

IN SUDBURY SELECT BOARD
TUESDAY APRIL 28, 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 (remote), 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, Russo-present, Gargeya-present, Kouchakdjian-present

Opening Remarks by Chair

- Sudbury Rail Trail Advisory Committee has invited the public to a hybrid event at Goodnow Library on May 26th - 6:30 PM in the Community Room
- Smile Playground Ground will be closed for the week starting May 4th for resurfacing.
- Fairbank and Haskell Field master plan workshop will take place on April 30th starting at 6:30 PM and will be held on Zoom.
- Select Board will have a table at the Sudbury 250 Celebration Day on May 16th
- Board recently passed a proclamation "To be like Zach Day" on May 3rd and encourages all to do something kind that day to honor the memory of Zach
- Town Meeting begins May 4th
- Invited residents to attend Special Town Meeting on May 20th
- DPW Open House on May 9th - 10AM to 2:00 PM
- Thanked all for participation in Sudbury Cleanup Day
- Announced that she and Board Member Carty reviewed many policies at a recent Policy Subcommittee Meeting with Town Manager Sheehan

Reports from Town Manager

- Recognized National Volunteer Week and thanked those who volunteered in Sudbury
- Annual Town Meeting beginning this Monday

- Announced the formation of the Budget Working Group and looking toward FY28 to take a board-based approach on decision making aspects; seeking participation from the Select Board, Finance Committee, School Committee and other groups to begin meeting in June

Select Board Reports

Vice-Chair Dretler

- In support of the Budget Working Group

Board Member Carty

- Announced Town Meeting placeholder meetings
- Recognized that political signs are appearing on public properties
- Mentioned that he, Board Member Gargeya and Chair Kouchakdjian were members of a similar budget work group in 2019; he wants such group and meetings to be open to public

Board Member Gargeya

- Announced Sudbury 250th Day - May 16th to celebrate and commemorate the 250th, a milestone event from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM in Town Center, including plays, dance, music, food trucks, games, and re-enactments
- Thanked Staff Members Leila Frank and James Goudie-Murray for their efforts with the Sudbury 250th

Board Member Russo

- Hoped all had a great vacation week
- Welcomed the beginning of Town Spring sports season and additions at the Town fields

Public Comment

Resident Manish Sharma, 77 Colonial Road, extended lunch invites to the SPS community in recognition of their contributions to the Town and the students. He stated that he was looking forward to the meeting of the Budget Working Group. Mr. Sharma stated that he participated in Sudbury cleanup day.

A. Public Hearing

1.. As the Licensing Authority for the Town of Sudbury, in accordance with MGC c138, s. 15, vote to approve a new common victualler and all alcohol license for RH Sudbury MA LLC, dba Ramen Haven of 530 Boston Post Road, Unit A

Present: Amy Pang, Scot Chung – Representatives from Ramen Haven

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to open the Public Hearing for approving a new common victualler and all alcohol license for RH Sudbury MA LLC, dba Ramen Haven of 530 Boston Post Road, Unit A in accordance with MGC c138, s. 15. Board Member Gargeya seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To open the Public Hearing for approving a new common victualler and all alcohol license for RH Sudbury MA LLC, dba Ramen Haven of 530 Boston Post Road, Unit A in accordance with MGC c138, s. 15

Ms. Pang explained aspects of the new restaurant adding that the Sudbury site will be the second location for the restaurant. She provided detail about menu options and training associated with the victualler license. She added that the plan was to begin serving alcoholic beverages at Ramen Haven sometime in May.

Resident Manish Sharma asked about food suppliers, vendors and associated listings. Ms. Pang provided information about related food distributors/suppliers. Mr. Sharma asked if there have been any recalls from these suppliers. Town Manager Sheehan responded that the Health Department would have such information.

Resident Kay Bell expressed her appreciation for thoughtful. Wheelchair accessible layout at Ramen Haven, as well as two accessible bathrooms.

