

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

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 17, 2022, 6:30 P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

TOWN OF DEDHAM STAFF:

Leon Goodwin	Town Manager
Doreen LaBrecque	Administrative Assistant
Nancy Baker	Assistant Town Manager

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. There was a moment of silence in honor of retired Chief Sergeant Michael Buckley, and Shelly MacDonald from the IT department.

2. CITIZEN OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Bob LoPorto provided his address. He noted that he came to the Select Board a year ago regarding the flooding on Crane Street due to the MBTA construction. There have not been any changes and he asked if the Select Board could address this or provide guidance on what he can do. Mr. Goodwin noted that there have been meetings with the MBTA, who are reviewing the plan and addressing the situation. Mr. Goodwin has followed up and will continue to do so.

3. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Goodwin updated the Select Board regarding the town mask mandate. There is a COVID-19 task force that has met throughout the pandemic to address various areas. The Department of Education has removed the state mandate for masks in schools. The Dedham Board of Health and the School Board has concurred with the removal of the mask mandate. The COVID-19 task force has recommended that mask mandates be lifted. This will occur in the next week or so.

Dr. Teehan added insight. Omicron cases have been underestimated and the majority of citizens have likely had it or were exposed to it. Additionally, vaccine rates are high. It was expressed that this all warrants the removal of the mask mandates.

It was noted that the acoustics and sound system in the main hall are being upgraded to facilitate higher quality sound. This will improve future hybrid meetings.

The public safety building work is running on time and slightly ahead of budget. There will be weekend work in the near future to take advantage of the good weather. The roof is currently being installed and there are temporary windows. Once the roof is completed, a portion of the electrical work can be done at the same time as the exterior of the building. The high-risk phases of the project are complete. Mr. Goodwin recommended that the Select Board carry out a site visit in the future. The webcam of the building is still running for resident interest.

Currently, the town is completing budget preparation for the next fiscal year. There is a debt management policy that was updated in 2019. There is a debt floor, which is 5% of the operating budget, and a debt ceiling, which is 10% of the operating budget. Debt is used to fund capital investments in the town. There was discussion regarding the impact of debt, and Mr. Goodwin noted that debt is a significant consideration for the town and the budget. There was discussion regarding the capital expense and debt associated with the new elementary school.

Mr. Goodwin noted that payments for parking tickets have had lewd and inappropriate comments written on the bills. Mr. Goodwin noted that the parking enforcement officer is doing their job and is not responsible for tickets. Also, there are volunteers who are involved in payment collection. Mr. Goodwin noted disappointment in these actions and that when this occurs, the individuals are known and the checks will be returned if inappropriate. If the content is considered hate speech it will be brought to the police.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Coughlin to accept the following gifts: \$150 from Ray Hamey, \$50 from Ms. Jane Durkin, \$75 from S. Mullen, \$350 from Mr. David Hazerjian, \$50 from Ms. Camille Zahka, \$50 from Ms. Elizabeth Douglas, \$500 from the Barbara Realty Trust, and \$1,000 from the Dedham Moose Lodge. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Coughlin to approve the following drain layers: A. DiMartino Construction and Blue Diamond Equipment. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Coughlin to accept the following minutes from the Select Board: April 11, 2021 (Executive Session); December 2, 2021; December 16, 2021; January 1, 2022; and January 11, 2022. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

The minutes from the December 21, 2021 meeting were removed from the consent agenda as changes were needed. Ms. Sullivan thanked all the individuals and organizations for their generous donations.

5. **PUBLIC HEARING: CHANGE OF OFFICER/DIRECTORS/LLC MANAGERS AND A CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP**

A motion was made by Dr. Teehan it was resolved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coughlin. A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Coughlin it was resolved to approve the changes of officers/directors/LLC managers and the change of ownership interest for Yard House USA Inc. at 200 Legacy Place. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Ms. Libby Pisano, the council for Yard House USA located at 200 Legacy Place, noted that Lindsay Corn has replaced Joseph Kern as Vice-President and Secretary, and Angela Simons has replaced William White as director, president, and treasurer. The ownership now includes GMRI Inc. as the holding company. This was left out of the initial filing.

The hearing was open to the public. There were no comments.

6. **CANDIDATE STATEMENTS: STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald it was resolved to appoint Mx. Sean Malloy to the Human Rights Commission. The motion was seconded by Dr. Teehan. A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Sean Malloy is a junior at the Dedham high school. They believe that their presence on this Commission would provide insight, especially as a young queer person growing up in Dedham. They noted that they are looking at post-secondary education focused on psychology with the intent to go into counselling.

7. **DISCUSSION: VFW/PROVIDENCE HIGHWAY RECREATION ACCESS STUDY**

Ms. Tinger noted that, in 2020, the town had acquired property at 205 Providence Highway. The planning department would like to create a plan for the area. This is an opportunity to connect two parks. Things to be considered are canoe launch sites, river crossing locations, and platforms to view sites. To do this, extensive community engagement is needed. This is the early stage for this project.

