



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

March 17, 2026

7:00 PM

66 Central Square

Academy Building

Council Chambers/2nd Floor

The Town Council meeting is being streamed Live via You Tube.

Go to the Town of Bridgewater Facebook Page for the link.

Please note that the in-person meeting will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the remote connection.

MEETING AGENDA

Due to Massachusetts Open Meeting Law requirements, discussions will not take place during Public Comment periods. If appropriate, responses to questions and concerns will be given by the Town Manager at a future Town Council meeting.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

C. PROCLAMATIONS

D. CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

E. APPOINTMENTS

F. HEARINGS

G. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- a) Petition P-2026-019: Granting of a Common Victualler License - 27 Perkins Street
- b) Petition P-2026-020: Granting of Automatic Amusement License - 27 Perkins Street

H. PRESENTATIONS

- a) Historical Commission Presentation
- b) Upcoming Town Ballot Questions/Charter Review Committee

I. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Library Update
 - Hours
 - BSU/Library Collaboration
- b) HR Update
 - Employee Satisfaction Survey
 - Collins Center Organizational Review

- c) IT Update
 - Website
 - Equipment (Council Chambers)
- d) Water Update
- e) Grant(s) Update
- f) DPW Storm Response
- g) National Grid Bridgewater Substation Update

J. DISCUSSIONS

K. COMMITTEE REPORTS

L. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- a) Order O-FY26-040: Establishing a Downtown Façade Improvement Program and Requesting Community Preservation Act Funding
Downtown Revitalization Committee voted 3-0 not to recommend at their 3/5/26 meeting.
- b) Order O-FY26-049: Acceptance of Donation – High Pond Residents Association
Budget & Finance voted 3-0 at their 2/9/26 meeting. Finance Committee voted 8-0 at their 3/2/26 meeting.
- c) Order O-FY26-050: Acceptance of Grant: Old State Farm Trail Phase 4 Readiness
Budget & Finance meeting 3/17/26. Finance Committee voted 8-0 to recommend at their 3/2/26 meeting.
- d) Order O-FY26-052: CPC Additional Funds - Restoration of Parthenon Frieze
Budget & Finance meeting 3/17/26. Finance Committee voted 5-3 to recommend at their 3/2/26 meeting.
- e) Order O-FY26-053: Charter Change Ballot Question – Bridgewater Town Charter Article II, Legislative Branch Section 2-13(a) Annual Stipend
This measure was not referred to committee. 14 days has elapsed per Section XVII of the Council Rules & Procedures, therefore this measure may be finally considered this evening.
- f) Order O-FY26-054: Charter Change Ballot Question – Bridgewater Town Charter Article IV, Town Manager "Temporary Absence"
This measure was not referred to committee. 14 days has elapsed per Section XVII of the Council Rules & Procedures, therefore this measure may be finally considered this evening.
- g) Order O-FY26-055: Charter Change Ballot Question – Bridgewater Town Charter Article III, Section 4-3, Elected Officials Powers of Appointment
This measure was not referred to committee. 14 days has elapsed per Section XVII of the Council Rules & Procedures, therefore this measure may be finally considered this evening.
- h) Petition P-2026-018: Town Election Warrant - April 25, 2026
- i) Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-008: Proposed Amendment to Part III – Administrative Code: Chapter 14, Article I, Section 1 Dogs

M. OLD BUSINESS

N. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Order O-FY26-056: Contract Amendment - Town Manager
- b) Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-013: Adopt Chapter 220, Article III – Water Supply Capacity and Development Review
- c) Zoning Ordinance D-FY26-014: Amendments to Central Business District Regulations

- d) Resolution R-FY26-008: Establishing a Timely and Transparent Process for Consideration of Charter Review Committee Recommendations

O. CITIZEN COMMENTS

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares; Bridgewater Firefighters' Union, Bridgewater Police Association and Non-Union employee - Town Manager

R. ADJOURNMENT



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By:

Date Introduced: 3/17/2026

First Reading: 3/17/2026

Second Reading:

Amendments Adopted:

Third Reading:

Date Adopted:

Date Effective:

Petition P-2026-019: Granting of a Common Victualler License - 27 Perkins Street

WHEREAS, Jennifer Harrington dba Fun Factory has submitted all applicable documentation as required for a license to operate a food establishment located at 27 Perkins Street, Bridgewater, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Harrington will serve as the manager of record and the hours of operation will be:

Monday: 10am to 2pm

Friday: 10am to 6pm

Saturday: 10am to 2pm

Sunday: 9:30am to 12:30pm

WHEREAS Jennifer Harrington dba Fun Factory 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 Jennifer Harrington dba Fun Factory be granted a license to serve food at 27 Perkins Street, Bridgewater, MA.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL

REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Attachments:

1. 27 Perkins Street Common Victualler Checklist
2. 27 Perkins Street Common Victualler Request

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Town Council Meeting Date: 317/26

Applicant Name: Fun Factory
Address: 27 Perkins Street
Telephone: (339) 933-5311
Email: Gymstarheroes23@gmail.com

NEW/TRANSFER COMMON VICTUALLER LICENSE

Proposed hours:

<u>X</u>	Application
<u>X</u>	Business Certificate (Issued by the Town Clerk)
<u>X</u>	Copy of one of the following: Lease Agreement, Purchase & Sale Agreement, or Deed (if property owner)
<u>X</u>	Delinquent Tax Certification
<u>X</u>	State Tax Affidavit
<u>X</u>	Workmen's Compensation Insurance Affidavit
	Town Fees:
<u>X</u>	\$150.00 Application Fee
<u>x</u>	\$100.00 License Fee

Notes:

Fun Factory began a lease at 27 Perkins Street on June 1, 2025 but was unaware that the business required a Common Victualler License.

All required paperwork has been received.



**TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
COMMON VICTUALLER
LICENSE APPLICATION AND PETITION**

All licenses expire December 31st of the year they are issued

DATE: 3/8/2026

NEW APPLICATION

RENEWAL

The Undersigned Submits Application for Approval of License:

Jennifer Harrington
(NAME)

41 N. Main Street Avon Ma, 02322
(HOME ADDRESS)

Fun Factory
(BUSINESS NAME)

27 Perkins Street Bridgewater Ma, 02324
(BUSINESS ADDRESS)

(339) 933-5311
(BUSINESS PHONE NUMBER)

(617) 610-8383
(APPLICANT CELL PHONE NUMBER)

Gymstarheroes23@gmail.com
(APPLICANT E-MAIL)

Jennifer Harrington
(MANAGER NAME)

(617) 610-8383
(MANAGER CELL PHONE NUMBER)

PROPOSED HOURS OF BUSINESS:

Monday 10 to 2

Tuesday to

Wednesday to

Thursday to

Friday 10 to 6

Saturday 10 to 2

Sunday 930 to 1230

SEATING CAPACITY: 50/100

DO YOU PLAN TO HAVE A
JUKEBOX/AUTOMATIC AMUSEMENT
DEVICE?

YES ☒ NO ☐

ARE YOU PLANNING TO FILE FOR AN
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE?

YES ☐ NO ☒

ANY STATEMENT PROVIDED IN THIS APPLICATION THAT IS INACCURATE IN ANY WAY MAY
BE CONSIDERED A MATERIAL MISREPRESENTATION AND SHALL BE SUFFICIENT CAUSE FOR
REFUSAL, SUSPENSION, REVOCATION, OR DENIAL OF THE LICENSE SUBJECT TO THIS
APPLICATION. SIGNED UNDER THE PAIN AND PENALTY OF PERJURY.

Jennifer Harrington
(signature of applicant)

3/8/26
(date)

Jennifer Harrington
(name of applicant)



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Bridgewater
Plymouth County
Business Certificate

Date: 10/30/23

In conformity with the provisions of Chapter One Hundred and Ten, Section Five of the General Laws, as amended, the undersigned hereby declare(s) that a business is conducted under the title of:

Fun Factory
(Name of Business)

and is conducted at 27 Perkins St. Bridgewater, MA 02324
(Address of Business)

in Bridgewater Massachusetts; by the following person(s), entity, partnership, or corporation.

FULL NAME

Jennifer Harrington

RESIDENCE

41 N. Main Street
Avon, Ma 02322

SIGNATURE(S)

Jennifer Harrington

Jennifer Harrington Personally appeared before me and made oath that the foregoing statement is true.

A certificate issued in accordance with this section shall be in force and effect for four years for the date of issue and shall be renewed each four years thereafter so long as such business shall be conducted and shall lapse and be void unless so renewed.

NOV-30, 2027
Certificate Expires

(Seal)

Jolie Sprague Martin

Notary/ Clerk
My Commission Expires:

Please Check One:



New Business



Renewal



Town of Bridgewater Business (D.B.A) Certificate/ Zoning Approval Form

Applicant Information (please print or type)

Name: Jennifer Harrington
Address: 41 N. Main Street Aron MA 02322
Phone: (617) 610-8383
E-mail: Gymstarheroes23@gmail.com

Business Information

Business Name: Fun Factory
Type of Business: Entertainment

Business Location/ Address: 27 Perkins St. Bridgewater, MA
02324

Do you have Company Vehicles: ☐ Yes ☒ No If Yes, How Many _____

Number of Employees: 0

If this is a home business, complete the following:

- Will there be non-resident employees on premises? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If so how many? _____
- Will there be patrons coming to the house ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Will there be outside advertising on premises ☐ Yes ☐ No

Official Town Use Only

☒ Approved ☐ Denied

Zoning Enforcement Official

11/30/23
Date



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By:

Date Introduced: 3/17/2026

First Reading: 3/17/2026

Second Reading:

Amendments Adopted:

Third Reading:

Date Adopted:

Date Effective:

Petition P-2026-020: Granting of Automatic Amusement License - 27 Perkins Street

WHEREAS, Jennifer Harrington dba Fun Factory has submitted all applicable documentation as required for a license to operate Automatic Amusements at 27 Perkins Street, Bridgewater, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Harrington dba Fun Factory is requesting Nine (9) mechanical/electronic games to include:

- 4 Electronic Claw Games
- 3 Video Driving Games
- 1 Electronic Air Hockey Game
- 1 Electronic Clown Pop Game

WHEREAS, Jennifer Harrington will serve as the manager of record and the hours of operation will be:

- Monday: 10am to 2pm
- Friday: 10am to 6pm
- Saturday: 10am to 2pm
- Sunday: 9:30am to 12:30pm

WHEREAS Jennifer Harrington dba Fun Factory has complied with the requirements of the Town of Bridgewater and applicable state laws inclusive of the Building Code, and Fire Codes; 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, and Police 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 177A of the Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L.), in Town Council assembled approve the petition of Jennifer

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL

REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Harrington dba Fun Factory be granted a license to operate Nine (9) Automatic Amusement devices at 27 Perkins Street, Bridgewater, MA.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

- Attachments:
1. 27 Perkins Street Auto Amusement Checklist
 2. 27 Perkins Street Auto Amusement Request

Town Council Meeting Date: 3/17/26

Applicant Name:	Fun Factory
Address:	27 Perkins Street
Telephone:	(339) 933-5311
Email:	Gymstarheroes23@gmail.com

NEW AUTO AMUSEMENT LICENSE

Proposed hours:

<u> </u>	X	Auto Amusement Application
<u> </u>	X	Business Certificate (Issued by the Town Clerk)
<u> </u>	X	Copy of one of the following: Lease Agreement, Purchase & Sale Agreement, or Deed (if property owner)
<u> </u>	X	Delinquent Tax Certification
<u> </u>	X	State Tax Affidavit
<u> </u>	X	Workmen's Compensation Insurance Affidavit
		Town Fees:
<u> </u>	X	\$150.00 Application Fee
		\$125.00/game License Fee x 9 devices to be paid once approved by
<u> </u>		Town Council

Notes:

Fun Factory began a lease at 27 Perkins Street on June 1, 2025 but was unaware that the business required an Annual Auto Amusement License.

All required paperwork has been received.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of Bridgewater
Plymouth County
Business Certificate

Date: 10/30/23

In conformity with the provisions of Chapter One Hundred and Ten, Section Five of the General Laws, as amended, the undersigned hereby declare(s) that a business is conducted under the title of:

Fun Factory
(Name of Business)

and is conducted at 27 Perkins St. Bridgewater, MA 02324
(Address of Business)

in Bridgewater Massachusetts; by the following person(s), entity, partnership, or corporation.

FULL NAME

Jennifer Harrington

RESIDENCE

41 N. Main Street
Avon, Ma 02322

SIGNATURE(S)

Jennifer Harrington

Jennifer Harrington Personally appeared before me and made oath that the foregoing statement is true.

A certificate issued in accordance with this section shall be in force and effect for four years for the date of issue and shall be renewed each four years thereafter so long as such business shall be conducted and shall lapse and be void unless so renewed.

