

SCHOOL from page 1

an existing reserve fund.

Belchertown Superintendent Brian Cameron said the high school stadium field has been aerated, overseeded and top-dressed and is being manually watered while crews work to repair an idle irrigation system.

The water district has agreed to let the schools run the system once a week using town water, Cameron said, but the lines and heads have deteriorated after two years of inactivity, with

“stuck zone valves, broken valves, broken heads, heads that need to be adjusted.”

Cameron said fall use of the stadium includes roughly five football games, nine girls’ soccer games, nine boys’ soccer games and three field hockey contests, for about 26 events total.

The committee later turned to a slate of updated handbooks. School Committee member Ruby Bansal questioned changes at Belchertown High School, noting that only a change sheet, not the full handbook, was initially

available in the committee’s materials.

Once the correct document was shared, Cameron said the high school handbook now emphasizes the impact of family trips on chronic absenteeism and formalizes a schedule of electronic notices at specific absence thresholds.

He said the family vacation section now notes that chronic absenteeism “may lead to academic failure for the year,” and that automated attendance letters will be sent at days three, five and eight. The daily schedule

was also updated to a 7:40 a.m. to 2:18 p.m. school day.

Cameron added that most edits across the district handbooks involved directory information, updated arrival and dismissal procedures at Swift River School, new timeout and seclusion language and negotiated changes in the central office, team leader and employee handbooks.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the handbooks.

Members also briefly discussed a high school

rule that the school “does not schedule, facilitate, or provide physical or virtual space for student appointments with external agencies.”

Cameron said the restriction grew from a past situation in which a student was left “in crisis” after a private therapy session on campus. He said he would verify whether a prior partnership with Behavioral Health Network, which had been treated differently, remains in place.

In other business, the committee declared a 2006

Ford Econoline van surplus after a facilities official cited significant body rot and mechanical failures.

The district plans to ask whether the town wants the vehicle or consider donating it to Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School before disposal.

The committee also voted to hire an outside attorney to act as an investigator in a personnel matter at the recommendation of current legal counsel. Cameron said the cost would be drawn from a reserve fund maintained for such issues.

DAR from page 1

The presentation also featured Anna Green-Winslow who, despite being only 12 years old at the time, was very active in politics. A member of the prominent Winslow family in Boston, both her diary entries and letters to her mother offered a unique glimpse into the political sphere at the time.

Gosselin also highlighted ordinary people, who offered unique glimpses into contemporary New England living. She cited Moses Short, whose diary not only chronicled farm tasks such as pulling flax and hauling hay, but illustrated how revolutionary soldiers came from every walk of life.

There was no better example of this than the 5,000 black soldiers who fought in the American Revolution. Gosselin reported most of the soldiers were integrated with existing ranks, save for the First Rhode Island regiment, which was comprised entirely of black soldiers.

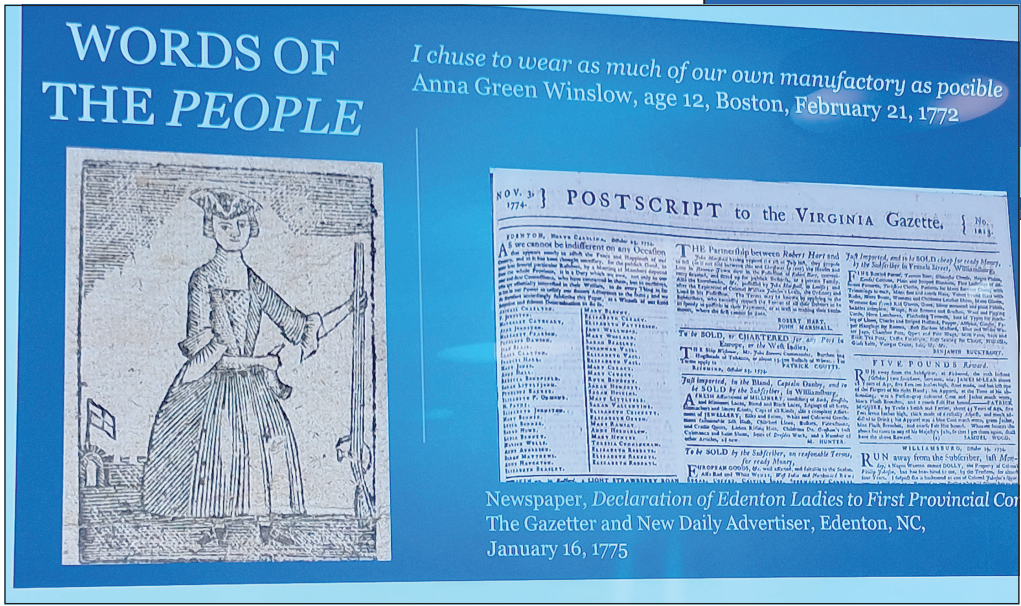
“This regiment was made up entirely of black soldiers, 179 in total, and they were commanded by white

soldiers,” Gosselin said and pointed to Dunmore’s Proclamation created in 1775, which promised freedom to any of Virginia’s 200,000 enslaved people willing to take up arms for the British.

