



Town of Bridgewater Finance Committee

March 2, 2026

7:00 PM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88086055906>

MEETING AGENDA

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - a) Meeting Minutes 1-12-26
- C. Public Comment**
- D. Old Business**
- E. New Business**
 - a) Ordinance D-FY25-019: Adoption of Clause 22I of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5 (“HERO Act”)
Rules and Procedures voted 3-0 to recommend at their 5/27/25 meeting. Refer to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee.
 - b) Order O-FY26-049: Acceptance of Donation – High Pond Residents Association
 - c) Order O-FY26-050: Acceptance of Grant: Old State Farm Trail Phase 4 Readiness
 - d) Order O-FY26-052: CPC Additional Funds - Restoration of Parthenon Frieze
- F. Additional Items for Discussion**
 - a) Sub-Committee Reports/Discussion
- G. Adjournment of Meeting**



Town of Bridgewater Finance Committee

MEETING MINUTES

A. Call to Order

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a) January 5, 2026

John Higgins motioned to approve the January 5, 2026 meeting minutes which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Public Comment

D. Old Business

a) Order O-FY26-042: Transfer Order - General Fund Capital Plan Transfers
This transfer will fund FY2026 Town GF Capital Outlay Expenditures.

Dana Sullivan motioned to recommend O-FY26-042 which was duly seconded. The motion was approved with a vote of 4-1.

b) Order O-FY26-045: Adoption of a 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan
The 2026-2031 Capital Improvement Program is presented for adoption by the Council. It is a multi-year guide, but not an appropriation. The plan changes from year-to-year as revised or new items are added or amended.

Matthew Lyford motioned to recommend O-FY26-045 which was duly seconded. The motion was approved with a vote of 4-1.

E. New Business

a) Order O-FY26-046: Acceptance of Donation - Oliari Charitable Foundation
Refer to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee

The Oliari Charitable Foundation has graciously donated \$45,000 to be split equally between the Bridgewater Police Department, the Bridgewater Fire Department and the Bridgewater Public Library and the funds are to be used at the sole discretion of the respective department heads.

John Higgins motioned to recommend O-FY26-046 which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- b) **Order O-FY26-047: Acceptance of Donation - Bridgewater Police Association**
Refer to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee
The Bridgewater Police Association has graciously donated \$1,050 to the Bridgewater Veterans Office to be used at the sole discretion of the Veteran's Agent to support the mission of the Veteran's office.

John Higgins motioned to recommend O-FY26-047 which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

F. Additional Items for Discussion

G. Adjournment of Meeting

Matthew Lyford motioned to adjourn at 8:02 which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Fred Chase, Councilor
Sonya Striggles, Councilor

Date Introduced: 4/8/2025
First Reading: 4/8/2025
Second Reading: 6/3/2025
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Ordinance D-FY25-019: Adoption of Clause 22I of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5 (“HERO Act”)

WHEREAS, the HERO Act mandates that property tax exemptions under clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, or 22F shall be increased annually by the amount equal to the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for that year, as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Revenue shall annually inform each municipality of the amount of such increase to ensure that veterans' exemptions maintain their value over time; and

WHEREAS, the HERO Act helps provide meaningful and sustainable financial relief to eligible veterans.

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with Section 2-06 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, the Town Council hereby adopts the following as a General Ordinance of the Town:

SECTION 1: PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to adopt Clause 22I of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5, in order to provide CPI-adjusted property tax exemptions to eligible veterans beginning in Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26).

SECTION 2: ADOPTION OF CLAUSE 22I – CPI-ADJUSTED PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

Pursuant to Clause 22I, the Town of Bridgewater shall adjust property tax exemptions for eligible veterans based on the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI). The exemption amounts shall be revised each fiscal year in accordance with the CPI as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The projected FY26 adjustment is 3.3%.

VOICE VOTE: REFER TO BUDGET & FINANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

- **Eligibility:** Veterans currently receiving property tax exemptions under Chapter 59, Section 5.

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION & ADMINISTRATION

- (a) The Bridgewater Board of Assessors shall be responsible for administering these exemptions and applying annual CPI adjustments.
- (b) Eligible veterans must meet existing requirements under G.L. c. 59, §5 and submit applications as required by the Bridgewater Assessor’s Office.
- (c) The Veterans’ Services Office shall confirm the eligibility of applicants under Clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, or 22F.
- (d) The exemptions shall be reflected in the tax bills issued for the applicable fiscal year.

