



# Town of PRINCETON MASSACHUSETTS

*Municipal Update*  
OCTOBER 2021

## UPDATE FROM THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

As the days get shorter and the leaves begin to fall the municipal operations in the Town Hall shift towards next year's annual operating and capital improvement budgets. This process takes several months and involves several key members of Princeton's Financial Team including Town Accountant Jenni Lin, Treasurer Collector James Dunbar, Assistant Treasurer Collector Melissa Hawthorne, Advisory Committee Liaison Helga Lyons, Selectboard Liaison Karen Cruise, and myself, just to name a few. We have already begun meeting to discuss the procedure and look forward to the creation of financial documents for FY2023.

Recently, we received word from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) that Princeton has been named a Municipal Preparedness Program (MVP) Designee. This was a direct response to our grant-funded Community Resilience Building Workshop in which we worked with CMRPC to identify and analyze risks and strengths in the face of climate change and created a plan and best practices to address those issues. This [accepted plan](#) allows Princeton access to further grants to create infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The MVP team will meet in mid-October to discuss the program and potential projects moving forward.

In late August, Princeton received \$17,500 from the MA Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development Community Compact Best Practice Program to create a Housing Production Plan. The plan will account for changing demographics, including young families, changing workforce, and an aging population. We will be working with Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, Planning Board, and Selectboard to develop the plan over the coming months.

Princeton staff and myself have been working closely with the recently formed Public Safety Building Committee as they review plans to reduce the cost of the Public Safety Building Proposal. Several committee members, public safety staff, and Selectboard Member Moncreaff recently took a trip to view the public safety building in Farmington, NH. This facility was chosen as it was built using prefabricated materials that cost less per square foot than traditional building materials. The committee is now working with our architectural firm, Caolo & Bieniek Associates, as to if this would realize substantial project cost savings. Public Safety Building Committee recordings can be found [here](#).

I hope everyone has a nice fall, and as always, please feel free to reach out to me at any time by [email](#) or by calling 978-464-2102

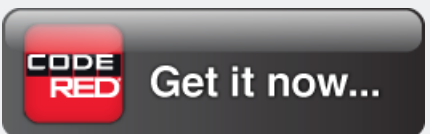
## TOWN HALL HOURS

Monday: 8:00 AM - 4:00PM  
Tuesday: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Wednesday: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Thursday: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Visitors are asked to wear masks when inside public buildings.

## TOWN HALL

[Department Directory](#)



Click the button above to receive CODE RED Alerts from the Town of Princeton.



Click the button above to connect with the Town of Princeton on Nextdoor.

# TRICK OR TREAT

Per the Town of Princeton Annual Schedule, Trick-or-Treating will be held on **Sunday, October 31, 2021 from 4:00 - 7:00 PM**. Residents are asked to enjoy this time as safely as possible and to follow current health and safety measures. The Town reserves the right to change or cancel this event as guidance develops and will announce that news via Town Wide News and the CODERED Emergency Alert System if necessary.

HAVE FUN AND BE SAFE



## WELCOME KOLETTE CARLETON

The Town of Princeton would like to welcome Kolette Carleton to our administrative staff as Accounts Payable Clerk / Administrative Assistant! The responsibilities of this 19-hour per week position will include Accounts Payable and assisting the Selectboard and Land Use Departments with various administrative tasks.

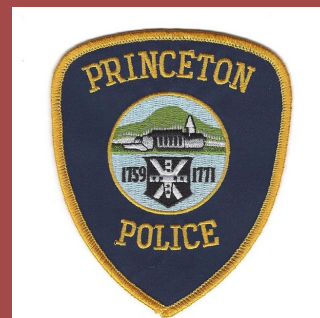
Originally from Montana, Kolette moved to Massachusetts in 2012 and Princeton in 2017 with her husband and daughter, noting the peaceful environment. In her free time, Kolette enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and teenage daughter.



The Town of Princeton is now accepting applications for the position of Principal Assessor and Library Substitute Clerk. Please click the above image for more information and to apply.

### LOTS OF THINGS HAPPENING AT THE PRINCETON POLICE DEPARTMENT.

- SERGEANT THEBEAU IS THE LIAISON TO THE THOMAS PRINCE SCHOOL AND WILL BE ATTENDING SIAM MEETINGS.
- OFFICER TRAVIS RUSSELL AND OFF. MATTHEW SEYMOUR WILL SOON BE ATTENDING BREAKING AND ENTERING TRAINING.
- THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE CONDUCTING FALL FIREARMS TRAINING FOR THE ENTIRE DEPARTMENT.
- SGT. THEBEAU WILL BE RECERTIFYING AS AN ALICE (ALERT, LOCKDOWN, INFORM, COUNTER, EVACUATE) TRAINING OFFICER.
- WE CONTINUE TO UPDATE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO ALIGN WITH POLICE REFORM IN MASSACHUSETTS.
- THE FINAL CAMPAIGN IN THE MUNICIPAL ROAD SAFETY GRANT HAS BEEN COMPLETED.



