A Virtual Meeting of the Select Board

Thursday July 9, 2020, 6pm

Present were:

Dr. Dennis J. Teehan – Chair

Dimitria Sullivan Vice Chair

James A. MacDonald

Sarah E. MacDonald

Kevin R. Coughlin

Meeting brought to order at 6pm

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Dedham Citizens – Open Discussion**

Brian Keaney – 183 Grant Avenue

Mr. Keaney informed all that he has been asking for an update regarding the completion of the annual Town Reports. A discussion then took place as to why the Town Reports were behind and what can be done to get them up to date.

**Audree Burns** read the following statement:

I am speaking on behalf of the friends of the stop the Rail Trail and about the recent Election results regarding the development of the Town owned, abandoned Rail Corridor, which is under the care custody and control of the Select Board and the School Committee. The Election turnout was overwhelming and the results were decisive. The combined 7 precincts voted 52% to 48% to stop the construction and development of the corridor. It is important for the Town Officials to note that except for precinct 1, all the other precincts, 2-7, voted a crushing defeat 56% - 44%. Dedham residents have spoken for the second time in 2 years and rejected a Rail Trail proposal. In 2018 our elected Town members soundly defeated a Rail Trail Warrant, 52% - 48%.The Select Board and voters were told by proponents that the Ballot question was to take the temperature of the Town to see if moving forward made any sense. According to the 2020 Open Space Master Plan, the recommended Rail Trail was priority. The Election results provided an unequivocal answer to that marketing spin again and brought the Trail arguments into focus. The Rail Trail Proposal even spun as no cost to residents should not move forward. The Rail Trail proposal does not have broad public support and the Open Space Master Plan survey results are inaccurate. As Dedham residents voted no, it is not a priority or a necessity. Tonight, we respectfully request that the Select Board asserts its leadership role and declares formally, with a scheduled vote, that the Town will not encourage, support or continue further pursuit to develop the Corridor a sanctioned Public Path.

**Terri Union** stated that it is my understanding, which I hope is not correct, that the Select Board has in place, plans to replace Virginia LeClair as Head of the Environmental Department. Virginia has been Head of this department for 12.5 years and she has given a stellar performance. Virginia has brought in grant money to the tune of $1,691,162, which has saved the Town $76,842. Ms. Union informed the Board some of Ms. LeClair’s accomplishments. Ms. Union stated that Ms. LeClair has always been transparent regarding what projects she was working on and how projects get done.

Ms. Union stated that she does not understand why Ginny would be replaced.

Mr. Goodwin stated that this is not a reflection of Ms. LeClair, or her work, or work product Mr. Goodwin added that he sees this as a reorganization of the functions and resources that we have here in Town. Mr. Goodwin stated that the Town hired a new full-time position in the Planning Department. Mr. Goodwin informed all that the position was supposed to be ½ Planner and ½ Communications. Mr. Goodwin added that what they found was that they could not find someone who was both a Communications Professional and a Planning Professional. Mr. Goodwin stated that what they did find was someone who has Environmental Planning experience, as well as Urban Planning experience. Mr. Goodwin explained that this is more a matter of aligning our resources in a way that works the best for the taxpayers. Mr. Goodwin continued, saying that by aligning this function back into Planning where we have that excess capacity we can then use the funds that are currently dedicated to Ginny’s position, to hire that communications professional that the Select Board and many other residents have recognized as one of the highest priorities.

**Reorganization of the Select Board**

Dr. Teehan welcomed the newest Select Board member, Kevin Coughlin.

Mr. Coughlin thanked his family and the voters and stated that he is looking forward to working with the current Board members.

Mr. MacDonald moved to nominate Dr. Teehan as Chair of the Select Board;

Seconded by Mr. Coughlin.

