Town of Dunstable
Select Board Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2026

In attendance: Select Board Chair Ron Mikol, Select Board Member Leah Basbanes, and Town Administrator Jason Silva. Road Commission Members held a meeting jointly with the Select Board for the portion of the meeting covering the LEAP Main Street, Mill Street, Oak Street Intersection and the Town Center Visioning Report.

Call to Order

Chair Mikol called the meeting to order and reviewed the evening's agenda, which included presentations from MassDOT and the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG), year-end financial transfers, annual appointments, release of executive session minutes, a property maintenance complaint, a dangerous dog hearing continuance, consideration of a special act related to the Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee, and scheduling a special election to fill a vacant Select Board seat.

Public Comment

Chair Mikol opened the meeting for public comment. A question was asked by a resident regarding the reorganization and electing a new Chair of the Board. It was clarified that the Board reorganized in a prior meeting and elected new officers.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed draft meeting minutes from May 6, 2026.

On a motion by Select Board Member Leah Basbanes and seconded by Chair Ron Mikol, it was voted to approve the May 6, 2026, Select Board meeting minutes as presented. Ron Mikol aye, Leah Basbanes aye. The vote was unanimous.

Main Street, Oak Street, Mill Street Intersection – LEAP Grant Project Presentation

Representatives from MassDOT and its consultant team from TEC, Inc. presented the results of the Local Early and Actionable Planning (LEAP) Program study examining the Main Street, Oak Street, and Mill Street intersection area.

Presenters explained that the intersection had previously been identified as a priority location in both the Town's Complete Streets Prioritization Plan and Master Plan due to roadway geometry that can contribute to driver confusion, high-speed turning movements, and safety concerns. The team reviewed existing conditions, crash history, and conceptual improvements intended to improve safety and traffic operations at the intersection.

The presentation included a conceptual design intended to better define vehicle movements, reduce conflict points, and improve overall intersection safety. Representatives also discussed potential future funding opportunities, including Chapter 90 funding, MassDOT Complete Streets grants, federal Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) funding, legislative earmarks, and local capital funding.

Board members and residents discussed the conceptual design, implementation considerations, and future project funding opportunities. Residents commented and asked questions on the following issues:

- Tightening up the Mill and Oak Street further and consider a more perpendicular layout
- Tightening up Oak Street further and consider a more perpendicular layout
- Issues related to maintenance, mowing, plowing, the newly created grass areas and driveway extension at 114 Oak Street
- Considering widening Oak Street after the intersection to allow safer travel
- Several comments were made regarding the telephone pole at the Mill Street intersection and the possibility of relocation to allow for further layout modification of the intersection
- Overgrowth on Main Street blocking sight lines

Members thanked MassDOT and the consultant team for their work on the project.

No formal action was taken.

Town Center and Route 113 Visioning Process Report – NMCOG Presentation

Representatives from the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) presented the final Town Center and Route 113 Visioning Process Report.

NMCOG reviewed the public engagement process, which included two public workshops, a walk audit, and a community survey that generated more than 340 responses from residents. Presenters noted strong participation from residents and emphasized recurring themes identified throughout the process.

The presentation highlighted community priorities including preservation of Dunstable's historic and rural character, protection of open space and agricultural resources, improved pedestrian safety and connectivity, additional gathering places, support for small-scale local businesses, and improved connections between community assets. Residents expressed strong support for incremental improvements that preserve the Town's identity while enhancing quality of life and accessibility.

NMCOG also reviewed how the visioning effort complements several ongoing and recently completed initiatives, including the Union School rehabilitation project, Route 113 Complete Streets redesign, Main Street sidewalk planning efforts, Community Path planning, housing initiatives, and open space planning efforts. Discussion included opportunities to use the report as a guide for future planning, economic development, transportation investments, and zoning considerations.

Board members thanked NMCOG for its work and expressed appreciation for the extensive public participation throughout the process.

No formal action was taken.

FY26 Year-End Interdepartmental Transfers

Town Administrator Silva reviewed proposed Fiscal Year 2026 year-end interdepartmental transfers totaling $48,500.06 in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 33B.

The transfers included Town Hall Other Property Related Services, Town Counsel Professional Legal Services, Town Administrator In-State Travel, Assessors Associate Wages, Accounting Wages, and Temporary Loan Interest. Funding sources included available balances within Group Health Insurance, Town Administrator Salaries, Assessors Professional and Technical Services, and Accounting Professional and Technical Services.