8. **DISCUSSION AND VOTE: WIGGIN AVENUE**

A motion was made by Mr. Coughlin, it was resolved to accept the Planning Board report to the layout of Wiggin Avenue and to direct the engineering department to collect executed waivers of all owners of record. The motion was seconded by Dr. Teehan. A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Mr. Mammone, town engineer, explained that he is trying to change Wiggin Avenue from a private way to a public way. The last time he addressed the Select Board, they asked him to discuss with the Planning Board. The Planning Board has created a report provided to the Select Board. Mr. Mammone needs approval to get a waiver of damages from all abutters.

9. **DISCUSSION AND VOTE: SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS**

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald, it was resolved to approve the amendments to part 1 schedule, part 7, of the traffic regulations to adopt a no turn on red at High Street in the east direction at the intersection with Recreation Road. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coughlin. A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald, it was resolved to approve the plans from AE Com. The motion was seconded by Ms. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Ms. Trish Sullivan noted that the Active Transportation Working Group secured a grant to address signage on Avery Street, High Street, and Barrow Street. A new crosswalk, signage, stop signs, do not enter signs, do not block signs, fine signs, and other items will be installed. There will be insight provided from the state. Mr. Mammone is actively involved in the process. These improvements need to be approved by the Select Board. In general, the changes are minimal but there would be a no turn on red traffic regulation change on High Street at Recreation Road.

10. **BOARD UPDATES: CULTURAL COUNCIL CHAIR AND ZBA CHAIR**

Mr. Scott Steeves noted that everything is running smoothly with the ZBA, both from the Board and from the town. There were 21 hearings in 2021. The Select Board thanked the ZBA for their hard work.

Ms. Patricia Dorsey was unavailable, and the cultural council item was moved to a future meeting.

11. **DEPARTMENT UPDATES: ENDICOTT ESTATE AND COUNCIL ON AGING**

Ms. Erin Perron noted that the numbers at the Endicott Estate have been down due to COVID-19. There are 61 weddings booked for the year, which is a return to pre-COVID-19 numbers. The barn reconstruction project has been moving forward. The details will be presented to the insurance company in the near future to ensure that it is kept within the insurance allocation. The entrance fountain has been delivered and there are delays having it installed. It should be installed in the spring.

There was discussion on whether technology investments could make Endicott Estate more enticing. Ms. Perron noted that clients have been bringing their own technology, such as Zoom account and cameras. This also decreases infrastructure expenses for the Endicott Estate.

Ms. Sheila Pransky noted that the Council on Aging closed the Senior Center in March 2020 due to COVID-19. It was reopened in March 2021. The Council on Aging helps deliver food, goods, and services to seniors. This was essential in the pandemic. The restrictions were changed for Meals on Wheels, ensuring that anyone who needed food received it.

A grant was received to purchase 20 iPads to help seniors with limited income have a connection during the pandemic. Transportation was also provided to seniors who had limited transit options. There will be a budget increase request for this program in the near future.

Ms. Pransky noted that mental health support does not meet the community needs. She would like a part-time social worker to be hired and is looking into funding for this role. For the Senior Center, bingo is very popular. Other programming is being evaluated such as fitness classes.

12. DISCUSSION: PARKING METERS

Mr. Sisson noted that there have been listening sessions with merchants regarding parking meters. Policy and communication were a focus. There is a willingness to modify policies so that they works well for citizens, who will be consulted in March 2023.

The parking grace period is being addressed, which regards parking for a short period of time to drop someone off, pick someone up, take a phone call, etc. Overnight permits have been approved. Mr. Sisson has ideas on how to address the Keystone lot. Merchants felt the two-hour limit was too short. Simplifying the process is a priority.

It was clarified that the contract with MPS ends at the end of June 2022. Dr. Teehan noted that this is the second service provider who has been challenging and provided systems that are overcomplicated. Stantec is helping with the program, and are being paid approximately \$9,500 to evaluate the system. The data from this system is excellent, although the customer service has room to improve.

Revenue, including parking fees and fines, are divided 50/50 between MPS and the town. Thus far, revenue is approximately \$110,000 over six months. There was discussion regarding "live parking", which is, for example, pulling over to take a phone call and being charged for being in the slot when they have not left their car.

Mr. Goodwin noted that, with the expiry of the contract with MPS, there are two options: let the contract expire and have MPS remove the meters, leaving Dedham with no parking system, or extend the contract in the hopes that the issues can be resolved. This decision will be brought to the Select Board in March 2023. If this is extended, it will need to be approved by town meeting. While this project has used a lot of staff time, it does have significant ramifications to the community.

13. NEW BUSINESS

The community was reminded that, for those who are not registered for the spring town election, tomorrow, February 18, 2022, is the deadline.

Dr. Teehan noted that he has been asked to work on the planning committee for pride.

14. MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald that, pursuant to MGL c.30A Sec. 21(a), Exemption 3, the Select Board would move into executive session to discuss strategy respective to collective bargaining. The motion was seconded by Mr. MacDonald. A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

15. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coughlin. A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

DISCLAIMER

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

Director

Director

Date

Date