**On the Vote**:

Ms. MacDonald - Yes

Dr. Teehan - Yes

Ms. Sullivan - Yes

Mr. Coughlin - Yes

Mr. MacDonald – Yes

M. MacDonald moved to close the nominations; Seconded by Ms. Sullivan

**On the Vote**:

Ms. MacDonald - Yes

Dr. Teehan - Yes

Ms. Sullivan - Yes

Mr. Coughlin - Yes

Mr. MacDonald – Yes

Mr. Coughlin moved to nominate Ms. Sullivan as Vice-Chair of the Select Board; Seconded by Jim MacDonald.

**On the Vote**:

Ms. MacDonald - Yes

Dr. Teehan - Yes

Ms. Sullivan - Yes

Mr. Coughlin - Yes

Mr. MacDonald – Yes

Mr. Coughlin moved to close the nominations; Seconded by Mr. MacDonald.

**On the Vote**:

Ms. MacDonald - Yes

Dr. Teehan - Yes

Ms. Sullivan - Yes

Mr. Coughlin - Yes

Mr. MacDonald – Yes

**Discussion & Vote Re: Alternate FY’20 Year End Transfers**

Mr. Goodwin stated that there are 2 Alternate Year - End Transfers that need the

Board’s approval. Mr. Goodwin added that they were approved by the Finance &

Warrant Committee. Mr. Goodwin continued, saying that the first transfer is from the

Fire Department – FireSupOff to OvertimePS in the amount of $11,455.00. Ms. Sullivan

moved approval of the Alternate Year-end Transfers within the Fire Department and

Central Purchasing as approved earlier by the Finance & Warrant Committee;

Seconded by Ms. MacDonald.

**On the Vote**:

Ms. MacDonald - Yes

Dr. Teehan - Yes

Ms. Sullivan - Yes

Mr. Coughlin - Yes

Mr. MacDonald – Yes

**Discussion & Vote Re: Change of Manager from William Spofford to Kevin Marrow, Shake Shack, 262 Legacy Place**

Mr. Marrow described his experience in the Food and Beverage industry.

Mr. MacDonald moved approval of Shake Shack’s Change of Manager from William Spofford to Kevin Marrow; Seconded by Ms. Sullivan.

Ms. MacDonald - Yes

Dr. Teehan - Yes

Ms. Sullivan - Yes

Mr. Coughlin - Yes

Mr. MacDonald – Yes

**Discussion & Vote Re: Execution of Certified Local Government Agreement**

Mr. Goodwin stated that this will tie up a loose end regarding the Certified Local

Government Agreement. This will let us apply for a variety of different grants. Mr.

Goodwin stated that the Board has already supported this and it is now a matter of the

Town completing some paperwork.

Judy Neiswander – Historic Preservation Commission, which is also - Historic District

Commission. Ms. Neiswander informed all that being a Certified Local Government puts

the Town in a pool of 25 Communities who have priority in receiving funding from the

National Parks Department through the Mass. Historical Commission to continue the

kind of work they have been doing around Mother Brook, which is to survey, research

and document the historic resources of Dedham. Ms. Neiswander stated that if the

Select Board signs this agreement, Dedham will then get priority regarding funding.

Mr. Coughlin asked Ms. Neiswander if there were. any other projects, besides Mother

Brook that she has in mind. Ms. Neiswander answered, if the Town gets permission

from the Mass. Historical Commission to advance the Mother Brook to a National

Register application, this would be useful for that.

Ms. Sullivan moved to accept and execute the Certified Local Government Agreement

between the Mass. Historical Commission and the Town of Dedham; Seconded by Ms.

MacDonald.

**On the Vote**:

Ms. MacDonald - Yes

Dr. Teehan - Yes

Ms. Sullivan - Yes

Mr. Coughlin - Yes

Mr. MacDonald – Yes

**Discussion & Vote Re: Approval of Westport Rivers Winery at Dedham Farmer’s**

**Market**

Ms. Baker stated that there is an application from Westport Rivers Winery. Ms. Baker

added that they have been at the Farmer’s Market for several years. Ms. Baker

informed the Select Board that they have met all the pre-requirements to be

considered by the Board for the sale of wine at the Market for the duration of their

season (June 17 – October 28).

Ms. McDonald asked Ms. Baker asked if the wine vendors could offer tastings under the

current Pandemic guidelines.

