BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF DUNSTABLE
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313
(978) 649-4514 X227
FAX (978) 649-8893
roads@dunstable-ma.gov

MINUTES
01/06/2026

Chairman Michael Martin called the meeting to order 3:00
Members present Mat Morton, by phone Pete Gove
Administrative Assistant Kristina Hooper
Residents Beatrice Wood and Thadius Wood
Town Hall – Grange Room

Mike announces Peter Gove is remote and confirms everyone can hear.
.
Mat made a motion to accept meeting minutes of 12/10/2025. Pete seconded-motion passed unanimously.
Pete had to disconnect from the meeting at 3:01.

Mike briefly filled Mat in on the need to reclassify a member of the team from Laborer to Heavy Equipment Operator. Mat agreed he needs to run equipment, he's qualified and should be paid such. Mat made a motion to reclassify Dan Cullen from Laborer to Heavy Equipment Operator. Mike seconded-motion passed unanimously.

As discussed previously, a proposed turn around on French Court had been requested and required a vote. Mat made a motion not to allow the changes to the current turn around. Mike seconded-motion passed unanimously.

Town Administrator, Jason Silva joined the meeting at 3:05. He wished to discuss 3 items. The first one he gave brief context for everyone, last Town Meeting we voted to have an Accessibility Commission, they had their first meeting about 2-3 weeks ago. He was able to attend the tail end of the meeting where there was a proposal for a flashing crosswalk beacon at both crosswalks in front of the Town Hall. The idea was to use Chapter 90 funds, but he offered to look for a grant and found one. Because the grant was for one flashing beacon, he suggested the High Street location and the chair agreed. The Select Board met on December 30th and voted to have Jason move forward with the grant with Road Commission approval. That is where Roads come in due to it being in the ROW. Jason had sent Kristina the 3 positive feedbacks and 2 not in support of he received after sending out an email to multiple Boards and Committees, 3 in support were from the Chief of Police, the Swallow Union Principal and the Chair of the GDRSC, Lacey McCabe. Jason had no specifications regarding the sign he could offer just what they typically look like and while no one knew of any maintenance or cost associated with the light, it has been offered Town Hall could likely cover costs if Highway budget didn't. The second item is regarding an email he sent recently about a grant to redesigning Oak and Main Street and to realign Mill Street. He had his initial meeting with MassDOT and talked to Mike and David informally. He's excited about this as we are the first community participating and would like to form a committee to include David and Mike or any other member of the Roads Commission, we can choose one. Third, after the feedback from the crosswalk he wanted to share he and Chief Hoare had found another grant and put in a request for it about a month ago. The option was for a mobile radar or a stationary permanent speed limit radar sign. On the application they applied for a stationary sign to go on Pleasant Street near the General Store

APPROVED

BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF DUNSTABLE
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313
(978) 649-4514 X227
FAX (978) 649-8893
roads@dunstable-ma.gov

where the speed limit goes from 45-35. Mike asked if it could be changed to mobile. Jason wasn't sure but would look into it, however, he didn't think so. Jason would like if we could talk about it and at a future meeting if needed to take a vote on thoughts.
Jason left the meeting at 3:14.
Residents Beatrice and Thadius Wood were in attendance to support the blinking crosswalk. Ms. Woods uses the crosswalk daily, people aren't paying attention. Mr. Wood noted Groton has them and while one near Salt & Light is often broken still thinks they are positive for safety. Mat noted he works off Main Street, he doesn't support as he sees first hand, they are often broken, people still ignore them and one is censored and goes off or a leaf blowing by or a person walking straight and not crossing. Drivers seem to be immune and the lights give a false sense of security, people press the button and walk assuming drivers are going to stop. At this time, Mat is not for it. Mike feels there is not enough information to move forward. This is in the Historical District, and the Historical Commission hasn't even been notified, and he would like to hear more community input. Ms. Wood doesn't see the aversion if they are free. There must be fact-based studies out there. Mat doesn't believe there is no cost associated and no one knows for sure yet. Even if the Highway budget doesn't cover this and Town Hall does, it is still coming out of the municipal budget, that is already tight. No data has been gathered, the first time this came up was December 17 in a meeting with Commission of Accessibility, it was not listed on the agenda and brought up again on December 30th at a selectboard meeting, here we are January 6th needing to make a decision with no supporting documents or cost associated and very little community input/support. Mike was at the Selectboard meeting, we aren't even positive this is solar, who is responsible for cost if there is any, nearly no time for community input, or how many people even use the crosswalk to warrant a blinking light in the Historic District. He would like to see how many people use the crosswalk when there is not already a police detail. The events he has been to have details and the school bus schedules have details, if people aren't paying attention to a police officer, they aren't going to pay attention to a blinking light. Pete Gove rejoined the meeting at 3:27 and shared the Boards concerns. He has seen cars ignore the blinking lights and he sees people just walk out into the road. He would like to see more drivers and pedestrians be more aware. There are 6 signs marking the crosswalks now, more than we had 5 years ago, it's unfortunate people don't stop, look and listen and drivers don't stay off their phones or pay attention to the road. We need to get back to drivers and pedestrians taking responsibility and paying attention and looking out for others. A blinking light isn't going to stop distracted drivers. A person was just hit in Groton and Groton has multiple blinking lights. Ms. Wood wants evidence and fact-based decisions and to look at some factual data. The Board agreed if any actual fact based data was provided and a decision wasn't needed in such short notice would have been helpful but here we are. The Board was sure this wasn't the first this would come up and knows this grant has been available before and likely will again. With that in mind, Mat made a motion not to support moving forward with applying for the grant- Pete seconded- Motion passed unanimously. Board did a roll call as Pete was on the phone.
The Wood Residents left the meeting at 3:41
The Board discussed redesigning Oak Street/ Main Street and what they would like to see happen. Pete made a motion to elect Mike to be on the committee with David. Mat seconded-motion passed unanimously.
The Board discussed the proposed speed limit sign Jason and Chief Hoare applied for. The grant is being decided, and Dunstable may or may not be approved. If approved Roads need to approve it in the ROW. This would be on Pleasant Street where the speed limit is 45 and drops to 35. This is outside the Historic District but in an area of residence close to the road. Mike would like to reach out to the residences for their thoughts. The Board agreed they would prefer the mobile unit. If the grant can be changed to a mobile unit, the Board unanimously agrees Chief Hoare can use the ROW in areas he sees fit to check radar. If the grant needs to stay as a permanent structure, the Board would like to have more information. Such as, neighborhood input, input from Chief Hoare supporting the permanent location,

BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF DUNSTABLE
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313
(978) 649-4514 X227
FAX (978) 649-8893
roads@dunstable-ma.gov

what the unit looks like, who would maintenance, and see results of mobile unit when it was placed there. The Board agreed to have the Chair talk with the residents and Chief Hoare to make the final decision but without any background information, they were not currently in support of the permanent unit.

Mat made a motion to close the meeting at 4:20pm. Pete seconded-Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Hooper
Dunstable Highway
Administrative Assistant

APPROVED