



Town Meeting News

The Annual Town Meeting began on May 23rd at 7 pm and was continued to May 30th, the two-night meeting addressed 31 warrant articles. All the warrant articles passed with the exception of the Recall Bylaw which was tabled for a future meeting. Included in the articles that passed were a new police cruiser, an article to clean snow from both the north and south side sidewalks along main street, and petitioning DOT to take ownership of the long bridge, if you missed the town meeting and want a copy of the warrant articles, they are on the town website.

Annual Town Election Results

May 23, 2023

Town of Charlemont

Select Board – 3 years

William Harker – 80 votes

Jeff Van Iderstine – 28 votes

Other – 1 vote

Blanks – 11

Board of Assessors – 3 years

Karen Rau – 103 votes

Banks – 14

Other - 1

Charlemont School Committee – 3 years

Elizabeth Van Iderstine – 106 votes

Blanks – 14

Other – 21

Mohawk School Committee – 1 year

Blanks – 110

Other – 10 (each 1 vote)

Parks & Recreation Comm – 5 years

William Harker – 63 votes

Stephen W Thayer – 47 votes

Blanks - 10

Moderator – 1 year

Robert Handsaker – 104 votes

Blanks - 15

Tree Warden – 3 years

Andrew Mueller – 99 votes

Board of Health – 3 years

Robert Lingle – 109 votes

Blanks – 11

Tyler Library Trustee – 3 years

Andrea Santos – 104 votes

Blanks -15

Other -1

Planning Board – 1 year

*Star Atkeson – 20 Accepted

Blanks – 95

Other -5

Constable – 3 years

William Harker – 93 votes

Blanks – 25

Other -2

* = write in

Planning Board – 5 years

*Jennifer Mooney – 12 votes Accepted.

Blanks - 100

Other – 8

Planning Board Assoc. – 3 years

*Jennifer Mooney – 16 Not Accepted

Blanks – 98

Other -6

NOTICE FROM ASSESSOR’S OFFICE

ON INCREASES TO PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS AND

DECREASE TO MINIMUM PERSONAL PROPERTY EXEMPTION

At the May 30th Annual Town Meeting, three local option Warrant Articles were approved which relate to property tax exemptions and the taxation of personal property and shall take effect beginning in Fiscal Year 2024.

The first approved an increase to the income and asset allowances for the 41C Senior property tax exemption application. Recognizing that the current limits are very low and difficult to meet, this raises the annual income seniors are allowed to make as well as the value of their whole estate (assets), to be more in line with the current economy.

The second approved an annual increase in the amount of the 17C 1/2 exemption for seniors, surviving spouses, or surviving minors, by the percent increase of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous year. Again, because the current exemption amount is very low this increases the exemption by the annual CPI, cumulatively.

The last decreases the minimum personal property value exemption to \$1,000 (property valued at less than \$1,000 is exempted from taxation). This increases the revenue to the Town from personal property taxes by lowering the minimum personal property exemption value from the current \$2,500 to \$1,000.

These local options are all adopted/amended per the provisions of General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5. If you have questions on any of these articles, please contact the Assessor’s office at 413-339-8586, x2 for more information. The various property tax exemption applications offered are available on the town website: [Board of Assessors - Town of Charlemont \(charlemont-ma.us\)](http://Board of Assessors - Town of Charlemont (charlemont-ma.us)), in the Assessor’s Office or you may call the office to request an application.

Tyler Memorial Library News



WINGMASTERS

BIRDS OF PREY

3 P.M.
SATURDAY, JUNE 10
HAWLEMONT SCHOOL GYM
CHARLEMONT, MA

**NEW ENGLAND
BIRDS OF PREY**

Raptors boast the best eyesight and the sharpest hearing in the animal kingdom.

Raptors include hawks, falcons, and owls. This presentation, which incorporates **5-6 live birds of prey**, all native to New England, gives an overview of these different categories. Learn about predation, different hunting adaptations and their status in a rapidly changing world. Julie Anne Collier and Jim Parks are licensed wildlife rehabilitators based in Leverett, Massachusetts.

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Office of Tree warden Annual Report

The Tree Warden is governed by the Massachusetts Public Shade Tree Law and conducts assessment of trees for potential hazards to public safety along town owned public byways. The scope of the job is broad and includes responsibility for all community trees – on streets and roads, parks, and other town owned property.

In 2022, approximately 50 hazard trees were removed/safety pruned by direction (and by town approval) of the Office of Tree Warden from North River Road, East Oxbow Road, Burnt Hill Road, Legate Hill Road, and Warner Hill Road. Simultaneously, hazard trees over utility lines were identified and brought to National Grids attention. As a result, 20 trees town-wide have been removed by National Grid contractors and this project is still on going in 2023. We have seen a noticeable improvement in damage and downed trees during storms.

Charlemont's Wood Policy states in part: If the wood can be used as firewood, the property abutter has the right of first refusal. All or part of the wood may be left as requested. This is providing that if the wood were left on site, it would not create any safety hazard to the public. The wood is left in large sections that would need to be cut and split by the recipient for use. If the abutter does not want the wood, it becomes available for neighbors and other residents.

The Office of Tree Warden would like to thank National Grid's forestry division for their continued support and efforts in the Town of Charlemont.

Please help in contributing to the safety of our community by reporting any potentially hazardous trees along any of Charlemont's town roads to the Office of Tree Warden.