

**TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
NORTHBRIDGE TOWN HALL  
7 MAIN STREET - WHITINSVILLE, MA 01588  
May 23, 2022 at 7:00 PM**

*Joint meeting with the Northbridge Housing Authority*  
**REVISED**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION TO UNIBANK IN HONOR OF THEIR 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY. PRESENT: MR. MICHAEL WELCH, CEO**

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A. 1) April 25, 2022                      2) May 9, 2022**

**II. PUBLIC HEARING**

**II. APPOINTMENTS: B. By the Board of Selectmen: Erin Meagher - Board of Health / **Present:** Lani Criasia, Chair – Board of Health  
**C. By Joint Appointment with the Northbridge Housing Authority: Nancy Hill - Northbridge Housing Authority / **Present:** Robert Burrows, Tenant member, Christina Simonian, State Appointee, John O'Brien, Member and Brett Lambert, Executive Director****

**IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT**

**V. DECISIONS:**

**D. Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment Report/Vote to Support Resolution -**Present:** Stephanie Covino, Blackstone Watershed Collaborative**

**E. 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee / Request to hang a banner across Church Street from Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> to advertise the Town's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration that will take place on Saturday, July 16, 2022, including a parade (10AM) and fireworks display (6PM)**

**F. Inter-Municipal Agreement - Blackstone Valley Veterans' Services District**

**G. Village Congregational Church [Harvest Festival, Saturday, September 24, 2022 from 9 AM to 3 PM/*Rain date: Sunday, September 25, 2022*]/1) Hang a banner across Church Street, from Sunday, September 11, 2022 to Sunday September 25, 2022, 2) Request to close Church Street from Main Street to Park Street from 8 AM to 4 PM; 2) Request to use Memorial Park; and 3) Request for a one-day Entertainment License**

**H. Unibank, 49 Church Street, Whitinsville /Request for a one-day weekday entertainment license for their 150<sup>th</sup> +2 anniversary celebration at the Whitin Community Center, 60 Main Street, June 11, 2022 from 5:30 PM to 9:30 PM /**Present:** Joanne Khoury**

**VI. DISCUSSIONS:**

**I. Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program (MVP Action Grant) / Carpenter Reservoir - **Present:** R. Gary Bechtholdt, Town Planner & William Guenther, Fuss & O'Neil, Inc.**

**J. 2020 CDBG Program / Slum & Blight Inventory (Overview & Status) - **Present:** Tiffany Menard & Ted Harvey, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission**

**VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

**VIII. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS**

**IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

**X. CORRESPONDENCE**

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Town Clerk: 2 Hard copies	<input type="checkbox"/>
Web: Post time-stamped copy	<input type="checkbox"/>

THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

# A. 1)

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

April 25, 2022

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Ampagoomian at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. Board Members Present: Ampagoomian, Athanas, Collins, and Melia. Selectman Cannon was absent and it is duly noted. Also Present: Adam D. Gaudette, Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 1) March 28, 2022.** A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the March 28, 2022 meeting minutes as presented, with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Collins and Melia. **2) April 11, 2022.** A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the April 11, 2022 meeting minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Collins and Melia.

The Board of Selectmen moved to the decision items as it was still too early for the scheduled public hearing.

**2022 Annual License Renewals [Junk Dealers, Bowling & Billiards] / Vote to approve subject to the payment of all monies due the Town.** A motion/Mr. Collins, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the 2022 Annual License Renewals [Junk Dealers, Bowling & Billiards] subject to the payment of all monies due the Town. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Collins and Melia.

**Spring Annual Town Election [Tuesday, May 17, 2022]/Vote to sign election warrant.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Athanas to sign the election warrant for the Spring Annual Town Election [Tuesday, May 17, 2022]. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Collins and Melia.

**Pine Grove Cemetery Deed/Ohhanes and Rosette Kourkounian [Lot Nos. 161 and 162, two graves, Forest Ave. West (North)].** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Collins to approve the sale of lot numbers 161 and 162, two graves, Forest Ave. West (North) to Ohhanes and Rosette Kourkounian. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Collins and Melia.

**Conservation Fund- Monetary Donation 1) Brian & Deborah Castell in the amount of \$250.00, and 2) Dennis & Barbara McNamee in the amount of \$100.00/Vote to accept.** a motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mr. Collins to accept the monetary donations from Brian & Deborah Castell in the amount of \$250.00 and Dennis & Barbara McNamee in the amount of \$100.00. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Collins and Melia.

**Stone Hill Partners, LLC [Stone Hill Condos] -Vote to accept monetary gift in the amount of \$100,000.00 (Mumford Riverwalk Improvements).** A motion/Mr. Collins, seconded/Mr. Athanas to accept a monetary gift in the amount of \$100,000.00 from the Stone Hill Partners, LLC to be used towards the Mumford Riverwalk Improvements. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Collins and Melia.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:** Town Manager Gaudette announced that on Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 7 PM, they will be holding a public forum in the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room to present information about the 4 ballot questions that will appear on the upcoming Town Election Ballot and to field any questions from the public. The forum will also be recorded and aired for those that cannot make the meeting.

With the time of 7:05pm having arrived, the board began the scheduled public hearing.

**PUBLIC HEARING/7:05 PM – Zeus Gas Station DBA Valley Gas (Samih Younes, Mgr.), 194 Church Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588/Application for a Class II – Used Car Dealer's License/Present: Samih Younes.** Chairman Ampagoomian read aloud the public hearing notice. A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mr. Melia to open the public hearing. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Collins and Melia. Mr. Younes explained that he has owns this 194 Church Street property and would like to offer used cars for sale. He mentioned that the previous owner had a Class II license so he would like to continue that use. Selectman Collins asked if he plans on having up to 10 cars. Mr. Younes responded that he has other dealerships and does not see them exceeding that number. Mr. Collins asked where the cars will be stored as the parking lot is small. Mr. Younes said that he owns the parking lot behind the area as well and added that he would eventually like to add motorcycles. To that, Mr. Younes was advised to speak with the staff in the Town Manager's office to advise him as to what was required for that. Chairman Ampagoomian clarified that the application before the Selectmen tonight is solely for a Used Car Dealer's License, with a restriction of no more than ten (10) cars per the special permit. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Athanas to close the public hearing. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Collins, and Melia. A motion/Mr. Collins, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the Class II – Used Car Dealer's License for Zeus Gas Station DBA Valley Gas (Samih Younes, Mgr.), 194 Church Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588 with a restriction of no more than ten (10) cars per the ZBA Special Permit. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Collins, and Melia.

**APPOINTMENTS/None**

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None**

**SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS: Selectman Athanas/1)** asked if street sweeping operations have been completed. Interim DPW Director Mr. Luchini replied that the town is about 70% complete. **2)** asked if there was a prioritized road repair listing. Mr. Luchini explained that he is running through the numbers and hopes to have a memorandum to the Board next week. **Selectman Melia** asked the Town Manager about Lovey's shutting down and being required to clean up the area, which was mentioned in the weekly report. Town Manager Gaudette replied that he would check with staff on the status and get a timeline for the cleanup. **Chairman Ampagoomian** asked about the progress of Plummer's Corner. Mr. Luchini noted that they have addressed the situation with the light timing and he believes the change seems to be working correctly. Mr. Luchini further addressed the possibility of an additional lane, which they are still waiting on a study for the corridor, and once that is complete they can figure out if there is enough room to add another lane.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None**

**CORRESPONDENCE/None**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION/None**

**A motion/Mr. Collins, seconded/Mr. Athanas to adjourn the public meeting. Vote yes/  
Ampagoomian, Athanas, Collins and Melia.**

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:12 PM**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Russell D. Collins, Clerk**

**/mjc**

**LIST OF DOCUMENTATION**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING - OPEN SESSION**

**April 25, 2022**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A. 1) March 28, 2022**

-Copy of March 28, 2022 meeting minutes

**2) April 11, 2022**

-Copy of April 11, 2022 meeting minutes

**II. PUBLIC HEARING: B. 7:05 PM – Zeus Gas Station DBA Valley Gas (Samih Younes, Mgr.), 194 Church Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588/Application for a Class II – Used Car Dealers License/Present: Samih Younes**

-Copy of the notice to abutters

-Copy of Class II Application from: Zeus Gas Station d/b/a Valley Gas

-Copy of REAP Attestation Form

-Copy of Workers Comp Affidavit

-Copy of drawing detailing the layout of the property/buildings/parking areas

-Copy of Certificate of Liability Ins.

-Copy of memo dated March 25, 2022 to Building Inspector to determine if the location is suitable and is an allowed use in the zone.

-Copy of memo dated March 25, 2022 to Police Chief to inspect the premises

-Copy of ZBA Special Permit to allow the sale of used cars at 194 Church Street.

-Copy of License Routing Slip

**III. APPOINTMENTS/None**

**IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT**

**V. DECISIONS:**

**C. 2022 Annual License Renewals [Junk Dealers, Bowling & Billiards] / Vote to approve subject to the payment of all monies due the Town**

-Copy of the list of licenses to be renewed

**D. Spring Annual Town Election [Tuesday, May 17, 2022]/Vote to sign election warrant**

-Copy of the annual town election warrant

**E. Pine Grove Cemetery Deed/Ohhanes and Rosette Kourkounian [Lot No. 161 and 162, two graves, Forest Ave. West (North)]**

-Copy of the Cemetery Deed

**F. Conservation Fund- Monetary Donation 1) Brian & Deborah Castell in the amount of \$250.00 2) Dennis & Barbara McNamee in the amount of \$100.00/Vote to accept**  
-Copy of memo from the Conservation Comm. dated April 19, 2022 regarding donations from the Castells and McNamees.

**G. Stone Hill Partners, LLC [Stone Hill Condos] -Vote to accept monetary gift in the amount of \$100,000.00 (Mumford Riverwalk Improvements)**  
-Copy of memo from the Community Planning & Dev. Office dated April 20, 2022 regarding the donation from Stone Hill Condos.

**VI. DISCUSSIONS/None**

**VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/None**

**VIII. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS/No documentation**

**IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None**

**X. CORRESPONDENCE/None**

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION/None**

# A.2.

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

May 9, 2022

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Selectmen Collins at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. Board Members Present: Athanas, Cannon and Collins. Also Present: Adam D. Gaudette, Town Manager. Selectman Melia and Chairman Ampagoomian are absent and it is duly noted.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 3, 2022 [SATM].** A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mrs. Cannon to approve the May 3, 2022 [SATM] minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Board members: Athanas, Cannon and Collins.

**PUBLIC HEARING / None**

**APPOINTMENTS/Resignations/None**

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None**

**Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials / Request to name a square in honor of Varoujan Edward Mooradian (Killed in Action on October 16, 1944) Present: Tom Farley, Trustee.** Also present was James Gallagher, who is also a member of the Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials. Mr. Farley informed the board that they are looking to erect a plaque for Northbridge resident Varoujan Edward Mooradian who was killed in World War II. Mr. Mooradian was a private first class of the United States army who was killed in action on October 16, 1944, in France. The location of the plaque would be between Fletcher Street and Elm Street. A motion/Mrs. Cannon, seconded/Mr. Athanas to approve the request to name a square in honor of Varoujan Edward Mooradian between Fletcher and Elm Street. Vote yes/Board members: Athanas, Cannon and Collins. Mr. Farley provided an update on the Civil War Monument. They plan to replace the cracking foundation with bricks, this work should be completed by Memorial Day. Mr. Farley noted that a member is resigning, and they will be looking for a Veterans to serve on the Trustees.

**Conservation Fund / Vote to accept monetary donations from: 1) David and Gretchen Pickart (\$350) and 2) Barbara and Brian Kinney (\$75.00).** A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mrs. Cannon to accept the monetary donation from 1) David and Gretchen Pickart in the amount of three hundred and fifty dollars and 2) Barbara and Brian Kinney in the amount of seventy-five dollars towards the Conservation fund. Vote yes/Board members: Athanas, Cannon and Collins.

**Pine Grove Cemetery Deed / Bronja and Richard Cardeiro [Lot No. 3, two graves, Yew Ave., South].** A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mrs. Cannon to approve the sale of lot No. 3, two graves, Yew Ave., South to Bronja and Richard Cardeiro. Vote yes/Board members: Athanas, Cannon and Collins.

**250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee / Application for a one-day Wines & Malts License for a fundraising event to take place from 7:00 pm – 12:00 am, Saturday, May 21, 2022 at the Northbridge Town Hall (Great Hall), 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588.** This item is postponed to a future meeting.

**Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment Report (Stephanie Covino, Blackstone Watershed Collaborative) / Present: David Pickart, Conservation Agent.** Mr. Pickart noted that this came before the Conservation Commission, and they unanimously voted to support it but does require further approval from the Town and is before the Board tonight under discussion to explain it. The program started a year

ago and falls under the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, which received Federal funding and they have recently expanded outside the Narragansett Bay and have gone up its major tributary, which is the Blackstone River. They created a position with Clark University, which is led by Stephani Covino. The program produced a report, which they then ask their stakeholders to buy in to the proposed initiatives. Mr. Pickart explained the importance of municipal buy in, stating that if we buy in but the communities north of us do not then anything we do will not have long term benefits. Some of the initiatives the town already doing like land preservation, wetland restoration strategy, which is currently underway. Mr. Pickart explained that the Conservation Commission is looking into getting grants to restore degraded wetlands. Low impact development practices, which they will before the Board regarding the MVP project, which includes a big portion of retro fitting the stormwater controls for better uptake of nutrients and pollutants that affect water quality.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: Town Manager's Report for the period of April 25, 2022 – May 6, 2022. Key Meetings Attended:** 1) Monday, April 25, 2022 – Attended the Board of Selectmen Meeting. Tuesday, April 26, 2022 – Met with IT Director Scott Motyka and Help, Inc. regarding media improvements in the First Floor Conference Room. Wednesday, April 27, 2022 – Held a Public Forum to present the Annual Ballot Questions (Fire Station, Civil Service, and Charter Amendments) and answer any resident questions. Friday, April 29, 2022 – Held a Department Head Meeting to prepare for Town Meeting. Friday, April 29, 2022 – Met with the Town Moderator and Staff to prepare for Town Meeting. Monday, May 2, 2022 – Participated in a weekly Fire Station Project call. Monday, May 2, 2022 – Attended a Cable Advisory Meeting. Monday, May 2, 2022 – Attended the BPCC Meeting to discuss the Fire Station bids. Tuesday, May 3, 2022 – Attended and presented at the Spring Annual Town Meeting. Wednesday, May 4, 2022 – Attended a Library Trustees Meeting. **Fire Station Project:** The General bids were received last week on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. The low bid was submitted by M. O'Connor, approximately \$576,000 under what was expected. The BPCC voted this past Monday to award the bid to M. O'Connor pending all Town approvals, contract documents, and a Notice to Proceed. The Spring Annual Town Meeting voted this past Tuesday to approve an additional \$3,755,182 in borrowing for the project contingent upon the Ballot Question for the Debt Exclusion passing on May 17, 2022. 2) **Northbridge Elementary School Reuse Study:** The architect team from Abacus is performing initial due diligence and is beginning the market analysis. They will be meeting with several key stakeholders in the next week or two before conducting a public meeting with BPCC on initial thoughts. 3) **Fire Department Radio Communications Study:** Chief White and Chief Labrie are working with the firm CTA on the project which is on-going. 4) **Fire Department Strategic Plan:** The Fire Chief and staff continue to work with the consultant CPSM for this project which is on-going. 5) **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):** Now that the recommended Funding Project Plan has been approved, projects are able to move forward. The Town Manager is putting together contracts with the non-profits and departments will need to coordinate necessary procurements. 6) **FY2023 Budget and SATM Warrant:** The Spring Annual Town Meeting was held this past Tuesday, May 3, 2022 with approximately 75 registered voters attending. All 21 articles were approved overwhelmingly (Article 22 was passed over). The Annual Election will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 with 4 ballot questions as well as elections for boards and committees. Town Manager Gaudette thanked everyone who came out for the Town meeting. He reminded everyone that Tuesday, May 17, 2022 from 7 AM to 8 PM is the town annual election, where there will be four ballot questions. More information is available on our website at [www.northbridgemass.org](http://www.northbridgemass.org).

The board agreed to move Correspondence out of order ahead of Selectmen's concerns.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Mr. Luchini explained that he sent a memo to the Town Manager reviewing the roads program for this year. Now that the budget is approved by Town Meeting, we have the accurate numbers. Mr. Luchini stated that this year they received the usual amount for Chapter 90 at about four hundred and sixty-five thousand from the State and in addition there is a winter recovery in the amount of two hundred and sixty thousand dollars. Mr. Luchini noted that the additional funds are great but



unfortunately with the oil prices are high which also reflects on the asphalt prices, so the plan has been modified. Some roads have failed pre-maturely, leaving large potholes and damaged roads in two sections of town that are in need of addressing. The plan is to do a lot of cold planing work, which will be a little cheaper and allow the additional funds to stretch a lot further. Streets being completed are as follows: a section of Mendon Road from approximately 205 Mendon Road to the West River Bridge, School Street from Church Ave., all the way to Quaker Street, Church Street from the Library up to Ovia Square, Church Street Extension, which will be one lane from the railroad bridge up to the island and around the island. Roads that will undergo reclamation are the beginning Carr Street to help with the water drainage issue off Main Street, and overlay the rest of the road; South Street coming from Upton to Mendon Road. Mr. Luchini noted that they will be going out to bid and if the numbers come back low they will be able to add some more roads on. Selectmen Athanas asked if the residents and businesses would be alerted when construction begins. Mr. Luchini stated that they would be notified, and the impact should not be bad. Selectmen Collins asked about the cold planing process. Mr. Luchini described that they grind down two inches to get to the base, sometimes it exposes areas that have no base and they put in a leveling coarse. Selectman Collins followed up asking when the process will begin. Mr. Luchini replied that it will go out to bid on Wednesday, with a bid opening at the end of may and then it will be scheduling with the company that wins the bid.

**SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS:** **Selectman Cannon 1)** provided an update that the 250<sup>th</sup> Committee are in the process of securing participants for the parade, which will be held on Saturday, July 16, 2022 at 10 AM followed by fireworks that evening. **2)** announced that they are working on a small event which they will have more details on soon. **3)** stated that they are also working with the Historical Commission on the trolley tours and the possibility of doing a lottery. **4)** provided an update on the Bylaw Review Committee, they continue to meet and go through the bylaws. **Selectman Athanas 1)** announced that this is his last meeting as he is not running this year, but it has been a great twelve years. He thanked everyone for their support through the years and stated he has had a great time and has enjoyed it.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION / None**

**A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mr. Cannon to adjourn the public meeting. Vote yes/Board members: Athanas, Cannon and Collins.**

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:23 PM**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Russell D. Collins, Clerk**

**/mjc**

**LIST OF DOCUMENTATION**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING - OPEN SESSION**

**May 9, 2022**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. May 3, 2022 [SATM]  
-Copy of May 3, 2022 [SATM] minutes**

**II. PUBLIC HEARING / None**

**III. APPOINTMENTS/Resignations/None**

**IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None**

**V. DECISIONS:**

**B. Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials / Request to name a square in honor of Varoujan Edward Mooradian (Killed in Action on October 16, 1944) Present: Tom Farley, Trustee  
-Copy of Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials Report**

**C. Conservation Fund / Vote to accept monetary donations from: 1) David and Gretchen Pickart (\$350) and 2) Barbara and Brian Kinney (\$75.00)  
-Copy of Memo regarding the Conservation Fund Donations**

**D. Pine Grove Cemetery Deed / Bronja and Richard Cardeiro [Lot No. 3, two graves, Yew Ave., South]  
-Copy of Pine Grove Cemetery Deed**

**E. 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee / Application for a one-day Wines & Malts License for a fundraising event to take place from 7:00 pm – 12:00 am, Saturday, May 21, 2022 at the Northbridge Town Hall (Great Hall), 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588  
-No documentation as this item was passed over**

**VI. DISCUSSIONS:**

**F. Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment Report (Stephanie Covino, Blackstone Watershed Collaborative) / Present: David Pickart, Conservation Agent  
- Copy of Draft Resolution in support of the Blackstone River Needs Assessment Report**

**VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

**G. Town Manager's Report for the period of April 25, 2022 – May 6, 2022  
Copy of Town Manager's Report for the period of April 25, 2022 – May 6, 2022**

**VIII. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS/No documentation**

**IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None**

**X. CORRESPONDENCE/No documentation**

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION/None**

B.

TALENT BANK APPLICATION

please return to:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Northbridge Town Hall  
7 Main Street  
Whitinsville, MA 01588

*yes, per Town Clerk*

Pursuant to Town bylaw §4-209 (Eligibility for service),  
you must be a registered voter in order to serve.

Date: 3/11/2022

Name Erin Meagher

P. O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address 67 Thurston Ave - Whitinsville, MA 01588

Email Address nrsmeags@gmail.com

Telephone 5088875985

Cell 508-887-5985

Business UMass Memorial Medical Center

Address 55 Lake Ave North Worcester, MA 01655 Tel. 508-856-4161

Current Occupation/Title Nurse Practitioner Otolaryngocology

Education High School - Whitinsville Christian School - Whitinsville, MA

College: University of New England - Portland, ME

Graduate School: Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Science - Worcester, MA

Governmental, Civic & Community Activities Director of GEMS Girls program and Pleasant street Church

Member: UMass Memorial Medical Center Credentialing Committee

Charitable & Educational Activities Member: Sigma Theta Tau nursing soicity

Member: Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners

Town Committees or Offices \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in the following Committees: Town of Northidge Board of Health

Please indicate whether the applicant and/or any family members are employed by the Town of Northbridge. I am not a town employee, My father is a retired Northbridge Police Officer

**NAME:** Erin Meagher

**PRECINCT#** 1

**TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE**

**COMMITTEE INTEREST** (Indicate Committee preference)

- |    |                 |    |
|----|-----------------|----|
| 1. | Board of Health | 4. |
| 2. |                 | 5. |
| 3. |                 | 6. |

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**Present interest or business affiliation (dates, places)**

as listed above

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**Experience: Volunteer, social service, business (dates, places)**

Masters Degree in Nursing, working as a nurse practitioner, trained in advanced adult and pediatric life  
**Special skills and education (be specific)**  
Support.

I have been working in healthcare and other health related fields for 22 years

**How experience relates to particular committee interest**

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**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:**

Mail completed form to:  
Northbridge Town Hall  
Office of the Town Manager  
7 Main Street  
Whitinsville, MA 01588

C.

**TALENT BANK APPLICATION**

*please return to:*

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Northbridge Town Hall  
7 Main Street  
Whitinsville, MA 01588**

**Pursuant to Town bylaw §4-209 (Eligibility for service),  
you must be a registered voter in order to serve.**

*-yes, per Town Clerk  
4.20.22*

Date: April 19, 2022

Name Nancy Hill

P. O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address 1 Colonial Drive #A, Whitinsville, MA 01588

Email Address nhill359@gmail.com

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell 508-298-5638

Business Retired

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Current Occupation/Title Retired Financial Analyst

Education 1977 Franklin High School, some college  
including Accounting Certificate from Dean College

Governmental, Civic & Community Activities \_\_\_\_\_

Charitable & Educational Activities Raise money for ALS

Town Committees or Offices \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in the following Committees: Board Member at  
Northbridge Housing Authority

Please indicate whether the applicant and/or any family members are employed by the Town of Northbridge. No

---

**NAME:**

**PRECINCT#**

**TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE**

**COMMITTEE INTEREST** (Indicate Committee preference)

- |               |    |
|---------------|----|
| 1. NHA Board  | 4. |
| 2. Fine Board | 5. |
| 3.            | 6. |

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**Present interest or business affiliation (dates, places)**

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**Experience: Volunteer, social service, business (dates, places)**

Whitinsville Senior Center, Volunteer

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**Special skills and education (be specific)**

Financial Analyst, Budgeting

---

**How experience relates to particular committee interest**

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**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:**

Mail completed form to: Northbridge Town Hall  
Office of the Town Manager  
7 Main Street  
Whitinsville, MA 01568

# Blackstone Watershed Collaborative<sup>D.</sup>

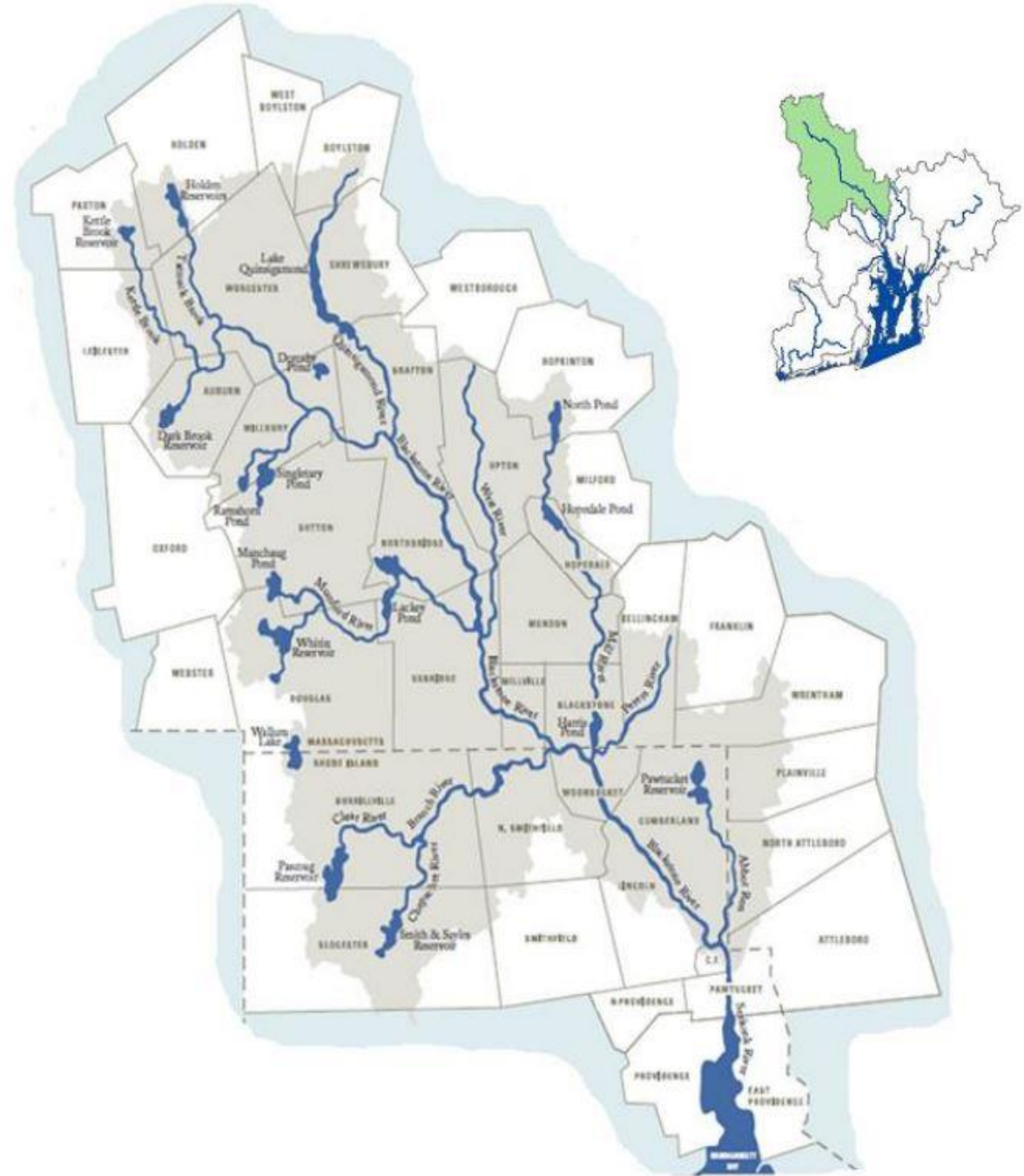
**Stefanie Covino**  
Program Manager  
[scovino@clarku.edu](mailto:scovino@clarku.edu)

