the Town’s finances and making budget recommendations, FinCom is statutorily responsible for considering “any or all municipal questions for the purpose of making reports or recommendations to the town.” Although financial backgrounds are useful for this committee, it is by no means a pre-requisite and we welcome members without this background. We always value differing opinions and perspectives, especially when they stem from an overwhelming desire to improve the town and better serve its residents. We are currently looking for associate members and will likely be needing full-voting members in the near future. Notifications of openings are posted on the town website and by the Board of Selectmen and, even if you are not a member, we always welcome the input of the public.

FinCom is involved in the development and review of all aspects of the town operating budget including revenues, expenses, capital needs, related financing initiatives and the establishment and maintenance of reserve funds. We begin the annual budget process in the fall for the budget and capital plan that will be presented to voters at annual Town Meeting the following spring. We have worked closely with Joe Domelowicz, the Town Manager, and the Town’s Finance Director, now Alex McGee, in developing these budgets and would like to thank them both for their assistance, transparency and responsiveness in providing the data and answers to all the questions that arise during budget season.

As part of the budget process, a member of FinCom meets with each department head to understand and evaluate every aspect of their budget. We appreciate the diligent efforts of all the department heads in maintaining discipline over their expenses while maximizing as much value as possible from their limited resources. Our current town operating budget increased 3.39% over FY22. This is a relatively modest and expected increase, given the reduced spending that the Town implemented last year in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The bulk of the increase is attributable to personnel costs, including salary increases negotiated with collective bargaining units and health insurance costs.

Our process is a bit different with respect to the School District budget. As an autonomous regional school district, the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District (HWRSD) ultimately presents its budget request as a single assessment to the two towns, which is proportioned based on enrollment. We do, however, meet with the HWRSD Administration and School Committee to understand as much as possible about the details of their budgets and constraints, and convey Town expectations regarding our overall budget. While we are often at odds about the appropriate level of spending, we have continued to make strides with the School Committee and the HWRSD administration to increase the level of transparency and discuss budgetary issue with a spirit of compromise and are happy to report that a plan is being developed for regular contact and coordination between the two towns and the schools with regard to budgeting. Overall, the HWRSD accounts for over 60% of our Town’s annual combined budget and has been rising relative to the Town budget in recent years. While we acknowledge the vital importance of a high-functioning school district to Town and its importance to overall property valuations, it should be noted that at any given time only 30% of households (and potentially closer to 20%) actually utilize its services.

In addition to our budget and finance work, FinCom also makes a recommendation to the residents of the Town on every Warrant article proposed at town meetings. We take our responsibility in this regard very seriously. As such, we perform our due diligence before making any formal recommendations. This includes welcoming proponents and opponents of the various articles to our meetings, so that each side can educate us before we make our recommendation. All meetings are posted on the town website and citizens are encouraged to attend

and participate. Although it is not always possible, we endeavor to reach consensus within our committee before making our final recommendation. While our ultimate recommendation on an issue may be boiled down to a “Yes” or a “No”, not every issue is that cut and dry for us. Accordingly, we also publish our written recommendations with the Town Warrant which go into the detailed reasons for our recommendation, including any qualifications or dissenting opinions that we may have. We urge you to read these prior to Town Meeting, as we believe that they often may provide you with greater enlightenment than our ultimate recommendation.

Similarly, in assessing the town’s current financial situation, the answer is a complicated one that is not served by oversimplification. On the one hand, there is much to be pleased about. The Town has a AAA bond rating, which allows us to borrow at attractive rates. Property valuations rose 2.5% in 2021, even in the throes of an unsettling pandemic. All our financial reserves and our available free cash are consistent with the Town’s financial policies and at the levels recommended by the Massachusetts Municipal Association. We continue to set aside funds to meet the growing unfunded Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability that will only continue to rise in cost in the coming decades. Overall, this has been the result of a lot of work and discipline by Town employees, who have repeatedly sought out economic efficiencies in the services that our Town provides.

However, our Town is not without its economic challenges, and FinCom believes things will become more challenging in the future. After several years of improvement, our property tax rate has risen in recent years, with a current rate of \$17.88 per \$1,000 valuation as of last December, up \$0.37 from the year before. When coupled with increased valuations, this translates to an additional \$230.63 on the tax bill of a median valued home. Furthermore, while this rate is already considered high when compared to many neighboring municipalities, we anticipate that it will continue to rise, with next years proposed budget likely to result in another increase on this rate without any relief in sight. Several factors help explain this, but ultimately it is a structural issue for the town that is not going away any time soon. It is primarily a result of the fact that: 1) we have a high-functioning school district, which is increasingly more expensive to maintain, 2) we value our open-space and agricultural land, which generates little or no tax revenue, and 3) we do not have significant commercial development to mitigate these factors. Accordingly, the burden of paying for the Town’s services and school district falls on the residential taxpayer, whose taxes account for over 90% of the revenue that the town must raise. In addition, while the state does provide levels of aid to every Town in the Commonwealth, we do not generally qualify as “high-need” and we certainly do not see a disproportionate amount of aid relative to other Towns.

In addition to the relatively high tax rate, our Town is on the verge of requiring Proposition 2½ override votes by special election in order to pass future budgets. In basic terms, Proposition 2½ limits spending increases to 2½% annually, although annual spending under this limit can be carried over for future years. Although the Town had amassed approximately \$2.9M in unused levy capacity as of FY2018, spending in recent years has all but exhausted this unused capacity and we forecast that next year’s budget will likely use up the remaining capacity and could even require an override. Without unused capacity and with recent spending levels averaging over 5% in recent years, future Prop 2½ overrides will become inevitable and our tax rate will rise to even higher levels. Our immediate neighbor and partner in many respects, Wenham, has had to pass a series of Prop 2½ overrides in the recent past years. Although we have adequate reserves, FinCom is strongly opposed to using these financial reserves to avoid overrides, pay for operating expenses or otherwise balance the budget as they are short-term measures which are not sustainable and mask the true spending level of the Town while decreasing its overall fiscal health. Eventually the bill will come due, and it won’t be pretty.

Even more sobering, is that we as a town have many future capital needs that are going to require significant funds. We have a Town Hall that is in desperate need of renovation and requires compliance with ADA

regulations. Our School facilities are also aging, in serious need of modernization and potentially need to be consolidated based on current enrollment trends. Finally, our water infrastructure requires additional funding and given the scarcity of water, alternate water sources need to be explored. All of these are legitimate uses of funds and the problems they address will not go away by ignoring them and will likely be exacerbated by delay.

Ultimately the Town is at crossroads and we will need to make many difficult decisions. Given the structural challenges of our budget, sustaining our current level of spending and meeting our considerable capital needs will result in higher taxes. Too often issues are considered by the Town and its residents in a vacuum without looking at the big picture. Given our limited resources, these issues are necessarily interrelated, and tradeoffs will have to be made. We cannot expect a high functioning school district and the same level of Town services, while limiting development and revenue opportunities, without seeing our tax rate increase.

Accordingly, the current focus of FinCom is to drive increased levels of collaboration at all levels to aid in this decision-making process. One aspect of this is to better educate the community as to budgetary tradeoffs by building longer-term forecast models which can paint a picture of where we are headed, and perhaps allow us to make more-informed decisions. Related to that, is our on-going collaboration with the Hamilton Capital Committee which advises the Town Manager on short-term and long-term capital priorities and planning, by drawing on critical input from residents of the Town. In addition, we plan on taking an active role in the Master Plan process, which is a vital part of longer-term planning for the town, and in an “umbrella committee” that will bring together representatives of most town committees so that we can start to tackle these issues in an efficient manner. Finally, although there are limited options available in the short-term, we are always willing to explore ways in which we can increase the revenue of the Town, be it through potential development, better utilization of Town assets or otherwise.

Although there are challenges ahead of us, we are confident that the residents of our great Town can rise above the temptation to think only out of self-interest and can approach divisive issues with a sense of compromise.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Schenk-Hargrove (Chair)

John Pruellage (Vice Chair)

Nick Tensen (Secretary)

David Wanger

John McGrath

## TREASURER / COLLECTOR

I hereby submit my Annual Report as Treasurer/Collector for the Town of Hamilton  
for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021

<b>July 1, 2020</b>	<b>\$15,320,581</b>
Receipts	\$40,938,365
Disbursements	<u>(\$37,532,333)</u>
<b>June 30, 2021</b>	<b><u>\$18,726,613</u></b>

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret A. Mccloughlin, CMMT, CMMC

Treasurer/Collector

		<u>July - December</u>	<u>January - June</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b><u>COLLECTIONS</u></b>	<b><u>YEAR</u></b>			
<b>REAL ESTATE</b>	<b>2021</b>	\$ 14,057,223	\$ 15,891,417	\$ 29,948,640
	<b>2020</b>	\$ 282,835	\$ 121,496	\$ 404,331
	<b>2019</b>	\$ -	\$ 20,389	\$ 20,389
		<u>\$ 14,340,058</u>	<u>\$ 16,033,302</u>	<u>\$ 30,373,360</u>
<b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b>	<b>2021</b>	\$ 110,584	\$ 130,802	\$ 241,386
	Prior to <b>2020</b>	\$ 657	\$ 19	\$ 676
		<u>\$ 111,241</u>	<u>\$ 130,821</u>	<u>\$ 242,062</u>
<b>MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE</b>	<b>2021</b>	\$ -	\$ 1,032,610	\$ 1,032,610
	<b>2020</b>	\$ 140,762	\$ 47,498	\$ 188,260
	<b>2019</b>	\$ 4,366	\$ 1,996	\$ 6,362
	<b>2018</b>	\$ 773	\$ 383	\$ 1,156
	Prior to <b>2017</b>	\$ 376	\$ 785	\$ 1,161
		<u>\$ 146,277</u>	<u>\$ 1,083,272</u>	<u>\$ 1,229,549</u>
<b>BOAT EXCISE</b>	<b>2021</b>	\$ 1,690	\$ 226	\$ 1,916
	<b>2020</b>	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ 25
		<u>\$ 1,690</u>	<u>\$ 251</u>	<u>\$ 1,941</u>
<b>WATER</b>				
<b>Rates</b>		\$ 1,143,215	\$ 815,045	\$ 1,958,260
<b>General Billing</b>		\$ 10,805	\$ 8,658	\$ 19,463
<b>Liens</b>		\$ 6,744	\$ 3,022	\$ 39,766
<b>Penalties &amp; Interest</b>		\$ 7,804	\$ 3,078	\$ 10,882
		<u>\$ 1,168,568</u>	<u>\$ 859,803</u>	<u>\$ 2,028,371</u>
<b>CPA</b>	<b>2021</b>	\$ 240,622	\$ 262,103	\$ 502,725
	<b>2020</b>	\$ 4,340	\$ 1,785	\$ 6,125
	<b>Interest</b>	\$ 491	\$ 763	\$ 1,254
		<u>\$ 245,453</u>	<u>\$ 264,651</u>	<u>\$ 510,104</u>
<b>TAX TITLES</b>		<u>\$ 44,850</u>	<u>\$ 95,690</u>	<u>\$ 140,540</u>
<b>PENALTIES &amp; INTEREST</b>		<u>\$ 14,494</u>	<u>\$ 27,635</u>	<u>\$ 42,129</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<u><b>\$16,072,631</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 18,495,425</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 34,568,056</b></u>

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Hamilton Conservation Commission's primary task is the administration and enforcement of the state Wetlands Protection Act (Ch. 131 §40) and the Town's Conservation By-Law, Chapter 17 of the Town's General Bylaws.

### Conservation Commission jurisdiction and procedure:

The Commission's jurisdiction includes all proposed changes in land use within the borders of the Town which will occur within defined wetlands or within 100 feet of the defined edge of wetlands, or within 200 feet of perennial streams and rivers. The Commission considers applications (known as "Requests for Determination" and also "Notices of Intent") for work in these areas at public meetings and/or public hearings. The Commission or the Commission Coordinator holds site walks to review conditions at the proposed work area. The Commission then decides if a permit (either a "Negative Determination" or an "Order of Conditions") shall issue. Once a project is completed, the Commission reviews post project conditions to establish that the project was finished in the same manner as it was originally proposed and that no damage to resource areas has occurred. A Certificate of Compliance is then issued and the process is complete. The Commission also investigates violations of the Wetlands Act and local Conservation By-Law and the Commission issues Enforcement Orders or Violation Notices if appropriate.

Asides from conducting public hearings and holding open public meetings to review and analyze the various applications, the Commission, through their Coordinator, may on any given day do any or all of the following:

- Respond to residents' questions and concerns about wetlands permitting,
- Conduct preliminary site evaluations to determine applicability of jurisdiction,
- Perform various compliance inspections,
- Reply to building contractor and wetlands consultant questions and concerns,
- Interact with various state agencies most notably the Commonwealth's Department of Environmental Protection and;
- Work with the other Town departments to address issues of common concern.

### 2021 Noteworthy Events:

- Conservation Coordinator, Albert Comins, accepted the role of Conservation Agent in Rockport
- Brian Collieran accepted the role of Conservation Coordinator
- Chairman Richard Luongo completed his service to Hamilton
- Lauren Lynch accepted the role of Conservation Commission Chair
- The Boilerplate Order of Conditions was updated and modernized
- 1 legal appeal of a Conservation Commission decision resolved
- Development of the plan for the Conservation Commission to conduct Natural Areas Management at the Patton Homestead

### 2021 Filings & Other Regulatory Decisions

24 Requests for Determination

13 Orders of Conditions and Orders of Resource Area Delineation

6 Extensions of Existing Orders of Conditions

2 Amendments to an Existing Order of Conditions

10 Certificates of Compliance

4 Violations / Enforcement Orders

1 Emergency Permit



## **PLANNING BOARD**

At the beginning of fiscal year 2021, members of the Hamilton Planning Board included Brian Stein, Chair, Rick Mitchell, Clerk, Corey Beaulieu, Richard Boroff, Marnie Crouch, and Bill Wheaton. Patrick Norton became an associate member early in the year.

Following the Town elections in the spring, the Planning Board gained two new members: Emil Dahlquist and Jonathan Poore. A Board reorganization took place May 18, 2021 to respond to the personnel changes brought about by the May election and the addition of new members. The Board elected Rick Mitchell to serve as Chairman and Marnie Crouch to serve as Clerk.

Throughout the year, Planning & Inspections Director, Patrick Reffett, has assisted the Planning Board.

The mission of the Hamilton Planning Board is to engage in land use management and planning on behalf of the Town. The Board's duties include administering Hamilton's Zoning Bylaws, conducting Site Plan Reviews, issuing Stormwater Management Special permits, and overseeing the Subdivision Control Law. Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws and, in particular the Zoning Act, Mass. Gen. Laws Ch. 40, et seq., planning boards are responsible for updating the Town's Master Plan and for reviewing and amending zoning bylaws intended to meet the demands of the Town and its growth patterns. The Town is in the process of updating its Master Plan, and the Select Board appointed Chairman Mitchell and Emil Dahlquist to serve on the Master Plan Steering Committee; Planning Director Patrick Reffett manages and coordinates work with the consultant engaged to assist in developing the Master Plan.

During calendar year 2021, the Planning Board held twenty-two (22) regular meetings. There were no executive sessions.

Covid 19 affected how the Planning Board conducted its business. The Planning Board used ZOOM beginning in mid-2020 and through the early fall of 2021. It then switched to a webinar format to accommodate and facilitate public participation in the hearings regarding the Special Permit application submitted by Chebacco Hill Capital Partners, LLC for the development of a 50-unit senior housing project at 133 Essex Street under the Senior Housing Bylaw, as well as its accompanying application for a Stormwater Management Special permit.

### **Regulatory Actions by the Hamilton Planning Board in FY 2021**

A range of regulatory applications and reviews came before the Planning Board which, as noted, serves as the permit granting authority for Site Plan Reviews, Approval Not Required (ANR) applications, Subdivision applications, and Special Permit applications.

**Site Plan Reviews** – There were no Site Plan Review applications submitted to the Planning Board in FY 2021.

**Special Permit Amendments** – The Planning Board was presented with an application for a minor modification to the Senior Housing Special Permit granted to Canter Brook Capital LLC with respect to the development located at 354 Highland Street. Specifically, the applicant sought an amendment of its site plan to allow privately owned generators for condominium owners. Approved.

**Special Permit Pre-application** – A special permit pre-application for a Senior Housing Special Permit was held April 6, 2021 for the application was submitted by Chebacco Hill Capital Partners, LLC.

**Special Permits** – Chebacco Capital Partners, LLC filed an application for a Senior Housing Special permit in accordance with provisions of Mass. Gen. Laws Ch. 40A, Sec 11, and the Planning Board commenced a public hearing on August 3, 2021. The special permit hearing together with the application for a Stormwater Management permit continues in 2022 as the 66-acre site and the proposed 50-unit project raise many complex issues that the Planning Board must consider together with public concerns that also must be addressed.

**Form A - Approval Not Required (ANR) Reviews** – In accordance with Mass. Gen. Laws Ch. 41, Sec 81, the Planning Board performed three (3) Form A – ANR reviews during 2021. Properties included:

1. 821 Bay Road in district R1-B to create an additional lot. Approved.
2. 133 Essex Street in district R1-B to separate the portion of the property that contains a Groundwater Protection Overlay District (GPOD) designation from the area of the 133 Essex property that is proposed for a senior housing development. The resultant ANR property is to remain in agricultural use to protect the GPOD. Approved.
3. 617 Highland Street in district RA. A new lot was created to allow for an access easement. Approved.

### **Miscellaneous Board Special Projects, Discussions & Actions**

**Flexible Residential Zoning Bylaw** – The Planning Board began the year by considering the merits of creating a flexible residential zoning bylaw which would allow projects to positively respond to sites with significant open space features, wetlands, and potential other challenges while deviating from the ordinary subdivision “cookie cutter” appearance. The approach is commonly used in other communities, including the Town of Wenham, that wish to maintain the rural character of their towns while permitting growth on appropriate sites. The Planning Board will continue discussion of the language of that bylaw following determination of Chebacco Hill Capital Partners, LLC’s Special Permit application under the Senior Housing Bylaw, which requires the Board to focus on the complex aspects of the application and the associated application for a Stormwater Management permit. The Board anticipates discussion of the proposed new bylaw will resume sometime during 2022.

**Zoning Map Change** – The Planning Board began discussing the possibility of changing the zoning designation for the land area north of the Hamilton Crossing Shopping Center to include properties such as the Council on Aging/Senior Center site, the Public Safety Building and grounds, and the Winthrop School campus. Again, the Board postponed consideration of re-zoning possibilities until the conclusion of the public hearings concerning the Senior Housing Special Permit application submitted by Chebacco Hill Capital Partners, LLC.

**434-436 Asbury Project** – Essex County Habitat for Humanity, formerly known as North Shore Habitat for Humanity (Habitat), was proposing a 10-unit Ch. 40B project at the property and submitted plans to the Planning Board for their informal review to assist the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). The Planning Board reviewed the design and made a number of comments which were forwarded to the ZBA and Habitat for incorporation in the project design. Habitat submitted an application to ZBA for its formal review and its application was approved.

**421 Asbury Street Project** – Harborlight Community Partners informally submitted a Ch. 40B application to the Town’s various boards and committees. The Planning Board reviewed the project during a number of meetings which generated much public interest and comment by abutters. The Planning Board engaged in a review of the proposed siting and design and suggested the applicant make design changes to address property constraints, building scale, buffering and access/egress. Many of the board’s suggestions were incorporated into the proposed design. The project will likely be formally before the ZBA in early 2022.

**Code Of Conduct** – The Board discussed and voted unanimously to adopt a Code of Conduct to govern its activities and relations to the community and Town personnel.

**Zoning Bylaw Amendment** – In accordance with Mass. Gen. Laws, the Planning Board held a public hearing to consider and vote on a change to the Zoning Bylaw which removed the term “Board of Selectmen” and inserted the term “Select Board” in its place. The Planning Board endorsed the name change with a formal vote. The change was later officially adopted by vote of Hamilton residents at the fall special town meeting.

## TOWN CLERK

The primary roles of the Town Clerk include Chief Election Official, Recording Officer, Public Records Officer, Registrar of Vital Records, Licensing Officer, and Public Information Officer. The elected Town Clerk has duties and responsibilities under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Department of Public Health Registrar of Vital Records, the Office of Campaign and Political Finance, the State Ethics Commission, the Department of Revenue Division of Local Services, the Jury Commissioner, and the Office of the State Fire Marshall.

As the Chief Election Official the Clerk oversees all aspects of local and state elections including voter registration, the processing of nomination papers, and the certification of election results to the Secretary of State. The Clerk also conducts the annual town census, issues the annual street list, and assists the Jury Commissioner with the preparation of the jury list. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and a commitment to ensuring the safety of voters, during calendar year 2020, a presidential election year, the responsibilities of the Town Clerk was expanded to include vote by mail and expanded in-person early voting. The November 3, 2020 State/Presidential Election Day responsibilities became more than 14 days of responsibility to provide expanded voter opportunities.

As the Keeper of the Records, the Clerk is the official recorder of Town Meeting proceedings and responsible for certifying all official actions of the Town including Town Meeting legislation and appropriations, Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals' decisions, and the signing of all notes for borrowing, all to ensure compliance with legal requirements. The Town Clerk is also responsible for swearing into office all elected officials and board and committee appointments, posting meeting agendas of government bodies, and informing officials of Open Meeting Law, State Ethics/Conflict of Interest Law, and Campaign Finance Law administrative and filing requirements.

