

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

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
OCTOBER 7, 2021, 6:30 P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

TOWN OF DEDHAM STAFF:

Leon Goodwin	Town Manager
Nancy Baker	Assistant Town Manager
John Arnett	Finance Manager
Paul Munchbach	Town Clerk
Joe Flanagan	Publics Work Director
Jason Mammone	Town Engineer

Minutes prepared by Cassidy Civiero of Minutes Solutions Inc. from an audio/video recording.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Board recited the pledge of allegiance. Chair of the Select Board, Ms. Sullivan, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. OPEN DISCUSSION

Ms. Stephanie Radner, 328 Mount Vernon Street, Dedham, Massachusetts, stated that she would be submitting a grant to the Dedham Cultural Council to plant four to five native plant pollinator gardens at locations to be determined. Since she is submitting the grant as an individual, she must inform the Select Board and Town Manager's office.

Ms. Sullivan responded that the Select Board could not provide informal approval, as this item is not on the agenda, and some areas are not under the Select Board's jurisdiction. The Chair recommended that Ms. Radner contact the Town Manager for further discussion of the project.

3. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Goodwin presented the Town Manager's report. On July 7, 2021, several members expressed concern about speeding on Bussey Street. Speeding data was collected, and there were some out-of-the-ordinary higher speeds; however, the data was overall positive. Regular patrols will be undertaken in the area. Mr. Mammone is also collecting data to see if the speed limit should be lowered in the area. There is infrastructure work being done in the area over the coming years.

The Town of Dedham adopted a plastic bag ban which was implemented in July 2021. Residents are encouraged to let the Select Board know if any stores are still using plastic bags.

Dr. Teehan asked if there were any updates on a Styrofoam ban.

Mr. Goodwin responded that he would speak with the Sustainability Advisory Committee about whether the Styrofoam ban is still being pursued.

Ms. MacDonald asked if biodegradable plastic bags are allowed under the ban.

Mr. Goodwin responded that he believes so, but he will confirm with the Committee.

Mr. Goodwin noted that there had been discussions with MBTA on extending bus service to Legacy Place. Hundreds of residents per day have to cross Providence Highway to reach Legacy Place, which raises a safety concern. In addition, there was an informal meeting with the Bridge Design Team from MBTA about the East Street Bridge. Sidewalks will be added on both sides of East Street for safety purposes. The Bridge Design Team is also looking to raise the bridge, which could cause issues with truck traffic.

Dr. Teehan expressed concern with raising the bridge, as it would adversely affect East Street and other streets. Dr. Teehan and Ms. MacDonald previously expressed this concern to the MBTA, and there will be a public meeting soon where the public can raise their concerns.

Mr. Goodwin attended the IMCA conference, which involves professional development, educational sessions, and networking for town and city managers.

Mr. Arnett presented an update on ARPA and the proposed uses of the awarded funds from this fiscal year onward.

Dr. Teehan asked if "this fiscal year" refers to 2022 or 2023.

Mr. Arnett responded that it is 2022, as he would like to start the draw now to ease the tax burden over time.

Dr. Teehan responded that he appreciates the strategic use of funds. However, if there is money remaining, he asked if the funds could be used for green space to improve the condition of fields.

Mr. Goodwin confirmed that leftover funds could be used for green space.

Mr. MacDonald noted that he still wonders whether the money should have gone to the state instead of the county for distribution. Dedham had to spend \$146,000 for the county to manage these funds. When money was received under the CARES Act directly from the state, there were no such fees. He noted the disbursement of ARPA funds does not require approval at Town Meeting.

Mr. Coughlin asked about outreach undertaken to different department heads to discuss allocating ARPA funds.

Mr. Arnett responded that the allowable uses of ARPA funds were the first consideration, with the most important being stormwater. After that, the residual dollars were discussed through Mr. Goodwin.

Mr. Goodwin added that there were meetings held with department heads. He also noted that the Town is expected to benefit significantly by adding a contracting specialist or grant manager.

Ms. Sullivan asked about tax increases in light of these funds.