**Resolution to Support the  
Blackstone Watershed Needs  
Assessment Report & Collaborative**



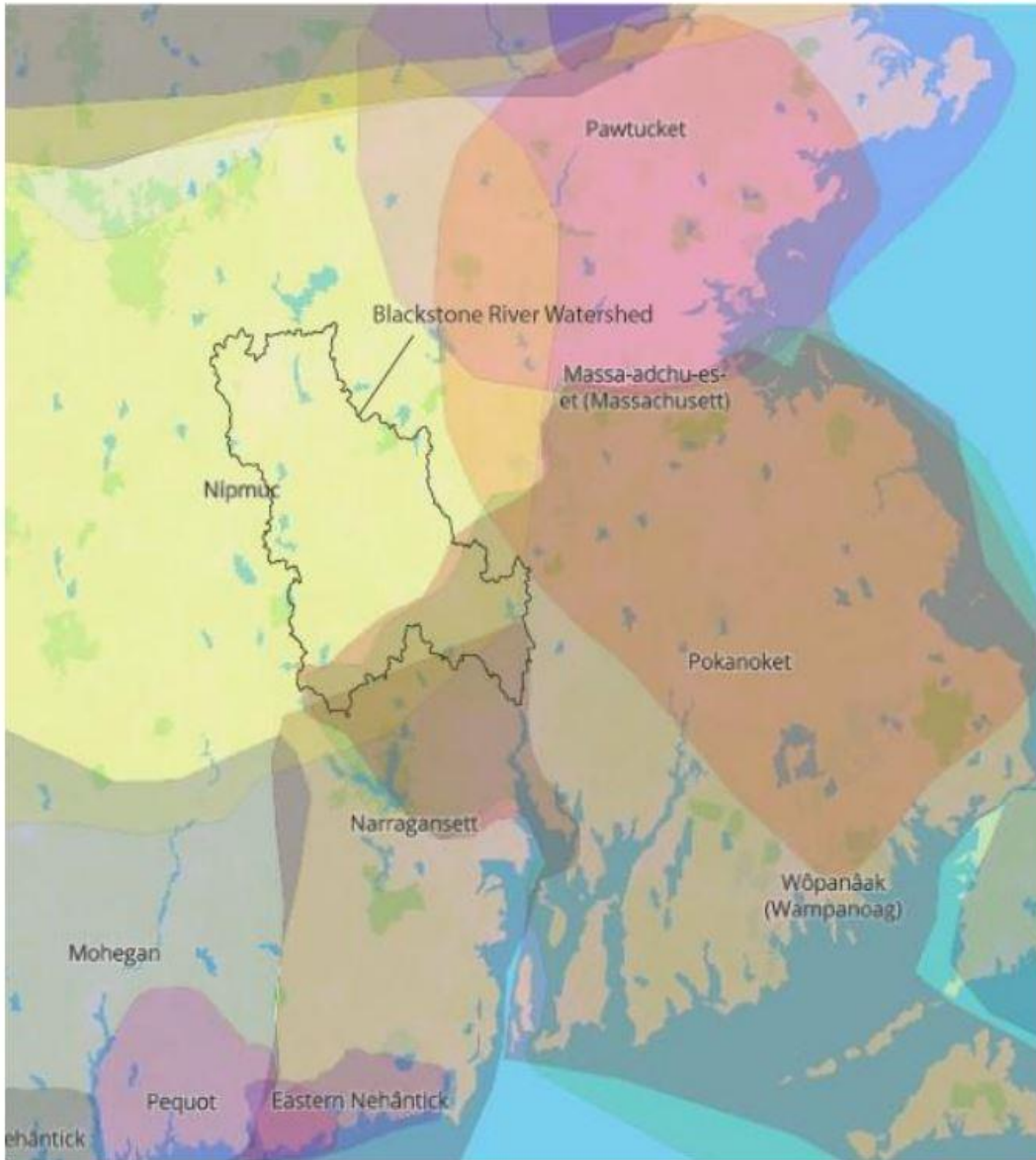
# Blackstone Watershed

- 48 miles long
- Drops 438'
- 475 square miles
- 39 communities
- 2 states





# Indigenous Lands



- Nipmuc
- Pokanoket
- Wampanoag
- Narragansett

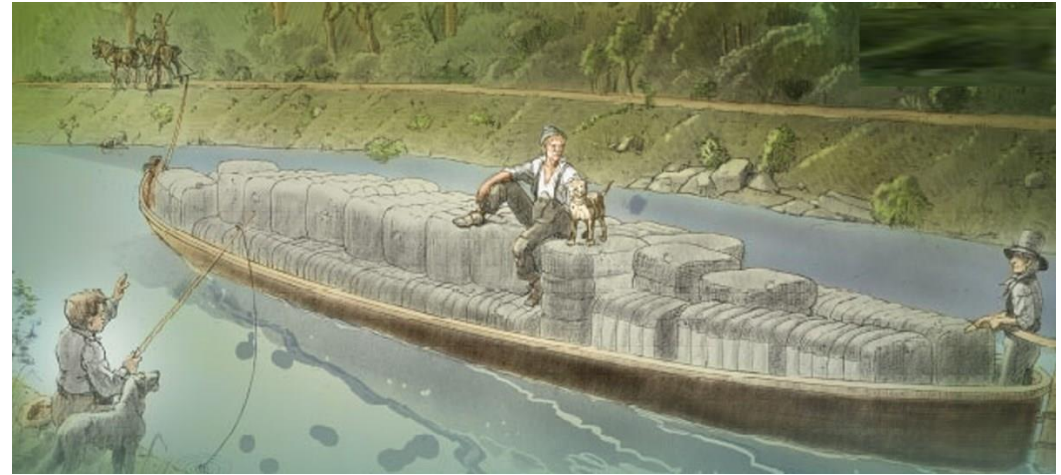
Centuries of careful land stewardship through hunting & gathering with close ties to the river

Needs Assessment Report Figure 6: Blackstone Region Indigenous Lands (Native Land Digital, 2021)

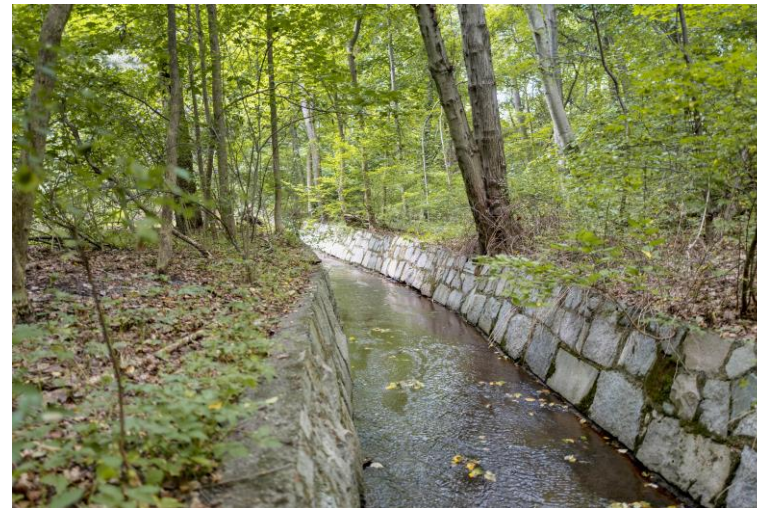
# Industrial revolution: “America’s hardest working river”



*Above: Slater Mill, America's first water-powered cotton-spinning mill in Pawtucket, RI (c.1790)*

