

Annual Report of the Town Clerk

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The population for the Town of Somerset according to the 2022 Annual Town Census was 17,452. The Decennial Federal Census of 2020 showed a population of 18,303 in Somerset.

As the Chief Election official of the Town of Somerset, the Town Clerk serves as the liaison office of the Board of Registrars and maintains voter registrations and all materials related to elections. The Town Clerk is responsible for the coordinating and administrating all local and State elections. In 2022, the Annual Town Election was held on Monday, April 11. There were two State Elections in 2022, the State Primary and the General Election.

The total number of registered voters and voter turnout was as follows:

Annual Town Election – April 11, 2022

Registered Voters: 13,827
Voter Turnout: 2,565 (18%)

State Primary Election – September 6, 2022

Registered Voters: 13,918
Voter Turnout: 3,222 (23%)

State Election – November 8, 2022

Registered Voters: 14,038
Voter Turnout: 7,741 (55%)

As required by Massachusetts General Laws, minutes of the Annual Town Meeting, Special Town Meetings and all election results are certified by the Town Clerk and are permanently recorded in the Town record books.

Our office continues to update Town's website, www.townofsomerset.org by providing residents with as much up to date information regarding the services we provide, along with informative postings of meeting notices, election information, trash pick-up information, campaign finance information, marriage license information and fees related to our services.

In 2022, we were fortunate to welcome back Senior Work Off participants. I would like to thank Mary Parent and Carol Medeiros who worked in our office during the busy Election season.

The Office of the Town Clerk offers many services on a walk-in basis to the residents, such as, issuing marriage licenses; sporting licenses; dog licenses; certified copies of birth, marriage, and death certificates; voter registration; absentee ballot applications; and raffle and bazaar permits. In addition, the Office of the Town Clerk serves as the filing/clerical office for the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the filing office for the Planning Board. Residents can also obtain Town Meeting warrants, sample ballots for elections, annual reports and the annual street list (\$15) in our office.

The Office of the Town Clerk is currently responsible for the sale of cemetery lots at the Nathan Slade Cemetery. Cemetery lots are available in single, double and four (4) grave lots. Cemetery lots are currently sold to current and former Somerset residents at \$450.00 each. Ongoing maintenance continues at all cemeteries, including repairs to fallen stones.

Our office is pleased to continue to sell sporting licenses, freshwater fishing licenses and saltwater recreational fishing licenses to area residents. With the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's

implementation of on-line purchasing only, many of our neighboring communities chose to eliminate this as a service out of their Town Clerk's office. We have welcomed customers from the surrounding area and encourage them to continue to take advantage of this service that Somerset offers.

During the calendar year of 2022, the following were issued:

Dog Licenses – 375

Raffle & Bazaar Permits – 1

Zoning Variances and/or Special Permits – 34 applications, 30 decisions granted, 3 withdrawn, 1 denied

Business Certificates Issued – 34, Renewals – 13, Withdrawn – 4

Graves sold – 26

Burial Permits issued - 132

Deaths recorded - 269

Births recorded - 108

Marriages Intentions filed - 74

Marriage Certificates Issued - 72

Sporting Licenses: Sporting – 34, Hunting – 11, Freshwater Fishing – 42, Saltwater Fishing - 83

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Bence, CMMC - Town Clerk