

IN SUDBURY SELECT BOARD

TUESDAY MAY 19, 2026

7:00 PM

(Meeting can be viewed at www.sudburytv.org)

ZOOM Meeting

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

CALL TO ORDER

<<insert motion going to Executive Session>>>

Chair Kouchakdjian called the Select Board Meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Roll Call was taken: Dretler-present, Carty-present, Russo-aye, Gargeya-present, Kouchakdjian-present

Opening Remarks by Chair

- Announced that the Sudbury Memorial Day Parade will take place on May 25th and more information can be found on the Town website
- Thanked Town Manager Sheehan, Finance Director Garofalo and Staff for conducting a successful Town Meeting a couple of weeks ago.
- Announced the locally grown Farmers Market on June 6th from 10:00 am to 2:00 PM at Fairbanks Community Center
- Thanked Staff for preparations involving the Special Town Meeting tomorrow night, 5/20 at LSRHS

Reports from Town Manager

- Announced that Special Town Meeting will be held in the LSRHS Gym and not in the auditorium
- Recommended that Special Town Meeting participants car pool tomorrow evening due to other activities taking place at LSRHS; he added there will be additional parking at Featherfield and Nixon School, with outdoor lighting
- Detailed that the SMILE playground resurfacing was completed yesterday and would need a few days to cure and would anticipate that the playground will reopen on Thursday
- Thanked everyone for a great Sudbury 250th Day celebration
- Confirmed that invitations were recently sent to select parties participating in the Budget Working Group, with a first meeting to take place on June 18th

Reports from Select Board

Vice-Chair Janie Dretler

- Complemented all involved in making the Sudbury 250th event great and mentioned the 250th Committee, Police Chief Nix, Fire Chief Choate, Town Manager Sheehan, Finance Director Garofalo, Liela Frank, James Gaudie and many volunteers. Thanked those on the Sudbury 250th Day was amazing and a great time for the Town to get together and work by the Committee and Staff with many volunteers and Public Safety
- Thanked those who participated in the American Cancer Society Annual Relay for Life on May 9th and May 10th raising over \$153,000 and students from LSRHS raising over \$1.2 million for the American Cancer Society over the last ten+ years
- Mass Trails have recognized ten signature trails, one of which is the Mass Central Rail Trail from Sudbury to Hudson

Board Member Dan Carty

- Recognized Radha Gargeya for his work on the Sudbury 250th Celebration
- Mentioned the presentation by local author Pete Abair at the Fairbank Community Center last Sunday
- Spoke to students from the Curtis Middle School on the Civics Action Project (CAP) Day and thanked Chair Kouchakdjian for sending students his way
- Mentioned the required posting of a subcommittee if two Board Members consider joining the Budget Working Group
- Recognized those who presented in full colonial garb at the Wayside Inn Tavern during the Sudbury 250th Day celebration

Board Member Radha Gargeya

- Provided highlights of the Sudbury 250th Day celebration, which took some year and half to prepare and plan
- Thanked the many volunteers who worked on the Sudbury 250th including Town Staff – James Gowdy Murray, Leila Frank, Staff from DPW, Police and Fire Departments
- Recognized local author Peter Abair who discussed his book “Each Hath a Hand” at the Fairbank Community Center
- Announced a presentation by Daniel Mandell, Professor of History from Truman State University regarding Native American Communities to be held at the Fairbank Community Center on May 31st at 4:00 PM.
- Announced the Memorial Day Parade to begin at 9:00 AM; the Sudbury Minuteman Fife and Drum March at 7:30 AM

Board Member Charlie Russo

- Thanked Staff for their work at Annual Town Meeting, as well as the upcoming Special Town Meeting tomorrow

- Announced Sudbury for Digital Balance presentation on May 28th partnering with the Sudbury Policy Department to address dangers involving children and social media; additional information available online
- On June 10th at the Goodnow Library, Shawn Killingworth (former social media addict) will speak of the dangers associated with social media
- Sudbury Open Space and Recreation Plan public input session to take place on May 28th at the Fairbank Community Center at 7:00 PM
- Announced Bike Rodeo at the Curtis Middle School on May 31st from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Public Comment

Alicia Carrillo, 68 Basswood Avenue, thanked Board Member Gargeya and participants for great work planning the Sudbury 250th Day events. She mentioned speaking with Steve Green at the Hearse House, she was able to dance with folks in colonial garb. Ms. Carrillo stated that she will wear her 250th commemorative pin at Memorial Day and July 4th events.

