

# I Heard It At Town Hall

## WE'RE STILL HERE FOR YOU !

The Town Hall will be open to the public by appointment only. This change is effective immediately.

We are all still working Monday through Thursday and you can email or call us at anytime. If we can not meet your need over the phone or by email we will set up a time to meet with you in person in a way that is safe for you and safe for us. (see contact info on backpage)

The Town Hall was closed to the public in March, after the Governor issued the original Stay Home order. Town Employees were deemed essential and we continued to work from home and from the office as necessary. We were one of the few Town Halls in Franklin County to reopen again. Unfortunately, with the up-tick of positive cases in Massachusetts we want to make sure we are taking every precaution.

### GOVERNOR'S ORDER ON FACE COVERINGS

We won't put Covid-19 on the front page all the time BUT we do want to make sure you know that we take very seriously the Governor's new order for anyone over the age of five to wear a face covering in public—even when social distancing is possible. [This order](#) will be enforced in Buckland, including Cricket Field, the Rec Area, the Transfer Station and in the Village. We ask for your voluntary compliance.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Spotlight _ MTRSD .....	2
Holiday Light Project .....	2
Select Board Notes.....	3
Deerfield River News.....	3
Conway Road Construction.....	4
Election Results.....	4
Crittenden Hill Stormwater.....	5
New Employees.....	5
Around Town .....	6

## WATCH FOR :

### VIRTUAL HOUSING FORUM

- The Planning Board will host their follow up Housing Forum later fall—Sign up for email notifications to get an alert when the meeting date is set. Or check the website for meeting postings.

## SPOTLIGHT! SCHOOLS

### SCHOOL REOPENING

Goals for Reopening Mohawk Trail Regional School System  
Keep students and staff healthy and safe while educating all students.



<b>DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (DESE) GOALS</b> To safely bring back as many students as possible to in-person school settings, to maximize learning and address our students' holistic needs.	<b>MTRSD/HASD GOALS</b> Aligned with DESE's goals and under the guidance of DESE and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, safely return students and staff to school & keep students learning.
<b>HEALTH GUIDELINES</b> Masks/Face Coverings • Required for students in Grades 2-12 • Mask breaks throughout the day Physical Distancing • Minimum distance of 3-6 feet Handwashing & Hand Sanitizing	<b>3 PROPOSED PLANS DUE TO DESE BY AUGUST</b> DESE is asking districts to provide three plans for reopening schools in the fall: • Full in-person return following safety requirements • Hybrid learning (combination of in-person and remote learning) • Remote learning
<b>WHAT IF I WANT/NEED TO KEEP MY CHILD HOME?</b> Q: Do I need to fill out "home-school" paperwork/create a home-school plan if I'd like to stay in-district but opt my child into a fully remote learning option? A: Not if your child is unable to physically attend classes, there is an option to participate in remote learning through our district. More info to come, so stay tuned!	<b>WORKGROUP PARTICIPANTS NEEDED!</b> As we create plans to reopen schools this fall, we need community members, staff, and student representatives to participate in Reopening Workgroups to provide additional feedback and insight. To learn more about the workgroups & apply to participate: <a href="http://www.mtrsd.org/covid-19-information">www.mtrsd.org/covid-19-information</a> Meeting Dates: July 20 & July 22 @ 4:30PM

Sheryl Stanton, Superintendent of Schools  
stanton@mtrsd.org  
(435) 625-0182 @MTRSDsuper

A complete copy of DESE's initial fall guidance can be found on their website: [www.doe.mass.edu](http://www.doe.mass.edu)

For the latest on our district's planning, visit the COVID-19 update page: [www.mtrsd.org/covid-19-information](http://www.mtrsd.org/covid-19-information)

The MTRSD Covid-19 School Planning Task Force has created a better-than most webpage [Covid-19 Information & Updates](#).

In addition to an easy to follow dashboard the District has created a [checklist](#) that will guide the community to a return to in-person learning.

Thank you Task Force members Superintendent Sheryl Stanton, Randy Crochier, Susan Mitchell, Martha Thurber, Leann Loomis, Carla Potts, Carolyn Goodnow, Bob Mastorakis, Danna Cusimano, & Sarah Cummings.

## Shelburne Falls Initiative: Making Downtown Shine

### Holiday and Seasonal Decorations and Lights Progress Report

GSFABA had to figure out a way to keep going without the support of the Towns.

Last fall, the Board authorized Whit to seek a Commonwealth Places Grant from MassDevelopment for a new **Shelburne Falls Initiative** to implement a new year-round decoration project for the village.

The Initiative morphed into two projects after COVID struck – the **Economic Recovery Fund** and **Village Revitalization Project**

GSFABA and the BOF Committee needed a permanent spot to store all our decorations, lights, and the new holiday and year-round decorations that have been purchased by or donated to GSFABA for the Village and BOF.

Ultimately, we chose the Cowell Gym because it gives Nick, Paul and other Village Volunteers a warm space to fluff, fix, and ready the decorations each year and a secure space with an elevator to keep all the decorations for the entire village.

