

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

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING  
VIA TELECONFERENCE  
APRIL 29, 2021, 7:00 P.M.**

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Dennis Teehan	Chair
Dimitria Sullivan	Vice Chair
James A. McDonald	Director
Sarah MacDonald	Director
Kevin R. Coughlin	Director

**TOWN OF DEDHAM STAFF:**

Leon Goodwin	Town Manager
Nancy Baker	Assistant Town Manager

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, Mr. Teehan, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was held for Francis W. O'Brien in honor of his passing this week. The Select Board acknowledged the loss to the community and the loss for the O'Brien family. The Select Board members shared heartfelt stories and memories about Francis W. O'Brien.

**2. DEDHAM CITIZENS – OPEN DISCUSSION**

There was no open discussion.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items were included in the consent agenda:

- Dedham Four on the 4<sup>th</sup> Road Race
- Approval of Executive Session minutes
- Renewal of Metrofire Agreement

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

<b>Kevin Coughlin:</b>	<b>Yes, only for the minutes but not the content as he was not present for the entire Executive Session</b>
<b>Jim McDonald:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Sarah MacDonald: Yes, only for the minutes but not the content as she was not present for the entire Executive Session**

**Dimitria Sullivan: Yes, only for the minutes but not the content as she was not present for the entire Executive Session**

**Dennis Teehan: Yes**

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

**4. DISCUSSION/UPDATE ON PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS**

Mr. Goodwin advised that he met with Town Counsel after the last meeting and reviewed the meeting minutes at which Mr. Keaney's open meeting law complaint was noted as unaddressed. According to Counsel's notes and Mr. Goodwin's notes, the Board's consensus at the meeting was to proceed with the list of minutes and the reasons for redaction or sealing were sufficient to move forward. Town Manager Baker and Counsel are moving forward with the process; this was communicated yesterday to the Attorney General. There is no further action required of the Board as the Town is working to comply with Mr. Keaney's request in an expedited manner.

Mr. Keaney advised that he has not yet received an update from Town Counsel. In the open meeting law complaint, Mr. Keaney requested that the Board commit to voting on the minutes at the first meeting of every quarter. The Chairman responded that this is a reasonable request and can be implemented by the Board. Mr. Goodwin noted the pilot program's launch to distribute the minutes is up and running, but there is a large backlog of minutes. Once the backlog is cleared, this will help with the quarterly updates.

**5. INTRODUCTION OF TREASURER COLLECTOR, RAY CHAUVIN**

Mr. Goodwin introduced the new Treasurer Collector, Ray Chauvin, who joined a few weeks ago to replace Jane Lepardo, who is retiring. Mr. Chauvin comes from Cumberland, Rhode Island and is a CPA by training. Mr. Chauvin is excited to join the team and is working with Ms. Lepardo on knowledge transfer.

**6. CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION AND BOARD OF APPEALS**

Mr. Goodwin advised there are a total of six applicants for two full positions and two alternate positions on the Conservation Commission. The following candidates each briefly provided an introduction and described why each was interested in joining the Conservation Commission:

- Erik DeAvila
- Timothy Puopolo
- Nick Corsetti
- Michelle Kayserman
- Zina Deboe
- Stephanie Radner

Each candidate was asked if they favored a standard application process, also known as an application tree, for those who come before them, what environmental issues they have been involved with and if they agree to attend training courses provided by the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC). The Chairman has begun discussions with

the Charter Commission about changing the Charter to determine whether the Conservation Commission should be elected or appointed.

Mr. Goodwin advised there are a total of six applicants for one alternate spot on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The following candidates were introduced and each briefly provided an introduction and described why each was interested in joining the Zoning Board of Appeals:

- Andrew Tuccio
- Costa Tsolirides
- Julie Tittler
- Christi Gorelli
- Tara Ikenouye
- Norman Vigil

Each candidate was asked how they would respond to those who come before them as applicants coming before the Zoning Board of Appeals, asking for something that typically cannot be done.

The Chairman advised that the appointments to the Conservation Commission and the Board of Appeals will be completed on May 13, 2021. The Select Board thanked each of the candidates for introducing themselves and expressing interest in serving the Town.