Consent Calendar (Items 1-7)

1. Accept donation from the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Sudbury for the purchase of capital equipment for area trails' maintenance in the amount of \$25,000.

2. Accept resignation of Elsa Iovanella, Energy and Sustainability Committee, effective 4/29/2026.

3. Accept resignation of Rami Alwan, Energy and Sustainability Committee, effective 4/29/26.

Board Member Gargeya inquired about expiring memberships as referenced on page 9 of the Select Board meeting packet. Town Manager Sheehan confirmed that notice of expiring terms were sent to members.

Board Member Russo recognized Rami Alwan and his hard work on the Energy and Sustainability Committee. Board Member Gargeya agreed, adding that Mr. Alwan was instrumental with the solar installations for the schools in Sudbury. Chair Kouchakdjian agreed that Rami Alwan was instrumental with sustainability advancements for the Town.

4. Vote to enter into the Town record and congratulate the following members of Sudbury Massachusetts Scout Troop 65 for having achieved the high honor of Eagle Scout: Allie Hanks, Sarah Chi, Marissa Cooley

5. Vote to enter into the Town record and congratulate the following members of Sudbury Massachusetts Scout Troop 63 for having achieved the high honor of Eagle Scout: Charles Muller, Samuel Varner, Raphael de Beco

6. Adopt an Earth-Friendly Food Resolution

Board Member Carty requested that item #6 be discussed later in the meeting.

Board Member Carty thanked Staff for the quick turnaround time regarding item #5.

Board Member Dretler motioned to approve Consent Calendar Items 1-5 and 7, as presented in the Select Board packet. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To approve Consent Calendar Items 1-5 and 7, as presented in the Select Board packet

1.Liberty Ledge/Sewataro Advisory Committee Update; Dave Henkels and Radha Gargaya.

Mr. Henkels confirmed that he was the Committee Chair and Board Member Gargeya assumed the role of Committee Vice-Chair. He stressed the importance of community participation and stated that minutes from the first meeting would be voted on at the May 21st Committee meeting. Mr. Henkels noted that the Committee would actively meet for six months and report a final report to the Select Board in October.

Mr. Henkels stated there was good attendance at the first meeting and part of the Committee mission involves reaching out to as many people as possible in terms of outreach.

Board Member Gargeya acknowledged that the Committee meetings are recorded by SudburyTV and the Committee seeks public attendance and contribution. He detailed that a site visit to Liberty Ledge/Sewataro took place today and was hosted by Camp Operator Scott Brady. He noted that Facilities Director Sandra Duran and the Director of Planning and Community Development Adam Burney participated in the site visit.

Board Member Russo asked if previous Town Meeting vote regarding the site was being considered by the Committee. Mr. Henkels responded that such Town Meeting vote would not be part of the Commission mission and impartiality was key to the success of the Committee.

Mr. Henkels stated there would be a public forum session on June 15th and such Town Meeting vote could be presented at that session. Board Member Carty stated that he would have added more related information had he known there would be very limited opportunity to do so with the subcommittee being dissolved after only two meetings.

FY2026 Budget to Actual Update and Capital Close-Outs

Mr. Garofalo provided budget updates and reviewed various line items regarding revenues and expenditures.

Board Member Carty stated that he appreciated the updates and referred to Medicaid reimbursements. Mr. Garofalo provided related detail.

Board Member Gargeya inquired about earnings on investments. Mr. Garofalo commented that at some point interest rates would lower and mentioned the US Treasury aspect.

Mr. Garofalo provided capital project presentation. Board Member Carty supported periodic project review and stressed that this presentation was done in a very thoughtful and informative manner.

Mr. Garofalo confirmed that the Capital projects plan has changed considerably when compared to the process several years ago. Board Members expressed appreciation for this change and excellent work done.

Combined Facilities Director Sandra Duran addressed the DPW salt shed proposal and noted that on June 11th additional information will be considered.

Board Members discussed the closure of several capital items including: ATM 24/22 Salt Shed Vinyl Cover, ATM 10/05 Capital – Recreation, ATM 18/23 Underground Tank, Loring Parsonage and ATM 22/42 Drainage Capital.

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned that the Select Board voted to close the capital articles and projects identified in this memorandum from Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director, totaling \$738,908.34. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: That the Select Board voted to close the capital articles and projects identified in this memorandum from Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director, totaling \$738,908.34

Discuss and vote to ask State Legislative Delegation to support amending the Community Preservation Act to allow for walkways and paths connecting to recreation areas.