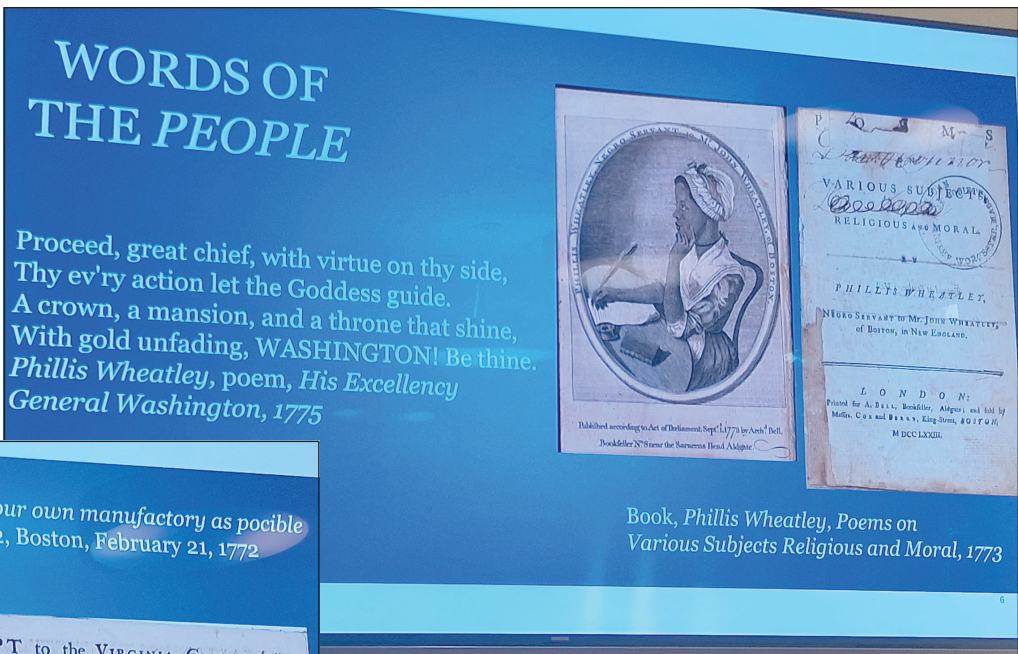
“According to the Virginia Gazette, about 800 men did sign up to that call,” Gosselin said. “Many of them wore shirts that read ‘Liberty to Slaves’ painted on the front.”

The presentation revealed

how much history is created by ordinary people thrust into extraordinary circumstances. It demonstrated how the United States’ past is both complicated and involved people from all manners of social stations. Those interested in learning more about the Daughters of the American Revolution and the free lectures they provide may check out their work at <https://www.dar.org>.



A blurb on young activist Anna Green Winslow.



A section featured famous writers of the time, including freed slave and poet laureate Phillis Wheatley.

“She (Phyllis Wheatley) is oftentimes referred to as the poet laureate of the American Revolution.”

– Daughter of the American Revolution representative Dr. Denise Gosselin

PUBLIC NOTICES

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of September 17, 2026 the following motor vehicles will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

2019 Nissan Armada
Vin: JN8AY2NC7K9587053
Color: Black
LKO: Eric Witherspoon
2 Executive Park Dr., Apt. 233
Merrimack, NH 03054

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Vin: SALCR2BG0GH546990
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62 Cady St.
Ludlow, MA 01056

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09/03, 09/10, 09/17/2026

Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands

Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, September 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** permit application submitted by Clifford Bowen for the **proposed work to build a single family home at Lot 84.01 Amherst Road (Assessor’s Map 101-84.01 and 84.02)** in Belchertown. Work is proposed to occur outside the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated. 09/032026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Division Docket No. HS26P0532EA Estate of: Norman Joseph Ashline Also Known As:

Norman Joseph Ashline, Jr. Date of Death: May 21, 2026 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Norman J. Ashline, III of Belchertown, MA**

a Will has been admitted to

informal probate.

Norman J. Ashline, III of Belchertown, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts

Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of

administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 09/03/2026

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