

Caucus 2023: Elected Positions in Goshen

Almoners

Meets as necessary or by appointment after an application is received.

The Almoners are elected to oversee the accounting and expenditures of funds given to the town through the will of the late Whiting Street and Wright Fund. The purpose of the funds is to provide “relief and comfort of the worthy poor . . .”

Funds are available to residents of Goshen that face financial hardship. Residents that would like to apply for consideration must fill out the application and submit it to the town treasurer. Funds are typically one-time payments that are dispersed directly to a debtor of the approved resident as available. For more information, visit:

www.goshen-ma.us/departments/almoners/

Assessors

Wednesdays, 6:30pm

The Assessor’s Office is responsible for uniformly and accurately valuing all property both real and personal located within the town. The Board of Assessors reviews approximately 1/10th of all parcels on a yearly basis. The full list of Assessor duties can be found at:

www.goshen-ma.us/departments/board-of-assessors/

Board of Health

1st Monday of the month at 6pm

The board works closely with the Health Agent on all matters of Public Health. Under Massachusetts General Law and state and local regulations, the Board of Health is held responsible for disease prevention and control, and health and environmental protection. To fulfill its duties, the Board of Health develops, implements and enforces health policies, oversees inspections to maintain minimum standards for sanitation in housing, food service and septic system installation, and assures that the basic health needs of the community are being met. For more information, visit: www.goshen-ma.us/departments/board-health-health-agent/

Chesterfield / Goshen Regional School Committee

1st Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm

The School Committee has the dual responsibility for implementing statutory requirements pertaining to public education and local citizens’ expectations for the education of the community’s youth. It also has an obligation to determine and assess citizens’ desires. When citizens elect delegates to represent them in the conduct of public education, their representatives have the authority to exercise their best judgment in determining policies, making decisions, and approving procedures for carrying out this responsibility. For more information, visit: www.hr-k12.org/new-hingham-school-committee-c6a393b0

Finance Committee

3rd Tuesday of the month at 6pm

The Finance Committee is primarily responsible for submitting its recommendations on the annual budget to the town meeting. In assuming this responsibility, the committee influences the entire budgetary process. The committee is also commonly involved in the budget preparation, which involves the development of budget forms and, in many communities, the establishment of budgetary guidelines for department heads.

Once departmental budget requests are submitted, the committee reviews them and makes recommendations on the requests to town meeting. Prior to town meeting, the Finance Committee often conducts budget hearings to allow more extensive review of the budget. For more information, visit: www.goshen-ma.us/departments/finance-committee/

Hampshire Regional School Committee

1st Monday of the month at 6pm

See school committee description on pg. 1. Visit: www.hr-k12.org/school-committees-b42d6ee5

Library Trustees

3rd Wednesday of the month at 5pm

The authority for Boards of Library Trustees is set by Massachusetts General Laws Part I, Title XII, Chapter 78, sections 10-11-12. Our work is assisted by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and their staff. The Trustees have custody and management of the Goshen Free Library's contents, furniture and property; set policy for library operations on the advice of the library director; oversee and supervise the library director during periodic verbal and annual written reviews; and have oversight of its revenue from municipal funding, outside grants, state aid, and of library expenses for wages, materials and programs. Additionally, the Trustees may coordinate programs with volunteer organizations, the Cultural Council, other libraries and networks of libraries, the Council on Aging, and the school committee. The Trustees elect a chair, a secretary, and a treasurer from their number annually in September. The Trustees and its meetings are subject to Massachusetts' Open Meeting Laws. For more information, visit: www.goshen-ma.us/departments/library/

Moderator

**2nd Monday in April (Caucus), 3rd Saturday in May (Annual Town Meeting)
As needed for special town meetings**

The Moderator is the presiding officer of the annual town meeting, held in May of each year, and any special town meeting that may be called by the Board of Selectmen during the year. During the town meeting, the Moderator announces and explains the articles contained in the meeting warrant, conducts the discussion of each article, makes rulings (as needed) on the articles and any proposed amendments to the articles, calls for a vote on each article, and announces the

results of each vote. The Moderator is the final authority on all procedural issues that arise during town meeting. For more information, visit: www.goshen-ma.us/departments/town-moderator/

Planning Board

1st Monday of the month at 6pm

The establishment of municipal Planning Boards is authorized by Massachusetts General Law, chapter 41, section 81A. Among its many diverse roles, the Planning Board is charged with the following duties, paraphrased here from the Mass. General Law: Adopting a master plan and official map of the city or town; conducting studies, and, when necessary, preparing plans of the resources, possibilities and needs of the city or town for submittal to the select board for their consideration; serving as the local authority for the Subdivision Control Act; adopting Rules and Regulations governing the subdivision of land in the Town of Goshen; reviewing all preliminary and definitive plan submittals. For more information, visit: www.goshen-ma.us/departments/planning-board/

Select Board

2nd and 4th Mondays at 5pm

The Select Board serves as a town's chief executive body. They have overall responsibility for the general operations of town government. They are the non-school appointing authority for a town. They are authorized to enter into contracts on behalf of the municipality. While most other town boards and offices serve a particular function (e.g., assessors, finance, school, health), the Select Board's responsibilities are much broader. Their job is one of sorting out the various positions of different departments and boards to determine the best overall course of action for the town. The Select Board should play an active and strong role in the financial management of the town. For more information, visit: www.goshen-ma.us/departments/select-board/

Tilton Farm Supervisors

2nd Monday of the month at 7pm

The three annually elected Tilton Town Farm Supervisors assume the overall responsibility to oversee the accounting and expenditures of property and land given to the town through the will of the late Spencer William Tilton. The purpose of the will is to maintain the property & land bequeathed to the town. For more information, visit: www.goshen-ma.us/departments/tilton-town-farm/