Mr. Goodwin responded that OPEB would have a one-on-one deduction on taxes. However, the Town did not pay into OPEB over the last couple of years due to COVID-19. This will have to be funded in the coming years. Funding OPEB would have been a direct cost to the taxpayer, but the ARPA funds are an opportunity to ease the tax burden on residents.

4. BIKE RENTAL RACKS IN DEDHAM

Ms. Sullivan approved this agenda item to be taken out of order as the presenters have school in the morning.

Mr. Sean Bowles, Ms. Tasnim Berghol, Mr. Tony Badawi, and Mr. Adam Lagare presented a proposal to install bike rental racks in Dedham. This proposal will have to be voted on at Town Meeting.

Mr. MacDonald stated that the plan had been laid out well, and he has seen bike rental racks work well in Boston. All programs start somewhere, and he offered to provide whatever is needed for the presenters to make it to Town Meeting.

Ms. MacDonald stated that she appreciates the research undertaken for the necessary approvals and consideration of building support for the proposal.

Dr. Teehan stated that he appreciates the efforts of the presenters.

Mr. Goodwin stated that the presenters could contact his office for whatever they may need.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to approve the consent agenda as presented, which included items related to the drainlayers, block party, minutes of the meeting of September 29, 2021, and request to close Old River Place on October 13, 2021, at noon. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coughlin. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Ms. Sullivan noted that the consent agenda item to close Old River Place is due to a dedication ceremony for the late commissioner Mr. O'Brien on October 13, 2021, at noon.

6. APPROVAL OF 2020 RE-PRECINCTING FOR DEDHAM

Mr. Munchbach stated that he is seeking approval for the 2020 re-precincting map for Dedham. Outreach began in 2019 for residents to complete their census information to help determine the new map. The population increase for Dedham was less than other surrounding towns. Under state law, no precinct can have more than 4,000 residents, and each precinct population must be within 5% of the average precinct population for the Town.

The proposed changes to the re-precincting map were highlighted as follows:

- Ames Street, to High Street, to Harris Street will go from Precinct 1 to Precinct 2.
- Dale Street, to Blossom Street, to Penn Place will go from Precinct 3 to Precinct 5. River Street will be the main boundary line for Precinct 5.
- Circuit Road, to Youngs Road, to Dale Street, will go from Precinct 6 to Precinct 5. Madison Street and Quincy Ave will be the new boundary line for Precinct 5.
- Gainsville Road, to Greensboro Road, to Hastings Road, will go from Precinct 5 to Precinct 7.
- Five town meeting representatives will be affected by running in different districts if they decide to run again.
- Precinct 4 did not have any changes.

The Attorney General or Secretary of State will make the final decision on precincts as voted on by the Town. If voted on affirmatively, the map would come into effect on December 31, 2021.

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to accept the 2020 Re-Precincting Plan for Dedham as presented by the Town Clerk. The motion was seconded by Dr. Teehan. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

7. GRANT OF SEWER EASEMENTS FOR ROOSEVELT ROAD

Attorney Peter Zahka presented a request to accept a grant of sewer easements for Roosevelt Road, which is required of any property owners the proposed easement will be in front of. This particular property only involves three households and will support a new home being built.

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to approve the grant of sewer easements for Roosevelt Road. The motion was seconded by Dr. Teehan. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Mr. Zahka noted that he would require three signatures to be recorded at the Registry of Deeds.

8. PUBLIC HEARING – REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF OFFICERS/DIRECTORS/LLC MANAGERS FOR UNO RESTAURANTS LLC, D/B/A UNO CHICAGO GRILL, 270 PROVIDENCE HIGHWAY

This item was not discussed as the presenters were not in attendance.

9. MBACC REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR ELEVATOR INSTALLATION

Mr. Dan Hart, Chair of the Board of MBACC, and Ms. Jean Ford Webb, Executive Director of MBACC, presented an update on the Center and a request for funding for elevator installation. The MBACC lacks an elevator to provide access to four levels of the facility, and the outstanding amount needed to complete the installation is \$336,900.

Ms. MacDonald stated that the MBACC is leasing the building, and the Town, as the owner, is responsible for a set number of pieces of the building. In addition, the owner usually pays for necessary improvements to the building, so the request for additional funds is appropriate.

