

Newton North High School Liaison Committee
Tuesday, August 3, 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 6:35 p.m.

The Agenda items included:

- **Introduction:** N/A

- **Project Status Update:**

T. Elmore (Turner) noted the new building is up and running. Upcoming landscaping activities included: 1. Re-sodding of some areas in the new soccer field, 2. Re-planting of dead trees, and 3. Re-seeding of areas where grass did not take properly.

Walnut Street work would be continuing for the next 3-4 weeks. The contractor will try to minimize impact on Walnut Street, not working during morning and afternoon rush hours, and closing only one lane at a time with a police detail present to aid in moving traffic.

T. Elmore stated that the “soft demolition” is underway. This involves removing existing lockers, furniture and non-structural items, all of which do not require abatement. Nonetheless, this will be a noisy operation for the next 7 months, with vibration, back-up alarms and banging.

R. Holmes (Costello) commented that “Presis” has been hired to do a Pre-Demolition survey and will be reaching out to residents along Hull St., Lowell Ave. and Elm Rd. One resident on Blithedale asked they be surveyed as well.

Other questions/comments included:

- Hull Street exit has difficult sight lines. Residents asked if a mirror could be installed across the street to help identify oncoming traffic. They also asked if some of the fence screening could be removed.
- Elm Street residents had the same concern, although that should be eliminated once the street is made one-way.
- Hull Street resident commented that some vehicles were traveling the wrong way on Hull Street. While it was believed to be the movers, Dimeo/Costello will remind their staff to obey the traffic laws on Hull Street.
- J. Price expressed serious concern about the designation of the one-way and two-way traffic sections of Elm Road. She will speak to the City’s traffic engineer to clarify traffic flow.

- Parking along Elm Road (Lowell Ave end) after demolition is completed was discussed. Some residents stated a preference that parking be on the school side of the road, rather than the residents' side. The traffic engineer will be asked to look at it.
- Resident commented that he recently had a bicycle accident due in part to avoiding truck traffic from the loading dock. This incident involved the moving contractor vehicles: and it was noted that police details had been scheduled to be there throughout the demolition phase to assist in truck access/egress from the site. All contractor demolition vehicles will be leaving from the Lowell Avenue cut-ins, and will not be using Hull St. or Elm Rd.
- Construction updates were requested to be posted and Dimeo commented they would be once the demolition phase picked up.
- Resident asked if the contractor would be doing any more soil testing on site. Dimeo does not intend to do any soil testing at this time.
- School surplus material was discussed. The public portion of the surplus process is complete with several hundred items being taken. Bids will be opened next Monday to remove the remaining furniture, which needs to be out of the building by the following weekend.
- Regarding current usage of the facilities, the City does not intend to open it for public use until the school opens as there is still some site work ongoing.
- Concern was expressed over excess rubber "pooling" on the new artificial turf field. While some break-in time is needed for this material, the contractor will inspect to see if it needs "broomed" or other action taken. It was noted that the City has a field brush specifically for this purpose.
- Building lighting control has been turned over to the school department. Residents commented that the building has been dark or lit at various times at night and asked the school dept to follow up on the controls.
- Plowing of the school's parking lots and sidewalks was raised. The DPW will now have general oversight of the plowing program, although Parks & Rec will still manage the operations. A meeting has been called for next week to discuss plowing.
- It was noted that the toddler play area will not be complete by school opening.
- Capt. Mintz expressed concern over potential graffiti at the new school. The school department hopes to have a camera plan to help combat the problem, as they share the same concerns as the police department.

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

R. Holmes (Costello) reported that Costello had started the site work. They were removing casework (carpentry material) and setting up containment areas. Scaffolding should start to be installed later in the month.

While the abatement process had already started, the material being removed was non-friable material, such as doors. The more stringent asbestos abatement process requiring negative pressure environments would begin later this month or next.

Currently, there are about 30 workers on site. The expectation for the majority of the work is about 40 workers on site, 30 for abatement and 10 for demolition.

- ***Other Items for Discussion:***

B. Rooney informed the committee that an Open House for the new school will be held on Sunday, September 12th from 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM. More information will follow as plans are finalized. There will also be a ribbon cutting ceremony at a time to be determined.

B. Rooney asked committee members to consider moving the date of the meeting from Tuesday to possibly a Thursday night.

Facilities usage was discussed further. In particular, use of the pool by the public was questioned. While that determination had not been made yet, it was noted that public use of the facility (pool, tennis courts, fields) after school hours was controlled by the Parks & Recreation Department. There were public swimming hours at the old school and an expectation that it would continue once the new school was opened. It was noted that most outdoor activities (tennis, track) was a “self-serve” process, while indoor use of the facilities generally required permits. The school department will discuss this further with the Parks & Recreation department

Meeting adjourned 7:30 p.m. Next Meeting – September 7