

**TOWN OF DEDHAM
450 WASHINGTON STREET
DEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
DECEMBER 3, 2020, 7:00 P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS:

Dennis Teehan	Chair
Dimitria Sullivan	Vice Chair
James A. MacDonald	Member
Sarah MacDonald	Member
Kevin R. Coughlin	Member

TOWN OF DEDHAM STAFF:

Leon Goodwin	Town Manager
Nancy Baker	Assistant Town Manager

Minutes prepared by Cassidy Civiero of Minutes Solutions Inc. from an audio recording.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Board recited the pledge of allegiance. Chair of the Select Board, Dr. Teehan, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. DEDHAM CITIZENS – OPEN DISCUSSION

There were no citizens wishing to speak under the open discussion portion of the meeting.

3. CONSENT AGENDA:

The following items were on the consent agenda: acceptance of gifts, approval of menorah in Dedham Square, request for common victualler license – Bellagio Pizza & Grill 505 High Street.

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to remove the menorah request from the consent agenda for further discussion. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sullivan. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to approve the consent agenda apart from the menorah request. The motion was seconded by Mr. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Ms. MacDonald stated that the menorah request received was not only regarding posting of the menorah, but also involves a candle lighting ceremony, which requires further discussion and recommendation from the Board of Public Health during COVID-19 protocols.

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to approve the menorah request with the amendment that the applicant consult the Board of Health on how to safely hold the candle lighting ceremony. The motion was seconded by Mr. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

4. FISCAL YEAR 2021 CLASSIFICATION HEARING W/ ASSESSORS

Assessor Mr. Chris Polito reported that the Board of Assessors has recommended to continue classification at a 175 shift. The Town has a split tax rate, with residential paying one rate and commercial paying a different rate, which shifts the values.

Based on the 175 shift, the average single-family house is valued at \$550,083. The average value increased by about \$10,000 over the previous fiscal year, representing a \$102 increase in taxes for residential properties. The median commercial property in the Town comes in at \$649,100. Based on this, year over year, assuming the 175 shift, there would be an \$89 dollar tax increase for that median property.

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to continue with the classification for the Town of Dedham. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to concur with the Board of Assessors for a 175 shift in the tax rate. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

5. **OPEN SPACE, ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION, DWWD & COMMISSION ON DISABILITY CANDIDATE STATEMENTS**

Dr. Teehan stated that candidate statements will be presented and considered at this meeting, with appointments to take place on December 17, 2020.

Open Space

Dr. Teehan stated that there are three vacancies on the Open Space Commission and only two applicants. Ms. MacDonald noted that one applicant was unavailable for this meeting. Ms. Sullivan added that a statement was submitted and included in the package for the applicant that could not attend.

Mr. Bob LoPorto, 148 Crane Street, provided a candidate statement for the Open Space Commission. Mr. LoPorto's goals for the Commission would be to improve communication about offerings and facilities, protect the land and improve Dedham's resources, and improve the water quality for the Town. Ms. Sullivan inquired whether Mr. LoPorto has sat on any other Town Committees. Mr. LoPorto responded that this would be his first Committee outside of the new Basketball Committee that was created, which is not Municipal.

Ms. Sullivan stated that a member-at-large engineer selected by the Board is also to be on the Committee; however, there are no members-at-large with engineering experience. Mr. Goodwin confirmed that a Select Board representative can sit on the Committee in lieu of an at-large member with engineering experience.

Active Transportation

Dr. Teehan stated that there is one vacancy on the Active Transportation Commission and one applicant.

Mr. Bryan Plummer provided a candidate statement for the Active Transportation Commission. Mr. Plummer has worked around the globe as a social entrepreneur with local and national governments to improve systems and provide programs that work for different populations. Mr. Plummer is passionate about environmentally friendly forms of transportation and protecting the safety of pedestrians. Ms. Sullivan inquired whether Mr. Plummer has sat on any other Town Committees. Mr. Plummer responded that this would be his first time on a Town Committee.