Ms. Baker stated that she would have to clarify with the Town’s Health Director.

Ms. MacDonald moved approval of the Westport Rivers Winery application with the

caveat that they must follow the current guidelines re: tastings; Seconded by Ms.

Sullivan.

**On the Vote**:

Ms. MacDonald - Yes

Dr. Teehan - Yes

Ms. Sullivan - Yes

Mr. Coughlin - Yes

Mr. MacDonald – Yes

**Discussion & Vote Re: Town Meeting Warrant Articles**

Mr. MacDonald suggested that Mr. Goodwin read the articles.

**TOWN MEETING ARTICLES**

Article One – Election – No action necessary

Article Two - Collective Bargaining and Non-Union Agreements – deferred

Article Three – Operation Budget – **to be voted**

Article Four – Capital Budget – **to be voted**

Article Five – Unexpended balances of special articles – deferred

Article Six – Prior year bills – deferred

Article Seven – Line Item Transfers – deferred (unless a last-minute transfer is required)

Article Eight – Deposit to general stabilization fund – deferred

Article Nine – Transfer to special purpose stabilization funds – **to be voted**

Article Ten – Appropriation from special purpose stabilization funds – **to be voted**

Article Eleven – Reducing tax rate – deferred

Article Twelve – Revolving funds – **to be voted**

Article Thirteen – Sewer enterprise fund – **to be voted**

Article Fourteen – Reports of Committees – deferred

Article Fifteen – Compliance w/ Phase II Storm Water Mgmt. Permit – **to be voted**

Article Sixteen – MWRA I/I Phase 12 – **to be voted**

Article Seventeen – Purchase of Electronic Voting System – deferred

Article Eighteen – Additional appropriation Public Safety Building – deferred

Article Nineteen – Trenton Road playground (by petition; waiting for Moderator to confirm petitioner has been contacted) – would recommend deferred

Article Twenty – Planting along Rail corridor (by petition; waiting for Moderator to confirm petitioner has been contacted) – would recommend deferred

Article Twenty-One – Tax bill check off for Veteran’s Fund – deferred

Article Twenty-Two – Acceptance of Brave Act (veterans property tax exemption) – deferred

Article Twenty-Three – Sr. Work Off Program Increase in limits – deferred

Articles Twenty-Four through Twenty-Nine – Planning Board voted on 7/8/20 to defer

Article Thirty – Open Space bylaw amendment (by petition; waiting for Moderator to confirm petitioner has been contacted) – would recommend deferred

Article Thirty-One – Proposed legislation for additional liquor licenses – deferred

Article Thirty-Two – Elm St & Rustcraft Road Easements – **to be voted**

Article Thirty-Three – Acceptance of Liana Lane – **to be voted**

Article Thirty-Four – Amendment to Storm water management fee schedule – deferred

Article Thirty-Five – Agreement w/Blue Hills for Solar Energy Credits – **to be voted**

Mr. MacDonald moved approval of the recommendations the Town Manager has

made and the articles that have been deferred will be put on the Fall Town Meeting,

without the need for a petition from any of those that have submitted articles by petition

will automatically be entered into the Fall Town Meeting; Seconded by Mr. Coughlin.

**On the Vote**:

Ms. MacDonald - Yes

Dr. Teehan - Yes

Ms. Sullivan - Yes

Mr. Coughlin - Yes

Mr. MacDonald – Yes

Mr. MacDonald stated that the reason the deferral is to streamline the Town Meeting

that is going to be outside on August 10, 2020. Mr. MacDonald continued explaining the

logistics.

**Discussion & Vote Re: Appointment of SB member to Trans. Advisory Comm**

Ms. MacDonald nominated Ms. Sullivan as the Select Boards member on the

Transportation Advisory Committee; Seconded by Mr. MacDonald.

**On the Vote**:

Ms. MacDonald - Yes

Dr. Teehan - Yes

Ms. Sullivan - Yes

Mr. Coughlin - Yes

Mr. MacDonald – Yes

**Discussion & Vote Re: Acceptance of Select Board Goals**

Mr. Goodwin and the Board members had a discussion regarding the goals.

