

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2025

President Letterie calls the meeting to order at 6:30 PM in the Harvey Hearing Room

ROLL CALL TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Councilor Aiello, Councilor Costigan, Councilor Tassinari, Councilor Swope, Vice President Belcher, President Letterie

Absent: Councilor DeMarco

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Costigan

GENERAL INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CITATION- The Town of Winthrop proudly recognizes **Officer Guy Prather** for an extraordinary act of heroism performed while off duty and out of the country on vacation.

CITATIONS- Learn to Skate 40Yr. Anniversary

Sean Donahue

George Barker

CITATION-Retirement

Marylou Osborne

PRESENTATION:

MAPC-Hazard Mitigation Presentation-Martin Pillsbury

Please see a copy of PowerPoint on Town Website

Councilor Tassinari would like to see in the draft plan, especially if this will allow the Town to apply for grants for something about micro grids to connect hazard central sights in our town. I would like these areas to be connected to power.

Councilor Daros discusses the Climate Commission has been developing a climate resiliency plan that does have a decarbonation component to look at 8 specific hot spots around town. There is a need for an updated plan, so this does qualify our town to apply for grants. Would like to add a member of the Climate Commission to the Hazard Mit. Team.

Councilor Aiello discusses how our town exits are compromised by climate change, which limits our town exits to only 1. Our town does not have any ER Hospitals, clinics and I hope this plan may help with this condition and strengthen and prioritize our needs during an emergency.

Councilor Swope asks for a successful approach to help our town with funding these projects.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Derderian P3-Discusses the trees can help during storms.

Lee Foley P6-Approves by Proclamations the Town Council will be approving this evening,

Jack Dowd P1-Concerning the MWRA Truck that leaked while driving down the Point. He would like a report from MWRA that has been corrected.

Marci Hamilton P2-Would like to thank Councilor Munson for his leadership while serving the Town Council.

She now asks who she should contact in case of problems in the area of Tileston and Girdlestone Rd.

Bill Schmidt P5-Comments on the MBTA 3A Zoning the state has imposed on city and towns.

CORRESPONDENCE

None to report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Councilor DaRos reports on a motion that was discussed during the meeting on the updating of the Towns Free Cash Policy to:

The General Stabilization Allocation Fund will be reduced by 3% from 40% to 37%. 3% will be added to the Education Stabilization Fund. Maintain the 30% of the Capital Stabilization Allocation and maintain the Building Stabilization Allocation Fund at its current 10% with a cap of \$300,000 and to set aside 10% prior to those for emergencies to help guarantee that we will have a Free Cash amount for the following year should something unexpected occur.

Councilor Tassinari discusses the Free Cash policy states 30% stabilization.

Councilor President states the recommendation is to allocate 40% of the annual certified free cash to General Stabilization Account, 30% to Capital Stabilization Fund and there was a request for \$250,000 annual to be set aside which was changed to 10%

Town Manager Marino states in the past it has been 40%/30%/10% with a \$300,000 Cap

These recommendations will be forwarded to the Finance Committee for discussion at their next meeting to determine whether any adjustments should be made.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Councilor President reports meeting was short due to going into an Executive Session Meeting. Graduation is May 30th...Senior Week activities next week.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT-See Attached Report

Yirrel Beach Meeting rescheduled to May 28th at 6PM in the PSA Hall

DPW Director Calla reports on the Point Shirley area National Grid gas work to begin.

Interviews for Project Managers of the Fire Station will take place tomorrow evening at the Sr. Center

Vice President Belcher asks if there is signage going out prior to any shut downs of roads. Will the OPM Project Manger meeting be recorded? Yes, they will be.

Councilor Swope discusses 12 Sewell Ave and surprised to see that this is now Condo's. Discusses a long history of this property being different unit amounts. Believes as sold, bypassed the Planning Board and Board of Appeals. It did receive inspections but did not go through a process. Warns that the town should be careful with these properties.