As the Registrar of Vital Records the Clerk registers all vital events (births, deaths, marriages and adoptions) that occur within Hamilton and those events occurring elsewhere to Hamilton residents. The Clerk provides the public with certified copies, with the town seal, of requested vital records.

As Licensing Officer the Clerk's Office issues marriage licenses, raffle/bazaar permits, dog licenses, kennel licenses, and business certificates. And as Public Information Officer the Clerk serves as a direct link between residents, local and state government, and various boards and committees.

### Fiscal Year Data:

	2021	2020
<b>Town Population (Jan 1, 2021)</b>	7883	7871
<b>Registered Voters (Jan 1, 2021)</b>	5864	5971
<b>Marriage Intentions Filed</b>	33	34
<b>Marriage Licenses Issued</b>	28	29
<b>Births Recorded</b>	75	71
<b>Burial Permits</b>	24	21
<b>Deaths Recorded</b>	49	62
<b>Dog Licenses Issued</b>	1226	1115
<b>Kennel Licenses Issued</b>	4	4
<b>Business Certificates Issued</b>	46	34
<b>Raffle/Bazaar Permits Issued</b>	3	3

## **Elections and Town Meetings**

Massachusetts state election laws were modified and expanded several times to provide alternative ways for voters to vote given COVID concerns and the social distancing considerations. In person early voting and vote by mail were put in place for elections. Voters and poll workers were required to wear masks and acrylic shields were set up to further protect poll workers at the check in tables.

*In fiscal year 2021 we had two Town Meetings, an Annual Town Election, a Special Debt Exclusion Town Election, and two State Elections. The minutes and results are on file in the Town Clerk's Office and on the Town Clerk's web page.*

**September 1, 2020 MA State Primary Election** (in-person early voting August 22 – 28):

- 2355 voters or 40% of 5861 registered voters
  - 60% voted early (1200 mailed ballots, 200 in-person)
  - 40% voted on Election Day

**November 3, 2020 MA State (Presidential) Election** (in-person early voting October 17 – 30):

- 5028 voters or 84.1% of 5976 registered voters
  - 70.5% voted early (2000 mailed ballots, 1500 in-person)
  - 29.5% voted on Election Day

**November 14, 2020 Special Town Meeting** (held outdoors at HW High School football stadium):

- 129 voters or 2.1% of 5977 registered voters

**December 3, 2020 Local Election - Debt Exclusion** vote for Town Hall renovation funding

- 1130 voters or 18.9%; Question defeated 669 to 461

**May 1, 2021 Annual Town Meeting** (held outdoors at HW High School football stadium):

- 192 voters or 3.3% of 5755 registered voters

**May 6, 2021 Annual Town Election:**

- 981 voters or 17% of 5755 registered voters

Respectfully submitted,

Carin A. Kale

Town Clerk



**Special Town Meeting  
November 14, 2020  
9:00 am**

**Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School Football Stadium**

Bill Bowler stated: "The constable has confirmed that the Warrant for this Special Town Meeting has been properly posted. The Town Clerk has informed me there is a quorum present. This Special Town Meeting of the Town of Hamilton is now open. Good Morning, my name is William Bowler and I'm the Town Moderator. Welcome to the November 14, 2020 Special Town Meeting and thank you very much for coming."

At the close of registration on November 14, 2020 there were 5977 registered voters.

Precinct 1 – 38  
Precinct 2 – 54  
Precinct 3 – 37

Bill Bowler stated: "To assist me with vote counting, I have appointed four tellers, who have been properly sworn. The tellers' names are: Michael Kennedy 61 Rust Street, Mary Jane Brown 58 Moulton Street, Phillip Stearns 175 Linden Street, and Anna Siedzik. 227 Highland Street

**Pledge of Allegiance**

William Bowler stated: "I'd like to start with some general reminders: First, if you are a registered voter in Hamilton, you should have picked up a voting clicker, which looks like this. If you haven't and wish to vote, then I ask you to get one now. Second, please turn your cell phone to silent. If you need to take or make a call, please leave the meeting to do so. Third, we welcome non-voters to the Town Meeting, but do ask that you sit in the visitors' area, which is located in the back corner."

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William Bowler introduced the following officials who were sitting at the front of Town Meeting: “Tom McEnaney (KP Law, Town Counsel), Carin Kale (Town Clerk), Joe Domelowicz (Town Manager), Marisa Batista (Finance Director), Shawn Farrell (Board of Selectmen, Chair), Bill Olson (BOS), Rosemary Kennedy (BOS), Darcy Dale (BOS), Jamie Knudsen (BOS), John Pruellage (FinCom Chair), Christina Schenk-Hargrove (FinCom), Nick Tensen (FinCom), David Wanger (FinCom), and Valerie McCormack (FinCom).”

William Bowler stated: “I have asked non-resident Town officials and those assisting the Selectmen or Finance Committee to be present here so they may be available to answer questions. Members of the press (and the video crew) have been allowed to be present. I hope you all read and brought your copy of the Warrant. If you did not, there may still be some extra copies in the back. The agenda for the meeting is the Warrant. It was prepared by the Board of Selectmen.”

William Bowler stated: “To bring an agenda item before the meeting, I will recognize a member of the sponsoring board, committee, or individual so they can make a motion. If the motion is seconded, I will recognize the proponent to speak to you about it. Once they are done, I will open discussion up to you. If you wish to speak, you must first ask me to recognize you. To save time, I ask that you already be standing at one of the microphones in the center aisle. Once you’re recognized, please state your name and street address. You may then make comments or ask questions about the motion. You will have three minutes to do so. Your comments and questions must be within what we call the ‘the four corners of the motion.’ Please do not make comments about any person who is in favor of or against the motion, just comment on the merits of the motion. Please, no applause. All motions to amend must be submitted to the Town Clerk in writing. If you need assistance in framing a motion to amend, Town Counsel will provide you with some assistance. No more than one amendment may be pending at the same time. A vote is first taken on the amendment and then on the main motion.”

William Bowler stated: “As I mentioned, when a vote is taken, we will be using the electronic voting clickers. Peter Babel and Sean McPeak of the company, Meridia will demonstrate the use of the clickers in just a moment. In the unlikely event that we have trouble with the new technology, we will revert to the use of voter cards and I will ask you to raise your voter cards and I will then decide visually whether here is the necessary majority or 2/3 vote. If I am in doubt, or seven voters question the vote immediately after I declare the outcome, I will have the vote counted by tellers.”

Sean McPeak demonstrated the use of the clickers. Red buttons would be pushed if the resident was against the motion. The green button would be pushed if the resident approved of the motion. A third button was also available for a resident who wished to be present but abstain from voting. An okay signal would illuminate once the vote was recorded. A change could occur as long as the motion was still open. A test question was given and residents voted to practice the use of the device.

William Bowler stated: "Okay, we will now begin going through the articles in the Warrant."

## **SECTION 1: ELECTIONS, REPORTS, PROCEDURES**

### **ARTICLE 2020/11 1-1 Consent Motion**

Town Moderator said: "I will now read the list of articles to be taken up and vote on as one motion. If you want to ask questions or make comments on an article, shout out "Hold" as the list is read. Any article that is held will be deleted from the Consent Motion and taken up and considered according to its place on the Warrant: 2-4, 2-9, 2-10, 2-11, 3-1, 3-2, and 3-3."

Town Moderator recognized Bill Olson.

Bill Olson said: "I move that the articles included on the List of Articles for Consent Motion for this 2020 Special Town Meeting, a copy of which has been delivered to the Town Clerk to be filed with the minutes of this meeting, (excepting those motions held) be approved by one vote, each motion to be deemed a separate action under the Warrant Article having the same corresponding number, and further that the following amounts be raised and appropriated to fund each of the following articles: Article 2-4 (Pool Revolving Fund \$820.75), Article 2-9 (Assessment Department Software \$10,000), Article 2-10 (Town Clerk and Election Staffing and Supplies \$29,785), and Article 2-11 (DPW Employee Retirement \$5,600)."

Seconded by Shawn Farrell.

Bill Olson said: "As we typically do at every Town Meeting, we seek to include a number of routine but necessary articles that are not controversial in one consent motion. This allows us to limit the duration of the meeting, which again this year is even more important to us due to the ongoing pandemic, so that we can give more time to issues that are more likely to engender debate."

Vote: Motion carries. Yes 101; No 3; Abstain 0.

## **SECTION 2: FINANCIAL ACTIONS**

### **ARTICLE 2020/11 2-1 Prior Year Bills**

Town Moderator recognized John Pruellage.

John Pruellage said: "I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,084.97 to pay the following bills from a prior fiscal year: \$209.97 for Staples for office supplies May 2020 and \$875.00 for Beauport Ambulance – COA Van Service May 2020."

Seconded by Bill Olson.

John Pruellage said: "This article relates to bills from a prior fiscal year that were not processed in that prior fiscal year. Generally this happens when invoices arrive late or they may be misplaced. Given the pandemic, it is surprising there are not more of these invoices. There is no question that the Town received these goods and services and that we should appropriate for them."

Town Moderator noted that the article requires a 9/10<sup>th</sup> vote.

Vote: Motion carries. Yes 109; No 0; Abstain 2.

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##### **ARTICLE 2020/11 2-2 Capital Expenditures**

Town Moderator recognized John Pruellage.

John Pruellage said: "I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$415,000.00 from Free Cash to fund the following purchases and projects identified in the Fiscal Year 2021 Special Town Meeting Capital Program, which is set forth in Appendix A of the 2020 Appendix Book:

ECO	Radio Repeaters (2 of 3)	\$56,000
Highway	NPDES Phase III-V Compliance	\$54,000
Police	Patrol SUV (1 of fleet of 7)	\$55,000
Facilities	DPW Fuel Station Replacement	\$250,000

Seconded by Shawn Farrell.

John Pruellage said: "This article relates to the funding of certain capital expenditures that appear on the Town's FY20/21 Capital Plan. It's recommended by the Town's Capital Committee. Items marked in blue in the Appendix. The items are an upgrade of repeaters for the Town's emergency communication system, compliance with EPA Regulations for Stormwater runoff systems, replacement of a police SUV, and the largest item is the removal of the old fuel storage tanks in the DPW yard. Right now the Town is undergoing a pilot with Wenham to share their fuel tanks. Whether or not this Pilot is successful, we still need to remove the old tanks and either replace them or put a portion of those funds toward the shared program with Wenham. FinCom recommended approval of all items as there was a clear need for the Town. They also recommended using Free Cash for a number of reasons. First, these expenses are of a one-time nature. Second, the Town did end up with more Free Cash than anticipated at the end of last year due to the spending freeze. Third, given that we are up against the Prop 2.5 cap, we would appropriate and we would need a Prop 2.5 for these items. We generally caution the use of always using Free Cash for Capital Expenditures but in this case, we believe it is warranted and we recommend passage of this item. As we are using Free Cash, there will be no effect on the tax rate."

Vote: Motion carries. Yes 109; No 1; Abstain 0.

##### **ARTICLE 2020/11 2-3 Water Treatment**

Town Moderator recognized Shawn Farrell.

Sean Farrell read: "I move that the Town vote to authorize the Treasurer to borrow \$1,000,000.00 in accordance with General Laws Chapter 44, Sections 7 or 8, or any other enabling authority, for the purpose of funding the design and construction of improvements to the Town's water treatment system, including all incidental or related costs, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and accept any Federal, State, and/or other grants or loans available for the project, and to enter into any and all agreements related thereto; and that any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payments of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount."

Seconded.

Shawn Farrell said: "This is to continue the improvements on our water treatment plant. Our Ipswich River Basin, where we get our water from, continues to give us a high level of organic material in our water. This allows us to process the water better in our plant and to relieve some



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of the stress on our wells. We previously made some investment to this but this would finish part of the project, pretreatment. The requested funds would not add additional impact on the tax rate because it is coming from the Water Enterprise Fund.”

Thomas Sears (Gardner St) asked about what type of system would clean the water.

Town Moderator recognized Tim Olson

Tim Olson said: “We looked at two different systems for pretreatment. One is the Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) system and the other, an iron exchange system. Looking at both systems, we pilot tested both with our raw water and the GAC system was much more effective in reducing the organics from the water.”

Tom Moderator noted a 2/3 vote was required to approve the Article.

Vote: Motion carries. Yes 110; No 4; Abstain 1.

### **ARTICLE 202011 2-5 Community Preservation – Affordable Housing Trust Grant.**

Town Moderator recognized Jay Butler.

Jay Butler “I move that the Town approve Article 2-5 as printed in the Warrant.”

Seconded by Darcy Dale.

Jay Butler said: “This grant request for \$200,000 for the Hamilton Affordable Housing Trust is more or less an annual event since CPC is the prime contributor of money to fund their affordable housing initiatives. In the time since the Town adopted the CPA in 2005, the CPC and subsequently Town Meeting have approved \$1,000,360.00 to the Affordable Housing Trust. Recently, you might recall the CPC voted for and Town Meeting subsequently approved a grant request at the 2019 Fall Meeting. At that time, the plan was to use those funds, combined with others in the reserves, to help purchase the property at 434 – 436 Asbury St. in support of the Habitat for Humanity project to build ten deed restricted affordable housing units. However, a combination of a delay in that project and the emergence of a more attractive project with the Tragworth Companies at 59 – 63 Willow St. for development of 18 affordable housing units caused them to switch gears and support the new project. They are now looking at going back and supporting the Habitat for Humanity project.”

Vote: Motion carries. Yes 106; No 4; Abstain 4.

### **ARTICLE 2020/11 2-6 Community Preservation – First Congregational Church Clock and Belfry.**

Town Moderator recognized Jay Butler.

Jay Butler read: “I move that the Town approve Article 2-6 as printed in the Warrant.”

Seconded by Darcy Dale.

Jay Butler said: “This grant request for \$75,000 came from the Director of Operations of the First Congregational Church of Hamilton. The project cost was \$116,000. The ask of the CPC was \$110,000 and the CPC voted to push forward with the grant request for the \$75,000. The CPC is recommending this after discussion and detailed review of the project elements by all concerned. These discussions involved the review of similar CPC requests in other communities, the applicability of the MA anti aid amendment that restricts, under certain conditions, providing municipal funds to houses of worship. This building was constructed in 1762 to replace the original Hamilton Meeting House. The Meeting House has been in the center of our community since the church was founded in 1714 through the incorporation of the Town

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of Hamilton in 1792. It functioned as the Town Hall until 1897 when the current building was built. The church is located in the Hamilton Historic District and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. You may recall a previous grant to this church that was approved in 2008 for the renovation and preservation of the church bell. This request is for the renovation and preservation of the belfry and clock tower.”

Valerie McCormack said: “FinCom has voted for unfavorable action on this request. While we recognize and appreciate the historical significance of the clock’s tower and belfry, we feel it’s an ill time for a substantial ask for a non-Town owned building at this time. While the project is not solely for religious purposes, the church does substantially benefit from the project. With the Town paying for it, it frees up the church’s assets for purely religious purposes. Finally, it’s not absolutely clear that the Town funding this project would be constitutional under MA law.” Bill Olson said that the Selectmen voted unfavorably to take action on this motion for similar reasons as the FinCom had indicated.

Duke Seaver (402 Essex St.) asked who voted for or against the article. The vote was 4:1 and the one vote should be listed on the Warrant.

Shawn Farrell responded that it was an oversight and that he was the positive vote. Mr. Farrell was on the Board of Selectmen and the CPC.

Robert John (Linden St.) asked if they consulted with the MA Historic Commission.

Rosemary Kennedy said Town Counsel had been consulted.

Tom McEnaney said he had conducted research including the Town of Acton for a church related project. In the opinion of Town Counsel, the funding of the clock tower and belfry, would “pass constitutional muster.” It does not relate to the part of the house of worship such as stained glass windows. The clock tower and belfry had historical basis for the Town of Hamilton. The CPC grant would fund only a portion of the project.

Robert John said MA Historic Commission settled the issue with 50 churches across the Commonwealth having received funds. Mr. John spoke in support of the article.

Robert Payne (224 Forest St.) supplied a five year list of CPA supported church projects and spoke in favor of the article adding that the clock was owned by the Town of Hamilton.

Robert McKeen (8 Whipple Rd.) spoke in favor of the article.

Jean Ayles (11 Patton Ridge) spoke in favor of the article.

Jeff Watson (36 Norman Rd.) spoke in favor of the article.

Vote: Motion carries. Yes 76; No 45; Abstain 0.

### **ARTICLE 2020/11 2-7 Community Preservation – Town Hall Building.**

Town Moderator recognized Jay Butler.

Jay Butler said: “I move that the Town approve Article 2-7 as written in the Warrant.”

Seconded by Rosemary Kennedy.

Jay Butler said the Town Hall Building Committee had submitted the request for \$3,000,000.00 Mr. Butler recalled that the CPC had been discussing the project since 2017 and considered the request of great importance. The CPC and Town Meeting subsequently approved a previous grant in 2017 and over the last several years, Town Meeting had approved \$475,000 in CPC grants. The current grant request was in the form of a 30 year Municipal Bond. The first year cost would be approximately \$169,000. Currently the CPC was paying \$110,000 for the Donovan Field via a 15 year bond payment. According to Mr. Butler, the CPC could afford both payments by using the 2% surcharge or \$450,000 per year. MA Department of Revenue recently

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announced that Hamilton had \$480,000, which would increase funds available.

Town Moderator recognized Mike Twomey (Chairman of Town Hall Building Committee). Mike Twomey said the renovations to the Town Hall would make the building historically correct, energy efficient, in a cost effective manner to make the Town Hall safe, completely handicapped accessible, up to date with all current codes, and a good place for the employees and residents of Hamilton to conduct business.

Town Moderator recognized Drayton Fair.

Drayton Fair (LLB Architects) reviewed the needs of the Town Hall. Town Hall had a few renovations over 122 years. Mr. Fair noted previous configurations such as offices being set in the upstairs area. In the Meeting Room area, exterior walls were bowing to the exterior of the building. The walls would be tied together to avoid expansion. The building would be handicapped accessible with a new addition in the rear and a new egress, which would not be seen from Bay Road. All systems would be upgraded. Offices were reconfigured within the building but were offered more private spaces. Parking would be expanded into the DPW yard with entrance and exit to the south side of the building. The septic would be upgraded. The elevator would access all floors. Most public functions would be located on the first floor, while restoring the historical features. A new Town vault would be created on the lower floor. The upper level would be modified to include additional offices and rest room facilities. The Memorial Room would move upstairs to reoccupy the main meeting room. The objective was to restore and preserve the historic structure. The new main entry to the building would be an addition. The ramp would be relocated to the rear and would become a permanent feature connected to handicapped parking. A list of all committees that were involved was presented. Staff would be relocated to Pilgrim Hall at Gordon Conwell during the fourteen month construction period. Contractor bids had been received and work would begin in January and go to spring of 2022.

Mike Twomey showed a slide, which outlined all the cost of the project. The contingency amount would return to the Town if it was not used. \$8,887,282 was the total turn-key cost, which Mr. Twomey compared to the original proposed budget of \$9,708,000. The CPC had previously granted \$75,000, Annual Town Meeting appropriated \$100,000, CPC granted another \$150,000, Annual Town Meeting 2019 appropriated \$75,000, CPC granted \$250,000, and 2019 Town Meeting approved \$467,767 for architectural costs. Mr. Twomey said the Committee would use \$86,360 from an insurance claim for cupola damage. The Committee was currently seeking \$3,000,000 from the CPC and \$4,683,155 from the Town.

Town Moderator recognized Rosemary Kennedy.

Rosemary Kennedy showed slides showing the history of Town Hall.

Town Moderator recognized Nick Tensen.

Nick Tensen (FinCom) said the FinCom reviewed the need, the vetting of the project, and if the project made financial success. The FinCom thought it was a substantial cost but the building would last 75 years while it would be financed over 30 years. Based on the current funding and estimated interest rates, the first year would cost less than \$.20 per thousand on the average home or about \$120 per year for each home. The need had been established and the vetting had been done well.

Duke Seaver (402 Essex St.) asked about a penalty if the contractor did not meet his construction

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completion date.

Mike Twomey responded that liquidated damages to meet the schedule had not been included in a contract but Town Counsel would review and add the clause if appropriate.

Steve Dexter (8 Honeysuckle Rd.) noted other towns that rebuilt their Town Hall and spoke in favor of the project.

Jack Lawrence (105 Rock Maple) discussed handicapped accessibility and spoke in favor of the Article.

Forester Clark (308 Sagamore St.) spoke in favor of the Article.

Jean-Pierre Minois (297 Moulton St.) spoke in favor of the Article.

Sam Vaill (315 Bridge St.) said the debt would double and impact other projects, especially the fields for the Schools. Mr. Vaill thought the project was too expensive and spoke against the Article.

Town Moderator announced that a 2/3 vote was required to approve the Article.

Vote: Motion carries. Yes 97; No 26; Abstain 0.

### **ARTICLE 2020/11 2-8 Town Hall Building Project.**

Town Moderator recognized Darcy Dale.

