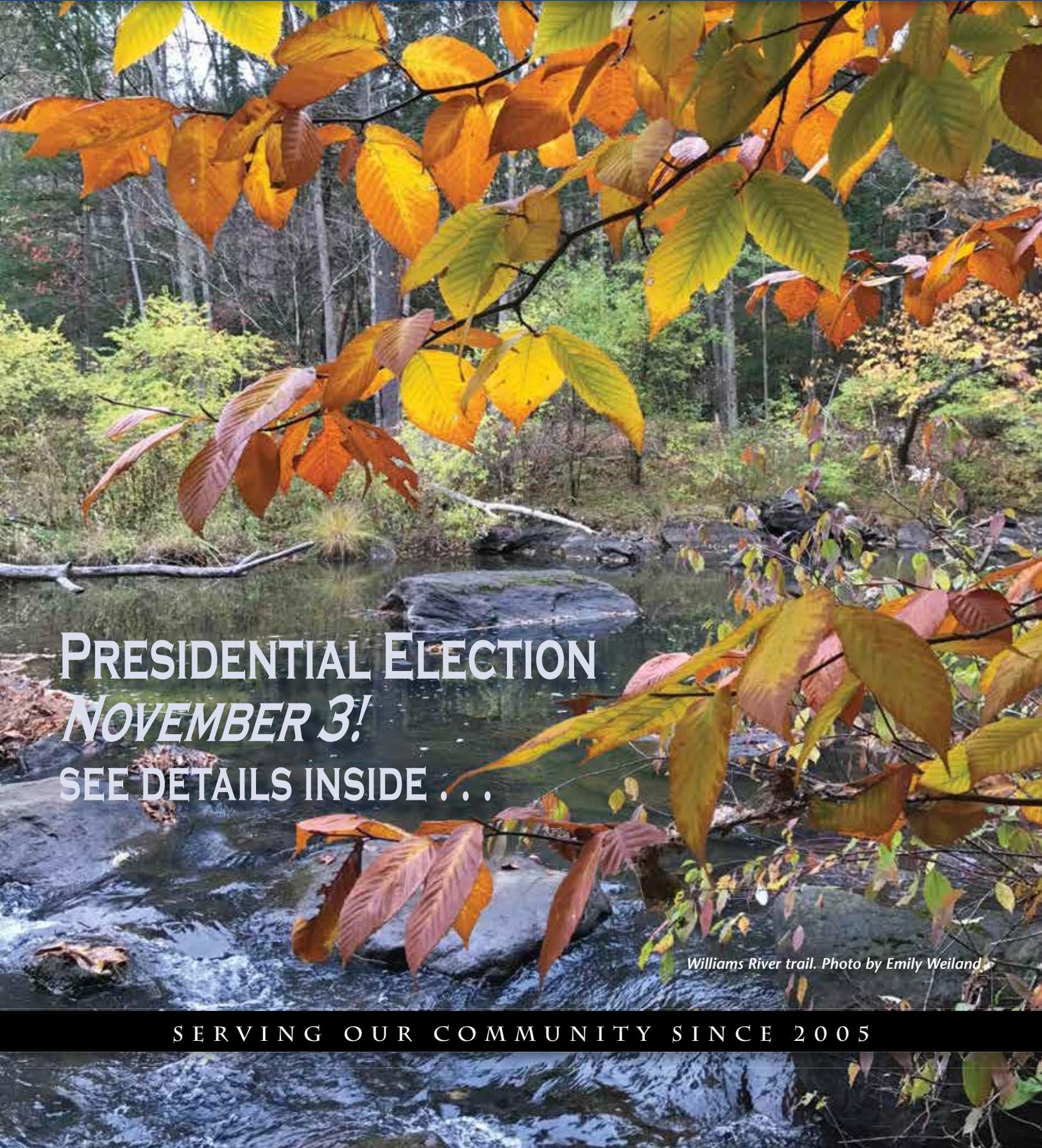


# Local yokel

*(n.) a country folk living in a quaint neighborhood community*

West  
Stockbridge  
**November**  
**2020**



**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**  
***NOVEMBER 3!***  
**SEE DETAILS INSIDE . . .**

*Williams River trail. Photo by Emily Weiland.*

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

# Tuesday, November 3 Is Election Day!



**Polls open at the Town Offices Gymnasium  
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

**COVID-19 safety precautions in effect:**

- ✓ Masks are required
- ✓ Please practice social distancing
- ✓ Booths will be sanitized between voters

**Be Sure to Vote!**

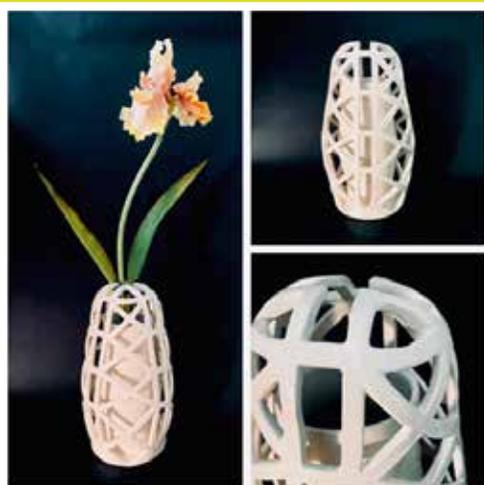
## Holiday Art Show: Treasures for the Season

All New Online Art Show by the Guild of Berkshire Artists

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Guild of Berkshire Artists is raising money for medical supplies and charitable food pantries. This is the third in a series of virtual art shows by the guild in which each sale of art creates a donation to a local charity. For this show, at least 25% goes to the COVID-19 Emergency Fund of Berkshire United Way.

Featuring 28 artists and showcasing 50 works in oil, watercolor, acrylic, mixed media, photography, ceramics, and textiles, the new show can be viewed online at <https://www.berkshireartists.org/holidayartshow20>.

Visitors are invited to browse the show and purchase art directly from the artist, beginning October 30 and running until January 22, 2021.



*Lacey Cage Vase (left)  
by Veronica Martin*

*Tulips Wide  
Open (right)  
by Keith Emerling*

# Select Board Meeting Minutes

[Editor's note: At the town administrator's request, the Select Board minutes here are reprinted verbatim with no editing of text. Official board minutes are available at the West Stockbridge Public Library and on the town website, <https://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/>. Select Board meetings may be viewed on Spectrum cable local access channel 190. Residents can receive e-mail notification of town events and meeting agendas by subscribing at <http://weststockbridgema.virtualltownhall.net/subscriber/>].

## Select Board Meeting Minutes September 2, 2020 21 State Line Road, Town Hall

Open Meeting

**Quorum present:** Kathleen Kerese, Select Board Member and Marie Ryan, Town Administrator. Present via Zoom: Roger Kavanagh, Select Board Chair, Eric Shimmelonis, Select Board Member and Kat Hand, Co-owner of Berkshire Cider Project.

Roger opened the meeting at 1:31 PM with a roll vote.

Kathleen – Yes  
Eric – Yes  
Roger – Yes

He read the agenda, noting that the Board was being asked to approve the application for a special liquor license for Berkshire Cider Project to sell hard cider at the Farmer's Market on Thursdays until it closes for the season this year.

Kathleen made a motion to approve the application for Berkshire Cider Project to sell hard cider at the Farmer's Market. Eric seconded and Roger took a roll call vote.

Kathleen – Yes  
Eric – Yes  
Roger – Yes

The motion passed and the application was approved.

Kat Hand thanked the Board for handling this so quickly.