We estimate the in-kind services & equipment contributed for this year via GSFABA to be worth about \$50,000 – every year volunteers ready, install, maintain, and remove the holiday decorations, which is no small task. The volunteers include a Project Manager (coordination & fundraising), Logistics Manager (getting 8-10 volunteers & coordinating the holiday decorations installation and take-down), Designer & Builder (advises, designs lighting & helps purchase quality lighting), and new stars for the BOF values at \$15,000.

Without GSFABA and the volunteers, the towns would be on the hook for decorations.

GSFABA NEEDS OUR HELP TO "MAKE DOWNTOWN SHINE".

GSFABA has been awarded a \$30,000 Commonwealth Places Grant from MassDevelopment and must match dollar-for-dollar through a crowdfunding campaign



## SELECT BOARD MEETING NOTES

NOVEMBER 10, 2020

### NOTES & VOTES

- Heard from Deerfield River Watershed Association President Chris Curtis re: efforts to designate the Deerfield River a National Wild & Scenic River (see more, pg.3)
- Heard from Whit Sanford of GSFABA re: Patroncity Grant and Holiday Light efforts (see more, pg.2)
- Heard update from Linda Overing, Breezeway Farm Consulting on the Town's Community Development Block Grants (see more, pg.5)
- Discussed with Finance Committee members concerns on Senior Center expansion issues
- Waived 120-Notice for APR for property on Ashfield Road
- Discussed support for Ski Club with Recreation Director
- Discussed changes proposed for annual liquor license renewals
- Discussed Town Hall services, open by appointment only
- Signed contract with FRCOG to continue Open Space and Recreation Plan update
- Approved Minutes
- Heard Town Administrator's Report

\*\*\*\*\**This feature is not meant to replace official minutes. For more information including documents reviewed visit the Town's website and click on [Nov. 10, 2020 Meeting Posting](#)*

## DEERFIELD RIVER NEWS

The Select Board voted to support the efforts of the Deerfield River Watershed Association's to designate the Deerfield River a National Wild & Scenic River.

See more about the project [here](#).

In related efforts the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) is working to develop a  
**DEERFIELD RIVER  
OUTDOOR**

### RECREATION PLAN

Contact Jessica Atwood at [JAAtwood@frcog.org](mailto:JAAtwood@frcog.org) for more information.

# CONWAY STREET ROAD PROJECT MOVING FORWARD

A multi-million dollar road reconstruction project to address the deteriorating Conway Street, Summer Street, South Street and Conway Road to the Town Line is still in the design phase but on schedule for early 2022. The Town is working with Nitsche Engineering and MassDOT to complete the project which is funded through the federal Transportation Improvement Plan.

In addition to a full depth reconstruction of the roadway the project includes new sidewalks, drainage and water / sewer utility improvements.



Watch MassDOT's pre-recorded  
public hearing—

<https://www.mass.gov/event/buckland-design-public-hearing-webinar-2020-07-10t000000-0400-2020-07-24t235900-0400>

