



Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 9, 2026, at 6:30 PM

Town Offices, Select Board Room

36 Bartlet Street, Andover, MA 01810

Meetings are televised on Comcast Channel 22 and Verizon Channel 45

I. Call to Order – 6:30 P.M.

Chair Alex Vispoli called the meeting of March 9, 2026, to order at 6:30 P.M.

Members Present: Alex Vispoli, Chair, Ellen Townson, Vice Chair, Melissa Danisch, Clerk Laura Gregory and Kevin Coffey.

Also present: Town Manager Andrew Flanagan, Deputy Town Manager Mike Lindstrom, Deputy Town Manager and Town Clerk Austin Simko, Town Counsel, Doug Heim, and Brittney Lavoie, Deputy Town Manager of Operations.

II. Opening Ceremonies

A. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance

A moment of silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Town Manager Report

Mr. Flanagan noted the following: Public forum redesign of [andoverma.gov website](http://andoverma.gov) March 10; Conservation Commission Introduction to Ecological Forest Management March 11; Synthetic turf forum March 12; Deadline for submitting proposals for Participatory Budget Program March 13; Annual budget workshop/review March 14.

IV. Communications/Announcements/Liaison Reports

Mr. Lindstrom said the Town has officially closed on 92 Tewksbury Street, acquiring 3.58 acres of land along the Shawsheen River for passive recreation. This has been the number one priority of the Open Space Task Force.

Ms. Lavoie said there were public safety awards for town employees at the Annual Public Safety Award Banquet and noted the AYS Career Fair held February 25th.

Mr. Heim thanked the Select Board for inviting him to participate in the recent Select Board Coffee Hour.

Ms. Gregory reminded all that the local election is March 24th, and on March 18th the LWV will be hosting a candidates' forum at the library.

Ms. Townson said that during the Select Board Coffee Hour she heard a number of requests for Officer Ota to be a future special guest.

Ms. Danisch noted receipt of the grant for Tewksbury Street sidewalks, and thanked DPW for the February snow removal.

Mr. Vispoli said the next Select Board Coffee Hour will be April 4; He was recently appointed to MMA Personnel and Labor Relations Policy Committee.

V. Public Comment

No public comment

VI. Public Hearings

A. National Grid – Lowell Junction Road

Board to review and consider voting to approve an application from National Grid and Verizon requesting permission to locate, erect and maintain poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the public way hereinafter named in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked - Lowell Junction Road - Andover, Massachusetts.

Brian Sathler from National Grid gave a brief overview of the work request for installation of a JO pole on Lowell Junction Road to support new equipment for reliability, especially with storms. Ms. Townson noted the word Lowell on the map presented, and suggested it be changed to Andover. Mr. Sathler said the change would be made.

Ms. Danisch moved to approve the application from National Grid and Verizon requesting permission to locate, erect and maintain poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the public way hereinafter named in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked - Lowell Junction Road - Andover, Massachusetts. Ms. Townson Seconded. The motion passed 5-0

VII. Regular Business

A. Opioid Settlement Funds

Board to receive opioid settlement fund recommendations and final report.

Mr. Lindstrom recognized Jess Pfefferman, consultant, who has been engaged in this process of resident interaction and proposals for fund distribution. A portion of the Fund which came from Pharma settlements was spent in FY25 and FY26. A full report of Fund distribution is posted online.

Ms. Pfefferman introduced her background and most recently her work with Opioid Settlement Community Needs Assessments. Highlights and recommendations/next steps are the focus tonight. Interviews and Focus Groups with Andover and North Andover volunteers.

Recommendations approved by state for use of Opioid Money. Direct Support discussed with key being connecting people to resources and approved categories for funding. Care Solace is the service coordinator, and Mr. Lindstrom spoke about some of their service stats which will be posted on the web site. Narcan and CPR training have reduced deaths in recent years.

Town has group of engaged individuals and will continue to work with Mr. Lindstrom.

Mr. Vispoli asked about settlement amounts, and funding will be available through 2039. The Town receives \$178K a year. Mr. Lindstrom noted that over the course of the settlement the total funding is \$2.65M. Mr. Coffey asked that future reports show income and spending and forecast trajectory.

Mr. Coffey asked how the Select Board participation in the lawsuit squared with the flow of funding through the state and other providers and Mr. Heim said the State created the fund and a percentage of that flows through to municipalities.

Ms. Townson asked whether survey results were shared with the Board of Health and noted the need for printable information available for residents in case of an emergency.

Mr. Vispoli said there is a team working with Mr. Lindstrom, funding is in place and resources listed online. Ms. Danisch said it is important for people to be able to talk about this and have these resources/assistance, and thanked Ms. Pfefferman for her work on this issue.

