

## **Newton North High School Liaison Committee Meeting Tuesday, December 16, 2008**

### **Meeting Notes**

**Aldermen and Committee Members Present:** Alderman Stephen Linsky, Alderman Marcia Johnson, School Committee Member – Reenie Murphy, NNHS Principal – Jennifer Price, Captain Matt Cummings, Sarah Ecker, Jim Robertson, Beverly Spencer, Jeanne White, Steve Shufro, Dan Gaulin, Arnie Bauchner

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

The Agenda items included:

#### ***Introduction from the Mayor/Construction Updates:***

The Mayor introduced Stan Shaevitz, Ferrell Gas Company, who reviewed the results of the hearing with Assistant Fire Chief, Bruce Proia, regarding the addition of propane tanks on the NNHS site. Permit approval was given for 10 – 1,000 gallon stationary tanks to be located in the interior of the building and 4 - 500 gallon tanks to be used around the exterior of the building. The exterior heating units will be placed a minimum of 25 ft from the building on crushed stone with jersey barriers, chain link fencing and a locked gate.

There are 2 – 1,000 gallon tanks currently installed with a placard displayed identifying the site and an “800” (phone)# in case of emergency. They are each installed with a shut off valve in case the tank is punctured. Fuel is delivered by truck every other day and pipe-loaded from the truck to the vaporizer and then to the tank. A graphic drawing from the hearing with the Fire Department will be placed on the NNHS Liaison Committee web page.

Nick Parnell commented that construction workers are currently completing the installation of the sheathing, water proofing, brick ties, and insulation. They will also poly-wrap the rest of the building. Construction updates will be updated on the NNHS Liaison Committee web page most Fridays. Additional cement pours are expected the week of December 22, 2008.

Steve Shufro inquired about the flood lights and high bay lights in the theatre area. Tripp Elmore, of Turner Construction, commented that they have been shutting them off at night but the area should be poly-wrapped by the end of December which should help alleviate the problem.

#### ***Snow Removal***

David Turocy, Deputy Commissioner – DPW, provided updates on the City’s snow removal plan in the vicinity of the high school. Areas designated with permit parking will have all sidewalks plowed. They have one dedicated machine (Bobcat) that works the seven-mile area. DPW will supplement that effort as other machines are available. The Bobcat doesn’t have a sander so this function will be handled by another machine.

The sidewalk plows are dispatched at the same time as the street plows. DPW’s goal is to have all areas cleaned to the pavement within 16 hours after the last snowflake falls. In the area of NNHS they usually beat that goal. During the spring and fall of this year sidewalks were

patched and repaved to make for easier plowing. Intersection plowing is being emphasized with special focus on the Walnut St., Trowbridge Ave., Clyde St. and Elm Rd.

They will start sanding early at NNHS – before 6:00 a.m. with focus on sidewalks closer to the school that have a higher concentration of pedestrians and then working outward. The Mayor asked David to consider if they need another sidewalk plow to do a better job.

Questions arose regarding the snow removal on the high school grounds around between Hull St., Beaumont Ave. and Dexter Rd. The Mayor said he would speak to the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation about their snow removal contractors who work on the high school grounds.

The construction workers park on-site. Dimeo Construction has their own snow removal crew for the construction parking areas.

An abutter of Kimball Terrace commented that there is a parking problem on Otis Street. Whenever a school bus drives down the street there is not enough room for cars to safely pass by. The Mayor suggested plowing the street earlier to allow cars to park as close to the curb as possible. Alderman Linsky asked that another consideration be to change the bus route for the winter season.

### ***Walnut Street – Traffic Signal Plan***

Clint Schuckel, City Traffic Engineer, reviewed preliminary study information received from the NNHS design team traffic consultants, Traffic Solutions, regarding access alternatives for Walnut St., including the intersections at Elm Road and Trowbridge Ave/NNHS driveway.

Condition #5 of Board Order #224-06, which grants site plan approval for the new NNHS, asks the design team to study the effect on traffic circulation if turning movements are limited to a right turn into and out at the Walnut St/Trowbridge Ave/NNHS driveway. Per Condition # 5, the study shall also provide a recommendation as to whether or not the intersection should be signalized. Mr. Schuckel reviewed the current plans for NNHS site access, including access for buses and service vehicles. Traffic studies of the existing school indicate that 30% of the traffic comes to the high school from the south and 70% from the north.

Mr. Schuckel outlined the pros and cons of the right-in/right-out configuration as well as signalization options. A signal could operate only for pedestrians to cross Walnut Street and would be located slightly north of the NNHS driveway. A full traffic signal would operate for both vehicles and pedestrians and be located at the NNHS driveway/Trowbridge Avenue. He then described how a signal would operate; it would stay green for a minimum time on Walnut Street then remain green until one of the following happens: a car arrives from the school driveway (full signal only), a car arrives from Trowbridge Ave. (full signal only), or a pedestrian “walk” button is pushed (pedestrian only or full signal). Cameras would be used to detect cars. The design of a full signal can discourage the use of the school driveway in pick-up/drop-off times: signal timing could be set to favor Walnut St.; the driveway width is limited to one lane each direction; parking is limited to 24 spaces; and handicapped spaces will occupy some parking. Either type of signal, full or pedestrian only, can be pre-empted by emergency vehicles.

Mr. Schuckel described the scope of work relative to installation of signal controls at the Walnut St/Trowbridge Ave/NNHS school driveway intersection. The scope of the work would include the installation of 3" conduit under Walnut St., Trowbridge Ave and the school driveway and under signal poles to NSTAR electric wires. On the residential corners there would be 3- 12' high signal posts installed. On the school property there would be a 20' mast arm pole installed which would extend over Walnut St. and a 3' x 5' traffic cabinet.

Many questions and concerns were received from abutters and committee members regarding the preliminary information presented. The Mayor commented that once the traffic study is completed by Traffic Solutions, the Public Facilities Committee would hold a public meeting. It is anticipated that this item will be scheduled for February 4, 2009.

***Other Items:***

The Mayor provided an update that a consultant had been hired and was looking at the current web pages to make suggestions for future updates to make them more user-friendly.

Mayor Cohen adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27 at 6:30 p.m.