### Select Board Speak:

Kathleen mentioned to the Board that she is working on the final details of the Shared Streets and Spaces grant and is hoping to submit it before the next meeting.

Roger made a motion to adjourn, Eric seconded and there was a roll call vote.

Kathleen – Yes  
Eric – Yes  
Roger – Yes

The meeting adjourned at 1:42 PM

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie U. Ryan*

Town Administrator

Documents:

-Special Farm Winery Application from Berkshire Cider Project

## Select Board Meeting Minutes September 8, 2020 21 State Line Road, Town Hall

Open Meeting

**Quorum present:** Roger Kavanagh, Select Board Chair, Kathleen Kerese, Select Board Member, Eric Shimmelonis, Select Board Member, Marie Ryan, Town Administrator

### Also present:

Dana Bixby, Planning Board Chair

Roger opened the meeting at 1:03 PM. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss:

- the proposed structure of the committee that will oversee and coordinate the development of a Master Plan for West Stockbridge with support from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC)
- the financial details of the proposed consulting agreement with BRPC.

Dana Bixby, Planning Board Chair, reviewed her vision for the Master Planning process and her position on the most effective structure for developing a plan. She believes that the Planning Board should lead the process and the steering committee that guides decision making should consist of no more than 5 people versus the 10 person committee defined in the BRPC proposal.

She also suggested that the agreement with BRPC should be modified so that 10% of the grant money could be held back as a contingency for hiring other subject matter experts who could make contributions to the plan on topics that may not be within the expertise of the BRPC consulting staff. Specifically, she proposed reducing the estimate for Drafting the Open Space and Recreation plan from \$40,000 to \$36,000, and the estimate for developing proposed amendments to existing by-laws from \$10,000K to \$8,000.

Kathleen said she was concerned that the structure Dana proposed would exclude participation by members of the Vision Committee who she felt were instrumental in bringing forward and nurturing the idea of developing a Master Plan for West Stockbridge.

The Board and Dana discussed the pros / cons of the structure of the steering committee and the larger "umbrella" committee that would perform community outreach and gather data on specific topics for the Master Plan. They also discussed the possibility that the proposed structure could decrease the transparency of the Master Planning process. At the conclusion of the discussion Dana stated that her view of the committee structure was the only way she would be willing to take the lead on developing the Master Plan.

...continued on page 5

**Correction:** In the unedited reprint of the August 26 Select Board minutes in our October issue, the club cited as being in Land Court proceedings should have been identified as the West Stockbridge Sportsmen's Club, not the Stockbridge Sportsmen's Club. We regret the error.

# West Stockbridge Awarded “Shared Streets and Spaces” Grant

*By Bob Salerno, West Stockbridge Historical Society*

This summer, the Mass. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced their Shared Streets and Spaces grants to help cities and towns “improve sidewalks, curbs, streets, on-street parking spaces, and off-street parking lots in support of public health, safe mobility, and renewed commerce.” This fast-track program is in response to the COVID-19 pandemic with the objective of getting projects in place on a “Temporary Quick Build/Quick Launch” basis (implemented in 30 days or less) but with a “strong potential to be made permanent.”

Grant awards would range from \$5,000 to \$300,000, not a trivial sum. Our challenge was to submit an acceptable application in a short time period, with unclear, and sometimes changing, grant requirements. Many of the larger cities and towns had already received grants, and there was a risk that funding would dry up before the smaller towns could participate in the program. Although the program opened on June 22, the grant guidelines weren’t clarified until early August.

Working in a crash mode to reach the deadlines before the funds were gone, Kathleen Keresey and Curt Wilton, with support from Marie Ryan and the local merchants, developed the plan and the grant submission. The Barr Foundation provided funding for Kittleson & Associates landscape architects, to work with the towns and Mass. DOT to develop the designs and cost estimates. This was an opportunity to help our merchants and food establishments with outdoor spaces. It is also a chance to improve the village center, making it more pedestrian friendly and to encourage people to stay and enjoy our town’s natural beauty and unique character.

The plan calls for work in six major spaces near Soma, Rouge, Six Depot, TurnPark, Truc’s Orient Express, and the Old Town Hall parking lots. They’ll receive tables, umbrellas, heat lamps, barriers, garbage bins, planters, fencing, and more, improving the outdoor space and accessibility. Because the equipment will be owned by the town, all of it should be “temporary with a potential to become permanent.” In addition, the plan includes opening up the space by the Historical Society’s upper parking area and more open space behind the public bathrooms by slimming down the pumping station.

The 26-page grant application was submitted on September 10. On September 21, we were notified of the grant award of \$141,359, but all the work had to be completed by October 9—only three weeks!

The list of equipment was formidable: 80 umbrellas, 24 picnic tables, 50 chairs, 79 shepherd hooks for lighting, 34 heat lamps with propane tanks, and so on. What made the task even more formidable is the demand for all these items was national, not just statewide. Sourcing everything, arranging delivery, and installing in three weeks was more than a trivial challenge.

Everyone chipped in. Thom Lipiczky made 20 picnic tables in three days at the Highway Department garage, with the able assistance of Jamie Boyer, Zach Levesque, and John Lyford. Curt Wilton and the highway crew delivered the tables and other items and cleared spaces by the pumping station and parking lot areas. Kathleen and Marie worked on ordering and receiving the items, and then the highway crew got them to the correct spaces. Merchants worked on setting up the tables and umbrellas, plus heat lamps. It was a big group effort.

Fortunately, Mass. DOT recognized the demand and time pressure and extended the deadline to November 15. As we go to press, there is prep work being done and material yet to arrive. The impact on our town is important in many ways. Many of the improvements will be “semi-permanent.” (We’re not allowed to call them permanent, but they’ll be there for a while.)

More importantly, this will help change the nature of the village center from a “drive-through” into a destination, help the merchants continue to reach customers, and add to the in-town open spaces.



*The Shared Streets grant provided umbrellas and picnic tables at 6 Depot Roastery & Café. Photo by John Parker*



*John Lyford and Thom Lipiczky (right) building picnic tables at the Highway Department garage. Photo by Bob Salerno*



*Propane heat lamps will keep patrons comfortable at The Foundry’s outdoor events. Photo by Bob Salerno*

Roger asked what role the Select Board would play in the Master Planning process. Dana said that the Planning Board and Select Board would have shared authority and that the Planning Board would keep the Select Board fully apprised of its deliberations and decisions. Dana left the meeting at that point so she could make it to a business appointment.

Roger observed that the process used to develop the proposed steering committee structure had not been as transparent as it could have been but emphasized that it was essential for the Board to reach an agreement so that the consulting agreement with BRPC could be signed and Master Planning process could get started.

Eric then made the following motion, which he felt would address the issues that had been discussed but not resolved:

***I make a motion to put the Planning Board in charge of the Master Plan process, with no other prescribed committee members, to lead the process forward, to form committees and do outreach as they deem necessary, and to proceed with transparency and strict adherence to open meeting laws.***

Kathleen seconded the motion, all were in favor. Roger asked Marie to let Dana know of the Boards decision so that Dana could contact BRPC and have the agreement amended so that it could be brought to the Board to be signed.

Roger made a motion to adjourn, Eric seconded and all were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie U. Ryan*

Town Administrator

Documents:

-Agreement Between West Stockbridge and Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

-Master Plan and Opened Space and Recreation Plan – Committee Structure Recommendations

**Select Board Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2020  
21 State Line Road, Town Hall**

Open Meeting

**Quorum present:** Roger Kavanagh, Select Board Chair, Kathleen Keresey, Select Board Member, Eric Shimeloni, Select Board Member, Marie Ryan, Town Administrator

Roger opened the meeting at 6:04 PM. He reviewed the agenda, stating the Board has signed the warrants. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 13<sup>th</sup> and August 26<sup>th</sup> Select Board meetings. Eric made the motion to approve the minutes, Roger seconded and all were in favor.

