

Dimitria Sullivan, Chair  
Sarah E. MacDonald, Vice Chair  
James A. MacDonald  
Dennis J. Teehan, Jr.  
Kevin R. Coughlin

Leon I. Goodwin III  
Town Manager

Nancy A. Baker  
Assistant Town Manager



**TOWN OF DEDHAM**  
Select Board

DEDHAM TOWN HALL  
450 Washington Street  
P.O. BOX 306  
DEDHAM, MA 02026

TEL (781) 751-9100  
FAX (781) 751-9109  
TDD (781) 326-4946

WEBSITE  
[www.dedham-ma.gov](http://www.dedham-ma.gov)

E-mail Address for Select Board  
[freshideas@dedham-ma.gov](mailto:freshideas@dedham-ma.gov)

March 15, 2022

### **Public Comments to Select Board re: Proposed Project at 600 High Street (Police Station Property)**

All public comments submitted to the Select Board regarding the proposed project at 600 High Street (Police Station property) have been recorded and compiled into this PDF, as of March 15, 2022.

Comments shared during the two virtual Select Board Listening Sessions, on January 11, 2022 and January 18, 2022, are included in the meeting minutes. To review the meeting minutes, please visit the Select Board website at [www.dedham-ma.gov/government/town-management/select-board](http://www.dedham-ma.gov/government/town-management/select-board). If you were not able to attend the listening sessions, recordings are available on-demand from Dedham TV using the following links:

- January 11, 2022: [View online](#)
- January 18, 2022: [View online](#)

Note: Comments received by the Select Board following the publication of this document will be added to the record.

If you wish to submit comments to the Select Board regarding this project, please email [freshideas@dedham-ma.gov](mailto:freshideas@dedham-ma.gov) or submit written comments to:

Dedham Town Hall  
Attn: Select Board  
450 Washington Street  
Dedham, MA 02026

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Amy Baron [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:26 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Town Green

Dear Select Board,

I am writing in reference to the Dedham Square project at the former police station. As a Dedham resident, I was originally drawn to this town for its vibrant town square space. I would like to voice my support for the hard work of the Dedham Sq Planning Committee who, along with considerable public input, thoughtful evaluation, and professional consults, have proposed a really exciting green space idea. I support the design proposed. Specifically, I like the traffic calming measures, the safety of improved sidewalks, the creation of needed public space, and creative design of landscaping structures for multiple uses. I think having useful spaces for public use would benefit local businesses by improving the Square and giving patrons a destination, far more than a few more unsightly parking spots.

I feel it is important to TRUST a public-input process that has ALREADY done the work to evaluate many possible ideas and summarize it into a thoughtful proposal.

Finally, we should take advantage of the state funding offered to Dedham for this! It is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a really lovely unique public space that would be useful, safe, and attractive for everyone now and in the future.

Thank you,  
Amy Baron

January 19, 2022

Selectboard  
Town of Dedham  
450 Washington Street  
Dedham, MA 02026

Board Members: Dimitria Sullivan, Sarah MacDonald, Dennis Teehan, James MacDonald and Kevin Coughlin

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at last night's listening session. This letter is a hardcopy of my comments.

My name is Andrea Gilmore and I live at 66 Church Street. My husband, David and I have lived in Dedham for more than 30 years and we have served as Town Meeting members and on various Town Committees. I currently serve on the Historic District Commission. My long-time community service in Dedham has focused on the preservation of its historic buildings as well as public and open spaces.

I would like to present three points about the proposed reuse of the Police Station site this evening.

First, I would like to commend the Selectboard for choosing a representative and talented Committee to study and recommend how the current Police Station site should be reused. It is a model for how planning projects in Dedham should be studied and implemented and should give the Selectboard and Town Meeting members confidence in the Committee's recommendations.

Second, while I might not go so far as to say this is a "once in a life-time opportunity", I would definitely say it is an opportunity to be seized and not squandered. References have been made to the Commons in Norwood, Needham and Roslindale Square, all created in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and related to changes in transportation, most notably the coming of the railroads. By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, when the railroad came into Dedham Square, it was so densely built that there was little opportunity to create open space around its primary transportation and commercial hub. Now, with the open space created by the demolition of the Police Station this opportunity avails itself. The design presented by the Committee provides a community gathering space, a connector to residential neighborhoods, a link to public buildings (the library, the post office, the historical society, the courthouse and the churches) and a great enhancement for the businesses in Dedham Square. The transformative potential of this small area of open space is enormous.

My third and concluding comment is that the Town should take full advantage of all funding sources for this project. Creating budget limitations prior to exploring all funding options does

not serve Dedham well. Undoubtedly, as the project goes forward there will be design modifications and there may be cost adjustments, but the fundamental design should not be compromised. The stewardship of important town property, like the Police Station site, extends beyond this point in time we will all be judged by the foresight we have to use this site for its greatest potential.

Thank you.



Andrea M. Gilmore

RECEIVED  
TOWN OF DEDHAM  
JAN 24 2022  
TOWN ENGINEERING  
TIME \_\_\_\_\_

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Beth Emery [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 6:04 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Town Green Project at 600 High Street

January 17, 2022

Dear Members of the Select Board,

This email is in support of the proposed Town Green/Park at the site of the old police station.

I was particularly Impressed with the thorough job the Dedham Square Planning Committee (DSPC) did over the past two years to solicit community input and do research so that they could develop a report and share their final recommendations with all of you. They did an excellent job with community engagement by hosting multiple meetings, several which my family attended, held focus groups and connected with experts to find best ways to support local businesses and develop a plan with so many benefits. I have chosen a few to highlight below:

- Economic benefits: Parks drive traffic to businesses that are closeby. Increased restaurant business provides more funds to Robin Reyes fund. Events in the park are likely to attract more visitors which will support the local businesses. Parks help increase property values which would then increase tax income for Dedham.
- Community benefits: A town green can serve as a central gathering point for all Dedham residents that can strengthen our community. It is a great location and walking distance to the historical society, the Senior Center, the Library, local churches and more.
- Environmental benefits: A town green would help add shade, lower temperatures, improve air quality and sequester carbon. It could provide an area to cool down on a hot day. Solar panels could contribute to power lights in the evening. The space provides opportunities for trees, native plantings and protect pollinators. The park will qualify for grant funding through the Federal Land and Water Conservation.

I am excited to support the recommendations of the DSPC and as a Town Meeting member would vote to fund this project. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to make a positive impact on our town for generations to come.

Thank you.

Beth Emery  
Sawyer Drive

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** bethany hedt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 2:08 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Support of Town Green at corner of High and Washington St

Dear Select Board members -

I am a Dedham resident on Maple Place; I am very invested in the plans for the current police station and want to voice my support for the Town Green that has been proposed and you are currently considering.

Just in the five years that we have lived on Maple, we have seen so much growth in Dedham, particularly in Dedham Square. But there is more our town can do to foster a sense of community, to draw people to the town, and to bring more economic and business interest to the area.

I like the idea of a town square as it can be a flexible space. For much of the year, it can be a pretty area to sit and enjoy aspects of the Square - currently, we don't have a place to eat ice cream or to eat takeout, or to chat with friends over a cup of coffee. This will also be a place we can bring people together - there are so many smaller events that could be hosted there. Finally, as a resident who has nearly been hit by a car 4 times at the postoffice crossing, I am really pleased at some of the traffic dampening and pedestrian safety aspects of the proposal.

I am so optimistic for that space. I have \*lots\* of specific ideas if you want more to think about. Sincerely,  
Bethany Gauthier  
89 Maple Pl

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Bob LoPorto [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 7:21 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Dedham Square

Good evening,

If I'm reelected as a TMM this spring I will vote in favor of this project as is. I went to one of the first meetings at the Endicott Estate regarding this project and spoke to the hosts after the meeting about my concerns about the parking. After our discussion, I understood how it will all work and I'm in full support of this project as is.

Thank you,  
Bob LoPorto  
148 Crane St  
Open Space and Rec Chair.

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Bev Poole [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 5:24 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Cc:** Jim MacDonald  
**Subject:** TOWN GREEN PROJECT

I will be unable to attend the virtual meetings regarding the Town Green Project, but would like to, respectfully, suggest that the Town Green be dedicated to the 37 Dedham men who lost their lives in WWII, as was the old, wooden Town Hall (yes, I remember it!) that once stood on that land. I think it would be appropriate and fitting that that part of history be repeated in a new project.

Thank you,  
Bev Poole (Russ' wife)



## Amanda Smith

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**From:** CARMEN DELLOIACONO [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 6:16 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Old police station

Respected members of the board,

I am writing to you to voice my concern about the proposed project for the old police station in Dedham square.

Although I agree and appreciate "green space" I don't agree with this project as designed.

During discussions at the BPCC for the new police /fire station green space was discussed at length and the final design was presented and approved with a well thought out area for Dedham square. This thoughtful space when completed will enhance the square.

The simple solution would be to level the lot and install needed parking with a 10'-12' grass buffer with trees around the perimeter.

Thank you  
Carmen

Carmen Dello Iacono  
[REDACTED]

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** James MacDonald  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 7:39 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Fwd: Carla Foley shared the folder "Mansfield" with you.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Carla Foley [REDACTED]  
**Date:** January 18, 2022 at 4:40:53 PM EST  
**To:** James MacDonald <jmacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>  
**Subject:** Carla Foley shared the folder "Mansfield" with you.



**Carla Foley shared the folder "Mansfield" with you.**

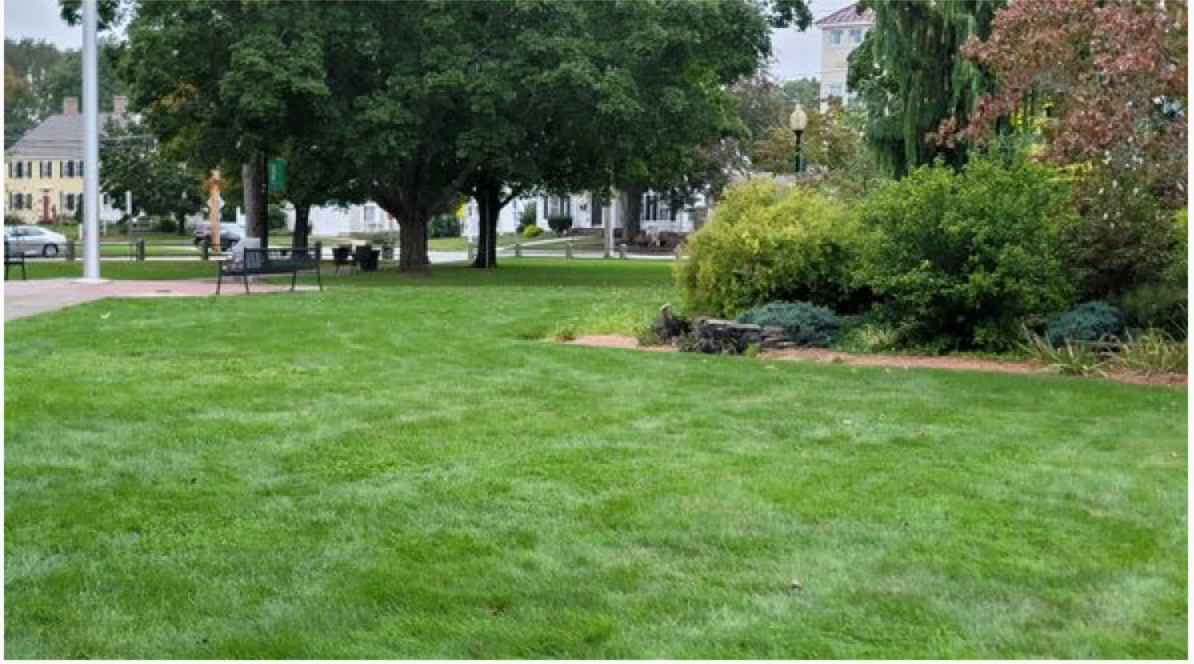
Carla Foley shared the folder "Mansfield" with you.











Mansfield

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## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Cindy Gillan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 8:36 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** RE: Dedham Town Green project

[Here, with the correct email address.](#)

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**From:** Cindy Gillan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 8:31 PM  
**To:** freshideas@dedham.ma.gov  
**Subject:** Dedham Town Green project

Greetings, Select Board Members -

My name is Cindy Gillan and I reside at 236 East Street in Precinct 6. I was unable to make it to the listening session tonight to offer my comments but would like to add to the many positive comments to date:

First, I wholeheartedly endorse the plan as presented and am grateful to all who worked for the past few years on this project. The level of professionalism and community engagement was remarkable and a good example for future projects in our town.

Secondly, as an avid cyclist and someone who tends to ride into and through the square as a preference to driving, I have just one specific comment that pertains to the parking on High Street. I particularly appreciate the recommendation to substitute the angled parking spots with parallel parking in front of the current police station. Drivers naturally have a better chance of seeing an approaching car or cyclist from a parallel parked spot. Needless to say, I see this feature of the plan as a plus and hope that including these spots eases some of the parking crunch that is mentioned on occasion.

Lastly, if I/we have learned nothing else over the past couple of years during this pandemic, it is the need for community and connection. Dedham has answered some of that need with the outdoor dining and other changes. Thank you. I believe that this Town Green plan offers a chance for not only a physical infrastructure that is attractive but functional and can serve many purposes and group interests. The intent to include features that also create a social infrastructure to complement our library, town hall, Dedham Historical Society, and numerous businesses in town is encompassed in this brilliant plan.

