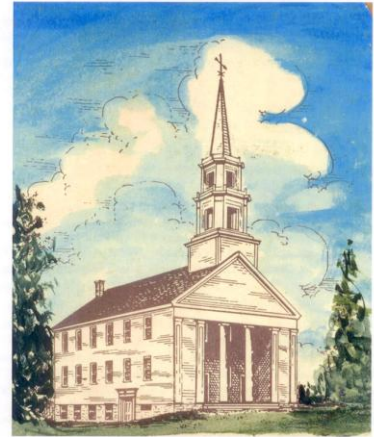


Congregational Church of Phillipston, U.C.C.
60 The Common
Phillipston, MA 01331

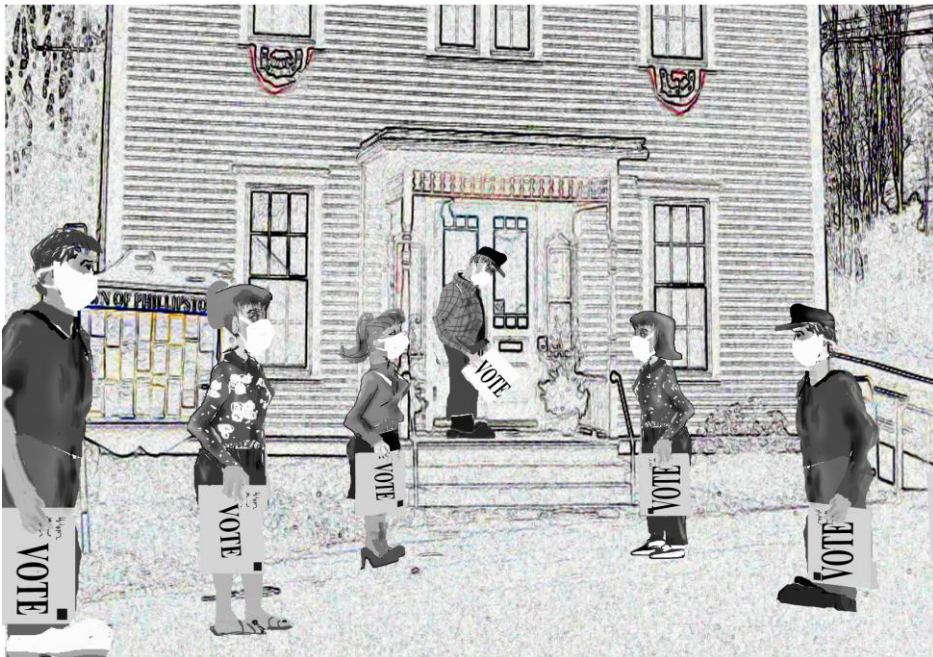
**The Congregational Church
of
Phillipston, Massachusetts**



United Church of Christ
Embodied November 1785

Phillipston Community Newsletter

June 2020



The Phillipston Congregational Church, U.C.C.
Our Community Church

Dear Friends,

Our worship for the month of June will be drive-in style with bring your own chair if you would like to sit on the Phillipston Common for worship. I hope to worship in this way on Sunday, June 7 and Father's Day, Sunday, June 21 at 10:00 a.m. On Father's Day we will have another canned food offering, and if frozen food is donated such as chicken fingers, French fries or frozen pizza, popsicles or ice cream, the Phillipston Fire Department has offered to store these items until they can be taken to the Templeton Food Pantry. The food pantry would also appreciate donations of milk, cream, coffee and coffee filters. Of course, the staples of peanut butter and jelly, spaghetti sauce and spaghetti, and canned vegetables also are graciously accepted. I understand that paper goods also are appreciated. Our rain dates for worship will be Sunday, June 14, in the event of rain on June 7, and June 28 in the event of rain on June 21.