#### **7. CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Mr. Goodwin advised that there are three applicants for the Human Rights Commission. The following candidates each briefly provided an introduction and described why each was interested in joining the Human Rights Commission:

- Margaret Matthews representing the Housing Authority
- Diane Barry Preston representing the Council on Aging
- Diane Loud was not present at the meeting

Town Manager Baker also read a statement from Chief D'entremont on behalf of Office Mike Buckley and his candidacy for the Human Rights Commission representing the police department.

The Chairman advised that the appointment to the Human Rights Commission would be made at the next meeting on May 13, 2021.

#### **8. SELECT BOARD POSITIONS ON WARRANT ARTICLES FOR 2021 SPRING TOWN MEETING**

Town Manager Baker recited the following articles:

- Article 1 – No action required as the election of Town Officials occurred on April 10
- Article 2 – Collective bargaining agreements for DPW Units A and B, the library staff and the non-union management group
- Article 3 – The operating budget on a vote of 8:1, the Finance and Warrant Committee recommended an operating budget for the fiscal year 2022 of \$117,122,756; the Chairman passed on Article 3
- Article 4 – The capital budget on a vote of 8:1; the Finance and Warrant Committee recommended a capital budget of \$5,103,167
- Article 5 – Funds for a prior year bill for HubTech for \$1,395

- Article 6 – Line item transfers and moneys moved within the budget for the current fiscal year in the amount of \$1,175,200
- Article 7 – Special purpose stabilization funds deposited in addition to funds that are received for the hotel/motel/meals tax to the Robin Reyes Fund; a recommendation was made to deposit \$1,250,000 into the fund
- Article 8 – Appropriation from the special purpose stabilization funds with a recommendation of \$5,377,113 from the Reyes Fund to pay debt services for the fiscal year 2022, in the amount of \$260,619.13 payable to Dedham Visionary Access Corporation. This is revenue from three cable television providers for public education in government programming and \$1,500,000 from the general stabilization fund to the general fund for assisting with the overall budget for the fiscal year 2022
- Article 9 - Revolving funds and the authority to spend for the Council on Aging Revolving Funds be an increase from \$15,000 to \$35,000, increase in the Board of Health Revolving Fund for \$15,000 to \$25,000 and closing out the Veteran Revolving Fund with a balance of \$1,495.14 closing out to the general fund
- Article 10 – Funds to the sewer enterprise fund
- Article 11 – Appropriates \$422,500 from free cash for commitment to the Board stormwater permit
- Article 12 – Provides interim reports from the Electronic Voting Committee to the Snow Removal Committee
- Article 13 – \$389,000 for the proposed Trenton Road playground
- Article 14 – Zoning amendment from the Planning Board
- Article 15 – Second two-year extension with Fallon Ambulance
- Article 16 – Proposed charter amendment regard new reporting authority for the Health Director
- Article 17 – Proposed chart amendment to the language for notice of vacancies
- Article 18 – Rescinds on previous statutes and accepts another about how to proceed with parking enforcement in the Town

**A motion was made by Mr. Coughlin to concur, except for Article 3, with the Finance and Warrant Committee's recommendations. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sullivan. A roll call vote was taken:**

<b>Kevin Coughlin:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jim McDonald:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Sarah MacDonald:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Dimitria Sullivan:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Dennis Teehan:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

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

The Chairman discussed the stimulus funds to be received and the impact on the fiscal year budget. The Town of Dedham will certainly receive around \$2,500,000, along with a portion of a larger amount than was received by the county, divided based on population size. The Board's stated priority is to use this money to help taxpayers put money back in their pockets, but there are restrictions about how it can or cannot be used.

The sentiment from the Finance and Warrant Committee is that there are so many unknowns at this time. As a result of the devaluation projected for commercial property and the actual increase in residential property values, the burden has been shifted onto the residential taxpayers. The

goal is to apply for the federal money in such a way as to buy down the federal tax increase. The Treasury will provide guidance on May 10 and the State will do so thereafter on what can be done with the funds.

