

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

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING  
VIA TELECONFERENCE  
JANUARY 21, 2021, 7:00 P.M.**

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Dennis Teehan	Chair
Dimitria Sullivan	Vice Chair
Jim McDonald	Director
Sarah MacDonald	Director
Kevin Coughlin	Director

**TOWN OF DEDHAM STAFF:**

Leon Goodwin	Town Manager
Nancy Baker	Assistant Town Manager
Jeremy Rosenberger	Town Planner

Minutes prepared by Abigail Pineda of Minutes Solutions Inc. from an audio recording.

**1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Board spoke 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**

The Chair commented that there is a by-Law about allowing open discussion at meetings, but this by-Law does not supersede State law; all commentary must go through the Chair. Anything inflammatory, derogatory or over the top will not be tolerated but the people will be given the opportunity to speak and provide commentary. It is up to the people to decide if the Board is doing a good job, and this will be reflected in the decisions made during election.

There was no commentary for open discussion from Dedham citizens.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items were included in the consent agenda:

- Acceptance of Gifts – Dedham Youth Foundation
- Common Victualer Application – Omvasouk 37 Bridge Street

Ms. Baker clarified that the business name for 37 Bridge Street is Atlas Kebab and Grill.

**A motion was made by Mr. McDonald to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coughlin. A roll call vote was taken:**

**Kevin Coughlin: Yes**  
**Jim McDonald: Yes**  
**Sarah MacDonald: Yes**  
**Dimitria Sullivan: Yes**  
**Dennis Teehan: Yes**

**Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

**A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve the drain layer license for Colantuoni Bros. Equipment Corp., Fed. Corp., J & L Musto Construction Inc. and Super Service Today. The motion was seconded by Mr. McDonald. A roll call vote was taken:**

**Kevin Coughlin: Yes**  
**Jim McDonald: Yes**  
**Sarah MacDonald: Yes**  
**Dimitria Sullivan: Yes**  
**Dennis Teehan: Yes**

**Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

**3. CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

Ms. Mary Nikolaidis introduced herself as a Dedham resident for 35 years with three children who still live in the town. Ms. Nikolaidis was a nurse for 50 years and retired in July 2020; she has always wanted to contribute to the community. Most of her nursing career was with the elderly and dealing with their daily challenges.

Ms. Nikolaidis spent six years of her career with Boston Healthcare working with the homeless population. Ms. Nikolaidis wants to be involved with the community as she can relate her own experiences with disability to the challenges that persons with disabilities face. Her goal is to make the town more accessible as there are some areas in the town that pose accessibility issues for those with disabilities.

Ms. Sherry Hannigan introduced herself as a resident of Dedham for 11 years and is a member of the Council for the Aging for eight years. She is the deputy director of home and community-based programs for the Massachusetts Health Office of Long-term Services and Supports. She supports and directly oversees the personal attendant program, adult foster care, group adult foster care, adult day health and day habilitation.

Ms. Hannigan's career has been devoted to working with older adults and persons with disabilities to remain in the community and live independently. It was confirmed that Ms. Hannigan is not serving on any other committees in the town.

Mr. Robert Carr introduced himself as a Dedham resident for the last two years; he worked for a medical company for 35 years in engineering and design. Mr. Carr is also disabled and knows the experience of those with disabilities. Mr. Carr has not served on any other town committees.

The Chair thanked each applicant and advised that the Select Board will review candidacy and make its decision at the next Board meeting.

5. **DISCUSSION WITH TOWN PLANNER RE: PROVIDENCE HWY CORRIDOR ACTION PLAN SURVEY**

Mr. Rosenberger shared a survey regarding the VFW Parkway/Providence Highway Corridor Action Plan. The survey has been available for three to four weeks with approximately 1,000 participants thus far with 70% of responses submitted by Dedham residents; the goal is to double responses to approximately 2,000 to 2,500 participants.

This survey is carried out in collaboration with the city of Boston and the town of Dedham to come up with a new transportation vision between the VFW Parkway to the south to the marine core rotary. This survey will allow for basic data gathering to determine what the public has to say on the issue. The survey will be promoted through the month of February and the first virtual community open house is scheduled for February 25, 2021.

Ms. MacDonald asked for clarity on the scope of the report and how it will fit in with other potentially larger desires for the area. Mr. Rosenberger responded that the vision for the corridor is focused on transportation and is not a full planning land use study.

6. **DISCUSSION/UPDATE RE: COLBURN STREET TRUCK TRAFFIC**

Mr. Goodwin met with a contact from AliMed Inc. to discuss the road obstruction on Colburn Street as raised by Mr. Arthur Freitas twice during open discussion; a letter from a constituent was also received pertaining to the matter. Mr. Goodwin drove by AliMed Inc. on Colburn Street and observed that it is a narrow road with cars parked alongside causing challenges for two cars driving past one another.

