

IMPORTANT MEETINGS

East Oxbow Bridge, Virtual meeting, April 5,2022 6pm

Meeting info available at:

<https://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings>

Hazard Mitigation Plan Public Meeting

Wednesday April 13 1:30 pm

Information on town website

Or call 413-339-4335 ext. 8

Broadband Update and Sign-Up News

High Speed Broadband is now a reality in Charlemont. The construction project for our network is moving toward completion. Subscribers have been activated in 3 of the 5 service areas in town. The two areas remaining, FASo2 and FASo3, are in the testing and validation phase of the project and installations will begin as soon as these phases are completed. Over 230 subscribers are now active, generating revenue for the project that will help cover its cost. Feedback from those connected has been very positive.

We would like to remind residents that haven't yet signed up for Broadband that the window for the subsidy for installation will soon close. In most cases, the subsidy will cover the cost of installation, making it free to the subscriber, as long as you agree to take service for 12 months. If you wait, then the cost of installation will be on you, the subscriber.

Details are in [The Charlemont Drop Policy](#) on the Charlemont Connect website. Detailed information about the Charlemont Broadband Project can be found on our website [Charlemont Connect](#). It includes information on the phone service that is available separately, as well as construction progress, and such topics streaming TV via the internet.



Charlemont Fire Association and Department News

The Charlemont Fire Association is putting on a fundraiser! The purchase of a visible street sign that will not only allow us to better find your residence in the case of emergencies but allow us to replace equipment and other needs of the Fire department not covered by our budget.

Each sign is \$20 and if needed includes a post to mount it. To order please call us at (413)339-4335 or email us at chafire7@gmail.com. We may not be in the station at the time of your call, please leave us a message and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Cemetery Committee Updates

The year of 2021 produced repairs to Zoar, Hawks, and the Village Cemeteries. Sarah, our Town Administrator, signed us up for the Sheriff's department work team. The team of 6 showed up at Zoar to clean away limbs, bushes, leaves, and mow the lawn. This work had not been done for 3 years, since our volunteer had moved away.

Their next action was to install the donated fencing on the back side of Hawks Cemetery at Shun Pike. I had to dip into the Cemetery account to buy 3 extra posts for fencing. They also cleared small trees and brush from the surrounding area.

Then to my astonishment, the head gentleman turned to me with a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his lips, and asked "Where to next my lady?" Thrilled to hear that more was possible, I said, "to the Village cemetery please." Three years ago, we had another Sheriff's department team cut brush and remove limbs and leaves for only one day. We still needed the second half of the cemetery cleared, which was done in a matter of hours. We are on the 2022 list for cleaning of the Old Colonial Burial Grounds (abt 1760) behind the Hicks farm.

Here is information I would like to share with you. Charlemont's Cemetery Committee oversees the maintenance of all the cemeteries except for the Leavitt Cemetery, which is governed by a board of trustees. That cemetery has plots for sale, none of our other eleven cemeteries do, they are all closed because they are full. Therefore, we as a town need to pay for or get volunteers to do the required maintenance on them. The town allows me \$500 a year toward that maintenance, which falls short of the needs. We do have a Cemetery Fund which anyone may contribute to at any time. Please add some pennies or dollars at any time.

I will send more updates next month. Respectfully, Bonnie Lee Nugent

Town Hall Update

Recently Selectmen Bill Harker headed up a project in town hall to do some painting and cleaning. The Franklin County Sheriff's department work program did the painting and cleaning over the course of a couple of weeks. The Town Hall is open again Monday – Thursday's 8am- 4pm. Feel free to stop in and see the results.

Also, as part of the cleaning town hall is in need of some filing cabinets. If you have any you would like to donate, please contact Carlene Hayden at 413-339-4335, or email at carlene.hayden@townofcharlemont.org.

Town Government Spotlight

Animal Inspector

The Division of Animal Health appoints a municipal animal inspector for each and every city and town in the Commonwealth. The primary duty of the Animal Inspector has recently become rabies control in the domestic animal population. Municipal Animal Inspectors are also responsible for barn inspections and may be called to assist with domestic animal disease quarantines in the event of an outbreak.

Charlemont is in need of an animal inspector, this position is paid a yearly stipend of one thousand twenty-three dollars, if interested please contact the selectboard.

selectboard@townofcharlemont.org