

PLANNING BOARD

John R. Bethoney, Chair
Michael A. Podolski, Esq., Vice-Chair
James E. O'Brien IV, Clerk
Jessica L. Porter
James F. McGrail, Esq.



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Senior Planner
Michelle Tinger

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

**MINUTES OF THE PLANNING BOARD MEETING
O'BRIEN MEETING ROOM, THIRD FLOOR
JANUARY 31, 2023, 6:00 P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS:

John R. Bethoney	Chair
Michael A. Podolski, Esq.	Vice-Chair
James E. O'Brien IV	Member
Jessica L. Porter	Member
James McGrail	Member

PLANNING DEPARTMENT STAFF:

Jeremy Rosenberger	Planning Director
Michelle Tinger	Senior Planner

GUEST:

Josh Fiala	MAPC
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1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bethoney called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. DESIGNING DEDHAM MASTER PLAN

The Board reviewed two chapters from Designing Dedham Master Plan: Community Facilities and Services, and Governance. The Board made the following recommendations:

- Page C2: Include the year on the school enrollment chart.
- Page C2: Clarify "Sustainability, resiliency, and equity" and/or separate into two points.
- Page C3: Change "built in 1989" to "acquired by the Town in 2006."
- Page C3: Place greater emphasis on the sentence "In 1645, the Town of Dedham..."
- Page C5: Typographical error on the third line from the bottom; delete the word "the."
- Page C6: Can consolidate Central Police station and the Fire Stations.
- Page C9: Update the description of the Dolan Center.

- General Comment: Since the document will be primarily viewed online, working links should be added where relevant.
- Page C16: Add the Trenton Road playground.
- Page C17: Clarify that sidewalks are not included in the PCI score and include information about average PCI scores in the region.
- Page C22: Eliminate the reference to Community Development Director.
- Page C22: Clarify that the Zoning Board of Appeals has five voting members and two associate members.
- Page C22: Remove the word “board” when describing the Conservation Commission.
- Page C24: Delete the clause “...and is responsible for the overall administration of library staff.”
- Page C24: Ms. Porter offered to write a short passage about the library.
- Page C25: Delete references to who appoints the Recreation Director.
- Page C31: Elaborate on which public facilities are being discussed.
- Page C31: Clarify point 3.5.
- Page C33: Adjust the language to reflect that some Boards currently make great efforts to engage the public.
- Page C33: Change the example used in point 5.3.
- Page C35: Update the section regarding the Grants Administrator.
- Page G1: Under the subheading “Goal/Strategy Highlights” add the words “continue to pursue...”
- Page G3: Expand the scope beyond “the Greater Boston Area,” as mentioned in the introductory sentence.
- Page G6: Remove or rephrase “It can be difficult for the typical resident...”
- Page G9: Further highlight that the decisions are made by the citizens of Dedham.
- General Comment: It was noted that the data regarding diversity in Dedham was not available, as stated on page G10, despite the document’s claims and goals regarding diversity.
- General Comment: It was noted that two thirds of respondents rated “local tax rates” as a top concern, and 93% named “efficient public services and facilities” as important or most important; however, the document does not emphasize these concerns. It was noted that traffic and congestion were also concerns that were not emphasized in the document. Mr. Fiala noted that there are not many recommendations regarding financial responsibility, as the Town’s financial position is strong.
- Page G13: The last sentence of the first paragraph is incomplete.
- General Comment: There were no goals regarding residents’ tax rate concerns.
- Page G16: Data is needed to determine the validity of the public’s perception of the composition of boards and committees.
- Page G17: Strategy 4.2 should be rephrased and clarified to identify who will evaluate the Boards.
- Page G17: Rephrase Strategy 4.4 to be more inclusive of Board and Committees, both elected and appointed.
- Page G18: Consult with the Town Manager regarding Strategy 5.5.
- Page G19: Strategy 6.1: Remove the words “...or department.”

The Chair noted that the Select Board recently viewed a presentation from a consultant regarding the Town’s financial status and requested that Mr. Rosenberger arrange for the Planning Board to view the same presentation. The Chair recommended that the Board

revisit adding more specific information to the document regarding the Town's finances after the presentation has been delivered.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair noted that no members of the public were in attendance.

4. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Planning Board is scheduled for February 8, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

5. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. McGrail, seconded by Mr. Podolski, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. Motion carried.