Dr. Teehan stated that the building is not ADA compliant, so installing an elevator is necessary.

Mr. MacDonald requested that Mr. Goodwin check with legal counsel to ensure this installation is allowable within the current lease, and if it is not, that the lease is amended to allow it.

Mr. Coughlin asked whether the matching grant of \$150,000 from the Mass Cultural Facilities Fund would be lost should the remainder of the funding not be provided.

Ms. Webb confirmed that it would be and highlighted that Dedham Savings would also be providing \$50,000.

Ms. Sullivan asked if work has begun to bring in programs in partnership with schools.

Ms. Webb replied that there were discussions with teachers on afterschool programming, but the remainder of the funding is needed to allow for this.

Ms. Sullivan asked about outreach to residents on the MBACC's programs.

Ms. Webb responded that there is a constant contact list of over 3,000 residents who receive updates; however, the MBACC hopes to promote more, especially in partnership with the schools.

Ms. Sullivan asked if the costs for the installation from the presentation are up to date.

Ms. Webb responded that most numbers are very recent; however, an entire wall will be taken down for the elevator installation. Therefore, it is unclear whether underpinnings and hitters on the windows will need to be replaced.

Ms. Sullivan asked who would oversee this project.

Mr. Goodwin responded that the tenants will be managing the project but must obtain the necessary permits. The Town must also approve the work.

10. DISCUSSION ON DOUBLE POLES

Mr. Goodwin stated that double poles had been an item of discussion throughout Dedham. There is a tracking system for the double poles. The Town is working with Utilities for the poles to be scheduled for removal. Mr. Goodwin recommended drafting a list of priority poles to be removed.

Mr. Jared Blandino, Eversource, stated that Eversource is working closely with the Town to address the 26 double poles. Three to five priorities every few months would be helpful in this process. In addition, there are dedicated training teams for removing the poles.

Mr. MacDonald asked how long it took for the double poles to be removed. He stated that the poles seem to be installed relatively quickly. On Bridge Street, there were two poles installed, and one was cut but left mostly intact.

Mr. Blandino responded that there are mass DOT-driven projects on Bridge Street and Ames Street, and Eversource is responsible for putting poles where the DOT requests. Some double poles need to be moved due to design errors, and some are cut to allow sidewalk access. The time it takes to remove the poles depends on where the poles are. A crew on the street can potentially take out three to four poles in an area in one to two days.

Ms. MacDonald asked if there were any non-participating streetlights.

Mr. Flanagan responded that there are close to none, as there is a vendor who takes care of reports on streetlights in five to seven business days.

Ms. MacDonald asked how there are still double poles on the list to be removed from seven years ago or more. She suggested that these poles be further investigated and prioritized.

Mr. Blandino responded that the poles from seven years ago have been sitting in a queue where a transfer was not updated, and Eversource will investigate them.

Ms. Sullivan noted that RCN has 44 double poles to go before any other removals can take place. Ms. Sullivan requested that Mr. Flanagan and Mr. Goodwin draft a list of priority poles for presentation to the Select Board.

11. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Public Works: Mr. Flanagan reported that there are now 384 graves at Brookdale Cemetery; the 174 new crypt installations were the next step in the master plan. The headstones continue to be cleaned, and 19 new trees have been planted in the cemetery. There have been 45 trees planted overall this year across Dedham. There has been a lot of work with the Trenton Road playground. Work is ongoing for the sidewalks on Sprague Street for safe passage to Dedham Square.

Regarding the Ames Street and Bridge Street projects, Dedham fiber was found on the poles in this area which slowed the project down. Comcast will be in the area next week to transfer their wires on those poles.

Mr. Goodwin asked how many employees are with Public Works.

Mr. Flanagan responded that there are 21 outside employees and 23 total.

Ms. MacDonald asked if the anticipated roads projects for this year will be completed.

Mr. Flanagan responded that not all roads projects would be completed due to staffing issues. As a result, outstanding roads projects will have to wait until Spring 2022.

Ms. MacDonald asked what is next for investment in sidewalks.

Mr. Flanagan responded that Sprague Street is next, then Greenlodge Street.

