

W. Ply. Concerns-Sidewalks, Airport, Water. Uncivil Words

Select Board **Sept 15, 2026** **Cafeteria West Plymouth School**

Board Members and Others Present: Chair Deb Iaquinio, Members David Golden, Kevin Canty, and Bill Keohan. Vice Chair Richard Quintal absent. Town Manager Derek Brendisi, Senior Staff Assistant Kenzy Philabaum.

Brief Summary of Key Discussions: Further topic details and support documentation made available with the meeting agenda can be found [here](#).

Administrative Notes: Notes 1,3,4, and 5 passed unanimously as a group. Mr. Keohan expressed concern with the wording of the minutes of the meeting July 28, 2026 regarding the dog hearing matter. Board agreed to allow him to bring replacement words for consideration at next week's Board Meeting.

Town Manager Report: Some of the questions that West Plymouth citizens submitted:

Extending sidewalks on Rt.80 and adding sidewalks on Carver Rd.(former Rt. 44)- Mr. Brindisi explained that Plymouth DPW could outline the steps needed for such a project and cost estimates to be submitted to State for these State roads, which is a long process as Plymouth knows from the years long recently completed project along part of Rt. 80.

New Rt. 80 Cemetery is nearly complete, but the Opening will not be held until next Fall to allow for the newly planted grass to mature.

Plymouth Municipal Airport will be closed, except for helicopters, Sept. 21 – Oct. 2 for improvements to the existing runway.

Public Question and Answer Session:

Judy Barber, Chair West Plymouth Steering Committee, announced that the Old Colony Planning Council will be studying the traffic and condition of Rt. 80 and shared her committee's understanding of need for more sidewalks in West Plymouth due to increased traffic as well as the need to initiate these projects early due to their expense and lengthy process to qualify for State money.

Kathy Pellitier, 50-year neighbor of the Airport, asked if SB members could help Airport neighbors get answers to their questions from the Airport Commission, such as what is the status of the large underground water tank under an airport hangar that may be contaminated by plane fuel and other contaminates? And where does the runoff water go when planes are washed? She stated that her questions remain unanswered along with 3 months' worth of residents' complaints for a total of 63. SB members answered that they will try, but now, SB is limited in their contact with the Commission because of the suit against the Town by the Airport Commission and resulting Court Order, which will be lifted at an unknown time.

Steve Lantagne, concerned Airport neighbor, asked who is paying for the Airport Commission's lawyer? SB answered: the Airport Enterprise Fund, not the general taxpayer.

Lisa Lantagne, concerned Airport neighbor, asked how the Commission develops their Town Meeting Articles, for their Capital Expense/Equipment money requests? In other words, are there minutes of discussion related to the requests? And how can neighbors become knowledgeable about the Article requests? Neighbors go to Airport Commission meetings but find it hard to "know what's going on". Per SB responses, there may not be any discussions, especially if the request comes from the Airport Manager or staff. If the Article request comes from the Commission, there may be mention of a discussion in the minutes. This is the usual process throughout Town. Citizens can become knowledgeable about the details of Articles by attending any of the meetings that discuss proposed TM Articles: SB, Finance Committee (FinCom), and Precinct Caucuses.

Jen Harris, Chair of Precinct 13, asked about status of W. Plymouth water due to construction near her Sawyers Reach residence. Mr. Brindisi updated all about the cemetery land clearing off Samoset St. for a new pumping station, to be funded by former W. Plymouth development company Claremont and to be completed in 12 months. SB members explained that Plymouth does **not** have a water quantity problem, but we do need a new pumping station to move the water where we need it. And the Town is always looking for where we might need new wells and then buying property if needed. Regarding water quality, a study a few years ago revealed that there is no salt in our aquifer. But Plymouth will soon be hosting a meeting of Plymouth County towns to learn about desalination plants. Mr. Brindisi also mentioned the Town's plan to dig a new well in W. Plymouth.

Mr. Lantagne also asked: Has any Town Committee, such as the Conservation Commission, done any studies about unused Airport land that could/should be conserved? SB answers were No, but Mr. Keohan noted that some of the 758 Airport acres already have endangered species protection.

Al Denardo Precinct 17/Redbrook commented that Plymouth should develop long-term plans for the Airport and that this year's Article 25 about the Airport money request is controversial because many citizens are not comfortable with the Airport Enterprise Fund that they believe is not understandable or transparent. The general opinion of SB was that understanding the Airport Enterprise Fund questions includes knowing the value of the Airport, which as a Municipal airport is not taxed. However, the discussion of how and where to get answers led to disagreement between Mr. Keohan who believed that citizens could get answers from the Town Assessors Office and other Board members who disputed that claim. Mr. Canty's final words included a personal attack on Mr. Keohan's claim and his unwillingness to accept other assertions. Chair laquinto interrupted to request that members not comment on their colleagues' motives. Mr. Keohan, who wished to respond, was granted response time at the end of the meeting, which occurred momentarily. Mr. Keohan stated he had recently sat with the Assessors in their office, and they stated what he had just relayed at this meeting.

Issues relevant to LWV position/programs –Aquifer protection and Hazardous Waste. League Sustainability contact person will receive a copy of this report.

Open Meeting Law (OML) Concerns	Yes	No
Were all speakers audible to all attendees?	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
Comments: *The most recent posted minutes are 7/22/26 and since Jan. 2024 three are missing: 4/11/26, 10/18/25 and 7/24/25.		

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?	X	
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	
Comments: *As noted in the last paragraph of the report, one SB member spoke sharply to another member.		

Observer name and date: Martha Vautrain September 17, 2026

- Follow this link to the meeting recording on the [Local Scene](#).
- Follow this link to relevant reporting in the Plymouth Independent: [Select Board Article on Conduct](#).
- When the official minutes from this meeting have been approved, they will be available on the Town website at [Plymouth Agendas & Minutes center](#).