

Select Board

August 11, 2026

Present:

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

Call to order:

6:00 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

June 2, 2026, June 10, 2026, June 11, 2026, June 16, 2026, June 24, 2026, June 30, 2026

Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the June 2, 2026 minutes. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Ms. Strehle made a motion to approve the June 10, 2026 minutes. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Ms. Strehle made a motion to approve the June 11, 2026 minutes. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the June 16, 2026 minutes. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Ms. Strehle made a motion to approve the June 24, 2026 minutes. Mr. Ramsey seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the June 30, 2026 minutes. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Consider approval of a Special (One-Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license to Break Rock Brewing, LLC for the Summer Send Off at World’s End to be held on Saturday, August 22, 2026 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Mr. Jay Southwood and Ms. Elyssa Scheck spoke to the Board regarding the event. Break Rock Brewing will sell beer, wine, and nonalcoholic beverages. The event typically attracts approximately 700–900 attendees, with food trucks and attendees gathered at the top of the hill to enjoy music and the views. A police detail will be required.

The Board discussed the event’s rain date. Although the rain date of August 23 was not included on the application, the applicants confirmed that the event has a rain date and that they would update the

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application accordingly. The Board requested that the Hingham Police Department confirm coverage for the alternate date, including the required two-officer detail. Ms. Scheck agreed to submit a tentative request for the police detail.

The Board expressed no further concerns and agreed to approve the event, contingent upon confirmation of police coverage for the rain date and the addition of August 23 as the alternate date.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve a Special (One-Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license to Break Rock Brewing, LLC for the Summer Send Off at World's End to be held on Saturday, August 22, 2026 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm with an alternate date of August 23, 2025 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm pursuant to the requirements established in the application by the Hingham Police Department. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Consider approval of a Special (One-Day) All Alcoholic Beverages license to Deirdre Anderson, Hingham Historical Society for Tavern Night at The Old Ordinary to be held on Saturday, September 12, 2026 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Ms. Deirdre Anderson of the Hingham Historical Society spoke to the Board regarding the event. She stated that this will be the Society's eighth Tavern Night at the Old Ordinary and its largest annual fundraiser. The event will include a tent in the parking lot, tours of the house museum, food and beverages, and a live performer. A police detail will be required. Ms. Anderson noted that parking is typically available at St. Paul's Church, which has generously allowed the Society to use its parking area for the event. Many attendees also walk or carpool. Accessibility accommodations are available for guests who contact the Society in advance, allowing them to be dropped off near the driveway before parking offsite.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to approve a Special (One-Day) All Alcoholic Beverages license to the Hingham Historical Society for Tavern Night at The Old Ordinary to be held on Saturday, September 12, 2026 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Mr. Ramsey seconded. All were in favor.

Application for an Entertainment License submitted by 211 Hingham LLC, d/b/a Comella's Restaurant, 207 Lincoln St, Hingham, Kim Collyer, Manager.

Ms. Kim Collyer spoke to the Board regarding the proposed entertainment. She stated that the establishment would occasionally host a two-person acoustic ensemble indoors, rather than on the patio. The application includes live music and television screens. The proposed hours for live music are 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Ms. Collyer noted that she does not currently have specific dates selected and confirmed that the request is not limited to a particular date.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the application for an Entertainment License submitted by 211 Hingham LLC, d/b/a Comella's Restaurant, 207 Lincoln St, Hingham authorizing television screens and small acoustic ensembles to perform within the restaurant Monday through Friday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The following restrictions apply; No larger than a three-piece band, acoustical in nature and volume, music shall be maintained at a volume appropriate for background entertainment and compatible with a pleasurable dining experience, and permitted hours may be further limited, but a license may be suspended or revoked in the event of noise or crowd related complaints. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Potential vote to sign the Memorandum of Agreement with Teamsters, Local Union 25 – DPW Supervisors

Chair Klein stated that this would be discussed at the next Select Board meeting scheduled for August 25, 2026.

Vote: No vote for this item occurred at this meeting.

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Consider the Agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for seventy-three (73) Taser 10 Certification and 2 Day Taser Instructor Certification for the Hingham Police Department

Chair Klein stated that this would be discussed at the next Select Board meeting scheduled for August 25, 2026.

Consider the Agreement with Brite Lite Electric, Co, Inc. for the electrical relocation project at the South Shore Country Club

Mr. David Sequeira, Procurement and Contracts for the Town of Hingham, provided a logistical and procurement update regarding the electrical work associated with preparation for the demolition of the existing pool. He stated that the electrical work is expected to take several weeks and will not affect the restaurant. The bowling alley may be closed for a few days during the work, and appropriate notification will be provided to members. Golf operations are not expected to be disrupted.