Darcy Dale said: "I move that the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to borrow \$4,683,155.25 in accordance with General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7 or any other enabling authority, for the purpose of funding the design, construction, renovations and improvements to, and equipping, the Town Hall located at 577 Bay Road, excluding costs to be paid from the Community Preservation Act under Article 2020/11 2-7, and including design and construction of the renovations and improvements to a temporary Town Hall facility and relocation costs and all other incidental or related costs, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and accept any Federal, State, and/or other grants or loans available for the project, and to enter into any and all agreements related thereto; provided, however, that the appropriation authorized hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters of the Town to assess taxes in excess of the amount allowed under Proposition 2 ½, so-called, for the amounts required to pay principal and interest on bonds or notes issued for the purposes set forth herein; and further, that any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payments of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount."

Seconded by Rosemary Kennedy.

Town Moderator announced that a 2/3 vote was required to approve the Article.

Vote: Motion carries. Yes 92; No 20; Abstain 2.

### **ARTICLE 2020/11 2-12 Master Plan.**

Town Moderator recognized Rosemary Kennedy.

Rosemary Kennedy said: "I move that the Town transfer \$150,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding a Master Plan, including all incidental and related costs."

Seconded by Darcy Dale.

Rosemary Kennedy said the plan would help determine what was important to the town. The

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plan would listen to residents' voices.

Town Moderator recognized Joe Domelowicz.

Joe Domelowicz said a Master Plan would identify what was important to the community and give the Town the opportunity to plan for the future. Mr. Domelowicz noted that the pandemic had residents familiar with Zoom, which would ensure citizen input. Money would be from Free Cash and would not affect the tax rate.

Betsy Spang (370 Chebacco Rd.) was concerned with spending more money and asked to table the Article for two years as others had been done.

Joe Domelowicz said the last Master Plan had been completed in 2004.

Rick Mitchell (36 Rock Maple Ave.) said a Housing Production Plan had recently been completed but other components had not been updated. Mr. Mitchell noted the approaching levy limit and that residents should determine what they wanted the town to look like and asked for support of the Article.

Jack Lawrence (105 Rock Maple Ave.) referred to the FinCom report that collaboration with Wenham and the Schools was extremely important. Mr. Lawrence recalled the \$250,000 voted for School planning.

Shawn Farrell said the Selectmen had met with the Wenham Selectmen and agreed that a Master Plan would benefit both towns, especially for shared services.

Phillip Monahan (4 Red Coach Rd.) asked about who would maintain and change the Plan as well as associated costs of maintenance over the next 20 years.

Joe Domelowicz said the 2004 Master Plan had been done before the form of government had changed. The Town would require the consultant to create a five year plan inside the Master Plan to note the highest critical items. The purpose of the road map would be to look at the next 20 years but take it five years at a time. The Town Manager's office would own the program.

Tosh Blake (217 Sagamore St.) spoke against the Article.

Vote: Motion carries. Yes 82; No 23; Abstain 4.

### SECTION 3: OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND ACTIONS.

#### ARTICLE 2020/11 3-4 Citizen's Petition.

Town Moderator recognized Bill Heney.

Bill Heney said: "I move that the Town approve Article 3-4 as printed in the Warrant."

Seconded by Beth Murphy (283 Asbury St.).

Bill Heney gave the background to the Article. Schools went from a hybrid system to a remote learning system, which impacted the students in town. Mr. Heney reviewed what led to that decision last September. The Citizen Petition had been filed and the petitioners met with the Superintendent and the Board of Health. Last month Wenham approved the Article and was now part of the By-laws. The purpose of the petition would be to restrict the local Board of Health from promulgating restrictions that were greater than the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) would require. Mr. Heney said the CDC, DESE, and MA Pediatricians' Association had more current data for the Superintendent to follow.

Christina Schenk-Hargrove said the FinCom voted unanimously to not support the petition as the petition was an attempt to limit the Board of Health's discretion, requiring them to follow the DESE guidance. If passed, the Article would only be advisory.

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Bill Olson (419 Highland St.) said the Superintendent's and School Board's job was to collect all information from various sources. The Selectmen had voted for unfavorable action because they did not want to limit sources of information. Mr. Olson said the Board of Health was well qualified.

Anna Siezdik.(227 Highland St,) spoke against the Article.

Mary Jane Brown (58 Moulton St.) spoke against the Article.

Vote: Motion does not carry. Yes 31; No 68; Abstain 2.

Shawn Farrell announced that even though Article 2-8 had passed, a debt exclusion vote would occur on December 3, 2020 at the Recreation Center.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Moderator said: "I will now accept a Motion to dissolve."

Seconded by Darcy Dale.

This Special Town Meeting is now dissolved at 11:08 am on November 14, 2020.



A TRUE COPY ATTEST  
*Carla A. Hall*  
TOWN CLERK

**Annual Town Meeting  
May 1, 2021  
9:00 am**

**Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School Football Stadium**

William Bowler stated: "The constable has confirmed that the Warrant for this Annual Town Meeting has been properly posted. The Town Clerk has informed me there is a quorum present. This Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Hamilton is now open. Good Morning, my name is William Bowler and I'm the Town Moderator. Welcome to the May 1, 2021 Annual Town Meeting and thank you for coming."

At the close of registration on May 1, 2021 there were 5755 registered voters. 192 voters were present.

Precinct 1 - 74  
Precinct 2 - 70  
Precinct 3 - 48

William Bowler stated: "To assist me with vote counting, six tellers have been appointed and properly sworn. They will be used if there is a technical failure." Tellers appointed: Marc Johnson, Forester Clark, Sue Ackerman, Bob Woodbury, Kathy Simons, and Kim Dietel.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

William Bowler stated: "I'd like to start with some general reminders: First, if you are a registered voter in Hamilton, you should have picked up a voting clicker, which looks like this. If you haven't and wish to vote, then I ask you to get one now. Second, please turn your cell phone to silent. If you need to take or make a call, please leave the meeting to do so. Third, we welcome non-voters to the Town Meeting, but do ask that you sit in the visitors' area, which is located at the back of the tent, so it will be easier to know who is able to vote and who is not."

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William Bowler introduced the following officials who were sitting at the front of Town Meeting: “Tom McEnaney (KP Law, Town Counsel), Carin Kale (Town Clerk), Joe Domelowicz (Town Manager), Dyan Katz (Interim Finance Director), Shawn Farrell (Board of Selectmen, Chair), Bill Olson (Board of Selectmen, Vice Chair), Rosemary Kennedy (BOS), Darcy Dale (BOS), Jamie Knudsen (BOS), John Pruellage (FinCom, Chair), Christina Schenk-Hargrove (FinCom Vice Chair), Nick Tensen (FinCom), David Wanger (FinCom), and Valerie McCormack (FinCom).”

William Bowler stated: “I have asked non-resident Town officials and those assisting the Selectmen or Finance Committee to be present here so they may be available to answer questions. Members of the press (and the video crew) have been allowed to be present. I hope you all read and brought your copy of the Warrant. If you did not, there may still be some extra copies. The agenda for the meeting is the Warrant. It was prepared by the Board of Selectmen.”

William Bowler stated: “To bring an agenda item before the meeting, I will recognize a member of the sponsoring board, committee, or individual so they can make a motion. If the motion is seconded, I will recognize the proponent to speak to you about it. Once they are done, I will open discussion up to you. If you wish to speak, you must first ask me to recognize you. To save time, I ask that you already be standing at one of the microphones. Once you’re recognized, please state your name and street address. You may then make comments or ask questions about the motion. You will have three minutes to do so. Please remove your mask when speaking at the microphone, otherwise, please keep your mask on. Your comments and questions must be within what we call the ‘the four corners of the motion.’ Please do not make comments about any person who is in favor of or against the motion, just comment on the merits of the motion. Please, no applause. All motions to amend must be submitted to the Town Clerk in writing. If you need assistance in framing a motion to amend, Town Counsel will provide you with some assistance. No more than one amendment may be pending at the same time. A vote is first taken on the amendment and then on the main motion.”

William Bowler stated: “As I mentioned, when a vote is taken, we will be using the electronic voting clickers. Patrick Shannon, Assistant to the Town Manager and Community Preservation Coordinator will demonstrate the use of the clickers in just a moment. In the unlikely event that we have trouble with the new technology, we will revert to the use of voter cards and I will ask you to raise your voter cards and I will then decide visually whether here is the necessary majority or 2/3 vote. If I am in doubt, or seven voters question the vote immediately after I declare the outcome, I will have the vote counted by tellers.”

Patrick Shannon demonstrated the use of the clickers. A test question was given and residents voted to practice the use of the device. William Bowler acknowledged that Brad Hill (State Representative) was present. There were technical difficulties with the clickers and at 9:35 a.m. Moderator Bowler announced that votes would be taken the “old style” with voters holding up their hand with the clicker.



William Bowler stated: "Okay, we will now begin going through the articles in the Warrant."

## SECTION 1: ELECTIONS, REPORTS, PROCEDURES

### ARTICLE 2021/5 1-2 Reports

To hear reports of Town Officers and selected committees and to take action thereon or relative thereto. Reports will appear in the Town Report for Calendar Year 2020 and be posted to the Town of Hamilton Website

Town Moderator recognized Shawn Farrell, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Shawn Farrell thanked the residents and volunteers and did not offer a report. The report would be on the Town website. Mr. Farrell announced the creation of a committee to oversee the creation of the Master Plan. Residents were encouraged to become involved and participate.

Town Moderator recognized John Pruellage, Chairman of the Finance and Advisory Committee. John Pruellage said he hoped everyone had received a copy of the FinCom report, which highlighted the benefits and issues related to the Town and the tax revenue potential compared to the costs. Mr. Pruellage mentioned that the combination of our valued open space and limited commercial development make it hard to avoid high taxes. The unused capacity had, at one time, been \$3M, which had been reduced to \$300,000. Mr. Pruellage noted that the budget being presented avoided an override. Mr. Pruellage noted the significant capital needs, including the aging Town Hall, School facilities, and aging water infrastructure. Mr. Pruellage suggested collaboration and compromise to solve the problems. Using grants and spreading the costs out over time, would lessen the impact to taxpayers. The various committees and their collaboration were helping the future. The cash reserves reflected what had been recommended by the State, allowing the Town to borrow at beneficial rates.

### ARTICLE 2021/5 1-3 Consent Agenda

To see if the Town will consolidate in one consent motion containing the motions for those articles that, in the opinion of the Moderator, are not controversial and can be passed without debate, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

Town Moderator said: "I will now read the list of articles to be taken up and voted on as one motion. If you want to ask questions or make comments on an article, shout out "Hold" as the list is read. Any article that is held will be deleted from the Consent Motion and taken up and considered according to its place on the warrant: 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8 (HOLD), 2-9, and 2-10."

Town Moderator recognized Rosemary Kennedy.

Rosemary Kennedy said: "I move that the articles included on the List of Articles for Consent Motion for this 2021 Annual Town Meeting, a copy of which has been delivered to the Town Clerk to be filed with the minutes of this meeting, be approved by one vote, each motion to be deemed a separate action under the Warrant Article having the same corresponding number, excepting those motions held: Article 2-8."

Seconded.

Rosemary Kennedy said: "As we typically do at every Town Meeting, we seek to include a number of routine but necessary articles that are not controversial in one consent motion. This

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allows us to limit the duration of the meeting, which again this year is even more important to us due to the ongoing pandemic, so that we can give more time to issues that are more likely to engender debate.”

Vote: Unanimous in favor. Motion carries.

### SECTION 2: FINANCIAL ACTIONS

#### **ARTICLE 2021/5 2-1 Compensation**

To see if the Town will amend the Personnel Bylaw by adopting changes to the classification and compensation table as set forth in Appendix A, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

[The proposed Compensation/Classification Table Fiscal Year 2022 appears as Appendix A to the 2021 Appendix Book; the “Exempt Positions” section on page one of the table was replaced with an amended “Exempt Positions” section provided at Town Meeting and attached to the minutes, all other pages remain as appearing in the Warrant.]

Town Moderator recognized Bill Olson.

Bill Olson said: “I move the Town amend the Personnel Bylaw by adopting changes to the classification and compensation table as set forth in the amended and updated Appendix A that has been made available and handed out at this Town Meeting.”

Seconded.

Bill Olson explained that there was one change made on the first page of the table regarding the compensation for the Director of the Patton Homestead and that the amended “Exempt Position” section of page one was available at Town Meeting.

Vote: Unanimous in favor. Motion carries.

#### **ARTICLE 2021/5 2-2 Prior Year Bills**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum of money to pay any unpaid bills incurred in prior years, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. Town Moderator noted the article required a 4/5<sup>th</sup> vote.

Town Moderator recognized Nick Tensen.

Nick Tensen said: “I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$57.50 to pay an unpaid bill from Kelly and Ryan for 2019 Motor Vehicle Demands transferred from 2019 to 2020 Board Excise Demand Billings.”

Seconded.

Vote: Unanimous in favor. A 4/5ths majority was established. Motion carries.

#### **ARTICLE 2021/5 2-3 General Town Departmental Appropriations**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to defray the expenses of schools and all other Town expenses for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2021, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. *(Expected requests Town - \$12,625,126 and School District -\$21,787,353 – Total Combined Budgets not including capital and transfers is \$34,412,479)*

[The proposed budget appears as **Appendix B** to the 2021 Appendix Book.]

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[The approved school budget appears as **Appendix C** to the 2021 Appendix Book.]

Town Moderator said: "This is our annual general Town and School omnibus appropriations article."

Town Moderator recognized Mary Beth Banios, Superintendent of Schools to report on the School District Budget."

Mary Beth Banios said that students from kindergarten through high school were in-school learning as of April 5. The District was focused on recovery. Dr. Banois thanked those responsible for the success of the Schools. Dr. Banios presented the budget, explaining the budget had increased 4.6% and showed the increase in revenues. The net was 3.99%. Enrollment had increased so the actual increase would be 4.47%. The debt service budget was discussed. The Capital Budget would be due in FY22. An increase in debt would be experienced. When the operating budget and debt service are combined an increase of 4.93% would be experienced. The budget was the second lowest budget in five years and is below what the Town has requested for the last five years. Priorities such as restoring the staff and middle school model had been set. The budget addressed OPEB liability. Leadership support had been restored. Literacy intervention was restructured. The central office was restructured. The middle School model was restored. The positions eliminated in 2020 were shown and Dr. Banios said the positions to be restored would cost an addition \$900,000. The leadership team restructured a more efficient program while meeting the needs of the students. The cost of restructuring and restoration was shown. The OPEB liability was \$40M and in FY22 the liability would be funded \$100,000. The Covid Relief Fund was used for tents, PPE, and technology. Grants had been used for technology.

Town Moderator recognized Joe Domelowicz, Town Manager to report on the Town budget. Joe Domelowicz thanked those who were collaborated during the budget process. Mr. Domelowicz reviewed the budget. The budget reviewed the Stabilization Fund and financial policies. The transfer would get the Stabilization Fund to 5% to handle emergencies. Schools accounted for 62% of the Town budget. Other departments were reviewed. Revenue was discussed with 90% of taxes being generated from real estate taxes. 98% were derived from Town sources. 17.86% was the tax rate being proposed. The assessed values of homes were discussed and another 2% valuation increase was proposed. The tax levy was discussed. A historical look at finances was presented. For the average home, a \$356 tax increase was being proposed, the lowest in years. Joe Domelowicz noted an error on the screen that showed the presented budget.

At 10:15 Moderator Bowler said that the clickers for voting were now working and a test by the voters confirmed that they were working. All future votes would be taken with the clickers.

Town Moderator said: "I will now read each appropriation and for any item a voter would like to discuss separately, please shout out 'hold'."

\$ 2,139,588.19 for General Town Government

\$ 3,447,605.61 for Public Safety

\$ 21,502,184.00 for Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District (HOLD)

\$ 285,169.00 for Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School District

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\$ 2,076,883.20 for Department of Public Works  
\$ 326,631.77 for Health and Human Services  
\$ 1,030,368.24 for Culture and Recreation  
\$ 4,479,773.94 for Unclassified  
Totaling \$35,288,203.95.

Town Moderator said: "I recognize John Pruellage."

John Pruellage said: "I move that the Town raise and appropriate the sums read by the Moderator for Schools and all other Town expenses which are set forth in the 2022 Fiscal Year Budget in Appendix B of the 2021 Appendix Book and Appendix C of the 2021 Appendix Book with the corrections read by the Moderator excepting those items held."  
Seconded.

Town Moderator noted the Hold on the School District budget.

Jennifer Bevilacqua (221 Lake Drive) spoke against the School budget and in favor of having a separate vote. Ms. Bevilacqua stated that, as a parent, she is not questioning the number but rather how the funds will be spent and whether the budget is responsible and sustainable. She stated that the budget needs to go back to the School Committee.

Julia McDougall (57 Blueberry Lane) spoke against the School Budget and in favor of having a separate vote.

Town Moderator said the purpose of the Town Meeting was to approve a budget but not to discuss specific details within the budget.

### (MOTION TO AMEND)

Jennifer Bevilacqua (221 Lake Drive) said "I move to separate the proposed school budget, under appendix C, from the general town departmental appropriation under Article 2021/5 2-3."  
Seconded.

Gerry Fallon (Goodhue St.) asked for more detail regarding insurance and retirement.

Dr. Banios responded that health insurance increased annually. This year was a 7% increase. Natalie Hildreth (121 Linden St.) spoke against the restructuring of the school program and in favor of having a separate vote.

Rachel Barstow (5 Moynihan Rd.) spoke in favor of the motion to separate the School Budget.

Bill Olson (Highland St.) asked for clarification regarding allocation or line item nature of the School budget.

Town Counsel opined that pursuant to Chapter 71 section 34 Town Meeting would approve a bottom line budget and that the Schools have the ability to spend their money on whatever they chose.

Ryan Quinn (60 North St.) spoke against the School budget proposal and in favor of having a separate vote.

Michele Horgan (School St.) asked to have the School Superintendent speak to the possibility of a failed School budget.

Mary Beth Banios said there would be educational impacts if the Town voted down the School budget.

Joe Domelowicz said the Town would have to hold a Special Town Meeting to vote for a school budget and that we would need to wait for the School Budget to be reset for the Town to be able

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to set the tax rate. The lack of approval would impact the Town.

Town Moderator explained that the amendment to be voted upon would separate the School budget from the General Town appropriation.

Motion to Amend Vote: 99 in favor; 66 against; 0 abstain. Majority in favor. Motion passes.

Town Moderator recognized John Pruellage.

John Pruellage said: "I move that the Town raise and appropriate \$13,786,020 for the Town's expenses for the various expenses listed earlier by the Moderator except for the amount for the Hamilton Wenham School District."

Seconded.

John Pruellage explained that the difference was \$21,502,184, which was the School District item.

Vote: 162 in favor; 9 against; 0 abstain. Majority in favor. Motion carries.

Town Moderator recognized John Pruellage.

John Pruellage said: "I move that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,502,184 to fund the Hamilton Wenham School District."

Seconded.

Vote: 86 in favor; 76 against; 0 abstain. Motion carries.

Town Moderator noted that Senator Tarr was present.

### ARTICLE 2021/5 2-4 Capital Expenditures

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of funding capital expenditures and further, to authorize the Town Manager to administer and expend funds from said accounts, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected request \$338,638*)

Town Moderator recognized Christina Schenk-Hargrove to report on this article.

Christina Schenk-Hargrove said: "I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$338,638 from Free Cash to fund the following purchases and projects identified in the Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Projects Plan, which is set forth in Appendix D of the 2021 Appendix Book:

Highway	NPDES Phase III-V Compliancy	\$ 60,000
Facilities	Public Safety building HVAC	\$ 70,000
Library	Replace Roof	\$152,638
Police	Police Cruiser	\$ 56,000"

Seconded.

Christina Schenk Hargrove said the Town's Capital Committee had recommended these items and said repairs had been needed for some time. Roof repairs allowed for solar panels. The police fleet needed replacing. In FY21 two vehicles needed replacement but one was deferred until this year.

Vote: 128 in favor; 10 against; 0 abstain. Majority in favor. Motion carries.

**ARTICLE 2021/5 2-8 Hamilton Development Corporation**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$66,051 to the Hamilton Development Corporation, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected request is \$66,051*)

Town Moderator recognized Bill Olson.

Bill Olson said: "I move that the Town raise and appropriate \$66,051 to the Hamilton Development Corporation."

Seconded.

Bill Olson explained the funds came from the Meals Tax and the approval would not affect the tax rate.

Town Moderator recognized Rick Mitchell, President of the Hamilton Development Corporation. Rick Mitchell asked for the Town's support after reviewing the accomplishments of the Corporations including the Willow St. project.

Jack Lawrence (Rock Maple) questioned the allocation of the Meals' Tax to the entity.

David Wanger (FinCom) explained why the FinCom supported the proposal. The Town needed to find ways to increase the ways in which the Town increased revenue.

Doug Trees (557 Bay Road) spoke against the proposal

Marc Johnson (6 Patton Drive) spoke in favor of the proposal.

Rick Mitchell said the Hamilton Development continued to support the Town with development to generate significant tax revenue.

Tosh Blake (217 Sagamore St.) spoke against the proposal.

Jerry Fallon (38 Goodhue St.) spoke against the proposal.

David Geike (Highland St.) spoke against the proposal.

Doug Trees spoke again against the article.

Town Moderator recognized Joe Domelowicz.

Joe Domelowicz explained that several years ago the Finance Director tied the Meals' Tax to what was collected the previous year. Next year the amount would be less

Vote: 101 in favor; 42 against; 0 abstained. Majority in favor. Motion carries.

**ARTICLE 2021/5 2-11 Stabilization Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$346,036 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected request is \$346,036*).

Town Moderator recognized David Wanger.

