

# - legals -

## Town of North Brookfield Notice of Public Hearing

The North Brookfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 6:15PM** at the Senior Center, 29 Forest St., North Brookfield, MA. Public opinion will be received for 32 Summer St., regarding a change from office use to residential use (Section IV.A.2.i.) per the North Brookfield Zoning Bylaws. The property is also in the Downtown Overlay District. Any person interested in being heard or seeking information should appear at the above stated time and place. A copy of the proposed permit application is on file in the office of the Town Clerk, 215 North Main St., No. Brookfield, MA.

William King, Chair  
03/27, 04/03/2026

## TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Brookfield Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing to consider a petition to locate poles, wires, cables, and fixtures, including the necessary anchors, guys, and other such sustaining and protecting fixtures, brought before it by

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc Tuesday, **April 21, 2026 at 6:15 PM** at the North Brookfield Police Department, 55 School Street, North Brookfield, MA 01535.

The pole locations that will be considered are as follows:

**Green Rd** – National Grid to install 3 JO Poles on Green Rd beginning at a point approximately 4,200' feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Shore Rd and Green Rd and continuing approximately 200 feet in a northwest direction. Install three new poles # 74, 74-50, & 75-84 on Green Rd.

**Ward St** – National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Ward St beginning at a point approximately 300' feet west of the centerline of the intersection of Hines Bridge Rd. Install a new pole 71-2 for new residential home.

Said hearing will begin at 6:15 PM and continue until completion, and will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 166.

Jason M Petraitis, Chairman  
Jamie Gilman  
Ralph Kay

04/03, 04/10/2026

## E BROOKFIELD FROM PAGE 1

field could opt out if it is approved at annual town meeting.

Another proposed change was adopting a by-law to make the tree warden an appointed position rather than an elected position, and that person would not have to be a town resident to act as tree warden.

The last proposed change was a bylaw to restrict parking on town roads in weather emergencies, like floods, but cities in the state do not have existing bylaws, just policies. Lynch said using existing bylaws is easier, and creating new ones costs money.

## Town beach usage

Lynch says the Webster Water Ski Collective is planning on using the town beach for an adaptive water ski program, designed for people with disabilities.

He said they launch the boats off of the town beach, but there are restrictions around motorized vessels in swimming areas, which the beach is. He said they would have to close the area for swimming on that day, but before approval they will get in contact with the parks department to make sure there are no swimming programs that day.

The tentative date for this program is July 21.

## Emerging contaminants grant

Lynch said the town applied for an emerging contaminants grant through the Massachusetts Department of Ecological Protection in April of 2025, and they are nine months into this fiscal year still waiting on funds. He read an email from a Department of Environmental Protection representative, who said the state is still processing the application.

## Key fobs

Lynch said department heads, the selectmen, police, and executive assistants will have master key fobs to open every door in the building, and that town employees will have fobs that let them access the front door, their offices, and the mail room. He said guests can get codes to get in and retrieve materials if needed.

## MIIA insurance renewal

The board voted to allow Lynch to sign a renewal of the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association contract for health insurance for town employees. He said this will save the town \$60,000, and the town will pay the deductible for the 13 applicable employees on this insurance, which is \$1,000 per person.

Lynch said this will bring the health insurance budget to \$392,000.

## WINTER MARKET FROM PAGE 1

Connecting to families who have extended family in other states, I hear about their extended family and connect even though we have never met or talked. I am therefore connected in New Jersey, Georgia, and North Carolina to name a few of the most popular.

My fascination with coffee goes beyond Fairtrade. When I started sourcing coffee organic and fair trade were my guidelines. I have quickly learned that there is much beyond fair trade and organic certifications.

Fair trade is the foundation, but beyond means building on the foundation of fairness to create systems that restore, empower and sustain. It encompasses environmental regeneration, cooperatives, gender equity and inclusion, organic and healthy standards. Beyond fair trade is where justice meets abundance for people communities and our planet.

Not every coffee farm can afford a certification. If you grow more than one type of coffee bean you need a certification for each type, and that is expensive. That is where you lean towards cooperatives and partnerships.

I research the farmers practices to guide me in making a conscientious choice on sourcing my beans. But sourcing beans isn't all of it.

With today's climate, it is even more challenging. As a small batch current crop coffee roaster, not buying volume as larger coffee roasters do, presents its own limitations and frustrations as to what is available and when.

Serious stuff, the science of roasting is where the fun begins. I have roasted over a hundred different coffees from 30 different countries.

