

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
OFFICERS, BOARDS
and
COMMITTEES
of the
TOWN OF MERRIMAC
MASSACHUSETTS

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025



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In Memoriam 2025

Frederick Underwood
Light and Water Commissioner

David Riley
Police Department

**Town of Merrimac
ELECTED OFFICIALS**

BOARD OF ASSESSORS		Oath Date	Term End
Elected	DANIEL DOMINGS	5/6/2025	5/1/2028
Elected	SUSAN M. SEARLE	5/8/2024	5/3/2027
Elected	GENA SINIBALDI	5/8/2024	5/4/2026

BOARD OF HEALTH		Oath Date	Term End
Elected	CHRISTINE BERUBE	5/8/2023	5/4/2026
Elected	ASHLYN CALCAGNI	5/8/2024	5/3/2027
Elected	JASON SARGENT	5/7/2025	5/1/2028

BOARD OF LIGHT COMMISSIONERS		Oath Date	Term End
Chair	EDWARD DAVIS		5/1/2028
Clerk	NORMAN DENAULT	5/8/2023	5/4/2026
Elected	KENNETH P. RHUDICK	5/8/2024	5/3/2027

CEMETERY TRUSTEES		Oath Date	Term End
Chair	RICKY PINCIARO	5/8/2025	5/1/2028
Elected	GWENDOLYN SABBAGH	5/8/2023	5/1/2026
Elected	DAVID J. VANCE	5/6/2024	5/3/2027

CONSTABLES		Oath Date	Term End
Elected	RAYMOND FELICE		5/1/2028
Elected	KEITH POLLMAN		5/1/2028
Elected	DAVID J. VANCE	5/8/2025	5/1/2028

HOUSING AUTHORITY		Oath Date	Term End
Elected	CANDIE A BENJAMIN	5/17/2023	5/1/2028
Elected	AYN KIRA CARROLL	5/18/2022	5/4/2027
Elected	CONNIE NUCCI	5/6/2024	5/7/2029

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES		Oath Date	Term End
Elected	JENNIFER P. BROWN	5/6/2024	5/3/2027
Elected	SUSAN M. COBURN	5/8/2024	5/3/2027
Elected	YVONNE COSGROVE	5/8/2023	5/4/2026
Elected	MARIPAU MCGINN	5/8/2023	5/4/2026
Elected	ROBERT MICHAUD		5/1/2028
Elected	PATRICIA MUNZ-ADAMS	5/13/2025	5/1/2028

MODERATOR		Oath Date	Term End
Elected	W. EARL BAUMGARDNER	5/6/2024	5/4/2026

PLANNING BOARD		Oath Date	Term End
Elected	TOM ABISALIH		5/3/2027
Elected	DENNIS BRODIE	5/4/2021	5/4/2026
Elected	DAVID CRESSMAN	5/8/2023	5/1/2028
Appointed	BRONWYN CROCKER	7/8/2025	5/1/2026
Elected	WILLIAM MCGOWAN	5/8/2024	5/7/2029

SCHOOL COMMITTEE		Oath Date	Term End
Elected	JULIE A. KING	5/13/2025	5/1/2028
Elected	CHRISTOPHER MARKUNS	5/8/2023	5/4/2026
Elected	BRIENNE WALSH	5/6/2024	5/3/2027

SELECT BOARD		Oath Date	Term End
Elected	WAYNE P. ADAMS	5/8/2024	5/4/2026
Elected	JANET BRUNO	5/7/2024	5/3/2027
Elected	IRINA GORZYNSKI	5/8/2023	5/4/2026
Elected	ROBERT L. GUSTISON, II		5/1/2028
Elected	CHRIS MANNI		5/1/2028

TOWN CLERK		Oath Date	Term End
Elected	GWENDOLYN LAY SABBAGH	5/5/2025	5/1/2028

DIRECTORY OF APPOINTED OFFICERS FOR FY2025

Affordable Housing Board of Trustees

Sandra Venner, Chairperson
Brienne Walsh
Phillip Parry
Irina Gorzynski, Select Board Rep.

Dawne Young
Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello
Bridget Bacheller

Board of Appeals

Matthew Passeri, Chair
Ron Reade
Mitch Kostoulakos thru 10/24
Ken Nobrega

Joanne Rodrigues
Josh Jackson thru 10/24
Janet M. Bruno, Associate
Rob Gustison II, Associate

Kathleen Marshall, Administrative Assistant

Board of Registrars

Ricky Pinciario

Robert Sinibaldi

Alyssa Estrada

Capital Planning Committee

Sandra Venner
Michael Marden, Chair & Finance Committee Rep.
Chris Manni, Alternate, Select Board Rep.
Carol McLeod, Ex Officio

David Cressman
Bonnie Pearlman

Commission on Disabilities

Chris Gaudet, Chairman
Ann Marie Murphy
Robert Sinibaldi, ADA Compliance Officer
Brienne Walsh, COA Director
Kathleen Sullivan, Secretary

Robert Hart, Vice Chairman
Bridget Goerke

Conservation Commission

Jerome Mathieu, Chair
Gregory Hochmuth, Vice Chair
Gregory MacLean
Mark Leger

Charlie Cohavey
Arthur Yarranton
William Andrulitis

Jay Smith, Agent

Council on Aging

Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, Chairwoman
David Vance, Asst. Chairman
Kathy Devaney
Donna Doherty

Brienne Walsh
Candie Benjamin, Secretary
Maryann Mikson thru 5/25
Barbara Gould

Cultural Council

Christy Skinner
Christy Dole
Valerie Labelle
Joy Kimball
Kendra Blitz

Patty Olds
David Olds
Theresa Blackman
Kathryn LaPlante

Finance Committee

Mike Marden
Marcia Zosack
David Luoma
Michael Bevilacqua

Corey Cane
David Olds
Thomas Ackerman
Kenneth Tingle

Historical Commission

Larry Fisher
Herbert Cresey

Yvonne D. Cosgrove
Kendra Blitz

Mass Bay Transit Authority Designee

Bill Andrulitis

Merrimac Housing Authority

Joseph Fernandes

Merrimac Valley Planning Commission

Tom Abisalih

Merrimack Valley Transit Authority Designee

Mitch Kostoulakos

OPEB Trustees

Carol McLeod
Chris Manni
Mary Usovicz

Anne Jim
Mike Marden

Open Space Committee

Martin Hanlon thru 5/25
Lucy Abisalih
Maryann Glennon

Dawn Ackerman
Sandra Venner
Susan Simmon

OSHA Committee

Larry Fisher
Alyssa Sexton
Leo Reynolds
Robert Sinibaldi

Chris Perkins
Jim Clark
Mary Usovicz
Carol McLeod

Kiersten Cray
Eric Shears
Joelle Mather

Rent Control Board

Virginia Noble

Bronwyn Crocker

Irina Gorzynski

School Building Committee

Carol McLeod

Inspectional Services

Robert Sinibaldi, Building Inspector

Cable Access

Carol Traynor, Director

Emergency Management Director

Larry Fisher, Chief

Emergency Management Deputy

Steven Brown

Finance Director, Treasurer, & Town Administrator

Carol A. McLeod

Fire Department

Larry Fisher, Chief
Gregory Habgood, Assistant Chief/EMS Coordinator

Police Department

Eric Shears, Chief

Department of Public Works

Robert Sinibaldi

Select Board's Executive Assistant

Jennifer Penney

Tax Collector

Michelle Barry

Town Accountant

Anne O. Jim

Town Counsel

Mead, Talerman & Costa, LLC

Town Nurse

Danielle Cataldo

Veterans' Services Director

Kevin Hunt

Veterans' Services Associate Director

Jeremiah Murphy

Weights and Measures

Leonard Rose

The Select Board would like to thank all those who have served the town this past year.



Annual Report of the Merrimac Select Board

As we, the Merrimac Select Board, reflect on the past year and look ahead to 2027, we continue to be honored to serve our great community. It has been a year filled with accomplishments, community engagement, and resilience to ever-changing conditions.

First and foremost, we would like to express our gratitude for your continued support and dedication to our town. Your involvement in Town Meetings, local events, volunteering for town boards and committees, and the overall commitment to improving our community is truly remarkable. Many incredible experiences and unforgettable memories were made during Old Home Days, the Santa Parade, the Christmas Eve Santa ride, the Santa Trot, the Jamaco River Run, and many other programs and events that would not be possible without all your support. We would like to proactively thank the 150th Anniversary Committee for their incredible work on many exciting events to come this year to celebrate Merrimac's Sesquicentennial!

From a financial standpoint, our town continues to be in good health and has maintained a credit rating of AA+ for the last five years. A recommended target for a general stabilization fund is typically five to seven percent of the current operating budget range, which Merrimac currently has. These funds can be utilized in case of an emergency expense or to address issues in the future.

The Select Board continues to focus on foundation-level infrastructure projects that will support our community for decades—such as replacing water mains for capacity and quality, paving roads, and replacing failing waste processing equipment. We would like to thank our Department of Public Works teams for their execution of these vital projects. Some of our recent successes with securing grants and earmarks include: \$1,500,000 to repair and reopen the Mill Street Culvert, \$1,100,000 for Wastewater Plant upgrades, \$315,000 for Liberty & Mechanic Street Water Main Replacement, and \$100,000 for Safe/Shared Streets to add crossing beacons, signage, and a sidewalk plow. All these successful grants took years of advocacy and persistence to accomplish.

While Merrimac is generally considered a safe community, challenges remain. The number of calls for Police, Fire, and Emergency Services continually increase especially around mental health problems. This is happening while available staffing continues to be scarce especially with per diem Firefighters/EMTs. From an education perspective, cost increases over 2.5% continue to pressure budgets. This is true not only of Pentucket Regional but school districts throughout the state. The Select Board has responded by proactively engaging the Pentucket Administration, School Committee members, and our partner Select Boards to put forth a budget that all three towns can move forward to Town Meeting without an override request. To that point, since the Select Board does not anticipate major Chapter 70 reform within the next year or two, we continue to advocate in areas where

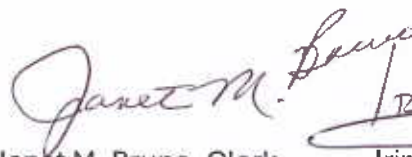
there are opportunities such as regional transportation and special education funding. Regarding Chapter 70 reform, we currently see momentum building for change across the commonwealth which is a sign of hope for adequate and equitable funding.

In closing, our optimism and confidence about the future of Merrimac remains strong. With the community's continued support and collaboration, there are no issues that we cannot resolve. Thank you again for being a part of our special place in this world, and we wish you and your loved ones a healthy, prosperous, and fulfilling year ahead.

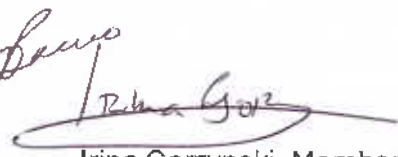
With gratitude,



Christopher Manni, Chairman



Janet M. Bruno, Clerk



Irina Gorzynski, Member



Wayne P. Adams, Member



Robert L. Gustison II, Member



Merrimac Fire Department

16 East Main Street
Merrimac, MA 01860-2019
Office - 978-346-8211
Fax – 978-346-9227
Email – lfisher@merrimacfire.org

Larry S. Fisher
Fire Chief/EMD/CFO/FPOII

To: The Honorable Select Board &
The Citizens of the Town of Merrimac, Massachusetts

As I start this year's report to review the events, challenges, and successes of the fire department, I do it with a renewed sense of respect and gratitude for our members. While many of you will never understand the level of dedication and sacrifice that our members make each year, I see it every day. This year I have seen a rebirth and reinforcement of core values. These very values make fire departments a special place. I saw our members once again take an extra step to help. They needed to do additional work for me. I had surgery that has effectively taken me out of responding to medical responses. This has been difficult for me to not be able to help the people that already are doing more with less. It has been a frustrating but also humbling process for me.

As a result of this process, I have come to understand more now than ever that our town needs to recognize the facts about our staffing. We are not living in a time where we have people that work in town that can respond or will be readily available when they come home from their primary jobs. This has been the case for at least the last fifteen years. The Fire Department has always just made it work. That is not an option anymore because our members are busy just like you. It is unsafe for everyone involved and has been for a long time.

Our department is now much younger and very eager to do and have a job. This means two things; we need to be able to train our younger and newer people, but we also need to have jobs for them if we are going to continue to make this investment.

We have been a training department for years. What I mean by that is, we train members and they go elsewhere. We have produced great firefighters for other departments. Why is this? They want a full-time job. We invest thousands of dollars in them and then they leave in most cases, and most do not return to help with coverage.

We need to change this process. Yes, we may still lose members to other departments, but hopefully not every single year. This is not a good model and bad for our members'

morale. We put time and energy into our new members, seeing that effort wasted with little to no return is deflating.

Please give this thought and never hesitate to stop at the station to speak with us directly and ask questions. The department is yours; we work here to provide service to each of you. Our members will gladly answer your questions and tell you that they love and want to work in our town, but a percentage of them want and need a job to do so.

This year we have added a couple of members to our Call/per-diem membership list. They have gone to the academy or will finish soon, and we have two members in paramedic school. Our hope for these members is that we will be able to retain them and use their skills to serve the community.

Our members trained at Skip's buildings prior to demolition, practicing search and rescue, breaching, hose line advancement, vehicle placement, aerial, and pump operations. We made productive use of the site despite the loss of our community's well-known burger spot.

We continue to have great relationships with our vendors which is so incredibly important. They help us maintain the town's purchases of new equipment, apparatus, and gear. We have a robust inspection and maintenance process which in turn protects our investments.

We are always building our working relationships with all departments. Most recently preparing food for workers during the substantial winter storms. All our town departments work well together, and we are grateful for their support when needed.

Usually, this is when I take a moment to recognize a handful of department members. As I mentioned before, I have noticed a renewal of values that are essential in the firehouse. From both my perspective and that of our team, we truly have a united group. Members have repeatedly expressed this view. The citizens of Merrimac should take pride in this achievement. Even under challenging conditions, your firefighters have continued to grow together as a team, appreciating their own contributions and efforts. This is a significant accomplishment, especially considering the staff's limited availability.

When I became Chief, I promised to bring enjoyment back to the job and foster a supportive team spirit. Considering their commitment, I want to applaud all our members who support each other and work to strengthen our fire department. Their dedication makes me incredibly proud.

My only disappointment this year is that we were unable to provide more full-time help. We all understand that we are all facing challenging times and appreciate the support we have received in the past. However, calls for service and their severity continue to increase. Our members, just like you, have similar demands on them from second jobs and family. These challenges are all around us, in every job type, it is a significant issue

in our state and country. As a community, we must accept the responsibility to be better prepared or facing the consequences of not having enough help when it is needed most.

As always, our Couplings and Emergency Management volunteers continue to do important work. We are all in a better place because of their efforts and service to Merrimac.

In closing my review of the past year, I would like to again extend my sincere gratitude to the community members who continue to support our efforts. While the outcomes this year did not fully meet our expectations, we acknowledge the challenges that affect all of us.

Looking ahead, it is essential to continue establishing a comprehensive, town-wide list of priorities. It is important that these priorities are clear and distributed to everyone. These priorities need to be communicated to taxpayers and the department heads. The department heads should not be competing annually for the same resources. They should already have an expectation of what the plan is for the next few years. If we do not have funds to accomplish goals, then we should have a clear picture of what our options are so we as a community can make educated short and long-term decisions.

As we undertake this process, it is important to maintain clarity and an accurate understanding of our financial resources now and looking forward. Each identified need should undergo a thorough and transparent vetting process to ensure accountability to our taxpayers.

Although there may be differing views on which priorities are most critical, it is imperative that we develop a strategic plan that not only addresses current issues but also positions our community for long-term success. Each department needs staffing to be successful. We need to determine what these levels are and how to get there.

We will have a difficult road ahead of us if things continue to go as they are. Setting priorities and matching them to financial capabilities in any given year is imperative. We also need to communicate in the proper forum, not social media. Face to face in a respectful environment is how we move forward with understanding and in a positive direction.

This process will not only make our fire department successful, but it will also make each department equally successful in the long term. As a community we need to work as a unified team more now than ever before. Get involved where you can. If you have skills that are suited for the fire department, we would love to meet you and help you through the application process, so you could become a call/per-diem member.

Thank you again, be safe and stay healthy,

Larry S. Fisher

Fire Chief/EMD



Merrimac Fire Department 2025

Larry Fisher - Fire Chief, EMT-B

Greg Habgood- Assistant Chief, EMT-P

Michael Sloban – Deputy Chief

Dave Forziati- Acting Deputy, EMT-B

Kiersten Cray- Administrative Assistant

Full-time Officer & Firefighters

William Howard- Acting LT, EMT-P

Skylar Bianculli - Firefighter, EMT-B

Phillip Gray - Firefighter, EMT-B

Travis Bouncy– Firefighter, EMT-B

Officers

Mark Soucy- Captain, EMT-B Shane Sevigny- LT, EMT-P Benjamin Jennell- LT, EMT-B

Firefighters & EMT's

John Alcantara

Xavier Arroyo

Jacob Barlow

Steven Brown

Conor Clancy

Lisa Eichel

Johnathan Gardella

Brian Greaney

Garrett King

Devin Parsons

Gabriel Ricker

Nicole Sevigny

Keith Sherman

David Sherwood

Chris Stiles

Christian Taylor

Curtis Walton



Merrimac Emergency Management 2025

Personnel Roster

Emergency Management Director	Larry S. Fisher
Emergency Management Deputy Director	Steven Brown, Sr.
Municipal Official	Select Board Designee
Police Department Representative	Eric M. Shears or designee
Radiological Officers	Guy Oteri
Transportation Coordinators	Greg McLean
Communications Personnel	Ann Brown
	Rebecca Armstrong
Staging Area Personnel	Guy Oteri
Special Needs Notifier	Rebecca Armstrong
Fire Department Representative	Greg Habgood
DPW Representative	Robert Sinibaldi or designee
EOC Administrative Personnel	Julia Fisher
	Ann Brown
	Kiersten Cray
Police Dispatchers	Mark Sayers
	Rebecca Armstrong
Traffic Management & Municipal Security	Chief Shears or designee



Merrimac Fire Couplings 2025

Chief- Judy David

Captain-Deanne Daneau

Clerk- Julia Fisher

Treasurer- Carolyn Kelly

Members

Ellen Amirault

Donna Berard

Betty Elliot

Shauna Gray

Pat Jordan

Jeanne Judson

Alberta Peavey

Christine Robinson

Betty Sloban

Sally Smith

Ellen Soucy

Sarah Soucy

Tiffany Soucy

This group of women is the definition of dedication, selflessness and supportive. They have been silently working behind the scenes in the fire department, during good and tough times, supporting in whatever ways needed. They are true volunteers. They serve our members and our cause. Their ability to do contribute, without fanfare, is a trait that is hard to find.

We do genuinely appreciate your help in getting us to where we are today!

*Respectfully,
Larry S. Fisher, Fire Chief*



Eric M. Shears
Chief of Police

Merrimac Police Department

2 Jana Way
Merrimac, Massachusetts 01860

Tel: 978-346-8321
Fax: 978-346-0592



REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

2025

To: The Honorable Select Board and the Citizens of the Town of Merrimac:

The Merrimac Police Department remains committed to providing professional, responsive, and high-quality police services to our community. I am extremely proud of the dedicated men and women who serve this department. Each day, they demonstrate an unwavering commitment to public service and to the safety and well-being of the citizens of Merrimac.

Our officers continue to meet increasing service demands with professionalism and resilience, often responding to calls for service as the sole officer on duty. While we have made progress toward increasing two-officer coverage, we have not yet reached the staffing level necessary to consistently meet the needs of our community. Ensuring appropriate staffing levels will remain an important priority moving forward, and it is a challenge we must continue to address together as a community.

Through funding provided by the Commonwealth, the department successfully acquired an unmanned aerial system (drone), which has quickly become a valuable public safety resource. During the year, the drone was deployed on at least thirty-one (31) missions, significantly enhancing our operational capabilities and response effectiveness.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all members of the Merrimac Police Department for their continued commitment to our core values of Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dedication, and Excellence. Their daily efforts, often performed under challenging circumstances, reflect the very best of public service and are deserving of recognition and appreciation.

We are also grateful for the continued support of our residents, the Select Board, the Finance Committee, Capital Planning Committee, and the staff at Town Hall. Additionally, our strong partnerships with the Merrimac Fire Department, Emergency Management, Department of Public Works, Light Department, and the Pentucket Regional School District remain essential to our shared mission of serving the community.

By working together, we continue to ensure the safety, security, and quality of life that make Merrimac such a special place to live and work.

It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve as Chief of Police for the Town of Merrimac.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric M. Shears
Chief of Police

Merrimac Police Department 2025

Eric M. Shears
Chief of Police

Richard P. Holcroft
Operations /
Investigations Sergeant

Joelle Mather
Administrative
Assistant

Stephen A. Ringuette
Operations /
Investigations Sergeant

Patrol Officers

Stephen E. Beaulieu
Detective

Brett Remon
Patrol Officer

Jonathan Hewey
Patrol Officer

Scott LaValley
Patrol Officer

William David
Patrol Officer

Adam White
Patrol Officer

Paul DeCoste
Patrol Officer

Reserve Officers

Keith Cote
Reserve Officer

David J. Vance
Special Officer
Reserve Dispatcher

Police & Fire Signal Operators

Mark E. Sayers
Dispatch Supervisor

Lorna Morgan
Dispatcher

Rebecca Armstrong
Dispatcher

James Stoner
Dispatcher

Part-Time Police & Fire Signal Operators

Joelle Mather
Reserve Dispatcher

Gabriel Ricker
Reserve Dispatcher

Katelyn Drago
Reserve Dispatcher
Accreditation
Manager

Brad DiCenzo
Animal Control
Reserve Dispatcher

David Knight
Reserve Dispatcher

Manny Tickelis
Reserve Dispatcher

Civilian Firearms Licensing

Stephen M. Ringuette
Firearms Licensing

2025 Calls by Dispatch Reason			
Intelligence	29	Welfare Check	98
Rape / Sexual Assault	0	Officer Wanted	590
Robbery (Unarmed)	0	Officer Wanted / Detail	636
Assault & Battery	5	Provide Escort	0
B & E (Attempted)	2	Assist Citizen	114
B&E Building	5	Assist Citizen/ Lock Out	13
B&E Boat	0	Assist Citizen / Transport	2
B&E Motor Vehicle	1	Building Check	3358
Larceny / Personal Property	9	Message Delivery	2
Larceny by Check	1	Animal Incident (ACO)	305
Larceny of Motor Vehicle	4	Assist Municipal Agencies	16
Kidnapping (Parental)	0	Utility Alarm / Emergency	98
Assault (Threats / No Battery)	2	Medical Emergency	711
Forgery & Counterfeiting	1	Mental Health Emergency	50
Stalking	1	Intoxicated Person	4
Vandalism Complaint	6	Reported Death	0
Weapons Violation	0	FIRE ALARM - Street Box	85
Sex Offenses	0	FIRE ALARM - Brush Fire	9
Drug Law Violations	0	FIRE ALARM - Car Fire	3
Gaming Law Violation	0	FIRE ALARM - Structure Fire	3
Offenses Against Family/Child	0	FIRE ALARM - Investigation	207
Intoxicated Driver Complaint	1	FIRE ALARM - Mutual Aid	67
Disorderly Conduct	1	Burglar Alarm	49
209A Violation	2	Confer with other PD	0
209A Order Received	1	Assist Other Police Department	166
Officer Investigation	10	Motor Vehicle Stop	1004
Warrant Arrest	3	Motor Vehicle Listing	7
Larceny of a Bicycle	1	Parking Violation	150
General Offenses	19	RADAR Assignment	278
Trespass Complaint	3	Motor Vehicle Complaint (Speed)	75
Civil Complaint	2	Motor Vehicle Accidents	129
Juvenile Offense	0	Traffic Control	17
Revered Stolen MV	0	Abandoned MV Complaint	0
Missing Person	15	Disabled MV Complaint	80
Lost / Found Property	55	Car Seat Assist	9
Disturbance (General)	20	Assist Schools	208
Domestic Disturbance	29	Community Policing	17
Disturbance (School)	0	Inter - Department Services	2
Disturbance (Group)	3	Court (On Duty)	47
Hazard / Youths in Street	137	911 Calls -Abandoned, Hangup, Silent, Wrong	233
Disturbance (Noise)	40	Servicing Cruiser	575
Annoying Harassing Phone Calls	1	Community Service	0
Suspicious Activity	115	Radio Communications Maint.	0
Boating Complaint	1	Pursuit (MV or Foot)	0
ATV / Dirt bike Complaint	2	Service of Legal Process	78
General Services	404	Animal Inspection (Barn/QR)	58
General Services/ Directions	2	Drone Missions (Total)	42
		TOTAL	10529

ADULT ARRESTS

Male Arrests	21
Female Arrests	06

JUVENILE ARRESTS

Male Juvenile Arrests	0
Female Juvenile Arrests	0

PROTECTIVE CUSTODY

Male PC	1
Female PC	0

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT APPLICATIONS

Various Criminal Offenses	27
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TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Total Motor Vehicle Stops	1004
Verbal Warnings	646
Written Warnings	265
Civil Citations	45
Criminal Complaints/Arrest	48



Merrimac Department of Veterans' Services

Kevin Hunt, Director

Telephone: 978 388-8136

Email: veterans@cityofnewburyport.com

TOWN OF MERRIMAC
OFFICE OF THE MERRIMAC SELECT BOARD
MERRIMAC, MA 01860

What follows is the annual report from The Department of Veterans' Services.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER 115 BENEFITS:

This department was able to assist veterans or family members this past year under M.G.L. Chapter 115. This is emergency financial assistance provided to financially qualified veterans or their surviving spouses. Any money expended to these veterans under Chapter 115 is returned to the Town by the State at the rate of \$.75 to the dollar expended. In 2025, approximately \$89,572.58 was expended to eligible veterans and their families, of which \$64,618.27 will be returned to the Town by the State of Massachusetts.

VETERANS DAY:

On Veterans Day a luncheon was put on by the New Old Oak Restaurant which is well attended by Merrimac Veterans. This luncheon offers veterans a good meal and each veteran receives a gift bag to show appreciation for their service. The Merrimac Council on Aging also had a luncheon for Veterans Day, this luncheon was emceed by Roger Clark of the Merrimac American legion Post and again a good meal was served, and each Veteran was provided a challenge coin in appreciation of their service.

