

TOWN WHERE A U.S. FLAG WAS FIRST
RAISED OVER A PUBLIC SCHOOL. MAY, 1812

Town of Colrain

2020 Annual Report

The Town of Colrain is a community of 43.2 square miles located in north central Franklin County. Per the 2020 Street Listing, the population is 1,459, of which 1,229 are registered voters. To the north, Colrain borders two Vermont towns: Halifax and Guilford. Leyden is to the east, Greenfield to the southeast, Shelburne to the south, Charlemont to the southwest and Heath to the west. State Route 112 is the major highway through the town, running roughly north to south along the North River. There are 86.58 road miles in Colrain, the third highest amount in Franklin County. Approximately half of these roads are gravel. Colrain is primarily an agricultural and residential community. We have an open town meeting form of government, with a Select Board as the governing body.



Dedication

Carol Purington

November 16, 1949 – December 8, 2020

Carol Purington was born on Woodslawn Farm on Wilson Hill to Herbert and Bunny Purington. At the young age of 6 years old she contracted the polio virus and was left a quadriplegic for the rest of her life. After a couple of years in hospitals in Greenfield and Boston, she returned to Colrain, first to Main Street where she lived with relatives while the family farmhouse was made ready for her, and then to the farm where she lived for the rest of her life, being cared for by her mother, other family members and caregivers.

Carol was a woman of deep faith and a woman of words. She loved her family, the farm she lived on, and nature. She was a published author of over 10 books, had her works published in tanka and haiku journals and books, and earned recognition in international contests.

Carol was a pioneer in remote learning in Colrain in 1957. Her parents were determined that she would be educated, and the local school district worked with them to make it possible. With a home-school telephone connection and tutors she completed 12 years of education at Colrain Central School and Mohawk Trail Regional School, and took classes at Greenfield Community College.

One of Carol's last joys was being driven to the Arthur A. Smith covered bridge by the Colrain ambulance and having her stretcher pushed through the bridge.

Carol is no longer with us, but she will live on in the words and books she wrote.

Submitted by Jean (Purington) Shippee

Table of Contents

Dedication	ii
Table of Contents	iii
Colrain Transfer Station	1
Town Officers, Boards, Committees – Contact Infomation.....	2
Elected Town Officers	3
Board of Selectmen Appointments.....	4
Moderators Appointment.....	8
Town Office Reports	
Select Board.....	9
Board of Assessors	10
Town Clerk	12
Town Accountant	13
Treasurer	16
Annual Reports	
Agricultural Commission	21
Board of Health	23
Building Inspector.....	24
Colrain Cultural Council	25
Colrain Historical Commission.....	26
Council on Aging.....	27
Franklin County Regional Animal Control	28
Finance Committee	29
Fire Department	30
Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG)	32
Franklin County Waste Management District.....	35

Griswold Memorial Library.....	36
Highway Department	39
The Mary Lyon Foundation, Inc.....	41
Municipal Light Plant Report Colrain Broadband.....	43
Carl H. Nilman Scholarship Fund	44
Police Department	45
Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District	46
Schools	
Colrain Central School	47
Mohawk Trail Regional School -- Principal Report.....	48
Special Education and Pupil Services Report	50
Superintendent of Schools	52
Franklin County Technical School District Committee	54

Colrain Transfer Station

Information/Hours

7 Charlemont Road
Saturday 8:00 am—4:00 pm
Summer hours 1st Tues in May—1st Tues in October
5:30 pm—7:30 pm

General Information

All trash bags must have stickers
13 gallon stickers—\$1.00/each 33 gallon stickers—\$2.00/each

Stickers are available at the Transfer Station

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

General Recycling

Paper ***and*** Plastics

Other Recyclables Collected

Scrap Metal	Free
Refrigerators, Freezers,	
Air Conditioners, contain CFC	\$15 each
Tires (up to 19")	\$5.00 each with no rims
Bulky Waste (non-construction)	\$5.00 to \$30.00
CRTs and TVs	\$5 - \$40 (pricing differs depending on equipment type)
Construction/Demolition	\$40/cubic yard - \$60 cu/yd. (\$20 minimum)
Textiles and books (clean)	Salvation Army Box

Hazardous Materials Collected

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

Items not accepted: leaves/yard waste, Christmas Trees, Brush Textiles

Town Officers, Boards, & Committees – Contact Information

	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>
Agricultural Commission Chair Haynes Turkle	624-0215	
Board of Assessors Assistant Alice Wozniak	624-3356	assessors@colrain-ma.gov
Building Inspector Shawn Kimberley	624-4728	buildinginspector@colrain-ma.gov
Colrain Broadband Michael Shuipis/Kevin Fox	624-3454	info@colrainbroadband.net
Conservation Commission Clerk Alice Wozniak	624-3356	assessors@colrain-ma.gov
Council on Aging Janice Barnes	624-8818	
Animal Control Officer Kyle Dragon	(413) 768-0983	kdragon@fcso-ma.us
Emergency Manager Director Jim Lyons	624-3940	
Finance Committee Chair, Doug MacLeay	624-3454	
Fire Chief Nick Anzuoni	624-5528	
Griswold Memorial Library, Director Chelsea Jordon-Mackley	624-3619	griswold@colrain-ma.gov
Highway Superintendent, Scott Sullivan	624-5500	highway@colrain-ma.gov
Historical Commission, Chair Robert Ramirez	624-3090	
Personnel Committee, Chair Ellen Weeks	624-5137	eweeks@umext.umass.edu
Planning Board, Chair Robert Slowinski		
Planning Board, Clerk	624-3356	assessor@colrain-ma.gov
Police Chief - Business Only Chris Lannon	624-3038	police@colrain-ma.gov
Tax Collector		taxcollector@colrain-ma.gov
Treasurer Paula Harrison	624-5549	treasurer@colrain-ma.gov
Town Accountant, David Fierro Jr.	Hill-Town Municipal Accounting & Computer Services	
Town Clerk Eileen Sauvageau	624-7100	townclerk@colrain-ma.gov
Selectmen/Town Administrator Kevin Fox	624-6306	bos@colrain-ma.gov
Transfer Station	625-9012	
Tree Warden Michael Friedlander	624-3643	
Zoning Board of Appeals, Chair Rockwell Lively	624-3210	

Elected Town Officers

BOARD OF SELECTMEN (Three year term)

	<u>Term</u>
Mark A. Thibodeau, Chair	2018 – 2021
Joe Kurland	2019 – 2022
Mike Slowinski	2020 – 2023

TOWN CLERK (Three year term)

Eileen Sauvageau	2019 - 2022
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BOARD OF ASSESSORS (Three year term)

Nicholas M. Anzuoni, Chair	2016 - 2022
James J. Slowinski	2018 - 2021
Dwight Harrison	2020 - 2023

MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

(Three year term)

Toby Bassett	2020 - 2022
Kate Barrows	2020 - 2023

GRISWOLD MEMORIAL LIBRARY TRUSTEES (Three year term)

Cheli Mennella	2020 - 2023
Jill Horton-Lyons	2020 - 2023
Michael Friedlander	2019 - 2022
Nancy Rich Turkle	2020 - 2021
Betsy Browning	2019 - 2022
Betty Johnson	2020 - 2021

CONSTABLES (Three year term)

Michael Friedlander	2019 - 2022
Scott F. Sullivan	2020 - 2023
Melinda A. Herzig	2018 - 2021

MODERATOR (Three year term)

Megan McDonough	2018 - 2021
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Board of Selectmen Appointments

Agricultural Commission	Term Expires
Joseph S. Hillman	2021
Haynes Turkle, hair	2022
Jill Horton-Lyons	2021
Lorena Loubsky	2021
Scott Roberts	2021
Lori Shearer	2021
Brian Sullivan	2021
Valerie Finkel	2022
<i>Vacancy</i>	
Animal Control Officer	
Kyle Dragon	2021
Board of Health	
Michael Friedlander	2023
Timothy P. Slowinski	2023
Timothy Hartnett	2021
Gary Ponce	2023
Nina Martin-Anzuoni, Chair	2022
<i>Vacancy</i>	
Board of Registrars	
Colleen Worden	2023
Eugenia M. Shearer	2023
Amy J. Herzig	2021
Paula Harrison	2023
Broadband Advisory Committee	
Paula Harrison	2021
Chelsea Jordan-Makely	2021
Building Inspector (Three year term)	
Shawn Kimberley	2022
Carl H. Nilman Scholarship Representative	
Michelle F. Hillman	2021
Cultural Council	
Inge Jockers, Chair	2024
Paula J. Harrison	2022
Nina Martin-Anzuoni	2025
Sharon Wickland-Shearer	2024
Donna Cusimano	2027
<i>Vacancy</i>	

Conservation Commission

Clarence E. Wheeler, Chair	2023
Matthew G. Slowinski	2023
David W. Nims	2023
Carl A. Herzig	2023
William H. Dornbusch	2021
Marshall L. Denison, Jr.	2021
Benjamin Beas	2023

Council on Aging

Richard R. Herzig	2021
Amy J. Herzig	2021
Bing Waldsmith	2021
Carl Herzig	2022
Russell Barnes	2023
Janice Barnes, Chair	2023
Kathleen A. Phelps	2023
Larry Bezio	2023
Elaine Stanley	2021
Valeda Peters, Secretary	2023
Michele Hillman	2023

Vacancies (5)**Emergency Management Director**

Jim Lyons	2021
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Energy Committee

Peter Brooks, Chair	2021
Bing Waldsmith	2021
Brian Cady	2021

Vacancies (4)**Fire Chief**

Nicholas M. Anzuoni	2021
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F.C. Solid Waste District Representative

Jonathan R. Lagreze	2021
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Fire Station Building Committee

Douglas MacLeay	2021
Gary Ponce	2021
Kevin Worden II	2021
Nicholas M. Anzuoni	2021

Franklin Regional Transit Authority Representative

Mark Thibodeau	2021
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Franklin Regional Council of Governments Representative

Joe Kurland	2021
Kevin Fox	2021

Franklin Regional Planning Board Representative

Marybeth Chichester	2021
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Highway Superintendent

Scott F. Sullivan	2021
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Historic Commission

Robert P. Ramirez	2023
Joan C. McQuade	2023
David W. Nims, Chair	2023
Beldin R. Merims	2022
Harold (Guy) Wheeler	2023
Sarah Davenport	2023

Gypsy Moth Superintendent

Scott Sullivan	2021
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Administrative Assistant

Betsy Shuipis	2021
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Personnel Committee

Kathleen A. Phelps	2023
Valeda R. Peters	2023
Leslie Fraser	2023
Eileen Weeks, Chair	2023
<i>Vacancy</i>	

Plumbing & Gas Inspector

Timothy J. Hartnett	2021
Kyle Hartnett	2021

Police Chief

Chris Lannon	2021
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Police Officers

James Hunkler	2021
Derek Worden	2021
Tarrah Demsey	2021
Heather Sonn	2021

Regional Dog Program Representative

Mark Thibodeau	2021
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Solid Waste Management District Representative

Jonathan Lagreze	2021
Alternate, Kevin Fox	2021

Tree Warden

Michael Friedlander	2021
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Town Administrator

Kevin Fox	2023
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Town Accountant

David Fierro	2021
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Treasurer/Collector

Paula Harrison	2022
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Wiring Inspector

James Slowinski	2021
Clinton Dodge	2021

Zoning Board of Appeals

Marshall L. Denison	2023
Howard R. Phelps	2023
Rockwell J. Lively, Chair	2021
Mark A. Thibodeau	2021
John Peters	2023
Kevin French	2021

Moderators Appointment

Finance Committee

Douglas Macleay, Chair	2022
Rachel Glick	2021
Thom Griffin	2021

Franklin County Technical School District Committee Member

Nicole Slowinski	2021
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Planning Board (a seven-member board)

Sara Wik	2023
Greg Olchowski	2022
Robert Slowinski, Chair	2021
Loren Feinstein	2022
Mary Beth Chichester	2021

Vacancies (2)

Town Office Reports

Select Board

It is our pleasure to submit the annual report of the Colrain Board of Selectman for the year ending December 31, 2020.

