MAIL PACKET

NO. 1

October 27, 2026

(35) Pages

DEERFIELD RIVER WILD & SCENIC: Fact Sheet



What is "Wild and Scenic"?

In 1968, the U.S. Congress passed the "National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act" which made it the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation, and their immediate environments, that possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, should be protected in free-flowing condition for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Why is the Deerfield River significant?

The Deerfield River is a unique recreational and natural resource that runs for 76 miles from southern Vermont through northwestern Massachusetts to the Connecticut River, traversing the beautiful Green Mountain National Forest, Berkshire Mountains, and Pioneer Valley hill towns. With rapids from Class II-V, it offers perhaps the best whitewater boating and rafting in Massachusetts. It is also an excellent trout fishery, with some of the best dry-fly fishing for wild trout in the East. The historically significant Mohawk Trail ran along the river and was a principal Native American travel route. Several tributaries, such as Cold River and Bog and Gulf Brooks, are wild free-flowing rivers. Multiple segments of the Deerfield River were identified on the National Rivers Inventory as having "outstandingly remarkable" values, and eligible for National Wild and Scenic Rivers designation.

How is a river designated as a National Wild & Scenic River?

First, local communities along the river demonstrate support for the concept of a feasibility study. Then, Congress passes legislation authorizing a study. The National Park Service funds and conducts the study in close consultation and partnership with property owners, local and state governments, and other organizations with a stake in the future of the Deerfield River. A steering committee with representatives from local interests assists with the feasibility study, to determine that the river is eligible, feasible for designation, and that it is locally desirable for it to become designated. Each watershed community will consider whether and how to adopt the voluntary, locally-developed watershed stewardship plan. Each watershed community will consider and vote on whether to petition Congress that the river be designated as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River. Legislation authorizing a Wild and Scenic River designation is then passed by Congress and signed into law.

How will my town benefit if this designation occurs?

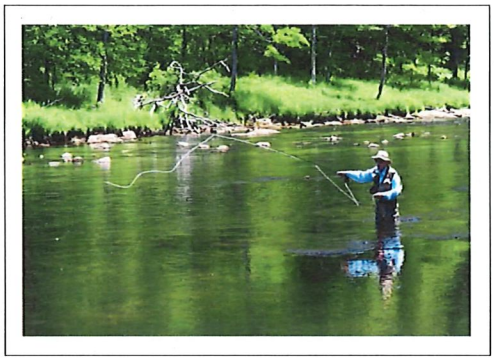
Such a designation would likely bring Federal technical and financial resources to help enhance and protect the river. Some studies have shown that there is an economic benefit to communities that value their rivers and promote them as a recreational tourist destination.

What is a Partnership Wild and Scenic River?

Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers predominantly flow through private, municipal, or state lands, with little or no Federal land ownership. Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers are administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service in partnership with local governments and non-governmental organizations. Communities protect their Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers and related resources through a collaborative approach, often supported by cooperative agreements with the National Park Service. There are 15 Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Northeast U.S.

How can Federal Partnership Rivers technical and financial resources help?

Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers receive Federal financial assistance, recently averaging around $220,000 per year. The Westfield River Wild and Scenic Committee, for example, offers grants and technical assistance to individuals, communities, and organizations to help support river stewardship.



What doesn't a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation do?

Does not put land under Federal control
Does not require public access to private land
Does not force any changes in local land use decision-making or local ordinances
Does not create new Federal permits or regulations
Does not change any existing land uses
Does not prevent access to or use of the river or watershed lands
Does not affect hunting and fishing laws

How does a designation affect my land and property rights?

It does not. Respect for private property rights and current land uses are fundamental components of long-term support for river protection.

What financial or other obligations are required by supporting river designation?

The first step in supporting river designation is development and adoption of a watershed stewardship plan, which includes voluntary recommendations intended to protect or enhance resources and water quality. No financial commitment is required from communities to support river designation or to adopt a stewardship plan. If a river is designated, each town supporting designation would appoint members to serve on a local advisory committee that would coordinate future stewardship plan implementation projects and raise awareness of river issues.

Won't the dams on the Deerfield River disqualify it from Wild and Scenic designation?

No. There are free-flowing segments of the Deerfield River and its tributaries. For dammed segments, flowing sections without impoundments may be eligible, if the dams provide reliable flows to maintain wild and scenic values. For example, the 17 miles of free-flowing river below Fife Brook Dam are heavily used for extended whitewater rafting trips.

What are some nearby examples of designated Wild and Scenic Rivers?

Westfield, Assabet, and Concord Rivers (MA); Sudbury, Upper Missisquoi, and Trout Rivers (VT); Nashua and Lamprey Rivers (NH); Farmington River (CT) For a complete list, visit www.rivers.gov

Outlook

Fw: Wild and Scenic Designation

From Elissa Viarengo <ElissaV@townofheath.org>
Date Fri 6/26/2026 11:32 AM
To BOS <BOS@townofheath.org>

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Ashley Sparks <ashleyelizabethlessard@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 3:48 PM
To: Elissa Viarengo <ElissaV@townofheath.org>
Cc: BOS <BOS@townofheath.org>
Subject: Re: Wild and Scenic Designation

Hi Elissa,

I am happy to share the link again. I have included it at the end of this email. The Section 7 Review process is a central aspect of the Wild and Scenic designation and is important to understand fully, particularly for small towns.

