

IN SUDBURY SELECT BOARD
TUESDAY MARCH 17, 2026
7:00 PM, HYBRID MEETING
TOWN HALL, LOWER LEVEL
322 CONCORD ROAD, SUDBURY, MA 01776
(Meeting can be viewed at www.sudburytv.org)

Present: Chair Lisa Kouchakdjian, Vice-Chair Janie Dretler, Select Board Member Dan Carty, Select Board Member Charles Russo, Select Board Member Radha Gargeya, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Victor Garofalo, Town Manager Andrew Sheehan

Chair Kouchakdjian called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll call: Dretler-present, Carty-present, (remote attendance), Russo-present, Gargeya-present, Kouchakdjian-present

Opening Remarks by Chair

- Annual Town election will be held on Monday; March 30 and she encouraged people to vote.
- Select Board office hours will be held on April 8th with she and Vice-Chair Dretler
- Open Space and Recreation Survey now available on the Town's Website

Reports from Town Manager

- For the record, it was noted in accordance with Town Chart, the Town Manager can participate in meetings with various Town departments, boards/committees in company of the Select Board Chair, such as the September 2025 meeting referenced with the Chair of the SPS Committee and Select Board Chair Kouchakdjian and himself

Reports from Select Board

Vice-Chair Dretler

- Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey is still open on Town's website, and invites all to participate
- Applications for the Liberty Ledge/Sewataro Advisory Committee are being accepted
- Sudbury is currently in drought condition
- Health Fair will be held on April 9th at the Fairbank Community Center.
- Hazardous Waste Collection will take place on March 28th

- Sudbury Police Academy will be taking place again this year; information provided on Town website

Board Member Carty

- Thanked all for their help at the March 12th Science Fair at Loring School where he has happily acted as guest scientist at that event for several years
- Noted that he specifically requested that information related to the Town Managers meeting with SPS Committee Chair and Select Board Chair Kouchakdjian on 9/26/25 and 12/2/25 (about school finances and short and long-term strategies); he stressed the importance of transparency and compliance with Open Meeting Law and asked that related materials be added to this evening's supplementary listing and that subject topic be included in a Select Board open session meeting agenda
- Announced he would be leaving tonight's meeting at approximately 9:45 due to a work commitment

Board Member Gargeya

- Announced on March 13th he attended the MMA (Ma Municipal Association) breakfast where disappointing FY28 financial/revenues; recommendation was for community Select Board members to communicate such concerns with State Representatives and to advocate for State Municipal Empowerment Act.
- On Sunday, March 15th Sudbury 250th Anniversary presentation took place – historian Tony Howes presented the life of Patriot and innkeeper Ezekiel Howes (no relation, does live in a house built by Ezekiel How
- Announced March 28 will be a Eid celebration at the Goodnow Library; and on March 29th an exhibition regarding American Art – 250th Masterworks of A Nation also at the Goodnow Library at 3:00 PM
- Announced on April 15th at Congregation Bethel Remembrance of Holocaust Day – “Who Will Remain” at 7:00 PM to 8:15 PM
- Sudbury 250th Day to be held at the Town Center on May 16

Board Member Russo

- Wished all a Happy St. Patrick's Day
- Congratulated those who participated on Town winter sports and now looking forward to the beginning of Town spring sports
- Reminded all Town residents to vote at Annual Town Election on Monday, March 30

Public Comment

Resident Manish Sharma, 77 Colonial Road, stated that he requested a meeting with Chief Nix of the Police Dept. to discuss financial aspects and wanted all Select Board Members to be financially aware. He mentioned interest rates.

Winter 2026 Select Board Newsletter Articles Approval

Board Members provided edits to their Newsletter Articles.

Board member Carty motioned to approve the Winter 2026 Select Board Newsletter Articles, with mentioned edits. Member Gargeya seconded the motion.

It was on motion 5-0; Dretler-aye, Carty-aye, Russo-aye, Gargeya-aye, Kouchakdjian-aye

VOTED: To approve the Winter 2026 Select Board Newsletter Articles, with mentioned edits

Update on Vocational Education goal

On March 9th, Chair Kouchakdjian stated that she had returned a call from Minuteman Vocational Superintendent Heidi Driscoll. Chair Kouchakdjian stated that during that phone conversation, Ms. Driscoll acknowledged the letter the Board sent to her and stated that she was impressed with Select Board proposal at the upcoming Sudbury Town Meeting to put forward a stabilization article; Ms. Driscoll indicated such action distinguished Sudbury from other communities seeking membership. Ms. Driscoll invited Chair Kouchakdjian and Town Manager Sheehan to a meeting at Minuteman on March 26th to discuss the process.