Mark Thibodeau, Select Board Chair, who has served on the Select Board for 12 years, is not seeking re-election. Mike Slowinski was elected to the Select Board to replace Eileen Sauvageau, who served nine years on the board, while Joe Kurland is serving out his second year.

The redesign of the center of Colrain will start this spring, after many years of studies and different renditions of the project. There is a final drawing that can be viewed on the Town website.

The broadband project is moving forward at a very good pace. There are four residences that are being used to test the fiber and the equipment as of 2/27/21. Once the testing is complete, FSA1 will begin to wire more homes along Main Road/Route 112.

There are still 65 people that have money owed to them from Wired West. Final notices went out and now the money has been turned over to the state. You can claim the \$49.00 through findmassmoney.com.

After years of sitting idle, the Arthur A. Smith Covered Bridge has been reopened to traffic. Please take care entering the bridge as there is a limited site of view.

The Colrain Historical Society has finally received ownership of the Pitt House after waiting for Probate Court to approve changing the provisions of William Pitt's will, thus granting ownership to the Historical Society.

The Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved by FEMA Region 1. This will allow the Town to get grant funding for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grants. We want to thank everyone on the sub-committee that made this happen. There is a copy of the grant program on the [Town website](#).

The Select Board is committed to sustaining its efforts to maintain the Town's current equipment and infrastructure while continuing to plan for future replacement of equipment and the development of improved and enhanced infrastructure. We believe this can be accomplished through sound fiscal planning and prudent purchasing.

The Town of Colrain depends on its many volunteer committees and boards, elected officials, staff in the office and in the various departments for the work they do to keep our Town running.

In closing, the Select Board members thank you for the opportunity to serve the residents of Colrain.

Mark Thibodeau, Chair
Joe Kurland
Mike Slowinski

Board of Assessors

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

In the spring election, Dwight Harrison won re-election to the Board of Assessors. This is Dwight's second term as an Assessor. The Assessors' office is the only elected board that is required within two years of taking office to successfully complete a 30 hour course and pass an examination. Failure to do so jeopardizes the DOR approval of the town's tax rate.

In Fiscal Year 2020, the office granted 3 abatements in the amount of \$69,100 of value which translates into \$1,377.17 of tax dollars. There was one appeal filed at the Massachusetts Appellate Tax Board (ATB) for Fiscal Year 2020. [This previous information is a duplicate from the 2019 Annual Report; due to setting 2 tax rates in 2019 and abatements handled in the same year].

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

In October, we set our Fiscal Year 2021 tax rate at \$21.16/per \$1,000.00 of valuation. This was a \$1.23 increase from FY20 due to a significant increase in the Mohawk Trail Regional School District assessment and broadband borrowing.

The Colrain Fire District tax rate for Fiscal Year 2021 was \$4.71/per \$1,000.00 of valuation.

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

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Valuation</u>	<u>%</u>
Residential [1,203 parcels]	\$151,381,560	83.5932
Commercial [195 parcels]	\$ 5,455,448	3.0125
Industrial [15 parcels]	\$ 3,608,700	1.9927
Personal Property [35 accounts]	\$ 20,647,470	11.4016
Total amount of 2021 Property Tax Levy	\$181,093,178	100.00%

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

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

We want the general public to know that assessing is a very complicated field and the DOR sets forth very strict guidelines with which our office must comply. With that said, our office is open to the public for any questions Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-4:00 PM and our board typically meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 8:00 AM in the Assessor's Office. If you would like to set up an appointment to meet with the Board, please call the office at (413) 624-3356 since meeting times sometimes change due to scheduling conflicts.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Assessors

Nicholas Anzuoni, Chairman

James Slowinski

Dwight Harrison

Alice Wozniak, MAA & Director of Assessing

Town Clerk

Two thousand twenty was the groundhog year of elections. While true that every four years there are the same number of elections, they normally don't coincide with a pandemic. It seemed that once one election was complete it was time to start mailing out ballots for the next. I'm proud of the fact that with the help of our elections officials and poll workers we were able to provide a safe and efficient election. I would like to encourage anyone interested in becoming a poll worker to contact me.

The breakdown for how voters participated in the November 3rd presidential election is as follows:

Early voters (in person): 227

Persons who voted by mail: 492

Voters on Election Day: 293

Total: 1012

We have three new restoration books in the vault this year, as the clerk's office continues to preserve Colrain's historical files.

Vital Statistics

Births – 12

Deaths – 15

Marriages – 2

Dogs tagged 2020 - 249

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Sauvageau

Colrain Town Clerk

413-624-7100

Accountant's Report

Statement of Net Position (p. 14)

Statement of Activities (p. 15)

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TOWN OF COLRAIN, MASSACHUSETTS
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2020

	Primary Government
	Governmental
	Activities
ASSETS	
CURRENT:	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 3,205,393
Investments	789,792
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectibles:	
Property Taxes	145,378
Tax Liens	80,995
Excise Taxes	30,218
Due from Other Governments	615,269
Total current assets	<u>4,867,045</u>
NONCURRENT:	
Net OPEB Asset	11,769
Capital Assets, net of accumulated Depreciation	
Nondepreciable	1,611,434
Depreciable	8,148,503
Total noncurrent assets	<u>9,771,706</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>14,638,751</u></u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions	45,562
Deferred Outflows Related to OPEB	13,610
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>59,172</u>
LIABILITIES	
CURRENT:	
Warrants and Accounts Payable	209,654
Accrued Payroll	14,428
Payroll Withholdings	4,580
Other	8,482
Accrued Interest	29,694
Notes Payable	2,400,000
Bonds Payable	24,667
Total current liabilities	<u>2,691,505</u>
NONCURRENT:	
Net Pension Liability	616,334
Bonds Payable	221,998
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>838,332</u>
Total Liabilities	<u><u>3,529,837</u></u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Deferred Inflows Related to Pensions	100,649
Deferred Inflows Related to OPEB	38,024
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>138,673</u>
NET POSITION	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	9,513,272
Restricted for:	
Federal & State Grants	373,724
Permanent Funds	5,382
Other Purposes	268,919
Unrestricted	868,116
Total Net Position	<u><u>\$ 11,029,413</u></u>

The Notes to the Financial Statements are an integral part of this Statement.

**TOWN OF COLRAIN, MASSACHUSETTS
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**

	Program Revenues				Net (Expenses) Revenues and and Changes in Net Position
	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	<u>Primary Government Governmental Activities</u>
Primary Government:					
Governmental Activities:					
General Government	\$ 362,497	\$ 23,419	\$ 67,769	\$ 23,179	\$ (248,130)
Public Safety	466,762	152,068	950	-	(313,744)
Public Works	1,094,240	75,045	19,200	1,621,180	621,185
Education	2,306,056	-	1,783	-	(2,304,273)
Health and Human Services	41,024	8,969	16,153	-	(15,902)
Culture and Recreation	78,241	273	15,694	-	(62,274)
Employee Benefits and Insurance	298,723	-	-	-	(298,723)
State Assessments	2,880	-	-	-	(2,880)
Interest	54,761	-	-	-	(54,761)
Total Governmental Activities	4,705,184	259,774	121,549	1,644,359	(2,679,502)
Total Primary Government	\$ 4,705,184	\$ 259,774	\$ 121,549	\$ 1,644,359	(2,679,502)
General Revenues:					
Property Taxes					3,569,189
Motor vehicle excise and other taxes					189,702
Penalties & Interest on Taxes					16,922
Grants & Contributions not restricted to specific programs					358,404
Unrestricted Investment Income					22,953
Miscellaneous					15,937
Total General Revenues					4,173,107
Change in Net Position					1,493,605
Net Position:					
Beginning of year					9,535,808
End of year					\$ 11,029,413

The Notes to the Financial Statements are an integral part of this Statement.

Tax Collector's Report 2020

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

REAL ESTATE

2020	Real Estate	\$ 3,167,288.07
	Payments to Treasurer	\$(3,030,769.74)
	Abatements/Exemptions	\$ (15,527.17)
	Refunds	\$ 11,290.89
	Transfer to Tax Title	<u>\$ (26,174.62)</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2020	<u>\$ 106,107.43</u>
2019	Real Estate forwarded from June 3-, 2019	\$ 81,360.64
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (69,935.98)
	Abatements/Exemptions	\$ (175.00)
	Refunds	\$ 175.00
	Transfer to Tax Title	<u>\$ (11,424.66)</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2020	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
2018	Real Estate forwarded from June 30, 2019	\$ 8,674.07
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (8,674.07)
	Refunds	\$ 0.00
	Transfer to Tax Title	<u>\$ (0.00)</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2020	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
2017	Real Estate forwarded from June 30, 2019	\$ (400.00)
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (400.00)
	Balance as of June 30, 2020	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

2016	Real Estate forwarded from June 30, 2019	\$ 127.02
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ 0.00
	Balance as of June 30, 2020	<u>\$ 127.02</u>

PERSONAL PROPERTY

2020	Personal Property	\$ 407,785.35
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (386,920.25)
	Abatements	\$ (0.00)
	Refunds	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2020	<u>\$ 20,865.10</u>
2019	Personal Property forward from June 30, 2019	\$ 18,248.85
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (297.12)
	Abatements	\$ (0.00)
	Refunds	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2020	<u>\$ 17,951.73</u>

MOTOR VEHICLE AND TRAILER EXCISE

2020	Motor Vehicle	\$ 175,635.74
	Payments to Treasurer	\$(151,951.82)
	Refunds	\$ 3,903.93
	Abatements	<u>\$ (5,728.03)</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2020	<u>\$ 21,859.82</u>
2019	Balance as of June 30, 2019	\$ 42,085.27
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (34,652.14)
	Refunds	\$ 895.92