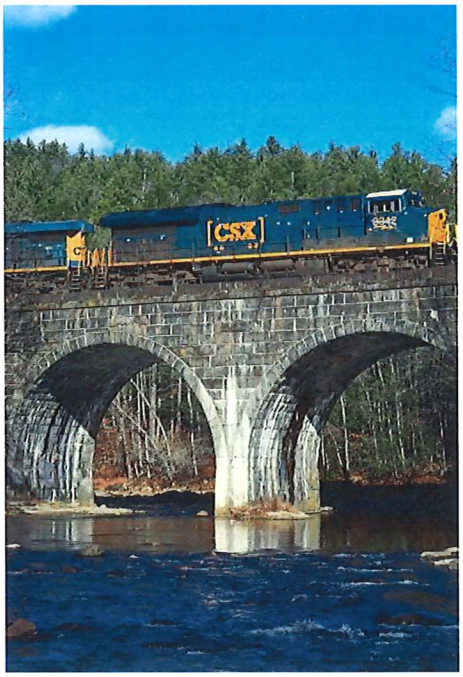
One of Charlemont's concerns was that the additional review requirements could potentially affect the cost and timeline of future bridge projects. Each town's circumstances are different, so while this may or may not be a concern for Heath, there may be other aspects of the process that are important for your community to consider.

Since my last email, there has been an update regarding Charlemont's bridge concerns. Prior to the Selectboard's vote, Chris Curtis met with the Charlemont Selectboard several times and was aware of those concerns. After the Selectboard voted not to endorse the designation, he returned to discuss a potential alternative that would address them by excluding certain bridges from the review process. I am not familiar with all of the details of that proposal, but the Selectboard will be revisiting the matter, and the discussion appeared to provide a possible path forward.

I am cc'ing Mia on this email so she is aware of the update and can communicate it to other members of your Selectboard.

I hope this information is helpful. Our towns share many similarities, and I believe open communication between neighboring communities is beneficial as we consider issues that may affect us both. Please feel free to reach out with any other questions.

Best,
Ashley Sparks



National Wild and Scenic River System | Rivers.gov
fws.gov

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 14, 2026, at 10:58 PM, Elissa Viarengo <ElissaV@townofheath.org> wrote:

Hi Ashley,

I serve as a member of the Heath Select Board, and I was appreciative of your email dated 5/26/26 and the information you shared regarding your understanding of Wild and Scenic Designations. The Select Board has been debating whether or not to approve the request from the Deerfield River Watershed Association to designate some of the waterways that run through Heath as Wild and Scenic Designations. You raised a very interesting perspective about once designated, federal funding and permits may not be available to assist in water way projects. You referred to "Section 7 of the Review Process" and stated you included a link; however, that link was missing when your email was shared with me. If you have a moment, would you mind sending me that link?

This may coincide with information we obtained from Christopher Curtis who responded to our inquiry about what this designation would mean from a regulatory standpoint. His answer was "Federal agencies may not assist by loan, grant, license, permit, or otherwise in the construction of any water resource project that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values a river was designated." He said basically it meant no federal dams on designated rivers. However, I'm not sure that's all it means. And I'm not sure if this is tied into the maintenance of bridges, which was Charlemont's concern if I understood your email correctly.

While Christopher has been somewhat helpful in answering questions through email, he was not able or willing to come to Heath to discuss his requestion in person with the Select Board, leaving me feeling a little lost in this process.

Any additional information you have would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you so much for your time and your thoughtfulness in reaching out to share information.

Best,

~ Elissa

Elissa Viarengo
Select Board Member
Town of Heath
PO Box 35
Heath, MA 01346

TOWN OF HAWLEY
MASSACHUSETTS 01339

8 PUDDING HOLLOW ROAD
TELEPHONE: 413-339-5518
FAX: 413-339-4959
WWW.TOWNOFHAWLEY.COM

September 22, 2026

Federal Communications Commission
Wireline Competition Bureau
Competition Policy Division
Washington, DC 20554

RE: SECTION 63.71 APPLICATION OF VERIZON TO DISCONTINUE POTS TELEPHONE SERVICE (IN MASSACHUSETTS) (FILED 9/9/2026 AND POSTED 9/10/2026) CONCERNS AND OBJECTIONS OF THE TOWN OF HAWLEY SELECTBOARD

Dear Commissioners:

The Selectboard of Hawley, Massachusetts, strongly opposes Verizon's proposal to discontinue copper landline service in our region in favor of what it calls "modern" technology. We believe this transition will adversely affect our townspeople, for whom a landline is often a lifeline. Verizon's proposal appears to call not for eliminating home phone service but instead for replacing copper with other systems such as fiber and wireless. To its credit, Verizon assures us it will not charge customers more and supposedly will continue to support legacy systems like faxes and alarms. It also claims its systems will have battery backups for power outages. Its literature indicates these backups last approximately eight hours. These reassurances are better than nothing, but they do not put our minds at ease.

Hawley, like much of western Massachusetts, is very rural with low population density and many elderly residents. Copper landlines are not some bygone convenience here. They are a necessity, still popular with both older and younger families. Cell service is marginal—in many cases, nonexistent—in our mountainous landscape. (Note: major wireless carriers often overstate coverage in our area so we ask you to approach coverage maps with skepticism.) We are also prone to severe weather, which, with our abundance of trees, results in frequent power outages. The 2008 ice storm, Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, and a storm in February 2025 all led to outages lasting several days. During these outages, residents relied on landlines to check on neighbors and contact emergency services. Local government, including those emergency services, relied on the lines for continuity of operations as other systems failed.