MEMORIAL DAY FLAGS:

Thanks to the efforts of Commander Clark and the members of Post 134 of the American Legion, veterans' graves and memorials were appropriately decorated with American Flags by Memorial Day. On Memorial Day, the American Legion Post held a Memorial Day program at the Veterans Section of the Locust Grove Cemetery.

VA COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS:

The Veterans Department continues to assist and secure various VA benefits, such as service connected disability compensation and non-service connected pensions paid to Merrimac residents. Last year, the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs distributed \$228,090.09 to 115 Merrimac veterans and/or their surviving spouses as compensation or pension. The average monthly benefit was \$1,983.39 which is paid directly to the veteran and in most cases these monies are non-taxable. The Veterans' Office assists veterans and their families in applying for these benefits. The Town of Merrimac does not have to pay anything to receive these funds, much of which is spent within the Town.

VA HEALTH CARE:

The department assisted many veterans enroll in VA Healthcare and assisted in securing various VA medical benefits for service and local veterans. These medical benefits included short term and long-term medical treatments at the VA Community Based Outreach Clinic in Haverhill and other VA Hospitals in the surrounding area.

SOCIAL SECURITY:

This department continues to assist and refer veterans seeking benefits from the Social Security Agency. One of the most common benefits we assist veterans and their dependents with is the Medicare Savings Program which can save an individual well over two thousand dollars per year in reduced Medicare premiums.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Hunt
Director of Veterans' Services
Town of Merrimac

Jeremiah Murphy
Associate Director
Town of Merrimac

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

22 MAIN STREET
WEST NEWBURY, MASSACHUSETTS 01985-1897
TEL: (978) 363-2280 / FAX: (978) 363-1165



PENTUCKET REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

GROVELAND | MERRIMAC | WEST NEWBURY

The Merrimac Annual Report of the School Department activities for FY25 has been developed by the Principal of the Pentucket Regional Middle-High School, the Principal of the Helen R. Donaghue School and the Principal of the Dr. Frederick N. Sweetsir School on behalf of the Superintendent of Schools and the Pentucket Regional School Committee.

Emily Dwyer, Chairwoman
Emily Zeitsev, Vice Chairwoman
Beth Greenhagen
Michaels Hawes
Julie King
Chris Markuns
Christine Reading
Dena Trotta
Brienne Walsh

Pentucket Regional Middle-High School

Last year Pentucket Middle-High School was filled with academic successes, new initiatives, and vibrant community events that marked a year of growth and achievement. The school hosted various events such as post-graduation fairs for juniors and seniors, guiding them on their future paths. Extracurricular activities were bustling, with highlights like our DECA club's participation in regional competitions, showcasing our students' business acumen. Sports teams also had an impressive year, with students pushing hard in lacrosse, football, and other competitions, supported by strong fan attendance at key games. Parent-Teacher conferences ensured ongoing collaboration between families and teachers, strengthening the home-school connection. Together, these accomplishments underscore Pentucket's dedication to fostering a supportive and challenging environment for every student.

Student Count Pentucket Regional Middle-High School

Year 2024-2025	Town	Student Count
	Amesbury	1
	Byfield	1
	Georgetown	9
	Groveland	354
	Haverhill	6
	Lawrence	1
	Merrimac	324
	Methuen	1
	West Newbury	230
Total Student Count		927

Senior Class of 2026		
	Groveland	54
	Merrimac	42
	West Newbury	34
	Haverhill	1
	Methuen	1
Total Senior Class		132

School Highlights

The year at Pentucket Regional High School was a vibrant and rewarding one, filled with significant achievements and meaningful experiences for students, staff, and the community. Academically, students excelled in standardized tests, innovative projects, and college acceptances - a PHS student is in ROTC to become an officer in the military through Holy Cross, and we had students accepted to USC, Colby, Bates, etc. In addition, the DECA club's impressive involvement in competitions demonstrated our students' growing interest in business and leadership. The theater department showed off their rising stars in *Les Miserables* which boasted three sold-out shows. The school year was capped off by events like Parent-Teacher conferences and post-graduation fairs, all designed to support students' futures. We prepared for our NEASC accreditation where surveys went out to families, students and staff. The data was used to share areas of growth for the NEASC group to evaluate in the fall.

Assessment

During the 2024–2025 school year, Pentucket Regional Middle-High School continued its commitment to academic excellence, student engagement, and community connection. In the spring of 2025, students in grades 7–10 participated in the MCAS assessments for English Language Arts and Mathematics, while Grade 8 students completed the Science, Technology, and Engineering (STE) assessment, and Grade 9 students took the Biology exam.

To support ongoing learning, grades 7 and 8 administered i-Ready diagnostic assessments three times throughout the year. The data from these assessments provided valuable insight to guide curriculum planning, instructional strategies, and targeted interventions to help all students succeed.

This year, the school has placed a strong emphasis on **attendance**, recognizing that consistent presence is essential for academic success and belonging. Pentucket is implementing clear attendance guidance to encourage students to be active members of the school community, with the ultimate goal of ensuring every student feels included, connected, and valued throughout their education at Pentucket.

PRMHS Vision of a Graduate

We continue to instill Pentucket's Vision of a Graduate where all graduates of Pentucket Regional Middle-High School will successfully use their knowledge and skills to be lifelong learners, problem solvers, critical thinkers, and responsible citizens.

The Pentucket community continues to thrive because of the steadfast support of the Town of West Newbury. The dedication and partnership of its residents help guide and sustain our mission to educate tomorrow's citizens—it truly takes a village.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Erhardt

Principal - Pentucket Regional Middle High School

Merrimac Schools Annual Report Fiscal Year 2024-2025

H. R. Donaghue
24 Union St. Ext
(978) 345-8921

Dr. F. N. Sweetsir
104 Church St.
(978) 345-8319

Demographic Information

Merrimac has two elementary schools that provide educational services to its residents. The Dr. Frederick N. Sweetsir School is located at 104 Church Street. It houses students from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 2. The enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year was 221 students. The Helen R. Donaghue School is located at 24 Union Street Extension. It houses students in grades 3-6. The enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year was 263 students.

School Highlights from 2024-2025

- The Merrimac Schools were awarded the Gold Award for their participation in the three annual Massachusetts Department of Transportation flagship days; iWalk, Winter Walk and Bike to School Day, and Spring Walk, Bike, and Roll to School Day.
- Administration attended and held “Pops with the Principals” at Merrimac Goes Back to School to meet students, families, PTO, and community members.
- Grade levels participated in field trips (both out of the building and in-house).
 - Kindergarten - Pierce Farm, Merrimac Fire Department
 - First Grade- Merrimac Library
 - Second Grade- Parker River Refuge Center
 - Third grade- Merrimac Museum, Stone Zoo, Wenham Museum, Plimoth Plantation, Seacoast Science Center
 - Fourth Grade- SEE Science Center
 - Fifth Grade- Greenscapes, Joppa Flats
 - Sixth Grade- Adventurelore, In the Game
- Our Peer Mentor Program continued to thrive between our sixth graders and the Communications Program. Our school counselors and special education teachers work to strengthen student’s social, communication, and friendship building skills.
- Merrimac students participated in an annual Talent Show.
- Students participated in an end of year art show showcasing student work K-6.
- The Fifth and Sixth Grade Chorus, directed by music teacher Johanna Dickson, held two concerts showcasing their talent.
- The PTO teamed up with school staff to celebrate Unique Week. This week celebrates what makes us special and unique through school spirit days and collaborative in school and home projects.
- The Donaghue School has a Student Council led by Kathleen Terceiro, third grade teacher. Students promoted school spirit and developed leadership skills.

- The Donaghue School held its annual Staff Vs. Sixth Grade Student basketball game. Community members, including the police and fire department and district administrative staff were invited to participate.
- School counselors implemented PBIS lessons with direct instruction of expected behaviors and held a Coffee with the Counselors for families to meet and hear about what their children are learning.
- Students were recognized for their expected behavior aligned with PRSD elementary core values with positive reinforcement, “Wolf Calls.”
- Students had the opportunity to join the ski club.
- Students in grades 4-6 participated in the school’s first Lego League Robotics Program.
- Students in grades 4-6 had the opportunity to learn to play an instrument. Students showcased their learning through in school and evening performances.
- Merrimac Schools held a Field Day for ALL students at the Donaghue School at the end of the school year. Community members (police and fire departments) led stations, as well as parent volunteers. Paired classes rotated through each station during the event. Kona Ice and t-shirts were purchased for all students by the PTO.
- Kindergarten students held a Rainforest Show for families encompassing classroom learning, songs in music, and beautiful artwork created in art.
- Our therapy dogs, Halo and Duster, supported students and staff at both schools through coordinated “Dog Days,” ensuring a consistent and visible presence on each campus.
- Continued to strengthen school communication through weekly emails to staff and families.
- Launched Instagram accounts for each school and each therapy dog to expand visibility and community engagement.

Curriculum and Instruction

- Students received the core academic disciplines of math, science, ELA, and social studies. Specials include PE, Art, Music, and Library Media.
- Teachers focused on developing cohesive units of instruction that incorporated UDL (Universal Design for Learning) and SEL (Social Emotional Learning) strategies.
- Math- students continue to use the Eureka Math Squared Program.
- Literacy - students continue to use the Wit and Wisdom Literacy program.
- Writing- teachers continued to find ways to use writing across the curriculum.
- Professional Learning Walkthroughs continued to guide instructional design.
- The Student Success Team continued to monitor student access to and success with curriculum and instruction.
- Established Merrimac Community Meetings led by grade levels, each aligned with a social-emotional (CASEL) standard to foster community, teach assembly expectations, and inform students.
- Continued collaboration with the Essex County Learning Community to address the adaptive challenge of social-emotional support in our schools, resulting in targeted professional development opportunities, the development of grades 3–6 and 7–12 screeners, and a data dashboard to monitor student needs based on screening results.

Assessment

- The Donaghue School administered MCAS in Spring 2025 for grades 3-6 (ELA and Math) and grade 5 (Science).
- Merrimac administered diagnostic reading and math assessments three times last year in grades K-6, and the results were used to make decisions on curriculum and instruction.
- Merrimac Staff utilized reading and math data meetings to drive instruction and determine student instructional groups.
- Students identified as at risk in literacy were progress monitored biweekly to determine growth and subsequent support needs.

Community Service/Collaboration

- The Merrimac Community continued to support Merrimac families in need through the Holiday Helper Program.
- Merrimac Schools held their annual food drive for the Holiday Helper Program.
- School administration collaborated with both the Merrimac Police Department and Merrimac Fire Department to increase school safety.
- Reunification “to-go” boxes were assembled for both schools to support emergency preparedness.
- PRSD schools hosted their first Good Neighbor Food Drive in support of Our Neighbor’s Table, with Sweetsir School earning the inaugural win by donating an average of 23.08 items per student.
- The Merrimac Department of Public Works refinished existing benches and installed new handicap-accessible seating at Sweetsir School.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Dembro, Principal of the Helen R. Donaghue School
 Krista Niles, Principal of the Dr. Frederick N. Sweetsir School

Merrimac Graduates

- Joshua Adler
- Autumn Augustonovich
- Deven Barnes
- Mia Bartholomew
- Matthew Bennett
- Emily Bethmann
- Dallas Bishop
- Zachary Bishopp
- Aidan Blot
- Joshua Breen
- Haven Cahill
- Olivia Cataldo
- Clara Cavallini
- William Champion
- Shannon Christopher
- Owen Corkery
- Steven Costello

Kailyn Cray
Jack Davis
Jacob DeCosta
Ryann Drake
Zachery Easton
Gavin Edic
Mckenna Elwell
Evan Gawrys
Kendra Griffin
William Hankins
Jayden Heath
Mason Higgins
Fallon Hurley
Brayden Jennings
Maisie King
Ruby Lane
Savanna Lariviere
Kaylie Linehan
Persephone Lovely
Nathaniel MacLeod
Sophie Marcus
Rocco Martellini
Keira Milliken
William Murphy
James Nightingale
Paige Nottingham
Emma Paley
Isabella Parra
Lyla Phearson
Aaliah Ramos
Kaleb Sands
Victoria Sargent
Mason Skinner
Lisibel Soto
Jocelyn Travis
Analee Turner
Brody White
Aaron Wirwicz
Matthew Wirwicz
Luke Zavaski

September 23, 2025

ANNUAL OPERATIONAL REPORT

TO: The Honorable Select Board
FROM: Michael Rossi, Whittier Representative
Maureen Lynch, Superintendent

Whittier Tech offers 21 career and technical education (CTE) programs in key cluster areas, including Allied Health, Service, Construction, Technology, and Manufacturing/Transportation. These programs provide students with the practical, hands-on training they need to succeed in both the workforce and in higher education.

Additionally, our rigorous academic curriculum offers a strong foundation in English, Math, Science, Social Studies, World Languages, Physical Education/Health, and a variety of elective subjects, all aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks to ensure student success. By blending technical training with academic excellence, Whittier Tech is preparing students not just for jobs, but for meaningful, lifelong careers.

In addition to our comprehensive CTE programs, Whittier Tech offers students the opportunity to participate in Early College courses through our partnership with Northern Essex Community College (NECC). These courses not only enhance students' academic growth but also provide dual-enrollment opportunities for certain shops, giving students a head start in both their academic and technical education. This ensures that students are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in a competitive and evolving job market.

Whittier Tech also supports adult learners through a robust adult education program. Our offerings, such as plumbing and electrical journeyman classes, help residents advance in critical, high-demand fields. Over the summer, we

Honorable Select Board
September 23, 2025
Page 2

expanded our commitment to the community through the Career Tech Initiative, which provided 100 under- or unemployed Massachusetts residents with new

skills in areas such as construction, culinary, welding and more to meet the demands of the workforce and create opportunities for a brighter future. This program was free to participants and funded by the Commonwealth.

At Whittier Tech, we are dedicated to "Shaping Futures, Building Tomorrow." As we enter our 52nd year, we are proud to have graduated over 13,000 students who are contributing to our communities and the region's economy. Our vision is clear: to provide the best career technical and academic education in Massachusetts, empowering students to succeed in a safe and supportive environment while building a workforce that is ready for tomorrow's challenges.

We are proud of the role that Whittier Tech plays in the success of our shared communities. Together, we can continue to support the growth and development of all our children, ensuring that they are well-equipped to contribute to the future.

The enrollment for the Evening School from Merrimac: 18

The October 1, 2024 Day School Enrollment:

	Boys	Girls	Non-Binary
Grade 9	8	1	0
Grade 10	6	3	0
Grade 11	5	1	0
Grade 12	10	5	0
Total –	39		

2025 Graduates – 15

The cost to Merrimac for the school year 2024-2025 was \$706,624.00.

Respectfully yours,

Michael Rossi
Merrimac Representative

Maureen Lynch
Superintendent

ML/lr



TOWN OF MERRIMAC
INSPECTIONAL SERVICES
 2 School Street, Merrimac, MA 01860
 978-346-0525

FY2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2025 Total Receipts

Permit Type	Qty	Estimated Construction Cost	Permit Fees Paid
MA Building Permit Commercial	18	\$822,199.00	\$13,701.00
MA Building Permit Residential	278	\$7,847,908.46	\$110,331.06
MA Electrical Permit	146	\$571,070.00	\$18,420.50
MA Gasfitting Permit	85	\$336,133.61	\$5,495.00
MA Plumbing Permit	105	\$555,090.72	\$9,291.00
MA Sheet Metal Permit	8	\$150,019.00	\$934.00
MA Sprinkler System Permit	0	Data Not Collected	\$0
Grand Totals	640	\$10,282,420.79	\$158,172.56

Permit Accessibility

In late 2016 the Inspectional Services Department transitioned to PermitLink, an online permitting system. PermitLink is available via a Public Access Portal at www.townofmerrimac.com. Permits can be easily searched for by location, permit number or permit type. From here you can view attachments, inspections and the permit application.

The archival documents containing permits and maps/plans have been scanned in, making all permit history for the life of the building easily accessible. Please e-mail the office at aseyton@townofmerrimac.com or call 978-346-0525 to request a copy of an addresses file.

Annual Report Submitted By:
 Robert Sinibaldi, Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer
 Alyssa Sexton, Admin



**TOWN OF MERRIMAC
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
WATER DEPARTMENT
4 School St.
Merrimac, MA 01860
978-346-0525**

Jimmy Clark – Water Superintendent
978-346-8147

Robert Sinibaldi – DPW Director
978-346-0612

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MERRIMAC WATER DEPARTMENT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30TH, 2025 (7/1/24-6/30/25)**

NEW CONNECTIONS: During the year FY25 there were 0 new homes connected to the town's water system bringing the total number of connections to 1978.

PRIVILEGE FEE: \$2,400 was collected during FY24 from individuals and developers for new service connections, apartment unit fees, and fire services and deposited to Water Department Privilege Fee account. MWD utilizes this funding for various improvements to our distribution system. We used these funds to support the special articles to provide new water meters, necessary upgrades to wells at Bear Hill/Sargent wellfield, and infrastructure.

RETAINED EARNINGS FUNDS: MWD ended FY24 with a surplus of \$134,339.62. Those funds will be added to our Water Retained Earnings account which is used for capital improvements.

WELL CLEANING and REPLACEMENT: Wells at both East Main well fields were cleaned in October 2024. The Bear Hill wells are new and did not need cleaning. The well cleaning, completed by F.G. Sullivan Co. is performed to improve pumping capacity and water quality.

ANNUAL PUMPING STATISTICS:

Gallons pumped from Bear Hill and East Main	206,485,100	FY 25 showed an increase of 63,359,000 from FY24
Gallons sold to customers	101,409,012	FY 25 showed a decrease of 6,488,020 from FY24
Gallons plant backwash	14,434,800	
Gallons unaccounted for	33,774,088	24% of all water pumped could not be accounted for. This is an INCREASE from 1% last year. Causes: Fire protection, hydrant flushing, inaccurate meters, water theft and minor leaks not detectable, water main breaks and meter placement at the plants which are not billed.

NOTABLE HAPPENINGS:

We are continuing with our water meter replacement program to ensure both accurate readings and safe water along with a method to reduce the man hours it takes to obtain quarterly readings. We replaced 104 meters in FY25. This brings our meters to replace number to 93. We completed hydrant flushing in the fall and spring to improve quality and exercise the hydrants. Aqueous Infrastructure came in August 2024 and performed a Sanitary and Security survey and sediment removal for the Water Tanks. Last year we upgraded the water main on Winter St between Nichols and Woodland; replaced from a 6" and 8" main to a 12" main. This increases fire flow protection and water quality.

IN THE FUTURE:

We continue to perform leak detection and look for new water sources. This will lower our unaccounted-for water, improve efficiency of existing supply, and examine current capacity of existing wells. Working with DEP for an increase water pumping capacity that was originally set in 1974. In 2026 the water main on Liberty Street and Mechanic streets will replace the 6" main with an 8" main. Without the support of the employees of the Water Department this would not be possible, and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all employees for their efforts and commitment to water quality throughout the year. I would also like to thank all the water customers for their part in water conservation efforts. Water bans are here to stay and with everyone's help in conserving water we can try to make them as short as possible. But even then, we can't abandon our conservation habits.

Robert Sinibaldi, Building Commissioner / Zoning Compliance Officer/DPW Director

Respectfully submitted



**TOWN OF MERRIMAC
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
SEWER DEPARTMENT
4 School St.
Merrimac, MA 01860
978-346-0525**

Chris Perkins – Superintendent
978-346-7857

Robert Sinibaldi – DPW Director
978-346-0612

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MERRIMAC WASTE WATER DEPARTMENT
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30TH 2025**

NEW CONNECTIONS: During FY25 there were 0 new homes connected to the town's sewer system. This brings the total number of connections to 2145.

Capital Fund: \$0 was collected during FY25 from individuals and developers for new service connections and deposited to Sewer Capital account. MWWD utilizes this funding for various improvements to our wastewater services system.

Retained Earnings Fund: MWWD ended FY25 with a surplus of \$339,510.23. Those funds will be added to our Waste Water Retained Earnings account which is used for capital improvements.

- **NOTABLE PROJECTS:** Our ongoing work for I & I (Inflow & Infiltration) fixes throughout the town continues. All generators were serviced. We de-watered 508 dry metric tons of sludge and sent it to Agresource in Ipswich to make compost; and completed dig safes throughout the year.
- New Plant Water Pump Wiring and Conduit
- 1 New Plant Water Pump
- Added a Second Bar Rack for Screenings
- Grinder added new Bearings and Motor Replacement
- Upgraded Little Pond Pump Stations Heating Systems
- Upgraded Exterior Lighting @ Treatment Plant
- LAB – Replaced BOD Meter, Furnace and Lab Glassware Washer
- Headworks – New Backup Float Control and 4 New Floats
- Orchard Pump Station – New internals on check valves, new inlet clappers on pumps, changed pulleys out to ramp up RPMs
- Rebuilt 1 of 2 gearboxes on main oxidation ditches
- Installed strainers on plant water pumps and also re-piped both pumps
- New motor and drive on 1 of 2 RAS pumps
- New motor on Centrifuge conveyor
- Replaced effluent flow meter
- Cleaned all pump stations wet wells, headworks and grit channels twice throughout the year

General Permit Compliance

The Wastewater Department continued efforts to maintain compliance with its National Pollutant Discharge Permit. Those efforts included but are not limited to collection system investigations to identify sources of inflow and infiltration (I&I), repair and removal of sources of I&I, educational public outreach program, engineering review of new sewer connections and extensions, testing of new sewer extensions, and continued collection system mapping. A new General Permit became effective 12/1/21.

Wastewater Treatment Facilities Plan

The Town of Merrimac’s Wastewater Treatment Plant was originally constructed in 1980 and then partially upgraded in 2005 meaning the existing treatment systems are either 19 or 44 years old. Many of the treatment systems are now obsolete, in poor condition, or in need of remediation to avoid failure. Since the plant was constructed the population of Merrimac has increased by approximately 53% which exceeds the original pollutant loading design capacity of the Plant and puts additional strain on the aging Plant equipment. A Wastewater Treatment Plant Facilities Plan was completed in 2022 and recommended upgrades to many of the unit processes and remediation of systems that are obsolete or in need of immediate repair. The Town authorized the start of the Final Design Phase which includes a detailed analysis of the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant and Preparation of a Final Design Phase Report. The Final Design Phase is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2026 at a cost of 1.4 million. The initial project cost estimate is \$25 to \$30 million, but a more detailed cost evaluation will be completed as part of the Final Design Phase.

As always, a reminder to not throw any wipes in the toilet, even though they say that they are flushable. They are not; and only cause serious damage to the pumps that are located throughout the town. Pump replacement cost is in the tens of thousands of dollars, so please do not flush any of those products. Please think before you flush.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Robert Sinibaldi

Building Commissioner / Zoning Compliance Officer/DPW Director



Merrimac Municipal Light Department 2025 Annual Report

The Board of Light Commissioners and staff are pleased to present the 2025 Annual Report of the Merrimac Municipal Light Department (MMLD).

Throughout 2025, MMLD remained steadfast in its commitment to delivering safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to the residents and businesses of Merrimac. This past year was marked by meaningful operational improvements, infrastructure investments, financial planning initiatives, and strategic efforts to position the department for long-term stability in an increasingly complex energy landscape.

MMLD MISSION STATEMENT

The Merrimac Municipal Light Department (MMLD) is committed to providing community-owned electric services that are safe, reliable, and competitively priced for the members of our community.

Our mission focuses on maintaining, expanding, and modernizing the electrical distribution system while upholding the highest standards of safety and customer service. This mission is driven by our dedicated team of skilled employees who take pride in their strong work ethic and commitment to serving Merrimac.

KEY GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

1. SAFETY FIRST

Safety remains our highest priority — for both our employees and the public. In 2025, MMLD continued investing in equipment, training, and professional review to enhance operational efficiency and workplace safety:

- **Fleet Modernization:** Acquired a new electric vehicle (EV) pickup truck to support community carbon-reduction efforts and reduce reliance on heavy-duty equipment for smaller tasks such as Dig Safe inspections, meter installations, and site support activities.
- **OSHA Compliance Review:** Engaged an independent OSHA consultant to conduct a comprehensive review of facilities, equipment, and procedures. All recommendations from the consultant's report were implemented. MMLD received high marks for field operations and adherence to safety standards.

These investments reinforce our culture of safety and proactive risk management.

2. IMPROVING RELIABILITY SYSTEM

Reliability is essential to our operations and to the residents and businesses we serve. In 2025, we continued implementing infrastructure upgrades and system monitoring to reduce outages and improve service performance.

Vegetation Management

- Completed a five-year vegetation management plan with Mayer Tree Service.
- Documented five service zones within our GIS system for improved tracking and scheduling.
- Performed major vegetation management along transmission lines at both Burnside and Mill Street interconnections with National Grid.

These efforts significantly reduce outage risk related to tree contact — one of the leading causes of service interruptions.

Voltage Conversion Project

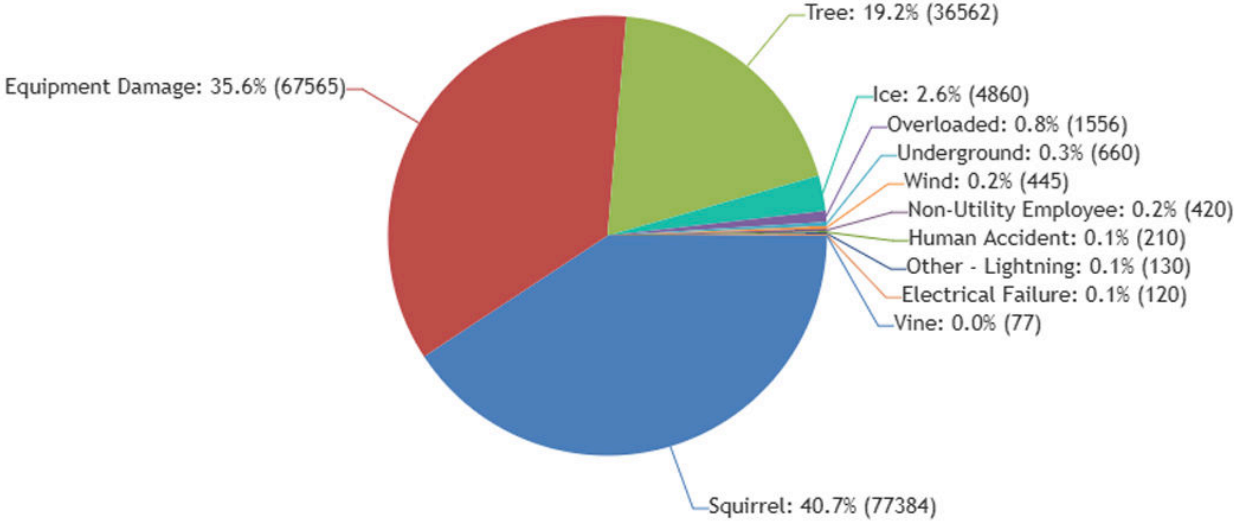
- Achieved 50% completion of the voltage conversion from 4kV to 13.8kV along Bear Hill Road and Harriman Road.