I am writing this on Sunday, May 24 after a wonderful Memorial Day parade. Thank you to John Seamon, Jr. for a wonderful idea of bringing the parade to the Phillipston neighborhoods. Thank you to all of our veterans. Thank you to Steve Babineau for taps, to Mike Flye for the Civil War musket loading and shooting demonstration, to Ron Higgins for bringing and driving the World War II Jeep, to Gerry Gariepy for organizing the veterans, to Grady Campos for placing the wreath and his grandfather Veteran John Marr for raising the flag. Thank you to all of the public service personnel for making this day so special. Thank you to Nancy and Al Rose for the apple cider donuts in honor of our Civil War and War of 1812 veterans. Thank you to John Telepciak for representing the selectmen as MC and to Kevin Flynn for pulling it all together.

Your sister in Christ, Rev. Stephanie C. Flynn

Phillipston's Trail Map:

<http://www.phillipston.com/trails.pdf>

Phillipston's Open Space Report:

<https://www.phillipston-ma.gov/open-space-committee>

2020 Municipal Election Early Ballot Application



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Voter Information

1

Name: _____

Legal Voting Residence: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Ballot Information

2

Mail Ballot to: _____

Special Circumstances (If applicable)

3

☐ Voter required assistance in completing application due to physical disability.

Assisting person's name: _____

Assisting person's address: _____

Signed (under penalty of perjury): _____ Date: _____

Eligibility

Any registered voter may use this application to request an absentee ballot for a local election being held on or before June 30, 2020.

Completing the Application

1. Voter Information – Provide your name, legal voting address, and date of birth. Telephone number and e-mail address are optional fields.
2. Ballot Information – Provide the address where you want the ballot mailed.
3. Special Circumstances – If you are assisting a voter in completing this application, complete this section.
4. Sign your name. If you require assistance in signing the application, you may authorize someone to sign your name in your presence. That person must complete the assisting person's information in Section 3.

Submitting the Application

Send the completed application to the local election official at your city or town hall.

Applications can be mailed or hand-delivered. Applications may also be submitted electronically by fax or e-mail, as long as your signature is visible.

Please allow ample mailing time for this application and for the ballot. Ballots must be returned to your local election official by Election Day.

Find contact information for local election officials at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele or by calling 1-800-462-VOTE (8683).



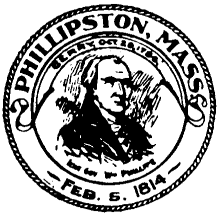
Don't forget to request your ballot by mail! Download the application found on the website at www.phillipston-ma.gov and scan to townclerk@phillipston-ma.gov or mail the application printed in this newsletter to 50 The Common, Phillipston, or drop off at the Town Hall using the Mail Slot located in the front door. Please allow ample time for mailing. This is the perfect time while many of us are observing the social distancing or we are still staying at home.

SENIOR LUNCH

COME JOIN US FOR OUR "GRAB & GO LUNCH" EVERY TUESDAY BETWEEN 11AM AND NOON IN FRONT OF THE PHILLIPSTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ON THE COMMON, PHILLIPSTON, MA. THROUGH JUNE DUE TO THE COVID-19 STAY AT HOME ORDER. A DONATION OF \$3 IS SUGGESTED. CALL BY THE SUNDAY BEFORE TO PICK UP YOUR MEAL. PLEASE CALL AND LEAVE A MESSAGE AT 978-652-5797



BE SAFE!



TOWN OF PHILLIPSTON
Office of the Town Clerk
50 The Common
Phillipston, Massachusetts 01331
Phone: (978) 249-1733
townclerk@phillipston-ma.gov

Early Voting by Mail for the Annual Town Election

On April 22, 2020 after deliberating on the current state of emergency brought on by the COVID-19 health crisis, and the potential difficulty of voters safely coming together to conduct town business at the usual dates in May for the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election, the Board of Selectmen took the following action:

1. Pursuant to the authority granted them in MGL Chapter 3 Sec. 39, the Selectmen voted to schedule the
Annual Town Meeting for Tuesday, June 16, 2020.
2. Pursuant to authority granted them in Chapter 45 of the Acts of 2020, the Selectmen voted to schedule the
Annual Town Election for Monday, June 22, 2020.