I urge you, Select Board Members, to please move forward with this project! Maintain the vision that has been presented so thoughtfully and completely. Let's not squander this great opportunity. Dedham needs it and deserves it!

Thanks for "listening",  
Cindy G.



## **Amanda Smith**

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**From:** Cherylann Sheehan <cws@whslegal.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 10:39 AM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Proposed Town Green in Dedham Square

Dear Select Board,

Happy New Year. I hope you and your families are all healthy and able to enjoy this nice winter weather.

I wanted to express my support for the proposed Town Green put forth by the Dedham Square Planning Committee. I have heard that it will cost the town \$2,000,000 to \$4,300,000. Despite the cost and because I strongly believe it will enhance the look and feel of Dedham Square, I support the project. I think a Town Green will make the Square a more welcoming and healthy place to visit and be. When I drive through the Square on weekends in good weather, I am always pleasantly surprised at the number of people, especially young families, who are visiting the square and enjoying the coffee shops, restaurants and stores. I like the fact that Dedham Square had become more vibrant and welcoming over the years. I believe a Town Green will increase that vibrancy and welcoming feeling. That's what I want for the town.

I understand residents' concerns about the cost, but again, I believe that type of investment in our Square will bring more people to the Square which will help the businesses and show that Dedham is family-oriented. I also think more people will walk to the Square if there is a pleasant spot to sit and enjoy a cup of coffee, a sandwich, a pastry and the people-watching.

Over the years, Dedham Square has become more "brick and mortar", which gives it a more city-feel. I think a Town Green can help alleviate that feeling.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to the residents. I hope you vote favorably to promote this project.

Warm regards,

Cherylann

***Attorney Cherylann W. Sheehan***

Winbourne, Hampe & Sheehan

411 Washington Street

Dedham, MA. 02026

Tel: 781-326-1084

Fax: 781-326-7465

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Cherylann Sheehan <cws@whslegal.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 11:13 AM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Town Green

Dear members of the Select Board,

I wrote to you recently regarding my support for the proposed Town Green in Dedham Square and stated that I felt a price tag of \$2,000,000 to \$4,300,000 was worth the investment.

Since I wrote to you, I have had a conversation with a member of the Warrant and Finance Committee who told me the town cannot afford to spend \$4,300,000 on a Town Green at this point. My understanding is that our approved budget is rather tight right now.

I understand taxpayers' concerns about rising real estate tax bills and I know the Select Board will take that into consideration when making this decision.

I'm hoping that we can find a way to develop the current Police Station parcel as green space, even if the plan is scaled down to a simpler and more affordable cost to the Town. Knowing that the Town's finances are tight makes a difference. We shouldn't be spending money we don't have, but I still feel an open and green space in the Square should be how we develop that property.

Thank you – again.

Cherylann

***Attorney Cherylann W. Sheehan***

Winbourne, Hampe & Sheehan

411 Washington Street

Dedham, MA. 02026

Tel: 781-326-1084

Fax: 781-326-7465

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Danielle DeLuca [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:38 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Cc:** Sarah MacDonald; Dimitria Sullivan; Jessica Porter  
**Subject:** Support for Dedham Town Green

Dear members of the Dedham Select Board,

I am writing to convey my enthusiastic support for plans for the town green at the old police station location, as they have been described in the final report of the DSPC. This design is clearly aligned with the priorities described in the Dedham Master Plan and we should take every opportunity to implement it.

As a member of the Dedham Cycle Club and current chair of the Active Transportation Working Group, and as a parent to young kids, I am very supportive of the designs which will allow for a destination for people walking and biking in the square. Some of the features that I think are especially crucial include the following:

1. Removal of the angled parking currently at the police station.
2. Tabling Church St and bumping out curbs at crosswalks.
3. Bike racks- there is a major shortage of places to park a bicycle in the Square currently. There is currently one non-functional space within the keystone lot (the rack is located too close to a bench leaving insufficient space to park most bikes). When I ride my bike to the square, I often have to lock it to sign posts or leave it obstructing the sidewalk, both of which are inappropriate. I love the idea of including electric bike charging station. (Or simply a weather-proof outlet). I have an electric cargo bike and would make use of this feature.
4. Hill for kids to play on- this is a simple and low cost way for kids to have fun at the green. The hills in front of the new ECEC are very popular for this purpose!
5. Native tree plantings, to increase shade and climate resiliency.
6. Educational and historical signage, especially acknowledging the land's original inhabitants. I would like to note that having worked in the field of Indigenous Peoples human rights for over a decade, and having worked closely with the DHSM and local Tribal leaders to carry out Dedham's first celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day this past October, I would be happy to be included in planning the appropriate verbiage to be included on the sign by bringing in expertise of the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag on whose land Dedham was founded.

Thank you for taking my thoughts into your consideration regarding the approval of the design plans.

Sincerely,

--

Danielle DeLuca  
P5 Town Meeting Member  
37 Tarbox St  
[REDACTED]

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Dan O'Neil [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 17, 2021 7:58 AM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Fwd: Question about the town green project

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Dan O'Neil [REDACTED]  
**Date:** December 17, 2021 at 7:34:55 AM EST  
**To:** jsisson@dedham-ma.gov  
**Subject:** Question about the town green project

Good morning John,

I am writing as someone that supports the plan and it would be great to have a green space in the square., but we also have a need for more parking in the square. Is there a way to use a portion of this property for off street parking as well?

The square is already challenging to park in even with all the spaces on street and municipal when all are available and even more so when outdoor dining is going on and much of the on street parking is taken up for this. The town truly could use some more spaces in the square. I'm looking at the proposal and there looks like an area next to the Verizon building that could be used for off street parking.

A town green is great and I will certainly use it when completed, but what good is it people can't park to enjoy it. Not everyone walks or bikes and people are differently abled. I think adding some parking would make this project more amenable to our entire community and I hope you will consider it.

Thank you

Dan O'Neil

Sent from my iPhone

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Dan O'Neil [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 19, 2021 9:37 AM  
**To:** John Sisson  
**Cc:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Re: Question about the town green project

[Download Attachment](#)  
[Available until Jan 18, 2022](#)

Good morning

I wanted to add this video to show you what my idea is and highlight why adding parking to the project is critical to the square.

[Click to Download](#)

[Video.mov](#)  
0 bytes

I hope you will give this serious consideration.

Thanks

Dan  
Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 17, 2021, at 7:34 AM, Dan O'Neil [REDACTED] wrote:

Good morning John,

I am writing as someone that supports the plan and it would be great to have a green space in the square., but we also have a need for more parking in the square. Is there a way to use a portion of this property for off street parking as well?

The square is already challenging to park in even with all the spaces on street and municipal when all are available and even more so when outdoor dining is going on and much of the on street parking is taken up for this. The town truly could use some more spaces in the square. I'm looking at the proposal and there looks like an area next to the Verizon building that could be used for off street parking.

A town green is great and I will certainly use it when completed, but what good is it people can't park to enjoy it. Not everyone walks or bikes and people are differently abled. I think adding some parking would make this project more amenable to our entire community and I hope you will consider it.

Thank you

Dan O'Neil

Sent from my iPhone

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Ellen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 6:49 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Green space at old police station location

Greetings:

I want to express my thoughts regarding the possible use of space at the old police station location. I have always been an advocate of developing this area into a park/green space area for the residents of Dedham (and visitors to our town) to enjoy. My vision is a nice park with benches, possibly a gazebo, some parking on the edge of the park. Old fashioned lighting would also be nice. I am not in favor of any type of bandstand or entertainment area. I am also not in favor of spending 4.3 million dollars for this type of park. As you all are aware, our taxes continue to go up for the many projects that the town has undertaken in recent years. We do not have to burden our citizens with any more debt than is necessary. From what I understand, a nice park can be developed in the 2 million dollar price range. I would support this type of project. Thank you for your consideration.

Ellen Burns (Dist. 2 Rep.)  
278 Riverside Drive, Dedham  
[REDACTED]

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Leon Goodwin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 10:21 AM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Fw: Town Green Support

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**From:** Evan Grenier [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 10:12 AM  
**To:** Leon Goodwin <lgoodwin@dedham-ma.gov>  
**Subject:** Town Green Support

Hi Leon,

I won't be able to participate in the listening session this evening (we have 3 little ones that will be requiring our attention at that time) but I wanted to voice my family's strong support of the Town Green. We're always looking for opportunities to get the kids outside and the new Town Green would be another great opportunity to get to the Square and have a sandwich or ice cream outside.

I'd like to maximize the greenery and tree shade in the area, but also having some hardscape for access and seating. Adding additional parking is not a concern or priority to our family.

Thank you  
Evan and Colleen Grenier  
80 Sanderson Ave.



January 19, 2022

Select Board  
Town of Dedham  
26 Bryant St.  
Dedham, MA 02026

Re: Proposed Town Green

Dear Honorable Board:

It is surely both a rare opportunity and a daunting challenge to chart a new course for as important a parcel to the Town as has been made available by the excessing of the Police Station. After following the work of the DSPC closely, I am thankful for an opportunity to chime in with a few thoughts as the Board considers the matter.

The undeniable engine of an attractive and thriving town center is commercial vitality. This is increasingly present in ours, and it has been stimulated and supported by recent development. We know that more development is coming, and that there are ample enough sites where on a near horizon it is almost inevitable. While commercial development is not something that the Town can appropriately undertake and pursue, the creation of a useful, attractive and dignified public space is something it is uniquely able to do. Only the Town itself could ever afford to dedicate a truly prime and substantial space for solely public use.

Following the DSPC's conclusions and report, public discussion has only amplified the real consensus that a public park convenient to the center is an amenity that is absent and ardently missed. If creating such a space is to be pursued, then delivering it to the town must be seen as an important opportunity to establish a high bar for quality of design concept and aesthetic detail for other projects to come. Achieving this high bar can be used as both a success to inspire and a standard to measure the commercial development and renewal proposals which lie down the road. A town that is willing to lead by example when it comes to quality of concept and design is well positioned to demand the same of others.

Clarity of concept and excellence of design detail are rare enough things in themselves. To have them emerge in tandem from a committee process involving genuine engagement with the varied input of so many people over such a long period is almost miraculous. It must be understood to speak to the qualities of those in leadership. The fine end product here is something to be embraced and respected not just because of the tremendous amount of work which went into it, but because it bodes so well for the continued success of the project.

No doubt it will cost a lot. Everything does. Even things of mediocre quality do now. It is easy to spend money and get no value, and we all understand that quality costs more than mediocrity. A high visibility project in the public realm if it is to be durably successful must be of high quality, and if it is not (or cannot be), then it is probably better not to undertake it at all. In short, this is no back of the house matter for Dedham. To an extent perhaps even greater than the

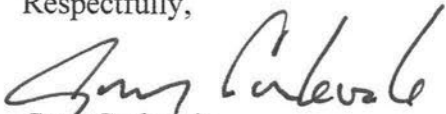
Town Hall or Public Safety Building, the keen eyes of judgement will be on the details of the end result of this project.

In particular, I would encourage the Board not to try to answer complaints about parking at the expense of the carefully considered and critically important lines of connection between the proposed Green and the streetscape around it. Whether the final result yields a net gain of a half dozen spaces or some similar loss, those complaints will persist, just as they will about the weather, taxes, and Red Sox pitching. Meanwhile, it makes little sense to design, fund and construct a beautiful park only to entirely conceal it behind a scrim of parked cars.

Certainly, there will be adjustments to plan (and likely compromises) as the idea gets wrestled into reality. That is only a natural progress. The team that has been thus far setting the course, raising the sails, and tending the rudder has more than proven that they can be relied on to keep well toward the ultimate destination. From what I see and hear around town, there are many like myself who are so impressed with what has come thus far from this group that we are willing to grab an oar and help in tangible ways if that is useful.

This proposal deserves to see the full light of day, and to be endorsed as the high-quality product that it is. It is always an open question, and legitimately so, whether there is general appetite for the additional cost to residents that it will represent. Healthy public discussion and a vote will settle that, but in any event the town should not be shortchanged of a full consideration of what is both a lucky and well-earned opportunity to make its own brilliant contribution to the continued enhancement of our town center.

Respectfully,



Greg Carlevale

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Irene Wieder [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:04 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Dedham Square police parcel

Dear Select Board,

I'd like to express my strong support for the Dedham Square Planning Committee report regarding the police building parcel. The report described a plan that would beautify the town square and make that parcel of land a potential economic driver for the businesses in the square. Towns in many neighboring communities (ex. Needham, Norwood) have town greens that are used by the community as a place for people to relax, interact with each other and perhaps share take-out from a local restaurant. Workers from the courthouse might also be more inclined to eat a take-out meal from a local restaurant. This green space would be a gift to members of the present Dedham community but also a gift to future generations. An opportunity like this does not happen often.

I encourage you to support the DSPC report in its entirety. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards, Irene Wieder- Riverdale section of Dedham

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Josh Donati [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 8:06 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Cc:** Courtney Donati  
**Subject:** Town Green Project

Good Evening Select Board Members,

We wanted to write to you all to express our strong support as a family of two young boys for this Town Green project as proposed by the Dedham Square Planning Committee. We were so impressed by the outreach this Committee did to engage hundreds of Dedham citizens to gain input and gather feedback from the public.