	Abatements	\$ <u>(1,266.10)</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2020	\$ <u>7,062.95</u>
2018	Balance as of June 30, 2019	\$ 5,555.82
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (2,698.17)
	Refunds	\$ 0.00
	Abatements	\$ <u>(0.00)</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2020	\$ <u>2,857.65</u>
2017	Balance as of June 30, 2019	\$ 2,021.68
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (689.07)
	Refunds	\$ 0.00
	Abatements	\$ <u>(0.00)</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2020	\$ <u>1,332.61</u>
2016	Balance as of June 30, 2019	\$ 1,360.77
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (363.76)
	Balance as of June 30, 2020	\$ <u>997.01</u>
2015	Balance as of June 30, 2019	\$ 1,029.10
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ <u>(121.25)</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2020	\$ <u>907.85</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Location of Funds:

People's Bank	SSRP	\$ 41,086.94
People's Bank	Covered Bridge	\$ 22,447.21
People's Bank	Deputy Collector	\$ 8.26
MMDT	General	\$ 2,216.07
MMDT	Arts' Council	\$ 5,377.90
Unibank	General	\$ 466,517.52
Unibank	Payables	\$ 17.28
Unibank	Payroll 2015	\$ (12,158.45)
Unibank	AP 2015	\$ (211,581.88)
Unibank	Dept. Online	\$ (37.91)
Unibank	Collector Online	\$ 776.91
Unibank	Small Bridges	\$ 22.90
Unibank (non-interest bearing)	Library Grant	\$ 4,200.00
Unibank (non-interest bearing)	Last Mile	\$ 2,517,675.00
Greenfield Co-operative Bank	General	\$ 112,633.57
Greenfield Co-operative Bank	Escrow Atlantic	<u>\$ 1,468.01</u>
Balance as of June 30, 2020		<u><u>\$ 2,950,669.33</u></u>

TRUST FUNDS ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Location of Funds:

People's United Bank		
Martha Babbitt Fund	\$ 763.45	
MMDT		
Stabilization Fund	\$ 139,351.17	
Bartholomew		
Meetinghouse Cemetery Fund	\$ 185.94	
Annie Browning Trust Fund	\$ 185.94	
Miller-Denison Lots	\$ 185.94	
Grace A Teney Fund	\$ 223.13	
East Colrain Cemetery Fund	\$ 1,078.45	
Davenport Relief Fund	\$ 6,540.81	
Stabilization Assessors Fund	\$ 13,605.47	
Stabilization Audit Fund	\$ 5,611.20	
Stabilization Fire Fund	\$ 126,502.62	
Stabilization General	\$ 37,061.65	
Stabilization Griswold Library	\$ 34,997.04	

Stabilization Highway Fund	\$ 96,311.35
Stabilization Police Vehicle/Equipment	\$ 53,941.66
Stabilization Technology	\$ 14,733.29
Stabilization Transfer Station	<u>\$ 22,484.61</u>
Total Trust Funds June 30, 2020	<u>\$ 553,763.72</u>

OPED FUNDS ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Location of Funds:

Bartholomew	
OPEB Fund	\$ 271,778.561

TAX TITLE REVOLVING FUNDS ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Tax Title Revolving Fund	
Beginning Balance as of 7-1-19	\$ 38,366.16
Revenue	\$ 4,376.44
Expenditures	<u>\$ (225.00)</u>
Ending Balance as of 6-30-20	<u>\$ 42,517.60</u>

Annual Reports

Agricultural Commission

Commission Membership

Haynes Turkle – Chair

Valerie Finkel

Joseph Hillman

Lorena Loubsky

Jill Horton-Lyons

Scott Roberts

Lori Shearer

Brian Sullivan

Commission Objective

The Colrain Agricultural Commission (Ag Com) is an appointed standing town committee whose members represent the farming community and are primarily responsible for encouraging the pursuit of agriculture; promoting agricultural-based economic opportunities; and preserving, revitalizing, and sustaining the communities' agricultural businesses and lands.

Since March 2020 the Ag Com has not met in person and has put on hold some of its on-going work such as a farm census, including tracking farm loss, and development of the local farms page on the town website. While the commission is currently on hiatus, members are available on an as needed basis to address issues that may arise.

Summary of recent accomplishment and activities

1. In February, the Ag Com sponsored a new 4H club, "Colrain Free Rangers" as an after-school program at the Colrain Central School. Haynes Turkle is the club leader. There are 10 children enrolled, ages 7-12. Unfortunately, due to the COVID pandemic, the national 4H organization put all clubs on hold until further notice. We hope to resume club meetings sometime in 2021.
2. In April the Ag Com worked with the Colrain Planning Board, advocating on behalf of farmers, to remove zoning restrictions to allow them to grow marijuana and hemp on their farmland, in full compliance with all state regulations. Marijuana and hemp are important agricultural crops that have significant potential to improve the diversity and economic viability of farms in Colrain. Unfortunately, these zoning restrictions were upheld at the Special Town Meeting in May.
3. One of the responsibilities of the Ag Com is to help resolve Right to Farm issues. In May we resolved a complaint in which farm animals from a local farm were getting loose and becoming a nuisance to neighbors.

4. Helped with the Service-Learning program at Colrain Central School and offered farm mentorships to students.
5. Provided support for the Griswold Memorial Library, “Grow-It Colrain” grant program to develop a vegetable garden behind the library. This is a collaborative effort with the Ag Com and 4H club. Although the library was awarded the grant it was unfortunately put on hold in 2020 due to COVID.

Activities in progress and upcoming events

1. Currently working with FRCOG on behalf of the Colrain Select board to participate in a Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program. The scope of work agreed with FRCOG for this grant includes creating a local marketing campaign to inform consumers, producers and food sellers in Colrain about the SNAP and HIP programs (i.e., federal assistance programs that help subsidize food budgets for needy families). The grant program will also work with local farm retail outlets to ensure they can take these benefits and track their usage.

A marketing campaign flyer was developed and will be sent to Colrain households in January. The local CISA organization helped us to work with Pine Hill Orchards to put in place the technology to accept SNAP benefits at point of sale. There is also on-going work into 2021 to capture data about usage of these benefits to help understand if they are being underutilized. FRCOG is finalizing a report about this effort to be presented to the Select Board in January or February.

Financial

The Ag Com does not have a budget and did not raise funds or have income in 2020. Grant funds for the Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program, a total of \$5,000, were fully utilized by FRCOG in 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Haynes Turkle, Chair

Board of Health

Current members of the Board are Tim Hartnett, Tim Slowinski, Michael Friedlander, Gary Ponce, and Nina Martin-Anzuoni, Chair.

As you can imagine, this past year was dominated by responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We were lucky in Colrain, and in Franklin County, that our local infection rate stayed low, although we had a steady number of cases, especially this past winter and spring. We thank all of you who wore your masks, followed the changing guidelines, and were vaccinated. We thank our local businesses, especially the two stores in town, Pine Hill Orchard and Catamount Store, who worked to meet the needs of our community while keeping everyone safe.

This past fall we participated with Buckland and Shelburne in the planning and implementing of a drive-through flu clinic in the parking lot at Mohawk Trail High School and a flu clinic under tents here in Colrain. The multi-town clinic also met State and Federal public health requirements for a mandated emergency planning exercise. We also assisted in planning and implementing COVID-19 vaccine clinics at Mohawk and elsewhere in Franklin County. We participated in twice weekly meetings between Mass Department of Public Health and local Boards of Health. We attended weekly Mohawk Area Public Health and COVID Round Table meetings to coordinate response across the county and to stay updated on changing guidelines.

We attended monthly meetings of the Cooperative Health District that Colrain belongs to through the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. (Please see the Cooperative Health District's report to see how they served us this past year.)

Moving forward, the Board of Health is proposing several new and continuing projects:

- That Colrain participate in low-cost tick testing. Lyme disease and other tick-borne disease are the most frequently reported of the seventy-seven diseases that fall under the jurisdiction of the Board of Health. There will be further information in the future.
- Set aside some money for rabies testing as we continue to have animals in town that are testing positive for rabies.
- Continue to work with our Health Agent and the Select Board to decide if Colrain will opt out of the State-sponsored mosquito spraying. As far as we can determine the State is not monitoring here and has not sprayed for mosquitoes in Colrain in decades. We are discussing how best to increase monitoring and response to any disease that is detected.
- Continue to participate in mandated local public health emergency planning through Mohawk Area Public Health Committee.
- Budget for a few hours of clerk time in Town Hall in order to meet the Town's needs in a timely manner. This clerk will be able to pull septic plans and be available to answer basic questions for residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Nina Martin-Anzuoni, Chair

Building Inspector

A building permit is required by the State Building Code to construct, reconstruct, alter, repair, remove, or demolish a building or structure, or to change the use or occupancy of a building or structure. If you are not sure whether your project will require a building permit, please call before you begin construction.

2020 proved to be a year unlike any other. The COVID-19 pandemic influenced the construction industry in many ways, including limiting building supplies and requiring new standards for jobsite safety. While new homes and major additions were virtually non-existent in Town there still were many photovoltaic installations and home renovations.

Throughout 2020, the building department was able to conduct inspections in a safe manner, and I was able to maintain regular office hours. While the Town Hall was, and continues to be, closed to visitors, I am available to meet in the parking lot during regular office hours to review plans and answer questions.

While we are still having some minor issues with the online permitting software it has proved to be a blessing during the pandemic by limiting the need for in-person contact during the application process. My office hours are every Wednesday night between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the town hall. Please knock on the door and I will come out to meet you. My office telephone # is 624-4728. I can also be reached at home, weeknights before 9 p.m. at 624-9621.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Kimberley
Colrain Building Inspector

Colrain Cultural Council

The Colrain Cultural Council supports cultural programs for children and adults in our community as well as nearby communities which benefit our area. Funded programs include art performances, lectures, music and dance performances, theatre, art in schools, fieldtrips for children and more.

The Colrain Cultural Council is funded by the Local Cultural Council Program (LCC) of the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Every year the Colrain Cultural Council meets to discuss and vote on grant applications. In 2020 the Council met twice. The first meeting was in February 2020, in person, at the town hall to vote on 28 applications. Twenty-three were accepted, five were rejected.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we informed grantees that they had the option to apply for a modification of their events to perform virtually or to apply for extensions to 2021. Eleven grantees applied for extensions and three for modifications. At the second meeting in October, via phone conference, we granted all eleven extensions and three modifications.

For the year 2021 we received 16 new applications.

The Colrain Cultural Council has five members: Donna Cusimano, Paula Harrison, Inge Jockers, Nina Martin-Anzuoni, Sharon Wickland-Shearer

Respectfully submitted January 31, 2021,

Inge Jockers, Chair

Colrain Historical Commission

January 2021

The Commission met five times in 2020. Guy Wheeler and Sarah Davenport Clough have been appointed new commissioners and will be sworn in.

