

ZOOM INFORMATION

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WINTHROP TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING AGENDA FEBRUARY 25, 2025 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 6:30PM HARVEY HEARING ROOM

Town Council Members

Town Council President James Letterie

Precinct 1 Councilor Costigan

Precinct 2 Councilor Munson

Precinct 3 VP- Councilor Belcher

Precinct 4 Councilor Swope

Precinct 5 Councilor Aiello

Precinct 6 Councilor DaRos

Councilor at Large DeMarco

Councilor at Large Tassinari

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. MINUTES

Approval of Minutes February 11, 2025 as circulated

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Jack VanBuskirk

3. MINUTES

Approval of Minutes February 11, 2025 as circulated

4. GENERAL INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5. PUBLIC HEARING

Town Council discuss a New Finance Policy regarding Free Cash

Town Council vote to approve the Amended Tree Ordinance

Town Council vote to approve \$158,500 for the funding of Phase II of the engineering at Tileston, Girdlestone and Pico

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

7. CORRESPONDENCE

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

9. SCHOOL DEPARTMENT REPORT

10. TOWN MANAGER REPORT UPDATE CDICR & POLICY MAKING COMMITTEES

11. OLD BUSINESS

Town Council discuss a New Finance Policy regarding Free Cash

Town Council vote to approve the Amended Tree Ordinance

Town Council vote to approve \$158,500 for the funding of Phase II of the engineering at Tileston, Girdlestone and Pico

Town Council discuss EOHLC Action Plan – MBTA 3A

12. NEW BUSINESS

Town Council approve Memorial Committee recommendations

Appointment- ORC Committee

Town Council Decorum

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

14. PUBLIC RELATIONS / UPCOMING EVENTS

FHBC Meeting Feb. 24, 2025 6:00 PM Harvey Hearing Room

15. ADJOURNMENT



TOWN OF WINTHROP

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Hall, 1 Metcalf Square, Winthrop, MA 02152 Telephone: 617-846-1077

Anthony Marino
Town Manager

Town Manager Report **2-25-2025**

- Department Budgets have all come in for the FY26 budget season, and I continue to work with the Finance team to balance the budget to accommodate increases in Health and Property Insurance along with COLA increases for union and non-union personnel. We continue to plan for our normal budget cycle with nominal COLA increases in line with past budgets. However, I again need to stress that if the schools do not receive additional funding via an override, substantial cuts across every department will be required from the Town side of the budget to assist the schools. We will not be able to give the schools the entire 3.5 million dollars that the schools will need for the FY26 budget but will need to offer up more than we normally do to spread the cuts throughout the entire town and to be prepared to highlight the service level drop off and any staff reductions that will occur. Superintendent Howard and I continue to meet and discuss what a 2nd version of the FY26 budget without a school override will look like and determine what services will be reduced for both the Town and the Schools.
- We submitted our Action Plan to the EOHLC and received confirmation that it was accepted. We are in “interim compliance” until July 14, 2025. We also submitted Public Comments before the 2-21-25 deadline with Winthrop’s concerns and suggested language for an exemption under a new definition that we called “Compact Coastal Community.” Both documents are up on the Town’s Website for review.
- Our DPW team continues to do a great job with snow removal efforts this Winter. Special thanks to all of our DPW workers who work long, hard hours keeping our streets clean! As this winter has had more snowfall and storms than the last few years, we are over what we budgeted for snow and ice in the FY25 Budget. Snow and ice are line items that we can deficit spend and move monies around later. We budget \$135,000 and anticipate finishing closer to \$300,000 before the end of the Winter Season.
- As we approach the Spring Season, our tree committee is developing a Tree Adoption program to help us regularly water our newer trees. They created a form we will post on the website and advertise the program in the Town Manager report and social media.

- The IFB for the Pauline Street Fire Station Floor Repair is out, and bids are due February 27, 2025. Potential bidders have sent us follow-up questions.
- Our consultant, Epsilon Associates, has completed the sieve sample at Yirrell Beach, and we anticipate them giving us a final report with the material we need to purchase to install the coastal berm along the sea wall. Once we receive that, we can source the material, get pricing to purchase it, and have it delivered. Once we do that, we can formulate a plan to bring to the town council that includes all associated costs associated with this project.
- MVP FY26 Action Grant Funding Round is now open, due April 4th, 2025. We have reached out to our consultant from last year and will update last year's submissions to resubmit for consideration this year.
- Lastly, Union negotiations continue to move forward. We have had initial and 2nd meetings with the two Police Unions and the Library union. We have yet to meet with the DPW and Clerical Unions but have contacted their representatives to get something on the books.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions about the items listed above or about any other issues. Thank you.