David Wanger said: "I move that the Town transfer the sum of \$346,036 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund."

Seconded.

David Wanger explained 5% of the general budget would be in the stabilization fund. There would be no tax impact. David Wanger noted that the fund was very safe in that a 2/3rds vote would be required to appropriate the appropriation and a 2/3rds vote was required to spend the fund.

Town Moderator announced the approval would be a 2/3rds vote.

Vote: 124 in favor; 8 against; 0 abstain. A 2/3rds majority was established. Motion carries.

**ARTICLE 2021/5 2-12 Community Preservation Budget**

To see if the Town will act on the Report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2022 Community Preservation Budget and specified other projects and appropriate or reserve for later appropriation monies from community preservation fund annual revenues, specific reserves or other available funds for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, the payment of debt service, the undertaking of community preservation projects and all other necessary and proper expenses for the year, as set forth in Appendix G, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. [The Budget appears as **Appendix G** of the 2022 Appendix Book.]

Town Moderator recognized Jay Butler.

Jay Butler said: "I move that the Town approve Article 2-12 as printed in the Warrant."

Seconded.

Jay Butler explained that the article authorized the spending of administrative costs and the annual bond payment for Sagamore Hill. The required CPC housing account was also fulfilled.

Vote: 125 in favor; 8 against; 2 abstain. Majority in favor. Motion carries.

**ARTICLE 2021/5 2-13 Community Preservation – Patton Park Tennis Courts**

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c.44B, to appropriate \$32,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space and Recreation Account for the purpose of repairing and restoring the Patton Park tennis courts including any incidental or related costs; and provided further that if construction has not commenced by November 15, 2022, any funds from this appropriation will be returned to the Community Preservation fund only after a vote by the Community Preservation Committee determining that it is unlikely the remaining appropriated funds will need to be spent to this effect, or take any action thereon or relative thereon.

Town Moderator recognized Jay Butler.

Jay Butler read: "I move that the Town approve Article 2-13 as printed in the Warrant."

Seconded.

Jay Butler explained that the article was for a \$32,000 grant request to resurface and re-line the tennis courts at Patton Park. The CPC voted unanimously to approve the request.

Vote: 133 in favor; 6 against; 0 abstain. Majority in favor. Motion carries.

**ARTICLE 2021/5 2-14 Community Preservation – Town Hall Building Project**

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c.44B, to appropriate the sum of \$1,000,000 for the restoration, rehabilitation, and preservation of the historic Town Hall located at 577 Bay Road set forth in an application dated March 8, 2021 approved by the Community Preservation Committee and on file with the Town Clerk, including but not limited to design, project management and construction costs, and all incidental and related costs, i.e., those project costs designated by the Community Preservation Committee as eligible to be funded under the Community Preservation Act; such sum to be added to the sum of \$3,000,000 appropriated under Article 2020/11 2-7, and to meet said appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow all or a portion of said amount under G.L. 44B, §11, G.L. c.44, §§7 or 8 and/or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, and while these will be general obligation bonds of the Town, it is anticipated

that they shall be repaid through the Community Preservation Fund, and, further, any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to costs approved by this vote with a reduction of borrowing authority therefore by a like amount in accordance with G.L. c.44, §20; provided, however, that the expenditure of these funds shall not be authorized if Town Meeting fails to approve Article 2021/5 2-15, or if construction of the Town Hall project fails to commence by November 15, 2022, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

Town Moderator recognized Jay Butler.

Jay Butler said: "I move that the Town approve Article 2-14 as written in the Warrant. The CPC voted in favor of the project."

Seconded.

Town Moderator recognized members of the Town Hall Building Committee.

Darcy Dale asked for the residents' support. The Committee showed a presentation regarding the project and why the renovation was important. The goal was to create a civic center ready for the next one hundred years. The project was approved at the last Town Meeting but not at the polls.

Jack Lawrence spoke about the accessibility, functionality, and safety of the building, while maintaining the historic nature of the building. The historic building would be repurposed and upgraded to protect the structure. Climate controlled storage areas would be incorporated and the risk of fire would be minimized. Exterior deterioration would be minimized.

Rosemary Kennedy spoke about the historic features of the building. Slides were shown of the renovations. Ms. Kennedy described the attributes of the Town and how the Town Hall reflected the history of service.

Jack Lawrence discussed the budget of the project. For a median valued home (\$631,000), the cost at inception of the bond would be \$.15 per 1,000 in value. The tax bill would increase under \$95 per year. As the debt was paid down, the cost would decrease to \$50 per year. Mr. Lawrence said a good price was received based on eight bids. If a new building was constructed, CPC historic preservation funding could not be used. Mr. Lawrence noted the endorsements of various boards. Mr. Lawrence noted that the time was now to move forward with the project.

Jay Butler noted the CPC granted request, which was the fifth grant request for the project since 2017. CPC viewed the project as important for years. The \$1M grant from a municipal bond would be together with a \$3M request last fall. Bond payments were from the 2% CPC surcharge. Even if approved, other eligible projects could be approved.

Forester Clark (Sagamore St.) spoke in favor of the project.

Matt Daniels (Autumn Lane) recommended private fund raising to pay for the renovations.

Anna Seizek (Highland St.) spoke in favor of the project.

A resident (Willow St.) spoke against the project.

Mr. Dexter (Honeysuckle Rd.) spoke in favor of the project.



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Nick Tensen (Sagamore St.) spoke in favor of the article.

Ted Warner (874 Bay Road) asked if the proposed article incorporated the rise in material costs. Rosemary Kennedy responded that the general contractor agreed to hold his price for the month of May.

Mary Carlin (Echo Cove Road) noted the Essex Town Hall received private funding and no private funding had been received in Hamilton.

Town Moderator noted a 2/3rds vote was required.

Vote: 124 in favor; 18 against; 0 abstain. A 2/3rds majority was established. Motion carries.

### **ARTICLE 2021/5 2-15 Town Hall Building Project**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$3,400,000 and authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow said sum in accordance with General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7 or any other enabling authority, for the purpose of funding the design, construction, renovations and improvements to, and equipping, the Town Hall located at 577 Bay Road, excluding costs to be paid from the Community Preservation Act under Article 2020/11 2-7 and Article 2021/5 2-14, and including design and construction of the renovations and improvements to a temporary Town Hall facility and relocation costs and all other incidental or related costs, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and accept any federal state and/or other grants or loans available for the project, and to enter into any and all agreements related thereto; provided, however, that the appropriation authorized hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters of the Town to assess taxes in excess of the amount allowed under Proposition 2 1/2, so-called, for the amounts required to pay principal and interest on bonds or notes issued for the purposes set forth herein; and further, that any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payments of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount, or take any action thereon or relative thereto. (*Expected request is \$3,400,000*)

Town Moderator recognized Darcy Dale.

Darcy Dale said: "I move that the Town approve Article 2-15 as printed in the Warrant."  
Seconded.

Darcy Dale said the funding was for those costs not allowed under the CPC fund.

Town Moderator announced that a 2/3 vote was required to approve the Article.

Vote: 108 in favor; 21 against; 1 abstains. A 2/3's majority was established. Motion carries.

## **SECTION 3: OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND ACTIONS.**

### **ARTICLE 2021/5 3-1 Acquisition of Easement to Alter Layout of Chebacco Road**

[Note: The approved, printed warrant incorrectly listed "ARTICLE 2021/6 3-1."]

To see if the Town will vote to acquire a permanent easement for all purposes for which public ways are commonly used in the Town and a temporary construction easement from the Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea in, on and under the parcels of land approximately shown as "Proposed Permanent 40' Easement 33,530 Sq. Ft., 0.77 Acres" and "Proposed Temporary Construction

Easement 20,916 Sq. Ft., 0.48 Acres” on a plan entitled “Town of Hamilton & Town of Manchester-By-The-Sea Proposed Easement Plan”, prepared by Woodard & Curran, dated February, 2021, on file in the Town Clerk’s office, as the same may be amended, which acquisition will alter the layout of Chebacco Road to include said parcel of land and to petition the Metropolitan Area Planning Council to discontinue any portions of the existing layouts of Chebacco Road lying outside the altered layout; and to transfer the care, custody and control of said discontinued portions from the Board of Selectmen for public way purposes to the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of conveyance; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey to the Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea all of the Town’s right, title and interest in and to said discontinued portions; and, further, because the Manchester property is subject to a conservation restriction held by the Town, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court pursuant to Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution to change the use of a portion of said conservation property and authorize the Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea to convey the public way and temporary construction easements to Hamilton; and to accept a conservation restriction in the discontinued portions of Chebacco Road, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

Town Moderator recognized Rosemary Kennedy.

Rosemary Kennedy said: “I move that the Town approve Article 3-1 as printed in the Warrant.”  
Seconded.

Rosemary Kennedy explained the article and the impact on conservation land.

Jane Muran spoke about the negative impact of the change.

Tim Olson, DPW Director, said the change benefited the environment. Drainage would also be improved. A Forum had been held and another would be held to address issues.

A resident who lived off Chebacco Road supported the article.

Town Moderator noted a 2/3 vote was required.

Vote: 75 in favor; 4 against; 1 abstains. A 2/3<sup>rd</sup>’s majority was established. Motion carries.

#### **ARTICLE 2021/5 3-2 Power Purchase Agreement for Library Solar Project**

[Note: The approved, printed warrant incorrectly listed “ARTICLE 2021/6 3-2.”]

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to (i) enter into one or more net metering credit purchase agreements with one or more owners of renewable energy facilities for terms of up to 30 years, and (ii) take any actions and execute any other documents and ancillary agreements necessary, convenient, or appropriate to accomplish the foregoing and to implement and administer the net metering credit purchase agreements, all of which agreements and documents shall be on such terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Board of Selectmen deems in the best interests of the Town; or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

Town Moderator recognized Valerie McCormack.

Valerie McCormack said: “I move that the Town vote to approve Article 3-2 as printed in the Warrant.”

Seconded.

Valerie McCormack explained the proposal would save the Town money.

Vote: 71 in favor; 0 against; 0 abstain. Majority in favor. Motion carries.

**ARTICLE 2021/5 3-3 PILOT for Library Solar Project**

[Note: The approved, printed warrant incorrectly listed "ARTICLE 2021/6 3-3."]

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement for Payment-In-Lieu-Of-Taxes ("PILOT") pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.59, §38H(b), or any other enabling legislation, on such terms and conditions and for a term of years as the Board of Selectmen deems in the best interest of the Town, for taxes attributable to a solar facility to be installed, owned and operated by Solec Energy, or its affiliates, successors or assigns, on the Library roof located at 14 Union Street, Assessors Map 55, Parcel 66, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take such action as may be necessary or convenient to carry out the vote taken hereunder, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

Town Moderator recognized Bill Olson.

Bill Olson said: "I move that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement for Payment-In-Lieu-Of-Taxes ("PILOT") pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.59, §38H(b), or any other enabling legislation, on such terms and conditions and for a term of years as the Board of Selectmen deems in the best interest of the Town, for taxes attributable to a solar facility to be installed, owned and operated by Solec Energy, or its affiliates, successors or assigns, on the Library roof located at 14 Union Street, Assessors Map 55 Parcel 66, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take such action as may be necessary or convenient to carry out the vote taken hereunder."

Seconded.

Vote: 70 in favor; 0 against; 0 abstain. Majority in favor. Motion carries.

Town Moderator thanked those in attendance and asked residents to vote on Thursday, May 6.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Moderator said: "I will now accept a Motion to dissolve."

Seconded.

This Annual Town Meeting is now dissolved at 12:22 pm on May 1, 2021.

**OFFICIAL HAMILTON RESULTS - MA State Primary 9/1/2020**

Registered Voters 5861  
Turnout 2355 40%

**DEMOCRATIC**

	P1	P2	P3	Total
<b>SENATOR IN CONGRESS</b>				
Edward J. Markey	456	427	345	1228
Joseph P. Kennedy, III	263	246	170	679
Write in	1	0	0	1
Blank	1	0	2	3
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>1911</b>

<b>REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS</b>				
Seth Moulton	551	532	397	1480
Jamie M. Belsito	94	60	52	206
Angus G. McQuilken	60	66	58	184
Write in	0	0	0	0
Blank	16	15	10	41
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>1911</b>

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>				
Eileen R. Duff	535	523	399	1457
Write in	1	1	1	3
Blank	185	149	117	451
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>1911</b>

<b>SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT</b>				
Write in	81	84	62	227
Blank	640	589	455	1684
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>1911</b>

<b>REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT</b>				
Write in	64	66	59	189
Blank	657	607	458	1722
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>1911</b>

<b>REGISTER OF PROBATE</b>				
Pamela Casey O'Brien	511	498	367	1376
Write in	2	0	1	3
Blank	208	175	149	532
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>1911</b>

**REPUBLICAN**

	P1	P2	P3	Total
<b>SENATOR IN CONGRESS</b>				
Shiva Ayyadurai	80	60	36	176
Kevin J. O'Connor	94	94	48	236
Write in	3	0	1	4
Blank	6	8	5	19
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>435</b>

<b>REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS</b>				
John Paul Moran	154	131	70	355
Write in	3	0	1	4
Blank	26	31	19	76
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>435</b>

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>				
Write in	14	15	7	36
Blank	169	147	83	399
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>435</b>

<b>SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT</b>				
Bruce E. Tarr	167	156	83	406
Write in	2	0	1	3
Blank	14	6	6	26
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>435</b>

<b>REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT</b>				
Bradford R. Hill	171	157	83	411
Write in	1	0	1	2
Blank	11	5	6	22
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>435</b>

<b>REGISTER OF PROBATE</b>				
Write in	12	11	5	28
Blank	171	151	85	407
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>435</b>

# GREEN RAINBOW

	P1	P2	P3	Total
<b>SENATOR IN CONGRESS</b>				
Write in	1	2	0	3
Blank	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	1	2	0	3

<b>REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS</b>				
Write in	1	1	0	2
Blank	0	1	0	1
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	1	2	0	3

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>				
Write in	1	0	0	1
Blank	0	2	0	2
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	1	2	0	3

<b>SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT</b>				
Write in	1	0	0	1
Blank	0	2	0	2
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	1	2	0	3

<b>REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT</b>				
Write in	1	0	0	1
Blank	0	2	0	2
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	1	2	0	3

<b>REGISTER OF PROBATE</b>				
Write in	1	0	0	1
Blank	0	2	0	2
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	1	2	0	3

# LIBERTARIAN

	P1	P2	P3	Total
<b>SENATOR IN CONGRESS</b>				
Write in	1	3	2	6
Blank	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	1	3	2	6

<b>REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS</b>				
Write in	1	3	1	5
Blank	0	0	1	1
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	1	3	2	6

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>				
Write in	1	1	1	3
Blank	0	2	1	3
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	1	3	2	6

<b>SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT</b>				
Write in	1	1	1	3
Blank	0	2	1	3
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	1	3	2	6

<b>REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT</b>				
Write in	1	1	1	3
Blank	0	2	1	3
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	1	3	2	6

<b>REGISTER OF PROBATE</b>				
Write in	1	1	1	3
Blank	0	2	1	3
<b>TOTAL VOTES</b>	1	3	2	6

PRECINCT	1	2	3	Total
<b>ELECTORS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT</b>				
Biden and Harris (DEM)	1228	1198	938	<b>3364</b>
Hawkins and Walker (GR)	6	7	5	<b>18</b>
Jorgensen and Cohen (L)	33	40	32	<b>105</b>
Trump and Pence (REP)	578	544	336	<b>1458</b>
Write in	14	13	16	<b>43</b>
Blank	18	10	12	<b>40</b>
TOTAL VOTES	1877	1812	1339	<b>5028</b>

<b>SENATOR IN CONGRESS</b>				
Edward J. Markey (DEM)	1154	1124	876	<b>3154</b>
Kevin J. O'Connor (REP)	678	648	428	<b>1754</b>
Write in Shiva Ayyadurai	15	8	4	<b>27</b>
Write in	0	0	1	<b>1</b>
Blank	30	32	30	<b>92</b>
TOTAL VOTES	1877	1812	1339	<b>5028</b>

<b>REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS</b>				
Seth Moulton (DEM)	1254	1228	918	<b>3400</b>
John Paul Moran (REP)	582	540	378	<b>1500</b>
Write in	1	0	5	<b>6</b>
Blank	40	44	38	<b>122</b>
TOTAL VOTES	1877	1812	1339	<b>5028</b>

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>				
Eileen R. Duff (DEM)	1332	1314	986	<b>3632</b>
Write in	44	22	16	<b>82</b>
Blank	501	476	337	<b>1314</b>
TOTAL VOTES	1877	1812	1339	<b>5028</b>

<b>SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT</b>				
Bruce E. Tarr (REP)	1430	1399	1009	<b>3838</b>
Write in	23	34	18	<b>75</b>
Blank	424	379	312	<b>1115</b>
TOTAL VOTES	1877	1812	1339	<b>5028</b>

<b>REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT</b>				
Bradford R. Hill (REP)	1444	1411	1009	<b>3864</b>
Write in	21	33	25	<b>79</b>
Blank	412	368	305	<b>1085</b>
TOTAL VOTES	1877	1812	1339	<b>5028</b>

<b>REGISTER OF PROBATE</b>				
Pamela Casey O'Brien (DEM)	1171	1163	872	<b>3206</b>
Write in	31	18	13	<b>62</b>
Blank	675	631	454	<b>1760</b>
TOTAL VOTES	1877	1812	1339	<b>5028</b>

<b>Question 1</b>				
Yes	1488	1383	1001	<b>3872</b>
No	343	381	282	<b>1006</b>
Blank	46	48	56	<b>150</b>
TOTAL VOTES	1877	1812	1339	<b>5028</b>

<b>Question 2</b>				
Yes	801	808	629	<b>2238</b>
No	999	914	653	<b>2566</b>
Blank	77	90	57	<b>224</b>
TOTAL VOTES	1877	1812	1339	<b>5028</b>

# Local Election December 3, 2020

## Debt Exclusion Vote

### Town Hall Building Renovation

<b>Town of Hamilton</b>	Precinct 1	2162		
	Precinct 2	2115		18.9% Voted
	Precinct 3	1690		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5967</b>		<b>OFFICIAL</b>
	<b>Precinct 1</b>	<b>Precinct 2</b>	<b>Precinct 3</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Debt Exclusion Question</b>				
YES	169	170	122	<b>461</b>
NO	260	234	175	<b>669</b>
Blanks	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	<b>429</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>1130</b>

Shall the Town of Hamilton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to pay costs of the design, construction, renovations and improvements to, and equipping, the Town Hall located at 577 Bay Road, excluding costs to be paid from the Community Preservation Fund, and including design and construction of the renovations and improvements to a temporary Town Hall facility and relocation costs and all other incidental or related costs?

Town of Hamilton		Annual Town Election				May 6, 2021			
Precinct 1	411								
Precinct 2	302	OFFICIAL RESULTS							
Precinct 3	268								
Total	981	Registered Voters 5755 17.05%							
Candidate Name	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	TOTALS	Candidate Name	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	TOTALS
Selectman (3 years)					H-W Library Trustees At Large				
Vote for TWO					(3 years) Vote for TWO				
Blanks	157	114	96	367	Blanks	287	171	197	655
Shawn M. Farrell **	252	186	159	597	Dianne L. Johnson **	279	222	175	676
William A. Olson **	201	160	136	497	Cara A. Fauci	255	210	162	627
Brian L. Shaw	206	139	139	484	Write-ins	1	1	2	4
Write-ins	6	5	6	17					1962
				1962	H-W Library Trustees At Large				
Moderator (1 year)							Hamilton	Wenham	Total
Vote for ONE					Blanks		655	145	800
Blanks	131	77	82	290	Dianne L. Johnson **		676	278	954
William F. Bowler **	277	217	183	677	Cara A. Fauci		627	249	876
Write-ins	3	8	3	14	Write-ins		4	2	6
				981					2636
Board of Assessors (3 years)					H-W Regional School Committee				
Vote for ONE					(3 years) Vote for TWO				
Blanks	130	75	87	292	Blanks	298	172	175	645
Steven G. Ozahowski **	280	225	179	684	Julia C. Campbell	255	223	179	657
Write-ins	1	2	2	5	Jennifer A. Carr	263	207	180	650
				981	Write-ins	6	2	2	10
Planning Board (3 years)									1962
Vote for TWO					H-W Regional School Committee				
Blanks	309	180	206	695			Hamilton	Wenham	Total
Frederick G. Mitchell **	242	190	144	576	Blanks		645	131	776
Jonathan F. Poore	270	228	181	679	Julia C. Campbell		657	275	932
Write-ins	1	6	5	12	Jennifer A. Carr		650	258	908
				1962	Write-ins		10	10	20
Housing Authority (5 years)									2636
Vote for ONE					Question #1 Debt Exclusion Town Hall Renovations				
Blanks	133	80	94	307	Yes	191	130	121	442
Sherryl L. Leonard **	278	222	171	671	No	205	167	141	513
Write-ins	0	0	3	3	Blank	15	5	6	26
				981	42Candidates for Re-election				981



## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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

I am pleased to offer you this annual report highlighting the activities and accomplishments of your Police Department during the calendar year of 2021.