Roger noted the Ivan Barros from Formel Salvage is unable to attend the meeting and will be rescheduling. He also mentioned that the discussion regarding the Baldwin property will also be on

hold pending review of new information about the property that the Assessor and Town Counsel need to review prior to presenting to the Board.

**Town Administrator Update:**

Marie presented an update on the COVID-19 Relief Act Fund. To date, she has submitted \$25,863 of expenses and all were approved and reimbursed. She will be processing another submission in the next month.

She reported that she and Curt will be purchasing 3-4 large locked cabinets to store Food Pantry items which are currently on tables in locked Community Room. Securing these items in locked cabinets will allow the Community Room to be unlocked and open for other activities. The cost of the cabinets will be submitted to the COVID-19 Relief ACT Fund for reimbursement.

Kathleen asked if people could make donations to the Food Bank using the Venmo application. Marie will check with Karen Williams, Treasurer, to see if that is something that is allowed for municipalities.

**Bike Share Feasibility Study:**

Eric explained that this agreement is something the previous Select Board had agreed to take part in, along with Lenox, Great Barrington and Pittsfield. He said Berkshire Regional Planning applied for and received a \$60,000 grant to have the Bike Share Feasibility study done. The towns participating in the study are required to contribute a total of \$15,000; \$3,000 each from Lenox, West Stockbridge and Great Barrington, \$6,000 from Pittsfield.

...continued on page 7

# Bark Mulch Topsoil Compost

Delivery

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Meadow Farm LLC

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South Lee, Ma 01260

Compost Facility Accepting Yard & Wood Waste

# New Process for Burn Permits in 2021

According to Town Administrator Marie Ryan, beginning January 2021 all burn permits will be available online through the town website or by phone for those without a computer. Applying for a permit must to be done on the same day of the requested burn to ensure that weather conditions are favorable. The permits will now be free. The online information and phone number will be announced at a later date.



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around town:



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minimum annual  
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**Outdoor distribution boxes: Baldwin Hardware, The Floor Store, & the Transfer Station**

He felt this comprehensive study could lead to more grants and be an asset for the Town. Kathleen said she thought the study was a good idea in theory but was concerned that the \$3,000 was not in the FY21 budget. The Board had previously asked Marie to see if the Planning Board would cover the \$3,000 from its FY21 budget. Marie said that Dana agreed to cover the expense if the Board approves the Feasibility Study.

Roger asked the Board to vote on committing \$3,000 to participate in this study. Eric made a motion to sign the agreement for the Bike Share Feasibility Study, Kathleen seconded. Roll Call vote was:

Eric – Yes  
Kathleen – Yes  
Roger – No

The motion passed and Roger, as the Chair, signed the agreement.

**Review of Annual Town Meeting Special Articles 28-42: (see attached list)**

Marie reviewed each article, recapping the current status, the amount appropriated and the amount spent to date.

Roger asked Eric about the possibility of using funds from the Green Communities grant to cover the costs of the new boiler for the Fire Department/DPW building(Article 34). Eric said the Green Communities grant is still in process but he would be happy to find out if the boiler could be paid for from the grant. Kathleen and Roger asked Eric to provide an overview of the Green Communities program at a future meeting, which he agreed to do.

When tree planting at the solar array on Stockbridge Road (Article 39) was discussed, Kathleen asked if it would be possible to get the company that operates the solar array at the old truck stop on Rt. 102 to plant some screening trees. Marie said that the previous Board had asked her to look into that and the response she got from the company was no. The company said that this would be too expensive and it was not in the contract. The Board asked Marie to get them more information on that contract.

**Citizen Speak:**

Frank Landsberger suggested that the Hazardous Mitigation Plan Committee include a Board of Health member. Marie will bring that suggestion to Earl Moffat.

Joe Roy asked if the Community Preservation Act (CPA) was going to be on the agenda for the next Special Town Meeting because the Town needs to move ahead with the formation of the CPA Committee. Marie said the approval of a bylaw that covers the CPA committee would be on the next Town Meeting agenda.

Kathleen noted that in addition to the CPA bylaw, there is another agenda item to reclassify funds appropriated for Gear Racks for the Fire Department that Chief Traver says are not needed. She proposed scheduling a Special Town Meeting soon to address both of these important items. Marie said she would check with the Planning Board to see if they have any items ready to bring to a Town Meeting and will report back to the Board at the next meeting.

**Select Board Speak:**

Roger spoke about the following:

- Andrew Potter is not going to run for another term on the School Board and, apparently, no one is running to replace him. He said he couldn't find anything on-line about the elec-

tion of School Board members but he thought some action should be taken by the Board to publicize the vacancy and see if potential write-in candidates could be identified. Eric said the Vacancy Committee exists to perform that role and, since he is a member of that committee, he would bring this need to the committee members.

- Elaine has printed out 2 month end budget / actual reports which are available in the Select Board mail slot. Kathleen asked if the reports could be emailed to each Board member. Marie will coordinate that with Elaine.
- At the next meeting, the Board will be reviewing responses to an RFP to lease land for a cell phone tower at 72 Albany Road. The land has been leased since 1990 and Charter / Spectrum has a tower on the site. Marie will prepare a historical information package for the Board so they will have the context needed to make an informed decision.

Kathleen spoke about the following:

- The Shared Streets and Spaces Grant application has been submitted. The time frame to hear back is about 14 days.
- She met with Bob Salerno and Curt Wilton to discuss ideas that could be included in a second application to Shared Streets and Spaces program.
- She asked the Board to consider the creation of a Grant Committee to look into and apply for grants for the Town.
- Kathleen mentioned that she has had heard from a number of residents concerned about conditions at the Transfer Station. She asked Marie to pass these concerns on to Earl and Curt to see if they can take some interim steps, particularly with signage, until the new permanent signs come in.

After Select Board speak, the Board held a broad ranging discussion about working together as a team and with Marie since the July election. They talked about expectations, processes that are working well and those that aren't, challenges in getting information needed to make decisions and Board communications.

One issue discussed was transparency about initiatives that individual Board members are working on or leading. Eric suggested that the Board purchase a dry erase board to place in the Board work room so that the Board members could post a list of the Town initiatives they are working on. No follow up action was proposed.

Roger confirmed that there were no additional topics to discuss and made a motion to adjourn. Eric seconded and all were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie U. Ryan*

Town Administrator

Documents:

1. COVID Cares ACT Relief fund expenses
2. Memorandum of Understanding for Berkshire County Bike Share Feasibility Study
3. Update on Appropriations / Expenditures on Town Meeting Articles 28 -42

...continued on page 8

**Select Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 21, 2020**  
**21 State Line Road, Town Hall**

Open Meeting

**Quorum present:** Roger Kavanagh, Select Board Chair, Kathleen Keresey, Select Board Member, Eric Shimelonis, Select Board Member, Marie Ryan, Town Administrator

Roger opened the meeting at 6:00 PM. He reviewed the agenda, stating the Board has signed the warrants. Roger noted that Ivan Barros from Formel Salvage could not attend tonight so the first item on the agenda will be moved to a future meeting. He then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 2, September 8 and September 9 Select Board meetings. Eric made the motion, Kathleen seconded and all were in favor.

