



*No person is your friend  
who demands your silence,  
or denies your right to grow.*"

Alice Walker



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## Dedham Community House Teen Campers visit Dedham TV studio

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Livable Dedham and the Dedham Community House completed their final week of the Teen Camp partnership program, funded by a grant from the Tufts Health Plan Foundation.

This pilot program added a component for campers which focused on community service and civic engagement related to age-friendly initiatives – making our community a great place to grow up and grow old.

The final outing was to the Dedham TV studio to learn about behind-the-scenes operations, and to film a talk show discussing our experiences with the intergenerational and community-based programming.

A huge thanks to the Dedham TV crew, Donna Shevavian, George Willett, Maddie Rose DeFelice, Dennis Sullivan and Brian Kerby, for hosting the campers and for documenting our experiences of the past month. We are looking forward to the documentary Dedham TV is creating and will be sharing with the greater community.

Over the course of the program, campers learned hands-on about an aging population and exploring solutions for our community related to transportation, communication, volunteer opportunities and programs, and activities for older adults. We believe this was a successful initiative and provided mutually rewarding intergenerational experiences for all involved!

On Monday in DCH Teen Camp this week, campers were visited by three people: Dot Walsh, Marilyn Keegan and Debbie Anderson. Each of our guests focused on how they worked in the community to get information to different groups of people.

Dot told us about her experiences talking to prisoners, focusing on how we have to keep in mind what you value most.

Marilyn spoke to us about growing up during the Great Depression. One thing that stood out in her discussion was how people helped each other, even though times were bad.

Our third visitor, Debbie, was from the Dedham Parks & Recreation Department. She focused on the ways that her department communicates with regular citizens, including social media, e-letters, regular newsletters, and the newspapers in order to let the community know about the programs they are running.

On Wednesday, campers visited the Dedham TV station in order to further understand how organizations communicate with the public. First, campers were divided into groups and shown basic television skills, including interviewing, the movements of camera, and how to craft questions.

When campers finished learning these basics, they hosted their own talk show, in which they interviewed other campers about their experiences in the Livable Dedham project and what they learned through the variety of community service projects they performed.

"Each camper had a unique experience," said camper Colin Finkel, "whether it was in their observations during our walk audit, or in the meaningful exchanges we had with our elders at the senior center. Everyone seemed to have had a great time during the project. After going to the TV station, it made us all realize how hard people work to communicate their ideas to so many people."



(Above): DCH camper Avani Shah.



(Above): DCH camper Taylor Thomas.

Photos contributed to *The Dedham Times*

## Planning Board Master Plan 2030 contenders throw their hats in the ring

by *Scott Heald*

At its meeting on Thursday, July 25, the Planning Board heard from numerous applicants for a seat on the town's 2030 Master Plan 2030 Committee.

John Bethoney, Chair of the board, outlined the process by which that committee would feature certain members of the community to help revise that plan, which was last updated in 2009.

The individuals appearing that evening included Margaret Adams Whitfield, a public school administrator; Dieckmann Cogill, a transportation planner; Nathan Gauthier, a sustainability director; Dan Hart, a strategic procurement officer; Justin Humphreys, an architect; Dan Maher, a financial advisor; Alix O'Connell, an attorney; Andrew Tittler, an attorney; and Scott Steeves, a union president. Other people may be submitting applications to serve on Master Plan 2030, but did not appear before the board on July 25.

"The Planning Board has five at-large member appointments" to the committee, he said. He praised all those applying, stating "I'm personally thrilled with every one of these (applicants)," he said. "Even though we only have five appointments, there are so many other sub-committees that are going to be formed as part of the Master Plan process... I'm going to work with my colleagues to see how we can get each and every one of you involved in one way or another, with productive involvement."

Ralph Steeves, an associate member of the board and the father of Scott Steeves, echoed those comments. "I was on the (Planning) Board when the Master Plan started," he said. "I have never seen a better crowd of people come here and voice an opinion about what they wanted to do."

Responding to a question from one of the applicants about when the committee's meetings would likely begin, Town Planner Jeremy Rosenberger estimated it would likely take place some time in October. He added that the Selectmen would make two at-large appointments to the committee, and would also designate one member of that board to join the committee.

Rosenberger said further that the Parks and Recreation Commission had assigned Chuck Dellolaco of that board, and the School Committee had assigned member Josh Donati, to serve on the committee.

Later in the meeting, Attorney Peter Zahka, with offices in Dedham, presented a request for modification of site plan review for 22 Bridge Street, for a one-story rear addition of about 240 square feet. He said it involved the gas station (Ella's Gas) next to Waterford's restaurant. "The client was requested by the Conservant Commission to appear before them, because I guess historically, there had been two oil tanks behind the building... Basically they asked him (the client) to enclose that."

Zahka said the matter may also need to go before the town's Zoning Board of Appeals. On Rosenberger's recommendation, the board voted unanimously to approve Zahka's request on the rationale that the proposal is not subject to site plan review