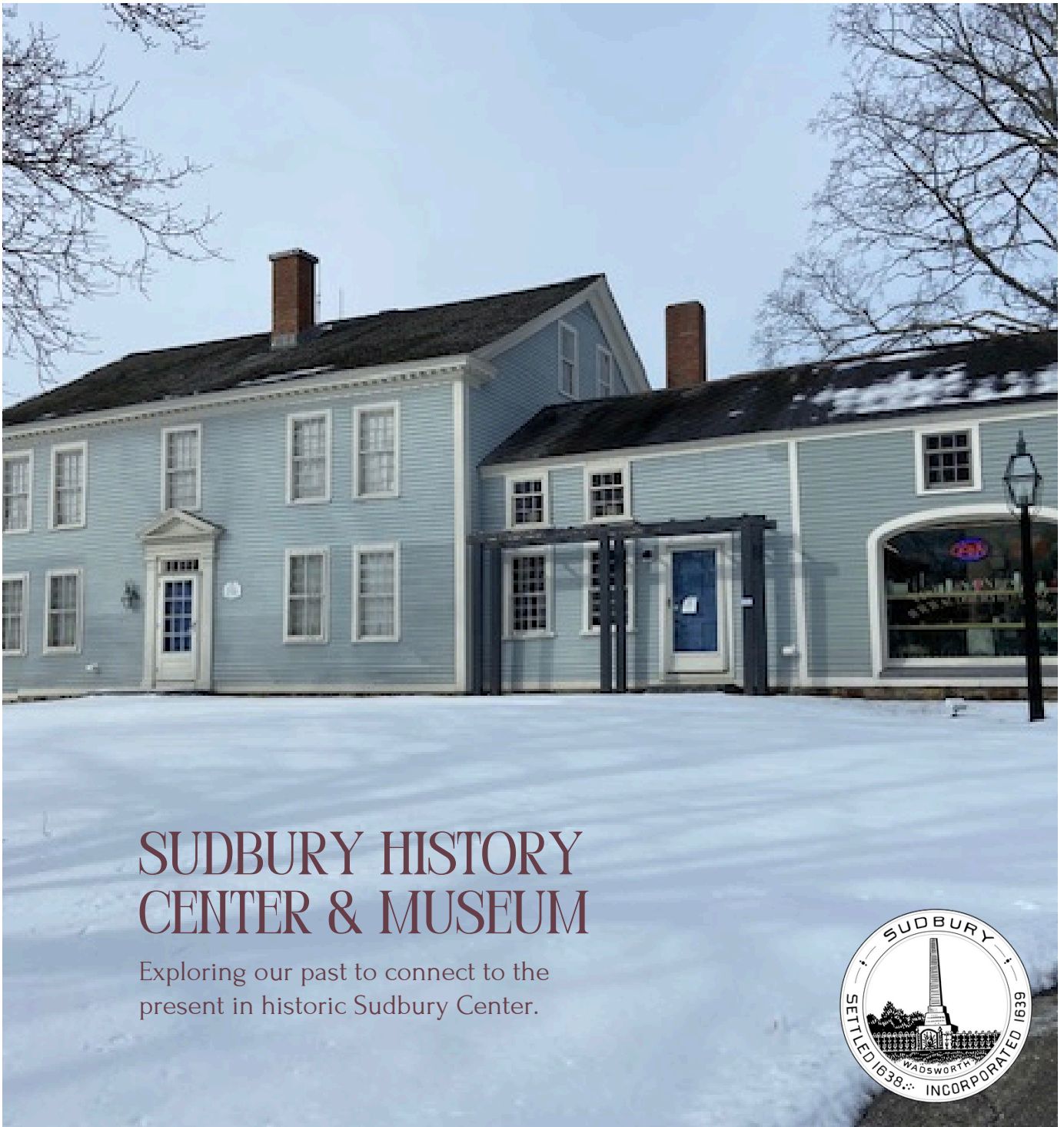
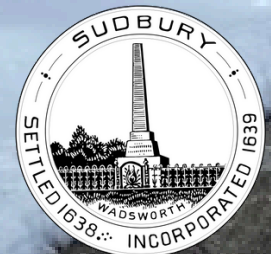


MUNICIPAL UPDATE



SUDBURY HISTORY CENTER & MUSEUM

Exploring our past to connect to the
present in historic Sudbury Center.