Copper is an older technology, yet it continues to outperform the alternatives in important ways. Landlines are more dependable than wireless connections, which are sporadic at best here. Verizon does not currently offer fiber in most of western Massachusetts so we suspect that these unreliable wireless systems will be the alternative they offer. One advantage copper has over both wireless and fiber is that copper lines carry their own power so hardwired phones work during outages. In our experience, falling trees often break power lines, but the phone lines, lower on the pole, typically survive. We lose power several times a year, often for hours or even days. Widespread landline interruptions occur once a decade or less often. We also want to point out that an independent phone network that does not rely on the internet is a valuable backup in an increasingly vulnerable cyber environment.

Unfortunately, in a place like Hawley, an eight-hour battery backup or a wireless system that sometimes works just isn't good enough and certainly isn't as good as what we have now. We hope that you will give our concerns consideration in weighing Verizon's proposal and that you will find that the public interest necessitates maintaining the existing telephone infrastructure, at least for now.

Respectfully,

Williams Cosby

Hussain Hamdan

Robert MacLean

‘A landline is a lifeline’: Hawley urges FCC to reject Verizon’s plans to end landline service

HAWLEY — Jody Stewart does not have a cellphone, nor does she want one.

But if the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approves Verizon’s plans to end copper landline service, the 80-year-old Hawley resident fears she may have to.

“I don’t really want a cellphone,” said Stewart, a longtime poet who has lived in town since 1994 and is also known as Pamela Stewart and Jody Cothey. “I feel like I’m being bullied.”

Earlier this month, Verizon filed a proposal with the FCC to end Plain Old Telephone

Service (“POTS”) in portions of California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, effective Nov. 30. Verizon said copper landline service is expensive to maintain, too slow to meet modern needs and not as many people use the service as the system could support.

“Currently, Verizon’s network could serve over 28 million locations in these states with POTS. However, the overwhelming majority of consumers from these states who could subscribe to POTS service from Verizon do not — only approximately 750,000 residential and business locations, or 2.7%, still subscribe to legacy voice services,” Verizon wrote in the FCC filing. “Copper infrastructure is too slow to

meet modern needs, many decades old, costly to maintain, and vulnerable to damage and theft."

The filing states that current POTS subscribers will be transitioned to fiber-based service, or other wireless alternatives. Letters the company sent to residents state that they can keep their existing phone numbers and that 911 calls would continue "seamlessly" in the transition. The company notes that the transition would "free up billions" that could be reinvested into improving and expanding modern systems across the nation.

"Because it makes no sense to maintain a ubiquitous, costly legacy network that consumers have largely abandoned, we seek to transition customers to modern services provided by Verizon or another provider," the FCC filing reads. "We will work to ensure that this is a smooth transition for copper-based POTS customers in the discontinuance area."

An earlier filing from August requested to end the service in portions of Arizona, Delaware, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah and Virginia.

In rural western Massachusetts, community members are raising concerns about the proposal and its impact on people living in areas where cellular infrastructure is still insufficient.

Stewart said cell service in Hawley and neighboring communities is spotty, and the push to remove landline service could leave many residents, particularly older people, in a lurch.

"We rely on landlines. Cell service is OK where I live, but if you drive half a mile down the road, there's no service," Stewart said. "It's horrifyingly insulting. ... A landline is a lifeline for a lot of people."

Stewart's sentiments were echoed by members of the Hawley Selectboard, who voted unanimously Tuesday night to send a letter urging the FCC to reject the proposal.

"Copper landlines are not some bygone convenience here. They are a necessity, still popular with older and younger families," the Selectboard's letter states. "Cell service is marginal — in many cases, nonexistent in our mountainous landscape. ... We are also prone to severe weather, which, with our abundance of trees, results in frequent power outages. The 2008 ice storm, Tropical Storm Irene in 2011 and a storm in February 2025 all led to outages lasting several days. During these outages, residents relied on landlines to check on neighbors and contact emergency services."

Selectboard Chair Will Crosby said Tuesday night that he does not think the letter will make much of a difference to the FCC, but with more than a dozen homes in town that do not have cell service, the town has to try.

"All of the major carriers are delusional about their coverage out here," Selectboard member Hussain Hamdan said. "And it's because what you get in February is very different than what you get in July, and it's all about the leaves. ... Cell service here, it's very sporadic."

According to the service coverage map on Verizon's website, the company claims to provide 5G coverage throughout most of Franklin County and 4G in the rest. The map only notes a small section of Ashfield Mountain Road and an area near Lake Wyola as having no service whatsoever.

Verizon's coverage map showing 5G (dark red) and 4G (light red) service areas.

However, independently sourced maps — such as CoverageMap.com, which builds its service maps using crowd-sourced signal strength data — show much sparser coverage. CoverageMap.com's map shows large gaps in the region with no coverage, such as almost the entirety of the Kenneth Dubuque Memorial State Forest in Hawley. BroadbandMap.com agrees that coverage around Hawley, Heath and Wendell is limited.

A CoverageMap.com map shows Verizon cell service is limited in western Franklin County.

The Selectboard wrote that Verizon's promises to provide battery backups are "better than nothing" but do not fully assuage concerns, as a battery with a lifespan of eight hours cannot hold up in a town where power outages can, sometimes, last for multiple days.

"In our experience, falling trees often break power lines, but the phone lines, lower on the pole, typically survive. We lose power several times a year, often for hours or even days," the board wrote. "Widespread landline interruptions occur once a decade or less often. ... Unfortunately, in a place like Hawley, an eight-hour battery

backup or a wireless system that sometimes works just isn't good enough, and certainly isn't as good as what we have now."