Anthony Marino
Winthrop Town Manager
amarino@winthropma.gov



TOWN OF WINTHROP

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, 1 Metcalf Square, Winthrop, MA 02152 Telephone: 617-846-1742

MOTION

Submitted By: Vice President Belcher

Date: February 6, 2025

I move that the Town Council amend the Town of Winthrop ordinance titled "Title 12 - STREETS SIDEWALKS AND PUBLIC PLACES, Chapter 12.48 - TREES" to make the following amendments:

1. In the "DEFINITIONS" section, amend the "Landmark Tree" section to include the sentence "Any public tree with a DBH of 18 inches or greater shall automatically be designated a Landmark Tree." at the conclusion of the definition.
2. Under PERMITTING; ACTIVITIES REQUIRING A PERMIT, amend the fourth sentence that currently reads:
"No tree work/removal permit shall be issued unless on the following conditions exists,"
to add the clause immediately following the comma:
"and such permit shall only allow for a scope of work necessary to address the reason for the permit:"
3. Under "REMOVAL OF PUBLIC TREES", add the following immediately after the first sentence:
"Therefore, a Landmark Tree may not be removed for any non-Town purpose."
4. Under "TREE MEMORIAL PROGRAM", delete the final sentence that reads
"Plaques may not be affixed to a said tree."
to be replaced by:
"The tree warden may affix a memorial plaque as approved by the Memorials Committee to a memorial tree if they deem it appropriate based on the health of said tree. The tree warden (or their designee) must perform the installation of a memorial plaque."

2024 Tree Plan

Introduction

Winthrop's tree canopy provides the town many benefits. Trees clean the air, and help to reduce noise, therefore addressing, to a degree, the negative health and welfare impacts the town suffers as a result of the activities of Logan Airport. Trees also reduce carbon dioxide from the air, therefore helping to combat climate change. Winthrop is particularly at risk to the impacts of climate change and a rising ocean. Trees also reduce heat islands, make parks and public spaces more comfortable, reduce stress, and can increase real estate values.

Recent Efforts

During the current fiscal year the DPW has planted roughly 50 trees as a result of town funding, and donations. Additionally, Winthrop Loves Trees has planted 36 trees in Winthrop's parks and public lands. Finally, 15 maple trees were planted as a result of a community run fundraiser in honor of David Green and Ramona Cooper. With current staffing and funding Winthrop currently has the ability to plant roughly 50 trees each year. Further, a tree survey was conducted, and the town is incorporating that information into the GIS system. As trees are planted and removed, the GIS system must be updated. The Winthrop Town Council should also be updated at least annually as to how many trees have been planted and how many have been removed over the course of the year.

Multi-Year Tree Planting Plan

Winthrop is in need of many additional trees that produce a robust canopy. Winthrop should adopt a policy, where sensible, of planting trees that will provide the maximum feasible canopy for a specific location. Tree hardiness, diversity, and other considerations must also be weighed.

Winthrop's main travel corridors are the most heavily utilized streets in Winthrop, resulting in higher traffic-related pollution and noise on those streets. The Tree Warden and Tree Committee therefore recommend an initial focus on these main travel corridors for mass-plantings of trees as it will have an outsized impact on both the corridor residents and the greater Winthrop community. The tree committee has evaluated the three priority corridors, which are the Pleasant-Washington corridor, the Main-Revere corridor, and the River-Cross corridor. The needs of these corridors are further explained below, but at Winthrop's current pace of tree planting it should be expected to take at least the next 2.5 years to address the needs of the first two corridors. Additional main corridors that should be evaluated next are Crest Ave-Veteran's-Shirley, Pauline-Winthrop-Walden.

It is likely that at the current planting rate it may take up to 5 years to address the identified corridors. Meanwhile, Winthrop's neighborhoods and parks are also in need of additional trees. The Tree Committee and Warden should evaluate tree canopy disparities between neighborhoods and parks, and consider facts such as where EJ communities are located, to help guide future planting efforts.

Where town funds and capabilities are limited, the town administration should work to secure additional funds dedicated to planting additional trees, promote tree donations, optimize the tree farm, and work with community organizations to better address these needs. Further, where feasible, grass strips along edge of the sidewalks should be considered. The additional permeable surface will make for healthier trees, and allow for more water to be absorbed into the ground during rain storms. Finally, as sidewalks are relaced, tree pits and trees for feasible planting locations should be incorporated into the construction plans as normal design and construction standards.

Pleasant and Washington Corridor

The Pleasant-Washington corridor should be first to be addressed. An initial evaluation indicates a need for at roughly 38 trees along Pleasant St. and at roughly 22 trees along Washington Ave.¹ As some trees planted each year replace trees that have died, it should be expected that it will take roughly two years of planting efforts for this corridor to be fully built out. The Tree Committee and Warden should next work to recommend tree species for the designated spots along this corridor.

Main and Revere Corridor

At the recommendation of the Tree Warden and the Tree Committee the town has recently planted street trees at most open locations along Main St. from the entrance to Winthrop to Magee's Corner. Further, the TIP project is expected to add a net gain of 25 trees on Revere St. between Magee's Corner and the intersection with Crest Ave, which should result in most appropriate street tree locations along that stretch being planted. Tree species recommendations have been made in relation to the TIP project plantings.

