

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

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD
O'BRIEN MEETING ROOM, 3rd FLOOR AND VIA TELECONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 9, 2023, 6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS:

James A. MacDonald	Chair
Dr. Dennis Teehan	Vice-Chair
Dimitria Sullivan	Member
Erin Boles Welsh	Member
Josh Donati	Member

TOWN STAFF:

Leon Goodwin	Town Manager
Doreen LaBrecque	Assistant to Administration
Jason Mammone	Town Engineer

Minutes prepared by Lisandra Colley of Minutes Solutions Inc. from a recording

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, and adequate and proper notice of the meeting having been given, Mr. James A. MacDonald, presiding as Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

2. SWEARING-IN OF FIRE LIEUTENANTS

Two firefighters, Mr. Paul Bouchard and Mr. Jim Morrison, were promoted to the rank of lieutenant after years of service. They took oaths of allegiance to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts during the swearing-in ceremony. The Board expressed gratitude for the firefighters' dedication, emphasizing the importance of their roles during emergencies. The ceremony concluded with remarks highlighting the responsibility of the lieutenant rank and the support system within the department and families.

3. OPEN DISCUSSION

There were no public comments.

4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Goodwin provided updates regarding the public safety building project, highlighting the completion of all three phases and the transition into the closeout phase. He informed that the planning board issued a certificate of compliance and deferred two outstanding items, namely a traffic study and a parking study, for six months. Progress on resolving remaining punch list items, such as HVAC and door issues, was also noted.

Additionally, he summarized the Warrant Review Meeting held on November 6, 2023, emphasizing active engagement and discussion among participants.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion duly made, it was voted to approve the consent agenda, including gift acceptances (\$200 from MA Daughters of American Colonists to Endicott Estate; \$5,000 from Dedham Land Trust for Wigwam Pond cleanup efforts; \$41,500 from Willard Roofing for the Powder House roof replacement and repair work); Drainlayers (Ed Hart Title V Service LLC & Minkin Construction); Request from Blissport Meadery for license to sell wines at Dedham Winter Market; Request from Town Green Fundraising Committee for banners on fence at 600 High Street. Motion carried.

Ms. Sullivan expressed gratitude towards the community for their ongoing generosity, highlighting a significant donation of \$41,500 from Willard Roofing for the Powder House roof. She further acknowledged both small and large donations received at every meeting and expressed appreciation for the community's continued support, especially during challenging times.

6. PUBLIC HEARING: CHANGE OF LOCATION

On a motion duly made, it was voted to approve the request from Anthony's Wine and Spirits for a change of location from 258 Bussey Street to 243 Bussey Street. Motion carried.

Attorney Kevin Hampe, representing Mr. Anthony Ferullo, owner of Anthony's Wine and Spirits, provided an update on the company's relocation to his original location at 243 Bussey Street. He noted that Mr. Ferullo temporarily moved his business to 258 Bussey Street due to a construction project but is now returning to his former spot in Della Park Plaza. Mr. Ferullo, accompanied by his brother, will maintain the same business hours and operations. Mr. Hampe assured the Board of the company's compliance with local regulations and welcomed questions.

7. PUBLIC HEARING: CHANGE OF MANAGER

On a motion duly made, it was voted to approve the request from Grateful Dedham Diner, 573 High Street, for a change of manager from Bob Demarais to Belkis Martinez. Motion carried.

Ms. Belkis Martinez noted that she has worked in the restaurant industry for over 10 years but started work at the Grateful Dedham Diner during the pandemic.

8. DISCUSSION AND VOTE WITH TOWN ENGINEER

On a motion duly made, it was voted to approve a request from MAS Building and Bridge with respect to urgency for public safety to amend Part I, Schedule No. 1 of the traffic regulations to adopt restrictions along the southerly side of Colburn Street from Bussey Street to Emmett Avenue. Motion carried.

Town Engineer Jason Mammone introduced the discussion on potential parking restrictions on Colburn Street due to ongoing MassDOT projects. He explained that residents have expressed concerns about property damage caused by increased traffic and frustrated driving as a result of detour routes. The fire chief also raised concerns about emergency response times on this now busier and narrower road.

Mr. Mammone proposed implementing a no-parking restriction on one side of Colburn Street to create a 20-foot-wide travel lane, facilitating emergency vehicle access and reducing the risk of property damage. He acknowledged that the restriction would temporarily inconvenience residents of two multifamily homes on the restricted side of the street and

recommended notifying affected residents and allowing a grace period before implementing the restriction.

The Board raised concerns about the neighborhood's response to losing parking and the two-year duration of the project. Mr. Mammone explained the necessity of the duration due to the bridge construction and the required design and implementation processes. The Board agreed to implement the changes on January 1, 2024, to allow sufficient time for resident notification and feedback. However, they emphasized the importance of being prepared to address any neighborhood concerns that arise once the restriction is announced and discussed utilizing social media and the town website to inform residents about the changes.

9. DISCUSSION FOR THE 2023 FALL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Regarding Article 19 for the 2023 Fall Annual Town Meeting, Mr. Shaw McDermott stressed the need for a water study group to tackle issues like contamination, climate change effects, and the Dedham-Westwood Water District's request for more water from the MWRA due to contamination. He emphasized the urgency of studying groundwater issues and proposed the creation of a working group to collaborate with various town boards, including the Conservation Commission.

