Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

November 7, 2023
7:00 PM
Academy Building
66 Central Square
Council Chamber, 2nd Floor

MEETING AGENDA

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) October 24, 2023

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

C. PROCLAMATIONS

D. CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

E. APPOINTMENTS

F. HEARINGS

G. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

a) Petition P-2024-003: The Granting of the Transfer of a Common Victualler License - Cafe Madeleine

H. PRESENTATIONS

a) National Grid Tree Maintenance Presentation

I. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

a) High Street Bridge Closure Update

b) Energy Committee Update

J. DISCUSSIONS

a) Guidelines to Citizen Participation Mechanisms

K. COMMITTEE REPORTS

L. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

a) Order O-FY24-013: Prior Fiscal Year Bill
Budget & Finance meeting 11/7/23 prior to the Town Council meeting. Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend at their 10/30/23 meeting.

b) Order O-FY24-014: Acceptance of Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Competitive Grant

Budget & Finance meeting 11/7/23 prior to the Town Council meeting. Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend at their 10/30/23 meeting.

M. OLD BUSINESS

N. NEW BUSINESS

a) Order O-FY24-015: Sewer Enterprise Fund

b) Order O-FY24-016: Transfer Order - Sewer Waste Water Treatment Facility Phase I

O. CITIZEN COMMENTS

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION

R. ADJOURNMENT

Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

October 24, 2023
7:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Erik Moore called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:00pm on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT:

Fred Chase, Paul Murphy, Shawn George, Dennis Gallagher, Erik Moore, Susan Robinson, Kevin Perry, Brad McKinnon and Mark Linde. Also in attendance was Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

a) October 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Councilor George made a motion to approve the October 10, 2023 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded by Councilor Gallagher.

A voice vote was taken with the results records as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy – Absent at the time of the vote; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 8-0-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Council President Moore noted that the Town has not been made aware of any veterans passing and asked for a moment of silent prayer for all.

Council President Moore also reminding the council that they needed to complete their cyber security training this week.

PROCLAMATIONS

Council President read Chief MacDermott's proclamation.

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: Discussed Order OFY24-014 that is on the agenda and the Energy Committee.

APPOINTMENTS – None

HEARINGS

a) Order O-FY24-010: Loan Authorization: Water Well #5A Replacement
Public Hearing 7:05pm: *Budget & Finance voted 3-0 to recommend at their 10/10/23 meeting. Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend at their 10/2/23 meeting. This Order has been advertised in the 10/13/23 Enterprise.*

Councilor Moore opened the public hearing at 7:09pm.

Councilor Moore asked if there were any questions from the public: None

Councilor Moore asked if anyone from the public wished to speak in favor: None

Councilor Moore asked if anyone from the public wished to speak in opposition: None

Councilor Moore asked if there were any questions from the Councilors: Nonw

Councilor Moore closed the public hearing at 7:10pm.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-010, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results records as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy – Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 9-0-0

b) Order O-FY24-011: Loan Authorization: Water Well #9 Replacement
Public Hearing 7:08pm: *Budget & Finance voted 3-0 to recommend at their 10/10/23 meeting. Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend at their 10/2/23 meeting. This Order has been advertised in the 10/13/23 Enterprise.*

Councilor Moore opened the public hearing at 7:10pm.

Councilor Moore asked if there were any questions from the public: None

Councilor Moore asked if anyone from the public wished to speak in favor: None

Councilor Moore asked if anyone from the public wished to speak in opposition: None

Councilor Moore asked if there were any questions from the Councilors: None

Councilor Moore closed the public hearing at 7:17pm.

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-011, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

A voice vote was taken with the results records as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy – Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion

passed 9-0-0

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

a) Petition P-2024-002: Granting of an On-Premises Restaurant All Alcoholic Beverages License
***Public Hearing 7:10pm**: This request was advertised in the Enterprise on 10/10/23 and abutter letters sent on 10/10/23.*

Councilor Moore opened the public hearing at 7:12pm.

Petitioner Kristin Barbati noted that this was a Mexican theme restaurant; part owner of building and will not be a college hangout.

Councilor Moore asked if there were any questions from the public: None

Councilor Moore asked if anyone from the public wished to speak in favor: None

Councilor Moore asked if anyone from the public wished to speak in opposition: None

Councilor Moore asked if there were any questions from the Councilors: None

Councilor Moore closed the public hearing at 7:17pm.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Petition P2024-002, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results records as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy – Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 9-0-0

PRESENTATIONS

a) Fire Station Presentation/Update: Brian W. Humes, Jacunski Humes Architects, LLC

Brian Humes from Jacunski Humes Architects gave an update on the Fire Station Project. A few highlights: project funding authorized by voters; OPM prequalified 100+ potential bidders; prepared all documents for competitive bidding; proposed exterior design; 159 drawing sheets created; 2 volume sof technical specifications created.

Current Status: 11/8/23 – filed sub bids; 11/21/23 – general trade bids; November/December – seek local approvals; contractors to hold bids for 60 days.

Still required: review and acceptance of bids; 18 month construction.

Thousands of decisions have been made; Fire Department a huge part of decisions, very engaged.

Councilor George noted that this project needs to get going.

Councilor Robinson thanked Mr. Humes for the presentation and asked if the Town was incurring fines

with the current building. Town Manager Dutton noted that the Town was not incurring fines.

Councilor Perry asked if the amount was still $26M and Mr. Humes noted that the market will give us that answer.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

a) High Street Bridge Closure Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that the project has a deck and still shooting for a mid-November finish date.

DISCUSSIONS

a) Proposed Town Manager Review Timeline: Councilor George

Councilor George noted that the timing of the prior review was discussed at the Review meeting. Looking to have the forms to Councilors on January 30th. They would be due back on February 28th and the review would be delivered to the Town Manager on March 31st. He will produce a review form by January 30th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

a) Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-008: Bridgewater Town Charter Article II, Legislative Branch, Annual Stipend

Councilor Chase recommended the following amendment after the last sentence: Any modification of the stipend amounts set-forth herein may be adopted by ordinance duly adopted by the Town Council, provided however that no increase or reduction in such stipends shall take effect during the year in which such increase or reduction is voted, and no change in such ordinance shall be made between the election of a new council and the qualification of the new council. Such ordinance shall be subject to the provisions of MGL Chapter 39, Section 6A.