When we first heard of this project, we were so excited that there might finally be a safe place in the square for our family to hang out, get take out and even gather with friends. We are hoping that the thorough work of the DSPC, and the eventual report that they generated, will be adopted in full.

We really appreciate the listening sessions from the past two weeks, and it was clear from the overwhelming support from the speakers that this project as it is written has enormous support in the community. This, along with the many people that participated all along through the process, is the type of engagement that we always hope to see when it comes to any project.

Finally, we are really hoping that we don't lose some of the great features of this project because some folks have been advocating to add more parking spaces. We drive to the square often and never have an issue finding a spot. It would be so great for Dedham to have a town square that stands out among the neighboring towns. This project can do that for our town. Let's make it happen!

Thank you for your time,

Josh, Courtney, Jack and Leo Donati

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Jim Hooper [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 2:49 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Cc:** Dimitria Sullivan; Dennis Teehan; Kevin Coughlin; James MacDonald; Sarah MacDonald  
**Subject:** Dedham Town Green proposal  
**Attachments:** Letter to Select Board re- Town Green FINAL 1.17.22.pdf

Dear Honorable Select Board members:

Attached is my letter regarding the 12/6/21 Report & Plan for a Dedham Town Green at 600 High Street in advance of your 2nd "Listening Session" scheduled for this Tuesday evening.  
Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Hooper  
Wampanatuck Road  
Dedham

--:--

Jim Hooper  
[www.jim-hooper.com](http://www.jim-hooper.com)  
[REDACTED]

# JAMES E HOOPER

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ZERO WAMPATUCK ROAD  
DEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, 02026

January 17, 2022

Dear Honorable Select Board of Dedham:

I am writing to register my strongest support for the Dedham Square Planning Committee's (DSPC) plan for a Town Green as detailed in their 12/6/21 report to the Select Board and to the citizens of Dedham.

This Report and its accompanying Dedham Town Green design are "best-in-class" in & of themselves, and the open & collaborative process that the DSPC coordinated in its creation provides a blueprint for future successful civic engagement.

I also want to add my voice to that of many of my fellow citizens in urging the Select Board to maintain the integrity of this plan's design and move the plan forward *in its current form & size*.

Specifically, the true genius of this design, and the reason it is so widely admired, lies in the way that it combines several different critical planning solutions....here are a few examples:

- It promotes pedestrian safety through its crosswalk design;
- It curates a variety of ways our community can use the space and encourages meaningful community interactions with one another, both planned and spontaneous;
- It provides an excellent balance of hardscape and green space, and has many of the same elements that make the Post Office Square Park in Boston's Financial District such a successful design;
- It provides a variety of "buffers" between the park and the adjacent traffic flow & parking, e.g.- seating walls, raised planting beds, etc. (...by the way, the absence of these "buffers" is a significant design flaw in Needham's Town Park);
- It replaces the current dangerous & congestion-producing angled parking spaces with a better parking design that is more appropriate to the Square's current high traffic density & flow;
- It uses "design alchemy" to expand the existing confines of the site and convert its perimeter into useable, *inviting* community space;

The goal of reducing costs (i.e. "value engineering") is an inevitable and important component of any development project, but there are proven & accepted "best practices" in achieving project budget efficiencies. Most *successful* projects do include a value engineering phase, but widely recognized best practices used in achieving these design modifications include major input from the design team with the goal of maintaining & preserving the integrity of a good design.

I was disappointed to learn that the Town has begun looking at ways to scale back the project without seeking any input from the DSPC or the Town Green design team....even after 2 years of their collaborative work & civic engagement. This is a confusing response to a thoughtfully & carefully developed plan, born out of 2 years of a community-wide, consensus-building process.

In the context of building Dedham's ~\$55 million Public Safety Building and a >\$20 million Town Hall acquisition/renovation, the current estimate of \$4.3 for a Town Green that will benefit all Dedham citizens seems downright affordable and well within the budgetary constraints of our Town. Even more so given almost half of the Town Green costs would be covered by federal, state, and private grants.

I do not believe that arbitrary cost-cutting will preserve the integrity of the current design. I do not believe this approach will deliver the final product that so many citizens of Dedham had in mind when they participated in and were excited by the "visioning" sessions hosted by the DSPC, and I do not believe this approach will lead to a successful project outcome.

And as well-intended as the Select Board's motivations are, I believe another unintended consequence will be to reduce enthusiasm among interested and capable Dedham citizens to participate in future community engagement efforts.

Over the course of my career in real estate, I have seen other commercial projects receive this type of "expedient" value engineering approach without input from the team that had conceived the program and performed the design.....these projects rarely ended well, and this type of approach never delivered a project of which anyone involved was ever truly proud.

As I stated during the Select Board's 1st "listening session", apparently the original Memorial Hall on this site also experienced a similar type of ad hoc "value engineering" from a "town committee" and it didn't end well then, either. We all would be well advised to consider the following excerpt from the Wikipedia entry about Memorial Hall's mid-19th century re-design as a cautionary tale:

*Though Town Meeting had appropriated virtually unlimited funds for the project, a town committee tried to save money by cutting out several elements.<sup>[17]</sup> The changes left it with a slightly unfinished appearance from the outside and an interior "utterly barren of all decent conveniences."<sup>[17]</sup> As a result, it was described as Dedham's "monument alike to her dead soldiers and to living stupidity."<sup>[17]</sup>*

For the past two centuries, 600 High Street has been the most significant, 100% location in our Town Center. The Town Green that has been proposed by the DSPC will be enjoyed by, and will touch the lives of, every member of this community for the next 100-200 years. The quality and utility of this project will be remembered long after its cost is forgotten.

The Select Board has done a great job so far of demonstrating the leadership & vision to craft and support a truly great Dedham Square Planning Committee; you can proudly take your share of credit for 2 years of a job well done by this committee and the resulting inspirational design.

You have an excellent completed report and Town Green design in your hands.....now, please, take the win and move the process forward.

As the great architect and town planner Daniel Burnham said, "*Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood....*"

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Hooper  
Wampatuck Rd.  
Dedham



## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Hyde, Jennifer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 2:35 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Dedham Town Green- support for plan

Good morning and happy new year!

I am writing today to voice my support for the construction of the Dedham Town Green as outlined in the report of the DSPC.

The large investment of resources and time to produce this plan was well worth it. What a collaborative process and what an opportunity to show what can be achieved when people invest themselves in their town! I was able to attend some of them and I was impressed by how thorough and thoughtful they were. The fact that so many citizens were able to make time for this given their other stressors, particularly the pandemic, make the product of the report truly remarkable.

I was fortunate to help spearhead the redesign of the Dedham Community House Pool in 2008 when we had to raise money during the economic collapse to do the right thing and build the right facility. There was no end to my pride after it was done as I watched families enjoy the space, knowing I had been a part of it's creation. I felt like it may have been one of the most impactful things I ever did.

I think it is critical that the town follow through on this plan. Having a safe, beautiful space that also improves traffic flow and walkability is a great opportunity for our town. It should be usable all year long. Let's build the park that was recommended. Let's reward citizenship and active participation. This park will be our legacy. It will be your legacy.

Thank you so much for your thoughtful consideration and all that you have done to support our beautiful Dedham.

Dr. Jennifer Hyde  
Willow Street

Jennifer M. Hyde, MD, FAAP  
Westwood-Mansfield Pediatrics  
454 Chauncy Street  
Mansfield, MA 02048  
508-339-9944  
[www.wmpeds.com](http://www.wmpeds.com)

Chair, Board of Directors  
PPOC  
<https://www.ppochildrens.org/>

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** James Maher [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 8:51 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas; Leon Goodwin; jbethoney@dedham-ma.gov; Mike Podolski; Jim McGrail; jeobrien@dedham-ma.gov; Jessica Porter  
**Subject:** Police Station Lot

Dear Select Board and Planning Board,

Sorry, but I'm not able to attend the meeting tomorrow night due to wrestling practice.

As a former member of the Dedham Square Study Committee, I'm surprised that the Committee never finalized a report the Select Board and Planning Board on their recommendations for improvements to Dedham Square. Somehow the Dedham Square Planning Committee has spent Town funds without input and guidance from both Boards on the development of the Police Station lot. There were a number improvement areas that the Dedham Square Study Committee were researching to help improve the Square. What happened to all that research and why was the focus only put on this one project?

I believe a small park is great idea, but I feel that both of your Boards have been pushed into a corner and will be made to look like the bad guys if you don't wholly endorse this project due to all the ground work, community input and advertising done for this project. They should have gotten Select Board and Planning Board approval before any further work was done on this project. Sadly, our primary Town Leaders are being set up for failure.

Areas to consider before voting for this 4.3 million park.

- 1) The number one issue per businesses and residents in Dedham is parking in Dedham Square. Where are the suggested improvements from the Study Committee?
- 2) If we are going to continue with on street dining in Dedham Square and the loss of those parking spots, there needs to be a suggested improvements to help those businesses and residents effected.
- 3) Removing any parking around the Police lot, plus continuing on street dining will impact businesses and residents.
- 4) Removal of the Police Station could be \$800K to 1 Million and still this will be the most expensive park ever built in Dedham at **\$224.49 per square foot**.
- 5) During peak business travel hours, Dedham Square is very difficult to get through in a timely manner. When were the traffic studies done? Was it done during Covid?, when the traffic in Dedham Square was limited.
- 6) Decreasing the traffic lane widths around the park will impact Dedham Square traffic and cause a bottle neck of frustration for residents going to or coming from Riverdale.
- 7) Have all individual businesses been polled on their input on the Park? If I owned a restaurant in Dedham Square, I would want to keep my customers seated spending money in my restaurant.
- 8) Lastly the cost per Square Foot will set a precedent in this Town for future parks. All Square footage was from Town GIS.

Manor Park- \$16,500, 000.00 divided by 1,120,458 square feet = \$22.68 per Sq. Ft.

Gonzalez Field- \$2,300,000.00 divided by 101,420 square feet = \$14.78 per Sq. Ft.

Trenton Playground- \$450,000.00 divided by 39,652 square feet = \$11.35 per Sq. Ft.

**Lastly, Police Station lot- \$4,300,000.00 divided by 14,700 square feet = \$292.56 per Sq. Ft. (Minus building removal cost = \$224.49 per Sq. Ft)**

If this project is scaled back and parking become the number one focus for Dedham Square, I feel both of your Boards will get support at Spring Town Meeting.

Sincerely,

James Maher  
22 Sherman Rd

P5 Town Meeting Member

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Janine Murphy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 21, 2022 11:02 AM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Dedham Town Green

Dear Select Board Members,

First, thank you for your service. I appreciate the extraordinary commitment of valuable time and energy that you make to our good town.

Secondly, thank you for the wonderful listening session earlier this week.

I urge you to adopt the plan put forth so thoughtfully by the DSPC. I echo the ideas of the speakers the other night (1/18/22) regarding green space that is beautiful, environmentally beneficial, accessible, business-friendly, and family-friendly, to name just a few of the notions attributed to this amazing plan. We live in the Oakdale/Endicott area and find ourselves walking to town to conduct business or to have a cup of coffee or just to take a walk. We are most eager to have a park-like destination and hope you can support it.

Sincerely,  
Janine Clifford-Murphy  
38 Norwell Rd

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Nancy Baker  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 18, 2021 4:30 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Dedham Square Park 600 High St

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**From:** James OBrien [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 18, 2021 2:20 PM  
**To:** Nancy Baker <nbaker@dedham-ma.gov>; Leon Goodwin <lgoodwin@dedham-ma.gov>  
**Cc:** mike podalski [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Proposed Dedham Square Park 600 High St

Dear Nancy and Leon:

I am hoping that Select Board will find in favour of approving and endorsing the Proposal by the Dedham Square Planning Committee for Green Space for 600 High St .

As a Planning Board member for close to 20 yrs; I have always felt that this was the only thing missing within our Town that is Traditional to a New England Town! Especially to one that is as old as ours is and has so much history!

We as a Planning Board have unanimously endorsed the hard work by the Dedham Square Planning Committee and it's conclusion that a Green Space is the best suitable use for this Historical Area that was once our Town Hall also known as Memorial Hall .

So please accept our endorsement for this use and I would personally wish to add another request to the Select Board if they so choose to endorse a Green Space . This is a personal request will require some further explanation.

As many of this Select Board know I have lived in Dedham my whole life of 60 Yrs and I am also of a heritage of another 5 generations of Town Residents . My collective memory goes back to the 1860's and I have memories of Memorial Hall and it's historical significance to our Town and the Civil War. It was a great shame to lose this important Memorial and the sacrifices made by our Town residents when it was taken down !

So I have a great reverence for this Hall and the land where it has formally rested! I would like to find a way to honour this revered ground for future generations to know and honour as well .

I believe I ve found a way that would do this by submitting this drawing of prototype memorial Water feature to placed in the proposed Green Space . Since a water feature has been enormously supported I believe a design being proposed by a Dedham resident would be more appropriate then an outside consultant and contractor!

The below attachment is a water fountain that will be a memorial for Dedham Residents. This memorial would honour all citizens who have volunteered their time over all the generations that have lived in Dedham since 1636 . From those who were know from those who have been unknown or forgotten . The middle of Dedham Square would be the appropriate place to honour those Citizens!

