



# TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

TOWN COUNCIL

Notice of Meeting Minutes: Town Council

2024 March 11

6:30 pm Eastern Time

WCAT Studio – 24 Hemlock Road | Via Zoom

**Call to Order:** Jonathan P. Chines called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Jonathan P. Chines led the body in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Town Council:** Mehreen N. Butt, Jonathan P. Chines, Chair; Anne P. Danehy (remote); Edward F. Dombroski, Jr.; Michael J. McLane, Vice Chair; Julie Smith-Galvin; and Robert E. Vincent II.

**Administration:** Stephen P. Maio, Town Administrator; Sherri A. Dalton, Executive Secretary, and Town Council Clerk.

**Town Counsel:** Thomas A. Mullen.

**Possible Executive Session:** At 6:32 p.m. Michael J. McLane moved to go in to executive session to discuss strategy with respect to threatened litigation under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) because an Open Session may have detrimental effects on the bargaining position of the Town, with the intent of returning to Open Session immediately thereafter. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0 by roll call vote.

Open session returned at 7:06 p.m.

**Public Engagement:** Marie Rej of 25 Montclare Avenue; Janice Mamayek of 30 Trenton Street, Melrose; Alana Russo of Bedford, MA; and Anthony Guardia of 27 Davey Lane; Kathryn Haughn of 11B Fairmount Street, Woburn, provided comments in support of ARPA funds for Inspire Café; Theo Noell of 8 Fernwood Road spoke in support of the Bike/Ped Plan.

**The Scholarship Foundation of Wakefield:** TJ White, Vice President of The Scholarship Foundation along with student members, requested the week of March 11, 2024 through March 16, 2024 be declared



“The Scholarship Foundation of Wakefield Phonathon Week.” Michael J. McLane so moved. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

**Fiscal Year 2025 Budgets:** Michael J. McLane moved to approve Budget #17 Fire Department for \$7,466,154.00, as presented by Town Accountant Gill, Fire Chief Michael Sullivan and Deputy Fire Chief Thomas Purcell. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Finance Committee Chair Sullivan recommended favorable action for the Department of Public Works budget. Michael J. McLane moved to approve Budget #29 Department of Public Works for \$7,252,058.00; Snow & Ice for \$850,000.00; Sewer for \$9,367,204.00; and Water for \$7,470,570.00, as presented by Town Accountant Gill, Department of Public Works Director Conway and Business Manager Waitt. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

**Annual Town Meeting:** Michael J. McLane moved to approve Warrant Articles Eminent Domain for \$1.00; Refuse/Recycling/Yard Waste for \$2,456,958.00; Water Main Replacement (Borrowing) for \$5,000,000.00; and Fueling Island Design for \$150,000.00. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Anne P. Danehy arrived at 8:34 p.m.

Michael J. McLane moved to refer the citizen petition MBTA Community amended article to the Planning Board. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. The motion passed 6-0-1 by roll call vote with Michael J. McLane, Mehreen N. Butt, Anne P. Danehy, Julie Smith-Galvin, Jonathan P. Chines, Robert E. Vincent, II voting in favor. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. abstained.

**Traffic Advisory Recommendations:** Michael J. McLane moved to approve an intersecting street warning sign on Prospect Street between Morningside Road and Overlake Road; and the first two spaces on Princess Street be restricted to loading zone only between 7:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote.

**Presentations / Updates: Bike/Pedestrian Plan Updated Draft:** Town Engineer Renault and Community and Economic Development Director Kokinda presented the final version of the Wakefield Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Town Engineer Renault outlined the next steps if the Town Council approved the plan, including posting the final plan on the town's website. He also recommended reviewing the plan every five years. Julie Smith-Galvin moved to approve the plan as presented. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Robert E. Vincent II moved to amend by removing the last sentence in the second paragraph on page 34 in its entirety and replace the sentence with the following "The Town Council shall solicit and consider the advice and recommendations from the Fire, Police and Public Works Departments and the Traffic Advisory Committee prior to the approval of all projects, including but not limited to, projects delineated in Figure 38 of this Plan". Michael J. McLane seconded. Julie Smith-Galvin moved to further amend by adding "and multi-modal transit bike/ped official town committee", after Traffic Advisory Committee in the same paragraph. The amended motion passed 5-2-0 by roll call vote with Anne P. Danehy, Robert E. Vincent II, Julie Smith-Galvin, Mehreen N. Butt, and Jonathan P. Chines voting in favor. Michael J. McLane and Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. voting against the motion. The main motion passed 5-2-0 with Anne P. Danehy, Robert E. Vincent II, Julie Smith-Galvin, Mehreen N. Butt, and Jonathan P. Chines voting in favor. Michael J. McLane, and Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. voting against the motion. **American**

**Rescue Plan Act Update:** Town Administrator Maio presented a compiled list for the remaining \$2,048,227.00 ARPA funds. Anne P. Danehy moved to allocate \$150,000.00 for INspire Café renovations. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote. Robert E. Vincent II moved to allocate \$40,000.00 for the Wakefield Food Pantry. Michael J. McLane seconded. After discussion, Robert E. Vincent II withdrew his motion. Robert E. Vincent II moved to allocate \$25,000.00 for historical structures repair estimates. Michael J. McLane seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote. Town

Administrator Maio will rank the Council's requests and present the ranking at the next Town Council meeting. **Town Elections and other Town Wide Events:** Town Administrator Maio commented that parking during elections and other town-wide events is difficult. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. added that parking for this past election was horrible. He heard from a number of residents who complained as well. He asks that a general policy be crafted regarding the utilization of the Galvin Middle School for limited instances where the town needs to prioritize parking. The Council asked Town Administrator Maio to come back with thoughts on what a formal policy would look like.

**Donations:** Michael J. McLane moved to accept and expend a gift or gifts to the Library for \$913.28 from various donors with thanks. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote. Michael J. McLane moved to accept and expend a gift or gifts to the Council on Aging for \$150.00 from various donors with thanks. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote.

**Approval of Minutes:** Michael J. McLane moved to approve the February 26, 2024 Town Council meeting minutes. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment:** Michael J. McLane motioned to adjourn at 10:36 p.m. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sherri A. Dalton, Town Council Clerk