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The Sudbury Select Board (shown left to right): Jennifer Roberts, Charles Russo, Janie Dretler, Daniel Carty and Lisa Kouchakdjian.

2025 ANNUAL

Town Election



VOTER REGISTRATION

FRIDAY, MARCH 21



VOTE-BY-MAIL APPLICATION

MONDAY, MARCH 24

ELECTION DAY

FAIRBANK COMMUNITY CENTER

MONDAY, MARCH 31

7AM - 8PM



[SUDBURY.MA.US/CLERK/?P=4541](https://sudbury.ma.us/clerk/?p=4541)

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT

*Thanks to the
Community
Preservation Act,
Sudbury continues
to invest in vital
projects that enrich
our community.*

By Jennifer Roberts
Chair, Sudbury Select Board



As Sudbury approaches its next Annual Town Meeting in May, discussions are underway about how to allocate funds for operating costs, capital projects, and essential services. In municipal budgeting, prioritizing the "must-haves" often leaves little room for projects that enhance and preserve the character and quality of life in our community. This challenge is particularly evident in today's climate, where inflation, supply chain

disruptions, and rising fixed costs place significant strain on the Town's budget. Fortunately, the Community Preservation Act (CPA) provides a valuable tool for municipalities to invest in such initiatives that might otherwise be overlooked. Specifically, these projects are intended to address open space and historic sites, community recreation, and affordable housing.

The Community
Preservation Act (CPA)

was the culmination of nearly two decades of advocacy aimed at establishing legislation to help all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns preserve their most valuable community assets amid ongoing growth and development. The CPA was officially signed into law by Governor Paul Cellucci and Lieutenant Governor Jane Swift on September 14, 2000.

CPA allows communities to establish a local Community Preservation Fund, financed through a surcharge of up to 3%

property taxes. This local contribution is then supplemented by a State Community Preservation Trust Fund, administered by the Department of Revenue, with a matching amount that varies each year. In FY25, the state match was 18.06%. Not participating in the CPA program would be akin to forgoing an employer-matching 401(k), leaving valuable financial resources untapped. Today, 200 municipalities across Massachusetts have chosen to become CPA communities, with Sudbury adopting the program in 2002.

By embracing CPA, Sudbury also established a local Community Preservation Committee (CPC), responsible for making funding recommendations to the Town's legislative body—Town Meeting. The CPC is composed of nine members, including representatives from the Select Board, Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, Planning Board, Park and Recreation Commission, Finance Committee, and Housing Authority, as well as two at-large members appointed by the Select Board.

Each fall, the CPC reviews project proposals for consideration in the upcoming budget cycle. This process recently took place for the FY'26 budget, with public meetings held to evaluate the proposed initiatives. Recordings of CPC meetings are available for viewing on [SudburyTV](#).

Thanks to the Community Preservation Act, Sudbury continues to invest in vital projects that enrich our community. We encourage all residents to attend Sudbury's [Annual Town Meeting](#) to learn about and vote on the CPA projects that will shape the town's future. [The Annual Town Meeting](#) will commence on May 5, 2025, at 7:30 PM at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. For more information, please visit the Sudbury Community Preservation Committee [website](#).

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) provides a valuable tool for municipalities to invest in initiatives (such as improvements to the Hosmer House, shown left) that might otherwise be overlooked.



Transporting *Sudbury*

By Dan Carty

Vice-Chair, Sudbury Select Board



Expanding Sudbury's Transportation Options for all

The Sudbury Transportation Committee continued to work diligently in 2024 to serve Sudbury residents in need by continuing to offer two Go Sudbury! program: Uber and Taxi. They've also introduced two new programs: the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA) CatchConnect service and a Boston Hospital Shuttle which runs in collaboration with the

MWRTA and Town of Wayland. The Go Sudbury! Taxi Rides Program was started in 2020 with Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) grant money for those aged 50 or older, 18 years old+ with a disability that limits driving, active-duty military, or military veterans, those with a financial need, or essential workers requiring transportation for work.