We continue to operate as a full-service “Community Policing Agency”. We have, and always will, welcome and encourage citizen interaction and we look forward to all of your comments. We have been a fully accredited Police Department by the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission since 2012 and we were recertified in 2021. Being an accredited department requires us to continuously evaluate and update our policies and procedures to meet modern day best practices for our police as well as the town of Hamilton. Unfortunately, as a result of COVID restrictions, we were unable to hold several of our annual events. However, in December we held our Christmas Toy Drive which was an enormous success. As a result of everyone’s kindness and giving spirit, we collected over 1200 toys. This year, toys collected went to the Shriner's Hospital to benefit children, who unfortunately were not able to be home for Christmas. As in the past, they also went to local families who may have been experiencing financial difficulties.

We have seen an increase in our overall call for services, which went from 17,071 in 2020 to 19,128 in 2021. By continuing to collaborate together, we can better serve and protect our community. Although I consider Hamilton a very safe town to live in and raise a family, I am still encouraging all residents to lock their homes and vehicles. As in the past, we will continue to build upon our commitment to the community, focusing on promoting a safe environment through a police-citizen partnership with an emphasis on mutual trust, integrity, fairness, honesty and professionalism.

In these trying fiscal times we continue to work efficiently and effectively with other departments within the town in an effort to maximize resources while minimizing costs. We are always exploring ways to provide better services to our residents while reducing overall spending.

As the Chief of Police, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the men and women who make up our Public Safety Team. I am extremely proud of our police officers and dispatchers and would like to thank them for their dedication and compassion as they perform their duties each day.

We will continue to provide Hamilton residents and guests with the highest level of professional law enforcement services possible. We will strive for crime reduction through proven techniques and approaches. Solving quality of life issues and working closely with the public is our goal.

I as well as all Hamilton Officers and Dispatchers sincerely appreciate the support we receive from our community. It is this cooperative effort that makes our community a special place to live and work.

On behalf of the Public Safety Team, we remain thankful to our residents for their unwavering support and for their endless acts of appreciation shown to us throughout the year. Please know that we remain committed to providing you with the best services possible and look forward to serving you in 2022.

<b>Classification</b>	<b>2021</b>
Motor Vehicle Citations Warnings	<b>189</b>
Motor Vehicle Citations Civil	<b>37</b>
Motor Vehicle Citations Criminal Complaints	<b>71</b>
Motor Vehicle Citation Arrests	<b>11</b>
Operating Under the Influence	<b>2</b>
Motor Vehicle Verbal	<b>687</b>
Parking Tickets	<b>13</b>
Motor Vehicle Accidents Total	<b>87</b>
Motor Vehicle Accidents Investigated	<b>78</b>
Crimes Against Persons	<b>19</b>
Crimes Against Property	<b>81</b>
Crimes Against Society	<b>24</b>
Municipal Citations	<b>14</b>
Animal Calls	<b>495</b>
Medical Calls	<b>459</b>
Alarms	<b>299</b>
Pistol Permits/FID Cards.	<b>90</b>
<b>Total Arrests</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Traffic Stops</b>	<b>912</b>
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>19128</b>

(Statistical tabulation based on calendar year)

Respectfully Submitted,

*Russell M. Stevens*

Russell M. Stevens

Chief of Police

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Primary Mission of the Hamilton Fire Department is to provide a range of services designed to protect the lives and property of the citizens of the Town of Hamilton from the effects of Fires, Medical Emergencies or exposure to Dangerous Conditions created by either Man or Nature.

- The fire department was awarded a FEMA grant of \$237,763.00 for new portable radios.
- The fire department planned, organized and ran the first drive thru testing clinic held in the parking lot of the Hamilton Wenham Regional High School.
- Our firefighters took the initiative to be trained to give vaccine shots in preparation for future vaccine distribution.
- As the Federal Government started to distribute Moderna vaccines, our team put in place a large scale emergency dispensing site at the Hamilton Wenham Recreation Center.
- Through the efforts of the Hamilton Fire Department in conjunction with the Hamilton Public Health Nurse, Rachel Lee, we were able to vaccinate a large portion of our most vulnerable citizens of Hamilton and Wenham. Vaccinated over 100 homebound senior citizens in their homes while keeping them safe.
- Hired 3 new call firefighters, each of them are presently in the Call/volunteer recruit class and all three have their EMT's.
- Hired an additional call firefighter who was already trained and had his credentials, along with his EMT.
- Fire personnel Kristine Ellis, Robert Wallace, Jared Dolan and Justin Mullen put together a fire equipment grant and were awarded \$10,952.95 to buy much needed equipment for the fire department.

This past year felt like a rerun of the movie Ground Hog Day. Besides responding to our emergency calls we continued dealing with the COVID 19 day after day, like a bad nightmare. But on January 11, 2021 first responders started to receive the Moderna vaccine at the Topsfield Fair Ground. We now had hope that this soon would be over.

Respectfully Submitted,

Raymond A. Brunet

Fire Chief



## **STAFFING:**

The Hamilton Fire Department is a combination department comprised of a mix of full-time and part-time firefighters. In 2021 we were staffed with five full-time members and 23 part-time firefighters our staff serves the residents of Hamilton by responding to emergency calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at a moment's notice, whenever there is a need for our services

## **NEW RECRUITS:**

This was the third year for our call firefighter recruitment campaign using Facebook and the Town's sign board as the medium to hire new firefighters. After an interview process we hired four of the applicants to become our newest Call Firefighters. Three of these probationary candidates are currently in the Massachusetts Call Volunteer Recruit Program. The fourth was already trained and certified as a firefighter that just bought a house and moved her from Fairfax Virginia.



***Jesse Cook***



***Cameron Borelli***



***Laura Dixon***

Wesley Buckley was the fourth person I hired to the department. He already had earned his Firefighter 1&2 certification prior to being hired from Virginia Department of Fire Programs. In addition to his firefighting training Wesley is a Massachusetts certified Emergency Medical Technician. Wes and his Family bought a house in Hamilton and is a great addition to our department.



***Wesley Buckle***

## **RETIREMENT:**

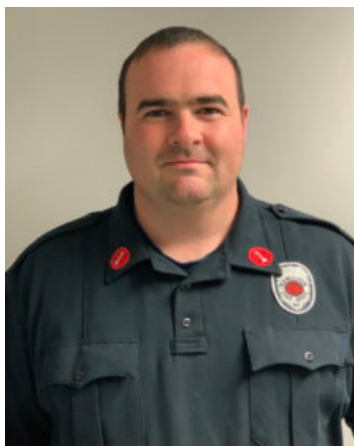
On Jun 30, 2021, Firefighter Steven Collins retired after twenty three years of dedicated service as a call firefighter for the Hamilton Fire Department. He regretted leaving the department but needed to devote his efforts to his position as a DPW foreman in the Town of Danvers.



*Retired Firefighter Steven Collins*

## **Promotion**

This past year I was pleased to announce the promotion of Andrew Ellison to Captain. He was appointed to the department in 2000 as an auxiliary member of the Department. He has earned many certifications including, Firefighter I/II, Incident Safety Officer, EMT and a certified Fire Investigator (IAAI-CFI). Andrew went on to enroll himself in the fire science degree program at North Shore Community College where he then transferred to Worcester Polytechnic Institute. While at W.P.I he earned a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Master's degree in Fire Protection Engineering. Andrew has worked hard for this promotion and is very deserving of it. I am very happy to have him as our Fire Captain



Captian Andrew Ellison

# HAMILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2021 Personnel Roster

<b>NAME</b>	<b>RANK</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>DEPT#</b>	<b>Year of Service</b>
Raymond Brunet	Fire Chief	(FT)	(C-1)	<i>32 years</i>
Andrew Ellison	Captain/EMT	(PT)	(C-2)	<i>20 years</i>
Robert Wallace	Lieutenant /EMT	(FT)	(C-3)	<i>9 years</i>
David Dolan	Lieutenant	(PT)	(C-4)	<i>16years</i>
Ryan Goodwin	Senior FF/EMT	(PT)	(C-5)	<i>15 years</i>
Dave Raymond	Senior FF/EMT	(PT)	(C-6)	<i>6 years</i>
Marc Anderson	Firefighter /EMT	(PT)	(F-21)	<i>1 year</i>
Cameron Borrelli	Probationary FF	(PT)	(F-26)	<i>8 months</i>
Wesley Bickley	Probationary /EMT	(PT)	(F2-5)	<i>8 months</i>
Frank Cirinna	Firefighter	(PT)	(F-8)	<i>11 years</i>
Jesse Cook	Probationary FF	(PT)	(F-23)	<i>8 months</i>
Laura Dixon	Probationary /EMT	(PT)	(F-22)	<i>8 months</i>
Jared Dolan	Firefighter/EMT	(FT)	(F-4)	<i>15 years</i>
Colt Donahue	Firefighter /EMT	(PT)	(F-18)	<i>3 Years</i>
Kristine Ellis	Firefighter/EMT	(FT)	(F-3)	<i>18 years</i>
Timothy Everitt	Firefighter	(PT)	(F-10)	<i>4 years</i>
Jerome Frontiero	Fire Mechanic	(PT)	(M-1)	<i>7 years</i>
Dan Grew	Firefighter/EMT	(PT)	(F-12)	<i>3 years</i>
Dane Jorgensen	Probationary/FF	(PT)	(F-19)	<i>1 year</i>
Kim Maguire	Probationary/FF	(PT)	(F-16)	<i>1 year</i>
Dan McCormack	Probationary/FF	(PT)	(F-15)	<i>3 Years</i>
Justin Mullen	Firefighter/EMT	(FT)	(F-7)	<i>8.years</i>
Andre Painchaud	Firefighter/EMT-P	(PT)	(F-2)	<i>18 years</i>
Chris Raymond	Firefighter/EMT	(PT)	(F-11)	<i>4 years</i>
Scott Seiler	Firefighter	(PT)	(F-14)	<i>2 years</i>
Andrew Smith	Firefighter/PMT	(PT)	(F20)	<i>1 months</i>
Benjamin Tuneburg	Firefighter	(PT)	(F-5)	<i>13 years</i>
Rick Villa	Firefighter/EMT	(PT)	(F-17)	<i>4 years</i>
<i>Glen Preston</i>	Fire Instructor	(PT)		<i>26 years</i>
Kevin Baird	Chaplain	(Volunteer)		<i>7 Years</i>
Sandy Painchaud	Photographer	(Volunteer)		<i>18 Years</i>

## **INCIDENTS – 2020**

House fires	4
Rescue	532
Hazardous Condition (No fire)	29
Good Intent	45
False Calls	214
Severe Weather	8
Service Call	102
<u>Special Incident Type</u>	<u>5</u>
<b>Total Fire Calls</b>	<b>939</b>
<b>Emergency Medical Calls</b>	<b>461</b>
<b>TOTAL CALLS:</b>	<b>1400</b>

### **TRAINING:**

The Hamilton Fire Department strives to be professional. We hold monthly training drills for our members in order to keep our firefighter skills sharp and current with the latest technologies. Although this past year was a bit of a challenge trying to keep up with our training with the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions

I am happy to inform you that we now have eighteen members of our department that are nationally certified Emergency Medical Technicians. One of my long term goals for the department is to have all of our members trained as EMT's.

This is the third year we have hosted the Call/Volunteer Recruit Certification Program. By having the class here at our station, it makes it much easier for the recruits to attend from the local area departments. This class is set up to teach new candidates the skills needed to do the job of firefighting. When they have completed the 315 hour course, they will be certified level 1&2 firefighters. This year we enrolled three of our newest firefighters in the class this year and as of February 28, 2022 they should all have graduated. It is my plan to host the class one more time in 2023.

### **EQUIPMENT:**

2017 Pierce Impel 1500 gallon per minute pumper, "Engine 1"  
1985 International Ranger Pumper, "Engine 2"  
2004 Pierce Saber, 1250 GPM Pumper, "Engine 3"  
2014 Pierce Impel Quint Pumper & Ladder, "Ladder 4"  
2006 Ford F-550 Brush truck & Medical, "Squad 5"  
2020 F-350 Utility Pick up Chiefs Truck," Squad 7"  
2014 F-250 Utility Pick up, "Squad 8"  
1994 E350 Support Van "506"

## **FIRE PREVENTION:**

The Department has had challenges in educating the community this year due to the pandemic. As a result of Coronavirus, we were only able to conduct a limited amount of outreach programs with the school aged children and seniors.

These efforts are funded with monies received from the S.A.F.E. Grant. Last year we were awarded \$3,965.00 for the school aged SAFE program and \$ 2348.00 for the Senior SAFE Program from the Mass Department of Fire Services. These funds were used to purchase props, teaching aids and supplies to be used in conjunction with our public education programs. Our firefighters had planned to visit with every Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade class rooms and they were scheduled to make many home visits with seniors citizens of the community. However, our efforts were thwarted due to Covid-19. Nevertheless, we were able to work outside with some of the classes as the opportunity presented itself to us and helped some seniors on a necessity based criteria.

Educational facilities are mandated by Massachusetts NFPA 1 Fire Code to conduct four fire drills per year per school, of which two can be substituted with lock down drills. Fire and lock down drills were practiced at all the public schools as well as Pingree School and Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary.

The inspection department was still able to conduct a variety of fire prevention inspections in spite of the problems presented by COVID-19. The number of inspections increased slightly this year.

## **PREVENTION STATS:**

Permits – 314  
Inspections –315  
Plan Review – 6  
Public Education – 1  
Fire Drills and/or lock downs – 44  
Senior SAFE Program (Smoke/CO Detectors 2, Lock Boxes–3 home)  
Fire Prevention Programs – 1

## **OPEN BURNING:**

Open burning season is from January 15 to May 1st. We kept our permit fees the same as last year, \$20 for the season with a discounted rate of \$10 for senior citizens. We have four agricultural burning permit holders left within the town. The Department of Environmental Protection Agency continues to change the requirements for farms which limit some of them from qualifying for this type of permit. The farms that are still allowed to burn can do so year round with the Fire Chief's approval as long as weather conditions are favorable.

- Open Burning Permits-303
- Agricultural Permits – 4



## **INSPECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

The Hamilton Building Department enforces all of the provisions of the Massachusetts State Building Code, the Town of Hamilton Zoning Bylaws and Bylaws, State Statutes, and the Regulations of the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board while assisting the public and reviewing all building, electrical, plumbing, gas fitting, sheet metal, mechanical, generator, Zoning Board of Appeals applications.

The Inspectional Services Department would like to thank Robert "BJ" Brown Jr. for being a dedicated Electrical Inspector. In 2021 BJ left his role as the Electrical Inspector for the Town of Hamilton to teach young men and women at the Essex North Agricultural & Technical High School.

The Hamilton Inspectional Services Department is staffed by Building Commissioner Richard P. Maloney, the Electrical Inspector Denis Curran, and the Plumbing & Gas Fitting Inspector Kevin Dash. It is their responsibility to inspect permitted work and to ensure the work is compliant to the State Codes and the Town Bylaws. These three hardworking Inspectors also work for the Town of Wenham per an agreement between the two towns.

In 2021 the vast majority of Building Permits issued were projects which strongly illustrated Hamilton residents reinvested in their property. The variety of projects inspected by the Department mainly included interior remodels, construction of additions, finishing basement space, renovating kitchens, installing generators, installing roof top solar arrays, installing insulation, installing sheds, roof repairs and replacements, and installing pools. There were 462 Building Permits issued in 2021 which was 53 more than 2020. There were 276 Electrical Permits issued and 223 Plumbing and Gas Fitting Permits issued.

In December 2021, after three years of construction, the last of the 23 units at Canter Brook Lane was completed and a final Certificate of Occupancy was issued by the Building Department. The Canter Brook Lane Subdivision, which was permitted as a Senior Housing Special Permit as issued by the Planning Board consists of twenty three units; either attached townhomes or single units constructed on an approximately fourteen acre lot which is located between Highland Street and Asbury Street.

In February 2021, a Building Permit was issued to EIP Communications, LLC, to construct a communication/cell tower at 577 Bay Road (behind Hamilton Town Hall). The structure is completed and cell service is expected to be provided by Verizon in the first half of 2022 once Verizon has installed their wireless equipment.

In March 2021, a Building Permit was issued to Traggorth Companies to begin construction at 59-63 Willow Street on a Mixed-Use Development with 18 residential units and one commercial space. Completion is scheduled for spring/summer 2022.

Building and Electrical Permits were issued to complete modifications to the existing communication/cell tower located at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary which is located internally within the existing steeple on the property.

Local restaurants that serve or sell alcohol are inspected annually by the Building Commissioner and the Fire Inspector. The A.P. Gardner Post, Black Cow Restaurant, Honeycomb, Myopia Hunt Club, 15 Walnut Tavern, and the Weathervane Tavern were issued Certificates of Inspection. The Community Center, the three daycare facilities located in the town, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Pingree School, Winthrop Elementary, Cutler Elementary, and the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School were also inspected and issued Certificates of Inspection.

All applications may be found on the Town web site: [hamiltonma.gov](http://hamiltonma.gov), or by visiting the Town Hall during regular hours of business.

Respectfully submitted by the Inspectional Services Department,

Richard P. Maloney, Building Commissioner

Mary Ellen Feener, Administrative Assistant

Patrick Reffett, Director of Planning and Inspectional Services

## SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

I hereby submit my report as Sealer of Weights and Measures for the Town of Hamilton from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. I have inspected, sealed, adjusted, or condemned, a total of 65 Measuring Units. Fees totaling \$2,375.00 were billed. Below is a detailed summary:

9/24	Crosby's Market	17 devices	\$595.00
10/15	Cumberland Farms	14 devices	\$490.00
10/15	Hamilton Convenience	8 devices	\$280.00
11/17	A & M Motors	16 devices	\$560.00
11/17	Welch & Lamson Inc.	2 devices	\$180.00
12/13	Lahey Family Medicine	4 devices	\$170.00
12/13	CVS	2 devices	\$ 50.00
12/13	Connelly's Pharmacy Inc.	2 devices	\$ 50.00
		65 total devices	\$2,375 total billed

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Rose

Inspector of Weights and Measures

## **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Historically, the Town of Hamilton Zoning Board of Appeals meets on the first Wednesday of the month in the Memorial Room on the first floor of Town Hall. However, due to recent events meetings have been held via Zoom since June 2020. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend the meetings. The Zoning Board of Appeals hears and decides applications for Special Permits, Findings, Variances and Comprehensive Permits. In 2021 the Zoning Board of Appeals met nine times and along with Regular Business the following Applications were reviewed:

- 3 Beech Street: Approval was granted to construct a 21'6" x 47" addition in the rear of the existing dwelling.
- 231 Sagamore Street: Approval was granted to construct a 2 story, 3 bay garage, with a second floor accessory apartment.
- 947 Highland Street: Approval was granted to demolish an existing barn and replace with a new barn on the existing footprint.
- 140 Echo Cove Road: Approval was to demolish an existing shed and construct a 36' x 24' three bay garage.
- 107 School Street: Approval was granted to demolish an existing garage and construct a new garage which would exceed the original footprint with a second story family room and bathroom.
- 275 Asbury Street: Approval was granted to demolish an existing deck and construct a 10' x 18' deck and 3.5' x 6' stairs.
- 434-436 Asbury Street: Approval was granted for the Comprehensive Permit pursuant to MGL 40B to construct ten dwelling units.
- 30 Union Street: Approval was granted to construct a two level addition at the rear of the existing dwelling.
- 18 Cottage Street: Approval was granted to construct a front porch on the existing dwelling
- 165 Forest Street: Approval was granted to construct an addition
- 505 Bay Road: Harrigan's can now have a sandwich board sign outside of the business – the sign application was approved.
- 95 Homestead Circle: Approval was granted to construct an addition for an in-law apartment
- 22 Cummings Avenue: Approval was granted to remove a two car garage and replaced it with a one car garage and add a second floor.
- One application was withdrawn: 14 Boston Avenue and one application was denied: 31 Rust Street

Massachusetts General Laws and the Town Zoning Bylaws dictate how a Zoning Board may conduct business; from posting agendas and processing applications to how decisions are rendered, written, and filed. If you would like to learn more about the Roles and Responsibilities of Zoning Board Members, the State Zoning Law, the Town Zoning Bylaws, or to view Agendas and Meeting Minutes, you may want to visit the Town web site: [hamiltonma.gov](http://hamiltonma.gov)

The purpose of Zoning is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community .The Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals are Chair William Bowler, Bruce Gingrich, and David Perinchief. The Zoning Board of Appeals Members would like to thank Eric Salines for serving on Board during 2021 and to welcome new Alternate Board Member Andrea Philip. The dedicated Town employees who support the Zoning Board of Appeals are the Building Commissioner Richard P. Maloney, the Director of Planning & Inspectional Services Patrick Reffett, and the Administrative Assistant Mary-Ellen L. Feener.

Respectfully for the Zoning Board of Appeals,

William Bowler, Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Department of Public Works employees continue to perform their many and varied functions and continue to provide public services to the residents and other departments. Fiscal Year 2021 included the following highlights:

### **ADMINISTRATION**

DPW Staff: DPW welcomed one new employee this year. Brad Isbell was hired on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as the Highway Heavy Equipment Operator following the departure of Scott McCulloch.

Annual Reporting: The Town of Hamilton has maintained compliance with all the annual reporting required by MassDEP. Reports include the Water Annual Statistics Report (ASR), the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), and the Solid Waste Survey.

