

# THE WORD ON COMMON STREET

March 8, 2024/VOL 010

## DEVELOPMENTS SHAPING OUR TOWN

### MBTA Communities Article -

#### Postponed

The Planning Board voted to postpone the Warrant Article for MBTA Communities. During the Public Hearing process, it was determined that the overlay district(s) still needed more work to meet the State's compliance model. The Planning Board may give an informational presentation at the 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

#### Planning Board updates

The Planning Board public hearings for the Warrant Articles related to the Downtown District "housekeeping" and ZBA special permit lapse period will likely continue to the day of Town Meeting when the Board typically closes the public hearings and take a vote to recommend or not.

### Water Rates

On March 4th, the Select Board heard from the Town's water consultant and DPW Superintendent about the impending recommendations for FY25 water rates. Due to the exceedingly wet summer last year, and the lower than expected sale of water, water rates will need to increase for the coming year in order to meet anticipated expenses. Remember, because water is an enterprise fund, the expenses need to be covered in full by the revenues generated through the rates. The Board will be meeting on March 19 to review and approve the recommendations of the water consultant for the new water rates. As always, residents can participate in the discussion in-person or remotely via Zoom.



Pic of water pipe

### Town Meeting - March 23rd

Town Meeting is being held March 23, 2024 at Trottier Middle School (49 Parkerville Road). The meeting starts at 10AM this year and will go through the day with no scheduled breaks.

The Warrant will be available by Friday, March 15th at the Town House, Library, Senior Center, Transfer Station and online here: <https://shorturl.at/hkMQZ>

This will be our 150th edition of the Town Report which is befittingly dedicated to Whitney Beals. He will be remembered as an accomplished conservationist and caretaker in this community, though his efforts will be recalled far beyond our borders. Locally, he of course is well known for serving as President of the Southborough Open Land Foundation. His philanthropy and collaborative spirit will be missed.



Whitney Beals

### Senior Tax Work-off Program

This program offers senior homeowners (preference given to those with an income of less than \$45,000 annually) an opportunity to trade volunteer work hours for town departments with a reduction of their property tax bill of up to \$1,500. In the past, seniors have worked at the Senior Center, Library, Assessor's Office, Building Department, Board of Health, Town Clerk's Office, Select Board's Office, DPW, and in various schools. Applications will be available March 13th at the Senior Center and Assessors Office. Applications will be accepted at the Senior Center beginning April 4th.

[Download an application \(PDF\).](#)

Please [click here](#) for more details: <https://shorturl.at/gizE7>



## Thank you, Health Dept!

The Health Department coordinated with the community and St. Mark's Church for planning, permitting and opening of the Community Free Fridge in 2023. This resource is available to all and is located behind St. Mark Church's Parish Hall at 27 Main Street. They say, "Take what you need and leave what you can."



Free Fridge Flyer

In 2023 the Health Department continued to execute a grant for a future sustainable department structure with an ongoing assessment of Public Health Regionalization. You can read more about their goals and accomplishments here: <https://shorturl.at/biFGI> They also distributed 490 free doses of Narcan through community Naloxone trainings that were held at the Town House, Library, and many other locations. Thank you for all you do to help keep us healthy and safe!



You've got to think lucky. If you fall into a mudhole, check your back pocket—you might have caught a fish." - Darrell Royal

## Recreation Updates

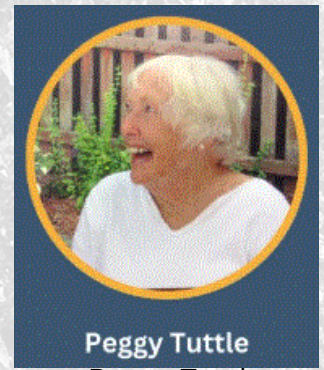
Spring and Summer registration for Recreation programs is now open! Over opening weekend, they received 723 registrations across their entire seasonal offerings. But don't worry, there's still room for most of them! New this year is a half day camp offering mirroring each camp week focusing on STEM programming, arts, and specified sports. Check them all out here: <https://shorturl.at/ecyFR>



Mark Purple 2023

## Peggy Tuttle Award

Nominations are now open for the annual Peggy Tuttle Award for Library Service Distinction. This award is named in recognition and honor of a longtime library employee Peggy Tuttle. During her 30+ years as a librarian, Peggy Tuttle always said that the people were the most important part of her job at the library. Peggy played a huge part in establishing the welcoming attitude and creating the charm of our town's library. Children's Librarian, Kim Ivers, who knew Peggy Tuttle for the majority of her professional career, described Peggy Tuttle as "the embodiment of customer service."

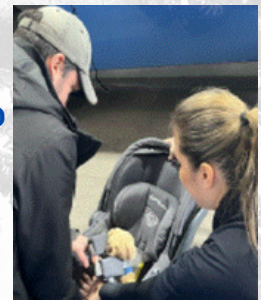


Peggy Tuttle  
Peggy Tuttle

Nominations Close on Tuesday, March 12th at 12:00 PM. Please click here to nominate someone: <https://shorturl.at/cowJL>

## Car Seat Check Event!

New Parents, grandparents, guardians, and anyone who may be transporting infants to toddlers: Please mark your calendars for this FREE car seat installation at the Southborough Police Department on May 14th from 5pm-7pm. No appointment is required and it is encouraged you bring your child, but not necessary.



Pic of Car Seat

Certified child passenger safety technicians will be there to help make sure your child is riding safely. Please come by the Southborough Police Department at 32 Cordaville Road

## Contact Info:

Select Board: [selectboard@southboroughma.com](mailto:selectboard@southboroughma.com)

Town Administrator's Office:  
[selectmenoffice@southboroughma.com](mailto:selectmenoffice@southboroughma.com)

Twitter: @17Common

Website: <https://www.southboroughma.gov/>