The initial evaluation of Revere St. from the intersection of Crest Ave. to the exit of town indicates a need for roughly 15 additional trees. This should be prioritized after the Pleasant and Washington corridor, which should line up nicely with the completion of the TIP project. Expect this segment to take the bulk of new trees for one planting season.

River-Cross

¹ See recommended planting locations excel sheet.

River road is in need of roughly 35 trees, and there is a need for additional trees on Cross St. as well. Tom Dederian has recommended specific species in some places, and the size of trees in others. Two to three planting seasons (1 to 1.5 years) of planting will be needed to fully plant this corridor at current planting rates.

Conclusion:

Winthrop is in need of a significant amount of additional public trees which will provide numerous benefits to the town. Currently the DPW has the resources to plant roughly 25 street trees per planting season, translating to 50 a year. This includes donated trees (trees can be donated for \$350) and town-led tree planting efforts. Meanwhile it is much more expensive to outsource tree planting, with a cost in excess of \$1,500 per tree. There is therefore a capacity constraint as to how rapidly Winthrop can replenish its canopy. Winthrop should continue to focus on mass plantings along the main travel corridors in the short term to maximize the impact and benefit of town funds, while continuing to both plan neighborhood and park tree plantings, and to seek funding, donations, and partnerships for those plantings.

Proposed Edits:

- 1) Landmark Tree: Addition to definition to include: **Any public tree with a DBH of 18 inches or greater shall automatically be designated a Landmark Tree.**
 - a. The town has not yet designated any trees as Landmark Trees, this will automatically designated Winthrop's largest public trees as Landmark Trees.
- 2) Added Language in Activities Requiring A Permit: No tree work/removal permit shall be issued unless one of the following conditions exists, **and such permit shall only allow for a scope of work necessary to address the reason for the permit.**
 - a. Added clarity of scope of work to be done.
- 3) Removal of Public Trees: Addition of new 2nd sentence: **Therefore, a Landmark Tree may not be removed for any non-Town purpose.**
 - a. Protection against removal of Significant Trees at request of private parties, but allows for removal by the town.



TOWN OF WINTHROP

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Hall, 1 Metcalf Square, Winthrop, MA 02152 Telephone: 617-846-1077 Fax: 617-846-5458

Anthony Marino
Town Manager

Town Council Motion

February 6, 2025

Fiscal Year 2025

Motion Summary

Title: Engineering and Design Work for the Girdlestone, Tileston, and Pico Drainage Improvements Project - Phase 2

Motion ID: TCM25-010

Amount: \$158,500

Funding Source: Capital Stabilization Fund

Motion Details

Motion Type: Transfer

Submitted by: Anthony Marino, Town Manager

Date Submitted: February 6, 2025

Text of Motion

MOTION: I move that the Town Council transfer \$158,500 from the Capital Stabilization Fund to the Stormwater Engineering special article account for Phase 2 of the Stormwater Engineering for the Tileston Rd, Girdlestone Rd, and Pico Ave Areas; or take any other action thereto.

Funding Details

Funding Source			Funding Destination		
Account	Description	Amount	Account	Description	Amount
964	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$158,500	0196058-588214	Stormwater Engineering	\$158,500

Capital Stabilization Fund Balance: \$1,890,600

Amount Requested: \$158,500

Capital Stabilization after motion approval: \$1,732,100



TOWN OF WINTHROP OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, 1 Metcalf Square, Winthrop, MA 02152 Telephone: 617-846-1852

James Letterie
Town Council President

MOTION

TEXT OF MOTION

Submitted By: Council President

Date: 2-11-25

Subject: Memorials Committee

TEXT OF MOTION

The Town Council votes to approve the Memorials Committee recommendation of the following:

Street Sign for Gunnery Sgt. Arthur Lyng
Street Sign for PFC Harold "Huck" Evans
Street Sign for LTCR Robert DeGregorio, Sr.
Add Coach Robert DeFelice to Miller Field

Winthrop Memorials Committee

Agenda

Date: 1/28/2025_ Times:6:00_ Location: Veterans Office
E.B. Newton School Winthrop, MA

Members present:

1. Phil Ronan
- 2 Rose Mazzuchelli
- 3 Judi Buono

Others present: Gus Martucci

Robert DeGregorio, Jr

Mark DeGregorio _____

Topics of Discussion: (Attach Agenda)

1. Memorial street sign for Gunnery Sgt. Arthur Lyng ✓
2. Memorial street sign for PFC. Harold "Huck" Evans ✓
3. Memorial street sign for LTCR. Robert DeGregorio, Sr ✓
4. Add Coach Robert DeFelice to Miller Field

Public Hearing

Motions made/by whom:

1. Phil Ronan
2. Rose Mazzuchelli
3. Phil Ronan
4. Rose Mazzuchelli

2. _____

Votes Taken: Unanimous by all members 3-0 to approve memorial will be forwarded to Town Council for approval_

Misc. Notes

Chair signature Phil Ronan

Phil Ronan