

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

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
HELD AT TOWN HALL AND VIA ZOOM
MAY 26, 2021, 7:00 P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS:

Dennis Teehan	Chair
Dimitria Sullivan	Vice Chair
James A. MacDonald	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/video 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.

The Chairman acknowledged that this meeting is the first in-person meeting and the first one in the new Town Hall building. The Chairman, Select Board members, and a few guests made remarks about the new building and the new Town Hall.

2. DEDHAM CITIZENS – OPEN DISCUSSION

There was no open discussion.

The Chairman acknowledged an incident involving a hate crime that recently occurred in Dedham Square, resulting in criminal charges. The Chairman thanked the Dedham Police Department for their work on this matter. The Select Board will be asked to vote on the display of a banner in front of Town Hall to state, "Hate has no place in Dedham. All are welcome here". This is a non-political gesture to declare that hate and such acts will not be tolerated in the town of Dedham. A social media campaign will also be launched as a call to action for residents to commit to an act of kindness and share experiences on social media.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were included in the consent agenda:

- Approval of meeting minutes for October 22, 2020, November 5, 2020, November 19, 2020, and April 1, 2021
- Approval of E. Watson Excavating Inc. as a Drainlayer

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sullivan. All were in favor and the motion was passed unanimously.

4. VIOLATION HEARING – TAHITI RESTAURANT INC. D/B/A TAHITI, 22 MAH WAY, DEDHAM; HARRY MAH, MANAGER

Officer Steven Munchbach, Officer Mike Buckley, Attorney Ned Richardson and Harry Mah were present for the violation hearing.

An oath was taken from all parties before the Select Board as testimony was to be provided. Tahiti Restaurant Inc. was served a violation on May 14, 2021, for an incident on or about March 23, 2021, involving an altercation. Officer Munchbach stipulated the police report and accompanying video footage that is approximately two minutes long and corroborates the police report. The report and video were submitted as evidence of the incident. Officer Buckley added for the record that Tahiti Restaurant Inc. was forthcoming with any information and was willing to work with Officer Munchbach in all aspects.

Attorney Richardson added that he reviewed the police report and nothing was untoward in any way. The police report and video footage corroborated that the bartender did what he could to de-escalate the situation by removing one participant from the premises. Mr. Mah had no further comments to add.

Mr. MacDonald expressed that the bartender should have contacted the police as the incident involved a physical altercation. The Dedham Police are trained to de-escalate and assist all owners of liquor licenses in the community.

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sullivan. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to find that the licensee Tahiti Restaurant Inc. did violate the Code of Massachusetts Regulation 204 CMR 2.052 permitting illegalities or the sort on the premises as per the rules and regulations of the alcohol beverages licenses in the town of Dedham Section 15: Violations and Section 19: Order and Decorum and Section 33: Notifying the Police Department. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to issue a warning to Tahiti Restaurant Inc. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

5. DISCUSSION AND VOTE RE: BID ACCEPTANCE ON SALE OF BONDS

Lynne Welsh attended via Zoom. The town went out to bid on the sale of bonds and there were seven responders. Out of the seven syndicates that presented bids, Citygroup Global Markets Inc. had the lowest bid at a true interest cost of 2.03%. Some of the regular 2020 capital projects were resized, including \$22,000,000 for the public safety building with \$1,300,000 in premium applied to project costs. This will not be part of the debt service on the project.

John Arnett and Ray Chauvin also participated in the deal and S&P reconfirmed the AAA bond rating for the town. Dedham continues to be very successful and is acknowledged by the rating agencies for strong finances.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan for the Select Board to vote on the sale of \$25,245,000 general obligation municipal purpose loan of 2021 bonds of the town of Dedham dated June 10, 2021, to Citygroup Global Markets Inc. for \$27,143,212.20 in accrued interest, if any, is hereby approved and confirmed. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

6. DISCUSSION WITH TOWN CLERK RE: REDISTRICTING

Town Clerk Paul Munchbach updated on the federal census and re-precincting coming before the Select Board in the fall. Every ten years, the federal government does a census for updated, concise population growth, which begins at a local level to define legislative and congressional districts for voting and determine the state's number of representatives. The project started in 2018 with an outreach program to work with local state district to ensure that population numbers and the response rate for the federal census is high and as concise as possible.

The Town Clerk indicated that each precinct can be no more than 4,000 residents and that the town of Dedham cannot have more than 28,000 residents. The new projected total residents are 25,238, which increased from 24,479, representing approximately 500 residents. This may result in possible significant changes to the re-precincted boundary lines.

Since 2010, the state has created an independent organization, the Local Elections District Review Commission (LEDRC). The town and Select Board provided input, but the LEDRC makes the final determination. A local working group will be put together to address the matter. The working group will consist of a Select Board member, a member from GIS, the town engineer, town clerk, and if required, a member of the Planning Department. Census data will not be released until September, and subsequently, maps will be presented to the Select Board for a submission to be made by October 31, 2021.

The Town Clerk clarified that the precincts are voting precincts; if the precincts are changed, all town representatives will have to run again for their positions per Charter Section 2.3. A fact sheet will be distributed to provide more information.

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to appoint Mr. Coughlin to the redistricting working group. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sullivan. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

7. DISCUSSION AND VOTE RE: AMENDMENT TO TRAFFIC RULES AND REGULATIONS RE: LOADING ZONE IN DEDHAM SQUARE

A proposal was presented to the Select Board to amend certain parking regulations in Dedham Square. This results from an inquiry from business owners in the square related to the current loading zone, which operates from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, which is a long period for a loading zone.

