

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

April 26, 2018

(Approved May 15, 2018)

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Steve Bilafer, Chair

Kevin Coughlin, Vice-Chair

Mayanne Briggs

Joshua Donati

Lisa Laprade (via Video Call)

Dr. Melissa Pearrow (via Video Call)

Tracey White

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ABSENT:

None

Meeting Location: Lower Level Town Hall

Meeting commenced at 6:33 p.m. (Following a recess to the Finance Committee Meeting.)

Mr. Bilafer stated that Lisa Laprade and Dr. Pearrow would be dialed into the meeting remotely via video.

He stated the purpose of tonight's meeting was specifically to address proposed Article 19.

Ms. Briggs made a motion to support the new original motion of Article 19 as proposed by the Board of Selectman on April 24, 2018 with amendment for reinserting Section Two as follows:

(2), for the funding of a circulation study, to be undertaken under the direction of the School Committee, of the access road through the High School and Avery Elementary School, and public byways surrounding the High School, Middle School and Avery Elementary School campus, including Whiting Avenue from the intersection of East St. and Eastern Ave to the intersection of River Street, High Street from the intersection of East Street to the intersection of Bussey/Milton Streets, Walnut Street from the intersection of Milton Street to the intersection of Whiting Avenue, Eastern Avenue from the intersection of East Street to the intersection of the driveway servicing BJ's, Best Buy and Papa Gino's plaza, and Mount Vernon Street from the intersection of High Street to the intersection of Whiting Avenue, for on- and off-school hours during the school year and summer months and further;

Mr. Bilafer asked if there were any further discussion from the Committee. No discussion occurred.

Ms. White seconded the motion, the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Mr. Bilafer asked if there were any Public Comment.

Georgiana Woods, Precinct 6 Town Meeting Member who sponsored the original Article 19 inquired about the process. Nancy Baker, Assistant Town Manager explained that the School Committee is recommending this section be included as Section Two in Article 19. The Finance Committee will vote this evening on whether to accept this proposal. She also explained that substitute motions can be made at Town Meeting.

Susan Butler, Precinct 6 Town Meeting Member and abutter to proposal, asked if the Committee could read the entire Article 19 motion. Ms. Baker handed Ms. Butler a copy of the proposal of Article 19. Ms. Butler stated that was sufficient.

Mr. Bilafer explained that the School Committee's main concern within Article 19 is section two regarding the language of the traffic study.

Ms. Butler mentioned the hiring of a collaborative to bring both sides together. She explained this has been an ongoing debate for five years and expressed that the opposed abutters want no part in the acceptance of a Rail Trail.

Ms. Cecilia Emery Butler, Precinct 4, noted that, at this time, she was not representing the Finance Committee. She stated concerns that the traffic study is not adequate. She explained how traffic gets backed up on Mt. Vernon Street all the way to Walnut Street. She feels the study should address a greater area than what is currently being proposed.

Ms. Briggs motioned for a recess (at 6:47 pm) as the Committee will continue to be in attendance through the Finance Committee meeting, Mr. Donati second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.