The Go Sudbury! Uber Rides Program was initially funded by a Community Compact Cabinet grant (Making the Connections) in 2021 for the same target groups. On July 1, 2024, the committee launched the GoSudbury Catch Connect Shuttle (curb-to-curb transportation in partnership with the MWRTA), funded via a Community Transit Program grant, and August 6 saw the launch of the MWRTA Boston Hospital Shuttle, funded by a FY24 Regional Transit Innovation grant from MassDOT (Department of Transportation). In calendar year 2024, 1,346 one-way taxi rides were provided, split between partners JFK Taxi in Natick, Tommy's Taxi in Framingham, and Annex Transit of Chelmsford MA, and up from 846 rides in 2023. 1,467 one-way Uber rides were provided, down from 1,530 in 2023. By year-end 313 people were enrolled in the taxi program and 295 in Uber, with 129 individuals signed up for both programs, resulting in 479 unique individual enrollees, as compared to 250, 219, 110, and 359 in 2023. Through year-end, 885 one-way rides were provided via MWRTA CatchConnect (July 1 - Dec 31), with approximately 30% of pickup or drop-off locations being at affordable housing locations (e.g. The Coolidge, Musketahquid Village), 25% being grocery or pharmacy in nature (e.g. Sudbury Plaza, Sudbury Crossing), and other popular sites being Goodnow Library and Lincoln-Sudbury High School.

Feedback from the MWRTA on the CatchConnect program indicated that it was “wildly exceeding expectations.” There were 186 one-way rides via the Boston Hospital Shuttle (Aug 6 - Dec 31), with Wayland accounting for 170 rides and Sudbury 16.

The CatchConnect and Hospital Shuttle programs both were grant-funded for one year each, meaning CatchConnect is set to end June 30 of this year and the Hospital Shuttle in August. There remains as of January 30 approximately \$190,000 of transportation funding, mostly from a \$135,000 ARPA allocation granted by the Select Board late in 2024. No request will be made at the 2025 annual town meeting as had been done in past years. The remaining money may be used to keep GoSudbury! Taxi and Uber going in some fashion, or perhaps CatchConnect or the Hospital Shuttle. With that in mind, the town launched a Flashvote on February 24 to hear from residents what transportation options they deem important. 761 people responded, and their responses and comments can be found here <https://www.flashvote.com/sudbury-ma/surveys/transportation-02-25>. The Transportation Committee will be reviewing those results as well as rider survey responses to determine what transportation in Sudbury will look like for 2025. Stay tuned for more information.