B. [Amendments to Traffic Rules and Regulations](#)

Board to discuss and consider voting on the following changes to the Traffic Rules and Regulations as proposed by Andover Safety Officer.

Mr. Vispoli introduced Andover Safety Officer Ota and Joseph Bianco, principal of St. Augustine's School. The discussion began with slides of Central Street parking issues currently impacting traffic and pedestrian crossing at St. Augustine's School. Recommendations include eliminating parking for drop-off/pickups between School Street and the condominium driveway, to end the so-called double parking. Mr. Bianco said this should help with circulating the traffic. Also, add hard barriers to have better sight lines on School/Central Streets.

May hire another crossing guard. Ms. Danisch asked about backups on Central Street, and Officer Ota said there will be monitoring and education for now. Ms. Danisch also suggested staggering school grade times might help, and a barrel should be removed after drop-off and pick-up times. This change wouldn't affect other schools in the area. Mr. Coffey asked about flex posts as waiting area/queue prior to the gridlock, and this will be monitored.

Ms. Townson moved to approve the amendments to the traffic rules and regulations by imposing a parking restriction of no parking on the south side of Central Street from Chestnut to School Street during the hours of 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM on school days for the purpose of maintaining a designated school pickup and drop-off queue as presented by the Andover Safety Officer. Ms. Gregory seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Townson moved to approve the amendments to the traffic rules and regulations by establishing a pickup drop-off only zone on the south side of Central Street from Chestnut Street to School Street during the hours of 8 AM to 3:30 PM on school days for the purpose of maintaining a designated school pickup and drop-off queue as presented by the Andover Safety Officer. Ms. Gregory seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

[Land Use Policy](#)

Board to review and consider approval of revised Land Use Policy as presented by Town Counsel.

Mr. Heim prepared a draft policy and key of summary of changes and thanked others for their help and review. Ms. Townson asked about a section on campfire permitting which was dropped. A discussion followed on campfires in designated pits, gatherings in the Pole Hill area, drought issues, when and where permits would be issued for Scouts and

other groups, and alcohol permits which will be addressed in a separate policy addressing alcohol on town property.

Mr. Heim described the permitting process and will add language concerning communal pits to address Ms. Townson’s concerns.

Ms. Townson moved to approve the revised Land Use Policy as presented by Town Counsel as amended. Ms. Danisch seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

C. Annual Town Meeting Articles

Board to consider voting to take a position on the following articles:

P9	<p>Financial Housekeeping F-H; H reauthorization of revolving accounts.</p> <p>Ms. Townson moved to recommend Town Meeting approval of Article P9 “Financial Housekeeping” F-H. Ms. Danisch seconded. The motion passed 5-0. Mr. Coffey asked about the storm water revolving fund and town events revolving fund and how it relates to expenses for Andover Day. Mr. Flanagan explained the separate permitting fees for those two town events and income if permitting required due to storm drain study</p> <p>(G) Concerns peg access and cable related expenses. (H) Annual appropriation to the pension obligation bond stabilization.</p>
P11	<p>Dissolution of Revolving Funds—offsets cost associated, annually Fire rescue for reimbursement of mutual aid ambulance funds.</p> <p>Ms. Danisch moved to recommend Town Meeting approval of Article P11, dissolution of revolving funds. Mr. Coffey Seconded. The motion passed 5-0.</p>
P21	<p>Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Accessory Dwelling Unit Bylaw Adjustments. Mr. Materazzo, Director of Planning worked with Mr. Heim on amendments. Bylaw on ADUs (accessory dwelling units) Attorney General’s Office had 3 issues. Amendments clarify the intent, sever the AGs concerns and make administrative changes on accessory dwelling units.</p> <p>Ms. Gregory moved to recommend Town Meeting approval of Article P21 zoning bylaw amendment, accessory unit bylaw adjustments. Ms. Danisch seconded. The motion passed 5-0.</p>
P25	<p>Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Historic Mill Overlay District (HMD) Dimensional Regulations. Mr. Materazzo gave a brief overview of the background of HMD and said the intent is to move forward with a minor amendment. Need to remove the minimum acreage requirement and align it with existing zoning to open up this area for occupants of smaller scale projects. Planning Board recommends approval.</p> <p>Ms. Danisch moved to recommend Town Meeting approval of Article P25 zoning bylaw amendment, historic mill overlay district dimensional regulations. Ms. Gregory seconded. The motion passed 4-0-1. Mr. Coffey abstained.</p>
P32	<p>Revoke Town Acceptance of Civil Service Status for Police Officers</p> <p>Mr. Flanagan said this has been negotiated. Civil Service has been in place in Andover since 1935. System of state-run tests every two years has not evolved with best</p>

practices. This amendment would give local control of the hiring process. Mr. Vispoli said it would also give the town more hiring flexibility.

