



January 2022 Pelham Town Board Update

Dear Pelham Friends and Neighbors:

We hope you are all staying safe and healthy, and weathering the bad weather, as well as the recent COVID-19 uptick. Please refer to the [Westchester County Department of Health COVID-19](#) resource page for information on boosters, vaccines, masks, case tracking, and guidance (including related to schools).

The first Town Board meeting of the 2022 year on January 10th was a busy one! First and foremost, the Board **welcomed its newly elected board member, Kara McLoughlin**. Kara and her husband Chris D'Angelo have lived in Pelham since 2005. They have two children—their daughter Katie is a freshman at Kenyon College and their son Teddy is currently a senior at PMHS. Siobhan D'Angelo, Chris's daughter, is an associate at Hughes Hubbard Reed law firm in New York City. Kara works for a private foundation supporting girls and women's social and education programs across the Metro-New York area. Outside of work, Kara has been an active volunteer in the Pelham community for almost 16 years, volunteering with the Junior League of Pelham, the Citizens Nominating Committee, and the Pelham Education Foundation. Most recently, she was co-organizer for Pelham's *Couchfest* in 2020, raising over \$70,000 on behalf of local organizations during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as *Winterfest* two weekends ago.

At the meeting, Justice John Gardner performed the **swearing-in ceremony** (via Zoom) for Kara, as well as the other elected Town officials: Supervisor Dan McLaughlin (2-year term); Town Councilwoman Rae Szymanzki (4-year term), who has also been reappointed as Deputy Town Supervisor; and Receiver of Taxes Cathy Mazzaro (4-year term). In addition, Steve Conte was sworn in as Pelham Chief Constable, and Antoinette Clemente, while not at the board meeting, was subsequently sworn in as Town Clerk (2-year term). **County Executive George Latimer** stopped by to offer his congratulations to the recently elected officials.

The Town also approved the appointments in the following departments: Recreation, Town Attorney, Town Engineer, Comptroller, Town Constables, Custodian of Elections, Caretaker, Court Clerk and Assistant Court Clerk, Part-Time Clerical Assistants, and Marriage Officer. Appointments were also made by Town Officials in the areas of Deputy Receiver of Taxes, Deputy Town Clerk, Supervisor's Confidential Secretary, and Town Historian. The list of names can be found on the Town's webpage: www.TownofPelham.com.

The Town Supervisor made the following appointments for Board Committees:

Supervisor McLaughlin: Town Hall Facilities, Finance, Insurance, Supervisor's Report, and Intergovernmental Liaison to Board of Education.

Deputy Supervisor Szymanski: Office Personnel, Special Events/Celebrations, Liaison to our Ambulance Service, and Intergovernmental Liaison to Village of Pelham

Councilwoman Kristen Burke: Legal Affairs/Assess and Court Liaison/Constables

Councilwoman Curtin: Library and Website/Publicity

Councilwoman McLoughlin: Recreation, Senior Citizens, Pelham Together, Fields and Grounds, and Intergovernmental Liaison to the Village of Pelham Manor.

After notice and a public hearing, the Town approved **Local Law 1-2022**, Establishing a Sustainable Energy Loan Program (Open C-Pace), which allows for private financing sources for commercial entities to use sustainable energy in new construction or renovations.

And finally, the Town Board is supportive of **two tax exemption resolutions**: one relates to allowing seniors to automatically renew their application (in light of the continued pandemic), and one is for veterans. The veteran's exemption requires a local law, which the Board (after public hearing on the matter) will vote on at its February Board meeting.

For further details on the Town appointments, the annual schedule of Town Board meetings, the Town holiday schedule, and to stay informed of all Town news and updates, please visit the Town of Pelham webpage at <https://townofpelham.com/>. To sign up for email alerts, scroll down to the Stay Informed/Subscribe section.

Other Town Updates

Courts

The Pelham Town Court is fully open and continues to stagger court appearances. Some local courts have gone remote due to COVID-19, but it is not expected that the Pelham Court will follow suit.

Eviction moratorium has expired and therefore the court expects to see an uptick in these cases.

There is an opening for two new part time court clerks. Information regarding the filling of this opening will be provided shortly.

For certain Vehicle and Traffic cases (not parking), individuals are now permitted to make payments via payment plans. See attached financial [disclosure form](#). Payments may be either \$25 per month or up to 2% of the applicant's adjusted net monthly income.

Please see the [webpage](#) for further updates and details.

Library

The Town of Pelham Public Library is fully open and also continues to offer [curbside services](#). The outdoor events, including story times, have been a huge success and will continue pending good weather. Please check out their website for upcoming events and updates: <https://www.pelhamlibrary.org/>.

The Library has a new **Head librarian, Augusta Turner**.

