

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

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
OCTOBER 22, 2020, 7:00 P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

TOWN OF DEDHAM STAFF:

Bridget [Last Name]	Title, Health Department
John Sisson	Community Development Director, Town of Dedham
Leon Goodwin	Town Manager, Town of Dedham
Nancy Baker	Assistant Town Manager, Town of Dedham

Minutes prepared by Mary-Margaret Scrimger of Minutes Solutions inc. via an audio recording.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Arthur Freitas noted that Colburn Street has become a throughway for trucks. The traffic light at Colburn and Bussey Street was snapped in half by an 18-wheeler and another pole was damaged. There is weekly damage to cars, houses, and infrastructure due to UPS trucks. The sidewalk narrows the street which impacts the space for trucks. There are not driveways for the residential houses, which means cars are parked on the street. While damage is a concern, Mr. Freitas is worried about resident safety in the future.

Ms. MacDonald asked if there was recourse to UPS drivers from the residents. Unfortunately, the drivers are not stopping when they inflict damage. As a result, residents' recourse is via their insurance company, which could increase their premiums and without recourse to the culprit. It was suggested that the town send a letter to UPS.

ACTION — Mr. Goodwin and his staff will craft a letter to reroute UPS trucks from Colburn Street.

Ms. Erin Boles Welsh brought up the sports related COVID-19 clusters, specifically the hockey team. She believes seven of 12 coaches and teammates tested positive from contact on October 12, 2020. It was not until nine days after that contact tracing was done. Mr. Goodwin noted that the health department works to contact trace. The delays are likely due to infrastructure delays. Dr. Teehan noted that these facts are unverified and need to be verified before action occurs.

There is a Board of Health meeting on October 23, 2020 but the board does not allow for public questions or inquiry. Ms. MacDonald noted that is an ongoing concern for other parents, not just Ms. Boles Welsh. The Board discussed the volume of information being shared. Mr. MacDonald noted that social media should be viewed with caution and shaming people should be avoided.

Ms. Bridget from the Health Board was in attendance. She noted that the Board is doing the best it can and have little leeway in what information it can share. Additionally, information is being transferred faster through social avenues than through institutional avenues.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Teehan noted that this was the Board's first consent agenda. The following items were on the agenda:

- approval of the June 18, 2020 and June 25, 2020 minutes
- acceptance of a gift of \$1,500 for the Manor Playground from the Crowley family, and
- approval of drain layers by F.E. French Construction Inc.

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2020 and June 25, 2020 meetings. 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 gift of \$1,500 for the manor Playground from the Crowley family. 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 drain layers by F.E. French Construction. 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.

4. DISCUSSION AND VOTE

3Consent Agenda: Dr. Teehan reiterated that if a Board member has questions on a consent agenda item that it can be discussed.

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to approve proceeding with a consent agenda. 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.

Board of Library Trustee Appointments: There are five vacancies on the Board of Library Trustees. Interviews were held at the last meeting and decisions were scheduled to be made this evening. The nominees were: Ms. Baradaran, Ms. Chapdelaine, Ms. Raphel, Ms. Toledano, Mr. Desmond, Ms. Power, Mr. Keaney, Mr. Tsevas, Mr. Turner, and Mr. Willey.

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to put all names forward for nomination. 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.

To proceed, each Board member put forth their top five candidates for the positions. There were six individuals (Ms. Baradaran, Ms. Raphel, Ms. Chapdelaine, Ms. Power, Mr. Keaney and Mr. Turner) who led with four votes each.

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to put forth the six individuals (Ms. Baradaran, Ms. Raphel, Ms. Chapdelaine, Ms. Power, Mr. Keaney and Mr. Turner) who received four votes

into round two nominations with rank choice nominations. 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.

To proceed, each Board member put forth their top five candidates for the positions.

Mr. Turner received five votes and all the other candidates received four votes. Candidates besides Mr. Turner, were brought to another vote.

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to put forth the five individuals (Ms. Baradaran, Ms. Raphel, Ms. Chapdelaine, Ms. Power, Mr. Keaney) who received four votes into round three nominations with rank choice nominations. 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.

To proceed, each Board member put forth their top four candidates for the positions. There was a five-way tie.

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to put forth the five individuals (Ms. Baradaran, Ms. Raphel, Ms. Chapdelaine, Ms. Power, Mr. Keaney) who received four votes into round three nominations with rank choice nominations. 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.

To proceed, each Board member put forth their top four candidates for the positions.

Therefore, Ms. Baradaran, Ms. Raphel, Ms. Power, Mr. Keaney, as well as Mr. Turner were appointed as library trustees.

Code of Conduct: Ms. Sullivan thanked all those for working on this document, especially Ms. MacDonald. The code of conduct is the standard for Board members to conduct themselves. A code of conduct defines culture, standards, and expectations, as well as fostering a healthy relationship with the community. This is to enhance confidence in public servants. It was requested that appointed committees should adhere to the code as well.

