

Observer Corps Report



Select Board

Date and location: December 16, 2025, Great Hall, Town Hall

Members: David Golden, Chair; Richard Quintal, Vice Chair; Kevin Canty, Deb Iaquinto, Bill Keohan

Members absent: None

Guest speakers: See below

Summary of important agenda items including discussion, motions, votes, and relevant public comment:

- Following up on the postponement two weeks ago, the Select Board (SB), now in possession of info and documents they did not have for the last meeting, unanimously approved an underground storage license for 2 Commerce Way. The project, a retail gas and diesel station, already had Planning Board and ZBA approval.
- All the proposed licenses were unanimously approved. See Agenda for details: https://www.plymouth-ma.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_12162025-3177
- Administrative Note #5 was withdrawn. Notes #1,3,4 and 7 were unanimously approved. On Note #2, Mr. Keohan noted that the membership on the Historical Commission can be increased by two individuals, and he suggested the Herring Pond Wampanoag tribe should propose candidates. It was agreed that this increase be put on a future agenda for a vote. Mr. Keohan pointed out that families had made contributions to support the Center for Active Living (Notes #6 and 8). Following his comments, the Board voted 5-0-0 to approve #2, 6 and 8.
- *Public Comment:*
 - Katherine Harrelson, a staff member of the Community Land and Water Coalition, urged oversight and public participation in reforestation practices at Myles Standish State Forest, and that the practices be evaluated in light of other cuttings in Plymouth. She asked for transparency and ongoing review.
 - Steve Lydon thanked the town for the tree lighting ceremony.
 - Laurie Downs spoke to e-bike and e-dirt bike regulations suggesting that the town wait under the State regulations currently underway are finalized.
 - Meg Ash asked the town to adopt a three-point program to deal with anti-Muslim rhetoric, hate and violence.
 - Dale Bryan, Chair of the Climate Action Net Zero Committee, said there was no support from his committee for the e-bike plan as written.

- **Presentations:**
 - Paul Gregory from the State Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) spoke to the ongoing efforts to reduce “high fuel” hazards in the state forest.
 - Peter Gordon, Water Superintendent, and Bill Coyle, Director of Public Works, discussed the new EPA lead and copper rule revisions. Any lead in Plymouth’s water comes from piping, not from the source water which is lead-free.
 - Chad Hunter, Harbormaster, presented new proposed regulations dealing primarily with new mooring requirements. The Board approved the regulations unanimously.
 - Derek Brindisi, Town Manager, presented the 2027 Town budget, which he characterized as the most challenging one yet. New growth is slowing. The overall proposed budget has increased 4.69% or \$14.8million. The biggest drivers were health insurance (↑\$4.4million) and pensions (↑\$1.7million). Mr. Brindisi warned that layoffs or overrides were in our future unless things changed. At this point Mr. Quintal interjected that the Select Board should be attending to business-only on Tuesday nights so they could address these problems. The “Select Board on the Road” nights should be extra.
 - The e-Bikes special legislation proposed for Town Meeting went down to defeat by a vote of 3-2. Mr. Keohan did not want to rush it, and Mr. Golden was just generally opposed to the regulation. Mr. Quintal gave no reason for his no vote.
 - Mr. Golden proposed a new article for Town Meeting. Mass General Law (MGL) Chapter 39, Section 59(e) allows members of the armed forces or reserves 40 days of training or drill time without losing pay. The item would be budget neutral since full salaries are already in the budget. The Board voted 5-0 to submit this article for the warrant.
 - Ms. Iaquinto proposed an article that would change the health care contribution retirees would have to make. It would only apply to new hires. That also failed by a 3-2 vote with only Ms. Iaquinto and Mr. Canty voting in the affirmative.
- **Town Managers Report:**
 - Cheryl Jones, the new Director of the Center for Active Living, has made 2026’s theme *Live Vibrantly and Build Connections*.
 - Lauren Lind was promoted to be the new Director of Planning and Development after Lee Hartmann’s retirement. Michael Silveira recently was hired as Deputy Director, after serving in the Hingham Planning Department.

Issues relevant to LWV position/programs:

Possible LWV action ideas and League person(s) contacted:

Open Meeting Law (OML) concerns	Yes	No
Meeting held in accessible location?	X	

Name cards identifying Members in place and readable by attendees?	X	
All speakers audible to all attendees?	X	
All visuals visible to all attendees or handouts available?	X	
Motion wording, motion maker names, and votes audible to all attendees?	X	
Minutes from previous meeting posted per OML?		X*
Opportunity for public comment?	X	
All attendees were courteous to each other?	X	
Executive Sessions were for one of 10 reasons per OML?	N/A	

*Last minutes posted were from the October 28th meeting.

Comments related to above including any action taken: None

Observer name and date: Lyle Lawrence, December 23, 2025

- Link to recording on [The Local Seen](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUF6NnAZqc), if available.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUF6NnAZqc>
- When the official minutes from this meeting have been approved, they will be available on the Town website at <https://www.plymouth-ma.gov/agendacenter>