

Select Board

February 3, 2026 Great Hall Town Hall 26 Court Street, Plymouth MA 02360

All Members present: Chair David Golden, Vice-Chair Dick Quintal, Bill Keohan, Deb laquinto, Kevin Canty

Guest speakers, Administrative Assistant, Inspectors, other town employees: Town Manager Derek Brindisi, Assistant Town Manager Silvio Genao, Financial Director Lynne Barrett, Administrative Assistant Jade Anderton, Harbormaster Chad Hunter, CPC Chair Ed Bradley, Wastewater Superintendent Doug Pinard, Waste & Wastewater Engineer Kendra Martin, Wastewater Groundwater Discharge Community Action Committee (CAC) Vice Chair Hampton Watkins, DPW Director Bill Coyle, Neil Price of Horsley Witten Group, and Dept of Environmental Protection (DEP) SE Region's Jon Holbil.

Public Hearing: Mr. Hunter, Rick Vayo (Aqua Farmer & Wholesaler) & Mike Withington (Aqua Farmer) explained goals for Plymouth's oyster industry and specifics about the 4 license renewals requested. All license requests were unanimously approved, as were all Administrative notes. Refer to agenda: [Select Board Agenda](#).

Mr. Brindisi, Mr. Coyle, and the Board discussed the challenges DPW faced in managing snow removal from the Jan 24 storm, including unusually large snowfall and shortages of staff and appropriate equipment. See the Plymouth Independent article here: [PI 1.30 Article](#)
Jenelle La Grande was unanimously approved for appointment to the Agricultural Commission term ending June 30, 2028.

Summary of important agenda items:

2026 Spring Town Meeting Article Review:

- Mr. Bradley presented 5 Community Preservation Committee Articles with various funding maneuvers, all of which were unanimously approved
 - Article 25 to provide \$75K + \$10K buffer toward plan to establish Historic District downtown, with a possible grant offset. Historical Commission is collaborating on inventory of historic sites underway.
 - Articles 26 & 27 to reduce outstanding liability for Plymouth Area Coalition for the Homeless by \$2.489 million and for the Jenney Pond project by \$415K.
 - Article 28 for \$70,530 to digitize and make searchable online about 300 microfilm rolls from Old Colony Memorial, currently at the Plymouth Library. Mr. Bradley agreed to provide clarification of copyright ownership of these materials, at Mr. Canty's request.
 - Article 29 to fund CPC budget account 10% set aside for historic purposes, 4% for admin and professional services, rolling over into the future.

Wastewater Treatment/Groundwater Discharge Updates:

- Mr. Pinard and Ms. Martin updated the Board about proposed wastewater management changes. A Plymouth Independent article outlines the issue and town and public concerns here: [PI 2.5 Article](#). Chair Golden's letter to the Plymouth Independent also provides context here: [PI 2.5 Letter](#). Additional points from the Select Board meeting include:
 - Proceeding with draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) does not commit town to moving forward with any wastewater management actions. The draft EIR still must go through a public comment period, the MA Environmental Policy Act Office (MEPA) review & their Certificate with follow-up requirements. The town then prepares its Final EIR that goes through the same process before an application for Groundwater Discharge Permit can be made.
 - Mr. Pinard's observed current activities along Cape Cod indicate to him it is likely the state will mandate the discharge to the harbor end. Without approval to proceed with process to permit, at that time town would be forced to repeat these efforts, estimated at 8 years' work and an unknown amount of money.
 - Various alternative outflow sites were studied and rejected over the years since the dye study. The results of a pilot test discharge to the beds are not yet ready. Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) Committee newly established; its findings and recommendations have not been released.
 - Mr. Holbil asserted DEP is required under Clean Water Act to ensure loads are reduced or impaired waters are restored. With the CWMP, Plymouth may qualify for 0% financing for project/s to mitigate or manage the wastewater issue.
- Mr. Watkins reported the [Citizens Advisory Committee's position](#), stating they agree on the facts, with differences in the interpretation of them. There remains enough uncertainty that CAC recommends NOT moving forward with the DEIR but leaving the option open for the future. Questions and concerns included:
 - Hydraulic impact and offshore sites were not adequately studied. Immediate doubling & eventual quadrupling of discharge will reduce costs, but Eel River will bear impact.
 - All new construction should be sewered.
 - Do we need other Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) locations? Current needs are being met but what about future needs? If we keep discharging to harbor, should we change water treatment chemical makeup? Tertiary treatment must happen if sand beds are employed.

Public Comments:

Ten people, some of them CAC members, expressed concerns regarding the adequacy of the testing and sampling methods and locations, the quality of the data & its interpretation, the integrity of the modeling used and their own observations of pond degradation in town. All but one encouraged that the discharge bed option is not moved forward.

Observer Corps Report



The Board voted 4 to 1 in favor of proceeding with the DEIR processes. Mr. Keohan voted no, indicating he wanted more focus on options to protect the Eel River.

Issues relevant to LWV position/programs: Select Board decided to conduct a budget workshop on Thursday, March 5th to develop a better timeline, with critical date dependencies, for the FY27 budgeting process and to revisit the FY26 Goals & Priorities to better prioritize them for staff. Expected participants include all Select Board members, Town Manager, Asst Town Manager, Finance Director, School Superintendent and School Committee member Luis Pizano. Should Observer Corps report on this meeting?

Open Meeting Law (//OML) concerns //	Yes	No
Meeting held in an accessible location?	X	
All speakers audible to all attendees?	X	
Motion wording, motion maker names, and votes audible to all attendees?	X	
Minutes from previous meeting posted per OML?		X*
Executive Sessions were for one of 10 reasons per OML?		N/A

* No prior meeting minutes were approved, most recent minutes are from Nov 4 meeting.

Observer name and date: Lisa Hamilton (remotely), February 9, 2026

- Recorded meeting is on The Local Seen at: [Local Seen SB Recording](#)
- South Shore News article covering the meeting is at: [South Shore News Article 2.11.26](#)
- Once approved official minutes will at <https://www.plymouth-ma.gov/agendacenter>

Suggested Headline: Select Board Considers Contentious Wastewater Treatment