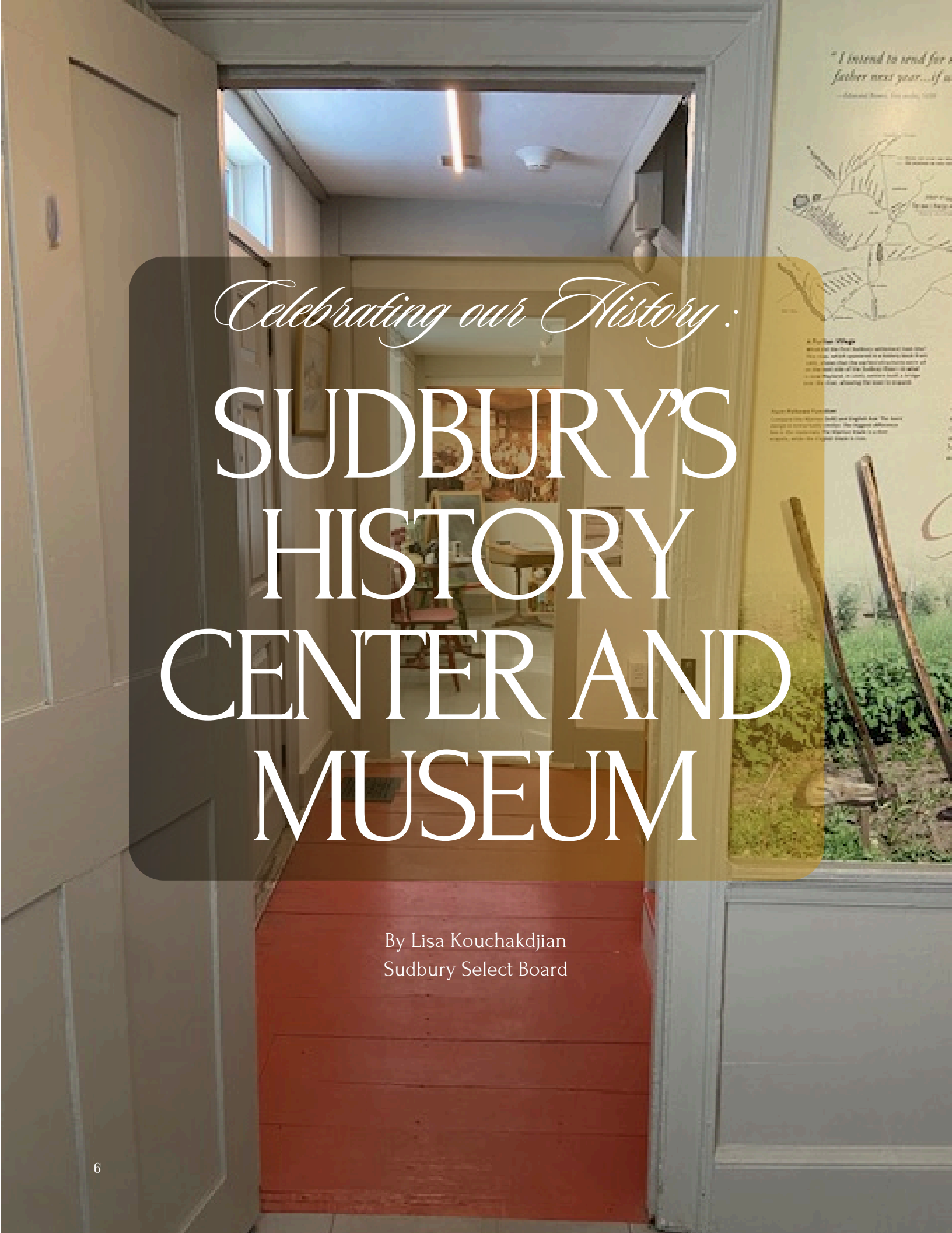
MetroWest Regional Transit Authority

Sudbury Wayland

BOSTON HOSPITAL SHUTTLE

Tuesdays, Wednesday & Thursdays

- Newtown-Wellesley
- Jamaica Plain VA
- New England Baptist
- Mass Eye & Ear
- Brigham & Women's
- Dana Farber Cancer Institute
- Joslin Clinic
- Beth Israel Deaconess
- Mass General



Celebrating our History:

SUDBURY'S HISTORY CENTER AND MUSEUM

By Lisa Kouchakdjian
Sudbury Select Board

There is something for everyone of all ages to enjoy in this incredible asset for our community.



One of Sudbury's unique treasures is found in the heart of Sudbury Center. The Loring Parsonage is home of the Sudbury Historical Society History Center and Museum. The Sudbury Historical Society is a non-profit organization that documents and preserves our unique Sudbury history. Several years ago, with generous support from the Sudbury Foundation, a \$400,000 CPA allocation, State funding, and private donations, the organization renovated the Loring Parsonage to create the History Center, Museum and Gift Shop. After overcoming delays due to the COVID pandemic, the Museum officially opened in 2021.

I recently had the opportunity to speak with the Executive Director of the Sudbury Historical Society, Rachael Robinson, and Archivist Francesco Buccella, two wonderful people doing great work. During our conversation, Director Robinson shared some details about the Museum. There is something for everyone of all ages to enjoy in this incredible asset for our community. The first gallery, the Jonathan Baggott Gallery, is a permanent gallery. This gallery details the story of Sudbury with a time line from Sudbury's first inhabitants to the modern day.



