

**Dover Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Dover Town Office  
Tuesday, August 3, 2021**

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*These minutes are not official until approved by the Dover Select board*

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86800444071?pwd=RIU2WDQ0cDM3d3AwSGREeFNON2tnQT09>

Meeting ID: 868 0044 4071

Password: 052648

Dial in: 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 868 0044 4071

Password: 052648

Select Board in person: Victoria Capitani, Joe Mahon, Dan Baliotti  
Select Board absent: Sarah Shippee Select Board via zoom: Scott Salway  
Also, present in person: Office Manager, Jeannette Eckert

Public present in person: Tabi Freedman, Marco Tallini, Randy Johnson, Jim McDevitt, Paul Fisher, Mike Eldred

Public present via Zoom: Tracy Bartels, Eric Durocher, Dana Sorice, Adam Necrason

**Regular Meeting Called to Order at 6:31pm by Chair Capitani**

**I. Public Comments:**

Eric Durocher: Heard back from Cady & Dugan today on the business plan competition rules; a few minor changes which have been made; will start the program on Monday

Jeannette Eckert: Town Hall ramp project update; we did not receive any responses from the ad; Travis and myself have reached out directly to several local concrete companies and he is meeting with three of them next week; hope to have some quotes for the next meeting

Dan Baliotti: Thanks to the Town of Dover for sending up the police, fire and highway along with Eric Dobbins for bringing up the equipment for folks to see at the Silo; great little event

Vicki Capitani: Addition to next agenda: update from Travis on assistance to Newfane that was given last Friday; glad that we helped our neighbors but we do need to be reimbursed

**II. Unfinished Business:**

A. Update from Necrason Lobbyist Group (Adam Necrason)

- Charge is to help the town of Dover to advocate for state policy reform to correct the unfairness in the state's education funding formula for rural, disadvantaged students
- 2021 session was a covid disrupted session but this issue was on a very short list of hot topics that broke through
- One specific result from your advocacy was the immediate suspension of the unfair "penalty box"—an excess spending penalty that had a distorted impact on a select number of communities
- Organizational meetings are taking place in person in Montpelier
  - Several members from the Senate and from the House are participating
  - Allocate funding fairness across the State
  - Permanent fix versus temporary band aid
- Laura Sibilia and other representatives are champions in this area
- State Education formula is going to adjust the weights and get more dollars for your school
- This will be a hot topic as lawmakers have looked this in the mirror; a fix is needed and not a special new fund
- Community is on point on the statewide stage
- We are in this for an 18-month fight; have a passion for this because of the unfairness

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Board comments:

- Money spent was well spent; win with the penalty box being suspended; savings on the tax rate
- Contract with Necrason has expired; New contract proposes to run from July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30 2022
- Need to continue to push for the weights to change, they are unfair; anything short of that is not a long-term win for any towns adversely affected by this
- What would a successful next session amount to?
- Band aid changes all the time; volatile way to fill in the cracks; better to build a new foundation
- Agreement in the amount of \$24,000 (\$2000 per month) was not warned-- will revisit at August 17 meeting for approval
- Adam or a colleague will zoom the next meeting to answer any further questions

B. Update on Library Sign (Scott Salway)

- Scott: don't have an exact price, only a ball park estimate; sign maker believes it possible to put an arch on the top with a banner below for Kids in the Country
- Will defer to next meeting

C. Consider Setting 2021 Tax Rate or Holding Special Meeting August 6 (Marco Tallini)

- Grand List was lodged this afternoon so we are good to go
- Grand List is \$1,022,905,569.00 which is up \$25 million over last year's Grand List
- Homestead rate is up 10.5 cents
- Municipal rate is flat as well as the Non-Residential rate
- Surplus of \$789,493.12 which includes \$200,000 in highway grants
- More than anticipated revenues with delinquent taxes and clerk fees
- Expenses are flat to down; fiscally in good shape
- Sullivan & Powers was comfortable with \$400,000-500,000 in surplus
  - Apply \$200,000 against highway fund
  - Apply \$300,000 against general fund
- Total Homestead rate would be \$2.1014
- Total Non-Homestead rate would be \$1.9952
- Operational general fund will be .2935 and highway fund will be .1147 plus a bit of Veterans exemption for a total of .4083

