BLANDFORD

Firehouse Highway Building discuss possible locations

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – At the Nov. 5 meeting of the Select Board and the Firehouse/ Highway Building group several options were discussed for location and or combination of the two facilities.

Among the possible options was included land that is Town Common, which is protected land under the state's constitution. That will have to be investigated.

Other options will be reviewed, the Chester Road location, Otis Stage Road location, and more, and the committee will decide which options to present to the town and include pricing.

The next meeting, Nov. 20, at 5 p.m. the group hopes to have final recommendations completed as well as a date after the first of the year to move to a presentation to the town.

Corinne Shartrand will look into funding sources and grant opportunities.

The town originally voted at an Annual Town Meeting to provide a facility that would combine both the Fire Department and Highway Department. This has not changed. The voters, according to Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera, must come to a decision to move forward with the original vote, or to separate the two facilities. This will make a difference in borrowing.

The possible locations can accommodate this idea.

JONES

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managed by Hull Forest Products up to the cemetery where Jones and his family are believed to be buried.

They will learn about Jone's history as one of the earliest documented African American toolmakers in colonial America, as well as his military service during the French and Indian Wars and Revolutionary War.

Blandford Historical Society will share information on the early history of North Blandford, and Jones's descendant Jocelyn Jones Arnold will share the story of finding her patriot ancestor.

This hike is free and open to all, donations to the Hilltown Hikers and the Blandford Historical Society are greatly appreciated.

Please should register per vehicle by visiting www.hilltownhikers.com. Maps and bottled water are provided.

Well behaved dogs are welcome. Event is volunteer lead. Suggested donation is $15. People may email westernmasshilltownhikers@aol.com or call/text 413-302-0312 if they have any questions. As always be prepared for rocks, mud and roots, bring trekking poles and a snack



Submitted photo

A relative inspections the cemetery where her relative Jethro Jones is buries in Blandford.

People who want to hike every weekend year round may become a Hilltown Hiker member. They may follow them on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube. Tees, hoodies, hats, patches, water bottles and safety vests will be for sale by donation at the event.

BOARD

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non-compliance with protocol for clearing land or construction. "You just can't start tearing down lumber… there need to be consequences," she said. Procedure needs to be followed, and "there is no penalty" if not.

Tree cutting

Select Board Chair Jackie Coury read a letter from a Beech Hill Road resident, who was not pleased with the tree cutting Eversource had done on his property as well as the town. His letter stated he had not been able to contact Tree Warden Mark Boomsma, who will address his concerns in writing and Boomsma will copy the Select Board.

Coury said, "The town needs to hear from Eversource."

Regarding a reimbursement to the American Legion for the fencing at Veterans Park at Town Common, the board is waiting for an invoice.

Comments from the Select Board centered on looking for volunteers to fill empty positions on committees and commissions. which include the Historical Commission, the Cultural Council, Finance Committee. Descriptions for these are in the town bylaws, or existing members may be contacted. Visiting a meeting may add interest. Meetings are posted on the bulletin board at Town Hall.

PILOT

Town Administrator Cristina Ferrera reported that state auditor Diana DiZoglio has proposed an increase in the amount of Payment In Lieu of Taxes for state owned land, which could be $75 or $100 and acre compensation to those municipalities with state parks, recreation areas etc. With over 2,000 such acres in town, this would be a major addition to available funds. State Sen. Paul Mark is on board with this proposal. Both Chair Coury and Corinne Shartrand attended a meeting about PILOT programs and learned that these cannot be based on revenue generated from the property.

Other business

Action items tabled included Geocaching with Sally Barone, Geocaching is a hide-and-seek game using global positioning systems and an appointment of Mark Boomsma to the Community Development Coordination Group, to which people are not appointed but serve as volunteers representing town boards, commissions or departments, according to Shartrand.

Regarding other Highway Department matters, Hultay said the department is getting ready for winter, outfitting plows and sanders. The department is moving and making repairs to the public access sand area located at the highway garage.

Beech Hill Resident concern

In his letter to the Select Board, Beech Hill Road resident Karl Schwarzkopf had several questions and concerns regarding Tree Warden duties, oversight and communication access.

He also inquired about who is responsible "for coordinating with Eversource before roadside tree clearing…" and if the town receives and reviews the utility's "vegetation management plans" and if the town verifies compliance with "notification and approval."

And he would like to be assured that there is a "there is a clear, accountable process in place before similar operations occur in the future."