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK  
@PRINCETONMASSPD



# Princeton Public Library

## Come FALL into a good book!



The library is now open five days per week, including three evenings. Stop by to check out some materials and take home a magnet with our updated info. Our **NEW HOURS** are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 10am-7pm, Fridays 10am-5pm, and Saturdays 10am-1pm.

Thanks to a grant from the American Rescue Plan administered by the MA Board of Library Commissioners, the library now has an additional five wifi hotspots available for checkout. They circulate for two weeks at a time. Stop by the main desk to learn more!

Looking for more library information? We're everywhere! Follow us on social media: Facebook, Instagram (@princetonmapubliclibrary), call (978-464-2155), visit the library's website ([www.princetonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.princetonpubliclibrary.org)), or stop by to learn more about our programs and materials! Need help selecting your next book or movie? Check out our New Acquisitions, updated monthly on the library's website.

## Upcoming Events - For Kids

- \*Storytime in the Garden – Fridays. Join Jessie for Storytime in the Garden at our new time, Fridays at 10:00! We'll explore music, movement, and storytelling, and maybe even make a few new friends. We'll be outdoors through the fall, weather permitting!
- \*Lego Club - Saturday October 9th, 11:00. Children in grades K-5 are invited to join us at the library for Lego Club. Take part in our optional Lego challenge, or just build according to your imagination and creativity. Outdoors, weather permitting.
- \*Book Eaters - Wednesday, October 20, 4:30-5:30. A book discussion, craft, and snack group for kids grades 3-5.
- \*Read for the Record - Thursday, October 28. We will be participating in a national early literacy campaign in which adults and children all over the country read the same book, which will be Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon, by Kat Zhang. We will engage in outreach reading through local schools, and families can also participate by pledging to read at home or attending a read-aloud at the library at 4:00 pm, and by picking up book-related Grab and Go craft bags from the library on October 28. Learn more at <https://www.jstart.org/read-for-the-record/>.
- \*Kids cooking club October 25 at 5pm via Zoom. Join Ginger to prepare a simple recipe to share with your family! Visit the library or give us a call (978-464-2115) for more information (including the ingredients list) and to sign up!
- \*Halloween Keep an eye out for more information on a drop-in Trick or Treat event coming at the end of October!

## For Teens

- \*The Teen Advisory Board is looking for new members! Visit the library to learn more about getting involved in planning events and selecting books.
- \*Keep an eye on the library's website and social media: Facebook, Instagram (@princetonmapubliclibrary) for upcoming teen events this fall.

## For Adults

- \*Stargazing Program October 15 at 6pm at Krashes Field. Join us with our library telescope and view the night sky, hopefully viewing Saturn and Jupiter! Bring your own telescope if you have one. Registration limited to 10 participants, so call or visit the library to reserve your spot today. Rain date is Saturday, October 16.
- \*Ellis Island History October 27 at 7pm via Zoom. Join Michael Morgenthal, a licensed NYC tour guide for a history of Ellis Island presentation. He will describe the experiences and challenges of the immigrants who passed through the checkpoint as well as the steps in their journey from old world to new.

# OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE



The Open Space Committee (OSC) is continuing to work on implementation of our 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan, and on the action items from the Trail Vision that was completed earlier this year.

The Princeton Hikes program continues and we have had roughly 20 people Saturday hikes, and smaller numbers for the weekday senior hikes. All are welcome to join!! October planned hikes are:

- October 4 11AM - Cranberry Hike, led by Karen Rossow, down to a Cranberry Bog by the Wachusett Reservoir in Sterling. 3 Miles, Easy
- October 9 9AM - Wachusett North Trails - A Moderate 4 mile hike on the quiet North trails on Wachusett. We will avoid the crowds and still get nice views!
- October 23 9AM - Crow Hill to Redemption Rock - a moderate 4 mile hike from Leominster State Forest up to Crow Hill and then over to Redemption Rock.
- October 27 2PM - Wachusett Meadow - an east-moderate hike on the North side of Wachusett Meadow, around Brown Hill
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Some key activities of the OSC for August and September are:

- In collaboration with Princeton Land Trust, improved signage has been implemented in the Bullock/McElroy and Cobb Brook Trail areas.
- We are working on new kiosks for the Four Corners, PLT Peabody-Metcalf, PLT Gregory-Alexander and Thomas Prince trail areas.
- In addition, we are planning for a 'Trail Summit' in late January 2022. At this public meeting we will be presenting our trail vision and asking for town input, and we will also be presenting information about available on line mapping systems.



# HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Highway Department has been working on regular maintenance of roads, athletic fields, and Town Common areas. Additionally, department staff has been busy roadside mowing, cleaning catch basins, and flushing culverts/drains. Repairs to some culverts, washed out shoulders, and gravel roads became necessary due to all the rain we have had in the past few months. Sam Cobb Lane took over a week to repair with grading, shoulder work, and flushing culverts. The department is currently working on the foundation of the salt shed. This is a major project and will take roughly two weeks to construct, and a lot of hours and hard work will show in the end product. Please reach out to Highway Superintendent Ben Metcalf at 978-464-2120 with any questions or concerns.

# ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The EAC is committed to keeping residents up-to-date with our latest endeavors and environmental topics of interest. You can find updates here in the municipal newsletter, in Redemption Rock News, in the Council on Aging Newsletter, on Discussing Princeton's Facebook page, and on NextDoor (shared by EAC members). We also want to highlight a few other places to access environmental information:

## 2021 Quarterly Speaker Series

Earlier this year, the EAC received a grant from The Princeton Cultural Council to present a series of virtual environmental talks to the people of Princeton. We have focused this year on topics that we believe are near and dear to the citizens of our town. You can view the Series' replays as they become available on the EAC's Town page, under EAC [Speaker Series Recordings](#). We are currently working on Speaker Series 4. Stay tuned to the EAC Town web page to learn details as they are released.

## The Green News

Have you signed up for the EAC's monthly newsletter, called The Green News? Click on the *Subscribe* button on the Town website's home page and select "*Environmental Action Committee (EAC) News.*" An overview of the topic(s) and a link to the PDF will come to you monthly in your inbox. You can also find the most recent issues in the *News & Announcements* section of our Town page, and you can find past issues under the [Green Living](#) menu item. Our September Green News is about teaming up with WPI students to investigate light pollution in Princeton.

## The EAC's Town Committee Page

The EAC strives to keep our Town web page up-to-date. At the bottom of our pages we note the date the page was last updated. We also have a lot of resource links in our menu, categorized by topic areas of our Environmental Action Plan.

## Environmental Action Plan

If you haven't yet read our EAP, which outlines environmental focus areas for the Town, you can find it on our Town page. You can also read a paper copy at the Princeton Public Library, plus they have 3 copies for circulation. EAC member Charlie Carey also has some copies available for loan. The EAC tackles action items identified in the EAP after the Selectboard approves them.

# WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Recently, The Waste and Recycling Committee put out a Request for Proposals for a "preferred" trash hauler for residents. About a dozen companies expressed interest, but we received only one proposal which we did not find competitive for what many residents are currently paying. Committee members are calling haulers to find out why they did not submit proposals. So far, we've received two main responses:

1. Not able to take on more work at this time as they are experiencing a shortage of staff.
2. Unwillingness to commit to a fixed price for three years because their costs are often changing.

The Committee is still meeting to decide the next steps. One resident suggested that Princeton create a transfer station; as a means of minimizing costs and that idea will be discussed at upcoming meetings. Agendas and minutes are posted on the Princeton Community Calander.

# CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Your conservation commission has been conducting site walks as part of their duties. We have found two new invasive species of plant that we need your help identifying and controlling. Their seeds have been coming in from imported soils and growing along roadsides and in back yards.

*Onopordum acanthium* (Scotch thistle), top right, is not on MA noxious weed list {yet}. Let's get this one before it gets established dropping seeds here!! We've seen it along 140 and on Brooks Station Road. Before the frost comes, take a walk in your yard and notify the conservation commission through the town hall if you find it. We can advise you on how to keep it from spreading. It has menacing spines and is really tough to address once it becomes its own stand!



The second, *Humulus japonicus* Siebold & Zucc. (Japanese Hops), bottom right. Japanese Hops is on the MA noxious weed list. Japanese Hops is not something you can make beer from, it is an aggressive weed that takes over any disturbed or lightly planted area with some sun. Take a moment to google photos of these plants and then look in your yard. If you brought loam in the last few years, check for these plants!



eslie J. Mehrhoff, Univ. Conn., bugwood

It's been a good year for plant growth and these weeds have been doing too well. if you get out there now before the frost, we'll have a chance to slow down their spread by removing their seeds. Birds, vehicles and all wildlife spread the seeds. Please contact us if you find either of these two species.

Additionally, The conservation commission is also looking for new members. If you have an engineering background that would really be supportive.

