

Newton North High School Liaison Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 15, 2008
Meeting Notes

Aldermen and Committee Members Present: Alderman Marcia Johnson, Alderman Stephen Linsky, Captain Matt Cummings, Laura Naylor, Steve Shufro, Jeanne White, Beverly Spencer, Sarah Ecker, Principal Jennifer Price

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

The Agenda items included:

• ***Construction Updates/Foundation***

Nick Parnell, Public Buildings Commissioner, commented that work continues on the foundation and steel erection. Elm Road is closed with the exception of the section from Lowell Ave to the circular drive in front of the existing high school building. Elm Road will be repaved and reopened before school starts in the fall. National Grid has now identified that the electrical service for the new building will need to come from the Lowell Ave side of Elm Road. It was originally thought that the tie-ins would take place from Walnut Street.

• ***Construction Site Lighting***

Frank Allard, Dimeo Construction, commented that the construction site lighting would be necessary within the month. He stated that due to OSHA regulations, worker and first responder safety and site security, Dimeo would be installing lighting within the framework of the building. It was his intent to keep this lighting to a minimum level. Most of the lighting would be incandescent 100-watt bulbs with a protective cage surrounding it. Some of the lighting in the higher floor-to-ceiling portions of the building would be a “Hi V” fixture with the lighting focused downward. A few abutters expressed their concern that this lighting might adversely affect their residences. The idea of having motion sensor lighting installed in all or part of the building was discussed as an alternative, but Frank Allard indicated it would be difficult to maintain the motion sensors because of the constantly changing work areas. The Mayor asked that that Dimeo look into the feasibility of this option. It was also decided that a lighting “test area” would be set up in the near future for Committee members and others to view. Additional discussion will be held on this subject at the September Committee meeting. To address the security issues, Frank Allard also mentioned that several other construction sites he has worked on have brought in dogs along with the security detail and have found it to be very effective. This possibility would be in addition to the proposed lighting. Alderman Johnson asked if the proposed lighting complied with the City’s Light Ordinance. The Mayor said that he would check into that and get back to the Committee.

• ***Noise***

Brad Dore, Dore & Whittier Architects, was not available to attend the meeting so agenda item #4 was postponed until the next Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 9. Alderman Johnson commented that the Programs and Services Committee would be discussing possible revisions to the City’s Noise Ordinance (Docket Item #329-05) at a future meeting.

• *Dust Reduction*

David Naparstek, Commissioner of Health and Human Services, commented on the dust reduction products. While he had not uncovered any problems with the Geomatrix SS product, he felt that the product would not be effective in the area being considered due to the continuous use of the dirt piles, as well as the construction traffic on site. Its ideal use is in low traffic areas. At this time Dimeo will continue to use the watering truck to keep the site dust down to a minimum. Committee member Laura Naylor commented that the loam pile now has grass growing on it so the dust and erosion has been significantly decreased.

Abutter, John Joyce, asked what the findings of the analysis of the dust coming off the site were. Commissioner Naparstek answered that the dust is not considered a health issue and all testing indicated that it was not a concern. There was no asbestos found around the perimeter of the construction site and only minimal levels found on the site.

• *Neighborhood Parking & Bicycle Improvements*

City Traffic Engineer, Clint Schuckel, reported that the Traffic Council held a public hearing on the Newton North Tiger Zone (Permit) program. Clint Schuckel reported that all comments received during the hearing were positive and he is not anticipating any major changes for the upcoming 2008-09 school year. Principal, Jennifer Price will hold the lottery for permits during the week of July 21. Clint Schuckel continued with a discussion regarding the issues relating to cars parking on both sides of Calvin Road. They will be placing temporary signs on the south side of the street that say "No Parking 4-10 p.m. School Days". Aldermen Johnson and Linsky will need to docket this item to make the temporary change permanent.

Issues with parking on both sides of Lowell Avenue for the summer school program were discussed. It was noted that the current ordinance and signage only apply to parking restrictions during the regular school year. Any changes to the Tiger Permit program would require the approval of the Board of Aldermen.

Clint Schuckel reported that design plans for the Hull Street intersection updates have been docketed with the Board of Aldermen. He also reported that roadway striping and "Share the Road" signage on Walnut Street, between Beacon Street and the high school, will be completed in the next few weeks. This project had been delayed due to weather.

Other Items

• NNHS Principal, Jennifer Price, reported that the feed back from the smoking ban program was very positive and that other communities are looking at implementing a similar program. She thanked all Committee members who helped establish the program.

• *The next meeting will be on September 9, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.*