Stewart said that receiving the letter from Verizon felt like "being bullied" into purchasing new systems and that her current copper-based landline works perfectly fine. She added that the November date does not give residents enough time to consider their options.

The Verizon filing states that replacement service options do not cost more than existing landline services.

"Verizon's fixed wireless POTS voice replacement services are available for as little as

$20 per month, plus taxes, surcharges and fees, and Verizon's post-paid mobile wireless subscriptions are available for $30 per month, plus taxes, surcharges and fees. Prepaid mobile wireless service through Visible by Verizon is available starting at $19 per month," the filing reads. "Additionally, voice service over Verizon's fiber, where available, costs $30 per month plus taxes, surcharges and fees, in addition to the cost of Verizon fiber broadband."

In a statement to WWNY TV, a Watertown, New York-based television network, Verizon officials said the company would not end service for customers where there is no suitable alternative to copper landlines.

"As we transition from legacy copper to modern networks, we are committed to ensuring no customer is left behind. Our customers' home phone service is not going away. Receiving an initial notice simply marks the beginning of a multi-step regulatory process and does not mean immediate service disconnect. Furthermore, if a

suitable replacement is not yet available, we will not discontinue a customer's copper voice service."

FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau is currently accepting public comment on the filing. To submit a comment, visit fcc.gov/ecfs/search/docket-detail/26-252. The docket number is 26-252.

Outlook

Re: Verizon disconnect letter

From Heath Broadband <heathbroadband@gmail.com>
Date Tue 10/13/2026 10:03 AM
To David Gordon <djgordon@gmail.com>
Cc wemmet@sbcglobal.net <wemmet@sbcglobal.net>; BOS <bos@townofheath.org>

Hi all, it has been a busy week. I would like to include that this widespread community issue will increase the need & reliance on cooperative organization while we navigate this. I have already received calls from the Senior Citizens group in town to resolve issues & provide customer service related communications.

Separately but related, I will not be able to attend this evenings select board meeting but wish I could. I have been refraining due to other commitments as well as to keep my hours & priorities focused only on essential tasks. I will be able to review the recording which I appreciate very greatly.

Thank you all,

Bailey Cole
Heath MLP Manager
HeathBroadband@gmail.com
+1 857 526 2007

On Tue, Oct 13, 2026 at 9:16 AM David Gordon <djgordon@gmail.com> wrote:

> Thank you for sending this letter.
>
> Residents in Rowe have also been receiving notice from Verizon, and this issue has been brought up at recent WiredWest meetings. WiredWest is concerned about the impact on residents in the hill towns. WiredWest is also concerned whether this will impact obligations of MLPs to provide phone service.
>
> Note that the letter says that Verizon's actions are "subject to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approval." The FCC has not yet approved this action. In fact, in late September, the FCC paused its consideration of similar Verizon applications in a number of other states due to the large number of complaints received from residents (particularly rural residents) in those states. However, no one knows what the FCC will ultimately decide.
>
> It is unclear to me whether the Massachusetts DTC would also have to approve Verizon's actions.
>
> Thanks.
>
> David

On Tue, Oct 13, 2026 at 8:57 AM William Emmet <wemmet@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

> Hello David-
>
> I'm attaching a scanned copy of the letter that Heath residents have been receiving from Verizon regarding discontinuance of landline service.
>
> Regards,
>
> Anne Emmet

verizon

220 Anderson Avenue
Moonachie, NJ 07074

September 8, 2026

L2-******AUTO**ALL FOR SCF 015 T57 P1 PAL 3 13464

[redacted]
Colrain, MA 01340-9646

Telephone Number: 413-337-[redacted]

Important Update About Your Home Phone Service

Dear [redacted],

This letter is informational only, and requires no customer action at this time.

We're pleased to inform you about updates to our home phone service. As part of our ongoing network improvements, we are planning to discontinue traditional copper-based home phone service for certain customers in your area. If your service will be discontinued, you will have the opportunity to switch to service delivered using fiber, cable, or modern wireless technology.

We're here to support you through this transition.

What's Changing and When

On or after **November 30, 2026**, subject to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approval, Verizon will have authority to discontinue traditional copper-based home phone service.

What This Means for You

Rest assured, you don't need to take any action right now, and there is no change or interruption to your service at this time. We'll contact you with next steps to ensure a seamless transition. Meanwhile, if you have questions, please visit us at verizon.com/copper.

If your service will be discontinued, you will receive advance notice by letter with your specific disconnection date. Again, there is no change or interruption to your service today and you don't need to take any action at this time.

Service Affected

Traditional Home Phone Service: copper-based dial tone base home phone service, services offered as "Residence Dial Tone Service," "Basic Service Access Line," and "Individual Line".

Your Options

When it's time to make a change, you'll have several options – including moving to a modern solution that:

- Lets you keep your current phone number
- Supports essential services like 911, many legacy alarm systems and faxes, and many medical devices

CMT-VZTPOTS

15

- Delivers a reliable, modern service

If your services will be discontinued, you will have at least one fiber, cable, or mobile wireless voice option available. Many customers will be able to choose modern Verizon voice service over wireless or fiber. You can see options available at your home based on official FCC data by visiting https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home and then typing in your home address.

Additional Information

- Verizon's Fios and wireless services, where available, are not affected and will continue without interruption.
- All changes are subject to any applicable contractual obligations and regulatory approvals.
- If you've already received a different disconnection notice with an earlier date, that date will still apply.