**Baldwin Property and unknown ownership:**

Mary Stodden, Assessor's Clerk, spoke on this issue. She explained the history of the property which was cut off by the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority and is landlocked and unusable. She stated that the Baldwin family has been billed for taxes on this land and in 2010 there was a tax title taking by June Biggs, Tax Collector. The taking proved to be invalid because the listed owner was incorrect. Research by the Assessor's office and by Town Counsel to determine the property owner has been inconclusive. The Assessors and Town Counsel recommended that the property should be classified as "Owner Unknown" and taken off the tax rolls, because the cost of continuing to try to get a clear title on this parcel will exceed the past due and future annual revenue generated by taxes. The Assessors also recommended abating the past due taxes, which amount to roughly \$1,500. They added that if someone wants to purchase the property in the future they can go through the process and incur the expense of getting a clear title.

Roger made a motion to approve the Assessor's Office recommendation to classify the property as "Owner Unknown" and abate the back taxes. Eric seconded and all were in favor.

**Animal Control Officer Appointment:**

Marie introduced John Drake to the Board and stated she would like them to appoint John as the new Animal Control Officer (ACO) for West Stockbridge for a three-year term. John explained to the Board that he currently is the Animal Control Officer in Stockbridge and he has been covering West Stockbridge for the last several months. He said he uses social media to find the owners of lost dogs that he picks up and that it usually works well but he occasionally has to take one to the kennel he works within Lee. John said he works closely with the Police Departments in Stockbridge and West Stockbridge and has a great working relationship with both of them. Kathleen made a motion to appoint John Drake as the Animal Control Officer for West Stockbridge

for a three-year term, Eric seconded and all were in favor. John will also be appointed by the Richmond Select Board to be the Richmond ACO.

**Library Trustee Appointment:**

Beth Sack, Library Trustee Chair, introduced Gail Garrick and asked the Board to appoint her as a Library Trustee to fill an open position until the next Town Election. Beth said that Gail has been a volunteer in the Library for many years and has been a true supporter and helpful to the Library in many ways.

Roger asked the Board if they had any questions. Eric said that he knows Gail and thinks she is a great supporter of the Library and will be a great addition to the Library Trustees. Eric made the motion to appoint Gail as a Library Trustee until the 2021 Annual Town Election, Kathleen seconded and all were in favor.

**Bike Share Feasibility Study Committee Appointment:**

Eric began this discussion stating that he is recommending the Board appoint Jay Elling as the West Stockbridge representative to the Bike Share Feasibility Study Committee. He explained that Jay is a bike enthusiast and he owns and operates a bike shop in Great Barrington. He then introduced Jay to the Board. Jay said he was excited to be part of this study group. He is not sure how this will work in this area but is happy to be a part of the research. Kathleen made a motion to appoint Jay Elling as the West Stockbridge Representative to the Bike Share Feasibility Study Committee, Eric seconded and all were in favor.

**Funding for the Bike Share Feasibility Study:**

Roger reminded the Board that an expenditure of \$3,000 to be part of the Berkshire Regional Planning (BRP) Bike Share Feasibility study had been approved at a previous meeting and that the funds were going to come from the Planning Board budget. Since that approval, the Planning Board Chair has determined that the Planning Board will need these funds for other purposes and will not be able to fund the Bike Share study. Kathleen asked if the Town could withdraw from the study even though the MOU had been signed and returned. Roger said he was not sure how binding the MOU was and asked Marie to get an opinion on that from Town Counsel. The topic was tabled and will be on the agenda for the October 5<sup>th</sup> Select Board meeting.

**Regional Transportation Committee Update:**

Bill Barth, the West Stockbridge Representative on the Great Barrington Transportation Advisory Committee, reported that he had attended one committee meeting since his appointment last month. He said that the group is trying to assist the south county towns with their transportation needs but he is unsure of their processes and specific goals at this point.

...continued on page 9



The *Local Yokel* is published monthly. Please mail submissions to: **The Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266**, e-mail [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org), or visit [www.thelocalyokel.org](http://www.thelocalyokel.org). Copy deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the publication. Editors: **John Parker, 394-4368, john.j.parker53@gmail.com;** **Vicki Grayson, 232-6131, vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com;** **Susan Fisher, 232-4443, suefish12@gmail.com;** **Anne Lesser, 717-0277, anne@annelessercommunications.com;** Designer: **Kim Bradway, kim@bloominarts.com.**

The *Local Yokel* is supported in part by a grant from the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

He went on to talk about the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA), pointing out that West Stockbridge is the only south county town which is not part of the BRTA. He suggested that the town should consider joining the BRTA in the future. The Board asked Bill to come back with more information about BRTA membership, benefits and costs so they could have a more in depth discussion.

**Green Communities Update:**

Eric gave the Board an update on the Massachusetts Green Communities grant program which was created to assist towns in becoming more sustainable and control rising energy costs. He outlined the 5 steps a town must take to be designated a Green Community and the current status of each step in West Stockbridge.

1. Adopt a local zoning bylaw for "as-of-right-siting" for renewable/alternative energy generation. West Stockbridge did this by approving changes to Town bylaws at the 2019 annual Town Meeting.
2. Adopt an expedited application and permit process for as-of-right energy facilities. West Stockbridge has done this.
3. Establish municipal energy use baseline and a plan to reduce energy use. He has been working with a consultant and has just completed an energy audit of the Town buildings.
4. Purchase fuel-efficient vehicles. This requirement applies to municipal fleet vehicles and is not applicable to small communities that don't have fleets.
5. Adopt Building Regulations & Standards (BBRS) Stretch Code. The Town adopted this at the last Town Meeting.

Eric said that the Town has 4 out of the 5 steps completed. He hopes to have the Green Community application submitted by the end of September / beginning of October. He said once the Town is certified as a Green Community the Town will immediately receive a grant for \$125,000.

**Select Board Speak:**

Kathleen told the Board that the Shared Streets & Spaces program has awarded the Town a grant of \$141,359.60. The items approved in the grant are mostly equipment to assist local restaurants with outdoor dining including: heaters, tables, chairs, barriers, tents, etc. She also informed the Board that she has submitted a second application to the Shared Streets & Spaces program for sidewalk improvements on Lenox Road. Roger and Eric thanked Kathleen for all her hard work on this grant.

Roger had two matters to mention to the Board for future meeting discussion.

- He told the Board that there was someone interested in speaking to the Board about opening a Marijuana Retail store in West Stockbridge. This person asked to meet the Board and will be given time to introduce himself at the next meeting. Roger added that this person has already indicated that he wants to initiate a Host Community Agreement with West Stockbridge so the Board will need to start learning about their roles and responsibilities in that process.
- Roger spoke about Dana Bixby's request that the Board approve the structure of the Steering Committee and Umbrella committee that she has proposed for the Master Plan Project. Marie gave copies of the proposed structure to the Board and Roger asked them to review it before the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Marie mentioned to the Board that she had also passed out a draft copy of the Richmond / West Stockbridge Memorandum of Understanding for the shared Fire Chief position. She asked them to review and send her comments by Wednesday.

**Citizen Speak:**

Frank Landsberger suggested that when the Board speaks of financial matters that they provide some context about the purpose of the expenditure being discussed so that audience members can follow the discussion.

Joe Roy congratulated the Board on getting the grant from the Share Streets & Spaces Program.