Dedham Westwood Water District (DWWD)

Dr. Teehan stated there are either one or two vacancies on the DWWD Commission, which must be confirmed, and two applicants.

Mr. Robert Lexander provided a candidate statement for the DWWD Commission. Mr. Lexander has been a Dedham resident his entire life and was an employee of the DWWD for 41 years. Mr. Lexander oversaw all the water treatment plants in Dedham and has been retired for three years.

Ms. Sullivan inquired whether Mr. Lexander has sat on any other Town Committees. Mr. Lexander responded that he was a football and little league coach many years ago but has not sat on any municipal Committees.

Mr. Eric Merithew provided a candidate statement for the DWWD Commission. Mr. Merithew has been a Dedham resident for 15 years and currently serves on the Board for the Dedham Community House. Mr. Merithew has been in the water industry for the last 15 years and has worked on the DWWD's water storage tanks. Mr. Merithew stated that it is important to him to focus on the sustainability of the water supply in Dedham.

Commission on Disability

Dr. Teehan stated that there are two vacancies on the Commission on Disability and three applicants. Mr. John Tocci from the Commission on Disability stated that there are now three vacancies despite only two being posted; however, he recommended the process be left open in case any additional applicants express interest in the coming weeks. The Board will consider this and make a determination internally.

Ms. Amy Doyle provided a candidate statement for the Commission on Disability. Ms. Doyle stated that this would be her first time sitting on a Board or Committee for Dedham. Ms. Doyle has worked in the field of disability and mental health for ten years. Ms. Doyle's older sister has cerebral palsy, which provides personal insight on what it is like to be an active member of the disability community, and she is interested in making public spaces accessible and inclusive.

Ms. Meaghan Moy provided a candidate statement for the Commission on Disability. Ms. Moy is a lifelong resident of Dedham and is a person with multiple disabilities who is passionate about advocating for disability rights. Ms. Moy believes that open communication plays a key role in advancing disability rights. She has worked in the customer service industry for many years and is an active listener for people from all walks of life.

Mr. MacDonald expressed his condolences for the loss of Ms. Moy's mother, who was a well-known member of the Dedham community. Ms. Sullivan echoed the sentiment of Mr. MacDonald.

Ms. Sullivan inquired whether Ms. Moy has sat on any other Town Committees. Ms. Moy responded that this would be her first Committee. Dr. Teehan inquired what Ms. Moy feels is working in Dedham for people with disabilities and what requires improvement. Ms. Moy responded that Dedham is accessible in terms of ramps at the crossings.

Ms. Mary Nikolaides provided a candidate statement for the Commission on Disability. Ms. Nikolaides has lived in Dedham for 35 years and recently retired as a nurse after 58 years of service. Ms. Nikolaides currently has a disability after experiencing respiratory arrest 12 years ago and a knee replacement which has led her to have a rollator. Ms. Nikolaides stated that some of the older buildings in Dedham, as well as some restaurants, are hard to navigate with a rollator.

6. CONSERVATION COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

Dr. Teehan stated that there were three applicants for one spot on the Conservation Commission; applicants presented their candidate statements at the previous meeting of the Select Board.

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to put forth all three applicants for nomination to the Conservation Commission. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sullivan. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

The Board unanimously appointed Mr. Nathan Gauthier to the Conservation Commission. Dr. Teehan expressed appreciation for all three applicants and encouraged them to continue to apply for Committees in future. Ms. Sullivan stated that the appointment for the alternate position on the Conservation Commission will be posted on the website.

7. TRAFFIC REGULATIONS/PARKING POLICY AMENDMENTS

Dr. Teehan stated that this item will be tabled until the Board meeting held on December 17, 2020 due to the complexity of the situation.

Mr. Goodwin noted that the meters in the first section of the Town where they were installed are operational; however, fines will not be issued at this time. Residents will receive a warning in the mail if they park without paying or go over the time limit. The warning initially stated that residents would receive a fine for such actions after December 1, 2020; however, this was incorrect as the meter system is not going live at that time.