NOV-30, 2027
Certificate Expires

(Seal)

Jolie Sprague Martin

Notary/ Clerk

My Commission Expires:

Please Check One:



New Business



Renewal



Town of Bridgewater Business (D.B.A) Certificate/ Zoning Approval Form

Applicant Information (please print or type)

Name: Jennifer Harrington
Address: 41 N. Main Street Aron MA 02322
Phone: (617) 610-8383
E-mail: Gymstarheroes23@gmail.com

Business Information

Business Name: Fun Factory
Type of Business: Entertainment

Business Location/ Address: 27 Perkins St. Bridgewater, MA 02324

Do you have Company Vehicles: ☐ Yes ☒ No If Yes, How Many _____

Number of Employees: 0

If this is a home business, complete the following:

- Will there be non-resident employees on premises? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If so how many? _____
- Will there be patrons coming to the house ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Will there be outside advertising on premises ☐ Yes ☐ No

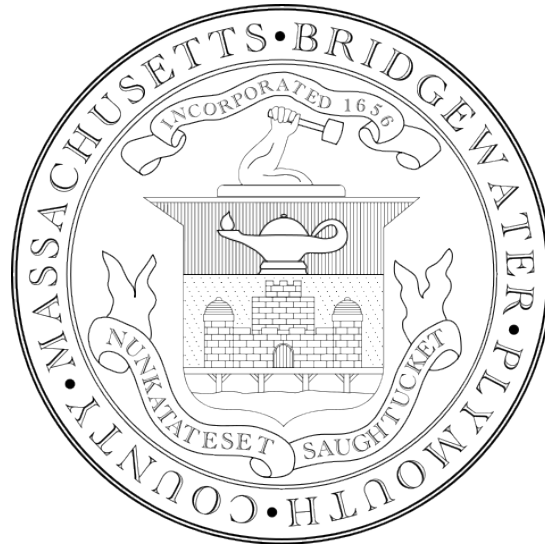
Official Town Use Only

☒ Approved ☐ Denied

Zoning Enforcement Official

11/20/23
Date

Preparing for the April 25 Election



Charter Changes / Ballot Preview



Charter Review Committee (CRC)

- 1. Charter requires a “review” every 6 years or sooner**
- 2. Charter adopted 2011 1st CRC (2014) 2nd CRC (2020)**
- 3. June 2021 2nd CRC Recommendations were submitted**
- 4. Categorized as “General” and “Article Specific”**
- 5. Local and State Approval Process has been disappointing**



Ballot Questions (Updates To Town Charter):

- 1. Article II, Sec 2-13(a) Annual Stipend *(Council Approval 4/24)***
- 2. Article IV, Town Manager Temporary Absence *(Council Approval 10/23)***
- 3. Article IV, Sec 4-3, Elected Official Powers of Appointment
*(Council Approval 7/25)***



Ballot Questions (Updates To Town Charter):

Question #1: Annual Stipend for Councilors (*CRC Recommendation*)

Reason for this Charter Change Why Offer a Stipend?

- **Attracts and Retain More Candidates:** encourages skilled, experienced professionals (such as from management, finance, or law) to run, enhancing the effectiveness of the city council.
- **Increases Diversity in Representation:** ensures that a wider variety of citizens can participate in local government. Without a stipend, only those with existing wealth or flexible, high-paying jobs can afford to run for office.
- **Improves Accountability and Performance:** When councilors are fairly compensated, they can be held to higher standards for responsiveness and attendance.
- **Time Commitment Compensation:** The role often requires significant hours (40+ meetings / year), reading large volumes of documents, and attending events ... which should be recognized, especially when positions are increasingly demanding.



Ballot Questions (Updates To Town Charter):

Question #1: Annual Stipend for Councilors (CRC Recommendation)

How Much is Being Recommended?

- Councilors (\$5000)....President (\$7500)....Total Budget Impact: \$47,500
- Compensation varies across Massachusetts for Elected Officials
- **Select Boards:**
 - **Tewksbury** (pop. 31,000): Select Board Chair (\$6,000), while each member earns \$5,000 annually.
 - **Arlington** (pop. 46,000) : Select Board members (\$3,000) per year, with the Chair receiving \$3,500.
 - **Grafton** (pop. 20,000): Each Selectperson receives a salary of \$1,000 per year.
 - **Canton** (pop. 24,000): Board members stipend of \$1,200, with the Chair receiving \$1,600.
 - **Marlborough** (pop. 42,000): Councilors earn an annual stipend of \$11,000.
 - **Provincetown** (pop. 4,000): Stipend is \$2,500 for all Select Board members. A proposal was made to increase the stipend to \$5,000 for members and \$7,000 for the Chair.



Ballot Questions (Updates To Town Charter):

Question #1: Annual Stipend for Councilors (*CRC Recommendation*)

How Much is Being Recommended?

- Councilors (\$5000)....President (\$7500)....Total Budget Impact: \$47,500
- Compensation varies across Massachusetts for Elected Officials
- City / Town Councils:
 - Attleboro (pop. 40,000): Stipend for each council member is \$14,000, President \$15,000
 - Beverly (pop. 42,670) Councilors receive \$14,000, President \$15,000.
 - Framingham (pop. 72,000) Councilors receive \$5,000, President \$7,500
 - Taunton (pop. 61,000) Councilors receive \$16,631



Ballot Questions (Updates To Town Charter):

Question #1: Annual Stipend for Councilors (*CRC Recommendation*)

➤ The Pros of paying, include:

- 1. Attract and Retain Council Members:** Compensated positions can attract individuals with the time and expertise to dedicate to municipal governance, potentially leading to more effective oversight and decision-making.
- 2. Broader Representation:** Offering stipends may enable individuals from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds to serve, promoting inclusivity and reducing barriers for those who cannot afford to volunteer their time.
- 3. Recognition of Responsibilities:** Even in smaller municipalities, elected officials often handle complex issues such as budgeting, infrastructure, and public services. Compensation acknowledges the significance and demands of these roles, leading to enhanced accountability and professionalism.



Ballot Questions (Updates To Town Charter):

Question #1: Annual Stipend for Councilors (*CRC Recommendation*)

➤ The Cons of paying, include:

- 1. Budgetary Constraints:** Allocating funds for stipends can put pressure on municipal budgets, potentially diverting resources from essential services.
- 2. Public Perception:** Residents may view compensation for elected officials skeptically, especially if increases occur during economic downturns or without clear justification.
- 3. Potential for Politicization:** Discussions around salaries can become politically charged, leading to further divisions within communities or among officials.



Ballot Questions (Updates To Town Charter):

Question #2: Town Manager Temporary Absence (*CRC Recommendation*)

Reason for this Charter Change?

- Clarifies how a temporary absence of the City Manager is handled.
- Defines Temporary absence as not more than 21 days
- Assistant TM shall perform duties
- If Assistant is unable, then Town Manager appoints Dept. Head
- If Town Manager is unable to appoint or appointee is unable to serve, then Town Council may appoint another qualified person until the TM returns.
- No member of the Town Council shall serve as acting Town Manager.



Ballot Questions (Updates To Town Charter):

Question #3: Elected Officials Powers of Appointment (*Town Council Recommendation*)

Reason for this Charter Change?

- **Gives the Town Council sole authority to appoint “Ad Hoc” committees, established by a majority vote of the Town Council, to assist the Town Council in carrying out the Council’s responsibilities.**
- **The Town Manager continues to appoint all other boards, committees, and agencies.**

Memorandum of Understanding

DRAFT



Between
Bridgewater State University – College of Continuing Studies (Senior College)
and
The Town of Bridgewater – Bridgewater Public Library

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) outlines the collaborative agreement between Bridgewater State University (BSU), through its College of Continuing Studies Senior College, and the Town of Bridgewater, through the Bridgewater Public Library (BPL). The purpose of this MOU is to support enhanced community programming by providing improved instructional capabilities in the Flora T. Little Room and establishing an ongoing partnership for shared use of the space.

BSU Responsibilities

BSU agrees to provide a technology enhancement package for the Flora T. Little Room. This upgrade is designed to create a more functional, accessible, and modern instructional environment for Senior College courses and other BPL or town programs.

The technology enhancement package will include:

1. Approximately \$17,000 in newly purchased equipment (estimated total: \$17,071.55).
2. In-kind contributions from BSU’s Information Technology Division staff, including:
 - One (1) touch controller
 - Two (2) microphones
 - One (1) cable cubby
 - Installation labor provided by BSU
 - Additional BSU equipment if available (e.g., a portable document camera, contingent on inventory)
3. System Design and Components (as reflected in the attached equipment quote and design outline):
 - Two (2) large displays at the front of the room
 - One (1) podium with microphone, USB-C, and HDMI connections
 - Two (2) smaller displays along the side-rear walls to support visibility in the long, low-ceilinged room

- One (1) slim, wall-mounted equipment rack with shelf for controller and HDMI access
- Necessary cabling and infrastructure
- Collaboration with the Town regarding electrical outlet relocation when feasible
- Use of cable raceway if outlet relocation is not possible

This technology will be available for all BPL and community events, meetings, and programs taking place in the Flora T. Little Room.

Library Responsibilities

The Bridgewater Public Library agrees to:

1. Provide access to the Flora T. Little Room, in-kind, for BSU Senior College classes for approximately 6–9 hours per week during academic programming periods.
2. The relevant scheduling periods include, though are not limited to:
 - September through December
 - January through May
3. Maintain reasonable availability of the room to accommodate Senior College needs, acknowledging the shared-use nature of the space.
4. Coordinate with BSU regarding room layout, access, and technology use procedures to ensure functionality for both partners.

Shared Understandings

1. Both parties acknowledge that the technology installed is intended for shared community benefit, not exclusive use.
2. BSU's Division of Information Technology will remain the technical point-of-contact for installation-related needs during setup. Ongoing operational support will be the responsibility of the Library.
3. This MOU does not establish a financial obligation for either party beyond what is explicitly stated.
4. Both parties commit to continued communication and collaboration to support successful programming.
5. All technology, equipment, and related components purchased or provided by Bridgewater State University as part of this enhancement project shall remain the sole property of BSU). BSU retains full ownership rights, including the right to repair, replace, or remove the equipment at its discretion.

Term and Review

This MOU will become effective upon signature by both parties. It will remain in effect until amended or terminated by mutual consent. Either party may request a review of this agreement annually or at any time with reasonable notice.

Signatures

For Bridgewater State University – College of Continuing Studies (Senior College):

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

For the Town of Bridgewater – Bridgewater Public Library:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

03/06/2026
10:20:59

Town of Bridgewater - LIVE -
HISTORICAL ACTUALS COMPARISON REPORT
SNOW AND ICE FY23 TO FY26 CURRENT
FOR PERIOD 13 OF 2026

PAGE 1
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ACCOUNTS FOR:
0100 GENERAL FUND

PRIOR YR3 FY 2023 ACTUALS	PRIOR YR2 FY2024 ACTUALS	LAST YR FY25 ACTUALS	CURRENT YR FY26 ACTUALS as3/4/26	CY REV BUDGET
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04215001 512000 WAGES -TEMP SNOW&ICE DRIVE	2,442.03	3,650.00	4,760.00	11,357.50	.00
04215001 513000 SNOW & ICE REMOVAL OVERTIM	24,580.44	28,554.74	63,489.63	158,818.56	41,000.00
04215001 515000 SPECIAL PAY - CONTRACTUAL	.00	.00	33.32	.00	.00
04215442 524000 S & I EQUIPMENT REPAIRS	9,873.49	13,726.45	23,199.19	44,651.80	2,600.00
04215442 529000 S & I SERVICE CONTRACTS	43,580.00	104,910.00	119,377.50	507,292.50	15,000.00
04215442 538000 WEATHER SERVICES FOR S&I	12,433.00	5,547.00	5,739.60	5,901.38	1,000.00
04215442 543006 EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS S&I	15,915.86	22,800.00	19,757.00	9,388.90	.00
04215442 548004 SUPPIES/PARTS EQUIP REPR S	43,588.56	46,297.22	35,037.57	42,040.37	2,500.00
04215442 553006 SALT/ CALCIUM/ SAND	148,757.15	112,464.49	181,578.87	237,033.45	20,000.00
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	301,170.53	337,949.90	452,972.68	1,016,484.46	82,100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	301,170.53	337,949.90	452,972.68	1,016,484.46	82,100.00
GRAND TOTAL	301,170.53	337,949.90	452,972.68	1,016,484.46	82,100.00

BUDGET \$82,100

FY2023 DEFICIT	FY2024 DEFICIT	FY2025 DEFICIT:
\$219,071	\$255,850	\$370,873

CURRENT DEFICIT: \$934,384.46

03/06/2026
10:21:00

Town of Bridgewater - LIVE -
 HISTORICAL ACTUALS COMPARISON REPORT
 SNOW AND ICE FY23 TO FY26 CURRENT
 FOR PERIOD 13 OF 2026

PAGE 2
glactrpt

	Field #	Total	Page Break
Sequence 1	1	Y	Y
Sequence 2		Y	N
Sequence 3	0	N	N
Sequence 4	0	N	N

Report title:

HISTORICAL ACTUALS COMPARISON REPORT
 SNOW AND ICE FY23 TO FY26 CURRENT

Report Through (P)eriod or (T)otal for years: P

Fiscal Year/Period for reports: 2026/13

Print totals only: N

Suppress zero balance accounts: Y

Print revenue as credit: Y

Print Full or Short description: F

Print Full GL account: N

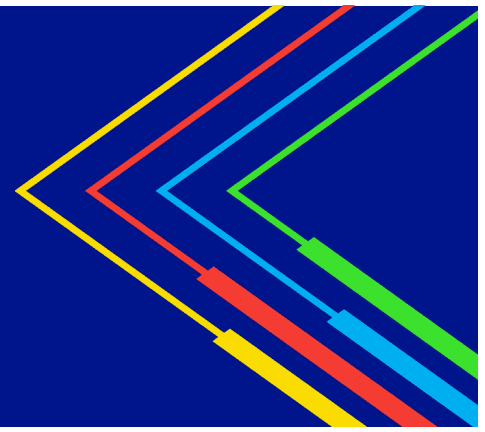
Sort by Full GL account: N

Multiyear view: D

Project Location

Somerset to Bridgewater Reliability Project

Somerset, Swansea, Dighton, Berkley, Taunton, Raynham, Bridgewater MA

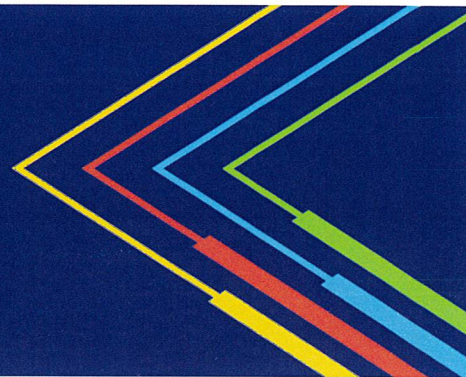


Somerset to Bridgewater Reliability Project Overview Map



Construction Notification

Bridgewater Substation Improvement Project



To Our Valued Neighbors,

This letter is to inform you that National Grid is currently preparing for Bridgewater Substation infrastructure upgrades to replace aging equipment to improve reliability of the substation.