Roger made a motion to adjourn. Eric seconded and all were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie U. Ryan*

Town Administrator

Documents:

1. Memorandum of Understanding Draft for Shared Fire Chief for Board review for next meeting signatures
2. Copy of Master Plan Draft from Dana for Board Review for next meeting discussion

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*Farmers Market rooster “mask-ot” demonstrates proper pandemic hygiene. Photo by Robin Schmitt*

# Farmers Market Wraps Up 9th Season

*By Robin Schmitt, Market Manager*

We want to thank you all who came each week and supported the market. It was a challenging season for everyone, and we are thankful that in spite of the pandemic we were able to make the market work and give you the opportunity to shop outdoors for fresh local food. A big thanks for your patience, for following the guidelines, and for helping to make the market a safe place.

It was a challenging year for our farmers too. They work so hard to grow food and bring it to market each week. So much is out of their control (like the weather). Then add a pandemic, and yet they go on. They are a resilient group and an inspiration in these trying times. We thank them for bringing us fresh food and for all their work. And many thanks to our food producers who bring us bread and chocolate, jams, cider, maple syrup, pestos, and baked goods every week because who doesn't need good bread, chocolate, and all the other goodies now and then?!

We also want to express our gratitude to our neighbors who support us: Amy Brentano, owner of The Foundry, who generously allows us to use The Green (huge!); Truc of The Orient Express who provides parking for our vendors; Hotchkiss Mobiles and TurnPark Art Space who offer us extra parking for our customers. And last, but not least, we thank the staff of the *Local Yokel* for their constant support. As you see, the market exists with the help and support of our community, for which we are grateful. As they say, “It takes a village.” We are fortunate to live in this village, in the Berkshires, where agriculture is an important part of our economy, and community is an vital part of our lives.

We are also very thankful for Berkshire Grown whose mission is to keep farmers farming! Berkshire Grown supports and promotes local agriculture as a vital part of the Berkshire community, economy, and landscape. They also help and support farmers markets and were an enormous help to us this year.

Through their collaboration with Berkshire Regional Planning, a grant was

obtained to help markets with reimbursement for purchasing PPE, signage, and so on, to be in compliance with safety guidelines. Due to COVID-19 we had to reduce the number of vendors by half this season, which means half the income. This grant helped us succeed this season. Through this collaboration they also received funding for Market Match, a great help for lots of folks to boost their food budget. We are very grateful for all their help. If you don't already know about Berkshire Grown, we encourage you to visit them at [www.berkshiregrown.org](http://www.berkshiregrown.org) and find out what they're all about and how important they are to our Berkshire landscape.

And just to let you know, you can go to our website to locate your favorite vendors now that the market is over. We hope you are all staying safe and healthy and look forward to seeing you again next year for our 10th season. Thanks again from all of us at WFSM!

*It has been a financially challenging year due to COVID-19. Donations are greatly appreciated at this time and will help support the continued operation of the market, an important part of our community.*

*You can donate on our website, [WestStockbridgeFarmersMarket.org](http://WestStockbridgeFarmersMarket.org), or send a check to WFSM, P.O. Box 148, West Stockbridge, MA 01266.*

*We thank you for your support.*

*Please send your Birthdays & Anniversaries to the Local Yokel. We are happy to include them in the next issue.*



*The Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, e-mail to [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org), or visit [www.thelocalyokel.org](http://www.thelocalyokel.org)*

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## Santa's Wish List Preview

Each December, the *Local Yokel* presents Santa's Wish List, an opportunity for community members to support local organizations and agencies that provide important programs and services. Last year a total of \$6,625 was raised on behalf of these recipients:



- ❖ Community Health Association
- ❖ Friends of the West Stockbridge Library
- ❖ *Local Yokel*
- ❖ Pet Partners of the Tri-State Berkshires
- ❖ West Stockbridge Beautification
- ❖ West Stockbridge Farmers Market
- ❖ West Stockbridge Fire and Rescue Services
- ❖ West Stockbridge Historical Society

To confirm continued participation in Santa's Wish List or to inquire about adding an organization to this year's list, please contact Vicki Grayson at 232-6131 or [vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com](mailto:vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com).

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Clarinetists Catherine Hudgins and William Hudgins with William Rounds on cello perform at The Foundry. Photo by Carol Kuller

# A Delightful Evening of Musical Tricks and Treats at The Foundry

By Liza Bennett

The final benefit concert of the season for the Campaign to Restore the Old Town Hall took place outside at The Foundry on a lovely October Saturday evening. “All but one of the pieces we’ll be performing for you tonight was meant to be played by someone else,” Catherine Hudgins, artistic director of the West Stockbridge Chamber Players, explained to the capacity audience. “They’re transcriptions and rearrangements—works by famous composers as you’ve never heard them before.” Then she and William Hudgins on clarinets and William Rounds on cello proceeded to demonstrate the concert’s premise by giving a sparkling performance of Mozart’s Divertimento No. 2, K. 229, that was originally scored for three basset horns.

“We’ve so missed playing with an orchestra,” Hudgins said as she introduced the next piece, “that the three of us decided to perform Tchaikovsky’s Concerto for Violin, Op. 35, with William Rounds playing the violin part on his cello.” Their rendering of the lovely second movement, Canzonetta, as arranged by Catherine Hudgins, was as rich and nuanced as a fully orchestrated performance.

William Hudgins talked about the next offering and its composer, the clarinetist Ernesto Cavallini. “Verdi was so impressed by his playing,” Hudgins said, “that he wrote solos for him in his operas. Cavallini eventually went to Russia where he taught a student who impressed him very deeply: Tchaikovsky.” Both Cavallini and Tchaikovsky would have no doubt been impressed, in turn, by Hudgins’s spirited rendition of the Adagio movement of Cavallini’s Solo Caprice No. 25.

The three musicians then performed Schubert’s *Rosamunde*, Ballet Music No. 2 and the Entr’acte No. 2, arranged by Catherine Hudgins, followed by the final piece on the program, the Polonaise movement from Mozart’s Divertimento No. 5, K. 229, which was met with grateful and sustained applause. But the musicians had one last trick up their sleeves: completing the evening—which had turned brisk and breezy—with an upbeat Scott Joplin two-step.

The leaves fluttered through the outdoor lights as the audience departed, bringing to an end this series of wildly popular open-air concerts, curated by the ever-inventive Catherine Hudgins whose West Stockbridge Chamber Players have done so much to raise money and awareness for the Old Town Hall restoration campaign. We hope to be able to return to the hall soon and have the Chamber Players take up their rightful place on that stage again.

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TUESDAY 10am-5pm | WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY 2-6pm | SATURDAY 10am-2pm

Greetings from the West Stockbridge Library! As we head deeper into fall and winter, we hope everyone will take some time to enjoy reading. We think of books as friends, and if you do too, or if you want to do more reading, please help yourself to all the great recreational and informational riches of the statewide library system!

As of this month, library users are invited to make appointments for 30-minute visits inside. Please call or e-mail to make an appointment.

Books-to-go will continue for those who prefer.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The library is not accepting donations. Thank you.

Best wishes to everyone for a very happy Thanksgiving,

*Rachel, Brad, and Vicky*

### NEW ADULT FICTION

- Beatty, *Sellout*
- Flynn, *Total Power*
- Follett, *The Evening and the Morning*
- Galbraith, *Troubled Blood*
- Harrow, *Once and Future Witches*
- Hiaasen, *Squeeze Me*
- Hoffman, *Magic Lessons*
- Krueger, *This Tender Land*
- Patterson, *Coast-to-Coast Murders*
- Picoult, *Book of Two Ways*
- Ware, *One by One*

### NEW ADULT NONFICTION

- Birdsall, *The Man Who Ate Too Much: The Life of James Beard*
- Petersen, *Can't Even: How Millennials Became the Burnout Generation*
- Shetty, *Think Like a Monk Jay*
- Trebek, *The Answer Is . . . : Reflections on My Life*
- Wilkerson, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*

### NEW YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS

- Haig, *The Midnight Library*
- Schmidt, *Wednesday Wars*



Books and movies are available for pickup in the library entrance vestibule. Order online with your CW MARS account or e-mail weststockbridgelibrary@gmail.com.