Dedham Square has been extremely successful with the outdoor dining program, which has greatly benefitted restaurants through the pandemic. The community has also benefitted from

this, although 20 parking spaces were lost as a result. The request is to modify the loading zone to allow for 15-minute parking allowances for people to continue patronizing the businesses.

The proposal is for the loading zone to operate from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Monday through Saturday. From 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., the space would convert to 15-minute interval parking spaces through an honor system until a full-time parking officer is available on July 1, 2021.

The Select Board noted that as a result of the outdoor dining, the accessible parking spaces were eliminated; therefore, it was proposed to create accessible parking space across Dedham Square on the diner's side. It was clarified that this can be facilitated through Public Works and not the Select Board.

For the changes to be successful, business cooperation is required to organize delivery times within the new time frames. Messaging will be sent to all business owners about the new hours allowing a 60-day process for this change. The Chairman asked what happens if a delivery occurs outside of the prescribed time frame; in West Roxbury, the shipment is turned away if a delivery runs late.

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to amend the parking in Part 1 Schedule 1 in the Traffic Regulations for the loading zone from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday restriction on High Street, east of Washington Street, to a no-parking merchant loading zone from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday restriction within the same limits of High Street and amend Part 1 Schedule 1 of the Traffic Regulations to adopt 15-minute parking from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The motion was seconded by Mr. MacDonald. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

8. **DISCUSSION AND VOTE RE: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION APPOINTMENT (COMMISSION ON DISABILITY REPRESENTATIVE TO HRC)**

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to approve the appointment of Diane Loud as the Commission on Disability representative to the Human Rights Commission. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sullivan. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

9. **PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING UPDATE**

Mr. Goodwin provided the following Public Safety Building update:

- The project is progressing well and is on time and budget
- The cement work is continuing ahead of schedule
- Forms are coming down tomorrow with several other towers to be poured for the elevator shaft and other stair tower
- The goal is to have the structure up for the fall before winter begins

10. **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Filming in Dedham: Assistant Town Manager Baker provided an update on the filming of the series "Julia" as Ms. Kinder reached out to identify a location on Spruce Street for filming on Wednesday. The crew will be on Spruce Street on June 2, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

and will back to Marsh Street afterward. The consideration of the Spruce Street location was not included in the original approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Coughlin to add an item to the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. All were favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to approve the second location on Spruce Street for filming in the town of Dedham on June 2, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

Ames Building: The Ames building is nearing completion and scheduled to fully open on June 1, 2021, subject to any changes to guidance from the Governor. The punch list items are being worked out and work continues on the exterior of the building. The Ames building is a historic building that will require regular maintenance. One remaining challenge is parking until the public safety building is opened.

MBTA: Mr. Goodwin reported that MBTA will provide correspondence regarding Crane Street about several issues. A meeting is scheduled with MBTA next week to review the issues.

Hybrid Meeting Format: Tonight's meeting is the first hybrid meeting to allow both virtual and in-person presence in the new Town Hall building. Mr. Goodwin thanked the IT Director for allowing this to come to fruition. Camera technology will be used in this hybrid model to continue engagement while incorporating at-home participation and in-person attendance. The Governor has filed a bill to extend the emergency provisions to continue until September, allowing a legal opportunity to continue with a hybrid meeting model.

Memorial Day Weekend: Joe Hamilton outlined the Memorial Day event preparations. To commemorate the veterans, 25 volunteers put out 2,000 flags at local cemeteries. A memorial mass will be held at St. Mary's at 9:00 a.m. with a ceremony to follow at the American Legion. Wreaths will be placed at the Dedham Town Hall memorial that recognizes Dedham veterans. Following the wreath-laying, a brunch will be held. The flags will be lowered at sunrise on Memorial Day and raised at noon, as per proper protocol, to honor those who sacrificed their lives for our freedoms. The cemetery crew has done a great job caring for the cemetery. All volunteers and organizers were thanked for their efforts for the Memorial Day events.

11. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Library: Ms. MacDonald advised that the library is now open for in-person use.

MACC Cell Tower: Ms. MacDonald asked about the cell tower proposed at MACC and the meeting minutes requested regarding the approval of the original tower.

East Street Bridge: Mr. Goodwin requested a meeting with the MBTA to discuss the East Street Bridge. They are behind schedule on the work and concerns were expressed about the line. They will be requested to appear before the Select Board to discuss further.

Banner of Support:

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to display a banner in front of Dedham Town Hall stating, "Hate has no place in Dedham. All are welcome here". The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

12. REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to nominate Ms. Sullivan as the Chair of the Select Board. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Teehan made remarks acknowledging his position as Chairman and presented each Board member and town staff with a gift card to have dinner together as a group when all are comfortable. Mr. MacDonald acknowledged the great job done by Mr. Teehan to lead the Select Board, especially during the pandemic.

A motion was made by Mr. Coughlin to nominate Ms. MacDonald as the Vice-Chair of the Select Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. MacDonald. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

Ms. Sullivan assumed the position of Chairwoman of the Select Board and thanked all the Board members and expressed honor in serving the town of Dedham. Ms. Sullivan acknowledged that this is the first time the Select Board has a female Chair and a female Vice-Chair. It was also noted that all Boards, except for one, have female chairs.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2021.

A motion was made by Mr. Teehan to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. MacDonald. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

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