Under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 87, the Tree Warden, Mark Boomsma, is responsible for public shade trees within his jurisdiction, the Town's road right-of-way. Eversource submitted its cutting plan to Boomsma and reviewed it with the subcontractor performing the work. Boomsma's Tree Warden authority was limited, as above.

Eversource directs its subcontractor and is responsible for securing any permissions needed for work outside that boundary.

The Tree Warden is an elected position in Blandford. According to Julie E. Steiner of the Western New England University School of law in her document Guardians of Municipal Public Trees: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Tree Wardens' Authority and Accountability, tree wardens routinely communicate with and oversee utilities, which need to ensure adequate safety, access, and maintenance of utility wires along public roads. In 2011, Governor Deval Patrick approved an amendment to the Public Shade Tree Act designed to streamline the process for approving tree maintenance and removal work and to facilitate enhanced lines of communication between electric utilities and tree wardens.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Town of Blandford
Conservation Commission
Public Notice

At its regularly scheduled public meeting on **Tuesday, November 24th, 2026, at 6:00 PM** at the Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, the Blandford Conservation Commission will consider a **Request for Determination of Applicability** (RDA) received from Darren Lecrenski & Kayla Case as the Applicants. The RDA is to identify if the area is subject to jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act. The project location is 47 Russell Stage Road. The Conservation Commission will make its determination in accordance with the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c 131, Sec. 40 (as amended).

Project plans and additional information are on record in the Office of the Conservation Commission.

Richard Gates, Chair
Town of Blandford
Conservation Commission
11/19/2026

TOWN OF GOSHEN
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

The Town of Goshen Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting under the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Chapter 131 Section 40) on **Dec 7th, 2026 at 6:00 pm** at the Goshen Town offices, 40 Main St., Goshen, to review a **Request for Determination** filed by DCR for DAR State Forest, Goshen, MA. **The work to be reviewed is the replacement of decking on an existing bridge on the Triple Brook Trail.**

Copies of the application are available for review through the Goshen Conservation Commission.

For additional information, contact conservation@goshen-ma.us
11/19/2026

Town of Blandford
REBID
Porter Memorial Library
Electrical FSB Category

The Town of Blandford is re-bidding the Electrical FSB category of the Porter Memorial Library project, plans and specifications can be found on 11/18/26 at www.biddocs.com
11/19, 11/26/2026

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGEE'S
SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Lisa Estrada to Blue Chip Commercial Broker, LLC, said mortgage being dated October 13, 2023, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 25190, Page 65, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 A.M. on Friday, December 4, 2026**, upon the premises described in said mortgage, namely 92 Old State Road and 0 Old State Road, Chester, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

First Parcel

land in Chester, Hampden County, Massachusetts, being Lot "F" as shown on a plan entitled 'Plan of Land on Northerly side of Old State Road, Town of Chester, Massachusetts, surveyed for Barent W. and Geraldine M. Pease, 29th of September, 1990, Woodland Management Services, recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 274, Page 17, being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

SOUTHERLY by Old State Road a total distance of three hundred forty-eight and 18/100 (348.18) feet;

WESTERLY by Lot "E" as shown on said plan three hundred thirty-seven and 89/100 (337.89) feet;

NORTHERLY by Lot "G" as shown on said plan fifty (50) feet; and by land now or formerly of Lea Roy and Nancy Ann Allman as shown on said plan one hundred fifty (150.00) feet; and

NORTHEASTERLY by a stonewall and Mica Mill Road se shown on said plan one hundred sixty-six and 25/100 (166.25) feet;

NORTHERLY by said stonewall and Mica Mill Road as shown on said plan seventeen and 56/100 (17.56) feet; and

NORTHEASTERLY again by said stonewall and Mica Mill Road as shown on said plan two hundred ten and 77 /100 (210. 77) feet.

Second Parcel

Land in Chester, Hampden County, Massachusetts, being Lot "D" and Lot "E" as shown on a plan entitled "Plan of Land on Northerly side of Old State Road, Town of Chester, Mass., surveyed for Barent W. and Geraldine M. Pease" 29 September, 1990. Woodland Management Services, recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 274, Page 17, being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

SOUTHERLY by Old State road as shown on said plan a total distance of four hundred fourteen and 33/100 (414.33) feet;

NORTHWESTERLY by Lot "B" as shown on said plan seven hundred thirty-one and 72/100 (731. 72) feet;

NORTHERLY by Lot "C" as shown on said plan two hundred-thirty-eight and 38/100 (238.38);

EASTERLY by land now or fonnerly of Leo Roy and Nancy Ann Allman as shown on said plan two hundred seventy-two and 03/100 (272.03) feet;

SOUTHERLY by Lot "G" as shown on said plan a distance of one hundred forty-eight and 53/100 (148.53) feet; and

EASTERLY by said Lot "G" as shown on said plan a distance of one hundred forty and 00/100 (140.00) feet and by Lot "F" as shown on said plan three hundred thirty-seven and 89/100 (337.89) feet.

