

**Newton North High School Liaison Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 8, 2007**  
Meeting Notes

Mayor Cohen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Aldermen and Committee Members Present:** Alderman Marcia Johnson, Alderman Steve Linsky, Alderman Susan Albright, School Committee Member Reenie Murphy, Captain Matt Cummings, Barry Lavelle, Laura Naylor, Vice Principal Susan Ostrer, Principal Jennifer Price, Jim Robertson, Jeanne White, Steve Shufro, Beverly Spencer.

The Agenda items included:

- ***Introduction and comments from the Mayor.***
- ***Discussion of Ledge Removal & Blasting***

Mayor Cohen started off by addressing questions he had received from Committee member Laura Naylor regarding what the procedure would be for following up on damage due to blasting. He agreed to the idea of scheduling a follow up inspection on the five houses that immediately abut the NNHS site and had originally been inspected. A notice will be sent to those homeowners once the blasting has been completed to schedule a time and date for the inspection. Laura asked if there was a maximum timeframe for reporting damages as she had heard it was 30 days. The Mayor suggested that she speak to an attorney regarding this subject, as he was not able to advise her. Laura also asked if the City would cover costs homeowners incurred for additional inspections for damages. The Mayor was not sure who would be liable but thought that it would be the blasting company, Maine Drilling and Blasting. The Mayor agreed to check further into the filing timelines for damages. *In fact, after the meeting, it was learned that a Blasting Damage Complaint Form must be completed by the property owner and returned to the head of the City's Fire Department within 30 days of the alleged incident, so that a determination can be made regarding whether or not the blasting contractor violated state regulations.*

Several neighbors requested a follow up meeting to review the findings of the seismograph reports. Nick Parnell will coordinate with Rob Juusola, Turner Construction.

- ***Discussion of Snow Removal***

Principal Jennifer Price suggested an alternative parking plan for days when snow emergencies are in effect. She and Vice Principal Susan Ostrer presented a map which indicated a more concentrated area for parking on the designated days which would decrease the area that would need to have more immediate snow removal to allow for on-street parking and improved pedestrian traffic. The Mayor commented the icing conditions of the past storms were a complicating factor in the removal of the snow. It was suggested that sand be used in stead of salt as it provides better traction on the icy surfaces. The Mayor agreed to consider sanding on a limited basis

due, as there are issues related to the clean-up of the sand in the spring, which is considered hazardous material.

Alderman Johnson commented that the Public Safety & Transportation Committee would take up the issue of residential responsibilities regarding snow removal at their next meeting on Wednesday, January 9.

Other members raised the issue of two-sided parking on some streets, which could be hazardous, if emergency vehicles cannot pass. Noted problem streets were Dexter Road and Trowbridge Avenue. An abutter on Otis Street and Trowbridge Avenue noted problems with the sidewalk plow was not doing a good job and creating excessive noise in the middle of the night. Acting Commissioner of DPW, David Turocy will look into the problem.

Alderman Johnson suggested that the Mayor consider “snow emergency” satellite parking areas where the students and teachers would be bused to the school which would allow DPW more time for more extensive snow removal.

The Mayor agreed to look into all items mentioned and suggested a walk around the high school with DPW and school staff to review the problem areas and discuss the options.

- ***Construction Updates***

Public Buildings Commissioner Nick Parnell mentioned that 80% construction documents are expected to be completed by mid-January (100% construction documents will be completed in March 2008). The Design Review Committee will meet on February 14 to review the 80% plans. Foundations for the new high school are expected to be underway by mid-February. A question was asked about the stairs from the new high school to Hull Street. Commissioner Parnell said that the new sketches would be sent to the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board, along with the City’s request for a waiver. These drawings have already been reviewed by the Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities.

Alderman Johnson asked that the Site Plan of changes to the new building plan due to the bump out necessary for the Vocational Tech. area be brought to a meeting for review of the changes.

Other miscellaneous questions included: Repair of the fence screening on Elm Road; and the Gap in dust monitoring information on the web site from 1/19 – 12/12. Nick Parnell agreed to look into both and follow up.

- ***Other Items***

It was asked that Captain Matt Cummings look into further traffic enforcement on Hull Street, as there are certain drivers not following the one-way traffic signs.

- ***The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 29, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.***