

Newton North High School Liaison Committee
Tuesday, July 13, 2010, Newton North High School Library
Meeting Notes

Aldermen and Committee Members Present: Bob Rooney - Chief Operating Officer, Alderman Marcia Johnson, Alderman Stephen Linsky, Jennifer Price – NNHS Principal, Laura Naylor, Jim Robertson, Beverly Spencer, Jeanne White, Captain Howard Mintz, David Turocy – DPW Deputy Commissioner.

R. Rooney called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Agenda items included:

- ***Introduction:*** Bob Rooney introduced the city team – project team, public safety officers and various project contractors. He noted that these individuals had met over the past month to discuss the demolition and abatement process and review procedures and protocols for responding to any emergencies in the old building during the demolition process.
- ***Project Status Update:***

T. Elmore (Turner) noted that punchlist work was continuing at the new school as Dimeo worked on items noted during substantial completion inspections as well as change requests identified earlier but not done as part of the original construction. Much of what the residents are seeing are the site work on the fields and some landscaping work, although the planting season was essentially over until the fall. Also evident is the jersey barriers and construction fence going up along the old high school. This fencing is to provide a clear delineation of traffic flow for the abatement/demolition contractors from the general public. He also noted that the street had been sawcut to allow for removal of existing curbing now for better accessibility now as well as in anticipation of replacing the curbs next spring after demolition is complete. D. Turocy noted that the City was also working with NSTAR to relocate an existing utility pole on school property to the north side of Elm Road.

J. Price noted that the moving of furniture and equipment from the old school to the new school was continuing, involving a great deal of work on both the contractor's and her staff's part. Any remaining material would be brought to the old school's gym to be surplus.

- ***Phase 2 Demolition / Abatement:***

R. Holmes (Costello) – Informed the committee that Costello would be taking control of the old NNHS on Monday, July 19th. The next couple of weeks would consist of “soft demolition”, involving the removal of non-structural items, such as furniture.

The abatement process would begin in another couple of weeks. Initially, residents would see a lot of outside activity, primarily utility removal (phone, power, etc), with no real signs of demolition. Abatement would commence in earnest in August.

Parking for construction personnel would be along Lowell Avenue and Hull Street. J. Price noted that the school department had already modified their Tiger permit parking program to support this needed parking for the contractor.

Costello has notified the DEP of their plan to begin the work next Monday. As this initial part is a “traditional abatement” process, it would not require negative pressure containment and a detailed work plan, although that would be required once they get into the masonry removal portion of the work. R. Holmes repeated that the project expected a 6 month time to completion, to be broken up into four phases.

ATC reported that, as the City’s Industrial Hygienist for the project, their role would be on-site monitoring. For background measurements, they would sample at 6 different areas outside the work zone. In addition, they would be sampling inside the work zone but outside the containment area, and taking samples inside the containment area as well. Their function would be not only to protect residents from asbestos fibers migrating outside the work zone, but to protect the workers as well. ATC would provide their daily readings to the City for posting on the city’s web site.

In response to a question on the type and location of asbestos present, T. McQueen replied that the primary concern was friable asbestos that had been used for fireproofing on steel as well as adhesive in tiles, etc. and that is was prevalent throughout the building.

R. Rooney mentioned that the project team, upon further consideration from last month’s meeting, would be going forward with conducting a “pre-condition” survey of abutting residences and would be in contact with the residents to set that up. One additional request was made for a survey at 310 Lowell Ave, which was not an immediate abutter, but was a masonry house and thus had additional concerns.

Lt. Downing discussed the HazMat Response Protocols during the abatement process. Two major focal points for the police department during a hazmat incident are: 1. The area is secure, and 2. People can be notified.

For incidents occurring after hours or on weekends, R. Rooney would be notified for the City and T. McQueen would be contacted for American. If there was no imminent hazard, a phone message or email would be sent the next morning informing residents of what occurred. If there were hazardous material present, appropriate measures would be taken. Lt Downing noted that with up to 200 asbestos removal operations ongoing at any one time, the Police Department is familiar and comfortable with the procedures and equipment used in such instances. There would be a key made available onsite for Police/Fire access. The site is also cleaned at the end of each work day so that there is no hazardous material present loose and emergency personnel should be able to access the work site. If evacuation were necessary, the police department would notify abutters via the Code Red system, which can be used to send phone or email messages and they can target the size of area to be notified. Ald. Johnson asked that ward aldermen be notified of incidents, even if not within the immediate circle being impacted.

In response to a question about lead paint, T. McQueen said he is licensed to remove lead paint but the site survey did not indicate there was an amount present that would require any more action than they are taking for asbestos removal.

R. Rooney discussed the process for getting rid of the left over equipment in the school. First, the building has to be decommissioned and declared surplus. Everything that can be reused at the new high school will be. Then, other Newton schools can take what they need, after which it is offered to other city departments. Whatever is left after that, will be made available to the public who must bid on it in accordance with the state procurement requirements. The entire process will take approximately 6 weeks to complete.

R. Rooney expressed a desire to pull together a list of all abutters to NNHS for informational purposes. J. Robertson explained that each of the Liaison Committee members have a phone tree for their specific locale around the school, e.g his included about 25 people.

R. Rooney discussed several modifications that had been made on the site from the original Site Plan Design of May 2006. A basketball court located near Elm Road was deleted and replaced with a planted island. Bleachers were moved from the west to the east side of the soccer field. This change was made approximately one year ago when the architects shifted focus to the fields and realized there was not sufficient room on the west side. These bleachers will be masked with arborvitae. The hammer/discuss throw area was moved to the northeast corner of the fields in April in order to avoid taking down a 24” deciduous tree in the way. Hull Street abutters have asked to reduce the amount of plantings on the slope from Hull Street to the multi-purpose artificial turf field in order to expand the vista. The abutters have been asked to submit a formal petition, after which R. Rooney will take through the review and approval process.

R. Rooney discussed plans for an Open House that would be made available to the public. The tentative date is Sunday, September 12, for a three hour period. The tour would be self-guided, although there would be staff and faculty present to discuss specific sites.

Other discussions included:

- Pedestrian light on Walnut Street. A contractor to do the work is onboard and intends to have the light functioning by the first day of school. There are still some potential changes being reviewed, including the use of cameras and wireless technology rather than embedded loop detectors.
- Police expect to have officers present at Walnut St/Tiger Drive and Lowell Ave/Elm Road once school begins. However, they will also have a patrol presence to see if there are other locations that would need police detail support.
- Parent notification will be sent out on a web-based system to explain the anticipated traffic patterns at NNHS for those parents interested in dropping off their children at school.
- Dimeo said they would follow up on a question of the concrete pad used for the carpentry shop and why it was not level.
- Police agreed with concerns about safety and the need for patrolling the NNHS site. While there is no specific route, they noted that officers have continued to check on the site after hours and that, in fact, they had increased attention to the area over the last few months.
- In response to a question on recycling, T. Costello noted that he is very supportive of the Green Engineering Program and, in fact, speaks at Purdue University’s program for construction management to promote recycling. He offered to work with the School Department to develop ways to better promote/train on best “green” management practices.

Meeting adjourned 8:05 p.m. Next Meeting – August 3