

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

**MINUTES OF THE DECENNIAL BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
JUNE 30, 2025, 6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS:

Cecilia Emery Butler, Chair
Norman Vigil
Micah Flynn
Michelle Labadini

ABSENT:

Fred Wofford
Jennifer Doherty

GUESTS:

Nancy Baker, Assistant Town Manager
Lauren Goldberg, Town Counsel
Doreen LaBrecque, Assistant to Administration

Minutes prepared by Ed Boice of Minutes Solutions Inc. from a recording.

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, and the Members and the public having been given adequate and proper notice of the meeting, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

3. DISCUSSION AND VOTE: DRAFT ITEMS FOR PRESENTATION TO SELECT BOARD

ACTION – Town Counsel will research if any language needs to be updated in the town’s bylaws.

ACTION – Town Counsel will research whether any sections of the town’s bylaws should be deleted.

ACTION – Town Counsel will investigate possible additions when it comes to issues of protests on the sidewalks and on city property.

ACTION – The Committee will follow up with the Dedham police chief and others for clarifications on their suggested changes for Section 42.

ACTION – The Committee will research the utility of Section 190-22, detailing that the police chief can issue a permit for construction to occur after hours.

ACTION – Town Counsel will assess Section 154 for language that should be changed or deleted and gauge the police chief’s requests.

ACTION – Town Counsel will evaluate whether they and the Committee were reading the most up-to-date version of Section 199-13-b, as they may have been reading a previous version of the code.

ACTION – Town Counsel will research whether they should add the term “panhandlers” to Section 204-16.

ACTION – Town Counsel will research whether they can raise the fines in Section 1-6.

ACTION – Town Counsel will research whether cars idling in handicapped places is already banned in the bylaws; if not, the section will be added to Section 265-21. The Committee will also add handicapped spaces.

ACTION – Town Counsel will research whether Section 265-23 can be deleted, as the language is already part of national law Section 90.

The Committee chose to update several phrases and words in the bylaws. They agreed to change Select Men and Select Man to Select Board, Chairman to Chair, Secretary to Clerk, gendered pronouns to gender-neutral terms, remove any outdated transitional language, and making grammar consistent. All the language changes will be included in one motion. The following desired changes were highlighted:

- Substitute in Section 85-22 all instances of the word “voter” to “resident.”
- Delete Section 85-30 and Section 85-29 and add the override provision in 85-29 allowing a town meeting to vote on an item for a two-thirds majority vote to Section 85-6. Section 85-6 has similar wording as the two deleted articles.
- Delete Section 88-1, which prevents the city manager from leasing any city building. The section conflicts with the city manager’s given authority to lease city buildings in the city’s charter.
- Alter Section 39-20 so it reads that payments should only be given through online payment software. The section currently reads that all payments from the treasury should be paid by check.
- Alter all instances of the word “aging” to “older adults” in Section 12-7 and Section 12-8.
- Delete Section 12-10 that requires the city manager to submit reports, as the city manager no longer creates reports.
- Delete the last line of Section 30-15, as details currently are handled by collective bargaining.
- Alter Sections 61-4, 61-5, and 61-6 to clarify that the library’s trustees assist with the library’s budget and are not solely responsible for creating the budget. The trustees no longer create the library’s budget.
- Delete the phrase “appoint library director” from the title of Section 61-3, as it is no longer accurate.
- Delete the section of the sentence in Section 16-34-2 referencing Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.
- Delete Section 136 because it is outdated and conflicting.
- Remove Sections 199-1, 199-5, and 199-8.
- Remove Section 110-4.

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

This item was not discussed.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was discussed.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly made and carried, it was voted adjourn the Committee meeting at 8:27 p.m.

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.

Cecilia Emery Buttle
Cecilia Emery Buttle, Chair

8-11-2025
Date