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS**

## WHO DID BUCKLAND VOTE FOR ?

## PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

## Biden and Harris 889

Hawkins and Walker 14

Jorgensen and Cohen 18

## Trump and Pence 268

## Scattered 2

## Blanks 12

**Full Election Results Posted [Here](#)**



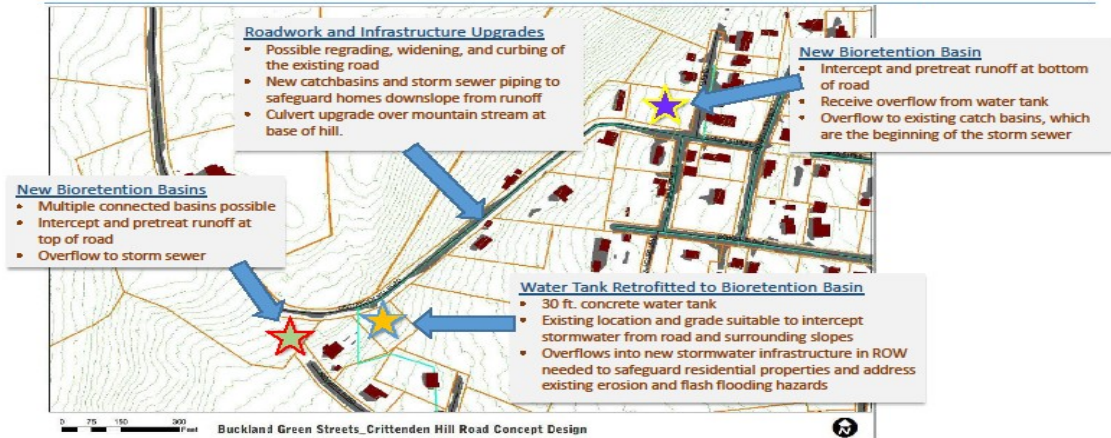
### **\*\*Fun Fact\*\***

1,203 of 1,398

## registered Buckland voters cast ballots



## Crittenden Hill Road Stormwater Management Concept Design



## Crittenden Hill Road Stormwater Mitigation

**Buckland Green Streets** is a project initiated by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) with funding from a MassDEP 604b grant to assess the potential for Green Infrastructure (GI) stormwater management in Shelburne Falls on the Buckland side. The goals of the project are to improve water quality in the Deerfield River, to help the village and surrounding watershed become more resilient to increasingly frequent and intense precipitation, and to mitigate the flood hazards resulting from heavy rain events. FRCOG staff worked with the Town Highway and Water Superintendents to develop a stormwater management concept for Crittenden Hill Road where GI can be implemented in conjunction with planned municipal road work currently needed to repair the road and address erosion hazards that threaten residential properties and steep slopes flanking the road. The concept proposes to retrofit and utilize an abandoned water tank and implement a new bioretention basin to capture and clean large volumes of stormwater before it enters the storm sewer and outlets to the Deerfield River. This concept design was developed to 25% with cost estimates by a Professional Engineer.

### DEP—604 (b) Project Highlight

In 2018 the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) was awarded a 604(b) grant to develop a cost-effective replicable assessment protocol for including Green Infrastructure (GI) stormwater Best Management Practices in road improvement and downtown revitalization projects. FRCOG partnered with the Town of Buckland to identify aging infrastructure for improvement with GI in the Village of Shelburne Falls. Nine priority sites were identified for assessment using the GI As-

essment Method that FRCOG developed. The project resulted in the *Buckland Green Streets Road Map*, which provides the Town with an assessment method for evaluating GI for transportation and downtown revitalization projects and the development of 25% design plans for the selected site. This assessment methodology can easily be utilized by other municipalities as well.

WELCOME  
NEW TOWN OF  
BUCKLAND  
EMPLOYEES

JEREMY (JAKE) PURINTON  
HIGHWAY DEPT.  
SEPT. 2020

ANTHONY GUTIERREZ  
HIGHWAY DEPT  
OCT. 2020

LISA PROVENCHER  
WASTE WATER  
NOV. 2020

GOOD BYE AND **THANK YOU!**  
NORM DABY, LARRY DAVIS &  
MATT AHERN

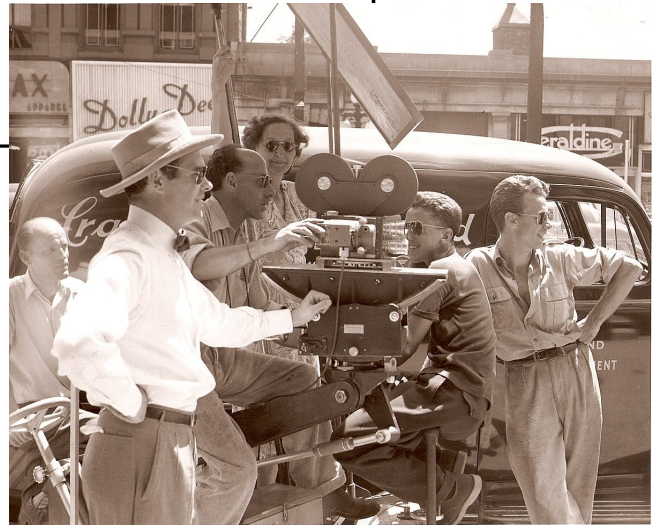
# HEARD AROUND TOWN

## SHOWTIME TO FILM NEW SERIES IN BUCKLAND & SELECT BOARD TO SIGN AGREEMENT

LOCATION CREWS HAVE BEEN SPOTTED AROUND TOWN AS THEY DECIDE WHICH LOCAL LANDMARKS WILL MAKE THE CUT IN A NEW PRODUCTION PLANNED FOR FILMING THIS JANUARY AND FEBRUARY.

WE CAN CONFIRM TOWN HALL WILL BE TRANSFORMED TO A POLICE STATION AND HAVE HEARD OTHER RUMORS ABOUT OTHER STATE STREET LOCATIONS AS WELL.

THE SELECT BOARD NEGOTIATED AN AGREEMENT WITH SHOWTIME STAFF TO ENSURE THE TOWN IS COMPENSATED FOR THE TEMPORARY DISRUPTIONS.



### CONTACT US!

**Town of Buckland**  
17 State Street  
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370  
413 625-6330

Admin Assist—ext. 1  
[adminassist@town.buckland.ma.us](mailto:adminassist@town.buckland.ma.us)

Collector Treasurer—ext 2  
[treasury@town.buckland.ma.us](mailto:treasury@town.buckland.ma.us)

Assessor—ext 3  
[assessor@town.buckland.ma.us](mailto:assessor@town.buckland.ma.us)

Town Clerk—ext 4  
[twnclerk@town.buckland.ma.us](mailto:twnclerk@town.buckland.ma.us)

Town Administrator—ext 5  
[twnadmin@town.buckland.ma.us](mailto:twnadmin@town.buckland.ma.us)