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to close the Public Hearing for Ramen Haven. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To close the Public Hearing for Ramen Haven

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned as the Licensing Authority for the Town of Sudbury, in accordance with MGC c138, s. 15, vote to approve a new common victualler and all alcohol license for RH Sudbury MA LLC, dba Ramen Haven of 530 Boston Post Road, Unit A. Board Member Gargeya seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: As the Licensing Authority for the Town of Sudbury, in accordance with MGC c138, s. 15, vote to approve a new common victualler and all alcohol license for RH Sudbury MA LLC, dba Ramen Haven of 530 Boston Post Road, Unit A

B. Miscellaneous

1. May 20, 2026 Special Town Meeting

- Discussion of Warrant
- Discussion with petitioners
- Sign Special Town Meeting Warrant

Present: Lauren Goldberg, KP Law

Town Manager Sheehan confirmed that the upcoming Special Town Meeting was triggered by the submitted Citizen's Petition with over 250 signatures, after which, three additional petitions were submitted for inclusion on the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Attorney Goldberg stated that once the Special Town Meeting Warrant is posted, additional petitions cannot be recognized. She detailed differences between the "binding" vs. "nonbinding" articles. She

confirmed that the Board is following proper procedure consistent with the accepted Special Town Meeting process.

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to sign the Special 2026 Town Meeting Warrant, subject to non-substantive changes that Town Counsel may make. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To sign the Special 2026 Town Warrant, subject to non-substantive changes that Town Counsel may make

Article 1 – Citizen’s Petition: Vote to Support House Bill 3464

Present: Neel Parwani, 45 Amanda Road

Advocate for the Citizen’s Petition – House Bill 3464 Neel Parwani 8th Grader at the Curtis Middle School explained the related bill which would increase the proposed redemption of bottle returns to ten (10) cents per bottle.

He confirmed that over 100 signatures were provided and acknowledged the other students who worked with him on this project, which would require retailers to accept additional bottle returns.

Board Members agreed to vote on the Citizen’s Petition at an upcoming Select Board meeting before Special Town Meeting on May 20, 2026.

2. Agricultural Commission Appointments:

- **Laura Abrams, 187 Nobscot Road**
- **Linda Baldelli, 25 Stone Road**
- **Joshua Joslyn, 295 Boston Post Road**

Present: Laura Abrams and Joshua Joslyn

Ms. Abrams stated that she owns the Bartlett Nurseries in Sudbury and had served on the previous Agricultural Commission some years ago. She noted that she and Victor Sulkowski are trying to get the Commission running again with hopes for a first meeting sometime before the Sudbury 250th Anniversary.

Vice-Chair Dretler inquired about activities the Commission might consider. Ms. Abrams stated that the Sudbury July 4th parade could include farm machinery along with other Town events to get people involved with the Agricultural Committee and revitalizing the Commission. Vice-Chair Dretler stated that it would interest people to know where the Town farms are and what they are doing. Ms. Abrams suggested farm visitations.

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to appoint Laura Abrams to the Agricultural Commission for a term ending 5/31/29. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To appoint Laura Abrams to the Agricultural Commission for a term ending 5/31/29

Mr. Joslyn introduced himself and stated that he would like to be of service to the community and share his experiences in a related agricultural industry. He detailed that he has a food business and farm in Europe and owns the cheese shop in Concord, MA.

Mr. Joslyn acknowledged that he interacts with farmers in Concord; though he has limited experience with hands-on farming. He confirmed that he would be happy to promote agricultural awareness in Sudbury.

Board Members agreed to stagger the terms.

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to appoint Joshua Joslyn to the Agricultural Commission for a term ending 5/31/28. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To appoint Joshua Joslyn to the Agricultural Commission for a term ending 5/31/28

Board Members agreed that they would look forward to meeting Linda Baldelli if she presents at a future Select Board meeting.