Construction activity in the substation is expected to begin mid-March 2026 and expected to last through Fall 2028. Dates are subject to change.

Working days and hours: 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday

Construction activities include:

- **Traffic pattern changes in Summer 2026.** Street traffic will be open during construction, and a flagger will be onsite during work hours. Please be aware of construction traffic signs and cones.
- **No interruption to service** for National Grid customers.
- **Direct contact with our Outreach Team.** If you have questions or concerns, please call or email our team.

During this period, there may be an increase of vehicles and team members within the area. Our employees and associated consultants are expected to wear their required personal protection equipment (PPE), including hard hats, high visibility vests and photo ID's. These team members will be evaluating the current conditions and will be making recommendations to ensure long-term reliability of this substation.

We will keep you informed of any significant updates or changes and can have further discussions with you directly to address questions or concerns. If you have any questions or concerns with the work, feel free to contact me directly by either email or phone.

Best Regards,

Ashley Pierre-Louis

Project Engagement

+1 781-296-7149

Ashley.PierreLouis@nationalgrid.com

**Smell gas?
Act fast.**
Call 911 or
1-800-490-0045

[ngrid.com/gassafety](https://www.nationalgrid.com/gassafety)



nationalgrid



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Date Introduced: 2/17/2026
First Reading: 2/17/2026
Second Reading: 3/17/2026
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY26-040: Establishing a Downtown Façade Improvement Program and Requesting Community Preservation Act Funding

WHEREAS, the Town’s Comprehensive Master Plan identifies a Façade Improvement Program as a recommended tool to revitalize Downtown Bridgewater and enhance the Central Business District;

WHEREAS, the entire Central Square area is located within a designated historic district, making it eligible for Community Preservation Act funding under the historic preservation category;

WHEREAS, similar programs in other Massachusetts communities have successfully leveraged CPA funds to support downtown revitalization;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER THAT:

1. Establishment of Program

The Town of Bridgewater hereby establishes a Downtown Façade Improvement Program (“the Program”) to provide matching grants to eligible property owners and business tenants within the historic district for exterior improvements. Eligible improvements may include façade restoration, windows, doors, signage, lighting, and other historically appropriate enhancements consistent with adopted design guidelines.

2. Program Development

The Town Manager, in coordination with the Community & Economic Development Department and the Historic District Commission, and other relevant boards, is requested to:

- a. Develop detailed Program guidelines, including eligibility, match requirements, design standards, and procedures; and
- b. Present these guidelines to the Town Council for review prior to the Program’s official launch.

3. Application for CPA Funding

The Town Manager is requested to submit applications to the Community Preservation Committee for

VOICE VOTE FOR REFERRAL TO CED SUBCOMMITTEE

Community Preservation Act funding to support the Program. Such funding may include the creation of a dedicated reserve account for façade improvements within the historic district.

4. Establishment of Dedicated Account

Upon a favorable recommendation from the Community Preservation Committee and subsequent appropriation by the Town Council, a dedicated account titled “*Downtown Façade Improvement Program – CPA*” shall be established and used exclusively for the Program’s matching grants.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED

Nothing in this Order shall obligate the Community Preservation Committee to recommend, or the Town Council to appropriate, any specific amount of CPA funding. All appropriations shall remain subject to M.G.L. c.44B and the Town Charter’s financial procedures.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
Town Council	2/17/25: Referred to Downtown Revitalization Committee
Downtown Revitalization Committee	3/5/26: voted 3-0 to not recommend.

Attachments: None



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
Date Introduced: 2/3/2026
First Reading: 2/3/2026
Second Reading: 3/17/2026
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)
Budget & Finance	2/9/26: Voted 3-0 to recommend

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

• Finance Committee	• 3/2/26: Voted 8-0 to recommend
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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 0205

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Martin". The signature is stylized with a long, sweeping underline.

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 dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Marian L. Sears

Treasurer



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
Date Introduced: 2/17/2026
First Reading: 2/17/2026
Second Reading: 3/17/2026
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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VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

• Budget & Finance	• Meeting 3/17/26
• Finance Committee	• 3/2/26: Voted 8-0 to recommend

Attachments: 1. Old State Farm Trail Phase 4 1.8.26

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING



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: 3/17/2026
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.

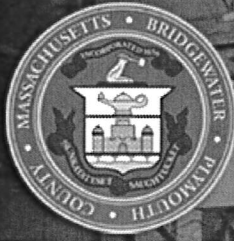
Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
Budget & Finance	Meeting 3/17/26
Finance Committee	3/2/26: Voted 5-3 to recommend.

Attachments:

1. Parthenon Frize -Request from TM to Cover Budget Deficit
2. Recommenation - Frieze Restoration - Additional Funding

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING



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

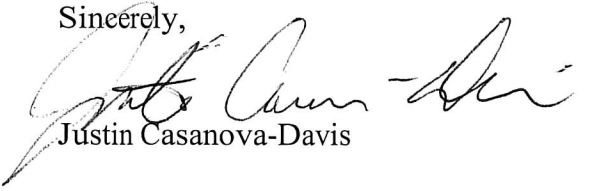
Dear Chair Guasconi:

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



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



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Date Introduced: 3/3/2026
First Reading: 3/3/2026
Second Reading: 3/17/2026
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY26-053: Charter Change Ballot Question – Bridgewater Town Charter Article II, Legislative Branch Section 2-13(a) Annual Stipend

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater approved Ordinance D-FY22-008 at a public hearing held on April 23, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts House of Representatives approved Ordinance D-FY22-008 on February 9, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Maura Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, approved and signed Ordinance D-FY22-008 on February 12, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED:

1. That the Town of Bridgewater, pursuant to G.L. c. 59, § 21C(g), shall seek voter approval at the Town election to be held on April 25, 2026, to approve Ordinance D-FY22-008; and
2. That the Town Clerk is hereby directed to place the following question on the official ballot:

“Shall an Annual Stipend be amended to reflect that each member of the Town Council shall receive an annual stipend, payable in arrears, in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and the Town Council President shall receive an annual stipend, payable in arrears, in the amount of seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500). Incumbent Councilors shall receive a stipend as above set forth as of each annual Town Election Day. A Councilor who vacates their office will be entitled to receive a pro-rated stipend as of the last date of their service. Regardless of compensation, members of the Town Council shall not be eligible for benefits from the Town. Any modification of the stipend amounts set-forth herein may be adopted by ordinance duly adopted by

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

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. Persons elected to serve as councilors by special town election shall be eligible for payment of an annual stipend payable in arrears in the amount of \$5,000 reduced on a pro-rated basis commensurate with the number of days beginning with the date of the special election. Such ordinance shall be subject to the provisions of MGL Chapter 39, Section 6A.”

Yes _____ No _____

Explanation:

The Bridgewater Town Council has approved a proposal to change the Charter through Ordinance D-FY22-008, the State Legislation has approved and now voters must decide whether to officially adopt that change. If voters approve the ballot question, the Charter change takes effect. If voters reject it, the Charter remains as it is.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

This measure was not referred to committee. 14 days has elapsed per Section XVII of the Council Rules & Procedures, therefore this measure may be finally considered this evening.

Attachments: 1. Ordinance D-FY22-008 Annual Stipend Packet



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Fred Chase, Councilor
Date Introduced: 9/7/2021
First Reading: 9/7/2021
Second Reading: 8/8/2023
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading: 9/5/2023
Date Adopted: 4/23/2024
Date Effective:

Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-008: Bridgewater Town Charter Article II, Legislative Branch Section 2-13(a) Annual Stipend

ORDERED that The Town Charter, Article II, Legislative Branch Section 2-13(a) Annual Stipend shall be amended to reflect that each member of the Town Council shall receive an annual stipend, payable in arrears, in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and the Town Council President shall receive an annual stipend, payable in arrears, in the amount of seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500). Incumbent Councilors shall receive a stipend as above set forth as of each annual Town Election Day. A Councilor who vacates their office will be entitled to receive a pro-rated stipend as of the last date of their service. Regardless of compensation, members of the Town Council shall not be eligible for benefits from the Town. 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. Persons elected to serve as councilors by special town election or appointment shall be eligible for payment of an annual stipend payable in arrears in the amount of \$5,000 reduced on a pro-rated basis commensurate with the number of days beginning with the date of the special election or appointment. Such ordinance shall be subject to the provisions of MGL Chapter 39, Section 6A.

Such amendment shall be effective only after approval by the Town Council, the State Legislature and the voters of the Town of Bridgewater.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referrals and Dispositions
• 9/7/21: Town Council First Reading - Referred to Rules & Procedures • 1/5/22: Rules & Procedures - Voted to recommend with amendments. • 8/8/23: Town Council - Second Reading • 9/5/23: Town Council Third Reading - Referred back to Rules & Procedures

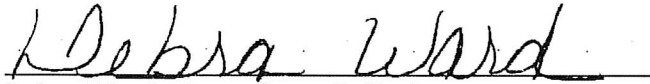
VOICE VOTE - RQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

- 10/3/23: Rules & Procedures - Voted 3-0 to recommend changes
- 10/10/23: Town Council Fourth Reading - voted to continue to next meeting with further information from Town Counsel.
- 10/24/23: Town Council - Voted with amendments to refer to Advertising.
- 11/21/23: Town Council - voted to refer back to Rules & Procedures
- 3/18/24: Rules & Procedures - voted 3-0 to recommend with amendments
- 3/26/24: Town Council - voted to recommend with amendments and referred to Advertising.
- 4/23/24: Town Council - Public Hearing held. Voted 8-0 to approve.

Attachments: None

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Town Council assembled voted, at their meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, to approve the aforementioned Ordinance, by a Roll-call vote 8-0.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra Ward", is written over a horizontal line.

Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk

VOICE VOTE - RQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Chapter 20
of the Acts of 2026

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ANNUAL STIPEND FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE CITY
KNOWN AS THE TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court
assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 2-13 of Article II of the charter of the city known
as the town of Bridgewater, which is on file with the state archivist, as
provided by section 12 of chapter 43B of the General Laws, is hereby amended
by striking out subsection (a) and inserting in place thereof the following
subsection:-

(a) Annual Stipend - Subject to section 6A of chapter 39 of the General
Laws, each member of the town council shall receive an annual stipend,
payable in arrears, in the amount of \$5,000 and the town council president
shall receive an annual stipend, payable in arrears, in the amount of \$7,500.
Incumbent councilors shall receive a stipend as provided in this section, as
of each annual town election day. A councilor who vacates their office may
receive a pro-rated stipend as of the last date of the councilor's service.
Regardless of compensation, members of the town council shall not be eligible
for benefits from the town.

Subject to said section 6A of said chapter 39, any modification of the
stipend amounts set forth in this section may be adopted by ordinance duly
adopted by the town council; provided, however, that any such ordinance shall
not take effect during the year in which such increase or reduction is voted
on; and provided further, that no change to such ordinance shall be made
between the election and qualification of a new council. Persons elected to
serve as councilors by special town election or appointment shall be eligible
for payment of an annual stipend payable in arrears in the amount of \$5,000
reduced on a pro-rated basis commensurate with the number of days beginning
with the date of the special election or appointment.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon acceptance by a majority of
the voters in the city known as the town of Bridgewater, but not otherwise.

House of Representatives, February 9, 2026.

Passed to be enacted,

Paul H. Mounts, Speaker.

In Senate, February 9, 2026.

Passed to be enacted,

Michael F. Rush President.

February 12, 2026.
Approved,

M. T. Heg Governor.



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Date Introduced: 3/3/2026
First Reading: 3/3/2026
Second Reading: 3/17/2026
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY26-054: Charter Change Ballot Question – Bridgewater Town Charter Article IV, Town Manager "Temporary Absence"

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater approved Ordinance D-FY22-003 at a public hearing held on October 10, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts House of Representatives approved Ordinance D-FY22-003 on February 9, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Maura Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, approved and signed Ordinance D-FY22-003 on February 12, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED:

1. That the Town of Bridgewater, pursuant to G.L. c. 59, § 21C(g), shall seek voter approval at the Town election to be held on April 25, 2026, to approve Ordinance D-FY22-003; and
2. That the Town Clerk is hereby directed to place the following question on the official ballot:

“ Shall Section 4-7 Temporary Absence, be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

In the event of a temporary absence by the Town Manager of not more than twenty-one consecutive days, the Assistant Town Manager shall perform the duties of that office.

If the Assistant Town Manager is for any reason unable to serve, the Town Manager shall appoint a department head of the Town to perform the duties of that office during that period, by a letter filed with the Town Clerk and the Town Council.

In the event of failure of the Town Manager to make such designation or if the person so designated is for any

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL

REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

reason unable to serve, or is deemed not qualified by the Town Council, the Town Council may appoint some other qualified person to perform the duties of the Town Manager until the Town Manager returns.

No member of the Town Council shall serve as acting Town Manager.”

Yes _____ No _____

Explanation:

The Bridgewater Town Council has approved a proposal to change the Charter through Ordinance D-FY22-003, the State Legislation has approved and now voters must decide whether to officially adopt that change. If voters approve the ballot question, the Charter change takes effect. If voters reject it, the Charter remains as it is.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

This measure was not referred to committee. 14 days has elapsed per Section XVII of the Council Rules & Procedures, therefore this measure may be finally considered this evening.

