

APPROVED: April 30, 2025

Boxborough Leadership Forum Minutes
29 Middle Road, Boxborough MA 01719

DATE: March 5, 2025

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: Grange Hall

Attendees:

Select Board: Kristin Hilberg and Bob Stemple

Finance Committee: Tony Newton, Maria Neyland, John Greven and Joe Stulpin

School Committee: Adam Klein, Liz Fowlks

Planning Board: Mark White

Library Trustees: Mary Brolin (also representing the Fire Station Building Committee)

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 by Kristin Hilberg.

The group agreed to reestablish the BLF as a non-decision-making forum for open dialogue among boards and commissions.

Members committed to in-person meetings to promote clarity and engagement. A flexible meeting schedule was discussed to align with key municipal milestones such as budget planning and town meetings.

The Finance Committee members began with an Article 5 update and stressed the need to maintain a budget buffer and to be prepared for the strong potential for an override next fiscal year. The BLF also discussed the following ongoing discussion topics:

- Provide an updated debt schedule.
- Clarify free cash strategy.
- Schedule a joint session with the Planning Board to discuss new growth and long-term fiscal sustainability.

The School Committee members shared the proposed Regional budget and current enrollment trends. Modest enrollment declines projected over the next decade could impact Chapter 70 state aid. Advocacy is ongoing, with a Ways & Means Committee hearing in Amherst planned. The district is also issuing an RFP for a consultant to support strategic planning and potential reorganization.

Mary Brolin provided a Fire Station Project update. The Fire Station Building Committee expects to finalize a site recommendation by March 20, 2025. Site selection has been delayed due to zoning concerns and Planning Board discussions. Community outreach continues to be a priority

as we move closer to Annual Town Meeting.

Mark White provided some updates on current Planning Board activities. MBTA Community Zoning compliance is underway, with potential for up to 118 units. Options to consider include a paper district, undeveloped parcels, and targeted sites. The group agreed that continued coordination with the Planning Board is essential to balance development and fiscal planning.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.