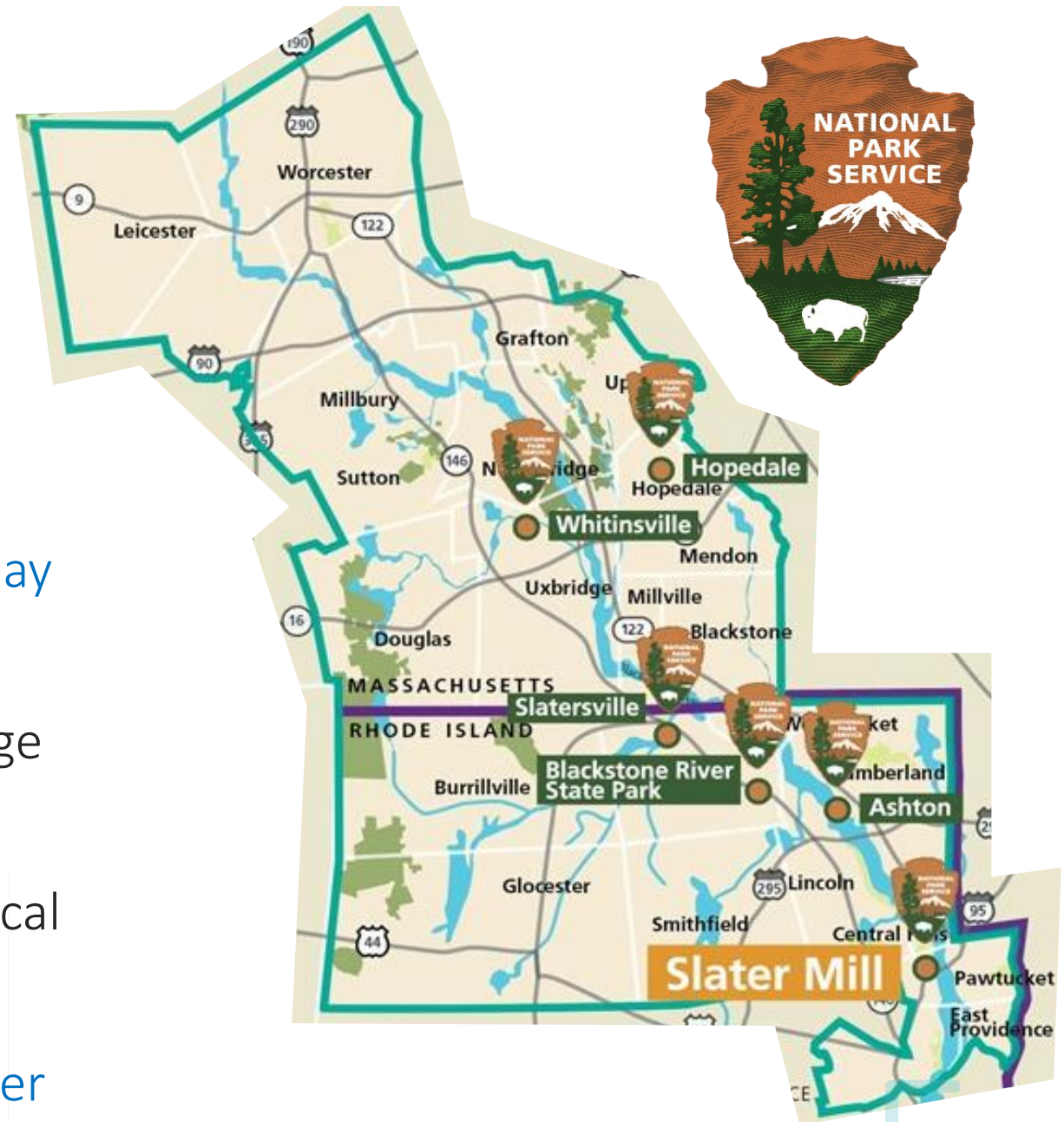


*Above: Canal boats pulled by horses. Below: Canal*

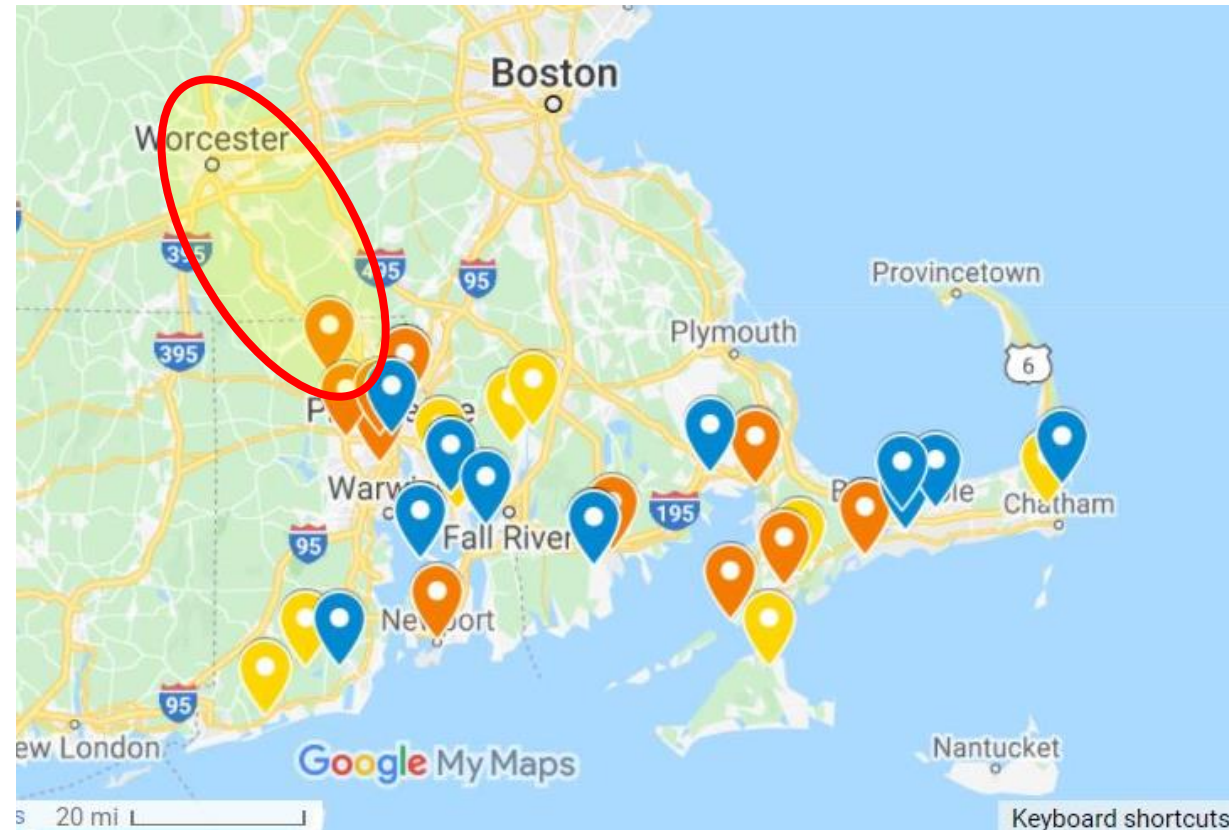


# A River of National Significance

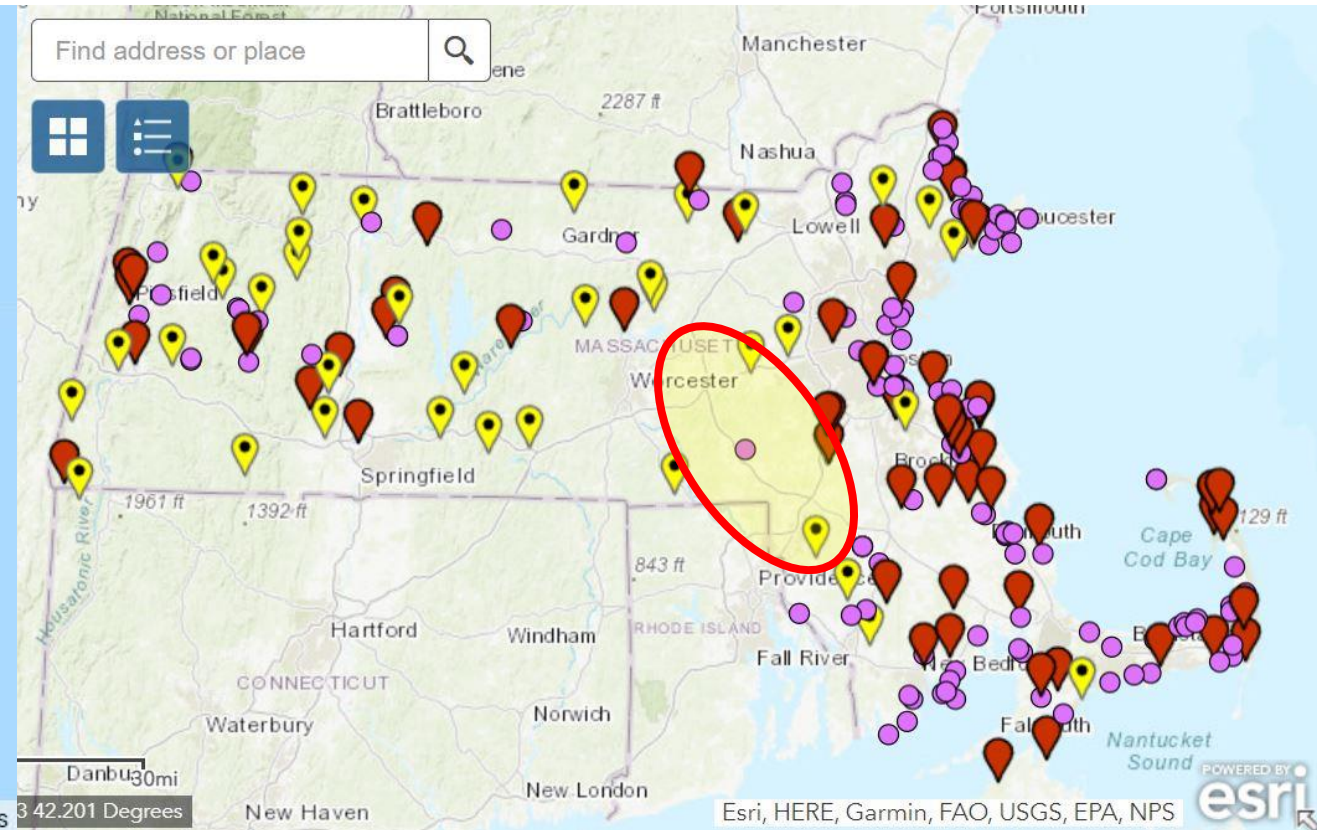
- 1990 – EPA sponsored report “most polluted river in America” (toxic sediments)
- 1972 – Operation ZAP: America’s largest one-day regional environmental clean-up
- 1986 – Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor
- 2014 – Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park
- 2022 – 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ZAP & the Clean Water Act



# Lack of projects & funding in region



<https://estuaries.org/snepgrantprogram/map/>



<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/the-division-of-ecological-restoration-project-map>

Working  
together  
for  
change:

Strength of  
Volunteerism



## NARRAGANSETT BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

- 2019-2021
- 8 meetings
- 140 people
- 40 organizations
- 11 govt agencies

# BLACKSTONE RIVER WATERSHED NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

FINAL REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 2021



# A Shared Watershed with Shared Goals



Maintenance of waterways



Equitable access to waterways



Water chestnut removal



Expanding the bike/greenway



Increased land protection



# A Shared Watershed with Shared Goals



Regulations that encourage cost-effective nature-based solutions



Green jobs program for maintenance



Maximizing effectiveness of long-term monitoring programs



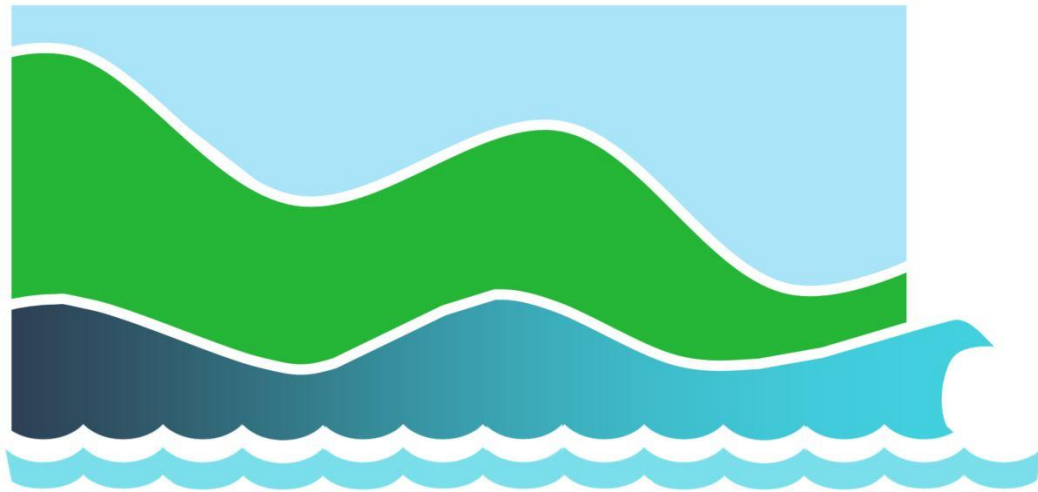
Recognize developers using best practices



Improving aquatic connectivity



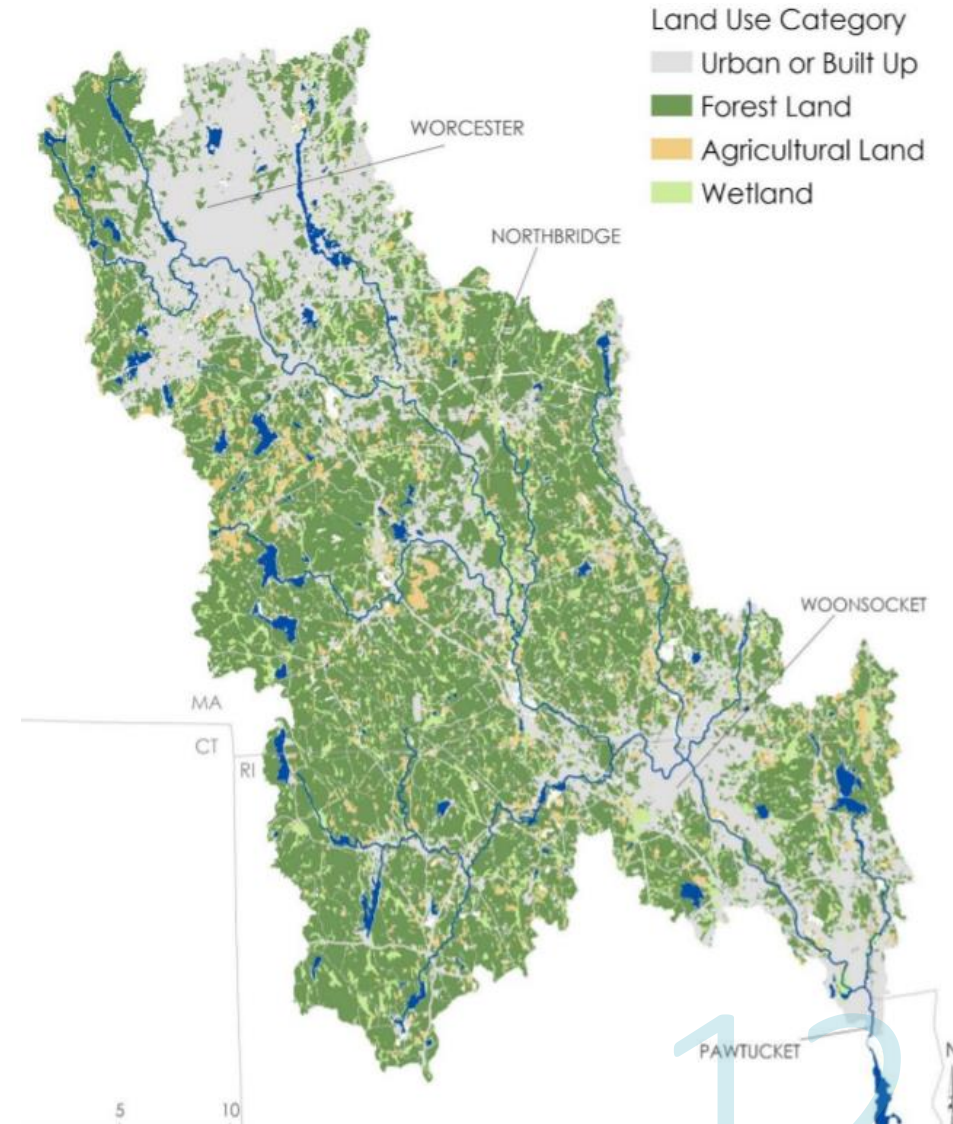
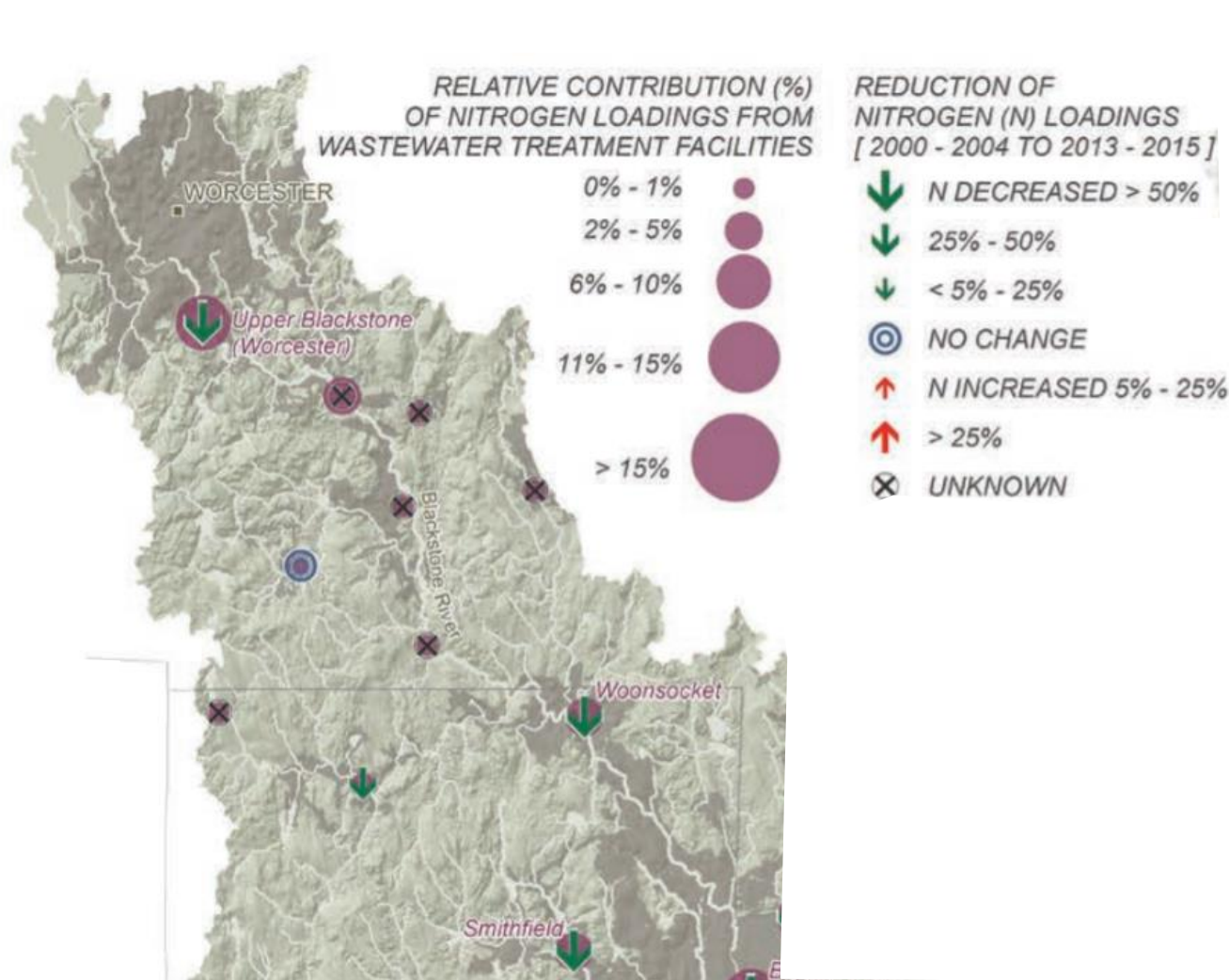




## Blackstone Watershed Collaborative

- ▶ Began September & meets monthly
- ▶ ~200 individuals representing 100+ organizations, agencies, and munis
- ▶ Implement the 20 priorities in Needs Assessment Report over 5 years
- ▶ Improve local watershed health and resilience in the face of development and climate change
- ▶ Lens of equity


