Town of Dunstable
Select Board Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2026

In attendance: Chair Leah Basbanes, Vice Chair Kieran Meehan, Select Board Member Ron Mikol, Select Board Executive Assistant Sue Fayne, Town Administrator Jason Silva

Call to Order
Chair Basbanes called the meeting to order and reviewed the evening's agenda, which included approval of meeting minutes, a dangerous dog hearing, annual appointments, Annual Town Meeting article recommendations, several contracts for consideration, and an Executive Session.

Public Comment
Chair Basbanes opened the meeting for public comment. No public comment was offered.

Approval of Meeting Minutes
The Board reviewed draft meeting minutes from March 25, 2026, March 27, 2026, and April 7, 2026.

On a motion by Select Board Member Ron Mikol and seconded by Vice Chair Kieran Meehan, it was voted to approve the March 25, 2026, March 27, 2026, and April 7, 2026 Select Board meeting minutes as presented. Kieran Meehan aye, Ron Mikol aye, Leah Basbanes aye. The vote was unanimous.

Dangerous Dog Hearing
The Board opened a dangerous dog hearing pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 140, Section 157 regarding a dog residing at 240 Westford Street. Town Administrator Silva read the legal notice into the record.

The complainant, Robert Rafferty, dog owner Susan Chaney, and additional participants were sworn in prior to testimony.

Mr. Rafferty presented concerns regarding repeated incidents involving the dog entering his neighboring properties and knocking down his children. He stated that the incidents had occurred numerous times over the past year and a half and described ongoing concerns for the safety of neighborhood children waiting for the school bus and playing outdoors. Video footage of one incident was reviewed by the Board.

Mr. Rafferty explained that while the dog had not bitten anyone, the dog's size and behavior created fear and safety concerns for children and neighbors. He stated that he had previously spoken with the dog owners on multiple occasions and had requested

corrective action prior to involving law enforcement. He also expressed concern regarding the potential rehoming of the dog without disclosure of the behavioral issues.

Ms. Conant acknowledged that the dog had escaped containment on several occasions but stated that the dog had never bitten or aggressively attacked any person or animal. She described the dog as energetic and overly playful, particularly around children, but not aggressive. Ms. Conant explained that issues with an invisible fence collar contributed to several containment failures and stated that the family had already initiated the process of surrendering the dog to the MSPCA prior to receiving notice of the hearing.

Ms. Conant provided documentation showing the dog had been accepted into the MSPCA surrender process with an anticipated intake date the following week. She also stated that the MSPCA conducts extensive behavioral evaluations prior to rehoming animals.

Board members discussed the distinction between nuisance behavior and dangerous behavior under state law. Members noted that while the incidents described were concerning and understandably upsetting to the neighboring family, there had been no evidence presented of aggressive attacks or biting behavior.

The Board also discussed the importance of proper physical containment for large dogs and expressed concerns regarding reliance on invisible fencing systems.

Members agreed that the pending surrender of the dog substantially addressed the immediate concern but noted that additional action could be necessary if the surrender did not occur.

On a motion by Select Board Member Ron Mikol and seconded by Vice Chair Kieran Meehan, it was voted to continue the dangerous dog hearing pending confirmation that the dog has been surrendered to the MSPCA. Kieran Meehan aye, Ron Mikol aye, Leah Basbanes aye. The vote was unanimous.

Annual Appointments
The Board reviewed annual committee appointments for various boards and committees.

It was noted that some liaison assignments and committee responsibilities may need to be adjusted in the future due to upcoming Board transitions.

On a motion by Select Board Vice Chair Kieran Meehan and seconded by Member Ron Mikol, it was voted to appoint the following individuals to the respective committees and terms as presented:

- Affordable Housing Committee – John Hughes
- Community Preservation Committee – John Hughes
- Community Preservation Committee – Alan Starbird

- Community Preservation Committee – Joan Simmons
- Cultural Council – Jessica Price
- Economic Development Committee – Dot Matsukaras
- Union School Rehabilitation Committee – Tim DeNicola
- Union School Rehabilitation Committee – Bebe Wood

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

Annual Town Meeting Articles – Review and Recommendations
The Board reviewed Annual Town Meeting warrant articles and discussed recommendations on articles.

Town Administrator Silva explained that the Board had previously voted to place articles on the warrant and was now being asked to determine whether to recommend support, opposition, or no position on the articles.

