

Wellesley Select Board FY26 Work Plan

Approved: August 19, 2025

FY26 Select Board Priorities:

Administrative:

- Establish a standing Town Bylaw review committee
- Create a Town-wide Facilities Master Plan
- Develop Master Fire Station Plan

Financial:

- Complete all Town bargaining unit negotiations and finalize all contracts
- Develop comprehensive town-wide capital planning process in conjunction with Facilities Master Plan
- Undertake budget review process and prepare separate presentations at ATM of Town and School budgets

Communications and Public Engagement:

- Develop Communications Master Plan
 - Community Communication Survey
 - Develop semi-annual town-wide mailing
 - Website
 - Continue to expand ADA accessibility
 - Board to consider securing services of website consultant following communications survey
 - Social media - Develop town-wide social media policy from SB staff to advise departments, Boards, and committees
- Citizens' Leadership Academy – Commence inaugural class in Spring 2026

Housing

- Joint SB/PB presentation of final strategic housing options and Board to acknowledge receipt

Economic Development:

- Begin arts and culture Strategic Planning efforts with MAPC technical assistance
- Encourage shopping and accessing services locally to support merchants, institutions, and commercial entities
- Proactively and strategically evaluate potential development in town

Wellesley, MA - General Government Services and Select Board Work Plan FY2026

1. Administration	Description	Targeted Completion
Bylaw Review Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop timeline, scope, membership, and charge 	Fall 2025
Facilities Master Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop town-wide Facilities (building and land) Master Plan Work with FMD, DPW, Schools, and other key departments/stakeholders 	Start early Fall 2025
Fire Station Master Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master Plan study underway 	Call volume analysis completed Next phase underway
Investigate Expanded Use of AI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permitting and licensing Infrastructure maintenance planning Traffic and Parking management Budget data analysis Public Engagement/Feedback analysis Virtual Customer Service 	Direct staff to form internal working group
2. Finance	Description	Targeted Completion
Town-wide Union Negotiations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete negotiations and finalize all town bargaining unit contracts 	Early 2026
Finalize IT Department Class & Comp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the classification and compensation plan for IT Department 	Special Town Meeting – Fall 2025
Hire Chief Financial Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews are scheduled 	ASAP
Capital Planning Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work closely with ED, Finance staff, FMD and other stakeholders to develop comprehensive capital planning processes (Policy, Prioritization, Funding) 	Start early Fall 2025 – work is linked to the Facilities Master Plan work.
Determine Article 8 Budget Motions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select Board to coordinate discussions on splitting Town and School budget motions at ATM 	Begin October 2025
Revisit College Contributions to Town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Babson College/Select Board meeting scheduled 10/7/25. Wellesley College/SB meeting TBD for Fall 2025. Preview with Babson College administration the need to renegotiate PILOT in advance of the meeting. Preview with Wellesley College scholarships/taxation structure. 	Fall 2025/Ongoing
PFAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to establish Special Revenue Fund 	Fall STM

3. Communications and Public Engagement	Description	Targeted Completion
Draft and send pre-Town Meeting letters to Town residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update financial status • Preview future financial outlook • Explain real estate tax bills and tax impact costs • Note facilities and other important updates • Include Communication Survey information that will inform Communications Master Plan 	Pre-Fall STM 25 and ATM 26
Communications Master Plan	Begin to design process to develop comprehensive communications plan	Late fall-winter 2025-26
Citizens' Leadership Academy	Commence inaugural class Spring 2026	
Develop Social Media policy to guide boards and departments on appropriate and safe use		Late fall-winter 2025-26
4. Housing	Description	Targeted Completion
Strategic Housing Plan (SHP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint PB/SB mtg September • SB will acknowledge receipt of plan 	September 2025
5. Transportation/Mobility	Description	Targeted Completion
Weston/Linden Intersection Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intersection reconfiguration, including land taking 	ATM 26
Weston/Rt. 9 Intersection Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study and redesign of Fells interchange in coordination with MassDOT District 6 • Funded by \$600,000 State Earmark 	June 30, 2026
6. Economic Development	Description	Targeted Completion
Develop Wellesley Square amenities plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public engagement process to be defined and led by Select Board (SB) Office; • Engagement to include merchants and other stakeholders. 	New RFP to be released September 2025 Funding request expected ATM 27
7. Climate Mitigation and Resilience	Description	Targeted Completion
Hardy and Hunnewell Solar Installation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with MLP, SC, and CAC to finalize the installation of solar panels on two new elementary schools • Funding to be through WECARE or Climate Leader Accelerator Grant 	

8. Town Projects	Description	Targeted Completion
Comcast Cable License Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work underway with Epstein and August and on contract for proposal to Comcast. 	March 30, 2026
Update MOA with Wellesley Media		
War Memorial and Clock Tower Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet ADA requirements and consider expansion opportunities on War Memorial Coordinate with NRC on Sprague Clock Tower to undertake the masonry work and secure the historic designations. 	Seek appropriation for schematic design at ATM 2026

North 40: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Restriction Strategic plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize land needs for Master Fire Station Plan; Clarify vernal pool protections provided through existing Wetlands regulations; Define land-use restrictions; Determine entity to hold the CPC CR; Review CR enforcement with Town Counsel; Discuss beginning a Strategic Planning process; Define public engagement process; Discuss potential land swaps with the NRC, leaving maximum flexibility for potential future municipal uses, and advancing municipal use and land preservation goals 	
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