

Winchester Weekly

Report from Winchester Town Manager, Lisa Wong

Local Rapid Recovery Plan Grant



Winchester is working with consultant Ezra Glen to develop a Downtown Rapid Recovery Plan to help businesses after receiving a technical assistance grant for the state. We are currently gathering data and put out a survey for town center businesses to fill out. Spread the word!

<https://www.winchester.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1102>

COVID NEWS

Vaccines: Residents 55+ and residents with one certain medical condition will be eligible for a vaccine starting April 5th. Any resident the age of 16 or older will be eligible starting April 19th. Book Appointments at: VAXFINDER.MASS.GOV
Book Ahead at: VACCINESIGNUP.MASS.GOV/#/

Testing: Community COVID testing is happening weekly at Town Hall that is open to residents, town employees and non-residents who work in town. Test cost is \$20 each (waived for town employees). Cash or check. Register at Winchester.us/testing
The next clinics are April 8 and 15 from 3:30-5:30pm.

There are post-April vacation clinics on:
April 24 / 12:00-2:00
April 27 / 3:30-5:30
April 29 / 3:30-5:30
Fee for Winchester District Students will be waived for these clinics.

SELECT BOARD

The next meetings will be April 5 and 12th at 7:30pm. Click on the Government Calendar at winchester.us.

TOWN MEETING

Town Meeting will begin on Monday, April 26th; Thursday, April 29th and Monday, May 3rd at 7:30. The meeting will be remote.

ELECTIONS

25% of registered voters cast ballots in the March 30th local election and supported funds for Muraco flood control and Muraco School repairs.

April is National Autism Awareness Month.

Town Meeting Warrant Preview

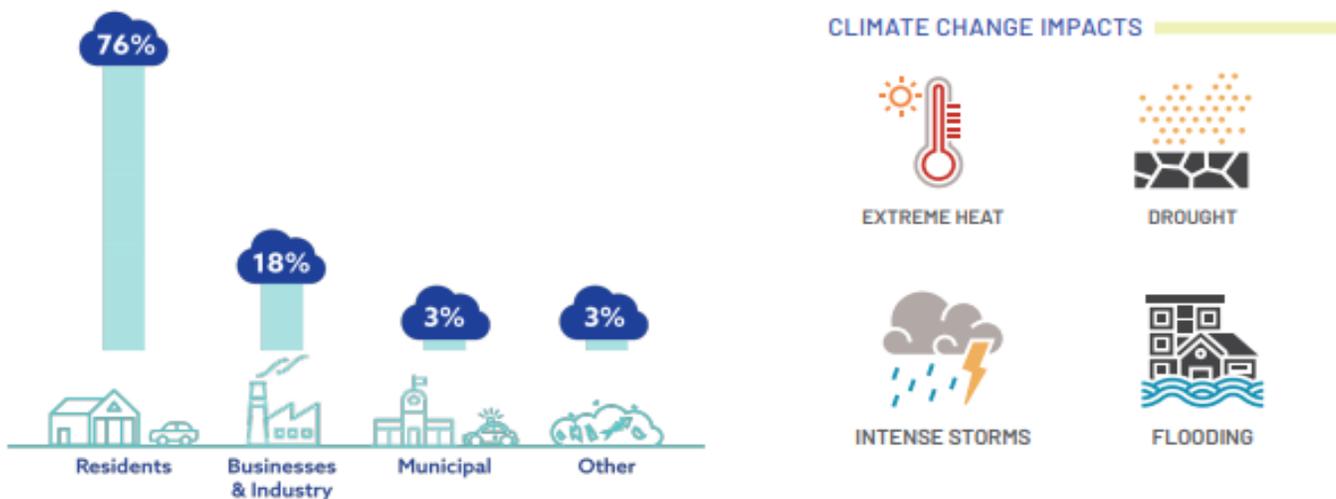
The Town Meeting Warrant will be finalized by the Select Board and then sent to all residents later this month. Spring Town Meeting features the annual budget approval process to fund municipal operations, water/sewer and recreation enterprises, capital projects and the public schools. There are also other articles related to zoning, housing and other important town initiatives. Here is a preview of one of the articles:

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court to enact special legislation substantially in the form below that permits the Town to enact a bylaw charging a building permit surcharge to be used by the Town for the purposes of funding sustainability initiatives in the Town and to establish a special revenue fund to receive the proceeds of that surcharge:

“An act establishing a building permit surcharge and special revenue fund in the Town of Winchester.”

Background: The Town has pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 with milestones every decade. To support this goal of reducing carbon pollution and supporting resiliency, the town will need funding to support sustainability initiatives, such as establishing a surcharge as part of the building permit process. To find out more about the vision, read the 2020 Climate Action Plan here:

<https://www.winchester.us/DocumentCenter/View/4632/Climate-Action-Plan-Executive-Summary>



Thank you and Welcome Corner: With the local elections over, we say Thank You to elected officials such Dr. Shannon Bottari from the Board of Health, who was instrumental in supporting the town’s pandemic response. Maureen Pimentel was elected to the vacant seat. We welcome a new Town Moderator, Heather von Mering, who stepped down from her post at the Planning Board. There are new members of the Planning Board (Sally Dale and I-Ching Katie Scott), School Committee (Tom Hopcroft and Shamus Brady) and the Select Board (Rich Mucci). Thank you to former Planning Board member Maureen Meister, former School Committee members Brian Vernaglia and Zeina Marchant for their services. Also welcome to the new Town Meeting members!