Mr. Goodwin discussed the possibility of adjusting AliMed Inc. deliveries to avoid using Colburn Street and spoke with town council about options if AliMed Inc. is unable or unwilling to change their delivery routes. The subcommittee working on truck bans will also be looking at this matter. Mr. Goodwin advised that some of the alternate options include a truck ban on Colburn Street, making Colburn Street into a one-way street and talking to the drivers and delivery vehicles from AliMed Inc. to avoid using Colburn Street.

Mr. Gene Connally is a resident on Colburn Street and commented on the issues with cars driving on Colburn Street; one of his cars was totaled and the other car involved in the accident also suffered a total loss. There is a serious problem with speeding on Colburn Street as it is a narrow street with cars parked on one side. Mr. Connally suggested installing speed bumps or additional signage as this is an ongoing issue

Ms. Annie Cox is a resident who lives on Colburn Street and echoed Mr. Connally's commentary as she has seen the damage that speeding cars can do. The issues are not just related to truck traffic; therefore, more drastic measures may be required for the residents' benefit. Ms. Cox suggested that making Colburn Street a one-way street may be the most viable option.

Ms. Kimberly Bevans is a newer resident on Colburn Street and agreed with the other residents that making the street one-way would be beneficial as there is no space for parked and passing cars. Ms. Sullivan noted that residents can contact the Transportation Advisory Committee to discuss the ongoing issues with speeding cars and trucks.

Mr. Arthur Freitas reiterated previous comments regarding delivery trucks and other trucks causing much of the issue on Colburn Street. He was rear-ended while at a stop sign two years ago in May and continues to have treatment for his injuries. The Select Board agreed that the engineer should also be involved in this discussion along with the Transportation Advisory Committee as there is a larger issue persisting in this area. Suggestions from the engineer can be presented to the traffic committee; the Board will add this as an item to the Select Board meeting agenda in February.

**7. DISCUSSION WITH SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE RE: STRETCH CODE**

Mr. Gorham and Ms. Walton from the Sustainability Committee attended to provide an overview on the short-term and long-term goals of the committee.

Short term goals include established communication with the committee and the town planning, meetings to collaborate with other committee members, implementation of the Climate Action Plan, exploring funding for enforcement of the plastic bag ban and distribution of a quarterly newsletter via email, social media, and the town website to best educate town residents. The long-term goals include setting environmental standards with mandates and procedures and encouraging sustainable transportation with focus on lower emissions.

Ms. Walton explained that in Massachusetts, there is a range of building standards with the building code setting the base standards that buildings need to meet at the minimum and stretch code being that which the town can adopt to have a stricter guideline. The Governor has been discussing becoming net zero by the year 2050 and this can be reached by improving building practices as 60% of greenhouse gases in Dedham are coming from buildings.

The Sustainability Advisory Committee sent a letter supporting net zero stretch code to the state board of building regulations and standards; if the Select Board or Planning Board wish to do something similar, this would advocate for more environmentally friendly building guidelines. Mr. Goodwin confirmed that the town did adopt the stretch energy code in 2010 at a town meeting.

Ms. Walton also reviewed the plastic bag ban which is focused on education rather than enforcement. Many businesses are willing to comply if they receive warnings; therefore, moving into an implementation phase relies heavily on communication. The key is to do the work up front to minimize the necessity of enforcement on the back end. Similarly, the Styrofoam container ban has been drafted but has not gone forward as food businesses continue to struggle with recovery from the pandemic.

**8. DISCUSSION & VOTE: ADOPTION OF UPDATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Goodwin clarified that the approval required is for the smaller subset of regulations pertaining to accreditation and not about the policies and procedures.

Chief Michael d'Entremont indicated that the approval pertains to Chapter Two of the department manual which covers the rules and regulations as determined through accreditation assessment. Chapter 41 Section 97A states that the Chief of Police in any town accepts the section and occasionally makes regulations subject to approval of the governing body of the department. Chief d'Entremont provided an itemized list of what has changed since it was

reviewed and approved in 2017. An annual review is completed to remain current with content and best practices.

Ms. MacDonald asked about police policy review around use of force due to the national tensions with police-involved violence and requested updates on the anti-racism coalition. Chief d'Entremont responded that the anti-racism coalition from Dedham has reached out to the police department to review police practices. Ms. MacDonald also asked about the police reform law that was passed at the state level and Chief d'Entremont commented that it is difficult to determine what impacts this will have on a local level as it is still under multiple levels of review.