The Board discussed several standard annual articles as well as proposed zoning amendments, accessory dwelling unit bylaw revisions, personnel bylaw updates, and the creation of a new revolving fund for Council on Aging programming.

Mr. Silva noted that Article 18 regarding affordable housing would likely require additional revisions and therefore no action was being recommended on that article at this time.

The Board also discussed Economic Development Committee-sponsored articles related to retail marijuana establishments, local option meals tax, and rezoning to allow breweries/distilleries and cold storage warehouses in certain business districts by special permit. Members stated that while opinions varied, they believed the matter should ultimately be decided by Town Meeting voters rather than through a formal Select Board recommendation. Discussion included broader considerations regarding legal businesses, market demand, local control, and community values.

On a motion by Select Board Member Ron Mikol and seconded by Vice Chair Kieran Meehan, it was voted to support Articles 1, 2, 4 through 16, 17, 19, 20, and 21 of the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Kieran Meehan aye, Ron Mikol aye, Leah Basbanes aye. The vote was unanimous.

Trinity Ambulance Agreement
Town Administrator Silva reviewed a proposed ambulance service agreement with Trinity Ambulance consisting of a one-year term with two optional one-year extensions.

Mr. Silva explained that the Town had recently explored a potential regional ambulance partnership with the Town of Tyngsborough; however, those discussions were ultimately unsuccessful. He stated that Town officials continue to evaluate longer-term regional solutions for emergency medical services.

Board members discussed current ambulance response times and whether contractual incentives tied to response performance might be feasible. Mr. Silva noted that prior discussions with Trinity regarding enhanced response coverage indicated that the associated costs would be substantial.

The Board agreed that while additional long-term solutions should continue to be explored, approval of the contract was necessary to ensure continuity of ambulance service.

On a motion by Select Board Member Ron Mikol and seconded by Vice Chair Kieran Meehan, it was voted to approve the ambulance service agreement with Trinity Ambulance for a one-year term with up to two additional one-year terms and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. Kieran Meehan aye, Ron Mikol aye, Leah Basbanes aye. The vote was unanimous.

Route 113 Complete Streets Redesign Contract
Town Administrator Silva reviewed the proposed contract with Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI) for engineering and design services associated with the Route 113 Complete Streets Redesign Project funded through the Housing Works grant program.

Mr. Silva explained that the Town received fourteen proposals through the procurement process and that an evaluation committee consisting of Town staff and NMCOG representatives reviewed submissions and conducted interviews with several firms. He noted that the project is funded through a $475,000 Housing Works grant along with the previously approved local match of $28,000 appropriated at Special Town Meeting.

Board members discussed the strength of the proposal process and the opportunity to begin advancing long-term pedestrian, traffic calming, and roadway improvement concepts along the Route 113 corridor.

On a motion by Select Board Member Ron Mikol and seconded by Vice Chair Kieran Meehan, it was voted to approve the contract with Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI) in the amount of $502,900 for the Route 113 Complete Streets Redesign Project and authorize the Chair to sign the contract on behalf of the Board. Kieran Meehan aye, Ron Mikol aye, Leah Basbanes aye. The vote was unanimous.

IT Comprehensive Management Services Contract
Town Administrator Silva reviewed the proposed renewal contract with Umbral Technologies for comprehensive IT management services for the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Silva explained that the Town conducted a solicitation process in advance of the current contract expiration date and received six proposals. Umbral Technologies was determined to be the lowest responsible bidder. The Board briefly discussed the Town's current cybersecurity and IT support needs.

On a motion by Select Board Member Ron Mikol and seconded by Vice Chair Kieran Meehan, it was voted to approve the contract with Umbral Technologies for IT comprehensive management services from September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2027 in the amount of $39,000 and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. Kieran Meehan aye, Ron Mikol aye, Leah Basbanes aye. The vote was unanimous.

Executive Session

On a motion by Select Board Member Ron Mikol and seconded by Vice Chair Kieran Meehan, it was voted that the Select Board enter Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(7) to comply with the provisions of the Public Records Law and review cybersecurity strategy and planning and information technology systems and infrastructure, and further to review and approve executive session minutes and determine whether such minutes should be released. The Board would not reconvene in open session following Executive Session. Kieran Meehan aye, Ron Mikol aye, Leah Basbanes aye. The vote was unanimous.

The Board entered Executive Session.