EARLY VOTING BY MAIL. A new “modified” early voting by mail provision was included in the legislation and will be applicable to all local elections this spring, not just elections that are postponed. Upon application, any voter may, through “any form of written communication”, file a request with the Clerk’s office to vote early by mail. **There will be no “in person” early voting sessions.**

Please find printed in this Newsletter a 2020 Municipal Election Early Ballot Application.

As a registered voter you are strongly urged to vote safely from home using this process. The polling area will be open for in person voting on June 22nd upstairs in Town Hall from 12:00 pm (noon) Until 8:00pm.

All voters will be **required to wear masks (no exceptions)** for your safety and the poll workers safety. All Election workers will be wearing gloves and masks. The polling area and lobby will be wiped down with disinfectant after each voter. Social distancing will be mandatory which includes the required 6^{ft} apart and no more than 10 people in the polling area at a time. We appreciate the voter’s cooperation in following the guidelines set for us by our Select Board and the Governor of Massachusetts.

Please call or e-mail if you have any questions or concerns the contact info is list at the top of this notice.

Phillips Free Public Library

Library Hours- for Curbside Pick-up

Tuesday 9-2pm

Wednesday 5-7pm

Saturday 9am-1pm

Board of Trustees Meeting

to be determined...

Curbside Delivery

While the library is not yet open to the public, we will be doing our best to make sure you have the books, magazines and movies that you want.

Please call the Library at 978-249-1734 or email us at

phillipstonlibrary@comcast.net with your requests. We will collect the materials, check them out to you, and get back to you with the time you may stop by to pick them up.

If you are returning materials, you may: Leave them in the box on the library ramp if the library is OPEN or in the black 'mailbox' by the road if the library is CLOSED

New Books

The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd, Camino Winds by David Baldacci, The Last Trial by Scott Turow, The Wedding Dress by Danielle Steel, Someone Like You by Karen Kingsbury, On Ocean Boulevard by Mary Alice Monroe, A Week by the Shore by Barbara Delinsky, and Pandemic by Joan Johnson.

New Movies

'The Rise of Skywalker', 'Sonic the Hedgehog' 'Little Women', 'Emma', 'I Still Believe'

LADIES BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

All Meetings of the Ladies Benevolent Society, during this COVID-19 pandemic, have been cancelled until further notice. Please take notice of all instructions to keep you safe so that we may be able to get together again soon and celebrate! God Bless You and Stay Safe!

THE NEWSLETTER IS ON www.phillipston.com

July 2020 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS June 23rd

For more info go to : www.phillipston.com/priceinfo.pdf

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

Monday June 22, 2020

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO TOWN OF PHILLIPSTON OFFICES

