

MWRC Minutes

Thursday, April 24, 2025
8:00-9:30 am
Via Zoom

Attendees

Ashland: Yolanda Greaves
Framingham: Yvonne Johnson
Holliston:
Marlborough: Katie Robey
Natick: Morgan Griffiths, Amanda Loomis
Sherborn: Robert Wolff, Heidi Doyle
Southborough: Sam Stivers, Meme Lutrell, William Cundiff
Wayland: Mary Antes, Robert Hummel
Wellesley: Colette Aufranc
Weston: Laurie Bent, Imai Aiu
Associate Members: Jason Palitsch, 495/MW Partnership; Susan Nichol, Senate President Spilka's office
MAPC Coordinators: Travis Pollack
MAPC Staff: Sasha Parodi
Guests: None

Welcome & Roll Call

- Meeting was called to order by Yolanda at 8:03. Quorum reached.

Approval of February 2025 Minutes – Yolanda Greaves

- Two amendments to the February minutes - Laurie Bent was present, and Quentin Palfrey's name was misspelled.
- Motion to approve amended minutes from Laurie, seconded by Mary and Katie. Minutes approved by voice vote.

Recap of 2025 Legislative Breakfast -- Yolanda Greaves

- Yolanda - Ashland Economic Development director was present at Breakfast. Thought meeting was great.
- Laurie – thought it was great, and liked seeing/meeting people in person. Nice having two groups together (MWRC and SWAP). Yolanda – agree, good to do that with more than one group and in person.
- Colette – Conversation was good and timely with moment we are in.
- Susan – good to combine with SWAP, lots of overlap in topics and districts with legislators.
- Yolanda – Could Breakfast be hybrid in future? Laurie – don't recommend hybrid. Colette – if facility has good equipment and facilities for hybrid, maybe. But in person helps with meeting new people, can't do that as easily in hybrid.

- 44 • Question raised if Collaborative should do more in person meetings? Imai – virtual is preferred;
45 Thursday is right after Wednesday evening town meeting in Weston. Katie –like in-person but
46 have 10 AM meeting on Thursday. Imai – special events like trails summit and other events can be
47 in person, but regular Collaborative meetings can remain virtual.

48 **Review of Draft FY26 MWRC Work Plan – Travis Pollack, MAPC**

- 49 • Travis gave an overview of the draft FY26 work plan. Format and structure is like previous
50 workplans. Highlighted activities and accomplishments from FY25 on pages 5 through 8, and
51 potential topics for discussion and study for FY26, on pages 8 and 9.
- 52 • Imai – risks of federal funding when including DEI and clean energy in local work while also
53 keeping projects in line with MAPC priorities. Could this be added/modified to list of topics.
54 Colette – could use practical hints and tips on navigating this.
- 55 • Colette – could transportation safety include safe routes to schools (SRTS). Children are not
56 educated in safe walking/cycling to schools, could this be mandated as part of PE class. Yolanda
57 – had SRTS in Ashland but new administration did not support, so funding was pulled. Doesn't
58 support mandate when it's unfunded and there are so many other priorities. Susan – Tina Hein
59 (Holliston) has been a big supporter of SRTS; perhaps she can speak on this on what can be done.
60 Robert W – Sherborn did a volunteer group, to help with crossing, etc. Also had MIT help in traffic
61 safety, bike safety. Colette – feel that many SRTS initiatives are only scratching the surface and
62 more can be done. Katie – reducing school bus service in City, asking more students to walk; this
63 can lead to more traffic (parents pickup/drop off) and some students missing school.
- 64 • Travis – can modify DEI and Transportation safety topics in draft plan.
- 65 • Please send any further comments to Yolanda, Travis, Camille.
- 66 • *Sam Stivers and Sasha Parodi left the meeting.*

68 **Community Share – Yolanda Greaves**

69 **Prompt: What topics are expected at your Town meeting this year? What changes are expected with**
70 **City budget? Do you anticipate any challenges?**

- 71 • Natick – Susan – City got override; 60% approval! Amanda -- Implementation of Accessory
72 Dwelling Units (ADUs). Awaiting MBTA compliance. Rezoning of West Natick for comprehensive
73 review of zoning. Updating parking requirements. Community Preservation Act plan as well coming
74 out on Monday.
- 75 • Weston – Laurie – Got DCR interested in Norembege Park road in Weston; a bit of lost section in
76 Weston. DCR will improve park and road and the project includes Bike and Shared-use path that
77 connects to Newton and Wellesley and Route 30 Shared Use Path. Also 3A vote upcoming at
78 Town Meeting; unsure of passing. Town is seeking to meet the requirements to be considered a
79 “Massachusetts Climate Leader.” In chat: Town Meeting will vote on changing the size of SB from
80 3 to 5; expect it will be contentious.
- 81 Imai – Four zoning bylaws to be voted on, including 3A. PB was not in favor; if no PB support it
82 won't go to Town Meeting vote. With Milton legal case resolved, there's new information for Town
83 to have 3A revote. However, Planning Board has not had the time to adjust the 3A plan from the
84 plan that was considered at Town Meeting in December. Also adopting updated FEMA flood
85 maps.
- 86 • Wellesley – Colette -- concluded Town meeting, was six nights. Was motion to split budget
87 questions as school matters versus non-school; this did not pass. Did not get questions on school
88 budget, however. Did job classification study; passed. Debate on tennis versus pickleball courts.

