

Select Board

May 19, 2026

Present:

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

Call to order:

6:34 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.

Appointment of Part-time Assistant Harbormasters (Potential candidates: Robert Sullivan, Trevor Steiner, Colin Cleary, Matthew McLeod, Edward Buckley, Joseph Griffin) (Ken Corson)

Ken Corson, Harbormaster, explained that five candidates are being proposed for appointment as part-time Assistant Harbor Masters for spring through fall to support harbor inspections, bylaw enforcement, mooring, rentals, and general harbor management. These are not law enforcement positions, but operational support roles. The candidates are reviewed by Mr. Corson, Deputy Chief O’Shea, and Human Resources.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to appoint the following individuals as Part-time Assistant Harbormasters for the Town of Hingham through June 30, 2029:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| • Robert Sullivan | • Matthew McLeod |
| • Trevor Steiner | • Edward Buckley |
| • Colin Cleary | • Joseph Griffin |

Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Discussion of Next Steps Regarding the Hingham Center for Active Living

Ms. Klein noted the Select Board discussion was to review the current status and next steps for the Hingham Center for Active Living. Ms. Klein acknowledged the extensive decade-long effort involving design work, public input, and the 2021 Master Plan, thanked the committees and volunteers involved, and stated the community is now at a point to consider next steps.

Mr. Ramsey noted that future capital planning will require clear understanding of competing costs, including the School Capital Improvement Program and a potential override. Mr. Ramsey reflected on the prior Center for Active Living effort, expressing appreciation for volunteers and noting strong public engagement, and stated that while the previous proposal was not approved, the main concerns were location and cost.

Mr. Ramsey emphasized that any future “Plan B” must address those issues and account for broader financial pressures, including other capital needs. Added that any consideration of private property would need to follow a formal RFP process, and that a new proposal would likely require defined limits on scope and cost and involve a debt exclusion weighed against other town priorities.

Ms. Strehle acknowledged the work of committees and residents and the disappointment that “Plan A” did not move forward, citing differing views on location, cost, and changing conditions. She noted the current Center

for Active Living space is inadequate and said the Select Board must evaluate future options while balancing affordability concerns and other major capital priorities.

Tom Carey, 1131 Main St, acknowledged the disappointment of the proposal's failure but noted that past setbacks have led to workable solutions after reevaluation. Mr. Carey urged the Town to review all town-owned land before considering private sites, emphasized preserving the tax base, and stressed that the Center for Active Living remains an important long-standing priority.

Josh Ross, 125 Wompatuck Rd, Member of Council on Aging, thanked those involved in the project and stated that Town Meeting did not fully reflect all viewpoints. Mr. Ross noted that senior services remain underfunded and that key issues such as space, parking, and programming persist. Mr. Ross added that the Council on Aging will continue advocating for improvements, including potential parking and facility changes and shared use of outdoor space, with ongoing efforts expected over several years.

Lizzy Eldridge, 154 Union St, raised concerns about the tax impact on seniors, emphasizing affordability and potential tax relief to help seniors remain in the community. She also encouraged the Town to consider all available public facilities and options to minimize additional tax burdens on residents.

Yvette Kanter, 442 Main St, emphasized the distinction between affordability and wealth, noting that seniors and others rely on the Center for Active Living for essential services, support, and wellbeing. Ms. Kanter stated that misinformation and low turnout influenced the Town Meeting outcome, and explained that purchasing private property involves a lengthy approval process. Ms. Kanter concluded that immediate focus should be on funding and expanding senior services while a long-term facility solution is pursued.

Ray O'Neill, 24 Clifford Court, asked at future Town Meetings if additional opportunities for public comment could be provided to allow more perspectives from both sides to be heard.

The Board and Mr. Mayo discussed taking additional time to review available options. Mr. Mayo announced that residents may submit ideas and feedback to CALIDEAS@hingham-ma.gov for compilation and consideration.

Nes Correnti, 17 Ward St, expressed disappointment with the Town Meeting vote and concern over limited public participation and misinformation shared during discussions. She emphasized the need for better communication and more accessible ways to provide residents with detailed information so they can make informed decisions and become more engaged in Town matters.

Glenn Mangurian, 4 Huckleberry Hill Ln, expressed disappointment with the Town Meeting vote, concern over growing resistance to community investment and future capital projects, and hope that the outcome was an isolated event rather than a lasting shift in public sentiment.