On a motion by Select Board Member Leah Basbanes and seconded by Chair Ron Mikol, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, Section 33B, it was voted to approve end of year FY26 budget transfers as presented totaling $48,500.06:

- Town Hall Other Property Related Services: $10,000 transfer from Group
- Health Insurance
- Town Counsel Professional Legal Services: $30,000 transfer from Group Health
- Insurance
- Town Administrator In-State Travel: $5,415 transfer from Town Admin Salaries
- Assessors Associate Wages: $500 transfer from Assessors Professional and
- Technical Property Review Assess
- Accounting Wages: $715 transfer from Accounting Professional and Technical
- Temporary Loan Interest: $1,870.06 transfer from Group Health Insurance

Ron Mikol aye, Leah Basbanes aye. The vote was unanimous.

Annual Appointments

The Board reviewed annual appointments for Town staff, boards, committees, and commissions.

Town Administrator Silva noted that some appointments would be brought forward at future meetings as vacancies are filled and applications are received.

On a motion by Select Board Member Leah Basbanes and seconded by Select Board Chair Ron Mikol, it was voted to appoint Town officials, board and committee members as presented in the document entitled "Appointments – Staff, Committees, Boards, & Commissions" dated June 9, 2026. Ron Mikol aye, Leah Basbanes aye. The vote was unanimous.

Approval and Release of Executive Session Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed executive session meeting minutes previously withheld from release.

On a motion by Select Board Member Leah Basbanes and seconded by Select Board Chair Ron Mikol, it was voted to approve and release executive session meeting minutes from February 6, 2024; May 7, 2024; November 6, 2024; December 17, 2024; January 29, 2025; March 11, 2025; and April 22, 2025. Ron Mikol aye, Leah Basbanes aye. The vote was unanimous.

Complaint from Ron Mayer – 1095 and 1085 Main Street

The Board considered a complaint submitted by resident Ron Mayer alleging potential violations of the Town's Junk and Unregistered Motor Vehicle Bylaw at properties located at 1095 and 1085 Main Street.

Mr. Mayer addressed the Board and outlined concerns regarding outdoor storage, construction debris, vehicles, and general property maintenance conditions. He expressed concerns regarding the appearance of the properties and their impact on the surrounding neighborhood.

The Board discussed the limited scope of the matter before it, noting that the complaint related specifically to the Town's Junk and Unregistered Motor Vehicle Bylaw and that other zoning or land use issues would be addressed through separate processes if necessary.

Interested parties were provided an opportunity to address the Board. Discussion focused on existing property conditions, ongoing cleanup efforts, and the appropriate process for determining compliance with Town bylaws.

On a motion by Select Board Member Leah Basbanes and seconded by Select Board Chair Ron Mikol, it was voted to request the Town Administrator to send a letter to the property

owners requesting cleanup of the properties in accordance with the Town's Junk and Unregistered Motor Vehicle Bylaw, as deemed necessary. Ron Mikol aye, Leah Basbanes aye. The vote was unanimous.

Dangerous Dog Hearing – 240 Westford Street Continuance

The Board reconvened the dangerous dog hearing continued from May 6, 2026.

Select Board Member Leah Basbanes reported that the matter giving rise to the hearing had been resolved and that the circumstances requiring further consideration no longer existed.

On a motion by Select Board Member Leah Basbanes and seconded by Select Board Chair Ron Mikol, it was voted to close the dangerous dog hearing and take no further action. Ron Mikol aye, Leah Basbanes aye. The vote was unanimous.

Extend Term of GDRSD School Committee Member Lacey McCabe to a Full Three-Year Term – File Special Act

Town Administrator Silva reviewed the circumstances surrounding the omission of a Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee seat from the 2026 Annual Town Election ballot.

The Board discussed the need for special legislation to address the appointment term of Lacey McCabe, the appointed School Committee member.

On a motion by Select Board Member Leah Basbanes and seconded by Select Board Chair Ron Mikol, it was voted to petition the State Legislature for the enactment of a special act authorizing the vacancy in one of the two Dunstable seats on the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Committee following the 2026 Dunstable Annual Town Election to be filled by the Dunstable Select Board and the remaining Dunstable member of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Committee, acting jointly by majority vote, by appointing a member to serve a three-year term until the 2029 Dunstable annual town election. Ron Mikol aye, Leah Basbanes aye. The vote was unanimous.

Setting Special Election for Vacant Select Board Seat

The Board discussed scheduling a special election to fill the vacant Select Board seat resulting from the recent election recount.

Town Administrator Silva reviewed requirements and election timelines. Board members discussed available dates and considerations associated with conducting the election.

On a motion by Select Board Member Leah Basbanes and seconded by Select Board Chair Ron Mikol, it was voted to call a Special Election for July 21, 2026, for the purpose of filling the vacant seat on the Select Board for the remainder of the unexpired term. Ron Mikol aye, Leah Basbanes aye. The vote was unanimous.

Adjournment

On a motion by Select Board Member Leah Basbanes and seconded by Select Board Chair Ron Mikol, it was voted to adjourn. Ron Mikol aye, Leah Basbanes aye. The vote was unanimous.

Approved June 24, 2026