Thank you for being a Verizon customer. Whether you stay with us or transition to another provider, we're committed to making this transition as simple and smooth as possible.

Sincerely,

Verizon Support Team

On behalf of

State	Company	Address
New York	Verizon New York Inc.	140 West Street, New York, NY 10007
Pennsylvania	Verizon Pennsylvania LLC	900 Race Street, 6th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107
	Verizon North LLC	900 Race Street, 6th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107
Connecticut	Verizon New York Inc.	140 West Street, New York, NY 10007
Maryland	Verizon Maryland LLC	12 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401
Massachusetts	Verizon New England Inc.	6 Bowdoin Square, 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02114
The District of Columbia	Verizon Washington, DC Inc.	1300 I Street NW, Suite 500 East, Washington, DC 20005

Note for Massachusetts Customers

Massachusetts customers can also contact the MA Department of Telecommunications and Cable Hotline at 800.392.6066.

Outlook

Verizon

From Thomas Lively <thomas.lively01@gmail.com>
Date Sat 10/17/2026 8:39 AM
To BOS <bos@townofheath.org>

COA was glad to see that the Select Board was considering a letter to Verizon regarding discontinuing copper based home service. Members voted unanimously to have me sign the letter for COA if you decide that you want other town organizations to be included.
Sue

October 19, 2026

Town of Heath

RE: Resignation as Town Treasurer

Dear Members of the Selectboard,

Please accept this letter as my formal resignation from the position of Treasurer for the Town of Heath, effective December 31, 2026.

It has been a privilege to serve the Town of Heath and its residents. I am grateful for the opportunity to have contributed to the community and appreciate the support and cooperations I have received throughout my time in this role.

I will do my best to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities and assist as needed during the process.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

K N

Krist Nartowicz

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 4295 FILED ON: 10/8/2026

SENATE . . . . . No. 3281

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul W. Mark

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act authorizing the town of Heath to continue the employment of a call member of the Heath fire department.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Paul W. Mark	*Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire*

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 4295 FILED ON: 10/8/2026

SENATE . . . . . No. 3281

By Mr. Mark, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3281) of Paul W. Mark (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Heath to continue the employment of a call member of the Heath fire department. Public Service. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act authorizing the town of Heath to continue the employment of a call member of the Heath fire department.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding chapter 32 of the general laws or of any other general or special law to the contrary, Will Emmet, a call member of the Heath Fire Department of the town of Heath, may continue to serve in such position beyond the age of 65; provided, however, that Will Emmet remains physically and mentally capable of performing the duties of fire fighter, and, provided further that Will Emmet shall not remain in service

beyond the age of 70. The town of Heath may require Will Emmet to undergo an examination, at the expense of the town, by an impartial physician designated by the town to determine his fitness to remain in service. This act shall not entitle Will Emmet to remain in service to the town of Heath if otherwise removed or suspended from office in accordance with applicable laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 2. No further deductions shall be made from Will Emmet's regular compensation under chapter 32 of the General Laws for any service performed subsequent to reaching the age of 65. Upon his retirement, he shall receive a superannuation retirement allowance equal to that which he would have been entitled had he retired upon reaching age 65, if any.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 4294 FILED ON: 10/8/2026

SENATE . . . . . No. 3280

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul W. Mark

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act authorizing the town of Heath to continue the employment of the fire chief.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Paul W. Mark	*Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire*

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 4294 FILED ON: 10/8/2026

SENATE . . . . . No. 3280

By Mr. Mark, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3280) of Paul W. Mark (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Heath to continue the employment of the fire chief. Public Service. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court (2025-2026)

An Act authorizing the town of Heath to continue the employment of the fire chief.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding chapter 32 of the general laws or of any other general or special law to the contrary, Nicholas Anzuoni, chief of the fire department of the town of Heath, may continue to serve in such position beyond the age of 65; provided, however, that Nicholas Anzuoni remains physically and mentally capable of performing the duties of fire chief, and, provided further that Nicholas Anzuoni to undergo an examination, at the expense of the town, by an impartial physician designated by the town to determine his

fitness to remain in service. This act shall not entitle Nicholas Anzuoni to remain in service to the town of Heath if otherwise removed or suspended from the office in accordance with applicable laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 2. No further deductions shall be made from Nicholas Anzuoni's regular compensation under chapter 32 of the General Laws for any service performed subsequent to reaching the age of 65. Upon his retirement, he shall receive a superannuation retirement allowance equal to that which he would have been entitled had he retired upon reaching age 65, if any.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Outlook

RE: Colrain Select Board vote

From Town of Colrain Administrator <BOS@colrain-ma.gov>
Date Tue 10/20/2026 2:54 PM
To Town of Colrain Fire Chief <FireChief@colrain-ma.gov>
Cc BOS <bos@townofheath.org>; Town of Colrain Admin Assistant <AdminAsst@colrain-ma.gov>

Another item to address in the MOU is fuel…

Diana M. Parsons
Town Administrator
Town of Colrain
55 Main Road
Colrain, MA 01340
Office # (413) 624-6306
Cell# (413) 387-9069
bos@colrain-ma.gov

Please be aware that all communications pertaining to the Town of Colrain Massachusetts matters, including e-mail sent or received, are a public record subject to disclosure under the Massachusetts Public Records Law. If requested, e-mail may be disclosed to another party unless exempt from disclosure. E-mails are retained by the Town of Colrain in compliance with Massachusetts Public Records Retention Schedule. All Electronic messages sent through the Town of Colrain system are archived in conformance with the Massachusetts and federal Public Records law.

