



Public Facilities Committee Report **City of Newton** **In City Council**

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

Present: Councilors Crossley (Chair), Leary, Laredo, Lappin, Danberg, Kelley, Gentile, Downs, Krintzman

City Staff Present: Commissioner of Public Works Jim McGonagle, Commissioner of Public Buildings Josh Morse, City Engineer Lou Taverna, Chief Operating Officer Jonathan Yeo, Director of Sustainable Materials Management Waneta Trabert

#449-18 Verizon petition for a grant of location for conduit in Moulton Street

VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC. petitioning for a grant of location to install 225' ± 2" conduit in Moulton Street from existing Handhole #HH3 located on the easterly side of Moulton Street northerly to existing Handhole #HH4 located on private property on the northerly side of Moulton Street.

Action: **Public Facilities Voted No Action Necessary 7-0**

Note: At the September 6, 2018 Public Facilities Committee, a public hearing was opened for a proposed grant of location in Moulton Street. At the public hearing, it was unclear whether Moulton Street remained a private way or had been accepted as a public way during discussions in 2013. City Engineer Lou Taverna confirmed that Moulton Street remains a private way and the Engineering Department recommends a vote of No Action Necessary. Mr. Taverna explained that the center of Moulton Street is not wide enough to be accepted as a public way at this time. In order for the City to accept the road as a public way, City would have to take several feet of property and demolish an existing structure. Mr. Taverna noted that the Engineering Department would not recommend Moulton Street become a public way as it would be less than 30' in width, could not be built to City standards and would not be able to accommodate sidewalks on both sides of the street for pedestrian access. Mr. Taverna continued, noting that Cornell Street remains a private way. If Moulton Street were accepted as a public way, vehicles would access Moulton through Cornell, which the City cannot authorize.

Bill Renke, 142 Cornell Street, stated that since there are new residents of Cornell Street there could be interest in petitioning the City to accept Cornell Street as a public way, as well.

Mr. Taverna explained that in order to begin the process of accepting Moulton Street as a public way, at least 50% of the abutters on Moulton Street must petition the City Council. He confirmed that no petition has been received to date. Ward 4 Councilors agreed to communicate with the neighborhood to determine next steps. Councilor Gentile moved No Action Necessary of item #449-18 and Committee members voted unanimously in support of the motion.

#324-18 **President Laredo's appointment of Robert Hnasko to the Design Review Committee**
Robert Hnasko, 49 Miller Road, Newton Centre, appointed as a member of the DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 7-0**

Note: Mr. Robert Hnasko presented an overview of his background and interest in serving on the Design Review Committee. Mr. Hnasko noted that he is an Electrical Engineer who develops low voltage audio visual and telecommunication systems. Mr. Hnasko expressed an eagerness to apply his technological skills to inform how public projects are constructed effectively and cost-efficiently. Committee members acknowledged the unique skill set that Mr. Hnasko can offer the DRC. Committee members thanked Mr. Hnasko for volunteering to serve. Councilor Laredo motioned to approve Mr. Hnasko's appointment to the DRC and Committee members voted unanimously in favor of approval.

#448-18 **Appointment of Tamar Warburg to the Designer Selection Committee**
PRESIDENT LAREDO appointing TAMAR WARBURG, 102 Herrick Road, Newton Centre, to the DESIGNER SELECTION COMMITTEE for a term to expire December 31, 2019.

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 7-0**

Note: Councilor Laredo explained that Ms. Tamar Warburg was recommended to the Council by the Mayor's Office for appointment to the Designer Selection Committee. Based on her interview, Councilor Laredo noted that Ms. Warburg has been involved in a significant amount of public school and building work. Additionally, she currently owns her own company designing green buildings. Because Ms. Warburg teaches on Mondays and Wednesdays, she is unable to attend a Public Facilities Committee meeting. Councilor Danberg knows Ms. Warburg personally and expressed appreciation and support for her appointment to the DSC. Committee members expressed concerns that Ms. Warburg was unable to meet with the Committee, noting that it has been the policy to interview appointees prior to their appointment. The Committee acknowledged that Ms. Warburg's unavailability on Mondays and Wednesdays is atypical and noted that a Committee member has a positive relationship with Ms. Warburg. Committee members expressed no concerns relative to Ms. Warburg's appointment and agreed that the Committee's policy should continue to be to interview appointees prior to their appointment. Councilor Danberg moved approval of Ms. Warburg's appointment and Committee members voted unanimously in favor.