### **FACILITIES**

Hamilton Town Hall Preservation: The project was advertised for public bid in the fall of 2020. The town received 6 bids and the low bid was approximately \$800k less than the engineering estimate. At FTM 2020, the Town Hall Building Committee (THBC) presented the low bid and a project update to the residents. The project received approval at town meeting to have placed on the special election ballot. The special election took place in November 2020, however the project did not receive majority vote. The THBC regrouped and re-engaged the public with the assistance of a consultant to increase educating efforts to the general public. Following that effort the project was put back in front of the general public for town vote at ATM 2021 and received approval. The project was then placed on the May 2021 special election ballot, but unfortunately failed again to achieve majority vote. Since the May election this project has been put on hold.

Hamilton Fuel Facility: In efforts to replace the old underground fuel facility, located at the Hamilton DPW garage, Hamilton and Wenham established a partnership to evaluate if a shared fueling facility would be economical and operationally beneficial for both communities. After performing a pilot program over the last year at the Iron Rail Facility in Wenham, it was determined that the best interest for Hamilton would be to pursue an independent facility in the town boundary. Public Safety divisions all were all in agreement that having the facility in Hamilton was most beneficial for the safety response, fueling scheduling, and the physical location of the facility positioned near the center of Hamilton, instead of at the outskirts of a neighboring community. Having an independent facility will allow Hamilton to also maintain Wenham as a backup facility if needed and vice-versa for the Wenham. Hamilton DPW plans to seek proposals for a new facility and present to town meeting at a future date.

### **HIGHWAY**

Roadway Improvements: The Town contracted with D&R Paving, Inc. to mill and overlay a series of roadways throughout Town. D&R. New sidewalks were installed along Linden Street, along a portion of School Street, and at the intersection of Madonna Drive and Highland Street. This project was completed in the Spring of 2021.

Downtown Electrical Service: The Highway Department assisted an electrical contractor with the installation of an electrical service along Railroad Avenue. This new available service will allow the community proper electrical hook up for downtown events and lighting activities.

Chebacco Road Reconstruction: The Chebacco Road project team advanced the permits for the project and engaged with Abutters and other stakeholders. In June of 2020, the Environmental Notification Form was submitted for MEPA review. Throughout the summer, the project team worked with regulators to address concerns on the design's stormwater management. The design plans were revised, based on comments received, and submitted to the Town of Hamilton Conservation Commission in December 2020. The project received an Order of Conditions on January 13, 2021. The revised design was submitted to MEPA in February 2021 and approved in March 2021. While permitting was ongoing, the project team met with abutters from Hamilton and MBTS to provide updates on the project and attended annual town meetings to gain approval for the project's design.

Sharon Road: Hamilton DPW officially closed Sharon Road on the Asbury Street side. DPW installed some landscaping stone and reflector strips with plans to add some additional landscaping to the area in the spring/summer of 2021.

Tree Maintenance: DPW contracted with Mayer Tree Services to continue to assist the Town with the performed routine tree maintenance and removed diseased and hazardous trees. National Grid provided additional tree trimming and removals along the electrical feeds throughout town.

## **STORMWATER**

NPDES MS4 Permit Compliance: The Town of Hamilton is regulated under the EPA 2016 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit for their stormwater system. As part of this permit in 2021, the Town continued to implement a public education and outreach program and encouraged public involvement and participation through their annual Hazardous waste drop off day. The dry weather outfall inspection/sampling program was finalized and all of the Town's regulated drainage outfalls have been inspected for signs of potential pollution, with no evidence detected. A Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) and an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) program which were developed in previous years were updated to include current information. The Town's stormwater regulation was updated to stay current with permit requirements. The Town will continue to implement and improve Best Management Practices over the permit term to protect water quality and reduce discharge pollutants into the stormwater system.

## **CEMETERY**

Cemetery Restoration and Treatment: The Hamilton Cemetery received a sequential restoration project starting late spring 2021. Hamilton DPW stripped and removed close to 150,000 square feet of damaged grass and soil and replaced with new topsoil and hydro-seed treatment. This large area, as in 2020, was heavily damaged by grubs and the Town has committed to an annual grub treatment to preserve the cemetery grounds in 2022.

## **SANITATION**

Waste Collection: The Town continues to provide scheduled leaf pick-ups in the fall and spring and continues to provide monthly E-Waste drop off events to allow residents to leave: monitors, televisions, computers, white goods, etc. for a small fee at Town Hall.

Household Hazardous Waste Day: The annual Household Hazardous Waste Day was held on October 3rd, 2020 and nearly 100 vehicles brought material for disposal.

## **WATER ENTERPRISE**

Well Maintenance: The Plateau Well was serviced and redeveloped in 2020. This well was brought back on-line following the service work and producing optimum withdrawal to satisfy the water demand of the Town.

Phase 4 Water System Improvements: The Phase 4 Water System Improvements Project was initiated due to a critical need for aging water distribution system infrastructure and supply redundancy. C. Naughton Corp of Bridgewater, MA was contracted to replace old asbestos cement and cast iron pipe and appurtenances with a history of leaks on Forest Street, Village Lane and Beech Street. In addition, inoperative fire hydrants on Bay Road, Highland Street, Fox Run Road and Tally Ho Drive were replaced to improve firefighting capacities. Lastly, the Town water system's interconnection with its' sole source of storage in Bridge Street was replaced and reconfigured to provide important future operability and maintenance. In total approximately 5,200 linear feet of pipe, 43 valves, 20 fire hydrants and 80 domestic water services were replaced on the project.

Pre-Treatment Facility: Based on the findings of the final treatment evaluation report dated July 17, 2020 as completed by Dewberry Engineers Inc., the most favorable strategy recommended to mitigate TTHM formation at the existing Idlewood Water Treatment Facility was to reduce levels of TOCs within the Idlewood wells through a new GAC adsorption system. This new system will be installed at the head of the plant to remove as much TOCs from the Idlewood wells as possible prior to being treated for iron and manganese removal. Upon obtaining BOS approval, the Town contracted the services of Dewberry Engineers Inc. for the design and construction of the new GAC adsorption system in August 2020. The final design for the new facility including the GAC adsorption system, pre-engineered metal building, package booster pump system, process work and related systems was completed in March 2021. The final design documents were submitted to MassDEP for approval to construct on March 19, 2021 and the project was advertised for bid on May 6th, 2021. Bids were received on June 10th, 2021. Due to only receiving one bid which was more than what the Town had appropriated for the project, it was decided to re-bid the project in the Fall 2021 anticipating a more favorable bid climate.

Idlewood Test Well Investigation: The final test well exploration report summarizing the results of the test well drilling program performed in March 2020 to identify a satellite replacement well location for Idlewood #2 was completed by Dewberry Engineers Inc. and submitted to the Town on July 17, 2020. Four (4) locations for sampling and developing a test well were selected in total. The intent was to find a well site that was hydraulically connected to the aquifer for production capacity but had a physical separation with the low-lying wet area to provide some natural filtration of the organics present within the No. 2 well. Based on the initial development, two test well locations were selected for further testing by performing a two (2) hour pumping test to estimate potential well yield and obtain water samples for laboratory analysis. Based on the water quality sampling results, an extended 8-hour pump test was conducted at one of the wells to further evaluate its potential as a suitable replacement well. Unfortunately, the results of the extended pump test were not favorable, having high concentrations of iron, to support the installation of a new satellite replacement well for the Idlewood No. 2 well. It was recommended to cease any further testing at this time. An area along the ridge beyond the well site where the extended pump test was conducted was identified for future testing if needed.

AWIA Risk and Resilience Assessment: Per the EPA, under the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, small community water systems serving a population between 3,300 and 50,000 such as Hamilton were required to assess the risks and resilience of its critical water system assets to malevolent acts and natural hazards by June 30, 2021. The Town completed the EPA-provided checklist which included the following 10 asset categories: 1) physical barriers 2) source water 3) pipes and constructed conveyances 4) pretreatment and treatment 5) storage and distribution facilities 6) electronic, computer or other automated systems 7) monitoring practices 8) financial infrastructure 9) the use, storage and handling of chemicals and 10) the operation and maintenance of the system. The completed checklist was certified as required with the EPA on June 28th, 2021. This checklist is required to be reviewed and revised as needed every five years.



## ENERGY MANAGER

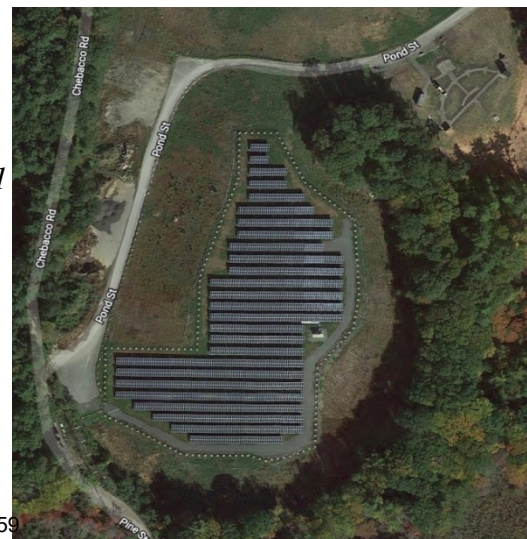
The Energy Manager position is shared between the Towns of Hamilton and Wenham and the Hamilton Wenham Regional School District. The Energy Manager position is currently funded for up to 7 hours per week total. The Energy Manager is responsible for a number of ongoing tasks in addition to specific project work. Primarily, the Energy Manager is responsible to continually measure and monitor the comprehensive energy use at all municipal facilities in the Town of Hamilton. This task allows the Town to measure the performance of completed energy projects and identify opportunities for future projects. The Energy Manager also serves as a liaison between municipal Departments to facilitate energy projects, and routinely works with the Town Manager, the Finance Director, the Public Works Department, the Facilities Department of the Hamilton Wenham Regional School District (HWRSD) and various other branches of municipal government. Finally, the Energy Manager serves as a primary contact point for state agencies on energy grant programs and other energy initiatives.

The Energy Manager oversaw a number of projects in 2021. A brief summary of each project is presented under each project heading below.

**Manage Measurement & Verification Phase of ESCo Project:** In 2021, the Energy Manager continued to work with Johnson Controls (JCI) to assess, document and mitigate the lackluster results Hamilton has experienced with the energy efficiency improvements completed in 2011 and guaranteed under an Energy Services (performance) contract (ESCo). The \$400,000 ESCo was guaranteed to result in a 16% energy reduction from the baseline. The project has under-performed, resulting in a less than 5% energy reduction from the baseline. After thoroughly reviewing the annual Measurement & Verification (M&V) Report, the Energy Manager worked to collect the Year 10 shortfall payment from JCI in 2021, and continues to protect the Town's best interest as the project moves forward through the 12-year contract period.

**Land-Based Solar on Capped Landfill:** In 2021, the Energy Manager in partnership with the Public Works Director oversaw interconnection of the 0.93 megawatt land-based solar PV array on the Town's municipal landfill on Chebacco Road. The Town partnered with Ameresco through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) whereby the Town will purchase all of the power generated by the array to offset its municipal energy use. Mechanically complete in 2019, activation of the array finally occurred in December 2021 due to Land Court delays. The array is expected to generate 877,699 kWh in Year 1, which will degrade to 797,966 kWh in Year 20 of the PPA. The power will be sold to the Town at a rate \$0.02 below the National Grid rate for the duration of the contract. Projected revenue to the Town as a result of the PPA is \$20,000 annually.

*The Landfill PV Array  
was Activated in December 2021*



**Green Community Designation:** The Town of Hamilton was designated as a Green Community by MA DOER in 2010. The Energy Manager maintains the designation by preparing and submitting an Annual Report in December that includes energy tracking for the previous fiscal year for all municipal energy accounts, and presents a strategy for continuing to work towards reducing municipal energy use by 20% from the baseline year. During active grant projects, the Energy Manager prepares and submits quarterly reports to the granting agency, reimbursement requests, and a Final Report to close out the grant.

**HWRSD Weatherization, Energy Management System, and Lighting Retrofit to LED:** The Town was awarded a \$157,382 Green Communities (GC) Competitive Grant in July 2021 for interior lighting retrofits to LED at the HWRSD Administration Building, Weatherization at the Buker School and the Administration Building, and a baseline Energy Management System at the Buker School. The weatherization projects were completed in 2021 and the remaining projects are scheduled to be completed in 2022. When complete, the projects are estimated to save a total of 21,236 kWh in electricity and 12,606 therms of natural gas annually, for a total of \$16,216 annually.



*Weather Stripping on Exterior Doors at HWRSD Administration Building*

**Electric Vehicle Charging Station at Patton Park:** The Energy Manager applied for funding for an electric vehicle (EV) DC Fast Charging (DCFC) station in the parking lot of Patton Park along Asbury St. through the Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program (MassEVIP) in April 2021. We are awaiting announcement of the grant award, which will be coupled with funding from National Grid to total the full project amount of nearly \$160,000. The station will be available for public use.

**HVAC Study at the Public Safety Building:** The Energy Manager applied for and was successful in securing funding for an HVAC Retrocommissioning Study at the Public Safety Building. The \$15,000 in funding was made available through a Municipal Energy Technical Assistance Grant within MADOER. B2Q Associates began the study in the Fall of 2021, the results of which will be turned into a Green Communities Grant application in the spring of 2022 to complete the recommended upgrades. The study was warranted due to issues with occupant comfort, excessive energy use at the building, and moisture concerns.

**Solar PV on Municipal Buildings:** After the Energy Manager oversaw a grant-funded feasibility study on the solar potential on the roof of the Library / Recreation Center, in 2020 the Town signed a Letter of Intent to partner with Solect Energy to design and install the rooftop PV array. The partnership will be similar to that at the landfill; the Town will enter into a PPA whereby the Town will purchase all of the power generated by the array to offset its municipal energy use. The array is expected to generate 151,953 kWh and save the Town \$3,000 annually. A contract to replace the shingle roof is expected to be executed in early 2022, after which the solar array will be installed.



*Solar Design on Library/Recreation; 137.7 kW DC*

**Competitive Energy Supply:** For the sixth year in a row, the Energy Manager has overseen Competitive Energy Supply Agreements for electricity for both the Town of Hamilton and HWRSD. Both the Town of Hamilton and HWRSD use EnerConnex, an energy broker, to conduct a competitive bid process and determine the most advantageous contract term and price of electricity for each entity. The contract term for both entities expired in 2020 so the contracts were re-bid. The Town was successful in locking in a new four-year contract for electricity supply at \$0.08985/kWh, down from the previous contract price of \$0.09870. Both rates are well below the National Grid Basic Service Rate.

**Community Energy Aggregation:** The Energy Manager continues to monitor Hamilton's Community Choice Aggregation program; a bulk-buying program for electricity available to all Hamilton residents and businesses. The Town's initial twenty-four month contract with NextEra for electricity supply expired in December, 2020 so the Town in partnership with Good Energy, an energy broker, went out for bid for a new contract in May, 2020. Constellation was awarded the contract which has a term of thirty-six months, expiring in December,) and 100% Local Green products offered in the last contract. Constellation's rate for residential service is locked 2023. New this contract, Constellation is offering a 50% additional renewable energy product in addition to the Basic (0% additional in at \$0.11038/kWh as compared to the National Grid rate through April 30, 2021 of \$0.12388/kWh.

#### **Aggregation Program Summary**

Total Eligible Accounts at Program Launch in 2018: 2,569

Total Accounts Enrolled as of December 2021: 2,131

Participation Percentage: 83%

Program details available at: [www.hamiltoncca.com](http://www.hamiltoncca.com)

How do I join or leave program? Opt-in or Opt-out online at [www.hamiltoncca.com](http://www.hamiltoncca.com)

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria A. Masone, P.E., Energy Manager

## **TOWN HALL BUILDING COMMITTEE**

The Town Hall Building Committee was established as an Advisory Committee to the Board of Selectmen in January 2017 with a charter to make recommendations on the design and renovation of Town Hall. Entering FY21, Town Meeting had already approved all required funds for the project except for the actual construction costs. The THBC put the project out for public bid in October 2020 and then supported the actions necessary to bring the project forward for approval at the Special Town Meeting in November 2020 and at the following special election at the polls in December 2020. However, failing to get approval at the polls, the THBC then revised their funding ask and tried for approval at the Annual Town Meeting in May 2021 and subsequent municipal election in June 2021. After failing to get the funds approved at the polls once again, the THBC was disbanded in June 2021 and the project placed on hold.

### **November 2020 STM Construction Funding Ask and follow-on Special Election Vote**

- Total Project Cost = \$8,887,282 ~ \$8.9M
- DPW Ask for construction funds = \$4,683,155 ~ \$4.7M, with the estimated second year effect on the tax rate = \$0.20
- The STM vote for construction costs was 92 Yes, 26 No, and 2 Abstentions, and therefore passed by the necessary 2/3's margin
- The Special Election vote failed with 461 Yes, and 669 No (208 vote differential) with 1130 voters out of 5967 registered voters participating or 18.9%.

### **May 2021 ATM Construction Funding Ask and follow-on Municipal Election Vote**

- Total Project Cost = \$8,671,127 ~ \$8.7M
- DPW Ask for construction funds = \$3,400,000 ~ \$3.4M, with the estimated second year effect on the tax rate = \$0.15
- The ATM vote for construction costs was 103 Yes, 21 No, and 1 Abstention, and therefore passed by the necessary 2/3's margin
- The Municipal Election vote failed with 442 Yes, and 513 No (71 vote differential) with 981 voters out of 5755 registered voters participating or 17.05%.

### **Outstanding, Approved Community Preservation Grants**

- CPC grants for construction totally \$4M, approved in FY 21, are valid if a future Town Meeting and Special Election approve the DPW construction fund Ask and construction starts by 11/15/22.

Mike Twomey, Chair

Jay Butler

Jack Lawrence

Jean-Pierre Minois

Rosemary Kennedy, Board of Selectmen

Darcy Dale, Board of Selectmen

Patrick Reffett, Director of Planning and Inspections

Tim Olson, Director of Public Works

## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST**

The mission of the Hamilton Affordable Housing Trust (HAHT) is to increase the availability of affordable housing in Hamilton. Approximately five years ago, the Trust embarked on a program to determine sites that might be appropriate for affordable housing, and established a vetting process which permits a straightforward approach to selecting potential locations for development of affordable housing. During the 2021 fiscal year (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021), however, the HAHT focused on facilitating and monitoring several projects identified during the previous fiscal year.

The 2021 fiscal year commenced with Marnie Crouch, serving as Chair, and a membership comprised of David Smith, William Massos, and Jamie Knudsen, who also serves on the Board of Selectmen. In August of 2020, the members of the HAHT interviewed Hunter Carroll and recommended to the Board of Selectmen that he be appointed to the HAHT. His service on the HAHT was approved by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Massos resigned from the HAHT in April of 2021. He was replaced by Suzanne Soffa whose membership was endorsed by the HAHT following an interview and whose appointment was approved by the Board of Selectmen. Patrick Shannon became the coordinator for the HAHT at the beginning of the fiscal year.

The HAHT applied for and was granted an award of \$200,000.00 from the Community Preservation Committee, which award was approved at Town Meeting. The HAHT also received a second payment of \$217,500.00 from Canter Brook Capital, LLC pursuant to the provisions of the Senior Housing Bylaw and the Inclusionary Housing Bylaw with respect to its development of the Village at Canter Brook Farm.

During fiscal year 2021, the HAHT resolved, with the assistance of Town Counsel, a legal issue with respect to recordation of deed riders establishing that two condominium units built by Habitat for Humanity North Shore, Inc., located at 270 Asbury Street, would remain affordable in perpetuity. Upon resolution of the issue and the recordation of deed riders, the two units, which had been sold and were occupied, were added to the Town's Subsidized Housing Index (SHI).

The HAHT also considered a proposal by Habitat for Humanity North Shore, Inc., which merged with Merrimac Valley Habitat for Humanity to become Essex County Habitat for Humanity (Habitat) during the fiscal year. The proposal involved the development of ten (10) units of affordable housing to be located at 434-436 Asbury Street. The HAHT previously had advanced \$35,000.00 for Habitat to obtain an extension of its purchase option for the property. Habitat sought and obtained the HAHT's support for its project, as well as a commitment of \$400,000.00 to facilitate its purchase of the property.

The HAHT was actively involved in monitoring and funding a project located on property owned by the Hamilton Development Corporation (HDC) located at 59-63 Willow Street and acquired at the end of April 2021 by a nominee of the Traggorth Companies, LLC. The Willow Street project is comprised of eighteen (18) market rate and affordable rental units, as well as commercial space. All eighteen units will be eligible for inclusion on the SHI. On April 9, 2020, HAHT had voted unanimously to contribute \$500,000 toward development of the project, and, after the sale of the property to Willow Street Hamilton, LLC at the end of April 2021, the HAHT advanced \$218,139.77 of its \$500,000.00 commitment toward construction. The HAHT is participating in funding the Willow Street project along with a consortium of lenders, and its interests are protected by a note and mortgage.

HAHT continued its dialogue with the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (GCTS) Task Force, chaired by HAHT member David Smith, and the seminary's administration to investigate the potential for the development of affordable housing on the seminary campus. Mr. Smith apprised the HAHT of the Task Force's on-going discussions with GCTS administrators and the HAHT remains optimistic that affordable housing will be available on the campus in the future.

## **BOARD OF HEALTH**

The Hamilton Board of Health is responsible for implementing and overseeing the laws, policies and regulations of the Board of Health, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Responsibilities of the Board of Health include inspections and permitting of septic systems, installers, haulers, Title 5 inspectors, and maintenance professionals, retail food establishments, retail tobacco, public and semi-public swimming pools, recreational camps for children, and keeping of animals/stables. In addition, the Board of Health conducts health clinics, addresses concerns of public nuisance, air quality, noise, insect control, beaver and mosquito management, food protection, housing complaints, Title 5 concerns, and communicable disease reporting.