The Commission discussed and supports efforts of the Friends of the Arthur A. Smith Bridge to establish a small park and riverside trails near the covered bridge.

The Commission unanimously supports opening of the Arthur A. Smith Bridge to traffic, except to snowmobiles and, perhaps, in winter. Members privately circulated a petition to open the bridge and notified the Select Board of its support.

There has been extensive discussion, and consultation with Friends of the Arthur A. Smith Bridge of the design, placement and text for an informational sign on the east end of the bridge. Completion will wait for spring. The Commission would also like to place a sign on the west end of the bridge displaying a poem about that bridge by the late Carol Purington. We will seek permission for this from her family.

Concerned about rumors that the Brick Meetinghouse was on the market, and that the historic pulpit, believed to have been carved by Jesse Lyons in the early 18th century, might leave the town, the Commission inquired of one of the owners about that situation. She assured us that the building was no longer on the market and that should it ever be sold, the pulpit would be donated to the Colrain Historical Society.

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

Council on Aging

The Council on Aging programs are well established and flourishing with each passing year. Our meals at the Eagles in Buckland were being held successfully, serving 100+ meals at a time for 6 months out of the year until March when Covid-19 stopped all social gatherings. We were also able to attend several outings for the 6 months with the Friends of West County Seniors including breakfast at Pine Hill, ice cream at Town Line Creamy in Bernardston, Apple Day at Pine Hill, and a group that meets at the library weekly to exchange ideas of their handiwork.

We sponsored a foot clinic by Colrain resident Piper Sagan twice a month in a room at the highway department. This clinic was also suspended mid-March for the rest of the year due to the epidemic.

Thank you to Pine Hill Orchards for allowing the COA to hold the “Apple Day” event and donation of cider and donuts for the monthly social hour before the meal. Also a big thank you to all our volunteers and COA members.

It is with regret, we announce the passing of long-time member Audrey Brown, who will be greatly missed.

We would like to thank the people of Colrain for their continued support for the Council on Aging which makes everything possible.

Gratefully submitted by,

Colrain COA members,

Janice Barnes , Larry Bezio, Valeda Peters, Richard Herzig, Amy Herzig, Russell Barnes, Kathy Phelps, Elaine Stanley, Michelle Hillman, Carl Herzig.

Franklin County Regional Animal Control

To the Select Board and Residents of Colrain:

During the year of 2019, the Towns of Buckland, Colrain, Gill, Heath, Monroe, Northfield, and Shelburne join in partnership with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office to create the Franklin County Regional Animal Control program and hire a Regional Animal Control Officer.

The year of 2020 was the first full year that this program was in operation. While the Coronavirus pandemic has made this past year very unusual, Franklin County Regional Animal Control logged 563 calls for service between January 1st and December 31st 2020. In 2019, Franklin County Regional Animal Control logged 188 calls in the four months the program was in operation (August -December).

Calls for Service:

- 🐾 23 call(s) for animal bites investigations.
- 🐾 26 call(s) for animal welfare checks.
- 🐾 141 call(s) for animal complaints.
- 🐾 49 call(s) regarding found animals.
- 🐾 13 call(s) for inspections.
- 🐾 17 call(s) for sick or injured animals.
- 🐾 66 Mutual Aid Requests.
- 🐾 5 Hearings.
- 🐾 20 Meetings or Trainings.
- 🐾 13 Surrenders.

Breakdown of calls by Town:

- 🐾 Buckland: 81
- 🐾 Colrain: 71
- 🐾 Gill: 37
- 🐾 Heath: 42
- 🐾 Monroe: 6
- 🐾 Northfield: 103
- 🐾 Shelburne: 68
- 🐾 Other*: 155

**Other refers to Assistance
Requests, (Shelter, MSPCA, Local
Law Enforcement, Etc.)*

During this year I will be continuing to work with the Town Clerks to bring town dog licensing lists up to date. We would like to remind everyone that dog licenses are due by April 1 of each year. Please make time to see the Town Clerk for your licensing needs before the deadline to avoid any late fees.

During 2020, 3 raccoons tested positive for rabies (1 in Colrain; 2 in Shelburne). Please take the time to consult your veterinarian and make sure all your pets are up to date with their rabies vaccines.

Anyone with Animal Control questions can contact me directly by email at **kdragon@fcso-ma.us** or by phone at **413-768-0983**. If you have an urgent or immediate situation, please contact the Shelburne Falls Regional Communications Center at **413-625-8200**.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kyle Dragon
Animal Control Officer
Franklin County Regional Animal Control

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is preparing to begin work on the formulation of a budget for the coming fiscal year to be presented to the annual town meeting. This will be a most challenging year in many ways with many unknowns.

We approach this budgetary task knowing that we have a strong team working in our town office and a knowledge that we can all work together for the good of the town.

With a Pandemic running rampant and a damaged economy, we must be patient and work with what we are given to obtain the best results possible.

On the positive side, the Broadband installation is moving toward completion, our retirement liabilities are funded and our finances stable.

The Town of Colrain is a good place to be in the present reality, and we look forward to continuing to serve the town.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas MacLeay – Chair
Thom Griffin
Rachel Glick

Fire Department

The Colrain Fire Department experienced another very active year. Shelburne Control dispatched 246 calls for the fire department from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. These incidents are sorted as follows:

Structure fires	2	Vehicle accidents	7
Vehicle fires	1	Brush fires	7
Power lines down	34	Medical assistance	117
Hazardous material	1	Non-permitted fires	5
Mutual Aid given	34	Chimney Fires	2
Miscellaneous	5	Mutual aid Lucas calls	2
Rescues	2	Fire/CO alarm	13
Investigations/Assist	0	ATV/Bike/Snowmobile MVA	3
Search	1	Service call/Lifeflight LZ	7
Station Staffed	1	Animal rescue	1
Water problems	1		

2020 was a challenging year for the Colrain Fire Department. The nation experienced massive outbreaks of COVID-19 and it became a worldwide pandemic. This altered the way we responded to calls and daily operations. The department implemented personal protective measures and improvised decontamination equipment to minimize exposure. These measures allowed the department to continue responding to calls and also meet our training obligations through the use of online tools and reduced group sizes. The department also hosted an Agricultural Rescue class which was taught by nationally accredited instructors and drew students from western Massachusetts and southern Vermont. It was hosted by Woodslawn Farm of Colrain and our thanks go out to the Purington family and the many other local farmers that contributed time or equipment to make it happen. Also thanks to Captain Holland Herzig and Lieutenant Kevin Worden II for putting in many hours to plan and organize a large project under difficult conditions. This year also saw the first activation of the Franklin County Wildland Fire crew. Modeled after national wildland hand crews, the county team was trained and established early in the spring of 2010. The Colrain Fire Department contributed 13 members to the roster and several members went to deployments at the Joshua Hill Fire in Leverett, the Tully Mountain Fire in Orange and the brush/mulch fire in Agawam. These firefighters received specialized training and also gained valuable experience which they will use on their local fire calls.

The department experienced the loss of active firefighter Barry Sullivan and also retired Chief Larry Dumas. Barry was a mentor to all those that needed some extra coaching in the intricacies of portable pumps, fill sites and the basics of moving water in the rural fire services. He loved our old Mack tanker just because it was an old Mack tanker with a manual transmission and a front mounted pump. He enjoyed driving it, teaching people how to drive it and showing people how to run the pump. He was a loving father and husband and a friend to all those on the department. Larry Dumas was a retired chief of the Colrain Fire Department and was involved with re-building of our famous old Mack tanker. Larry brought a great mix of mechanical and electrical skills to the department and he did much of the maintenance and repair on the apparatus. He was also good at organizing the department and getting many of the standard operating procedures in place and embracing new technology whenever we could afford it. Both will be missed by the fire department.

The Colrain Fire Department continues to be active in both responding to calls and meeting the state training requirements. We continue to recruit new members enabling the department to fulfill its mission to provide fire protection and emergency services to the residents of Colrain. There are over twenty-eight active members on our roster and many of them are Emergency Medical Technicians. Firefighters require mandatory first aid, CPR, and hazardous material training in addition to basic the Firefighter 1 class. The department continues to train aggressively and has had several opportunities to use live fire drills. These enable our firefighters to be proficient in fire suppression and lifesaving skills.

The fire department also has an active junior firefighter program for members 14-17 years of age. This program allows juniors to receive first aid and CPR training in addition to an opportunity to observe and train with the town firefighters.

Franklin County has experienced several tragic structure fires over the past few years and we encourage all residents to maintain smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. It is mandatory that all residential homes that heat with combustible fuels, such as wood, oil, coal or gas, to have carbon monoxide detectors on all inhabited floors. Real estate transactions require a carbon monoxide and smoke detector inspection prior to closing. This “silent killer” has resulted in numerous fatalities and narrow escapes throughout Massachusetts, and Colrain is no exception. Detectors are inexpensive and easy to install. Please contact the fire department or the Massachusetts Fire Marshall’s office for more information or assistance. We have expanded our inspection staff so please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Please note that it is important to have your house number visible to emergency responders. This is important to homes with long driveways that may be difficult to see, especially at night.

The online burning permit system will be available again at www.fcburnpermits.com. The open burning season usually runs from January 2021 to May 1, 2021. Burning trash or construction materials is not permitted under the Massachusetts open burning laws. You may also contact Shelburne Control at 625-8200 to obtain a permit. Please use caution when burning and keep the fire a minimum of 75’ from any structure, maintain a clean fire break around the burn area and keep at least 5 gallons of water on the site.

In closing, we thank the Selectmen, town office staff, finance committee, personnel committee, Colrain Ambulance Association, Colrain Firefighter’s Association, police department and the highway department for their continued support throughout the year. Our gratitude also goes out to the residents of Colrain for your continued support of the Fire Department in so many ways. We wish you all a safe and hopeful 2021.

Respectfully,
Nicholas Anzuoni
Fire Chief

Franklin Regional Council of Governments Services to Colrain in 2020

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

The COVID-19 pandemic modified the ways we did business in 2020, and while the attention of some staff shifted towards pandemic response, our typical work did not stop, nor did our mission to serve the interests of citizens, municipalities, and the region as a whole. *FRCOG's 2020 Annual Report*, published this spring, will further summarize our regional efforts. The following pages list services specific to Colrain. The FRCOG was active in regional and municipal COVID response and recovery in numerous ways, including:

- Advocated for changes to laws and regulation needed to run municipalities remotely
- Conducted a business impact survey to understand how to allocate emergency funding to protect the regional economy
- Monitored active cases and conducted contact tracing for 19 towns
- Opened the Multi-Agency Coordination Center to disseminate situation reports to municipalities, responders and other stakeholders
- Launched a weekly newsletter of resources and support for parents & guardians of school-aged children
- Facilitated the distribution of PPE to area hospitals and responders, and facilitated a collective purchase of PPE for municipalities, non-profits and businesses
- Managed and distributed emergency funding to local Boards of Health
- Assisted the Board of Health in identifying contract tracing support for COVID case management
- Secured \$6,910 in COVID emergency management funds to fund COVID case management
- Provided mask order and social distancing signage for use at town facilities and businesses
- Served on the Mohawk Trail Regional School District COVID-19 Task Force

Climate Resilience

- Worked with a town committee to finalize the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan that meets FEMA requirements, is valid for 5 years, and makes the town eligible for pre- and post-disaster FEMA funds.
- Assisted the town with revising the Green Communities designation-grant project narrative for solar PV on the highway garage.
- Assisted the Town Coordinator with completing the FY20 Green Communities Annual Report.