Councilor George made a motion to approve the amendments on Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-008, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

A voice vote was taken with the results records as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy – Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 9-0-0

Councilor George made a motion to refer Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-008 to advertising, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results records as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy – Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 9-0-0

b) Order O-FY24-012: General Fund Free Cash Allocation
Budget & Finance meeting 10/24/23 prior to the Town Council meeting. Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend at their 10/16/23 meeting.

Town Manager Dutton noted that this was the annual free cash allocation.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-012, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results records as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy – Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 9-0-0

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

a) Order O-FY24-013: Prior Fiscal Year Bill

Town Manager Dutton noted that we very rarely have a prior year bill but this one did not come in until October.

Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-013 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor George.

A voice vote was taken with the results records as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy – Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passe 0-0

b) Order O-FY24-014: Acceptance of Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Competitive Grant

Town Manager Dutton noted that this is for an annual grant that will fund training and weatherization at the Library.

Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-014 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

A voice vote was taken with the results records as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy – Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 9-0-0

Councilor George made a motion to also refer Order O-FY24-014 to the Energy Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results records as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy – Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 9-0-0

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: noted that work on the grant needed to be completed by end of February 2024.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor McKinnon: noted that BTV needs volunteers and that there is a "Kash Strong" event taking place on 11/17 at the Vets Club.
- Councilor George: noted that any committee can come before the council under discussions.
- Councilor Gallagher: congratulated Chief MacDermott on his retirement and John Schlatz on being appointed Acting Chief. Also noted that he will be having coffee with a Councilor on Saturday at Bridgewater Bagel.
- Councilor Chase: noted that Veterans Day was fast approaching and there are 2 events scheduled.
- Councilor Murphy: no comments
- Councilor Perry: congratulated Chief MacDermott; noted the Veteran Day events and that three is a Lions Club dance this Friday at the Vets Club.
- Councilor Linde: noted that the Town Clerk is conducting an event on 11/4 about running for office and that the fundraising for lights was starting.
- Councilor Robinson: congratulated Chief MacDermott on his retirement and John Schlatz for being named Acting Chief. Also noted that the Easter Seals is having a Trunk or Treat this Friday.
- Councilor Moore: congratulated Chief MacDermott on his retirement and John Schlatz for being named Acting Chief. Aso noted that items from the committees are welcomed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor George made a motion to adjourn, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results records as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy – Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 9-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By:
Date Introduced: 11/7/2023
First Reading: 11/7/2023
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Petition P-2024-003: The Granting of the Transfer of a Common Victualler License - Cafe Madeleine

WHEREAS, ***Cafe Madeleine*** has submitted all applicable documentation as required for a license to operate a food establishment located at 925 Bedford Street, Bridgewater, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, Andrea Savidis will serve as the manager of record and the hours of operation will not exceed:

Monday - Wednesday	6:00am to 10:00pm
Thursday - Sunday	6:00am to 11:00pm

and;

WHEREAS, Cafe Madeleine has complied with the requirements of the Town of Bridgewater and applicable state laws inclusive of the Building Code, Fire Codes and Health Department's Food Service Specifications governing the serving of food to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Bridgewater Town Council, acting as the Legislative body of the Town has such licensing authority and with the affirmative recommendation of the Bridgewater Building Inspector, Fire, Police, and Health Departments who have oversight authority, it appears that the public good so requires such license be granted;

The Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, pursuant to Chapter 140 - section 2 and section 6 respectively of the Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L.), in Town Council assembled approve the petition of Cafe Madeleine at 925 Bedford Street be granted a license to operate a food establishment within the Town of Bridgewater.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Attachments: 1. Cafe Madeleine Transfer License Checklist

Town Council Meeting Date: November 7, 2023

Applicant Name:	Café Madeleine
Address:	925 Bedford Street
Telephone:	(508) 631-4362
Email:	

NEW/TRANSFER COMMON VICTUALLER

X	Application
X	Business Certificate (Issued by the Town Clerk)
X	Copy of one of the Following: Lease Agreement, Purchase & Sale Agreement, or Deed (if property owner)
X	Floor plan
X	Delinquent Tax Certification
X	State Tax Affidavit
X	Workmen's Compensation Insurance Affidavit
	Town Fees:
X	$100 Application Fee
X	$100 License Fee

Recommendations:

X	Fire Department
X	Police Department
X	Building Department

Notes:

1) Café Madeleine is requesting a Common Victualler license at 925 Bedford Street for a coffee house/juice bar/eatery with a seating capacity of 24.
2) The Fire, Police and Building Departments have no issues with the issuance of this license.

Storm Damaged Trees

A storm can damage a few trees in a small neighborhood, or it can affect thousands across a wide area. Regardless of the size of the area impacted, National Grid is responsible for **ONLY** clearing storm damaged trees and/or limbs from our electric lines and facilities in order to:

- **Restore service**
- **Allow reasonable access for emergency service restoration**
- **Ensure future service reliability**

The disposal, processing and cleanup of storm generated tree debris removed from, or over National Grid facilities, or to provide emergency access, remains the responsibility of the owner of the tree(s) whether publicly owned or privately owned.

REMEMBER: During or after any storm event, all downed wires should be considered energized and dangerous including telephone, fiber optic and cable TV wires as they may be in contact with energized electric wires due to facility damages beyond your property and out of your view.

This is an important notice.
Please have it translated.

Este é um aviso importante. Queira mandá-lo traduzir.
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Avis important. Veuillez traduire immediatement.
Questa è un' informazione importante, si prega di tradurla.

ĐÂY LÀ MỘT BẢN THÔNG CÁO QUAN TRỌNG
XIN VUI LÒNG CHO DỊCH LẠI THÔNG CÁO ẤY

Это очень важное сообщение.
Пожалуйста, попросите чтобы
вам его перевели.