There are two additional galleries in the Museum. The second gallery is the Stansky & Eaton Keeney Gallery. Currently this gallery houses Phase One of "Sudbury's Changing Landscapes." It is an interactive beautiful display that graphically depicts how Sudbury has become the magnificent town it is today. The intended purpose of this Phase

One is to highlight our ever-changing environment in Sudbury.

The third gallery in the Museum is the Sudbury Foundation Gallery. This gallery currently houses the "Play with History" exhibit which focuses on the interests of our youngest residents and visitors.

Visitors to this exhibit enjoy a hands-on experience allowing young people to play with old telephones, play with trains, plant a garden, draw some flowers, mail a letter, play school, and shop in an old general store. The Sudbury Historical Society participates in Sudbury Public Schools' third grade program, "Sudbury Through Time." The History Center and Museum is one of the stops on the students' tour through Sudbury Center. Students explore the History Center and Museum and learn about Sudbury's history.

Although this exhibit has been enjoyed by many young visitors and their families, soon, this gallery will be transformed into Phase Two of "Sudbury's Changing Landscapes." There is still time for the community to enjoy "Play with History." This children's gallery will leave the History Center and Museum at the beginning of April. Phase Two of Sudbury's Changing Landscapes will open sometime thereafter.

In addition to maintaining the Museum, the Sudbury Historical Society preserves historical documents and materials at the History Center. During my visit, I saw first-hand how well Archivist Buccella is preserving materials in an organized, responsible, and careful manner. Besides the storage space, the building also has office space for staff and a section where Sudbury Historical Society airs their podcast, "Voices of Sudbury." The History Center and Museum also offers beautiful conference space for use by community members. Currently there is a book group that meets in that space.

Visitors to the History Center and Museum will also enjoy browsing in the Gift Shop. The Gift Shop offers beautiful unique gifts with ties to Sudbury. Local artists sell their items at the Gift Shop as well. If you are looking for somewhere to purchase a unique gift for a loved one, the Gift Shop has everything from infant onesies to wine glasses.



Visit the History Center & Museum and Gift Shop online: <http://www.sudbury01776.org/>. While there, click on "Virtual Sudbury" and take a virtual talking tour of Sudbury Center or take a driving and walking tour of Sudbury. The History Center and Museum and Gift Shop welcomes visitors Monday through Friday from 10AM to 4PM.

Previewing the Municipal Empowerment Act

By Charlie Russo
Sudbury Select Board

One piece of state legislation that may benefit Sudbury soon is Governor Healey's proposed Municipal Empowerment Act (MEA). Intended to promote efficient government, ease some regulations, and provide options to diversify revenue, the MEA includes a number of provisions that could benefit Sudbury residents, as well as the Town budget and operations. Not all the provisions are mandatory; some will require Town Meeting approval to adopt.



Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll unveiled the Municipal Empowerment Act during the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) Annual Meeting and Trade Show. Photo Courtesy of [MMA](#).

Importantly, the MEA gives communities the opportunity to add new Local Options taxes, which would require approval by majority vote at Town Meeting. The MEA options include:

- Adds a new local option motor vehicle excise surcharge of up to 5%.
- Increases the cap for local option lodging tax from 6% to 7%.
- Increases the cap for local option meals tax from .75% to 1%.

As communities like Sudbury find it increasingly difficult for revenues to keep pace with costs under the constraints of the state-imposed Prop 2-1/2, the ability to increase local-option meals and lodging taxes and create a new local-option motor vehicle excise

surcharge is an opportunity to increase revenue and diversify revenue sources.

Additional provisions of the MEA include:
 Making Some Pandemic Era Changes
 Permanent:

- Permanently enables remote or hybrid meetings for public boards and committees going forward.

