

Newton North High School Liaison Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 26, 2008
Meeting Notes

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

Aldermen and Committee Members Present: Alderman Steve Linsky, Alderman Susan Albright, Alderman Mitch Fischman, Alderman Marcia Johnson, Alderman Leonard Gentile, Captain Matt Cummings, Laura Naylor, Vice-Principal Susan Ostrer, Jim Robertson, Steve Shufro, Beverly Spencer, Jeanne White, Dan Gaulin, and Nikki Shearman.

The Agenda items included:

- ***Introduction from the Mayor***

The Mayor reviewed his response to the erroneous TAB article, published February 27, questioning the quality of work of Aggregate Industries. The Mayor defended the City's decision to select Aggregate, outlining what occurred during the big-dig incident and the steps that were taken to correct the problem and ensure quality and structural integrity. He also mentioned a number of important projects Aggregate Industries has successfully completed in recent years with major Boston area institutions, including Harvard University, UMASS Medical Center, Children's Hospital, and many middle and high school projects for area cities and towns.

- ***Construction Updates***

Commissioner Nick Parnell commented that the concrete was currently being poured and the foundation walls would begin the week of March 3. The steel will be delivered in June. The City has hired an outside testing company, American Testing Company, to test all concrete being used in the high school project.

Rob Jussola, Turner Construction, commented that the ACM Phase I is 90% complete from the original rubble areas for the old building. He expects this phase to be completed within the next 30 days.

Alderman Gentile added that Phase II of the ACM removal will begin in the summer of 2009 and will include a section identified near Elm Road for utilities.

- ***Other Items***

Beverly Spencer inquired as to what the DEP regulations were for recycling the soil found to contain low levels of asbestos. Rob Jussola commented that the DEP has draft regulations in front of the legislature that would allow the use of soil with less than 1% contamination with certain controls. He is currently waiting for DEP to give the okay; otherwise the fill will need to be disposed of in New Hampshire.

Laura Naylor requested that they continue to receive emails advising when construction work was to take place on Saturdays. She also asked if there were any updates on the stairs (ramp) from Hull Street. Nick Parnell commented that the architects have created several options that will be presented to the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities prior to sending to the State for approval.

Jim Robertson informed the Committee that there is still a problem with cars parking on both sides of certain streets, including Calvin Road and Trowbridge Avenue. The Mayor said he would check with City Traffic Engineer, Clint Schuckel, and follow up at the next meeting.

Alderman Johnson inquired about the status of an Alternative Parking plan for snow emergency days that was discussed at a previous meeting. The Mayor commented that the plan had been presented and was still being considered.

- ***The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.***