Safety around trees and electric wires

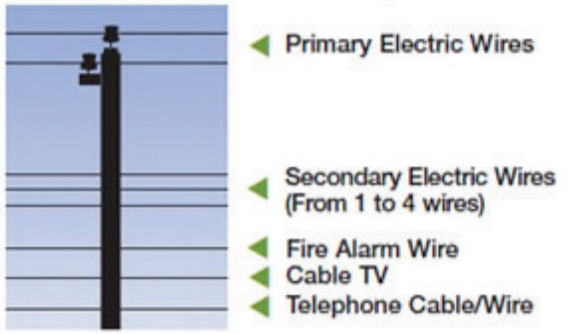
Children and adults should not climb or play in trees that are near electric wires. Property owners should not prune trees that are near or touching our electric wires; instead, call Customer Service and report any trees that may need immediate attention. Your call will prompt a visit by a utility representative for review at the earliest opportunity.

Types of Wires

Wires are normally attached to utility poles by voltage categories – the higher the voltage, the higher they are on the pole. In most situations, primary electric wires (the highest voltage class of wires) are attached at the top of the Pole, followed by secondary electric wires (see illustration below). Generally, the lower-voltage wires and cables used for cable TV, telephone, and fire alarms are lowest on the utility pole.

For safety reasons, always treat all wires as high voltage wires, energized and dangerous to touch, whether such wires are covered or bare – on the pole or fallen on to the ground.

Normal Wire Layout of Utility Pole



CM6695 (4/17).

nationalgrid

National Grid's Vegetation Management Program

National Grid has scheduled Vegetation Maintenance to occur on or near your property in the near future.

This includes tree pruning and tree removal.

This notice is intended for the property owner. If you are not the property owner, please forward this document to the owner if possible or respond to us that you are not the owner.

Please review the information in this pamphlet. It will help you better understand our approach to keeping vegetation clear of overhead utility wires.

There is no charge for this service. This work will occur adjacent to the overhead distribution power lines and is done in order to maintain minimum clearances between the lines and surrounding trees.

We maintain trees and other vegetation growing close to our electric utility wires. We do so because the vegetation can cause power outages during storms or high winds and as well as for safety reasons. Our goal is to ensure everyone's safety and deliver reliable energy.

National Grid performs this routine maintenance work on a 4 or a 5 year cycle depending on your geographic area. The work is performed by contractors who are overseen by in-house employees. The contractor listed on the additional insert can answer your questions regarding our tree pruning program.

Each tree's size, shape and growth rate are taken into consideration during line clearance tree work. National Grid utilizes an arboricultural technique called "directional pruning" in order to naturally train and direct growth away from the wires. This practice minimizes the number of pruning cuts by removing fewer, larger limbs to produce the desired clearance. This method is a true benefit to the health of the tree as it reduces the number of cuts that must heal, which in turn reduces disease and decay entry points.

This science-based pruning practice was developed in conjunction with the U.S Forest Service and is endorsed by the International Society of Arboriculture, the National Arbor Day Foundation and other tree care professionals around the world.

If you have concerns about trees that are near or touching electric wires, property owners should call Customer Service for any pruning or removal work they would like to request. A representative will review your request at the earliest opportunity.

Distribution Power Line Clearance Zone

Above electric lines: 15 ft. Prune all limbs up to 15 ft. above wires. It is possible that some main limbs on mature trees may remain inside of the clearance zone. This depends on the health of the tree and rate and direction of growth.

Beside electric lines: 6 ft. Limbs extending inside the minimum 6 foot clearance will be cut back at a main branching point or at the trunk, even if that point is more than 6 feet from the wires. It is possible that some main limbs or trunks on mature trees may remain inside of the clearance zone. This depends on the health of the tree and the rate and direction of growth.

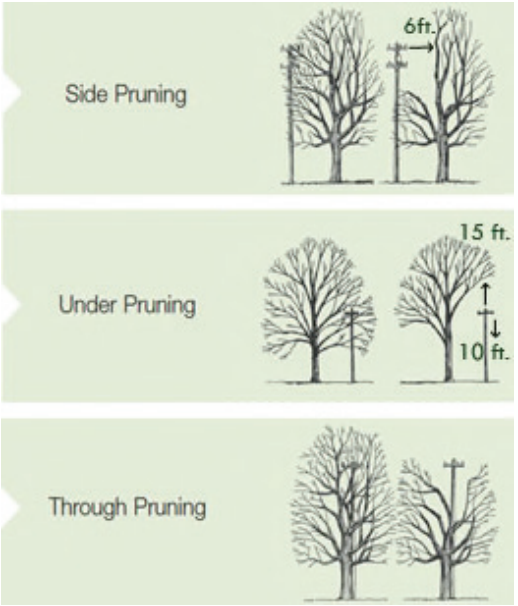
Under electric lines: 10 ft. Shrubs or low-growing tree species that will not interfere with electric lines may be left. Brush or tall-growing tree species up to 8 inches in trunk diameter at chest height will be removed at ground level. These removals usually extend up to 10 ft. off structures. Some trees leaning into the zone from greater than 10 ft. away may be removed if there is no appropriate limb to prune to.

Clean Up and Wood Disposal

Crews will chip the branches they remove from trees in your yard as part of our cycle pruning program. They will rake the work area to pick up smaller twigs/debris and disperse sawdust. Pieces of wood that cannot be chipped will be cut into manageable lengths. In off-road and "unmaintained" areas, wood and brush will be left 'windrowed' along the edge of the right-of-way. Paths, drainage ditches and stream channels within the work area will be kept clear.

Stumps will be left cut as close to grade as possible.

The following illustrations provide examples of the proper directional pruning for shade and ornamental trees.



National Grid has been selected and recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation each year since 2000 as a "Tree Line USA" utility through our demonstration of quality tree care, annual worker training and community tree planting programs.

We offer more information on the benefits of trees as well as the most appropriate tree selection for your landscaping needs-whether near our electrical lines or elsewhere on your property. To obtain more information please call Customer Service at 1-800-322-3223 or visit our website at www.nationalgridus.com

New England

Trees and Your Electric Service

nationalgrid

HERE WITH YOU. HERE FOR YOU.