Board Member Carty provided an aerial view of the BFRT and the Broadacres site; he suggested a connection to the BFRT from Broadacres and from Route 117 via Davis Field . He noted it would require a change in CPA legislation.

Board Member Gargeya agreed with the idea and wanted to understand how much CPA Recreation funding might be available for such connection.

Board Member Russo recommended additional advocacy from legislators and believed the plan would be worthy; he recommended that Staff feedback be considered as well. Board Member Carty agreed.

Vice-Chair Dretler noted the need to consider bicycle and sidewalk infrastructure town-wide, including existing sidewalks that need repair or completion. She supported a broader discussion of priorities and project management and suggested the topic could potentially be included in a future goal discussion.

Chair Kouchakdjian believes the Board should discuss the topic during its goal setting. She stated it is a great idea and needs to be explored a little more.

4. Annual Town Meeting follow-up and discussion

Town Manager Sheehan acknowledged that a comprehensive Select Board discussion after Annual Town Meeting can be of benefit, as done last year. He mentioned possible efficiencies to Town Meeting, which might increase resident participation. He mentioned the restrictions regarding Warrant of upcoming Special Town Meetings from a timeline consideration.

Board Member Gargeya mentioned the Planning Board Overlay Article and how to best address improved public understanding; he mentioned conducting an informational session on some articles, before Town Meeting.

Select Board Members spoke of various comments they heard made by attendees at the recent Annual Town Meeting. Town Manager Sheehan mentioned that an earlier start time could include not

considering a new article after 9:30 PM, as done in Concord. Board Member Russo thought the suggestion could be further vetted.

Vice-Chair Dretler stated the League of Women Voters have a comparative report regarding six local communities and how each community conducts their prospective Town Meetings, she noted that the Town of Stow had little pomp and circumstance and less voter comments. She mentioned an “Article of the Day” concept via social media.

Chair Kouchakdjian mentioned how things were done during COVID times, when such meetings were held on a weekend; she added that time of day can be important.

Town Manager Sheehan stated that he would discuss Town Meeting topics with the Town Moderator. He stated that residents appreciated Mark Thompson’s implementation of the alarm clock addition at Town Meeting.

5. Discuss and take positions on May 20, 2026 Special Town Meeting Articles

Audit of Legislators

Board Member Gargeya Radha noted that this article has been presented throughout the State.

Board Member Carty motioned to support Article 2. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

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

Chair Kouchakdjian confirmed the Board will conduct a meeting before Town Meeting tomorrow evening at 6:30 PM.

Discussion regarding Select Board professional development

Chair Kouchakdjian advocated for a Select Board professional development session, which could include Town Counsel as well. She spoke of the benefits of a professional development refresher to include roles and responsibilities for the benefit of the Select Board and the community.

Board Member Radha mentioned that a neighboring community conducts two related retreats per year on a very informal format to include discussion regarding departmental matters and professional development.

Vice-Chair Dretler stated that she has long-advocated for professional development which might be helpful to get to better know Board members as related to OML (open meeting law), conflict management and techniques to be able to best listen to each other. She noted that she would like to learn how other communities have improved their charters and local government.

Board Member Russo stated that he could support an informational session from Town Counsel and Board Members could prepare related questions for counsel.

Review and approve Minutes:

3/31/26

Chair Kouchakdjian stated that voting on the minutes would be postponed and Board Members should send comments/edits to Town Manager Sheehan.

Upcoming Agenda Items

- Sewataro Town Meeting vote discussion
- Solar Panel Signs
- Lessons learned from the Fairbank Community Center project

Consent Calendar Item #6

Board Member Carty asked that additional information be provided before the Select Board vote on this item.

Chair Kouchakdjian stated that discussion on this item would continue at an upcoming meeting.

Board Reorganization 2026-2027

Board Member Gargeya motioned to appoint Janie Dretler as Chair of the Select Board. Chair Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

It was on motion 4-1; Carty-no, Gargeya-aye, Dretler-aye, Russo-aye, Kouchakdjian-aye

VOTED: To appoint Janie Dretler as Chair of the Select Board

Vice-Chair Dretler motioned to appoint Radha Gargeya as Vice-Chair of the Select Board. Chair Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To appoint Radha Gargeya as Vice-Chair of the Select Board

Adjourn

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

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

VOTED: To adjourn the Select Board Meeting

There being no further business, the Select Board meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM.