



Municipal Update October 2022

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR SHERRY PATCH'S UPDATE

Autumn is a very busy time in the Town of Princeton! With projects moving on all fronts, we are excited about upcoming progress in the community. In addition, managing and creating our municipal budget is a constant and ongoing process. Department heads have already submitted their FY24 Capital Requests, and the Financial Team will meet to review them in the coming weeks. A big thank you to all residents who attended the Town Buzz in September! Hearing from the residents is critical to the Town's improvement, and we had a wonderful conversation on many vital topics.

The Princeton Fire Department will host another COVID Booster clinic on Saturday, October 22, from 10:00AM to 12:00PM in the Community Center at Post Office Place. Pre registration is required, please sign-up [here](#): This vaccination offered is the new Moderna bivalent vaccine which protects against more of the COVID variants. Please note that this clinic is ONLY for booster shots, this is NOT an initial shot. Everyone is welcome, but preregistration is required

The Town received a \$33,425 grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to move forward with the creation of an Ecotourism Economic Development Plan. The Baker-Polito Administration announced this earlier this week as part of a \$1,217,619 Land Use Planning Assistance Grant Announcement. Princeton joins 26 other communities that will receive funds to undertake public processes and hire technical expertise to mitigate and prepare for climate change impacts, improve land use practices, conserve and sustainably develop land, and diversify housing choices. Interested residents can read a press release regarding this announcement [here](#). The Town would like to thank the Baker-Polito Administration, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, and our legislative delegation for this opportunity. Princeton will work with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission on this initiative.

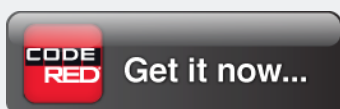
The Princeton Master Plan Steering Committee will host a community meeting on October 27th at 7:00 pm for residents to give feedback on the goals for the phase 1 draft chapters, which will be available shortly. Residential feedback is one of the most essential portions of creating a new Master Plan, so I hope to see many of you there.

The contract for installation of residential POET systems for homes affected by PFA's in the targeted zone has been awarded to Advanced Water Quality Systems (AWQS) in Charlton. AWQS has begun contacting homeowners directly to schedule site inspections prior to the installation. If you have yet to hear from AWQS or would like more information please reach out to my office at any time.

The Selectboard and my office continue seeking grant opportunities to alleviate the impact of new projects on the Princeton taxpayers. This month, we applied for an ADA improvement grant at the Library and Thomas Prince Schools and a Complete Streets Grant for improvements to sidewalks and infrastructure on Worcester Road. In addition, we are moving forward on grants seeking assistance with Information Technology and cloud storage, best hiring practices, recruiting, succession planning, and continued Green Community initiatives.

I hope you all have a wonderful fall season! Don't hesitate to contact my office anytime with questions, concerns, ideas, or questions at 978- 464-2102 or by email at townadministrator@town.princeton.ma.us.

[Click Below For Town News, Updates, and Emergency Alerts](#)



TOWN HALL HOURS

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

[Department Directory](#)

POSITIVELY PRINCETON

A Spotlight on what's good in town

PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE



For a municipal government to be as successful as it needs to be, it relies heavily on elected and appointed community members to take on essential roles. Many of these people do hundreds of hours of work per year for the community they care for with minimal notice or acknowledgment. One of those fine public servants is Planning Board Chair John Mirick. Attorney Mirick's family has been in Princeton since 1759 when a John Mirick living in Weston purchased lot 10 of what had been laid out as the "Watertown Farms." John grew up spending summers in Princeton, living on the family farm in a cottage that Albert Mirick, his great-grandfather, built c. 1885 so that he, his brother, and their combined families (7 children) could spend summers in Princeton.

The actual farming was done by a hired farmer, with additional seasonal help as needed. Albert ran a wholesale grocery store in Worcester, A.H. Mirick & Sons, a store supplied in part with eggs, dairy products, fruit, and vegetables raised on the Mirick farm in Princeton.

Beginning in the 1930s, the land was no longer actively farmed by the Mirick family, although some fields were hayed. However, the family continued to spend summers on the farm. Growing up in the 1950s and 1960s, John's family lived in Worcester but moved into the cottage for the summers after school ended. Years later, when John's parents inherited the farm, they renovated the 18th-century house for year-round living and moved to Princeton in 1969 and lived here until their passing in 2004.

After graduating from the Worcester Public Schools, John received his BA at Amherst College, a MA at the University of London, and a JD at Harvard Law School. Following his studies, he practiced as an attorney at Hale & Dorr in Boston for four years and then joined his father at Mirick O'Connell in Worcester. The elder Mirick served as Princeton Town Counsel until he retired. While working with his father on town matters, John regularly represented the Town in the courtroom. His brother Steve has also served the Town in several capacities, including the advisory committee and trustee of trust funds.

John and his wife Diane met during college and married in 1969 when returning from studying abroad before he began his legal studies at Harvard. Diane had been at the University of Brussels while John was at the University of London. The couple has two sons.

After he and his family had moved to the Mirick family home in 2004, John spent several years settling in as a Princeton resident. Then, wishing to contribute to the Town, he began to serve the Princeton Land Trust, whose mission is to preserve Princeton's natural beauties and rural character. As an attorney, John understood municipal law and land use matters and was approached to fill a vacancy on the Planning Board, which he stated was the right position for him. In 2011, John Mirick was elected to the planning board.

Princeton Town Clerk Nathan Boudreau took a few moments to speak with Planning Board Chair John Mirick about his experiences over his decade-plus on the Planning Board.

What projects or action items stick out most when considering your time on the Planning Board?

Most Planning Board actions are in response to plans and proposals from residents or developers. The task of the Planning Board is usually to interpret and apply the zoning by-laws' provisions, originally adopted in 1957 when Princeton was a smaller, more rural town. As the Town has grown, the zoning by-laws have been modified. Before I went on the Planning board, there were substantial amendments in response to the Town's Master Plan. During my tenure, most amendments and modifications have been in response to particular issues that come up when the Planning Board was considering an application for plan approval or a special permit. The amendments and modifications are generally intended to encourage the preservation of Princeton rural residential character.

We spent a lot of time developing a "Village Overlay" section of the zoning by-laws, intended to encourage mixed use on Worcester Road between Post Office Place and PMLD. While the passage of the amendment at Town Meeting felt like a significant achievement, there has been little activity that takes advantage of those provisions. That highlights the role of a planning board: we can establish the conditions for land use, but we cannot actually develop the use.

What is the Planning Board Chair's relationship with other town officials and departments?

On land use matters, there is an excellent exchange of information and very useful discussions of concerns and opportunities and the interests of the Town. One of my personal goals is to respond promptly to any inquiries to encourage the continuing cooperative approach.

In your opinion, is there any way to improve the amount or quality of information residents get before voting on Town Meeting warrant articles?

The perennial lament is that despite published agendas and minutes, meetings open to the public, and the statutory public hearing on proposed zoning amendments, most Town residents pay little attention until Town Meeting. The "Municipal Updates" may help. The Planning Board always prepares a written explanation of the warrant articles we propose, and copies at Town Meeting. Perhaps those explanations could also be sent out as an electronic letter a week or so in advance of Town Meeting.

What are some of Princeton's most significant challenges from a planning perspective in the coming years?

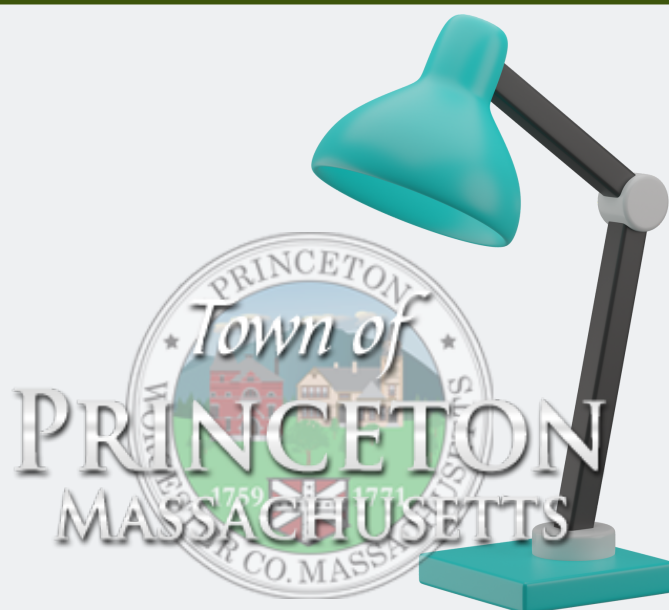
Princeton needs more business activities that are compatible with our dominantly rural residential character. That was the goal of the Village Overlay District, but we have yet to see any significant response.

