



NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

70 Crescent Street, Newton, MA 02466
Office: (617) 796-1500
Fax: (617) 796-1512



DAVID B. COHEN
MAYOR

FRAN L. TOWLE
COMMISSIONER

August 31, 2006

Honorable Members of the Board of Aldermen
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Ave.
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Dear Honorable Board Members:

I am writing to address the issue of snow removal at the proposed Newton North High School. Upon review of the site plans (prepared by Gund Partnership, Options 5a & 5b) with staff responsible for snow removal operations, I don't anticipate a major change in our snow removal procedures in the proposed site plans from what is done currently implemented. As the plans are further detailed during the design process, I will be actively participating with the design team to incorporate operational plans for snow removal ensuring safety in areas used by students, teachers and parents.

The current process is to plow parking lots toward the perimeters of the lots, preferably moving it on to grass areas adjacent to the lots. All walkways are cleared to allow access to all entrances by teachers and students. Our procedure is to clear the parking lots and walkways by placing snow in open, non-pedestrian areas on-site. If the snow volume becomes too high, we haul snow off site. Hauling historically may occur at the schools, as well as city village centers, from one to three times per year.

The school designs under discussion retain roughly the same amount of parking as the current situation, however, with different layouts. Review of the plan also shows additional walkways over those that presently exist. The main entrance circular drive with its parking is a new feature of the school that does not exist currently. Here I can envision again plowing to the outside perimeter of the drive since the athletic facilities (tennis courts) would not be in use during the winter. Certainly, proper landscaping at the new site will be a topic that I will actively work with the landscape architect on, to ensure there are adequate breaks in the plantings to allow for snow operations.

In summary, the plans proposed do not appear to offer any unmanageable snow removal issues, and I am confident that moving forward, the design team will incorporate my maintenance interests in their final detail plan. As the school plans evolve, I will continue to review them to ensure accommodation of adequate snow removal operations. If I can be of any further assistance please feel free to contact me at 617-796-1500.

Respectfully,

Fran Towle, Commissioner

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