Mr. Sequeira reported that a site visit was conducted on July 22 with prospective contractors. Two bids were received, with Bright Light Electrical Company submitting the lowest bid. Bright Light has been in business since 1973 and is located in Hingham. The contractor received a 93 out of 100 rating and has completed similar municipal electrical projects. The project is anticipated to begin in August, with a contract completion date of September 30, 2026. Funding will come from the pool demolition account within the South Shore Country Club Enterprise Fund. The total contract amount is \$169,900. The Country Club Management Committee has also voted to approve the contract. The contractor will invoice the Town upon completion of the project and required inspections.

The Board discussed the required electrical permitting and inspection. Mr. Sequeira confirmed that the electrical inspector must approve the work before payment can be made. The Board also asked about the bidding of the pool demolition. Mr. Sequeira stated that the demolition project is currently in the design phase and has not yet been bid.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to authorize the town administrator to approve the agreement with Bright Light Electric Company, incorporated for the electrical relocation project at the South Shore Country Club in an amount not to exceed \$169,900. Mr. Ramsey seconded. All were in favor.

Approval of Petition to Locate Private Sewer Line 155 Otis Street

Mr. Russ Tierney, Water Superintendent, spoke to the Board regarding a proposed license agreement allowing a private sewer structure to remain on Town property. Mr. Tierney explained that the approved plans called for a different type of connection to the sewer system. The connection was subsequently modified without the revised plans being submitted to the Building Department for approval. The modification included a sewer manhole that was installed approximately halfway within the public roadway. Following backfilling by the contractor, the roadway began to settle. The Department of Public Works repaired the roadway, and the homeowner reimbursed the Town for the cost of the repairs. The sewer line and manhole were inspected, and the necessary work was completed to the Town's satisfaction. Mr. Tierney stated that the Town agreed to allow the structure to remain in place provided the homeowners assume ownership and responsibility for the sewer line from the house to the street. He explained that the Town typically assumes responsibility for a sewer service at the property line; however, because this structure encroaches onto Town property, the agreement extends the homeowners' responsibility to the Town's sewer main. The Board reviewed the agreement and noted that the property owner is responsible for the construction, operation, inspection, repair, maintenance, removal, and replacement of the sewer line. Mr. Tierney confirmed that any future costs or maintenance associated with the line would be the responsibility of the property owner. The Board asked whether any future maintenance or failure of the sewer line could affect abutting properties. Mr.

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Tierney confirmed that it would not, as the line serves only the subject property. He also noted that the sewer line has been upgraded and is currently in good condition. Mr. Tierney stated that the Sewer Commission has discussed the matter and expressed concerns regarding the original installation but did not take a formal vote, as the proposed agreement is between the homeowners and the Select Board. He stated that the sewer infrastructure is currently in good condition and the Water Department has no objection to the agreement.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the petition of Peter, Matthias and, Dania Matthias, 155 Otis Street, Hingham, MA 02043 for a non-exclusive and revocable permit to maintain a private sewer manhole within the Otis Street right of way to serve 155 Otis Street, as described in the Petition and Plan file with Select Board on December 16th, 2025, subject to the Terms and Conditions set forth in the permit, and to authorize the Town Administrator to execute the permit on behalf of the town. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Gifts – Barbara Hood Trust

Ms. Katie Dugan, Assistant Town Administrator for Finance, addressed the Board regarding the acceptance of two bequests from the estate of Barbara Hood. Ms. Dugan stated that Ms. Hood bequeathed \$500,000 to the Historic Commission and \$500,000 to the Conservation Commission. The Board's acknowledgment and acceptance of the gifts is pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53A, regarding gifts and donations to municipalities.

Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator, spoke about Ms. Hood, noting that she had been a longtime neighbor of Town Hall and was actively engaged with Town staff. Ms. Hood passed away on November 9, 2025, at the age of 90. She attended Hingham schools and graduated from Emerson College. She worked for Mount Sinai Hospital in New York and later for NBC at Rockefeller Center. She was the daughter of the late Roy and Louise Hood and is survived by many close friends and neighbors. Mr. Mayo expressed appreciation for her generosity and noted that her legacy will continue through the Conservation Commission and Historic Commission.

Chair Klein asked Mr. Mayo to work with the department heads and respective commissions to establish a process for the appropriation and use of the funds. It was noted that expenditures would require approval by the respective commissions as well as the Select Board.

