



TOWN OF TYNGSBOROUGH

Office of the Town Manager

Town Offices

25 Bryants Lane

Tyngsborough, MA 01879

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February 24, 2025

Town Manager's Report

Dear Board Members:

I am pleased to report the following updates from Town Hall and throughout Town:

- I was going to start my report by singing but I don't want to ruin my spotlight so I'll settle for simply wishing Tyngsborough a Happy 216th Birthday! On February 23, 1809 Tyngsborough became its own town after separating from Dunstable.
- I am sad to share that this is Kat Foster's last meeting with the Select Board. Kat has accepted the position of Assistant Town Manager & Finance Director next door in the Town of Dracut. Kat joined the team in April of 2023 shortly after my departure and quickly took over managing our procurement, public records requests, work with the Commission on Disability, and working on our Capital Budget. When I returned in September of 2023 the transition was no doubt made easier by the fact that Kat was already up to speed and able to help us make the transition smooth. Wednesday is Kat's last day here in Tyngsborough and we wish her the best in Dracut. I will be working with the leadership team and this Board to identify the path forward to filling her role and will share updates on that as I have them.
- Congratulations to Jason Rubino who graduated from the police academy on Friday, February 14th and will begin his field training program as a police officer for Tyngsborough this week. Officer Rubino is following in the footsteps of his father, long-time and well-respected Tyngsborough Police Officer Charles Rubino. With the appointment of Officer Rubino, the department now has only one remaining vacant position.
- The Recreation Committee is excited to announce a grand opening event planned for Ironwood Park on Saturday, June 7, 2025 from 10 AM to 4 PM. For those who aren't familiar, this is the land that formerly housed the Tyngsborough Country Club but was donated to the Town as a part of the Toll Brother's Development. What is more exciting is they've partnered with the Health Department and Board of Health so that at the same time as the grand opening, the Health Department will host the Annual Health fair so there will truly be a lot going on and lots of family fun! Hope to see everyone there.
- Last week the Attorney General's Office notified us that the amendments to the Town's general bylaws relative to beaching watercraft along the shores of Lake Mascuppic were approved. The final step is a review by the Director of Law Enforcement for the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs. Once approved there, it will be added to the Town's general bylaws. We have also shared the adopted bylaw with the Town of Dracut for consideration on their end so that we have similar rules in both towns.
- Chief Russell, Assistant Chief Sands, and I met with the project team at Lavallee Brensinger on Wednesday last week to review the progress on studying the Winslow School parcel as the potential site of a new fire station. I am happy to report that they have concluded that a fire station could in fact be developed on the site. During our meeting last week, Chief Russell provided them with some feedback on the conceptual plan they created which they are working on. Their task is to provide us with an early conceptual design of a building on that site, provide a conceptual





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budget for construction, and most importantly give us a cost estimate for the design of the project so that we can ask Town Meeting in May for the funding to advance a design. During the design phase, we'll iron out specifics like where the building will sit on the site and so on. I expect to have the final product at your meeting on March 10th.

- Last week, we learned that the State Auditor Diana Dizoglio and her office had issued a notice to the Town of Wrentham confirming that in their opinion the MBTA Communities Act represented an "unfunded mandate" on cities and towns in accordance with MGL Chapter 29, Section 27C. In short, that law prohibits the legislature from passing bills that would require a city or town to incur costs unless the same bill includes the funding in question. The letter indicated that the Auditor's Office was now moving into a financial impact analysis and would report back on their estimated financial impact on municipalities for compliance. At this time, it appears their focus will be on the costs incurred to bring a town into compliance (i.e.- staff time, consultants etc) to bring an article to Town Meeting. We'll follow the progress on that and report back. At this time, Tyngsborough is in compliance and we have had zero serious inquiries into development on any of the three districts. As far as the costs we incurred, you'll remember that the work to design our zoning was led by a consultant hired through technical assistance grants and not using the municipal budget so it is unclear if this ruling has any impact on us at all.
- Kudos to our Health Department and Town Clerk's Office on their first & well-attended Rabies Clinic & Dog Registration Clinic which was hosted this weekend at the Center for Active Living.
- As this Board knows, we're working hard across all departments to enhance our communication with residents. To that end, I'm happy to share that you can now find the Town Clerk's Office on Facebook. They'll be using that page to keep the Town updated on all things happening in that office, especially around vital records, elections, and much more.
- I wanted to provide an update on the usage of the Center for Active Living by Community Groups as we hit the one-year mark since this Board approved a program to provide low-cost meeting space for local groups. We have six groups currently registered to use the building and their meetings range from bi-weekly to monthly. We've had no issues so far but one thing we may come back to the Board about is amending the policy to allow for a greater runway for booking events beyond the 60-day window currently allowed -- with the caveat that official use of the building by the Council on Aging or the Town takes priority. We're reviewing and expect to present options to you in March.
- I'll just end by noting that representatives from the Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services were in Tyngsborough this past week at our request for a regular check in. I'm happy to share that we had a productive meeting and things are in order. We're working through finalizing our FY24 audit which we also expect will find no issues.

Regards,

Colin F. Loisel
Town Manager

Katharine Foster
Assistant Town Manager