SECTION 4: EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and approval as required by law and shall be applicable beginning Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26).

SECTION 5: SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this ordinance is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4/8/25: Referred to Rules and Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules & Procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5/27/25: Voted 3-0 to recommend with amendment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6/3/25: Refer to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee

Attachments: None

VOICE VOTE: REFER TO BUDGET & FINANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
Date Introduced: 2/3/2026
First Reading: 2/3/2026
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY26-049: Acceptance of Donation – High Pond Residents Association

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 a Donation from the High Pond Residents Association in memory of David Fraher, a veteran who recently passed away, for the Bridgewater Veterans for \$25.00 to support the mission of the Bridgewater Veteran's Office.

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 High Pond Resident Association has graciously donated \$25 in Memory of David Fraher to the Bridgewater Veterans Office to be used at the sole discretion of the Veteran's Agent to support the mission of the Veteran's office.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
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NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING
REFER TO BUDGET & FINANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Attachments:

1. Veterans Donation from High Pond Estates Jan 2026
2. Letter from High Pond Residents Association



January 22, 2026

Town of Bridgewater Veteran's Council

Town Council (Attn: Deb Ward)
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 2025

Municipal Office Building

66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-0908

Dear Mrs. Ward,

I am requesting Town Council acceptance of a donation of \$25.00 from the High Pond Residents Association in honor and memory of Mr. David Fraher, recently deceased WW2 veteran and Bridgewater resident. These funds are to be used at the discretion of the Veteran's Agent to support the mission of the Bridgewater Veteran's Office.

Sincerely,

Gregory Martin
Bridgewater Veteran's Services Officer

January 15, 2026

Mr. Gregory Martin, Veterans Agent

Veterans Services

66 Central Square

Bridgewater MA 02324

Dear Mr. Martin:

Enclosed please find a donation (\$25.00) made in memory of David Fraher of Bridgewater MA who recently passed. David was a loyal Veteran, a devoted husband, and a dedicated member of our community who loved to play cards, shuffleboard, bocce, dance, took long walks daily, exercised, participated in senior trips etc. He lived a long life into his nineties and had a keen sense of humor and was loved by all those he met and touched. Dave enjoyed his living here at High Pond Estates.

Please accept this donation from the members of the High Pond Residents Association in his beautiful memory.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marian L. Sears". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Marian L. Sears

Treasurer



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
 Date Introduced: 2/17/2026
 First Reading: 2/17/2026
 Second Reading:
 Amendments Adopted:
 Third Reading:
 Date Adopted:
 Date Effective:

Order O-FY26-050: Acceptance of Grant: Old State Farm Trail Phase 4 Readiness

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 a grant award in the amount of \$10,000 from the Taunton River Stewardship Council (TRSC); and

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 the grant of \$10,000 from the Taunton River Stewardship Council, to expend the grant in accordance with stated purpose thereof.

Explanation:

A grant was applied for and received from Taunton River Stewardship for a Community Grant Award in the amount of \$10,000 for funding for the Old State Farm Trail Phase 4 readiness.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
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NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING
REFER TO BUDGET & FINANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Attachments:

1. Old State Farm Trail Phase 4 1.8.26



January 8, 2026

Kajelyn Beardsley
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager
Town of Bridgewater Parks & Recreation Department
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Re: Funding for Old State Farm Trail Phase 4 Readiness

Dear Kajelyn,

I am pleased to inform you that on January 8, 2026, the Taunton River Stewardship Council (TRSC)¹ voted to support your project with a \$10,000 Community Grant award.

To process the award, please submit a W-9, along with copies of estimates provided by project consultants. Once received, funding will be disbursed within 10 days.

Please note we additionally require the following:

- **Periodic project updates to keep the Council aware of your progress.**
- **Written acknowledgement of project support in all marketing materials in the following manner:** *"Partial (or full, if the case may be) funding for this project was provided by a grant from the Taunton River Stewardship Council, stewards of the federally designated Wild & Scenic Taunton River."* You will find the TRSC logo attached to this email for use in any project publicity. Let us know if a different file is needed.
- **A written summary at the conclusion of the project with a photo to share in our annual report.** This information should be emailed to gbancroft@savethetaunton.org. Please include the photographer's name in order to provide proper photo credit in our publications.

