



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

TOWN COUNCIL

Notice of Meeting Minutes: Town Council
2023 July 10
7:00 pm Eastern Time
WCAT Studio – 24 Hemlock Road | Via Zoom

Call to Order: Jonathan P. Chines called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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

Town Counsel Present: Thomas A. Mullen.

Public Engagement: Rob Wettach of 29 Walden Road expressed concern with the elimination of parking along the lake on Main Street. Theo Noell of 8 Fernwood Road, Marlene Veldwisch of 598 North Avenue, and Tiana Veldwisch of 28 West Water Street supports the proposed Bike/Pedestrian Plan.

Traffic Advisory Committee Recommendation: Michael J. McLane moved to approve the request of the Traffic Advisory Committee as presented by Traffic Advisory Committee Chair Anderson for a handicapped parking space on Crescent Street in the area of #43. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote. Michael J. McLane moved to approve the request of the Traffic Advisory Committee as presented by Traffic Advisory Committee Chair Anderson that the intersection of Salem Street and Pleasant Street be changed from a two-way stop to a four-way stop by adding stop signs to both the east and westbound sides of Salem Street. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote. Michael J. McLane moved to approve the request of the Traffic Advisory Committee as presented by Traffic Advisory Committee Chair Anderson proposing updates to the Town School Zone signage to maximize the distance of 20 MPH speed control. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote.



Presentations: Bike/Pedestrian Proposed Plan: Community and Economic Development Director Kokinda and Town Engineer Renault presented the proposed Bike/Pedestrian Plan. The plan outlines installations of sidewalks, crosswalks, and areas for bike routes. Five alternative bike lanes, from fully protected to shared lanes, were proposed. Some Councilors expressed concern about eliminating parking spots, while others were in support of the proposed plan. The proposed plan is available on the Town's website and will be revisited at a meeting of the Town Council in August or September. **40A Communities:** The Council received an update from the MBTA Community Working Group. Community and Economic Development Director Kokinda and Planning Board member Hogan stated the working group is considering a "gentle density" approach to ensure that Wakefield complies with the new state law requiring communities served by the MBTA to designate a district adjacent to public transit where multi-family housing is permitted by right. Zoning around Main Street, North Avenue, Albion Street, and Water Street will not be affected to protect the commercial tax base. The working group expects to bring a final proposal to Spring 2024 Town Meeting. **Community and Economic Development:** Director Kokinda highlighted the function of the Community and Economic Development Office, where she assists businesses and non-profits with real estate searches, programming for business growth, marketing, partnerships with regional stakeholders, grant opportunities, and event planning.

Appointment: Michael J. McLane moved to appoint Vanessa Westlake as the Student Representative to the Human Rights Commission as recommended by Superintendent Lyons with a term through June 30, 2024. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote.

Approval of Minutes: Town Council unanimously approved the June 26, 2023 Town Council meeting minutes.

Adjournment: Michael J. McLane motioned to adjourn at 9:43 p.m. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri A. Dalton,
Town Council Clerk