

**Town of Needham
Select Board Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2024
Needham Town Hall
Select Board Chambers**

6:45 p.m.

Call to Order:

A special meeting of the Select Board was convened by Chair Kevin Keane. Present were Cathy Dowd, Marianne Cooley, Joshua Levy, Deputy Town Manager Katie King, and Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick. Select Board Member Heidi Frail was not in attendance.

The Board discussed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Board and the Needham Housing Authority relative to the removal of deed restrictions. Mr. Levy noted that he understands now that the requested action is based on speculative concerns on the part of the Needham Housing Authority. Ms. Dowd noted that the existing deeds may impact the competitiveness of the Housing Authority's application, but that there is no certainty. She said that approving the MOU would be helping the Authority put its best foot forward and that the deed restriction removal would improve their chances. Mr. Levy said that the MOU is not enforceable. He said that perhaps the Board could approve the language and sign the document after the vote, when the Select Board deems that the deed restriction removal is necessary.

Motion: Mr. Levy moved that the Select Board approve the MOU language with the Needham Housing Authority and not sign the MOU until after the Town Meeting vote and when the Select Board deems that the removal of the restrictions is necessary for the project. Second: Ms. Cooley for the purposes of discussion.

Ms. Dowd said that she is unaware of information that would provide the Board with more certainty. Ms. Cooley said that even if Article 41: Authorization to Remove Deed Restrictions does not pass Town Meeting, the MOU memorializes the Board's desire for continued use of the property.

Mr. Keane called for the vote. The motion failed to carry: 1 – 3 with Mr. Levy voting yes and Mr. Keane, Ms. Dowd, and Ms. Cooley voting no.

Motion: Ms. Dowd moved that the Board approve and sign the MOU between the Board and the Needham Housing Authority. Second: Ms. Cooley. The motion carried 3 – 1 with Mr. Levy voting no.

The Board discussed pending issues related to the Annual Town Meeting. The Board decided to take no position on moving Article 18.

7:10 p.m.

Motion: Ms. Cooley moved that the Board adjourn its meeting simultaneously with the adjournment of Town Meeting. Second: Mr. Levy. Unanimously approved 4-0.

Note: The Annual Town Meeting adjourned for the evening at 11:10 p.m.