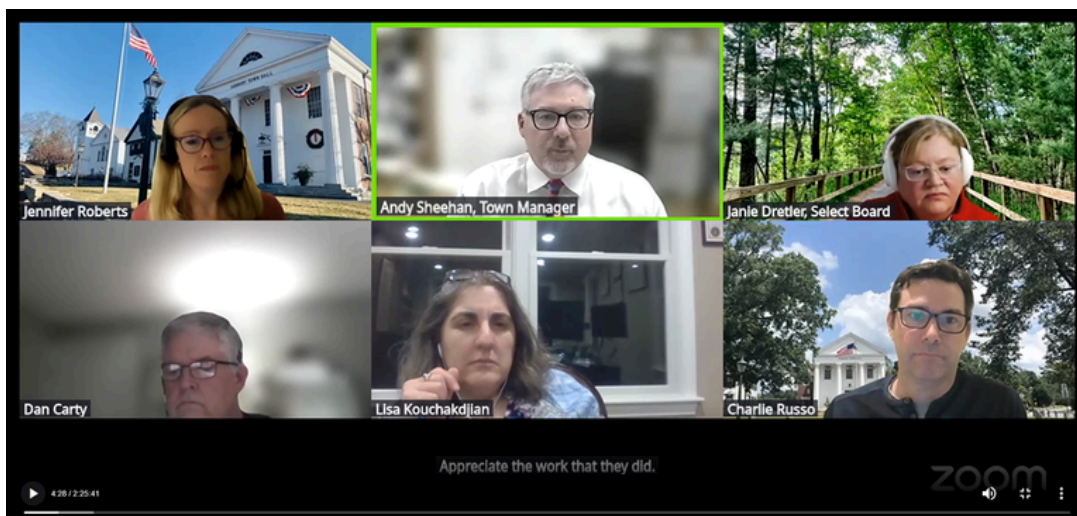
Streamlining Municipal Governance:

- Updates borrowing rules for school projects to increase a bond term from 30 years to 40 years to better reflect the building life expectancy.
- Establishes a new Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Commission to examine opportunities to

address unfunded liabilities from non-pension employee benefits.

- Allows the creation of Regional Boards of Assessors so municipalities can collectively and efficiently address this need.
- Expands the types of intermunicipal agreements available for communities to include local finance officials or services.
- Expedites double utility pole removal by allowing municipalities to enforce a prohibition and impose penalties for non-compliance.
- Enables senior means tested tax exemptions and elderly tax exemptions, similar to what Sudbury already offers.

The Healey administration first announced the MEA in January 2024 at the MMA Annual Meeting, but it was not approved by the state Legislature during the last session. A revised version was re-filed on January 31, 2025. A number of prominent community leaders across the state have endorsed it. The MEA must be adopted by the State Legislature before local communities like Sudbury can adopt any of its provisions. The 2025 Massachusetts state legislature session ends on November 19, 2025. Time will tell if any of the MEA's provisions will benefit Sudbury residents.



The MEA would enable public committees (such as the Select Board, shown left) to continue to hold remote/hybrid meetings. Current legislation allowing remote meetings expires in March 2025.

*A Conversation
with DPW Director
Tina Rivard*

Building *a Better* Sudbury

By Janie Dretler
Sudbury Select Board



DPW Director Tina Rivard accepting the First Place award in Sudbury's 2024 Door Decorating Contest. The DPW won for their fun-filled interpretation of a beloved children's story which they called "The DPW Express."



I am thrilled to offer an in-depth Q&A with Sudbury's new Director of Public Works, Tina Rivard, in this edition of the Municipal Update newsletter. Tina brings a wealth of experience in public works, engineering, and sustainability, and her passion for community service shines through her thoughtful responses. I extend my sincere gratitude to Tina for taking the time to answer the questions and share her vision for Sudbury's future.

Could you please share a bit about your background and previous experiences that led you to this position?

I attended and graduated from the University of Massachusetts Lowell with a Bachelors of Science in Engineering - Civil Engineering. I started my professional career working for the City of Lowell's Department of Public Works in their Solid Waste and Recycling Division,

which sparked my interest in sustainability. From there, I transferred to the Waste Water Division for the City of Lowell, where I worked as a Staff Engineer. As a Staff Engineer, I worked on catchment investigation for both stormwater and wastewater, assisted in collections and testing for the Industrial Pre-Treatment Program (IPP), and managed the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit Compliance Program. Stormwater was an evolving complex program, in which I gained a personal interest and passion for. This passion led me to take on a Stormwater Manager position with the Town of Dracut.