# The Water is Getting Cleaner




**Reductions in Nitrogen Loading**



# Climate change


 increased temperature

extreme precipitation 

 increased drought




# development

impervious surfaces 

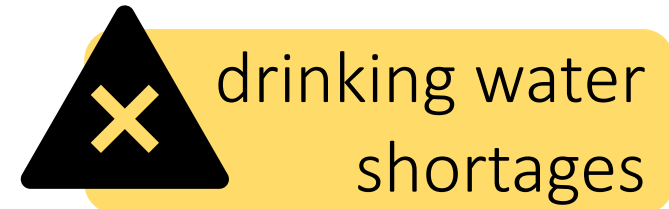
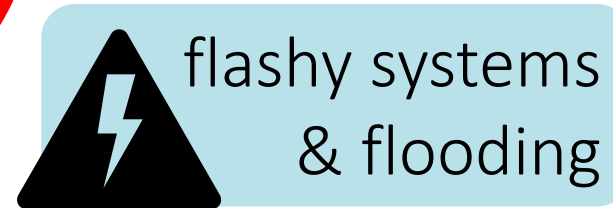
 nutrients

 warmer waters

 flashy systems & flooding

 drinking water shortages

# Healthy communities depend on a healthy watershed



# Those challenges are not felt equitably

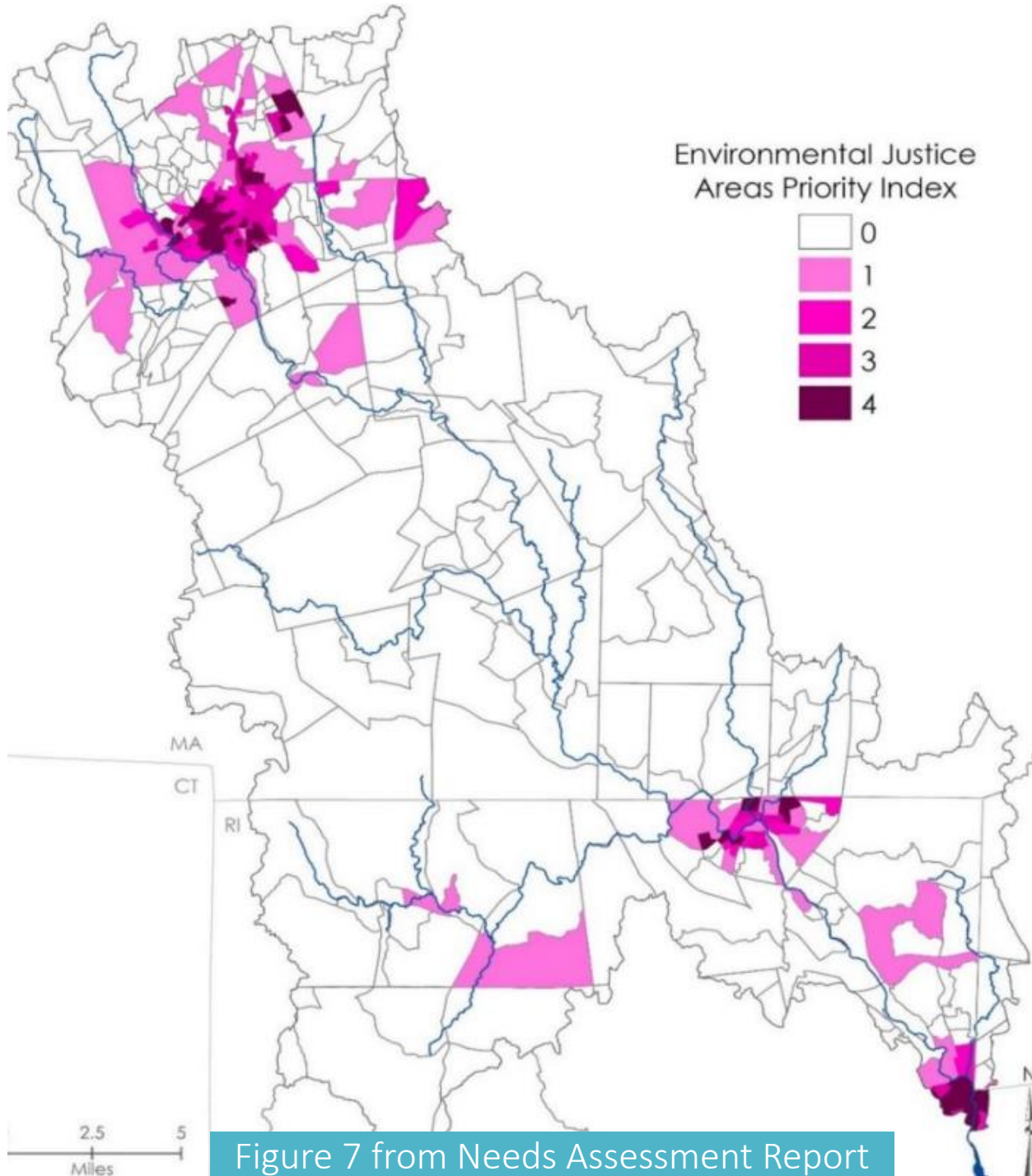
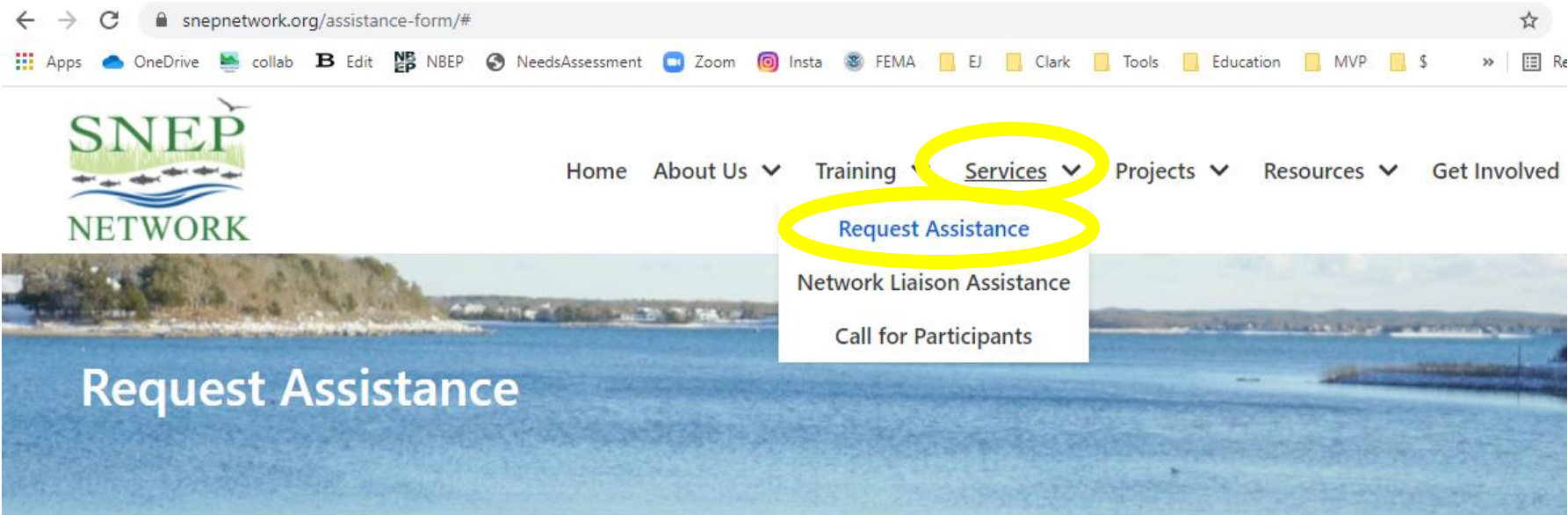


Figure 7 from Needs Assessment Report

- Heat islands
- Tree cover
- Asthma rates
- Flooding impacts
- Water quality

# If you need help: [snepnetwork.org](https://snepnetwork.org)



- Bylaw review



- Project feedback



- Financing/  
funding

## Online Portal to Access Network Services

In order to streamline requests for network services, The Southeast New England Network has an online portal to assist SNEP communities in accessing funding, contractors, and targeted technical assistance. The Network has two consultants who will act as [Network Liaisons](#) to help communities plan and execute activities and projects, utilizing the expertise of the Network and its pre-approved contractors. Our network members consist of environmental nonprofits, academic entities, regional planners, and consultants who offer expertise in leadership, financing, stormwater/watershed management, and climate resilience. Often times, solutions will be found through a phone call, at other times a site visit, a one

# Incorporating into Projects, Site → State



▶ Urban wetland restoration in Worcester

▶ MVP teams in Boylston, Millville

▶ Municipal resolutions supporting Needs Assessment

▶ CMRPC regional planning for 2050

▶ MassECAN Nature Based Solutions

▶ MA Statewide Climate Change Assessment Working Group

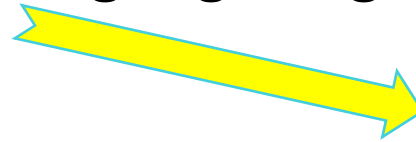
▶ NBEP Steering Committee





# 3rd Saturdays April-July are Blackstone Days!

**April 16:** “River as Muse: Connecting to the River with Poetry” & **Sycamore Landing hike** highlighting spring peepers and Blue Mind



**May 21:** [First Strike Festival in Pawtucket](#)—highlighting our industrial & labor history

**June 18:** [Summer Solstice Festival](#) at Blackstone River Theater in Cumberland, RI

**July 16:** Tour of **nature-based solutions** – green infrastructure & climate change in Worcester, MA





# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ZAP!

## Clean Up/Green Up August 27, 2022

Organize a group to clean up or green up an area of the watershed you love



Learn more & sign up at  
[zaptheblackstone.com](http://zaptheblackstone.com)

## Celebration September 10, 2022

Join us at the Old Slater Mill in Pawtucket, RI and celebrate the successes of the Blackstone River over the last 50 years with music, arts, food, and more!



20

[blackstonecollaborative.org](http://blackstonecollaborative.org)

Thank you!

Stefanie Covino  
Blackstone Watershed Collaborative  
Program Manager/Research Scientist  
[scovino@clarku.edu](mailto:scovino@clarku.edu)



## Regulations & History

- Berkshire Environmental Action Team's History of Federal Wetlands Protections: <https://www.thebeatnews.org/BeatTeam/history-federal-wetland-protection/>
- Waterkeeper's Bipartisan Beginnings of the Clean Water Act <https://waterkeeper.org/news/bipartisan-beginnings-of-clean-water-act/>
- ZAP the Blackstone film from the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council (1974) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpYtjdfAYro>

## Places

- Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor <https://blackstoneheritagecorridor.org/>
- Blackstone River Valley National Historic Park <https://www.nps.gov/blrv/index.htm>

## Land Use & Water Quality Reports

- Mass Audubon's *Losing Ground* (2020) <https://www.massaudubon.org/losingground>
- Mass Audubon's LID Fact Sheets <https://www.massaudubon.org/lidfactsheets>
- Blackstone River Coalition's State of the River Report (2008) [http://zaptheblackstone.org/whatwedoing/State\\_of\\_River/State\\_of\\_River.pdf](http://zaptheblackstone.org/whatwedoing/State_of_River/State_of_River.pdf)
- NBEP's State of the Watershed Report: <https://www.nbep.org/state-of-the-bay>

## Watershed Collaboration

- Resilient Taunton Watershed Network (RTWN) <https://srpedd.org/rtwn>
- Resilient Mystic Collaborative <https://resilient.mysticriver.org/>
- SNEP Network <https://snepnetwork.org/>

## Climate Resilience

- Mass Ecosystem Climate Adaptation Network <https://www.massecan.org/>

## Environmental Justice

- NBEP Story Map of Environmental Justice in the NB Watershed: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/61682f2963364fbbbc832c53a7cc7d09>

Some  
useful  
references

**Draft Resolution in Support of  
the Blackstone Needs Assessment Report (<https://bit.ly/BlackstoneReport>)  
& the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative ([blackstonecollaborative.org](http://blackstonecollaborative.org))**

1  
2 **RESOLUTION:**

**IN SUPPORT OF THE BLACKSTONE RIVER  
WATERSHED NEEDS ASSESSMENT  
REPORT**

3  
4  
5  
6 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORTHBRIDGE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AS  
7 FOLLOWS:**

8  
9 **WHEREAS:** The Blackstone River spans forty-eight miles from Massachusetts to  
10 Rhode Island, its watershed includes thirty-nine communities, and its watershed health is  
11 vital to the ecology, economy, and history of our region; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS:** The Blackstone River has been home to indigenous communities for  
14 millennia and is the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS:** Despite significant progress, there is much more to do to assure a healthier  
17 and more resilient Blackstone River Watershed over the next fifty years to continue to  
18 address its industrial past, ongoing urbanization, and the impact of climate change; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS:** The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program worked collaboratively with local  
21 stake holders to develop the final needs assessment report that describes current high  
22 priority needs and twenty recommended actions that can be completed within five years  
23 to help restore and sustain the Blackstone River Watershed; and

24  
25 **WHEREAS:** The Town of Northbridge recognizes the importance and value of the  
26 recommendations brought forward in the report and supports the Blackstone Watershed  
27 Collaborative created to implement them; and

28  
29 **WHEREAS:** The Town of Northbridge supports increasing free and equitable public  
30 access to use and benefit from waterways; and

31  
32 **WHEREAS:** The Town of Northbridge supports the accelerated management of the  
33 water chestnut to support habitat and recreation; and

34  
35 **WHEREAS:** The Town of Northbridge supports the increase for permanent land  
36 protection; and

37  
38 **WHEREAS:** The Town of Northbridge supports development of a wetland restoration  
39 strategy; and

40  
41 **WHEREAS:** The Town of Northbridge supports planning and installation of low impact  
42 development practices such as rain gardens; and

43

**Draft Resolution in Support of  
the Blackstone Needs Assessment Report (<https://bit.ly/BlackstoneReport>)  
& the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative ([blackstonecollaborative.org](http://blackstonecollaborative.org))**

44 **WHEREAS:** The Town of Northbridge supports advocating for the completion of new  
45 sections of the Blackstone River Bikeway/Greenway to engage residents in accessible  
46 recreational opportunities; and

47  
48 **WHEREAS:** The Town of Northbridge supports the increased maintenance of the  
49 waterway for wildlife, recreation, and safety; and

50  
51 **WHEREAS:** The Town of Northbridge supports the recognition of Operation ZAP  
52 when 10,000 volunteers cleaned up 10,000 tons of trash from the Blackstone River in  
53 1972, and its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022, including the group's work to support the above  
54 goals through local green ups and clean ups on August 27, 2022 and a celebration in  
55 Pawtucket, Rhode Island on September 10, 2022; and

56  
57 **WHEREAS:** The Town of Northbridge looks forward to working collaboratively with  
58 the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative and its partners on these initiatives to preserve  
59 the health and resilience of the river and its watershed for generations to come.