The Board discussed whether there were restrictions on the use of the funds. Mr. Mayo explained that the funds must be used for purposes consistent with the missions of the Conservation Commission and Historic Commission, respectively. The estate's trust intended for the funds to be guided by the principles and purposes of the two commissions, with final expenditure approval resting with the Select Board pursuant to state law. Mr. Mayo will work with the commissions to identify appropriate uses for the funds.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to acknowledge, accept and confirm the receipt of a gift in the amount of \$500,000 from the Barbara I Hood Revocable Trust of 2020 to the town of Hingham, in accordance with the attached gift letter to the Hingham Historical Commission. Under the provisions of Mass General Laws, chapter 44, section 53. Mr. Ramsey seconded. All were in favor.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to accept and confirm receipt of a gift in the amount of \$500,000 from the Barbara L Hood Revocable Trust of 2020 to the town of Hingham, in accordance with the attached gift letter to the Hingham Conservation Commission. Under the provisions of Mass General Law, chapter 44, section 53. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Recognition of Thomas O'Donnell 100th Birthday

Mr. Bill Ramsey informed the Board that longtime Town Moderator Tom O'Donnell would celebrate his 100th birthday the following day. Mr. Ramsey recognized Mr. O'Donnell's 45 years of service as Town Moderator, noting that upon his retirement, he was the longest-serving active Town Moderator in

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Massachusetts. Mr. Ramsey also recognized Mr. O'Donnell's service as a Navy veteran and his distinguished career as an attorney in the Boston community. He credited Mr. O'Donnell with establishing a respectful and inclusive tradition at Town Meeting, where residents are given the opportunity to speak on matters before the Town. Mr. Ramsey noted that he planned to visit Mr. O'Donnell the following afternoon to present him with a certificate recognizing his milestone birthday and many years of service to the Town. The Board expressed its appreciation for Mr. O'Donnell's contributions to the community and wished him a happy 100th birthday.

Appointments (for a list of Talent Bank Applicants, please visit [Hingham-ma.gov/SB](https://hingham-ma.gov/SB))

Vote:

Mr. Ramsey made a motion to appoint Margaret Harris to the Conservation Commission for a term ending June 30th, 2027. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Ms. Strehle made a motion to appoint Lynn Anderson to the Beautification Commission for a term ending June 30th, 2029. Mr. Ramsey seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Ramsey made a motion to appoint Molly Ascrizi to the Bear Cove Park committee for a term ending June 30th, 2029. Ms. Strehle abstained. Ms. Klein seconded.

Mr. Ramsey made a motion to appoint Jennifer Young to the Old Colony. Elder service and board of directors. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Public Comment

Ms. Sandra Owens, 5 Lincoln Street, addressed the Board. Ms. Owens stated that she has never been bothered by the Hingham Historical Society's Tavern Night, noting that the event is well managed and generally concludes around 10:00 p.m. She also commented favorably on the Town's governance and recalled attending Town Meetings during Tom O'Donnell's tenure as Town Moderator. Ms. Owens stated that she is part of a group of seniors who have concerns regarding the current Senior Center and are exploring appropriate channels to address them. She raised concerns about ADA accessibility in the Senior Center restrooms, the building's ADA compliance as a former school, limited parking at the Senior Center, as well as concerns about furniture and the status of a potential new Senior Center, and that she believes the existing Council on Aging facility is inadequate to serve Hingham's senior population. Ms. Owens expressed disappointment that Hingham does not currently have a facility to adequately serve its senior population.

Yvette Cantor, 442 Main Street, addressed the Board. Ms. Cantor asked Mr. Mayo to follow up with the concerns regarding the Senior Center. Ms. Cantor also stated that there has been ongoing discussion regarding expanding the Senior Center's hours to five days per week and she expressed interest in understanding when this could occur, noting that opening the Center on Fridays could provide additional programming opportunities and access to parking that is otherwise available on that day and expanded hours would be beneficial to the Town's senior population.

Select Board/Town Administrator Reports

Tom Mayo stated that a one-day liquor license was issued to Best Brother Records for a concert at Ames Chapel on August 7, 2026 from 7:00pm-11:00pm. There were 75 attendees with one police detail required.

Ms. Strehle shared a reminder that the Town Administrator's Office and the Select Board are posting weekly updates to the town's website on the homepage.

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Chair Klein shared that she was present at the Hingham Farmers Market of the Farmers Market Day celebration and encouraged all to attend.

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

The Select Board meeting adjourned at 6:49pm.

Documents:

1. SB Minutes 6.2.26 , 6.10.26, 6.11.26, 6.16.26, 6.24.26, 6.30.26
2. Break Rock packet
3. Summer Sendoff packet
4. Tavern Night Packet
5. DPW MOA
6. AXON Agreement
7. Brite Light Agreement
8. 155 Otis St. Petition
9. Barbara Hood Conservation Commission packet
10. Barbara Hood Historic Commission packet
11. Barbara Hood Obituary
12. MGL Gifts and Donations
13. Tom O'Donnell 100th