

Civil Conduct Policy Discussion Lacked Civility; Funding for Shallow Pond Road Acceptance Work
Recommended to Fall Town Meeting

Select Board

August 11, 2026

Great Hall, Plymouth Town Hall

Board Members present: Chair Deb Iaquinto, Vice Chair Dick Quintal, Members Kevin Canty and Bill Keohan. David Golden attended remotely. Also present were Town Moderator Steven Triffletti, Town Counsel Stacy Klein Verde, Historic Resources Coordinator Connor Anderson, Director of Public Works Bill Coyle, Town Engineer Rick Bossi, Harbormaster Chad Hunter, Town Manager Derek Brindisi, and Senior Admin Assistant Kenzy Philabaum.

Brief Summary of Key Discussions - Topic details & support documentation made available with the meeting agenda can be found [here](#).

Public Hearings/ Licenses / Admin Notes – Three Aquaculture licenses were issued/transferred unanimously, the Gillis requests were removed from agenda. Seven categories of licenses and the Admin Notes were unanimously approved.

Public Comment – Beth Gregg (P7 & Chair of COPC), was asked to review & comment on Civil Conduct Policy and encouraged that it be passed and be followed in action.

Agenda Proper

- Civil Conduct Policy – Town has lacked a policy for filing complaints and taking disciplinary action relative to civility & integrity issues in Town meetings & events. Chair Iaquinto & Mr. Keohan worked with Town staff, attorneys, Mr. Triffletti, and others to draft policy to clarify expected conduct of elected & appointed officials & the public in meetings, as well as how to respond to events that may occur. Drafted policy includes a complaint form and an acknowledgement required of all at swearing. Members Quintal, Golden & Canty had issues or questions related to:
 - The extent to which the policy had any enforcement “teeth” – it is limited by committee or board charter,
 - The specific language used throughout – redlines were submitted but not included in final vote – raised concerns around potential procedural problems, the belief the policy will “chill free speech,” and that the policy is overreaching,
 - The lack of actual impact the policy as written would have on recent incidents at Town Meeting and in Select Board meetings,
 - The lack of any protections from “tyranny of the majority” on any given board under the policy as written.

Mr. Canty was interrupted as he outlined his concerns by Mr. Quintal’s use of “Point of Order” to limit the time spent by the Board in discussion. Mr. Golden requested to hear Mr. Canty’s full points; Mr. Canty declared the situation to be better illustrative of his points.

Board passed the policy with Mr. Canty and Mr. Golden voting no.

- 2026 Fall Annual Town Meeting Article: Bylaw Amendment – Demolition Delay – Anderson explained current Demolition Bylaw, timelines and Historical Commission’s role. Mr. Keohan provided context. To include Bylaw Amendment in Warrant and recommend Town Meeting approval was unanimously passed.
- Shallow Pond Road Acceptance – Mr. Coyle & Mr. Bossi outlined the recommendation from KP Law that the Town take the land required for the road through imminent domain, at an estimated cost of \$185K, not including the acquisitions. Mr. Coyle requested an Article for the Warrant for Fall Town Meeting for \$300K in cost to start the work required for acceptance and then recommended the actual Road Acceptance Article be added to the Warrant for Spring Town Meeting. Select Board questions & concerns, in addition to those of members of the public invited by the Chair to comment, included:
 - The uncertainty around how much the takings will end up costing,
 - Concerns about Town staff time already spent and needed to complete and the negative impact on other projects,
 - Issue that one of the roads in question is off by 6” and would require surveying to correct,
 - Some members wanted this road acceptance on the fall Warrant; Mr. Coyle indicated the timeline makes it impossible to meet the pre-requisites,
 - Disagreement about whether clear title or permanent highway maintenance easement is the better way to proceed,
 - Disagreements about the costs to do title searches required,
 - Concerns about the precedent to be set by the Town resolving a problem resulting from a neighborhood’s inability to form an HOA to manage the issue,
 - Concerns about the associated costs during a fiscally challenging time in the TownThe motion for the Warrant Article requesting \$300K in funds and recommendation by Board of approval passed the Board vote with Mr. Canty the dissenting vote.
- Select Board Article Submission – Mr. Golden asked the Board to send an Article to Fall Town Meeting to establish a traffic mitigation stabilization account and appropriate \$2.5M of free cash to it. Discussion focused around free cash and when the Town might or might not have the amount requested. Without enough assurances that the fund would impact the current traffic project issues, the Board did not pass the motion; Mr. Golden was the only one in favor.

Town Manager Report/New or Old Business/Letters – Mr. Brindisi provided updates on various projects around town and stated that 11,000 primary ballots have been mailed out; early voting starts 8/22. Chair Iaquinto requested the presentation given to the Plymouth Economic Development Foundation on the “Blue Economy” be added to a future Select Board agenda. Mr. Canty recognized and thanked all organizations & individuals involved in the “very successful” Shichigahama visit. Mr. Keohan formally requested the incident report identifying him in the recent Plymouth Beach incident be corrected as he is supplying proof he was not there. Mr Quintal requested an agenda item for discussion of Board policy about how long members can talk during meetings; he also raised concerns about the lack of transparency with the “side meetings” about Town business between some Board members and Town staff.

Issues relevant to LWV position/programs none.

Open Meeting Law (OML) Concerns	Yes	No
Were all speakers audible to all attendees?	X	
Was proper notice of meeting and/or hearing/s given per OML?		X*
Were motion wording, motion maker names, and votes audible to all attendees?	X	
Were minutes posted per OML?		X**
Was public recording permitted and announced?	X	
If conducted, was Executive Session for one of 10 reasons per OML?		N/A
* Public Notice did not include Issuance of Aquaculture License to Mr Marani in the second Public Hearing.		
**Most recent minutes posted are from 5/19/26, with 4/11/26 missing.		

Public Meeting Best Practices	Yes	No
Was a name card for each Member in place and readable by attendees?	X	
Were visuals presented during the meeting visible to all attendees?		N/A
Were all in attendance civil and courteous to each other?		X***
Did Members follow their published Policies and Procedures, if any?		X***
Was any conflict of interest disclosed, per State Ethics Law or Plymouth By-Law?		N/A
Was there an opportunity for public comment as encouraged by Attorney General?	X	
***Mr. Quintal disrupted Mr. Canty during Board discussion time		

Observer name and date: Lisa Hamilton (remotely), August 11, 2026

- Link to recording on [The Local Seen](#).
- Link to relevant Plymouth Independent [article](#).
- When the official minutes from this meeting have been approved, they will be available on the Town website at [Plymouth Agendas & Minutes Center](#).