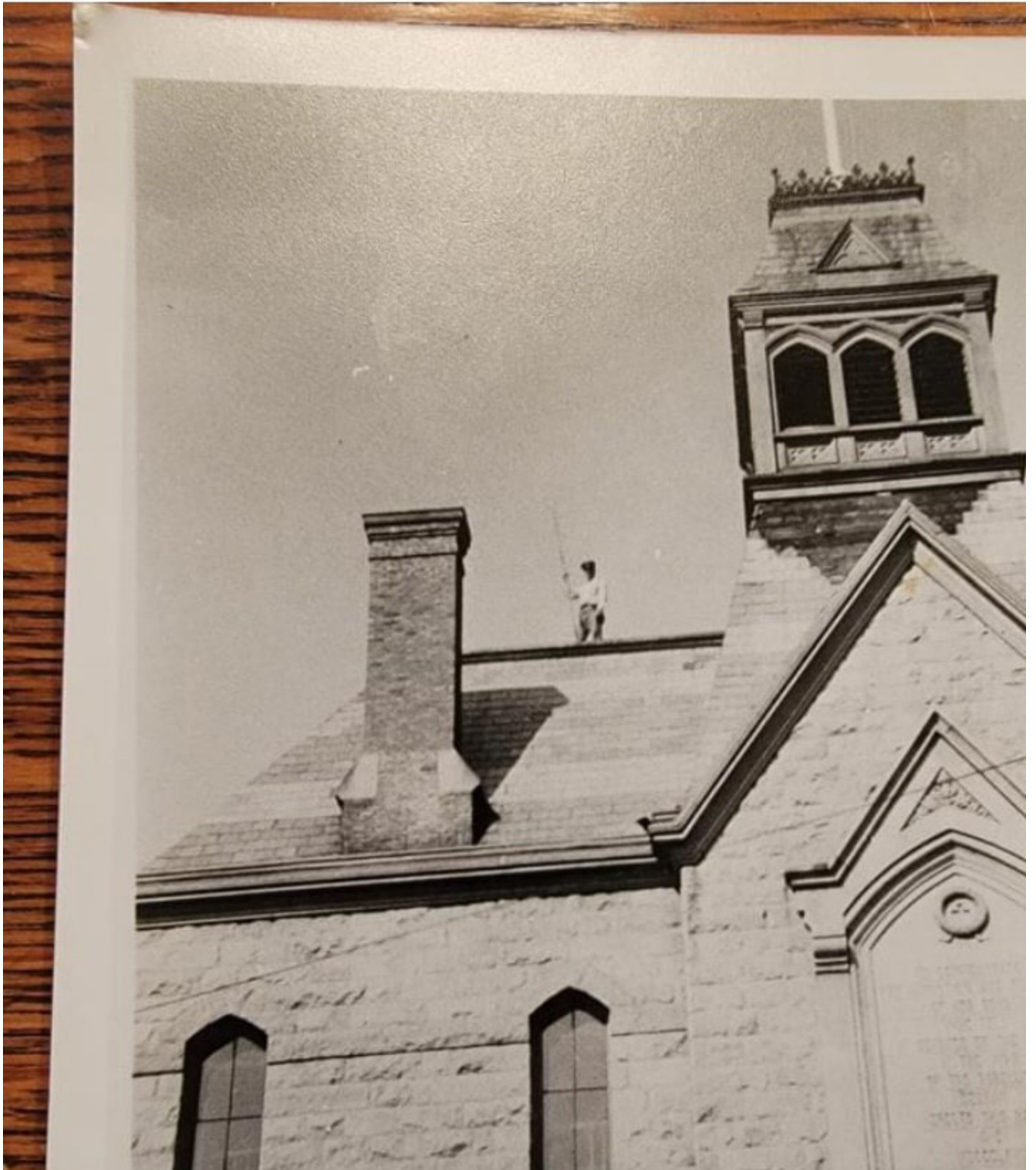
The use of a fountain would also have symbolic significance to our Town's history and it's founding as our Town Founder's came down the Charles River. Second the fountain would consist of Dedham Granite to symbolise the bones

and foundation of this Town . A Dedham granite wall would also give a lasting reverence to Memorial Hall and its sacred ground . As if a wall still remains of old Memorial Hall .

Please review the attachment and understand this is just an idea drawing and I will have architectural drawings finished Friday with a conceptual rendering of how it would look within the proposed Green Space. I also will have specific cost of materials with donations to be used to offset the cost of this “Citizens Memorial to Contentment” !

I would hope to meet with the Select Board in the future on this concept if the Green Space is endorsed by this Board!

Thank you for Time  
James OBrien





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## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Jessica Porter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 6, 2022 9:57 AM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas; Leon Goodwin  
**Subject:** Thoughts on town green  
**Attachments:** Dedham Square Planning Committee - Report - Final.pdf

Dear Dimitria, Sarah, Jim, Kevin and Dennis,

I know you'll be discussing the Town Green project at your meeting tonight. In hopes that it might be helpful for your conversation, I'd like to share a few thoughts.

First, I've attached the final report from the DSPC. I believe it was already sent to you, but I want to flag that in addition to fixing some typos, the final report includes some links to studies about lane width and traffic capacity. Given some of your questions on Nov 18th about the proposed safety improvements, we thought it might be helpful to see data showing that reducing lane widths in this type of intersection would not reduce the capacity or level of service at the intersection. The public safety changes the DSPC researched are explained on pp 26-27; the studies are linked on page 33. The final version also includes a summary of the detailed cost breakdown, beginning on page 39.

I know you're exploring the full range of options for 600 High Street. In its most simple form, the town has a range of choices of what to build but there's a smaller range in terms of what those choices will cost taxpayers.

1. At one end of the spectrum, the town could spend \$1.7-2m of town money to get a \$2-2.3m green space.
2. At the other end, the town could spend ~\$2.3m on a \$4.3m green space as depicted in the DSPC report, one that also includes public safety & traffic improvements and a number of environmental benefits.
3. There is also space in the middle of these two extremes where the town could spend \$1.7-2m on a ~\$3.5-3.7m green space that includes the public safety & traffic improvements and environmental benefits, but cuts a few features altogether, phases other features, and serves as its own general contractor.

What's consistent though is that the town will likely end up spending \$1.7-2m, because a scaled back version that is substantially smaller and doesn't have the safety and environmental features simply won't qualify for the multiple public and private grants that would be available to a more comprehensive project.

As Mike and I said during the presentation in November, we do see some options for phasing and simplifying to bring the total down from \$4.3m - to get to #3. And of course the change of status with Verizon will also bring the costs down a bit. The offer to discuss those ideas with any of you 1-1 or the board as a whole still stands if we can be helpful to you as you gather and process all of the information.

I know the issue of parking has come up from some members of the public. As you read in the report, adding a parking lot in that location would create a traffic congestion and safety nightmare, even more than it is now. In contrast, creating a Town Green and eliminating the Police Station, particularly if you replace the angled parking with parallel parking, should create an improvement to the High/Washington St congestion.

If you would consider spending over a million dollars to add parking to Dedham's downtown area, I encourage you to explore acquiring either 513 High Street, at the corner of East and High Streets, or the parcel on Bryant next to the Public Safety building. Either of these could create additional public parking for less financial cost and without exacerbating the existing congestion and safety risks at Washington and High Streets.



When Mike and I presented the DSPC's work to you in November, we were pressed for time to fit two years of research and data into just 20 minutes. That didn't allow time for anecdotes, which also weren't really appropriate to include in the report. So I'd like to share some with you here. As you know, the DSPC held over a dozen meetings, with the public, neighbors, merchants, you name it. We heard from people in every neighborhood, every age group, people who go to lots of meetings and people who said it was the first time they'd participated with the town. We even had one woman - I don't remember her name - who zoomed in from her family vacation because she was so excited about a potential Town Green.

In the Spring we started with two workshops in person at the Senior Center. We wanted to hear from them first to help the committee set expectations for the rest of the meetings - if the Seniors had been against green space altogether or had been very price sensitive, we wanted to know early on so we could frame future engagements accordingly. Instead, we found the opposite. Where we'd expected to hear a lot of concern about costs, instead we heard relief that Dedham might create a space that would allow them to meet up with friends and family outdoors, and near the Senior Center.

One of the exercises we did in small groups was to talk about places people liked to go as a way to prompt them to think about what they would like to see in a town green. It was striking how many of the seniors present talked about going to the Norwood Town Green to spend time with their friends during Covid. This theme was repeated during the program we did with girl scouts - the teens and tweens also held up Norwood Town Green for its flexibility as a gathering space. It was striking that both our oldest and youngest residents left Dedham to find space to safely be with their friends during covid's (prior) peaks.

Toward the end of one of the sessions, we started talking about cost to see whether people would be willing to have the town pay to create such a space. Of about 15 people in that conversation, there was one woman who was concerned about how the cost might impact her rent if it caused taxes to go up, even if just by a dollar a month. One of the other women responded, "Our taxes go up every year no matter what. We might as well get something nice for it." Others agreed, and that was the end of any concern about costs in that session. Her words have stuck with me since early June.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if there's any information you need as you consider what to take to Town Meeting and how the various grants and funding would work to keep the town's costs down.

Best,  
Jessica

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Nancy Baker  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2022 12:17 PM  
**To:** Amanda Smith  
**Subject:** FW: Town Green

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**From:** Julie Rotchford [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 2:31 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas <freshideas@dedham-ma.gov>  
**Subject:** Town Green

Hello- I have lived in Dedham for almost 20 years now. I've lived on Worthington Street for the last 17years and have utilized our close location to the town square. We have 3 sons that walk through our town square on a daily basis to get to their schools or to the fields. I feel the town should move forward with the plans to convert the old police station to a town green for several reasons. First of all I feel the town has already made several improvements for safe cross walks but having a town green rather than a parking lot will limit the number of drivers in that congested area. Next I feel a green space would provide a nice welcome and a visual invitation to shop, eat and stay with areas for people to gather. We've seen the town make changes with outdoor seating during Covid and people like to be outside. Why not provide a designated space to increase the demand. Third, I think Dedham would benefit from green space seeing there is so many physical building structures. Individual shop owners do provide seasonal decor but a focal area with gardens and trees would provide a break from "all the buildings". Lastly is a personal reason. My boys are teenagers and feel there is no where for them to hang out. This is something the town should provide for our youth and a town green could be a safe place with all eyes of Dedham on them to be in good behavior and they would have access to restaurants and shops to provide entertainment. For all these reasons and I'm sure many more that my peers and fellow Dedham community members feel I would plead with you to please choose to move forward to better our town with the proposed green space.

Thank you,  
Julie Rotchford  
19 Worthington Street  
[REDACTED]

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** kerry hawkins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 12:50 PM  
**To:** Leon Goodwin; Nancy Baker; Fresh Ideas; Dennis Teehan; Sarah MacDonald; Dimitria Sullivan; James MacDonald; Kevin Coughlin; Jessica Porter  
**Subject:** Town Green Project

Hello There,

I am writing to you in support of a new town green at the old Police station Site. It will be good for the people of Dedham and the environment of the Square. What a great chance to have a community space for residents and organizations. A mural would be wonderful too. I envy Norwood and Walpole having a town green and gathering space.

That said. I think people who have advocated for making this parking may be frustrated with parking in Dedham square. Putting parking on this space will not help the parking problem and just add more concrete to the Square. I think if some changes were made it would help the situation

I have a few questions and comments

### **Why are there not more "way finding" signs to find parking in Dedham Square?**

Many towns have these signs

The reserved spaces in the Keystone lot don't seem sensible, and now, more people looking to park in the square these reserved spaces have caused a problem.

**Why are there no time frame signs such as "7am to 4pm" or whatever makes sense" on those reserved signs?** Seems like a pretty simple help while the town has to have those spaces. Does the keystone lot need that many reserved spaces?

I have also witnessed constructions workers in other spaces at the Keystone lot and not in reserved areas like they are supposed to.

On social media such as Facebook, there is a lot of unhappiness with parking in Dedham Square. Of course, some of it is grumbling, and people do not want to walk far to a business, but many of the complaints are valid, and I agree with them.

Kerry Hawkins  
Precinct 5

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*My shop*

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/KerryHawkinsArt>

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Kristen Magee [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 4:11 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Support for Implenting Full Plan for Town Green Space

Dear Select Board,

I have been closely following the potential options for the current Police Department land for some time. I wanted to formally voice my support for the full implementation of the recommendations in the Dedham Square Planning Committee's report, which I found to be well-written and thorough. I would echo many of the sentiments shared during the listening session on this topic last week related to the benefits of having a green space and the lack of concern about parking. As a mother, having a place in the square to meet up with other families and/or picnic would be a welcome addition to the square and likely increase the time I spend in the area. Aside from a few benches or tables that are close to the road, there is not an appropriate area to gather in the square with young children. To me, this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to provide a beautiful and functional gathering space in our square that will strengthen our community and provide immediate economic benefits to our local businesses. This is an investment in Dedham's future that I believe is worth making.

I kindly ask for your support to fully implement the recommendations provided in the DSPC's report.

Sincerely,  
Kristen Magee  
Town Meeting Member P6

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Micciche, Ken [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:30 AM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Re: Dedham Police Lot Meeting

This is commentary from Ken Micciche, 822 East Street, Dedham resident for 20 years.

With regard to discussion and planning around the use of the police station lot.