60  
61 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF**  
62 **NORTHBRIDGE, MA AS FOLLOWS:**

63  
64 **SECTION 1:** The Town of Northbridge supports the Blackstone River Watershed Needs  
65 Assessment Report and the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative, appreciates the efforts  
66 of all the groups involved in its creation and continued maintenance, and intends to  
67 include these priority actions into local municipal goals, as relevant, such as open space  
68 and climate resiliency planning.

69  
70 **SECTION 2:** THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY  
71 UPON ITS PASSAGE BY THE NORTHBRIDGE BOARD OF SELECTMEN.

72  
73 **DATE ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_

74  
75 **A TRUE COPY, ATTEST:**

76  
77  
78 \_\_\_\_\_  
Linda B. Zywiec, Town Clerk

## Melissa Ciaramitaro

---

**From:** Sharon Susienka  
**Sent:** Friday, May 13, 2022 11:14 AM  
**To:** Tony Genga  
**Cc:** Melissa Ciaramitaro  
**Subject:** RE: Banner request

Hi Tony,

I will add this on the next Selectmen's agenda for May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

I do have to change the dates to be **July 3<sup>rd</sup> to July 17<sup>th</sup>** as that is the request of the Fire Chief to hang up and take down banners on Sundays.

What will the banner be displaying? We like to put a blurb on the agenda so the Selectmen know.

*Sharon L. Susienka  
Exec. Asst. to the Town Manager/HR  
Town of Northbridge  
Phone: 508-234-2095  
Fax: 508-234-7640*



---

**From:** Tony Genga <tgenga@northbridgemass.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 13, 2022 11:04 AM  
**To:** Sharon Susienka <ssusienka@northbridgemass.org>  
**Subject:** Banner request

Good morning Sharon,

I am looking for permission from the BOS to display a 250<sup>th</sup> banner on Church St from 7/2 -7/17. Please let me know if you need anything else from me.

Thanks, Tony

Lt. Anthony Genga  
Training Officer  
Northbridge Fire Department  
193 Main St

## INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT

### Blackstone Valley Veterans' Services District

This agreement is made this 1st day of July 2022 by and among the Town of Uxbridge with a usual place of business at 21 S. Main Street, Uxbridge, MA, and the Town of Northbridge with a usual place of business at 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588 and the Town of Douglas, with a usual place of business at 29 Depot Street, Douglas, MA 01516, and the Town of Sutton with a usual place of business at 4 Uxbridge Road, Sutton, MA 01590, and the Town of Blackstone with a usual place of business at 15 St. Paul St., Blackstone, MA 01504, and the Town of Millbury with a usual place of business at 127 Elm St, Millbury, MA 01527. This agreement supersedes the previous agreement effective July 1, 2019.

Whereas, Uxbridge, Northbridge, Douglas, Sutton, Blackstone, and Millbury require the services of a Veterans' Services Agent as required by Massachusetts General Laws, to provide benefits to eligible veterans and their dependents.

Whereas, Uxbridge, Northbridge, Douglas, Sutton, Blackstone, and Millbury find it in their best interest to share the services of said individual.

Now, therefore, the parties agree as follows:

1. There shall be a Veterans' Services Director appointed by the Town of Uxbridge, who shall furnish the customary services of Veterans' Agent to the Towns of Uxbridge, Northbridge, Douglas, Sutton, Blackstone, and Millbury.
2. The Veterans' Services Director shall work under the direction of the Uxbridge Town Manager in the office currently located at 21 S. Main Street, Uxbridge, MA.
3. The Director and Assistant Director shall be employees of the Town of Uxbridge and shall be classified in the Town of Uxbridge wage classification plan.
4. The term of the agreement shall be 3 years.
5. Effective July 1, 2022, Uxbridge shall compensate the Director at a rate of approximately \$78,000.00 per year, paid in weekly installments. Uxbridge shall compensate the Assistant Director at a rate of approximately \$50,000.00 per year, paid in weekly installments. The Town of Northbridge shall reimburse the Town of Uxbridge 23% of all direct and indirect costs, the Town of Douglas shall reimburse the Town of Uxbridge 10% of all direct and indirect costs, the Town of Sutton shall reimburse the Town of Uxbridge 10% of all direct and indirect costs, the Town of Blackstone shall reimburse the Town of Uxbridge 10% of all direct or indirect costs, and the Town of Millbury shall reimburse the Town of Uxbridge 23% of all direct and indirect costs. Direct costs shall be defined as salary. Indirect costs are Medicare, Health Insurance, retirement and insurances (Worker's Compensation, Unemployment, and Liability) and shared expenses.



6. The Town of Uxbridge shall bill member towns on the last day of each quarter, for that quarter's assessment. Payment in full is due within thirty (30) days, with the exception of the final quarter, which is payable by July 15th.
7. The worksheet that details the assessment to member towns for the following fiscal year will be issued by the Town of Uxbridge by March 1st.
8. The Director and Assistant Director shall be entitled to all the benefits of an employee of the Town of Uxbridge including medical coverage.
9. The Director and Assistant Director shall be responsible for their own transportation. The Town of Uxbridge will require them to keep a mileage log detailing the number of miles driven for each Town. Uxbridge shall direct them to submit a reimbursement request to each Town on a monthly basis. Each Town shall be responsible for reimbursing them based on the federal mileage reimbursement rate.
10. Should the Director or Assistant Director employed pursuant to this agreement terminate his/her service prior to the expiration of the term hereof, Uxbridge shall take any and all steps necessary to replace the Director or Assistant Director as soon as possible. Northbridge, Douglas, Sutton, Blackstone, and Millbury shall not be responsible for paying the Town of Uxbridge during any period there is no Director or Assistant Director pursuant to this agreement.
11. Any damages for which Uxbridge, Northbridge, Douglas, Sutton, Blackstone, Millbury or all six towns shall be adjudged liable because of anything done or omitted by the Director/Assistant Director in connection with their work under this agreement, together with the expense of defending claims for such damages, shall ultimately be borne as follows:
  - a. If the work in the course of which liability arose was being performed for all of Uxbridge, Northbridge, Douglas, Sutton, Blackstone, Millbury or if it cannot be determined for which Town it was being performed, Uxbridge will pay 24% of said damages, Northbridge will pay 23% of said damages, Douglas will pay 10% of said damages, Sutton will pay 10% of said damages, Blackstone will pay 10% of said damages, and Millbury will pay 23% of said damages.
  - b. If the work was being performed in one town only, the town benefiting from the work shall be solely responsible.
12. This agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Town of Uxbridge  
By its Town Manager

---

Steven Sette

Town of Sutton  
By its Town Manager

---

James Smith

Town of Blackstone  
By its Town Administrator

---

Dori Vecchio

Town of Northbridge  
By its Town Manager

---

Adam Gaudette

Town of Douglas  
By its Town Administrator

---

Matthew Wojcik

Town of Millbury  
By its Town Manager

---

Sean Hendricks

**Melissa Ciaramitaro**

---

**From:** Harriet Forman <harrietf@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 17, 2022 12:38 PM  
**To:** Melissa Ciaramitaro  
**Subject:** VCC - Banner and Road Closure

Hi Melissa,

- 1.) I am writing to request that the Village Congregational Church be permitted to have a banner hung across Church Street to advertise their Harvest Festival. We would appreciate it being up from Sept. 17-24, 2022. We have the banner, and would need the Fire Dept. to hang it for us.
- 2.) We also request that a portion of Church St. be closed during the hours of the fair on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022. We would need the road closed off from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm. The fair runs from 9 am until 3 pm, but we need to be able to safely set up and take down using the street area between the church and the town common. The length of Church St. we would need closed would extend from the corner of the Common at the intersection of Church St. and Linwood Ave., up to the intersection of Church St. and Park St., in front of the Post Office.

(In case of rain, we will hold the fair the next day, Sept. 25. We would need the same road closure that day, but from 10 am until 4 pm.)

Thank you so much,  
Harriet Forman  
VCC Harvest Festival Chair

## Memorial Park Request Form

Event Date: Sept. 24, 2022 Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Rain date: Sept. 25, 2022

Organization: Village Congregational Church

**Description of the event:**

Community Harvest Festival, includes a tag sale, crafts, entertainment, raffles, and an array of foods, drinks, music, and children's games. Open to the public.

- Do you plan to serve alcohol?  Yes  No
- Do you plan to serve food?  Yes  No
- Do you plan to have entertainment?  Yes  No

Contact information: Harriet Forman, 508-579-8758, Claudia Dexter 508-234-7901  
(Name) (Phone)

Next available agenda: May 23, 2022 Date approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date and time available: yes cc: Chief of Police  
 DPW Director

Prior to consideration by the Board of Selectmen, any requests concerning the use of the Town Common shall be jointly referred to the Director of Public Works and the Chief of Police for comment. If they deem the use appropriate, they are encouraged to recommend any condition they feel necessary to protect the public's safety and preserve the character and integrity of the Town Common. These conditions would then be incorporated into the formal approval, which would be issued by the Board of Selectmen.

**Note:** At their meeting of December 5, 2005, the Selectmen voted unanimously to approve the above policy as amended by Selectman Davis: **That there will be no vehicular traffic allowed on the Common without prior approval from the DPW Director or the Police Department.**

Please note in addition to this form we will also need the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Business Certificate/Articles of Organization [If applicable]
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hold Harmless Agreement
- \_\_\_\_\_ Certificate of Insurance [Naming the Town as an additional insured]

**USE OF TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE**

**PUBLIC WAYS FOR USE OF MEMORIAL PARK**

**EVENT:** Village Congregational Church Harvest Festival

**RELEASE OF CLAIMS, INDEMNITY AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT**

*\*\*\*Please read this document thoroughly before completing and signing\*\*\**

I, Vincent Osterman, Moderator of Village Congregational Church, in consideration of my use of the Town of Northbridge's Public Ways for a non-town sponsored event on Sept. 24, 2022, and for other good and valuable consideration hereby acknowledged, do hereby agree to forever RELEASE the Town of Northbridge, its employees, agents, officers, volunteers, or contractors (the "Town"), from any and all claims, actions, rights of action and causes of action, damages, costs, loss of services, expenses, compensation and attorneys' fees that may have arisen in the past, or may arise in the future, directly or indirectly, from known and unknown personal injuries which I or my guests, employees, agents, successors or assigns may have as the result of my use or the use of my guests, employees or agents of the Town of Northbridge's Public Ways for a non-town sponsored event on Sept. 24, 2022, and all activities related thereto.

I further promise, to INDEMNIFY, REIMBURSE, DEFEND, and HOLD HARMLESS the Town against any and all legal claims and proceedings of any description that may have been asserted in the past, or may be asserted in the future, directly or indirectly, including damages, costs and attorneys' fees, arising from personal injuries to myself or others or property damage resulting from my use, or the use of my guests, employees or agents, of the Town of Northbridge's Public Ways for a non-town sponsored event on Sept. 24, 2022, and all activities related thereto.

I hereby further covenant for myself, my successors and assigns not to sue the said Town on account of any such claim, demand or liability.

I am fully aware that by signing this document I am releasing the Town from liability that may arise as a result of the acts or omissions of the Town. Additionally, it is my intent to release the above mentioned parties from liability and defend and indemnify said parties for liability relating to any accident and resulting injuries and/or death that may occur as a result of my use, or the use of my guests, employees or agents, of the Town of Northbridge's Public Ways for a non-town sponsored event on Sept. 24, 2022, and all activities related thereto.

To the extent I am signing this document on behalf of an organization, corporation, association or similar entity, I represent that I am fully authorized by said entity to execute this document.

Witness my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of May, 2022.

Name (Printed): Vincent Osterman

  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

**THIS FORM MAY NOT BE ALTERED**

**USE OF TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE**

**PUBLIC WAYS FOR ROAD CLOSURE  
EVENT:**

**RELEASE OF CLAIMS, INDEMNITY AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT**

***\*\*\*Please read this document thoroughly before completing and signing\*\*\****

I, Vincent Osterman, Moderator, VCC, in consideration of my use of the Town of Northbridge's Public Ways for a non-town sponsored event on Sept. 24, 2022, and for other good and valuable consideration hereby acknowledged, do hereby agree to forever RELEASE the Town of Northbridge, its employees, agents, officers, volunteers, or contractors (the "Town"), from any and all claims, actions, rights of action and causes of action, damages, costs, loss of services, expenses, compensation and attorneys' fees that may have arisen in the past, or may arise in the future, directly or indirectly, from known and unknown personal injuries which I or my guests, employees, agents, successors or assigns may have as the result of my use or the use of my guests, employees or agents of the Town of Northbridge's Public Ways for a non-town sponsored event on Sept. 24, 2022, and all activities related thereto.

I further promise, to INDEMNIFY, REIMBURSE, DEFEND, and HOLD HARMLESS the Town against any and all legal claims and proceedings of any description that may have been asserted in the past, or may be asserted in the future, directly or indirectly, including damages, costs and attorneys' fees, arising from personal injuries to myself or others or property damage resulting from my use, or the use of my guests, employees or agents, of the Town of Northbridge's Public Ways for a non-town sponsored event on Sept. 24, 2022, and all activities related thereto.


I hereby further covenant for myself, my successors and assigns not to sue the said Town on account of any such claim, demand or liability.

I am fully aware that by signing this document I am releasing the Town from liability that may arise as a result of the acts or omissions of the Town. Additionally, it is my intent to release the above mentioned parties from liability and defend and indemnify said parties for liability relating to any accident and resulting injuries and/or death that may occur as a result of my use, or the use of my guests, employees or agents, of the Town of Northbridge's Public Ways for a non-town sponsored event on Sept. 24, 2022, and all activities related thereto.

To the extent I am signing this document on behalf of an organization, corporation, association or similar entity, I represent that I am fully authorized by said entity to execute this document.

Witness my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of May, 2022.