**A motion was made by Mr. Teehan to concur with the Finance and Warrant Committee's recommendation for Article 3. 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 AND UPDATE ON KEYSTONE PARKING (RESERVED SPACES)**

Mr. Goodwin advised that the new Town Hall was occupied in June 2020 and all employees returned to work in the building on July 7, 2020. Parking arrangements have been tight but manageable. Additional parts of the parking would be lost due to the Public Safety Building construction; therefore, 25 parking spaces have been designated for employees at the Keystone.

Moving forward, the plan is to open services back up to the public, which will drive more parking demand in the lot, especially from the senior center and visitors to the Town Hall. As a result, employees will continue to need the 25 designated parking spaces.

Last summer, 25 parking spaces were identified behind the registry to be used for contractors. Mr. Goodwin spoke with the project team and as soon as the steelworkers and trades come on-site, they will need to use all 25 of those parking spaces.

**A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to proceed with the current parking arrangement in the Keystone lot for an additional two months and determine the next steps as of June 2021. 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.**

## 10. PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING UPDATE

Mr. Goodwin provided the following updates:

- Weekly reports are provided on the project; the updates can be received by signing up on the website or accessing the webpage
- No neighbor issues have been raised this week
- The project remains on time and budget
- The site is active with footings, foundations and forms going in
- Concrete has been poured and a large pour will occur tomorrow
- The site webcam is up and running; Amanda Smith has created a document for kids to identify the different construction vehicles on site. This document can also be printed for kids to come on-site safely to identify the vehicles in a scavenger hunt style.
- Monthly building planning meetings and construction meetings continue to be held

## 11. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

**Re-entry Task Force:** A re-entry task force was put together in June 2020 to move back into the building; the group reconvened to discuss a re-entry plan. The task force aims to open the building on May 24, 2021, which coincides with the town switching to summer hours.

The senior and veteran workforce will staff an informational desk. Contract tracing and a screening questionnaire will be completed before any entry into the building; masks are also required. Protocols are going into place and markers will be placed on the floor to separate people by six feet. Before the opening on May 24, 2021, an open house will be held on May 15, 2021, for the senior center and on May 22, 2021, for an open house for the entire building. The rear entrance will be used as the main entrance to control access points and the number of guests in the building.

**Events:** The Select Board, along with the Human Rights Commission, is hosting an event called Courageous Conversations about Race on May 3, 2021. Guest panelists will be speaking at the event to show the broad spectrum of residents. The panel will represent points on how Dedham can be a welcoming and inclusive community. This event is a first in a series to move Dedham forward in this important dialogue. Over 150 people have already registered to attend the event.

## 12. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

**Cultural Celebration Week:** Ms. Sullivan reported that a cultural celebration week is being held this week in the Avery School District. A flag scavenger hunt is being held throughout the Town, where residents put up flags in their windows representing their country of origin. A cookbook is also being created with recipes from around the world.

**Crane Street:** Ms. MacDonald asked about Crane Street and got official communication about their request for remediation. The Town is working on this with the Public Works director and residents are aware of the plan to move forward. Mr. Goodwin noted that a meeting is required with the Town, the tee, residents and other stakeholders for a solution that works. A letter will be sent along with the engineering report to request an update before the next meeting.

**Summit on Utility Poles:** Ms. MacDonald asked if there is a strategy for inviting Eversource and other utilities in front of the Select Board. Mr. Goodwin advised that he can invite all parties to discuss the current status at the first or second meeting in May.

**Consolidated Amendments:** Mr. McDonald reviewed the State budget and noted the consolidated amendments. There was a sum of money for \$150,000 for the public safety building and \$75,000 for the statue. It has been passed at the house level and must go to the Senate; if successful, this can get into the final budget. It was recommended to have the representative and Senator attend a future meeting to discuss the legislative update.

**Police Station Site:** The Chairman advised that work continues with the Dedham Square Steering Committee to determine the plan for the police station site, which will be a park or green space. The last meeting with the Committee was held on April 26, 2021, and meetings continue on a monthly cadence. The Committee has also secured a bit more funding to provide a focused recommendation for the site.

**Pride Month:** The Chairman met with the Vice-President of the Human Rights Commission to acknowledge Pride Month in June. The pride flag will be raised, and a ceremony is being considered.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Mr. McDonald to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. 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 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