#490-18 **Mayor's appointment of Karen Slote to the Solid Waste Commission**
KAREN SLOTE, 117 Garland Road Newton Centre, appointed as a member of the SOLID WASTE COMMISSION for a term to expire September 30, 2021. (60 days: 11/16/18)

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 7-0**

Note: Ms. Karen Slote was invited to discuss her interest in serving on the Solid Waste Commission. Ms. Slote stated that her education background includes a MBA in Public Management as well as a bachelor's degree in Regional Planning with an emphasis in Environmental Studies. Ms. Slote stated that while her career has been focused in finance, she has maintained an interest in

environmental issues. Ms. Slote expressed concern for the lack of focus on recycling and recycling education in New England communities and she hopes to be able to provide assistance on projects to increase recycling awareness. Committee members expressed enthusiasm for Ms. Slote's appointment to the Solid Waste Commission and her eagerness to support recycling initiatives. Councilor Danberg moved approval of the item and Committee members voted unanimously in favor of support.

#491-18 Council President's appointment of Steven Siegal to the Design Review Committee
STEVEN SIEGAL, 160 Allen Avenue, Waban, appointed as a member of the DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE for a term to expire December 31, 2019.

Action: Public Facilities Held 7-0

Note: It was noted that Vice Chair of the School Committee Steven Siegal is a Structural Engineer and currently serves as the School Committee Representative to the Design Review Committee. Councilor Laredo stated that although he appointed Mr. Siegal to the Design Review Committee, the school Committee does not have an alternate representative. Councilor Laredo has requested that the Public Facilities Committee hold Mr. Siegal's appointment to the Design Review Committee until near the end of his term with the School Committee (July 2019). A Committee member questioned whether his spot on the Design Review Committee would remain vacant until summer 2019. Councilor Laredo confirmed that the spot will be the only vacancy until Mr. Siegal's appointment but stated that the Design Review Committee currently has recently been operating with nearly a full complement (11 of 12 members) in comparison with 5-6 members for a period. Councilor Laredo motioned to hold Mr. Siegal's appointment and Committee members voted unanimously to hold.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#511-18 Appropriate \$800,000 to replace the roof at Crafts Street Garage
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000) from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding the replacement of the roof at the Crafts Street Garage.

Action: Public Facilities Approved 6-0 (Kelley not Voting)

Note: Commissioner of Public Buildings Josh Morse presented the request to appropriate \$800,000 to replace the roof at the Crafts Street Garage. Commissioner Morse explained that the existing roof is 32 years old and stated that the average life expectancy is between 20-25 years. He noted that over the last 6-8 years, the City has repaired over 200 leaks on the roof. The Commissioner stated that the request for funds includes the project cost (based on estimated and bids), 5% contingency and allowances for masonry and flashing.

A Committee member questioned why \$52,000 is needed for "design". The Commissioner explained that the existing access to the roof is unsafe and must conform with current code including work on the air sealing as well as a different roofing system. Additionally, they must confirm that the roof has no structural issues. It was noted that the "design and CA funds" is funding for design as well as Construction Administration, which includes engineering design, construction drawings and

specifications. Bid documents will be prepared for both hot applied and cold applied membrane roofs. Both are white roofs. The Commissioner confirmed that the roof replacement is in the CIP.

A Committee member noted that there was some settling after the renovation and addition in the 1990s. The Commissioner confirmed that 5-6 years ago, some funding was approved to repair some masonry and roof damage on a different part of the building. He noted that 75% of the funds requested at that time were returned as they were determined unnecessary. The Commissioner confirmed that the new roof life expectancy is between 20-25 years and state that the project will go out to bid in the winter with the intent to complete the work in the Spring. Committee members expressed no concerns relative to the request. Councilor Leary moved approval of the item which carried unanimously.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#494-18 \$500,000 bond authorization for air conditioning units at Carr School

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from bonded indebtedness to fund the installation of air conditioning units at the Carr School.

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 6-0-1 (Gentile abstaining)**

Note: Commissioner Morse presented the request to bond \$500,000 to fund the installation of air conditioning units at the Carr School. The Commissioner noted that the proposed work includes ductless split systems for 21 classrooms. He stated that the cost per unit is \$20,000 and noted that the request includes funds for design and construction administration. The Commissioner stated that it is his expectation that the project will be bid in winter, materials for procurement will be released in the spring and the project will be installed in summer. A Committee member questioned whether the Commissioner investigated the option to install a ducted system. Commissioner Morse stated that when Carr School was renovated, there was a limited amount of space in the attic to locate mechanicals. A ducted system would require a roof cut as well as additional duct work throughout the school. He noted that over the past 5-10 years, ductless systems have become more reliable and have better warranties, making them better options than previously.

