Newton North High School Liaison Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 25, 2008
Meeting Notes

Aldermen and Committee Members Present: Alderman Steve Linsky, Alderman Susan Albright, Alderman Alderman Leonard Gentile, School Committee Member Reenie Murphy, School Committee Member Marc Laredo, Captain Matt Cummings, Laura Naylor, Vice-Principal Susan Ostrer, Jim Robertson, Beverly Spencer, Jeanne White, Dan Gaulin, and Nikki Shearman.

The Agenda items included:

• ***Introduction/Comments from the Mayor***
Mayor Cohen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

• ***Construction Updates/Foundation***
Rob Jussola, Turner Construction, commented that the soil removal work is 95% complete. Foundation work is 80% complete (footings) and 50% complete (wall) in the locker room area. Foundation work will next occur in the main lobby area. Steel is still scheduled to arrive by the end of May. A question was asked regarding the coordination of steel delivery, and Rob stated that, similar to concrete delivery, the trucks delivering steel will be coordinated so that trucks will not be idling on the streets near Newton North, but would arrive when needed. Rob added that no additional ledge has been found.

• ***Update on Asbestos Removal***
Sherlie LaPierre, of Dimeo Construction commented that of the six zones in the original plan, asbestos removal has been completed in zones 1-4. One more truckload remains to be removed in Zone 5. Zone 6 is also complete, but a water retention tank is located under the field, and Dimeo is investigating whether they need to remove material at a lower level than has been done so far. Overall, Sherlie stated that asbestos removal is 95% complete.

• ***Update on Hull Street Stairs/AAB variance***
Public Buildings Commissioner Nick Parnell commented that the Architectural Access Board (AAB) requires a handicapped ramp at or near the proposed Hull St. staircase. There is a 15-foot grade change at this location. Two ramp options were presented to the Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities, however neither option was well received. Therefore, the Buildings Department will submit an application for a variance with the AAB, so that a handicapped ramp would not be required at this location. If the variance is not approved by the AAB, other options are to locate a handicapped access point near the proposed staircase location, or to not construct the staircase. Mayor Cohen suggested that we await the AAB decision. If and when the request for a variance is denied, additional discussion will take place at a Newton North Liaison Committee meeting.

• ***Update on Neighborhood Parking***
City Traffic Engineer Clint Schuckel commented that the City is continuing to monitor parking on Trowbridge and Calvin Road. Clint stated that he was there to listen to which

other streets the City should monitor, and that while the City tries to be as least restrictive as possible, public safety is always the priority.

One Committee member noted that in the morning 3-4 cars park on Calvin Road between Lowell and the location of a no parking sign. Other members expressed concern about the volume of cars parking on streets near Lowell Avenue during large school events. Vice Principal Ostrer noted that motorists tend to park on the Lowell side of the school during school functions, while other areas have plenty of parking spaces available. It was suggested that on those nights when a police detail is requested, parking restrictions on the Lowell Avenue side be posted and enforced so to encourage motorists to park on Hull Street and other sides of the school, and to park on one side of the street only. It was suggested that Clint Schuckel work with Captain Cummings to develop the best way to inform people that they can park on various streets on all sides of the school during evening school-related events. The next major function is not until April 17th.

Another Committee member suggested that the City do something long-term to address vehicular parking on both sides of Trowbridge Avenue. School Committee Member Reenie Murphy believes that streets nearest the school, such as Otis, Hull and Highland, and experiencing illegal parking, and that vehicles are not getting ticketed.

It was also mentioned that the City should create a safer way to bicycle on Walnut Street to Newton North by creating a bicycle accommodation, such as a bicycle lane and/or installing "Share the Road" signage. Mayor Cohen noted that the City is currently looking into bicycle accommodations on Walnut Street south of Commonwealth Avenue, and that bicycle accommodations on Walnut Street between Commonwealth Avenue and Washington Street should be examined.

• ***Other Items***

There was discussion among Committee Members, Aldermen, and neighbors related to reduced roof screening and reduced landscaping as a result of the Value Engineering process. It was noted that the item related to roof screening was widely discussed, and that a decision was made not to order the steel. Alderman Gentile believes that the screens on the academic wing have been eliminated and cannot be added back at this point. Mayor Cohen noted that discussions related to screening and other Value Engineering elements are taking place in other forums, and that the architect have developed a computerized model which can display the visual impact of the building's roof with and without screening. Mayor Cohen noted that a revised plan could allow for a certain amount of flexibility. Neighbors were concerned about the noise impact of the removal of roof screening. Mayor Cohen stated that additional information about HVAC and noise-related issues will be discussed at the next meeting.

Public Building Commissioner Parnell was asked to provide a bit more description of the items on the Value Engineering list.

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