

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

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
MARCH 18, 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
John Sisson	Community Development Director
Joe Flanagan	Director, Public Works
Ken Cimino	Building Commissioner

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

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairman of the Select Board, Dr. Teehan, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. DEDHAM CITIZENS – OPEN DISCUSSION

The Chairman commented that as per the state open meeting law, all communication held at open discussion is at the discretion of the Chairman.

As the one-year anniversary of the pandemic approaches, a moment of silence was held to commemorate all the lives lost and all those impacted because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Keaney appeared regarding a request for a copy of the Select Board's executive session meeting minutes; this request is submitted to the town every six months. Mr. Keaney's last request is still outstanding; therefore, a meeting law complaint was filed in February. The Board has 14 days to discuss and respond to the complaint and this deadline has since passed with no response.

Mr. Keaney requested for a commitment to regularly release the executive session meeting minutes. Ms. Baker advised that work is in progress with the town counsel to complete the meeting minutes; the majority of the meeting minutes that will be made available in response to the request are fully redacted minutes as they are mostly related to ongoing bargaining or litigation therefore full information cannot be released at this time.

The town manager's office will take the issue pertaining to meeting minutes under advisement and ensure that this is a priority on the goal list.

Mr. Brogan appeared to raise concerns pertaining to the Human Rights Commission (HRC) as some members of the commission are not residents of Dedham which is a requirement as agreed upon and voted in 2017. The other condition in the article is that the Select Board is required to vote to approve any recommended members on the commission; some members were appointed to the HRC without appearing before the Select Board.

Mr. Goodwin advised that the town managers are working with the HRC and town counsel to address these matters including a review of the roster to replace those who do not meet the residency qualification. Under the charter, until a replacement appointment is identified, the member can continue to serve even if the term has expired. The membership and approval by the Select Board will be rectified to ensure that all members meet all qualifications as per the law. The Select Board will also ensure that they have a better oversight on what the HRC is doing and ensure that it is in line with the open meeting law.

Mr. Borsellino addressed statements made relating to his operations and responsibilities on the HRC. He confirmed that written requests to have reappointments made as well as written requests to the town managers office were sent to the Select Board to affirm that the HRC complies with the obligations to have the members' terms acknowledged. Mr. Borsellino was not aware that the members who are not Dedham residents live elsewhere. The expectation was that all members appointed to the HRC were vetted and confirmed to meet all requirements.

Mr. Borsellino confirmed that the HRC has no part in selecting the representatives from the town governing bodies as those are selected internally by department. All HRC work and meeting minutes will be posted to the HRC website through efforts from the town Public Information Officer. The HRC strives to ensure transparency and compliance with abiding by the law.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were included in the consent agenda:

- Approval of Drainlayers (Boston Pipe Lining Company)
- Acceptance of Gifts (Endicott Estate/The Afternoon Club; Council on Aging/BID Needham)
- Approval of meeting minutes for 8/18/20 & 9/10/20

Ms. MacDonald requested that the approval of the meeting minutes be removed from the consent agenda as there are outstanding items for clarification.

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to approve the amended consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Teehan. 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 Mr. McDonald to accept one item not on the agenda. 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.

A motion was made by Mr. McDonald to approve the drain layer license for Murphy Drainlayer. 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.

3. DISCUSSION & VOTE RE: CANDIDATES FOR TAXATION AID COMMITTEE & CULTURAL COUNCIL

The cultural council has up to 22 open spots and before the Select Board are four incumbent members and nine new members.

The taxation aid committee was created by town meeting and is comprised of department heads and three at-large members of the community. Committee positions were posted on several occasions; there is one applicant before the Select Board at the meeting. The position will be reposted for the two additional vacancies. Ms. MacDonald clarified that the committee is required to provide guidance on the taxes set aside to defray tax expenses for the elderly and disabled.

Mr. Perna appeared and introduced himself as the applicant for the taxation aid committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Coughlin to appoint Mr. Michael Perna to the taxation aid committee. 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.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to reappoint Barbara Gula, Patricia Dorsey, Jan Civian, Virginia Brobst and to appoint **Kimberly Hullman, Joseph Rich, Steven Dunn, Margaret Leas, Elaine Melan, Dariana Guerrero, Andrew Gasadi, Anna Hector, Amy Hilson, Caitlin Peoples** and Dasha Layne to the cultural council. 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.

5. **DISCUSSION & VOTE RE: MOVIE FILMING IN DEDHAM**

Mr. O'Neil and Mr. Donadio requested approval for Moody Independent to film a holiday romance movie in the town of Dedham for four days. Most of the shooting will be in Norwood with some of the work to be done in Dedham at two different private residences. One residence is in Franklin Square for two days and the other location is being finalized but will be in Dedham.

A motion was made by Mr. McDonald to approve Moody Independent to film in the town of Dedham. 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.

6. **DISCUSSION & VOTE RE: PARKING UPDATE, PARKING POLICIES & WARRANT ARTICLE**

Mr. Sisson advised that the focus of the discussion for this meeting are the following sections of the traffic regulations: Section 5-6, Section 5-7.1, Section 5-7.5 and Schedule 1(a) which lists all locations of the parking meters and operational facets of the system. The warrant article policies for discussion include the user agreement and municipal off-street parking laws.

