

Needham Town Hall



Town Hall dressed up for the Needham Bicentennial, 1911

The first town meeting hall was the First Parish church, which served as both house of worship and public gathering space. Later, town affairs were conducted in commercial buildings whose open second floors provided enough room to gather.

A meeting space was built in West Needham in 1869, but when that part of town split off to become Wellesley in 1881, the meeting hall went with it. Town offices were once again housed in retail space, above the General Store on the corner of Great Plain Avenue and Chestnut Street. The need for a new, central Town Hall was discussed as early as 1884, when a block of house lots bounded by Chapel Street, and Great Plain and Highland Avenues was purchased by the town and designated The Common. The town took twenty years to decide, but the Town Hall was finally built in 1902, as Needham faced the new century. In 2010-2011, after serving the town well for more than 100 years, the Town Hall was renovated, restoring its splendor and preparing it for the next 100 years.