This upgrade strengthens system capacity, improves voltage stability, and supports future load growth.

Reliability Metrics

Despite weather-related events, vegetation issues, and animal-related outages, MMLD closely monitored performance using industry-standard metrics:

- SAIDI (System Average Interruption Duration Index)
- SAIFI (System Average Interruption Frequency Index)
- CAIDI (Customer Average Interruption Duration Index)



2023 OUTAGES

SAIDI: 1.408 SAIFI: 0.0249 CAIDI: 56.477 OUTAGE TOTAL: 18

2024 OUTAGES

SAIDI: 1.41 SAIFI: 0.02 CAIDI: 56.48 OUTAGE TOTAL: 18

2025 OUTAGES

SAIDI: 53.65 SAIFI: 1.03 CAIDI: 52.17 OUTAGE TOTAL: 37

These metrics allow MMLD to benchmark performance against industry standards and continuously improve service reliability.

COST MANAGEMENT & RATE STABILITY

Maintaining affordable electric rates remains a top priority. MMLD rates continue to be significantly lower than surrounding investor-owned utilities, including National Grid.

Cost of Service Analysis

In 2025, MMLD engaged a rate consultant to conduct a comprehensive cost-of-service study to ensure that current and future costs are properly recovered while maintaining fairness and transparency.

The study recommended:

- Implementation of a new billing format beginning in 2026, with clearer breakout of capacity and transmission costs.
- A modest rate adjustment phased in over five years beginning in 2026.
- Adoption of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) to support Time-of-Use (TOU) rates.

Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

As part of long-term financial planning:

- Approximately one-third of town-wide meter upgrades were completed in 2025.
- Full implementation is anticipated by the end of 2026.

AMI will allow MMLD to implement off-peak and on-peak pricing, helping mitigate rising capacity and transmission costs and providing customers with more control over their usage.

PEAK SHAVING & GENERATOR INVESTMENT

At the end of 2024, MMLD acquired a 1.4 MW gas-fired generator to reduce peak demand charges. Results in 2025:

- \$250,000 savings in transmission costs through peak shaving.

- For every 1 MW reduced during peak periods, approximately \$20,000 in capacity savings is realized.
- Transmission costs are projected to increase by up to 40% by 2030, making peak management a critical financial strategy.

This investment positions MMLD to better control externally driven cost increases.

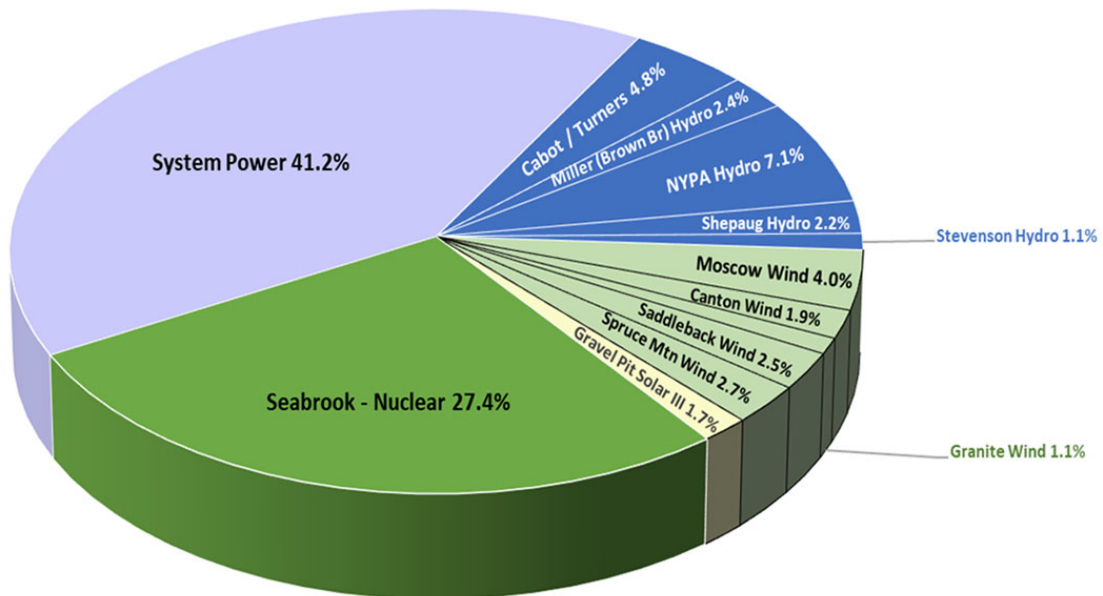
SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE INITIATIVES

To maintain affordable rates while enhancing service quality, MMLD continued expanding supplemental income initiatives. In 2025:

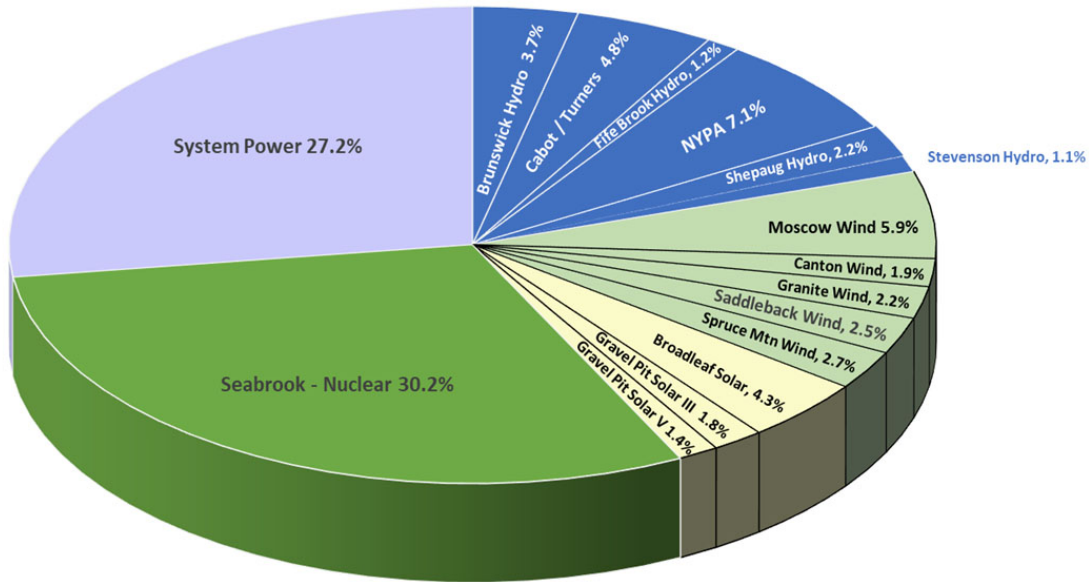
- Maintained streetlighting services for three surrounding communities.
- Initiated negotiations with a fourth community.
- Negotiated attachment fee with Ripple internet provider services.

These external service agreements help offset fixed operational costs and support rate stability for Merrimac residents.

2025 POWER SUPPLY: 58.8%



2030 TARGET: 72.8%



FINANCIAL SAVINGS FOR THE COMMUNITY

MMLD continues to provide significant financial benefits to Merrimac:

- **Reduced Electrical Rates:** Town facilities saved \$65,519.00 with municipal rate with a potential savings of \$300,940.00 compared to National Grid rates.
- **Streetlight Cost Absorption:** MMLD covers the cost of streetlights, saving taxpayers \$7,848.75 annually.
- **Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT):** Contributed \$38,000 to the town.
- **Shared Resources:** Collaborated with the town on projects such as tree trimming, road access to the water tower, and lighting at the veteran memorial

COMPLIANCE & SUSTAINABILITY

MMLD remains committed to meeting state and local energy mandates requiring at least 50% of power supply from non-carbon emitting sources.

Through strategic power purchasing and long-term contracts, MMLD continues aligning environmental responsibility with cost control.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONTRIBUTIONS

As a community-owned utility, MMLD's role extends beyond delivering electricity. In 2025, we:

- Expanded social media outreach and customer communications.
- Increased transparency regarding infrastructure projects and rate planning.
- Supported local initiatives and maintained strong collaboration with town departments.
- Continued improving customer engagement through billing system upgrades and improved communication tools.

MMLD sponsored or conducted the following community events:

- Earth Day Collaboration with
- Giving Tree Event
- Movie Night
- Annual tree lighting ceremony

On September 19th, MMLD hosted a fun-filled Movie Night at the Donaghue School, welcoming families for an evening of entertainment and community connection. Attendees enjoyed complimentary popcorn and drinks while watching How to Train Your Dragon. MMLD also provided mini flashlights for guests, adding a memorable takeaway and highlighting our commitment to serving and engaging with the community.

On Sunday, December 7th, MMLD was pleased to participate in the town's annual Tree Lighting celebration. Families and children enjoyed a festive pipe cleaner craft activity, along with complimentary hot cocoa and cookies. The evening concluded with the lighting of the town Christmas tree, officially kicking off the holiday season and bringing the community together for a warm and joyful celebration.

Electrify Merrimac a community wide voting program to select electrical projects that benefit the Community. With a ballot of over 6 possible projects, the Community voted to spend \$5,000.00 to convert senior center interior lighting to energy efficient LED lighting.

LOOKING AHEAD FOR 2026

The coming year will focus on:

- Completing the AMI meter rollout.
- Continuing voltage conversion projects.
- Implementing rate structure improvements.
- Finalizing strategic planning to address projected transmission and capacity cost increases.
- Continuing safety excellence and infrastructure modernization.

CONCLUSION

The Board of Light Commissioners and staff remain committed to delivering reliable service, responsible financial management, and long-term system sustainability.

In an environment of rising external costs and increasing regulatory complexity, MMLD continues to demonstrate the value of local control, proactive planning, and community-focused decision-making.

We respectfully submit this 2025 Annual Report to the Merrimac Select Board and thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
The Board of Light Commissioners
Merrimac Municipal Light Department staff

Merrimac Municipal Light Department

Statements of Net Position

December 31, 2025 and 2024

	Unaudited 2025	2024
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and investments, unrestricted	1,451,477	1,099,498
Cash and investments, restricted	136,892	136,855
User charges receivable, net of allowance for uncollectibles	838,938	813,935
Inventory	476,363	248,997
Other asset	11,795	11,320
Purchased power advanced deposits	887,690	855,765
	<u>3,803,154</u>	<u>3,166,370</u>
Total current assets		
Noncurrent assets:		
Depreciation account, restricted	3,710,384	4,771,152
Net other postemployment benefits asset, restricted	151,021	142,056
Capital assets, non depreciable	112,092	112,092
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	8,089,586	6,753,000
Preliminary survey and investigation	2,088	2,088
	<u>12,065,171</u>	<u>11,780,387</u>
Total noncurrent assets		
Total assets	<u>15,868,325</u>	<u>14,946,758</u>
Deferred outflows of resources:		
Deferred outflows related to pensions	506,043	492,339
Deferred outflows related to other postemployment benefits	92,901	87,985
	<u>598,944</u>	<u>580,324</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources		

Liabilities

Current liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,432,740	868,180
Other liabilities	19,941	19,957
Customer deposits, restricted	112,513	114,465
Compensated absences	61,919	59,335
Bonds payable	75,000	75,000

Total current liabilities	<u>1,702,113</u>	<u>1,136,937</u>
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Noncurrent liabilities:

Compensated absences	35,013	29,569
Net pension liability	2,075,034	1,897,521
Bonds payable	75,000	150,000

Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>2,185,047</u>	<u>2,077,090</u>
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Total liabilities	<u>3,887,160</u>	<u>3,214,027</u>
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Deferred inflows of resources:

Deferred inflows related to pensions	96,878	83,174
Deferred inflows related to other postemployment benefits	136,311	131,395

Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>233,189</u>	<u>214,569</u>
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Net position:

Net investment in capital assets	8,051,678	6,640,091
Restricted for:		
Depreciation	3,710,384	4,771,152
Customer deposits	24,380	22,391
Other post employment benefits	151,021	142,056
Unrestricted	409,458	522,800

Total net position	<u>12,346,920</u>	<u>12,098,490</u>
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Merrimac Municipal Light Department

Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position

Years ending December 31, 2025 and 2024

	Unaudited 2025	2024
Operating Revenues		
Charges for services	5,799,660	5,633,685
Other operating revenues	213,029	195,347
Total operating revenues	<u>6,012,689</u>	<u>5,829,032</u>
Operating Expenses		
Purchased power and production	3,800,035	2,924,625
Distribution expenses	524,625	399,996
Customer account expense	201,017	201,592
Administrative and general expenses	1,397,644	1,331,835
Depreciation	391,171	387,055
Total operating expenses	<u>6,314,492</u>	<u>5,245,104</u>
Operating income	<u>(301,803)</u>	<u>583,928</u>
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)		
Investment income (loss)	541,356	524,506
Interest expense	(9,000)	(12,567)
Loss on retirement of plant	-	(164,441)
Total nonoperating revenues (expenses), net	<u>532,356</u>	<u>347,498</u>
Income before contributions and transfers	230,553	931,426
Contributions in Aid of Construction	55,878	179,289
Transfers, Tax Equivalent	<u>(38,000)</u>	<u>(38,000)</u>
Change in net position	248,430	1,072,715
Net Position, Beginning	<u>12,098,490</u>	<u>11,025,775</u>
Net Position, Ending	<u><u>12,346,920</u></u>	<u><u>12,098,490</u></u>

TOWN OF MERRIMAC PLANNING BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

(July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

In fiscal year 2025, several developments in the town under authority of the Planning Board were newly approved, while others are still in progress. The end of year status of ongoing projects previously approved by the Planning Board is as follows;

Stormwater Management Violation (1 High Street) – The site continues to be monitored. It remains stable as the board awaits receipt of a plan for remediation and future development. It is expected that the property owner will submit an application for a Stormwater and Land Disturbance Permit in the Fall of 2025.

Abbey Road (22-32 Bear Hill Road) – Construction at this 13-home single-family subdivision continued throughout the fiscal year, particularly final roadway paving and sidewalks. The applicant is still working to complete the project and it is expected that the roadway will be submitted for acceptance in Fall, 2026.

Regency Mixed Use (One Jana Way) – Construction has been completed and the project has been determined to be complete by the Planning Board.

51 East Main Street – Proposal to construct an 89,400 square foot manufacturing building, consisting of a first floor with a mezzanine and associated parking. The applicant has not yet obtained a building permit to begin construction at the site.

92, 94, 96 East Main Street – Proposal to construct on the site well-known locally as “Skips”. The proposed development included the development of ten (10) duplex style buildings containing twenty (20) units and a mixed-use building with commercial space on the first floor and eight (8) rental units on the upper floors. A public hearing for a mixed-use development opened on May 21, 2024 and continued until the June 18, 2024 meeting. The project was approved by the Planning Board on July 16, 2024. Construction is underway at the site.

During the reporting period, three new projects were submitted:

8-10 Church Street: Proposal to convert the upper floors of an existing building into residential units. The Planning Board opened the Public Hearing on July 16, 2025 and approved the project at its August 20, 2024 meeting. The project is currently under construction.

1 Bear Hill Road: Proposal to construct a 19,200 gross floor area building to be utilized as an indoor gymnastics facility. The Planning Board opened the Public Hearing at its August 20, 2024 meeting and approved the project at its February 18, 2025 meeting. The applicant has not yet applied for a building permit.

1 Liberty Street: Proposal to rehabilitate the existing 2-story former Walker Carriage Co. Mill Building (c. 1880) into a mixed-use building consisting of 5,767 SF of ground-floor commercial space and thirteen (13) upper floor residential dwelling units. Additionally, a small 2½ story, mixed-use Annex Building is proposed. The Annex Building will consist of 1,702 square feet of ground-

floor commercial space and two (2) residential dwelling units on the upper floors. The Planning Board opened the Public Hearing on February 18, 2025 and approved the project at its May 13, 2025 meeting. The applicant has not yet applied for a building permit.

The Planning Board collected \$900 in filing fees for their project review activities in Fiscal Year 2025.

There were two Approval Not Required submittals in Fiscal Year 2025:

92-96 East Main Street: An ANR plan to subdivide a portion of the lot to be combined with an adjacent lot.

5 Green Street/37 School Street: An ANR plan to subdivide a portion of the 5 Green Street lot to be combined with the 37 School Street Lot. In addition, the plan will subdivide 37 School Street into 2 buildable lots with adequate frontage and access.

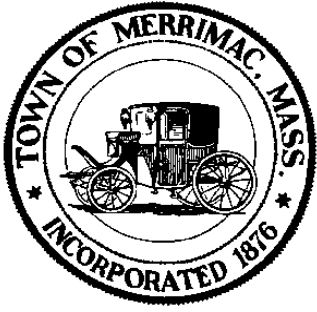
Planning Board members participated in the process to update the 2002 Master Plan. The 2024 Master Plan was approved by the Planning Board at its December 17, 2024 meeting. In addition, the Board recommended approval of two Zoning Bylaws during Fiscal Year 2025. The first to amend the existing Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) bylaw to meet the requirements of the new State Regulations. The second recommended approval of a new Battery (BESS) bylaw.

During the fiscal year 2025, the Planning Board welcomed new member Bronwyn Crocker who was appointed by the Select Board as no residents pulled papers for the election.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Denise McClure

David Cressman	Term expires 2028
Bronwyn Crocker	Term expires 2026
Bill McGowan	Term expires 2028
Thomas Abisalih	Term expires 2027
Dennis Brodie	Term expires 2026
Sandra Venner	Alternate Member



TOWN OF MERRIMAC
Town Administrator, Finance Director
4 School Street
Merrimac, MA 01860
Phone (978) 346-0524
E-Mail: cmcleod@townofmerrimac.com

Honorable Select Board
Town of Merrimac
Massachusetts, 01860

Honorable Select Board,

In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Annual Financial Report of the Town Accountant for the Town of Merrimac, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025 is herewith submitted.

The data represents a fair and accurate presentation in all material aspects of the Town's financial position and the results of its operations. Disclosures necessary to enable the reader to gain an understanding of the Town's financial affairs have been presented. Included are schedules on debt issue and servicing, a detailed listing of revenues and expenditures, a balance sheet for all fund types and account groups, and a combined statement of cash flows.

The reports are based on information recorded using the Uniform Municipal Accounting System (UMAS) of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. The same information is used to prepare the Schedule A.

An audit of the Town's financial records by Roselli, Clark & Associates, has been completed and the results of this audit are available in my office for public inspection. The books of the Town are also open for public inspection during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. McLeod
Town Administrator, Finance Director

Town of Merrimac

General Long Term Debt Activity

Fiscal Year 2025

Issue	Issue Date	Interest Rate	Original Amount	Balance 6/30/24	Additions	Retired	Balance 6/30/25	Interest Paid 7/1/23-6/30/25
Multi-Purpose Loan	2/15/2008	3.56%	\$ 2,380,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ -	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 13,406.25
MWPAT - Water Mains	2/11/2016	2.00%	\$ 860,000.00	\$ 559,582.00	\$ -	\$ 41,317.00	\$ 518,265.00	\$ 1,200.40
MWPAT - Water Mains	9/12/2018	2.40%	\$ 1,600,000.00	\$ 1,410,642.00	\$ -	\$ 40,856.00	\$ 1,369,786.00	\$ 34,333.33
Multi-Purpose Loan	9/24/2019	2.37%	\$ 7,985,000.00	\$ 7,135,000.00	\$ -	\$ 235,000.00	\$ 6,900,000.00	\$ 238,445.00
Multi-Purpose Loan	4/9/2022	3.25%	\$ 1,695,000.00	\$ 1,450,000.00	\$ -	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 1,310,000.00	\$ 66,887.50
Total All				\$ 10,855,224.00	\$ -	\$ 532,173.00	\$ 10,323,051.00	\$ 354,272.48
Less: Electric	2/15/2008	3.56%	\$1,500,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ -	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 13,406.25
Total Excluding Electric				\$ 10,555,224.00	\$ -	\$ 457,173.00	\$ 10,098,051.00	\$ 340,866.23

MERRIMAC

**Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups
as of June 30, 2025
(Unaudited)**

	Governmental Fund Types		Proprietary Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types		Account Groups		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Internal Services	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt		
ASSETS									
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,924,683.28	\$ 711,659.17	\$ 25,391.73	\$ 7,586,685.57		\$ 6,269,221.12			\$ 16,517,640.87
Investments									0.00
Receivables:									
Personal property taxes	1,629.19								1,629.19
Real estate taxes	295,498.14								295,498.14
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	(162,072.60)								(162,072.60)
Tax liens	696,102.95								696,102.95
Deferred taxes									0.00
Motor vehicle excise	173,963.67								173,963.67
Other excises									0.00
User fees									0.00
Utility liens added to taxes				137,735.93					137,735.93
Departmental	134,903.84			6,105.47					6,105.47
Special assessments									0.00
Due from other governments		54,033.04		29,098.03					134,903.84
Other receivables									29,098.03
Foreclosures/Possessions	358,591.68								54,033.04
Prepays									0.00
Due to/from other funds									0.00
Working deposit									0.00
Inventory									0.00
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation									0.00
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds									0.00
Amounts to be provided - vacation/sick leave									0.00
Total Assets	\$ 3,423,300.15	\$ 765,692.21	\$ 25,391.73	\$ 7,759,625.00	\$ -	\$ 6,269,221.12	\$ 10,323,051.00	\$ 28,566,281.21	\$ 28,566,281.21

LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY

Liabilities:	
Warrants payable	0.00
Accounts payable	0.00
Accrued payroll	0.00
Withholdings	0.00
Accrued claims payable	0.00
Due to/from other funds	0.00
Due to other governments	0.00
Other liabilities	0.00

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types		Account Groups		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Internal Services	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt			
Deferred revenue:										
Real and personal property taxes	135,054.73									135,054.73
Tax liens	696,102.95									696,102.95
Deferred taxes										0.00
Foreclosures/Possessions	358,591.68									358,591.68
Motor vehicle excise	173,963.67									173,963.67
Other excises										0.00
User fees				137,735.93						137,735.93
Utility liens added to taxes				6,105.47						6,105.47
Departmental	134,903.84									134,903.84
Special assessments				29,098.03						29,098.03
Due from other governments										0.00
Other receivables										0.00
Deposits receivable										0.00
Prepaid taxes/fees										0.00
Tailings										0.00
IBNR										0.00
Agency Funds						42,237.47				42,237.47
Notes payable										0.00
Bonds payable										0.00
Vacation and sick leave liability										0.00
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,498,616.87	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 172,939.43	\$ -	\$ 42,237.47	\$ 10,323,051.00	\$ 12,036,844.77		
Fund Equity:										
Reserved for encumbrances	101,572.98									101,572.98
Reserved for expenditures				7,000.00						7,000.00
Reserved for continuing appropriations	1,174,754.99			6,732,284.02						7,907,039.01
Reserved for petty cash	1,425.00			100.00						1,525.00
Reserved for appropriation deficit										0.00
Reserved for snow and ice deficit										0.00
Reserved for betterments				101,243.15						101,243.15
Reserved for debt service										0.00
Reserved for premiums										0.00
Reserved for working deposit										0.00
Undesignated fund balance	646,930.31	765,692.21	25,391.73	746,058.40		6,226,983.65				8,411,056.30
Unreserved retained earnings										0.00
Investment in capital assets										0.00
Total Fund Equity	\$ 1,924,683.28	\$ 765,692.21	\$ 25,391.73	\$ 7,586,685.57	\$ -	\$ 6,226,983.65	\$ -	\$ 16,529,436.44		
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	\$ 3,423,300.15	\$ 765,692.21	\$ 25,391.73	\$ 7,759,625.00	\$ -	\$ 6,269,221.12	\$ 10,323,051.00	\$ 28,566,281.21		



TOWN OF MERRIMAC

Board of Assessors

6 School Street
 Merrimac, MA 01860
 978-346-9022

2025 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

FISCAL YEAR 2025 RECAPITULATION

1. Tax Rate Summary

A. Total amount to be raised		\$	26,295,939.99
B. Total estimated receipts		\$	7,435,175.00
C. Net amount to be raised by taxation (Levy)		\$	18,860,764.99
D. Classified tax levies			
1. Residential	96.2722%	\$	18,157,677.64
2. Commercial	1.9748%	\$	372,459.59
3. Industrial	0.8226%	\$	155,143.99
4. Personal	0.9304%	\$	175,483.77

2. Amounts to be raised

A. Appropriation	\$	26,075,823.00
B. Total cherry sheet offsets	\$	18,973.00
C. State and County cherry sheet charges	\$	121,294.00
D. Allowance for abatements & exemptions	\$	79,849.99
E. Total amount to be raised	\$	26,295,939.99

3. Estimated receipts

A. State	\$	1,196,624.00
B. Local	\$	2,425,506.00
C. Enterprise funds	\$	2,966,693.00
D. Free cash	\$	630,442.00
E. Other available funds	\$	177,910.00
F. Municipal light	\$	38,000.00
G. Total Estimated receipts	\$	7,435,175.00

Number of Taxable Accounts

Residential Single Family	1666
Residential Two Family	91
Residential Three family	10
Residential Apartment Buildings	10
Residential Land	130
Condominiums	356
Industrial	18
Commercial	44
Personal Property	51
Chapter 61, 61A & 61B	14

We would like to thank the citizens of Merrimac for their continued cooperation during the Cyclical and Permit inspections. Cyclical inspections are required by the Department of Revenue and dictates that we must inspect every residential and commercial property in town once every nine years for data quality. We appreciate the cooperation of homeowners and businesses allowing us onto their property for these inspections. Permit inspections are done for the previous years building permits as well as occupancy inspections for new homes that are occupied after July 1st. These inspections are completed on an annual basis.

The tax rate for fiscal year 2025 was \$13.25 per thousand. Property cards may be obtained on line by property owners to view their data. <http://www.townofmerrimac.com/>

BOARD OF ASSESSORS:

Susan Searle – Chair	Term expires 2027
Gena Sinibaldi	Term expires 2026
Daniel Domings	Term expires 2028

Respectfully submitted by,
Heather Roche
Principal Assessor



Eric M. Shears
Chief of Police

Merrimac Police Department

2 Jana Way
Merrimac, Massachusetts 01860

Tel: 978-346-8321
Fax: 978-346-0592



REPORT OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

2025

I am very proud of my staff. They are well-trained, hard-working, and dedicated to the citizens of Merrimac. The Animal Control Officer, a civilian member of our department, reports to the Chief of Police.

