Liberty Ledge / Sewataro Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 7, 2026 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Silva Room, Flynn Building, 278 Old Sudbury Rd, Sudbury MA 01776 with HYBRID option

Open Meeting

1. The meeting was called to order at about 7:00 PM by Radha Gargeya (Radha).
2. Radha called the roll requesting that each member indicate their presence and their status regarding being sworn in: Gargeya, sworn in and present. Bell, sworn in and present. Henkels, Pimentel, sworn in and present. Atkeson, sworn in and present. Dineen, sworn in and present. (Absent: Jennifer Pincus.)
3. Radha invited members to introduce themselves and provide some of their background relevant to the committee's work. All present did so. Radha introduced James Goudie-Murray (James), Management Analyst, as the designated Town staff resource who will work with LLSAC to fulfill its mission.
4. Kathleen Bell (Kay) raised a point of order to assure that the meeting was being recorded and being done so with closed captioning being included. Lynn Puorro confirmed both conditions.
5. Radha called for nominations for the position of chair. He explained the duties of the chair.
6. VOTE: Kay nominated David Henkels (Dave) to be the chair. William Atkeson (Granger) seconded the nomination. Radha asked for a roll call vote: Gargeya, aye. Bell, aye. Henkels, aye. Atkeson, aye. Dineen, aye. Dave was elected unanimously.
7. VOTE: Dave nominated Granger for the position of vice-chair. Granger declined and nominated Radha for the position of vice-chair. Deborah Dineen (Debbie) seconded the nomination. Dave asked for a roll call vote: Pimentel, aye. Atkeson, aye. Dineen, aye. Bell, aye. Gargeya, aye. Henkels, aye.
8. Regarding keeping minutes, Radha suggested using a system of rotation. There was a consensus in favor of doing so. Kay volunteered to provide minutes for the current meeting.

Public Comment

1. Resident, Bob Wienberger, 175 Greystone Lane suggested that the committee think of the property as a treasure and to think long term about how to make it an attractive asset.
2. Resident, Mark Marchionni, 28 Julians Way noted the substantial majority of the vote defeating Article 19 – Qualified Consultant Services for Liberty Ledge/Sewataro Visioning which he sees as a message that the Town wants Camp Sewataro to continue. He suggests including camp stakeholders in the visioning process.

3. Resident, Bill Sample, 145 Greystone Lane emphasized that the open space of the property is consistent with Town values and that the public has a great deal of access to that open space outside of camp operating time. He spoke of the financial arrangements and service and employment benefits of the camp and would like the committee to work with the operator and consider a long term arrangement.
4. Resident Will Adams, 135 Greystone Lane posed the question of what it would take for every Sudbury child who wanted to attend the camp to be able to do so. He noted at the two entrances the barricades and surveillance signs are not welcoming and that a map of the property showing the public versus private areas would be helpful.
5. Resident, Bobby Langille, 9 Willard Grant Road enjoys walking on the property daily and seeing others do so. She asks how we put a value on the employment and social benefits to the young counselors and the social benefits to the campers to compare to the short term benefit of selling the property for housing development.
6. Resident Marion Glenn, 39 Julians Way values the camp and property highly. She stated that the property is not known well enough to all of Sudbury residents and should be made more welcoming; that the committee should develop a long term vision for the property which should include a long term lease structured so that proceeds can be used to enhance the amenities available to all.
7. Resident (inaudible), (address inaudible) would like the committee to use both objective and subjective data to develop a long term vision for making the park attractive to all residents and visitors to Sudbury and to attract more people to the town.
8. Resident, Mark Marchionni, 28 Julians Way stated that Sewataro offers a breadth of outdoor activities that are not available at many day camps offered in this area.
9. Resident, Mark Taylor, 25 Greystone Lane points out that the camp operator holds a twenty year lease at another of his camp operations and that the Town should ask the camp operator what he wants.
10. Resident, (inaudible), (inaudible) Julians Way stated that the camp operator is the professional and the committee should see what he thinks.
11. Resident, Bobby Langille, 9 Willard Grant Road remarked that eighty-four children from Sudbury are receiving scholarship support to attend the camp and that is a great advantage.
12. Resident, Cindy Wienberger, 175 Greystone Lane spoke of the poor condition of playgrounds in town forty years ago and contrasted the unshaded condition of the town playgrounds now with the shaded condition of the Liberty Ledge property and suggested that more people should visit to experience it.
13. Dave heartily thanked all who spoke and strongly encouraged the public to submit their ideas to the committee at any time by email at llsac@sudbury.ma.us for the committee to take into account as we consider the totality and longevity of the property.