The Commissioner noted that wherever possible, condensers would be located on flat roofs, not on the ground. He confirmed that at least a couple of condensers would be located on the roof at 225 Nevada Street. A Committee member questioned whether the condensers would generate noise, noting that the neighborhood is densely populated. Commissioner Morse noted that the condensers will generate noise and confirmed that an acoustical barrier has been installed to mitigate noise. He stated that he met with abutters and can add additional acoustical equipment to direct noise upwards if necessary. The Commissioner confirmed that the drainage systems for the units would be installed inside the structure.

A Committee member questioned whether there is a plan for the installation of air conditioning at all of the City's public schools. The Commissioner noted that AC will be installed for any new construction as well as renovated schools. He stated that there is no current plan to retrofit schools

without air conditioning. He confirmed that Carr was selected because air conditioning is the last feature that the school is missing. Additionally, there are a number of summer programs located at the Carr School.

Some Committee members expressed concern relative to the cost of the project. Commissioner Morse stated that the high prevailing wage rates for the project contribute to the cost but noted that Project Manager Bill Ferguson is working with Eversource to identify possible opportunities for energy savings. Councilor Danberg motioned to approve the item and Committee members voted six in favor, none opposed and one abstention (Gentile).

Chairs Note: The Committee will hear an update from Director of Sustainable Materials Management relative to the Organic Waste Pilot and Recycling IQ Program.

Note: Director of Sustainable Materials Management Waneta Trabert presented updates to the Committee on the Organics Pilot Program. Details of Ms. Trabert's presentation are shown on the attached PowerPoint. Committee members asked the following questions relative to the Organics Pilot Program.

Organic Pilot

Q: I have been excited about the Organic Waste Pilot Program and results. Have future pilots been completely ruled out?

A: Future pilot programs have not been completely ruled out but identifying funding has become an issue. Waste management is expensive, and a compost pilot program is not a priority at this time.

Q: What is the weekly cost for citizens?

A: While there are at least three vendors who offer similar services, Bootstrap Compost (the vendor used in the City's pilot) ranges from \$10/week to \$12/biweekly.

Q: Can we switch to a ten-gallon bucket or will it be too heavy for the vendors?

A: Organic waste is heavy. A ten-gallon bucket might not work. A small cart might be more effective, but a cart system can be cost prohibitive.

Q: Meat and seafood are allowed in the compost bucket, is that okay and did it have to go to an anaerobic digester?

A: Commercial composting facilities have high heat, high volume and high moisture. The natural process degrades the material very quickly but the materials can have extreme odors.

Q: The cost of the pilot was around \$11,000 for 200 houses. If we did a larger scale pilot, would there be cost reductions?

A: A program of that size would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, creating a significant barrier. Some counties on the west coast have implemented weekly organics and recycling pickups with

biweekly trash pickup. It's a way to offset the existing collection costs and shift toward the goal of waste reduction. There is not enough of an incentive yet for residents to switch right now.

Q: You talked about having preferred providers vetted by the City. What would the City get from that? I would be concerned about the City entering the marketplace and favoring one provider over another.

A: That has been a preliminary discussion but has not been vetted by the Law Department. It may not be in the form of a rebate to the City but may be a discounted rate for City residents.

Q: Cambridge was doing organic waste pilots for a number of years and they have just gone Citywide. What can we learn from them now that they have four vehicles on the street? It is a big cost but would we see any significant savings from the large volume of organic waste that we would not have to pay the tipping fee on?

A: I would see it more as a cost shifting rather than as a cost savings. We would divert away from our tonnage tipping fee, we would still be paying the hauling fees. The money saved from the tipping fee has the potential to pay for the disposal and hauling of organic materials. Without a significant change in the status quo of services that we offer, I don't see it being a cost savings.

Q: Is there any way to consolidate services and maybe use one truck for multiple services?

A: That technology exists, but it runs into a lot of logistical problems. For example, Newton has a contract in Millbury and a contract in Avon. If you have one truck, that has to go to both locations, it isn't necessarily a cost savings. Cambridge recently purchased their own trucks and DPW does the collection of the organics. My understanding is that they have invested. They have set a Citywide goal to reduce by 60% by 2025. They are committed to that goal, almost regardless of the expense. They did have the benefit of the DEP funding for the pilot program and were able to benefit from the data. There is no indication that the DEP program will return.

Q: The Rumford Avenue dump was capped many years ago. The residents around Rumford Avenue dealt with compost the program (smells, fires), yard waste is there, and road asphalt and debris is placed down there. People are very sensitive. If you are going to have a drop-off program, find a different location. A lot of people will be vehemently opposed to another program at Rumford.