Animal Control Officer Brad DiCenzo does not have a set schedule but will be available to assist residents who call the Merrimac Police Dispatch Center at 978-346-8321, or the direct line for Animal Control at 978-321-0615.

In 2025, there were approximately 305 Animal Incidents reported to the Merrimac Police Department.

2025 Animal Control Statistics			
01/01/2025 to 12/31/2025			
Animal Intake:	159		Animal Bites: 24
<i>Returned to Owner:</i>	11		<i>Dog v. Dog:</i> 2
<i>Surrendered:</i>	136		<i>Dog v. Person:</i> 8
Unclaimed:	6		<i>Cat v. Person:</i> 1
<i>Transferred - Ipswich Humane:</i>	2		<i>Dog v. Wildlife:</i> 2
<i>Transferred - MSPCA:</i>	68		<i>Possible Bat Exposure:</i> 5
<i>Transferred Out/Other:</i>	72		<i>Wound of Unknown Origin:</i> 6
<i>Transferred - Final Gifts:</i>	4		
Adopted:	2		Mutual Aid: 4
			Special Events: 3
Catmobile Visits:	2		Barn / Chicken Coop Inspections: 56
<i># of cats altered:</i>	97		Kennel Inspections: 5
			Citations Issued: 2
			Court Complaints: 0

Animal Quarantines:

As a result of animal bites or wounds of unknown origin, 24 animals were quarantined in the Town of Merrimac.

Barn Inspections:

56 Barn Inspections were conducted this year by ACO DiCenzo.

It is truly an honor and a pleasure to have ACO DiCenzo as a member of our department.

I encourage anyone with concerns about animals in town to reach out, speak to DiCenzo, and take advantage of this important service that is provided by the town.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric M. Shears
Chief of Police

**Report of the
Capital Planning Committee
Town of Merrimac
Fiscal Year 2025**

The Capital Planning Committee met with numerous department heads and committees February 26th and February 27th, 2024, to review Capital requests for Fiscal Year 2025 and projected Capital requests through Fiscal Year 2029. Departments are asked to project their anticipated Capital requests for the next five fiscal years so the Town can plan accordingly. We have numerous challenges facing us as a community. The Committee reviews all Capital requests with an anticipated life duration of at least five years and an initial cost of \$20,000 or more. Generally, the criteria applied in developing recommendations in order of priority are: 1) necessary to respond to State or Federal mandates; 2) public safety and/or health considerations; and 3) operational necessity.

Attached is a Summary of our Recommendations together with the Requests by Department reflecting the votes of the Capital Planning Committee for Fiscal Year 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Marden, Chairperson & representing Finance Committee

Sandra Venner

David Cressman

Bonnie Pearlman

Chris Manni, representing the Select Board

Marcia Zosack, alternate Finance Committee Representative

Carol McLeod, Finance Director (Ex-Officio)

FY2025 - Capital Planning Recommendations

Summary

Free Cash

Total Available	\$	630,442
Approved Capital Requests	\$	(468,500)
Balance for Other Requests	\$	161,942

Grant Funding

Water Retained Earnings

Total Available	\$	95,517
Approved Capital Requests	\$	(65,000)
Balance of Retained Earnings	\$	30,517

Wastewater Retained Earnings

Total Available	\$	318,002
Approved Capital Requests	\$	(192,000)
Balance for Other Wastewater Requests	\$	126,002

Total Capital Recommended Requests	\$	725,500
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Other Free Cash Funding Requests

Stabilization Balance	\$	1,020,350
Fire and Ambulance Apparatus Stabilization	\$	636
Capital Stabilization	\$	315,423
Total Stabilization as of 12/31/2023	\$	1,336,409

FY2025 - Capital Planning Recommendations

Summary

Free Cash

Total Available	\$	630,442
Approved Capital Requests	\$	(468,500)
Balance for Other Requests	\$	161,942

Grant Funding

Water Retained Earnings

Total Available	\$	95,517
Approved Capital Requests	\$	(65,000)
Balance of Retained Earnings	\$	30,517

Wastewater Retained Earnings

Total Available	\$	318,002
Approved Capital Requests	\$	(192,000)
Balance for Other Wastewater Requests	\$	126,002

Total Capital Recommended Requests	\$	725,500
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Other Free Cash Funding Requests

Stabilization Balance	\$	1,020,350
Fire and Ambulance Apparatus Stabilization	\$	636
Capital Stabilization	\$	315,423
Total Stabilization as of 12/31/2023	\$	1,336,409

MERRIMAC CONSERVATION COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

The primary function of the Conservation Commission is to protect and preserve the Town's wetland resource areas as defined in the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act (M.G.L Chapter 131, Section 40) and the Merrimac Wetlands Protection Bylaw. The Merrimac Wetlands Protection Bylaw was enacted by the town in 2003 to strengthen protection of Merrimac's wetlands beyond what is addressed in Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act.

Wetlands are an important resource providing essential functions and benefits to the Town's residents including protection of water quality for surface and ground waters, stormwater and flood damage protection, protection of wildlife and plant habitat, and providing recreational opportunities and large tracts of open and undeveloped space. The loss of wetlands means the loss of the vital benefits they provide. To prevent damage to these fragile and often irreplaceable resources, the Conservation Commission is charged with regulating activities in or within 100 feet of a wetland or intermittent stream and in or within 200 feet of a river or stream that flows year-round including, but not limited to, the Merrimack River and Cobblers Brook.

The Conservation Commission is a seven-person unpaid volunteer commission. Members are appointed by the Select Board for terms of three years. At times, Associate Members are also appointed. The Conservation Commission is assisted by a part-time Conservation Agent.

The Conservation Commission holds public meetings to conduct regular business and holds public hearings related to filings for projects regulated under the Wetlands Protection Act and Merrimac Wetlands Protection Bylaw. The Conservation Commission typically meets once a month on the fourth Monday of each month at the Merrimac Public Library. Please refer to the meeting schedule posted on the Conservation Commission section of the Town website to determine upcoming meeting dates.

During Fiscal Year 2025 the Conservation Commission:

- Held 10 regularly scheduled meetings;
- Conducted multiple site visits in connection with filings, questions, and violations;
- Issued 6 Orders of Conditions permitting work in jurisdictional areas;
- Issued 5 Negative Determinations permitting work in jurisdictional areas;
- Issued 7 Certificates of Compliance;
- Issued 3 violation notices for work in jurisdictional areas without proper permits.
- Approved 2 Conservation Restrictions
- Issued 1 beaver permits
- Worked on 5 special projects

In addition to permitting projects and addressing violations under the state Wetlands Protection Act and Merrimac Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Conservation Commission

holds Conservation Restrictions to preserve open space in Merrimac and works with the Lake Attitash Association to improve the water quality of Lake Attitash and Open Space Committee to manage the Town's open space. The Conservation Commission collaborates with other Town boards and departments providing review of projects as requested and guidance as it relates to natural resource protection. Additionally, a member of the Conservation Commission participates in the Site Plan Review Committee under Merrimac's Zoning Bylaw.

The Conservation Commission has been working with Green Belt to retain forests and agricultural land.

In FY 2025 the Merrimac Conservation Commission saw no changes in personnel and commissioners.

The Conservation Commission is eager to assist with decisions about whether and how to proceed with a project near wetlands. Residents are encouraged to contact the Conservation Commission or Conservation Agent with any questions or concerns related to the Town's wetland resources. If you are planning a project and are unsure if there are wetlands on your property or if you are unsure whether your project will require a filing with the Conservation Commission, contact the Conservation Commission or Conservation Agent who will be happy to assist you. The Conservation Agent can be reached at 978-891-0238 or by email at jsmith@townofmerrimac.com.

Respectfully Submitted,

MERRIMAC CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Jerome Mathieu, Chair	Term expires June 30, 2026
Gregory Hochmuth, Vice Chair	Term expires June 30, 2028
Arthur Yarranton, Member	Term expires June 30, 2027
Gregory MacLean, Member	Term expires June 30, 2028
William Andrulitis, Member	Term expires June 30, 2028
Mark Leger, Member	Term expires June 30, 2028
Charlie Covahey, Member	Term expires June 30, 2027
Jay Smith, Conservation Agent	Term expires June 30, 2026

BOARD of HEALTH 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

The Board of Health meetings were held monthly, or on an as-needed basis. The office can be contacted at (978) 346-4066 or at boh@townofmerrimac.com. The office is staffed by the Health Agent to conduct all BOH matters, and the administrative assistant.

During 2025, the Merrimac Board of Health participated in the Merrimack Valley Public Health Alliance (MVPHA) grant program funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Chairman Christine Berube serves as Merrimac's representative at the MVPHA bi-weekly grant meetings. This annual grant supports small municipalities in strengthening Board of Health operations and advancing local public health standards.

The Board of Health also maintained active involvement in Homeland Security initiatives and the Emergency Preparedness Plan, through which the Town receives supplemental funding from the Regional Coalition. Deborah Ketchen represents the Town of Merrimac within the Merrimack Valley Public Health Alliance.

Throughout the year, the Board made a focused effort to improve compliance with the Keeping of Animals permit regulations, which became effective April 1, 2023, and increased coordination with the Town's Animal Control Officer.

In addition, the Board has scheduled a regional Hazardous Waste Day for Merrimac residents and neighboring communities. The event will take place on June 27, 2026, at the Dr. Frederick N. Sweetsir School, located at 104 Church Street, Merrimac, Massachusetts.

Deborah Ketchen: Deb serves as Health Agent to the town of Merrimac. She ensures the proper installation and maintenance of septic systems, conducts routine inspections of food establishments, enforces health and safety regulations pertaining to food establishments and housing, submits reports to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, investigates complaints, and collaborates with the public health nurse and other town officials, as well as the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Deb regularly attends meetings of the Northeast Region 3A Coalition where training plans are formulated. She also acts as our representative during hearings that are litigated at the Housing Court. She is responsible for the ultimate enforcement of the Code of Massachusetts Regulations as they pertain to the minimum standards of health and safety. Deb has professional relationships with numerous organizations, many of which provide valuable insights and connections relating to health and safety. This year she received her certification in Mental Health First Aid. Her affiliations include, but are not limited to:

Care Massachusetts (Opioid Abatement Program)
Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Department of Public Health (DPH)
Emergency Preparedness (3A Coalition)
Granite State Onsite Wastewater Association (GSOWA)

Massachusetts Emergency Management Association (MEMA)
Massachusetts Environmental Health Association (MEHA)
Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA)
Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA)
Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN)
Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)
Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC)
Merrimack Valley Public Health Alliance (MVPHA)
National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)
Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control (NEMMC)
Northeast Public Health Training Hub

Christine Berube was re-elected in May of 2023 as Chairman to the Board of Health her term continues until May of 2026.

Ashlyn Calcagni was elected to the Board of Health in May of 2024. His term continues until May of 2027.

Jason Sargent was re-elected in May of 2025. His term with the Board of Health continues until May of 2028.

Annual Licenses or Permits:

Annual application forms and regulations may be obtained at the Board of Health office or on our web site at www.townofmerrimac.com under Documents, Board of Health. Applications and notification of expiration are no longer mailed. Annual license fees are payable by December 31 each year.

Respectfully submitted,

Merrimac Board of Health:

Christine Berube, Chair	Term expires 2026
Ashlyn Calcagni, Member	Term expires 2027
Jason Sargent, Member	Term expires 2028

MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM INFORMATION

For more information on the Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District, call 978-463-6630, or 978 352 2800.

SURVEILLANCE and **LARVICIDING** are of the utmost importance, and they comprise the greatest portion of the program cost. This is the regular testing of mosquitoes and birds for the virus, and the application of larvicides to mosquito breeding areas to kill or inhibit the growth of mosquito larvae (the early stage of the mosquito) from developing into the adult form. Continued annual surveillance is an early intervention or preemptive action to prevent a potential mosquito breeding site from becoming an actual mosquito breeding site.

ADULTICIDING is a term used by mosquito control to describe spraying for adult or flying mosquitoes. There are two kinds of adulticiding: Aerial, done by aircraft only in the event of a public health emergency; and Ground, sprayed from trucks selectively in accordance with the individual municipality's Best Management Practice Plan (BMP).

Ground Adulticiding is used in today's programs to control the mosquito populations in their aquatic or larval stages. This is accomplished by means of a truck-mounted Ultra Low Volume (ULV) aerosol sprayer. ULV sprays up to six ounces of insecticide per acre, creating a 300- to 400-foot swath. Depending on wind direction this swath will drift off the road; and tiny droplets will impinge on mosquitoes, effectively controlling the mosquitoes in the area.

Insecticide: The District uses Anvil (EPA Reg. No. 1021-1688-8329) for ULV applications. The active ingredient, Sumithrin, has a very low toxicity to mammals. This product is registered for use by the US EPA and the Mass. Pesticide Bureau. All District personnel are certified applicators and annually attend seminars to obtain recertification credits.

Most people are not expected to experience any adverse health effects after pesticide spraying for adult mosquito control. This includes pregnant women and unborn children. If a person has any concerns, the Board of Health may be contacted to request that spraying be excluded from the specific property. Ground sprays do not pose an unreasonable risk to birds or mammals. Since spraying is done in the late evening, the bees and other flying insects are not foraging at that hour and will not be affected.

West Nile Virus: The primary mosquito carrier of WNV, *Culex Pipiens*, usually breeds in artificial containers such as catch basins, storm water structures, industrial parks and commercial or agricultural livestock facilities. Regularly empty any water-holding containers on your property such as garbage cans, flower pots, swimming pool covers, watering troughs and birdbaths, and dispose of old tires.

Information about EEE and reports of EEE activity in Massachusetts can be found on the MDPH website at ww.mass.gov/dph/wnv/wnvl.htm. Merrimac will continue to work closely with the MDPH Arbovirus Surveillance Program and the NE Massachusetts Mosquito Control Agency on mosquito control and surveillance efforts. Decisions regarding spraying will be made by the Board of Health in cooperation with the Mosquito Control Agency. As long as this program is continued annually, we remain protected from severe outbreaks.

Affordable Housing Board of Trustees

2025 Annual Report

The Affordable Housing Board of Trustees was established in June 2009 in accordance with the Town General Bylaws voted in May 2008. The current sources of funds in the Merrimac Affordable Housing Trust are (1) payments made by housing developers in accordance with the inclusionary zoning provisions in the bylaws; (2) payments received from the seller when a previously designated affordable unit was sold at market rate; and (3) private donations. As of October 1, 2025, the balance in the Affordable Housing Trust was \$664,327.

With the generous donation the previous year from former Town Clerk, Patricia True, the Trust had sufficient funds for the AHBT to explore the establishment of housing programs for eligible families in Merrimac. To aid in this process, the AHBT met with Town Legal Counsel to clarify what actions are permitted by the Bylaw that established the Trust. The Board also met with housing specialists. It was decided to first establish a rental assistance program to help families earning less than 100% of AMI meet the high upfront costs of entering into a new rental agreement. The Board is now in the process of identifying a partner to administer this program.

For many years the AHBT has supported the efforts of the Town to have affordable housing built at the former Coastal Metal site and the former site of the Senior Center on School St. in collaboration with North Shore Community Development Corporation. This year the Select Board decided not to continue to pursue an agreement with North Shore CDC. As a result of this decision, the AHBT thoroughly reviewed the expenditures from a grant previously awarded to NSCDC from the Trust. It was determined that grant funds were appropriately expended on preliminary design and planning work as specified in the grant agreement and Promissory Note signed by the AHBT and NSCDC.

In other matters, the Board engaged Town Legal Counsel to draft a Declaration of Trust to formally register the Merrimac Affordable Housing Trust in accordance with state statute. The Board also closely followed and supported the development of language in the Zoning Bylaws that creates a district complying with the MBTA Communities Act to allow the development of more housing to aid affordability in Merrimac including a requirement that 10% of new units meet the state qualifications as affordable. According to the latest figures from the state, 5.46% of Merrimac's housing units qualify for the state Subsidized Housing Inventory list, short of the state goal of 10%.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sandra Venner, Chair	Term expires	2026
Brienne Walsh, Vice-Chair	Term expires	2027
Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, Secretary	Term expires	2026
Dawne Young, Treasurer	Term expires	2027
Irina Gorzynski, Rep. for Select Board	Term expires	2026
Phil Parry, Member	Term expires	2026
Bridget Bacheller, Member	Term expires	2027



Amesbury & Merrimac Housing Authorities
 180 Main Street, Amesbury, Massachusetts 01913
 Telephone: (978)388-2022 - Fax: (978)388-4926

Merrimac Housing Authority

52 Merri Village

Merrimac, Ma 01860

Annual Report of the Merrimac Housing Authority

To the Merrimac Select Board for the year ending December 31, 2025.

To the Honorable Members of the Merrimac Select Board,

The Merrimac Housing Authority owns 52 units of housing in the Town of Merrimac. The Merri-Village project, located on Middle Street, contains forty-eight units of one-bedroom housing funded under the Chapter 667 program. This program serves individuals and couples who are elderly or disabled. In addition to the 48 one-bedroom units, the MHA owns and manages two duplex units. These are multi-bedroom units, intended for families. Merrimac residents receive priority for occupancy in these programs. Merrimac Housing Authority has a long-standing management agreement with the Amesbury Housing Authority.

The Merrimac Housing Board of Commissioners is as follows, as of December 31, 2025:

Candie Benjamin	Chair
Gary Dean	Vice Chair
Kira Caroll	Treasurer
Connie Nucci	Commissioner
Joseph Fernades	Commissioner

The MHA staff are as follows: These staff members have shared responsibility for both Amesbury and Merrimac Housing Authority, with one dedicated Maintenance person in Merrimac. Amesbury Housing Authority covers the after-hours emergency calls.

Dr. Annmary Connor	Executive Director
Robert Baronas	Housing Manager
Lisa Harrington	Housing Coordinator
Diane McGowan	Administrative
Rick Cyr	Merrimac Housing Maintenance





Amesbury & Merrimac Housing Authorities
180 Main Street, Amesbury, Massachusetts 01913
Telephone: (978)388-2022 - Fax: (978)388-4926

Modernization:

MHA had the parking lot restriped at Merri Village and new mailboxes installed. The projects that started in 2025 and are continuing in 2026 are the replacement of all the back doors to the Merri Village development. Additionally, the Merri village development is having 17 units receive new bathroom surrounds.

Financials:

For the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025 (year-end), the Merrimac Housing Authority collected \$322,437 in rental income. The Executive Offices of Housing and Livable Communities provided \$57,651 in operating subsidy. Total operating expenses were \$363,552.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dr. Annmary I. Connor".

Dr. Annmary I. Connor
Executive Director

January 14, 2026



January - December, 2025

Dear Merrimac Residents,

This year we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of Merrimac's becoming a town. Previously known as West Amesbury, Merrimac separated from Amesbury to become an independent municipality on April 11, 1876. Many activities are planned to make this a proud and informative day for Merrimac residents.

Historic homes are designated by age, relevance to the community and/or compelling stories that reference Merrimac's history. The Merrimac Historical Commission's efforts continue to be focused on digitizing information about historic homes for the Massachusetts Historical Commission. We have had interest from community residents and appreciate any help with documenting properties.

The Historical Commission and the Town Improvement Society are collaborating on plans to renovate the Landing School, the small building located between the Fire Station and the Old Sawyer House. A needs assessment has been conducted by Paul Leone and work will begin in the spring. A donor has offered financial assistance, and we need YOU to offer your resources and skills to help make the Landing School a viable historic building again.

The Commission's newest member is Kendra Blitz who has enthusiastically lent her expertise to our work. We have a town e-mail (historical@townofmerrimac.com) and questions regarding historic properties are welcomed. We would also appreciate any stories regarding your home.

Come celebrate Merrimac's rich history at our 150th anniversary events.

Sincerely,

Larry Fisher, Herb Cresey (co-chairs), Andrew Connor, Kendra Blitz, and Yvonne Cosgrove (Secretary)

**Merrimac Council on Aging
And Senior Center
FY 2025 Annual Report**

2025 was another busy and eventful year at the Merrimac Senior Center! We spent this year celebrating this achievement and all of our community members and supporters, past, present and future! We featured at least one special event each month to commemorate this milestone year! Each year, we strive to keep our community members active and engaged with a diverse and robust calendar of events and programming while also providing critical outreach, meals, wellness opportunities, food pantry assistance, application help, and so much more! We are grateful for the support of the Council on Aging Board of Directors, the Friends of the Merrimac COA, the COA Staff, the seniors, legislators, our Town Departments, Select Board, business leaders, community partners and peers.

The staff at the Council on Aging cross-trains within our department, works with a team approach and collaborates with other departments within Town and other agencies. We also collaborate with other COA's to be able to deliver better programming and services. We would like to thank the Select Board, Merrimac Fire and Police Departments, the Merrimac Public Health Nurse, Public Health Department, Merrimac Light Department, Merrimac Cultural Council, and the Merrimac DPW; Essex County Sheriff's Dept., Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Agespan, Community Action Inc., Merrimac Housing Authority and our legislators, State Rep Dawne Shand and State Senator Barry Feingold. We are also grateful for the support from local residents and businesses including Northern Essex Elder Transport (NEET), Coastal Connections of Amesbury, MA Commission for the Blind, the Merrimac Lions Club, David Heating & Cooling, AARP, and the Girl Scouts & Boy Scouts.

Breakfast with the Chiefs every other month has always been a great opportunity to bring town officials, legislators and many others to the table for open discussions on events and town news and continues to be a cornerstone of communication and engagement at the Senior Center. Seniors and community members (Department Heads, Select Board, Police and Fire, Veterans Agent, local Legislative representation, business and community leaders) are invited to attend for breakfast and the opportunity to ask questions and learn about updates from town departments and how they affect residents. 2025 attendance was better than ever and saw a huge rise in interest about various subjects affecting the Town of Merrimac such as the Whittier school project and the sale of the Skip's property near the COA as well as many other town issues and we love seeing everyone together to learn more about the happenings in Merrimac!

January 2025 brought the new year and This month, we featured a Winter Ice Cream Social to celebrate National Ice Cream Day! Everyone enjoyed multiple ice cream flavors and lots of yummy and fun toppings!

February 2025 was a busy month with the addition of our **3rd Annual Soup Sampler event**~ We had 10 wonderful soups prepared by community members and employees alike and intend for this to become a yearly event to help our members keep warm and engaged during what is normally a cold and dreary month! We also celebrated **Valentine's Day with a luncheon and entertainment by entertainer extraordinaire Merrimac local resident Phil Voloninno** who performs a variety of card tricks mixed with jokes and live audience participation! Everyone had a wonderful time and laughed the afternoon away with Phil! A new FREE Vinyasa Yoga class, started this month, with instruction by Lynne Wholley. This class occurred every Wednesday afternoon and we are so excited to offer another form of Yoga here at the Senior Center!

March 2025 brought a wonderful van trip to Salem MA and the CoffeeTime Bake Shop! Trip attendees enjoyed lunch at Bill & Bob's Roast Beef and then visited CoffeeTime to pick out delicious pastries to bring home! Attorney Gerald Shyavitz also conducted a Legal Roundtable to provide answers to common questions in elder law concerns. Additionally, the COA screened the documentary film, Facing the Wind, which details the journey of dementia caregivers and their families. This screening opportunity also featured a Lunch N Learn event with Agespan's Family Caregiver Program. A big thanks to Crystal Polizzoti and Lyn Brennan for answering questions and joining with us for this important event! We also had a wonderful **St. Patrick's Day event featuring Corn Beef, Cabbage and all the trimmings! A delightful time was had by all that**

attended! We rounded out March with a Compression Presentation sponsored by Letorneau Pharmacy in North Andover. Fish Window Cleaning also generously donated their services to wash all of our windows and have the Center Windows gleaming! Thank you so much to Fish Window Cleaning!

April 2025

We featured a Spring Pancake Breakfast! A wonderful morning spent enjoying good food and even better company! **Another wonderful event was the Memoir Writing Workshop with NY writer Michael Czarnecki.** This one of a kind class allowed local residents to explore their creativity in writing and with Michael's guidance, the class participants learned so much about writing their own personal memoirs! Special thanks to Denise Gilman, Program Coordinator, for putting this unique workshop together! We also celebrated our Volunteers during **Volunteer Appreciation Month. We have between 30-60 volunteers on staff at any given time!** Our volunteers deliver meals, answer phones, run events like the Annual Craft Fair, Bingo, teach classes, organize our library, help in our food pantry, collate the newsletter each month and so much more! Thank you! A special Thank you to our Volunteer Coordinator, Sandra Blanchet, for her help coordinating this event each year! Our final April event was our **Community Easter Egg Hunt!** This event typically occurs every other year depending on when Easter falls and the weather. Despite a last minute rainy forecast that resulted in torrential rains, COA staff were able to move the Egg Hunt indoors and we welcomed over 50 children to this year's egg hunt on our 2nd Floor! Big thanks to our egg stuffing volunteers from Coastal Connections as well as Candie Benjamin, Nancy Lind and Toni Quimby!

May 2025 We started May off to the races with a Kentucky Derby Day Party! Denise organized a wonderful afternoon of food, fun and races. Each jockey rider rolled the dice to see how far they moved ahead on the creative and unique game board and our winner was Ricky Gould! Many other jockeys including Nancy Lind and Jim Ganley also placed! Everyone dressed up for the event and many fabulous fascinator hats were featured as well! We look forward to making this an annual event going forward!

Unfortunately, on May 12th, the first floor of the COA was unexpectedly flooded and we were forced to close the Senior Center to the Public. The COA staff was able to quickly pivot (with practiced hands and hearts from our COVID 19 pandemic days) and reorganize as many events and daily activities to other sites within Merrimac, namely the Merrimac Public Library, Merrimac Housing Authority Community Room, our outdoor space under our Big Blue Tent and we are so thankful to those that assisted us during this transition time. Our Nutrition Program was affected as well as our kitchen was not usable due to the flooding damage. **Agespan and their Nutrition Program staff, specifically Derek Anderson,** immediately offered us assistance and provided 2 days per week of Grab N Go Meals for both our in person dining patrons and our delivery clients as well. We are so grateful to Agespan for their continued partnership. Dan Domings, our Outreach and Human Services Coordinator/Social Worker and I used this time to meet with many residents at the Library, under our outdoor tent or at their homes whenever possible. We also increased the frequency of grocery shopping trips and Our Neighbors Table rides and shopping.