Attachments: 1. Ordinance D-FY22-008 Town Manager Temporary Absence Packet



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By:	Dennis Gallagher, Councilor Shawn George, Councilor
Date Introduced:	9/7/2021
First Reading:	9/7/2021
Second Reading:	8/8/2023
Amendments Adopted:	
Third Reading:	10/10/2023
Date Adopted:	10/10/2023
Date Effective:	

Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-003: Bridgewater Town Charter Article IV, Town Manager "Temporary Absence"

WHEREAS, Article 89, Section 8 of the Massachusetts Constitution allows the legislative body of the Town of Bridgewater to vote to submit a Special Act to the State Legislature to Amend the current Charter of the Town;

ORDERED, that the Town Council assembled votes to amend the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, Article IV, Section 4-7 and to send said amendment to the State Legislature as a Special Act as follows:

Section 4-7 shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

"SECTION 4-7. TEMPORARY ABSENCE

In the event of a temporary absence by the Town Manager of not more than twenty-one consecutive days, the Assistant Town Manager shall perform the duties of that office.

If the Assistant Town Manager is for any reason unable to serve, the Town Manager shall appoint a department head of the Town to perform the duties of that office during that period, by a letter filed with the Town Clerk and the Town Council.

In the event of failure of the Town Manager to make such designation or if the person so designated is for any reason unable to serve, or is deemed not qualified by the Town Council, the Town Council may appoint some other qualified person to perform the duties of the Town Manager until the Town Manager returns.

No member of the Town Council shall serve as acting Town Manager."

Said Amendment shall only become effective and is contingent upon approval by the Town Council, the State Legislature and the voters of the Town of Bridgewater.

Explanation:

VOICE VOTE - REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

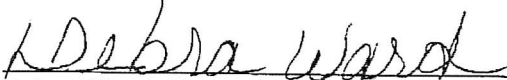
The current recommendations by the charter review committee suggests that "a department head" be appointed interim in the Town Manager absence. This order will clearly indicate that the ATM shall act in his/her absence.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
• Rules & Procedures Committee • Second Reading: 8/8/23 • Third Reading: 9/5/23 • Fourth Reading: 9/19/23 <i>This Ordinance was advertised in the 9/25/23 Enterprise.</i>	• 12/22/21: Voted 2-0 to recommend as amended

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Town Council assembled voted, at their meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, to approve the aforementioned Ordinance, by a Roll-call vote 9-0.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:


Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk

VOICE VOTE - REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Chapter 22
of the Acts of 2026

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE FILLING OF ANY TEMPORARY ABSENCE OF THE TOWN
MANAGER IN THE CITY KNOWN AS THE TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court
assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Article IV of the charter of the city known as the town of
Bridgewater, which is on file with the state archivist, as provided by
section 12 of chapter 43B of the General Laws, is hereby amended by striking
out section 4-7 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 4-7. TEMPORARY ABSENCE

In the event of a temporary absence of the town manager of not more than
21 consecutive days, the assistant town manager shall perform the duties of
that office.

If the assistant town manager is for any reason unable to serve, the town
manager shall appoint a department head of the town to perform the duties of
the office of town manager during that period, by a letter filed with the
town clerk and the town council.

In the event of failure of the town manager to make such a designation or
if the person so designated is for any reason unable to serve or is deemed
not qualified by the town council, the town council may appoint some other
qualified person to perform the duties of the town manager until the town
manager returns.

No member of the town council shall serve as acting town manager.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon approval by a majority of the
voters of the city known as the town of Bridgewater, but not otherwise.

House of Representatives, February 9, 2026.

Passed to be enacted,

 , Speaker.

In Senate, February 9, 2026.

Passed to be enacted,

 President.

Feb 12, 2026.
Approved,

M. T. Heg

Governor.



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Date Introduced: 3/3/2026
First Reading: 3/3/2026
Second Reading: 3/17/2026
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY26-055: Charter Change Ballot Question – Bridgewater Town Charter Article III, Section 4-3, Elected Officials Powers of Appointment

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater approved Ordinance D-FY26-016 at a public hearing held on July 15, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts House of Representatives approved Ordinance D-FY26-016 on February 9, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Maura Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, approved and signed Ordinance D-FY26-016 on February 12, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED:

1. That the Town of Bridgewater, pursuant to G.L. c. 59, § 21C(g), shall seek voter approval at the Town election to be held on April 25, 2026, to approve Ordinance D-FY25-016; and
2. That the Town Clerk is hereby directed to place the following question on the official ballot:

“Shall Article III, Section 4-3 be amended as noted below:

(b) Multiple Member Appointive Organizations. - Except as otherwise provided by this charter, the town manager shall appoint all boards, committees and agencies *except ad hoc committees established by a majority vote of the Town Council to assist the Town Council in carrying out the Council's responsibilities*. Members of all appointed boards and committees shall be residents of the town. All appointments of boards, committees and agencies, as defined within the administrative code, shall be subject to the ratification of the town council. The town manager shall form a citizen's advisory committee to help in evaluating and selecting those

VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL

REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

individuals for appointment. The number and terms of office of the committee shall be established by ordinance.

Yes _____ No _____

Explanation:

The Bridgewater Town Council has approved a proposal to change the Charter through Ordinance D-FY25-016, the State Legislation has approved and now voters must decide whether to officially adopt that change. If voters approve the ballot question, the Charter change takes effect. If voters reject it, the Charter remains as it is.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

This measure was not referred to committee. 14 days has elapsed per Section XVII of the Council Rules & Procedures, therefore this measure may be finally considered this evening.

Attachments: 1. Ordinance D-FY25-016 Powers of Appointment Packet



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Kevin Perry, Councilor
Date Introduced: 2/4/2025
First Reading: 2/4/2025
Second Reading: 6/3/2025
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading: 7/15/2025
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-016: Bridgewater Town Charter Article IV, Section 4-3, Town Manager Powers of Appointment

ORDERED that the Town Charter, Article IV, Section 4-3 be amended as noted below:

(b) Boards, Committees and Agencies. - Except as otherwise provided by this charter, the town manager shall appoint all boards, committees and agencies *except ad hoc committees established by a 2/3 vote of the Town Council to assist the Town Council in carrying out the Council's responsibilities*. Members of all appointed boards and committees shall be residents of the town. All appointments of boards, committees and agencies, as defined within the administrative code, shall be subject to the ratification of the town council. The town manager shall form a citizen's advisory committee to help in evaluating and selecting those individuals for appointment. The number and terms of office of the committee shall be established by ordinance.

Said Amendment shall only become effective and is contingent upon approval by the Town Council, the State Legislature and the voters of the Town of Bridgewater

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
Rules & Procedures	5/27/25: Voted 3-0 to recommend with amendments.
Town Council	6/3/25: Referred to advertising.

VOICE VOTE - REFER TO ADVERTISING
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

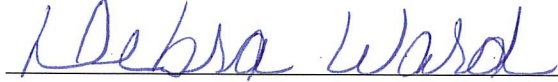
• Town Council	• 7/15/25: Public Hearing held. Voted 9-0 to approve.
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Attachments: None

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Town Council assembled voted, at their meeting on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, to approve the aforementioned Ordinance by a Roll Call vote (9-0).

Said amendment shall only become effective and is contingent upon approval by the State Legislature and the voters of the Town of Bridgewater.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:



Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk

VOICE VOTE - REFER TO ADVERTISING
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Chapter 21
of the Acts of 2026

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court

AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE TOWN MANAGER'S POWERS OF APPOINTMENT IN THE CITY KNOWN AS THE TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Section 4-3 of article IV of the charter of the city known as the town of Bridgewater, which is on file in the office of the archivist of the commonwealth, as provided in section 12 of chapter 43B of the General Laws, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (b) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

(b) Boards, Committees and Agencies - Except as otherwise provided by this charter, the town manager shall appoint all boards, committees and agencies except ad hoc committees established by a 2/3 vote of the town council to assist the town council in carrying out the town council's responsibilities. Members of all appointed board and committees shall be residents of the town. All appointments of boards, committees and agencies, as defined with the administrative code, shall be subject to the ratification of the town council. The town manager shall form a citizen's advisory committee to help in evaluating and selecting those individuals for appointment. The number and terms of office of the committee shall be established by ordinance.

House of Representatives, February 9, 2026.

Passed to be enacted,

Paul H. Hensley, Speaker.

In Senate, February 9, 2026.

Passed to be enacted,

Michael F. Rush, President.

February 12, 2026.
Approved,

M. T. Kelly Governor.



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By:

Date Introduced: 3/17/2026

First Reading: 3/17/2026

Second Reading:

Amendments Adopted:

Third Reading:

Date Adopted:

Date Effective:

Petition P-2026-018: Town Election Warrant - April 25, 2026

ORDERED: That the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, assembled accepts, as a matter of record, the attached 2026 Town Election Warrant to be provided to the Town Clerk.

Explanation:

It is required that the Town Council accepts and approves the attached Warrant as a matter of record.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Attachments: 1. Annual Warrant



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION WARRANT**

Plymouth, SS.

To the Constables of the Town of Bridgewater:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Town of Bridgewater, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town who are qualified to vote in the Annual Town Election to vote at:

**Precincts 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 & 9
Edward O'Donoghue Middle School
166 Mount Prospect Street, Bridgewater, MA 02324**

THE 25th DAY OF APRIL 2026 from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the following purposes:

To cast their votes in the Annual Town Election for the candidates for the following Offices:

TOWN COUNCIL DISTRICT ONE.....	for One Year
TOWN COUNCIL DISTRICT TWO.....	for Three Years
TOWN COUNCIL AT LARGE.....	for Three Years
TOWN COUNCIL AT LARGE.....	for Three Years
BRIDGEWATER-RAYNHAM REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE (Bridgewater)..	for Three Years
BRIDGEWATER-RAYNHAM REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE (Raynham).....	for Three Years
TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY.....	for Three Years
TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY.....	for Three Years
TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY.....	for Three Years

To cast their votes in the Annual Town Election for the following Charter Code Change
Questions which were recently approved by the State Legislation:

Question No. 1:

“Shall an Annual Stipend be amended to reflect that each member of the Town Council shall receive an annual stipend, payable in arrears, in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and the Town Council President shall receive an annual stipend, payable in arrears, in the amount of seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500). Incumbent Councilors shall receive a stipend as above set forth as of each annual Town Election Day. A Councilor who vacates their office will be entitled to receive a pro-rated stipend as of the last date of their service. Regardless of compensation, members of the Town Council shall not be eligible for benefits from the Town. 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. Persons elected to serve as councilors by special town election shall be eligible for payment of an annual stipend payable in arrears in the amount of \$5,000 reduced on a pro-rated basis commensurate with the number of days beginning with the date of the special election. Such ordinance shall be subject to the provisions of MGL Chapter 39, Section 6A.”

Question No. 2:

“ Shall Section 4-7 Temporary Absence, be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:
In the event of a temporary absence by the Town Manager of not more than twenty-one consecutive days,
Then Assistant Town Manager shall perform the duties of that office. If the Assistant Town Manager is for
any reason unable to serve, the Town Manager shall appoint a department head of the Town to perform
the duties of that office during that period, by a letter filed with the Town Clerk and the Town Council.
In the event of failure of the Town Manager to make such designation or if the person so designated is for
any reason unable to serve, or is deemed not qualified by the Town Council, the Town Council may
appoint some other qualified person to perform the duties of the Town Manager until the Town Manager
returns. No member of the Town Council shall serve as acting Town Manager.”

Question No. 3:

“Shall Article IV Section 4-3 be amended as noted below:

(b) Multiple Member Appointive Organizations. - Except as otherwise provided by this charter, the town
manager shall appoint all boards, committees and agencies *except ad hoc committees established by a
majority vote of the Town Council to assist the Town Council in carrying out the Council’s
responsibilities*. Members of all appointed boards and committees shall be residents of the town. All
appointments of boards, committees and agencies, as defined within the administrative code, shall be
subject to the ratification of the town council. The town manager shall form a citizen’s advisory
committee to help in evaluating and selecting those individuals for appointment. The number and terms of
office of the committee shall be established by ordinance.

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of
said voting.

Given under our hands, the Bridgewater Town Council this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Posting: Academy Building, Senior Center & Bridgewater Public Library

Online viewing: www.bridgewaterma.org

(Method of service of warrant.)