3. Revised donation of furniture to increase the amount to make two tables accessible. (Cont. Consent Calendar item from last meeting)

Chair Kouchakdjian explained that the increased donation reflected \$1,000.00 more from the Friends of Senior Citizens. Board Members agreed that the donation was very generous and thoughtful as it includes funding for two accessible outdoor tables.

Town Manager Sheehan detailed that this action was reconfirming a previous donation approved by the Board. Related discussion took place.

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to accept the revised donation of patio furniture to the Senior Center from the Friends of the Sudbury Seniors. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To accept the revised donation of patio furniture to the Senior Center from the Friends of the Sudbury Seniors

4. Approve a new, updated Sustainable Purchasing Policy for the Town

Present: Sustainability Coordinator Eric Simms

Mr. Simms detailed that the proposed policy of 2026 would better adhere with the State eligibility requirements for funding opportunities. He explained that such opportunities would include a DEP Recycling Dividends Program.

Mr. Simms added that the Purchasing Policy recommends the purchase of sustainable products whenever possible.

Related discussion took place. Board Member Russo mentioned measurable standards and was pleased to see the updated policy.

Board Member Gargeya asked about a mentioned “life cycle” and related costs. Mr. Simms said factors associated with the product would represent various aspects of “life cycle” and considering how a product is made, durability and disposal.

Chair Kouchakdjian commented that the passing of the policy was most timely.

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to adopt a new, updated Sustainable Purchasing Policy for the Town. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To adopt a new, updated Sustainable Purchasing Policy for the Town

Board Member Carty suggested decommissioning the existing Sustainable Policy for the Town at this time. Board Members agreed.

Chair Dretler motioned to rescind the 1996 Sustainable Purchasing Policy. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To rescind the 1996 Sustainable Purchasing Policy

5. Vote on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission request to use ARPA funds for Equity Audit

Present: Management Analyst James Goudie-Murray

Management Analyst Goudie-Murray presented detail regarding the Equity Audit being proposed by the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Commission, which would help shape the possibility of future DEI workshops.

Board Member Russo asked what \$10,000 in ARPA funds would provide for DEI; he suggested that DEI consider an alternate plan as well in consideration of additional funding, if needed.

Board Member Carty indicated that this reflected a relocation of funding already considered for the DEI regarding consulting and training. And not sure what \$10,000 would provide.

Chair Kouchakdjian mentioned that DEI would soon be presenting their quarterly update to the Board and at that time related discussion regarding funding planning and needs could take place.

Town Manager Sheehan confirmed that he would work with the DEI to provide a scope of what that Commission is working to get.

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to approve the request from Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee to use the ARPA funds available for an Equity Audit. Mr. Gargeya seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To approve the request from Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee to use the ARPA funds available for an Equity Audit

6. Transportation Update

Board Member Carty presented the “Catch Connect Ridership date by week,” and the “Catch Connect Ridership by Month” graph. He detailed that there has been a healthy and steady amount of trips, with some stops picking up multiple people.

Board Member Carty noted that the most popular pickup locations included: Coolidge, Musketahquid Village and Longfellow Glen, most being on Boston Post Road where commercial concentration is located. He acknowledged that the MetroWest 495 Partnership \$5,000 membership fee would provide access to dispatch services and help connect various MWRTA (MetroWest Regional Transportation Authority) routes and expanded service for residents.

Chair Kouchakdjian recognized that such transportation is not meeting the needs of all residents. Board Member Carty stated that the transit mode in place now is fully accessible to all and asked that Chair Kouchakdjian provide him with added information about those in the Town not being served. Chair Kouchakdjian agreed to do so.

7. 2026 Annual Town Meeting discussion and vote on outstanding items

Article 20 – Amend General Bylaw Chapter 11, Capital Planning

Town Manager Sheehan detailed that one section of the Capital Bylaw, the revised CIAC (Capital Improvement Advisory Committee) Warrant Article would provide that CIAC review would take place at a threshold level of \$250,000 with clearer language for review of construction, asset maintenance, infrastructure and major equipment acquisitions and excluding routine replacement of rolling stock and items below the CIAC review threshold.