June 2025

We also renewed our Summer Outdoor Cornhole Series. We were able to feature beautiful new Cornhole boards, made especially for the Merrimac COA by the carpentry students at Whittier Tech! These outdoor activities were a fun way to be active in the mornings while it was still cool! Cornhole continues to be popular with folks and we had some fun and friendly competition!

June also brought lots of inspections, demo, remediation and tearing up floors and walls in order to properly address the flood damage. Our insurer, MIAA, ServiceMaster by Gaudet and many other contractors were in and out of the Center all month long for this part of the process. All of the COA staff continued to work inside the building, but moved to temporary spaces upstairs on the 2nd floor of the building.

In **July 2025** we celebrated the **12th Anniversary of our LGBTQ+ Senior Social Supper!** This is an amazing accomplishment and Special Thanks to all our participants, our Food & Nutrition Director, Eileen Murray, for the wonderful meal each month, and Agespan for the continued support.

We also introduced a new **summer outdoor series of Giant Games!** Featured games included Giant Uno, Giant Monopoly, Giant Checkers, Giant Checkers and more!

This month, Daniel Domings, Outreach & Human Services Coordinator, also went from part time to full time. Thanks to a positive community vote at the Annual Town Meeting, this change will allow for outreach support at the COA every day we are open. This will allow for Dan to meet with more residents, increase the number of weekly home visits, add additional outreach programs and opportunities and so much more! We greatly appreciate the support of the community so that we can have staff available as much as possible.

We received a Hannaford CHEF grant for \$10,000 earlier this year for the purchase of a new fridge and freezer for our food pantry! This was as a direct result of hard work by Bridget Batcheller, Harleigh Walsh and myself during the summer of 2024. This month we were finally able to accept delivery of those appliances to be used to help expand our food pantry offerings in 2026 and beyond!

More demo and work for flood remediation continued throughout the month of July!

August 2025 gave us a chance to showcase our Cornhole skills at the Salisbury COA Senior Cornhole Tournament! We sent 6 players and came in 2nd place! Not too shabby for a team that just really started playing together earlier this summer! We look forward to trying for 1st place next time and many more laughs and fun! We also took advantage of the gorgeous summer weather and took a Mystery Trip along the Coastal Byway route and enjoyed fun shops, a lunch stop and ice cream!

The flood remediation continued through August 2025 as we saw the installation of new floors, new walls, new beadboard, new tiling, new cabinetry, new rugs and much more!

September 2025 brought The Friends of the COA sponsored event of the season with The Reminisants returning to us once again to sing the early evening away under our Big Blue Outdoor Tent. Originally scheduled for June 2025, record heat forced us to reschedule to September 2025. This event was again well attended by many local residents and we also featured slush from Nice Ice Baby to keep cool through the performance! The band sang so many favorite songs from the 50's-80's and many attendees danced and enjoyed the music! The money raised from Friends events like the Fall Craft Fair along with other donations made throughout the year make it possible for them to support and sponsor the Nutrition Program, Transportation and some of the special events and programs offered at the Senior Center. We are grateful to the Friends for continuing to support the COA during what can only be described as our most challenging years to date. They donate \$500 per month to the Senior Center to help with the meals program, transportation and the LGBT Senior Social Supper. A special thank you is extended to them for their hard work! We could not make our efforts work without your support!

We also welcomed a new Social Services undergraduate intern from Simmons University, Kaitlyn Schneider! Kaitlyn is a senior and will be with us until the Spring of 2026! Kaitlyn is our 4th Simmons intern since 2020! We are most grateful to her for her time and effort while she learns how to utilize her skills and work with clients directly and in group settings. Kaitlyn had a unique challenge ahead of her and having her with us is so helpful and beneficial! We look forward to her assistance with Tech Classes, Wellness and Food Pantry Calls and much more!

We were so close to reopening, a few delays in materials and work crews along the way, but we persevered and continued to watch the space take shape and return to what we once knew prior to the flood but with new beautiful paint colors of Oak and Santorini Blue to make the lobby, reception area, hallways and bathrooms feel brand new and fresh after such a long remediation process!

October 2025

We reopened after our flood closure! We were so happy to welcome everyone back into the Center! Thank you to the staff, volunteers, Board Members, Bob Sinibaldi, Lee Zdanys, Erin and Donovan at ServiceMaster by Gaudet, all the cleaning crews, demo crews, contractors and subcontractors, Town Hall staff, Select Board, COA Board and so many others! We are so grateful for your work and assistance in getting the Center back open!

Our Annual Health and Wellness Fair returned in October 2025 ! More recently held in June each year, we had to postpone this annual resource event until after reopening! As always, we had a great turn out with a free boxed lunch through our Nutrition Program, generously sponsored by Anna Jacques hospital, and vendors from across the Merrimack Valley that provided education, pamphlets, screenings and other vital services to our community. We enjoyed having many area vendors and community stakeholders as well as Merrimac residents join us for a day of health and learning. We had over 125 people attend!

We also were able to hold our **Annual Flu Clinic in partnership with Stop N Shop of Amesbury** and vaccinate 65 seniors in **October 2025**. We are grateful to their staff, particularly Jon Hersey, staff pharmacist, for their help in administering vaccinations and presenting an efficient clinic in our Main Dining Room. Alongside Jon, was pharmacy technician Jessica, who assisted in keeping things running efficiently. Our Public Health Nurse Danielle Cataldo, RN, MSN, also continues to run the clinic scheduling ahead of time and sets everything up seamlessly beforehand.

We also made sure to have our postponed **Annual Lobster Roll Luncheon**, normally held in the summer, this month! We had 60 people join us for Lobster Rolls, Chips, Pickles, Coleslaw, and dessert!

In November 2025 we were able to host the **Annual Veterans Luncheon**. We thank our veterans and their families for their service to our town and our country and we were honored to be able to celebrate them in this way once again. Special thanks to Roger Clark and Jeremiah Murphy for their assistance and support of this event! Our wonderful kitchen staff, Eileen Murray, Judy Kimber Morrill and Harleigh Walsh prepared and served a wonderful homemade luncheon. **Our Annual Craft Fair was a smashing success as always!!** The crafters meet throughout the year planning and making items, visiting other fairs for ideas and inviting other crafters to attend our fair. Donations for drawings come from the crafters themselves and money from the tables and café is given to the Senior Center Gift Account to help pay for activities and programs. This year featured a delicious offering of homemade soups, sandwiches, wraps and bakery treats in our Craft Café as well as 2 floors of crafters!

A Special Thank you to Sandy Blanchet and her family as well as our volunteers and crafters for a successful event! A special Thank you also to the Friends of the Merrimac COA for assisting with the Craft Fair as well!

In December 2025, we held our **6th Annual Mystery Holiday Raffle**. The staff and I created 25 raffle baskets that were given to randomly selected members of the Merrimac COA community that had signed up to participate. The raffle was open to any 60+ Merrimac resident and was a great way to bring holiday cheer to our seniors! Raffle baskets featured games, candy, household items, personal care items, gift certificates to area restaurants and shops, books, leisure activity items and much more. We thank our elves, Harleigh Walsh and Kaitlyn Schneider, and others for helping to pack the gifts and getting everything delivery ready! A great way to wrap up the year was with **Bard Owl Café!** This monthly installment was first done in October 2023 and brought to life here by local resident and poet Larry Bertram. Unfortunately, we lost our sponsors for the free luncheon and instead focused on the programming with light refreshments provided by the COA in lieu of the previous free sponsored luncheon ~ Thank you to Larry Bertram, Julie Schaeffer, Lori Vesowate, Peter Bryant,

Jeff Mulholland and all the members of the Bard Owl Café Committee for bring this to the Merrimac COA for a 3rd season!

The Senior Center Staff consists of Brienne R. Walsh, Executive Director; Denise Gilman Program Coordinator; Eileen Murray, Food & Nutrition Director; Danielle Cataldo, Public Health Nurse, MSN, RN-BC; Judy Kimber Morrill, Kitchen Chef; Sandy Blanchet, Volunteer Coordinator; Daniel Domings, Outreach & Human Services Coordinator; Jon Behrens, Transportation Coordinator & Van Driver; and Wayne Jones, Custodian/Van Driver. Also of note is Harleigh Walsh, Per Diem COA Senior Aide, who has filled in the kitchen off and on again this year as needs require it for large events, ensuring time off is available for other staff members and assisting in the completion of special projects.

There are not enough words to express our gratitude towards our volunteers without whom we would not be able to accomplish so much. Our Volunteers lend their expertise and time as drivers, receptionists, dispatchers, kitchen assistants, food pantry organizers, trip leaders, group leaders, tax assistance, craft fair organizers providing over 6,000 Volunteer hours* (*This does not include those who don't remember to sign in to record their hours) of service to the Senior Center. The Senior Center Crafters and annual Holiday Fair have always provided local talented seniors with a way to sell their wares, and support the Senior Center by generously donating 10 per cent of their earnings to the Friends of the Merrimac COA.

In addition to serving the senior population in Merrimac, as the only Human Services Agency in town we also serve the general population by providing resource information, referrals, counseling, medical equipment, flu shots, blood pressure clinics, and opportunities to volunteer or participate in programs, activities, and more. We also assist friends and families looking for services for their loved ones.

The Council on Aging core programs offered through the Senior Center are: Nutrition (congregate meal site, food pantry); Transportation (COA van and NEET volunteer drivers); Outreach (Identifies Needs, Case Management, Home Visits and Calls), Information and Referrals; and Health & Wellness (Intellectual, Social, Emotional, Vocational, Spiritual, Educational and Physical), and Activities and Services offered at the Merrimac Senior Center include (but are not limited to):

AA Meetings	Crafters Meeting	Housing/CHAMP Application
Advocacy & Representation	Cross Stitch	Processing & Follow Up
3B's with Brian	Cultural and Educational	Home delivered meals
Bereavement/Grief Group	Events/Workshops	Hearing Clinics
Bingo	Crochet & Knitting	Holiday Parties
Blood Pressure Clinic	Exercise Classes (M/T/W/Th/Fri)	Ice Cream Socials
Book Club & Guest Authors	Faxing	Information & Referrals
Bocce	Fuel Assistance Application Help	Intergenerational
Breakfast with the Chiefs	Friendly Visiting	Programming
Caregivers Support Group	Flu & Covid Clinics (Seasonal),	LGBT Social Connections (3 rd
Confidential Financial Advice &	Vitamin B-12 shots	Thursday of month at 5:30)
Assistance with bill pay,	45's Card Game	Library
reconciling statements,	Friends of COA Mtg.	Low Vision Support Group
reconciling Medical bills with	(1 st Tue of Month)	(Including field trips)
Insurance, etc.	Friends Senior Scramble	Group/Speakers
Congregate Meals	Free Birthday Lunch	Lunch Club(Belles & Romeos)
Copying	Health & Wellness Fair-Annual	Medical Equipment Lending
Craft Fair-Annual		Memory Cafe

Men's Group -Occasional Events	Poker	Shredding (Secure) Free
Monthly Movies at the Center	Pool	SNAP Outreach Partner Assistance
Newsletter Committee	Powerful Tools for Caregivers	The Centerpiece (Newsletter- Available by mail & Online)
Nutrition Program/Meals	Quilting	Travel Club – Day trips, and Local Travel!
Our Neighbors' Table Food	Reassurance Calls	Transportation-Vans & Northern
Pantry Site*	RMV-DOT-Registration & License assistance	Essex Elder Transportation- (NEET) Volunteer Drivers
Outreach	Rug Hooking	Trips
Painting Classes	Seasonal Events	Volunteer Opportunities
Peggy's Senior Food Pantry a Partner of ONT*	Senior Sing-a-long	Yoga -Meditative & Vinyasa Flow
Public Health Nurse	Senior Tax Work Off Program	
Information & Consulting	SHARPS (needles) Collection Site through Town Nurse	
Podiatry (Foot care) Clinics every other month	SHINE (Health Insurance Help)	

The COA would like to thank the Merrimac Public Access Cable TV and Carol Traynor, Manager, Chris Liquori and volunteers for their dedication to finding and taping programs for the benefit of seniors and community in general.

<u>Council on Aging Board Members:</u>	<u>Term Expiration:</u>
Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, Chairwoman	2027 Retired Sgt. David Vance, Assistant Chairman 2026
Candie Benjamin, Secretary	2026
Betty Lou Elliott	2026
Barbara Gould	2027
Kathy Devaney	2027
Donna Doherty	2026
Vacant Slot	2027

Respectfully Submitted,

Brienne R. Walsh, Executive Director

2025 Town Clerk Annual Report

To the Honorable Select Board and Citizens of the Town of Merrimac,

During 2025 the Town Clerk’s office successfully administered one local election and two Town Meetings. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all the candidates who stepped forward to seek office, as well as the dedicated election workers who graciously volunteered their time. Their commitment ensures our elections run smoothly, securely, and without incident for every voter in Merrimac.

I also want to thank the residents who actively participate in our local government. Whether you are joining us at Town Meeting or casting your ballot during election season, your engagement is vital. Democracy is only as strong as those who participate in it.

Beyond elections, our office—in partnership with the Merrimac Police Department and Animal Control—hosted another successful Rabies Vaccine Clinic. It is always a pleasure to serve the residents (and pets!) of our community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Gwendolyn Lay Sabbagh,
Merrimac Town Clerk

Female Dogs	14
Male Dogs	32
Spayed Dogs	230
Neutered Dogs	269
Total Dog Tags Issued	545

Marriage Intentions	6
Marriages	6
Births	50

Deaths	68
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**ANNUAL REPORT
BOARD of TRUSTEES
MERRIMAC PUBLIC LIBRARY
FY2025**

The trustees of the Merrimac Public Library are pleased to provide a summary of services from 2025 and highlight the use of the collection and the library building. The library has continued its mission to serve as a place of learning, informational support, and community engagement designed to meet the diverse needs and interests of our patrons.

Below are some of the library use statistics at a glance:

Merrimac residents with library cards	2,535
New card holder registrations	269
Total material circulation	42,956
eBooks & Audio book downloads (Overdrive/Libby)	9,847
Items requested from other libraries	7,991
Museum passes used	208
Public computer access	1,568
Total number of live programs for adults	35
Total number of live programs for Young Adults (age 12-18)	18
Total number of live programs for children (infant-11)	167
Multigenerational programs	6
Study Room use	276
Meeting room use for all purposes	381

This year has been one of expanded access for our library. Through thoughtful planning and continued support from the Town of Merrimac, the Library Trustees, and our dedicated staff, we have completed several significant improvements and introduced new services that enhance both the library space and the resources available to residents of all ages.

A major highlight of the year was the installation of a new HVAC system. This long-awaited upgrade ensures improved climate control, greater energy efficiency, and a more comfortable environment for patrons and staff year-round. This investment protects both the building and the library's collections.

In November 2025, the library launched a new website, offering a user-friendly design and improved access to library resources, events, and services. The updated site better reflects the dynamic role of the library in our community and makes it easier for patrons to find information and connect with us online.

Also launched in November 2025, the library implemented Assabet, an online room and event booking system. This system streamlines program registration, improves event management, and offers patrons convenient online access to register for programs and reserve meeting spaces.

The library also expanded its digital offerings by adding Peterson's Test & Career Prep, a comprehensive resource that supports test preparation, career exploration, resume building, and professional development. This new database strengthens the library's commitment to lifelong learning.

We introduced new children's audio materials, including Yoto Player and VOX Books, which provide engaging, screen-free listening experiences and support early literacy development.

Our Library of Things collection continues to grow in popularity. This year, we added outdoor games, board games, and a sunlight/therapy lamp, further expanding access to recreational and wellness resources that residents can borrow and enjoy at home. We also launched a new Seed Library, encouraging gardening, sustainability, and community sharing.

In December 2025, the Children's Room saw the addition of a vibrant mural created by local artist Jenn Houle. This colorful addition brings warmth and creativity to the space, making the Children's Room even more welcoming and inspiring for our youngest patrons and their families.

These improvements reflect the library's ongoing commitment to innovation, accessibility, and community engagement. From infrastructure upgrades to expanded collections and digital services, each initiative strengthens our ability to serve the Town of Merrimac effectively and equitably.

We are grateful for the continued support of town leadership and the residents of Merrimac. Together, we look forward to building on this year's accomplishments and continuing to grow as a vibrant center for learning, connection, and discovery.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Adams, Chair
Maripaul McGinn
Robert Michaud
Yvonne Cosgrove
Susan Coburn
Jennifer Brown

Aila Colburn, Library Director

Merrimac Open Space Committee

Annual Report 2025

Highlights of activities in the past year include:

- With Select Board approval, the Open Space Committee applied for a \$20,000 grant to update the Open Space and Recreation Plan from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. In March, the Select Board voted to provide the required 10% matching funds. Representatives from several town committees and agencies, as well as at-large community members, have been identified to serve on the OSRP Working Group. Consultants Tighe & Bond will be supporting this project.
- The OSC is pleased to report that Essex County Greenbelt was successful in purchasing the Hoyt farm, which will be maintained as a working farm and conservation area called Silver Brook Farm. Greenbelt noted that individual contributions from some Merrimac residents helped raise the needed funds.
- The annual Community Trail Workday was held in October. Eight volunteers joined committee members to clear the field entrances to the Marshview Trail and the upper part of the Innis trail.
- Since portions of the Marshview Trail are periodically impassible due to flooding, we are working with Greenbelt and the Merrimac Conservation Commission to consider a potential trail reroute.
- The OSC and the Conservation Commission worked with a resident to install a new memorial bench on the Cobblers Brook Greenway.
- The Committee is planning to host two community nature walks to participate in the 150th Anniversary Celebration February and April 2026. We will also co-sponsor monthly croquet games at Carey Park with the community group Neighbors for Nature.
- The OSC is researching grant opportunities for much-needed maintenance to the Jay McLaren Trail.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lucy Abisalih, Chair	Term expires: 2027
Mary Ann Glennon, Vice Chair	Term expires: 2027
Dawn Ackerman	Term expires: 2027
Susan Simmons	Term expires: 2026
Sandra Venner	Term expires: 2026
Lynette Provencal	Term expires: 2027
Sean Wright (Resigned November 2025)	
Martin Hanlon (Resigned April 2025)	



TOWN OF MERRIMAC
Commission on Disabilities
4 School Street, Merrimac, MA 01860
E-MAIL COD@townofmerrimac.com

Merrimac Commission on Disabilities
2025 Annual Report

To: The Honorable Select Board &
The Citizens of the Town of Merrimac, Massachusetts;

The Merrimac Commission on Disabilities (MCOD), herein referred to as “COD,” mission is to represent the interests of persons with disabilities and promote equal access to community life and activities. The COD works to increase awareness, provide education and advocates for the needs of all disabled residents of Merrimac.

The Merrimac Commission on Disabilities has been working hard to improve accessibility and ensure that the town sidewalks, streets, buildings, and outside areas are inclusive and able to be enjoyed by everyone. The COD’s goals towards accessibility not only assists the disabled but is beneficial to all residents. Advantages, such as having accessible doorways and walkways, makes the town accessible and inclusive to all residents, helping to provide a better living experience for the community at large.

Funding of the COD is comprised of private donations and grant funding. Since its creation, COD has been responsible for garnering over \$500,000 through grants and donations. Funding has been utilized throughout the town for various projects, having a direct positive impact for the residents. The volunteer COD board researches, applies for, and seeks opportunities for funding through various local, state and federal agencies. Additionally, COD Board members advocate for ADA accessibility in the Town and beyond. Board Members participate in educational trainings and seminars through the year, when available, and are committed to the COD’s mission of Merrimac being accessible to all. This year COD Chair Christopher Gaudet was able to attend several trainings offered on the state level and the COD is grateful to have this additional information available to us.

We are grateful for the support of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Merrimac’s Honorable Select Board, and the various town Departments, for their support and assistance with projects. The COD wishes to explicitly thank the DPW Director, Bob Sinibaldi and the Highway Department staff, for helping to effectively

utilize funding. The COD also wishes to express its sincere thanks for the support and advocacy of our legislative partners, State Senator Barry Finegold and his staff as well as State Rep Dawne Shand and her staff. The COD is also grateful for the ongoing community support from the residents of the Town of Merrimac; this cooperation is a vital piece of the work that the COD advocates for on a yearly basis.

Accomplishments of the COD in 2025 are as follows:

A- Continued to facilitate the use of handicapped parking at the Annual Merrimac OHD celebration.

B- Advocated and assisted with ADA basketball court improvement advocacy project.

-\$50,000.00 earmark request to refinish the basketball court surface and create accessible access points at the Donaghue School.

C- Secured an MOD grant for \$30,000 for curb cuts.

D- Ongoing Participation in the Open Space & Recreation Plan process to assist with accessible trail creation.

E- Advocated for installation of the rapid beacon flashing light for the crosswalk at the intersection of Orchard, Main, and Union Street Extension.

F- Advocated for the installation of accessible benches at the Sweetsir School by the Merrimac DPW to ensure children in wheelchairs have inclusive seating.

Chairman Christopher Gaudet and the COD, as a whole, continue to dedicate time and energy for the advocacy of a renewable special article of \$45,000.00 for a separate line item be added to the Highway Department budget for sidewalk improvements each fiscal year. This was a starting point to have funding set aside each year in the Annual Town Budget to have continuous project improvement in this area. These funds were approved once again this year at Town Meeting and as a result, we were able to replace over two thousand feet of sidewalk along Winter Street.

In 2025, this was once again approved at Town Meeting, after much diligence by Chairman Gaudet and the COD Board. The COD hopes that this will be renewable each year by at least this amount so that the vital work of having accessible sidewalks throughout Merrimac can continue.

Community input is always welcome and encouraged. Meetings are held at the Merrimac Police Department-Meeting Room on the first Wednesday of the month, at 6:30pm. Meetings are open to the public. Meetings can also be attended via Zoom. If you are unable to attend meetings or have questions about on-going activities, please email at cod@townofmerrimac.com.

The MCOB was started in July 2019. The goal of the COB is helping current and future residents with disabilities to have full accessibility to all aspects of town environment. Each of the current seven (7) board member panel, with 1 alternate member, serves a three (3) year term. Members are residents of Merrimac and the majority of members either have a disability, or a direct family member or friend living with a disability. Board members are committed to the continued inclusion of those with disabilities through accessibility. Current board members include:

<u>Commission on Disabilities Board Members:</u>	<u>Term Expiration:</u>
Christopher Gaudet Chairman	2026
Robert Hart Vice Chairman	2027
Kathleen Sullivan Secretary	2028
Robert Sinibaldi Member/ADA Compliance Officer	2028
Ann Marie Murphy Member	2026
Brienne Walsh Member/COA Director	2028
Bridget Batcheller Member	2027
Alternate (vacant)	2028

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Gaudet, Chairman, Merrimac Commission on Disabilities

Sealer of Weights and Measures

I hereby submit my report as Sealer of Weights and Measures for the Town of Merrimac from January 1st 2025 to December 31st 2025. I have inspected, sealed, and adjusted or condemned a total of 18 measuring units. Fees totaling \$620.00 were billed. Below is a detailed summery

Respectfully submitted

Leonard Rose

Inspector of Weights and Measures

• Brox	5/12	103 East Main St	3 devices	\$150.00
• Blue Recycling	5/12	15 Liberty St	4 devices	\$150.00
• Edgemont Oil	6/17	115 West Main St	5 devices	\$255.00
• Donaghue School	12/3	2 Union St	1 device	No Charge
• Sweetsir School	12/3	104 Church St	1 device	No Charge
• The Town Café	12/3	101 East Main St	1 device	\$10.00
• The Nuke's	12/3	130 E Main St	1 devices	\$20.00
• Be Well	12/3	17 Broad St	1 device	\$15.00
• Cozy Cleaners	12/9	4 East Main St	1 device	\$15.00

Zoning Board of Appeals

Annual Report 2025

January 25, 2026

The Zoning Board of Appeals received 7 applications for the use of requesting a hearing before the ZBA, consistent with Bylaw Article 25-Appeals. The requested hearing can be for a Variance, a Special Permit, Finding of Fact in accordance with Section 6 of M.G.L. c.40A, or Comprehensive Permit M.G.L. c 40B.

In 2024, The Zoning Board of Appeals continued the public hearing for the Flats at Merrimac Square. This hearing ended in December, 2024. The Board denied the application. Mediation continued in 2025. The application will come before the board in 2026.

Zoning Board of Appeals Board Members each serve three-year terms. The members are:

- Matthew Passeri Chairperson (currently)
- Ken Nobrega
- Joanne Rodrigues
- Connor Western
- Ron Reade
- Robert Gustinson III (Select Board representative)
- Janet Bruno (Select Board representative)

Year to date balance for ZBA Miscellaneous Expense Account: \$400.00

To The Honorable Select Board and Citizens of Merrimac,

The Cemetery Trustees are happy to report the website for the cemeteries of Merrimac has been completed. The website allows people to search and check for grave sites, check for available lots and make access much easier for individuals wishing to make genealogical inquiries. This has been an ongoing process and we are thrilled to be sharing it with the public.

The Cemetery successfully managed thirty interments and generated a total of \$46,150.00 in total revenue:

Cremations	18	\$ 7,200.00
Full Burials	12	\$ 13,750.00
Lot Sales	15	\$ 24,000.00
Marker Installs	7	\$ 1,200.00
Total		\$ 46,150.00

The Trustees would like to recognize David Armstrong and R.J. Searle for their landscaping and maintenance of our cemeteries and Carolyn Kelly for her meticulous work in cataloging and office management.

We would also like to thank Carolyn Kelly and Carol Traynor for their continued care, preservation and conservation efforts of Town's Cemeteries. Carol Traynor arranged to have leading cemetery preservationist, Jonathan Appell come to Merrimac for a two-day workshop. During the hands-on gravestone restoration workshop M. Appell taught us the proper cleaning and restoration methods to maintain our cemeteries and in addition he taught us how to reset and straighten headstones. He explained and emphasized the importance of conservation and preservation of these historical sites. Mr. Appell gave us invaluable insight into looking forward to the future and ensure the longevity of Merrimac's historical sites.

Sincerely,

Ricky Pinciario, Chair

David Vance

Gwen Lay Sabbagh



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 1. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money in the amount of **\$141,000** to fund additional wages including benefits for an additional patrolman for the Police Department, contingent upon the successful passage of a levy limit override question in the amount of **\$141,000**, under Mass. General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C(g); or take any other action relative thereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 1. The Town voted to raise and appropriate a sum of money in the amount of **\$141,000** to fund additional wages including benefits for an additional patrolman for the Police Department, contingent upon the successful passage of a levy limit override question in the amount of **\$141,000**, under Mass. General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C(g).