Photo by John Parker



## Scrapbook November 2020:

### TEST YOUR TRIVIA KNOWLEDGE!

1. After the town's government offices moved out of the 1854 Town Hall, what became of the building in 2011?
2. In 1994, what past resident was given an honorary degree in humanities? From what college?
3. What was the name of David Grover's first band? For whom was he lead guitarist?
4. The 1854 Town Hall (now the Old Town Hall) once housed what businesses?

Answers: 1. It was and is being redeveloped by the Historical Society as a museum and public meeting space. 2. David Grover, North Adams State College (MCLA today). 3. Shenandoah, named after Grover's daughter. He was lead guitarist for Arlo Guthrie's band. 4. A bank, a barber, and a general store in the 1850s.

# "We Remember When . . ."

## Growing Up in West Stockbridge in the 1950s

*A Series of Recollections by John Bormolini and Friends*

### Adventures and "Close Calls"

As I look back, it seems like I was often having an adventure of some kind with my pals Steve Salvi, Gene Salvi, Peter Angelini, Denny Raspuzzi, Tony Balestro, or Bruce Morelli. Here are three notable adventures; two I participated in and one I "facilitated."

#### Building a Raft

There was the time that a couple of us decided to build a raft, sort of like Huckleberry Finn. The raft consisted of logs held together by ropes and maybe a nail or two. We constructed the raft at Shaker Mill Pond, where a channel connected the lower and upper pond, using wood from the old sawmill, mostly discarded slabs. I think we asked John Astore, one of the owners of the sawmill, if we could use a couple of logs for the outer frame of the raft. He agreed just to see if we could build a raft that would float!

After working on the raft for a couple of weeks, launch day finally arrived. We maneuvered the raft into the water and . . . it quickly sank to the bottom of the channel! No amount of pulling, pushing, or tugging could get it back onshore. We eventually abandoned the project and watched the raft settle to the bottom of the channel. During a rainy period, it finally washed downstream, and we were able to tether it to the shore, where it remained a reminder of our failure!

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## Building a Log Cabin

Not to be denied, we embarked on another adventure: this time, building a log cabin in the woods on the far side of Card Pond. Peter Angelini tells the story:

*We started the project during February school vacation and carried on every Saturday for the rest of the winter. The team was John Bormolini, Bruce Morelli, Denny Raspuzzi, and me. We were probably in 7th grade at the time. After finding the perfect location for our structure, sufficiently flat and surrounded by trees that would provide the needed logs, we went to work equipped with hatchets, entrenching tools, and hunting knives. I remember taking a lunch break when we heard the fire siren blow at noon, which it did every Saturday. We warmed up B&M beans and franks and Dinty Moore beef stew on Sterno stoves, and drank water from our canteens.*

*Work on the cabin progressed well until a serious accident occurred. I don't recall exactly how it happened, but John grazed his knee with a very sharp hatchet. The injury was bleeding rather badly, and we were all pretty shaken up. We tried to make a litter out of tree branches and our coats, as instructed in the Boy Scout Handbook, but we abandoned that approach. Two of us got on each side of John with our arms around his shoulders, and we limped, hopped, and hobbled to Doc Persing's office, which was quite a hike given John's condition. I don't recall what happened at the doctor's office or afterward, but we were all greatly relieved that John was OK. I don't remember ever working on the cabin after that.*

John Bormolini again: I also don't remember much more of the story after the accident. I am blessed that the injury wasn't worse—it could have been a life-changing event.

## Hiking to the Top of West Stockbridge Mountain

West Stockbridge Mountain is on the east side of town as you head toward Stockbridge, ascending the mile-long steep grade beside the turnpike.

Steve Salvi, Gene Salvi, and I set out to “conquer the Mountain” on a dreary Saturday morning in March. We started our ascent across from the turnoff to Great Barrington. We followed a road for about a quarter-mile, but that was the end of any kind of trail. We hiked upward until we reached the top about two hours later. It was quite the view even for a dreary March day.

After making a small fire and cooking our lunch of hot dogs, we descended the mountain, made dangerous with snowmelt, loose rocks, and the steep grade. We finally reached the highway and made our way back into town. Mission accomplished. I don't recall ever doing it again!

## A Wild Canoe Ride

I was not personally involved in this adventure, but I helped to facilitate it. I had a canoe that I borrowed from Crane Like Camp in my garage. Two of my friends—who shall not be named—borrowed the canoe to go down the Williams River. Normally the water was quite low, but this being the spring of the year, the river was quite high. My friends launched the canoe behind Baldwin's and hopped in. They made it as far as the low bridge—now the “walking bridge”—when reality set in and they thought it best to abandon the trip. Upon reaching the bridge, the two paddlers grabbed onto the bridge before going under it. With no weight in the canoe, it was swept away downriver and they were left hanging onto the bridge! The two adventurers clawed their way back to shore, watching the canoe going downstream and finally coming to rest before going over the low dam at the Stone Mill. They were able to rescue the canoe and get it back to my garage, quite embarrassed by the experience.



*Steve Salvi and I cooking our lunch on top of West Stockbridge Mountain, winter 1955. Photo by Gene Salvi*

*John Bormolini is a West Stockbridge “ex-pat,” now residing in Leavenworth, Kansas. Readers who would like to share their stories of 1950s West Stockbridge are invited to e-mail John at [johnbormo@aol.com](mailto:johnbormo@aol.com).*

# Local Resident Completes Conservation Commission Certificate Training

The Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commission (MACC) has announced that Kelly Clady-Giramma has been awarded a Certificate of Achievement for completing MACC's training program, "Fundamentals for Conservation Commissioners." Kelly currently serves on the West Stockbridge Conservation Commission.

The MACC training program provides conservation commissioners and others with the basic knowledge and practical tools essential to carrying out the many responsibilities of administering the Wetlands Protection Act and guidelines for open space planning and protection. For more information about MACC educational programs, visit [www.maccweb.org](http://www.maccweb.org).

## November History Quiz Question:

By guest columnist John Parker, West Stockbridge Historical Society

On September 26, Bob Salerno and I led a public History Walk at the Village Cemetery, visiting the final resting places of prominent local citizens. One of the graves we visited was that of Victor Joshua Slocum, author, artist, seaman, and whaler—said to have been New Bedford's top harpooner in 1903! How did this seagoing adventurer "land" in West Stockbridge?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)

When friends, neighbors, or relatives move, downsize, or just clean house, *please* ask them to think of the West Stockbridge Historical Society before they discard any old books, pictures, postcards, letters, or memorabilia of the Town of West Stockbridge. E-mail [info@weststockbridgehistory.org](mailto:info@weststockbridgehistory.org) or call 232-4270.

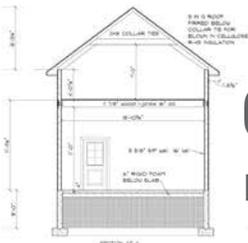


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# On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

## Building and Remodeling Costs

I've been doing design/build and remodeling since the mid-1980s, and, as you might expect, some big changes have impacted the industry since then that have led to increased costs. Updated codes and license requirements have certainly been a part of that. These changes have mostly improved safety and liability issues. Many code changes have aimed at energy efficiency that in the big picture benefit everyone.

