

TOWN OF WINCHESTER NEWSLETTER APRIL 2019

EVENTS

- Free tax prep at the Jenks
- Proposed 40B @ 19-35
River Street Public Hearing
April 11th
- Town Meeting Article Public
Hearing April 23rd
- Spring Town Meeting April
29th
- Swap Shop Opening April
30th

NEXT MONTH

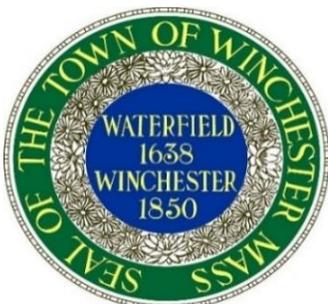
- Hazardous Waste Day May
4th
- Spring Town Meeting May
6th
- En Ka Event May 17th &
18th

Message From The Town Manager

With the weather warming and the sun out longer, I'm already getting spring cleaning fever! Winchester workers are out fixing potholes, sweeping streets and beautifying public areas. Building projects have been lined up to get done over spring vacation and during the summer when students are not in school. The Cultural District is being formed and the Master Plan is entering Phase II. Volunteer groups have been cleaning up along the river and events like Town Day and EnKa Fair are just around the corner. Spring season is also the beginning of baseball season and if you are feeling down because our beloved Red Sox are off to a rocky start, we have the Winchester teams to root for! We hope that the new turf fields brings them good luck as they head into their season opening game against Everett. As we ramp up improvements to the town this season, we encourage residents to call in any public works issues to 721-7100 so we can be responsive to your needs.



Lisa Wong



FUN FACTS FROM ARCHIVES

Out in space there is a small minor planet orbiting the sun named Winchester. Discovered in 1913, it was named for the Town in honor of its discoverer, former resident and minister of the Winchester Unitarian Society, Joel Hastings Metcalf (1866-1925).



SELECT BOARD MEMBERS

Last month was the last meeting for Chair of the Select Board, Lance Grenzeback, and Select Board member David Errico. We thanked them for their many years of public service to the Town! Pictured below from left to right: Mariano Goluboff, David Errico, Lance Grenzeback, Michael Bettencourt, Jackie Welch, and Town Manager Lisa Wong.



The Select Board welcomed two new members, Amy Shapiro and Susan Verdicchio at their first meeting on April 1st. Mariano Goluboff was elected Chair and Michael Bettencourt will serve as Vice Chair of the Select Board. Pictured below from left to right: Susan Verdicchio, Michael Bettencourt, Mariano Goluboff, Jackie Welch, and Amy Shapiro.





TOWN MEETING INFORMATION FROM THE TOWN CLERK

Perhaps you're new to town or you're recently interested in our local government and how it functions? The Town Clerk's Office can assist you and educate you in various aspect of our local government. Feel free to stop by Town Hall or email your questions to townclerk@winchester.us

In March of 1975 the voters of the Town of Winchester voted by ballot to accept and place into force a Home Rule Charter. The charter, as we refer to it, is a document that governs how the town functions as a public body. [Click here](#) to see the Home Rule Charter online. Included in this document, under Article 2, is the composition, establishment and rules that govern our Representative Town Meeting process. Each spring and fall Winchester conducts its Annual Town Meetings. According to the Winchester Code of Bylaws, the Town Meetings are held the last Monday in April and every Thursday and Monday until all the work of the town meeting is complete. In the fall, the Fall Town Meetings are held on the first Monday in November, with the exception of, when there is a State and/or Federal Election; then the fall town meeting is held on the Thursday after Election Day. The fall sessions are also held on a Monday, Thursday cycle until all the work of the town meeting is complete.

Winchester is a mid sized suburb in Middlesex County with a population of nearly 23,000 residents. The town is divided into eight voting precincts in which the legislative body of the town consists of representative town meeting. 192 town meeting members are elected from the eight precincts across town. The members meet, deliberate and vote in the exercise of the corporate powers of the town during the public town meetings.

Each precinct is represented in the town meeting by twenty-four (24) town meeting members, where 8 are elected each year at the annual town election in March for 3 year terms. To run for town meeting you must be a registered voter. The nomination process occurs each January through February and ends with the Annual Town Election, the last Tuesday in March each spring. Once elected, the new members are sworn into office on the first session in April by the Town Moderator. When vacancies occur the Town Clerk's Office will advise the precinct captains and opening can be filled by the remaining members of town meeting until the next annual election.

The conduct of the town meeting is overseen by the elected Town Moderator. The Moderator uses Roberts Rules of Order to conduct the business of the town. The Town Clerk serves as the recording clerk of all town meetings and supports the Moderator and Management with the recordkeeping of the town meeting business. Residents and Non Town Meeting members are welcome to attend and are entitled to speak upon approval of the body.

Each town meeting, the Town Manager's Office, prepares a warrant which is mailed out to each household in Winchester. Each spring the town meeting is primarily concerned with the adoption of the annual budget and other warrant articles which have a fiscal effect on the town. The Fall Town Meeting is primarily concerned with non-fiscal matters according to the General Code of Bylaws. An example of non-fiscal would be an amendment to the Zoning Bylaw.

The Town Meeting process can be exciting and interesting even if you are not a member. It truly is democracy at work. The Town provides the members with the detailed information prior to the meetings so that your fellow neighbors and friends who are representing your voice are educated on the various topics. It is their duty to review, study and inquiry about the issues prior to casting their vote(s). Winchester has been growing in our school population, changing in our demographics and evolving into a modern suburb of greater Boston. There are many interesting topics, projects and policy decisions being discussed in our small town. So if you are interested to learn more about Winchester and how things work feel free to check in with the Town Clerk's Office! Thank you to all the newly elected officials including the 64 elected town meeting members. See you on Monday, April 29th at Winchester High School. Log onto www.winchester.us click on Town Meeting for the latest information.