Board Members discussed aspects of Article 20

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to support Article 20 – Amend General Bylaw Chapter 11, Capital Planning. Board Member Gargeya seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To support Article 20 – Amend General Bylaw Chapter 11, Capital Planning

Town Manager Sheehan thanked Tom Travers of CIAC for sharing his thoughts on the article, as well as contributions from the Finance Committee.

Article 8 – Snow and Ice Transfer

Finance Director Garofalo stated that \$750,000.00 would be coming from Free Cash, and it would be more likely that \$900,000 would be needed.

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to support Article 8 – Snow and Ice Transfer. Board Member Gargeya seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To support Article 8 – Snow and Ice Transfer

Article 21 – Amend General Bylaw Chapter 5. Council on Aging

Board Members acknowledged that COA would present the article at Town Meeting.

Chair Kouchakdjian mentioned that the Select Board would be conducting meetings before Town Meeting sessions on May 4th and 5th at 6:30 PM.

Board Member Carty commented that in the spirit of sustainability and saving trees, he recommended that Board Members opt out of receiving paper meeting binders and instead rely on the electronic mode. Town Manager Sheehan noted that such suggestion was most timely and asked that Board Members indicate their preferences. Members discussed the topic.

Article 16 – Resolution: Sudbury 250th

Board Member Gargeya confirmed that he would present the article at Town Meeting with Town Historian Jan Hardenberg, including “clauses” and “therefore,” which would be brief. He suggested that Board Members and Town Manager read aloud each of the associated proclamations. Board Members were in agreement.

8. Affirmative Action Policy discussion and vote on revised/updated policy

Town Manager Sheehan explained that the Select Board Policy Subcommittee addressed this policy several months ago and significant input was provided by the Human Resources Director as well. He noted that the 1999 version of the policy had been modified to reflect today’s standards. Board Member Carty stated that the revised policy looked great and thanked all who contributed.

Board Member Carty motioned to rename the “Affirmative Action Policy” to “Equal Employment Opportunity Policy,” and to accept presented edits. Vice-Chair Dretler seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To rename the “Affirmative Action Policy” to “Equal Employment Opportunity Policy,” and to accept presented edits

9. Town Counsel RFP discussion and next steps

Chair Kouchakdjian confirmed that the Town received responses to the RFP. Town Manager Sheehan stated that the Town has worked with KP Law for many years and that firm remains as good or better in performance than it has ever been, as displayed at this evening’s meeting with Attorney Lauren Goldberg. He added that lead counsel Lee Smith has always responded to the Town’s requests and will continue to serve the Town as lead counsel.

Mr. Garofalo stated that KP Law has a more extensive grouping of attorneys when compared to other firms that responded to the RFP. He added that KP Law responds per the retainer and not via the hour, which represents financial benefit for the Town.

Town Manager Sheehan acknowledged that KP Law brings institutional knowledge as they bring extensive experience with the Town.

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to affirm Town Manager recommendation for Town Counsel representing the Town of Sudbury. Board Member Gargeya seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To affirm Town Manager recommendation for Town Counsel representing the Town of Sudbury

10. Review and release attorney-client privileged communication between Town Counsel and the Town Manager

Town Manager Sheehan confirmed that Town Counsel opinion was being released regarding attorney-client privileged communication and the Park & Recreation Commission, from October, 2025.

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to release attorney-client privileged communication from Town Counsel and the Town Manager, dated October 2025. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To release attorney-client privileged communication from Town Counsel and the Town Manager, dated October 2025

11. Upcoming Items

- Pre-Town Meeting Select Board meetings on May 5 and 6 at 6:30 PM.
- Debrief on Fairbank Community Center – factors to consider in the future
- Professional development discussion on May 19th Select Board meeting
- Executive Session – May 19th
- Reorganization of the Board – May 19th

Adjourn

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to adjourn the Select Board meeting. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To adjourn the Select Board meeting

The Select Board meeting was adjourned at 10:32 PM.