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money in the amount of **\$484,000** to fund additional wages including benefits for 4 additional Firefighter/EMTs for the Fire Department, contingent upon the successful passage of a levy limit override question in the amount of **\$484,000**, under Mass. General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C(g); or take any other action relative thereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 2: The Town voted to appropriate a sum of money in the amount of **\$484,000** to fund additional wages including benefits for 4 additional Firefighter/EMTs for the Fire Department, contingent upon the successful passage of a levy limit override question in the amount of **\$484,000**, under Mass. General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C(g).

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

A True Copy
pg. 2

Attest
Town Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$5,000,000**, or any other amount, to pay costs of Roadway Repairs and Reconstruction, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing, lease-purchase financing or otherwise, contingent upon the successful passage of a debt exclusion override question in the amount of **\$5,000,000**, under Mass. General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C(1 ½); or take any other action relative thereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

2/3 Vote Required

Article 3: The Town voted to appropriate **\$5,000,000**, to pay costs of Roadway Repairs and Reconstruction, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; and to pay for this appropriation, authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, contingent upon the successful passage of a debt exclusion override question in the amount of **\$5,000,000**, under Mass. General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C(j).

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

A True Copy
pg. 3

Attest
Town Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash for **FY2025**, a sum of money in the amount of **\$524,123** for the following specific purposes outlined below;

- a. Employee Retirement Funding** **\$ 75,000**

Rationale: This will appropriate funds for the required costs of employee retirement accrual payments and training. Requested by the Finance Director.

Select Board Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0
FinCom Recommendation: Yes 6 - 0

- b. Lake Attitash Invasive Weeds** **\$ 5,000**

Rationale: This will appropriate funds for the management of invasive weeds and water quality at Lake Attitash. Amesbury will also be contributing. Requested by the Lake Attitash Association.

Select Board Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0
FinCom Recommendation: Yes 6 - 0

- c. Household Hazardous Waste Day** **\$ 18,000**

Rationale: This will appropriate funds for the Board of Health to hold a Townwide Household Hazardous Waste Day. Requested by the Board of Health.

Select Board Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0
FinCom Recommendation: Yes 6 - 0

- d. Required Sprinkler Testing** **\$ 20, 695**

Rationale: This will appropriate funds for the state required sprinkler testing at the Library, Town Hall and senior Center. This is required every 5 years. Requested by the DPW Director.

Select Board Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0
FinCom Recommendation: Yes 6 - 0

- e. Open Space Tree Removal** **\$ 3,000**

Rationale: This will replenish the FY2023 Special Article. The account currently has \$480 in available funds, however; there are trees that need to be cleared and trail work needed that will require additional funds. Requested by the Open Space Committee.

Select Board Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0
FinCom Recommendation: Yes 6 - 0



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE


f. **Open Space Recreational Plan Matching Funds** **\$ 2,000**

Rationale: The Open Space Committee needs to complete an Open Space Recreation Plan for the Town. The Committee will be seeking a grant to cover the cost to have a plan created, approx. \$20,000, less a 10% Town Match. Requested by the Open Space Committee.

Select Board Recommendation: **Yes 5 - 0**
FinCom Recommendation: **Yes 6 - 0**

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pg. 5

Attest
Town Clerk

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

g. Facility Repairs for the COA **\$ 19,000**

Rationale: This will appropriate funds for the ongoing lighting upgrades, hot water tank replacement and outside building repairs at the COA. Requested by the COA Director.

Select Board Recommendation: **Yes 5 - 0**

FinCom Recommendation: **Yes 6 - 0**

h. Agenda Software Replacement **\$ 8,000**

Rationale: This will appropriate funds for the one-time setup costs for the replacement agenda software for the Town. Requested by the Select Board.

Select Board Recommendation: **Yes 5 - 0**

FinCom Recommendation: **Yes 6 - 0**

i. OPEB Trust Funding **\$ 45,606**

Rationale: The OPEB Trust has been established to fund the cost of Retirees Health Benefits. The Town is required to report the OPEB Liability on the Town's books annually. This article will appropriate funds to the OPEB Trust. Requested by the Finance Director.

Select Board Recommendation: **Yes 5 - 0**

FinCom Recommendation: **Yes 6 - 0**

j. Police Patrol Vehicle **\$ 65,000**

Rationale: This will appropriate funds for the purchase of a replacement police cruiser for the Police Department. Requested by the Police Chief.

Select Board Recommendation: **Yes 5 - 0**

FinCom Recommendation: **Yes 6 - 0**

Capital Planning Recommendation: **Yes 5 - 0**

k. Fire Department Facility Repairs **\$100,000**

Rationale: This will appropriate funds for repairs to the Fire Department Facility. Requested by the Fire Chief.

Select Board Recommendation: **Yes 5 - 0**

FinCom Recommendation: **Yes 6 - 0**

Capital Planning Recommendation: **Yes 5 - 0**



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

l. Townwide AED Replacement **\$ 20,000**

Rationale: This will appropriate funds for AED Replacement throughout the Town, this will be a mut-year project. Requested by the Fire Chief.

Select Board Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0
FinCom Recommendation: Yes 6 - 0
Capital Planning Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0

m. Lease Payment of a Tractor/Mid Mount Mower **\$ 20,822**

Rationale: This will appropriate funds for the 1st year payment of a lease for a tractor/Mid Mount Mower for the Highway Department. Requested by the DPW Director.

Select Board Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0
FinCom Recommendation: Yes 6 - 0
Capital Planning Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0

n. HVAC and Roof Repairs at the Library **\$ 45,000**

Rationale: This will appropriate funds for the continued HVAC repairs and roof repairs at the Library. Requested by the Library Trustees.

Select Board Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0
FinCom Recommendation: Yes 6 - 0
Capital Planning Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0

o. ADA Compliance for the Town Sidewalks and Public Meetings **\$ 45,000**

Rationale: This will appropriate funds for ADA compliance work on the Town sidewalks in coordination with the DPW Department. Requested by the Commission on Disabilities.

Select Board Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0
FinCom Recommendation: Yes 6 - 0
Capital Planning Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0

p. Asbestos Tile Repairs at the Donaghue School **\$ 32,000**

Rationale: This will appropriate funds for the asbestos Facilities Director of PRSD.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

[Signature]
TOWN CLERK
Merrimac, Massachusetts

A True Copy
pg. 7

Attest
Town Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Select Board Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0
FinCom Recommendation: Yes 6 - 0
Capital Planning Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0

or take any other action relative hereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 4: the Town appropriate from Free Cash for **FY2025**, a sum of money in the amount of **\$524,123** for the following specific purposes outlined below;

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Employee Retirement Funding | \$ 75,000 |
| 2. Lake Attitash Invasive Weeds | \$ 5,000 |
| 3. Household Hazardous Waste Day | \$ 18,000 |
| 4. Required Sprinkler Testing | \$ 20,695 |
| 5. Open Space Tree Removal and Trail Improvement | \$ 3,000 |
| 6. Open Space and Recreational Plan Matching Funds | \$ 2,000 |
| 7. Facility Repairs for the COA | \$ 19,000 |
| 8. Agenda Software Replacement | \$ 8,000 |
| 9. OPEB Trust Funding | \$ 45,606 |
| 10. Police Patrol Vehicle | \$ 65,000 |
| 11. Fire Department Facility Repairs | \$100,000 |
| 12. Townwide AED Replacement | \$ 20,000 |
| 13. Lease Payment of a Tractor/Mid Mount Mower | \$ 20,822 |
| 14. HVAC and Roof Repairs at the Library | \$ 45,000 |
| 15. ADA Compliance for the Town Sidewalks and Public Meetings | \$ 45,000 |
| 16. Asbestos Tile Repairs at the Donaghue School | \$ 32,000 |

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Water Retained Earnings for **FY2025** a sum of money in the amount of **\$ 72,000** for the following specific capital purposes outlined below;

a. Water Meter Replacement **\$ 19,000**

Rationale: To upgrade older meters to become lead free and radio read. Reducing time needed to read meters and increase public water quality. Requested by the DPW Director.

Select Board Recommendation: **Yes 5 - 0**

FinCom Recommendation: **Yes 6 - 0**

Capital Planning Recommendation: **Yes 4 - 0**

b. Water Infrastructure **\$ 43,000**

Rationale: This will replace/upgrade existing infrastructure to meet current DEP requirements. Requested by the DPW Director.

Select Board Recommendation: **Yes 5 - 0**

FinCom Recommendation: **Yes 6 - 0**

Capital Planning Recommendation: **Yes 4 - 0**

c. Water Building and Road Maintenance **\$ 10,000**

Rationale: This will appropriate funds for repairs at the Water Department building and road. Requested by the DPW Director.

Select Board Recommendation: **Yes 5 - 0**

FinCom Recommendation: **Yes 6 - 0**

or take any other action relative hereto.



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 5: The Town voted to appropriate from Water Retained Earnings for **FY2025** a sum of money in the amount of **\$ 72,000** for the following specific capital purposes outlined below:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Water Meter Replacement | \$ 19,000 |
| 2. Water Infrastructure | \$ 43,000 |
| 3. Water Building and Road Maintenance | \$ 10,000 |

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Gwendolyn Lay

GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Wastewater Retained Earnings for **FY2025** a sum of money in the amount of **\$ 130,000** for the following specific capital purposes outlined below;

a. Wastewater Plant Engineering and Improvements **\$ 100,000**

Rationale: This will replace/upgrade/existing out of date and obsolete equipment as well as building improvements. Requested by the DPW Director.

Select Board Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0
FinCom Recommendation: Yes 6 - 0
Capital Planning Recommendation: Yes 4 - 0

b. Water Meter Replacement **\$ 7,000**

Rationale: To upgrade older meters to become lead free and radio read. Reducing time needed to read meters and increase public water quality. Requested by the DPW Director.

Select Board Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0
FinCom Recommendation: Yes 6 - 0
Capital Planning Recommendation: Yes 4 - 0

c. Pump Station Repairs **\$ 23,000**

Rationale: This will appropriate funds repairs to the Wastewater Pump Station. Requested by the DPW Director.

Select Board Recommendation: Yes 5 - 0
FinCom Recommendation: Yes 6 - 0
Capital Planning Recommendation: Yes 4 - 0

or take any other action relative hereto.



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 6: The Town **voted to** transfer from the Wastewater Retained Earnings for **FY2025** a sum of money in the amount of **\$ 130,000** for the following specific capital purposes outlined below;

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. Wastewater Plant Engineering and Improvements | \$ 100,000 |
| 2. Water Meter Replacement | \$ 7,000 |
| 3. Pump Station Repairs | \$ 23,000 |

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Wastewater Retained Earnings for **FY2025** a sum of money in the amount of **\$24,750** for I & I repairs throughout town; or take any other action hereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 7. The Town voted to appropriate from Wastewater Retained Earnings for **FY2025** a sum of money in the amount of **\$24,750** for I & I repairs throughout town.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Merrimac General Bylaws Section 48-9 entitled Authorized Revolving Funds, and add a new fund for the Library as follows:

Library Revolving Account. Funds received from fines for lost or damages library items to be used to pay the costs associated for the replacement of lost and damaged items, said expenditures to be approved through the Library Director, expenditures shall not exceed \$10,000 during fiscal year 2026.

And further to amend Inspectional Services Fund by replacing "70% of all fees" with "65% of all fees", and to amend Zoning and Building Code Compliance "and replacing "5% of all fees to 10% all fees.

And finally, in accordance with G.L. c. 44, Section 53E½, the following single year spending limit shall be set as for Fiscal Year 2026:

Revolving Fund	Fiscal Year Spending Limit
Firearms	\$12,000
Zoning Board of Appeal	\$9,000
Town Nurse	\$10,000
Zoning and Building Code Compliance	\$15,000
Board of Health Projects	\$4,500
Rental Inspections	\$4,000
Inspectional Services	\$100,000
PRSD Grounds	\$50,000
Tax Title	\$10,000
Fire Watch	\$5,000
Library	\$10,000

or take any other action relative hereto.

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pg. 14

Attest
Town Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 8: The Town **voted to** amend the Town of Merrimac General Bylaws Section 48-9 entitled Authorized Revolving Funds, and add a new fund for the Library as follows:

Library Revolving Account. Funds received from fines for lost or damages library items to be used to pay the costs associated for the replacement of lost and damaged items, said expenditures to be approved through the Library Director, expenditures shall not exceed **\$10,000** during **Fiscal Year 2026**.

And further to amend Inspectional Services Fund by replacing "70% of all fees" with "65% of all fees", and to amend Zoning and Building Code Compliance "and replacing "5% of all fees to 10% all fees.

And finally, in accordance with G.L. c. 44, Section 53E½, the following single year spending limit shall be set as for **Fiscal Year 2026** as set forth in the table in Article 8.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
 2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
 Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elected officers of the Town as provided by G.L. c. 41, § 108 as amended: Town Clerk, three Commissioners of Municipal Light, and to raise, appropriate or transfer sums of money therefore and to determine sums of money raised to be transferred to defray the necessary and usual charges and expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2025 and make appropriations for the same, said sums of money so raised, appropriated or transferred to be expended for specific purposes to be voted; or take any other action relative hereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 9: The Town voted to fix the salary and compensation of all elected officers of the Town as provided by G.L. c. 41, § 108 as amended: Town Clerk, three Commissioners of Municipal Light, and to raise, appropriate or transfer sums of money therefore and to determine sums of money raised to be transferred to defray the necessary and usual charges and expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2025 and make appropriations for the same, said sums of money so raised, appropriated or transferred to be expended for specific purposes as follows:

Raise and Appropriate **\$ 22,792,991**
Transfer from Cable TV Receipts Reserved **\$ 171,245**

Department	Line #	Amount
General Government	1 - 36	\$ 1,607,040
Public Safety	37 - 50	\$ 2,924,990
Education	51 - 53	\$ 13,739,004
Highway	54 - 57	\$ 675,187
Cemetery	58 - 59	\$ 82,882
Health & Sanitation	60 - 63	\$ 153,758
Public Assistance	64 - 66	\$ 464,808
Library	67 - 68	\$ 385,013
Parks & Rec	69	\$ 16,720
Town Gardens	70	\$ 600
Long Term Debt	71 - 72	\$ 1,135,134
Gen Govt Unclassified	73	\$ 1,779,100

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 pg. 16

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 Town Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded to amend as follows:

Department	Line #	Amount
General Government	1-26	\$ 1,607,040
Public Safety	37-50	\$ 2,924,990
Education	51-53	\$ 13,739,004
Highway	54-56	\$ 675,187
Cemetery	58-59	\$ 82,882
Health & Sanitation	60-63, 57	\$ 153,758
Public Assistance	64-66	\$ 464,808
Library	67-68	\$ 385,013
Parks & Rec	69	\$ 16,720
Town Gardens	70	\$ 600
Long Term Debt	71-72	\$ 1,135,134
Gen Govt Unclassified	73	\$ 1,779,100

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Marcia Zosack and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

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GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to operate the Wastewater Department Enterprise for FY2026;

Salaries:	\$ 676,525
Expenses:	\$ 611,140
<u>Debt Service:</u>	<u>\$ 39,864</u>
Total	\$1,327,529

And that \$ 1,327,529 be raised as follows:

Departmental Receipts:	\$1,320,529
Wastewater Betterment Fund:	\$ 7,000

or take any other action relative hereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 10: The Town voted to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to operate the Wastewater Department Enterprise for FY2026 as follows;

Salaries:	\$ 676,525
Expenses:	\$ 611,140
<u>Debt Service:</u>	<u>\$ 39,864</u>
Total	\$1,327,529

And that \$ 1,327,529 be raised as follows:

Departmental Receipts:	\$1,320,529
Wastewater Betterment Fund:	\$ 7,000

Motion by Irina Gorzinski and duly seconded.

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Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

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pg. 18

Attest
Town Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to operate the Water Department Enterprise for FY2026;

Salaries:	\$ 570,429
Expenses:	\$ 583,945
<u>Debt Service:</u>	<u>\$ 157,789</u>
Total	\$1,312,163

And that **\$1,312,163** be raised as follows:

Departmental Receipts: **\$ 1,312,163**

or take any other action relative hereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 11: The Town voted to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to operate the Water Department Enterprise for **FY2026** as follows;

Salaries:	\$ 570,429
Expenses:	\$ 583,945
<u>Debt Service:</u>	<u>\$ 157,789</u>
Total	\$1,312,163

And that **\$1,312,163** be raised as follows:

Departmental Receipts: **\$ 1,312,163**

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Irina Gorzinski and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

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GWYNETH LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money from the Electric Light Operating Balance said money to be used by the Assessors to reduce the Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2026; or take any other action relative hereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 12: The Town voted to transfer from available funds, **\$38,000** from the Electric Light Operating Balance said money to be used by the Assessors to reduce the Tax Rate for **Fiscal Year 2026**.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Irina Gorzinski and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Gwendolyn Lay

GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

A True Copy
pg. 20

Attest
Town Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or otherwise provide \$ 8,800 or other sum of money from available funds known as "Sale of Cemetery Lots", such sum or part thereof, to be expended under the direction of the Cemetery Trustees for the care, improvement, and embellishment of said cemeteries, in accordance with G.L. c. 114, §§ 15 and 25; or take any other action relative hereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 13: The Town voted to transfer \$ 8,800 from available funds known as "Sale of Cemetery Lots", to be expended under the direction of the Cemetery Trustees for the care, improvement, and embellishment of said cemeteries, in accordance with G.L. c. 114, §§ 15 and 25.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Irina Gorzinski and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide **\$185,000** or other sum of money to be used to make necessary repairs to Town roadways; or take any other action relative hereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 14: The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$185,000** to be used to make necessary repairs to Town roadways.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Irina Gorzinski and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

A True Copy
pg. 22

Attest
Town Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to accept the State Grant of Chapter 90 Highway Funds and authorize the Board of Select Board to expend said funds for Highway purposes in accordance with the terms of said grants; or take any other action relative hereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 15: The Town voted to accept the State Grant of Chapter 90 Highway Funds and authorize the Board of Select Board to expend said funds for Highway purposes in accordance with the terms of said grants.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Irina Gorzinski and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

A True Copy
pg. 23

Attest
Town Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide **\$35,000** or other sum of money to be used necessary tree maintenance throughout Town; or take any other action relative hereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 16: The Town **voted to** raise and appropriate **\$35,000** to be used necessary tree maintenance throughout Town.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Irina Gorzinski and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
GWYNDOLYN LAY
GWYNDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide **\$320,000**, or other sum of money for Solid Waste Collection and Disposal, Recycling Collection; or take any other action relative hereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 17: The Town **voted to** raise and appropriate **\$320,000**, for Solid Waste Collection and Disposal, Recycling Collection.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Janet Bruno and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to increase the current Veteran's Tax Exemption amounts adopted by the Town of Merrimac; 100% Disabled Veterans will increase to \$2,000 and Partially Disabled Veteran's will increase to \$800; or take any other action relative thereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 18: The Town **voted to** increase the current Veteran's Tax Exemption amounts adopted by the Town of Merrimac; 100% Disabled Veterans will increase to \$2,000 and Partially Disabled Veteran's will increase to \$800.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Janet Bruno and duly seconded.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

A True Copy
pg. 26

Attest
Town Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to operate the Water Department Enterprise for FY2026;

Salaries:	\$ 570,429
Expenses:	\$ 583,945
<u>Debt Service:</u>	<u>\$ 157,789</u>
Total	\$1,312,163

And that **\$1,312,163** be raised as follows:

Departmental Receipts: **\$ 1,312,163**

or take any other action relative hereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 11: The Town voted to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to operate the Water Department Enterprise for **FY2026** as follows;

Salaries:	\$ 570,429
Expenses:	\$ 583,945
<u>Debt Service:</u>	<u>\$ 157,789</u>
Total	\$1,312,163

And that **\$1,312,163** be raised as follows:

Departmental Receipts: **\$ 1,312,163**

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Irina Gorzinski and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

A True Copy
pg. 19

Attest
Town Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money from the Electric Light Operating Balance said money to be used by the Assessors to reduce the Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2026; or take any other action relative hereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 12: The Town voted to transfer from available funds, **\$38,000** from the Electric Light Operating Balance said money to be used by the Assessors to reduce the Tax Rate for **Fiscal Year 2026**.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Irina Gorzinski and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

GWENDOLYN LAY Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or otherwise provide \$ 8,800 or other sum of money from available funds known as "Sale of Cemetery Lots", such sum or part thereof, to be expended under the direction of the Cemetery Trustees for the care, improvement, and embellishment of said cemeteries, in accordance with G.L. c. 114, §§ 15 and 25; or take any other action relative hereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 13: The Town voted to transfer \$ 8,800 from available funds known as "Sale of Cemetery Lots", to be expended under the direction of the Cemetery Trustees for the care, improvement, and embellishment of said cemeteries, in accordance with G.L. c. 114, §§ 15 and 25.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Irina Gorzinski and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide **\$185,000** or other sum of money to be used to make necessary repairs to Town roadways; or take any other action relative hereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 14: The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$185,000** to be used to make necessary repairs to Town roadways.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Irina Gorzinski and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Gwendolyn Lay

GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

A True Copy
pg. 22

Attest
Town Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to accept the State Grant of Chapter 90 Highway Funds and authorize the Board of Select Board to expend said funds for Highway purposes in accordance with the terms of said grants; or take any other action relative hereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 15: The Town voted to accept the State Grant of Chapter 90 Highway Funds and authorize the Board of Select Board to expend said funds for Highway purposes in accordance with the terms of said grants.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Irina Gorzinski and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide **\$35,000** or other sum of money to be used necessary tree maintenance throughout Town; or take any other action relative hereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 16: The Town **voted to** raise and appropriate **\$35,000** to be used necessary tree maintenance throughout Town.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Irina Gorzinski and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

A True Copy
pg. 24

Attest
Town Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide **\$320,000**, or other sum of money for Solid Waste Collection and Disposal, Recycling Collection; or take any other action relative hereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 17: The Town **voted to** raise and appropriate **\$320,000**, for Solid Waste Collection and Disposal, Recycling Collection.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Janet Bruno and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to increase the current Veteran's Tax Exemption amounts adopted by the Town of Merrimac; 100% Disabled Veterans will increase to \$2,000 and Partially Disabled Veteran's will increase to \$800; or take any other action relative thereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 18: The Town **voted to** increase the current Veteran's Tax Exemption amounts adopted by the Town of Merrimac; 100% Disabled Veterans will increase to \$2,000 and Partially Disabled Veteran's will increase to \$800.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Janet Bruno and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

A True Copy
pg. 26

Attest
Town Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c. 44 sec. 21C, to authorize the Select Board to enter into a lease agreement for the lease purchase of a Kabota M6S Cab Tractor/Roadside Mower for the Highway Department for the period of 5 years, but in any event not in excess of the useful life of the property to be purchased, to be procured on such terms and conditions as the Board of Select Board deem in the best interest of the Town; and to authorize the Board of Select Board to take all actions necessary to administer and implement such agreement; or take any other action relative thereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

2/3 Vote Required

Article 19: The Town voted to, pursuant to G.L. c. 44 sec. 21C, to authorize the Select Board to enter into a lease agreement for the lease purchase of a Kabota M6S Cab Tractor/Roadside Mower for the Highway Department for the period of 5 years, but in any event not in excess of the useful life of the property to be purchased, to be procured on such terms and conditions as the Board of Select Board deem in the best interest of the Town; and to authorize the Board of Select Board to take all actions necessary to administer and implement such agreement; or take any other action relative thereto.

2/3 Vote Required

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Janet Bruno and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

A True Copy
pg. 27

Attest
Town Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 20:

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G.L. c. 44 sec. 21C, to authorize the Select Board to enter into a lease agreement for the lease purchase of a Ford F350 Truck for the Water Department for the period of 5 years, but in any event not in excess of the useful life of the property to be purchased, to be procured on such terms and conditions as the Board of Select Board deem in the best interest of the Town; and to authorize the Board of Select Board to take all actions necessary to administer and implement such agreement; or take any other action relative thereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

2/3 Vote Required

Article 20: Pursuant to G.L. c. 44 sec. 21C, the Town voted to authorize the Select Board to enter into a lease agreement for the lease purchase of a Ford F350 Truck for the Water Department for the period of 5 years, but in any event not in excess of the useful life of the property to be purchased, to be procured on such terms and conditions as the Board of Select Board deem in the best interest of the Town; and to authorize the Board of Select Board to take all actions necessary to administer and implement such agreement.

2/3 Vote Required

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Janet Bruno and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

A True Copy
pg. 28

Attest
Town Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
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COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 21: To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Light Commissioners to grant an easement in the property along Federal Way, shown as Lot 2 on a plan dated June 10, 1986, and recorded on August 4, 1986 in the Essex South Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 213, Plan 41, for the purpose of vehicular and pedestrian access to and from an existing cell tower site, and further to authorize the Board of Light Commissioners to enter into any agreements in order to effectuate same; or take any other action related thereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

2/3 Vote Required

Article 21: The Town voted to authorize the Board of Light Commissioners to grant an easement in the property along Federal Way, shown as Lot 2 on a plan dated June 10, 1986, and recorded on August 4, 1986 in the Essex South Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 213, Plan 41, for the purpose of vehicular and pedestrian access to and from an existing cell tower site, and further to authorize the Board of Light Commissioners to enter into any agreements in order to effectuate same.

2/3 Vote Required

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Janet Bruno and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

WENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

A True Copy
pg. 29

Attest
Town Clerk



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2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
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COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 22: To see if the town will vote to accept the fourth paragraph of General Laws Chapter 41, Section 111F, which allows the town to create a special injury leave indemnity fund to be expended by the Select Board Chair; or take any other action relative thereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

Article 22: The Town **voted to** accept the fourth paragraph of General Laws Chapter 41, Section 111F said fund to be expended by the Select Board Chair.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Janet Bruno and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

A True Copy
pg. 30

Attest
Town Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

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COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to amend certain provisions of Section 283-2 and Appendix A372 of the Town of Merrimac General By-Laws, as follows, with additions shown in **bold, underlined text** and deletions shown in ~~strike through~~ text, and to renumber the remaining sections accordingly:

A.

283-2 Organization -The Board shall consist of ~~three~~ **five members** ~~Select Board~~ elected by the Town of Merrimac. The terms shall be three years and staggered so that only one **Select Board** ~~man~~ position is required to be filled each year.

B.

APPENDIX A

WATER SERVICE SPECIFICATIONS

Section A372-1. INSTALLATION OF WATER SERVICE: The Water Department shall furnish and install the service tap from the water main to the property line, unless the Director of Public Works or Water Supervisor specifically authorizes another party to do so. That portion of a service connection installed within a public way and terminating at a shut off shall be considered the property of the Town upon its construction and acceptance. The Water Department shall be responsible for its maintenance.