_____, 2026.

Constable

Month and Year

(Warrant must be posted at least *fourteen days prior* to the **April 25, 2026** Town Election)



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Sean Kennedy, Councilor
Date Introduced: 11/18/2025
First Reading: 11/18/2025
Second Reading: 3/3/2026
Amendments Adopted: 03/10/2026
Third Reading: 3/17/2026
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-008: Proposed Amendment to Part III – Administrative Code: Chapter 14, Article I, Section 1 Dogs

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Section 2-06 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter relative to amendments to the Town ordinances, it is therefore:

ORDERED, that the Town Council assembled votes to amend the Administrative Code Part III, Chapter 14, Article I, Section 1 as attached.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
Rules & Procedures	2/20/26: Voted 3-0 to recommend
Town Council	3/3/26: Voted to continue meeting to 3/10/26 due to technical issues with IT equipment.
Town Council	3/10/26: Motion to Amend and Motion to Continue to 3/17/26

Attachments: 1. Dog Ordinance changes Attachment

VOICE VOTE - REFER TO ADVERTISING
REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

2. Councilor Hunt Proposed Amendments to Dog Ordinance

Part III: General Ordinances

Chapter 14. Animals

Article I. Canine Control

Section 1. Dogs

A. Nuisance and Dangerous Dogs

1. Definitions

a. A Nuisance dog is a dog that:

- i. By excessive barking or other disturbance is a source of annoyance to a sick person residing in the vicinity;
- ii. by excessive barking, causing damage or other interference, behaves in a manner that a reasonable person would find disruptive to quiet and peaceful enjoyment; or
- iii. has threatened or attacked livestock, a domestic animal, or a person in a manner ~~not grossly disproportionate under all the circumstances.~~

b. Dangerous dog is a dog that either;

- i. without justification, attacks a person or domestic animal causing injury or death; or
- ii. behaves in a manner that a reasonable person would believe poses an unjustified imminent threat of physical injury or death to a person or to a domestic or owned animal

c. No dog shall be deemed dangerous:

- i. solely based upon growling, barking, or both.
- ii. based upon the breed of the dog; or
- iii. If, at the time of the incident in question, the dog was reacting to another animal or person in a manner not grossly disproportionate to any of the following circumstances:
 - a. the dog was protecting or defending itself, its offspring, another domestic animal, or a person from attack or assault.
 - b. the person attacked or threatened by the dog was committing a crime upon the person or property of the owner or keeper of the dog.
 - c. the person attacked or threatened was engaged in teasing, tormenting, battering, assaulting, injuring, or otherwise provoking the dog; or
 - d. at the time of the attack or threat, the person or animal attacked or threatened had breached an enclosure or structure, including but not limited to a gated and fenced-in area, in which the dog was kept apart from the public, without being authorized to do so by the owner of the premises

A child under age 7 shall be rebuttably presumed not to have been committing a crime, provoking the dog, or trespassing at the time of the attack or threat.

- ##### 2. Complaint.
- Any person may file a written complaint with the Town Manager's Office that a dog kept in the Town is a nuisance dog or a dangerous dog.

3. Disposition. The Town Manager's Office shall investigate ~~or cause to be investigated~~ the complaint, including an examination under oath of the complainant at a public hearing. Based on credible evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, the Town Manager or its designee (hereinafter referred to as the "Hearing Authority") shall take the following action:
- Nuisance dog. If the dog is complained of as a nuisance dog, the Hearing Authority shall either (a) deem the dog a nuisance dog; or (b) dismiss the complaint.
 - Dangerous dog. If the dog is complained of as a dangerous dog, the Hearing Authority shall either (a) deem the dog a dangerous dog; (b) deem the dog a nuisance dog; or (c) dismiss the complaint.
 - Report to Town Clerk. The Hearing Authority shall report any finding that a dog is a nuisance dog or a dangerous dog to the Town Clerk.
 - Order valid throughout Commonwealth. Unless later overturned on appeal, any order of the Hearing Authority shall be valid throughout the Commonwealth.

4. Remedies.

- Nuisance dog. If the Hearing Authority has deemed the dog a nuisance dog, it may order the owner or keeper of the dog to take remedial action to ~~ameliorate~~ **rectify** the cause of the nuisance behavior.
- Dangerous dog. If the Hearing Authority has deemed the dog a dangerous dog, it may order one or more of the following remedies:
 - that the dog be humanely restrained, but no order shall require a dog to be chained or tethered to an inanimate object such as a tree, post, or building;
 - that the dog be confined to the premises of the owner or keeper, meaning
securely

confined indoors or confined outdoors in a securely enclosed pen or dog run area that has a secure roof, has either a floor secured to all sides or is embedded into the ground for at least two feet, and provides the dog with proper shelter from the elements;
 - when removed from the premises of the owner or keeper, the dog be securely
and

humanely muzzled and restrained with a chain or other tethering device with a maximum length of three feet and a minimum tensile strength of three hundred pounds;
 - that the owner or keeper provide (i) **(a)** proof of insurance of at least \$100,000 insuring the owner or keeper against any claim, loss, damage, or injury to persons, domestic animals, or property resulting from the intentional or unintentional acts of the dog; or (ii) **(b)** proof that reasonable efforts were made to obtain such insurance;
 - that the owner or keeper provide to the Town Clerk, the Animal Control Officer, or other entity as directed with identifying information for the dog including but not limited to photographs, videos, veterinary records, tattooing, microchip implantations, or a combination of these;
 - that the dog be altered so as not to be reproductively intact, unless the owner or

keeper provides evidence of a veterinary opinion that the dog is medically unfit for such alteration; or

vii. that the dog be humanely euthanized.

c. Restrictions following dangerousness finding

- i. No dog that has been deemed dangerous shall be ordered removed from the Town.
- ii. No person over the age of 17 who has actual knowledge that a dog has been deemed dangerous under this ordinance shall permit a child under the age of 17 to own, possess, or have care or custody of that dog. 187
- iii. No person shall transfer ownership or possession of a dog that **has** been deemed dangerous under this ordinance or offer such dog for sale or breeding without informing the **dogs'** recipient of the ~~dog of the~~ finding of dangerousness
- iv. If a hearing authority or a district court has deemed a dog to be a dangerous dog and such dog wounds a person or worries, wounds or kills any livestock or fowl, the owner or keeper of the dog shall be liable in tort to the person injured by the dog for three times the amount of damages sustained by such person.

5. Appeal. Within 10 days after an order has been issued under this ordinance, the owner or keeper of such dog may bring a petition in **before** the district court within the judicial district in which the order relative to the dog was issued, ~~addressed to the justice of the court praying that the order be reviewed by the court or the magistrate of the court.~~ After **giving** notice to all parties, the magistrate shall, under MGL c. 221, section 62C, review the order of the hearing authority, hear the witnesses and affirm the order unless it shall appear that it was made without proper cause or in bad faith, in which case the order shall be reversed. A party shall have the right to request a de novo hearing on the complaint before a justice of the court. All proceedings referred to under this section of the ordinance (Section 5, Appeal) shall be held in compliance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 140, Section 157.

6. Impoundment Pending Appeal.

- a. Order of impoundment. Pending an appeal, the Hearing Authority may petition the district court for an order to impound the dog at a shelter facility used by the Town. Failure to request such impoundment will not result in liability for the Town, the Hearing Authority, or any of the Town's agents or employees. The district court shall consider this petition in accordance with MGL c. 140, section 157.
- b. Costs of impoundment during appeal process.
 - i. If the district court affirms the Hearing Authority's order of euthanasia, the owner or keeper shall reimburse the Town for all reasonable costs incurred for the housing and care of the dog during the period of impoundment. The Town may recover unpaid charges by any of the following methods: (a) a lien on any real property owned by the owner or keeper of the dog; (b) an additional, earmarked charge on the vehicle excise of the owner or keeper of the dog; or (c) a direct bill sent to the owner or keeper of the dog.
 - ii. If the district court reverses the Hearing Authority's order of euthanasia, the Town

shall pay all reasonable costs incurred for the housing and care of the dog during the period of impoundment.

7. Penalties.

- a. Seizure/impoundment. If an owner or a keeper of a dog is found in violation of an order issued under this section, the dog shall be subject to seizure and impoundment by a law enforcement or animal control officer. If it is the keeper in violation, all reasonable efforts shall be made to notify the owner of such seizure and impoundment and the owner may, within seven days, petition the Hearing Authority for return of the dog.
- b. Capture/euthanasia. A dog found to be in violation of a Hearing Authority order or district court issued under this section may be captured or detained by a police officer, animal control officer, or constable. In the case of a threat to public safety or of ~~if~~ if the dog is living in a wild state, the police officer, animal control officer, or constable may euthanize it humanely.
- c. Fines/imprisonment. A dog owner or keeper who fails to comply with an order of a Hearing Authority or the district court issued under this section may be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment in a jail or house of correction for not more than 60 188 days, or both for a first offense or by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment in a jail or house of correction for not more than 90 days, or both for a second or subsequent offense.
- d. Future licensure. Any owner or keeper who fails to comply with an order of a Hearing Authority or the district court issued under this section shall be prohibited from licensing a dog within the Commonwealth for five years.

B. Chaining or Tethering Dogs

1. No person owning or keeping a dog shall chain or tether a dog for longer than five hours in a twenty-four hour period and outside from 10:00p.m. to 6:00a.m., unless the tethering is for not more than fifteen minutes and the dog is not left unattended by the owner, guardian or keeper. A tethering so employed shall not allow the dog to leave the owner's, guardian's or keeper's property. The tether shall be designed for dogs and no logging chains or other lines or devices not designed for tethering dogs shall be used. No chain or tether shall weigh more than 1/8 of the dog's body weight. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a person from walking a dog on a hand-held leash. No dog under the age of 6 months shall be tethered outside for any length of time.
2. A person owning or keeping a dog may confine such dog outside, subject to the restrictions in this section, through the use of any of the following methods:
 - a. inside a pen or secure enclosure, if the following conditions are met:
 - i. the pen or secure enclosure shall have adequate space for exercise with a dimension of at least 100 square feet; provided, however, that commercial dog kennels with pens intended for the temporary boarding of dogs shall be exempt

from this requirement;

- ii. the pen or secure enclosure is constructed with chain link or other similar material as determined by the Building Inspector, with all four sides enclosed; and

- iii. the minimum height of the fence shall be adequate to successfully confine the dog;
- b. a fully fenced, electronically fenced or otherwise securely enclosed yard, wherein a dog has the ability to run but is unable to leave the enclosed yard; or
- c. a trolley system or a tether attached to a pulley in a cable run, if the following conditions are

met:

- i. only 1 dog shall be tethered to each cable run;
- ii. the tether shall be attached to a properly fitting collar or harness worn by the dog, with enough room between the collar and the dog's throat through which 2 adult fingers may fit; provided, however, that a choke collar and a pinch collar shall not be used to tether a dog to a cable run;
- iii. there shall be a swivel on at least 1 end of the tether to minimize tangling of the tether;
- iv. the tether and cable run must each be at least 10 feet in length. The cable must be mounted at least 4 feet but not more than 7 feet above ground level; and
- v. the length of the tether from the cable run to the dog's collar or harness shall allow continuous access to clean water and appropriate shelter at all times as described herein; provided, however, that a trolley system or tether shall be of appropriate configuration to confine the dog to the owner's, guardian's or keeper's property, to prevent the trolley system or tether from extending over an object to an edge that could result in injury to or strangulation of the dog and to prevent the trolley system or tether from becoming tangled with other object or animals.

- 3. A person owning or keeping a dog confined outside in accordance with this section shall provide the dog with access to clean water and appropriate dog shelter. The dog shelter shall allow the dog to remain dry and protected from the elements and shall be fully enclosed on at least three sides, roofed and have a solid floor. The entrance to the shelter shall be flexible to allow the dog's entry and exit, and sturdy enough to block entry of weather elements. The shelter shall contain clean bedding and shall be small enough to retain the dog's body heat and large enough to allow the dog to stand, lie down and turn comfortably. The enclosure shall be structurally sound and in good repair. Suitable drainage shall be provided so that water, ice or waste is not standing in or around the shelter.

- 4. ~~No person owning or keeping a dog shall leave a dog chained or tethered outside for longer than 24 consecutive hours.~~ Already part of #1 in section B

- 5. 4. Exceptions to the above restrictions on outdoor confinement shall be made for dogs actively engaged in conduct directly related to the business of shepherding or herding cattle or other livestock or engaged in conduct that is directly related to the business of cultivating

agricultural

products, if the restraint is reasonably necessary for the safety of the dog.

- ~~6.~~ 5. No person owning or keeping a dog shall subject the dog to cruel conditions or inhumane chaining or tethering at any time. For the purposes of this subsection, “cruel conditions and inhumane chaining or tethering” shall include, but not be limited to, the following conditions:
- a. filthy and dirty confinement conditions including, but not limited to, exposure to excessive animal waste, garbage, dirty water, noxious odors, dangerous objects that could injure or kill a dog upon contact or other circumstances that could cause harm to a dog's physical or emotional health;
 - b. taunting, prodding, hitting, harassing, threatening or otherwise harming a tethered or confined dog; and
 - c. subjecting a dog to dangerous conditions, including attacks by other animals.
- ~~7.~~ 6. A person who violates this section shall, for a first offense, be issued a written warning or punished by a fine of \$50, for a second offense, be punished by a fine of \$100 and for a third or subsequent offense, be punished by a fine of \$300, and be subject to impoundment of the dog in a local shelter at the owner’s or guardian’s expense pending compliance with this section, or loss of ownership of the dog
- ~~8.~~ 7. Any fine issued under the aforementioned Section B. “Chaining and Tethering” may be assessed through non-criminal process in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 40, Section 21 D. Each day on which any such violation continues shall be considered a separate violation of this section. The availability of non-criminal process herein shall not preclude the use of criminal process or other means of enforcement.

Section 2. Leashing of Dogs

- A. Leash Required No person owning or keeping a dog in the Town of Bridgewater shall permit such dog to be at large in the Town of Bridgewater elsewhere than on the premises of the owner or keeper, except if it be on the premises of another person with the knowledge and permission of such other person. Such owner or keeper of a dog in the Town of Bridgewater, which is not on the premises of the owner or upon the premises of another person with the knowledge and permission of such person shall restrain such dog by a chain or leash not exceeding six feet in length. In any prosecution hereunder, the presence of such dog at large upon premises other than the premises of the owner or keeper of such dog shall be prima facie evidence that such knowledge and permission was not had. This provision shall not apply, however, in any area designated by the Parks and Recreation Department as a “Dog Park”, “Dog Run” or “Dog Exercise Area”. In areas so designated, dogs are not required to be restrained by a leash provided the owner or keeper of such dog is present and attentive to the dog. The Park and Recreation Department may designate a dog park, dog run, or dog exercise area only if same is enclosed by appropriate fencing to preclude the escape 190 of any dog into any other area of the park or playground not so designated as a dog park, dog run, or dog exercise area.
- B. Enforcement. Any dog found to be at large in violation of this ordinance shall be caught and confined by the dog officer who shall notify forthwith the licensed owner or keeper of said dog giving the owner or keeper a period of seven days within which to recover the dog. Return of the dog

to the licensed owner or keeper shall be dependent on admission of ownership or the keeping of the dog and the assumption of responsibility by the licensed owner or keeper. The dog officer shall enter and prosecute a complaint against the owner or keeper of any dog taken into his custody under this section, as provided for in this ordinance. A dog officer having custody of a dog confined under this ordinance shall be allowed the sum of \$40 per day for each day of confinement for the care of such dog, payable by the owner or keeper thereof to the Town of Bridgewater.

