

# Tewksbury Town Crier



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## Emerald Court residents raise concerns over proposed battery storage facility

By **ROSALYN IMPINK**  
News Correspondent

**TEWKSBURY** — The Tewksbury Select Board met on April 9, 2025 at town hall.

The board reorganized following the town election. Pat Holland declined to serve another term as chair.

"I am a firm believer in term limits," he said.

Mark Kratman was elected as chair in a 4-1 vote with James Mackey opposing. Eric Ryder was elected as vice chair and Rich Russo was appointed clerk.

During public comments, residents from Emerald Court raised concerns over a potential East Point Energy battery storage facility off Old Boston Road. The 4.5 acre industrially-zoned site would be monitored 24/7, and could store

enough energy to power 125,000 homes for four hours. No project application has been filed with the town.

Resident Allen Capone spoke on behalf of the group, citing "safety, economics, logistics, and the environment" as top concerns, highlighting property values, sound volume, and a single egress road from Emerald Court as risk factors for elderly residents.

"We hope that the corporation sponsoring the development is willing to reconsider placement," he said.

Resident John Tellier said that while he was in favor of the proposed casino development in town that was rejected in 2013, he felt the battery storage facility should not move forward.

Resident Peggy Schleicher listed distances to

local schools, and Ray Adams raised concerns over evacuation plans in event of an emergency.

East Point Energy stated at a presentation at a previous board meeting that a custom emergency response plan would be developed with the Tewksbury Fire Department.

Kratman said that while the item was not on the agenda, additional meetings will take place in the future.

Town Manager John Curran reviewed the Town Meeting warrant. He highlights ongoing budget struggles including statewide increases in cost for special education and transportation, and reviewed strategies to manage overages.

The board voted to recommend adoption of articles 1 through 25, referring zoning articles to

the Planning Board. The warrants are available to view online at [www.tewksbury-ma.gov](http://www.tewksbury-ma.gov).

Curran suggested setting up an email listserv for voters to opt in to receive warrant information in advance of town meetings in the future.

The board reviewed its liaison appointments to various town boards and committees. Conflict arose during discussion on the school facilities study committee; Mackey and Ryder were current Select Board representatives, while Russo had been a School Committee representative but had not run for reelection for his seat.

Russo lobbied to stay on as a representative and with no members willing to yield, Mackey's appointment was given to

**BATTERY | PAGE A7T**



## Town manager continues to gather information

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Russo.

In his town manager's report, Curran said that he met with Tree House Brewing Company representatives, and was updated that the satellite parking lot will be open in May; more signage is expected to help direct cars.

He also said that East Point Energy representatives met with town staff for a site walk at a property in North Reading; Curran noted that technology continues to evolve and the number of fires at battery storage sites has decreased dramatically.

He met with Emerald Court residents and continues to gather information, noting that a project proposal has not yet been submitted.

During board member reports, Holland thanked all candidates for running in the town election.

Mackey invited residents to join him for town-wide Clean Up Day on April 26; supply pickup will be held at the DPW starting at 9 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2025.



Emerald Court resident Peggy Schleicher spoke during the resident portion of the Select Board meeting on April 9, 2025, expressing concern about a lithium battery storage facility possibly being sited at Hillman and Rockland streets off of Old Boston Road.

(Paige Impink photo)