Section A372-~~21~~. **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROPERTY OWNER:** It is the responsibility of a Property Owner or his or her contractors to install, at their expense, the water service from the property line to their building(s). The Property Owner shall be responsible for insuring that such installation meets the following procedures and specifications ~~are met~~. Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Water Department, these procedures and specifications must be complied with as a condition for attachment to the Town's water distribution system. All charges resulting from the installation of a water service will be the responsibility of the Property Owner and shall be paid prior to the water being turned on. **That portion of a service connection not lying within a public way shall remain the property of the Property Owner, who shall be responsible for its maintenance; provided that nothing in this section shall abrogate the Town's right to repair service pipes and fittings, as set forth herein.**

Section A372-~~32~~. **PERMIT FOR SERVICE CONNECTION:** Prior to beginning any service work a permit shall be obtained from the Water Department. Permit forms can be picked up at the Water Department office. A permit is required for each building service. All fees shall be paid prior to issuance of a Service Connection permit.



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Section A372-43. PERMIT TO EXCAVATE IN A PUBLIC WAY: A permit shall be obtained from the ~~Board of Select Board~~ Director of Department of Public Works to excavate in any public way in the Town for purposes of constructing a water service line. The location for such service line shall be specified by the Water Department.

Section A372-54. EXCAVATION AND BACK FILLING IN PUBLIC WAYS: Cutting existing street surfaces in public ways shall be done as directed by the Highway Superintendent. In addition to the use of approved material for backfilling around service lines, all fill shall be thoroughly tamped in layers not to exceed 8" in depth to insure maximum compaction. The replacement of street surfaces shall be as directed by the Highway Superintendent. No backfilling shall be started until the piping installation has been inspected and approved by the Water Department.

Section A372-65. PUBLIC LIABILITY AND SAFETY: Insurance certificates shall be furnished by the Property Owner as may be required by the Water Department in order to hold the Town harmless from all claims, demands, suits and actions for or on account of any injuries or damages occasioned by the water service work. Barricades, signs, warning lights and other safety devices shall be furnished and maintained to protect the public from accidents or injuries on account of operations. Wherever in the opinion of the Chief of Police it is deemed necessary to direct traffic around excavations, the Property Owner shall, at his own expense, obtain the services of a policeman at such times as may be designated.

Section A372-76. NOTIFICATION OF BEGINNING OF WORK: The manager of the Water Department shall be notified at least two days before work is to commence.

Section A372-87. APPROVAL OF SERVICE MATERIALS AND INSTALLATION ACTIVITIES: The water shall not be turned on until the service materials and installation activities have has been inspected and approved by the Water Department.

Section A372-98. SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Special conditions relating to the construction site or the water required shall be referred to the Water Department which will approve all variations in the methods and materials to be used. In general water service lines will not be approved if installation on private property under paved areas such as sidewalks and driveways, or in exposed locations subject to freezing or possible disturbance. Water services will not be permitted through easements over adjacent property. Multiple Services from a single tap in the main will not be permitted.

Section A372-109. APPROVED WATER SERVICE MATERIAL: All material used in water service installation shall meet appropriate A.W.W.A. and Water Department specifications. When an item can be shown to be of equivalent quality to the suggested material, the Water Department



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can approve a substitution. Compression fittings will be required on all stops, couplings and valves. The size of all pipe stops and valves will be required by the Water Department.

- A. Corporation Stop shall be Ford type F1000. A saddle clamp is required on all taps.
- B. Curb Stop shall be Ford type Z44-333.
- C. Curb Box shall be a 5 foot extension type with a stationary rod and arch pattern base Mueller type H-10334.
- D. Cellar Stop shall be a copper service ball valve with a handle and shall be supplied by the Water Department and shall be paid for by the contractor.
- E. Water Meters shall be furnished by the customer and installed by the Water Department. No meter shall be installed in a location subject to freezing or damage.
- F. Pipe for Water Service shall be Type "K" soft temper copper tubing, C-130. All copper tubing must be stamped to show type. Water service size to be determined by Water Department. Minimum service size is 1", but larger service size may be required based on anticipated water demand, elevation of building or length of service. The use of a coupling must be approved by the Water Department.

Section A372-~~1140~~. CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

- A. Depth of cover for all water service lines and connections shall be a minimum of 5 feet in all directions. Water service lines must be run in a separate trench at least 5 feet away from drain lines, electric lines, telephone lines, gas lines, and 10 feet away from sewer lines. Sewer shall be encased in concrete where a water line crosses within 1-1/2 feet.
- B. Backfilling of trenches around water lines shall be by hand for a depth of one foot using material free of stones, frozen earth, tree limbs, etc. Water lines shall be bedded in material approved by the Water Department. Backfilling from 1 foot above the water service to finish grade shall be done in layers and thoroughly compacted. No large stones, frozen material or large diameter material may be used in backfilling trenches.
- C. Setting Curb Boxes. All curb boxes shall be set to the finished ground grade and shall be backfilled by hand with fine material and compacted thoroughly. It is the responsibility of the Property Owner to preserve the top of the curb box at the surface of the ground. Contractor shall confirm curb box is set to finished grade prior to requesting water service be turned on.



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- D. Location of Service Pipe. The service pipe shall come off the main at a 90 degree angle and run directly to the front of the building unless otherwise approved in advance by the Water Department. Water services shall not be installed under concrete slabs.
- E. Meter Pits. If the distance from the water main to the meter is over 200 feet, the Water Department may require the Property Owner to install a meter pit near the property line. This pit must be of a type easily entered with room to read, remove and replace the meter. Provision must be made to prevent meter freeze-up and the pit must be dry at all times.
- F. As-builts. As-builts shall be submitted prior to turning on water service.

Section A372-1211. ELECTRICAL GROUND: The Water Service may be used for an electrical ground if the water piping is metallic, otherwise an alternate grounding means must be used.

Section A372-13. LIMITATIONS ON SERVICE INSTALLATIONS: Installation of services extending beyond the end of an existing water main shall not be allowed.

Section A372-14. RIGHT TO REPAIR SERVICE PIPES AND FITTINGS: The pipe from the Town property line to the cellar wall, or all pipe beyond the Town property line, including meter pits, is the property of the Property Owner. All service pipes between the Town property line and the cellar wall, including private ways, may be repaired or re-laid by the Water Department when it deems necessary for the protection of the supply or the delivery of satisfactory water service. The cost of such work and materials shall be charged to the Property Owner.

Or take any other action relative thereto.



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April 28, 2025

Motion by Chris Manni and Duly seconded to amend Article 23

Section A to read:

283-2 Organization – The Board shall consist of no more than five members elected by the Town of Merrimac. The terms shall be three years and staggered so that no more than two terms expire each year.

Motion to carried unanimously by a hand count so declared the moderator.

Article 23: The Town voted to amend of Section 283-2 of the General Bylaws and Appendix A372 of the Town of Merrimac General By-Laws as amended.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Robert Gustison, and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

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Town Clerk



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Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Merrimac Zoning By-Laws with the additions and or amendments to the indicated Articles as written below:

A. ARTICLE 2: DEFINITIONS

Battery(ies): A single cell or a group of cells connected together electrically in series, in parallel, or a combination of both, which can charge, discharge, and store energy electrochemically. For the purposes of this bylaw, batteries utilized in consumer products are excluded from these requirements.

Battery Energy Storage Management System: An electronic system that protects energy storage systems from operating outside their safe operating parameters and disconnects electrical power to the energy storage system or places it in a safe condition if potentially hazardous temperatures or other conditions are detected.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): One or more devices, assembled together, capable of storing energy in order to supply electrical energy at a future time, not to include a stand-alone 12-volt car battery or an electric motor vehicle. A Battery Energy Storage System is classified a Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3 BESS as follows:

1. Tier 1 Battery Energy Storage Systems have an aggregate energy capacity equal to 250KWh or less and, whose primary purpose is to store energy from residential solar energy systems if in a room or enclosed structure, and which 51% or more of its stored energy is derived from solar energy systems.
2. Tier 2 Battery Energy Storage Systems have an aggregate energy capacity equal to 250KWh or less and, whose primary purpose is to store energy from commercial solar energy systems if in a room or enclosed structure, and which 51% or more of its stored energy is derived from solar energy systems.



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3. Tier 3 Battery Energy Storage Systems are defined as those that are interconnected to high voltage transmission lines, electric substations or local distribution systems and have an aggregate energy capacity greater 250 KWh but less than or equal to 3 MWh.

Cell: The basic electrochemical unit, characterized by an anode and a cathode, used to receive, store, and deliver electrical energy.

Commissioning: A systematic process that provides documented confirmation that a battery energy storage system functions according to the intended design criteria and complies with applicable code requirements.

Dedicated-Use Building: A building that is built for the primary intention of housing battery energy storage system equipment, is classified as Group F-1 occupancy as defined in the International Building Code, and complies with the following:

1. The building's only use is battery energy storage, energy generation, and other electrical grid-related operations.
2. No other occupancy types are permitted in the building.
3. Occupants in the rooms and areas containing battery energy storage systems are limited to personnel that operate, maintain, service, test, and repair the battery energy storage system and other energy systems.
4. Administrative and support personnel are permitted in areas within the buildings that do not contain battery energy storage system, provided the following:
 - a. The areas do not occupy more than 10 percent of the building area of the story in which they are located.



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- b. A means of egress is provided from the administrative and support use areas to the public way that does not require occupants to traverse through areas containing battery energy storage systems or other energy system equipment.

B. ARTICLE 23: SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS

SECTION 23.8: BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (BESS) BY-LAW

23.8.1 Purpose

The purpose of this bylaw is to provide for the construction and operation of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and to provide standards for the placement, design, construction, monitoring, modification and removal of energy storage systems that address public safety, protection of the Town and private drinking water supply, minimize impacts on scenic, natural and historic resources of the Town of Merrimac, and provide adequate financial assurance for decommissioning. The provisions set forth in this section shall take precedence over all other sections when considering applications related to the construction, operation, and/or repair of Battery Energy Storage Systems.

23.8.2 Applicability

23.8.2.1 Building-integrated Battery Energy Storage Systems

23.8.2.1.1 Battery Energy Storage Systems that are building-integrated, whether a residential or commercial building, energy storage systems shall not be erected, constructed, installed, or modified as provided in this section without first obtaining a building permit from the Building Inspector.

23.8.2.1.2 Building-integrated energy storage systems may be coupled with rooftop solar, back up generators or behind the meter applications for peak shaving.



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- 23.8.2.2 Co-located Battery Energy Storage Systems
- 23.8.2.2.1 Battery Energy Storage Facilities are encouraged to co-locate with solar photovoltaic installations, energy, power generation stations, and electrical sub-stations.
 - 23.8.2.2.2 If co-located with a solar photovoltaic installation, the BESS shall not exceed the necessary capacity and size generated by the output of the co-located solar photovoltaic installation.
 - 23.8.2.2.3 Tier 3 Battery Energy Storage systems not primarily associated with on-site solar generation, which generate less than 51% of their stored energy from solar energy systems shall only be permitted in the Office Light Industrial District and shall require a Special Permit and Site Plan Review from the Planning Board. No Battery Energy Storage Systems are permitted in the Water Resource Protection Overlay District
 - 23.8.2.2.4 The nameplate capacity of an Energy Storage system shall not exceed the total kw of renewable energy being produced on the 3-phase distribution line that the energy storage system will be interconnected to.
 - 23.8.2.2.5 Modifications to, retrofits or replacements of an existing battery energy storage system that increase the total battery energy storage system designed discharge duration or power rating shall be subject to this bylaw.



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23.8.3 USE TABLE

	VR	SR	AR	BMO	LA	VC	RH	HS	OI	RAPO
Tier 1 Residential Battery Energy Storage Systems	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Tier 2 Battery Energy Storage Systems	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Tier 3 Battery Energy Storage Systems	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	SP	N

23.8.4 General Requirements

23.8.4.1 In accordance with Section C above, all Tier 3 battery energy storage systems shall require a special permit and site plan approval by the Planning Board prior to construction, installation, or modification as provided in this bylaw.

23.8.4.2 All Tier 1 and Tier 2 battery energy storage systems shall require site plan review.

23.8.4.3 The construction, operation, and decommissioning of all battery storage energy storage systems shall be consistent with all applicable local, state, and federal requirements, including but not limited to all applicable environmental, safety, construction, fire, and electrical requirements.

23.8.4.4 A building permit and an electrical permit shall be required for installation of all battery energy storage systems.

23.8.5 Application Materials

In addition to requirements of Article 19 Site Plan Review, the application for a Special Permit under this Section shall include the following:

23.8.5.1 An existing condition plan with property lines and physical features, including topography and roads, characteristics of vegetation (trees mature, old growth, shrubs, open field, etc.), wetlands, streams, ledge, for the project site;



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- 23.8.5.2 A site plan prepared, stamped and signed by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in Massachusetts, that shows the following:
- 23.8.5.2.1 Proposed changes to the landscape of the site, including grading, vegetation clearing and planting, exterior lighting, screening vegetation or structures, driveways, snow storage, and storm water management systems; including total acreage of disturbed area, total vegetation cleared, not including mowed fields;
 - 23.8.5.2.2 Trees with a DBH of 20" or greater within project parcel(s) shall be identified to determine tree loss, along with inventorying of diseased or hazard trees slated to be removed due to proposed development;
 - 23.8.5.2.3 Property lines and physical dimensions of the subject property with contour intervals of no more than 10 feet;
 - 23.8.5.2.4 Property lines of adjacent parcels within 300 feet.
 - 23.8.5.2.5 Location, dimensions, and types of existing major structures on the property;
 - 23.8.5.2.6 Location of the proposed battery energy storage structures, foundations, and associated equipment;
 - 23.8.5.2.7 The right-of-way of any public road that is contiguous with the property;
 - 23.8.5.2.8 Any overhead or underground utilities;
 - 23.8.5.2.9 At least one color photograph of the existing site, measuring eight (8) inches by ten (10) inches;
 - 23.8.5.2.10 Locations of active farmland and prime farmland soils, wetlands, permanently protected open space, Priority Habitat Areas and BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscape Core Habitat mapped by the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) and "Important Wildlife Habitat" mapped by the DEP;
 - 23.8.5.2.11 Locations of floodplains or inundation areas for moderate or high hazard dams;



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- 23.8.5.2.12 Locations of local or National Historic Districts; and
- 23.8.5.2.13 Stormwater management and erosion and sediment control.
- 23.8.5.3 A preliminary equipment specification sheet that documents the proposed battery energy storage system components, inverters and associated electrical equipment that are to be installed, including manufacturer and model. A final equipment specification sheet shall be submitted prior to the issuance of building permit.
- 23.8.5.4 One- or three-line electrical diagram showing associated components, and electrical interconnection methods, with all NEC compliant disconnects and overcurrent devices.
- 23.8.5.5 Contact information and signature of the project proponent, as well as all co-proponents, if any, and all property owners.
- 23.8.5.6 Contact information and signature of agents representing the project proponent, if any;
- 23.8.5.7 Contact information for the person(s) responsible for public inquiries throughout the life of the system.
- 23.8.5.8 An operations and maintenance plan for Battery Energy Storage System. Such plan shall describe continuing battery energy storage system maintenance and property upkeep, as well as design, construction, installation, testing and commissioning information. It shall also include Energy Storage System technical specifications, including manufacturer and model.
- 23.8.5.9 Electrical schematic.
- 23.8.5.10 Documentation that shows the owner of the Energy Storage System has site control, which shall include easements and access roads.
- 23.8.5.11 Documentation that shows the owner of the Energy Storage System has notified the electric utility of this installation.



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- 23.8.5.12 Emergency Operations Plan. A copy of the approved Emergency Operations Plan shall be given to the system owner, the local police department, local fire department, and local building official. A permanent copy shall also be placed in an approved location to be accessible to facility personnel, building officials, and emergency responders. The emergency operations plan shall include the following information:
- 23.8.5.12.1 Procedures for safe shutdown, de-energizing, or isolation of equipment and systems under emergency conditions to reduce the risk of fire, electric shock, and personal injuries, and for safe startup following cessation of emergency conditions.
 - 23.8.5.12.2 Procedures for inspection and testing of associated alarms, interlocks, and controls. This includes hazmat appliances for conducting atmospheric monitoring with a scientific officer to support.
 - 23.8.5.12.3 Procedures to be followed in response to notifications from the Battery Energy Storage Management System, when provided, that could signify potentially dangerous conditions, including shutting down equipment, summoning service and repair personnel, and providing agreed upon notification to fire department personnel for potentially hazardous conditions in the event of a system failure.
 - 23.8.5.12.4 Emergency procedures to be followed in case of fire, explosion, release of liquids or vapors, damage to critical moving parts, or other potentially dangerous conditions. Procedures can include sounding the alarm, notifying the fire department, evacuating personnel, de-energizing equipment, and controlling and extinguishing the fire.
 - 23.8.5.12.5 Response considerations similar to a safety data sheet (SDS) that will address response safety concerns and extinguishment when an SDS is not required.
 - 23.8.5.12.6 Procedures for dealing with battery energy storage system equipment damaged in a fire or other emergency event, including maintaining contact information for personnel qualified to safely remove damaged battery energy storage system equipment from the facility.
 - 23.8.5.12.7 Other procedures as determined reasonably necessary by the Town to provide for the safety of occupants, neighboring properties, and emergency responders.



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- 23.8.5.12.8 Procedures and schedules for conducting drills of these procedures and for training local first responders on the contents of the plan and appropriate response procedures. Trainings must be provided and organized by the applicant.
- 23.8.5.13 Proof of liability insurance: The applicant shall be required to provide evidence of liability insurance in an amount and for a duration sufficient to cover loss or damage to persons and property caused by the failure of the system.
- 23.8.5.14 A noise study, prepared by a qualified individual with experience in environmental acoustics, to assess the impact of all noise sources generated from the project to abutting properties, and determine the appropriate layout, design, and control measures. The report should include details of assessment methods, summarize the results, and recommend the required outdoor as well as any indoor control measures.
- 23.8.6 Design and Site Standards for BESS Facilities requiring a Special Permit
- In addition to the standards for Special Permit and Site Plan Review in the Zoning Bylaw, the applicant shall adhere to the following standards and provide such information on the site plan:
- 23.8.6.1 Utility Lines. All on-site utility lines shall be placed underground to the extent feasible and as permitted by the serving utility.
- 23.8.6.2 Signage. The signage shall include the type of technology associated with the systems, any special hazards associated, the type of suppression system installed, and 24-hour emergency contact information. All information shall be clearly displayed on a light reflective surface. Clearly visible warning signs concerning voltage shall be placed at the base of all pad-mounted transformers and substations.
- 23.8.6.3 Lighting. Lighting of the systems shall be limited to that minimally required for safety and operational purposes and shall be reasonably shielded and downcast from abutting properties.
- 23.8.6.4 Setbacks. Battery Energy Storage Systems not co-located with solar photovoltaic installations shall adhere to a fifty (50) foot setback from the front, side, and rear property lines and shall adhere to a one hundred fifty (150) foot setback from any residential buildings. BESS's shall also adhere to a one hundred (100) foot setback



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from water wells (both private and public) located either on-site or on abutting properties.

- 23.8.6.5 Fire protection. Battery Energy Storage Systems not co-located with solar photovoltaic installations shall be located on properties serviced by the public water system or by a water supply acceptable to the Planning Board and Merrimac Fire Department.
- 23.8.6.6 Vegetation and Tree-Cutting. Areas within 5 (five) feet on each side of a Tier 1 system or within ten (10) feet on each side of a Tier 2 or Tier 3 system shall be cleared of combustible vegetation and other combustible growth. Single specimens of trees or shrubbery and cultivated ground covers such as green grass, ivy, succulents, or similar plants shall be exempt provided that they do not form a means of readily transmitting fire. Clearing of natural vegetation shall be limited to that which is necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance of the system and that which is otherwise prescribed by applicable bylaws and regulations.
- 23.8.6.7 Noise. The 1-hour average noise generated from the systems, components, and associated ancillary equipment shall not exceed a noise level of 60 dBA as measured at the property line.

23.8.7 Safety System Certification.

Battery energy storage systems and equipment shall be listed by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory to UL 9540 (Standard for battery energy storage systems and Equipment) or approved equivalent, with subcomponents meeting each of the following standards as applicable:

- 23.8.7.1 UL 1973 (Standard for Batteries for Use in Stationary, Vehicle Auxiliary Power and Light Electric Rail Applications),
- 23.8.7.2 UL 1642 (Standard for Lithium Batteries),
- 23.8.7.3 UL 1741 or UL 62109 (Inverters and Power Converters),
- 23.8.7.4 Certified under the applicable electrical, building, and fire prevention codes as required.



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23.8.7.5 Alternatively, field evaluation by an approved testing laboratory for compliance with UL 9540 (or approved equivalent) and applicable codes, regulations and safety standards may be used to meet system certification requirements.

23.8.8 Special Permit Criteria

The Planning Board may approve an application if the Board finds that the system complies with the Site Plan Review and Approval criteria and with the conditions for granting Special Permits. Battery energy storage systems shall also satisfy the following additional criteria:

- 23.8.8.1 Environmental features of the site are protected, and surface runoff will not cause damage to surrounding properties or increase soil erosion and sedimentation of nearby streams and ponds.
- 23.8.8.2 The Planning Board may also impose conditions as it finds reasonably appropriate to safeguard the town or neighborhood including, but not limited to, screening, lighting, noise, fences, modification of the exterior appearance of electrical cabinets, battery storage systems, or other structures, limitation upon system size, and means of vehicular access or traffic features.
- 23.8.8.3 No occupancy permit shall be granted by the Building Commissioner, nor shall the site be energized or interconnected to the utility until the Planning Board has received, reviewed, and approved an as-built plan that demonstrates that the work proposed on the approved site plan, including all stormwater management components and associated offsite improvements, have been completed in accordance with the approved plan and certified same to the Building Commissioner.
- 23.8.8.4 The Planning Board may, in its discretion, approve an as-built plan upon provision of a type of surety as determined by the Planning Board, to secure incomplete work where such work is not immediately necessary for lawful operation of the system without negative effect on public health and safety and surrounding properties.
- 23.8.8.5 The applicant shall make every effort to coordinate necessary surveying and finalization of the as-built plans and submission of required construction control documents prior to the conclusion of construction. Notwithstanding the above, a



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temporary occupancy permit may be granted with the approval of the Planning Board subject to conditions for completion of work imposed by the Board.

23.8.9 Decommissioning

23.8.9.1 As part of the applicant's submission to the Planning Board, the applicant shall submit a decommissioning plan, to be implemented upon abandonment or in conjunction with removal from property. The plan shall include:

23.8.9.1.1 A narrative description of the activities to be accomplished, including who will perform that activity and at what point in time, for complete physical removal of all battery energy storage system components, structures, equipment, security barriers, and transmission lines from the property.

23.8.9.1.2 Disposal of all solid and hazardous waste in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations.

23.8.9.1.3 The anticipated life of the battery energy storage systems.

23.8.9.1.4 The estimated decommissioning costs and how said estimate was determined.

23.8.9.1.4 The method of ensuring that funds will be available for decommissioning and restoration.

23.8.9.1.5 The method by which the decommissioning cost will be kept current.

23.8.9.1.6 The manner in which the site will be restored, including a description of how any changes to the surrounding areas and other systems adjacent to the battery energy storage system, such as, but not limited to, structural elements, building penetrations, means of egress, and required fire detection suppression systems, will be protected during decommissioning and confirmed as being acceptable after the system is removed.

23.8.9.1.7 A listing of any contingencies for removing an intact operational battery energy storage system from service, and for removing an energy storage system from service that has been damaged by a fire or other event.

28.8.9.2 Decommissioning Fund.

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pg. 47

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Town Clerk



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- 28.9.2.1 The owner and/or operator of the energy storage system, shall continuously maintain a fund or bond payable to the Town, in an approved form for the removal of the battery energy storage system, in an amount to be determined by the Planning Board for the period of the life of the facility.
- 23.8.9.2.2 All costs of the financial security shall be borne by the applicant. The amount shall include a mechanism for calculating increased removal costs due to inflation.
- 23.8.9.2.3 An inspection of the completed decommissioned area shall be reviewed by a consultant hired by the Planning Board before approving the decommissioning work in accordance with the Decommissioning Plan.
- 23.8.9.2.4 The owner and/or operator shall pay for the cost of this review with such payment being provided by the owner and/or operator prior to the consultant undertaking said review, in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 53G.

23.8.10 Abandonment.

The battery energy storage system shall be considered abandoned when it ceases to operate consistently for more than twelve (12) months. The system shall be presumed abandoned if the owner and/or operator fails to respond affirmatively within thirty (30) days to a written inquiry from the Building Inspector as to the continued validity and operation of the system. If the owner or operator fails to comply with decommissioning upon any abandonment, the Town, may, at its discretion, remove the system and restore the site in accordance with the decommissioning plan.

23.8.11 Severability.

If any provision of this By-Law is found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this By-Law shall not be affected but remain in full force. The invalidity of any provision of this By-Law shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Merrimac Zoning By-Law.



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Or take any other action relative thereto.

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2/3 Vote Required

ARTICLE 24: The Town voted to amend the Town of Merrimac Zoning bylaw, Definitions and adding a new section 23.8 as printed in the warrant regarding Battery Energy Storage Systems.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Robert Gustison and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

GWENDOLYN LAY Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



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Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to amend certain provisions of Section 13 of the Merrimac Zoning By-Laws, Flood Plain District, as follows, with additions shown in **bold** and deletions shown in ~~strikethrough~~ text, and to renumber the remaining sections accordingly:

ARTICLE 13. FLOODPLAIN DISTRICT

13.1 Purpose

~~13.1.1. The purposes of the Floodplain District are to protect public health, safety and general welfare; to protect human life and property from the hazards of periodic flooding; to preserve natural flood control characteristics and the flood storage capacity of the floodplain; and to preserve and maintain the groundwater table and water recharge areas within the floodplain.~~

~~13.1.2. The Flood Plain District is established as an overlay district to all other districts. Where there is a conflict between provisions of this article and other Zoning Bylaws, the more restrictive regulation shall take precedence.~~

~~13.1.3. All development, including structural and nonstructural activities, whether permitted by right or by SPECIAL PERMIT, must be in compliance with 310 CMR Department of Environmental Protection Regulations Chapter 13.1 Section 40, of the Massachusetts General Laws and with the following sections of the Massachusetts State Building Code (780CMR) which address floodplains and coastal high hazard areas; Wetlands Protection Regulations Department of Environmental Protection DEP (currently 310 CMR 10.00); Inland Wetland Restrictions, DEP (currently 310 CMR 13.00) and Minimum Requirements for Subsurface Disposal of Sanitary Sewage, DEP (currently 310 CMR 15 Title 5)~~

13.1.1. The purposes of the Floodplain District are the following:

13.1.1.1 Ensure public safety through reducing the threats to life and personal injury



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- 13.1.1.2 Eliminate new hazards to emergency response officials
 - 13.1.1.3 Prevent the occurrence of public emergencies resulting from water quality, contamination, and pollution due to flooding
 - 13.1.1.4 Avoid the loss of utility services which if damaged by flooding would disrupt or shut down the utility network and impact regions of the community beyond the site of flooding
 - 13.1.1.5 Eliminate costs associated with the response and cleanup of flooding conditions
 - 13.1.1.6 Reduce damage to public and private property resulting from flooding waters
- 13.1.2. The Flood Plain District is established as an overlay district to all other districts. Where there is a conflict between provisions of this article and other Zoning Bylaws, the more restrictive regulation shall take precedence.

