

Controversial Article 10 & Argument Over Agendas

Select Board

March 24, 2026

Plymouth Town Hall

All Select Board Members Present.

Other Attendees: Administrative Assistant Jade Anderton, Town Manager Derek Brindisi, Director of Planning & Development Lauren Lind, Interim Conservation Agent Patrick Farah, Wastewater Superintendent Doug Pinard, Facilities Director Karl Anderson, Director Energy & Environment David Gould, Climate Resiliency & Sustainability Planner Mike Cahill, Planning Board Chair Steven Bolotin.

Brief Summary of Key Discussions Below: (refer to meeting agenda [here](#).)

- Public Hearing, Licenses & Permits, Administrative Notes: Public Hearing was continued and licenses, permits, and four administrative notes were all approved unanimously as a group.
- Public Comment: Dale Bryan, Chair of Climate Action Net Zero (CANZ) Committee, requested there be a digital version of Comprehensive Plan (CP) with hyperlinks to easily access other key committees' relevant work or positions. He also asked that CP Implementation Committee seats be assigned to other key Committee stakeholders, including a representative from CANZ.
- Updates/Overviews:
 - *Process for Donating Open Space Parcels.* (Lind, Farah). No standard process is in place for this infrequent event. Board members agreed Open Space donation process should be improved.
 - *Comprehensive Plan (CP)* (Lind, Bolotin). Planning Board meeting for approval of CP is on Wed 3/25 at 7pm. Two years' work to date was reviewed for the Select Board, with key milestone events summarized. Bolotin emphasized high engagement with thousands of Plymouth residents who gave input.
- Article Review:
 - Article 1 - Wastewater Plant HVAC (Pinard) – Plant is 20+ years old and historically has not been well maintained. System cannot be patched or repaired any more. Board & Town Manager expressed frustration with current, unavoidable, expensive consequences after years of prior neglect.
 - Article 2 - Police Station HVAC (Anderson) – Request for additional funds to cover about 20% cost increase since original bidding plus added services. Absent an increase they will have to reduce scope of work. Unanimously approved.
 - Article 3 & Article 4 – 250th Anniversary \$50K for July 4 & \$50K for Thanksgiving Celebration (Quintal) – Quintal pledged to have updates on specific use of funds on 3/31. Board split voted to approve adding to the Warrant (Canty was only No) and to recommend approval of the funding (Canty & laquinto voted No, others Yes).
 - Article 5 - Charter Amendment (Canty) - to move Town Election to 2nd Saturday of June.

- o Article 6 - Charter Amendment (Canty) - to expand permitted window for Spring Town Meeting to March through June.
- o Article 7 - General Bylaw Amendment (Canty) - to have Spring Town Meeting 3rd Saturday in May.
- o Article 8 - General Bylaw Amendment (Canty) - to have annual Town Meeting Warrant close 3rd Friday in January.
Articles 5, 6, 7 & 8 were unanimously approved as a group.
- o Article 9 - Solar Credit Contracts (Cahill) – Project for on-bill credit to result in fixed 12% discount over 20 years for total savings of over \$3.5million. Request authority to execute. Unanimously approved.
- o Article 10 - Citizen Petition to Amend Acts (2003) Chapter 27 (Richard Sarkey, David Peck as presenter) – to create a new category of employees based on hire date for future medical cost-sharing calculations. Possible savings are long term, applicable only to new hires going forward. Local union Reps Tom Pinto, Mike Dawley, and Dale Webber were all permitted to speak in opposition under what Chair Golden described as presentation rules, not public comment. All were adamantly opposed. Stated concerns included that the article is expressly prohibited by the Public Employee Committee agreement in effect, the petitioners bypassed the Insurance Advisory Committee, the article will negatively impact town recruitment and retention and is perceived as an attack on town employees. Some comments were derogatory toward petitioners without consequence. The article will go to Town Meeting as required by law; Board voted No to recommending approval, with laquinto & Canty voting Yes. All Board members agreed this issue was not handled well, that it should have gone through negotiation with stakeholders.
- Execute 2026 Spring Special Town Meeting Warrant. Town’s precinct caucus schedule forced Finance Committee (FinCom) meeting postponement to April 1. Board unanimously approved execution of Special Town Meeting Warrant with an addendum documenting the 10 Articles and their votes, but not the discussions, to fill the information gap caused by the FinCom postponement.

Select Board Discussion: Contentious disagreement over how agenda items have been managed and adherence to Board’s policy. Keohan was heated in his frustration over several items he has been unable to get scheduled. Golden was defensive in trying to maintain meeting control. Communication issues evidenced by (a) Canty, laquinto & Keohan not knowing why the Board is not meeting on 4/15, (b) a lack of clarity around why items were not scheduled on future agendas after procedures were followed, and (c) the disarray in organization – or lack thereof – of the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe reception activities. Discussion included side comments and innuendo and ended with Board scheduling Keohan’s requested agenda items. A motion & vote occurred to create a Host Committee for the reception for the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe. Golden immediately recognized this vote as an OML violation, rescinded it and added the Host Committee item to the next agenda.

Issues relevant to LWV position/programs: Open Space, OML

Open Meeting Law (OML) Concerns	Yes	No
Was meeting held in accessible location?	X	
Were all speakers audible to each other & attendees?	X	
Were minutes from previous meeting posted per OML?		X ¹
Were motion wording, motion maker names, and votes audible to attendees?	X	
Was public recording permitted and announced per OML?	X	
Was notice of meeting executed per OML?		X ²
If conducted, was Executive Session held for one of 10 reasons per OML?		N/A

1, Most recent meeting minutes posted are from 12/30/25

2, Discussion & vote on Host Committee was not given proper notice per OML, thus it was reversed & added to future agenda.

Public Meeting Guideline Concerns	Yes	No
Was a name card for each Member in place and readable by attendees?	X	
Were visuals presented during the meeting visible to attendees?	X	
Were all in attendance civil or courteous to each other during meeting?		X ³
Did Members follow their published Policies and Procedures, if any?		X ⁴
Was conflict of interest disclosed under State Ethics Law or Plymouth By-law?		N/A

3, Disparaging comments during public comment/"presentations," and obvious animosity between some board members.

4, Board in violation of its Policies & Procedures regarding scheduling agenda items, rectified during meeting.

Observer Name and Date: Lisa Hamilton (remote via Zoom), 3/25/2026

- Link to recording on The Local Seen is [here](#).
- Link to Plymouth Independent article is [here](#).
- Once posted, meeting's official minutes will be here: [Meeting Minutes](#)