From: Town of Colrain Administrator
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2026 2:28 PM
To: Town of Colrain Fire Chief <FireChief@colrain-ma.gov>
Cc: bos@townofheath.org; Town of Colrain Admin Assistant <AdminAsst@colrain-ma.gov>
Subject: Colrain Select Board vote

Hi folks,
Last week, the Select Board [finally] voted to enter into the MOU for the shared fire chief vehicle. They agreed to retain ownership and insure the vehicle and to have our Highway department do the repairs and maintenance. This would presume that Heath would put the fire equipment and lettering on for the Chief, and purchase parts for repairs in the future. The Fire Chief would use the vehicles in both communities. Attached is the draft from months ago for re-review.
Mia, if you could let me know status on your end when you have a moment, I'd greatly appreciate it.
Thanks,
Dee

Diana M. Parsons
Town Administrator
Town of Colrain
55 Main Road

Colrain, MA 01340
Office # (413) 624-6306
Cell# (413) 387-9069
bos@colrain-ma.gov

Please be aware that all communications pertaining to the Town of Colrain Massachusetts matters, including e-mail sent or received, are a public record subject to disclosure under the Massachusetts Public Records Law. If requested, e-mail may be disclosed to another party unless exempt from disclosure. E-mails are retained by the Town of Colrain in compliance with Massachusetts Public Records Retention Schedule. All Electronic messages sent through the Town of Colrain system are archived in conformance with the Massachusetts and federal Public Records law.

Outlook

Test drive and inspection of surplus Colrain police vehicle

From Will Emmet <wemmet@townofheath.org>
Date Sun 3/29/2026 3:17 PM
To BOS <BOS@townofheath.org>; Robyn Provost <robyn@townofheath.org>; Elissa Viarengo <ElissaV@townofheath.org>
Cc Nick Anzuoni <HeathFire@townofheath.org>

All-

At 10 am this morning. Nick and I inspected (and he drove) the surplus Colrain police vehicle being considered as a replacement for the Heath FD chief's car. Observations:

1. The car is in reasonably good physical condition.
2. We drove over the roads (paved and dirt) that Nick typically travels while on duty.
    a. Engine starting and acceleration are adequate.
    b. Suspension is stiff and handled the bumps and ruts well.
    c. All wheel drive is operational.
    d. I noticed a whine that correlates with road speed. I am thinking that a wheel bearing needs addressing.
3. An exterior inspection revealed that the tires will need to be replaced soon (wear markers are visible). The exhaust system, while intact, will need to be replaced soon.
4. The blue lights may be able to be replaced with red at the bulb level instead of replacing the entire light bar.
5. The Colrain police chief believes that there may be another set of tires that belong to the vehicle.

Respectfully Submitted

Will Emmet

Procom Services
26 Overlook Terrace
Adams MA 01220

Estimate

Date	Estimate #
4/6/2026	4793

Name / Address	Ship To
Colrain Fire Dept. 51 Main Road Colrain, MA 01340 (413) 624-5528	

P.O. No.	Terms	Rep	Project
	10 Days	Josh	

Item	Description	Qty	Rate	Total
used equipment	SOUNDOFF SIGNAL N FORCE REFURB LIGHTBAR , RED/ WHITE	1	900.00	900.00
PNFLBK08	Standard Fixed Mount w/ Thick Pad (no Extension Bracket) Exterior Full Size Lightbar (each) - for Pursuit rated & standard hooks	1	173.60	173.60
PNFLBKXT	Fixed Height Extension Plate (each) for Exterior Lightbars - for Pursuit rated & standard hooks	1	55.80	55.80
E1XS2SME5RX	Bolt 2 Surface Mount Light, ECE-R65 Category X Class 2 Certified, ECE R10 Certified, SAE J595 Class 1, CA title 13 Table 1 Class B, 10-30v, Black Housing, 9 LED, Single Color - Red	4	107.00	428.00
EMPSA05BT-D	mpower® Fascia 4x2 Light w/ Quick Mount, 18" 5-wire w/ sync option & 1.5 Pigtail, SAE Class 1 & CA Title 13, 9-32 Vdc, Black Housing, 24 LED, Dual Color - Red/White	2	297.00	594.00
CEB-HAV-2.5-K...	Havis 2.5" Kenwood VM series Console BRKT	2	34.00	68.00

Thank you for your Consideration

Subtotal	
Sales Tax (0.00)	
Total	

Price Quotation is valid for 60 Days

Signature

Phone #	E-mail	Web Site
413-743-8100	accounting@pcsradios.com	www.pcsradios.com

26

Procom Services
26 Overlook Terrace
Adams MA 01220

Estimate

Date	Estimate #
4/6/2026	4793

Name / Address	Ship To
Colrain Fire Dept. 51 Main Road Colrain, MA 01340 (413) 624-5528	

P.O. No.	Terms	Rep	Project
	10 Days	Josh	

Item	Description	Qty	Rate	Total
Install Kit Radio	Mobile Radio Installation Kit, Coax, Antenna, Connector and simple mount	2	145.00	290.00
PRO UPFITTER	INSTALLATION & MISC PARTS,WIRE, WIRE TERMINALS FUSE BLOCKS AND BREAKERS PROPOSAL TO CONVERT RECYCLE POLICE CRUISER FROM BLUE-RED WARNING LIGHT PACKAGE. INSTALL 2 RADIOS FROM CLIENT STOCK	1	2,850.00	2,850.00

Thank you for your Consideration

Subtotal	$5,359.40
Sales Tax (0.00)	$0.00
Total	$5,359.40

Price Quotation is valid for 60 Days

Signature _____

Phone #	E-mail	Web Site
413-743-8100	accounting@pcsradios.com	www.pcsradios.com

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INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE TOWN OF COLRAIN AND THE TOWN OF HEATH
FOR SHARED EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLE USE

This Intermunicipal Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by and between the **Town of Colrain, Massachusetts** and the **Town of Heath, Massachusetts**, collectively referred to as the "Parties," pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 4A.

