Newton North High School Liaison Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 11, 2007
Meeting Notes

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

Aldermen and Committee Members Present: Alderman. Marcia Johnson, Alderman Steve Linsky, Captain Matt Cummings, Sarah Ecker, Barry Lavelle, Laura Naylor, Vice Principal Susan Ostrer, Jim Robertson, Nikki Shearman, and Jeanne White

The Agenda items included:

- ***Introduction and comments from the Mayor.***

Mayor Cohen introduced Ambrose Donovan, P.E., L.S.P., from McPhail Associates, Inc., who updated the Committee on submission of the Immediate Response Action (IRA) Plan to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). This plan is designed to address the abatement of the friable asbestos insulation found at the subject site. The plan submitted to the DEP will address the removal, handling and final disposition of materials, which we have been told is at an approved landfill in New Hampshire

Ambrose Donovan also stated that some fibers have been discovered in two of the soil stockpiles on the site in the area of the abatement contractor's work. He has discussed the situation with someone at the DEP, and expects to report back to the Committee with any further information about next steps. The City's (Owners) Project Manager, Trip Elmore, Turner Construction Co., mentioned that all stockpiles either have been or will be covered as soon as possible. Mayor Cohen asked David Naparstek, the City's Commission of Health and Human Services if there was any risk to the public regarding these trace levels of fibers. David said "No!" and added that DEP currently has only draft regulations in place regarding this subject.

Neighbors asked who to contact if any problems come up over the weekend or any other time after regular City of Newton office hours. Public Buildings Commissioner Nick Parnell said that calls should be made to the Police Department dispatch center @ 911. He is in the process of sending them a call down list of people who can to deal with off hour emergencies at the site.

- ***Discussion of Ledge Removal***

Mayor Cohen introduced Randy Gallagher from Maine Drilling and Blasting, who will be overseeing the drilling and blasting operation. Mr. Gallagher, once again, reviewed the safety procedures used during the operation (see brochure on the City's website). He also mentioned that the Newton Fire Department is expected to issue the blasting permit tomorrow (December 12, 2007). Once issued, Maine Drilling and Blasting would begin to mobilize on site, and is expected to meet with NNHS Principal Jennifer Price to review blasting protocols. Blasting is expected to begin on Monday, December 17. Notice would again be sent to parents of students at NNHS by the PTSO.

- ***Further Discussion of Snow Removal***

Vice Principal Susan Ostrer said that she had received many complaints regarding the lack of plowing on sidewalks used by teachers and others trying to walk to NNHS. Mayor Cohen mentioned that ice storms are very difficult deal with. He continued by saying that this area around NNHS will be the highest priority for plowing the streets and treating the sidewalks. Mayor Cohen added that the City's Public Works Department would continue to work in the area until their work is done.

- ***Construction Updates***

Public Buildings Commissioner Nick Parnell mentioned that 80% construction documents are expected to be completed soon (100% construction documents will be completed in March 2008) and that Dimeo Construction was preparing a very detailed construction schedule. Foundations for the new high school are expected to be underway in February. Nick also said that it is critically important to get the steel on site by June 2008. A question was asked about the steps from the new high school to Hull Street. Commissioner Parnell said that a variance would be requested from the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board.

Alderman Marcy Johnson mentioned the unanimous vote of her Committee (Programs and Services) to create a no-smoking zone on public properties around the NNHS site (Docket Item #263-07). She asked for the continued support of those in attendance to talk with other Aldermen and ask for their support when this item comes to the full Board of Aldermen next Monday, December 17.

- ***The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.***

Other Committee meetings are scheduled for January 29, February 26 and March 25.