Economic Development

- Included the Colrain Town/Village Center Sanitary Sewer System project in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy plan.
- Compiled an inventory and map of recreational assets in the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership area.

Finance and Municipal Services

- Colrain contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment and drone services; heating and vehicle fuel; school district fire alarm and fire extinguisher services; and dog tags and licenses. Staff assisted the town with bidding for solar electricity.

Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

- Assisted in production of a regional IT network and shared cybersecurity systems feasibility study.
- Secured funding for a series of capacity-building workshops, to be conducted in 2021.

Land Use and Natural Resources

- Helped the town administrator and working group complete the Green Communities Annual Report.
- Assisted the town with successful application for a \$12,500 Municipal Energy Technical Assistance grant to study conversion from oil to electric heat pumps at the town hall.
- Provided municipal officials with technical assistance on zoning.
- Assisted Colrain, among other towns, with the formation of the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Board, responsible for future activities of the partnership in accordance with the state legislation.

Public and Community Health

The Town is a comprehensive member of the CPHS, a health district based at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. (See the COVID section for related work) related to COVID work. Program staff:

- Coordinated vaccine availability, supplies and staff support for flu clinics held at community sites throughout the CPHS district with the help of Medical Reserve Corps members, GCC nursing students and community volunteers. All told, CPHS flu clinics vaccinated 2,045 Franklin County residents. For Colrain, a walk-through clinic served 78 residents, while the Mohawk Emergency Dispensing Site Drill vaccinated 442 residents, 164 of them over age 65.
- Completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance and reporting for 332 communicable disease cases in the district member towns. Thirty-four (34) cases were from Colrain, including Anaplasmosis, Hepatitis C, and Lyme disease, some of which required in-depth case investigation and reporting.
- Twenty-Four (24) Colrain residents received low-cost tick tests in 2020 through a district program and Department of Public Health subsidy, a value of \$840. Tick prevention materials and help for residents accessing tick testing were provided. Thirty-three percent (33%) of ticks tested in Colrain tested positive for the Lyme Disease Pathogen.
- Conducted 20 Title-5 Inspections prior to property transfers; 10 Soil Evaluations for septic systems; and 12 septic system plan reviews that included site visits, issuing Local Upgrade Approvals and DSCP (septic) permits, completing final inspections of installations, and preparing Certificates of Compliance.
- Permitted 4 new wells, including determining compliance with Water Supply Standards.
- Conducted 5 retail food inspections and responded to housing cases with varying degrees of complexity.
- Designed and compiled a Board of Health Handbook outlining relevant codes, and the roles and responsibilities of BOH members.

- Provided a virtual training opportunity with the Mass Attorney General’s Office to learn about the Neighborhood Renewal Program – a program designed to help bring abandoned residential properties back to their intended use – resulting in the Board of Health voting to join the program. There is no cost for Colrain to participate, and any eligible property that is recommended and accepted into the program has administrative and enforcement costs provided by the Attorney General’s Office.
- Provided education to local businesses on the new Vaping Law that went into effect on July 1, 2020, and followed up with observation to ensure that the new regulations were being enforced.
- Conducted a Teen Health Survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Mohawk Trail Regional School administrators on results from 103 Mohawk students, representing 61% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant writing and program planning.
- Provided training, technical assistance, and evaluation for the evidence-based LifeSkills substance use prevention curriculum in the Mohawk Trail Regional School District.
- Provided materials and guidance on vaping prevention and intervention and resources for advancing racial justice in schools to Mohawk Trail Regional School District.
- Organized a community showing and discussion of the documentary *I’m Not Racist....Am I?* in which Mohawk Trail students and staff participated.
- Compiled and distributed *Coalition Connections*, a newsletter with information and resources for families, human service providers, and educators during the pandemic to support health and prevent youth substance use.

Training and Education

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

Cooperative Purchasing

Collective Purchasing for Highway Supers – 1

Emergency Prep & Homeland Security

American Sign Language for First Responders – 1

Municipal Officials’ Continuing Education

Finance Committee 101 – 1

OSHA Compliance – 1

Selectboard – 1

Pandemic Support

Covid-19 Coordination Roundtables (biweekly) – 1

Municipal Reimbursement for Covid-19 Costs – 1

Planning, Conservation & Development

Responsibilities of Planning & Zoning Boards – 1

Public Health & Community

3-in-1 Food Safety Training Certification – 3

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

Transportation

- Conducted a traffic and bicycle count on Greenfield Rd. for the Regional Traffic Counting Program.

Franklin County Waste Management District

We applied for and received grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection worth \$123,000 for District towns. Some grant funding is a result of a town's successful waste management infrastructure. Other grants include equipment to make town transfer stations more efficient.

If you have questions about District programs, call us at 413-772-2438 (MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 TTY/TDD), visit our website at <http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org> or visit us at 117 Main St., 2nd Floor in Greenfield.

Jan Ameen - *Executive Director*

Jonathan Lagreze, Colrain – *Chair*

Chris Boutwell, Montague - *Vice-Chair*

MA Swedlund, Deerfield – *Treasurer*



Keeping Colrain connected, even in isolation!

Griswold Memorial Library Annual Report

Respectfully submitted January 30, 2021

Chelsea Jordan-Makely, Director

Safety and service, our highest priorities:

2020 got off to a good start, with the Town Bonfire on January 25th, the usual Wednesday morning meetings of the In-Stitches craft group, and Friday Stories and Songs, but the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic soon disrupted business as usual, prompting the Griswold Memorial Library (GML) to close its doors and seek new ways of providing resources and services to our community. Despite several periods when the library was closed, the library loaned more than 11,000 physical items over the calendar year, and more virtual resources than ever before.

GML was closed to the public from March 16 to May 27th, during which time the library provided loans by mail—about 170 items in total—thanks to generous support from the Friends of the Library. Library staff kept close watch on best practices and protocols for preventing the spread of the coronavirus, and communicated closely with members of the Town of Colrain emergency response team and Board of Health.

Phase Two of the library's reopening, "Library Takeout" allowed visitors to step into the entryway and to browse new books and DVDs "with eyes only," and the library parking lot remained very busy with people connecting to our wireless networks for work, school, and other important business, so much so that we began evaluating our parking area, and put up a tent to shade people from the hot sun.

After upgrading the library's HVAC system, GML moved briefly into Phase Three, "Express Browsing," during which one person or family at a time could come into the library to browse, but this service model was short-lived, as a surge in coronavirus cases prompted the library to close its doors again on December 16th. Since that time, staff have been busy providing "Curbside Service," meeting patrons at their cars, bringing them any holds they've placed in advance of their visits, and providing lots of recommendations.

Ongoing measures to ensure everyone's safety include regular cleaning of high-use surfaces, placing returned items into quarantine for one week before handling or loaning them to other library patrons, wearing masks in the building and on library grounds, and washing our hands or using hand

sanitizer frequently. We serve just one family at a time and keep visits quick, but place a high priority on the quality of our service and the bonds we share with our patrons and our community.

A welcoming place for everyone:

September 8th, 2020 the GML Board of Trustees issued a statement on Social Justice and Equity:

At the Griswold Memorial Library, we stand for racial equity and social justice for all. We will actively seek to eliminate barriers that prevent the enjoyment of library programs and services, and will do our best to foster an environment that is safe and welcoming. We pledge to develop policies, collections and programs that represent diverse viewpoints and the voices of communities that are historically overlooked and disenfranchised, in Colrain and more broadly. In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." At the Griswold Memorial Library, we will do our best to serve as a change agent for a more equitable and just community.

Listening in, and planning for the future:

GML staff and trustees spent 2020 listening in to community needs, and drafting our strategic plan for the years ahead. We conducted a survey via the annual street listing, and also online, and received 106 responses in total. This information helped to guide efforts towards a new strategic plan, adopted on January 25, 2021.

New services:

The coronavirus pandemic disrupted our ability to gather and deliver traditional programs, but we responded by trying new things:

- Stories and Songs Online: a virtual program with pre-literacy tips, movement, stories, and songs, to help children ages 0-6 be ready to read!
- Ms. Betty's Take & Make Crafts/Crafts Online! Each month, pick up a bag, watch the video, and make your own crafts at home with Ms. Betty!
- Poem of the Week: In person or by phone, we hand-pick a poem each week and love to share it with you by phone, or in person!
- Send us your print jobs! \$.25 per page black and white, or \$.75 for color. Pick-up during library hours.
- Our annual Summer Reading Club took place via postcard this past year. Winners received gift certificates to Catamount Country Store, Hager's Market, Mo's Fudge Factor, and Pine Hill Orchards, and book bags sewn by Amy Herzig!
- Grow it, Colrain! Although the constraints of the pandemic ultimately caused us to return an LSTA grant intended for gardening programming, GML nevertheless produced a couple of online videos sharing local gardening wisdom, "Grow Garlic, with Kate Barrows," and "Seed Saving, with Jonathan Lagreze."
- Kindness Reading Project: Beginning December 16, 2020, the Kindness Reading Project is a joint initiative with the West County Kindness Project aimed at raising social consciousness.

Ten people attended the first meeting, and discussed *An Indigenous People's History of the United States*, by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz.

Gratitude:

- The Friends of the Griswold Memorial Library, especially Ellen Weeks and Sara Wik, and all who contribute to the FOL. Thank you for your generous and ongoing support of GML's mission and vision.
- Kate Barrows, GML's Assistant Director, for demonstrating flexibility and information-based decision-making, and the utmost care in keeping our library safe from germs!
- The GML Board of Trustees: Nancy Turkle, Chair; Betty Johnson, Treasurer; Cheli Mennella, Secretary; Betsy Browning; Michael Friedlander; Jill Horton-Lyons, for your many hours of service and utmost focus on the needs of our community.
- Liz Sonnenberg, thank you for your hours spent creating an inventory of our historical collection.
- Paula Harrison and Betty Johnson, for sewing masks to make available to anyone in need.
- Kathy Steinem and her exercise cohort, for bringing life to the lawn and for your generous donations to GML.
- Charlie Busch, for refinishing the library doors!
- Jonathan Lagreze, for being our "Grow It, Colrain," video guinea pig.