What You Should Know About Trees and Your Electric Service

Trees enhance the quality of life in every community—converting carbon dioxide to oxygen—keeping the air clean. However, diseased and/or weakened trees, along with trees planted and growing near power lines, can contribute to power outages when they come in contact with overhead electric lines. National Grid's goal is to ensure everyone's safety and deliver reliable energy.

For information about our tree trimming programs, please select from the following:

- **Safety around trees and electric wires**
- **Combat invasive tree-killing insects and help save the environment**
- **National Grid's routine tree trimming responsibilities and schedule**
- **Homeowner tree trimming responsibilities**
- **Identifying your electric service**
- **Tree cleanup and wood disposal**
- **Digging In? Please call Dig Safe®**
- **Planting trees? Plan ahead and choose plantings wisely**
- **Frequently asked questions**
- **Choose a qualified contractor**

Safety around trees and electric wires.

When you're enjoying the outdoors, remember to play it safe and avoid dangerous overhead electric lines. Children and adults should not climb, play or work in trees that are near electric wires.

For safety reasons, always treat all wires as high-voltage wires, energized and dangerous to touch, whether such wires are covered or bare, on the pole or fallen to the ground.

Important Note: During or after any storm event, consider all downed wires to be energized and dangerous, including telephone, fiber optic and cable TV wires. They may be in contact with energized electric wires that are not within your view. To report downed electric wires, please call **800-465-1212**.

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ĐÂY LÀ MỘT BẢN THÔNG CÁO QUAN TRỌNG
XIN VUI LÒNG CHO DỊCH LẠI THÔNG CÁO ẤY

Это очень важное сообщение.
Пожалуйста, попросите чтобы вам его перевели.

Combat invasive tree-killing insects and help save the environment.

Look for and report these symptoms:

Asian Long-Horned Beetle – 3/8 inch round exit holes on the trunk and branches, sawdust and sapon and around the trees, round pits in the bark (egg niches), often on maple, horse chestnut, birch and willow trees.

To protect your property, only purchase firewood that has been harvested locally or heat treated for pests.

Massachusetts: If you think you have seen this beetle, we encourage you to submit a report and photos, or you can call Pest Hotline at **617-626-1779** or go to **www.massnrc.org/pests/albreport.aspx**— images may be sent directly to **pestalert@massnrc.org**

New Hampshire: To report, please contact Division of Planning Industry, NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food, Post Office Box 2042, Concord, NH 03302-2042 telephone: **603-271-2561**; email **jweaver@agr.state.nh.us** or go to **www.agriculture.nh.gov**

Rhode Island: Although no beetles have been reported, please contact **www.dem.ri.gov**

National Grid's Routine tree trimming responsibilities and schedule.

To ensure safety and electric service reliability, National Grid schedules tree trimming in your area every five to seven years adhering to the industry "best practices."

National Grid utilizes a technique called "directional pruning" in order to naturally "train" and direct growth away from the wires. This method is a true benefit to the health of the tree as it reduces disease and decay entry points. This pruning practice was developed in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service and is endorsed by the International Society of Arboriculture, the National Arbor Day Foundation and other tree-care professionals around the world.

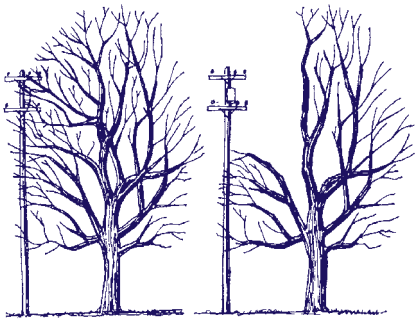
We only hire certified contractors to do this work.

Working efficiently as possible, we schedule trimming by geographic location. Unless there is a significant tree hazard affecting the electric wires in your area, we do not perform tree trimming outside of our trimming schedule.

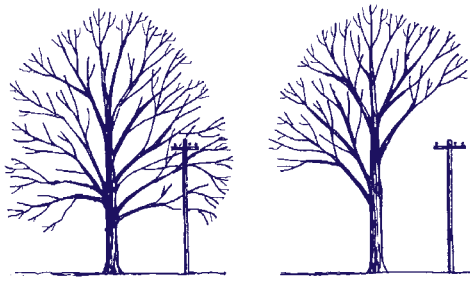
National Grid's trimming is limited to tree branches that affect electric wires only. We do not trim trees or branches that affect individual customer service lines or phone and cable wires.

Before trimming, we attempt to notify customers by postcard, door hanger or a National Grid crew visit. National Grid trims trees to maintain a minimum of 10-15 feet of clearance from our powerlines.

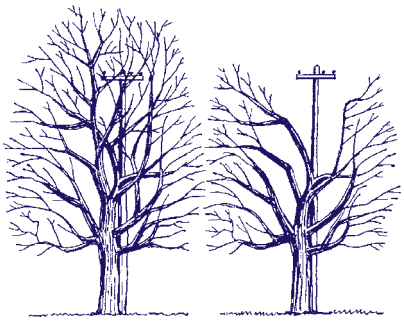
The following illustrations provide examples of the proper directional pruning for shade and ornamental trees:



Side Pruning



Under Pruning



Through Pruning

As part of our tree trimming process, crews will chip the branches they remove from the trees in your yard. Wood pieces that cannot be chipped will be cut into manageable lengths and left near the base of the tree.

In areas that are natural and not actively groomed, wood/brush may be left to naturally decompose.

Often, customers need additional trimming beyond what National grid performs as part of our scheduled work. National Grid does not trim branches or remove trees that affect individual customer service lines. (*See Homeowner tree trimming responsibilities*.)

Homeowner tree trimming responsibilities.