Not all of them make it to the shelf. It is still fascinating to me that a coffee bean can have a different roast profile ground at a specific grind size and brewed a specific way can change the taste of a cup. It is science and love that goes into a cup of coffee that



Shoppers enjoyed the final Winter Market of the season.

TURLEY PHOTO BY RICHARD MURPHY

makes it taste good.

Joy of Beans is open Fridays and Saturdays from 8 a.m.- 6 p.m. and on Sundays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. We serve coffee and pastries sourced from local bakers and New York bagels.

We also feature different artists and their crafts. We have a new art exhibit on the walls every month.

The latest project we are working on is called L.E.N. (Local Enlightenment

Now) It will be an opportunity, as a community to expand on the things we have in common, learn something new, or figure how to navigate the challenges in life. Each month will have a different subject and speaker. We are still in early-stage planning."

Joy is grateful for the wonderful support of family, especially her husband, Travis, and all he does to keep the shop going. It is not limited to picking up pastries on Saturday.

He is there to solve emergencies such as a stuck cash register not opening or a failed coffee grinder or just encouraging me when the day is a challenge. His words are what give me the strength and courage.

Grandson Chase is old enough to work in the shop. Joy noted time does fly.

Joy of Beans at 12 East Main St. is also on Facebook so one can keep up to date.

Back to the market itself. To the right coming in



Artist Susan Linnéa Kallander returned to the Winter Market.

the door was artist Susan Linnéa Kallander, back after a long market hiatus. She returned with her lovely crafts.

Robyn Scott of Blair House Blooms was next with her beautiful tulips, followed by Gail and Autumn Leaf Farm with mushrooms, microgreens and eggs. Linda Fuchs of Flourish Farms had microgreens, and ginger as well as turmeric.

Turning the corner in the room was Ginger and Kelly Homestead Apiary, with all things honey and wax. Next, Ryan Laurie had healthy Bucha Bros Kombucha followed by Rich Laba and his wonderful bacon and other pork products.

The next corner had Bryan's Golden Grain Artisanal Bread with sourdough and other flavorful breads from that bakery.

From up in North Brookfield, Jadriana came with Jars Café & Bakery, bringing pastries, soups and their "gifts in a jar."

If you were looking for trouble, you came to the right place. Well, maybe not trouble, but a couple of mischievous woodworkers in Rocky Blount and Bernie Wilson who were fun to have around and craft great products.

Last on this list, but hardly least is John Thompson of Thompson's Maple Farm with maple products and ice cream.

All in all, it was a pleasant day, made even more so due to the trio making music. The Otters are a popular local sextet, but only three were in attendance. No matter, they did a good job.

So, au revoir winter. We'll get through three other seasons and welcome the winter market then.

## QUABOAG FROM PAGE 3

teachers if WBES closed. Duff addressed this and said there is a process to follow, but a lot of teachers will be able to remain a part of the district.

Duff said the school district does its best to take care of their people, but unfortunately there will be some tough decisions to make.

Some residents in the school district addressed concerns about kids being placed in reduced classrooms. The idea of 30 kids in a classroom appears rough for both the students and the teachers. Duff clarified that grade six will not move to middle school.

One West Brookfield

parent asked if there was a plan to try and increase enrollment. After the presentation, there seemed to be no clarification on how to turn enrollment around for the better. Duff pointed out that 60 of the 249 students at WBES are school choice.

Duff said he sees students coming to Quaboag because of the excellent education system. The school district has come a long way over the years offering new programs that keep students in the district.

He said closing a school is one of the last things the district wants to happen, but it does fall into a scenario the School Committee has found.

Duff said the amount per student for school choice (\$5,000) hasn't

changed in 20 years. When asked about the possibility of cutting sports and programs, Duff shared he is a big believer that sports, music, art and theater are critical components of some of the school's academic classes.

Some residents asked about the Proposition 2 1/2 override in West Brookfield. If the override goes through, the numbers that are currently on it will not be sufficient to maintain the level service budget that the school needs for West Brookfield's assessment.

The town would need a \$1.6 million override for one year. The override is not only for the schools, but for the entire town and their departments.

Rural Aid was also

brought up during the question period of the informational meeting. The school district could reach out as much as possible to their State Legislators for support. Rural Aid is a huge benefit, considering the subject Duff made about how 57 of the towns in Massachusetts are facing a potential override.

A parent asked about IEPs and school programs, before and after school. Duff said they're looking at putting things together to keep these valuable school programs.

"It's a very difficult decision that our school committee is going to have to make," Duff said. "The state is not funding the way they need to fund."

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For more information on news or community features for the Quaboag Current, please email [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com).