Said premises will be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax title, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, rights of parties in possession, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage, if any there be, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the Deed.

No representations, express or implied, are made with respect to any matter concerning the premises which will be sold "as is".

The successful high bidder will be responsible for paying the Massachusetts State Documentary Tax Stamps, all closing costs and all recording fees.

TERMS OF SALE: Bids will be taken first on both parcels together and then bids will be taken on each parcel separately to compare and maximize the sale proceeds. The highest bidder, bidding on the parcels individually, shall be required to deposit cash, bank treasurer's check or certified check in the amount of **TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS ($10,000.00)** per parcel, at the time and the place of the sale of the premises to qualify as a bidder (the present holder of the mortgage is exempt from this requirement) to be held by the Mortgagee. The highest bidder, bidding on the parcels together will be required to deposit cash, bank treasurer's check or certified check in the amount of **TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS ($20,000.00)**. The successful bidder(s) will also be required to deposit an additional sum equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount bid less the deposit (but no less than $10,000) with the Mortgagee's auctioneer, Aaron Posnik & Co., Inc., 31 Capital Drive, West Springfield, Massachusetts 01089 or the Mortgagees attorney as may be directed within five (5) days of the date of the sale to be held by the Mortgagee, and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified or bank treasurer's check at the closing which shall occur within thirty (30) days after the date of foreclosure sale, time being of the essence, unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The successful bidder(s) at the sale will also be required to pay a buyer's premium of 5% and shall sign a Memorandum of Terms of Sale containing the above terms at the auction sale.

In the event that the successful bidder(s) at the public auction shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Mortgagee's Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the public auction, the Mortgagee reserves the right, at its election, to sell the property to the second highest bidder(s) at the public auction provided that Mortgagee, in its discretion, may require (1) said second highest bidder(s) to deposit the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice to the second highest bidder(s) of the default of the previous highest bidder, (2) the second highest bidder(s) to execute a Memorandum of Sale, and (3) the closing to occur within twenty (20) days of said written notice, time being of the essence unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The Mortgagee reserves the right to sell any parcel in any order that Mortgagee may choose and/or to postpone this sale to a later time or date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date.

Other tenns, if any, to be announced at the time and place of the sale.

The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Blue Chip Commercial Broker, LLC Present Holder of said Mortgage

By /s/ David A. Lavenburg
David A. Lavenburg, Its Attorney BACON WILSON, P.C.
3 3 State Street
Springfield, MA O 1103
413-781-0560
11/05, 11/12, 11/19/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
GATEWAY REGIONAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
(IFB #27-001)
Professional Facilitation and Consulting Services:
Regional School Agreement Review & Amendment

The Gateway Regional School District ("District") invites sealed bids from qualifi ed consultants or consulting fi rms to provide professional facilitation, neutral third-party mediation, fi nancial modeling, and technical consulting services for the review, modernization, and amendment of the District's Regional School Agreement. This procurement is conducted pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30B, § 5 and Federal Uniform Guidance (2 CFR §§ 200.317–200.327).

Bid specifi cations and contract documents may be obtained by contacting Ms. Amy Mason, Chief Procurement Offi cer, via email at amason@grsd.org. Written questions regarding the IFB must be submitted to amason@grsd.org no later than November 25, 2026.

All bids must be enclosed in a sealed envelope plainly marked: "**SEALED BID — IFB #27-01: Regional School Agreement Review & Amendment**" and must be delivered to:

Ms. Amy Mason, Chief
Procurement Officer
Gateway Regional School
District
12 Littleville Road
Huntington, MA 01050

Bid Submission Deadline:
Sealed bids must be received no later than December 2, 2026, at 1:00 PM EST. Bids received after this deadline will be rejected unopened. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 1:00 PM EST on December 2, 2026, at the Central Offi ce. The District will award the contract no later than Friday, January 1, 2027. The contract will be awarded to the responsive and responsible bidder offering the lowest price for specifi ed in the IFB. The Gateway Regional School District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive minor informalities, or cancel this IFB if deemed in the best interest of the District.
11/19/2026