

# TOWN OF WINCHESTER NEWSLETTER MAY 2019

## EVENTS

- Household Hazardous Waste Day May 4<sup>th</sup>
- Spring Town Meeting Session Two May 6<sup>th</sup>
- Resource Fair at the Jenks May 8<sup>th</sup>
- Spring Town Meeting Session Three May 13<sup>th</sup>
- Enka Fair May 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

## NEXT MONTH

- Town Day June 1<sup>st</sup>
- Confidential Documents Paper Shredding Day at the Transfer Station on June 15<sup>th</sup>

## Message From The Town Manager

Earth Day in Winchester turned into Earth Month with a host of events and the adoption of a new policy by the Select Board. The Select Board voted unanimously to adopt the following: Winchester will strive toward net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, with a commitment to reach at least an 80% reduction below the 2006 baseline emission level of GHG emissions by 2050; and interim goals of 40% reduction by 2030 and 60% reduction by 2040. The Jenks Center welcomed a number of active groups and citizens to give presentations on projects and programs that are helping to make our community and planet healthier. The presentations can be viewed on WinCam. The Town held both the Heatsmart: Meet the Installers and Electric Vehicle Ride and Drive events that will hopefully spur more people to choose smart heat sources for their home and consider electric vehicles for their next car purchase. Winchester strives to be part of the climate action solution and we welcome residents to continue to contribute ideas and time towards this effort.



Lisa Wong



## FUN FACTS FROM ARCHIVES

Actress Bette Davis once lived in Winchester around 1911. She lived at 154 Cambridge Street until her parents divorced in 1916, when the Davis women moved to Lebanon Street for about a year before leaving town. Before leaving, she had her tonsils out in Winchester Hospital.



## TOWN MEETING INFORMATION FROM THE TOWN CLERK

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Did you know that the Town of Winchester has over 350 active volunteers who donate a significant amount of time on various appointed and elected boards and committees? Each spring on the last Tuesday in March the town conducts an Annual Town Election where voters cast their ballots to elect the members to the Select Board, School Committee, Planning Board, Board of Health, Board of Library Trustees, Housing Authority, and North East Regional Vocational School Committee and elects 64 representatives to the Town Meeting. The Town Clerk's Office administers the nominations for public office each January as well as administers the actual electoral process.

Once the election is certified and the winners are declared each of the new members are sworn into public office by the Town Clerk's Office (or Town Meeting members by the Moderator). Some members are returning to their seats while many are new to public office. There are many requirements that the Town Clerk's Office assists in educating, managing and communicating to all volunteers regarding their position in office. One very important requirement is the fulfillment of the Conflict of Interest Law.

In 2012 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts enhanced the educational requirements to assist volunteers in better understanding the rules and regulations surrounding various conflicts of interest. In an effort to educate all involved, the commonwealth enlisted the assistance of the Town Clerk's across the state to administer the notification and recordkeeping of an online conflict of interest examination.

The Town Clerk's Office is responsible to manage completion of the online training of the Conflict of Interest law. Every 2 years, all municipal volunteers (with the exception of the Town Meeting Members who are exempt) must complete a conflict of interest law online training program. Newly elected or appointed public volunteers must complete this training within 30 days of beginning public service, and every 2 years thereafter.

The **Summary of the Conflict of Interest Law for Municipal Volunteers can be found online** <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/summary-of-the-conflict-of-interest-law-for-municipal-employees>

This summary of the conflict of interest law, General Law's chapter 268A, is intended to help municipal volunteers understand how that law applies to them. This summary is not a substitute for legal advice, nor does it mention every aspect of the law that may apply in a particular situation. Municipal volunteers/employees can consult the Town Clerk Office with specific question or may also obtain free confidential advice about the conflict of interest law from the State Ethics Commission's Legal Division by visiting an <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/state-ethics-commission>

The conflict of interest law seeks to prevent conflicts between private interests and public duties, foster integrity in public service, and promote the public's trust and confidence in that service by placing restrictions on what municipal volunteers may do in their elected or appointed position; after hours, and after leaving public service, as described below. The sections referenced below are sections of G.L. c. 268A.

Click here to see the online test and if you have any questions regarding compliance please email [townclerk@winchester.us](mailto:townclerk@winchester.us) or call MaryEllen Lannon, CMC Winchester Town Clerk at 781-721-7130.