On a motion by Dan Baliotti, seconded by Joe Mahon, the Board voted unanimously to apply \$200,000 from highway surplus and \$300,000 from general surplus fund to create a homestead rate of \$2.1014 and a non-homestead rate of \$1.9952

**III. New Business:**

A. Request from Phil Bowen for Benefit Concert at Dover Park, October 10 from 2-4pm

- Phil organized a similar concert last year at the park and previous years at Town Hall
- Seeking the Board's blessing on the event; will be a benefit to a local organization
- Always a great event

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On a motion by Scott Salway, seconded by Joe Mahon, the Board unanimously agreed to allow Phil Bowen to hold a benefit concert at Dover Park on October 10 from 2-4pm

- B. Approve/Sign Sullivan, Powers Scope of Services
- Obviously after the fact as the audit has been completed
  - It was mailed to us June 10 but never rec'd
    - Auditors brought it with them
    - Full audit for \$15,000; normally \$10,000
    - Should have results back soon

On a motion by Dan Baliotti, seconded by Joe Mahon, the Board unanimously agreed to sign the scope of services for the 2021 audit

**IV. Liquor Control:**

On a motion by Joe Mahon, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board unanimously agreed to recess and convene as the Board of Liquor Control

- A. Request to Cater Permit, August 14 at Town Hall, Jim's Bistro @ the Roadhouse
- Jim has catered Historical Society events; one of a few in the area who has a catering license; always does a nice job

On a motion by Dan Baliotti, seconded by Joe Mahon, the request to cater permit from Jim's Bistro was approved by a vote of 3-0-1 (Salway abstained)

- B. Special Event Permit, Sept 25 at Mt Snow, Eden Ice Cider Company, W&H Festival
- Normally this is a blanket permit submitted by North branch Vineyards
  - When this came in, Jeannette reached out to North branch and John had not heard the event was happening; he was instructed to reach out to the Chamber
  - Eden Ice Cider was sent an application by the Chamber
  - Not a Mt Snow event, but an event organized by the Chamber to be held at Mt Snow
  - Eric will reach out to the Chamber to see if all applicants can be bundled together
  - Will approve Eden Ice Cider tentatively based on response from the Chamber

On a motion by Joe Mahon, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board unanimously approved the special event permit for Eden Ice Cider contingent on whether the Chamber submits a blanket permit

On a motion by Dan Baliotti, seconded by Joe Mahon, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn as Board of Liquor Control and reconvene as Dover Select Board

**V. Consent Agenda:**

- A. Approve the Minutes of July 20, 2021  
On a motion by Scott Salway, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board voted 3-0-1 to approve the minutes of July 20, 2021 (Mahon abstained)
- B. Approve the Warrants of July 24, 2021 for \$288,504.04  
On a motion by Joe Mahon, seconded by Dan Baliotti, the Board unanimously approved the warrants of July 24, 2021

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**VI. FYI:**

A. Summer Concerts at the Park:

- Lonesome Brother, Aug 8, 2-4pm
- Social Medication, Aug 11, 6-8pm
- Jacksonville Blues Band, Aug 15, 2-4pm

\*\*Aug 1 concert was cancelled due to weather concerns at the time when the decision had to be made

B. Planning Commission meets Aug 9 at 6pm

C. Trails & Rec Committee meets Aug 10 at 6:30pm

D. Thank You Letter from Grace Cottage—for \$3000 appropriation

**VII. Liaison Reports:** none

**VIII. Executive Session as needed:** none

**IX. Adjournment:** On a motion by Dan Baliotti, seconded by Joe Mahon, the Board agreed to adjourn at 7:09pm

Respectfully submitted by Jeannette Eckert

Public notices of these minutes have been posted at the following locations:  
Dover Town Clerk's Bulletin Board, Dover Town Meeting Bulletin Board, Dover School  
Dover Free Library, East Dover Post Office, Town of Dover Website: [www.doververmont.com](http://www.doververmont.com)