SELECT BOARD - 3 YR TERM – VOTE FOR ONE

Gerhard R.Fandreyer, 210 Royalston Rd, for re-election

ASSESSOR – 3 YR TERM – VOTE FOR ONE

Anthony M. Membrino, 255 Lincoln Rd, for re-election

BOARD OF HEALTH – 3 YR TERM – VOTE FOR ONE

James B. Praplaski, Sr., 265 Baldwinville Rd, for re-election

BOARD OF HEALTH - 1 YR TERM - VOTE FOR ONE

No candidate

CEMETERY COMMISSION – 3 YR TERM – VOTE FOR ONE

Ronald J. Richard, 150 Baldwin Hill Rd., for re-election

CONSTABLE - 3 YR TERM – VOTE FOR ONE

Ronald F. Pratt, 15 Templeton Rd, for re-election

LIBRARY TRUSTEE - 3 YR TERM – VOTE FOR ONE

Karen M. Perkins, 10 Templeton Rd, for re-election

PLANNING BOARD - 5 YR TERM – VOTE FOR ONE

Bernard A. Malouin, Sr., 30 Petersham Rd, for re-election

TAX COLLECTOR – 3 YR TERM – VOTE FOR ONE

No Candidate

TOWN CLERK – 3 YR TERM – VOTE FOR ONE

Karin L. Foley, 20 Narrow Ln, for re-election

NARRAGANSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

3 YR TERM – PHILLIPSTON - VOTE FOR ONE

Margaret J. Hughes, 65 Williamsville Rd, for re-election

NARRAGANSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

3YR TERM – TEMPLETON - VOTE FOR ONE

Henry J. Mason, 17A Wellington Rd., Templeton

NARRAGANSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

3YR TERM – TEMPLETON - VOTE FOR ONE

No Candidate

Question 1

Shall the Town vote to have its elected Tax Collector become an appointed Tax Collector of the town?

Yes No

THE DATE OF THE ELECTION HAS BEEN CHANGED TO JUNE 22, 2020

The Phillipston Congregational Church
On the Common, Phillipston, MA
IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS
ON SUNDAYS JUNE 7th AND JUNE 21st at 10 AM

Pastor Stephanie will be leading the service, standing in front of the church with Attendees parking around the Phillipston Common, staying in their cars with windows open, listening to the service and participating in singing of hymns. A joyous time to celebrate our risen Lord Jesus! GOD BLESS US ALL!

FATHERS DAY, JUNE 21st

We will be celebrating all “Fathers!” We are asking for food donations for the Templeton Food Pantry (frozen foods can be donated also) to help our neighbors in need. Please leave in a plastic bag outside of your car for our Mission Committee to retrieve and take to the Templeton Food Pantry.

THE ANNUAL JUNE BAZAAR

has been cancelled this year and we are tentatively looking to reschedule it for sometime in August if permitted.

We are praying for the victims of this pandemic and praying that all of you be safe. Amen.

QUEEN LAKE – PHILLIPSTON, MA
NOTIFICATION OF AQUATIC TREATMENT
Wednesday, June 10th.

As part of a comprehensive Lake Management Program being implemented by the Queen Lake Association., Queen Lake will be treated with the USEPA/MA registered aquatic herbicides Sonar ONE & Sonar Genesis (fluridone) to control non-native and invasive fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*). The initial treatment will be conducted on Wednesday, June 10th. The lake will be closed to all water uses (including boating, fishing, and swimming) on the day of treatment only. Additionally, water from the lake cannot be used for irrigation for a period of 90 days commencing on this day. Applicable water use restrictions will be posted with signs around the shoreline prior to application.

Following the initial treatment, it is anticipated that 2-3 additional, follow-up “booster” treatments will be required over a period of approximately 45-60 days. Notice of these follow-up treatments and any additional water-use restrictions will be made via subsequent posting of the shoreline prior to each treatment.

The project is being performed for the Queen Lake Association under an approved Order of Conditions issued by the Phillipston Conservation Commission (DEP File #262-0194) and a license (permit) issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Treatments are being performed by the State licensed firm SOLitude Lake Management of Shrewsbury, MA.

We are a small farm over on Royalston Road. Our honey and beeswax based products are our most widely known products. We treat our bees organically in the fight against the deadly Varroa mites, meaning our honey and beeswax do not have pesticides introduced into them from means that other beekeepers may use.

We are always interested in acquiring bee swarms, or if possible, removing them from a building or tree. We've already retrieved a swarm from Orange this year. Last year was a perfect year for bees, and many swarms occurred. If you should find a colony of bees has picked a spot to live that is unsafe or unwanted for you, please let us know. Call Jack @ 978-895-1452, and if no return call within 5 minutes, please call Colleen @ 774-502-0655. Please note we only want honeybees and we are not exterminators. If you are unsure of what you are seeing, feel free to call.

We sell our raw honey (contains pollen too) in half pound jars @ \$6.50 each and pound jars @ \$12.50 each. Return the empty jars and caps for 50 cents back. We sell pound and a half jars @ \$19 each and two pound jars @ \$25 each. Return the empty jars and caps for a dollar back.