In memory:

GML remembers two special library patrons who passed away in 2020, Audrey Brown, and Carol Purington. Their visits, phone calls, and emails are missed. Special thanks to the friends and family of Carol who made donations to the library in her name. These will be put towards a new pavilion, and the library is beginning a new program, The Carol Purington Poetry Collective, to honor our late friend's love of poetry.

Highway Department

I am starting this year's annual report by thanking my guys for their continued dedication to the Town of Colrain. We have experienced a lot of challenges this year due to COVID-19. They leave their families at home every day to take care of our needs.

I would also like to thank Donnie Brown for his service to the Town of Colrain. Donnie started working for the Town of Colrain Highway Department September 7, 1993. His 27 years of experience and wealth of knowledge about the town can't be replaced. He always came to work with a positive attitude and put in a solid day's work. We all wish him the very best and hope he has a wonderful retirement!!

It is difficult to social distance performing our duties on the Highway Department, but we were able to complete some good projects. We put in drainage piping and built up the base on Heath Rd. before we paved the last mile of the road. We also paved the entire length of Dwight Cross Rd. Part of Cal Coombs Rd. and part of Franklin Hill Rd. We used Ch90 funds to fund these paving projects. There was a section of Adamsville Rd. that got paved as well. Funding from the MASSWORKS grant paid for this paving. We finished the prep work on the Telecommunication Hut site and assisted with the placement of the hut. We cleaned under the guardrails on Greenfield Rd. The new/used bucket truck we got last year has proven to be a valuable tool in our fleet of equipment.

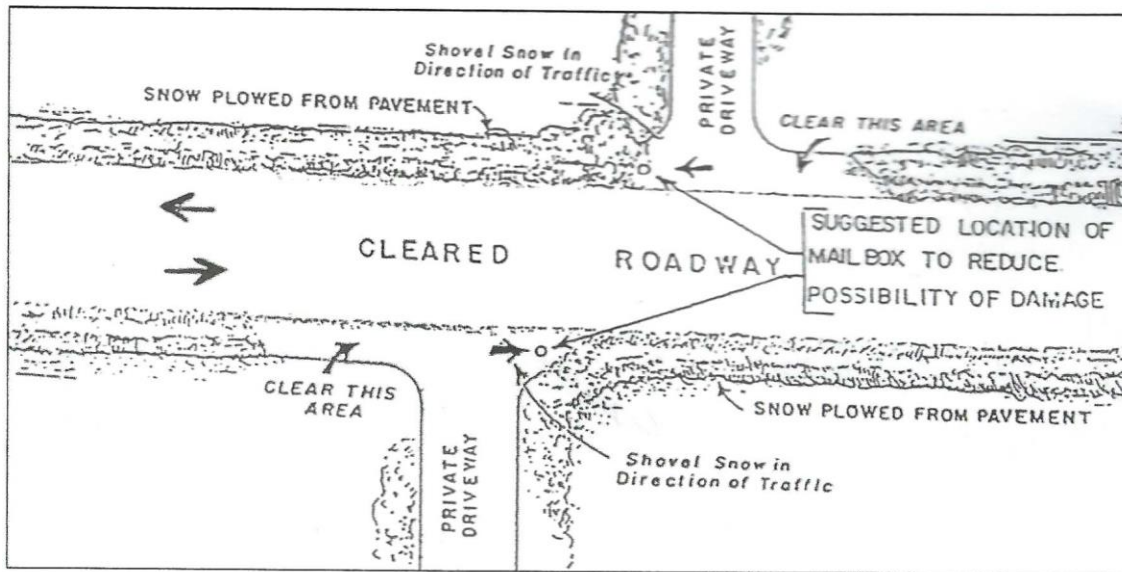
We continue to utilize the shared mower program with four other Municipalities. Unfortunately, this program will be ending soon.

The Call Rd. Bridge was completed this year.

I would also like to thank Lanoue Tree & Landscape Service for all of their great work they do to make our Town Office look nice.

We all hate it when the Town Highway Department snow plow comes by and fills in your driveway just after you cleared it. We also hate it when the heavy snow knocks our mailbox off the post. Most people that call the Highway Department say the snowplow destroyed my mailbox. Most times it is the weight of the snow that damages mailboxes.

There are steps you can take to minimize snow blockage at the end of your driveway and mailbox damage. Please refer to the following sketch to learn how to remove snow to minimize excess driveway plow windrow blockage and damage to your mailbox.



Please take a moment every fall to inspect your mailbox and post to make sure they are secure.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Sullivan

Highway Superintendent

Mary Lyon Foundation 2020 Annual Report

Innovative Support of Education 1990-2020

This was not a year we will want to remember, yet it is one we will never forget. The world-wide pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus not only interrupted the lives of everyone in the community, but it had a significantly disruptive effect on local education. We salute and truly admire the teachers, paraprofessionals and administrators who valiantly provided services and delivered the best possible educational outcomes under the circumstances. To the parents, grandparents and guardians who supervised remote learning, we applaud you for your enduring patience and diligence.

Despite the ravages of the pandemic, our generous and loyal donors provided unparalleled support during these unprecedented times. Of special note is the generosity of the Myrtle L. Atkinson Foundation, the Shelburne Falls Academy, the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, and the United Way of Franklin County as well as countless individuals, businesses and organizations. We greatly appreciate our many volunteers including Sandy Gilbert and Rita Jaros; all our treasured volunteers are important assets to the organization.

It was a year that tested the strength and resiliency of the foundation, but we persevered and were able to provide unique support in unprecedented ways. Anonymous donations such as funding for home internet access for students, basic school necessities, a new mural for the Mohawk gymnasium and an improved air quality system for Hawlemont were generous, unsolicited highlights of the year.

The close of 2020 marks the beginning of our 30th anniversary. Established in the Fall of 1990 and incorporated on March 8 of 1991, the Mary Lyon Foundation has seen three decades quickly pass, but not without significant accomplishments:

84 Members of the community have served on the Board of Trustees

104 Members of the community have served as volunteers

2,040 backpacks filled with school supplies were distributed

\$54,000 worth of food vouchers was distributed

\$168,233 was awarded for educational grants and special projects

\$500,000 was received in pass-through, in-kind contributions for the schools

\$2,476,256 was invested in school science equipment, playgrounds, computer labs, a new track, furniture & opening day library collections. It is with great pleasure that we, the new incoming executive director, Kristen Tillona-Baker of South Deerfield, and Susan Samoriski, the retiring executive director, plan and execute a seamless transition. Kristen, an experienced educator and highly successful leader, is an ideal match for this organization, and it is our pledge to work together to provide a platform for even stronger programs and services. We are pleased to introduce Martha Potyrala of Easthampton as the new and highly capable Administrative Assistant. Sue will remain as a volunteer for the upcoming

comprehensive campaign and serve as a mentor while Kristen and Martha will conduct business as usual and explore new avenues for the foundation.

It is also our distinct pleasure to thank the partners that have helped us maintain 30 years of unparalleled success supporting the Harper Gerry Student Assistance Fund; they are Hager's Farm Market, Keystone Market, Avery's Store, The Optician and Bootlegger's. We are a community based non-profit organization devoted to the support of excellence in local education in the schools and in the West County community. Thank you one and all for an incredible three decades of tremendous support. We are sure that the outpouring of community generosity will not only continue but will flourish in perpetuity.

Members of the Board of Trustees for 2020 were Marion Taylor (Past President), Sylvia Orcutt (Past President), Laurie Benoit (Board Chair), Peter Stevens (Board Vice Chair), Katherine McKay (Secretary and Chair of the Putnam Hill Legacy Society), Joni Sessions (Treasurer), Karen Fairbrother (Assistant Treasurer), Max Fripp, John Cornman (Chair of the Search Committee), and we welcome two new incoming board members - Karen Blom from Buckland and Jana Standish of Colrain. Honorary Lifetime Board members are Sharon Hudson, Hugh Knox and former superintendent, Dr. Bruce Willard.

Our Honorary Advisory Board consists of Jane Yolen, Cady Coleman, Josh Simpson, Donald and Grace Friary, Fiona Hill, Tracy Kidder, Paul Reville, Julie Upton Wang, Willie Hill and Stanley Rosenberg.

This annual report is dedicated to Marion Taylor, whose wise guidance and amazing 30-year tenure on the Board of Trustees has helped us secure a firm foundation for the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan B. Samoriski, Ed.D.
Retiring Executive Director

Kristen Tillona-Baker
Incoming Executive Director

Municipal Light Plant Report

Colrain Broadband

January 2021

Town of Colrain
Municipal Light Plant (MLP)
Colrain Broadband

The sole activity of the MLP during the year was the project to plan, design and build a fiber optic broadband network throughout the town. The approximately \$3,700,000 capital project will be funded by a Commonwealth of Massachusetts grant and borrowing by the town that was authorized in a prior year. The grant requires that we make service available to at least 96% of homes.

The broadband network will provide internet service at a potential speed of 1 Gigabit per second and VoIP telephone service over a fiber optic system. The Town of Colrain will own the network. We have entered into contracts with Westfield Gas & Electric (WG&E) in Westfield, Massachusetts and other subcontractors to help in the planning, design and building of the network. Also, through an intermunicipal agreement, we have chosen Whip City Fiber (WCF, a division of WG&E) as the Internet Service Provider (ISP) for Colrain. WCF will provide customer interface and services, plus operating and maintenance of the network.

Early in the year most of the planning and design was completed with the additional help of the Broadband Advisory Committee. During the year construction began with the placement of supporting strand, fiber cable and connections along many of the roadways in town. That construction continues and is expected to be completed by late spring 2021. The next phase is to install service to homes which will continue throughout the coming year.

The central electronic 'heart' of the network that will connect subscribers to the internet will be housed in the small hut located on Main Road.

The website at which Colrain residents can sign up for service is whipcityfiber.com/colrain.

Information regarding the services and updates on progress can be found on the Town of Colrain website in the Colrain Broadband pages.

Kevin Fox
Michael Shuipis
Co-Managers

Carl H. Nilman Scholarship Fund

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

Due to COVID 19 in 2020 our usual meetings were cancelled.

Our Awards Subcommittee met earlier in the year and they were able to accept and read Scholarship applications and award applicants with funds that Bartholomew indicated was available.

The Awards Subcommittee received and read 36 applications. 11 were from seniors and 25 were from graduates. We used 30% of the money available for seniors and 70% for graduates. The Committee feels that seniors have multiple scholarship opportunities from other sources while graduates have fewer resources. 10 scholarships totaling \$11,800.00 were awarded to seniors and 25 scholarships totaling \$29,450.00 were given to graduates.

From 1991-2020 a total of \$1,054,475.00 has been awarded in scholarships. Mohawk seniors have been awarded \$323,275.00 and \$731,200.00 has been awarded to graduates.

Applications were available on line for graduates and the seniors could acquire theirs at Mohawk.

