

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

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
JANUARY 11, 2022, 6:30 P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

TOWN OF DEDHAM STAFF:

Leon Goodwin	Town Manager
Nancy Baker	Assistant Town Manager

REGRETS:

Dennis Teehan	Member
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Minutes prepared by Mary-Margaret Scrimger of Minutes Solutions inc. from a 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.

2. PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION

The public listening session collected feedback regarding Dedham Square Planning Committee's proposed Town green project for 600 High Street, the old police station. Ms. Sullivan noted that in 2018 via the Planning Board, the Select Board began researching what could be done with the police station. In 2021, the report was presented to the Select Board. The Committee was thanked for its work and commitment. On January 6, 2022, the Select Board reviewed the possibility of applying for a grant. Some questions came about that discussion. The listening session intended to create an FAQ for the general public.

Ms. Sullivan opened the floor for questions.

Ms. Meg Duncan noted that she watched the process for the old police station. The Committee has created a green space, created traffic calming measures, environmental landscaping and power generation, a space that can be used for various items etc. The Committee also ensured that the park was eligible for significant grants. While it will reduce parking, a study has been done that demonstrates there is sufficient parking. The current shortage is a result of the public safety building construction. She noted that a parking lot in this space would negatively impact the Town.

Ms. Kim Bevans noted that she agreed with Ms. Duncan and thanked the Committee. She said that this extension of the square is exactly what Dedham is missing.

Mr. Adam Chapdelaine thanked the parties involved in creating this project. He agreed with Ms. Duncan's statements and Ms. Bevans' comment that this is what is missing in Dedham. He hoped that mature trees would be able to be planted. He felt this park would be an asset to the Town. He liked the raised sidewalk. He supported the Committee's recommendations.

Mr. James Hooper provided his address and noted that he has 45 years of experience in real estate. In all his years, he has not seen such a high-quality report. He applauded the civic engagement for the project. Mr. Hooper also noted that all successful projects have momentum and continuity. A coordinated team is important for success. The Board and Town are doing their best to save on costs, but he suggested that the Town see this as an investment and not scrimp.

Ms. Erin Boles Welsh provided her address and voiced her excitement for this project. Her family is also excited. She noted that grant funding supplementing the project is an opportunity to develop the Town. Regarding parking limitations, she noted that adequate handicap parking should be considered. There will be other opportunities to improve parking but turning the police station into a park is a rare opportunity to increase the beauty and value of Dedham.

Mr. Jim Sullivan provided his address. He voiced support for the green space but has concerns with the plan. He felt that an additional lot that does not belong to the Town is being included, that the sidewalk will be extended into the road and other items. However, Mr. Sullivan did note that there are impressive elements to the report.

Ms. Heather Springer provided her address. She noted excellent work has been done on this project. The Committee listened to community preference. She noted that it is better to do it right the first time. She recommended investing the money in the square.

Mr. Steven Cecil provided his address in Seattle and that he lived in Dedham for 30 years. He emphasized that he is a landscape architect and has planned open spaces, including in Dedham, both professionally and in a volunteer capacity. He noted that he is very excited about the project. Open public space is difficult to design and this design and composition are well done. He gave kudos to the landscape architect and was impressed with the community engagement. He advised against a parking lot in this area.

Ms. Beth Quarles provided her address. She supported the project, specifically of including native plants in the space.

Mr. Tom Landy provided his address and expressed his excitement about green space and the quality of work on the project. He was not supportive of a parking lot and supported efforts to reduce traffic in the area. He also did not support the plan for the mural. It has an urban feeling and that is not the Dedham aesthetic.

Ms. Stacey Turner provided her address and gave her support for the project. However, she did not support a parking lot.

Mr. Jim Kaufman provided his address. He felt that the project was brilliant. He was skeptical on depending on grants or partnerships, and suggested that the Town fiscally support the project.

Mr. Howard Ostroff provided his address. He was enthusiastic about a green space and agreed with Mr. Steve Cecil. He noted that the report says that Dedham is one of the only towns in the area that does not have a green space. He was surprised at this and supported rectifying it.

Ms. Kerry Hawkins provided her address. She was supportive of the project and enjoyed that green space is being added.

Mr. Peter Maglia provided his address. He liked the idea of the green space but did have concerns regarding parking and the loud noises from the cars down Church Street. In addition, he is concerned for the safety of the street. He requested that these items be taken into consideration.

Ms. Clarissa Robyn provided her address. She voiced her support for the project.

Ms. Marie-Louise Kehoe noted that she served on the Dedham Square Parking Committee, which was a privilege. She is proud of the work they accomplished. She believes the green space will bring the community together.

Ms. Sullivan thanked everyone for their contributions, both present and past. There will be another listening session next week with an FAQ.

3. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no old or new business.

4. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. MacDonald to adjourn the meeting. 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

Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

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