We sell pure maple syrup from trees tapped on our farm and from the neighbor's. (It was all the same farm at one time). We sell Quart sized Mason jars at \$16, return the empty jar and get a dollar back. We sell Pint sized Mason jars at \$8, return the empty jar and get 50 cents back. We use glass because (1) syrup is so clean and clear, (2) you can see how much you have remaining, (3) dipping it out by spoon creates the need to lick the spoon, (4) we never created a beautiful natural syrup to be hidden in a plastic jug, (5) glass jars are easily sanitized in a pressure cooker for reuse.

We have Rhubarb plants for sale. Single plants that have been split down from mother plants. Recommended to plant this year and begin harvesting stalks from next year. Only \$3 a plant, available at the farm.

This Coronavirus health emergency has put our HoneyMoon Hill Bees beeswax based business on the sidetrack. No fairs or vendor events have been allowed. Our online ordering has been on hold, but we are getting that up and running again for limited products. Sunscreen, bug balm and other products will be available for mail delivery, or we can drop it off. Colleen will be updating the website, and that will be done by the time this newsletter is delivered.

General information. You can buy and pick up raw honey, pure maple syrup and Rhubarb plants at our farm located at 770 Royalston Road in town. Please call Jack at 978-895-1452 to schedule a time that is convenient for you, we do not leave products out unattended. Our products are guaranteed tamper free this way.

If you're interested in our beeswax based products, we do not sell them at the house. There is a difference between selling farm produced items at a farm and not being able to selling craft based items at a farm, at least in an Agricultural/ Residential zoned area like our location. We can drop them off or get them mailed to you. Please visit honeymoonhillbees.com for our updated website offerings.

Thank you, stay healthy!

Attention Phillipston Voters

There is an Important Ballot Question at the June 22 Election

Question 1 asks voters to approve combining the Tax Collector and Town Treasurer positions into one Collector-Treasurer position. **The Selectboard asks the voters to support this change and vote Yes.**

What's this about? We are voting to combine the Tax Collector position with the Treasurer. This is a two-step process. At last year's town meeting we completed the first step when we voted to accept a section of Mass General Laws to combine the positions. Now we are taking the second step, by voting "Yes" on a ballot question to complete the process and combine the positions.

Why are we doing this? In 2006 and in 2018 the Department of Revenue completed financial assessments for Phillipston that advised the town it could provide better service by combining its Treasurer and Tax Collector into one appointed position. Appointing these positions helps ensure that the person hired has the experience and qualifications to best execute their duties and attracts a larger pool of candidates. When it comes to the important matter of managing tax dollars, the residents of Phillipston should not be limited to only considering people who live in town and are willing to run for office. Also, the cash management tasks that comprise most of their day-to-day work closely mirror each other. Combining them should increase efficiency and strengthen internal controls to ensure that all town receipts are collected, counted, posted and deposited by one department only.

Why now? We didn't want to displace the incumbent Tax Collector at the time. Now, after 18 years' service, Sally Kastberg has decided to retire, creating a vacancy in the office, which makes it the right time to combine offices.

What will it cost? Less than we spend now. That's because we will combine the two salary line items, but we will keep the fees that a Tax Collector as a standalone office is entitled to keep for themselves. Those fees will go into the General Fund to offset the cost of the combined office.

Please vote "Yes" on the Question 1 to combine the Treasurer and Tax Collector. Make your local government work better!

May 22, 2020

Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health, as we prepare for what I hope will be a relaxing and enjoyable Memorial Day weekend. As a father of three, I completely understand and share your frustration with the demands of working, caring for your family and educating your children (in some cases all at the same time!) during the pandemic.