Ms. Townson moved to recommend Town Meeting approval of Article P32, to revoke town acceptance and civil service status for police officers. Mr. Coffey seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

West Elementary Borrowing and [Andover High School Improvements](#) —

Mr. Flanagan introduced Acting Superintendent Keith Taverna, High School principal Mr. D'Andrea, School committee members Jake Tamarkin and Lauren Conoscenti. Mr. Flanagan said this process now has the unanimous support of the school committee as things have evolved over the past two years and with numerous committees. Three Options were discussed previously: Option 1: Base scope plus science wing for \$80M; Option 2: Base scope including furniture, security, mechanical etc. \$17 -27M; and now, Option 3 (Modified); Security and furniture replacement, \$3.85M. This would be funded through existing capital balances and a transfer from free cash. This option would maintain the existing High School building for the near future. It would not directly impact residents and would maintain flexibility. It would be within the tax levy. An SOI still must be accepted by MSBA and this timeline explained. At some point in the future a new H.S. will need to be built, and Option 3 modified, provides what is needed in the short term.

Will be able to proceed to the 2026 annual Town Meeting with this recommendation. Mr. Taverna spoke of the need for school furniture, for flexibility and said there will be a comprehensive plan for all students. Ms. Conoscenti said the opportunity to make additional decisions if needed is important.

P34 Ms. Danisch said new furniture will be available for students going forward and some of the existing furniture would be re-used and re-purposed made sense. Mr. Vispoli thanked the school committee for their lengthy and serious deliberation on this matter and said the community will continue to be engaged in this matter.

Mr. Coffey also noted the time commitment by the school committee and asked if about final borrowing for West El. Mr. Flanagan said final borrowing has been completed and waiting for MSBA and expenses. Article language will be discussed depending on final numbers. Mr. Coffey said the word "borrow" is not contemplated in the vote so it should be removed. Mr. Heim said that term is part of any capital project until final language is completed. Mr. D'Andrea spoke briefly about comprehensive furniture and space upgrades including improvements for the special ed programs. Ms. Townson thanked Mr. Taverna for his work on this project.

Ms. Gregory moved to recommend Town Meeting approval of Article P34 West Elementary borrowing and Andover High School Improvements. Ms. Townson seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Gregory withdrew this motion to address Mr. Coffey's concern with the word "borrowing."

Ms. Gregory moved to recommend Town Meeting approval of revised Particle P34 as presented with removal of the word "borrowing". Mr. Coffey seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

P35	<p><u>An Act Authorizing the Town of Andover to Prohibit the Use of Anticoagulant Rodenticides by Commercial Pesticide Applicators.</u> Private article for home rule petition.</p> <p>Mr. Vispoli recognized Donna Cooper, 4 Eagle Way and Prudence Barker, Arthur Road who gave an overview of the cruelties and public health issues caused by this rodenticide which the Town of Andover prohibits on public but not on private properties.</p> <p>Chair of Public Health Board Dr. Deborah Enegess spoke against this warrant as written. She argued that a reduction/ban on anticoagulant rodenticide is best done at the State level.</p> <p>Mr. Simko read a revised motion approved by the Board of Public Health. He noted that although the Board of Health is in favor of banning this, the original article would make the Andover Health Department responsible for regulation and enforcement rather than under a holistic State plan.</p> <p>Ms. Townson spoke in favor of local enforcement for a number of reasons, with the spread of animal mange to humans and the opportunity to move forward with better solutions being key. Mr. Coffey spoke of having some ability or plan to enforce on this on private residences if adopted. Mr. Heim gave a framework of regulating products like bait boxes, and explained legal issues, suggesting legislation at the state level. Members were generally in favor of this, but concerns were discussed about an enforcement plan for private properties. Ms. Danisch said the petitioners and Board of Health need to have further discussions, and Mr. Flanagan noted the Finance Committee will want information on potential costs.</p> <p>Ms. Townson moved to recommend Town Meeting approval of Article P35, an act authorizing the Town of Andover to prohibit the use of anticoagulant rodenticides by commercial pesticide applicators. Ms. Gregory seconded. The motion passed 5-0.</p>
P40	<p>Amend District Agreement with Greater Lawrence Technical School to Permit Hangar Lease.</p> <p>Superintendent Lavoie read the proposed warrant.</p> <p>Ms. Danisch moved to recommend Town Meeting approval of Article P40 amend district agreement with Greater Lawrence Technical School to permit hanger lease. Mr. Coffey seconded. The motion passed 5-0</p>

VIII. Approval of Minutes

A. Board to approve minutes from the following meetings:

1. February 23, 2026

Ms. Danisch moved to approve the meeting minutes from February 23, 2026, Select Board Meeting. Mr. Coffey seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

IX. Adjourn

Ms. Danisch moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 PM. Ms. Gregory seconded the motion passed 5- 0.