Ms. Sullivan suggested that the lots be reviewed at a separate time as a more collective review is required before bringing the item forward. Ms. MacDonald also noted that the number of residents in buildings that do not have assigned parking is required. Mr. Sisson will gather the requested information to be presented to the Select Board.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve the new language in Section 5-6 as per the attached traffic regulations document to grant two parking zones in Section 5-7, court zones west of Washington Street posted from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from Monday through Saturday and square zone Washington Street and East Street from 10:00 a.m. to

6:00 p.m. from Monday through Saturday and increase the one-hour limit to two hours. 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.

7. DISCUSSION & VOTE RE: OUTDOOR DINING FOR 2021 SEASON

Mr. Flanagan and Mr. Cimino appeared to discuss outdoor dining for the 2021 season. A similar program was done in 2020 and a system was developed when the pandemic hit to provide options for local businesses to serve customers while abiding by the rules. The state is investigating options to make sure that this is a viable plan to carry through to the end of the season even if the emergency order ends prior to the end of the season. The Select Board seeks to make this a permanent feature in the future; once the emergency order is lifted, a change in legislature is required to allow outdoor dining to be a permanent accommodation in the state statute.

Mr. Cimino indicated that establishments that did not offer outdoor seating last year can request outdoor dining for the 2021 season; the town manager has the information required to start the process. There were 12 businesses in the square that did outside dining with 31 altogether in various locations doing outside dining; of the 31, 23 served alcohol. Some restaurants had existing outdoor dining that was expanded, and many restaurants were new to providing outside dining. The town worked with each business to find the best outdoor dining scenario. Last year was a great success and the town is looking forward to more success this year.

Mr. McDonald recommended a review of the times and opening hours for restaurants to ensure that there is no disruption to surrounding residents.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve outdoor dining in Dedham from April 1 to December 31, 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.

8. PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING UPDATE

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

- Weekly updates are provided on the website
- Outreach with abutters continues

- The installation of the rammed aggregate piers continues to create stabilized footings for the building to be built on top of it. 400 piers have been completed and two more weeks of this activity is required
- Vibration monitoring is ongoing and there have been no alarms thus far
- The project is on schedule and slightly under budget

9. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Women in Democracy Dedham (WINDD): Mr. Goodwin confirmed with one of the founders, Ms. MacDonald, that Women in Democracy Dedham is not a legal non-profit and there is no intent for the entity to be a non-profit. It is a civic organization that engages with the public for civic awareness and is not affiliated with the town. Any public officials working with WINDD are doing so in their own individual capacity. Mr. Goodwin is reviewing the list of non-profit organizations on the town website and will remove any who are not legal non-profits.

New Human Resources Director: Mr. Goodwin announced that Gayle McCracken will be starting as the new Director of Human Resources on Monday.

10. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McDonald advised that major work will begin on Bridge Street and Ames Street during the week of March 29. Message boards will be installed next week and equipment will start to be mobilized. Information and a schedule will be posted to the town website once it is confirmed.

Ms. MacDonald noted that at the master plan meeting on Tuesday, there were questions about a conversation regarding race that was planned as of last July. Mr. McDonald responded that the group is waiting for a follow up meeting with Ms. Colette Phillips by the end of April.

Ms. MacDonald noted that the Governor has extended the emergency election provisions that would allow Dedham to offer early voting via mail in conjunction with the spring election. Communication from the clerk's office will be shared for additional ways to vote this spring. This item will be added to the next Select Board meeting agenda for discussion.

The city of Boston and other communities are considering how to permanently allow residents to participate in meetings remotely once in-person meetings are again possible. Ms. MacDonald will work with the Public Information Officer on suggestions for how to continue remote participation.

Ms. MacDonald acknowledged the recent events of anti-Asian violence in Atlanta which has drawn increased attention over the last year. Ms. MacDonald expressed her thoughts and prayers to those in Atlanta and to any individual who may have experienced an act of anti-Asian violence.

The Chairman reported that he met with representatives of the anti-racism coalition on Monday and the group is continuing to work on drafting a statement to condemn racism and discrimination and affirm the town's status as a welcoming and inclusive community. Community feedback on the statement will be obtained accordingly.

The Chairman reported that the Dedham Square Committee is recommending that the Dedham police station site be repurposed into a park. The committee will be providing the Select Board with a report by the summer months and the public will be engaged in the summer/fall along with financing to be reviewed for the FY23 budget. An additional meeting will be held to determine project timelines.

Congress has passed a law this week for the American Rescue Plan which will provide financial relief for COVID. The town will receive \$2.4 million but the fund is restrictive on what the money can be spent on as it must be related to the pandemic or fallout from the pandemic. Further guidance from the state is required as to what the funds can be spent on. The best use of the money, if permitted under the law, is for the loss of revenue as commercial properties were assessed much lower because of the pandemic. The county will also be receiving a significant amount of money which may result in additional opportunities for funds for the community.

The Chairman and Mr. Goodwin are looking at options to hold in-person meetings again and exploring plans for a hybrid model to potentially meet in-person in the Francis O'Brien meeting room and virtually over Zoom for those who are not vaccinated or comfortable to meet in-person.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to enter in an Executive Session pursuant to MGL c.30A Sec. 21(a) Exemption 3 to discuss strategy for collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares. 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.

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