Princeton needs more housing, but that housing needs to be consistent with our rural residential character. I am awaiting with keen interest the report of the Housing Production Planning Committee.

What is your favorite part of your role in town?

A sense of contributing to the continuation of what makes this such a great place to live.

It takes many volunteers and employees to run a municipality, and Attorney John Mirick understands that to the fullest. So much so that when asked to be the subject of this article, he insisted that we highlight the work of the Planning Board and not just one member. "Positively Princeton" aims to highlight the life and accomplishments of the community. We hope that learning about members of your community, what they do, and their experiences may inspire more residents to get involved. The entire Town of Princeton would like to thank Planning Board Chair Mirick for his past, present, and future distinguished service to the community.



Think someone deserves a spotlight for their positive actions in town?
Email suggestions to Townclerk@town.princeton.ma.us



BAG IT DONT BLOW IT

Please bag and properly dispose of leaves and other fall waste. When debris is blown onto streets, sidewalks, and into culverts, it eventually makes its way into our lakes and ponds causing potential water quality issues. Mulching or composting are other efficient ways to dispose of fall yard waste.



TRICK OR TREAT

10/30/2022

4:00 - 7:00PM

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE



The 2022 STATE ELECTION will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, at Thomas Prince School from 7:00 am - 8:00 pm. The last day to register to vote is Saturday, October 22, 2022.

Vote By Mail:

Massachusetts voters now have the option to vote early by mail in all elections, with no excuse required. To request your Vote by Mail ballot, fill out the application below and return to the Town Clerks' office before 5:00 pm on Thursday, November 3, 2022. Please Note: Vote-by-mail applications received after the deadline can not be accepted. If you filled out a request for the State Primary and selected "ALL ELECTIONS," you do not need to fill out a second application. The Office of the Town Clerk aims to release requested mail-in ballots within two business days of receipt. To learn more about voting in Princeton, please visit the Town Clerk's Election Webpage

Voters are encouraged to educate themselves on the many races and questions that will appear on their ballot PRIOR to arriving at the polls. By visiting the website:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleupcomingelections/upcoming-elections.htm>

NOVEMBER 8, 2022 STATE ELECTION

EARLY VOTING

WEEK ONE

SAT OCT 22 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
MON OCT 24 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
TUE OCT 25 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
WED OCT 26 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
THU OCT 27 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

WEEK TWO

SAT OCT 29 9:00AM – 1:00 PM
MON OCT 31 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
TUE NOV 1 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
WED NOV 2 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
THU NOV 3 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

VOTING IN PERSON AT THE POLLS AFTER SUBMITTING AN EARLY BALLOT IS PROHIBITED AS OUTLINED IN 950 CMR 4 7.19.

TOWN HALL
6 TOWN HALL DRIVE



Parks and Recreation

The second annual Redemption Fund Run was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the event possible. It was a beautiful day at Krashes Field!

We would like to thank the generous donors who provided amazing raffle items helping us raise money for Krashes field and Sawyer Park! The Thirsty Lab, Monti Farms, JC Aesthetics Kate's Powerhouse, Hunt and Gather Vintage Market, Mountain Memorabilia, Wachusett Mountain, The Woo Sox, Princeton Tree, and Wachusett Brewery

Parks and Recreation is excited to be taking over the Trunk or Treat at the center of town! Make sure to look out for the Scarecrow Alley on the common happening in October! Winter is coming and so is Winter Carnival! The committee is excited to be starting plans for this.

We are looking to add more after school programs this year at TPS. If you or someone you know, has a hobby or talent they'd like to share, please reach out to Director Jaime Greenland at recreation@town.princeton.ma.us



TRUNK OR TREAT

10/30/2022 4:00-7:00pm

If you would like to decorate your trunk and pass out treats, please park in the library parking spots (above and below) at 3:30pm.