A: It may sound like collecting and composting food waste there, but it would be collection in a container and then serviced by a vendor. It would not be on the site for more than 2-3 days. Chief Operating Officer Jonathan Yeo confirmed that the administration will evaluate all options for the program.

Recycling IQ Program

Ms. Trabert then presented updates of the China import ban and the Recycling IQ Program. Details of the project, the project timeline, areas for improvement and a general update are shown the attached PowerPoint. Committee members asked the following questions:

Commissioner McGonagle stated that he had initial concerns about going into resident's carts. They asked Waste Management what communities with low contamination rates were doing. They were

informed that strong enforcement is the most effective way to reduce contamination. The City is paying \$7,000/month in fees and these will increase. The City currently pays \$68/ton for trash while Brookline is paying \$78/ton for recycling. Newton is fortunate because the recycling capped at \$30/ton by contract.

Q: I've seen stickers on the barrels themselves. Is that an option for the City?

A: Several communities have done that. I spoke about this concept with the Mayor who suggested investigate the pricing. The image heavy stickers are helpful.

Q: Small items; like coffee creamers and the little wires on the prosecco bottles; are those little items recyclable or trash?

A: Anything smaller than 3"x3" will not be captured at the facility. That's why lids should stay on containers.

Q: Where is the Swap Shop and what are the hours?

A: The Swap Shop is at Rumford, run by volunteers and open from 7:30 am – 1:30 pm on Saturdays.

Q: Regarding education, a good way that people learn is through online education. It might be effective to have an interactive tool that teaches people what their recycling IQ is. It could be a good way to learn.

A: With our app, there is an interactive game that is very similar to this. You drag and drop what container items should go to. It gives us a lot of data. We have not been using this as a tool but will definitely do so.

Q: The plastic bags at grocery stores. Are they recyclable or not?

A: They are recyclable, but they must be returned to the store.

Q: Regarding contamination of our recycling, the way that Waste Management went about auditing the City was not appropriate. We asked them to do an audit for several years and they said that our recycling was fine. How are they able to charge us when we do not know how they arrived at an 18% contamination level? Why aren't they getting any push back?

A: I was upset about the steps they took to notify us as well. It was not a transparent process. I went to the Law Department who reviewed the contract language, which is ambiguous in their favor. It does not specify any details of how or when audits will be performed. The contract sentences that result in the increased fees are very vague. We are expecting a new audit in December/January to see if the Recycling IQ program has made an impact.

Q: We are facing a crisis and our costs will continue to increase. If we want to save money, we should decrease the number of weekly bulk trash pickups. Also, single stream has not worked out as we imagined. We should discuss the option to sort out paper.

Q: How many people use the Recycle Right Newton app?

A: We are up to 1700 users.

Q: Did you say that Brookline is paying \$78/ton for recyclables while we are paying \$30/ton?

A: Yes. The market rate right now is \$78/ton and we have a cap in our contract of \$30/ton. Most communities don't have a cap, unless their contract is older than ours. Contracts prior to 2015 did not require municipalities to pay for recycling. The global change in the recycling markets could be a force majeure of our contract, allowing Waste Management the ability to renegotiate contract terms.

Q: Where is the recyclable material going?

A: Other markets include; Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia. They are still accepting these materials but are not prepared to accept the whole world's recycling.

Q: Waste management is a huge organization. They know what they're doing, but I hope we will push back.

A: We are pushing back. We continue to meet with them to negotiate.

Q: How do you discern who is contributing to the contamination in the multi-resident locations? How can we notify, educate and warn the people who are contaminating?

A: We are ticketing any cart with contamination, then rejecting the cart if the contamination continues. We are then mailing letters to the residents and the property owners as well as sending them educational information.

Q: When we send plastics overseas, what do they do with it?

A: They have cheaper labor and fewer environmental regulations. People and machines sort it down to a level that it becomes a cleaner commodity, which can be resold at a higher rate.

Q: What can we do to allow things like trash bags, amazon packaging in the waste stream?

A: The technology in modern sorting facilities is designed in way that makes it difficult for some materials to be processed (trash bags, cords). Because certain materials have to be clean and dry, it is easier to have them recycled by stores. This is an industry wide issue. Another solution is to reduce packaging.

Committee members expressed appreciation for Ms. Trabert's thorough and informative research and presentation. Ms. Trabert will present a final report to the Committee at the end of the year.

#506-18 Discussion with DPW and National Grid regarding steel workers lock out

PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE requesting a discussion with the Department of Public Works and National Grid regarding the status of the lock out and how it is affecting key City projects that require gas connections, emergency repairs and impacts on the Accelerated Roads Program.