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

Students of any age who are graduates of Mohawk (and were living in the nine town area at the time of graduation) are encouraged to apply for scholarships to help meet their continuing education needs. Please call the Guidance Office at Mohawk for information regarding requirements and deadlines.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion E Scott, Secretary

Police Department

2020 has proven to be a busy, yet productive year for the Police Department. With the onset of Covid-19, increased calls for service, the proposed Police Reform bill and changes with technology, the members of the Colrain Police Department continued to provide an enhanced level of service to the citizens.

Covid-19 posed many challenges for responding to calls, conducting traffic stops and the ability to have the department open to the public. With the assistance of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Health and guidance from State agencies, the department was able to implement department protocols to keep the Officers and the public safe. Current revisions have been adopted allowing the department to reopen on a limited basis and continue traffic enforcement. I would like to thank the members of the community for their patience and also the donations of personal protective gear for the Officers.

For 2020, the Police Department handled 1,313 calls, 698 calls were dispatched by the regional Dispatch Center and 615 calls were department initiated either from calls to the station, walk-ins or calls to the Chief. From July to September, officers logged an estimated 150 hours conducting South Green River Patrols as out of town and state swimmers continued to occupy the river. During these patrols, Officers enforced trespassing issues, littering, noise and motor vehicle complaints and violations. An estimated 3 arrests and 15 cars were towed. As we prepare for the 2021 season, I would like to thank the land owners for posting their properties along the river as this will reduce the amount of complaints that are received.

As part of the passing of the Police Reform Bill, the department will be busy in 2021 reaching the new standards by updating polices, completing required training for officer certifications and updating technology. Colrain Police Officers are committed to the upcoming challenges as each of us are dedicated to providing excellence and professionalism.

In closing, I would like to thank Officers James Hunkler, Derek Worden, Heather Sonn and Tarrah Dempsey for their compassion for the Colrain Community as they all reside outside the town and are always available. I would also like to recognize Officer Dempsey for her hard work in keeping the community up to date by maintaining the department Facebook. As a reminder, please do not request an officer through Facebook as this is not monitored 24/7. Any emergency shall be directed to 911 and requests to speak with any member of the department shall be made by calling 625-8200 or 624-3038.

Respectfully,
Chief Christopher Lannon

Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District

Colrain Annual Report

Our district has now been in operation for 5 ½ years. We are the largest district by community count and square miles covered in the state. Below are just some of the programs and services we help veterans' and their dependents with:

- M.G.L. Ch. 115 benefit – Needs based program of financial and medical assistance to eligible veterans and their dependents
- Assistance to veterans and dependents to help file for VA health care, pensions, and service-connected disabilities
- Homeless prevention assistance to veterans and their families
- Employment help with job searches, resumes, and job interview skills
- Burial assistance to include government markers, flag holders, internment, and VA burial reimbursement
- Veterans records retrieval and storage
- Referral to other public and private agencies to include housing, fuel assistance, employment, training, education
- Attend area outreach events (fairs, festivals, health care expos)

While the COVID-19 pandemic hampered our satellite location hours, our office remained opened and staffed to assist veterans.

We have continued to work hard helping veterans and dependents file for VA benefits due them. Colrain now has around \$62,277.20 in monthly Federal VA payments being paid to approximately 31 Colrain residents. This is tax-free income paid due to service-connected injuries, low-income or survivor status.

We forecast Colrain's M.G.L. Ch115 caseload to remain flat for the foreseeable future. This is the state's low income assistance program for veterans' and their dependents. Although reimbursed back to the towns at 75%, this takes over a year to get back from the state so reducing payouts up front has freed up funds for Colrain. This budget item is currently paying \$627.00 per month to eligible clients.

For the coming year we have increased our accessibility to veterans' records through direct DOD access and having our Deputy become a National Service Officer. Our long term goal is to become a VA tele-health center allowing veterans to meet with VA providers in our office via the internet, saving travel time for our veterans.

Timothy Niejadlik, Director

Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District

Schools

Colrain Central School

Along with all of you, this past year has been unlike any other at Colrain Central School. In spite of the challenges of COVID 19 and its subsequent complications, we have stayed focused on the education of the children of our community. We again had 7 classrooms, plus preschool and a network of professional and support staff to help meet the needs of all of our students. We saw a temporary decline in our student population as many families chose to homeschool their children during the pandemic. We are hopeful that many, if not all, of those families will return to our school community next year. During the 2020-2021 school year we serviced 81 students in grades PK-6.

The statewide shut down in March of 2020 forced us into remote learning, which was a completely new experience for everyone. We managed to pull together enough devices to issue one per family that needed it. We all learned how to use Google Meet, which was incredibly challenging for many families with poor or no internet access. We set up a wifi hotspot in the back parking lot of the school to provide a place for families to be able to log in and meet with their teachers and peers. On the last day of school, we set up a reverse parade for students to come through and say goodbye to their teachers.

When it became clear that we would be starting the 20-21 school year in a remote learning model, we invested heavily in technology and training for staff in order to ensure an excellent education for our students, in spite of the challenges. We purchased enough devices so that each student could have his/her own device, as well as extras to replace ones that were too old and would need to be replaced throughout the year. We also applied for and received a grant to allow us to help several families get internet access at their homes.

We spent 10 days prior to the start of school training staff on many aspects of technology and technological tools used for education. We developed a solid remote learning program in order to reduce time lost if we needed to transition between models throughout the year as the pandemic warranted. While much more challenging in a remote learning model, we continued to explore our Service Learning initiative and build partnerships with our community members. Because we were not in person at the time, we took on a school wide project of examining food insecurity. Students explored many different ways that might play out in the community and looked for ways they could solve this real-world problem.

Some of the facility maintenance and improvement projects that have happened in 2020 include: hot water heater replacement, hot water control valves replacements, mixing valve replacement, removed dead maple tree and trimmed trees, pump sewer system and grease trap, repairs to ventilation system, replaced water fountain by cafe', flame-proofed curtains on stage, tinted windows, added a security swipe system to the front and back door, installed a window in the lobby, painted hallways and all univent and radiator covers, refinished all the VCT tile floors. Additional, the annual services such as the boiler, fire alarm, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, univents, exhaust duct and vent cleaning, ansul system in kitchen, water testing, and general maintenance of toilets and sinks were all completed.

As always, I invite you all to explore and see the wonderful things happening in our school. Our outstanding staff strives to meet the needs of all students and prepare them to be active, involved citizens and strong, creative problem solvers. I continue to be honored to serve this town as the principal of Colrain Central School.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy K. Looman, Principal

Mohawk Trail Regional School

2020 Annual Report of the Principal

In April 2020, the Mohawk Trail Regional School (MTRS) was awarded a \$375,000 Implementation Grant from Mass IDEAS, a Massachusetts non-profit organization committed to “innovating design in education for all students.” This grant allowed MTRS to implement new initiatives and curricular programming to redesign the school experience for all students. Over the course of the past year, students, staff, and community members have engaged in professional development and working groups in order to implement the new Trailblazer Model:

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

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, much of our 2020-2021 school year occurred remotely. However, our redesign efforts were not hindered and we continued to engage teachers in professional development and to implement our new model. The Trailblazer Model has six key focus areas: high quality instruction, advisory and social emotions learning, communications and community outreach, distributed leadership, portfolios and equity. This model engages all stakeholders in a transformational school experience including:

- Internships and work study opportunities, on campus and off
- Interdisciplinary courses such as STEM, Bioethics, Artglish, and American Democracy
- Social Emotional Learning supports including: Advisory model for all grades 7-12, site based therapeutic services, and college and career planning
- Portfolio of student work
- Senior Capstone project culminating with a site based internship
- Community outreach including a Trailblazer Community Group comprised of staff, parents, students and community members that meets several times a year
- Community equity group comprised of staff, parents, community members and students that will support the development of anti-racism strategic plan with a focus on: curriculum, communication and policy

Through the Mass IDEAS Planning Grant, we partnered with national education organizations: Next Generation Learning Challenges (NGLC) and EL Education. NGLC and EL Education have been working with MTRS teachers and administrators to transform classrooms to be more student-centered and to develop rigorous and diverse ways in which students can demonstrate their learning. In addition, EL Education will

assist teachers in the development of interdisciplinary, hands-on activities that will engage students in rigorous community-based projects. NGLC will support our Instructional Leadership Team and Portfolio Working Group to develop a comprehensive portfolio model. Teachers will help to guide students through the compilation of an individualized portfolio that demonstrates who they are as a learner and goals they set for themselves. NGLC will also work with teachers to develop assessments that connect to 21st century skills and the real world.

In addition to EL Education and NGLC, MTRS has partnered with Firefly Worldwide Inc. and their founder and CEO, Cheyenne E. Batista. Ms. Batista is working with the MTRS Equity Council in their development of an anti-racism strategic plan with a focus on curriculum, communication and policy. Additionally, in the fall of 2020, Ms. Batista led sixteen educators through a “Laying the Foundation” training to support our anti-racism and equity work. These educators will participate in a second session in March of 2021.

Our Athletics Department had a successful 2020 fall sports season. Field Hockey, Golf, and Cross-Country teams competed against Franklin County schools. The Franklin County “sports bubble” was created to allow for competitions to take place within a limited travel zone and kept our schools from having to travel to other parts of western-mass. Coaches were able to successfully navigate daily COVID modifications and we were able to hold our athletes to the rigorous standards put forth by the state and local athletic and health associations. All three teams had enjoyable seasons and feedback from athletes was very positive, and families reported back that they were very happy that we were able to offer a fall sports season even though usual routines were modified. Our soccer and volleyball programs also held fall practices with sights on competition in the newly formed Fall II sports season which is slated to start at the beginning of March. Our football coop with Greenfield sent a handful of MTRS student-athletes to Greenfield High School for successful twice a week skills/drills workouts. Football is also scheduled to be a Fall II sport.

Since our last report 2020 spring athletics were cancelled due to the closing of school, however we did complete our 2020 winter sports season. Highlights included League Championships for our Girls Alpine Skiing team and for the first time our Girls Nordic Skiing team! Our basketball programs also had successful seasons and our wrestling program flourished with solid participation numbers and our first full season with our brand new custom wrestling mat. Our indoor track teams also competed at a high level and saw several athletes compete at the top of their events on a weekly basis at Smith College.

As we begin to navigate the current 2021 winter sports season, we have our Alpine teams out at Berkshire East with races on Thursdays which include our newly formed co-op with Frontier Regional athletes coming to MTRS to join our program. Our defending League Champion Nordic team continues its third year of a successful co-op with Hampshire Regional, and our basketball teams recently began practices with competitions beginning the week of 2/2. Other traditional winter sports have been pushed back with Indoor Track moved to Fall II and Wrestling now moved to the Spring Sports season.