PRINCETON POLICE DEPARTMENT

We would like to thank everyone who attended our first partner with Princeton - Touch a Truck event. We had so much fun planning this event and we hope you all enjoyed it. Special thank you to all the first responders, local agencies, vendors, and food trucks who showed up and made this event possible. Special thanks to the Worcester county DAs office, Holden Police Department, Rutland Police Department, Lunenburg Police Department, Quinsigammond Community College, Umass Police, Worcester County Sheriffs, DCR and Smokey the Bear, Mass State Police Truck Team, Mass State Police Mounted Unit, PMLD, Princeton Highway Department and the Princeton Fire department.

Thank you to all the volunteers and members of the Heritage Bible Chapel for partnering with us to make this a fun and successful event! If you have pictures you'd like to share of the event please share them with us!



Congratulations to Officer Holly Doyle on being named "Public Safety Person of the Year" by the Wachusett Area Chamber of Commerce. This award was established to recognize a police officer, firefighter, or EMT within one of the seven Wachusett area towns. Officer Doyle was nominated for this award by Chief Powers, who highlighted Doyle's arrest of two individuals who were about to commit a serious crime. Officer Doyle will be honored at a breakfast event in November.

The Princeton Police Department is honored to announce that we will once again be participating in the Pink Patch Project.

The Pink Patch Project is an innovative public awareness campaign designed to bring attention to the fight against breast cancer and to support breast cancer research. The Pink Patch Project, has the simple goal of increasing awareness about the life-saving benefits of early detection and intervention in the fight against breast cancer. In addition to public education efforts, they have the added goal of raising funds from the sale of Pink Patch Project items to go directly to fund the research, treatment and education needed to help find a cure.



Members of the Princeton Police Department will be wearing pink shoulder patches during the month of October on their uniforms to show our support. The Princeton Police will be selling a limited quantity of our pink patches for \$10 dollars each. Patches are available at the station.



Over the summer, Sgt. Thebeau found this young owl blocking traffic on Main Street. The owl was safely removed from the road and sent to wildlife rehabilitation professionals. Thank you to those who kept the owl safe!!



In September, The Princeton Police Department participated in "Bright Lights" for pediatric cancer patients at UMass Hospital. By turning on our blue lights and siren, we were able to send our love and support to the youngest of patients, who are currently fighting a courageous battle.

Environmental Action Committee

JOIN US The EAC has membership vacancies. The EAC is seeking 2 Members and 1 Student Member (high school or college). Join our dedicated and congenial group, and help implement energy and environmental initiatives in Town. To apply to these appointed positions, please fill out the Town's Online Volunteer Application. To learn more, attend an EAC meeting or contact us!

The EAC also encourages resident involvement and co-committee partnerships. Please reach out to us if you have a related expertise that you would be interested in sharing at an EAC-sponsored workshop or speaking engagement and/or if you'd like to help us in implementing initiatives.



HAPPENING NOW: October kicks off the EAC's Climate Resiliency Outreach Campaign!

This campaign aims to inform and empower community members with regard to climate change, climate hazards, and actions that individuals may take to mitigate climate change and best prepare for resiliency and response to climate hazards and climate hazard emergencies. A rise of the average global temperature on Earth is causing climate change. We can help mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We can also prepare for the effects of climate change by determining expected impacts and preparing for resiliency to our climate vulnerabilities. Over the next year, the EAC's Climate Resiliency Outreach Campaign will introduce a new climate resiliency-related topic each month, sharing basic information on the issues and individual actions that can be undertaken. Stay-tuned as we dive into a new topic each month—read our monthly Green News Brief, and join us for related workshops and speakers.


ON-GOING: While the EAC undertakes the Climate Resiliency Campaign, it also will remain serving in an advisory role as to several ongoing Town grant and policy implementation efforts including Green Community grant implementation, Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan implementation, and PFAS information sharing. The EAC also continues to work in committed liaison roles with the Master Plan Committee; Public Safety Building Committee; Waste & Recycling Committee; Earth Month Cleanup Working Group; and Solar Farm Working Group.