Councilor Aiello discussed the process for contributing to the Tree Fund, noting that individuals can make a donation by bringing a check directly to the Department of Public Works (DPW). These donations are also Tax deductible

Additionally, the date has been scheduled for the 2nd Annual Greater Boston Track Club "Twilight by the Sea" event, which will take place on June 28, 2025, at Miller Field.

Councilor DaRos discusses the Physical Impact report and does this apply to 3A. Town Manager reports, no this is for the overall percentages of the town considering the town will have a housing impact with or without 3A. Asks if there is any consideration in the OPM selectin process on the Firehouse about including alternative green energy power?

OLD BUSINESS

MBTA 3A – Discussion and Procedure-Town Council President discusses the process:

July 14th is deadline for compliance/non-compliance date. There is a joint meeting with a Public Hearing on June 10th with the WPB at the Sr. Center for a discussion of which the WPB will then send their recommendation to the Town Council for a vote by July 14th.

ADUs and Short-Term Rentals – Councilor Swope requested a clear and complete distinction between **Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)** and **Short-Term Rentals**. Additionally, Councilor Swope strongly recommended that **no variances** be allowed for ADU requirements.

NEW BUSINESS

Proclamation Recognizing Pride Month-

Prior to reading into the record by Councilor DaRos he reports an email from the Chair of the CDICR, Aaron Williams of thanking the Town Council for accepting these Proclamations.

Discussion of why the Flag should or should not be flown for these dates.

Proclamation Town Council Recognize June 19, 2025, as Juneteenth National Independence Day
Vice President reads this proclamation into the record.

Town Council President asks All in Favor of Flying a Flag
Passes
One No-Council President

Please see both Proclamations on the Town Council Web Site

Council President refers the following motions to the Finance Committee:

Town Council appropriate \$1,465,356 Free Cash / Stabilization Funds

Town Council appropriate \$200,000 from Retained Earnings/Wate Sewer Capital Stabilization Fund

Town Council appropriate \$130,000 Free Cash / Compensated Absences and OPEB Trust

Town Council appropriate \$20,000 Retained Earnings / Ferry Enterprise Fund Costs

Town Council appropriate the sum of \$38,500,000 for the demolition of the Old Middle School & Auditorium and Design of a New Fire House

Discuss next procedure on appointing councilor for P2-

Letters of Interest will be accepted until May 31st. Will be voted on in June or the first meeting in July.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Erin Barcello P5-Thanks, the Town Council for the Proclamations

Jack Dowd P1-Requests information on the Massport Contract with the Town.

Discusses the ADU's and the 900 sq. ft. and the regulations.

Scott Mahoney Wright P3-Discusses the Pride Flag being flown.

Karin Chavis P2-Discusses the Citations given and has nothing but pride and respect for all.

There will be a public comment meeting on Tuesday May 27th with the ORC.

Public Hearing on June 178, 2025

Cassie Witthaus P-Thanks Town Council for the Proclamations

Discusses ADU's and information available.

Shannon Poulos P3-Discusses how very few people attend the Finance Commission meetings in reference to the Town Budget discussions but yet will speak and meet on Proclamations. Asks that all Councilors attend a Finance Commission Meeting.

PUBLIC RELATIONS / UPCOMING EVENTS

Nomination Papers for the Local Election 11-4-25 Available Clerks Office

Please participate in the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment-Town Website

Winthrop Ferry Up & Running: Schedule on Winthrop Website / Weekends begin May 24, 2025

June 7, 2025, Pride Potluck -Ingleside Park 2-6 PM

June 14, 2025, Pride Pub Crawl-Drop Zone Brewery 4PM

June 21, 2025 – Strawberry Festival-Winthrop Deane House

Callahan Tunnel will be closed from 11pm to 5Am tomorrow evening.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Swope at 8:30 pm

2nd by Councilor DaRos

Passed Unanimously

Public Documents used in the meeting are available at Town Managers Office.

Documents Used in this Meeting: Handwritten Notes / Committee Openings Documents Roll Call Log

Written Motions / Verbal Motion

Respectfully submitted.

Denise Quist

Town Clerk

Council Clerk

UNDER REVIEW

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