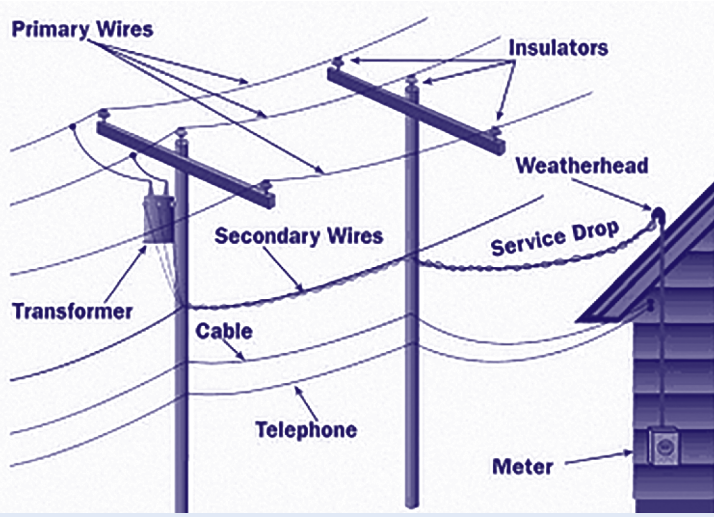
Often customers need additional trimming and pruning beyond what National Grid performs. Working efficiently as possible, we schedule trimming by geographic location. Unless there is a significant tree hazard affecting the electric wires in your area, we do not perform tree trimming outside of our trimming schedule. If additional pruning work beyond what we provide in our scheduled maintenance program is desired, you may hire an electrically qualified tree contractor *(see Choosing a Contractor*) to complete that work at your own expense. We will work closely with you and your qualified contractor.

Important Note: During or after any storm event, consider all downed wires to be energized and dangerous, including telephone, fiber optic and cable TV wires. They may be in contact with energized electric wires that are not within your view. To report downed electric wires, please call **800-465-1212**.

Identifying your electric service.

How can you tell an electric line from a telephone or cable line? Here are a few important items you should know:

- High-voltage electric lines are always at or near the top of the pole.
- These lines are usually found along neighborhood streets, but they may also be located in back yards or across open fields.
- If more than one utility line (telephone or cable) is mounted on the same pole, the high-voltage electric lines are at the top of the pole.
- A low-voltage electric line is located several feet below the high-voltage line.
- The low-voltage line attaches to your service weather head (a protective device is located where the line is connected to your residence.)
- The diagram below should also help you to identify electric lines.



Important Note: During or after any storm event, consider all downed wires to be energized and dangerous, including telephone, fiber optic and cable TV wires. They may be in contact with energized electric wires that are not within your view. To report downed electric wires, please call **800-465-1212**.

nationalgrid
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Tree cleanup and wood disposal.

As part of our routine tree trimming, crews will chip the branches they remove from trees in your yard. Wood pieces that cannot be chipped will be cut into manageable lengths and left near the base of the tree.

In areas that are not actively groomed, wood/brush may be left to naturally decompose and provide shelter benefits for wildlife. Paths and drainage ditches within the work area will be kept clear.

Storm removal or cleanup

During a storm, our crews are focused on cutting and clearing trees from our lines to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. While we will remove broken utility poles, homeowners are responsible for removing all broken and/or damaged trees and limbs including those National Grid removes to expedite service restoration.

Important Note: During or after any storm event, consider all downed wires to be energized and dangerous, including telephone, fiber optic and cable TV wires. They may be in contact with energized electric wires that are not within your view. To report downed electric wires, please call **800-465-1212**.

Digging In? Please call DigSafe®.

Deciding where to plant a tree is serious business, because electric and gas utility lines may be underground and where you least expect them. Tall-growing trees planted near, or adjacent to, utility lines may present a future hazard and eventually will require removal.

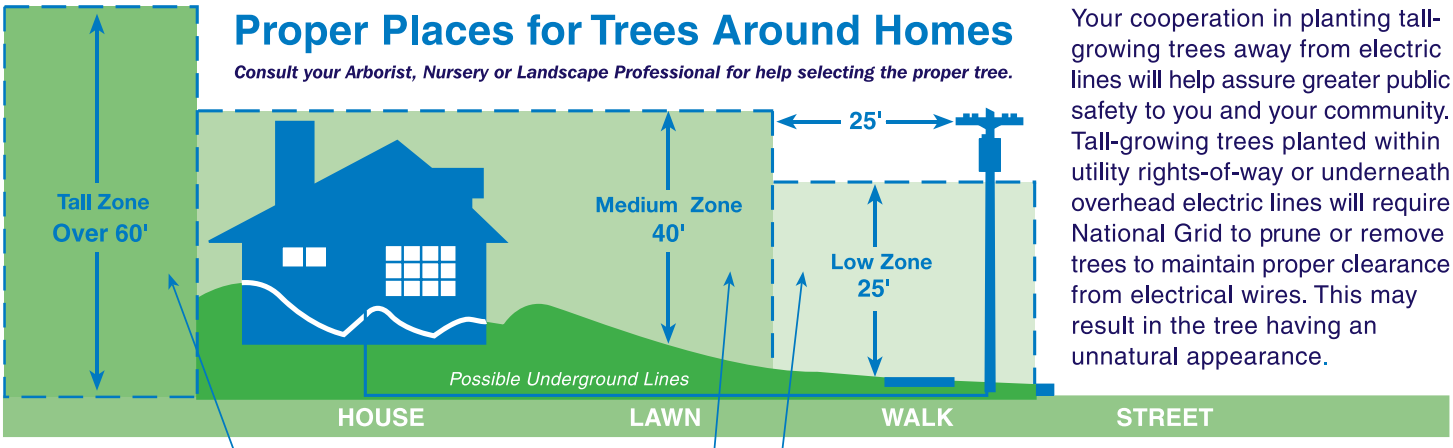
If you're planning any type of excavation project, call **888-DIGSAFE (344-7233)** or **811**—at least 48 hours in advance in Rhode Island and 72 hours in advance for Massachusetts and New Hampshire before work begins (excludes weekends and holidays). DigSafe notifies us and other participating utilities, giving us time to mark our underground wires, pipes or cables to prevent personal injury, property damage and service interruptions. To download a copy of DigSafe state laws and rules, please go to **www.digsafe.com**.

Planting trees? Plan ahead and choose plantings wisely.

Please plant tall-growing trees away from utilities lines to protect you and your community. For information on electing the right tree and planting near power lines, see *How to Avoid Tree and Utility Line Conflicts* at **www.nationalgridus.com/environment**.

Important Note: Before planting, make sure to consider a tree's full growth potential to see how the location of the tree will affect any overhead or underground utilities lines and rights-of-way.