<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/complete-the-online-training-program-for-municipal-employees>



## UPDATES FROM THE TOWN PLANNER

- **Winning Farm** has started road construction, as well as some foundations and framing.
- **Abby Road (formerly Highland Ave project)** is underway, with the road, infiltration systems and utilities to be constructed first.
- **Swanton and Washington Street:** The Town will be scheduling a public session the end of the month regarding project to gain insight from the neighborhood about what they would like to see on the site.
- **10 Converse Place (Mill Pond building) & Fells Site (654 Main Street):** Subdivision applications have been received from the same applicant for both locations in order to freeze the zoning prior to Town Meeting. We are eager to work with the applicant on both of these sites to help expand housing opportunities in the Center Business District.
- **The Master Plan:** outreach effort is pushing through till Town Day on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The last month of outreach is crucial for the team as we gain necessary feedback for the vision and goals of Town. If you have not done so, please check out [courb.co/winchester](https://courb.co/winchester) and become a registered user so you can make your voice heard! We would like to see consensus of the draft vision and goals from residents so that we may start devising strategies to reach those goals in a timely manner. Please spread the word, and if you can't make it to a public info session or online engagement is your thing, you can conduct your own meeting with a group of 4-10 people in your home or at coffee shop for example. Download materials at [https://res.cloudinary.com/courbanize-production/image/upload/v1/information\\_plans/hxt79l4bi4bsqbj9xdr](https://res.cloudinary.com/courbanize-production/image/upload/v1/information_plans/hxt79l4bi4bsqbj9xdr)



**NEWS FROM THE IT DEPARTMENT:** A new VoIP phone system was implemented recently in five of the eight Municipal buildings. The new land lines are powered by Verizon and are modern desk phones that provide clearer sounding communication for both parties. This new phone system replaces the decades old phone system that the Town had been using.



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](http://www.wlfarm.org) or send a check to the Wright-Locke Land Trust at P.O. Box 813, Winchester, MA 01890.



**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Vaping:** Winchester Room in Winchester Town Hall, May 6<sup>th</sup> @7:00pm

**What Parents Should Know About Underage Drinking:** Winchester High School Library Media Room, May 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm

**Safety & Self-Defense Skills:** Winchester students in grades 4-5 @ 2:45pm-4:15pm in the Vinson-Owen gym. Fee for 7 classes is \$50.00. Register at [www.winrec.com](http://www.winrec.com)

## EVENTS AT THE JENKS CENTER

**Beatles Tribute Concert with 4EverFab Band:** May 4<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00pm

**Osteoporosis Management:** May 9<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00pm

**Art Matters, Portraits in Art:** May 14<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am

**Winchester Seniors Association Annual Meeting:** May 21<sup>st</sup> @ 10:30am

**Memorial Day Celebration:** May 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 11:00am

**McCall Health Fair:** May 29<sup>th</sup> @ 11:15am

### Select Board Meetings May 2019

May 6<sup>th</sup>

Location: Winchester High School

**Spring Town Meeting:** May 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>

Location: WHS Auditorium

### Memorial Day – Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

Town Hall, the Jenks Center, & the DPW will be closed in observance of Memorial Day



If you use too much fertilizer, the excess will just wash away in the next rain, polluting your local waterways. Wondering if you need fertilizer? Get a soil text. If you need to use fertilizer, use a slow-release, non-phosphorus fertilizer (look for “0” as the middle number). Want more tips? Visit [www.mysticriver.org/stormwater](http://www.mysticriver.org/stormwater)



### Message from the Treasurer

Motor Vehicle Excise Tax bills, originally due March 29<sup>th</sup>, will be placed on demand with a \$15 fee added on April 26<sup>th</sup>. The demand bill will be due on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Bills paid after that date will be subject to additional fines. Quarterly water bills will be issued on May 1<sup>st</sup> and due on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Interest will be charged beginning on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Fourth quarter real estate tax bills are due May 1<sup>st</sup>. Interest will be charged beginning May 2<sup>nd</sup>.



## NEWS FROM PUBLIC WORKS

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The maintenance department is currently street sweeping, residents can find a schedule on the Town's website [www.winchester.us](http://www.winchester.us). Crosswalk painting is beginning shortly with weather permitting and pot holes are being repaired as an ongoing project.



## TRANSFER STATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

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The Town of Winchester is actively helping residents learn how to recycle smart! The Town was featured in the Recycle Smart Newsletter that is published by MassDEP last month. The newsletter included information of the five worst recycling offenders: bagged recyclables and trash, plastic bags, and wrap, food and liquids, clothing, and tangles. Want to learn more about recycling smart? Go to [www.winchester.us/196/Transfer-Station-Recycling-Center](http://www.winchester.us/196/Transfer-Station-Recycling-Center)



## RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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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 18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.winrec.com). Don't forget to mark your calendars for Summer Concerts on the Commons: July 10<sup>th</sup>, July 24<sup>th</sup>, July 31<sup>st</sup>, August 7<sup>th</sup>, & August 14<sup>th</sup>. Concerts start at 6:30pm!