



Public Facilities Committee Agenda

City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

The Public Facilities Committee will hold this meeting as a hybrid meeting on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at 7:00 PM in Room 204. To view this meeting using Zoom use this link: <https://newtonma-gov.zoom.us/j/82261832804> or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the following Meeting ID: 822 6183 2804

Item Scheduled for Discussion:

The committee will be taking public comment on the following item. Please click the raise your hand button on the bottom of your screen if you would like to speak. There is a 5 second delay after you are promoted to panelist. After you're done speaking, the clerk will change you back to an attendee.

Public Hearing

#173-24 Eversource petition for Grant of Location for 150 Jackson Road

EVERSOURCE ENERGY petitioning for a grant of location to relocate two poles (227/11 and 227/10) on the southwesterly side approximately 339 and 239 feet southwest of Pearl Street in Jackson Road. (Ward 1) The back-up can be found [here](#).

Chair's Note: *Audrey Schulman will tell us about Networked Geothermal as an alternative to fossil fuels. She is the co-Executive Director of HEET. Audrey co-founded and has helped lead HEET since its start in 2008, creating its innovative science-based orientation in the fields of energy efficiency, solar and gas leaks. She used utility-reported data to create HEET's public zoomable natural gas leak maps (the first in the country). She started the Large Volume Leak Study, which determined a way to identify super-emitting gas leaks so the utilities could repair them. Schulman is also the author of five novels, which have been translated into 12 languages, and reviewed by the New Yorker, The Economist and CNN. (from Audrey's linked in page). The back-up for this item can be found [here](#).*

#147-24 Discussion with Audrey Shulman from HEET regarding Networked Geothermal Energy

Councilor Albright on behalf of the Public Facilities Committee requesting a discussion with Audrey Shulman from HEET regarding Networked Geothermal Energy to include references to this program in the final GSEP report and GE's role in converting to renewable energy.

The location of this meeting is accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.

Chair's Note: *Shawn Luz will tell us about the Framingham/Eversource networked geothermal project. He is the Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Framingham. He reports to James Paolini, the Facilities Director for the City of Framingham who may also join us for this discussion. The back-up for this item can be found [here](#).*

#179-24 Discussion regarding the Framingham Networked Geothermal Project.
Councilor Albright on behalf of the Public Facilities Committee requesting a discussion about the Framingham Networked Geothermal Project with Eversource. This discussion should include neighborhood selection, pros and cons of the project learned to date, and costs and feasibility of scaling this project city-wide.

#148-24 Presentation of the Gaspipes.org database to the Public Facilities Committee
Councilors Albright and Leary on behalf of the Public Facilities Committee requesting a discussion and presentation from the Newton Gas Pipes team to show the Public Facilities Committee the database built based on data from National Grid data. This graphic representation maps various data regarding leaks, reduction of leaks over time, proximity of leaks to trees and other important factors.

#39-24 Discussion regarding reducing gas leaks and transition away from methane gas
COUNCILORS LAREDO, ALBRIGHT and LEARY requesting a discussion with the Administration's Sustainability Team and the Department of Public Works on (a) a plan to more effectively reduce methane gas leaks in the city and (b) how to best coordinate with National Grid regarding the transition away from methane gas to electric heating and cooling solutions.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Albright, Chair