- C. Fines Violations of this Section (Section 2) of this Article shall be punishable as follows: First offense by a fine of \$75.00 Second offense by a fine of \$100.00 Third offense by a fine of \$150.00 Fourth and each subsequent offense by a fine of \$200.00 Any fine issued under this Section may be assessed through non-criminal process in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 40, Section 21 D. Each day on which any such violation continues shall be considered a separate violation of this section. The availability of non-criminal process herein shall not preclude the use of criminal process or other means of enforcement.

Section 3. No Fouling of Sidewalks, Etc.

- A. Duty to Dispose. It shall be the duty of each person who owns, possesses or controls a dog to remove and dispose of any feces left by his-her dog on any sidewalk, street or other public area in the Town. It shall further be the duty of each person who owns, possesses or controls a dog to remove and dispose of any feces left by his-her dog on any private property neither owned nor occupied by said person.
- B. Duty to Possess Means of Removal. No person who owns, possesses, or controls such dog shall appear with such dog on any sidewalk, street, park or other public area without the means of removal of any feces left by such dog. Furthermore, no person who owns, possesses, or controls such dog shall appear with such dog on any private property neither owned nor occupied by said person without the means of removal of any feces left by said dog.
- C. Method of Removal and Disposal. For the purposes of this regulation, the means of removal shall be any tool, implement, or other device carried for the purpose of picking up and containing such feces, unexposed to said person or the public. Disposal shall be accomplished by transporting such feces to a place suitable for the disposal of canine feces, or as otherwise designated as appropriate by the Board of Health.
- D. Fines. Violation of Section 3 of this Article shall be punishable as follows: First offense by a fine of \$75.00 Second offense by a fine of \$100.00 Third and each subsequent offense by a fine of \$150.00 Any fine issued under this section may be assessed through non-criminal process in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 40, Section 21 D. The availability of non-criminal process herein shall not preclude the use of criminal process or other means of enforcement. 191
- E. Exemption. This regulation shall not apply to a dog accompanying any handicapped person who, by reason of his-her handicap, is physically unable to comply with the requirements of this Ordinance, or to any individual who utilizes a guide dog.
- F. Severability. The provisions of this section are severable; and if any of the provisions of this section shall be held unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of such court shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions.

Section 4. Licensing

- A. Licensing Requirement.

1. License required. The owner or keeper of any dog over the age of six months kept in the Town of Bridgewater shall obtain a license for the dog from the Town Clerk.
2. Annual renewal. Licenses issued under this section shall be renewed on an annual basis in accordance with procedures to be determined by the Town Clerk.
3. Transfer. Within 30 days of moving into the Town within a licensing period, the owner or keeper of a dog must apply to the Town Clerk to transfer the dog's license. The Town Clerk shall issue a transfer license for a fee and in accordance with procedures that the Town Clerk shall determine.

B. Conditions.

1. Rabies vaccination. The Town Clerk shall not grant a license unless ~~(i)~~ (a) -the license applicant provides a veterinarian's certification or notarized letter that the dog has been vaccinated against rabies; or ~~(ii)~~ (b) the dog is exempted from the vaccination requirement by the Town of Bridgewater Health Department or the Town Clerk in accordance with MGL c. 140, section 145B.
2. Control. Any license granted under this section is granted on the condition that the licensed dog shall be controlled and restrained from killing, chasing, or harassing livestock or fowl.
3. Previous conviction of animal cruelty. Town Clerk shall not grant a license under this section

or

Section 5, below, to an applicant who has been convicted of one or more of the offenses set forth in MGL c. 140, section 137D within the preceding five years.

C. License Forms.

1. Symptoms of rabies. Every license issued to the owner of a dog shall have a description of the symptoms of rabies printed thereon, as supplied by the state Department of Public Health.
2. Description of dog. The owner of a dog to be licensed under this section may add to the license application form up to ten descriptive words indicating the dog's color, breed, weight, or any special markings.

D. Tags.

1. Issuance. ~~Along with the license,~~ the Town Clerk shall issue a durable tag inscribed with the license number, designation of the Town of Bridgewater, and the year of issue.
2. Affixed to dog. The owner or keeper of the licensed dog shall keep a collar or harness of leather or other suitable material affixed around the dog's neck or body to which the tag shall be securely attached.
3. Lost tags. If the tag is lost or destroyed, the owner or keeper shall immediately secure a substitute tag from the Town Clerk for a fee to be determined by the Town Clerk.
4. All dogs over 6 months of age must wear rabies tags at all times and individual dog license Tags (when required under Chapter 140 Sec 137)

E. Exemptions.

The requirements of this section shall not apply: (1) to a person to whom the applicable kennel license has been issued under this ordinance and remains in force; or (2) to a dog housed in a research institution.

F. Fees.

1. Annual license fees. Annual licenses shall be for the period January 1 through December 31.

The annual license fees are as follows:

Prior to March 1:

- a. female: \$20
- b. spayed female: \$15
- c. male: \$20
- d. neutered male: \$15

March 1 or after:

- a. Female: \$30
- b. Spayed Female: \$25
- c. Male: \$30
- d. Neutered male: \$25

To be charged the lower fee for licensing a spayed or neutered dog, the license applicant must provide proof of spay or neuter in the form of either: (a) a certificate from the veterinarian who spayed or neutered the dog; (b) a veterinary bill for performing the procedure; or (c) a statement signed under the penalties of perjury by a veterinarian registered and practicing in the Commonwealth describing the dog and stating that the veterinarian has examined the dog and that the dog appears to be spayed or neutered and therefore incapable of propagation.

The Town Clerk shall send annual licensing reminders to all residents by mail as part of the annual census.

2. Failure to comply; penalties.

Failure to comply with this section shall result in a fine of up to \$250 assessed to the owner or person in control of the dog under the following conditions:

- a. the dog is unlicensed; and
- b. the Police Department, the Health Agent, or the Animal Control Officer responds to a complaint or a stray dog report concerning the animal.

Failure to comply with this section shall result in a fine of up to \$350 assessed to the owner or person in control of the dog under the following conditions:

- a. the dog is unlicensed; and
- b. the Police Department, the Health Agent, or the Animal Control Officer responds to a complaint or a stray dog report concerning the animal; and
- c. the dog has not received a rabies vaccine pursuant to Section 4.B.1

3. Waiver of fees.

- a. Service animal. No fee shall be charged for the licensure of a service animal as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act or regulations promulgated thereunder.
- b. Owner aged 70 and over. If the Town so votes in accordance with MGL c. 140, section 139(c), no fee shall be charged for the licensure of a dog owned by a

person aged 70 years and older.

4. Removal from list - No refund of fees. No license fee paid under this section shall be refunded, in whole or in part, due to mistake or due to the subsequent death, loss, spay or neuter,

removal

from the Town or the Commonwealth, or other disposal of the licensed dog. At any time during the annual license period that the licensed dog dies, is removed from Town, or is otherwise not subject to licensing under this section, the licensee may notify the Town Clerk, and the Town Clerk shall remove the dog from the list of licensed canines. The Town Clerk may require proof that the dog no longer is subject to licensure in the Town prior to removing it from the list.

Section 5. Kennels

A. Personal Kennel (Kennel A)

- ~~1. License optional (Kennel A-1). An owner or keeper of four or fewer dogs, three months or older, may elect to secure a Personal Kennel License from the Town Clerk rather than licensing each dog under Section 4, above.~~

- 1 2. License mandatory (Kennel A-2). An owner or keeper of five or more dogs, three months or older, must secure a Personal Kennel License from the Town Clerk or other type of kennel license as may be applicable under this section.

- 2 3. Definition. A Personal Kennel is a pack or collection of five or more dogs ~~(or fewer dogs, as in the case of a License-Optional Personal Kennel (Kennel A-1) as defined above at Section 5.A.1),~~ three months or older, owned or kept under single ownership for private personal purposes.

- 3 4. Breeding. Breeding of dogs owned or kept under a Personal Kennel License may be done only for the purpose of improving, exhibiting, or showing the breed; for legal sporting activity; or for other personal reasons.

- 4 5. Sales allowed. Dogs bred at a Personal Kennel may be sold, traded, bartered, or otherwise distributed only by private sale to other breeders or individuals and not to wholesalers, brokers, or pet shops.

- 5 6. Sales prohibited, restricted. No holder of a Personal Kennel License may sell, trade, barter, or otherwise distribute any dog not bred from a personally owned dog, except dogs temporarily housed at a Personal Kennel in conjunction with an animal shelter or rescue program registered with the state Department of Agricultural Resources if the sale, trade, barter, or other distribution

is not for profit.

B. Other Types of Kennels.

1. Commercial Boarding or Training Kennel (Kennel B) is an establishment used for boarding, holding, day care, overnight stays, or training of animals that are not the property of the owner of the establishment where such services are rendered for a fee or other consideration and generally rendered in the absence of the owner of the animal. A "Commercial Boarding or Training Kennel" (a) shall not include an animal shelter or animal control facility, a pet shop licensed by the state Director of Animal Health, a grooming facility operated solely for the purpose of grooming animals and not for overnight boarding, or an individual who temporarily

and not in the normal course of business boards or otherwise cares for animals owned by others. (b) they shall maintain records of individual dog licenses for all dogs in its care that are required to be licensed under Chapter 140 Sec 137. (c) Shall report to the licensing authority injuries to animals or people that occur on their premises and the licensing authority shall investigate all reports. Under the new MGLs, MDAR has the authority to assist with

investigations

and enforcement when necessary.

2. Commercial Breeder Kennel (Kennel C) is an establishment, other than a Personal Kennel, engaged in the business of breeding animals for sale or exchange to wholesalers, brokers, or pet shops for a fee or other consideration.

3. Domestic Charitable Corporation Kennel (Kennel D) is a facility operated, owned, or maintained by a domestic charitable corporation registered with the state Department of Agricultural Resources or an animal welfare society or other nonprofit organization incorporated for the purpose of providing for and promoting the welfare, protection, and humane treatment of animals, including a veterinary hospital or clinic operated by or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian that operates consistent with such purposes while providing veterinary treatment and care.

4. Veterinary Kennel (Kennel E) is a veterinary hospital or clinic that boards dogs for reasons in addition to medical treatment and care; a "Veterinary Kennel" shall not include a hospital or

clinic

used solely to house dogs that have undergone veterinary treatment or observation or will do so only for the period of time necessary to accomplish that veterinary case.

C. License Requirements

1. License required. A person or entity maintaining any type of kennel listed in this section ~~(except a License-Optional Personal Kennel (Kennel A-1) as defined above at Section 5.A.1)~~ shall obtain the appropriate kennel license from the Town Clerk and in accordance with procedures that the Town Clerk shall determine.

2. 4. Licensing inspection and authority. No kennel license shall be issued or renewed until a kennel has

passed inspection by the Town Animal Control Officer or designee. A licensing authority must specify the type of kennel license and the maximum number of animals allowed in a kennel and this number must be on their kennel license. A licensing authority shall issue, suspend, renew and revoke kennel licenses.

3. 2. Renewal. Licenses issued under this section shall be renewed periodically in accordance with a schedule and procedures to be determined by the Town Clerk. No kennel license can be renewed without the ACO performing an inspection.

4. 3. License fees, calculation, exemption. The fees for licenses issued under this section will be established by the Town Clerk. For purposes of calculating kennel license fees, only dogs over the age of six months shall be counted in the total number of dogs kept in a kennel. No kennel license

fee shall be charged to a domestic charitable corporation incorporated exclusively for the purpose of protecting animals from cruelty, neglect, abuse, or suffering.

5. Failure to comply, penalty. Failure to comply with the licensing requirements of this section shall be punishable by a fine of \$50.

D. Kennel Operation.

1. Standards. Kennels must be operated and maintained in a sanitary and humane manner.

2. Records. The name and address of the owner of each dog kept in a kennel, other than dogs belonging to the person maintaining the kennel, shall be kept at the kennel and available for inspection at any time.

3. Kennel tags. **Dog tags** A holder of a kennel license shall cause each dog kept in its kennel to wear, ~~while in the kennel, a collar or harness of suitable material to which a tag shall be securely attached. This tag shall be inscribed with the number of the kennel license, name of the Town of Bridgewater, and year of issue. Such tags shall be issued by the Town Clerk in such number as the number of dogs kept in the kennel.~~ **dogs at a kennel and OWNED by the kennel licensee are exempt from individual dog licensing. Dogs owned by someone other than the kennel owner must be individually licensed if they are over 6 months**

4. Inspections. The Chief of Police, the Animal Control Officer, the Health Agent or the agent of any of these ("Inspecting Authority") may inspect any kennel at any time for compliance with the above requirements.

5. License suspension, revocation. If the Inspecting Authority determines that the kennel is not being maintained in a sanitary or humane manner or if records are not properly kept, the Inspecting Authority may revoke or suspend the kennel license.

E. Citizen Complaints.

1. Filing. Twenty-five citizens of the Town may file a petition with the Town Manager stating that they are aggrieved or annoyed to an unreasonable extent due to excessive barking or other conditions associated with a kennel.

