



**BOROUGH OF MENDHAM  
MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
January 21, 2026, 7:00 PM MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Kelly called the January 21, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council to Order at 7:00 pm in the Garabrant Center, Wilson Street, Mendham, New Jersey.

**2. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND FLAG SALUTE**

Mayor Kelly led a moment of silence and proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. MAYOR'S OPENING STATEMENT**

Mayor Kelly stated that Notice of this meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mendham was published in the Daily Record and Star Ledger, posted in the Phoenix House, and was filed in the Office of the Borough Clerk in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Official action will be taken at this meeting.

**4. ROLL CALL**

Present:

Mayor, James Kelly  
Council President Marilyn Althoff  
Council Member Matthew Bruin  
Council Member Alexandra Henry Traut  
Council Member Chris Neff  
Council Member Will Russo  
Council Member Neil Sullivan

Also, present were:  
Ed Pasternack, Dorsey & Semrau, LLC  
Joyce Bushman, Administrator  
Lauren McBride, Borough Clerk

**5. MAYOR AWARDS**

Mayor Kelly read and presented awards to the following.

1. Marion Mundy
2. Hidden Pond Tree Farm
3. South Street Gardens, The Bruin Family

Holiday Home Decorating Contest Winner- 68 Dean Rd

6. **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS** *(Items considered routine, Council will act on by a single motion and vote unless a member request that an item be removed and considered separately)*

Items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be acted upon by the Borough Council by a single vote unless a member of the Governing Body requests that an item be removed and considered separately.

**A. Raffle Licenses**

1. Hilltop Christian Nursery School, 2/28/26
2. Twin Boro Bears

**B. Banner Applications**

1. Hilltop Christian Nursery School, 1/26-1/30/26
2. Hilltop Church Vacation Bible School, 2/2-2/6/26

Motion to Approve: Council Member Bruin

Second: Council Member Russo

Ayes: Althoff, Bruin, Henry Traut, Neff, Russo, Sullivan

***RECREATION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS***

Joe Carangelo and Sidney Adams- Student Representatives for 2026

Motion to Approve: Council Member Bruin

Second: Council Member Henry Traut

Ayes: Althoff, Bruin, Henry Traut, Neff, Russo, Sullivan

***JOINT LAND USE BOARD APPOINTMENT***

*Richard Pace Class IV Term Expires- 12/31/2028*

Motion to Approve: Council President Althoff

Second: Council Member Henry Traut

Ayes: Althoff, Bruin, Henry Traut, Neff, Russo, Sullivan

7. **RESOLUTIONS**

**#037-2026 RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 002-2026 SETTING THE ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026**

Motion to Approve: Council President Althoff  
Second: Council Member Sullivan  
Ayes: Althoff, Bruin, Henry Traut, Neff, Russo, Sullivan

**#038-2026 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A FIVE-YEAR SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF MENDHAM AND WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP (MORRIS COUNTY) FOR MUNICIPAL COURT SERVICES JANUARY 1, 2026, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2030**

Motion to Approve: Council President Althoff  
Second: Council Member Neff  
Ayes: Althoff, Bruin, Henry Traut, Neff, Russo, Sullivan

**#039-2026 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE DONATION OF AN ANTIQUE MIRROR FROM JOSEPH AND CHRISTINE LAIRD**

Motion to Approve: Council Member Russo  
Second: Council Member Henry Traut  
Ayes: Althoff, Bruin, Henry Traut, Neff, Russo, Sullivan

**#040-2026 RESOLUTION REJECTING ALL BIDS FOR COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF SINGLE STREAM RECYCLABLE MATERIALS AND BULK SOLID WASTE (TYPE 13)**

Motion to Approve: Council Member Sullivan  
Second: Council President Althoff  
Ayes: Althoff, Bruin, Henry Traut, Neff, Russo, Sullivan

**#041-2026 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION OF CONTRACT WITH BLUE DIAMOND DISPOSAL, INC. FOR COLLECTION OF SINGLE STREAM RECYCLABLE MATERIALS AND BULK SOLID WASTE (TYPE 13) FROM JANUARY 31, 2026 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2026**

Motion to Approve: Council Member Bruin  
Second: Council Member Henry Traut  
Ayes: Althoff, Bruin, Henry Traut, Neff, Russo, Sullivan

**8. ADMINISTRATOR OPERATIONS REPORT**

Administrator Bushman reported that she and the Mayor attended the Highlands January meeting, where the Borough was formally accepted into the Highlands. There were no objections. The Raritan Headwaters organization was present to support the Borough.