At the mid-point of the 2020-2021 school year, student enrollment in grades 7-12 is 288. Current enrollment numbers for middle school include approximately 56 students in seventh grade and 68 students in eighth grade. Enrollment for ninth grade is 38 students: 10th grade with 27 students; 42 members of the junior class, and 53 MTRS seniors. We have 4 students enrolled in our post-graduate program.

Respectfully submitted,
Marisa Mendonsa, Principal

Special Education and Pupil Services Report

What a year. Considering this report runs from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 - we spent only two and a half months learning, by what we now refer to as in-person. School buildings were shuttered in March of 2020, but that didn't stop the learning or the support students receive from this department. We serve students with the highest need and students who receive services to support their learning. Just like everyone, we panicked a little, and wondered how we would ever do this. It didn't take the Special Education and English Language Learner staff long to start getting creative. While there was a great deal of fear and uncertainty, folks didn't let it stop them from trying out new ways to reach students. I have to thank every one of our Special Education teachers, providers and paraprofessionals.

We spent the months of April and May trying to establish routines and consistency. The special education liaisons and I worked tirelessly on mandates that continued to come from the state. We created new digital forms, new protocols and procedures. We worked with families to offer a full level of support and supported family decisions to hold off on services. During the spring of 2020, we did not hold any IEP meetings, complete evaluations or provide in person learning.

During the summer months, once we received guidance from the state and were able to purchase and plan for safe and effective programs, we invited in DESE defined high needs students for in-person learning. Staff and Students learned in various settings including outdoor tents, outdoor classrooms in courtyards, meeting in local parks, and outdoors at students' homes. We extended the number of days and time we typically serve students in order to reduce the amount of potential regression.

We soon realized that the fall was not going to be typical. August was a month of planning for remote IEP meetings and identifying which students would require more in-person learning. The state provided some guidance on how to support students, but left it up to individual districts to make ends meet. The district worked hard to identify what students required additional technology support and what students we would prioritize for in-person instruction. Families were permitted to make their own decision for their students even if they were invited to come for in-person. Outdoor learning continued into October, as long as the weather permitted.

Regardless of COVID and remote learning, the district maintained the following district level programs and Services:

- Students requiring the support of a BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst). The program is located at BSE and currently serves six students. When the program began, students spent more than 50% of their time within the program. Currently those students are in their mainstream classes more than 80% of the time.
- Mohawk Supported Classroom, located in the middle and high school. The program supports students with academic and social emotional needs. Students receive educational support both in the program and within the general education setting.
- Mohawk Vocational Program. Services students with Intellectual Disabilities who require a higher level of support. The program also supports those students who are eligible to remain in

school until age 22. The focus is on transition and vocational skills. MVP students participate in community job sites such as Berkshire East, Charlene Manor and Aubuchon. We are grateful to the local businesses for supporting our students.

- Services provided by: Counselors, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Speech Language Pathologist, School Psychologists, Special Education Teachers and Paraprofessionals.

Positive Outcomes from this year:

- Our students, staff, and families are resilient and learned A LOT of new technology.
- Remote-Virtual IEP meetings work and may be more convenient for families in the future.
- The amount of paperwork generated by this department may now be allowed, by DESE standards, to utilize more digital forms instead of hard copy.

Here's hoping 2021 will bring in-person learning for all, and we carry forward the new learning and new experiences while remembering that the relationships we have with our students are what carry us through hard times.

Respectfully submitted,

Leann Loomis
Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Superintendent of Schools

Town Report – 2020

It is a pleasure and honor to serve as your Superintendent of Schools. Beginning July 1, 2020, I have been learning as much as possible about our Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional School Districts, our towns, and our community. While the COVID 19 global pandemic has certainly changed how we have been introduced to each other, I am extremely grateful for the enthusiastic and warm welcome I have received. It is clear that we share a common vision and commitment to our children, and even more so, during these challenging times.

The school districts have responded to COVID 19 by preparing remote learning for all students. Educators spent 10 days of professional development preparing new curriculum, lessons, and instruction for this new model of education. The school districts improved the technology infrastructure and provided upgraded devices for teachers and students. Significant testing and improvements to the ventilation systems in all school buildings was needed to ensure safe learning environments for all students and staff. Increased COVID 19 mitigation and health and safety protocols were developed which allowed our most vulnerable students to attend school in-person and prepare for in-person learning for January 2021. Additional personal protective equipment was also necessary for our staff and students. We could not have done this work without collaborating with our towns and the combination of school district and municipal CARES grant funding. We are extremely appreciative and thankful for this partnership as we worked together to meet the demands of educating our children during the pandemic.

We continue to participate in the Rural Schools Coalition. Thanks to the work of the coalition, our school committees, and our legislators, we were able to secure and increase rural aid to small and rural districts throughout Massachusetts. The work of the coalition is essential in supporting the unique needs of students, families, schools, and our communities to ensure and sustain high quality, equitable education for small and rural districts.

This is our second year of implementing our Bridges Math Program at the elementary schools. The COVID 19 pandemic did not slow us down! We provided students with at home hands-on resources aligned to the math program, implemented digital math practice and support programs, and continued to provide professional development and coaching for teachers in re-thinking math teaching and learning. Our students are showing strong growth in math and perhaps more importantly about how they see themselves as capable and confident mathematicians

A key curriculum priority in all schools is social-emotional learning - more important than ever in the context of the pandemic. We are focused on keeping students engaged in learning while building relationships with teachers and peers. We provide explicit instruction on important skills such as self-awareness, managing emotions, and responsible decision-making. And we have dedicated time in each child's day for enriching activities, individual advising and social connection, so that in these uncertain times, students know they are cared for and belong to a welcoming community.

The challenges of schooling in a pandemic have catalyzed the learning of students and all staff. There has been remarkable adaptation, particularly around technology. This shared experience has accelerated the innovation supported by the Mass Ideas grant at Mohawk Trail Regional School. Educators have taken on key leadership roles in curriculum design, professional development, and decision-making under the new Trailblazer Model. Students and community members have become integral parts of the leadership teams. With all hands on deck, we've rolled out an advisory program, mapped a school wide focus on equity and anti-racism, and offered new interdisciplinary courses and internship opportunities. And we are just getting started.

These changes and the distributed-leadership approach have been professionally rewarding for educators and have grown staff morale. Moreover, students are benefiting from individualized attention, engaging academics, and meaningful learning with application beyond the "walls" of high school.

I am extremely proud of our students, families, staff, and community as we have worked together to solve the unique challenges of this year. I look forward to continuing this collaboration in the years to come.

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

2020 Annual Report to Towns

We submit this annual report for 2020 on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff and students.

Enrollment for member towns as of October 1, 2020 was 530 students with town breakouts as follows:

Bernardston	36	Erving	27	Montague	110	Sunderland	8
Buckland	8	Gill	15	New Salem	9	Warwick	6
Colrain	24	Greenfield	123	Northfield	27	Wendell	9
Conway	4	Heath	6	Orange	70	Whately	11
Deerfield	19	Leyden	1	Shelburne	17		

Franklin County Technical School awarded 106 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2020. Massachusetts students are required to pass the MCAS in order to receive a high school diploma and once again our students were very successful in meeting this high academic standard. The state has adjusted their measures for evaluating district/school accountability and FCTS maintained the equivalent of a Level 2 "2019" accountability status. Additionally, the district is meeting targets set by the Department of Education for passing rates of students of high risk with disabilities.

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

Franklin County Technical School students are learning the value of paid work opportunities through a newly revamped Cooperative Education Program (Coop). In 2019 FCTS had approximately 50% of our seniors involved in paid Coop jobs related to their vocational field of study. In 2020, due to COVID-19 issues there is approximately 20% of our seniors on paid Coop. FCTS offers excellence academic offerings with Advanced Placement, Honors, Foreign Language, credit recovery, and special education courses to provide all students with the opportunity to be prepared for college and career readiness.

Franklin County Technical School continues to experience increased enrollment and popularity within Franklin County, which has translated to new vocational technical programs in the fields of Veterinary Animal Science and Medical Assisting. These new vibrant programs are the first new vocational programs at FCTS in more than 40 years. Franklin County Technical School's technical programs continue to improve and evolve through the use of competitive Capital Skills Grants. FCTS has received more than 1.2 million dollars in grants over the last several years without using FCTS funds to enhance its' Welding, Medical Assisting, Veterinary Science, and Machine Technology vocational programs. FCTS also partners with the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board (FHREB) and Greenfield Community College (GCC) to offer an evening program for underemployed and displaced workers to obtain a certification in Advanced Precision Machining using our 21st Century modernized CNC machines.

Franklin County Tech's Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, and Landscaping programs established a foundation in collaboration with the Greenfield Savings Bank to build a new home for the community on an annual basis. FCTS is finishing its second new home in Erving and will be starting a new one next year in Greenfield. In Heath, Electrical Students have been upgrading the

electrical structure for municipality buildings. In Turners Falls, our Electrical students are wiring the music studio and installing all of the lighting for the new JaDuke's Performing Arts Center. Plumbing is working at the new Conway DPW and plumbing the bathrooms and kitchen areas. Electrical students are putting up conduit and wiring 4 new classrooms which now exist in place of the Assembly Hall to provide more space for student learning. Auto Technology saves the district a substantial amount of money by maintaining the school's vehicle fleet. Many of our school vehicles are used for our various construction jobs within Franklin County and also provide for athletic transportation, which significantly reduces our overall transportation costs. FCTS Auto Technology and Collision Repair programs are very appreciative of the donated vehicles which provide our students with real world experiences.

Collision repair continues working to provide body work for town vehicles, but have limited how many vehicles can be repaired due to COVID-19 protocols.

Culinary Arts regularly serves the local Community Senior Center, Chamber of Commerce, Ice carving for Greenfield Winter Fest, and the community Car Show. Our Veterinary students have been working with the Mass Division of Fishery and Wild Life, Franklin County Sheriff's Animal Shelter, work with farm animals, and provide grooming for animals and pets.

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

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

Respectfully,



Mr. Richard J. Kuklewicz
School Committee Chairman



Mr. Richard J. Martin
Superintendent-Director

Franklin County Technical School District Committee

Bernardston-Bradley Stafford; Buckland-Vacant; Colrain-Nicole Slowinski;
Conway-John Pelletier; Deerfield-Robert Decker; Erving-Robert F. Bitzer; Gill-Sandy Brown;
Greenfield-Paul R. Doran, Mark M. Maloney, Donna M. Woodcock; Heath-Arthur A. Schwenger;
Leyden-Gerald N. Levine; Montague- Dennis L. Grader, Richard J. Kuklewicz, Chairperson;
New Salem-Bryan Camden; Northfield-Laura J. Earl, Orange-Alec MacLeod, Cain Blackbird;
Shelburne – Angus Dun, Vice-Chairperson; Sunderland-James Bernotas;
Warwick-A. George Day, Jr.; Wendell-Jeffrey D. Budine; Whately-Donald C. Sluter