2. Hearing. Within seven days of the filing of such petition, the Town Manager or its designee ("Hearing Authority") shall give notice to all interested parties of a public hearing concerning the petition to be held within fourteen days after the date of the notice.

3. Investigation. At the hearing, the Hearing Authority may cause an investigation of the kennel that is the subject of the petition or take such other action as it deems prudent.

4. Disposition. Following the public hearing and any investigation or other proceedings, the Hearing Authority may suspend or revoke the kennel license, may take other such action to regulate the kennel that it deems prudent, or may dismiss the petition. The Hearing Authority shall cause written notice of any order issued under this section to be mailed immediately to the holder of the kennel license and the Town Clerk.

5. Appeal. Within ten days of the issuance of any order under this paragraph, the holder of the affected.

license may bring a petition for judicial review in the district court for the judicial district in which the kennel is located, which shall consider the petition in accordance with MGL c. 140, section 137C

6. Penalties. A person maintaining a kennel after revocation or during suspension of a license under this section shall be punished by a fine of \$250.”

Section 6. Enforcing Authorities

Any police officer of the Town, the Health Agent or the Animal Control Officer of the Town may enforce the provisions of this Article as well as those articulated under Massachusetts General Laws.

Section 7. Non-Criminal Dispositions

Fines assessed under Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this ordinance, as previously stated herein, may be assessed through non-criminal process in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 21 D. The availability of non-criminal process under this article shall not preclude the use of criminal process or other means of enforcement.

Councilor Hunt Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-008: Proposed Amendment to Part III-
Administrative Code: Chapter 14, Article 1. Section 1 Dogs

Page 24. #2

Complaint. Any person may file a written complaint with the Town Manager's Office **contending** that a dog kept in the Town is a nuisance dog or a dangerous dog.

Page 25.

Why not include Animal Control? Sometimes we have it and sometimes we don't.

Why take out "or cause to be investigated" ? Police or Animal Control could investigate. They have expertise.

Page 26.

Restrictions following dangerousness finding

- iii. No person shall transfer ownership or possession of a dog that has been deemed dangerous under this ordinance or offer such dog for sale or breeding without informing the dogs recipient of the dog of the **dangerousness** finding.
- iv. If a hearing authority or a district court has deemed a dog to be a **danger** dangerous dog and **it** wounds a person or worries, wounds or kills any livestock

5. ...Second sentence: "of such dog may bring a petition before the district court **in** the judicial district **where** the order relative was issued,

.....4th sentences down: "After notice to all parties, the magistrate shall, under MGL c.221, section 62 C, review the order of the hearing authority, hear the witness and affirm the order unless it shall appear that it was made **to have been made** without proper cause or in bad faith, in which case the order shall be reversed.

A party shall have the right to request a **de novo** (recognition of foreign tongue required).....

Page 27

7. Penalties:

c. Fines/imprisonment.....Line #3 at the end: 60-188.
be 180??

Q: Should this

Page 33---Question

1. Personal Kennel

1. License mandatory (Kennel A-2). An owner or keeper of five or more dogs, three months or older, must secure a Personal Kennel License from the Town Clerk or other type of kennel licenses as may be applicable under this section.

Q. Was this confirmed with the Town Clerk?



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Town Manager
Date Introduced: 3/17/2026
First Reading: 3/17/2026
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY26-056: Contract Amendment - Town Manager

ORDERED, in accordance with Section 4-1 of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, that the Town Council assembled vote to ratify the negotiated amendment to the employment agreement with Mr. Justin Casanova-Davis.

Explanation:

Due to current budget constraints, Town Manager Casanova-Davis has requested that his proposed COLA for Fiscal Year 2027 be reduced.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Attachments: None



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Sean Kennedy, Councilor
Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Date Introduced: 3/17/2026
First Reading: 3/17/2026
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Proposed Ordinance D-FY26-013: Adopt Chapter 220, Article III – Water Supply Capacity and Development Review

WHEREAS, the Town of Bridgewater is authorized pursuant to the police powers granted under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, §21 et seq., and its authority to manage, protect, and regulate municipal water systems, to adopt ordinances necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bridgewater operates a public water supply system subject to operational, seasonal, and regulatory constraints, including but not limited to source availability, treatment capacity, distribution limitations, and emergency conditions; and

WHEREAS, the availability of potable water supply is a fundamental prerequisite to public health, fire protection, emergency response, and the safe occupancy of buildings and structures; and

WHEREAS, periods of reduced water system capacity may arise due to infrastructure maintenance, source impairment, regulatory compliance requirements, drought conditions, or other operational factors beyond the Town's immediate control; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate for the Town to ensure that new development and intensified uses do not exceed the Firm Capacity of the municipal water system; and

WHEREAS, the Town has a compelling interest in reserving sufficient water system capacity to meet fire protection and emergency response demands required under applicable fire code authority, including for industrial and warehouse uses; and

WHEREAS, the regulation of water supply capacity is distinct from land use regulation and zoning, and applies neutrally and uniformly to all development regardless of use, location, or zoning district; and

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING
REFER TO RULES & PROCEDURES

WHEREAS, nothing in this Ordinance is intended to prohibit development, but rather to ensure that development proceeds in a manner consistent with available infrastructure and public safety requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds that requiring case-specific water availability determinations supported by written findings prepared by qualified municipal officials is a reasonable, narrowly tailored, and legally defensible means of protecting the Town's water supply and public safety; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council further finds that establishing clear administrative standards for water capacity review will promote consistency, transparency, and predictability in permitting decisions while preserving flexibility to respond to changing system conditions;

NOW THEREFORE, the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, in Town Council assembled, hereby adopts Chapter 220, Article III – Water Supply Capacity and Development Review, as set forth on the attached.

Explanation of Proposed Ordinance

The proposed ordinance establishes a formal process for evaluating whether the Town's water system has sufficient capacity to support new development and increased water demand.

The Town's public water system operates under a variety of physical and regulatory constraints, including source capacity, treatment limits, distribution infrastructure, and state regulatory requirements. Periods of reduced capacity may occur due to infrastructure maintenance, regulatory compliance requirements, drought conditions, or emergency system conditions.

The purpose of this ordinance is to ensure that new development proceeds only when the municipal water system has sufficient reliable capacity to safely support that development without compromising public health, fire protection, or emergency response.

The ordinance establishes a process known as a Water Availability Determination (WAD). This determination evaluates whether the Town's water system has sufficient Firm Capacity to serve the projected demand associated with a proposed project.

Firm Capacity is defined using a standard engineering approach used by public water systems. It represents the amount of water the system can reliably provide when the largest supply source is unavailable for service. This ensures that the system remains capable of meeting demand even during equipment failure or maintenance conditions.

For projects that may significantly increase water demand, the ordinance requires a 2-Dimensional Water Supply Impact Study. This study evaluates the projected water demand associated with the project and compares that demand to the Town's available water supply capacity.

The ordinance also ensures that water capacity necessary for fire protection and emergency response is reserved and cannot be consumed by new development. This protects the Town's ability to meet required fire flow standards for industrial, commercial, and residential buildings.

The ordinance does not prohibit development. Instead, it ensures that development proceeds in a manner consistent with available infrastructure. Where water capacity is limited, projects may still proceed if the applicant reduces demand, phases development, or provides permanent infrastructure improvements.

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING
REFER TO RULES & PROCEDURES

The ordinance is administered by the Town Manager as the chief administrative officer of the Town, with technical determinations prepared through the Department of Public Works and the Water Superintendent.

The ordinance applies uniformly to all development town-wide and does not alter zoning regulations or land use approvals. It establishes an infrastructure capacity review process intended to protect public safety and ensure responsible long-term management of the Town's water system.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

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

Attachments: 1. Water Supply Capacity and Development Order Attachment

Chapter 220.

Article III.

Water Supply Capacity and Development Review

****Section 1.**

Purpose**

The purpose of this Article is to ensure that new development and intensified uses do not exceed the Town's available water supply capacity, impair public health and safety.

****Section 2.**

Applicability**

A Water Availability Determination ("WAD") shall be required prior to the issuance by the Town of any written permission, permit, or authorization to connect to, activate, expand, or modify service from the municipal water system (a "Municipal Water Service Authorization") for any project that:

- (a) creates a new water service connection; or
- (b) increases the size of an existing service connection; or
- (c) materially increases potable water demand, as determined pursuant to administratively adopted demand calculation standards.

For projects that require municipal water service for occupancy, the Building Commissioner may require proof of an issued WAD as part of the building permit application submission materials.

Such determination shall apply to:

- a) all new construction that requires a new water service connection; and
- b) any addition, alteration, or change of use that materially increases water demand; with the exception of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) as provided herein.

This Article shall apply town-wide and to all uses, regardless of zoning district.

****Section 3.**

Definitions**

For purposes of this Article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

Application

A complete written submission for a WAD on forms and with contents established by the Town Manager or designee, including demand calculations, plans, and supporting documentation.

Water Availability Determination (WAD)

A written administrative determination issued under this Article stating whether Firm Capacity exists to reliably serve the project's projected demand, subject to any terms applicable to Municipal Water Service Authorization.

Municipal Water Service Authorization

Any written permission, permit, approval, or authorization issued by the Town to connect to, activate, expand, or modify service from the municipal water system, including permission to make a connection, issuance of a service permit, or authorization to activate service.

Non-Permanent Capacity

Any water supply, treatment, storage, or interconnection capacity that is emergency, provisional, interim, mobile, rental, short-term contractual, not fully permitted/authorized for sustained municipal use, or otherwise not reasonably reliable for long-term planning purposes.

Average Day Demand (ADD)

The projected average daily potable water demand attributable to a proposed project, expressed in gallons per day (GPD).

Firm Capacity

Firm Capacity shall mean the maximum reliable potable water supply that the municipal water system can provide when the largest individual water supply source is unavailable for service.

Firm Capacity shall be calculated as the reliable operational capacity of all permanent water supply sources currently in service, including wells and treatment facilities, subject to applicable regulatory limits, minus the maximum operational yield of the largest individual water supply source.

The inputs used in calculating Firm Capacity shall reflect the actual operational condition of the municipal water system at the time an application subject to this Article is deemed complete, including:

- a. the operational capacity of wells, treatment facilities, and other permanent sources of supply currently in service;
- b. applicable regulatory limits governing the water system, including water withdrawal permits issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection;
- c. known operational constraints affecting the water system at the time of determination; and
- d. the reservation of sufficient system capacity necessary to maintain adequate fire protection and emergency response capability.

2-Dimensional Water Supply Impact Study (2D Study)

A study that quantifies projected Average Day Demand attributable to a proposed project and compares such demand to the Town's Firm Capacity at the time of application.

****Section 4.**

2-Dimensional Water Supply Impact Study Requirement**

A 2-Dimensional Water Supply Impact Study shall be required for any project that meets any of the following criteria:

- a) Any proposed new water service connection greater than one (1) inch in diameter, or any increase of an existing service connection to a size greater than one (1) inch;
- b) Any project creating four (4) or more additional dwelling units, including multifamily buildings, townhouses, subdivisions, or cumulative residential development under common ownership or control;
- c) Any project projected based on Massachusetts Title 5 (310 CMR 15.000) demand calculation standards to increase Average Day Demand by five thousand (5,000) gallons per day or more; or
- d) Any project below the foregoing thresholds where, based on written findings the Water Superintendent, determines that site-specific conditions indicate a material risk to water supply reliability.
- e.) The Town Manager or designee may require independent peer review of a 2D Study or related technical submittals when reasonably necessary due to project size, potential impacts, or complexity. Consultant review fees, if imposed, shall be assessed and administered in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §53G and any rules adopted thereunder. Fixed administrative fees

for WAD processing, if any, shall be established pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, §22F and applicable local vote.

****Section 5.**

Capacity Determination Standard**

No approval subject to this Article shall be issued unless the Town Manager or designee, determines that Firm Capacity exists to reliably serve the proposed demand, accounting for current system conditions, operational limitations, requires reserves and applicable restrictions, at the time of application and anticipated occupancy.

All capacity determinations required under this Article shall be supported by written findings prepared in accordance with administratively adopted procedures approved by the Town Manager or Designee.

No WAD Application shall be deemed complete, and no Municipal Water Service Authorization subject to this Article shall be issued, unless and until a WAD is issued in accordance with this Article

****Section 6.**

Seasonal and Restricted Conditions**

Capacity determinations shall be based on the most restrictive predictable operating condition, including seasonal peak demand periods and recurring water use restrictions. Average annual conditions shall not be relied upon where they do not reflect known periods of system stress.

****Section 7.**

Temporary or Emergency Capacity**

(A) General Rule.

Non-Permanent Capacity shall not be included as Firm Capacity for purposes of approving permanent or long-term increases in water demand.

(B) Written-Findings Exception.

Capacity that would otherwise be classified as Non-Permanent Capacity may be included in Firm Capacity only upon written findings by the Town Manager or designee that such capacity is:

- (1) legally authorized and fully permitted/approved for sustained municipal use as required;
- (2) reasonably reliable for long-term planning purposes; and
- (3) not merely an emergency, provisional, or short-term measure.

(C) Limit on Scope of Conditions.

Nothing in this Section authorizes the Town Council to issue conditional land-use approvals. Any time limits or conditions pursuant to this Section shall attach only to Municipal Water Service Authorization and/or to the WAD itself.

****Section 8.**

Fire Protection and Emergency Reserve Capacity**

In determining Firm Capacity the Town Manager or designee shall reserve sufficient system capacity to meet the maximum fire-flow and emergency response demands required under applicable fire code authority, including but not limited to industrial and warehouse uses. Such reserved capacity shall not be considered available for new or intensified development.

The determination of such reserved capacity shall account for required fire-flow rates, duration, storage availability, delivery capability, and simultaneous system demands, and shall be evaluated based on current system conditions.