Please keep beautification and use of the space simple and easy to maintain so that initial and future maintenance budgets are reasonable and affordable.

Please enlist community volunteerism to keep costs low and community ownership high.

Regards,  
Ken Micciche

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**From:** Lindsay Barich [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022 10:39:29 AM  
**To:** Micciche, Ken [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Dedham Police Lot Meeting

**CAUTION: External Sender. Think before you click and forward suspicious e-mails to [phishing@ivytech.com](mailto:phishing@ivytech.com)**

Send an short email to select board they need to hear and use freshideas email

Lindsay Barich, Founder/CEO  
**Unitrans Worldwide, Inc.**  
39A Teed Drive  
Randolph, MA 02368, Ph#: 781-961-3540  
[WWW.UWINC.COM](http://WWW.UWINC.COM), [REDACTED]

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**From:** Micciche, Ken [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 11:19:21 PM  
**To:** Lindsay Barich  
**Subject:** RE: Dedham Police Lot Meeting

I agree with you Lindsay. Keep it simple and easy to maintain in an affordable manner.

I was at a wake tonight, so, sorry for the late reply.

Ken

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**From:** Lindsay Barich [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 6:50 PM  
**To:** joe Griffin [REDACTED]; Rob Curran [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; Frank Galvin [REDACTED]; Charlie & Celia Black [REDACTED]; Bob  
Samonte [REDACTED];  
**Cc:** Micciche, Ken [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Dedham Police Lot Meeting  
**Importance:** High

**CAUTION: External Sender. Think before you click and forward suspicious e-mails to [phishing@ivytech.com](mailto:phishing@ivytech.com)**

Hello Brothers,

There is a final meeting tonight on the usage of the lot and this is the last time the Board of Selectmen will listen to comments.

The Square group is pushing to spend \$4 M which seems VERY excessive.

Below is my email to [freshideas@dedham-ma.gov](mailto:freshideas@dedham-ma.gov) which all of the BOS review during the Zoom Meeting tonight.

Please call your friends and have them comment.

Please send an email now (Have a Zoom Meeting) and keep it short on what you want to be with the lot.

Hello Selectboard,

I hope you are all doing well and best of luck and stay healthy in 2022!

I would like to make a brief comment to support the lot be made into a greenspace setting but to keep the original footprint to keep the parking space on all three sides of the property.

We do not need all the “bells and whistles” just plant grass, trees, shrubs and some annual flowers with some benches to keep basic given the cost associated with such a project.

The Police station always had nice landscaping.

Further down the road any other improvements can be done with grants and private donations similar to other public spaces.

Sincerely,

Lindsay



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Mr. Lindsay Barich, Founder & CEO

39A Teed Drive, Randolph, MA 02368

PH# 781-961-3540, 800-459-5119, Fax: 781-961-3058

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AT TIME OF BOOKING. RATES AND TRANSIT TIMES  
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## Amanda Smith

---

**From:** Kelly Ray [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 5, 2022 12:34 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Fwd: Park at Dedham Police station

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Kelly Ray [REDACTED]  
**Date:** January 5, 2022 at 12:23:32 PM EST  
**To:** freashideas@dedham-ma.gov  
**Subject:** Fwd: Park at Dedham Police station

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Kelly Ray [REDACTED]  
**Date:** January 5, 2022 at 10:07:01 AM EST  
**To:** dsullivan1@dedham-ma.gov  
**Subject:** Park at Dedham Police station

I am writing you today to oppose the proposed park at The Dedham police station. I have worked in the square for 18 years.

We have had numerous customers thru the years struggle with parking. the lack of parking in the town parking lot that has 30 reserved parking spaces for the new safety building and now parking meters on the street with tickets of \$20 has and will continue to hurt the businesses in the square.

we do not need a park in Dedham square, we need another parking lot.

Kelly Ray

Sent from my iPhone

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Lindsay Barich [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 6:38 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Dedham Police Station Lot

Hello Selectboard,

I hope you are all doing well and best of luck and stay healthy in 2022!

I would like to make a brief comment to support the lot be made into a greenspace setting but to keep the original foot print to keep the parking space on all three sides of the property.

We do not need all the “bells and whistles” just plant grass, trees, shrubs and some annual flowers with some benches to keep basic given the cost associated with such a project.

The Police station always had nice landscaping.

Further down the road any other improvements can be done with grants and private donations similar to other public spaces.

Sincerely,

Lindsay



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***"CELEBRATING 26 YEARS OF SERVICE"***

Mr. Lindsay Barich, Founder & CEO  
39A Teed Drive, Randolph, MA 02368  
PH# 781-961-3540, 800-459-5119, Fax: 781-961-3058  
[WWW.UWINC.COM](http://WWW.UWINC.COM), [REDACTED]

**DUE TO COVID-19, ALL QUOTES ARE SUBJECT TO  
CONFIRMATION AND CARRIER ACCEPTANCE  
AT TIME OF BOOKING. RATES AND TRANSIT TIMES  
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*overseas we can provide! **Unitrans Worldwide** builds consolidation for International export and import shipments!  
Please contact **Lindsay Barich** at **800-459-5119** for more information.\*\**

## Amanda Smith

---

**From:** Lauren Perna [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2022 1:54 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** In Support of the Green Space

Hi all,

I am writing to share my full-fledged support of the Dedham Square Committee's plan for a town green in Dedham Square. I write this as not only a longtime Dedham resident, but a P1 Town Meeting Member, a Board Member of the Dedham Square Circle, and a resident living just a block from the square.

If anyone knows about parking and traffic in the square, it's me and my family. We are some of the most impacted, and I can say with full confidence, amending the plan to incorporate more parking will not make a difference. And completely disregarding the plan in place a parking lot would be a travesty to all of Dedham.

The Square is a vibrant spot with the potential to bring even more life and community to our town. With a town green, I believe we can accomplish those goals. A town green is an opportunity to bring people together on both a casual basis (coffee, lunch, walks) and a more formal basis (gatherings, festivals, events). I can see a town green being a crucial sticking point for organizations like the Dedham Square Circle. Our events have been a great way to bring all factions of Dedham together in the Square in its current form. With a dedicated spot in a town square, I feel confident we can bring even more support for Square businesses and bring our community together further.

As for the parking, I think this is a misguided issue. As someone who walks the Square regularly, it's only an issue because people do not want to walk from spots that are just outside the center of the Square. In addition, people are still getting used to the new meters, which is just a matter of education (DSC is working on this). There is certainly enough parking--we just need to shift the thinking and communicate the options. When there's an asset like a town green in the center, people will realize that a short walk is nothing when you have such a beautiful, open location to hang with friends. I would be greatly disappointed to see us lose the funding opportunities and the sustainability benefits of a green space in favor of more parking. It would be a short-sighted decision catering to a misunderstood issue, impacting generations of Dedhamites.

I hope you'll consider implementing the plan to the fullest extent.

Thanks,  
Lauren E. Perna  
Town Meeting Member, Precinct 1

Sent with [Shift](#)

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Martha Abdella [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 2:04 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Town Green

Hello Select Board,

I'm writing in support of the two-year plan developed for the proposed Town Green. I really hope you don't scrap two years of research, public input, and dozens of meetings just to throw down some grass seed and benches.

The proposed design is thoughtful, beautiful, and adds significant safety and environmental features. Please don't let the naysayers sway your opinion. This project also comes with excellent grants. We need something welcoming in Dedham Square to offset the over-sized (ugly) apartment buildings with too many light fixtures!

Please support the Dedham Town Green. It will serve the Town well.

Martha Abdella  
12 Marion Street

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Michelle Apuzzio [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 23, 2022 6:20 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Town Green proposal

Dear Select Board,

Thank you for the hard work you do for our town. We are writing to express our support for the Town Green proposal. Our downtown has many wonderful attributes but is sorely lacking in green space. While the restaurants have done a good job building outdoor dining spaces, they are mostly concrete and asphalt environs. This is our opportunity to build something aesthetically pleasing that is also functional.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gratefully,  
Michelle Apuzzio and Bob Young  
177 Robert Rd

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Michelle Apuzzio  
[REDACTED]

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## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Ellen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 11:49 AM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** green space - dedham police station

To Whom It May Concern:

I am increasingly concerned with some very ill-conceived ideas that continue to plague the future of the Town of Dedham. All of these ideas seem to come at the cost of the taxpayers of Dedham - some of whom can ill afford to have their taxes increased yet again. It is my understanding that the projected tax increases for next year are going to be astronomical. This is not the time to add an additional tax burden to our residents. Adding green space in the area of the old police station is beneficial to Dedham Square (not necessarily to all of Dedham) but certainly not beneficial with a 4 million dollar plus price tag. If fund-raising and grant proposals are part of the equations, that should be done first, not after the fact. I would suggest a much smaller project that can be revisited at a later date if money is received from grant writing and fund raising. At that time, the citizens would have a much better idea exactly what they need and expect from the green space or if what is built on smaller scale is sufficient and exactly what is needed. There are other parts of town that could benefit from improvements - not just Dedham Square. In the past, Town Meeting already voted 6.1 million dollars for square improvements - now is not the time to reconfigure traffic flow, raised roads, parking, etc. This project should be a for a village green, benches, etc. - not an expensive project that the taxpayers will have to fund for years to come.

Respectfully,

Maurice Burns  
District 2 Representative  
278 Riverside Drive  
[REDACTED]

## Amanda Smith

---

**From:** meg duncan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 10:29 AM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Cc:** Leon Goodwin; Nancy Baker  
**Subject:** In supoort of the DSPC recommendation for town green at 600 High Street.

Dear Select Board,

I have followed the work of the Dedham Square Planning Committee over the past two years with much interest as it worked to develop a plan for the soon-to-be-vacated Police Station. I have attended numerous public meetings where I was able to offer my input and thoughts on the best course of action for that parcel and how the town could make the best use of the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity presented by this soon-to-be vacant parcel in the center of our town center.

The committee is made up of many hard-working and dedicated town residents with impressive professional qualifications, including representatives from several town boards such as yours. Various options were considered and the committee as a whole decided that the best use of that parcel would be a town green, a very welcome communal space that would offer numerous benefits to the citizens of Dedham, our neighbors who work in the square, and to the small business owners there.

Using funds approved by Town Meeting, the committee engaged a professional urban design company as well as a financial analysis and strategic planning firm to help them in this process. By listening carefully to the desires of the community during their many public meetings, and through smart planning and design, the committee was able to create a plan that not only provided "green space", but also helped ease traffic and pedestrian issues at a problematic intersection. They designed a covered patio area to extend the usefulness of the park in inclement weather. There's a public performance/programming space that can be used by the nearby historical society, senior center, and library as well as other community groups. There are buffer zones to separate the park from traffic, room for almost 20 shade trees, native plantings, pollinator gardens, public art, and a water feature. The design includes possible lighting, cell phone, and e-bike charging powered by solar panels on the roof of the covered patio. There are benches, swings, a small climbing area for children, a community bulletin board, a water fountain for people and pets - in short, the committee designed a jewel of a park that will enrich the lives of many who work in or visit the square for shopping, dining, or entertainment.

In doing so, the committee was also clever enough to design the park in such a way that it would qualify for several grants that would help pay for these wonderful amenities; grants amounting to close to \$2 Million for traffic calming, climate mitigation, cultural and arts programming, and more. Grants that I suspect may not be available if corners are cut and features eliminated.

As for the idea of a parking lot on that corner, I would also note that the report from the committee addresses the issue of parking in the square and states that parking capacity in the Dedham Square business district was studied as recently as 2018, finding that there is existing capacity to meet parking need. However, the current construction of the Public Safety Building is causing a temporary perceived shortage of spaces. Quoting from the report: *Several Town Hall spaces are being used for staging and a section of the Keystone Lot has been cordoned off for Town employees. In addition, a number of public spaces throughout the area are being used by builders and contractors.*



*The new Public Safety Building will include underground parking for police officers' personal vehicles, which will free up about 7 on-street spaces in Dedham Square currently being used by Police officers on a daily basis. The new Public Safety Building will add an additional 29 spaces to the public parking inventory once it is completed, and an additional 10 spaces marked specifically for visitors to the Police and Fire Departments. Between the PSB public spaces and the public spaces at Town Hall, once construction is completed there should be an average of 65 public spaces on the Town campus for daytime public parking, including for those attending Senior Center programs. In the evenings there are likely to be around 100 public spaces available for those attending meetings or visiting the downtown area.*

These numbers do not include the additional 5 on-street parking spaces just created on Washington Street in front of Town Hall, nor does it include the 4 public parking spaces that would be located in front of the proposed green in what is now police business only parking.

We do not need additional parking once the Public Safety Building is completed; in fact a parking lot on that corner would simply create more congestion and increase hazards to pedestrians in an already dangerous crossing. Nor would a parking lot provide the sort of lasting community, public health, climate, or economic benefits that the proposed town green would provide.

In summary, I applaud the considerable work of the Dedham Square Planning Committee and respect their recommendations in the very thorough report they published. I think, given their dedication and considerable individual professional expertise, combined with the input from the professional consulting firms that they engaged on behalf of the town, that the town's Select Board would do well to accept the recommended design submitted by the committee and not delay the opportunity to apply for the grants for which it qualifies, some of which have rapidly approaching annual deadlines.

