

**Newton North High School Liaison Committee**  
**Tuesday, April 6, 2010, Newton North High School Library**  
**Meeting Notes**

**Aldermen and Committee Members Present:** Bob Rooney - Chief Operating Officer, Alderman Marcia Johnson, Alderman Lenny Gentile, Laura Naylor, Steve Shufro, Beverly Spencer, Jeanne White, Laura Naylor, Steve Shufro, Jim Robertson, Captain Howard Mintz, David Turocy – DPW Deputy Commissioner.

Bob Rooney called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

The Agenda items included:

- ***Introduction/Comments from Mayor:*** N/A

- ***Landscaping Plans:***

The Liaison Committee meeting was preceded by three shorter meetings with neighborhood groups (Elm Road, Walnut Street and Hull Street abutters) to discuss the proposed landscaping features and how they would impact each group. This led directly into the NNHS Liaison Committee meeting and Dan Solein, Landscape Architect for the project, summarized the landscaping plans for the entire site.

Mr. Solein focused primarily on the perimeter plantings and discussed the site from Elm Road, along Walnut Street and along Hull Street. He noted that after the latest review of the plan, additional native shrub understory was being added at a number of locations along Elm and Walnut, as well as new trees next to the Walnut Street soccer fields. A number of residents raised the issue of their prior request for a fence along Elm Road from Walnut Street to Blithedale Street, as well as the possibility of additional plantings along the fence.

Along Hull Street, tree planting to screen the athletic wing of the High School was reviewed; also, there was a discussion about planting less trees along the area that led to the fields. Mr. Rooney requested the residents of Hull Street survey their neighbors and submit their preference in writing, similar to the Kimball Terrace residents, to help encourage the decision making process and any necessary site reviews. Fencing along Hull Street was discussed with some residents preferring no fencing at several areas, while fencing was deemed important for public safety at particularly steep areas and around the ball fields. Mr. Solein discussed the sidewalk and retaining wall along the baseball field. He also briefly discussed plans for the fence and evergreen shrubs proposed for the Lowell Avenue side of the property. In response to a question from Ald. Gentile, Mr. Solein noted that the plantings would have a 2 year warranty.

- ***Construction Update:***

Trip Elmore, Turner Construction, provided highlights on the building construction. While the contractor continues to work inside the building and the project is on track, the major work that will be notable to the abutters in the near future is the outside site work. Landscape plantings will begin

shortly and paving of the tennis courts should be done in a couple of weeks. Grading of the soccer field continues and the parking lot should have final pavement in May.

Mr. Elmore reported that the exposed cooling tower near the theater wing will have aluminum louvers installed to screen it by the end of April. In addition to the visual esthetics of the screening, it was further noted that an acoustical engineer would record and monitor db levels.

The project team is still working on the Abatement/Demolition plan for the current high school building and anticipates having the final plan in about 2 months.

In response to a question about use of the tennis courts this summer, it was noted that there would still be some construction activities going on over the summer and the site would not be made available for residents' use until the following year.

- ***Other Items for discussion***

Residents from the Elm Road/Kimball Terrace neighborhood presented their petition for fencing along Elm Road. They noted that they had canvassed the area, including Otis Street residents, to ensure there was widespread support for their request. The extent of the requested fence was discussed, in particular noting the buffer strip between Blithedale Street and Elm Road and the placement of the fence along that property. Mr. Rooney thanked the residents for their thoroughness and responded that he would review the proposal with the Project Team and get back to the residents with plans and next steps.

Meeting adjourned 8:00 p.m. Next Meeting – May 4