Under the direct supervision of the Public Works Director in Dracut, I managed the MS4 Program for the Town of Dracut; developing programs and policies,

served as the project liaison for infrastructure improvement projects, managing contractors for Stormwater related projects, Construction oversight of various projects throughout the Town that involved stormwater, conducted stormwater testing in the field, catchment investigation for Illicit Connections, and orchestrated stormwater infrastructure maintenance and inspections. While managing the stormwater program, my responsibilities expanded to include capital planning, budgeting planning, and coordination with the Public Works staff for in-house assistance with maintenance scheduling and related work. My role as the Stormwater Manager expanded and evolved into the Assistant Director of Public Works/Stormwater Manager with the Town of Dracut. From there, the need and want to focus on my growth and my career brought me on to serve the Town of Sudbury and the Director of Public Works.

What excites you the most about joining the Sudbury community and working with the team?

I am most excited to serve a community where the residents and the employees care about this community. Most of the team have worked for the Town for many years,

which provides an understanding and wealth of institutional knowledge within the community. It is a pleasure to work with like-minded colleagues who are trying their best to help the residents. There has been a great deal of positive support from the administration, board, and committee members to put the interest of the residents first. That kind of support allows staff like myself to make a difference for the Town.

How do you view the role of the Department of Public Works in the everyday lives of residents in Sudbury?

The Department of Public Works touches upon the quality of life, safety, and health in the lives of its residents. The Public Works Department is made up of multi-divisions including: Engineering, Trees & Cemetery, Streets & Roads, Parks & Grounds, Transfer Station, and Drainage. I take pride in all that the DPW has to offer. We aide the School Departments in maintaining safe parking lots and roads during and after storm and ice events. We work with other Departments throughout the Town to provide the best possible service to everyone who lives here as well as anyone who visits the Town. We also pride ourselves in our ability to support the Police and Fire

Departments during emergency response. We assist in soft and hard road closures, emergency response support, and assist in providing safety support for our First Responders. Whether the work is visible to the eye or underground, the Public Works Department is an integral part in the everyday lives of the residents in Sudbury.

Can you explain some of the core services provided by the DPW and how they impact the quality of life for residents?

From a Public Works perspective, as soon as someone leaves their home, or are on their way home, they drive on the road that is maintained by the DPW. We maintain the infrastructure under the road, and coordinate with other utilities both under the road and above the ground to provide resources to the community.

The Trees & Cemetery Division maintains Town trees within the public right of way. They are responsible to maintain the cemeteries in which the community's loved ones lay to rest.

Our Parks and Grounds Division maintains the town parks and fields that are used by the schools, community teams, recreational groups/teams, and in some instances,

other communities may participate in a game in Town as well.

The Transfer station is a resource that residents can use to recycle, throw away trash, and socialize through the book library shed and "put and take" program.

Our Drainage program maintains the underground infrastructure and conveyance of stormwater; catch basins, manholes, drainage pipe, culverts, and headwalls. The conveyance of clean water is a priority for compliance within the Town's MS4 program.

The Engineering Division assists all of the Divisions on mapping, surveying, layout, and design work for internal projects constructed by the team.

But what most residents notice or associate with the Public Works Department is all of the work our team conducts during Snow and Ice events. We battle the storms and do our best to address roadway safety during some of the most dangerous conditions.

When you sew all of the divisions of Public Works together, the make-up of those divisions create a positive impact to all of the people that chose to live and spend time in the Town of Sudbury.

What are some of the most common challenges the DPW faces in a community like Sudbury?

One of the challenges that the DPW faces in the community is making sure we have enough resources and support to do all the work needed to maintain the Town.

As the town continues to grow, what role does the DPW play in managing infrastructure and development?

We will grow and evolve with the Town. This growth will involve expanding on staffing needs, financial impacts for additional resources involved with maintaining the Town, and support from the community to prioritize all of the work the staff and different divisions provide.