Princeton Environmental Action Committee's
Climate Resiliency Outreach Campaign Calendar

OCTOBER	Drought Awareness
NOVEMBER	Waste Management and Conscious Consumption
DECEMBER	Climate-related Hazards
JANUARY	Energy Conservation and Efficiency
FEBRUARY	Electric Vehicles and Alternative Transportation
MARCH	Stormwater Management
APRIL	Native Plants and Sustainable Landscaping
MAY	Local Food and Agriculture
JUNE	Invasive Species: Plants and Insects



Stay tuned for monthly Green News Briefs, workshops, and speakers!

Visit the Princeton EAC webpage. 

Subscribe for EAC news 

DROUGHT

The EAC begins its Climate Resiliency Outreach Campaign with a topic that has impacted us all this summer: Drought. Locally, despite some September rains, much of Massachusetts, including Princeton, is currently in a Level 3 (Critical) drought. Using water responsibly ensures we all have access to water for essential needs. Read the latest issue of our Green News Brief here for more information about drought and tips for conserving water.

Open Space Committee

Princeton Hikes! Continues to be a popular and fun activity for residents of all ages. Get in on the fun by viewing the schedule [here](#)

New Trail Connections are underway at the Red Fox Farm Conservation Area off Worcester Road

Good Hikes with Children is a new handout available here



Benches are out on along the Bullock and McElroy Trails, at the Beaver Pond at the Metcalf, Peabody and Poor trails and Hall's Field. New benches in the works for the Cobb Brook Conservation Area all thanks to hard work of Phil O'Brien and Joe Difranza.

Town wide parcel review underway to identify lands that have high conservation value based on size, adjacency to other protected land, wildlife habitat, value, potential trail connections, etc.. Committee members are establishing the criteria for evaluating parcels and will be able to share their findings with land owners as well as organizations and agencies interested in protecting more land in Princeton including the Princeton Land Trust, Mass Audubon, North County Land Trust, the Mass Dept of Conservation and Recreation both Forest and Parks and Watershed Divisions, the City of Worcester Water Departments and the City of Fitchburg Water Department.

Conservation Options for Land Owners Session in the works. No date is set yet but the Committee plans to host a gathering and information session for land owners to learn about various options for conservation their land, including options to reduce taxes and estate values.

Committee members have been updating and improving the hiking maps and information available here

Senior Center News

The Council on Aging hosted its **Annual Senior BBQ** in early September – a good kick-off for the new season. There was a great turnout of about 70 seniors and LOTS of catching up going on! Mother Nature blessed us with a perfect day to be outside and the food was delish, especially the burgers and dogs cooked by Mike Warren and Bill Lindquist – they commanded that 6-foot grill like they do this every day of the week! The Hip Swayers crooned one perfect tune after another with most attendees tapping their feet or humming along. And, as expected, the giant chocolate chip cookies were GONE in no time. We're giving a very special shout-out to the Princeton Fire Fighters and EMT Association for once again lending us "The Big Top" and for getting it put up and taken down – it makes all the difference to the event. Thanks too to the COA Board, who to a person, turned out to set-up, cook, serve, restock, and clean-up after the event (and frequently recruited spouses to help too). A special thanks goes to Phil Connors who knows where everything is and how to get it done – as usual he provided critical logistics and problem-solving solutions. Hope to see everyone again next year!



Other events you may not want to miss this fall include:

Fall Lectures - Vaccines and Pandemics on October 26th at 1:00pm. Joseph Sabato, Jr., MD, FACEP will present a program about what constitutes a pandemic and how vaccines are developed and work. He'll discuss historical pandemics as well as Covid-19 and how we, as a worldwide community, have responded. No politics, no agenda, this is an opportunity for the layman to learn more about this fascinating and relevant subject. Dr. Sabato is the former Medical Director of the Clinical Decision Unit at UMass Memorial Medical Center, the Medical Director of the 911 Center, and an Associate Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine. Call the COA to register, 978 464 5977 as space is limited.



Diabetes and its Prevention - November is National Diabetes Month. Eternal Health, a cloud-based Medicare Advantage Plan, will be hosting an onsite event on diabetes as a chronic disease and its prevention. More details will be available in the November newsletter.



We encourage you to peruse our uploaded newsletter and calendar for the full catalog of programs and services available to Princeton seniors.



PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board continues to have a steady stream of requests to review plans to subdivide parcels, and applications for special permits for home occupations and accessory apartments. We are also working on revisions to Princeton's zoning by-laws to present to the Town next May. One set of revisions are intended to increase our supply of housing while retaining our rural residential character. A second set of revisions will address solar power generation, both large scale solar fields primarily intended to generate power to be fed into the grid, and small scale systems intended primarily to generate power for on-site use.

Housing Supply. Ch. 40A Sec. 3A is the response of the State Legislature to the housing shortage in Massachusetts. The draft regulations to implement the goal of Ch. 40A Se. 3A required communities with MBTA commuter rail stations, and communities adjacent to communities with MBTA commuter rail stations, to have at least 50 acres zoned for high density residential use – 15 units per acre. Princeton is an adjacent community. Potentially the draft regulations amounted to 750 residential units in Princeton. Because residences in Princeton need septic systems and wells, as a practical matter high density residential development is not feasible, to say nothing about the impact on Princeton's schools and infrastructure. The Planning Board objected to the draft regulations, as did many other rural or smaller communities. In response to the objections, the draft regulations were modified and the burden on small and rural towns substantially reduced, but as issued Princeton is still required to have an area zoned for high density residential use with a target of 69 new residential units, even if there are practical and quite possibly insurmountable obstacles to any such development. Princeton is not required to provide the housing, only to amend our zoning by-laws so that such housing is permitted.

If Princeton has not started on a plan for high density zoning by January 31, 2023, Princeton will lose eligibility to continue to apply for various state grants, from which Princeton is currently receiving substantial benefits. At present, Princeton has a grant application for an additional several million dollars in that pipeline.

The Planning Board is considering the possibility that an area along Route 140, roughly opposite Fitchburg Road, be zoned for high density residential development. This is the area of Princeton that is closest to an MBTA commuter rail station. The zoning would have conditions, such as additional setbacks and open space, to keep any such development as consistent as possible with Princeton's rural residential character. It would be up to a developer to decide whether a high density development was economically feasible.

Quite apart from the Ch. 40A Sec. 3A issues, for the last two years Princeton has been working on our housing supply, within the context of our existing zoning by-laws. Many residents completed and returned a housing survey, which was followed by the creation of the Housing Production Planning Committee. HPPC has been reviewing Princeton's current zoning by-law provisions for accessory apartments, conversion of single family houses into two or three family houses, and the Open Space Residential Design (cluster zoning) provision, in the context of the practical restraints of septic systems and wells. The Planning Board has been kept advised of the work of HPPC (one of our members is on the HPPC) and has made some suggestions. The Planning Board expects to receive recommendations from HPPC in October, and will consider possible amendments to the zoning by-laws to present to Town Meeting in May.

Solar Power Generation. The Commonwealth has an ambitious plan for the reduction, and ultimately the elimination, of the use of fossil fuel for the generation of electricity. That goal is likely to require extensive use of solar power, both through large scale solar power generation facilities that feed power into the electric grid, and through small scale power generation facilities that are primarily generating power for on-site use. At present, Princeton's zoning by-laws do not specifically address the installation of solar power generation facilities. The Planning Board is reviewing sample solar power generation by-laws with the goal of drafting a by-law to present to Town Meeting in May.

The Planning Board is addressing the land use aspects of solar power generation, and the potential impact on adjacent properties and on the Town generally. The goal of increasing the use of solar power involves complex issues, not the least of which is how to regulate the injection of solar power into the grid and distribute it to where it is needed. Those issues are well beyond the capability of the Planning Board.

Planning Board Meetings Residents are encouraged to attend Planning Board meetings where these issues are regularly discussed. Meetings are held in Town Hall Annex, usually on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7:30. Check the Town website for agendas and minutes. In person attendance is encouraged. While coverage is usually available through Go To Meeting, remote participation is subject to electronic glitches, and generally is a less satisfactory method for participation. If you want to do more than listen to a discussion, you are encouraged to attend in person.