Municipal Parking Services (MPS) has changed this date to January 1, 2021; however, the Board feels that even January 1, 2021 may not be a reasonable time to launch the meter program. MPS will be putting bags on the meters to reduce confusion. The Board will continue to discuss this item. Dr. Teehan re-iterated that the warnings being sent out are not fines and no one will be marked at the registry at this time.

8. REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF MANAGER FOR PMA BEVERAGE SERVICES II, INC. D/B/A HILTON DEDHAM, 25 ALLIED DRIVE

Mr. Ron Hadar, the attorney of record for the Hilton Dedham at 25 Allied Drive, stated that there have been personnel changes at the hotel and the general manager has left their position. There is a new general manager in place who is not a US citizen, therefore, Ms. Grace Alexander has been elected to this position after sitting on the Executive Committee for the hotel. Ms. Alexander is TIPS certified and has met with Chief Brady to discuss operations.

Mr. MacDonald requested that Ms. Alexander's resume be sent to the Board. Dr. Teehan stated that this item will be tabled until Ms. Alexander can attend a Board meeting.

9. M.G.L. 268A EXEMPTION FOR COLLEEN MCGOURTY

Mr. Goodwin stated that, if a municipal employee is to hold two appointed positions in the Town, the Select Board must vote on an exemption. Ms. Colleen McGourty is employed as an administrative assistant in the Town Clerk's office and has recently been offered a position as dance instructor in the Parks and Rec Department.

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to approve the exemption for Mass General Law 268A Section 20B as requested by Ms. Colleen McGourty. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sullivan. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

10. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Goodwin thanked everyone for their support on Article 14 for the Public Health Building, which is a significant investment for the community. A project website will be created wherein updates will be posted, such as advanced notification of road work and monthly reports. Groundwork will commence during the week of December 14, 2020. The community will be involved throughout the project and an email address will be created where residents can reach out for questions. Ms. MacDonald requested that the initial bid document and timeline also be included on the website.

Mr. Goodwin reported that the Winter Shared Streets and Spaces Grant would make permanent employees of the temporary managers put in place as a result of COVID-19. The public process will have to be condensed to meet the deadline of May 2021 for outdoor dining for the Spring season. The grant has a cap of \$300,000. The idea is not to redesign the entirety of Dedham Square, but will include expansion of some areas with permanent materials rather than the temporary materials that are currently being used.

Mr. Goodwin stated that progress is being made with the Town reports; however, they were not yet available for this meeting. The new goal is to have them completed by the end of 2020. A Public Communications employee will be brought on in order to stay on top of such items.

11. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. MacDonald stated that December 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. will be the first master plan open house on the topics of transportation and economic development. There will be two small group breakouts and interesting discussions. Residents can register on the Town website.

Ms. MacDonald thanked Legacy Place for naming the Dedham COVID-19 Relief Fund as the beneficiary for its Winter Chill event.

Ms. Sullivan stated that there have been several discussions regarding heavy commercial trucks both internally and with Mr. Jason Mammone, Town Engineer. Ms. Sullivan recommended that the Board consider creating a working group to examine the policies and regulations as pertain to heavy commercial trucks alongside the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Mr. Coughlin reminded residents that the Christmas parade will commence on December 6, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

Mr. MacDonald thanked everyone involved in ensuring that Town business continues to be conducted virtually, and that those without technology still have a way to communicate with the Board. Mr. MacDonald stated that participation at the last Town meeting set records.

Dr. Teehan thanked everyone involved in the passage of the Public Safety Building at the Town meeting. This project took a tremendous team effort to distribute information so that residents could understand why it was the right move for the Town. Dr. Teehan also thanked everyone who participated in the Town meeting and stated that the Board will continue to work hard to ensure that the Public Safety Building is all that it can be.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0. The meeting was adjourned.

DISCLAIMER

The above minutes should be used as a summary of the motions passed and issues discussed at the meeting of the Select Board. This document shall not be considered a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting.

Director

Director

Date

Date