Recently, I received several inquiries regarding the upcoming FY21 budget and the changes that will take place next year. Although the budget process is discussed and voted in “open session” during scheduled School Committee meetings, what I have come to understand and appreciate is that even with the best of intentions to be an active part of the school budget process, your focus has been where it should be...on your families. Given that, I have written this letter and have shared links to the FY21 budget powerpoint presentation, as well as the School Committee budget meetings and other supporting documentation that will hopefully help clarify the rationale for the changes to the District’s configuration for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year.

In order to inform you of how we are going to look and operate in the future, it is important to explain what has happened in the past. As you are aware, the District and its member towns (Templeton, Phillipston) were unable to come to an agreement regarding the FY20 budget, which prompted the District and its member towns into a 1/12 budget until such time an agreement could be reached.

Ultimately, after three (3) District-wide meetings, the budget that was presented by the School Committee initially in April was reduced by \$883,102 from \$20,383,102 to \$19,500,000 requiring the District to make teacher/staff cuts in November. Despite the reduction, Phillipston Memorial Elementary School maintained its original configuration of a K-5 Elementary School, with the understanding that moving forward we would not be able to financially support both K-5 elementary schools in the District.

As the District prepared for the FY21 budget, it became clear that the same financial issues existed. Factoring in the cost of living increases, etc., we initially presented a *level service* budget of \$20,352,725. Given the outcome of the FY20 budget, it was clear that the District would need to think differently in terms of creating a new FY21 budget that could be financially supported by both member towns.

As a result of the above mentioned factors, the School Committee certified a proposed FY21 budget of \$19,729,921 which represents a 1.18% increase over the FY20 budget. In order to arrive at this budget number, the following cost savings measures were necessary:

- Reassign all Phillipston Elementary K-4 Students to Templeton Elementary School. As a result the following positions were eliminated:
 - Reduce the numbers of K-4 Elementary Classrooms from five (5) per grade level to four (4) classrooms per grade level - resulting in the elimination of 5 teaching positions District-wide
 - Eliminated 1 administrator
 - Eliminated 1 Unified Arts teaching position

- Eliminated 1 secretary position
- Eliminated 1 part time custodial position
- Eliminated 1 cafeteria position
- Reassign the 5th grade (4 classrooms from Templeton Elementary School, 1 classroom from Phillipston Elementary School) to the Middle School to prevent overcrowding at TES.
- Reassign the 8th grade to the High School to prevent the need to hire additional staff to make the schedule work.

An additional measure that was taken is the programmatic reassignment of the 8th grade from the Middle School to the High School. With the exception of science, the 8th grade will still be physically located on the Middle School side of the complex. Grade 8 science will be located in close proximity to other 8th grade classrooms. All 8th grade students will receive their core instruction from the 8th grade teaching team during the upcoming school year.

Although I realize that the actions and decisions listed above are an abbreviated recap of how or why these decisions were made, I ask that you please understand that the position cuts, student reassignments, and programmatic changes listed are the culmination of several public Finance Sub-Committee meetings, televised School Committee meetings, Budget Hearings as well as a presentation to the Templeton Selectboard on April 1, 2020 (via Zoom).

It would be difficult, if not impossible, to adequately explain these changes in sufficient detail in the confines of a parent letter. In order to have a deeper understanding of the rationale and reasons that necessitated these difficult decisions, I invite you to view the taped School Committee meetings as well as the powerpoint presentations that were used in the presentation and rationale of the FY21 budget.

Decisions that affect our students, staff members as well as the community we serve are taken very seriously. The balance between tradition and being fiscally responsible is as important as it is difficult; not only to the District, but to those who call Templeton and Phillipston home. These decisions need to be made in order to provide the necessary services and instruction for our students within the confines of the budget set by the voters to keep our District healthy and strong for years to come.

For your convenience below is a list of links to the documents, meetings and presentations involved in this process:

[NRSD FY21 Budget Information - website](https://www.nrsd.org/district/fy21-budget-information) at
<https://www.nrsd.org/district/fy21-budget-information>

As always, please know that I am available to answer any questions that you may have as well.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chris Casavant

Superintendent of Schools