Are there any major projects the DPW is currently working on that will benefit residents in the near future?

Every project that the DPW is currently working on and planning for will benefit the residents.

Could you give us a sense of some upcoming initiatives or improvements that you are particularly excited about?

Building a team with experience and confidence is a priority for the DPW.

We have a lot of veteran staff and a lot of young, newer staff that are learning the job. It is my priority to provide the right resources to build on our existing team. My number one priority is safety; both in keeping my staff safe and keeping the public safe. Being able to facilitate and foster a positive environment to pass down institutional knowledge of the Town and retaining the great team we have is really important in providing the best service for the community.

How do you see the DPW supporting the town's broader sustainability goals, particularly in the face of climate change?

The Town is always adapting and flexible to the changes and needs of community. I'm lucky to have a team that is willing and able to adjust as new policies, regulations, and programming comes before them. Early in my career, sustainability played a major role in our operations. I will continue to consider sustainability in planning efforts for the Town of Sudbury as well.

What role does the DPW play in responding to emergencies or unexpected situations, such as weather-related events?

The DPW is always available and ready to respond to emergencies and unexpected situations. We have a great team that allows us to plan and be as ready as possible. Emergency situations go beyond weather-related events. We can have a full team in Town to lend support for all disaster and emergency events. Open lines of communication with the Department Heads throughout the Town allows us to be proactive when planning for such events.

As you settle into your new role, what are some of the key priorities you'll be focusing on in the next few months?

Having a full staff, proper training, and putting together a long-term capital plan is a major priority for the Department. Making sure the team has the resources and the support to complete projects and provide a service to the community safely and positively is my goal.

Is there anything else that you would like to tell the community?

On a personal level, my husband and I met in high school. We have a 15-year-old son, who has been the center of our world and our motivation in life. We both worked, attended and graduated from UMass Lowell, all while raising our son. All of my experiences have led me here, and I would be remiss if I didn't mention how important my family is and how significant a role they play in my professional journey. I am so thankful that I have a team at home rooting for me and supporting me as I take the next steps in my career to lead and serve the Town of Sudbury.

The Select Board sincerely thanks Tina Rivard for her thoughtful and detailed responses, offering valuable insight into the vital work of the Department of Public Works. Her dedication to Sudbury's well-being and her vision for a resilient, connected community are truly appreciated. We look forward to seeing the positive impact her leadership will bring to the town.

SELECT BOARD OFFICE HOURS



**Wed, MARCH 26
7 PM
via Zoom**

<https://sudbury.ma.us/selectboard/?p=6245>



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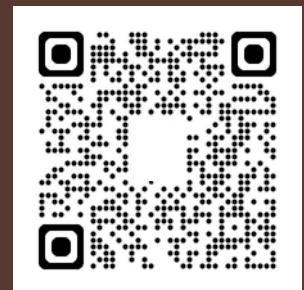
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TOWN OF SUDBURY

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

STARTING
MAY 5, 2025

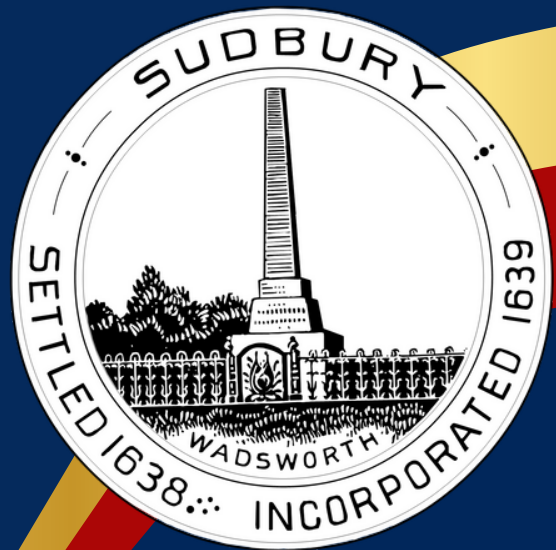


7:30PM



L-SRHS

AUDITORIUM



sudbury.ma.us/townmeeting/2025ATM