Mission and Objectives

1. Radha reviewed the mission statement: The Committee shall explore possible uses of this Town-owned and offer an advisory report on recommended used to the Select Board. He reminded members that becoming familiar with the material in the Compilation Report is required and he reviewed the expected number of meetings, site visits, and listening sessions. The committee is tasked to use multiple methods of gathering community input.
2. Radha then described aspects of Open Meeting Law requirements regarding the rule prohibiting deliberation outside of an open meeting and he reviewed ethical practices around conflicts of interest. He recommended members all read the Board and Committee Handbook for detailed guidance.
3. Members' questions regarding these materials can be gathered now and can be sent to llsac@sudbury.ma.us for discussion at the next meeting.
4. Radha went over the expected number of meetings. With the final two devoted to composing the report and one or more devoted to gathering input/listening sessions, the number of deliberative meetings may be seven. Members will need to confer on selecting meeting dates.
5. Discussion ensued regarding possible structure and format for the final report, possible specialization of work that would be brought back to the whole committee, conducting a community survey, and to what depth the committee should attempt to explore for various potential site improvement options.
6. Debbie suggested requesting an update from the Town Finance Director to gather current fiscal information, hearing from the camp operator, and having a site visit soon to get an understanding of the current situation.
7. Radha explained that the whole committee may attend a site inspection if there is no deliberation. James is at the committee's disposal to assist in arranging things like a site visit. Also, the expertise in other departments such as planning, recreation, etc. can be requested through James.
8. Kay described challenges to the committee's work including trying to reach people in the community during summer when many may be away; fully informing ourselves and then fully informing the community about the many aspects, challenges, and opportunities on the property; using multiple methods of communicating with people both for sharing out information and for gathering information from them in such ways that assures people with challenges like blindness or low vision or any other disability are included in the conversation. She suggested that conducting some of the information gathering in September may be helpful.
9. James described his role as doing licensing, procurement, and grant management for the Town as well as supporting two other town committees and can support this committee's work such as facilitating guest speakers and any other ways needed.

10. Discussion of next steps mentioned getting a survey out soon, having the camp operator in to report on the camp and the public programming, having the Finance Director provide a report on the financial status including return on investment and projections, having a resource from the Massachusetts Office on Disability provide information on the regulations and possibilities at the property,
11. Dave suggested that the committee make use of email to send thoughts, suggestions, and questions to him in before the next meeting to make best use of the limited time since the second meeting will likely be taken up with public comment and informational reports.
12. Radha specified that any communication of material or ideas may only be sent to the chair to avoid deliberation between meetings. Then at the chair's discretion materials may be distributed to members as a means of preparation for the next meeting.
13. Debbie asked who the correct party would be to clarify to the committee what the status is on each of the buildings on the property in terms of licensed tenancy, use, condition, etc.
14. Radha explained that the chair has the discretion to schedule a set amount of time for public comment at meetings and may want to do so to include presentations and deliberation at meetings.
15. Bill asked how the committee might narrow the scope of a poll so that options like selling the land or building a skyscraper are eliminated and more realistic options are considered. James suggested that a fact-finding period would serve to inform everyone how the committee (Select Board?) has made its decisions. He suggests setting a firm schedule to keep the work on track.
16. Granger suggested that eliminating unrealistic concepts will happen during fact-finding and a smaller set of ideas will emerge to inform a survey. Kay agreed and suggested that the committee set dates for the next several meetings, including a site visit soon so that all will have a good sense of the property as information is being presented. Dave requested that James send a doodle poll to members to find a date for it. Rhada emphasized the value of everyone visiting together and asked if someone could conduct the tour.
17. Debbie explained that she feels that any brainstorming session about use ideas should be held off until after the committee receives more public input. Dave restated to the committee and the audience that he would like ideas and questions to be sent to the committee email address at this point as a start on receiving input.
18. Dave confirmed that members would like to receive presentations from the town's Finance Director and the camp operator at the next meeting.
19. Debbie asked for information related to the possible term for licensing municipal property.
20. Dave opened the floor to more public questions.
21. Resident, Marion Glenn, 39 Julians Way asked how she might help the committee's work with the suggestion that the Town could boost publicity about the coming free June 4th Welcome to Sewataro Day so more residents become familiar with it.

22. Resident, Bobby Langille, 9 Willard Grant Road asked how the committee could bring in the concept of the mental health value of the camp and the need for working families to have a place for the children during summer.
23. Resident, Mark Marchionni, 28 Julians Way added that another free event is offered at the property on May 30th for the benefit of the community.
24. Resident, Kristen Drummey, 66 Mossman Road who is also the Community Engagement Coordinator at Camp Sewataro confirmed the two aforementioned events at the property. She added that Hope Sudbury is holding their sixth annual fishing derby there on June 13th. She offered that camp staff are always available to attend to offer information at the committee's meetings and the same is true for meeting the whole committee or a subset of members to provide a tour and answer questions or gather further information to be provided later.

Close Meeting

1. The next meetings will be at 7:00 PM on Thursday, May 21, 2026 and at 7:00 PM on Thursday, June 4, 2026.
2. James suggested the committee consider the following work schedule: three fact-finding meetings, one public input session for the community at large, two meetings narrowing the scope to review specific topics, concluding with three meetings to deliberate and work on the final recommendations to the Select Board. The sense of the committee was favorable to the proposed outline. Radha reiterated the option to hold public input meetings without deliberation off-cycle if we find we want more deliberation time.
3. Resident, Mark Marchionni, 28 Julians Way asked if public comment will be an opportunity at future meetings. Dave replied yes and that the agenda for each meeting will be posted on the town website in advance.
4. Debbie asked if members should begin drafting survey questions. A general discussion of survey factors ensued. The committee generally wants to become better informed, formulate high quality questions, and get a survey out to the public as quickly as possible, possibly before the end of June.
5. Resident, Charles Morton, 35 Julians Way encouraged the committee to gather as much input and data as possible from as many stakeholders as possible in order to craft the most effective survey, even if it takes up a bit more of the time available in the tight timeline.
6. VOTE: Radha moved to adjourn the meeting. Debbie seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Gargeya, aye. Henkels, aye. Atkeson, aye. Pimentel, aye. Dineen, aye. Bell, aye.