

TOWN OF DEDHAM

Parks & Recreation Department

*Dedham Recreation Center
269 Common Street
781-751-9250*

*Anthony Mucciaccio Pool
1 Recreation Road
781-461-5991*



*Robert Stanley
Director*

*Debra Anderson
Assistant & Program Director*

*Tracey White
Administrative Assistant*

December 6, 2019

Town Hall
O'Brien Meeting Room
4:00 pm

Present:
Jonathan Briggs - Chairman
Tye Donahue
Lisa Moran
James Maher
Chuck Dello Iacono
Tracey White – Assistant to the Director

Absent:
Robert Stanley – Director
Debra Anderson – Asst. & Program Director

Chairman Briggs explained how and why this meeting was being held. The November 25, 2019 Fall Town Meeting, Article 6, regarding the Manor Fields, was a 2/3 vote and was deemed a legal vote. However, there has been much angst and question regarding the vote and a meeting was held with Town Manager Leon Goodwin, Selectman Dennis Teehan and Sarah MacDonald with Town Moderator Dan Driscoll, as authors of the Article Commissioners Jonathan Briggs (Chairman) and Tye Donahue (Vice Chairman) with Director Robert Stanley were invited to attend.

J. Briggs went on to explain that this meeting is being held to discuss the possibility of asking the Board of Selectman to hold a Special Town Meeting and to present a new Article, with new wording.

The reason for this would be to make sure that there is no grey area associated with the Manor Fields Project.

Mrs. Hegarty, of 57 Holmes Road, stated that she lives a four-minute walk to this proposed project and thinks that it is a great project, feels that Dedham is smart enough and that the 2/3 vote should stand, she asks that the Commissioners move forward with the project

Selectman Dennis Teehan stated that there has not been a legal ruling, but just an opinion

Mrs. Hegarty stated that if we go this route then will we have to go back and look at all projects that were voted at Town Meeting, and that this could be going down a rabbit hole

J. Briggs stated we must do what we feel is right

Selectman Teehan stated he had asked Town Counsel and they will not give an opinion until the Bond Counsel makes a decision on the situation

Mrs. Hegarty stated that the longer the process the more costly the project

Robert Scheffler stated that whether the project goes forward or not the 2/3 vote was not legal

Sean Kelleher, Robert Road stated he would like to see everyone in Town vote to develop the Manor Fields

Kevin Nagle stated that a lot more abutters are against the project, the plan was developed by shady group, questioned why not go to April Town Meeting and the November election

Sean Kelleher asked is a bond issue can be on the November election

Town Clerk, Paul Munchbach stated that a bond issue can not go on a Primary ballot, he also stated that a Town election sees about 20% turnout and a Presidential election sees about 65% turnout

J. Maher stated he would have liked to see a higher 2/3 vote amount, also that he was unhappy with the talk on social media disparaging Dan Driscoll who deserves respect for the work he does as the Town Moderator, if we do go to a February Special Town Meeting he hopes that all Town Meeting Members will come out to support Mr. Driscoll

L. Moran stated that there has been much discussion this past week and that no matter when we go forward that we do so responsibly and with no grey area

C. Dello Iacono stated he has never made a vote on his own personnel thoughts & after asking various people their opinions he is prepared to vote

T. Donahue stated he believes in the democratic process, this is unprecedented, there is a group that it has been said will litigate the 2/3 vote

J. Briggs stated that there were many people questioning as to why so many Town Meeting Members were not in attendance

T. Donahue made a motion to go to the Board of Selectmen and request a Special Town Meeting to bring a new Article regarding the development of the Manor Fields Project

A second to the motion was made by C. Dello Iacono, all Commissioners voted in the affirmative

There were various discussions going on within the room

L. Moran stated that this meeting was posted in a timely manner to an audience member who had asked the question

Brian Riley asked why you would want a vote in April with only 20% turnout, as opposed to 65% in November

J. Briggs stated that they do not want to postpone the process any longer

T. Donahue made a motion to adjourn with a second by C. Dello Iacono, all voted to adjourn

Meeting adjourned