

Select Board

May 12, 2026

Present:

- Select Board: Ms. Liz Klein, Chair, Mr. Bill Ramsey, and Ms. Julie Strehle
- Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator
- Art Robert, Assistant Town Administrator for Operations
- Katie Dugan, Assistant Town Administrator for Finance

Call to order:

6:03 PM: Chair Klein called the meeting to order and read the following statement:

“This meeting is being held in person and/or remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025 and all other applicable laws temporarily amending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. If any participant wishes to record this meeting, please notify the chair at the start of the meeting in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording.”

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes to approve.

Maddie’s Promise Day Proclamation

The Select Board read a proclamation declaring May 23, 2026, as Maddie’s Promise Day in the Town of Hingham, to raise awareness of childhood cancer and honor Maddie McCoy.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to proclaim Saturday, May 23, 2026 as Maddie’s Promise Day in the Town of Hingham. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

National Safe Boating Week Proclamation

Ken Corson, Harbormaster, reported that National Safe Boating Week is intended to raise awareness about safe boating practices both in Massachusetts and across the country. The campaign highlights the importance of water safety and promotes the use of life jackets.

The Select Board read the National Safe Boating Week Proclamation.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to proclaim May 16-22, 2026, as National Safe Boating Week in the Town of Hingham. Mr. Ramsey seconded. All were in favor.

Sustainable Purchasing Policy

Mr. Robert explained that the Town is seeking approval for the Town Administrator to sign a Sustainable Purchasing Policy, which is required for DPW to apply for MassDEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Program grants. It was noted the policy replaces the existing recycled procurement policy and will be distributed to all departments by Procurement Manager David Sequeira.

Ashley Broyer, DPW Superintendent, added that MassDEP updated the grant requirements for the current cycle to require municipalities to adopt a Sustainability Purchasing Policy in order to remain eligible for funding. Ms. Broyer thanked Patricia and Art for assisting with updating the Town’s existing policy to meet the new standards, which will allow her to continue applying for grants that support transfer station operations and improvements.

Ms. Broyer further explained that last year the Transfer Station was able to receive \$6,000 through the grant. MassDEP provides guidelines on what the funding can be used for.

Mr. Robert and Patricia Burke, Sustainability Coordinator, stated that the policy encourages the Town to make sustainable purchasing decisions whenever feasible, including utilizing environmentally preferred products, surplus programs, and federal procurement guidelines, without requiring the Town to incur unreasonable additional costs.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to adopt the Sustainable Purchasing Policy dated May 12, 2026. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

MBTA Route 714 Bus Stop Safety and Accessibility Project

Mr. Robert explained that the request is to allow the MBTA to install a Route 714 bus stop sign on Hull Street as part of broader service improvements, including increased bus frequency and enhanced connections to other MBTA services.

Alexander Anhwere-James and Elizabeth Taylor, MBTA, explained that the MBTA proposes installing approximately 24 pairs of bus stops along Route 714 to replace the current flag stop system. The improvements will create safe, accessible, and clearly marked waiting areas, enhance visibility, enable automatic stop announcements for accessibility, and improve tracking, arrival predictions, and overall reliability. The design will meet federal accessibility requirements and MBTA guidelines, including proper landing pads, grades, and pedestrian connections, and installation will occur in phases with public outreach. Phase one will convert service from Hingham through W Street, eliminating flag service in that segment, with remaining stops addressed in a later phase. The current request is approval to install one bus stop in Hingham as part of phase one, with no cost to the Town.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to approve the request of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority to install a proposed Bus Stop #71428 (Alternative No. 1 or Alternative No. 2) located on Hull Street in Hingham, Massachusetts as shown on the "Bus Stop Concept Plan" attached hereto. Mr. Ramsey seconded. All were in favor.

Discussion and potential vote to file a petition for a Special Act in accordance with Article 97 of the Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth regarding the Route 3A Project, as authorized by Article 30 of the 2026 Town of Hingham Annual Town Meeting

Attorney John Coughlin, Town Counsel, explained that the matter is a petition under Article 97 requiring filing with the State Legislature. MassDOT's attorney has reviewed and approved the petition, and Representative Meschino's office is prepared to file it. The proposal, already approved at Town Meeting, would transfer certain parcels to MassDOT for the Route 3A project, with the Town conveying a parcel on Hobart Street to the Conservation Commission as replacement land and receiving compensation from MassDOT equal to 110% of the land value. The special act must be filed and passed in the current legislative session to keep the project moving forward.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to file a petition for a Special Act in accordance with Article 97 of the Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth regarding the Route 3A Project, as authorized by Article 30 of the 2026 Town of Hingham Annual Town Meeting. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Appointments and/or reappointments (for a list of Talent Bank Applicants and Board and Committee vacancies, please visit Hingham-ma.gov/SB)

Ms. Strehle made a motion to appoint Charlie Hayes to the Historical Commission for a term ending June 30, 2029. Mr. Ramsey seconded. All were in favor.

Public Comment

No members of the public came forward.

Select Board/Town Administrator Reports

Mr. Ramsey reported that the following evening an all chairs of boards and committees meeting would be held at Town Hall at 7 PM. He also noted the Peace Officer Memorial ceremony would take place on Thursday at 3 PM at Town Hall, and the annual Battle of Grape Island event would be held Sunday at 1 PM at the harbor. He concluded by noting the recent passing of longtime school department employee and coach Fred Jewitt and recognizing his contributions.

Ms. Strehle encouraged residents to get involved in town government by participating in committees, completing the talent bank, and reviewing opportunities on the Town's website, noting that volunteering is a meaningful way to support local initiatives and contribute to the community.

Mr. Ramsey made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

The Select Board meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Documents:

1. Maddie's Promise Day Proclamation
2. Safe Boating Week Proclamation
3. Sustainable Purchasing Policy Packet
4. Route 714 BSAP Presentation
5. Article 97 – Route 3A Project Packet
6. Talent Bank - Hayes