MaryEllen Lannon, CMC Winchester Town Clerk



UPDATES FROM THE TOWN PLANNER

- **39 Horn Pond Brook Road:** Request For Proposals (RFP) in the works and will be out soon.
- **19-35 River Street:** Fire, DPW, Police, Engineering and Planning met with Engineers and applicant to discuss high level topics. Topics included width of fire lanes (20' as required by Fire dept even though applicants wished for 16' in some cases), drainage calculation models to use and general traffic improvements including sidewalks, potential light at Cross and Main (in Woburn) improvements at Cross and Holton.
- **Washington/Swanton:** Potential applicant is interested in moving forward with a ~50 unit building with potential for commercial space on the first floor. The Town Planner will be reaching out to DHCD to see what next steps are necessary to receive technical assistance to guide the Town through the process.
- **Highland Ave:** Initial site work has begun.
- **Massachusetts Historical Commission Grant:** a \$15,000 matching grant was received to continue survey work in the North End of Town.



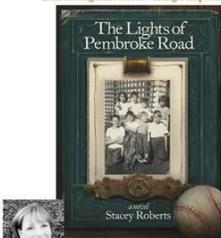
NEWS FROM THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT: The number of people infected by tick-borne diseases has nearly tripled from 2004 to 2017 in the United States (www.cdc.gov/ticks/data-summary/index.html). In Massachusetts in 2017 alone over 8,000 people tested positive for Lyme disease, but more cases are not reported and its estimated that 87,000 people a year in MA are getting Lyme disease (<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2018/05/07/state-expert-tens-thousands-likely-will-get-tick-borne-disease-mass-this-year/OxkVFQCctIJLoyzaQxLOxJ/story.html>) Learn how to prevent, prepare, and protect yourself from tick-borne diseases.



Wright-Locke Farm has pledged \$2.1 million so far for the All Seasons Barn! With a goal of \$3.2 million, you can help us get there! Donate online at www.wlfarm.org or send a check to the Wright-Locke Land Trust at P.O. Box 813, Winchester, MA 01890.

Please join us for a book reading & signing with *The Lights of Pembroke Road* author Stacey Roberts

A 2018 shortlist selection by the London Magazine Novel Writing Competition



Sunday March 10 at 2 p.m.
Book Ends Winchester
199 Main Street Winchester, Massachusetts
Juba press

Published February 19, 2019, *The Lights of Pembroke Road* by Stacey Roberts, is set in Winchester during the 1930's and 1940's. Many local references such as Dix Street and Winter Pond, are mentioned in the book. Grab your copy today!

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter @Winchester_MA



EVENTS AT THE JENKS CENTER

Revolutionizing Dementia Care: April 16th @ 6pm

Volunteer Recruitment Open House: April 18th @ 3pm-6pm

Let Your Voice Be Heard: April 19th @ 10am-12pm

Earth Celebration Day: April 22nd @ 1:30pm

Art Exhibit at the Jenks: April 25th – May 9th

Select Board Meetings April 2019

April 1st, April 22nd & April 29th

Location: Select Board Room, 2nd Floor
Winchester Town Hall

Spring Town Meeting is April 29th

Location: WHS Auditorium

Patriot's Day – Monday, April 15th

Town Hall, the Jenks Center, & the DPW will be closed in observance of Patriot's Day

YOU can help stop
pollution and flooding!

Keep leaves out of our
storm drains, streams,
rivers, and lakes.



Why do leaves cause water pollution?

Left on land, leaves decompose, feeding your plants and enriching your soil. But when large amounts of leaves are washed off our lawns, down our driveways, into storm drains, and into our water bodies -- they release phosphorus and nitrogen into our water, contributing to water pollution which can lead to algae blooms and kill fish.

Building Department Update

The Building Department is ramping up summer projects in Town! Projects thus far are consistent with previous years. The remodeling phase is very strong as usual, new homes are keeping a modest pace and the McCall Phase II addition will begin in June.

Winchester Aware Community
Notification
System

Creating a profile only takes a minute. Sign up on the Town's website to receive emergency and safety alerts with Winchester Aware, our community notification system.



NEWS FROM PUBLIC WORKS

Street Sweeping begins April 8th daily, weather permitting. Pictured below is the Winchester Fish Ladder sign, go to www.winchester.us/fishladder to find out more information about the Herring Migration Pathway.



TRANSFER STATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

All residents must have their Transfer Station stickers by Tuesday, April 2nd. Styrofoam Collection Day is Saturday, April 6th from 9:00am-1:00pm. No clam shell food containers, meat trays, peanuts, cups, or colored foam. The Swap Shop is reopening Tuesday, April 30th! Are you looking for a way to help out? Great news, the Swap Shop is looking for volunteers! Drop-off checkers & sorters are needed. For information, please contact Norman Doucette at the Transfer Station.



RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Spring has sprung and summer is right around the corner! The Recreation departments spring/summer programs will be live online for registration on Monday, March 18th and the Recreation magazine will be mailed out to families soon. Activities include: flag football, basketball, baseball, soccer, Harry Potter and Jedi engineering, numerous summer adventures and much more! Have questions? Contact the Recreation Department at 781-721-7125. You can both register and view programs online at www.winrec.com. Don't forget to mark your calendars for Summer Concerts on the Commons: July 10th, July 24th, July 31st, August 7th, & August 14th. Concerts start at 6:30pm!