The Board acknowledged the importance of the issue, discussing logistical considerations and its authority to form such a group without requiring town meeting authorization. There was general support for forming the working group and involving other stakeholders, including Westwood, due to the shared water district. The Board considered whether to pursue formal authorization through the town meeting, recognizing the risk of rejection, but overall, there was a consensus on the necessity and benefits of proactive water management and collaboration.

10. DISCUSSION AND UPDATE: TOWN GREEN WORKING GROUP

Mr. Mike Butler presented an overview of the Town Green project, highlighting advancements since May, 2022. He detailed cost estimates, value engineering efforts, funding sources, and the project schedule. Community engagement emerged as a focal point, with extensive outreach through public meetings, web updates, and social media channels.

Feedback from various stakeholders informed design refinements, reflecting a collaborative approach. Discussions focused on design changes aimed at optimizing the project within budget constraints, alongside the exploration of diverse funding sources, including grants and private donations. Noteworthy statistics revealed substantial fundraising achievements, such as commitments totaling half a million dollars and successful matching grant initiatives. Cost estimates, initially projected at \$3.3 million, were refined through value engineering to \$2.2 million, though a \$1.1 million gap remained to be bridged. The timeline for finalizing the budget and design was set within the next 45 to 60 days.

Despite challenges related to budget constraints and decision-making processes, community support remains strong, as evidenced by active participation and successful fundraising efforts. Plans for future initiatives, including fundraising and communication strategies, were outlined, underscoring the commitment to transparent project management and alignment with community needs and priorities.

11. DISCUSSION: DEDHAM FOOD PANTRY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Toby Cabot from the Dedham Food Pantry detailed the company's operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, explaining the necessity of adapting to a drive-through model for safety reasons, which subsequently prompted facility upgrades. Additionally, he highlighted a significant increase in demand, with more families and seniors being served compared to

previous years. Challenges with food supply, particularly from the Greater Boston Food Bank, were discussed, prompting the pantry to seek alternative sources and pursue grants. Nevertheless, financial stability was reported due to responsible fiscal management practices.

Mr. Cabot underscored the need for volunteers, financial support, and food donations to sustain their services. The Board commended Dedham Food Pantry's work and offered support, emphasizing the importance of community involvement and ensuring that all residents feel welcome to seek assistance without stigma.

12. DISCUSSION AND VOTE: CANNABIS WORKING GROUP

On a motion duly made, it was voted to appoint Mr. Josh Donati as the Select Board's representative to the Cannabis Working Group. Motion carried.

Mr. Goodwin provided a historical overview of the proposal to establish a cannabis working group, which was prompted by previous budget deliberations where alternative revenue sources, such as taxing marijuana sales, were explored. The initiative stemmed from Board's efforts to address challenging budget years and seek additional income streams. Initial research was conducted internally, but input from elected officials, appointed officials, and stakeholders was deemed crucial before proceeding further.

Conversations with other communities such as the Town of Sharon highlighted the potential for significant local tax revenues from marijuana sales, with minimal impact on the town's infrastructure or resources. Despite previous opposition to marijuana legalization, some Board members expressed openness to investigating revenue opportunities, emphasizing the importance of relieving taxpayer burdens. Concerns about public health implications were raised but balanced against the potential revenue benefits. The mechanism for the town to receive tax revenue from marijuana sales would likely involve a local option tax, similar to those for hotels and meals.

13. SELECT BOARD POSITIONS ON WARRANT ARTICLES

On a motion duly made, it was voted to concur with the recommendations of the Finance and Warrant Committee for all the articles except Articles 3, 6, 16, 18 and 19. Motion carried.

On a motion duly made, it was voted to concur with the recommendations of the Finance and Warrant Committee for Article 3. Motion carried.

On a motion duly made, it was voted to concur with the recommendations of the Finance and Warrant Committee for Article 6. Motion carried.

On a motion duly made, it was voted to concur with the recommendations of the Finance and Warrant Committee for Article 16. Motion carried.

On a motion duly made, it was voted to concur with the recommendations of the Finance and Warrant Committee for Article 18. Motion carried, 4-1.

On a motion duly made, it was voted to defer the Board's position on Article 19 until the Town Meeting of November 11, 2023. Motion carried.

The Board discussed with Mr. Goodwin the warrant articles that initially caused concerns. Considerable attention was devoted to the allocation of insurance settlement funds for rebuilding a burnt-down barn (Article 6), with concerns raised regarding the proposed renovation plans' appropriateness and budget alignment with community needs. Discussions

also delved into the feasibility and implications of implementing hybrid meetings (Article 18), prompting a consensus on the necessity for further study and the formation of working groups.

Recognizing the complexity of certain articles, the Board deferred decisions to the upcoming town meeting to allow for more thorough deliberation and stakeholder engagement.

14. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

The Board discussed upcoming events and occasions, including Veterans Day and Thanksgiving, expressing gratitude to veterans and extending well wishes for the holidays. They noted Addie Joe's second birthday on Thanksgiving and Lebanese Independence Day. Football on Thanksgiving, the traditional rally at the VFW, and the Turkey Trot event were also mentioned. Additionally, the Board reminded attendees of the Veterans Monument rededication ceremony on November 11, 2023, and highlighted events such as the Zero K Race and a town-wide cleanup. They also announced a Best Buddies Charity Event on November 13, 2023, at Dedham High School, featuring a football match and fundraising activities for the Best Buddies program.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion duly made, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a): (1) Subsection 3 – To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. Motion carried.

16. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and carried unanimously, it was resolved that there was no further business of the Select Board to transact; the meeting was closed.

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.

Chair, Select Board

June 27, 2024

Date Approved