We work closely with homeowners and their contractors to temporarily disconnect service for safe trimming or tree removal. Please call us at **800-322-3223** at least five days in advance of the work.



Trees that grow over 60 feet in height
Use large types of trees here, but plant them at least 35 feet away from the house.

Trees that grow no taller than 40 feet
This zone is used to decorate or frame your house. Select trees first, then plant shrubs to complement the trees.

Trees that grow less than 25 feet in height
This zone ends 25 feet away from electric utility wires.

Your cooperation in planting tall-growing trees away from electric lines will help assure greater public safety to you and your community. Tall-growing trees planted within utility rights-of-way or underneath overhead electric lines will require National Grid to prune or remove trees to maintain proper clearance from electrical wires. This may result in the tree having an unnatural appearance.

nationalgrid
HERE WITH YOU. HERE FOR YOU.

Frequently asked questions.

Will National Grid trim or remove trees that are near the service drop to my home?

National Grid is responsible for routine trimming around our high voltage wires to maintain reliable services to our customers.

Homeowners are responsible for trimming tree branches near the low voltage service drop to their individual home.

Many customers choose to remove these trees to reduce the risk that their tree may damage their home or electric service.

National Grid is available to work closely with your contractor to make the area safe for tree trimming or tree removal. In some cases, rubber sleeves can be placed over service wires. In other cases, it is necessary for us to temporarily disconnect your service lines from your home so that your contractor can safely trim or remove trees.

Your contractor damaged my property—who should I call?

Please call Customer Service at **800-322-3223** to report any damage.

National Grid did not trim around the wires that I was concerned about.

National Grid is responsible for trimming around high voltage electric wires. Our forestry professionals assess each customers situation and will trim trees and branches that pose a risk to our high voltage electric wires. If a cycle trim for an area is scheduled, your trimming may occur at a later date. If the tree poses a risk to your individual service drop, your telephone or cable wires, please understand that National Grid is not responsible for trimming those trees/branches.

National Grid disfigured my tree.

National Grid uses directional pruning in accordance with accepted national standards to prevent trees from coming into contact with high voltage wires. We apologize that while the tree's appearance is compromised, the procedure promotes tree health and is only conducted to preserve public safety and prevent power outages.

Choose a qualified contractor.

All tree work in the proximity of overhead electric facilities should be completed by individuals trained to recognize the hazards of working near energized lines.

If you need tree work near overhead electric lines on your property, ask your contractor if his/her employees receive such training. If not, National Grid can arrange the needed services, and may charge you and/or your contractor for the service provided.

Tree removals and trimming near service lines to your property should be done by an electric-qualified tree contractor and who employs workers specifically trained to work within 10 feet of electrical hazards.

If hazards to your service are present or you are planning to trim or remove trees near high-voltage wires, you may request that National Grid disconnect your service entrance wire temporarily from your home for your contractor.

Please contact Customer Service at **800-322-3223** at least five days in advance of the work. A forestry department representative will visit your property to assess the potential for any safety hazards or outage risks.

registration of voters, the nomination of candidates, the conduct of elections, the submission of charter amendments and other propositions, the counting of votes and the declaration of results.

ARTICLE VIII- CITIZEN PARTICIPATION MECHANISMS

Section 8-1. Citizen Initiative Measures

(a) Commencement - Initiative procedures shall be started by the filing of a proposed initiative petition with the town clerk. The petition shall be addressed to the town council, shall contain a request for the passage of a particular measure which shall be set forth in full in the petition and shall be signed by at least 50 voters. The petition shall be accompanied by an affidavit signed by 10 voters and containing their residential addresses stating they will constitute the petitioners' committee and be responsible for circulating the petition and filing it in proper form. The person whose signature appears first on the affidavit accompanying such petition petitioner shall be designated as clerk.

(b) Referral to Town Attorney - The town clerk shall, forthwith following receipt of each such proposed petition, deliver a copy of the petition to the town attorney. The town attorney shall, within 15 days following receipt of a copy of the petition, in writing, advise the town clerk whether the measure as proposed may lawfully be proposed by the initiative process and whether, in its present form, it may be lawfully adopted by the town council. If the opinion of the town attorney is that the measure is not in proper form, the reply shall state the reasons for such opinion, in full. A copy of the opinion of the town attorney shall also be mailed by the town clerk to the clerk of the petitioners' committee.

(c) Submission to Town Clerk - If the opinion of the town attorney is that the petition is in proper form, the town clerk shall provide blank forms for the use of subsequent signers and shall print at the top of each blank a fair, concise summary of the proposed measure, as determined by the town attorney, together with the names and addresses of the first 10 voters who signed the originating petition. Within 10 days following the date the blank forms are issued by the town clerk the petitions shall be returned and filed with the town clerk signed by at least 10 per cent of the total number of voters as of the date of the most recent town election. Signatures to an initiative petition need not all be on one paper, but all such papers pertaining to any one measure shall be fastened together and shall be filed as a single instrument, with the endorsement thereon of the name and residence address of the person designated as filing the same. With each signature on the petition there shall also appear the street and number of the residence of each signer. Within 10 days following the filing of the petition the board of registrars of voters shall ascertain by what number of voters the petition has been signed and what percentage that number is of the total number of voters as of the date of the most recent town election and shall return the petition along with a certificate showing the results of the examination of the registrars of voters to the town clerk. A copy of the certificate of the board of registrars of voters shall also be mailed to the person designated as clerk of the petitioners' committee.

(d) Action on Petitions - Within 30 days following the date a petition has been returned to the town clerk and after publication in accordance with this section, the town council may pass the measure without alteration, subject to the referendum vote provided by this charter or, the town council shall call a special election to be held on a date fixed by it not less than 35 nor more than 60 days after the date of the certificate hereinbefore mentioned and shall submit the proposed measure without alteration to a vote of the voters at that election; provided, however, that if a town election is otherwise to occur within 120 days after the date of the certificate, the town council may, at its discretion, omit the calling of a special election and submit the proposed measure to the voters at the approaching election. The ballots used when voting upon a proposed measure under this section shall state the nature of the measure in terms sufficient to show the substance thereof as set forth in subsection (f).