Thank you for your consideration,

Meg Duncan  
TM – P1

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** molly jackson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:09 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Town Green Project

A nearby space to reference for ideas is the small park on the corner of Village Avenue and Bullard Street. The size is comparable, the corner orientation is similar, and the simplicity of benches, paths, and plantings is appropriate. Less is more in this important and worthy project.

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** MARTHA MARSHALL [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:53 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Town green

Has an underground garage been considered?? M Marshall

Sent from my iPad

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Mary Ann McCaslin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2022 6:11 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** 600 High Street land

Dear Select Board members:

I am writing, as a Dedham resident, to express my concern about the plan for the land that will be available in Dedham Square after the Police Department moves to their new building.

My concern is that I hear you are considering a parking lot rather than the well thought out plan for a town green space. I attended several of the meetings hosted by the Dedham Square Planning committee, and I have seen the report that they submitted to the Select Board. In my opinion it would be an missed opportunity of epic proportions if your board chooses to do *anything* other than making this space a public green space. There were many wonderful ideas suggested at the meetings I attended and people were so enthused about the green space in the square. It is the thing that is most lacking in Dedham Square and has so many benefits to the people who live in town, the businesses in the square and the environment. I urge you, for the relatively small money this will cost the town, and the many benefits it provides, PLEASE do not be responsible for the town losing this great future asset. If any thing, please request alterations to scale back the scope and cost of the project, if it comes to that.

Sincerely,  
Mary Ann McCaslin  
558 Washington St.

## Amanda Smith

---

**From:** Mark Rodgers [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 9:33 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Town Green

Dear Dedham Select Board Members,

I enthusiastically support the thoughtful design plan for the new Town Green developed by Dedham Square Planning Committee and I really appreciate the hard work and long hours this group of volunteers put into this plan for everyone's benefit.

This will be much more than needed green space in our downtown, it will help reduce traffic and congestion and the space will be meaningfully usable the entire year by the public.

Thank you.

Mark & Moira Rodgers  
28 Fulton St, Dedham  
[REDACTED]

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Michael Ruddy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 6:39 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Potential Town Green

Dedham has a rare opportunity to immeasurably improve the downtown area with the creation of a green space in the location of the old police building .

The town center desperately needs a location where people can sit shaded by trees, and relax. The proposed designs would go along way in creating a safer downtown area for pedestrians and bicyclists. Traffic would have to slow down in that area with the proposed green space. The starkness of the buildings would be greatly enhanced by the contrast of trees , grass and more open space . It would in effect create a refuge and a place to pause in a town center that has no refuge.

This is indeed a rare opportunity to greatly enhance Dedham . I am in full support of the project . Thank you Michael Ruddy 56 Clark st Dedham

Sent from my iPad

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Matthew Sheehan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 20, 2021 10:30 AM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Cc:** Jessica Porter  
**Subject:** Dedham square

Hey everyone,

As a resident in Dedham square I'd

like to give you some feed back. With every new implementation the square gets less and less user friendly for its residents.

There's is a severe lack of parking spaces in the town center for day to day purposes. I find myself frequently parking in questionable spaces due to the fact there is no where to park. Why are the restaurants still taking up spaces. It's 30 degrees outside and no one is using the outdoor dining. With all the construction many of the spaces in the square lot are taken Monday through Friday. I received a 20\$ ticket for parking in a meter spot for 15 minutes as I was carrying groceries up to my apartment. I appreciate the paper bag memo but let's mandate handles on the bags As well.

As a resident in Dedham square I should not have to pay to bring my groceries upstairs. This ticket should be paid for by the town of Dedham due to poor planning with parking spaces.

As a side not I would advise people to take this opportunity to include some parking in the police station green space project. I fully support a nice green area in the center of our town. It would be completely incompetent not to include additional parking in that same location. Every new implementation has made life living in the square more complicated than it has to be.

Matt Sheehan

Sent from my iPhone

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Nathan Gauthier [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 6, 2022 9:10 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Town Green

Select Board,

Ahead of your listening sessions, I wanted to share my support for the proposed Town Green. I live in Dedham and have always loved the Square, but thought it would benefit from space for recreation, entertainment, greenery, etc. My family, which includes two small girls, would definitely be more frequent visitors to the Square after the Town Green was complete. I appreciate your collecting feedback from residents and look forward to an amazing Town Green in the near future.

Best regards,

Nathan Gauthier  
89 Maple Pl  
Dedham, MA 02026

Sent from my iPhone



## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Marcia Perna [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022 9:17 AM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Fwd: Town Green space

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Marcia Perna [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Wed, Jan 19, 2022 at 9:13 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Town Green space

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Marcia Perna [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Wed, Jan 19, 2022 at 9:07 AM  
**Subject:** Town Green space

We are writing in support of the Dedham Town Green plan, proposed by the Dedham Square Planning Committee. With the razing of the Police Station, Dedham has the opportunity to create a beautiful, multi use space in Dedham Center. This proposed space will enhance our community and the curb appeal of the square, support businesses, especially restaurants. Turning this space into a parking lot is a terrible idea. Our understanding is the current parking situation is temporary, due to the workers at the Public Safety building site, and should be alleviated once the building is completed. There are concerns re cost but it is also our understanding that several of the features incorporated into the plan would enable the town to seek grant funding for addressing traffic, environmental and cultural goals.

We strongly support the proposal re the Town Green and urge the Select Board to approve this.

Marcia and Michael Perna  
77 Coronation Drive

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Patrick Magee [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 1:02 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** In Support of a Town Green Space

Hello,

I have emailed on this subject before, and would like to reiterate my support for a Town Green space at 600 High Street. Will be a wonderful addition to the town for all ages and groups to enjoy year-round with wide ranging programming and activities.

Patrick Magee  
TMM P6

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Patrick Magee [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:44 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Thank You Select Board

Hello,

I would like to offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Select Board for furthering the Town Green one step closer to reality tonight.

Kind regards,  
Patrick

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Laurie Rabe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2022 2:49 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas; Leon Goodwin; Dimitria Sullivan; Sarah MacDonald; Dennis Teehan; James MacDonald; Kevin Coughlin  
**Cc:** Bruce Rabe; Olivia Rabe  
**Subject:** Police Station/Town Green

Dear Dedham Select Board Members:

We are a family that has lived in Dedham since 1986 in 3 different homes. We have lived at 91 Maple Place, right down the street from the police station for the last 23 years. We are one of the closest homes to the police station and will be greatly affected by any project that occurs on this site. We whole-heartedly endorse the excellent work of the DSPC with the proposal for a town green. We've taken part in several of their zoom meeting sessions and commend their thorough work. They did a terrific job trying to reach all the neighborhoods in Dedham, as well as really focusing in on getting the opinions of neighbors within a few blocks of the site.

We understand that there is a cry for more parking in downtown Dedham and we are not in favor of any more parking than what is in the plan. Driving through town, which we do on a daily basis at all different times of the day, we often notice several vacant parking spaces, and we do not agree that there is a need for street parking right in the heart of the square. Even having a few parking spaces along the park which are no longer utilized by police business will provide several new spaces. It seems to us that the problem may be that people do not want to walk an extra couple of blocks even though they are willing to do so at Legacy Place. For example, living next to the post office, we regularly see able-bodied people parking in the handicapped spot on the corner to run in and mail a package when the parking lot in back is wide open a half-block away.

I have a background in horticulture design and gardening and we are a conservation-minded family. We truly believe the need for large and specimen trees in the town square is crucial. We often notice walking into town on a hot summer day how much hotter it is in the square due to all the paved surfaces and lack of large shade trees (the heat island effect referenced by several people in the meeting on January 18th). We also encourage the planting of drought-resistant, native species and bushes with year-round decorative attributes when considering what to plant in the space to encourage pollinators year round. Some examples might be the Red Twig Dogwood, Witch-hazel, and Winterberry. In the sessions, so many people have alluded to the success of Post Office Square as a successfully planted park with a wide variety of interesting plantings, and we would love to see that locally.

My older daughter has lived in Philadelphia for 8 years and recently moved home to Dedham. She was very impressed with the features in the plan that are similar to Philadelphia's 30th Street Station, such as the large bench swings. The park created there has made a simple concrete area turn into a flourishing and beautiful meeting space and we hope that the same will be true in Dedham.

My younger daughter is wheelchair-bound, so we also like the combination of grass and concrete that the plan entails for accessibility purposes.

We would also like to echo some of the comments made on the January 18th meeting that we encourage the town to make decisions using the best and longest lasting design and materials for the town rather than a cheap, short-sighted quick fix. We encourage private fundraising as an alternative way to raise money for the park to ensure the best and most beautiful park possible.

Over the years in Dedham we have watched as the square has become more vibrant with people staying to eat, shop, watch a movie, and see friends. We would love to see this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity come to fruition as a beautiful green space to gather for many generations to come.

Sincerely,  
Laurie, Bruce, Olivia, and Elloise Rabe

## Amanda Smith

---

**From:** Sean Dolan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 15, 2022 2:00 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Feedback - Dedham Common Concept

Hello

I think this is a wonderful idea and I applaud the town for exploring this solution. My whole family heartily endorses this idea and hope it comes to fruition.

While I understand some of the concerns about parking in the square, using this space for a parking lot seems like a tremendously wasted opportunity. Perhaps in the future the town could explore building a garage over the keystone lot. A multilevel garage in that spot might have the added benefit of shielding the square from noise from Rte 1, as well as perhaps allowing for a secondary exit onto high street.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sean Dolan  
Julie Ferland  
212 Monroe Street  
Dedham, MA

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Steve Peluso [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022 6:36 AM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas  
**Subject:** Green space proposal

Hello,

My name is Steve Peluso and my family and I have lived in Dedham for almost 34 years and we are very happy to be here.

Both of my children have gone from K-12 in Dedham Public Schools and have received a great education.

Today I would like to address the Green Space Proposal for Dedham Square.

While I am not a huge supporter of this project, I am not against it either.

The last 2 years have hit everyone very hard and to spend 4 Million dollars on a project like this just does not seem like the right thing to do at this time.

I'm sure that some residents would be in favor of it but are they in the majority?

Please do not go forward with a project of this degree this that is not totally supported by a majority of residents. The residents of Dedham need a break and spending 4 Million dollars on this does not seem like a break.

It would be a travesty to go forward with this and leave the many residents questioning how the Town invests their hard-earned money.

Please let me know the different levels that are being considered for this project.

I welcome your responses!

Steve Peluso

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Sarah MacDonald  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2022 5:12 PM  
**To:** Nancy Baker; Doreen LaBrecque  
**Subject:** Fw: Proposed Town Green

**Sarah MacDonald**  
Member, Select Board  
Town of Dedham

---

**From:** Alexandra Shumway [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7:56 AM  
**To:** Leon Goodwin <lgoodwin@dedham-ma.gov>; Dimitria Sullivan <dsullivan1@dedham-ma.gov>; Sarah MacDonald <smacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>; Dennis Teehan <dteehan@dedham-ma.gov>; James MacDonald <jmacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>; Kevin Coughlin <kcoughlin@dedham-ma.gov>  
**Subject:** Proposed Town Green

Dear Select Board,

I was unable to attend your listening sessions about plans for a Town Green, so I wanted to weigh in by email.

I am fully in support of building a Town Green where the Police Station stands. Furthermore, I hope you will pursue the plan that is in the report, including reducing the crosswalk distances and building a pavilion so the space can be used year-round. It's a no-brainer that the town should submit a project that takes advantage of all of the grant money available and build something we can all be proud of now and for generations to come. If that costs me a few extra dollars in taxes, I'm okay with it; our property values will benefit in the long run.

I'm the mother of three kids, all of whom have/are attending Dedham Public Schools. Like many DPS students, my kids walk through Dedham Square to get to school and meet with friends. I cannot stress enough how important it is that you take every step possible to improve the safety of the area as a whole and the intersection at the police station in particular.

As a real estate agent with Hope McDermott RE, I can tell you that many of my clients are drawn to Dedham (or to move within Dedham) because they want to raise their kids in an area with a thriving downtown area. Many young Millennials ask about green space within business districts, and a Town Green would simply add to that appeal and help create a space for the entire town to enjoy.

I get that people are concerned about parking, but can't you create just as many spaces by letting people park on the street at Franklin Square, or encouraging people to park in the Gonzalez lot? We have so little public green space in the area, I'd hate to see that traded for more parking spaces when there are so many other places to create parking. We could also see more people parking outside the square and walking in and spending *more time and money there* if there is a place to gather when not shopping for something in particular.

I'm more than happy to chat if you like; thank you for all of your hard work on this. My entire family is hopeful that this great opportunity becomes a reality!

Best,

Alex Shumway  
27 Spruce Street

--



Carla Foley  
92 Old River Place  
Dedham MA 02026

January 18 2022

Select Board Town of Dedham

46 Bryant Street

Dedham Ma 02026

Subject: Dedham Green

I sincerely appreciate the effort you have made to reach out to all of the citizens of Dedham regarding this project.

I am opposed to this project for several reasons:

I find the cost to be exorbitant. I understand that the cost of demolishing this building is an additional expense. I do not believe that this type of funding is required to beautify the center. This property is in our downtown business district and will not be earning tax dollars for our community. I do not agree that green space brings much business to a town center. It does enhance the appearance of a business area.

I do not think that our current economic situation is conducive to investing in unnecessary capital improvements. Our CPI has increased more than 7% this year which is the highest increase since 1982. Inflation is going to follow along with it. It will take much longer before you are able to pay down your capital expense.

This project does not have to be completed over night. It could start out on a smaller scale with additions being added as our financial situation stabilizes. We would also observe that perhaps there are better solutions than some of the ideas that we have right now. This is a very large amount of money for improvements that will serve very few members of our community.

It is my opinion that this type of spending should be one of the last on the list of things that would better the lifestyle of our residents.

Respectfully,

Carla Foley

## Amanda Smith

---

**From:** Sarah MacDonald  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2022 5:12 PM  
**To:** Nancy Baker; Doreen LaBrecque  
**Subject:** Fw: Proposed Park @ Police Station

**Sarah MacDonald**  
Member, Select Board  
Town of Dedham

---

**From:** Michael Tavares [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 5, 2022 10:43 AM  
**To:** Dimitria Sullivan <dsullivan1@dedham-ma.gov>; Sarah MacDonald <smacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>; Dennis Teehan <dteehan@dedham-ma.gov>; James MacDonald <jmacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>; Kevin Coughlin <kcoughlin@dedham-ma.gov>  
**Subject:** Proposed Park @ Police Station

All,

I see that the some of the "Real Dads of Dedham" are trying to organize opposition to the proposed park at the Dedham Police Station.

I fully support the idea of a green space in the town center, great idea, and the price tag doesn't bother me in the least. I do understand that some folks in town that any tax increase can be a burden, so obviously this needs to be factored. Maybe supplement with some fundraising, etc.

I would love people driving by to say what a nice park/town center we have, often times I drive in other towns and say, *What great fields* or *That's a great Police/Fire building*. I want this for Dedham as well, and we are on our way with all the recent developments in Town after decades of doing little to nothing.

Thank you for all your work and commitment to improving our Town.

Mike Tavares  
15 Jersey St

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Sarah MacDonald  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2022 5:12 PM  
**To:** Nancy Baker; Doreen LaBrecque  
**Subject:** Fw: Support of Safety improvement Recommendation

**Sarah MacDonald**  
Member, Select Board  
Town of Dedham

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**From:** Ruksi Gregory [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 9:53 PM  
**To:** Dimitria Sullivan <dsullivan1@dedham-ma.gov>; Sarah MacDonald <smacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>; Dennis Teehan <dteehan@dedham-ma.gov>; James MacDonald <jmacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>; Kevin Coughlin <kcoughlin@dedham-ma.gov>  
**Subject:** Support of Safety improvement Recommendation

Hello,

I'm reaching out as a Dedham resident expressing my support for the safety improvement recommendations from the Dedham Town Green report.

Thank you!  
Rukhsaar Gregory (Precinct 4)

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Sarah MacDonald  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2022 5:11 PM  
**To:** Nancy Baker; Doreen LaBrecque  
**Subject:** Fw: Please support the plan for the Dedham Town Green

### Sarah MacDonald

Member, Select Board  
Town of Dedham

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**From:** John D [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 8:21 PM  
**To:** Dimitria Sullivan <dsullivan1@dedham-ma.gov>; Sarah MacDonald <smacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>; Dennis Teehan <dteehan@dedham-ma.gov>; James MacDonald <jmacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>; Kevin Coughlin <kcoughlin@dedham-ma.gov>  
**Cc:** Leon Goodwin <lgoodwin@dedham-ma.gov>  
**Subject:** Please support the plan for the Dedham Town Green

John Dashe  
12 Worthington Street  
Dedham, MA 02026

January 18, 2022

Dear Select Board Members,

I am writing in support of the Dedham Town Green plan as reported by the Dedham Square Planning Committee (DSPC). I support this plan as is and I urge the Board to approve the plan without change so that it may advance to Town Meeting. I made some remarks during the second zoom listening session tonight, but please allow me to make a more complete statement.

There are several key reasons to support this plan:

1. The process that developed this plan was great - the plan was developed in a very thoughtful, inclusive, and comprehensive way. The plan is well-vetted, and the community engagement was terrific, with multiple in-person and online meetings.
2. This is a very special site - it's located in the heart of Dedham - the geographic center of the Town. We need to do this right!
3. The land was originally donated by Town residents to be used for civic needs - the first being Memorial Hall, which was built in the 1860s. We should honor that legacy by using this site in a way that will benefit everyone (and not just motorists).
4. The benefit of parks are many. As the DSPC report notes, parks deliver social, environmental, economic, and health benefits. They improve physical and psychological health, strengthen our communities, and make Towns more attractive places to live and work.

5. The economic benefits are somewhat intangible but extremely important. The DSPC did an outstanding job in the economic analysis of benefits that parks bring, as outlined on page 21 of the final report. I will repeat several of these because they should not be overlooked:

- Downtown parks increase the amount of time spent by existing visitors to the area, making them more likely to linger and visit multiple businesses.
- Parks attract new visitors to a shopping district.
- Commercial areas with parks are more attractive for businesses and help drive traffic to surrounding businesses
- When local businesses do well, Town revenue increases
- Parks in commercial areas raise nearby commercial property values, resulting in increased commercial property tax income for the Town.
- Another point: There is an obvious benefit of having open space in a central business area with restaurants during pandemic such as COVID. Based upon historical experience, it is inevitable that there will be future pandemics, and we should be preparing for these unpredictable events.

6. Safety. The project will reduce the risks to pedestrians and cyclists at the intersection which is quite dangerous. How will it do this?

- The narrowed traffic lane widths and curb bump-outs, which slow traffic and reduce the crosswalk distance for people on foot, will make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Angled parking is a hazard for cyclists riding by and for anyone attempting to back out of an angled space. The project will replace this angled parking on High St. with parallel parking, which is safer for all.
- The elevated table/speed bump on Church St is another useful safety feature that will help slow down cars coming from Church St.

7. Green space. The addition of green space to an area that is mostly concrete and asphalt is really critical to make the area attractive and inviting, not to mention the environmental benefits.

Please do not suggest any alterations to the plan. The DSPC has investigated every aspect of what a Town Green should be. The plan they devised is masterful. Changing the plan to add parking can only detract from the new Town Green by slashing the perimeter space and make it less inviting to people who will use it. We should be doing everything possible to make the area more inviting for people on foot, which is how towns and cities were built over thousands of years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Dashe  
Town Meeting Member, P1

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Sarah MacDonald  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2022 5:11 PM  
**To:** Nancy Baker; Doreen LaBrecque  
**Subject:** Fw: Support for a park at the site of the old police station

**Sarah MacDonald**  
Member, Select Board  
Town of Dedham

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**From:** John Kyriakis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022 9:00 PM  
**To:** Dimitria Sullivan <dsullivan1@dedham-ma.gov>; Sarah MacDonald <smacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>; Dennis Teehan <dteehan@dedham-ma.gov>; James MacDonald <jmacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>; Kevin Coughlin <kcoughlin@dedham-ma.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for a park at the site of the old police station

Dear Members of the Select Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the construction of a park at the site of the old police station in Dedham Square. The planning group has put together an outstanding design that will considerably improve the attractiveness of the square, promote local business, and provide a welcome bit of greenery.

I urge you to vote in favor.

Sincerely,

John M. Kyriakis 48 Morse Avenue Dedham, MA 02026 [REDACTED]

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Sarah MacDonald  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2022 5:11 PM  
**To:** Nancy Baker; Doreen LaBrecque  
**Subject:** Fw: Town Green

**Sarah MacDonald**  
Member, Select Board  
Town of Dedham

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**From:** Jeremy Schwab [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022 8:20 PM  
**To:** Sarah MacDonald <smacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>  
**Subject:** Town Green

Hi Sarah,

I hope you and the family are doing well. I'm reaching out because Micah let us know at the Dedham Dems event planning meeting tonight that the Select Board is considering the town green proposal tomorrow. I hope you'll support it! I think it's a great proposal, and would be a good thing for the town.

Take care and all the best in the new year.

Jeremy



## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Sarah MacDonald  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2022 5:10 PM  
**To:** Nancy Baker; Doreen LaBrecque  
**Subject:** Fw: Support for Town Green Project

**Sarah MacDonald**  
Member, Select Board  
Town of Dedham

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**From:** Laurie Delaney [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022 10:55 PM  
**To:** Dimitria Sullivan <dsullivan1@dedham-ma.gov>; Sarah MacDonald <smacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>; Dennis Teehan <dteehan@dedham-ma.gov>; James MacDonald <jmacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>; Kevin Coughlin <kcoughlin@dedham-ma.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for Town Green Project

Dear Select Board,

I was unable to attend the listening sessions, but want to pass along my support for creating a new park / green space in the 600 High Street space. I hope the Board chooses to move forward and ultimately bring a request for funding to Town Meeting.

Thank you!

Laurie Delaney  
47 Grandfield Street

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Sarah MacDonald  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2022 5:10 PM  
**To:** Nancy Baker; Doreen LaBrecque  
**Subject:** Fw: Town Green/Park

**Sarah MacDonald**  
Member, Select Board  
Town of Dedham

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**From:** Nancy Knight-Shah [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:59 AM  
**To:** Dimitria Sullivan <dsullivan1@dedham-ma.gov>  
**Cc:** Sarah MacDonald <smacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>; Dennis Teehan <dteehan@dedham-ma.gov>; James MacDonald <jmacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>; Kevin Coughlin <kcoughlin@dedham-ma.gov>  
**Subject:** Town Green/Park

Good Morning Select Board

I would like to add my opinion on the proposed green space project.

I am in favor of a town green.

However, I am not in favor of the estimated price regardless of possible grants.

I honestly am not even concerned with parking, but more concerned with narrowing the lanes and moving curbs. I feel the traffic in Dedham Sq is horrific enough and can not grasp the concept.

To be noted, I have participated in several of the workshops and as well read the reports.

I think there could be a way to still have the town green space at a more scaled back level.

I appreciate all the hard work that went into this project and would appreciate the Selectboard taking the time to consider a more financially reasonable solution.

Respectfully,

Nancy Knight Shah  
150 River St  
Dedham MA 02026

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Sarah MacDonald  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2022 5:10 PM  
**To:** Nancy Baker; Doreen LaBrecque  
**Subject:** Fw: Dedham Town Green Feedback

### Sarah MacDonald

Member, Select Board  
Town of Dedham

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**From:** Tom Turner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2022 5:42 PM  
**To:** Leon Goodwin <lgoodwin@dedham-ma.gov>; Dimitria Sullivan <dsullivan1@dedham-ma.gov>; Sarah MacDonald <smacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>; Dennis Teehan <dteehan@dedham-ma.gov>; James MacDonald <jmacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>; Kevin Coughlin <kcoughlin@dedham-ma.gov>  
**Subject:** Dedham Town Green Feedback

Dear Leon and members of the Select Board

I apologize that I have not been able to attend the listening sessions that you have hosted on the proposal for the Town Green. I did read the Town Green document that was put together by the Dedham Square Planning Committee and while I don't have feedback on much of the great detail included, I did want to voice my support for what I see to be the important themes of the project. Namely creating a park space that attracts usage throughout the year; is flexible in how it can be used; and frankly encourages/prioritizes pedestrian access/connectivity and visitors to Dedham town center over those who choose to use our center as a commuting thoroughfare.

Now that I have served as fundraising lead for the COVID 19 Fund, and spent a year (plus) as Vice Chair of the Library Trustees I have a lot more appreciation of the work that goes into this sort of project proposal. I also have a greater sensitivity to the various priorities you must be trying to balance as a 'management team' for the Town. That sensitivity doesn't make my voice any more important than other residents, I'm simply trying to put myself in your shoes; and probably doing that better than I did in past years.

With that in mind, I would encourage in you the following: If we do a project like this (and we should), we need to be bold in our judgement, engage in it whole-heartedly as the plan leads us to, and not clip/trim around the edges to satisfy those concerned with cost or the perception of parking loss. I'm sure loss of parking spots and potential cost are the easy areas for detractors of the plan to focus on but a drive around Needham or Wellesley helps to disabuse concerns on either parking or investment cost when it comes to a buzzing retail town center.

Thank you for doing what you do, and thank you for considering this email. I hope that you will support the proposal in a manner that delivers an optimum Town Green for Dedham.

Sincerely

Tom Turner

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48 Richards Street  
Dedham, MA 02026

## Amanda Smith

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**From:** Sarah MacDonald  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2022 5:12 PM  
**To:** Nancy Baker; Doreen LaBrecque  
**Subject:** Fw: Town Green Feedback

**Sarah MacDonald**  
Member, Select Board  
Town of Dedham

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**From:** Rachael School [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 14, 2022 1:57 PM  
**To:** Dimitria Sullivan <dsullivan1@dedham-ma.gov>; Sarah MacDonald <smacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>; Dennis Teehan <dteehan@dedham-ma.gov>; James MacDonald <jmacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>; Kevin Coughlin <kcoughlin@dedham-ma.gov>  
**Subject:** Town Green Feedback

Dear Members of the Select Board,

As I am unable to attend either of the listening sessions regarding the usage of the current police building property – I wanted to voice my appreciation and excitement for the conceptual design plans.

My eighth-grade daughter and her friends were able to attend and participate in one of the planning sessions several years ago. She and her friends were very excited to share their ideas – but more importantly, they are thrilled some of the ideas have made it into the conceptual design plan.

It is critically important for our community, especially our youth and young adults, to have this experience. Their town asked for their creativity and vision – these kids contributed – and now we need to show them, Dedham cares about that experience by bringing it into reality.

In terms of the actual plans, I especially love the flexibility and beauty of the design. Building this town green will bring a unique and beautiful park to our town. Although I appreciate the playgrounds and green space we already have – this vision will breathe new life into our town and will enhance Dedham Square as a true community destination.

I look forward to the many hours of fellowship and interesting uses of the designed space.

Best

Rachael School

21 Paradise

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**From:** Jean Zeiler [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 2:42 PM

**To:** Dimitria Sullivan <dsullivan1@dedham-ma.gov>; Sarah MacDonald <smacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>; James MacDonald <jmacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>; Dennis Teehan <dteehan@dedham-ma.gov>; Kevin Coughlin <kcoughlin@dedham-ma.gov>; Leon Goodwin <lgoodwin@dedham-ma.gov>

**Subject:** Town Green

Dear Select Board Members and Town Manager Goodwin,

This email is to express my support for bold action on a public park at the site of the old police station. We have the opportunity to enhance Dedham Square to the benefit of the entire community with a beautiful, useful, and environmentally-sound gathering space. The Dedham Square Planning Committee clearly engaged in a mammoth effort to investigate possibilities, engage the public in numerous ways, and issue a comprehensive report and recommendations over the course of two-years. They should be applauded for their serious and inclusive work. The report addresses design, cost, financing, traffic, safety, environment, and every other aspect of this project. The economic benefit of an accessible and attractive open space in the middle of a main square is evident. It is better to invest now rather than tinker around the edges and regret later.

My family members and I have been able to attend and participate in a number of the presentations by the DSPC along the way. The events were well-advertised around town, in the Dedham Times, and on social media. The report is available for everyone to read. Members of the DSPC have been and continue to be accessible to answer questions and respond to concerns.

I am a Town Meeting member and would be happy to vote to fund a bold project that meets the needs of the community on a year-round basis, welcomes the public, and is forward-thinking in regard to the environment and climate-change. The grant opportunities are significant and should not be squandered. Let's take this amazing opportunity to think big and responsibly for our future.

Thank you,

Jean Zeiler

Woodleigh Rd.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Fresh Ideas](#); [Leon Goodwin](#)  
**Subject:** Dedham needs the Town Green as studied and recommended by the DSPC  
**Date:** Thursday, March 10, 2022 5:47:28 PM

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Select Board Members,  
Please do not dilute the recommended Town Green project.  
Now is the time to vote for this much-needed and hoped for recreational green space!  
Extra funding can be raised through donations.  
Let's reinvigorate our town center as a welcoming space for all!  
I am an active voter in Dedham.  
Thank you for your consideration.  
Sincerely,  
Suzanne Reynolds  
164 Monroe St

**From:** Turner, Maura  
**To:** [Fresh Ideas](#)  
**Subject:** Dedham Square Planning  
**Date:** Thursday, March 10, 2022 9:05:38 PM  
**Attachments:** [0.jpg](#)

---

Hi,

This is to convey my support for the Dedham Square Planning Committee's proposal for the town green. After so much work was put into it these last two years, I hope we'll give voters a chance to weigh in before expending more time, money and effort on an alternative.

Thank you,

Maura Turner

*Maura Turner  
Head of Marketing and Communications  
Charlesbank Capital Partners*



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Fresh Ideas](#)  
**Subject:** Town Green DSPC proposal  
**Date:** Friday, March 11, 2022 1:14:40 PM

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Hello, Select Board.

I understand that you are rejecting the DSPC plan that was developed over the last two years with significant input and approval from Dedham citizens, all across Town.

I watched the March 7th meeting where Dennis Teehan explained that the Select Board decided to make their own plan in a few months with no input from the broader community, apparently trying to appease a few people who want just a plot of grass with benches and more parking.

I would like the Select Board to be as transparent as DSPC. I would like to know the data and actual numbers you're "hearing" from people who are telling you that they want something else. Are there five people? 200 people? I'd like to compare those numbers with the resounding positive feedback the DSPC received and shared with you.

The DSPC actually helps safety and traffic. It is a beautifully designed plan designed by actual designers. I want something nice in the center of our Town that beautifies while also being safe without disrupting the flow of traffic. The new additions that have been built in the Square are unappealing and cheap-looking, along with the monstrous parking meters that no one likes. Please allow something beautiful to be built in the Square.

I also don't agree that the green should be built in two phases. It needs to be one cohesive project and done correctly the first time so it doesn't disrupt the Square twice.

I'm so dismayed and disappointed with how the Select Board is reacting to this project. Please be transparent and give concrete reasons and concrete data for why you are rejecting the DSPC's excellent plan. I will also be calling Jim MacDonald to voice my concern.

Martha Abdella  
Town Meeting member, P1  
[REDACTED]



**From:** Genia Proffitt  
**To:** [Fresh Ideas](#)  
**Subject:** Town Green Project  
**Date:** Thursday, March 10, 2022 6:36:29 PM

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Must you always cost the Town more money. The current proposal for the town Green project is totally feasible. Why Oh why do we need to bring an engineer in to this leave it as it is and let the plans go through for once thank you

**From:** Ann Stephens  
**To:** [Fresh Ideas](#)  
**Subject:** Town Green  
**Date:** Friday, March 11, 2022 11:37:50 AM  
**Attachments:** sb\_mtg.jpg

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Hello Select Board Members & Chair!

Hope you are all having a wonderful Friday. First off, thank you for your service to the Town of Dedham, your commitment to our community is apparent and appreciated.

My name is Ann Stephens. I am a Dedham mother of 4 children aged 3-14 and also grew up in Dedham. I live next door to my mother, Mary Gardiner, a Dedham resident for over 50 years. I am a Town Meeting Member in P6 and I do my best to be an informed and engaged citizen. Having four young children makes it difficult, but I find time to participate in meetings and advocate for initiatives that I think will help make our community stronger.

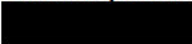
I took time to contribute my thoughts about the Town Green project during the community planning meetings. I took time to watch both of the Select Board listening sessions discussing the project. I took time to voice my support at one of those meetings. I took time watching the entire DSPC meeting on March 7th. I took time to attend the Select Board meeting last night and attempted to raise my hand to add a public comment about the project. I think there was some technical difficulty, because I never got called to speak. Who knows, maybe one of my kids lowered my hand.

(Attaching photographic evidence of engagement for reference. )

My point is that all of the hours that I have spent giving my feedback to develop and advocate for this project sort of feel like they were all for show. I heard over 100 Dedham residents say loud and clear that they wanted this project to move forward. I only heard a handful of Dedham residents raise any concerns about the project. I understand that the Select Board has a duty to listen to all constituents, and that I may not be privy to some of those conversations. But I also understand that to all of the people that dedicated WAY more hours and effort than me to this project, the lack of support by the Select Board feels less than transparent.

Many experts in landscape and planning generously volunteered their efforts to better the DSPC proposal. I hope that the Board will consider moving forward with the design that was created with the input from Dedham residents.

Thanks so much for your time!

Ann Stephens  


**From:** Erick Straghalis  
**To:** [Fresh Ideas](#)  
**Subject:** Supporting the DSPSC Green Space Proposal  
**Date:** Monday, March 14, 2022 3:39:05 PM

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Dear Select Board Members,

I am writing with enthusiastic support for the original plan offered by the DSPSC for the current police station site.

I am deeply concerned that the Select Board has taken it upon themselves to override the voices of Dedham residents. Residents, including myself, have spent countless hours attending meetings, listening to presentations, and providing extensive feedback on this matter. As evidenced by their thorough report, the DSPSC has done their diligence and community engagement, with extreme transparency throughout the process. They have articulated a thoughtful plan that represents options that benefit the whole community and take into account the concerns and thoughts of residents throughout the town.

As a resident, I am happy that the Select Board members take the time to consider and thoughtfully address concerns about any proposal — including parking, traffic safety, and cost. However, in this case, the Select Board seems to have done so with extreme prejudice, and offered little to no explanation as to why. I'd like to address these concerns individually:

- **Parking** - while parking has been an issue lately in Dedham square, the lack of spaces is hardly the concern on resident's minds. Adding 3 or 4 spaces won't resolve the bigger issue. Instead, the Select Board should address their poor decision in choosing a meter system and contract that has essentially angered every resident and visitor to the square, costing the town and tax payers fees that the town barely profits from. On the bright side, the Select Board has finally done something to unify the WHOLE town! Great job on that front.
- **Traffic Safety** - getting through Dedham Square is a nightmare during the morning and evening commutes. The parking spaces, and traffic attempting to move into and out of those spaces, is actually a large contributor to that problem. The plan proposed by the DSPSC addressed these issues through a variety of features including: removing the few spaces at the police station (that are currently only available to police business anyway), the curb extension, relocated traffic light for greater visibility, elevated roadway along Church Street, and expanded sidewalks for pedestrian safety. If part of the goal of this effort is to encourage LOCAL traffic into the square, I fail to see how the Select Board plans on improving on the proposed plan.
- **Cost** - The Select Board has said they would only entertain a \$2.7 Million cost—where the town would only pay \$1.7 Million and the remainder would come from grants. While the proposed plan, as set forth by the DSPSC, was for \$4.3 Million, alternative plans have brought the cost to \$3.7 Million—where the town would pay \$1.7 Million and grants and fundraising would cover the remainder. If the cost is the same to the town - I fail to see the concern about cost.

The Select Board has taken it upon themselves to propose an alternative solution — yet it is still unclear what that alternative option is. This begs many questions - first, where exactly is your proposed plan? What diligence has the Select Board done in preparing it? What feedback has the Select Board solicited to inform this plan? What problems is the Select Board trying to solve by going through a separate design process? Who has the Select Board engaged to identify solutions to those problems? And last, but not least, where is the voice of the residents

you are supposed to be representing?

But perhaps the biggest question - is what, exactly, is the real concern the Select Board has? Clearly, it's not the expense, since everyone agrees that the town spending \$1.7 million is a reasonable number. If it's parking, there are bigger fish to fry - like the meter company that has bilked the town and made the Select Board look foolish. And if it's traffic safety, I'd like to see the data to support the Select Board's opinions.

~erick straghalis  
14 Spruce St.

**From:** [Sarah MacDonald](#)  
**To:** [Amanda Smith](#); [Nancy Baker](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Beautify Dedham  
**Date:** Monday, March 14, 2022 8:29:32 PM

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**Sarah MacDonald**

Member, Select Board  
Town of Dedham

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**From:** Diana McNamara [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 11, 2022 3:25 PM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas <freshideas@dedham-ma.gov>  
**Subject:** Beautify Dedham

Dear Selectman MacDonald,

Thank you for your service to Dedham. One of Dedham's best features, and one worth cultivating, is its walkability. Real estate values usually reflect that. The Town Green proposal by the DSPC appears innovative and thoughtfully designed. To scuttle those plans for the sake of additional parking spaces and minimal savings seems to be a step backwards. It's worth comparing plans, but please don't settle on a third-rate compromise when you have so many engaged residents willing to work and defray costs. Here is the opportunity to create something of lasting beauty and value for everyone, please don't throw it away. Vote for the DSPC plan.

With appreciation for you attention,

Diana McNamara  
Precinct 1  
Dedham

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Diana Towers McNamara  
18 Worthington St , Dedham, MA  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Sarah MacDonald](#)  
**To:** [Amanda Smith](#); [Nancy Baker](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Support for DSPC's Town Green Plan  
**Date:** Monday, March 14, 2022 8:28:34 PM

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**Sarah MacDonald**

Member, Select Board  
Town of Dedham

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**From:** Kate Laberge [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 13, 2022 8:15 AM  
**To:** Fresh Ideas <freshideas@dedham-ma.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for DSPC's Town Green Plan

I am writing in full support of the Dedham Square Planning Committee's plan for a new town green. Please consider this email our endorsement for their original plan and nothing less.

Thank you,  
Kate & Dave Bergeron  
43 Dwight St, Dedham

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Sarah MacDonald](#)  
**To:** [Nancy Baker](#); [Amanda Smith](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Town Green  
**Date:** Monday, March 14, 2022 8:20:46 PM

---

**Sarah MacDonald**

Member, Select Board  
Town of Dedham

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**From:** Melissa Cidado [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 13, 2022 6:07 PM  
**To:** Dimitria Sullivan <dtsullivan1@dedham-ma.gov>; Sarah MacDonald <smacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>; Dennis Teehan <dteehan@dedham-ma.gov>; James MacDonald <jmacdonald@dedham-ma.gov>; Kevin Coughlin <kcoughlin@dedham-ma.gov>  
**Subject:** Town Green

Dear Select Board members,  
I want to share my full support for the Dedham Square Planning Committee's plan for the Town Green - and request that the Select Board give their full support to an Article that presents this full plan to the Town Meeting.

The DSPC carried out a thorough process seeking input from a large sampling of residents in Dedham and I ask that the Select Board respect the community's engagement and input into this process.

A phased approach may cost more to the town in the long run. Now is our opportunity to have a high quality public park, with as much green space as possible, and improving safety and traffic flow by converting the diagonal parking spaces into parallel parking spaces. Grants and public fundraising can help offset costs for the town, and there are already individuals organizing to support this.

Thank you for your consideration. As a town meeting member candidate in Precinct five, I look forward to voting on this soon.

Best,  
Melissa

--

Melissa Cidado  
[REDACTED]