89 Citizens petition to strip Residential Incentive Overlay bylaw. Conversion of outdated Housing
90 Development Corporation to standard Affordable Housing trust vehicle. Minor cleaning up zoning.
91 Study to determine costs of implementing on AC in schools that don't have it. Concern about capital
92 budget and process. Passed MBTA communities in prior town meeting. Task Force will be
93 established to consider changes to RIO (Residential Incentive Overlay) - an overlay to existing
94 underlying zoning where you can add multifamily housing with certain restrictions lot size (1 acre),
95 setbacks, density (24 units per acre). All these aspects, including which districts RIO can be
96 applied to, will be reviewed by the PB RIO task force.

- 97
- 98 • Wayland – Robert - Town meeting was two weeks ago. PB working on making ADU bylaw
99 compliant with Commonwealth. Floodplain work. Overlay on drive up/pick up window from online
100 orders (not drive through) at fast casual restaurants.
101 Mary – two parcels of land discussed that will be transferred for affordable housing/shared
102 living. Possible sale of property, with a portion set aside for affordable housing. Hopeful this will
103 pass. Other parcel former DPU site with some cleanup needed; three articles on what to do with
104 DPU parcel. Meeting was two nights – 11:30 pm ending.
 - 105 • Southborough – Meme -- Town meeting completed. Shared parking passed. ADU articles - special
106 permit article failed, pulled rezoning. \$100M school vote.
 - 107 • Sherborn – Heidi -- town meeting includes four articles - 3A, floodplain, ADUs, misc. zoning
108 update. Potential contentious items – tennis versus pickleball, turf field versus natural, and history
109 museum. School renovations bids are 3X higher; including HVAC updates. Town meeting next
110 Tuesday, typically town meetings are 1 night, this may be 2 or more nights. (Colette – may want
111 to discuss school costs).
 - 112 • Marlborough – Katie – budget topics. School committee budget was 11% increase. But
113 Mayor/City may reduce that number. Anticipate huge insurance increase this year. City council
114 received report on rec/open space plan; proud of trails and hope to connect with Southborough
115 and rail station. Capital: new school building, and new fire station. Councilor passed away
116 recently so vacancy; special election required, might ask for home rule to appoint someone until
117 next election.
118 Susan Nicholl – Student Opportunity Act funding from state, are seeing cities are sometimes
119 reducing local funding accordingly; discussion in Framingham. Katie – Marlborough has funded
120 schools at high levels, so even reduced municipal support is above typical support.
121 Katie – reduced bus routes, putting in more SRTS efforts for students that need to now walk to
122 school. No bus fee. Colette -- can lead to more parents driving to school, and more traffic.
 - 123 • Framingham –Yvonne – revised ADU to meet state requirements. 3A conditional compliance;
124 working to get final compliance. Demolition delay bylaws update.
 - 125 • Ashland – Yolanda -- Town meeting upcoming. ADUs, floodplain, land taking for upper Charles
126 trail by eminent domain; local historic district vote may be controversial. Other capital projects.
127 Typically TM is one night meeting. Also site plan review, dog kennel update.

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129 **Other Business Not Known at Time of Posting**

- 130 • Jason Palitsch, 495/MW Partnership – Tuesday is State House day! All are invited. 11 AM 4/29.
131 Free, just register in advance. 28 delegates represent area of 495/MW. Great opportunity to
132 interact with others and legislators. Thank you to Susan for reserving space. Yolanda – it's a great
133 event, recommend going if you can. Register at 495/MW webpage or
134 [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYyqzfuu-](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYyqzfuu-yRm8RSZqtpKYmsgYicr_buA0ol6K5LKCvCv_DLq/viewform)
135 [yRm8RSZqtpKYmsgYicr_buA0ol6K5LKCvCv_DLq/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYyqzfuu-yRm8RSZqtpKYmsgYicr_buA0ol6K5LKCvCv_DLq/viewform)

136 • Susan Nichol, Sen. President Spilka's office - budget season at State House. Seeing many visitors
137 with concerns about losing federal funding and if State can make up. House Budget debate is next
138 week. Senate will draft budget next few weeks. Senate President Spilka was at Asland, visiting
139 other MW communities. Lots up in air with federal money.

140 • Yolanda – Remember MWRC Executive Board vote in June. If you want to continue on Board or
141 join, please let Travis and Yolanda know. Alos if someone else wants to step into role as Chair, let
142 us know.

143 • Today is Laurie's last MWRC meeting. Yolanda – thank you for your service. Laurie -- thank you
144 and will pass on MWRC Work Plan to Town and hope someone from Town will be appointed.

145 Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Colette, seconded by Laurie. Meeting adjourned. Meeting
146 adjourned by voice vote at 9:02 AM

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148 Attachments: None

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150 *Minutes compiled by Travis Pollack, MAPC*

151 *Minutes approved June 26, 2025*

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