1. PURPOSE

The Parties acknowledge that **Nicholas Anzuoni** is currently employed as Fire Chief by both municipalities.

The purpose of this Agreement is to formalize a cooperative arrangement between the Parties for the shared and coordinated use of certain fire department equipment and a vehicle, in order to improve efficiency, enhance emergency response capabilities, and maximize municipal resources.

2. SHARED EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLE USE

4.1 Equipment

- The Parties agree to share certain fire equipment as mutually determined and documented.
- Ownership of equipment shall remain with the Town that purchased it unless otherwise agreed in writing.

4.2 Vehicle

- A designated vehicle shall be made available for use by the Fire Chief in carrying out duties for both Towns.
- The Parties shall agree on:
    - Ownership of the vehicle
    - Maintenance responsibilities
    - Insurance coverage
    - Replacement planning

4.3 Liability

- Each Town shall be responsible for its own acts and omissions and those of its employees.

DRAFT

- Liability coverage shall be maintained by each Party in accordance with Massachusetts law.

5. OPERATIONS AND COORDINATION

- The Fire Chief shall work to coordinate operations between the two departments where beneficial, including:
    - Joint training exercises
    - Shared purchasing where feasible
    - Mutual aid optimization
    - Standardization of procedures where appropriate

6. TERM OF AGREEMENT

- This Agreement shall take effect upon execution by both Parties.
- The initial term shall be for **[insert term, e.g., three (3) years]**, unless terminated earlier in accordance with this Agreement.
- The Agreement may be renewed upon mutual written consent.

7. TERMINATION

- Either Party may terminate this Agreement with **[insert notice period, e.g., 90 days]** written notice to the other Party.
- Upon termination:
    - Shared assets and responsibilities shall be equitably resolved
    - Any outstanding financial obligations shall be settled

8. AMENDMENTS

This Agreement may be amended at any time by mutual written agreement of both Parties, approved by their respective Select Boards.

9. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The Parties agree to work collaboratively to resolve any disputes arising under this Agreement. If necessary, disputes may be referred to mediation or another mutually agreed-upon process.

10. AUTHORIZATION

This Agreement is authorized by vote of the Select Board of each Town and executed by their duly authorized representatives.

DRAFT

Outlook

Disclosure by Special Municipal Employee (Robyn S Provost)

From Robyn Provost <robyn@townofheath.org>
Date Thu 10/22/2026 11:57 AM
To Town Clerk <TownClerk@townofheath.org>
Cc BOS <BOS@townofheath.org>

1 attachment (286 KB)
Disclosure - Robyn Provost.pdf;

HI Mary,

Attached please find my Disclosure by Special Municipal Employee of Financial Interest in a Municipal Contract as Required by G.L. C. 268A, Sec 20(d).

As an elected member of the Selectboard for the Town of Heath, which holds "Special Municipal Employee" status, I am disclosing that my spouse, Kyle Jarvis, has been previously contacted by the Highway Superintendent to discuss the possibility of temporary/seasonal employment with the Town for the purposes of highway related road care, snow removal assistance. I am not certain if Kyle will take hours, but I am notifying the Town as to my relationship with Kyle and submitting the attached disclosure.

I am assuming that the Highway Superintendent has a list of temporary/seasonal employees, and that Kyle could be added to this list, called upon by the highway superintendent when needed, and compensated at the established rate for these employees.

I believe this disclosure needs to be reviewed by the SB at a posted meeting and voted upon. Can you please let Mia know if this is true. I am assuming this to be true based on the last page of the disclosure form. I will recuse myself from this conversation and vote.

Per the disclosure, I will recuse myself from direct or indirect discussions regarding Kyle's possible involvement with the Highway Department, and I will recuse myself from my duty of reviewing and signing any possible payroll warrant activity for Kyle.

Please find this email as part of my disclosure.

Please let me know if you need anything further from me.

Thank you,
Robyn

Robyn S. Provost
Town of Heath, Selectboard

DISCLOSURE BY SPECIAL MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST IN A MUNICIPAL CONTRACT AS REQUIRED BY G. L. c. 268A, § 20(d)

	SPECIAL MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE INFORMATION
Name of **special municipal employee**:	Robyn S. Provost
Put an X beside one statement.	I am a **special municipal employee** because: X I am a selectman in a town with a population of 10,000 or fewer people; ___ I am not a mayor, alderman or city councilor, and ___ I serve in a municipal position for which **no compensation** is provided, or ___ I earned **compensation for fewer than 800 hours** in the preceding 365-day period, or ___ By the classification of my position by my municipal agency or by the terms of a contract or my conditions of employment, I am **permitted to have personal or private employment during normal business hours**. ___ I work for a company or organization which has a contract with a municipal agency, and I am a **"key employee"** because the contract identifies me by name or it is otherwise clear that the municipal is contracting for my services in particular, and the **contract states that I am a special municipal employee or indicates that I meet one of the three requirements listed above**.
Title/ Position	Town of Heath Selectboard Chair
Fill in this box if it applies to you.	If you are a special municipal employee because a municipal agency has contracted with your company or organization, please provide the name and address of the company or organization.
Municipal Agency/ Department:	This is "my Municipal Agency." Town of Heath
Agency Address:	18 Jacobs Rd. (PO Box 35) Heath, MA 01346
Office phone	413-337-4934
Office e-mail	bosetownofheath.org
	Check one X Elected or ___ Non-elected
Starting date as a special municipal employee	Elected May 2016