Name (Printed): Vincent Osterman

  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE

APPLICATION FOR A ONE-DAY WEEKDAY ENTERTAINMENT  
LICENSE

TO THE LICENSING AUTHORITIES:

The undersigned hereby applies for a License in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes relating thereto  
(FULL NAME OF PERSON, FIRM OR CORPORATION MAKING APPLICATION):

Village Congregational Church, Whitinsville, MA

TO: Obtain a One-day Entertainment License for:


<b>Type:</b> (Check all that apply):			
<input type="checkbox"/> Concert	<input type="checkbox"/> Dance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exhibition	<input type="checkbox"/> Cabaret Public Show
<input type="checkbox"/> Live band	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Disc Jockey</u>		
<b>Includes:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Dancing by patrons	<input type="checkbox"/> Dancing by entertainers or performers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recorded music	
<input type="checkbox"/> Live music	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amplification System	<input type="checkbox"/> Floor show	
<input type="checkbox"/> Light show	<input type="checkbox"/> Theatrical exhibition, play or moving picture show	<input type="checkbox"/> Other dynamic audio or visual show (whether live or recorded)	
<input type="checkbox"/> INDOOR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUTDOOR <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH			

GIVE LOCATION BY STREET AND NUMBER:

AT: 5 Church St. Whitinsville, MA and Northbridge Town Common

in said Town of Northbridge in accordance with the rules and regulations made under authority of said Statutes.

ON: (date and time)\* Sept. 24, 2022, 9 am to 3 pm

  
(Signature of Applicant)

Print Name: Vincent Osterman

Address: 5 Church St.

City: Whitinsville

State, Zip: MA 01588

Phone: 508-234-7901

Email: office@vccucc.org

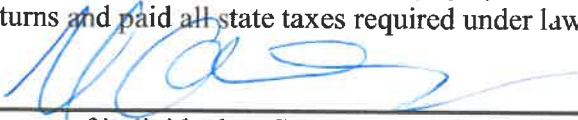
Received:	<u>5/16/22</u>	<u>8:30AM</u>
	<small>(Date)</small>	<small>(Time)</small>
Agenda:	<u>May 23, 2022</u>	

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date License Granted

\*\*Please note a separate application is needed for a one-day Sunday Entertainment

**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE  
REVENUE ENFORCEMENT AND PROTECTION (REAP) ATTESTATION**

I hereby declare under the penalties of perjury that I, to the best of my knowledge and belief, have filed all state tax returns and paid all state taxes required under law.



---

\*Signature of individual or Corporate Names (Mandatory)

**Vincent Osterman, Moderator**

---

By: Corporate Officer (Mandatory, if applicable)

**EIN: 04-2104423**

---

\*\* Social Security Number or Federal Identification Number

\* This license will not be issued unless this certification clause is signed by the applicant.

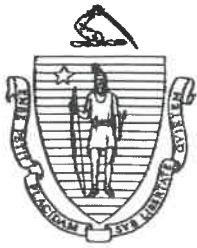
\*\*Your Social Security Number will be furnished to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue to determine whether you have met tax filing or tax payment obligations. Licensees who fail to correct their non-filing or delinquency will be subject to license suspension or revocation.

**This request is made under the authority of M.G.L. Chapter 62C, Section 49A.**

**Please sign form and return to:**

**Town of Northbridge  
Town Manager's Office  
7 Main Street  
Whitinsville, MA 01588**





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
 Department of Industrial Accidents  
 Office of Investigations  
 600 Washington Street  
 Boston, MA 02111  
 www.mass.gov/dia

**FORM MUST BE FILLED  
 OUT COMPLETELY**

If you carry Workers Comp. Insurance, you must provide proof to the Town in the form of a Certificate of Insurance.

**Workers' Compensation Insurance Affidavit: General Businesses**

**Applicant Information**

**Please Print Legibly**

Business/Organization Name: Village Congregational Church, Whitinsville, MA

Address: 5 Church St. Whitinsville MA 01588

City/State/Zip: (Vincent Osterman)

Phone #: 508-234-7901

**Are you an employer? Check the appropriate box:**

- 1.  I am an employer with 7 employees (full and/or part-time).\*
- 2.  I am a sole proprietor or partnership and have no employees working for me in any capacity. [No workers' comp. insurance required]
- 3.  We are a corporation and its officers have exercised their right of exemption per c. 152, §1(4), and we have no employees. [No workers' comp. insurance required]\*\*
- 4.  We are a non-profit organization, staffed by volunteers, with no employees. [No workers' comp. insurance req.]

**Business Type (required):**

- 5.  Retail
- 6.  Restaurant/Bar/Eating Establishment
- 7.  Office and/or Sales (incl. real estate, auto, etc.)
- 8.  Non-profit
- 9.  Entertainment
- 10.  Manufacturing
- 11.  Health Care
- 12.  Other Church

\*Any applicant that checks box #1 must also fill out the section below showing their workers' compensation policy information.

\*\*If the corporate officers have exempted themselves, but the corporation has other employees, a workers' compensation policy is required and such an organization should check box #1.

**I am an employer that is providing workers' compensation insurance for my employees. Below is the policy information.**

Insurance Company Name: The Traveler's Indemnity Co. of CT

Insurer's Address: One Tower Square

City/State/Zip: Hartford, CT 06183

Policy # or Self-ins. Lic. # UB5J484859

Expiration Date: 10/1/2022

**Attach a copy of the workers' compensation policy declaration page (showing the policy number and expiration date).**

Failure to secure coverage as required under Section 25A of MGL c. 152 can lead to the imposition of criminal penalties of a fine up to \$1,500.00 and/or one-year imprisonment, as well as civil penalties in the form of a STOP WORK ORDER and a fine of up to \$250.00 a day against the violator. Be advised that a copy of this statement may be forwarded to the Office of Investigations of the DIA for insurance coverage verification.

**I do hereby certify, under the pains and penalties of perjury that the information provided above is true and correct.**

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: 508-234-7901

**Official use only. Do not write in this area, to be completed by city or town official.**

City or Town: Northbridge

Permit/License # \_\_\_\_\_

Issuing Authority (circle one):

- 1. Board of Health
- 2. Building Department
- 3. City/Town Clerk
- 4. **Licensing Board**
- 5. Selectmen's Office
- 6. Other \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: Melissa Wetherbee

Phone #: 508-234-2095

## Melissa Ciaramitaro

---

**From:** Jamie Luchini  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:29 PM  
**To:** Tim Labrie; Melissa Ciaramitaro  
**Subject:** Re: Road Closure - VCC- Harvest Festival - 9.24.22

Looks fine to me.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Tim Labrie <tlabrie@northbridgemass.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:17:41 PM  
**To:** Melissa Ciaramitaro <mciaramitaro@northbridgemass.org>; Jamie Luchini <jluchini@northbridgemass.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Road Closure - VCC- Harvest Festival - 9.24.22

No issues! Same as always. Just make sure Ms. Forman reaches out to me before the event to schedule traffic officer.

---

**From:** Melissa Ciaramitaro  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:03 PM  
**To:** Jamie Luchini <jluchini@northbridgemass.org>; Tim Labrie <tlabrie@northbridgemass.org>  
**Subject:** Road Closure - VCC- Harvest Festival - 9.24.22

*Good afternoon,*

*Attached is the request from Village Congregational Church for their Harvest Festival, the second paragraph is the Road Closure Request. Please let me know if there are any issues with this request. This will go before the Board of Selectmen on Monday, May 23, 2022.*

*Thank you*

*Melissa Ciaramitaro, Sr. Adm. Asst./HR. Asst.  
Town Manager's Office  
Town of Northbridge  
7 Main Street Whitinsville, MA 01588  
Phone: 508-234-2095 Ext. 1202*

# NTM License Slips

Row 1

---

**Current Status** On agenda for 5.23.22

---

**Done**

---

**License ID:** NTM#16135

---

**License Type:** Memorial Park, Entertainment license, Road Closure

---

**Description:** Village Congregational Church is looking to hold their Annual Harvest Festival at Memorial Park on Saturday, September 24, 2022 with a rain date of Sunday, September 25, 2022 from 9 AM to 3 PM

---

**Business:** Village Congregational Church

---

**Applicant:** Harriet Forman

---

**Address:** 5 Church Street, Whitinsville

---

**Approval Target** 05/19/22

---

**Slip Started on:** 05/16/22 11:37 AM

---

**PLANNING Approve:**

---

**PLANNING Comments:** N/A -Not Applicable

---

**POLICE Approve:**

---

**POLICE Comments:**

---

**FIRE Approve:**

---

**FIRE Comments:**

---

**BUILDING ZONING Approve:**

---

**BUILDING ZONING Comments:**

---

**CONSERVATION Approve:**

---

**CONSERVATION** N/A  
**Comments:**

---

**HEALTH**   
**Approve:**

---

**HEALTH**   
**Comments:** Approved - subject to issuance of a one-day food permit for this event. (Application has been received but is incomplete)

---

**ASSESSORS**   
**Approve:**

---

**ASSESSORS**  
**Comments:**

---

**TREASURER**   
**COLLECTOR**   
**Approve:**

---

**TREASURER**  
**COLLECTOR**  
**Comments:**

---

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE

APPLICATION FOR A ONE-DAY WEEKDAY ENTERTAINMENT  
LICENSE

TO THE LICENSING AUTHORITIES:

The undersigned hereby applies for a License in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes relating thereto  
(FULL NAME OF PERSON, FIRM OR CORPORATION MAKING APPLICATION):

UNIBANK 150th + 2 year Anniversary Celebration

TO: Obtain a One-day Entertainment License for:

<b>Type:</b> (Check all that apply):			<input type="checkbox"/> Concert	<input type="checkbox"/> Dance	<input type="checkbox"/> Exhibition	<input type="checkbox"/> Cabaret Public Show
			<input type="checkbox"/> Live band	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Anniversary Gala</u>		
<b>Includes:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Dancing by patrons	<input type="checkbox"/> Dancing by entertainers or performers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recorded music			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Live music	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amplification System	<input type="checkbox"/> Floor show			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Light show	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theatrical exhibition, play or moving picture show	<input type="checkbox"/> Other dynamic audio or visual show (whether live or recorded)			
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDOOR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUTDOOR	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	

GIVE LOCATION BY STREET AND NUMBER:

AT: Whitin Community Center Property - 60 Main St / Hill St  
in said Town of Northbridge in accordance with the rules and regulations made under authority of said Statutes.

ON: (date and time)\* June 11, 2022 @ 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Jeanne Cloutier  
(Signature of Applicant)

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Received: 5/20/22 @ 11:17 AM  
(Date) (Time)  
Agenda: May 23, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date License Granted

**\*\*Please note a separate application is needed for a one-day Sunday Entertainment**

**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE  
REVENUE ENFORCEMENT AND PROTECTION (REAP) ATTESTATION**

I hereby declare under the penalties of perjury that I, to the best of my knowledge and belief, have filed all state tax returns and paid all state taxes required under law.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\*Signature of individual or Corporate Names (Mandatory)

*Penelope Susslow*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
By: Corporate Officer (Mandatory, if applicable)

*04-192-7940*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\*\* Social Security Number or Federal Identification Number

\* This license will not be issued unless this certification clause is signed by the applicant.

\*\*Your Social Security Number will be furnished to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue to determine whether you have met tax filing or tax payment obligations. Licensees who fail to correct their non-filing or delinquency will be subject to license suspension or revocation.

**This request is made under the authority of M.G.L. Chapter 62C, Section 49A.**

**Please sign form and return to:**

**Town of Northbridge  
Town Manager's Office  
7 Main Street  
Whitinsville, MA 01588**



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
 Department of Industrial Accidents  
 Office of Investigations  
 600 Washington Street  
 Boston, MA 02111  
 www.mass.gov/dia

**FORM MUST BE FILLED  
 OUT COMPLETELY**

If you carry Workers Comp. Insurance, you must provide proof to the Town in the form of a Certificate of Insurance.

**Workers' Compensation Insurance Affidavit: General Businesses**

**Applicant Information**

**Please Print Legibly**

Business/Organization Name: UNIBANK  
 Address: 49 Church St  
 City/State/Zip: Whitinsville, MA 01588 Phone #: 508-234-8112

**Are you an employer? Check the appropriate box:**

- 1.  I am an employer with 260 employees (full and/or part-time).\*
- 2.  I am a sole proprietor or partnership and have no employees working for me in any capacity. [No workers' comp. insurance required]
- 3.  We are a corporation and its officers have exercised their right of exemption per c. 152, §1(4), and we have no employees. [No workers' comp. insurance required]\*\*
- 4.  We are a non-profit organization, staffed by volunteers, with no employees. [No workers' comp. insurance req.]

**Business Type (required):**

- 5.  Retail
- 6.  Restaurant/Bar/Eating Establishment
- 7.  Office and/or Sales (incl. real estate, auto, etc.)
- 8.  Non-profit
- 9.  Entertainment
- 10.  Manufacturing
- 11.  Health Care
- 12.  Other BANK

\*Any applicant that checks box #1 must also fill out the section below showing their workers' compensation policy information.

\*\*If the corporate officers have exempted themselves, but the corporation has other employees, a workers' compensation policy is required and such an organization should check box #1.

**I am an employer that is providing workers' compensation insurance for my employees. Below is the policy information.**

Insurance Company Name: SULLIVAN INSURANCE GROUP  
 Insurer's Address: 1 Mercantile St Suite 710  
 City/State/Zip: Worcester, MA 01608  
 Policy # or Self-ins. Lic. #: 71833956 Expiration Date: 2/1/23

**Attach a copy of the workers' compensation policy declaration page (showing the policy number and expiration date).**

Failure to secure coverage as required under Section 25A of MGL c. 152 can lead to the imposition of criminal penalties of a fine up to \$1,500.00 and/or one-year imprisonment, as well as civil penalties in the form of a STOP WORK ORDER and a fine of up to \$250.00 a day against the violator. Be advised that a copy of this statement may be forwarded to the Office of Investigations of the DIA for insurance coverage verification.