All proposed construction or other development in the floodplain overlay district, including new construction or changes to existing buildings, placement of manufactured homes, placement of agricultural facilities, fences, sheds, storage facilities or drilling, mining, paving and any other development that might increase flooding or adversely impact flood risks to other properties, whether permitted by right or by SPECIAL PERMIT, shall require a permit issued by the Building Department and must be in compliance with the Department of Environmental Protection Regulations (310 CMR) and with the Massachusetts State Building Code (780CMR)

- 13.1.3 The degree of flood protection required by this bylaw is considered reasonable but does not imply total flood protection.



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13.1.4. An applicant shall obtain all local, state and federal permits that will be necessary in order to carry out the proposed development in the floodplain overlay district. The applicant shall demonstrate that all necessary permits have been acquired.

13.2. District Delineation

13.2.1 The Floodplain District is herein established as an overlay district. The **Floodplain** District includes all special flood hazard within the Town of Merrimac designated as Zone A and AE on the Essex County Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) **dated July 8, 2025 and** issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program. ~~The map panels of the Essex County FIRM that are wholly or partially within the Town of Merrimac are panel numbers 25009C0081F, 25009C0082F, 25009C0083F, 250009C0084F, 25009C0101F, 25009C0103F, 25009C0092F and 25009C0111F dated July 3, 2012. The exact boundaries of the District may be defined by the 100-year base flood elevations shown on the FIRM and further defined by the Essex County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report dated July 3, 2012. The FIRM and FIS report are incorporated herein by reference and are on file with the Town Clerk, Planning Board, Building Official, Conservation Commission and BUILDING COMMISSIONER.~~ The exact boundaries of the District shall be defined by the 1%-chance base flood elevations shown on the FIRM and further defined by the Essex County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report dated July 8, 2025. The FIRM and FIS report are incorporated herein by reference and are on file with the Town Clerk, Planning Board, Building Commissioner, and Conservation Commission.

13.2.2 In Zones AE, along watercourses for which no regulatory floodway has been designated, the best available federal, state, local or other floodway data shall be used to prohibit encroachments in floodways which would result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge. The floodplain administrator shall be the Building Commissioner.

13.2.3 In A Zones, in the absence of FEMA BFE data and floodway data, the building department shall obtain, review and reasonably utilize base flood elevation and floodway data available from a Federal, State, or other source as criteria for requiring



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new construction, substantial improvements, or other development in A Zones and as the basis for elevating residential structures to or above base flood level, for floodproofing or elevating nonresidential structures to or above base flood level, and for prohibiting encroachments in floodways.

13.3 Definitions

The following definitions apply only to this Article 13:

DEVELOPMENT: Any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to building or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

FLOOD BOUNDARY AND FLOODWAY MAP: An official map of a community issued by FEMA that depicts, based on detailed analyses, the boundaries of the 100-year and 500-year floods and the 100-year floodway. (For maps done in 1987 and later, the floodway designation is included on the FIRM.) (if applicable in your community)

FLOOD HAZARD BOUNDARY MAP (FHBM.): An official map of a community issued by the Federal Insurance Administrator, where the boundaries of the flood and related erosion areas having special hazards have been designated as Zone A or E. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59] (if applicable in your community)

FLOODWAY: The channel of the river, creek or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height. [Base Code, Chapter 2, Section 202]

FUNCTIONALLY DEPENDENT USE: A use which cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out in close proximity to water. The term includes only docking facilities,



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port facilities that are necessary for the loading and unloading of cargo or passengers, and ship building and ship repair facilities, but does not include long-term storage or related manufacturing facilities. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59] Also [Referenced Standard ASCE 24-14]

HIGHEST ADJACENT GRADE: The highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed walls of a structure. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

HISTORIC STRUCTURE means any structure that is:

- a. Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register;
- b. Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district;
- c. Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior; or
- d. Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:
 1. By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or
 2. Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.

[US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]



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NEW CONSTRUCTION. Structures for which the start of construction commenced on or after the effective date of the first floodplain management code, regulation, ordinance, or standard adopted by the authority having jurisdiction, including any subsequent improvements to such structures. New construction includes work determined to be substantial improvement. [Referenced Standard ASCE 24-14]

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE means a vehicle which is:

- a. Built on a single chassis;
- b. 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection;
- c. Designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and
- d. Designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

[US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

REGULATORY FLOODWAY - see FLOODWAY.

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA. The land area subject to flood hazards and shown on a Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard map as Zone A, AE, A1-30, A99, AR, AO, AH, V, VO, VE or V1-30. [Base Code, Chapter 2, Section 202]

START OF CONSTRUCTION. The date of issuance for new construction and substantial improvements to existing structures, provided the actual start of construction, repair,



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reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, placement or other improvement is within 180 days after the date of issuance. The actual start of construction means the first placement of permanent construction of a building (including a manufactured home) on a site, such as the pouring of a slab or footings, installation of pilings or construction of columns.

Permanent construction does not include land preparation (such as clearing, excavation, grading or filling), the installation of streets or walkways, excavation for a basement, footings, piers or foundations, the erection of temporary forms or the installation of accessory buildings such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main building. For a substantial improvement, the actual "start of construction" means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor or other structural part of a building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building. [Base Code, Chapter 2, Section 202]

STRUCTURE means, for floodplain management purposes, a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured home. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

SUBSTANTIAL REPAIR OF A FOUNDATION. When work to repair or replace a foundation results in the repair or replacement of a portion of the foundation with a perimeter along the base of the foundation that equals or exceeds 50% of the perimeter of the base of the foundation measured in linear feet, or repair or replacement of 50% of the piles, columns or piers of a pile, column or pier supported foundation, the building official shall determine it to be substantial repair of a foundation. Applications determined by the building official to constitute substantial repair of a foundation shall require all existing portions of the entire building or structure to meet the requirements of 780 CMR. [As amended by MA in 9th Edition BC]

VARIANCE means a grant of relief by a community from the terms of a flood plain management regulation. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

VIOLATION means the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community's flood plain management regulations. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other evidence of compliance



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required in §60.3 is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

13.4 Permitted Uses and Structures

There shall be allowed the following uses, which create a minimal risk of damage due to flooding and will not constitute obstructions to flood flow, provided that they are permitted in the underlying district and that they do not require STRUCTURES, fill or storage of materials or equipment:

13.4.1. AGRICULTURE uses, such as farming, grazing, truck farming and horticulture.

13.4.2. Forestry and nursery uses.

13.4.3. Outdoor recreational uses, including fishing, boating and play area.

13.4.4. Conservation of water, plants and wildlife.

13.4.5. Wildlife management areas, foot, bicycle and horse paths.

13.4.6 Temporary nonresidential STRUCTURES used in connection with fishing, growing, harvesting, storage or sale of crops raised on the premises. **Temporary nonresidential STRUCTURES shall be in existence for less than 180 days.**

13.4.7. ~~Buildings lawfully existing prior to the adoption of these provisions.~~ **Recreational Vehicles. In A and AE Zones all recreational vehicles to be placed on a site must be elevated and anchored in accordance with the zone's regulations for foundation and elevation requirements or be on the site for less than 180 consecutive days or be fully licensed and highway ready.**



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13.5. Permitted Uses Subject to Site Plan Review. (Reserved)

13.6. Uses Permitted by Special Permit. (Reserved)

13.7. Prohibited Uses.

13.7.1. In the Floodplain District, no building or STRUCTURE shall be erected, constructed, moved or enlarged except for not more than 30% of the ground floor area of the existing STRUCTURE, and no dumping, filling or earth removal or transfer shall be permitted unless a SPECIAL PERMIT is granted by the BOARD OF APPEALS in each instance.

13.8 Special Permits in the Flood Plain District

13.8.1 The SPECIAL PERMIT Granting Authority (SPGA) for uses and STRUCTURES in the Flood Plain District shall be the BOARD OF APPEALS.

13.8.2. Referral. Within 10 days of receipt of an application for a SPECIAL PERMIT, the BOARD OF APPEALS shall transmit one copy of the development plan to the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Health and Building Inspector. Final action shall not be taken until reports have been received from the above Boards or until 35 days after the transmittal of the development plan to the Boards, whichever occurs first.

13.8.3. SPECIAL PERMIT granting criteria. The BOARD OF APPEALS may issue a SPECIAL PERMIT if the application complies with the following provisions:

13.8.3.1 The proposed use shall comply in all respects with the provisions of the underlying district.



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- 13.8.3.2 In the floodway prohibit all encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvement to existing STRUCTURES and other development, unless the applicant shall provide certification by a registered professional engineer demonstrating that such encroachment shall not result in any increase in flood levels during the occurrence of the one-hundred-year flood.

In Zones A and AE, along watercourses that have not had a regulatory floodway designated, the best available Federal, State, local, or other floodway data shall be used to prohibit encroachments in floodways which would result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.

In Zone AE, along watercourses that have a regulatory floodway designated in the Town of Merrimac on the Essex County FIRM, encroachments are prohibited, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development within the adopted regulatory floodway unless it has been demonstrated through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with standard engineering practice that the proposed encroachment would not result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.

- 13.8.3.3 The BOARD OF APPEALS may specify such additional requirements and conditions as it finds necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.
- 13.8.3.4 All subdivision proposals must be designed to assure that:
- a. Such proposals minimize flood damage;
 - b. All public utilities and facilities are located and constructed to minimize or eliminate damage; and
 - c. Adequate drainage is provided to reduce exposure to flood hazards.



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- 13.8.3.5 Base flood elevation data is required for ~~subdivision proposals or other developments~~ **each developable parcel shown on the subdivision plans proposals or other developments** greater than 50 lots or 5 acres, whichever is the lesser, ~~within unnumbered A-Zones~~
- 13.8.3.6 In a riverine situation the Harbor Master shall notify the following, prior to any alteration or relocation of a watercourse:
- a. Adjacent communities, **especially upstream and downstream**
 - b. Bordering States
 - c. NFIP State Coordinator: Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation/~~251 Causeway St., Suite 600-700/Boston, MA 02114-2104~~
 - d. NFIP Program Specialist: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region I/~~99 High St., 6th floor/Boston, MA 02110~~
 - e. **New Hampshire NFIP State Coordinator: New Hampshire Office of Planning and Development**
- 13.8.3.7 **If the Town acquires data that changes the base flood elevation in the FEMA mapped Special Flood Hazard Areas, the Town will, within 6 months, notify FEMA of these changes by submitting the technical or scientific data that supports the change(s.) Notification shall be submitted to:**



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- a. **NFIP State Coordinator: Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation**
- b. **NFIP Program Specialist: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region I**

13.9 Variances to Building Code Floodplain Standards

The Town will request from the State Building Code Appeals Board a written and/or audible copy of the portion of the hearing related to the variance, and will maintain this record in the community's files.

The Town shall also issue a letter to the property owner regarding potential impacts to the annual premiums for the flood insurance policy covering that property, in writing over the signature of a community official that (i) the issuance of a variance to construct a structure below the base flood level will result in increased premium rates for flood insurance up to amounts as high as \$25 for \$100 of insurance coverage and (ii) such construction below the base flood level increases risks to life and property.

Such notification shall be maintained with the record of all variance actions for the referenced development in the floodplain overlay district.

Such notification shall be maintained with the record of all variance actions for the referenced development in the floodplain overlay district.

13.10 Variances to local Zoning Bylaws Related to Community Compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

A variance from this Article 13 must meet the requirements set out by State law, and may only be granted if: 1) Good and sufficient cause and exceptional non-financial hardship exist; 2) the variance will not result in additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, or



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fraud or victimization of the public; and 3) the variance is the minimum action necessary to afford relief. The Conservation Commission shall be responsible for evaluating petitions for variances and for granting or denying such petitions.

13.11 Severability

If any provision of this Article 13 is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the bylaw shall not be affected thereby. The invalidity of any section or sections or parts of any section or sections of this Article 13 shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Town of Merrimac's Zoning Bylaw.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

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April 28, 2025

ARTICLE 25: The Town voted to amend certain provisions of Section 13 of the Merrimac Zoning By-Laws, Flood Plain District as printed in the Warrant.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Robert Gustison and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn S. ...
GWENDOLYN S. ...
Merrimac, Massachusetts

A True Copy
pg. 62

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Town Clerk



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Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to renumber and recaption the 2016 General Bylaws of the Town by: a) assigning a chapter number to each of the General Bylaws; b) renumbering each section of each bylaw accordingly; c) inserting chapter, article and section titles; and d) updating internal references to reflect the new numbering system, all as set forth in the document on file in the office of the Town Clerk entitled "Final Draft of the Town of Merrimac, Massachusetts," dated February 2025, prepared by General Code, LLC; or take any other action relative thereto.

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April 28, 2025

Article 26: The Town voted to renumber and recaption the 2016 General Bylaws of the Town by: a) assigning a chapter number to each of the General Bylaws; b) renumbering each section of each bylaw accordingly; c) inserting chapter, article and section titles; and d) updating internal references to reflect the new numbering system, all as set forth in the document on file in the office of the Town Clerk entitled "Final Draft of the Town of Merrimac, Massachusetts," dated February 2025, prepared by General Code, LLC.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Robert Gustison and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



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Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to enact the following global changes to the text of the 2016 General Bylaws of the Town, all as set forth in the document on file in the office of the Town Clerk entitled "Final Draft of the Town of Merrimac, Massachusetts," dated February 2025, prepared by General Code, LLC as follows:

1. To change all gendered pronouns (he, him, his, she, her, his/her, he/she, etc.) to their plural, gender-neutral forms (they, them, and their).
2. To revise any citations to the Massachusetts General Laws in the following format: MGL c. __, § __.
3. To consistently capitalize the word "Town" when it refers to the Town of Merrimac.
4. To consistently capitalize all proper nouns, including the terms "Annual Town Meeting" and "Special Town Meeting" and the names of all governing bodies and elected officials in the Town.
5. To consistently spell the word "noncriminal" without a hyphen.
6. To consistently spell and capitalize the word "bylaw," as follows: Where "by-law" is hyphenated or two words, to standardize the spelling as "bylaw"; and to lowercase capitalized references to "this Bylaw" which are not proper nouns (however, references to "Bylaw" in titles of laws or other proper nouns shall remain capitalized);
7. To cite numbers in the text of the bylaws in a consistent manner, so that: a) numerals one through nine are spelled out as words, and numerals 10 and higher are cited in number form only; and b) so that all monetary amounts, fractions, decimals and percentages are cited in numeric form only.
8. To correct minor errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

or take any other action relative thereto.

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Article 27: The Town voted to amend the general bylaws with the following global changes to the text of the 2016 General Bylaws of the Town, all as set forth in the document on file in the office of the Town Clerk entitled "Final Draft of the Town of Merrimac, Massachusetts," dated February 2025, prepared by General Code, LLC as follows:

1. To change all gendered pronouns (he, him, his, she, her, his/her, he/she, etc.) to their plural, gender-neutral forms (they, them, and their).

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Town Clerk



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2. To revise any citations to the Massachusetts General Laws in the following format: MGL c. __, § __.
3. To consistently capitalize the word "Town" when it refers to the Town of Merrimac.
4. To consistently capitalize all proper nouns, including the terms "Annual Town Meeting" and "Special Town Meeting" and the names of all governing bodies and elected officials in the Town.
5. To consistently spell the word "noncriminal" without a hyphen.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Robert Gustison and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



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COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to convey the property located at 32 Heath Road, shown on Assessor's Plan 62, Block 1, Lot 1.B from the Tax Collector for general purposes to the Select Board for the purpose of conveyance on such terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Select Board deems appropriate, and to take any legal action necessary to effectuate the same; or take any other action relative thereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

2/3 Vote Required

Article 28: The Town voted to authorize the Tax Collector to convey the property located at 32 Heath Road, shown on Assessor's Plan 62, Block 1, Lot 1.B from the Tax Collector for general purposes to the Select Board for the purpose of conveyance on such terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Select Board deems appropriate.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Robert Gustison and duly seconded.

Motion carried so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Special Town Meeting October 20, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to make the following FY2026 budget adjustments:

Decrease Assessor's Assistant Wages	\$ 17,450
Increase Town Heat Expense	\$ 7,000
Increase Town Water/Sewer Expense	\$ 1,000
Increase Board of Health Expense	\$ 1,000
Decrease Inside Debt Prn - Roadways	\$260,000
Decrease Inside Debt Int - Roadways	\$175,000
Decrease Health and Dental Insurance	\$ 10,000
Increase Merit Increase Expense	\$ 10,000
Decrease Property & Liability Insurance	\$ 20,000

; or take any other action relative thereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

October 20, 2025

Article 1. The Town voted to make the following FY2026 budget adjustments:

Decrease Assessor's Assistant Wages	\$ 17,450
Increase Town Heat Expense	\$ 7,000
Increase Town Water/Sewer Expense	\$ 1,000
Increase Board of Health Expense	\$ 1,000
Decrease Inside Debt Prn - Roadways	\$260,000
Decrease Inside Debt Int - Roadways	\$175,000
Decrease Health and Dental Insurance	\$ 10,000
Increase Merit Increase Expense	\$ 10,000
Decrease Property & Liability Insurance	\$ 20,000

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

A True Copy
pg. 1

Attest
Town Clerk

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Special Town Meeting October 20, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 2. To see if the Town will increase the amount raised and appropriated in Article 17 in the Annual Town Meeting by **\$25,000**, or other sum of money for Solid Waste Collection and Disposal, Recycling Collection; or take any other action relative hereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

October 20, 2025

Article 2: The Town voted to increase the amount raised and appropriated in Article 17 in the Annual Town Meeting by **\$25,000** for Solid Waste Collection and Disposal, Recycling Collection.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

A True Copy
pg. 2

Attest
Town Clerk

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Special Town Meeting October 20, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to make the following FY2026 budget adjustments for Wastewater Enterprise Fund:

Increase Admin Asst Wage Expense	\$ 764
Decrease Prop/Liab/WC Insurance	\$ 1,800
Decrease F350 Lease Prn Expense	\$ 2,000

And that Departmental receipt estimates be reduced by \$3,036.

; or take any other action relative thereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

October 20, 2025

2/3 Vote Required

Article 3: The Town voted to the Town make the following FY2026 budget adjustments for Wastewater Enterprise Fund:

Increase Admin Asst Wage Expense	\$ 764
Decrease Prop/Liab/WC Insurance	\$ 1,800
Decrease F350 Lease Prn Expense	\$ 2,000

And that Departmental receipt estimates be reduced by \$3,036.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Chris Manni and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

A True Copy
pg. 3

Attest
Town Clerk

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Special Town Meeting October 20, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to make the following FY2026 budget adjustments for Water Enterprise Fund:

Increase Admin Asst Wage Expense	\$ 764
Increase Benefit Reimbursements	\$ 2,335
Increase Supplies Expense	\$14,000
Decrease F350 Lease Prn Expense	\$13,500
Decrease F350 Lease Int Expense	\$ 3,500

And that Departmental receipt estimates be increased by \$99.00.; or take any other action relative thereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

October 20, 2025

Article 4: The Town voted to make the following FY2026 budget adjustments for Water Enterprise Fund:

Increase Admin Asst Wage Expense	\$ 764
Increase Benefit Reimbursements	\$ 2,335
Increase Supplies Expense	\$ 14,000
Decrease F350 Lease Prn Expense	\$ 13,500
Decrease F350 Lease Int Expense	\$ 3,500

And that Departmental receipt estimates be increased by \$99.00.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Janet Bruno and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

A True Copy
pg. 4

Attest
Town Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Special Town Meeting October 20, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money in the amount of **\$500,000**, or any other sum, for final engineering for the Wastewater Plant to include costs related to the bidding and design, engineering and including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing under MGL Chapter 44, Section 8(14) or any other enabling authority or otherwise; or take any other action relative thereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

October 20, 2025

2/3 Vote Required

Article 5: The Town voted to appropriate a sum of money in the amount of **\$500,000**, for final engineering for the Wastewater Plant to include costs related to the bidding and design, engineering and including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto; and to authorize the Treasurer with approval of the **Select Board to borrow** said amount in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 8(14) or any other enabling authority or otherwise.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Janet Bruno and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

A True Copy
pg. 5

Attest
Town Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Special Town Meeting October 20, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Toshiba Copier Lease for a term to exceed 36 months; or take any other action relative thereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

October 20, 2025

Article 6: The Town **voted to** approve the Toshiba Copier Lease for a term to exceed 36 months.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Irina Gorzynski and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

A True Copy
pg. 6

Attest
Town Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Special Town Meeting October 20, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Catalis (Patriots Property) Renewal contract to certify the values and the interim adjustments of the properties in Merrimac for a term to exceed 36 months; or take any other action relative thereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

October 20, 2025

Article 7. The Town voted to approve the Catalis (Patriots Property) Renewal contract to certify the values and the interim adjustments of the properties in Merrimac for a term to exceed 36 months.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Irina Gorzynski and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Town Clerk

Merrimac, MA

A True Copy
pg. 7

Attest
Town Clerk



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Special Town Meeting October 20, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Merrimac Municipal Light Department (MMLD) to sell land and buildings located at 10 West Main Street, acquired by MMLD by deed, Book 010716, Page 559 upon such price and terms and conditions as MMLD may deem appropriate, and to authorize the MMLD General Manager and Board of Commissioners to execute any and all agreements and other documents, and to take all other actions as MMLD determines to be necessary or appropriate to accomplish the foregoing sale, with all proceeds therefrom to be appropriated solely to MMLD for light plant purposes; or take any other action relative thereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

October 20, 2025

2/3 Vote Required

Article 8: The Town **voted to** authorize the Merrimac Municipal Light Department (MMLD) to sell land and buildings located at 10 West Main Street, acquired by MMLD by deed, Book 010716, Page 559 upon such price and terms and conditions as MMLD may deem appropriate, and to authorize the MMLD General Manager and Board of Commissioners to execute any and all agreements and other documents, and to take all other actions as MMLD determines to be necessary or appropriate to accomplish the foregoing sale, with all proceeds therefrom to be appropriated solely to MMLD for light plant purposes.

Motion by Robert Gustison and duly seconded.

Motion to table by Marcia Zosack and duly seconded, motion failed so declared the moderator.

Motion by Robert Sinibaldi, and duly seconded by Susan Searle to amend Article 8 to require that the MMLD include a deed restriction to require all future owners comply with existing zoning requirements for any re-use. carried so declared the Moderator.

Motion by Robert Bender to Call the Vote, Moderator ruled request out of order.

A True Copy
pg. 8

Attest
Town Clerk

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Special Town Meeting October 20, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

After lengthy discussion and question and answer period the original motion failed by a hand vote so declared the moderator. Vote did not meet 2/3's requirement.

Hand Vote: Yes 49

No 25

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Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Special Town Meeting October 20, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Merrimac Zoning By-Laws with amendments and additions to the indicated Articles as written in the Warrant.:

COPY OF THE VOTE

October 20, 2025

2/3 Vote Required

Article 9: The Town voted to amend the Merrimac Zoning By-Laws with the Additions to the indicated Articles as posted in the warrant.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Robert Gustison and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

A True Copy
pg. 10

Attest
Town Clerk

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Special Town Meeting October 20, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote at add a new MBTA Communities Multi Family Overlay Zoning District as written in the Warrant.

COPY OF THE VOTE

April 28, 2025

2/3 Vote Required

Article 10: The Town voted to add a new MBTA Communities Multi Family Overlay Zoning District as posted in the warrant and amend the zoning map accordingly.

HAND VOTE: Motion by Wayne Adams and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

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pg. 11

Attest
Town Clerk

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Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Special Town Meeting October 20, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 11: Cemetery Bylaw Language - To see if the Town will vote to amend the Merrimac General Bylaw with amendments and additions to the indicated Articles as written below.

Article XV - Board of Cemetery Trustees

15.2 The Board of Cemetery Trustees shall have the sole care, superintendence and management of all public burial grounds in its Town, may lay out any existing public burial grounds in its town or any land purchased or donated and set apart by said town for such cemeteries, in lots or other suitable subdivisions, with proper paths and avenues, may plant, embellish, ornament and fence the same and erect therein such suitable edifices and conveniences and make such improvements as it considers convenient: and, may ~~make such~~ regulations, consistent with law, as it deems expedient.

; or take any other action relative there to.

COPY OF THE VOTE

2/3 Vote Required

October 20, 2025

Article 11: The Town voted to amend the Merrimac General By-Law with amendments and additions to the indicated Articles as posted in the warrant.

HAND VOTE:

Motion by Wayne Adams and duly seconded.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

A True Copy
pg. 12

Attest
Town Clerk

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Special Town Meeting October 20, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 12: CITIZEN'S PETITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Merrimac Municipal Light Department (MMLD) to sell land and buildings located at 10 West Main Street, acquired by MMLD by deed, Book 010716, Page 559 upon such price and terms and conditions as MMLD may deem appropriate, and to authorize the MMLD General Manager and Board of Commissioners to execute any and all agreements and other documents, and to take all other actions as MMLD determines to be necessary or appropriate to accomplish the foregoing sale, with all proceeds therefrom to be appropriated solely to MMLD for light plant purposes; or take any other action relative thereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

October 20, 2025

Article 12: The town voted to table article 12.

MOTION: Motion by Early Baumgardner and duly seconded by Robert Sinibaldi to table article 12.

HAND VOTE: Motion carried with two (2) opposed, so declared the moderator.

A True Copy
pg. 13

Attest
Town Clerk

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Merrimac Town Hall
2 School Street, Merrimac MA 01860
Special Town Meeting October 20, 2025

COPY OF THE VOTE

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pg. 14

Attest
Town Clerk

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Gwendolyn Lay
GWENDOLYN LAY, Town Clerk
Merrimac, Massachusetts

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