Chair Kouchakdjian stated that she would report back to the Select Board at the meeting on March 31st.

Board Member Carty asked if the school has an opening or is intending to have an opening. Chair Kouchakdjian stated that Ms. Driscoll was considering potentially adding members. Board Member Carty indicated that this was a positive step; he inquired about the cost associated with such membership as well as the importance of discussing educational matters. Board Members engaged in related discussion.

Board Member Carty recommended that Chair Kouchakdjian extend an invitation to Superintendent Driscoll to appear before this Board at an upcoming Select Board meeting and that he would look forward to such a presentation.

7:38 PM Public Hearing

1. As the Licensing Authority for the Town of Sudbury, in accordance with MGL c. 138, s. 15, vote to approve a new seasonal wine and malt on-premises liquor license for Wayside Inn Corporation, of 72 Wayside Inn Road, Sudbury, MA 01776. The Wayside Inn will operate a seasonal “Beer Garden” between May and October in an open-air tent located at 73 Wayside Inn Road, Sudbury

Present: Steve Pickford, Innkeeper/General Manager – Wayside Inn

Vice-Chair Dretler opening the public hearing to approve a new seasonal wine and malt on-premises liquor license for Wayside Inn Corporation, of 72 Wayside Inn Road, Sudbury, MA 01776. The Wayside Inn will operate a seasonal “Beer Garden” between May and October in an open-air tent located at 73 Wayside Inn Road, Sudbury. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

It was on motion 5-0; Dretler-aye, Carty-aye, Gargeya-aye, Russo-aye, Kouchakdjian-aye

VOTED: As the Licensing Authority for the Town of Sudbury, in accordance with MGL c. 138, s. 15, vote to open the public hearing for a new seasonal wine and malt on-premises liquor license

for Wayside Inn Corporation, of 72 Wayside Inn Road, Sudbury, MA 01776. The Wayside Inn will operate a seasonal “Beer Garden” between May and October in an open-air tent located at 73 Wayside Inn Road, Sudbury

Mr. Pickford provided overview of the seasonal “Beer Garden” project to be open from May 15th to October 31st. Mr. Pickford mentioned expanding activities for families. Board Members agreed that such expansion would be beneficial.

Resident Kay Bell, Old Lancaster Road, was pleased with the proposal, adding that proposal helps put Sudbury on the map and advances the culture of the Town. She asked about enhanced accessibility accommodations. Mr. Pickford explained the project was ADA compliant and would be considering other accessible accommodations, including additional ramping to be installed.

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to close the public hearing for approval of a new seasonal wine and malt on-premises liquor license for Wayside Inn Corporation, of 72 Wayside. The Wayside Inn will operate a seasonal “Beer Garden” between May 15th and October 31st in an open-air tent located at 73 Wayside Inn Road, Sudbury. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

It was on motion 5-0; Dretler-aye, Carty-aye, Russo-aye, Gargeya-aye, Kouchakdjian-aye

VOTED: To close the public hearing for a new seasonal wine and malt on-premises liquor license for Wayside Inn Corporation, of 72 Wayside Inn Road, Sudbury, MA 01776. The Wayside Inn will operate a seasonal “Beer Garden” between May 15th and October 31st in an open-air tent located at 73 Wayside Inn Road, Sudbury

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It was on motion 5-0; Dretler-aye, Carty-aye, Russo-aye, Gargeya-aye, Kouchakdjian-aye

VOTED: To approve a new seasonal wine and malt on-premises liquor license for Wayside Inn Corporation, of 72 Wayside Inn Road, Sudbury, MA 01776. The Wayside Inn will operate a seasonal “Beer Garden” between May 15th and October 31st in an open-air tent located at 73 Wayside Inn Road, Sudbury

Board Members confirmed such approval will be held yearly.

Vote to Appoint Taryn Trexler, 253 Concord Road, to the Historic Districts Commission with a term to expire 1/1/2031

Board Member Carty asked if this appointment was properly advertised and posted, and suggested that such posting take place going forward. Chair Kouchakdjian was in agreement.