The Library has an opening on the Board of Trustees for a new member with digital communications experience. Interested residents can reach out to Board of Trustees President Terrence Mullan at Tmurg86@gmail.com.

Recreation Department

Winter programs for adults and youths, including recreational basketball, are in full-swing. Sign-ups are available online at: <https://www.pelhamrecreation.com/> For any questions, please contact: recreation@pelhamrecreation.com.

Pelham Together had its second-annual **WinterFest, which** took place on January 8, 2022, which was a huge success. With the help of Pelham's many generous donors, they were able to raise close to \$6,000 for programs supporting youth and families.

Senior Advocate

The Town of Pelham has received its new **senior van** and will soon be able to assist Pelham seniors in traveling to doctor appointments, supermarkets, COVID-boosters, etc. Pelham's senior advocate continues to assist Pelham community members in making appointments for the COVID-19 vaccine. Please contact Carolyn Veith at recreation@pelhamrecreation.com for assistance.

Please also check out the Recreation page for information on the **Resident Emergency Assistance List (R.E.A.L) program**, which is a list of senior citizens and residents with special needs who reside in the Village of Pelham and Pelham Manor, providing the Town with important contact information so that the Town and both Village police departments can access in the event of adverse weather or power emergencies.

Pelham Town Empress Fly Car

For the month of December 2021, the average response time for the ALS/BLS units backing up the fly car was 6:22.

Calls on Hutchinson River Parkway: 3

Calls in Pelham Village: 49

Calls in Pelham Manor: 39

Calls on I-95: 3

Town representatives continue to work with Empress regarding its obligation to provide Advanced Life Support System (ALSS) backup if our Fly Car is in use. We will continue to work with Empress on this aspect of the contract. The Fly Car was damaged beyond repair during Hurricane Ida and Empress has kindly provided us a loaner vehicle.

In addition, Pelham's new Flycar has been ordered. The purchase was made after a Board resolution allowed the purchase to come from the Town's Fund Balance account until we receive the reimbursement from the approved Grant. The Town has submitted the invoice for the grant and is waiting for the reimbursement of the \$109,000 that the Board authorized.

Pelham's Town Historian

In his first year in the role of Town Historian, Art Scinta created a new website featuring original research and articles about Pelham people and topics. Some of the highlights are included in Art's [2021 annual report](#). Please check out the Town Historian webpage:

<http://www.PelhamTownHistorian.com>, as well as the Town Historian Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pelhamtown.historian> to see some of these articles, as well as new stories, photographs and other documents that Art will continue to add.

Thanks to funding from the Pelham Preservation Society, many of the historic images contained in the Town Historian Collection have been digitized. Many were important to the Centennial Anniversary of the opening of Pelham Memorial High School History of Pelham Memorial High School 2 - Pelham Town Historian: <https://pelhamtownhistorian.com/pmhs-2>. PMHS alums and other former Pelhamites and their descendants have provided eight significant donations of historic materials to the Pelham Town Historian Collection and countless new digital images, which will be curated in the coming months.

The Town Historian is a volunteer position with no paid staff. For 2022, it is entirely dependent on charitable donations for funding. If you would like to support the conservation of the Pelham Town Historical Collection, please consider making a donation. Funds will be used next year to expand the website capacity and features and to purchase much-needed additional file cabinets and other paper conservation supplies. Reproducing images for public display and digitizing our historic local newspapers into a distinct, searchable database remain a priority as funds allow. Donations can be made by check payable to Town of Pelham Town Historian, and can be mailed to Pelham Town Historian, 34 Fifth Avenue, Pelham, NY 10803. And if you would like to be on the Pelham Town Historian email distribution list, you can send an email to: Historian@TownofPelham.com with just "subscribe" in the subject line.

Sad News on the Passing of Long-Time Town Employee, Nicholas Grecco

It is with great sadness that we inform all that longtime Town of Pelham employee, Nicholas Grecco, passed away on Friday January 21, 2022 after a brief illness.

Nick was the Town of Pelham Engineer for just shy of 50 years and was perhaps the longest serving employee in the history of the Town of Pelham.

Nick was beloved by his family, friends, and coworkers, was a true gentleman in every sense of the word, and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

A celebration of Nick's life will be held on Wednesday, January 26th from 3-8pm at the George T. Davis Funeral Home, located at 16 Shea Place, New Rochelle, NY. Mass is scheduled for Thursday, January 27th at 10:00 am at OLPH Church in Pelham Manor; Burial at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

Next Town Board Meeting

Our next Town Board meeting will take place is on Monday February 7th, 2022 via Zoom. The link to register will be made available on the webpage shortly, along with the live webcast link. Please see our Town website for all updates.

Sincerely,

Dan McLaughlin, Supervisor

Rae Szymanski, Deputy Supervisor

Kristen Burke, Councilwoman

Maura Curtin, Councilwoman

Kara McLoughlin, Councilwoman