**A motion was made by Mr. McDonald to approve the updated rules and regulations for the police department. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sullivan. A roll call vote was taken:**

**Kevin Coughlin: Yes**  
**Jim McDonald: Yes**  
**Sarah MacDonald: Yes**  
**Dimitria Sullivan: Yes**  
**Dennis Teehan: Yes**

**Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

**9. DISCUSSION & VOTE: PROCESS FOR TOWN COUNSEL SERVICES**

Per the town code, the Select Board is supposed to appoint town counsel on an annual basis after the spring town meeting. It was confirmed that advertising was done for town counsel services and two responses were received. Ms. Sullivan noted that proper advertising is important on all relevant platforms and channels to ensure that all options for service providers have been reviewed. Ms. Baker confirmed that this was posted to the town website and nothing beyond.

The Board agreed to determine other legal publications where town counsel services can be advertised to see what other firms are available. Mr. McDonald also proposed the idea of hiring a staff attorney in the future to manager routine items such as contract review.

The Select Board agreed to proceed with further advertising and requested that the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager provide updates on the process and a list of the publications where this will be advertised.

**10. DISCUSS & VOTE: DATE TO CLOSE SPRING 2021 TOWN MEETING WARRANT**

Ms. Baker confirmed that the town meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2021 and is asking the Board to consider the date to close the town meeting warrant on Friday, February 12, 2021.

**A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to close the 2021 spring town meeting warrant on Friday, February 12, 2021. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:**

**Kevin Coughlin: Yes**  
**Jim McDonald: Yes**  
**Sarah MacDonald: Yes**

**Dimitria Sullivan:** Yes  
**Dennis Teehan:** Yes

**Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

**11. PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING UPDATE**

Mr. Goodwin provided the following highlights about the public safety building:

- Excavation for the underground parking garage and soil nailing is ongoing.
- Support of the excavation site to hold up the embankments are going up and will continue for the next month.
- Vibration sensors at the perimeter of the site will be installed to ensure that there are no above-normal vibrations occurring; a baseline will be set for comparison.
- The website will be live within the next few days.
- An email address for the project team has been created for any questions; any correspondence will go to Mr. Goodwin, the committee chair, project managers, site superintendent and clerk.
- An information leaflet and annotated project schedule will be distributed to surrounding abutters so that they are aware of what is happening at the site.
- The project is on schedule and on budget.

**12. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Vaccine Clinic:** Mr. Goodwin reported that vaccinations continue at Town Hall for Phase One which is targeting first responders. The town is establishing processes and protocols during Phase One that will support subsequent phases and other priority populations with vaccine distribution.

**Budget:** Mr. Goodwin and the new finance director are meeting with the department heads to go over the capital budget which will be reviewed by the Capital Expenditure Committee. The budget will be delivered to the Select Board on February 25, 2021.

**Housing and Demolition Issues:** The property owner is looking to demolish the property on 637 East Street; the town is working with the building department to remedy the situation.

**Public Information Officer:** The newly hired Public Information Officer, Amanda Smith, will be starting on Monday. She will be working with communications and community engagement which is especially important during the pandemic.

**13. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Baker are meeting to review all committees and subcommittees against the by-laws.

Ms. MacDonald advised that the second Master Plan Open House is scheduled virtually on January 26, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. and will tackle chapters on housing, public health, and natural and cultural resources. There are several openings on the cultural council that were posted for those interested in a committee that does arts and cultural activities in the community.

Detective Gonski was awarded as the 2020 Officer of the Year; Ms. MacDonald suggested inviting her to the next meeting to congratulate her virtually.

Ms. MacDonald asked about meeting minutes as there is currently a backlog. Mr. Goodwin advised that this is being discussed with the finance director and will be incorporated into the 2022 fiscal year budget for a long-term resolution.

The Board is planning to proceed with a goal setting session on February 13, 2021. The facilitator will be attending the session.

The Chair is a member of the Dedham Square Planning Committee and feedback from the meeting with the Planning Board was provided to the committee; the committee continues to refine its plan. There is a public meeting on February 9, 2021 and public feedback is encouraged to discuss what is being planned for the police station site.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Mr. McDonald to enter in an Executive Session pursuant to MGL c.30A Sec. 21(a) Exemption 3 to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares (Ames/CTA). The motion was seconded by Ms. Sullivan. A roll call vote was taken:**

**Kevin Coughlin: Yes  
Jim McDonald: Yes  
Sarah MacDonald: Yes  
Dimitria Sullivan: Yes  
Dennis Teehan: Yes**

**Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

**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.

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Director

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Director

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Date

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Date