

## **The Town of Charlemont is seeking a part-time Town Clerk.**

Job Description is available on the Town of Charlemont Website, hours will be determined upon employment. Interested parties should send letter of interest and resume to [selectboard@townofcharlemont.org](mailto:selectboard@townofcharlemont.org) or mail to:

Selectboard – Town of Charlemont

PO box 677

Charlemont MA 01339.

## **CHARLEMONT ENERGY PROGRAM ANNOUNCES NEW RATES**

CHARLEMONT, MA – The Town of Charlemont has signed a twenty-four-month contract with its current supplier, Dynegy Energy Services. The Charlemont Community Choice Power Supply Program, tailored to meet the specific needs of the Town's electricity ratepayers, will continue to offer the same options at new rates as well as one new option:

- A standard product that meets Massachusetts Renewable Energy Requirement (MA Req) of 62.3% at a rate of \$0.14159 per kWh.
- An optional product that meets MA Req plus uses an additional 38% National Wind Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), at a rate of \$0.14302 per kWh.
- [NEW] A second optional product that meets MA Req plus uses an additional 50% Massachusetts Class I RECs at a rate of \$0.16112 per kWh.

For Charlemont residents and businesses who are enrolled in the Town's standard product, the current rate of \$0.09345 per kWh will expire and the new rate of \$0.14159 per kWh will take effect with the January 2024 meter reads. This represents an increase of \$29 per month on the supply side of the bill given average usage of 600 kWh. However, this new rate is 22 percent lower than National Grid's recently announced Residential Basic Service rate of \$0.18213 per kWh. Residents can expect to see an average savings of \$24 per month for the months of January 2024 through July 2024\*.

Charlemont launched its electricity program in August 2020 in an effort to develop an energy program that would be stable, affordable and incorporate renewable energy. From inception through June 2023, the Program has saved residents and small businesses over \$683,000 in electricity costs as compared to Basic Service.

It is important to note that no action will be required by individual consumers. This change will be seen on the February 2024 bills. All accounts currently enrolled in the Program will remain with their current product offering and see the new rate under the “Supply Services” section of their monthly bill. If you would like to choose the Town’s new optional product, please visit [colonialpowergroup.com/charlemont](http://colonialpowergroup.com/charlemont) to opt-in.

The Charlemont Community Choice Power Supply Program has no fees or charges. However, anyone switching from a contract with a third-party supplier may be subject to penalties or early termination fees charged by that supplier. Ratepayers should verify terms before switching.

Basic Service rates change twice a year or more, depending on rate class. As a result, the aggregation rate may not always be lower than the Basic Service rate. The goal of the aggregation is to deliver savings over the life of the program against National Grid Basic Service. However, such savings and future savings cannot be guaranteed.

National Grid has several programs to help income-eligible families and customers needing special assistance meet their energy needs. To learn more visit [nationalgridus.com/MA-Home/Bill-Help/Payment-Assistance-Programs](http://nationalgridus.com/MA-Home/Bill-Help/Payment-Assistance-Programs).

Residents may also visit [colonialpowergroup.com/charlemont](http://colonialpowergroup.com/charlemont) or call (866) 485-5858 ext. 1 to learn more about Charlemont’s Community Choice Power Supply Program, to opt-in or opt-out, or to change your current product selection.

### **Capital Planning Member Needed.**

What is the Town budget? Simply put, the town’s operating budget is its annual fiscal plan and roadmap. It is an itemization of the revenues and expenditures that are expected during the regular course of business during the fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30. Items like salaries, benefits, utilities, supplies, and debt payments are included in the budget.

Capital planning is also included in the budget process, the Capital Planning committee develops a Capital Plan for repair or replacement of items over \$5,000.00. These items are prioritized by the committee and brought to the Town Meeting.

Charlemont has a three member Capital Planning Committee, which currently is short one member, if you would like to volunteer for the committee please contact the Town Administrator at [administrator@townofcharlemont.org](mailto:administrator@townofcharlemont.org) or 413-339-4335 ext. 8.

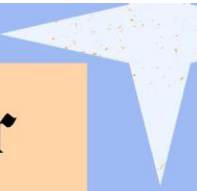


### **News from Assessors: The Role of the Board of Assessors Office**

The Assessors Office consists of a Board of three elected officials serving staggered three-year terms, an appointed office Clerk, and cyclical assistance from their valuation consultants. All Assessor staff must complete and pass *Course 101, Assessment Administration: Law, Procedures and Valuation*; the training program required by the Division of Local Services, within two years of election or appointment. The Board meets the first Monday of the Month at 6:30 p.m. in the Assessor’s Office.

The Assessor’s primary responsibility is to list, classify and value all real and personal property within the community at 100% of its full and fair cash value, or “fair market value”, and to ensure that property taxes are fairly apportioned *ad valorem*; according eligibility and address appeals to value. The Board administers motor vehicle excise tax, maintains an updated property database and annually updates their tax maps. The Assessors also assist in annually setting the tax rate and submitting for its approval. In addition, Assessors address taxpayer concerns, determine property and excise tax abatement/exemption. It is important to note that while The Board of Assessors in each city and town in the Commonwealth is required by Massachusetts law to list and value all real and personal property, the Assessors do not control the laws that affect property taxes. Tax laws are enacted by the Massachusetts Legislature. Various

guidelines and regulations are established by the Department of Revenue to assist the Board in carrying out their duties and the Assessors must follow these procedures in accordance with the laws.

**\*\*\* The annual tax rate hearing will take place on December 11, 2023 at 6:15 pm during the Selectboard Meeting**




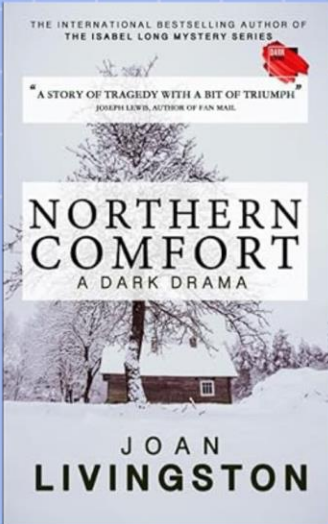
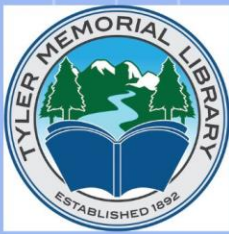
# Local Author Joan Livingston

## Saturday, December 2 3 p.m.

**Meet Author Joan Livingston**

Joan Livingston is the author of novels for adult and young readers, including the Isabel Long Mystery Series, which will have the seventh, *Missing the Deadline*, released by darkstroke books soon. Her most recent release is *Northern Comfort*, set like most of her books, including *The Sacred Dog* and *Northern Comfort*, in the fictional hilltowns of Western Massachusetts. She is currently writing a sequel to *The Sacred Dog* called *The Unforgiving Town*. She relies on her deep knowledge of rural Western Massachusetts, where she lives on the Buckland side of Shelburne Falls, and once covered as a long-time journalist, to create realistic characters and settings.

**Tyler Memorial Library**  
157 Main Street  
Charlemont, MA





# HOLIDAY CRAFTS



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OR MAKE A HOLIDAY GNOME



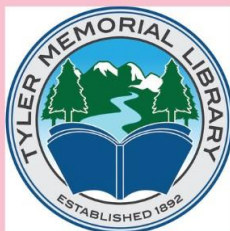
5 - 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 7th

All Ages welcome!

Take and Make Kits  
will be available.

Drop in anytime.



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157 MAIN STREET  
CHARLEMONT, MA 01339