Engineering: Mr. Mammone stated that 22 miles of public sewer mains and 600 sewer utility holes were inspected this year; 65 were rehabilitated. The DPW will be removing an inflow source on Anthony Lane where stormwater was connected directly to the sewer system, which will help remove 5,000 gallons a day of peak storm inflow. A private infiltration removal policy was passed last year, and it is hoped that eight project laterals for repairs will begin in early November 2021.

Engineering continues to support Public Works with roads. There will be a program to ensure accessibility for existing roads, sidewalks, and ramps. A transition plan being created will help in applying for grants to supplement improvements. Engineering is working on the new design for Greenlodge Street, Rustcraft Road is under construction, and work continues on the design submission for Bussey Street. In addition, there are seven traffic calming requests under consideration.

Mr. MacDonald stated that a lot of money is saved by in-house work rather than using outside vendors, and Mr. Mammone has empowered staff to undertake projects.

Ms. Sullivan asked Mr. Mammone to consider one thing that could have achieved a better outcome had additional funding and support been provided to the Engineering Department.

12. UPDATE TO TRAFFIC CALMING POLICY

Mr. Mammone presented the proposed updates to the traffic calming policy for Dedham. Language would be added, so at least one of three appointees must have a civil engineering license to provide credibility. The current points system for traffic calming requests has an unlevel playing field. Therefore, a cap would be put at 13 points based on facilities like churches and schools in the area.

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to approve the changes to the traffic calming policy as proposed by the Traffic Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coughlin. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Mr. Carey Reid, 65 Emmett Avenue, Dedham, Massachusetts, stated that a group in East Dedham is paying attention to Bussey Street. The neighborhood's ambiance will change if traffic calming takes place. Residents in the area want a village in which they can walk.

13. BOARD OF REGISTRARS APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Sullivan thanked all three applicants for their interest in serving the Town on the Republican Board of Registrars. There are two positions available. Ms. Sullivan declared for the record that Ms. Degrandis is her neighbor.

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to put all three applicants' names (Mr. Daniel O'Neil, Mr. Robert Zhaka, and Ms. Elaine Degrandis) into nomination for the two positions on the Board of Registrars. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coughlin. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Mr. Coughlin voted for Ms. Degrandis and Mr. Zhaka.

Dr. Teehan voted for Mr. Zhaka and Ms. Degrandis.

Mr. MacDonald voted for Ms. Degrandis and Mr. Zhaka.

Ms. MacDonald voted for Ms. Degrandis and Mr. Zhaka.

Ms. Sullivan voted for Ms. Degrandis and Mr. Zhaka.

14. SELECTION OF TWO SELECT BOARD MEMBERS TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS W/ TOWN MANAGER TO RENEW EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to nominate Mr. Coughlin and Dr. Teehan to serve on behalf of the Select Board for negotiations to renew the employment agreement with the Town Manager. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coughlin. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

15. PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING UPDATE

Mr. Goodwin reported that the public safety building project is back on schedule and under budget. The concrete work is ongoing.

16. **OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. MacDonald reported that the Dedham COVID-19 relief task force met earlier on October 7, 2021. Concerns from residents on utility and rent payments and food security can be directed to (781) 751-9126 or covidrelief@dedham-ma.gov.

Mr. MacDonald wished his wife a happy anniversary.

Dr. Teehan reported that the Dedham Square Committee would meet on October 12, 2021, to discuss final plans for the Dedham Police reuse site. He also wished his son a happy birthday.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ms. MacDonald to enter into executive session under M.G.L. Chapter 30A Section 21(a) Exemption 3 to discuss strategy concerning collective bargaining and potential and ongoing litigation (CTA) if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares. The motion was seconded by Dr. Teehan. A roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Teehan	Yes
Dimitria Sullivan	Yes
James A. MacDonald	Yes
Sarah MacDonald	Yes
Kevin R. Coughlin	Yes

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Ms. Sullivan declared that the regular meeting would only be re-entered for adjournment. Accordingly, the Select Board entered into an executive session at 9:22 p.m.

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

Approved 10/2/21

 Date

 Director

 Date