Ms. MacDonald moved to adopt the Select Board’s goals as presented; Seconded by

Ms. Sullivan.

**On the Vote**:

Ms. MacDonald - Yes

Dr. Teehan - Yes

Ms. Sullivan - Yes

Mr. Coughlin - Yes

Mr. MacDonald – Yes

**Town Manager’s Report** (including COVID Task Force(s) & Ames Updates)

Implemented the re-entry plan

Majority of staff are working in the new Town Hall

Not open to the public yet

Using contactless service where we can

Possibly open for appointments only

House bill 4704 finally passed

Dr. Teehan stated that he believes there are 3 options:

1. Go ahead as planned
2. Build Police or Fire only
3. Original plan – re-furbish the Town Hall

Dr. Teehan stated that there will be a presentation at next week’s meeting and at some point, so we can hear from the residents.

**Action by Board**:

Approval of Minutes 4/16/20 & 4/23/20

Pushed to next meeting.

Approval of Drainlayers

Super Service Today

4 Jewel Drive, Unit 4

Wilmington, MA 02026

Ms. Sullivan moved approval of the Drainlayer Application for Super Service Today; Seconded by Ms. MacDonald.

**On the Vote**:

Ms. MacDonald - Yes

Dr. Teehan - Yes

Ms. Sullivan - Yes

Mr. Coughlin - Yes

Mr. MacDonald – Yes

**Old/New Business\***

Mr. MacDonald stated that the new regulations that were a result of COVID allow a

Select Board, with the approval of a Town Moderator, to lower a quorum required

for Town Meeting. Mr. MacDonald added that lowering a quorum does not mean you

cannot have more.

Mr. MacDonald stated that they have been talking about having a community wide

forum on race.

Ms. MacDonald stated that she represents the Select Board on the Substance Abuse

Task Force, has been working on bringing training to Dedham, called Interrupting

Racism. Ms. MacDonald informed all that the tentative plan is for that training to be

offered the 4 Mondays in August.

Ms. MacDonald informed all that this Saturday evening at 7pm the Dedham Virtual

Crawl is being hosted as a fundraiser for the Dedham COVID19 relief fund.

Ms. Sullivan asked Mr. Goodwin when the public will be allowed in the building.

Mr. Goodwin stated that he has been following the State guidelines very closely and are

watching to see how we adapt to the new Town Hall and will re-visit in a few weeks.

Ms. Sullivan stated that she believes that the SBRC has an open seat and she would

like to be appointed by the Select Board to the Commission.

Dr. Teehan stated that he thinks the Board needs to have an Executive Session, with

Council, to see where we stand regarding legal issues. Dr. Teehan suggested that a

consultant be hired to investigate what went wrong with the Ames School project.

Dr, Teehan asked Mr. Goodwin if the gun zone was approved by the State.

Mr. Goodwin stated, yes.

Dr. Teehan asked Mr. Goodwin when it becomes law.

Ms. Baker stated that it had to be advertised for 2 weeks by the Town Clerk after it was

approved by the Attorney General.

Mr. Goodwin suggested that Council come to the next SB meeting to help us

understand what needs to happen next.

Dr. Teehan stated that he would like to look into hiring a Social Worker for the Police

Department.

Ms. MacDonald asked that we have Police Chief D’Etremont come to a future SB

Meeting.

Mr. Goodwin stated that he is supportive of this. Mr. Goodwin informed all that this was

one of the first conversations that he and Chief D’Entremont had.

Mr. Coughlin moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Mr. MacDonald.

**On the Vote**:

Ms. MacDonald - Yes

Dr. Teehan - Yes

Ms. Sullivan - Yes

Mr. Coughlin - Yes

Mr. MacDonald – Yes

The meeting adjourned at 7:49pm

The next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 16, 2020. This is to certify that the above is a true and accurate record of the minutes of the Select Board Meeting held on July 9, 2020 which minutes were approved on November 5, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Dennis J. Teehan. – Chairman