## BOND SALE ANNOUNCEMENT

On Wednesday August 18, 2021 the Town received competitive bids from bond underwriters for a \$1,905,000, 10-year general obligation bond issue. Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc. was the winning bidder on the Bonds with an average interest rate of 0.7640%. The Town received a total of 5 bids on the Bonds. Bond proceeds will be used to permanently finance various municipal projects including, Bagg Hall renovations, road work on Route 31 and construction of the new salt barn for the Highway department.

Prior to the sale Moody's Investors Service, a municipal credit rating agency, assigned a rating of 'Aa3' to the Bonds. The rating agency cited the Town's low debt burden and conservative financial management practices which have resulted in a stable financial position with healthy reserves as positive credit factors.

The bids for the Bonds were accepted at the offices of the Town's Financial Advisor, Hilltop Securities Inc., at 54 Canal Street in Boston, Massachusetts.

# COA Summer BBQ



The Princeton Council on Aging hosted its Summer BBQ for over 70 seniors on September 10th at Krashes Field in Princeton. This was the first year the event was held outside, allowing a large group to be able to get together safely to enjoy good food and music and most especially, each other. “Because of the pandemic, we haven’t been able to get together and have fun for well over a year. This party was long overdue and great fun – our seniors really miss being able to get together”. (Judith Webster, Director). The BBQ was open air, but tables and seating were set up under a big tent and the menu included hamburgers and hot dogs, potato salad, green salad, corn on the cob, brownies and ice cream – certainly no one left hungry! There was plenty of toe-tapping and singing along to favorite songs played by the Hip Swayers who kept the party mood rolling – even when a few stray rain clouds attempted to dampen things, literally and figuratively. “We wanted to have a big safe, outdoor party for our seniors – so they could be together and to remind them the COA is there for them to provide programming, services, and fun. We’re out to safely beat the isolation of the past 18 months and keep people connected to us and each other”. The COA thanks its sponsors and supporters, Open Door Realty, Quabbin Valley Healthcare, and the very best guys around, the Princeton Fire Fighters & EMT Association, Princeton Highways, and Recreation & Parks.



**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR GENEROUS VOLUNTEERS**



CLICK ABOVE PHOTO TO ACCESS WEBSITE

The Town of Princeton has gone live with online E-Permitting! This new online system will allow contractors and homeowners to apply for a variety of permits from their home, office, or mobile device.

This system will streamline the permitting process and allow for better communications between applicants and the Building Department. No computer? No worries! Princeton will be setting up a kiosk in the lobby of Bagg Hall located at 6 Town Hall Drive with staff available to assist you during normal business hours.

E-Permitting is now live for Princeton Electrical, Plumbing, and Gas permits via the E-Permitting website. Other permits from the Building, Board of Health, and Fire Departments will become available in the coming months. Once permits become available online paper permits will no longer be accepted.

Questions, comments, or concerns may be forwarded to Building Department Administrative Assistant Susan Priest at 978-464-2100 or by emailing [building@town.princeton.ma.us](mailto:building@town.princeton.ma.us)

### COVID-19 BOOSTER UPDATE

The Princeton Fire Dept in conjunction with the BOH have plans for booster clinics to be held at the Princeton Senior Center. Dates and times will be announced soon. If you have any questions, please call the Fire Department at 978-464-2707 Ext 3.

In addition, the Princeton BOH has also partnered with Rutland and several surrounding communities to provide the COVID 19 vaccination/booster for those that have not yet received it or those that may have since become eligible. COVID 19 vaccine boosters are available at CVS, Walgreens, and at your primary care physician's office. Rutland will continue to hold clinics at the Public Library for general population starting in late October.

Stop The Spread FREE Covid 19 PCR tests are available on Mondays and Thursdays from 11 am – 3 pm at 201 Commercial St., Worcester (Intersection of Commercial St. and Mechanic St.)

Please see link below for more details.

<https://www.ummhealth.org/none/coronavirus-resources/free-covid-19-testing-worcester>

### CONGRATS DIRECTOR REDIHAN AND FAMILY!



The Town of Princeton would like to congratulate Princeton Public Library Director Erin Redihan on the birth of her daughter. The family is doing well and enjoying time together.



Have an idea for the next edition of the Municipal Update? A community event to promote? A volunteer or employee you would like to see highlighted for their good work in the Town of Princeton?

Send suggestions:

**Town Clerk Nathan Boudreau**

**6 Town Hall Drive [townclerk@town.princeton.ma.us](mailto:townclerk@town.princeton.ma.us)**

**978-464-2103**

**Thank you to all of the boards, committees, and departments for their assistance with our Municipal Update!**