

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

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING  
VIA TELECONFERENCE  
FEBRUARY 25, 2021, 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 Mary-Margaret Scrimger of Minutes Solutions Inc. via an audio recording.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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. Dr. Teehan reminded those in attendance that divisive, discriminatory, and judgmental speech is not tolerated in this meeting.

**2. OPEN DISCUSSION**

Mr. Bruce Barnett noted that Dedham is not enforcing its own bylaws, state laws, and federal laws. This is a threat to Dedham citizens. For example, there are criminal code and health and safety code violations on a property in his neighborhood. Dedham fails to clear the sidewalks after snowstorms, which violates state and federal laws to protect elderly and disabled individuals.

Mr. Goodwin is working on this. A violation was filed within the courts. Code enforcement is difficult as there are underlying issues. Mr. Goodwin recognized Mr. Barnett's frustration. Dr. Teehan asked for this to be added to a mid-March agenda. Mr. Goodwin volunteered to be the point person on this issue for Mr. Barnett.

Ms. Sara Smeagol requested a joint statement condemning hate, harassment, and discrimination in all forms. She requested that the Board declare its commitment to Dedham being a safe community that embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion and that the elected leaders recognize their responsibility to understand and address racial inequity and other forms of inequity. Currently, there is opposition to policies that promote inclusion. Neutrality helps the perpetrator, not the victims.

Ms. Tracey Franklin, a lifelong minority resident and a co-chair of the anti-racism coalition, supported all that Ms. Smeagol said. Mr. Brogan asked that definitions of equity and inclusion be created. This will allow clarity for future decisions. Ms. Borsellino agreed with Ms. Smeagol and requested the Select Board to communicate openly. This will be hard work and needs dedication. Dr. Teehan noted that there is a problem in the country with equity. There are no easy answers. There are, and will be, many growing pains moving into the future.

Ms. Julie Kelly created an organization called Haymakers for Hope which uses boxing to raise money for cancer research and other aspects. In 10 years, they have raised almost \$15 million. Typically, there are five events in four cities each year. COVID-19 has caused significant challenges, but the organization has pivoted. There is an upcoming event, Freezing for a Reason, that has raised \$28,000 to date. Donations can be made via the Haymakers for Hope website.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items were on the consent agenda: approval of drain layers by J. Masterson Construction, JRF Corporation, Sean Farrell Excavation, and Blue Diamond Equipment.

**A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to to approve the drain layers by J. Masterson Construction, JRF Corporation, Sean Farrell Excavation, and Blue Diamond Equipment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coughlin. 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. DISCUSSION AND VOTE**

**Town Planner—VFW/Providence Highway Corridor:** Mr. Rosenberg announced a community meeting on March 11, 2021 to address from Spring Street to the marine rotary. Thus far, 200 individuals have registered. Funding has been secured and there are five agencies working together. There is a survey that has been released and 2,000 individuals have responded.

**Town Moderator—Spring 2021 Town Meeting:** Mr. Driscoll updated the group on the spring town meeting. The current plan is to congregate in the high school field on May 17, 2021, with a rain date of May 18, 2021.

**A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to approve the outdoor spring annual meeting at the Dedham high school field at 6:00 p.m. on May 17, 2021 with a rain date of May 18, 2021. 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.**

**Grant and Sewer Easement:** Mr. Mammone discussed the easement for Schoolmaster Lane. All documents have been reviewed by legal counsel.

**A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve the execution of the grant and sewer easement for 85, 105, 120 and 123 Schoolmaster Lane. 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.**

**Greenlodge Street:** Mr. Mammone noted that there was a petition for traffic calming on Greenlodge but it did not meet the requirements. A study was done which noted that there is a speeding issue on Greenlodge. Mr. Mammone noted that deterrents should be put in place. Speed bumps have been suggested but Mr. Mammone was against this due to how emergency services use the road. He recommended that the street be narrowed which would be done by adding a sidewalk on the east side. This will improve walk ability for school children. Various sections of the road could have minor changes to deter speeding.

**A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve the recommendation of the Transportation Advisory Committee for the traffic calming measures on Greenlodge street as presented in the February 10, 2021 memo to the Select Board. 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.**

**Dedham and Norfolk Country Communities Property Tax:** Mr. Butler discussed the property taxes for the financial years 2016 until 2021. The municipal data is accessible online. Bookline is not included in the averages as it calculates its taxes in a different way. Dedham has average single family property tax bills for 2021 at \$7,520 for the county. For the average tax bill as a percentage of income per capita, Dedham is significantly below the rest of the county. In contrast to residential taxes, commercial taxes are very high in Dedham compared with the county.

Mr. Butler discussed the balance between the budget and the collected taxes. Home values have been increasing which has changed the town's dependency on the residential tax base. Overall, the financial position of Dedham is better than average in the county. Mr. Goodwin noted that this was a good prelude to the financial discussion next week.

Ms. MacDonald asked about the value for the tax payments and if there is any data regarding this. Mr. MacDonald noted that the tax rate based on the town vote, taking into consideration the budget. Mr. Butler suggested looking at trends and seeing how it will impact the tax rate and master plan. The Board discussed how COVID-19 will negatively impact valuation and tax rates.

**Alternative to the West Suburban Health Group:** Mr. Goodwin explained the situation. The former HR director was serving on the west suburban health group, which provides health insurance. She left the town in December. Mr. Goodwin was invited to join but must be designated as the representative and Ms. McCracken, the new HR director, be appointed as an alternate.

**A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to approve the appointment of Mr. Goodwin to the West Suburban Health Group and Ms. McCracken as the alternate. 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.**

## **5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Goodwin and Mr. John have been busy working on the budget for the next fiscal year. They have continued to close out the town hall senior center. Mounds of dirt have been moved and the public safety project is progressing. There has been fluid communication with citizens regarding the construction and disruptions. Next Friday, there will be a COVID-19 friendly opening ceremony. A health director has recently been hired. Ms. MacDonald noted that the governor has been contracted to use the town more effectively for vaccinations.

## **6. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. MacDonald noted that the committee working to bring a statue of Mr. Gould to East Dedham is now requesting grant funding. She requested that the Board support this and asked that this be added to the next agenda. Next week, there will be a presentation about trash collection. She also asked that a web page be provided with all meetings list and the status of the minutes. She wanted to remind people of the COVID-19 relief phone line for those struggling with financial issues.

The governor has recently announced a reduction of restrictions. There will be changes based on data that comes out. Mr. MacDonald asked for individuals involved with the expansion of restaurant outdoor seating attend the next meeting.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to enter into executive session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A Section 21(a) Exemption 3 to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on a litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coughlin. A roll call vote was taken:**

<b>Dennis Teehan</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Dimitria Sullivan</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>James A. MacDonald</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Sarah MacDonald</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Kevin R. Coughlin</b>	<b>Yes</b>

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

Dr. Teehan stated that the meeting would be adjourned following the executive session.

**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