

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

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
MARCH 29, 2023, 6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS:

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

TOWN STAFF:

Leon Goodwin	Town Manager
Nancy Baker	Assistant Town Manager

Minutes taken by Mary-Margaret Scrimger 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, the meeting was called to order. The pledge of allegiance was said. There was a moment of silence for Ms. Christine Stec who recently passed away.

2. DEDHAM CITIZENS – OPEN DISCUSSION

There was no discussion.

3. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Goodwin noted that the progress is still continuing as expected for the Public Safety Building. Staff are working to arrange movers. Budget work continues and there has been direction from the Finance and Warrant Committee to provide various budget scenarios with different budget reductions. This is very challenging, as the Town has a high level of service that they are attempting to maintain. There is an inventive solution to address trash collection as a cost-saving solution. This could be a pay-as-you-throw system or modifications to yard waste collection. This could make payment for trash collection more equitable.

Mr. Goodwin noted that the former veterans service officer, Mr. Bill Aitken, pled guilty and is working towards restitution.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion made by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Coughlin, it was resolved to approve the consent agenda including drain layers (Hugo Equipment, Oliveira Construction, USA Excavating) and signs and overflow parking for MBACC open studios. Motion carried.

5. **PUBLIC HEARING – REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF MANAGER AT WATERFORDS**

On a motion made by Mr. Coughlin, seconded by Ms. Sullivan, it was resolved to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

On a motion made by Mr. Coughlin, seconded by Ms. Sullivan, it was resolved to approve the change of manager at Waterfords, 2 Bridge Street, from Ms. Maureen Skehill to Ms. Sarah Musculus. Motion carried.

Ms. Musculus noted that she started working at Waterfords two years ago. She has been slowly moving into a management role. Mr. MacDonald noted that it is bittersweet to lose Ms. Maureen Skehill.

6. **PUBLIC HEARING – VOTE TO CANCEL ALL ALCOHOL RESTAURANT LICENSE TO JOE’S AMERICAN BAR AND GRILL**

On a motion made by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Ms. Boles Welsh, it was resolved to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

On a motion made by Ms. Boles Welsh, seconded by Mr. Coughlin, it was resolved to cancel the all alcohol restaurant license issued to Joe’s American Bar and Grill. Motion carried.

Ms. Baker noted that this action is necessary by the Board, as the business has been closed for a number of years. There is a new tenant who has a pending application.

7. **DISCUSSION AND VOTE: APPOINTMENT OF TOWN COUNSEL**

On a motion made by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Dr. Teehan, it was resolved to approve the appointment of KP Law for a contract to expire March 29, 2025. Motion carried.

Ms. Baker noted that a year ago the Town released a bid for external counsel. This is a request to renew the contract. Overall, KP Law has been helpful to the Town. The initial RFP was for a one-year contract with the option to extend for three years. The rate charged is competitive with the market.

8. **DISCUSSION AND VOTE: ADOPTION OF SELECT BOARD COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP APPOINTMENT POLICY**

On a motion made by Dr. Teehan, seconded by Ms. Boles Welsh, it was resolved to accept the Committee and Working Group Appointment Policy. Motion carried.

Ms. Sullivan noted that the objective the policy is to clarify the process. There is a user-friendly application that is available on the town website. Highlights of the policy were provided. For example, in the case that there is only one applicant for a position, the position will remain open for an additional 10 days.

9. **TOWN MANAGER EVALUATION**

Mr. MacDonald noted that it is the Select Board’s responsibility to evaluate Mr. Goodwin’s performance. He has received an overall score of 4.1 of 5. Highlights were provided such as his strong ability to collaborate, his positive attitude, his leadership skills, his stabilizing influence, ability to anticipate challenges and provide solutions, etc. Mr. Goodwin thanked the Board for the feedback and thanked the Town for all the volunteers and elected officials.

10. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Boles Welsh encouraged citizens to vote, which will be opening this weekend. Dr. Teehan noted that there is still research being done regarding Wigwam Pond and how it can be improved in the near future. Dr. Teehan also thanked the voters for giving him the privilege to represent them for the last nine years. Mr. MacDonald noted that all the elected officials are volunteers, working to better the town in various facets.

11. RECOGNITION OF SELECT BOARD MEMBER, KEVIN COUGHLIN

The Board thanked Mr. Coughlin for his work on the Board. His service to the community has been significant and the Coughlin family has a legacy of this type of community work. Mr. Coughlin thanked the town employees for all their hard work, all the Board and Committee members, his family, and others. He noted that it has been a privilege to be on the Board. Mr. Coughlin's family voiced their support of Mr. Coughlin's efforts in civic government. A plaque was presented to Mr. Coughlin.

12. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Coughlin, seconded by Dr. Teehan, and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting 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.

_____	June 13, 2024
Chair, Select Board	Date Approved