

**Newton North High School Liaison Committee**  
**Tuesday, May 4, 2010, Newton North High School Library**  
**Meeting Notes**

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

Bob Rooney called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. The Mayor joined the Committee at a later time.

Discussion of the agenda items included:

- ***Construction Update:***

Trip Elmore (Turner Construction) provided highlights on the building. Construction is essentially complete, with finishing work and punchlist items remaining. The Project Manager hopes to get a Certificate of Occupancy, a major milestone for completion, within about 1 week. “Substantial Completion” which triggers the turnover of the new school to the city is anticipated in June, about a month ahead of schedule. This milestone would end Phase I for all intents and purposes.

Site work is ongoing with the tennis courts expected to have final pavement in the next couple of days. The sidewalks are all paved except where necessary for construction access. The soccer field is being leveled and will be sodded this month. The landscaping portion of Phase I will be done within a month and the multi-purpose field behind the school is approximately 70% complete with installation of synthetic turf.

At this point, the meeting was opened to questions from members and abutters:

- In regards to the exterior emergency generator, Elmore noted that it would be screened.
- Status of moving equipment and furniture: the City has put out a bid with the majority of the moving expected to occur between June 20 and July 20 but possibly extending into August.
- Landscaping opposite 48 Hull Street: While landscaping along the gym end was expected to be completed this Spring, an area from the edge of the storage extension to the western edge of the building has not been planted. This area is being used to stockpile material for Phase II after the current school is removed. This portion of the hillside will be planted next Spring with a mix of deciduous trees, conifers and shrubs.
- Flowering trees along Lowell Ave will be transplanted in the Fall. Two maples along Lowell Ave will likely be removed due to construction activity near them.
- Loading Dock: construction is not complete and trim work needs to be installed where wooden framing is visible. This should be completed in 2 weeks.
- Elm Road crushed drain: no timeframe has been scheduled for repair.
- Building lighting. It was noted that there were several spaces that remained brightly lit, beyond the emergency lighting setting, including the main entrance, auto body area, and some classrooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> floors. The Project Team will investigate those lighting issues.
- Hull Street residents requested to see the proposal for the slope leading to the multi-purpose field designed to eliminate the wooded area and create more of a grassy slope. That will be made available once completed. A petition will be circulated to get abutters’ input for this measure.

- Several dead trees were noted on Elm Road. These will be removed by the project.
- Several issues were raised regarding trees being planted along Walnut Street, including use of Austrian Pine trees, mix of evergreens under deciduous trees, excess soil over root ball, and planting of proper caliper trees. The pine trees are a more hardy species and replaced Leyland cypress trees which weren't expected to do well in that environment. Much of the evergreen planting was designed to provide an understory screening and was specifically chosen to mix with deciduous trees. Elmore agreed to have the planting methods checked, although he had verified the caliper size of many of the trees planted himself.
- Elm Road residents questioned the impact of this summer's work. Elmore responded that in mid-July Jersey barriers with a screen will delineate the new road width and allow for construction access on the site. Utility work (drain repair) should be done first. Construction fencing around new school would probably not come down until after school is out.
- Hull Street parking. 15-20 spaces will be required during the demolition phase for construction workers. Residents asked that contractors parking there be asked to keep noise down at the arrival time of 6:30 or 7:00. It is the intention of the project team to address problematic issues directly with the contractors.

- ***Demolition / Abatement:***

T. Elmore stated that bids for the Demolition/Abatement project have been received and are being evaluated by the Project Team. The City must first select a bidder and then go to the appropriate state agencies to have the plan approved. He expects the selected bidder to have a soft start (administrative set-up) in July 2010 and finish the take down of the existing building by the end of March 2011. New fields would be completed next spring in time for summer growth.

- In response to a question about rodent control, Elmore stated that is a requirement of the contract.
- Regarding the Hazardous Material removal process, T. Elmore stated that the abatement should begin in earnest in August and should finish in January 2011. Ald. Gentile noted that one of the selection criteria for the successful bidder would be experience in conducting demolition in a tight, populated site.

- ***Elm Road fence proposal***

R. Rooney stated that the City was still reviewing the proposal for a 4' high fence along Elm Road. The fence would run from Walnut Street to Blithedale Street. The neighborhood representatives agreed to a joint site visit on the morning of May 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:00.

- ***Other Items for discussion:***

- The Security of the new school was briefly discussed, noting that the City would take over security responsibility after substantial completion of the building in June.
- Resident asked that the city trash barrel that had previously placed at the end of Kimball Terrace be returned.

Meeting adjourned 8:00 p.m. Next Meeting – June 1