We look forward to hearing about the success of your project.

Best,

Gloria Bancroft, Coordinator
Taunton River Stewardship Council c/o TRWA
P.O. Box 1116
Taunton, MA 02780

¹ The Taunton River Stewardship Council serves as the central coordinating body for implementing the Wild & Scenic Taunton River Stewardship Plan. By federal law, the Council is made up of representatives from: the Towns of Berkley, Somerset, Dighton, Freetown, Raynham, Middleboro, Halifax, and Bridgewater; and the Cities of Fall River and Taunton. www.tauntonriver.org



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
 Date Introduced: 2/17/2026
 First Reading: 2/17/2026
 Second Reading:
 Amendments Adopted:
 Third Reading:
 Date Adopted:
 Date Effective:

Order O-FY26-052: CPC Additional Funds - Restoration of Parthenon Frieze

ORDERED, in accordance with section 6-4 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, vote to appropriate \$4,500 from Historic Preservation (Account Number 324200) for the remaining costs of the Frieze project.

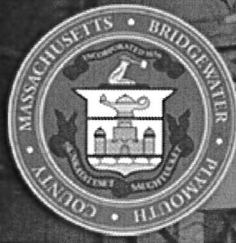
Explanation:

The remaining costs referenced in the motion include \$3,375 to cover the deficit and \$1,125 for a storyboard describing the frieze which will also be installed in the Academy Building.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
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- Attachments:
1. Parthenon Frize -Request from TM to Cover Budget Deficit
 2. Recommendation - Frieze Restoration - Additional Funding



Town Manager's Office

Municipal Office Building
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-0919

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Ms. Gina Guasconi, Chair
Community Preservation Committee
Town of Bridgewater
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Re: Parthenon Frieze Project

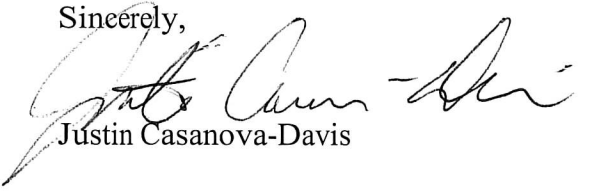
Dear Chair Guasconi:

As you and the Community Preservation Committee have been made aware of, we have expended all the funding allocated by the Community Preservation Committee for the installation of the Parthenon Friezes. Due to the additional expenses incurred by the installation, we currently have a deficit of \$3,375.

To that end, I request that the Community Preservation Committee fund the additional \$3,375 to cover the deficit.

As always, I thank the committee members for your diligent efforts on behalf of the residents of Bridgewater.

Sincerely,


Justin Casanova-Davis

Bridgewater:

Preserving Our Past. Enriching Our Present. Building Our Future.



Town of Bridgewater, MA

Community Preservation Committee

66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

February 5, 2026

Mr. Justin Casanova-Davis, Town Manager
Town of Bridgewater
66 Central Square
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Re: Additional Funds - Restoration of Parthenon Frieze

Dear Mr. Casanova-Davis::

In response to your letter dated January 13, 2026, requesting CPA funds to cover a deficit in the account for the restoration of the Parthenon frieze due to unanticipated costs incurred to hang the restored frieze replications, the following motion was made by Carlton Hunt and duly seconded by Maureen Minasian at the CPC's January 28th meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

To recommend \$4500 for the remaining costs of the Frieze project using funds from the Historic Account, 324200.

The 'remaining costs' referenced in the motion include \$3375 to cover the deficit and \$1125 for a storyboard describing the frieze which will also be installed in the Academy Building.

Please see that this information is placed on the Town Council agenda for their next meeting and that your letter (attached) is forwarded to the Council members as backup to the order.

I would appreciate being notified when the Council acts on the order so we can take the next step pertaining to the recommendation.

Sincerely,

Gina Guasconi

Gina Guasconi, Chair
Community Preservation Committee

att: Town Manager Request

cc: Josh McGraw
Laurie Guerrini
Johnny Loreti
Debra Ward
Carlton Hunt