

**TOWN OF DEDHAM  
TOWN GREEN WORKING GROUP  
450 WASHINGTON STREET  
DEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN GREEN WORKING GROUP MEETING  
MAY 4, 2023, 7:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS:**

Mike Butler	Chair
Jessica Porter	Vice-Chair
Tom Polito	Member
Micah Flynn	Member
Mark Pearrow	Member
Tara Ikenouye	Member

**GUESTS:**

Jason Mammone	Engineering Director, Town of Dedham
Doreen Labrecque	Administrative Assistant, Town Manager Department
Bryan Jereb	Halvorson/Tighe & Bond
Vesna Maneva	Halvorson/Tighe & Bond

Minutes prepared by Mary-Margaret Scrimger of Minutes Solutions Inc. from a video recording.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Butler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**CONCEPTUAL DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS**

**On a motion duly made, it was voted to use the conceptional plan for phase one to create an estimate, noting that the design elements that have not been decided will not likely impact costs. Motion carried.**

**On a motion duly made, it was voted to recommend proceeding with the phase two conceptional design. One opposed, Mr. Polito. Motion carried.**

**On a motion duly made, it was voted that the group recommend to the Town Manager that Halvorson/Tighe and Bond provide a cost estimate for phase two for a cost of approximately \$7,000. One opposed, Mr. Polito. Motion carried.**

Mr. Bryan Jereb provided architectural history regarding Dedham and noted that it is important to ensure the Town Green is consistent with the aesthetic.

The Town Green is in the center of the town, and the design ensures that there is a quiet section to decrease disruption to the town. The primary access points are on High Street and Washington Street and sound buffers will be installed in this area. The sound buffers will take the stage orientation into consideration. There will be seating with an overhead design that diverts attention inward. For the most part, seating will be flexible. Mr. Jereb provided information regarding water diversion and the pergola structure.

There are a number of utilities that create limitations in the design. There has been consideration regarding foot traffic, ensuring individuals do not need to leave the park and go to the street. Shade has been a significant consideration to make the park comfortable in the summer, and angled parking may be changed to parallel parking.

A green buffer has been planned on Washington Street, replacing what was police parking. Stormwater drainage has been constructed to provide passive watering to the trees. The lighting solution will allow for the night lighting to be unobtrusive.

Once the presentation was concluded, the working group members asked questions.

Funding was addressed, and it was noted that additional grants will be applied for and fundraising will be carried out. However, this creates some unknowns. Mr. Pearrow noted that the park is compelling at this point and that this is an exciting project. Ms. Ikenouye noted the same thing.

The group discussed the capacity of the pergola/pavilion, which is approximately 40 people, and could potentially be increased, pending density and some design features. The group discussed whether this capacity was needed daily, although it would be beneficial for special events. Ms. Ikenouye suggested that sunlight in the seated area, especially during winter, be considered.

Ms. Porter asked about the Church Street/High Street entrance in relation to the crosswalk and whether the design could be modified to reduce the risk of pedestrians taking dangerous shortcuts on the road. The group discussed seating accessibility and Mr. Jereb noted the plan to have handrails and seating with arms.

Mr. Polito inquired about public parking. It was noted that the police parking spots will become a green buffer in phase two, and that other parking will remain the same. Mr. Polito expressed concern regarding the expense associated with the Town Green.

The floor was opened to public questions.

Mr. Jim Kaufman provided his address. He noted that he represents the Dedham Museum and Archive, which is in close proximity to the Town Green. He noted that the design is excellent and took into consideration the history of the town. He offered his assistance to the designers regarding history. He expressed concern regarding the path to the museum and ensuring that there is some visibility.

Mr. Jim Fay provided his address. He requested information regarding the elevation change between the green and Verizon parking. The group discussed the retaining wall and elevation and noted that the wooden fence is to increase the attractiveness of this area. Mr. Jereb noted that there will be plants to blend everything together. Without the fence, it is likely that a guard rail would be needed to be at code.



Ms. Deb Harrison provided her address. She noted that she represents the Sustainability Committee. She extended enthusiasm for the Town Green, which addresses climate change as increasing green space is imperative to reduce the heat island impact, increase the tree canopy, and decrease impervious surfaces. Citizen happiness will also increase.

Ms. Susan Fay provided her address. She complimented the design. She asked who owns the chain-link fence. It was noted that it is owned by the town and Verizon. There was discussion regarding the size of the tree that can be planted. Size is influenced by cost, ability to transplant, and other factors.

Ms. Dianne Berry-Preston reinforced that seating should be accessible to older individuals.

Mr. John Shaw provided his address. He requested that the pavilion be evaluated to ensure it is consistent with Dedham's aesthetic and community.

Mr. Chris Kelly provided his address. He noted excitement for the project. There was discussion regarding the vegetation.

Ms. MaryJane Parnell provided her address. She noted thanks for the hard work required for this project. She requested that the history of the town be incorporated into the green.

Mr. Bob Schneider provided his address. He asked questions regarding the water distribution and ensuring that it is functional.

Ms. Johanna McBrien, director of the museum, reinforced that Dedham's history should be included in the park. Dedham has a town history that is connected to the country's history. Additionally, there is indigenous history that is from before colonization that should be included.

Ms. MaryJane Parnell asked for clarification regarding the parking, as to whether it would be angled or parallel. Mr. Butler noted that this would be part of phase two.

Mr. Butler noted that decisions need to be made by June 2023 to ensure all deadlines are met. The group discussed if there should be another meeting to discuss the plan before making a final decision. It was concluded to have another meeting before the vote. The Select Board has requested an update by May 24, 2023. Mr. Jereb noted that there will be information provided regarding costs for that meeting. There was discussion regarding the estimate and Mr. Jereb confirmed that there will be contingencies built into the estimate.

The group discussed a more comprehensive presentation of the budget for the community. It was noted that it would be helpful to provide clarity to the community regarding the difference between phase one and phase two.

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

**On a motion duly made, it was voted to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

**DISCLAIMER**

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

Michael L. Suttle

Chair

June 27, 2023

Date

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