

MINUTES OF TOWN OF BERKLEY SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF 06/11/2026

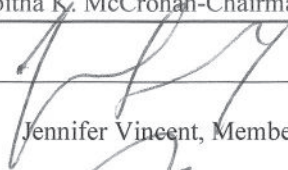
SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE: Tabitha K. McCrohan-Chairman, Jennifer Vincent-Clerk Robert Longton-Member

TOPIC		ACTION
Call To Order	Board of Selectmen - Called to Order at 6:15 p.m. Berkley Council on Aging, 1 North Main Street, Berkley, MA	
New Business:	1. Joint discussion with Berkley Planning Board of TEC, Inc. conceptual pedestrian safety recommendations for the Berkley Middle School–Berkley Common corridor (MassDOT LEAP Program). The Planning Board and Board of Selectmen met jointly with representatives from TEC, Inc. and MassDOT's LEAP program to review early concepts for improving pedestrian safety and walkability between Berkley Middle School and the Town Common. The project grew out of a student-led civics effort asking for safer ways to walk from the middle school to key destinations like the Common, the library, and the convenience store. Using state-funded technical assistance, TEC has been studying the area since winter and presented initial ideas for new sidewalks and shared-use paths, as well as potential changes to key intersections to calm traffic and make crossing the street safer. Concepts discussed include formalizing the informal path students already use from the middle school, creating a safer off-road connection through or around the cemetery and behind town facilities, and building a sidewalk or shared-use path along North Main and South Main. Around the Town Common, TEC showed a possible walking loop that would provide a safe, accessible place for residents—especially seniors and families—to walk and access recreation fields. The plans also show potential reconfigurations of the intersections at Porter Street/South Main/North Main and near the library and bank to simplify traffic movements, reduce conflict points, and add green space while keeping vehicle access functional. Board members, the Fire Chief, highway staff, and residents had a detailed discussion about how these concepts would work in real life. The Fire Chief highlighted turning and sight-line challenges for large fire apparatus at the Locust/North Main/library area and stressed that any redesign must improve, not worsen, emergency response. Highway and public safety officials also raised concerns about cut-through traffic, access to the gas station, bank, and Boondocks, and the need for truck-friendly intersection geometry, possibly including wider turning areas or truck aprons. There was substantial conversation about privacy fencing and security along the back side of the ballfields, cemetery, and highway department to reduce vandalism and keep people away from stored equipment, as well as the town's limited capacity to plow and maintain new sidewalks and paths. TEC noted that these drawings are intentionally conceptual, that path alignments and materials (e.g., asphalt vs. concrete) can be adjusted to balance safety, maintenance, and cost, and that challenging locations—such as the curve and hill near the community school—may require enhanced crossings like pedestrian-activated beacons. Copies of the 11" x 17" concept plans are being made available at Town Hall for residents to review and mark up, and the town will continue to collect detailed feedback from the public and departments as it refines these ideas and explores funding and phased construction of a pedestrian network that is both safer and realistically maintainable. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM	Discussion Only, no votes taken
Adjournment:	*Next Scheduled Meeting is Thursday, June 11th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.*	

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Tabitha McCrohan, Chairwoman

Jennifer Vincent, Member

Robert Longton, Member

Matthew Chabot, Town Administrator