But one of the biggest changes in the past 35 or so years since I've been "swinging a hammer," as they say in the trades, is the cost of materials. A recent article in *Builder* magazine, reprinted in the *Journal of Light Construction*, reports that "According to the NAHB [National Association of Home Builders], the composite price of lumber has increased by more than 170% since mid-April, causing the average price of a new single-family home to increase by \$16,000."

One example of materials cost increases since the spring is oriented strand board (OSB), the material that is replacing plywood for wall and roof sheathing and in engineered lumber that has tripled in price since January. And the cost of framing lumber has skyrocketed as its availability has dropped.

The cost increases of materials are caused by several factors including President Trump's tariffs on Canadian lumber, supply slowdowns due to COVID-19's effect on mills, and lumber shortages thanks to increased do-it-yourself (DIY) activity with homeowners taking on repairs and remodeling themselves.

And then there's the general shortage of other items besides lumber used in building. Heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC) equipment, plumbing fixtures, and appliances have all seen slowdowns in manufacturing and disruptions in deliveries.

In parts of the country, like here in the Berkshires, there's a real labor shortage. A year ago I took the continuing education courses required to renew my construction supervisor's license (CSL). The instructor pointed out that the average age of CSL holders in our state was over 55. That means fewer young people are entering the profession, resulting in a shortage of newer carpenters and tradespeople. And, as we know from basic economics, that demand means higher wages for those who do the work. The requirements for licensed contractors have also dramatically increased with the further complexity of building science, so the days of having a retired handyman do anything more than painting are over.

Another result of the pandemic is an increase in urbanites moving to the rural areas like the Berkshires. This shift puts pressure on the housing market and remodeling services. No surprise that home offices are the hot new thing in remodeling, hence the DIY surge.

More people are strapping on their tool belts and getting to work on home improvement projects during the COVID-19 pandemic, with millennials spending the most to get the job done, according to Bank of America.

Bank of America polled 1,054 Americans about their attitudes and shopping habits during coronavirus and found that more than 70% have decided to tackle home improvement projects, with more planned for 2021 (MarketWatch.com, June 2020).

These are "interesting" times we live in—and that usually means more expensive times.

*Comments, questions, and rants can be directed to [info@localyokel.com](mailto:info@localyokel.com).*



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## Community News & Events

Due to the coronavirus health emergency, many meetings and events are being cancelled or postponed. We are including all information available to us up until publication, but with the likelihood of changes, readers should check with the office, department, or organization for the latest information.

### Community Health Association

Weekly blood pressure clinics are by appointment only: 9 to 10 a.m. every Wednesday and Thursday, at the Town Offices, 21 State Line Road, West Stockbridge. Info: Emilie Jarrett, RN, 232-0122, or Emilie@charws.com.

### Stockbridge Grange Dinner

The dinners at the Grange have been suspended indefinitely due to the health crisis.

### Council on Aging

Council on Aging meetings have been suspended indefinitely due to the health crisis.

*Send your notices for Community News & Events to The Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, e-mail info@thelocalyokel.org, or visit thelocalyokel.org.*

## November Donor Roll Call

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## Birthdays & Anniversaries

11/19 James Hallock, Jr.

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## History Quiz Answer:

I first heard of Victor Slocum from a sailing buff living in Kentucky. He had read *Sailing Alone Around the World* by Joshua Slocum, who, from 1895 to 1898, was the first to sail single-handed around the world. Slocum's memoir of this remarkable journey is considered a classic of sailing literature. Googling "Slocum," our correspondent found a record of Victor Slocum's gravesite in our town cemetery and wondered if this could be the son of Captain Joshua Slocum.

Joshua Slocum, the father, lived an eventful and adventurous life on the sea during the final decades of the "Age of Sail." Born in 1844 in Nova Scotia, he went to sea at age 16, becoming an accomplished sailor, navigator, and captain of fishing and cargo vessels. He married and took his wife and young children on many voyages around the Pacific.

Following his first wife's tragic death and his remarriage, Joshua's ship *Aquidneck* was wrecked off the coast of Brazil. He built a small sailboat, the *Liberdade*, from local materials and sailed with his new bride and two young boys (Victor, age 16, and Garfield, age 6) 5,000 miles to Washington, D.C., where the boat was exhibited at the Smithsonian Museum. He later wrote a book about the adventure.

Unable to find work as a sailing captain (by then, sailing ships were beginning to be replaced by steamships), Joshua embarked on his round-the-world voyage in *Spray*, a derelict 37-foot oystering sloop he rebuilt himself. He financed the trip by lecturing and writing along the way, recounting many adventures including deadly storms and attacks by pirates. After publishing his best-selling memoir, Joshua Slocum and *Spray* were lost at sea on a solo voyage to South America in 1909.

Victor Slocum, Joshua's oldest son, was born in 1872 on a sailing ship captained by his father. The four Slocum siblings were all home-schooled by their mother on board ships their father captained and sailed around the Pacific. As a result, they all developed an interest in the arts and music and gained inner strength, self-reliance, and independence.

Victor learned seamanship and navigation from his father, and at age 16 he was named mate aboard the *Aquidneck*, the vessel shipwrecked off Brazil. Victor went on to serve as a whaler out of New Bedford. In 1903, he was considered the city's top harpooner. The sheath knife he carried had 22 notches cut into its handle for each whale he had harpooned.

Victor married a young woman from West Stockbridge, Harriet Estelle Woodruff, a graduate of the Pittsfield schools and Smith College. She was a music teacher, concert pianist, composer, suffragist lecturer, and author.

During World War I, Victor served as navigator aboard a U.S. Navy transport ship and piloted ships into the Port of New York. After the war, Victor worked for the Roosevelt Steamship Company. A feature story in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* in 1937 described Victor's talents as an artist. At the time, his paintings of Chinese junks were exhibited at a branch of the New York Public Library. The article noted, "At every port a camera and drawing board would go with the Captain to see the sights of the town instead of a whiskey bottle."

During World War II, Victor inspected wooden-hulled vessels for the navy. Later, he worked for the United Fruit Company and taught navigation. In retirement, Victor wrote several books including a biography of his father, *Captain Joshua Slocum, The Adventures of America's Best Known Sailor*.

Estelle died in 1946, followed by Victor in 1949. Both were buried in the West Stockbridge town cemetery (the Woodruff family is well represented there).

So how did this seafaring adventurer meet his accomplished and cultured wife from western Massachusetts and end up interred with her in our town cemetery? My guess is that it was their mutual interest in the arts that brought them together, and it seems likely he wanted to be buried with his wife, whose family roots were here in West Stockbridge.



*Joshua Slocum's Spray. Public Domain,*  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1012454>

# Support the *Local Yokel* Using AmazonSmile

By Vicki Grayson

With the holiday shopping season approaching, we wanted to remind you that you can now help the West Stockbridge *Local Yokel* using AmazonSmile. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the cost of your eligible purchase to the *Local Yokel* or to any other 501(c)(3) charitable organization that has registered with the foundation.

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- Go to *Local Yokel's* unique link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-4450412>. This eliminates the need to look through a long list of charities to find us. You can bookmark the link and use it regularly.
- Or go to smile.amazon.com and, on your first visit, select the charitable organization you want the foundation to donate to before you start shopping. It will remember your selection. You can change the charity at any time.
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More detailed information about the program is available at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). We greatly appreciate the wonderful support the *Local Yokel* receives from our community and hope that you will participate in this new way.