**I do hereby certify, under the pains and penalties of perjury that the information provided above is true and correct.**

Signature: Jane Khry Date: 5/20/22  
 Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Official use only. Do not write in this area, to be completed by city or town official.**

City or Town: Northbridge Permit/License # \_\_\_\_\_

**Issuing Authority (circle one):**

- 1. Board of Health
- 2. Building Department
- 3. City/Town Clerk
- 4. **Licensing Board**
- 5. Selectmen's Office
- 6. Other \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: Melissa Wetherbee Phone #: 508-234-2095







1

## Today's Presentation


- Project Overview
- Causeway Alternatives
  - Remove, Repair, Replace
- Source Water Green Infrastructure Protection
  - Site Selection
  - Top Locations
- Engagement
  - Project Website
  - Upcoming Workshop

**f** FUSS & O'NEILL

2

## Project Overview

- Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program (MVP)

<b>Planning GRANT</b>	\$15,000- \$100,000 per plan Some expanded scopes \$1M available	
<b>Action GRANT</b>	Open to MVP communities \$25,000- \$2M per project 25% (non-state) match required \$10M available annually	




3

## Project Overview

- Look at alternatives for Repair, Replacement, of the Causeway
- Identify locations to incorporate green infrastructure in the Whitins Pond watershed
- Disseminate results and get public input on alternatives and prioritization

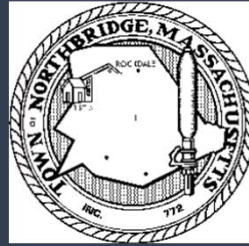
### The MVP Program holds these core values:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Furthering a <b>COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED PRIORITY ACTION</b> to address climate change impacts</li> <li>• Utilizing best available <b>CLIMATE PROJECTIONS AND DATA</b> for a proactive solution</li> <li>• Employing <b>NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS</b></li> <li>• Meaningfully engaging and addressing threats faced by <b>ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES</b> and <b>CLIMATE VULNERABLE POPULATIONS</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducting robust <b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b></li> <li>• Achieving <b>BROAD &amp; MULTIPLE COMMUNITY BENEFITS</b></li> <li>• Committing to <b>MONITORING</b> project success and <b>MAINTAINING</b> the project into the future</li> <li>• Utilizing <b>REGIONAL SOLUTIONS</b> toward regional benefit</li> <li>• Pursuing <b>INNOVATIVE, TRANSFERABLE</b> approaches</li> </ul>	
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4

# Our Team



William Guenther, MS  
Project Manager

Allen Tevyaw, MS  
Staff Scientist

Shannon Beaumont, PE  
Bridge Engineer

Stefan Bengtson, MS  
Staff Scientist

Jamie Luchini,  
Interim Director of Public Works

David Pickart  
Conservation Agent

Christopher Allen  
Resident

Dave Morrow  
Resident

Gary Bechtholdt  
Town Planner

Randy Swigor  
General Manager, Whitinsville Water Company

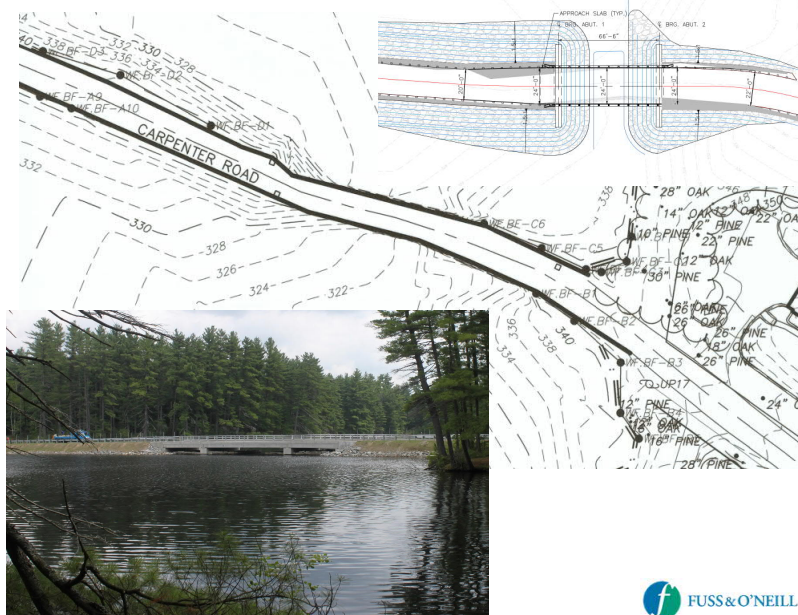
Barry Gold  
Resident



5

## Causeway Alternatives

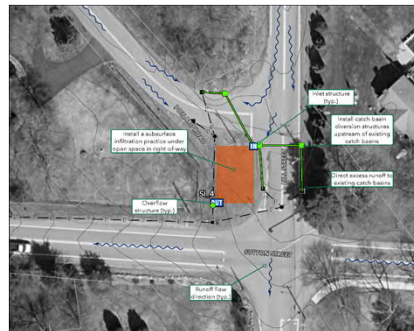
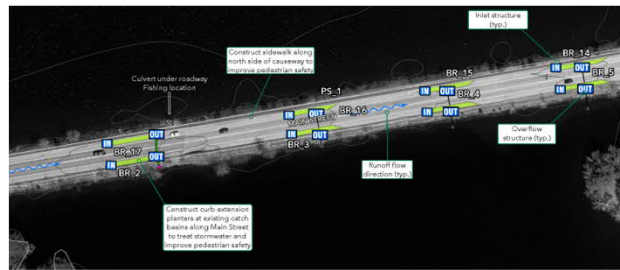
- Remove
  - Remove the causeway
  - Relocate utilities
- Repair
  - Repair existing road and archway to safely pass traffic
- Replacement
  - Replace archway with bridge and repair approaches and road to meet current standards



6

## Green Infrastructure

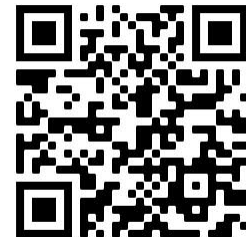
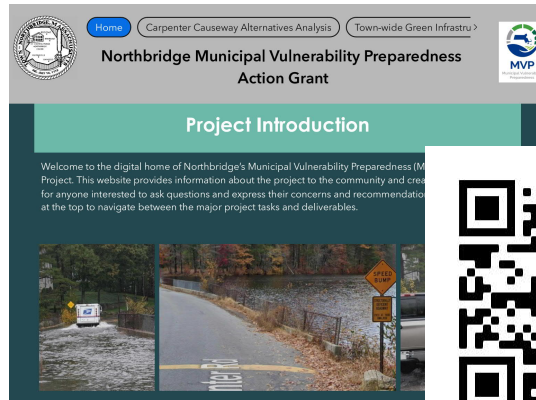
- Identify locations to utilize green infrastructure to infiltrate and treat stormwater
  - Reduces flooding
  - Protects water quality
- Look for locations with potential co-benefits where possible



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## Public Engagement

- Project Website
- Public Workshop
  - Northbridge Elementary School
  - Date: June 9, 2022
  - 5:00PM-6:30PM
  - RSVP
  - [NorthbridgeMVP@fando.com](mailto:NorthbridgeMVP@fando.com)



<https://tinyurl.com/NorthbridgeMVP2022>



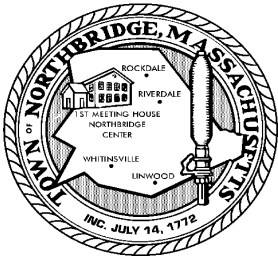
8



William Guenther, MS  
Project Manager/Senior Scientist  
[wguenther@fando.com](mailto:wguenther@fando.com)  
617-282-4675 x4579

Questions?



**COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

R. Gary Bechtholdt II, Town Planner  
7 Main Street Whitinsville, MA 01588  
Phone: (508) 234.2447  
[gbechtholdt@northbridgemass.org](mailto:gbechtholdt@northbridgemass.org)

**MEMORANDUM**

Date: May 17, 2022

TO: CHARLIE AMPAGOOMIAN, CHAIR BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Adam D. Gaudette, Town Manager

From: R. Gary Bechtholdt II, Town Planner

RE: **SLUM & BLIGHT INVENTORY (SBI) REPORT**  
2020 CDBG Program -New Village & Rockdale Neighborhoods

---

Community Planning & Development, on behalf of the Town is working with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (Consultant) to prepare Slum & Blight Inventories for New Village (Whitinsville) and Rockdale Neighborhood, as part of Northbridge's 2020 Community Development Block Grant program.

A Slum & Blight Inventory includes an analysis of existing physical conditions of public and private buildings, infrastructure, and facilities within a defined study area. The selected neighborhoods (within Rockdale & New Village) are located in Census Blocks with Low/Mod-Income populations exceeding 40%.

A preliminary survey of the study target area(s) was conducted in February 2020, as part of an initial windshield survey of housing conditions. Based on these observations, it appeared New Village and the Rockdale neighborhood may qualify as a "blighted area" using DHCD standards for such determination. It is important to note, the term "Slum & Blight" is not one of local choice but is a requirement of the State and Federal government.

In order to be considered as "Slum & Blighted" a target area must meet specific criteria, including Massachusetts' definition of substandard, blighted, or decadent area (-see MGL Ch 121B [Definitions] attached). The area must also have at least 25% of its properties experience one or more of the following conditions: physical deterioration of buildings or improvements, abandoned properties, chronic high occupancy turnover rates, significant declines in property values or abnormally low property values, or known/suspected environmental contamination; or public improvements throughout the area in general state of deterioration.

Arrangements have been made for the Board of Selectmen to hold a Public Hearing Monday, June 13, 2022 to review with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (Consultant) and the public the completed SBI report and consider vote to accept its findings. Upon vote of acceptance by the Board, the Slum & Blight Inventories shall be provided to DHCD -Department of Housing & Community Development for approval and formal designation as substandard, blighted, or decadent areas. The approved SBI shall be valid for a 10-year period.

The completed inventories will provide the town with baseline information that may be used to identify strategies to revitalizing the neighborhood areas. Where an approved Slum & Blight Inventory may also create opportunities for Northbridge to pursue future CDBG funds to assist in those efforts. Specifically, infrastructure improvements, housing rehabilitation and other activities that support neighborhood revitalization of the target area.

Take care & be well.

Cc: /File



Town of Northbridge

Office of Community Planning & Development

(508) 234-2447    cdbg@northbridgemass.org

## Understanding a “Slum and Blight” Designation

### Introduction

The Town of Northbridge’s Office of Community Planning and Development has contracted with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) to complete two comprehensive slums and blight inventories. These inventories will be restricted to the New Village and Rockdale neighborhoods. Over the next few months you may see PVPC staff members conducting a parcel-by-parcel inventory and evaluation by photographing and documenting property and infrastructure conditions. Conducting this type of field survey work is a required part of the designation process to get the most accurate up-to-date information.

Please Note: Initial field survey reconnaissance may extend outside and beyond the target area(s).

### What does slum and blight designation mean?

Designating an area as slum and blight makes the Town eligible for funding to make improvements that it might not otherwise have the ability to. Under the federal Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), one of three CDBG National Objectives must be met in order to be eligible for funding. These are 1) Benefit to Low and Moderate Income Persons 2) Prevention and/or the Elimination of Slum and Blight or 3) Urgent or Critical Need.

An area which meets the Commonwealth’s definition of a “substandard, blighted, or decadent” area qualifies under the federal CDBG National Objection of the Prevention and /or Elimination of Slum and Blight. It does not mean the area designated is a slum. Under the federal standard, a mere 25% of properties must be in observable, deteriorating condition and/or abandonment. Properties built prior to 1978 are presumed to have lead and are considered to be a deficiency. Similarly, known brownfield sites, deteriorating public facilities (streets, sidewalks, water, sewer, drainage) and high turnover and/or vacancy rates are contributing factors to meeting the Commonwealth’s definition of a substandard, blighted, or decadent area.

### **What does this mean for my property?**

Slum and blight designation means nothing for your property. If your property is located in the designated area that does not mean that your home or business is “blighted”. Blight is a legal term used solely for the purposes of determining whether a community can qualify for certain funding for redevelopment. Some areas that qualify for redevelopment have well-maintained homes and businesses interspersed among deteriorating structures.

### **So what does this all mean?**

It means that slum and blight are dirty words that most cities and towns would seem to want to avoid. It does not mean that a city or town is, in fact, a slum. The Town of Northbridge, as well as hundreds of other places across the country, has sought out this designation because of the significant redevelopment benefits that can result. This designation will not only make more federal funds available to the town, but it will also make the town more competitive in receiving those funds.



# **Town Manager's Report for the Period of May 9, 2022 – May 19, 2022**

## **1. Key Meetings Attended:**

- Monday, May 9, 2022 – Participated in a weekly Fire Station Project call.
- Monday, May 9, 2022 – Attended the Board of Selectmen Meeting.
- Wednesday, May 11, 2022 – Met with Brendan Ennis from PARE Engineering to discuss ongoing projects.
- Wednesday, May 11, 2022 – Attended the Town's Health Fair for employees.
- Monday, May 16, 2022 – Lunch with Sharon and Melissa for belated Admin. Professionals Day.
- Tuesday, May 17, 2022 – Met with David Labonte, MIIA, to discuss General Liability Insurance Renewal.
- Wednesday, May 18, 2022 – Phone call with Bob Weatherall, Ipswich Public Safety Facility Committee to discuss process and TGAS.
- Wednesday, May 18, 2022 – Participated in a weekly Fire Station Project call.
- Wednesday, May 18, 2022 – Met with Shrewsbury Town Manager Kevin Mizikar.
- Thursday, May 19, 2022 – Standard & Poor Bond Rating call with Finance Team.
- Friday, May 20, 2022 – Personal Day.

2. **Fire Station Project:** The General bids were received on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. The low bid was submitted by M. O'Connor, approximately \$576,000 under what was expected. The Spring Annual Town Meeting has voted to approve an additional \$3,755,182 in borrowing for the project and the Ballot Question for the Debt Exclusion passed this week on May 17, 2022. Next step is to enter into a contract with M. O'Connor.
3. **Northbridge Elementary School Reuse Study:** The architect team from Abacus is performing initial due diligence and is beginning the market analysis. They will be meeting with several key stakeholders in the next week or two before conducting a public meeting with BPC on initial thoughts.
4. **Fire Department Radio Communications Study:** Chief White and Chief Labrie are working with the firm CTA on the project which is on-going.
5. **Fire Department Strategic Plan:** The Fire Chief and staff continue to work with the consultant CPSM for this project which is on-going.
6. **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):** Now that the recommended Funding Project Plan has been approved, projects are able to move forward. The Town Manager is putting together contracts with the non-profits and departments who will need to coordinate necessary procurements.
7. **Annual Election:** The Annual Election was held this past week on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, with all 4 ballot questions passing. The Town Manager has asked Town Counsel to move forward with Civil Service revocation now that Question 4 was approved.