Discussion of FY27 Select Board Goals

Ms. Klein stated the Select Board recently met to discuss fiscal year goals, which continue to be guided by the 2021 Hingham Master Plan and its focus on infrastructure, civic engagement, and quality of life. She noted that the Board also met with committee chairs to align town initiatives with the Master Plan's long-term vision. Ms. Klein added the Select Board's goals were organized into three main areas: investing in the community, financial stewardship, and effective and transparent communication.

The Board discussed priorities under "invest in the community," including developing a plan to support the senior population, improving capital planning and outlay processes, and establishing a standing facilities committee to address long-term building needs. The Board also noted ongoing work on the HMLP reliability project, healthcare subsidy study, harbor resiliency efforts, and Lincoln School Apartments, and emphasized efforts to refine and advance the capital planning timeline to improve long-term financial and facilities decision-making.

The Board discussed exploring future governance options for the water system, including potential restructuring or consolidation of water and sewer operations.

The Board reviewed financial stewardship initiatives, including updates to the Sustainable Budget Task Force data and development of a five-year sustainable budget model, along with continued work on the financial

management plan. They also discussed internal accounting improvements and paperless initiatives to streamline processes, and noted potential support for state-level municipal finance reforms such as the Municipal Empowerment Act. Additionally, the Board emphasized improving communication and transparency by advancing earlier capital planning, engaging stakeholders sooner in the warrant process, and enhancing outreach to reduce confusion and improve understanding of complex articles.

Yvette Kanter, 442 Main St, raised concerns about declining public understanding and participation in Town Meeting and suggested the town should improve outreach and civic education about how the legislative process works.

Josh Rosh, 122 Wompatuck Rd, suggested considering holding Town Meeting on a Saturday to improve participation and efficiency, and also exploring community interest in a representative town meeting format, while noting it as a discussion point rather than a firm recommendation.

Tom Carey, 1131 Main St, noted discussions at the library about improving public access to information and suggested expanding library programming to help residents better understand Town Meeting warrants and other civic processes.

Lizzy Eldridge, 154 Union St, suggested adding an educational section to the Town website to help residents better understand Town Meeting and related civic processes.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to adopt the FY27 Select Board Goals as presented. 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. Klein made a motion to appoint Ted Matthews to the Bare Cove Park Committee for a term ending June 30, 2029. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Ms. Strehle made a motion to reappoint the following members to the Fourth of July Parade Committee for a term ending December 31, 2026:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| • Dewitt DeLawter | • David Berger |
| • Tom Hoffman | • Brian Doherty |
| • Leon Merian | • Matt Goulet |
| • Robin Briggs | • Jimmy DeStephens |
| • Paul Callahan | • Jeffrey Kukesh |
| • Patrick Kirk | • Megan Tracy |

Mr. Ramsey seconded. All were in favor.

Public Comment

No members of the public came forward.

Select Board/Town Administrator Reports

Mr. Mayo reported that a One Day Special permit was granted to Bataco for Jazz on the Green at the Derby St Shops on June 11th with an alternate date of June 17th 5:30-7:30 Pm with 75-100 attendees expected, with 1 police detail required. A second One Day Special permit was issued to Untold Brewing for an event series, Making Waves, at the Hingham Maritime Center on June 11, July 2, August 6, and September 11 4:00-9:00 PM with an estimated attendance of 100 people per event with 1 detail required.

Mr. Mayo also announced that the Town received a \$1 million grant to construct the planned rotary in the town center. He thanked J.R. Frey, Town Engineer, and his team for their efforts in securing the funding.

Mr. Ramsey reported that the Battle of Grape Island reenactment took place on Sunday and joked that the militia remains undefeated.

Ms. Strehle reported that the chairs of the Town's committees and boards met with the Select Board last week to provide updates on their current projects and future plans. It was noted that the group plans to hold these meetings twice per year and that the meeting was recorded on Harbor Media.

Ms. Klein announced there will be a Memorial Day ceremony at Town Hall on Monday, May 25th.

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

The Select Board meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Documents:

1. Assistant Harbormaster Appointments
2. FY27 SB Liasonships
3. 4th of July Parade Committee
4. Matthews Appointment