

Town of Charlemont June 2025 Newsletter



Annual Town Meeting and Election Results

The annual Town Meeting was held on Tuesday May 27th at Hawlemont School. Articles 1 through 28 all passed and included capital item purchases of heat pumps for town hall, a roadside mower and tractor, a firetruck, fire hose, helping fund the mohawk late bus, a water heater repair, annual audit cost, and bridge and infrastructure money.. Many of the capital articles were funded by free cash with the exception of the fire truck which will be funded by borrowing.

Free cash as defined by the Division of Local Services is a revenue source that results from the calculation, as of July 1, of a community's remaining, unrestricted funds from its operations of the previous fiscal year based on the balance sheet as of June 30. **It typically includes actual receipts in excess of revenue estimates and unspent amounts in departmental budget line items for the year just ended**, plus unexpended free cash from the previous year. Free cash is offset by property tax receivables and certain deficits, and as a result, can be a negative number. Free cash is not available for use until after the accountant, auditor, or comptroller submits a prior-year balance sheet to the Division of Local Services (DLS) and the Director of Accounts certifies the free cash. The DLS certification protects communities from relying on free cash that might not materialize due to inaccurate local estimates.

As a nonrecurring revenue source, free cash should be restricted to paying one-time expenditures, funding capital projects, or replenishing other reserves. Charlemont uses free cash to fund capital articles typically and also to put money into the stabilization fund.

Capital Articles go before the capital planning committee who then decide which items to put forth in any given year. Not all items brought to Capital Planning are brought to the town meeting in the year they are presented, the result is a capital plan that outlines upcoming capital needs.

Non-monetary articles approved at Town Meeting included a Fire District vote, subdivision road adoptions and a partial road discontinuance, a short-term rental bylaw, the recreation tax, agricultural building permit price change, and a Franklin Regional Council of Governments Council Charter changes.

Article 29 a citizen petition article was voted to be sent to the selectboard because it involves amendments to town zoning and has to follow the zoning bylaw procedures.

You can view the complete warrant in the news section of the town website as well as the budget documents.

06/03/2025 Charlemont Town Election Results

Select Board

Wilder Sparks - 86
Jeffrey Neilsen - 33
Erwin Reynolds - 14
Blank - 3

Parks and Recreation Commissioner

Clayton Herbert - 104
Blank - 32

Constable

Erwin Reynolds - 100
Blank - 33
3 Additional Write-ins

Charlemont School Committee

Anne Kaplan - 106
Blank - 29
1 Additional Write-in

Mohawk Trail School Committee

Evie Locke - 104
Blank - 32

Tyler Memorial Library Trustee

Evie Locke - 107
Blank - 29

Tree Warden

Jack Rybczyk - 109
Blank - 25
2 Additional Write-ins

Write-Ins

Charlemont School Committee – 2 years

Betty Barrett - 40 Accepted
Blank - 91

5 Additional Write-ins

Board of Health

Scott Randall - 37 Accepted
Blank - 87

12 Additional Write-ins

Board of Assessors

Andrea Santos - 40 Accepted
Blank - 93

3 Additional Write-ins

Planning Board

Lori Shulda-Merrigan - 31 Accepted
Blank - 98

7 Additional Write-ins

Moderator

Bob Handsaker - 46 Accepted
Blank - 79
11 Additional Write-ins