The Board of Health consists of three members serving a three-year term. David Smith serves as Chair and Dr. Giselle Perez and Christopher Small as members. Leslie Whelan was the Health Agent until June 30 when she was terminated. Chris Lee was the Public Health Nurse until November when she resigned, and Rachel Lee took over her position. Roberta Cody was the Food, Camp and Pool Inspector, Hayes Demeule is Animal Inspector. Because of the burden the Covid-19 pandemic imposed on the Town and lack of professional staff, David Smith served as voluntary acting full-time Health Director.

FY2021 was the most challenging time ever faced by the Hamilton Board of Health. The Board members and Public Health Nurse, understanding the severity and scope of the public health problems caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, maintained almost daily communication with the state DPH, Town Manager, our counterparts in Wenham, and the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District Committee and administration. The Board served as a crucial link between the federal and state agencies and their resources and the Town government and residents. The Board imposed several Orders on businesses, facilities, and residents to protect public health including masking, social distancing, and closure of public facilities and schools. The Board worked continuously with the School District administration, teachers' union, and parents, and with other schools in Town to provide guidance and criteria on whether to adopt in-person or remote learning modes and on safe practices for activities.

Our Public Health Nurse was overwhelmed with our legal obligation to follow-up on every positive case of Covid-19 infection, at times having to pursue as many as 60 new cases every week, with each one entailing counseling the affected resident and then contacting all of their close contacts. Fortunately, she was able to engage the assistance of several part-time nurses to help with Contact Tracing which is required by state law. As soon as the state DPH made Covid-19 vaccines available under CDC guidelines, Rachel Lee made Hamilton one of the first communities in the state to institute a vaccine administration program for its residents and employees and she organized vaccine clinics at several local venues. In February, she had fully vaccinated over 1,000 local area first responders. By June, she had supervised administration of thousands of doses of vaccines to residents. As soon as Covid-19 tests became available through the state DPH, the Board worked to create testing access for its residents. The Board worked closely with the Council on Aging and Senior Center to ensure that our seniors, our most vulnerable residents, had convenient access to testing and vaccines and to all the support necessary to ensure their wellbeing and safety.

Throughout the pandemic, the Board coordinated closely with the Town Manager, Select Board, and administration to ensure that every part of Town government was acting with the best factual information on Covid-19 to ensure the safety of Town employees and residents. Also, the Board used all social media to constantly inform our residents of the best practices to help minimize the risks of contracting Covid-19 and to answer residents' questions.



## CAPE ANN VETERANS SERVICES: Serving The Town Of Hamilton

July 1, 2021, the Town of Hamilton completed its first full year as part of the Cape Ann Veterans Service District, joining the communities of Gloucester, Manchester-by-the-Sea, and Rockport with the Town of Wenham joining our the Cape Ann Veterans Service District on this day as well. Hamilton is home to an estimated 243 Veterans as of April 2022 making up approximately 3% of the total population of 8,051.

Cape Ann Veterans Services participated at the Patton Homestead Military History Day in July 2021, setting up a booth and providing attendees with information on services and advertisement materials. The office attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Purple Heart Trail 10K & Run at the Patton Homestead in November 2021

Our focus over the past year has been assisting Veterans and their families with applying for MGL Chp. 115 Veterans Benefits, VA Service Connected Claims, burial benefits and Veterans grave markers, assisting Veterans with Covid vaccination appointments, and assisting residents with calls and questions about benefits for themselves and/or Veteran family members.

MGL Chapter 115 Veterans benefits are an income based financial program aimed at assisting Veterans and their dependents living under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level following state guidelines of means testing. Financial assistance may include an Ordinary Benefit amount, fuel assistance, or medical liability and copay reimbursement. In 2021 the Town of Hamilton assisted between 3-5 of its residents through this program. Currently the program's budgeted cost is (\$30,000) with 75% of those expenditures being reimbursed to the town by the Commonwealth quarterly.

VA Compensation Claims are a monetary benefit provided to Veterans for injuries which may have occurred or been aggravated during time in service. According to VA statistics as of fall 2021 the Town has (60) Veterans awarded VA Compensation totaling (\$1.2Million) annually, paid directly to the Veteran or widow. Through the Inter-municipal agreement between the communities of the Cape Ann Veterans Service District, the office has access to a paid software system (VetraSpec) where it is able to electronically file and record Veteran claims and information, this has allowed for growing access and information distribution to Veterans of the district.



## COUNCIL ON AGING

The Hamilton Council on Aging is a community based social service organization seeking to support the social, mental and health needs of our community's senior population, those aged 60 years old and older. A portion of the funding for the Council on Aging is provided annually through a grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

The COA runs its programming mostly through the Hamilton Senior Center, located on Bay Road, adjacent to the Public Safety Building and the Winthrop School.

The year 2021 was a tumultuous year for the COA, as most programming and the Senior Center remained closed to the public, due to the on-going COVID-19 Pandemic response. Through a partnership with the Hamilton Board of Health and Public Health Nurse, the Senior Center did start to serve the community by hosting weekly COVID vaccination clinics, helping the community quickly get to over 90-percent vaccination status for our seniors and highest risk residents. The Senior Center continues to host weekly clinics for those who need boosters or are newly eligible for the vaccine.

2021 also saw the Council on Aging seek a new direction for its leadership. Longtime Director Mary Beth Lawton departed the COA in March and as pandemic restrictions eased in the summer of 2021, the Council on Aging Board of Directors took a more active role in managing the day to day operations at the Senior Center, opening as a place for local seniors to visit for needed socialization and light recreation.

Essex Council on Aging Director and Wenham resident Kristen Crockett agreed to assist the department in a part-time capacity beginning in June of 2021, and also assisted town COA leadership with an analysis of the needs of the Senior Center, to help us in finding the next Executive Director for the Senior Center.

We'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the dedicated members of the Hamilton Council on Aging Board of Directors – Sherry Leonard, Catherine Minnetyan, Linda Spong, Penny Wingate, MJ Brown and Nancy Longval for working tirelessly to help re-open the Senior Center during the time when there was no Director. We'd also like to thank Kristin Crockett for her assistance throughout the second half of 2021, as the town launched its search for a new Director and engaged with our senior community to set new goals and priorities for the future of the Council on Aging in Hamilton.

In December 2021, after a month long search, the town was excited to hire Theresa Woodbury to be the new Executive Director of the Council on Aging. Theresa brings over 15 years of experience as the first full time Director of the Council on Aging in West Newbury. We are looking forward to a bright future in 2022 and beyond.



## THE HAMILTON FOUNDATION

Dear Hamilton Neighbor:

In last year's appeal for funding, we noted that there are some Hamilton residents "for whom the financial impact (of the pandemic) has been more severe than most." And we encouraged you to take that into account when considering a donation. We are pleased to report that the community came through. We received a significant increase in donations, which let us increase our disbursements to our clients for outstanding bills and food. On behalf of them, we say a robust THANK YOU!

While the impact of the virus has diminished, the need for emergency financial assistance continues. As an example, during the past year the Acord Food Pantry served 384 clients from Hamilton, 106 of whom were children. Of the 384 clients, 90 were new to Acord and included both individuals and families. You may also be surprised there are children in the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District who receive free or reduced-price lunches; in years past this has been around **9%** of the school enrollment.

The Hamilton Foundation (THF) has provided residents with financial assistance when they got behind in their bills or needed food. THF is a non-profit foundation formed by Hamilton citizens in 2005 to provide financial assistance to Hamilton residents when unexpected emergencies occur. THF provides assistance for such things as: rent, oil, home repairs, mortgage, electricity, food, medical bills, telephone, and gasoline.

Since THF was formed, over 360 requests for assistance have been met with payments for overdue bills and gift cards for food; referrals for other assistance are often made as well. Grants provided to Hamilton residents during the past year are shown on the back of this letter. Payments are sent directly to vendors or creditors, and cards for food are available for residents who need them. If you, or someone you know, need emergency financial assistance, please contact the THF Coordinator, Jane Wetson, at **978-233-1816**. All requests are completely confidential. We invite you to learn more about THF's mission at:

[www.hamiltonma.gov/government/hamilton-foundation/](http://www.hamiltonma.gov/government/hamilton-foundation/)

Please consider making a donation to The Hamilton Foundation to assist us in serving our citizens in need. A contribution by check made out to **The Hamilton Foundation** can be sent to:

The Hamilton Foundation  
c/o Hamilton Town Hall  
PO Box 429  
Hamilton, MA 01936

Donations may also be made online on the Hamilton Foundation page of the Town website at:

<https://epaydemo.cityhallsystems.com?key=hamilton.ma.us&type=do>

All THF funding is provided through donations: no tax dollars are used. And 100% of your tax-deductible donation goes directly to helping Hamilton residents. We thank you in advance for your consideration and generosity.

The Hamilton Foundation Board of Directors

*Heather Ford, John McWane, Lori Johnson, Bill Burrridge, Jill Evers*

## Hamilton residents helped by THF during 2020-2021

2020	Client Helped	Grant Provided	Purpose of Funds
October	Single Woman	\$732.00	Rent
		\$100.00	Market Basket
October	Single Woman	\$1,000.00	Rent
November	Single Mom with Child	\$1,000.00	Rent
November	Single Man with Child	\$995.73	Rent
November	Single Woman	\$552.00	Rent
		\$100.00	Market Basket
December	Single Mom with Child	\$1,000.00	Rent
<b>2021</b>			
January	Single Woman	\$767.00	Oil
January	Couple	\$567.10	National Grid Electric
		\$153.58	Water
		\$231.00	Mass General Brigham
		\$50.00	Market Basket
February	Single Woman	\$500.00	National Grid Electric
February	Couple with Children	\$750.00	Mortgage
June	Single Woman	\$1,018.00	Rent
June	Single Woman	\$242.00	Rent
July	Single Woman w/2 children	\$1,000.00	Taxes
July	Couple with Children	\$541.97	Water
August	Single Woman	\$1,000.00	Mortgage
September	Single Woman	\$816.00	Rent
September	Couple with Children	\$1,200.00	Mortgage
October	Couple	\$1,000.00	Mortgage
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>18 Cases*</b>	<b>\$15,316.38</b>	

\*Other cases were evaluated and other help options suggested. Clients only served one time each calendar year.

*Neighbors helping Neighbors in times of need*

## COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

In July 2020, the CPC hosted their Annual Public Information Meeting in a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen.

In November 2020, the Town received the annual CPA State match of 28.6% on our 2% surcharge revenue of \$480,851, resulting in Total Annual CPA revenues equal to \$618,375.

The following CPA grants were approved by the CPC and subsequently at Town Meeting:

- A \$3M grant under Historical Preservation to the DPW for Town Hall renovation construction costs with the following requirements:
  - The remaining DPW ask construction costs be approved at Town Meeting and at a subsequent special election at the polls as a debt exclusion
  - Construction to start by November 15, 2022
  - While this grant was approved at the 2020 Special Town Meeting along with the remaining construction costs, the remaining construction costs were not approved at the follow-on special election. The grant will thus be held in escrow.
- A \$200k grant under Community Housing to the Affordable Housing Trust for affordable housing
- A \$75k grant under Historical Preservation to the First Congregational Church of Hamilton for Belfry and Clock Tower Renovations with a requirement that an Historical Preservation Agreement be signed with the Historic District Commission
- A \$32k grant under Open Space and Recreation to the Hamilton Wenham Recreation Department for renovation of the Patton Park tennis courts
- A \$1M grant under Historical Preservation to the DPW for Town Hall renovation construction costs with the following requirements:
  - The remaining DPW ask construction costs be approved at Town Meeting and at a subsequent special election at the polls as a debt exclusion
  - Construction to start by November 15, 2022
  - While this grant was approved at the 2021 Annual Town Meeting along with the remaining construction costs, the remaining construction costs were not approved at the follow-on municipal election. The grant will be held in escrow.

Jay Butler – Chair – at-large

Robert Preston – Vice-Chair – at-large

Sherry Leonard – Housing Authority Rep

Shawn Farrell – Board of Selectmen Rep

Katherine Mittelbush – Historic District Commission Rep

Chris Currier – Conservation Commission Rep

Richard Boroff – Planning Board Rep

Kim Dietel – at-large

Vacancy – at-large

CPC Coordinator – Pat Shannon

## HAMILTON WENHAM CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Hamilton Wenham Cultural Council is part of a grassroots cultural funding network supporting community-based projects in the arts, humanities, and sciences annually. Each year, the council is allocated approximately \$10,000 in funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Through a competitive grant process, the Hamilton Wenham Cultural Council awards funds to arts, humanities, and interpretive science projects in our communities.

RECEIPIENT	AWARDED
Cantemus Chamber Chorus – Missa Gala: A Mass in Celebration of Mother Earth	\$300
Five Ponds Creative Writing Festival	\$300
Hamilton COA – Down River Cruise	\$500
HW Human Rights Coalition – HW Pride Celebration	\$1000
HW Public Library – Read Beyond the Beaten Path: A Summer Reading Performance	\$300
Kendall Inglese – Kamishibai Story & STEM A Monarch Finds Her Home	\$350
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary – Nature in your neighborhood – All about birds	\$250
Tom Jones – Musary International Music Workshop	\$1000
League of Women Voters of HW – 2022 Civics Bee	\$600
Manship Artist Residence – Firefly Watch	\$400
MRMS – Miles River Cooking Club	\$300
The Community House – Stage 284 Season Sponsor 2022	\$2736
The Community House – Sundays in Patton Park – 2022 Concert Series	\$2736
Wenham Museum – Ed the Wizard	\$450
<i>TOTAL</i>	\$11,222

In 2021 17 requests for funding totaling \$16,600 were granted including:

- Musary (musical instrument lending library) - \$3000
- Sundays in Patton Park - \$2540
- Stage 284 at the Community House - \$2500

Judy Bubriski and Pat Purdy served for the year and resigned for personal reasons. We thank them for their active involvement.

### MEMBERS:

Susan Choquette, Hamilton (2024)  
Lauren Consolazio, Wenham (2024)  
Janet Glasser, Wenham (2024)  
Emily Hayden, Hamilton (2024)  
Charlotte Lidrbauch, Chair, Hamilton (2024)  
Lindsey Peabody, Hamilton (2023)  
Laura Range, Hamilton (2024)  
Dacia Rubel, Wenham (2024)  
Sara Holden Searle, Hamilton (2024)  
Maribeth Ting, Wenham (2024)



## Mission Statement

The Hamilton-Wenham Public Library is a publicly-funded institution dedicated to the common good by serving the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of the community and encouraging its patrons in the lifelong pursuit of learning and personal growth. The library will be responsive to the needs of its diverse users, advocate and support the use of appropriate technology, build an excellent collection, commit itself to the highest ideals of library service and the principles of intellectual freedom, and provide a welcoming meeting place for the community.

## 2021 Accomplishments

- Full reopening of the main library on June 2; full reopening of the Children's Room on August 9
- Return of Saturday hours
- Large meeting room used as staging area for Hamilton vaccine clinics
- New furniture and redesign of the Young Adult/Teen area
- Recipient of CARES Act grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to fund virtual programs, take and make crafts, and story walks
- Reinvention and relaunch of the Friends of the Library book sale
- Reinvention and relaunch of the volunteer program
- Celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Hamilton-Wenham Library in December
- Addition of Mango Languages database
- Lawn games added to the Library of Things circulating collection
- Awarded four new wifi hotspots for circulation through a grant collaboration with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners
- Redesign of library cards which now includes both a wallet and a keychain card
- Two water bottle filling stations added

## 2022 Goals

- Review the Preservation Assessment Plan and develop a local history collection development plan. Begin planning and budgeting for digitization of select collections
- Update the Library disaster plan and update all emergency procedures
- Upgrade IT infrastructure including faster public internet service and wifi
- Explore the option of adding a self-checkout station
- Develop a plan and strategy to facilitate hybrid programming (in person and virtual)
- Apply for a Library Services and Technology grant that will fund a pilot homebound delivery service, programs for adults living with dementia, and assistive technology

## Personnel Changes

In 2021 the Library said good-bye to two long-time staff members. Rebecca Shea, Adult Services Librarian, worked for the Library for fifteen years and was responsible for many of the wonderful programs and events that the library offered. Amy Dziewit, Assistant Director, worked for the library for ten years and was responsible for our wonderful fiction collection and leading the Literary Luncheon book club. We thank them for their years of service to the community and wish them well on their next adventures! We also welcomed two new staff members in 2021 - Jane Wolff and Linda Platt.

## Leadership

### Board of Trustees:

Nichole Gray, Chair (2022)  
Dorothy Goudie, Vice Chair (2023)  
Dede Johnson, Secretary (2024)  
Judith Bubriski (2022)  
Cara Fauci (2024)  
M.J. Brown (2023)

### Library Staff:

Kim Butler, Director  
Jane Wolff, Assistant Director  
Kim Claire, Young Adult Librarian  
Karen D'Ambrosio, General Service Librarian  
Lorraine Der, Children's Librarian  
Sarah Lauderdale, Head of Reference  
Lewis Parsons, Head of Technical Services  
Tobi Bentley, Adult Services Librarian

### Part-Time Staff:

Elizabeth Bellucci, Jeanne Duffy, Anne Hanrahan, Josh Lear, Kathy Lindsay, Julie Niemann, Linda Platt, Ella Tran

2021 continued to be a challenging year as COVID-19 impacted our services and offerings at the Library. The incredible, creative staff at Hamilton-Wenham Public Library continued to find new ways to meet the needs of the community during the pandemic. As the weather improved we were able to offer programs outside under the Library tent all the way through the late fall months. We also worked to safely reopen to in-person visitors in June and redesigned and reimagined the Library space while keeping the health and wellbeing of our staff and community front and center.

On behalf of the library staff and trustees I want to thank you all for the unwavering support and understanding you've shown to us throughout the past year. There have been many changes and we truly appreciate your patience as we navigate these uncertain times. We're excited for the wonderful things to come and what the next year will bring. As Alfred Lord Tennyson said: "Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering, 'It will be happier.'"

Respectfully submitted

Kim Butler

Library Director

## 2021 IN REVIEW



**169,968**  
Total Holdings  
(including e-books)



**124,582**  
Total Circulation  
(including e-books)

**494**



Total programs offered  
(live & virtual)

July 2021 was the highest  
circulation we've seen  
since March 2017!  
21,251 items were  
checked out

**8,554**

Library  
card  
holders



**49,238**

Inter-library loan  
items received



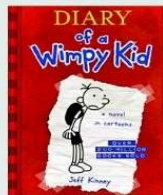
**36,099**

Inter-library loan  
items sent

Most circulated  
adult book



Most circulated  
kids book



Most circulated  
teen book



**10,234**

Reference  
questions  
answered



**53,124**

Total usage  
of Library  
databases

## JOINT BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES OF HAMILTON AND WENHAM

The Joint Board is responsible for the custody and management of the Library and its services and facilities located at 14 Union Street in Hamilton, and members are active participants in promoting and supporting the mission statement of the Library.

### Goals achieved in 2021:

- Continued to build improved communication and relationships with officials in both towns.
- Advocated for the Library through training and by attendance at relevant finance, budget, and policy meetings.
- Inventoried and reviewed existing Library trusts to promote transparency and fiscal responsibility.
- Promoted the joy of reading and the value of lifelong learning.

### Goals for 2022:

- Continue to stay connected to the ways in which Hamilton and Wenham support our library and director. Advocate for the Library by attending town board meetings that focus on our Library budget.
- Continue to remain informed of the Library trusts and their values; formulate a plan for distribution and dispersement.
- Maintain a visible presence at Library events and programs.
- Include Library department heads in Trustees meetings as a way to learn more about their roles and to give staff the opportunity to get to know the trustees.
- Encourage citizens to take part in joining the board during the election process and promote equality, diversity, and inclusion in its membership.
- Promote the joy of reading and the value of lifelong learning.

In 2021 the Library received trust fund income, monetary gifts, State Aid, and grants:

- **Trust Fund Income**-Funded MLS stipends awarded to staff with Master's Degrees and maintenance of the Children's Room fish
- Reading Software, staff training presenter, Webinar subscriptions, two Wi-Fi hotspots for staff and patron use tank.
- **State Aid Funds**-Funded BeanStack Summer, the redesign of our physical library cards, and the teen area redesign and new furniture.
- **Gift Funds**-Purchased books, audio books, and various materials.
- **CARES Act Grant from Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners**-Funded virtual programming for distance learning costing \$3500.
- **Hamilton-Wenham Cultural Council Grant**-Funded a Children's Room program featuring storyteller Rona Leventhal costing \$350.



2021 proved a challenge because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, demanding continuous reassessment and unique planning of events and programs to assure health safety for staff and patrons. We congratulate our director Kim Butler and her staff for adapting their approaches and offerings throughout the year, keeping in mind the CDC and local public health guidelines. Patrons were the beneficiaries of the foresight, creative ideas, and strong skills of our leadership and staff. Thank you!

Thank you to Julie Clay who served for two terms and did not seek reelection as an At-Large trustee in May 2021.

Congratulations and welcome to Cara Fauci who was elected as an At-Large trustee in May 2021.

