

ON THE RECORD

On this page, you'll find official responses from the Town of Westwood to commonly heard statements about the Fire Station 1 (FS1) project. These responses are intended to provide clear, accurate, and factual information to help residents better understand the project and the process.

“The Town has already decided where the new fire station will go.”

Town Response:

No final decision has been made. Three sites have been identified for further study, but no site has been selected.

A final recommendation will depend on the results of the feasibility study and schematic design phase, which will evaluate whether a station can be built on each site, along with access, impacts, and cost.

This is why funding for feasibility and schematic design is being requested at the May 4, 2026 Town Meeting.

“This project is being rushed.”

Town Response:

While the closure of FS1 creates urgency for the Fire Department and the community, the Town is following a structured, multi-phase process.

This approach ensures that the final solution is thoughtfully planned and designed to serve both current needs and future generations of Westwood residents.

“Other sites weren't seriously considered.”

Town Response:

Multiple sites were reviewed using consistent criteria, and Town staff and the Steering Committee engaged with property owners where appropriate.

Sites were eliminated from further consideration for reasons including:

- Insufficient size
- Impacts on other Town operations
- Inability to meet response time requirements

- Significant development challenges or cost concerns

Only the sites that met baseline requirements advanced for further study.

Residents can view the full site evaluation [matrix](#) on the project webpage.

“The Town is ignoring neighborhood concerns.”

Town Response:

Public input is a critical part of this process. Residents have multiple opportunities to share feedback, including:

- FS1 Steering Committee meetings
- Community events and outreach sessions
- Direct email to FS1Committee@westwoodma.gov

The Town has also conducted targeted outreach, including notifications to abutters and meetings with neighborhood groups.

Feedback is being incorporated at each stage and will continue to inform the project as designs are refined.

“A combined fire and police station would be cheaper and easier.”

Town Response:

This concept was previously studied by the Public Safety Task Force in 2013.

At the time, that approach was not pursued. Today, based on operational needs, site constraints, and cost considerations, a combined facility is considered less practical and often more complex and costly than separate facilities.

“The Town is committing to spending millions without approval.”

Town Response:

No construction funding has been approved.

Any significant expenditure requires approval by Town Meeting and, if applicable, a town-wide ballot vote. The current request is for feasibility and schematic design only.

“This project will prevent the Town from building a new school.”

Town Response:

The Town plans for multiple capital projects and carefully manages timing and financing to balance priorities.

Addressing FS1 is necessary due to the building’s failure, while the Town also continues to plan for school needs. These projects are evaluated together to ensure they are financially manageable.

Westwood Public Schools have [outlined](#) a potential timeline in which, if accepted into the MSBA process in December 2026, a Town Meeting vote and debt exclusion could occur as early as Spring 2029.