## **9. COUNCIL REPORTS**

Council Member Neff, Chair of the Public Works and Utilities Committee, reported that DPW is preparing for this weekend's storm.

Council President Althoff, Chair of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the department is reviewing training needs for 2026 in addition to required Police Training Commission courses. The message board was removed from the roadway due to weather conditions. Speed signs remain active, with a permanent unit at Dean & Talmage and portable signs deployed on Mountain Avenue and Prentice Lane to address speeding concerns. A citizen complaint was received regarding debris being dumped on Dean Road. The County has approved a flashing pedestrian sign for 12 Hilltop Road.

Council Member Russo, Chair of the Personnel Committee, had nothing to report.

Council Member Sullivan, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported that department heads are to submit their draft budgets by January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Council Member Henry Traut, Chair of the Land Use Committee, reported that the ECCOST Reorganization Meeting was held on Monday, January 5, during which Trout Unlimited presented the next phase of their project. The Joint Land Use Board held its Reorganization Meeting on January 20. The HPC Reorganization Meeting is scheduled for this evening at the Phoenix House. The Chair also reported that the Land Use subcommittee will meet quarterly in 2026.

Council Member Bruin, Chair of the Recreation and Parks Committee, Reported that the Recreation Committee will be submitting a grant application in February. The summer concert series has been scheduled, and the committee is exploring additional ways to enhance the program. Planning for the summer day camp is underway. Congratulations were extended to Recreation Director Aubrey Egerter for a successful year, and thanks were offered to the DPW Superintendent for his continued support. The Mendham Borough School Board will hold a groundbreaking ceremony on January 27 for the construction of the new performing arts center.

## **10. MAYOR'S ITEMS**

Mayor Kelly reported that he will be meeting on Friday with the North Jersey Health Insurance Fund, which the Borough has recently joined. He also noted how pleased he is that the Borough has been accepted into the Highlands, emphasizing that this achievement was the result of a sustained 3–5 year effort.

Administrator Bushman added that there were two recent bid openings: the Patriots Path improvement project, which received 22 bids, and the installation of ADA-compliant doors at the Police Station, which received 6 bids ranging from \$36,380 to \$123,720.

## **11. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Kelly stated that This is an opportunity for the public to comment on any matter or concern. To ensure that every citizen has an opportunity to speak, the Mayor will recognize the individual and ask them to state their name and address for the record.

**THE SPEAKER DOES NOT NEED TO PROVIDE THEIR ADDRESS IF THEY HAVE BEEN VERIFIED BY THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY AS A COVERED PERSON IN THE BOROUGH UNDER DANIEL'S LAW.** Speakers are asked to limit their comments to four minutes. Please note that Public Comments do not follow a question-and-answer format; however, a member of the

Governing Body may offer a brief response when it is helpful to do so.

No one from the public wished to speak.

## **12. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

Bills List dated January 21, 2026

Motion to Approve: Council Member Russo

Second: Council Member Bruin

Ayes: Althoff, Bruin, Henry Traut, Neff, Russo, Sullivan

## **13. EXECUTIVE SESSION @ 7:45 pm**

**#042-2026 A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AN EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b #7**

Motion to Approve: Council Member Russo

Second: Council Member Bruin

Ayes: Althoff, Bruin, Henry Traut, Neff, Russo, Sullivan

## **14. ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, Mayor Kelly asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at

8:30 pm.

Motion to Approve: Council Member Bruin

Second: Council Member Neff

Ayes: Althoff, Bruin, Henry Traut, Neff, Russo, Sullivan

The next meeting of the Mendham Borough Mayor and Council will take place on, February 4, 2026, 7:00 PM, at the Garabrant Center.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Lauren McBride, RMC*

Borough Clerk

The Borough of Mendham