BOX # 1 Select either **STATEMENT #1 or STATEMENT #2.** **Write an X by your financial interest.**	**ELECTED SPECIAL MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE** I am an **elected special municipal employee.** ___ **STATEMENT #1**: I had a financial interest in a contract made by a municipal agency **before** I was elected to a compensated special municipal employee position. I will continue to have this financial interest in a municipal contract. X **STATEMENT #2**: I will have a **new** financial interest in a contract made by a municipal agency. **My financial interest in a contract made by a municipal agency is:** ___ A compensated, non-elected position with a municipal agency. ___ A contract between a municipal agency and myself. X A financial benefit or obligation because of a contract that a municipal agency has with another person or with a company or organization. ___ Other work because a municipal agency has a contract with my company or organization and I am a "key employee" because the contract identifies me by name or it is otherwise clear that the municipal is contracting for my services in particular.
BOX #2 **Select either STATEMENT #1 or STATEMENT #2.** **Write an X by your financial interest.**	**NON-ELECTED SPECIAL MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE** I am a **non-elected special municipal employee** (compensated or uncompensated). ___ **STATEMENT #1**: I had a financial interest in a contract made by a municipal agency, other than an employment contract, **before** I took a non-elected, compensated special municipal employee position. I will continue to have this financial interest in a municipal contract. **My financial interest in a contract made by a municipal agency is:** ___ A contract between a municipal agency and myself, but not an employment contract. ___ A financial benefit or obligation because of a contract that a municipal agency has with another person or with a company or organization. **OR** ___ **STATEMENT #2**: I will have a **new** financial interest in a contract made by a municipal agency. **My financial interest in a contract made by a municipal agency is:** ___ A compensated, non-elected position with a municipal agency. ___ A contract between a municipal agency and myself. ___ A financial benefit or obligation because of a contract that a municipal agency has with another person or with a company or organization. ___ Other work because a municipal agency has a contract with my company or organization and I am a "key employee" because the contract identifies me by name or it is otherwise clear that the municipal is contracting for my services in particular.
	FINANCIAL INTEREST IN A MUNICIPAL CONTRACT
Name and address of municipal agency that made the contract	This is the "contracting agency." Town of Heath may engage with Kyle Jarvis, my husband, for highway related services, snow removal.
Write an X to confirm this statement.	X In my work as a special municipal employee for my Municipal Agency, I **participate in or have official responsibility for activities of the contracting agency**.

* I will recuse myself from S.B. conversations, decisions regarding Kyle Jarvis as well as related financial topics.

FILL IN THIS BOX OR THE NEXT BOX	**ANSWER THE QUESTION IN THIS BOX IF THE CONTRACT IS BETWEEN THE MUNICIPAL AGENCY AND YOU.** - Please explain what the contract is for.
	ANSWER THE QUESTIONS IN THIS BOX IF THE CONTRACT IS BETWEEN THE MUNICIPAL AGENCY AND ANOTHER PERSON OR ENTITY - Please identify the person or entity that has the contract with the municipal agency. - What is your relationship to the person or entity? - What is the contract for? The Town of Heath may employee my husband, Kyle Jarvis, as a Temporary/Seasonal Employee for road/snow removal services.
What is your financial interest in the municipal contract?	- Please explain the financial interest and include the dollar amount if you know it. I hold a joint checking account with Kyle Jarvis. Kyle's work would be on-call as determined by the Highway Superintendent.
Date when you acquired the financial interest	Date is pending based on upcoming need as determined by Superintendent.
What is the financial interest of your immediate family?	- Please explain the financial interest and include the dollar amount if you know it. Robyn Provost and Kyle Jarvis are married and share finances. Unknown dollar amount.
Date when your immediate family acquired the financial interest	Date is pending. See note above.
Employee signature:	Robyn Provost
Date:	10/22/26

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR APPROVAL
BY CITY COUNCIL, BOARD OF ALDERMEN,
BOARD OF SELECTMEN. TOWN COUNCIL,
OR DISTRICT PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

APPROVAL OF EXEMPTION
BY THE CITY COUNCIL, BOARD OF ALDERMEN, BOARD OF SELECTMEN, TOWN COUNCIL OR DISTRICT PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

Name:	
Name of approving body: **Write an X by one selection.**	___ **City Council** ___ **Board of Aldermen** ___ **Board of Selectmen** ___ **Town Council** ___ **District Prudential Committee**
Title/ Position	
Agency Address:	
Office phone:	
	APPROVAL OF § 20(d) EXEMPTION
	We have received a disclosure under G.L. c. 268A, § 20(d) from a special municipal employee who seeks to have a financial interest in a contract made by a municipal agency of this city or town. We understand that the special municipal employee participates in, or has official responsibility for, activities of the municipal agency that made the contract. We approve this exemption under § 20(d) regarding the financial interest identified by the special municipal employee.
Signature:	On behalf of the Council, Board or Committee identified above, I sign this approval.
Date:	

Attach additional pages if necessary.

File your completed, signed, approved Disclosure with the city or town clerk.

Form revised February, 2012