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

The Agricultural Commission has an ambitious agenda of programs for the coming months. We are still working out details and dates, but here is a preview:

Maple Syrup - Before the cultivation of sugar cane and sugar beets, tapping maple trees was an important source of sugar for rural communities. It was labor-intensive, but there was not much other farming activity in February and March. This traditional rural activity has enjoyed a resurgence. Come learn what is involved, even if you never plan to tap your own trees. This program will be in late November or early December.

Chestnuts - When Princeton was first settled, the chestnut was a dominant hardwood and provided structural posts and beams to houses, fence posts for pastures, firewood, and delicious nuts for humans and animals. The American chestnut was virtually extirpated by a fungus that arrived in the United States from the Orient at the beginning of the 20th century. Now the American Chestnut Foundation is bringing back the chestnut by hybridizing the Oriental chestnut (which resists the fungus) with the American chestnut. Princeton is part of the restoration program. This program will be in January or February.

Community Supported Agriculture - Raising vegetables is hard work and demands consistent attention during the growing season, but nothing beats the taste and nutritional value of locally-grown, freshly-picked vegetables. A CSA allows many families to share in the vegetable harvest even if they do not have the space or time to grow their own vegetables. Rattle Root Farm was created in 2022, and will have its first year of production in 2023. Come hear how an old hay field has been converted into a productive farm. This program will be in March or April.

Farm Day - In May, the Agricultural Commission will resume our traditional "Farm Day," featuring 3 or 4 sites. There will be animals, activities for children, and handicrafts. Visiting several – or all – of the sites is a great family outing.

Children's Vegetable Exhibition - Farming Communities have a proud history of harvest exhibitions at which fruits and vegetables are judged. We had just started to bring back this tradition when COVID hit. Next fall, as part of Hey Day, the Agricultural Commission will sponsor a Children's Vegetable Exhibition. More information and suggestions for which vegetables to raise will be available next spring at the Farm Day sites, and will be distributed at Thomas Prince School

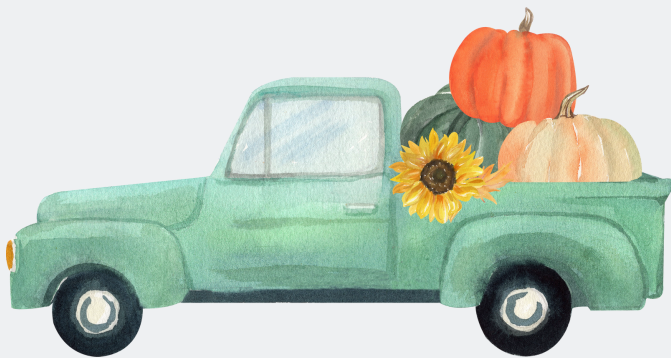
The Agricultural Commission is looking for members! While Princeton has centuries of history as a farming community, in the 21st century most of our agricultural activity is small scale, for supplemental income or just for personal use and enjoyment. We're looking for members who can help us develop programs to support these activities.

Residents of Princeton.

What we need are people with interests, ideas, vision, and energy. Do you have a few chickens and want to encourage others to share that experience? Have you thought about fencing in that acre of old hay field behind your house and raising a heifer? Do you enjoy fresh-pressed cider and want to know how to grow apple trees and make your own? Do you have some sugar maples that you are thinking of tapping next March? Have you been fighting a losing battle with the deer and rabbits who visit your vegetable garden? Do you want to start a vegetable garden? These are just some of the topics that the Agricultural Commission could present.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 in the small room at the Town Hall Annex, generally for no more than an hour. Come introduce yourself to us! Even if you're not ready to become a regular member, we would welcome your ideas and participation. And if coming to a meeting does not fit in with your schedule, drop us a note on our emails or on our website (princetonagcom.com)

Eddie Good, Chair - eddiegood@princeton-ma.us
John Mirick - jmirick@mirickoconnell.com
Chad Steiner - chadsteiner@mac.com
Dylan Stimson - dstimpy12@gmail.com



Board of Health

Town of Princeton residents are eligible for free at-home rapid COVID-19 test kits thanks to the Princeton Board of Health, Commonwealth of MA, and federal American Rescue Plan Act funding.

Test kits are available during regular business hours in the Board of Health Office while supplies last.

For questions, contact Terri Longtine, Board of Health Administrative Assistant, at 978-464-2104 or tlongtine@town.princeton.ma.us.