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to appoint Taryn Trexler, 253 Concord Road, to the Historic Districts Commission with a term to expire 1/1/2031. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

It was on motion 5-0; Dretler-aye, Carty-aye, Russo-aye, Gargeya-aye, Kouchakdjian-aye

VOTED: To Appoint Taryn Trexler, 253 Concord Road, to the Historic Districts Commission with a term to expire 1/1/2031

3. Joint Meeting with Lincoln Sudbury Regional School District Subcommittee regarding Regional Agreement

Present: Andrew Stephens, LSRHS Superintendent; Kim Bodnar, Lincoln Select Board Member; Maura Carty, LSRHS Committee Member; Cathie Bitter, LSRHS Committee Member; Ravi Simon, Chair LSRHS School Committee

Mr. Simon opened the LSRHS District Subcommittee meeting. Ms. Bodnar seconded the motion.

It was on motion 6-0; Stephens-present, Bodnar-present, Carty-present, Bitter-present, Simon-present, Kouchakdjian-present

VOTED: To open the LSRHS District Subcommittee meeting

Mr. Simon reviewed the Agreement process which involved some 13 months of work to provide changes to the Agreement; he added that the Agreement was last updated in 1988. Mr. Simon provided background information including official approval of the Agreement by DESE and that Agreement Counsel reviewed the Agreement proposal.

Superintendent Stephens confirmed that the modified Agreement is now being reviewed by DESE counsel, and any changes would likely be minor and would be finalized within the next several weeks.

Select Board Members provided related comments.

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to approve the Lincoln Sudbury Regional School District Regional Agreement as modified by the LSRHS District Subcommittee, subject to DESE and Counsel Review. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

It was on motion 5-0; Dretler-aye, Carty-aye, Russo-aye, Gargeya-aye, Kouchakdjian-aye

VOTED: To approve the Lincoln Sudbury Regional School District Regional Agreement as modified by the LSRHS District Subcommittee, subject to DESE and Counsel Review

Mr. Simon motioned to close the LSRHS District Subcommittee meeting. Ms. Bodnar seconded the motion.

It was on motion 6-0; Stephens-present, Bodnar-present, Carty-present, Bitter-present, Simon-present, Kouchakdjian-present

VOTED: To close the LSRHS District Subcommittee meeting

4. Consider the proposed Zero Emissions Vehicle First Policy for the municipal fleet and vote to approve said policy • Eric Simms, Sustainability Coordinator, will be in attendance to discuss the Zero Emissions Vehicle First Policy

Present: Eric Simms, Sustainability Coordinator

Mr. Simms presented the Zero emission Vehicle First Policy, explaining the intent of the policy involves replacement of municipal vehicles to all-electric vehicles. He confirmed that he presented the policy to the Sudbury Public Schools last evening.

Mr. Simms noted that in keeping with the 2022 Climate Emergency Declaration and the 2023 Sudbury Climate Mobilization Action Plan, which updated the 2012 Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy in Sudbury, should action would involve the Town's ability to purchase electric vehicles where applicable. He confirmed that a new policy from MA Depot of Energy Resource would provide Sudbury eligible for participating in a one million dollar grant for municipal fleet-building.

Mr. Simms stated that the Sudbury focus is on light fleet vehicles, primarily light duty vehicles, which does not include emergency vehicles or more construction-type vehicles. He asked that the Select Board endorse the statement indicating the Sudbury Select Board has adopted the policy and SPS and LSRHS adopting their existing policies.

Board Members touched on related topics: usefulness for the Policy fleet, electric/hybrid replacements, charging station infrastructure, maintenance, opportunity for grants, availability of Municipal EV vehicles, EV Life Span, etc.

Town Manager Sheehan confirmed that he and the two school superintendents would review the policy, provide comments and then forward the documentation to Town Counsel.

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to approve the proposed Zero Emissions Vehicle First Policy for the municipal fleet and vote to approve said policy. Board Member Gargeya seconded the motion.

It was on motion 5-0; Dretler-aye, Carty-aye, Russo-aye, Gargeya-aye, Kouchakdjian-aye

VOTED: To approve the proposed Zero Emissions Vehicle First Policy for the municipal fleet and vote to approve said policy

Board Member Carty left the meeting at approximately 9:40 PM.