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# Every issue costs us about \$1,300 to print and distribute! Please help us keep the *Local Yokel* coming!

With increased printing and postage costs, we need your help more than ever. To get the latest town news, please contribute to the *Local Yokel*. For your donation of at least \$25.00 per year we will mail each issue to you (unless you prefer otherwise). The *Local Yokel* will continue to be available free at selected locations as long as possible, but we hope you will contribute anything you can. The West Stockbridge Local Yokel, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization, and all contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Please check with your employer, or former employer if retired, for matching gift programs.

**Yes!** I want to support the *Local Yokel*.  
Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
made payable to WSLY.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (as you want it to appear in acknowledgments)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address (location you would like the *Local Yokel* and/or bumper sticker sent)

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

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E-mail

Check any that apply:

- I would like my contribution to remain anonymous.
- Thanks, but don't mail the *Local Yokel* to me. Save the postage; I'll pick it up myself.
- Yes, please do send me a YKL Bumper Sticker for my donation of \$35 or more.



Please mail this form with your check to:  
WSLY  
P.O. Box 238  
West Stockbridge, MA 01266



## Do you enjoy writing or photography?

The *Local Yokel* needs regular and occasional contributors.

Please call John Parker at (413) 394-4368,  
e-mail [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org), or visit  
[www.thelocalyokel.org](http://www.thelocalyokel.org) for more information.



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**WELCOME**

*Sound like you? We invite you to call our Rabbi,  
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## Town Government Boards and Commissions, Phone Directory, and Office Hours Town Offices Main Number 413-232-0300 • Fax 232-7195

Animal Control	<i>Brian Hoskeer</i>	232-0300	ext. 335	As Needed
Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1–5 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Board of Health	<i>Earl Moffatt</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m., or by appt.
Select Board	<i>Roger Kavanagh, Kathleen Keresev, Eric Shimelonis</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	Mon.–Thurs. 7 a.m.–3 p.m. Fri. 7 a.m.–11 a.m.
Town Administrator	<i>Marie Ryan</i>			
Building Inspector	<i>Brian Duval</i>	232-0300	ext. 313	Leave Message for Inquiries
Conservation Commission	<i>Jennifer Kujawski, Lori Rose</i>	232-0300	ext. 338	Leave Message for Inquiries
Council on Aging	<i>John Zick</i>	232-0300	ext. 340	Leave Message for Inquiries
Emergency Management	<i>Louis Oggiani</i>	528-2175		
Fire Department	<i>Steve Traver</i>	911 or 232-4200 (non-emergency)		Mon. 6:30–9 p.m.
Highway Department	<i>Curt G. Wilton</i>	232-0305		Leave Message for Inquiries
Library	<i>Rachel Alter</i>	232-0300	ext. 308	Tues. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Wed., Thurs, and Fri. 2–6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; closed Sun. & Mon.
Police Department	<i>Marc Portieri</i>	911 or 232-8500 (non-emergency)		24 hours, 7 days/week
Post Office	<i>Colleen A. Wich</i>	232-8544		Lobby: 7 a.m.–7 p.m.; 7 days/week; Window: Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.–12 noon
Seasonal Lifeguard		232-0315		
Sewer & Water Commission	<i>Michael Buffoni</i>	232-0309		
Town Accountant	<i>Elaine Markham</i>	232-0300	ext. 317	Leave Message for Inquiries
Town Clerk	<i>Ronni Barrett</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Tues. & Thurs. 1:30–4 p.m.
Town Collector	<i>June A. Biggs</i>	232-0300	ext. 302	Wed. 3–6 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m.– 2 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Town Historian	<i>Robert Salerno</i>	232-4465		
Town Treasurer	<i>Karen Williams</i>	232-0300	ext. 316	Thurs. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Transfer Station	<i>Wayne Cooper</i>	232-0307		Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sat. 8 a.m.–6 p.m.
Tree Warden	<i>Andrew Fudge</i>	232-4322		
Veterans Agency	<i>Laurie Hills</i>	528-1580		
Zoning Board of Appeals	<i>C. Randolph Thunfors</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	

Official Town Government Website: [weststockbridge-ma.gov](http://weststockbridge-ma.gov) • Community and Business Website: [visitweststockbridge.com](http://visitweststockbridge.com)



# November Art Calendar

Guild of Berkshire Artists | [BerkshireArtists.org](http://BerkshireArtists.org) | [gobasocial@gmail.com](mailto:gobasocial@gmail.com) 2020

**Art Together:** Join Eva Schuster and other Guild of Berkshire Artists making Art Together online using the Zoom platform. Details on how to watch are posted on our homepage and Events > Classes & Seminars.

**WEDNESDAYS, 9 - 11:30am**  
**WEDNESDAYS, 6:30 - 8:30pm**  
**FRIDAYS, 2 - 4:45pm**

**TUESDAYS, Demonstration:** Variable time with many at 3pm. Watch an artist demonstrate various mediums and techniques each week via Zoom. Details on how to watch are posted on our homepage and Events > Classes & Seminars.

**FRIDAYS, Meet the Artist:**  
 5 - 6pm. Join a different artist each week to gain an insight into their processes and art. Every Friday evening at 5pm. Featured artists and details on how to watch are posted on our homepage and Events > Meet the Artist.

**Nov 22, Berkshire Photo Gathering:**  
 Sunday November 22, 2-4pm. Online. See webpage below for more information.  
<http://berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings>

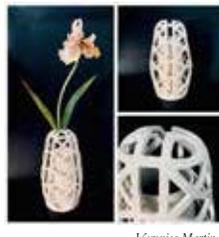
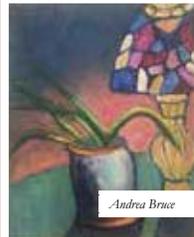
**Nov 30, Art Book Gathering:** Monday November 30, 12:30 - 2pm. Share a favorite book: artist, or process.  
 RSVP: [berkshireartists@gmail.com](mailto:berkshireartists@gmail.com)

**NOVEMBER, Holiday Art Show:** Online. Running Late October 2020 - Early 2021. Visit [www.berkshireartists.org/holidayartshow](http://www.berkshireartists.org/holidayartshow).

## Holiday Art Show

[www.berkshireartists.org](http://www.berkshireartists.org)

**On Display Online:**  
 October 2020 - Early 2021



West Stockbridge  
**Local Yokel**  
 P.O. Box 238  
 West Stockbridge, MA  
 01266

**thelocalyokel.org**



**November 2020**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**November 2020 Calendar of Events**

Due to the coronavirus health emergency, many meetings and events are being canceled, postponed, or held online. We are including all information available to us up until publication, but with the likelihood of changes, readers should check with the office, department, or organization for latest information.			
11/1	Daylight Saving Time ends: Set clocks back 1 hour		
11/2	Select Board meeting	6 p.m.	See agenda on town website for details
11/3	Election Day: Vote!		7 a.m.– 8 p.m.
11/9	Parks & Recreation Committee meeting	5:30 p.m.	See agenda on town website for details
11/11	Veterans Day (Town Offices closed)		
11/15	*** Deadline for the next <i>Local Yokel</i> ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
11/16	Select Board meeting	6 p.m.	See agenda on town website for details
11/17	Vision Committee meeting	5:30 p.m.	See agenda on town website for details
11/18	Special Town Meeting	6 p.m.	See agenda on town website for details
11/26	Thanksgiving (Town Offices closed)		
11/30	Select Board meeting	6 p.m.	See agenda on town website for details