

Newton North High School Liaison Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 29, 2008
Meeting Notes

Aldermen and Committee Members Present: Alderman Steve Linsky, Alderman Marcia Johnson, Alderman Leonard Gentile, Captain Matt Cummings, Laura Naylor, Vice-Principal Susan Ostrer, Heidi Black, Steve Shufro, Jim Robertson, Beverly Spencer, Jeanne White.

The Agenda items included:

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

• ***Introduction/Comments from the Mayor***

The Mayor responded to an email received regarding compensation claims as a result of the blasting. He commented that the City does pay claims (filed) that are determined by the Law Department to be legally compensable. If the homeowner is not satisfied with the decision given by the City's Law Department they would have the option to seek further judicial review.

• ***Construction Updates/Foundation***

Nick Parnell, Public Buildings Commissioner, commented that foundation work continues and that the pool and main lobby area are currently being worked on. Steel is still scheduled to arrive by the end of May. Asbestos removal is 95% complete. The Public Buildings Department has submitted an application for a variance with the Architectural Access Board (AAB) regarding the Hull Street stairway and is awaiting their decision. The Commissioner will send out an email once he receives that decision. He expects the building permit for construction of the entire high school building will be issued within the next two weeks.

• ***Revised Landscaping Plan & HVAC Noise***

The Mayor advised the Committee that the design team would not be making any changes to the final landscaping plan, as the amount originally budgeted for implementation of that plan is included in the final \$197.5 million budget. Brad Dore, Dore & Whittier Architects, presented a computerized model of the new high school building, which showed the building massing and illustrated what the visual impact would be of the building with and without the roof screens. Brad Dore commented that the screens were not intended to assist with the acoustics, as they were strictly designed to reduce the visual impact of the rooftop mounted mechanical equipment. Bids are currently being received for the air handling units that will include special boxes that will surround the units to minimize the overall sound. Since the units have not yet been purchased there are no specifications available at this time. Once the units are acquired, they will be tested and the maximum noise level (dB) will be compared to the measurements taken at the perimeter of the site (background noise level) in 2007 to ensure the contractor complies with City's "Noise Control Ordinance." Various abutters voiced concerns about the previous testing completed and how the baseline numbers were achieved. Mr. Dore commented that it is their opinion that the testing of the new equipment will show numbers below that allowed by the City's Ordinance.

Alderman Johnson asked whether the budget still included an irrigation system. Nick Parnell commented that the athletic fields would have the system included in the approved site plan.

- ***Dirt Piles***

Mike Burton, Turner Construction, explained that during the week of April 21, the construction area became very dry due to the unseasonably warm weather and lack of rain. An additional water truck (3000 gallons- 5 days per week) was brought on site in an attempt to keep the dust to a minimum. The additional loam pile has now been hydro-seeded and the reclamation pile has been Ecosealed.

They are considering using products like Geomatrix SS and Earthstop 500 Crystal. Geomatrix SS would be used on the footprint to bind dust particles and would last 3-6 months. Earthstop 500 Crystal would be added to the water trucks and applied to the rest of the site with a duration of 3 to 6 weeks. Further research on these products will be conducted prior to them being used at the site. Jim Robertson requested that no application take place until it was discussed again at the next meeting on June 3.

Laura Naylor noted that the back sides of the existing piles (facing the immediate abutters) had not been covered completely. Frank Allard, Dimeo Construction, said he would address this issue immediately. Ms. Naylor also questioned the number and location of piles on the site as it had changed since it was originally presented. It was explained that the additional pile was due to additional loam that needed to be reused during construction, however Mr. Allard noted that the single pile on the original plan was much larger than the two piles that currently exist. The new pile has been hydro-seeded.

- ***Agenda Items 5 Neighborhood Parking & 7 Walnut Street Improvements for Bicycles***

City Traffic Engineer Clint Schuckel was unable to attend the meeting. These items will be carried forward to the next meeting on June 3.

- ***Other Items***

The Mayor was asked if he had any concerns about the synthetic turf being installed based on recent findings at a school in New Jersey. He replied that the findings were based on a product that is no longer being used and that no problems have been found with the newer products currently being used.

- ***The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 3, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.***