

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

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
AUGUST 12, 2021, 6:30 P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

TOWN OF DEDHAM STAFF:

Leon Goodwin	Town Manager, City of Dedham
Nancy Baker	Assistant Town Manager, City of Dedham

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Board recited the pledge of allegiance, led by Eagle Scout Harry Murphy. The Chair outlined Mr. Murphy's impressive contributions to the community. Chair of the Select Board, Ms. Sullivan, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Brian Keaney provided his address. He thanked the Board for allowing residents to participate via Zoom. The 40 sets of minutes that he requested are still delayed, and he would like this to be addressed. The Globe is taking the City of Boston to court for not turning over public records. Mr. Keaney voiced that he did not want to take this step.

Ms. Baker noted that Mr. Keaney was clear that he does not want minutes that have redactions in them. These redactions are frequently regarding litigation or collective bargaining. Some of the older minutes that have not been made available have redactions. A professional minute-taking company has been hired to address the minutes, so some recent ones have been done.

Mr. Tom Polito provided his address. He informed the Board that there would be a meeting on August 23, 2021, regarding the American Rescue Plan. Regarding the bunny at the Blue Bunny bookstore, Mr. Polito would like the Town to do what is right. He questioned Mr. Reynold's recounting of what happened regarding the bunny at the last meeting.

Ms. Sandra Lopez Burke has lived in Dedham for 22 years and noted that decisions must be made with the entire community in mind. She believes the bunny has put Dedham on the map and engages the community.

Ms. Mary Gilbert provided her address and is on the Precinct Four Committee. The Blue Bunny is an important business in Dedham. Her concern was that the area can be crowded, and the bunny does not help this. She feels the bunny would impact people coming to Dedham Square.

3. DISCUSSION AND VOTE

Ms. Sullivan noted that questions had been brought up regarding her participation in the Blue Bunny Bookstore bunny conversation. She disclosed that her husband, Mr. James Sullivan, is the assistant Dedham building inspector code officer. As a result, he may have inspected The Blue Bunny Bookstore. He has no personal financial interest in whether or not the permit is approved. He is not compensated based on the Select Board's decision on this matter. Ms. Sullivan will not take action based on the nature of her relationships with the parties involved but the merits of the request and with the best intentions of the Town at the forefront.

Ms. Sullivan noted that approximately 75 emails had been received regarding the bunny. Some emails indicated that this issue had wasted the time of the politicians involved. Ms. Sullivan disagreed, noting that it was an opportunity to address permitting. The sidewalk landscape has changed drastically in the last year. When zoning bylaws are broken, they are only brought to the Town's attention by citizens. This has benefits but also challenges.

Ms. Sullivan recommended to the Board to approve the request by Mr. Reynolds at the Blue Bunny Bookstore to have the bunny outside of the store for a year. It will be reevaluated at that time. Dr. Teehan noted that the bunny had been outside for approximately eight years. Health and safety need to be a priority when reviewing this application. Ms. MacDonald suggested that the permitting process allows control to ensure Dedham has the aesthetic that the Town desires.

Zoning regulations have been unevenly enforced. Mr. MacDonald agreed with the licensing agreement and the year limitation. Mr. Coughlin was hesitant to approve the permit at this time. Because a working group is being established to evaluate sidewalks and code enforcement, he felt there was insufficient information. The Board discussed what the working group would do.

Mr. Goodwin also noted that a function could be put on the website for code enforcement. In addition, permits are moving online with a dashboard that gives a visual of the process. This could also close the loop and ensure all parties are updated appropriately. Ms. Sullivan confirmed that more information regarding the working group would be presented in September.

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to approve the licensing agreement for The Blue Bunny Bookstore's sidewalk display for one year or when the working group reports back, whichever is sooner. The motion was seconded by Mr. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	No

Motion passed 4-1.

4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Goodwin noted that the MBTA has been working on issues on Train Street. The MBTA has not responded to the flooding yet. Mr. Goodwin will communicate with the state regarding this.

Mr. Goodwin noted that the Town is eligible for five million directly and 2.5 million indirectly of ARPA funding. Different projects and intents are being considered. A proposal will be presented to the Select Board. Projects include COVID-19 losses such as revenue losses. The funding cannot be used to offset tax losses. More information will be forthcoming.

Ms. MacDonald asked for clarity, as other cities are using it for more infrastructure. Dedham's money is not allowed to be used for these projects. Mr. Goodwin noted that money is being distributed on a per capita basis. Towns with more than 50,000 are receiving a higher per capita amount than smaller townships. Mr. Goodwin noted that parks, water, sewage, and broadband infrastructure could be constructed within the restrictions. The Town intends to use it for revenue losses and to decrease tax increases. There will be more clarity in the coming weeks.

Mr. Goodwin is working with the Dedham Square Study Committee. There is community engagement. In October, it should come to the Board with recommendations on the old police station. Mr. Goodwin confirmed that a Board and Committee tracking system is being evaluated for better communication with Board and Committee members. It is in the data entry stage.

Mr. Goodwin noted that minutes are a priority. With the approvals tonight, all minutes up to July 20, 2021, will have been approved. These will be posted soon. Mr. Goodwin thanked Doreen LaBrecque for doing an excellent job on this project. Progress is being made on the town reports. The 2017 town report was posted on the website; 2018 has a few pieces missing but will be posted soon. Mr. Goodwin expects online permits to be released in September or October.

Ms. MacDonald asked for more information on the mask policy. Mr. Goodwin noted 19 new cases in Dedham; it is not trending in the right direction. CDC guidelines state that when there is a higher risk, masks are required. Therefore, masks are mandatory in the town hall, regardless of vaccine status. The School Committee will consider mask policies school begins.

There was a discussion regarding the appointment of Mr. Kevin Doyle as the director of assessment. Mr. Goodwin noted that he could appoint most appointment heads. However, he must give notice to the Board, and they can affirm it, reject it, or allow 14 days to pass with no action, resulting in the appointment. The Board was enthusiastic about this appointment.

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to affirm the appointment of Mr. Kevin Doyle as the director of assessing for the Town. The motion was seconded by Dr. Teehan. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

5. **PUBLIC HEARING**

Request for Wine and Malt license for Miracle of Coffee LLC: Ms. Donna Menna provided her address. She thanks Ms. Baker for her help with this project. She believes a wine and malt license will benefit the small business. Ms. MacDonald asked what it would like to serve wine and beer. Ms. Menna noted that this would allow for an increase in hours for the store. Liquor sales will not be promoted during the day and will be reserved for the evening. It will increase revenue and exposure. The intent is not to become a drinking hub.

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to resolve to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Dr. Teehan. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to approve the wine and malt license for Miracle of Coffee LLC d/b/a Big Bear Care, at 3 Eastern Avenue. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coughlin. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to approve Ms. Donna Menna as manager of Miracle of Coffee LLC d/b/a Big Bear Care, at 3 Eastern Avenue. The motion was seconded by Mr. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

LSF Dedham Change of Manager: Ms. Ashley Ortiz will be the new manager of Legal Sea Foods. Ms. Ortiz has been with Legal Sea Foods for approximately ten years. She was in Chestnut Hill for three years but spent her first seven years in the Dedham location. She noted that she did not have previous experience as a license holder.

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to approve the request to change the manager of record of Legal Sea Foods, 736 Legacy Place, from Ms. Ashley Ramirez to Ms. Ashley Ortiz. The motion was seconded by Dr. Teehan. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

New Assistant Conservation Agent Introduction: Mr. Goodwin noted that an administrative position was changed to assistant conservation agent. Mr. Patrick Hogan applied and was hired. He has worked with river watersheds and large cities for drain water and has a bachelor's and master's from Virginia Tech in environmental engineering. He's been with the Town for four weeks, and it has been wonderful.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Sullivan removed the request to close High Street in Dedham Square on September 12, 2021, from the consent agenda. There was a discussion regarding the filming of the HBO series, Julia.

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to approve open session minutes from October 8, 2020, April 21 and 29, 2021, May 13 and 26, 2021, June 3, 2021, and July 20, 2021, and executive sessions from December 20, 2017, April 23 and 30, 2020, January 7, 2021, February 25, 2021, March 10, 2021, April 1, 2021, and May 13, 2021. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to approve block parties on Taylor Avenue, Wentworth Street, Fox Meadow, and Harding Terrace. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
---------------	-----

Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to approve the request to close a portion of Fairview Street for the Mariposa Child Center graduation. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to approve filming of the HBO series Julia on August 17, 2021. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to approve the Dedham Turkey Trot on November 25, 2021. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

Ms. Sullivan addressed the closing of High Street in Dedham Square on September 12, 2021, for public art on the barriers. She noted that the idea was fantastic. Ms. Kate Bergeron confirmed that hours would be 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. This is Phase One. Ms. Bergeron confirmed that small portions of the streets would be closed. Phase Two will be completing the barriers that were not addressed on September 12, 2021. There are around 45 barriers. This is an unmanageable amount for one day. High school artists will be contacted to participate in Phase Two.

A motion was made by Dr. Teehan to approve closing portions of High Street on September 12, 2021, for the painting of barriers. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

DDF Dash 5K: Ms. Sullivan noted this item was not on the agenda. This event will take place on September 3, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. The Chief has reviewed the route.

A motion was made by Dr. Teehan to take an item that was not on the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Coughlin to approve the DDF Dash 5K occurring on September 3, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Interfund Advance Borrowing Request: Mr. John Arnet, the finance director, presented the inter-fund advance borrowing request. This occurs every year.

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to approve the inter-fund advanced borrowing request presented by Mr. Arnet. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Parking and Parking Meters: Mr. John Sisson, the economic developer, presented regarding parking. The objective is to ensure parking is available in the downtown core. The Keystone lot is oversubscribed during lunch and dinner. In addition, the Town is using approximately 25 spots for municipal employees. Mr. Sisson noted that this could be improved by limiting overnight parking in the Keystone lot to residents who do not have off-street parking. This could be applied to the lower Gonzalos parking lot also. Overnight parking would be permitted in both cases.

Ms. MacDonald voiced concern regarding compliance with the parking meters. Mr. Sisson noted that compliance starts low, and then it increases to approximately 90%. These parking meters provide information regarding people's past parking violations and information regarding the meters, such as coin jams, etc. This decreases disputes. He noted that the intent is not to punish people but to ensure parking is available for everyone.

Charter Study Committee, Report and Recommendations: Mr. Carmen Delloiacono presented the preliminary findings from the report. There were three major findings. The first was changes to 2.9 regarding the time frame for the town meeting. Essentially, this would allow more time to decrease the rush regarding warrants at the end of the meeting. Mr. MacDonald asked if this was something that could be done without a charter change. Charters are difficult and time-consuming to change.

Mr. Delloiacono will investigate if this can be addressed in the town meeting without a change. Mr. MacDonald also noted that online voting would make these items easier to address. The second item was 3-2, which addresses goal setting. This is to extend goal-setting to all Boards and Committees. It requires a report of what has been and what will be done. The third item was 4.2 and 6.7. This requests that all department heads should report to the town manager. Mr. Goodwin was consulted. This change will strengthen the position of the elected bodies.

Ms. Sullivan thanked Mr. Delloiacono and the Committee for their hard work. The public hearing is scheduled for September 1, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. After that meeting, it will come back to the Select Board if there are no changes. Then, the recommendations will go to the town meeting in the Fall.

8. SELECT BOARD GOALS

Ms. Sullivan noted that the Select Board had created goals in 2020. There were 32 goals. Unfortunately, the pandemic pushed some goals to the back burner. In 2021, the goals were reevaluated. Ms. Sullivan noted that some goals are ongoing, such as engaging with the community through social media.

9. DISCUSSION AND VOTE

2021 Fall Town Meeting Warrant Closing Date: Ms. Baker recommended closing the warrant on September 3, 2021, and holding the town meeting on November 15, 2021.

A motion was made by Dr. Teehan to approve closing the warrants for the fall town meeting on September 3, 2021. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes

James A. MacDonald Yes
Sarah MacDonald Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

10. PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING UPDATE

Mr. Goodwin highlighted that there had been weather challenges. Concrete needs to be poured soon to keep things on schedule.

11. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Ms. MacDonald asked Mr. Goodwin to follow up on the ownership of Franklin Square. Mr. Goodwin noted that the title examiner is still writing the report. However, he was verbally told that it looks like the Town does not own Franklin Square. Mr. Goodwin will confirm soon.

Ms. MacDonald noted that the Dedham Organization for Substance Abuse Coalition actively recruits youth leaders to educate their peers regarding smart choices around substances.

Mr. Goodwin noted the tragic fatal accident on Providence Highway. A letter is being written to request improvements to the intersection. There are moving parts that are coming together. There are challenges circulating letters for review due to the open meeting law.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to move the meeting into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Teehan. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan Yes
Dimitria Sullivan Yes
James A. MacDonald Yes
Sarah MacDonald Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

DISCLAIMER

The above minutes should be used as a summary of the motions passed and issues discussed at the meeting of the members of the Select Board. This document shall not be considered to be a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting.

Director

Director

Approved 12/2/21

Date

Date