(e) Publication - The full text of any initiative measure which is submitted to the voters shall be published in a local newspaper, if required by state law, and on the town's official website not less than 7 nor more than 14 days preceding the date of the election at which the question is to be voted upon. Additional copies of the full text shall be available for distribution to the public in the office of the town clerk and on the town's official website.

(f) Form of Question - The ballots used when voting on a measure proposed by the voters under this section shall contain a question in substantially the following form:

Shall the following measure which was proposed by an initiative petition take effect? (Here insert a fair, concise summary prepared by the town attorney.)

YES NO

(g) Time of Taking Effect - If a majority of the votes cast on the question is in the affirmative, the measure shall be deemed to be effective forthwith, unless a later date is specified in the measure.

Section 8-2. Citizen Referendum Procedures; Referendum Petition; Effect on Final Passage

If within 10 days after the final passage of a measure, a petition signed by voters equal in number to at least five per cent of the total number of voters and addressed to the town council, protesting against the measure or any part thereof taking effect, is filed with the town clerk, the same shall thereupon and thereby be suspended from taking effect and the town council, as the case may be, shall immediately reconsider the measure or part thereof and if such measure or part thereof is not entirely rescinded, the town council shall submit the same, to a vote of the voters either at the next regular town election or at a special election which may, in its discretion, be called for the purpose and the measure or part thereof shall forthwith become null and void unless a majority of the voters voting on the same at the election vote in favor thereof.

Section 8-3. Required Voter Participation

For a measure to be effective under the initiative procedure and for any measure to be declared null and void under a referendum procedure, at least 20 per cent of the voters shall vote at an election upon which an initiative or referendum question is submitted to the voters.

Section 8-4. Measures Not Subject to Initiative and Referendum

Measures which include the following subject matter shall not be subject to initiative and referendum procedures:

1) Revenue loan orders;
2) Appropriations for the payment of debt or debt service;
3) Internal operational procedures of the town council;
4) Emergency measures;
5) The town budget as a whole or the school committee budget as a whole;
6) Appropriation of funds to implement a collective bargaining agreement;
7) Procedures relating to election, appointment, removal, discharge or other personnel action; and
8) Proceedings providing for the submission or referral of a matter to the voters at an election.

Section 8-5. Submission of Proposed Measure to Voters

The town council may, of its own motion, submit any proposed measure or a proposition for the repeal or amendment of any measure, to a vote of the voters for adoption or rejection at a general or special town election. The town council shall also allow for the submissions upon request of the regional school committee if a measure originates with the committee and pertains to the affairs under its administration. Such action of the town council shall have the same force and effect as are provided herein for submission of the measures on petition by the voters.

Section 8-6. Measures with Conflicting Provisions

If two or more proposed measures passed at the same election contain conflicting provisions, only the one receiving the greater number of affirmative votes shall take effect.

Section 8-7. Free Petition

(a) Individual Petitions, Action Discretionary - The town council shall receive all petitions which are addressed to them and signed by a voter, as certified by the town board of registrars of voters, or its successor, and may, at their discretion, take such action with regard to the petitions as they deem necessary and appropriate.

(b) Group Petitions; Action Required - The town council shall hold a public hearing and act by taking a vote on the merits of every petition which is addressed to it and is signed by at least 150 voters, as certified by the Town Board of Registrars of Voters, or its successor. The hearing shall be held by the town council or by a committee or subcommittee thereof and the

action by the town council shall be taken not later than two months after the petition is filed with the town clerk. Hearings on two or more petitions filed under this section may be held at the same time and place. The town clerk shall mail notice of the hearing to the ten petitioners whose names first appear on each petition at least seven days before the hearing. Notice by publication at least seven days before such hearings shall also be made and shall be at the public expense. No hearing shall be heard upon any one subject more than once in any given 12-month period. All papers with signatures shall be filed in the office of town clerk as one instrument on one date and time.

ARTICLE IX- GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 9-1. Conflicts of Interest

(a) Conflicts of Interest - The use of public office for private gain is prohibited. The town council shall implement this prohibition by ordinance, the terms of which shall include, but not be limited to: (1) acting in an official capacity on matters in which the official has a private financial interest clearly separate from that of the general public; (2) the acceptance of gifts and other things of value; (3) acting in a private capacity on matters dealt with as a public official; (4) the use of confidential information; and (5) appearances by town officials before other town agencies on behalf of private interests. This ordinance shall include a statement of purpose and shall provide for reasonable public disclosure of finances by officials with major decision-making authority over monetary expenditures and contractual and regulatory matters and, insofar as permissible under state law, shall provide for fines and imprisonment for violations.

Section 9-2- Prohibitions

(a) Activities Prohibited – The following activities are prohibited:

1) No person shall be appointed to or removed from, or in any way favored or discriminated against with respect to a town position or appointive town administrative office because of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, religion, country of origin or political affiliation;

2) No person shall willfully make a false statement, certificate, mark, rating or report in regard to a test, certification or appointment under the provisions of this charter or the rules and regulations made there under or in any manner commit or attempt to commit any fraud preventing the impartial execution of the provisions, rules and regulations;

3) No person who seeks appointment or promotion with respect to a town position or appointive town administrative office shall directly or indirectly give, render or pay any money, service or other valuable thing to a person for or in connection with the applicant or employee's, appointment, proposed appointment, promotion or proposed promotion.

Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By:	Town Manager
Date Introduced:	10/24/2023
First Reading:	10/24/2023
Second Reading:	11/7/2023
Amendments Adopted:	
Third Reading:	
Date Adopted:	
Date Effective:	

Order O-FY24-013: Prior Fiscal Year Bill

ORDERED, that the Town Council assembled vote to

Pursuant to Section 6-4 of the Town of Bridgewater Charter, that the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to appropriate $366.32, a prior year expense, from current FY24 advertising budget 01825013-530022.

