

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Minutes of the Meeting
Tuesday – February 17, 2026

1. VP LeBlanc called the meeting to order at 8:00pm in the City Council Chamber.
2. VP LeBlanc asked if anyone in the audience was recording the meeting. Artie Kronenfeld from the Waltham Times stated she was recording the meeting.
3. VP LeBlanc asked the Clerk to call the roll to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – Councillors Bradley-MacArthur, Dunn, Durkee, Hanley, Harris, Katz, King, LaCava, LaFauci, President Logan, McLaughlin, Tzioumis, and VP LeBlanc were present in-person. Councillors Brasco and Vidal were absent.
4. President Logan moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 2, 2026. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the meeting on February 2, 2026 were approved.
5. President Logan and Councillor Harris made a request that the Mayor take all necessary steps to take the abandoned property located 67 Crescent Street by eminent domain for the purpose of park land and open space. President Logan stated that there is a need for open space on the south side of Waltham. This property was identified in Waltham's Community Development Plan as a location for open space acquisition and for increased public access to the Charles River. This property is vacant and has been a nuisance to the neighborhood. Councillor LaFauci inquired as to why the original request was to purchase the property and now it is being requested to take it by eminent domain. The Mayor submitted documentation showing that she attempted to reach out to the property owner last year, but did not receive a response. President Logan stated that now the only way to move forward with acquiring the property is to take it by eminent domain. Councillor LaFauci thought that eminent domain was only eligible if the action was serving an immediate need of the City. Councillor Logan stated that it is acceptable for land to be taken by eminent domain for valid public purpose. A motion was made by Councillor LaFauci to request that the Law Department determine whether the City has the legal right to obtain the property at 67 Crescent Street by eminent domain. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor LaCava does not support the City taking the private property by eminent domain. It appears the owner doesn't want to sell the property, and the taxes have been paid. The request to have the Mayor take the property at 67 Crescent Street by eminent domain for park land and open space was approved on a roll call vote of 11 in favor (Councillors Bradley-MacArthur, Dunn, Durkee, Hanley, Harris, Katz, King, President Logan, McLaughlin, Tzioumis, and VP LeBlanc), 2 opposed (LaCava and LaFauci), and 2 absent (Brasco and Vidal). President Logan made a motion to table the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the matter was tabled in the committee.
6. President Logan made a motion to take the approval of DCR Flood Station Easement at 48R Pine Street off the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. This item was previously sent to the Law Department to negotiate. Councillors recently received draft easement and plan documentation from the Law Department. President Logan made a motion to approve the draft easement and plan for DCR Flood Station at 48R Pine Street and authorize the Mayor to enter into easement agreement. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 13 in favor (Councillors Bradley-MacArthur, Dunn, Durkee, Hanley,

Harris, Katz, King, LaCava, LaFauci, President Logan, McLaughlin, Tzioumis, and VP LeBlanc) and 2 absent (Brasco and Vidal).

7. President Logan commented that Councillor Vidal was out of town and unable to make it back in time for the meeting.

8. A motion by President Logan to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote and VP LeBlanc declared the meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.

Laura M. Doane – Clerk pro tem to the Committee of the Whole