

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

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING  
VIA TELECONFERENCE  
NOVEMBER 5, 2020, 7:00 P.M.**

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

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

**TOWN OF DEDHAM STAFF:**

Jane Cunniff Lepardo	Treasurer, Town of Dedham
Jason Mammone	Director, Engineering Department, Town of Dedham
Leon Goodwin	Town Manager, Town of Dedham
Nancy Baker	Assistant Town Manager, Town of Dedham

**ABSENT:**

Kevin R. Coughlin	Member
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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. Chair of the Select Board, Dr. Teehan, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. OPEN DISCUSSION**

There were no residents with items for open discussion.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items were on the consent agenda: approval of the July 7, 2020 minutes, and approval of drain layers by J.E.A Ferrara.

**A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to approve the board meeting minutes from July 7, 2020. 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

**Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.**

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to approve the drain layers by J.E.A. Ferrara. 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

Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

#### 4. DISCUSSION AND VOTE

**Annual Town Meeting Quorum Reduction:** Mr. Dan Driscoll, the town moderator, requested a reduction in quorum to ensure the meeting can proceed. Mr. Driscoll noted that significant measures are in place to ensure no one is left behind with the switch to a virtual meeting. A lower quorum was adopted for the spring meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to approve reducing the quorum for the town hall to 140. 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

Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

**Request for Change of Yard House USA Manager:** The Yard House has changed its management from Mr. Chance Hurley to Ms. Paula Post. The license will change to Ms. Post's name. Ms. Post has not held a license in the past and has been with the Yard House for six years.

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to approve the change in management at the Yard House from Mr. Chance Hurley to Ms. Paula Post. 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

Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

**Interfund Advanced Borrowing:** Ms. Jane Cunniff Lepardo noted that there are ten capital items, which include new police cars, road and streets, equipment, school etc. for a total of \$3,684,875. Ms. Cunniff Lepardo noted that this borrowing is done as there is no cost, the town borrows against itself, and it decreases time delays. This loan allows for the town to have liquidity for the project but must be cleared by June 30 each year.

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to approve the inter fund advanced borrowing as presented by the treasurer, Ms. Cunniff Lepardo. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. 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>

**Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.**

**Approval of Liana Lane Drainage Easements:** Liana Lane was before the Board in September for the official order of taking. The objective was to make it a public way. There is a cross country easement through three properties on the drainage that runs from Vincent Road to East Street. Mr. Jason Mammone and staff have secured two easements and are working on the third. If they cannot secure the easement, there are ways to proceed without it.

**A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to approve the Liana Lane easements as presented by Mr. Mammone. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sullivan. 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>

**Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.**

**Truck Ban:** Mr. Goodwin noted that there have been various requests by residential streets to reduce trucks. The Board can regulate traffic via chapter 40, section 22. However, chapter 90 section 19 and chapter 85 section 2 provide more detail on this authority.

For example, restrictions cannot be implemented until it is advertised in the newspaper, the DOT confirms in writing that it is in the public's best interest, and signs are approved. A suitable alternative route must also be provided, the road must be wholly in the town, it must be approved by the DOT, and the MTUC must be followed. The town has the authority to make seasonal bans.

There are significant approvals and complications, including state involvement, to proceed with a truck ban. A truck ban does not exclude all trucks; there are exceptions based on size and intent.

Chief Mike Dentremont discussed how to enforce the law, alternative routes, truck classification, and delivery logistics. The Board discussed how truck bans can push traffic onto other residential and side streets. Dr. Teehan asked Chief Dentremont to advise the Board in the future on how it can proceed.

Mr. Brian Keaney suggested a de facto truck ban by creating a "Welcome to Dedham" arch that is low to eliminate truck entry. Ms. Kerry Ann Hawkins voiced concern that someone will be injured from an 18-wheeler on residential streets. She recommended signage warning of a rotary and low clearance bridge.

Mr. Mammone noted that there are signs but he will investigate additional signage. Ms. Laurel Conrad lives on the east street rotary. The rotary is not conducive to 18-wheelers. Frequently, the 18-wheelers come onto the sidewalk and damage Ms. Conrad's property. Dr. Teehan asked for this to be put on a future agenda to see if the Board can resolve this issue.

**Charter Advisory Committee:** The Charter Advisory Committee provided an update. The update letter is a letter of findings. The Board discussed if the form of government should change. Ms. Sullivan asked if the town must abide by the schedule; it was confirmed that the town must follow the schedule but is not limited to it. Different charter reviews were discussed such as grammar/spelling, gender neutrality, and functionality. The Charter Advisory Committee's responsibility is guided by the Select Board. A study group was suggested to address the charter.

Mr. MacDonald noted that charter changes take a long time. It took two years to change the Board's name to the Select Board. To change the form of government is through a home rule commission or through an elected charter commission. To set up an elected charter commission, a petition with 5% of resident signatures needs to be completed. An elected charter commission goes directly to the voters and the review is done through the public hearing process and is reviewed by the attorney general. It is not voted on by the town meeting.

Mr. MacDonald suggested that a survey go out to residents to assess appetite for this change. Ms. Michelle Apuzzio is finalizing a survey. It addresses background, outlining how things currently work and could work. Once the survey is completed, it will be shared with the Select Board. Ms. Apuzzio noted that a hearing needs to occur for clarity.

Ms. Sullivan requested a meeting between the Charter Advisory Committee and the Board to clarify the rationale behind the change. COVID-19 has created considerable barriers to connect with the community for open dialogue for these changes. Dr. Teehan agreed that a meeting between the two committees should occur.

The Charter Advisory Committee closed its meeting.

**Master Plan Update:** Ms. MacDonald presented the master plan update. The master plan committee has met with the consultants and are reviewing various issues such as public health, transportation, housing, cultural and natural resources etc. Various virtual open houses are scheduled to engage the community regarding their hopes and dreams for the town. Ms. Sullivan noted that the master plan is used as a guideline. She requested that no other meetings be scheduled for the nights of these virtual open houses.

**Acceptance of Gift of Land:** The land gift is 205 Providence Highway, across from the Stop and Shop. This is a significant gift and will contribute to the conservation areas. The donor requested that it be called the Thomas G. Demora Park. Ms. MacDonald noted that the town does not have a naming policy. This should be addressed in a future meeting. The Board thanked the donor.

**A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to accept the land gift at 205 Providence Highway (tax parcel 57-1), as outlined in the assessors' map. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sullivan. 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.**

**5. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT**

The national election occurred on November 3, 2020. Mr. Goodwin thanked the staff for running an excellent election.

The old town hall demolition has begun. There has been a request for additional funding for the public safety building. The council of aging is in the new town hall. COVID-19 has not allowed for programming to begin. The town received a \$11,700 sustainable development grant, which will be used to fund the hazardous waste collection and educational outreach. This program could decrease expenses for Dedham, specifically to prevent contaminated recycling.

Mr. Mammone noted that the sidewalk improvements will occur in the spring to improve access to the train station and Legacy Place.

Mr. Goodwin reminded the community of veteran’s day next week. While it will be held differently this year, it is an important holiday with various social distancing programming to honor veterans.

**6. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. MacDonald wanted to acknowledge and thank Father Steve Josoma and Rev. Cheryl Kerr for hosting the peace vigil.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to adjourn the meeting at 9:22. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sullivan. 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. 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.

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Director

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Director

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Date

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Date