Explanation:
Prior Year June 2023 advertising bill for zoning amendment of $366.32. Bill never received until October 5,2023.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
• Budget & Finance	• Meeting 11/7/23 prior to Town Council meeting.
• Finance Committee	• 10/30/23: Voted 6-0 to recommend

Attachments: 1. FY23 June23 Unpaid Advertising Bill $366.32

ROLL CALL VOTE - REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

LOCALiQ
NEW ENGLAND

ACCOUNT NAME		ACCOUNT #	PAGE #
Bridgewater Planning Board		673572	1 of 1
INVOICE #	**BILLING PERIOD**	**PAYMENT DUE DATE**	
0005687364	Jun 1- Jun 30, 2023	July 20, 2023	
PREPAY (Memo Info)	**UNAPPLIED (included in amt due)**	**TOTAL CASH AMT DUE***	
$0.00	$0.00	$366.32	

RECEIVED
OCT 05 2023
By

BILLING ACCOUNT NAME AND ADDRESS

Bridgewater Planning Board
66 Central Sq
Academy Building
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Legal Entity: Gatehouse Media Massachusetts I, Inc.
Terms and Conditions: Past due accounts are subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum or the maximum legal rate (whichever is less). Advertiser claims for a credit related to rates incorrectly invoiced or paid must be submitted in writing to Publisher within 30 days of the invoice date or the claim will be waived. Any credit towards future advertising must be used within 30 days of issuance or the credit will be forfeited.
All funds payable in US dollars.

BILLING INQUIRIES/ADDRESS CHANGES 1-877-736-7612 or smb@ccc.gannett.com | **FEDERAL ID** 84-1711503

To sign-up for E-mailed invoices and online payments please contact abgspecial@gannett.com. Previous account number:
GHN_EN00027445

Date	Description	Amount
6/1/23	Balance Forward	$0.00

Package Advertising:

Start-End Date	Order Number	Description	PO Number	Package Cost
6/7/23-6/14/23	8886020	ZONING AMENDMENT		$366.32

*town Fee

RP ok to pay 10/10/23

01825013-530022

As an incentive for customers, we provide a discount off the total invoice cost equal to the 3.99% service fee if you pay with Cash/Check/ACH. Pay by Cash/Check/ACH and Save!

Total Cash Amount Due	$366.32
Service Fee 3.99%	$14.62
*Cash/Check/ACH Discount	-$14.62
*Payment Amount by Cash/Check/ACH	$366.32
Payment Amount by Credit Card	$380.94

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT

ACCOUNT NAME		ACCOUNT NUMBER		INVOICE NUMBER		AMOUNT PAID
Bridgewater Planning Board		673572		0005687364		
CURRENT DUE	**30 DAYS PAST DUE**	**60 DAYS PAST DUE**	**90 DAYS PAST DUE**	**120+ DAYS PAST DUE**	**UNAPPLIED PAYMENTS**	**TOTAL CASH AMT DUE***
$366.32	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$366.32

REMITTANCE ADDRESS (Include Account# & Invoice# on check)

Gatehouse Media Massachusetts I, Inc.
PO Box 631210
Cincinnati, OH 45263-1210

TO PAY WITH CREDIT CARD PLEASE FILL OUT BELOW:

☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ DISCOVER ☐ AMEX

Card Number _____
Exp Date ___/___/___ CVV Code _____
Signature _____ Date _____

TOTAL CREDIT CARD AMT DUE
$380.94

000067357200000000000005687364000366329001 1

Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By:	Town Manager
Date Introduced:	10/24/2023
First Reading:	10/24/2023
Second Reading:	11/7/2023
Amendments Adopted:	
Third Reading:	
Date Adopted:	
Date Effective:	

Order O-FY24-014: Acceptance of Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Competitive Grant

ORDERED, that the Town Council assembled vote to

WHEREAS: Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53A, states as follows:
"An officer ... of any city or town … may accept grants or gifts of funds from … from the commonwealth … or an agency thereof, … and may expend such funds for the purposes of such grant or gift ... with the approval of the city manager and city council...;" and

WHEREAS: The Town of Bridgewater has received notice of a grant award of $113,815 from the Department of Energy Resources (DOER), Green Communities Division. Now, therefore, in accordance with Chapter 44, §53A of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Town Council votes to take the following action:

ORDERED that the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to accept and to expend the grant in accordance with stated purpose thereof.

Explanation:

The Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Green Communities Division has approved a Competitive Grant award of $113,815 to fund:

- *$10,000, Town — Administrative assistance*
- *$1,250, Building Operator Certificate — Building Operator Certification Training*
- *$53,932, Public Library — Weatherization*
- *$24,372, Police Station — Weatherization*
- *$24,261, Senior Center Building — Weatherization and insulation*

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)

ROLL CALL VOTE - REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

• Budget & Finance	• Meeting 11/7/23 prior to Town Council meeting
• Finance Committee	• 10/30/23: voted 6-0 to recommend

Attachments: None

ROLL CALL VOTE - REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
Date Introduced: 11/7/2023
First Reading: 11/7/2023
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY24-015: Sewer Enterprise Fund

ORDERED, that the Town Council assembled vote to

pursuant to Section 6-4 of the Town of Bridgewater Charter, that the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts assembled vote to transfer from Sewer Enterprise Retained Earnings a sum of $220,363 to be used to fund total costs of operations of the Sewer Department.

Explanation:
This transfer from Retained Earnings will be necessary to fund the FY2024 Sewer Enterprise Operations based on the current Sewer Revenue Estimates.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
•	•
•	•
•	•

Attachments: None

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING

Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
Date Introduced: 11/7/2023
First Reading: 11/7/2023
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY24-016: Transfer Order - Sewer Waste Water Treatment Facility Phase I

ORDERED, that the Town Council assembled vote to

In accordance with section 6-4 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, vote to appropriate and transfer $850,000 from Sewer Retained Earnings to Sewer Capital Projects Fund 61134-497003.

Explanation:
For Town Share costs of the Waste Water Treatment Facility Morris Avenue Phase 1 Project amounts not covered by Special Revolving Fund (SRF) loan proceeds. Sustaining positive cash flow in this Capital Project fund is essential to avoid any short-term borrowing.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
•	•
•	•
•	•

Attachments: None

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING