

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

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
MARCH 30, 2022, 6:30 P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS:

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| Dimitria Sullivan | Chair |
| Kevin R. Coughlin | Member |
| Dennis Teehan | Member |

TOWN OF DEDHAM STAFF:

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|------------------|--------------------------|
| Leon Goodwin | Town Manager |
| Doreen LaBrecque | Administrative Assistant |

REGRETS:

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| Sarah MacDonald | Vice-Chair |
| James A. MacDonald | Member |

Minutes prepared by Mary-Margaret Scrimger of Minutes Solutions Inc. from an audio/video recording.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Board recited the pledge of allegiance. The Chair, Ms. Sullivan, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. MBTA LISTENING SESSION

Ms. Sullivan thanked everyone for participating. She noted that the primary objective of this listening session is to compile the comments and thoughts of the public. The High Street bridge project could negatively or positively impact various neighborhoods in the area.

Mr. Goodwin noted that the town takes public comments seriously.

Mr. Richard McGowan provided his address. He noted that he attended the MBTA meeting in December 2021. He noted that there is a lack of clarity regarding what will occur. He noted that if the bridge height is changed then it will influence truck traffic and asked if anything would be done to mitigate this. Ms. Sullivan noted that a truck ban is being considered. It is likely that the state will do whatever the state decides, but Dedham will ensure their voice is heard.

Mr. Mike Morrison provided his address. He noted that agreement with the above statement. He noted that the bridge needs to be repaired. He noted concern regarding increasing the bridge height, allowing large trucks in residential areas. He asked if there were benefits to the town to raise the bridge height and if anyone in the town agreed to this increase. He asked what could be

done to keep Dedham residents safe. Mr. Goodwin noted that the Select Board has voiced concern with raising the bridge. This is an effort driven by the MBTA.

Ms. Sarah Basu provided her address. She voiced concern regarding Amazon trucks. There have been three accidents in the same area, and there has been a significant increase in traffic in her area. If the bridge height is going to be raised, she asked that a safety plan be put into place.

Ms. Ann Mercer provided her address. She voiced concern that the MBTA will not listen to the concerns raised in this meeting. Ms. Sullivan noted that the Select Board will work to ensure that their voice is heard. Ms. Mercer noted concern for trucks in residential neighborhoods and that large trucks may be banned, but that this is difficult to enforce without a physical barrier.

Mr. Dennis Teehan noted that he was the police officer and Chief for years. He noted that he does not believe the bridge should be raised as it will allow truck traffic. In his opinion, he believes that northbound trucks will be passing families with children going to extra circular activities and increase risk and mentioned the two previous pedestrian fatalities. He considers this a public safety issue. He asked for statistics on how frequently trucks get stuck under that bridge.

Mr. Steven Relyea provided his address. He agreed with the above comments regarding safety. He referenced comparable bridges that have low heights to ensure safety. He asked if the town has any leverage with MBTA on other projects to allow this bridge height to not be increased. He also asked if there was a previous traffic study done for other reasons that could be reviewed for the impact of trucks on safety.

Ms. Mary Gilbert provided her address. She noted that, in her district, there is concern regarding the increase of truck traffic by raising this bridge. She asked what the follow up would be on this meeting. She asked about the removal of the traffic islands and if this is in preparation for this project. Mr. Goodwin noted that the islands were removed for the gas line project and will be reinstalled after the bridge project.

Mr. Richard Gowan asked if the town stands to financially benefit from the increase of the bridge. Mr. Goodwin noted that there is no financial benefit, except for the sidewalk space under the bridge.

Mr. Mark Driscoll provided his address. He asked that, if the bridge is raised, could a metal bar or chains be installed before the bridge as a warning for heights. Ms. Sullivan noted that this is part of the conversation.

Ms. Ann Mercer noted that, after the first meeting, there was a letter sent from a local realtor that noted that raising the bridge would decrease property values in the area. Ms. Mercer confirmed that she would send a copy of the letter to the Select Board.

Ms. Michelle Pearson-Riley asked whether, if the bridge is raised, it would it still be possible to prohibit trucks. She also confirmed that the addition of sidewalks is important.

Mr. Mike Steinhoff provided his address. He noted an increase in Amazon trucks in the area and their struggle to stop at Mount Vernon. He asked for additional traffic calming efforts.

Mr. Jonathan Pape provided his address. He couldn't imagine that traffic could get worse, but it appears this will occur. He asked that consequences be more significant as companies can afford fines. He was happy that a sidewalk would be added.

Ms. Shelly McKee provided her address. She noted agreement with the above comments.

Mr. Michael DeWinter provided his address. He noted agreement with the above comments.

Ms. Sullivan noted that citizens can also add comments on the website.

This portion of the meeting was closed. Dr. Teehan noted that he grew up in this neighborhood and understands the impact. He asked that citizens consider alternative efforts to ensure this bridge is not changed. Mr. Coughlin thanked everyone for their comments.

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

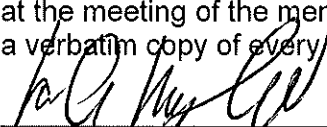
A motion was made by Dr. Teehan that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coughlin. A roll call vote was taken:

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| Dimitria Sullivan | Yes |
| Kevin R. Coughlin | Yes |
| Dennis Teehan | Yes |

Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

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

Sept. 7, 2022

Date

Date