5. Mike Joachim and Mike Ferrari, Finance Committee Co-Chairs, to discuss 2026 Annual Town Meeting Articles

Present: Finance Committee Co-Chairs Mike Joachim and Mike Ferrari

Mr. Joachim confirmed that Articles 3, 4, and 6 with other capital budget articles were approved by FinCom.

Co-Chairs Joachim and Ferrari presented the "Finance Committee Recommendations FY27 Operating and Capital Budgets" by Mike Joachim & Mike Ferrari. Mr. Joachim added that Free Cash aspects, Vocational Education funding and proposed Solar Canopies were not voted on by FinCom as yet.

Mr. Joachim stated that the FinCom Report would be finalized by March 31, 2026.

FinCom Chair recognized that costs are going up faster than revenue, so some kind of change is likely.

Mr. Ferrari had nothing to add, but all three cost centers have come within guidance.

Board Members shared related comments.

Board Member Russo left the meeting at 9:45 PM.

6. Review and discuss 2026 Annual Town Meeting articles and vote positions • Lee Smith, Town Counsel, will be in attendance to Annual Town Meeting Articles • Sandra Duran, Facilities Director, will be in attendance to discuss 2026 Annual Town Meeting Articles

Present: Combined Facilities Director Sandra Duran, Solar Panel Representative Byron Woodman, Town Legal Counsel Lee Smith

Ms. Duran presented update regarding proposed Town solar panel projects in compliance with due diligence regarding the Haskell Field proposal.

Mr. Woodman confirmed appropriate preparations are being worked on for the three solar projects. He presented Haskell Field solar canopy renderings, adding that Eversource would be viewing the site next week for interconnection considerations. Board Members asked related questions.

Mr. Smith stated that he, Mr. Garafolo and Town Manager Sheehan met regarding the topic, and if a change in use per Article 97, the request must be vetted via legislation to change that use, subject to the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. He confirmed that such request takes time for the Article to be voted on at Town Meeting.

Ms. Duran opined about the definition of change of use. Related discussion took place.

Mr. Smith stated that he would perform a preliminary request/analysis and would start the process tomorrow. Mr. Woodman noted that each of the three solar projects stand on their own merit.

Eric Simms stated that he reached out to peer communities in similar situation and would forward such information to Ms. Duran and Mr. Smith.

7. Review and Vote on letter of Support for the FY2027 USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant Program, coordinated through the Office of Congresswoman Katherine Clark

Mr. Garafalo stated that Sudbury Public Safety would be a good area for applying such grant, and that he completed the relevant application and will submit the application.

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to approve the letter of Support for the FY2027 USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant Program, coordinated through the Office of Congresswoman Katherine Clark and authorizes the Select Board Chair to endorse the letter. Board Member Gargeya seconded the motion.

It was on motion 3-0; Dretler-aye, Gargeya-aye, Kouchakdjian-aye

VOTED: To approve the letter of Support for the FY2027 USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant Program, coordinated through the Office of Congresswoman Katherine Clark and authorizes the Select Board Chair to endorse the letter

9. Discuss Liberty Ledge/Sewataro Advisory Committee

Chair Kouchakdjian stated that Advisory Committee applications were being solicited at this time with a submission deadline of March 27th. She mentioned the interview process and suggested conducting a dedicated meeting for this process.

Board Member Gargeya stressed the importance of applicants providing information about related experience and backgrounds in the areas of planning, finance, zoning, recreation and open space.

Vice-Chair Dretler stated that a fair number of residents have submitted applications.

11. Review and Approve Minutes:

December 16, 2025 • February 3, 2026

December 16, 2025

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to approve the 12/16/26 Select Board Minutes, as edited. Mr. Gargeya seconded the motion.

It was on motion 3-0; Dretler-aye, Gargeya-aye, Kouchakdjian-aye

VOTED: To approve the 12/16/26 Select Board Minutes, as edited

February 3, 2026

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to approve the 2/03/26 Select Board Minutes, as edited. Mr. Gargeya seconded the motion.

It was on motion 3-0; Dretler-aye, Gargeya-aye, Kouchakdjian-aye

VOTED: To approve the 2/03/26 Select Board Minutes, as edited

Adjourn:

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to close the 3/17/26 Select Board meeting. Board Member Gargeya seconded the motion.

It was on motion 3-0; Dretler-aye, Gargeya-aye, Kouchakdjian-aye

VOTED: To close the 3/17/26 Select Board Meeting

There being no further business, the Select Board Open Session ended at 11:04 PM.