

Newton North High School Liaison Committee Meeting Tuesday, October 7, 2008

Meeting Notes

Aldermen and Committee Members Present: Alderman Linsky, Alderman Fischman, Alderman Gentile, School Committee Member - Marc Laredo, NNHS Principal – Jennifer Price, Captain Matt Cummings, Sarah Ecker, Jim Robertson, Beverly Spencer, Jeanne White, Tom Krauss (filling in for Laura Naylor)

Mayor David B. Cohen called the meeting to order at 6:35p.m.

The Agenda items included:

Introduction from the Mayor/Construction Updates:

The Mayor discussed the outcome of the neighborhood meeting on Sunday, October 5. The main request from the group was to improve communications related to the ongoing construction schedule. The Mayor and Trip Elmore – Turner Construction, identified NOISE, LIGHT, TRAFFIC AND DUST as areas they felt were most sensitive and have the greatest impact on the neighborhood. The construction work that will have the greatest effect in these areas is installation of the Foundation, Steel, Concrete Slabs and Exterior Walls. In addition, Exterior Site Work and Temperature Heating of exterior and interior areas will also have impact. Mr. Elmore presented a chart that identified these impact areas and anticipated timeframe to work would take place.

When construction will occur outside the normal work hours, the current mode of communication to the neighbors is for Dimeo to contact Turner Construction, then Turner to contact Public Buildings Commissioner, Nick Parnell. Nick is responsible for sending any project updates to the Liaison Committee members, abutters and others who have asked to be notified. Nick is responsible for posting any project updates on the NNHS Liaison Committee's web page.

Site work is now coming to a stop, for now, with the completion of the building foundations. All utility and roadway reconstruction work on Elm Street is now complete. However, there still may be some occasional work to be done by the utility companies. There are still some loam piles on the site but they will be used for fill over the next few months before the heavy equipment leaves the site. The next big site work project will be landscaping which will take place towards the end of the project in 2010 but will not be as noisy or disruptive as the past site work has been.

Foundation work will be completed mid-November to early December 2008. The majority of structural steel erection should be completed in December 2008. Concrete slabs will be poured through December 2008 and then again March through April 2009. To address the problem of construction occurring after regular hours, Turner is working with Aggregate Industries have all deliveries completed by 1:00 p.m. This will allow additional curing time – which varies some depending on the outside environment. They will try to complete work before 7:00 p.m., but work could extend beyond that time.

Work will continue throughout the winter on the 4-story academic and theatre sections of the new structure. As the exterior walls are completed the noise should decrease. Finishing of the

exterior walls will be on going through the winter, spring and early summer. Temporary heating units will be used from October through April to keep the working areas up to minimum levels for the materials to be used.

The temporary heating plan allows for interior and exterior heaters. The first type is a mushroom heater, which will run off natural gas lines installed underground. The units are 10ft x 6ft and 4.5 million BTU's. The acoustical data on the units has not yet been reviewed by the consultant. Frank Allard said they planned to provide some additional sound proofing around the units. Additionally small propane heaters will be used to heat "cold spots" of the building as a supplement to the larger mushroom heaters.

The second type is for the exterior of the building to allow the masons to install the brick façade on the exterior walls. They will have 3 heaters 9 ft x 3 ft, 4 million BTUs that will move around the exterior of the building with the masons. They will be running 24/7.

Lighting is continuing to be installed in the interior of the building. As the exterior walls are built the lighting should become less visible from the neighbors. Exterior walls are scheduled to be completed by August 2009. Mr. Allard also noted that portions of the exterior walls would be wrapped during the winter to keep in the heat. This will also cut down on the impact of the lighting.

The regular construction hours will be as follows:

Standard Construction - 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Saturdays 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Masonry - 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Concrete – 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. (note curing time could go past 7:00 p.m.)

- If curing time will go beyond regular hours Commissioner Parnell will send an email notification to all on the distribution list.

Other Items:

Willa Kuh, who resides on the east side of Walnut Street, commented on her observations and concerns about pedestrian safety in her area. Many teachers, students, athletes and general MBTA commuters cross the street in her area and she feels it is unsafe. She requested the Mayor and the Aldermen consider a crosswalk, crossing guard or a crossing light. The Mayor responded that he would have the Public Safety & Transportation Committee bring this item up for consideration.

Mayor Cohen adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18 at 6:30 p.m.