The Town Manager or designee shall consult with the Fire Chief or the Fire Chief's designee for the purpose of establishing baseline fire protection and emergency response assumptions applicable to capacity determinations under this Article. Such consultation shall be documented in writing and may be relied upon for subsequent capacity determinations unless material changes in system conditions, land use, or applicable fire code requirements occur.

Individual project-specific consultation may not be required where the capacity determination is consistent with the established baseline assumptions. The absence of additional consultation shall not invalidate a capacity determination otherwise supported by written findings.

****Section 9.**

Relation to Other Reviews**

This Article establishes a water supply capacity determination only and does not replace or supersede requirements for fire protection, fire flow, hydrant spacing, residual pressure, distribution system design, or other life-safety or technical reviews required under applicable codes, regulations, or permitting processes, which shall be reviewed separately under applicable fire code authority.

****Section 10.**

Mitigation and Phasing**

Where capacity is constrained A WAD may be issued only upon a showing, supported by the 2D Study and written findings, that projected demand will be reduced, or that permanent infrastructure improvements or enforceable phasing of Municipal Water Service Authorization will ensure that Firm Capacity is not exceeded.

****Section 11.**

Enforcement**

Failure to comply with this Article shall constitute grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of any permit or approval issued by the Town.

Administration and Delegation

This Article shall be administered by the Town Manager as the Town's chief administrative officer pursuant to the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, including Article IV, §4-2(2) and §4-2(21). The Town Manager may delegate technical review and issuance of Water Availability Determinations to qualified municipal officials or consultants retained by the Town; actions taken under such delegation shall be deemed acts of the Town Manager.

****Section 12.**

Severability**

If any provision of this Article is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Date Introduced: 3/17/2026
First Reading: 3/17/2026
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Zoning Ordinance D-FY26-014: Amendments to Central Business District Regulations

Be it ordained by the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater, pursuant to the authority granted by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A and the Bridgewater Town Charter, that the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Bridgewater is hereby amended as attached.

Explanation:

The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the Town of Bridgewater Zoning Ordinance as it relates to the Central Business District (CBD) in order to clarify applicable use regulations, dimensional requirements, parking requirements, development review procedures, and the respective roles of the Planning Board and administrative staff in the review of development proposals within the Central Business District.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

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

Attachments: 1. Bridgewater CBD Zoning Final

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING
VOICE VOTE TO REFER TO PLANNING BOARD and CED

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT
CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT REGULATIONS

SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the Town of Bridgewater Zoning Ordinance as it relates to the Central Business District (CBD) in order to clarify applicable use regulations, dimensional requirements, parking requirements, development review procedures, and the respective roles of the Planning Board and administrative staff in the review of development proposals within the Central Business District.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 3.2 – TABLE OF USE REGULATIONS

Section 3.2, Table of Use Regulations, is hereby amended as follows:

1. In the row entitled **“4. Multi-family dwellings”**, the entry in the **CBD column** shall be changed from **“N”** to **“**”**.
2. The Table of Use Regulations shall further be amended by adding the following footnote beneath the Residential Uses table:

**** See Sections 9.6 and 9.8."**

3. For avoidance of doubt, the current entry for **“4.a Mixed Use Buildings”** in the CBD column shall remain **“Y”** unless separately amended by vote of the Town Council.
4. **Row 15**, currently reading:

“Conversion of existing structure into a mixed use with a maximum of one commercial use on the first floor and two residential units. The conversion shall maintain the appearance of the existing structure.”

shall be **stricken in its entirety**.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 4.2 – TABLE OF DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Section 4.2, Table of Dimensional Requirements, is hereby amended in the row for the **Central Business District** as follows:

Minimum Depth (Front / Rear / Side)

Shall read:

“No setback front or side requirements for existing nonconforming lots. Existing conforming and new lots require a minimum **5-foot front setback** and **5-foot side setback**. All lots require a **15-foot rear setback**.”

Maximum Building Height (Stories / Feet)

Shall read:

3.5 stories / 45 feet in **CBD-S** and **CBD-R**.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 9.6 – CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, STANDARD (CBD-S)

Section **9.6.6(6)** currently reads:

“For all new construction, ground floors must be designed to accommodate commercial use to a depth of at least 20 feet from the front façade, by maintaining a floor to ceiling height of at least 15 feet within this depth. (Note that any use allowed in the CBD per Section 3.2 Table of Use Regulations is permitted so long as the ground floor is designed to accommodate commercial uses.)”

This provision shall be amended to read as follows:

“For all new construction, ground floors must be designed to accommodate commercial use to a depth of at least **20 feet from the front façade**, by maintaining a **floor-to-ceiling height of at least 15 feet within this depth**.

Commercial uses must occupy **at least 80 percent (80%) of the gross floor area of the ground floor**.

(Note that any use allowed in the CBD per Section 3.2 Table of Use Regulations is permitted so long as the ground floor is designed to accommodate commercial uses.)”

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 9.8 – CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, REDEVELOPMENT (CBD-R)

The following amendments shall apply to the provisions of Section 9.8:

5.1 Section 9.6.8 Design Standards

In **Paragraph 10**, the following language shall be **stricken**:

“The requirement for commercial development may be accommodated on an adjacent parcel or parcels, providing the commercial development is constructed in conjunction and coordination with the residential development and reflects the character of a village or town center. An approved site plan of the entire development project must outline project phasing and scheduling as well as conditions of approval.”

5.2 Section 9.8.4.2 – Development Plan Review Procedures

Paragraph 2(b)

Currently reads:

DCED Staff shall review all applications for completeness within ten (10) days...

Shall be amended to read:

b. DCED Staff shall review all applications and checklists for completeness within ten (10) days of receiving the application. If deemed incomplete, based on the contents of the Development Plan Review Application and Checklist, DCED shall send a letter to the applicant via certified mail detailing the missing items and the applicant shall be invited to resubmit.

Once the DCED Director deems an application complete, staff shall schedule a **public hearing with the Planning Board**.

Paragraph 2(c)

Shall be amended to read:

Within **thirty (30) days**, or such other time as may be agreed upon by the parties, from the opening of the public hearing, the **Planning Board shall render its decision and file such decision with the Town Clerk**.

5.3 Section 9.8.4.3 – Submission Requirements

Paragraph 2 shall be amended to read:

All plans and drawings submitted to the **Staff and the Planning Board** shall be prepared by a professional licensed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the applicable discipline (including architecture, landscape architecture, and engineering) and shall include all information required as part of the Development Plan Review Application and Checklist.

5.4 Section 9.8.6.3 – Mixed Use Frontage

Paragraph 1

Shall be amended to read:

Illustrations and Intent. The photos and statements below are provided as illustrations of intent and are advisory only. They do not have the power of law. Refer to the standards on the following pages for the specific prescriptions and restrictions of the **Mixed-Use Frontage Building Envelope Standard**. Where these photos or statements may be inconsistent with the regulations, the regulations shall prevail.

Paragraph 3 – Table Amendment

The table shall be amended to include:

Commercial Ground Floor Activation – Minimum 70%

Paragraph 4 – Building Height

Shall be amended to read:

Maximum Building Height: 3.5 stories

The following language shall be **stricken**:

“* If located behind Frontage buildings, 16,000 sf is permitted.”

6.5 Section 9.8.6.4 – Transitional Frontage

Paragraph 1 shall be amended to read:

Illustrations and Intent. These photos and statements are provided as illustrations of intent and are advisory only. They do not have the power of law. Refer to the standards on the

following pages for the specific prescriptions and restrictions of the Transitional Frontage Building Envelope Standard. Where these photos or statements may be inconsistent with the regulations, the regulations shall prevail.

The purpose of this frontage is to develop neighborhood-scale mixed-use buildings close to the sidewalk that support pedestrian activity. This frontage shall be designed to accommodate **active commercial uses along the ground floor street frontage.**

Paragraph 3

Add:

Commercial Ground Floor Activation – Minimum 70%

Paragraph 4

Amend to read:

- **Maximum Building Width:** 100 feet
- **Maximum Building Height:** 3.5 stories

Strike the following:

“* Up to 5 stories is permitted for lots over 160,000 square feet...

** If located behind FRONTAGE buildings, 25,000 sf is permitted.”

Paragraph 5

Strike subsection:

“e. For residential units on the ground story, the finished floor elevation shall be no less than 3 feet above the average elevation of the fronting sidewalk...”

6.6 Section 9.8.6.5 – Additional Frontage Standards

Paragraph 3 shall be amended to add:

- **Commercial Ground Story Space Depth – Minimum 30 feet**
- **Commercial Ground Floor Activation – Minimum 70%**

Paragraph 4 shall be amended to read:

Maximum Building Height: 3.5 stories

Strike the following:

“* Up to 5 stories is permitted for lots over 160,000 square feet...

** If located behind FRONTAGE buildings, 8,000 sf is permitted.”

SECTION 7. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 10.6 – SITE PLAN APPROVAL

Section **10.6.1(1)** is hereby amended by **striking** the following language:

“* CBD-R is exempt from this and should follow the Development Plan Review Process.”

SECTION 8. CONFORMING AND CLERICAL CORRECTIONS

The Town Clerk, Town Counsel, and the publisher of the Zoning Ordinance are hereby authorized to make non-substantive formatting, numbering, punctuation, and cross-reference corrections necessary to effectuate this Ordinance, including correction of internal references, appendix references, and scrivener’s errors, provided that no such correction shall alter the substantive meaning of any provision adopted by the Town Council.

SECTION 9. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions or applications of this Ordinance, which shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect as provided by law.



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Date Introduced: 3/17/2026
First Reading: 3/17/2026
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Resolution R-FY26-008: Establishing a Timely and Transparent Process for Consideration of Charter Review Committee Recommendations

WHEREAS, the Bridgewater Town Charter provides for a periodic review of the Town Charter by a Charter Review Committee appointed by the Town Council, which committee is charged with reviewing the Charter and submitting recommendations to the Town Council; and

WHEREAS, the Town Charter (as distinct from the Administrative Code) is the Town's foundational governing document, and proposed amendments to the Charter require review and action by the Town Council and subsequent submission through the required state and voter ratification process; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council recognizes the significant public service performed by Charter Review Committee members and the importance of evaluating their work promptly, transparently, and in a manner that supports informed public participation; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council further recognizes that prior Charter Review Committees have expressed frustration regarding the pace and clarity of the process by which recommendations were advanced, and the Town Council seeks to establish a predictable pathway from receipt of the final report to Council consideration; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council's standing committee structure includes the Rules and Procedures Committee, which is the appropriate committee to review and report out matters related to the Town Charter and Council processes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council adopts the attached process and commitments with respect to the Charter Review Committee's final report.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING
VOICE VOTE TO RETAIN AT TOWN COUNCIL

Attachments:

1. CRC Resolution

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER

RESOLUTION

1. Receipt and Docketing

- A. Upon receipt of the Charter Review Committee's final report, the Council Clerk shall docket the report and distribute it electronically to all Councilors.
- B. The Council President shall cause the report to be listed on a Town Council agenda for acknowledgement and referral within **thirty (30) days** of receipt, subject to meeting schedule and administrative needs.
-

2. Referral to Rules and Procedures

- A. At the first Town Council meeting at which the report is acknowledged, the Town Council shall refer the final report and accompanying recommendations to the Rules and Procedures Committee for review and recommendation.
-

3. Published Work Plan

- A. Within **forty-five (45) days** of referral, the Rules and Procedures Committee shall hold an initial posted meeting to:
1. confirm receipt and scope;
 2. identify any drafting, legal, or administrative support needed; and
 3. adopt and publish a work plan identifying the order and approach by which recommendations will be reviewed (including grouping by topic where appropriate).
- B. The work plan shall include anticipated milestones for committee discussion and reporting to the Town Council.
-

4. Committee Reporting and Council Consideration Targets

- A. The Town Council expresses its intent that the Rules and Procedures Committee will, to the extent practicable, provide rolling reports (topic-by-topic or recommendation-by-recommendation) rather than waiting to report all items at once.
- B. Within **ninety (90) days** after the Charter Review Committee final report is formally acknowledged by the Town Council, the Rules and Procedures Committee shall present to

the Town Council an initial “take-up” agenda identifying a set of recommendations proposed to be addressed first (the “Initial Set”), which may include recommendations proposed for no further action at that time.

C. With respect to the Initial Set, the Town Council intends that the Rules and Procedures Committee will bring forward a preliminary disposition for each item, which may include:

1. advancing draft Charter amendment language for Council consideration;
2. recommending no further action at this time; or
3. recommending additional review and a revised schedule for consideration.

D. Nothing in this Resolution shall be construed to require the Town Council to take up, vote on, or advance every recommendation submitted by the Charter Review Committee; rather, this Resolution reflects the Town Council’s commitment to timely organization, transparency, and forward progress.

5. Transparency and Public Tracking

A. The Council Clerk shall maintain a Charter Review Recommendation Tracking Log listing, at minimum:

1. each recommendation (or grouped topic area);
2. whether it has been included in an Initial Set or subsequent “take-up” agenda;
3. current status (e.g., under review, drafting, scheduled for discussion, reported out, advanced, no further action, continued); and
4. key dates (receipt, acknowledgement/referral, committee discussion dates, report-out dates, and Council action dates where applicable).

B. The Tracking Log shall be updated at least monthly while recommendations remain under active review and made available through the Town’s normal posting and records practices.

6. Preservation of Council Discretion and Legal Compliance

A. This Resolution is a statement of Town Council policy regarding process and transparency. It does not limit the Town Council’s discretion to amend, combine, sequence, postpone, or decline to advance any recommendation, nor does it alter any legal requirements applicable to Charter amendments.

B. Nothing in this Resolution creates a private right of action or enforceable deadline.