Congratulations to Dede Johnson who was reelected to a second term as an At-Large trustee in May 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Nichole Gray, Chair

Dorothy Goudie, Vice-Chair

Judy Bubriski

Dede Johnson, Secretary

MJ Brown

Cara Fauci, Liaison to the Friends

## HAMILTON WENHAM RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Hamilton Wenham Recreation Department provides a wide variety of programs designed to improve the quality of life for residents by meeting physical and recreational needs. We promote life long lessons through play, education, and community wide events.

### Goals achieved/large projects accomplished:

- Offered in person programming throughout the pandemic and rebuilt programming and revenue to Pre-COVID pandemic levels.
- Successfully operated the Patton Park Summer Park Program and Veterans Memorial Pool after being closed for the Summer of 2020 due to COVID.
- Enhanced our presence on social media outlets to promote all of our programming and events.
- Started a successful Youth Field Hockey Program which will continue to grow.
- Renovated the Patton Park Tennis and Basketball Courts using funds from the Community Preservation Act
- Refurbished the Recreation Center Gymnasium Floor and worked with Hamilton Wenham Youth Basketball to install adjustable basketball systems for youth play.
- Over 6,800 total unique registrations, rentals, and memberships totally \$475k worth of revenue.

### Priorities for 2021:

- Work with the schools to provide rain coverage for the Patton Park Summer Park Program
- Build upon our successful Youth Field Hockey Program
- Host at least four special events
- Offer more expansive teen programming, specifically adding teen trips in the summer of 2022

### Pool Statistics:

#### Memberships Sold:

Household:	260
Individual:	42
Senior:	23
Caregiver:	18

#### Swim Lesson/Swim Team Registrations:

Swim Team:	163
Swim Lessons:	88

### Pool Attendance:

Total Number of Membership Scans:	7,138
Daily Drop ins:	864
Guest Passes:	106
Total Visits:	8,108
Total Days Open:	80
Average Daily Attendance:	101

### Summer Park Program Registration:

Total Unique Registrations:	1421
Average Weekly Attendance:	177 Participants

Sean Timmons – Recreation Director

Danielle Kiely – Administrative Assistant

#### Recreation Board:

Steve Ozahowski, Hamilton – Chair  
Brad Tilley, Hamilton  
Phil Tocci, Hamilton

John Cusolito, Wenham  
Len Dolan, Wenham  
Daniel Curran, Wenham

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY

During the closure, due to Covid-19, the Hamilton Historical Society continued our mission of preserving the history of Hamilton. While our office was closed to the public, our members collected information on how the town was adjusting to life during a pandemic. Looking back, we didn't find much on how Hamilton survived the Pandemic of 1918 and thought it was important for future generations to understand how we lived in 2020. We have many pictures of day to day life during the quarantine. Scenes of lines at Crosby's to buy food, closed schools and many families getting outside to enjoy the fresh air are typical of our new collection. Lots of home improvements were being done while people spent so much time at home.

We met, masked, in the barn on the Patton Homestead grounds and made plans for our opening. Our first presentation was Captain Raymond Bates of Marblehead, who spoke on local maritime history. It was held at the Hamilton-Wenham Library. We treasure our relationship with the library.

Our next project, during the spring, was the chronicling of Hamilton downtown businesses. We realize that documenting today is the history of tomorrow and it is our duty to preserve the story. Many hours were spent in preparation for actual photographing of the buildings. We were surprised to find over 100 businesses and reached out to each one to ask them to participate in our project. Letters were sent explaining our goal, along with a brief survey. Scheduling was a long process but we met the nicest business owners. Many new stores have added to the quality of life in Hamilton.

The Fall Festival committee invited us to be a part of their wonderful day. We met so many lovely people and had a successful membership drive. Lots of new, and longtime, residents stopped by with questions and to share stories about living in Hamilton.

The dedicated board members of the Hamilton Historical Society are Emily Cook, Connie Cobb, Annette Janes, Raymond Whipple, Linda Coonrod, Ann St. Germain, Elaine Whipple, Sue McLaughlin and Klaus Saggerer. Their many hours of volunteer hours is greatly appreciated.

We are always happy to hear from citizens who want to share their stories and pictures of Hamilton. All are welcome to visit us any Thursday from 1 to 3 at the Patton Homestead.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Marie Cullen, President

## HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

### **Mission Statement:**

The Mission of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District is to educate our children to become young adults who are of good character and demonstrate mastery of the knowledge and skills needed to be successful members of our global economy and engaged citizens of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### **Goals Achieved in 2021**

While 2021 was a challenging year due to the pandemic and leadership transitions, there were several notable accomplishments despite these disruptions:

- District-wide safety and security was enhanced by starting the installation of interior and exterior cameras, completing a digital visitor management system, and other components of a modernized security system.
- The district re-submitted an application to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Statement of Interest (SOI) process for the construction of a new elementary school.
- A district-wide Portrait of a Graduate was started and will be completed in early 2022.
- Partially restored curriculum and instruction leadership at the elementary levels designed to focus on literacy.

### **Goals and Objectives for 2022**

- **Goal 1: Build District Vision and Strategic Plan**
  - *The Superintendent, School Committee, and the District Leadership team will actively engage the community in a Portrait of a Graduate visioning process in Fall 2021 to build community consensus around the district's work and how its limited resources should be invested. The Portrait will serve as the fundamental guiding document for the Strategic Plan development in Spring 2022.*
- **Goal 2: Improve Teaching and Learning**
  - *The district will create an intentional and sustainable Multi-Tiered System of Support MTSS to ensure that our students' academic and social-emotional needs are met.*
- **Goal 3: Commit to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) practices**
  - *The Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District will meet the evolving and varied needs of all of our students and school community members in a manner that respects and values each individual, and:*
  - *recognizes, acknowledges, and celebrates the presence of differences in all community members;*
  - *promotes justice, impartiality, and fairness;*
  - *welcomes and invites diversity in decision-making processes and developing opportunities for our community.*

- **Goal 4: Improving Learning Environments**

- *Students in the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District will have access to learning environments that are safe, clean and sustainable. District learning environments shall be a source of civic pride for the entire community. The District shall collaborate with both the towns of Hamilton and Wenham to plan significant capital investments effectively.*

### **Impact of COVID**

During the early stages of 2021, we were still moving our staff and students in and out of remote learning due to the effects of COVID-19. As we approached April of 2021 we started to return students back to schools, which brought about a step towards normalcy. The Class of 2021 was able to graduate with their families outside on the football field.

At the start of the 21-22 school year, we began school as normal, albeit wearing masks. Our initial focus was on the recovery of student learning losses and refocusing efforts to achieve our annual goals and objectives, but our attention quickly turned to the dramatic increase in social-emotional issues students in all grades were experiencing.

### **Significant Statistics in 2021:**

The HWRSD currently serves 1,739 students mainly in grades PreK-12. 43 of these students are served out-of-district, 77 students are School Choice-In and 27 are tuition-in Pre-K students.

The HWRSD staff comprises approximately 299 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Positions. Professional Teaching Staff, 184 total, makes up 61% of these FTEs. Teaching assistants (57 FTE) make up the next largest group, with the remaining 58 positions distributed among administrators, administrative assistants, LPNs, tutors, crossing guards, lunch monitors, and custodial/maintenance functions.

The FY22 Total Expenditures Budget was approved by both Hamilton and Wenham Town Meeting for the amount of \$37,510,386. The FY23 budget request will be presented in detail on the HWRSD Website: [www.hwschools.net](http://www.hwschools.net).

### **The HWRSD would like to recognize the retirements of the following employees:**

We thank them for their many years of service to the HWRSD!

Andrea J. Adamo	HWRHS Guidance Secretary	2003-2021
Karen C. Birner	Buker Elementary School Teacher	2005-2021
Jane L. Bellenis	Cutler Elementary School Teaching Assistant	2000-2021
Alendre L. Brooks	District Offices Administrative Assistant	2011-2021
Jeanette M. Bybee	Food Services Secretary	1998-2021
Kendall T. Clark	Winthrop Elementary School Teacher	1998-2021
Catherine A. Donovan	Director of Food Service & Nutrition	2001-2021
Carol R. Gambino	Buker Elementary School Teacher	2003-2021
Joanne D. Leary	Cutler Elementary School Teacher	2005-2021
Rochelle A. Morin	HWRHS Teacher	1989-2021
Jemma K. Pasmore	Winthrop Elementary School Teacher	1997-2021
Elaine Rogal	District Student Services Administrative Assistant	2003-2021
Christopher Shailor	HWRHS Fine Arts Teacher	1989-2021

## **School Committee Members and Staff 2021:**

### **School Committee Members:**

Dana Allara, Chair

Anna Siedzik, Vice Chair

Jennifer Carr, Secretary

Julia Campbell, Assistant Secretary

David Polito

Michelle Bailey

Michelle Horgan

### **Central Office Administration:**

Eric Tracy, Superintendent

Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Administration

Thomas F. Geary III, Director of Facilities, Maintenance & Operations

Stacy Bucyk, Director of Student Services



## HAMILTON

Heidi T. Riccio, Ed.D., Superintendent-Director  
William C. Lannon III, Representative

Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School (ENSATS) is Massachusetts' premier regional technical and agricultural high school, serving 17 member communities on the North Shore and 38 surrounding communities. Our mission is to **create** a culture of excellence, **encourage** continuous growth, and **promote** professionalism and citizenship for all students, as they **develop** into architects, artisans, and authors of the 21st century community.

Twenty-four career, technical, and agricultural programs are available to students from member communities whereas students from surrounding communities select from 7 agricultural areas. Enrollment at ENSATS is 1,655 for the 2021-2022 school year. Moreover, over 1,384 students applied for 450 openings in our current 9th grade. Our school was designed for 1,500 students and is currently organized into two academies.



### HAMILTON *at a glance*

*As of October 15, 2021  
19 Total Student Population*

Grade	9 – 6
Grade	10 – 6
Grade	11 – 4
Grade	12 – 3

Future Lab Technician, Gianna Mena, Grade 11 from Hamilton

## East Academy

Advanced Manufacturing, Arboriculture, Companion Animals, Design & Media Communications, Engineering Technology, Information Technology Services, Natural & Environmental Science, Equine Studies, Landscaping, Sustainable Horticulture, Veterinary Science

## West Academy

Automotive Collision-Repair & Refinishing, Automotive Technology, Biotechnology, Carpentry, Cosmetology, Construction Craft Laborer, Culinary Arts, Dental Assisting, Electrical, Health Assisting, HVAC-R, Masonry, Plumbing

CREATE.

ENCOURAGE.

PROMOTE.

DEVELOP.

As with all schools in the Commonwealth, we had to adjust our practice due to a worldwide pandemic. Opening this school year, 100% of our students attend school in person. Mask and distancing protocols remain in place. We continue to work with community leaders in reducing the spread of the virus.

We create opportunities for students throughout our region to have access to high quality career technical and agricultural education. Partnering with our districts, we have enrolled 68 additional students in our CTE/ After Dark Partnership Program into high demand career areas as a model for Governor Baker's Career Technical Initiative. These students are from Beverly, Salem, Swampscott, Peabody and Marblehead.

Our Cooperative Education Program places upperclassmen in positions where they work among professionals in their field. These opportunities often lead to full-time employment upon graduation as we continue to work with our industry leaders to meet the needs of the current workforce and strengthen the economic pathways for our students. Our graduates enter the workforce with industry recognized credentials and hours toward professional licensure, which gives them an advantage and adds to future readiness. Business, industry, and labor representatives serve on our Program Advisory Committees to ensure that we meet all industry standards.

Over 70% of our students enroll in 2- or 4-year institutions with many earning articulated credit at state community colleges. The remaining 30% of students enroll in approved apprenticeship programs or directly enter the workforce upon graduation.

Several of our programs offer valued services to the residents of our communities, including the Maple Street Bistro and Café, the Salon, Pet Grooming, Automotive and Auto Collision Repair, and Blooming Designs & More. Angell at Essex provides veterinary services on our campus.

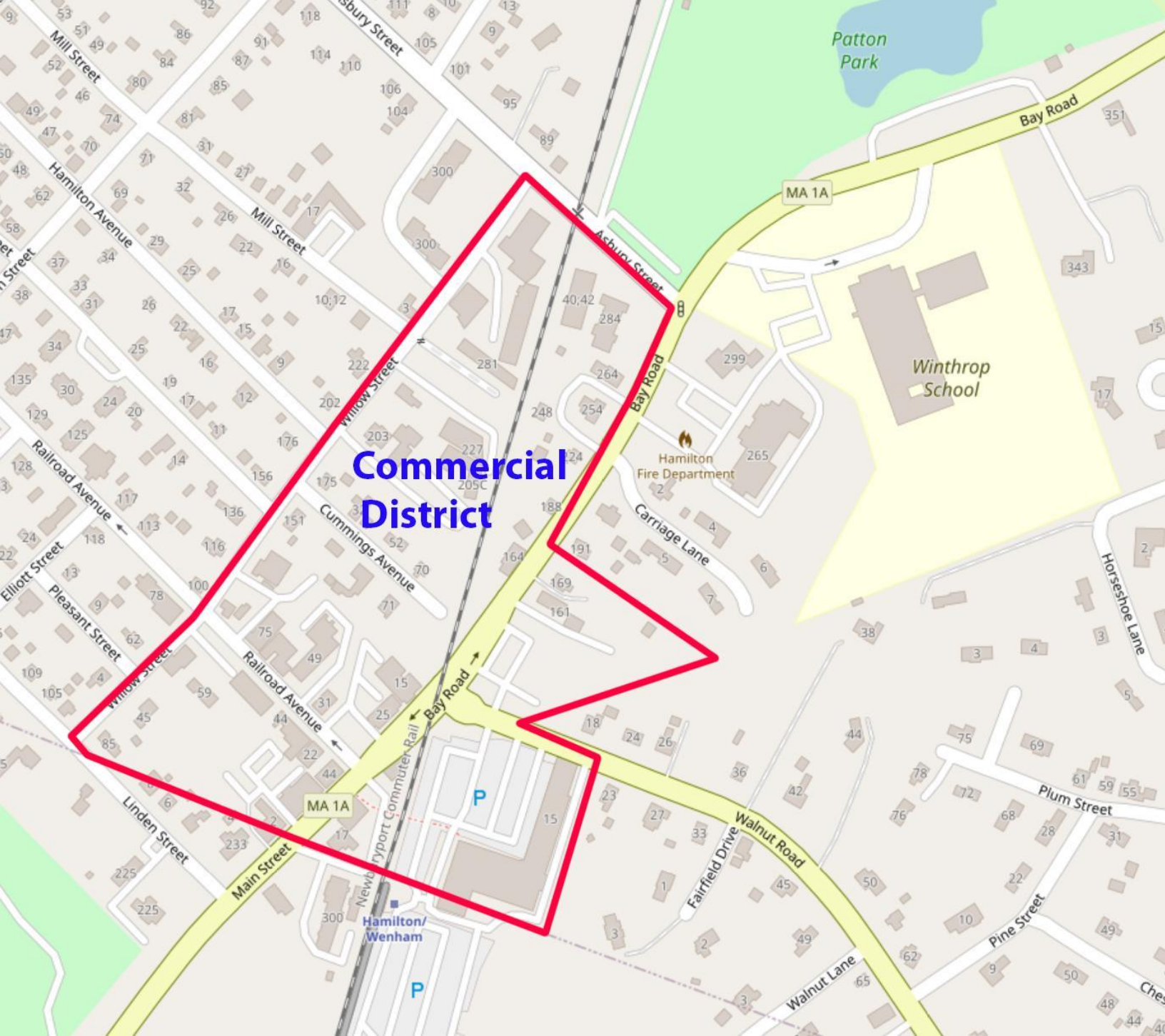
Essex Tech provides students with extracurricular activities including MIAA competitive sports, intramural athletics, and various clubs and service groups, including SkillsUSA, FFA, and DECA organizations that encourage students to explore and develop additional employability skills across their career and technical disciplines.

We continue to expand our NightHawks Adult Education Program offering industry training with credentialing including Advanced Manufacturing, HVAC, Carpentry, Construction Craft Laborer, Electrical, Plumbing, and Welding to meet the needs of a high demand workforce. As part of the Baker-Polito's Career Technical Institute (CTI) initiative, we received nearly \$1M in competitive grant funding to develop and implement these programs. We work in collaboration with our MassHire



**ESSEX NORTH**  
AGRICULTURAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOL





# 2021 Annual Report

## Hamilton Development Corporation

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## Purpose

The HDC was incorporated as public non-profit in 2012 by the Massachusetts state legislature who declared “that in the town of Hamilton, unused, underused or underdeveloped areas exist, including, but not limited to, the development zone; that each area requires assistance to maximize the sound growth of the town and the economic well-being of the commonwealth.” And further that:

- such areas discourage maximum economic benefit to the town which cannot be fully realized by the ordinary operations of private enterprise
- each area requires assistance to maximize the value of private investments and sources of public revenue; to retain existing enterprises, *attract new commercial, industrial or residential development*
- the disposition of property for redevelopment; rehabilitation or rebuilding of such unused, underused and undeveloped areas for commercial, industrial, residential, institutional and public facility purposes are *public benefits for which public funds may be expended for the good and welfare of the town and the commonwealth.*

## Public Input

Public participation is strongly encouraged with the HDC holding open public meetings in Town Hall on the 1st Wednesday of every month. All agendas are posted in compliance with Open Meeting Laws. Meeting minutes are promptly reviewed/approved by the HDC and posted on the Town’s website. The HDC solicits inputs from the community and some members serve on other Town boards/committees to foster further communication and planning. The 2021 members of the HDC are Rick Mitchell, president; Brian Stein, vice-president; Anthony Nickas , treasurer, Angela Arvanites, member; Chad Smith, member; and, Anthony Passerretti, associate.

## Accomplishments

The HDC has accomplished and/or aided the following since our last annual report:

- Market study: identified strong demand for market rate housing
- By-law combining residential & commercial uses: HDC sponsored and adopted by Town Meeting
- Willow Street Improvement: transformed 1 residence into an \$ 8 million investment comprised of 18 market rate and affordable residential rental units and 2,400 square feet of commercial space; with a resulting increase in tax revenue of more than \$50,000 annually
- Funded installation of Railroad Avenue benches and trash receptacles
- Funds seasonal flower baskets and wreaths throughout the business district
- Provided technical support downtown business owners
- Supported downtown holiday festival: fund insurance/administrative support for business owner's
- In partnership with town obtained and managed \$50,00 grant for 2021 fall festival
- Co-funded a comprehensive parking study to improve parking and signage
- For 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year received Town Meeting approval for the Meals Tax to support the HDC
- Increased investment funds to \$649,000 from \$131,000

## Potential Future Projects

### Evaluation Criteria

Based upon these primary enabling legislation criteria for project selection the HDC seeks public input and support for future projects that include:

- Underused: unused, underused or underdeveloped areas. Acquisition, planning, clearance, development, rehabilitation or rebuilding. Improvement of sites for commercial, or residential uses, or for necessary public facilities. Retain existing enterprises, attract new commercial, industrial or residential development.
- Assistance: areas require assistance to maximize the sound growth of the town and the economic well-being of the commonwealth. Public uses and purposes for which public money may be expended.
- Leverage: maximize the value of private investments and sources of public revenue.
- Cost to HDC. All potential projects are in accordance with locally approved community and economic development, capital improvement, or other plans, including the town's master plan.

### Potential Projects Under Consideration

- Hansberry's/Dodge Tree property reuse
- Downtown signage, parking, branding
- Welch Lampson property reuse
- Downtown businesses grants and assistance
- Winthrop School property reuse
- Obtain State & Federal grants
- Bay-Railroad Ave open space acquisition
- Railroad Ave/Bay Rd infrastructure traffic and pedestrian improvements

## **PATTON HOMESTEAD**

The 2021 calendar year opened amid the on-going pandemic and new activity at the Patton Homestead to turn the building into a co-working space with the help of Inc.ubate Co-working.

Inc.ubate finally opened its doors in May 2021, but the Patton Homestead unfortunately lost its part time Executive Director, who moved to New Hampshire after getting married.

Summer of 2021 was filled with weekend events, private and public at Patton Homestead and weekdays started to become busy as Inc.ubate membership started to grow. However, without a Director to help attract new events and functions, the calendar beyond the second week of August was not as full as had been hoped for.

A new Director was finally found in November 2021, with Holly Erickson joining the town. Holly has been busy planning events, working to attract private renters and coordinating the activities of other users, such as the Hamilton Historical Society, Wenham Museum, Inc.ubate co-working members and private parties.

There have been some growing pains, but the property is starting to rig in some revenue and Holly will be working in 2022 with a Task Force comprised of a member of the Select Board, a member of the FinCom, a member of Patton Homestead Inc. and key town department heads to help the town analyze the relative success of the building and how it might be programmed into the future.





## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Honorable Select Board  
Town of Hamilton, Massachusetts

### Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Hamilton, Massachusetts, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town of Hamilton, Massachusetts' basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

### ***Opinions***

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Hamilton, Massachusetts, as of June 30, 2021, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.


### ***Other Matters***

#### ***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, general fund and community preservation fund budgetary comparisons and certain pension and other postemployment benefits information be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

#### ***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 3, 2022, on our consideration of the Town of Hamilton, Massachusetts' internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Town of Hamilton, Massachusetts' internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



**CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

Boston, Massachusetts  
March 3, 2022



**Alexander Hamilton wears a mask.  
You should too!**



**#MaskUpHW!**



**Town of Hamilton, Massachusetts  
2021**