This should be on a future agenda. Dr. Teehan commended Ms. MacDonald and Ms. Sullivan for their communication, diligence, and hard work. Counsel was involved every step of the way.

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to approve the code of conduct. 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.

ACTION — The code of conduct will be posted on the town website and posted on social media.

General Dynamics: General Dynamics has provided a letter of intent to invest nine million dollars in their local facility, generating 82 new jobs. They have requested tax credits via the economic development incentive program which requires municipal support. This investment will not change the square footage of the facility or the valuation. There is a deadline of November 4, 2020. Mr. Joe Donovan, the attorney representing General Dynamics, noted that the project will have zero impact on the local tax base.

Mr. Carlo Zaffanella, the Vice President of General Dynamics, noted that General Dynamics moved to Dedham in 2015 and has 284 well-paid employees. General Dynamics has been consistently looking for opportunities for growth, which would add jobs and increase community investment. With the economic downturn, many towns, including Dedham, are suffering. The project would not change the building footprint but would include interior modifications.

While there are 82 jobs that will be created in the near term, Mr. Zaffanella believes it will be more. The average salary of the General Dynamics Dedham location is \$165,000. Mr. Zaffanella does not see this as a fleeting program but a long-term investment. The Dedham location has the benefit of being close to Boston to attract engineering talent.

Mr. Donovan addressed previous questions. This project would have little to no impact on the neighborhood and surrounding area as all the work will be done within the current structure. R.J. Kelly, the landlord, is aware of this pending project. There would be zero impact on the tax base. With future assessments, the tax could increase. The General Dynamics Dedham location

involvement in the community includes donations to the COVID-19 relief fund as well as additional efforts and future efforts.

Mr. MacDonald noted that the unemployment rate is 16%, a drastic increase from 3.08% last year. He noted that \$135,000 in a \$9 million project is not significant. Also, because of the tax structure the improvements do not add to the tax base. The town has had a significant decrease in taxes, such as hotel (50%) and meal (28%) taxes.

Mr. Coughlin asked for more information about community outreach, specifically with co-op programs. Mr. Zaffanella noted that the nature of the work is not conducive to high school students but there is a co-op program for college engineers. Ms. MacDonald indicated the long-term benefit of having an employer like General Dynamics. Ms. Sullivan asked for General Dynamics to be more involved in the community going forward.

It was requested that this be decided on by the Board next week to allow for due diligence. Additional discussion will occur offline.

2021 Liquor License Renewal Fees: Mr. Sisson noted that other communities helped restaurants by decreasing, waiving, or creating an installment plan for liquor license renewal fees. This is around \$90,000 of the town's revenue. Mr. Sisson was unsure how the fees compare to other municipalities. Ms. Sullivan felt this was pertinent information to make an appropriate decision. She is concerned with the unemployment rate. The renewal process begins in November; this needs to be decided soon. It will be included on the next Board agenda.

Public Health Guidelines for Halloween: There have been an increase in COVID-19 cases in the Dedham community. Halloween is approaching and best practices need to be considered. The Board of Health meets tomorrow. The Board of Health provided a statement that did not advise trick or treating or closing a street for Halloween. The Board did not feel they have the legal standpoint to ban trick or treating. Mr. MacDonald felt it was a personal decision. Ms. MacDonald noted that CDC has guidelines to make Halloween safer.

Ms. Sharna Borsellino, a Barrows street resident, noted that Barrows Street is popular street for trick or treating. The request to close the street is not to have a block party but to decrease the number of children from outside of the neighborhood who come to trick or treat. It would make it safer for the Barrows Street children. It was clarified that the shutdown would be for vehicles, not pedestrian traffic. The Board concluded that it would decide at its next meeting.

5. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

The town hall parking lot was adjusted to accommodate more cars. Demolition and abatement of the old town hall are progressing. There is a public forum on October 27, 2020 to discuss the public safety building. Attorney David Denesky will provide an update at a future meeting.

There are training sessions regarding technology to prepare residents for the town meeting on November 30, 2020. Devices will be provided for individuals who do not have access.

There was a recent announcement that indoor ice skating will be prohibited in the state from October 23 until November 7, 2020, except professional hockey.

6. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Coughlin stated that Mr. Guilfoyle of the charter commission has resigned. It his Mr. Coughlin's appointment and he appointed Ms. MacDonald-Hefferin.

Mr. Goodwin investigated minute taking for various boards and committees. This work has begun, and several examples have been found. Other municipalities do not have minutes for all committees and boards but for ones that make policy. A policy and proposal will be presented to the Board in the future.

Mr. MacDonald noted that the ballot box is behind the new town hall. There has been confusion due to construction. It can also be placed in a mailbox.

Dr. Teehan reminded everyone about the upcoming public safety meeting on October 27, 2020.

7. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m. 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 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 members of the Select Board. This document shall not be considered to be a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting.

Director

Director

Date

Date