Chairs Note: Commissioner McGonagle informs us that National Grid is refusing invitations to speak with cities and towns within its service area until the lock out is resolved. However, it is the Chairs' intention that we begin a discussion with the Commissioner in Committee about the condition of gas infrastructure in Newton, status of emergency repairs and other critical gas work, who is working for NGrid in the field and how safe practices are assured, monitored and enforced. Questions and

concerns from committee members about the current situation, may form the basis of a letter to NGrid, and their CEO, seeking responses.

Action: Public Facilities Held 6-0 (Gentile not Voting)

Note: The Chair read the item into the record and stated the intent to focus discussion on how the National Grid lockout is impacting the City, particularly with regard to safe and timely completion of work and what steps the City can take to address public safety concerns. The Chair explained that the City is aware of the following facts:

- There are 600 identified gas leaks
- Only Class 1 (emergency leaks) are being repaired
- There is a law that requires publishing leaks and repairs
- Methane emissions comprise approximately 8% of the City's greenhouse gas emissions
- 480 tree deaths due to gas leaks were catalogued in 2008
- Two state laws were passed; the first requiring the publication of leaks (2014), the second requiring coordination of work with municipalities (2016); the DPU has not issued rules for either of these laws to date

The Chair additionally listed variables that are unknown to the City as follows:

- The locations of all leak prone cast iron and steel pipes
- How leaks are being repaired
- Existing safety protocols
- National Grid's 5-year Capital Improvement Plan
- Whether NGrid has a long-range plan for replacing the leak prone pipes, which represent approximately 30% of the infrastructure
- Where large volume leaks are located

Public Works Commissioner Jim McGonagle confirmed that the City has improved its relationship with National Grid as a result of monthly meetings established to coordinate road work. He noted, however, that National Grid reports to the Department of Public Utilities and the City has limited authority and capability to oversee what National Grid is doing. He stated that the City's inspectors can only confirm that the trench is repaired according to the City's Standards. The Commissioner explained that the lockout is impacting the City's paving schedules and stated that it would be helpful to understand the locations of gas infrastructure but noted that these issues must be resolved at the state level.

The Chair explained the intent to collaborate with the administration to craft a letter urging the Governor and the Department of Public Utilities to address the poor condition of gas utility infrastructure as it is a major public safety and public health concern. The Chair noted that Mothers Out Front is discussing additional legislation regarding the oversight of the utilities and is also discussing establishment of a collaborative forum among multiple municipalities. Committee members expressed support for a coalition among Mayors of various communities to put pressure on the Governor's office to take action regarding the public safety issue. It was suggested that the Mothers

Out Front forum might be a good opportunity for elected officials to participate. The Chair invited Mothers Out Front and a representative from the steel workers union to speak on the item. Mothers Out Front representative Ellie Goldberg provided the attached testimony.

Mr. Joe Kirylo, President of Boston Gas Local 1203 USW, Cambridge, MA., delivered testimony to the Committee emphasizing the ongoing safety issues with National Grid. Mr. Kirylo said that his union has documented and filed hundreds of complaints regarding safety with the Department of Public Utilities and Governor Baker's office. He stated that NGrid is not following safe practices for repair and/or installation of pipe. Mr. Kirylo noted that there has been a reduction in pipeline inspectors and foreign opening inspectors, who are responsible for ensuring that contractors are safely excavating and that pipes are not encroached on. Mr. Kirylo stated that the computer systems used by NGrid to identify the locations of leaks can be ineffective, creating uncertain conditions for contractors. He continued, noting that under the Baker administration, there have been continued reductions in the number of inspectors and noted that NGrid has outsourced the mapping of gas leaks to India and Colorado. Mr. Kirylo urged Committee members to question National Grid about who is inspecting the gas infrastructure and why replaced pipes are being connected to older, leak prone pipes. He emphasized that the City must question the utility company and confirmed that he will provide the City with a list of critical questions to help inform the working group's letter.

Committee members agreed that the letter should address the impact on the City as well as pressure the Governor and the DPU to provide oversight and require NGrid to provide information relative to the location of leaks, a transparent process, mapping of cast iron and steel leak prone pipes, and the location of large volume leaks. The Chair noted that the City should also consider whether the old infrastructure should be repaired or whether there might be other options available. Councilor Downs volunteered to sit on the working group and several Committee members offered to review a draft of the letter to the Governor and DPU. Councilor Lappin motioned to hold the item and Committee members voted unanimously in favor of holding.

The Committee adjourned at 10:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Crossley

Organics & Recycling IQ Update

Public Facilities Committee Meeting
October 1, 2018

Waneta Trabert

Director of Sustainable Materials Management
City of Newton DPW



Why divert organic waste from the residential waste stream?

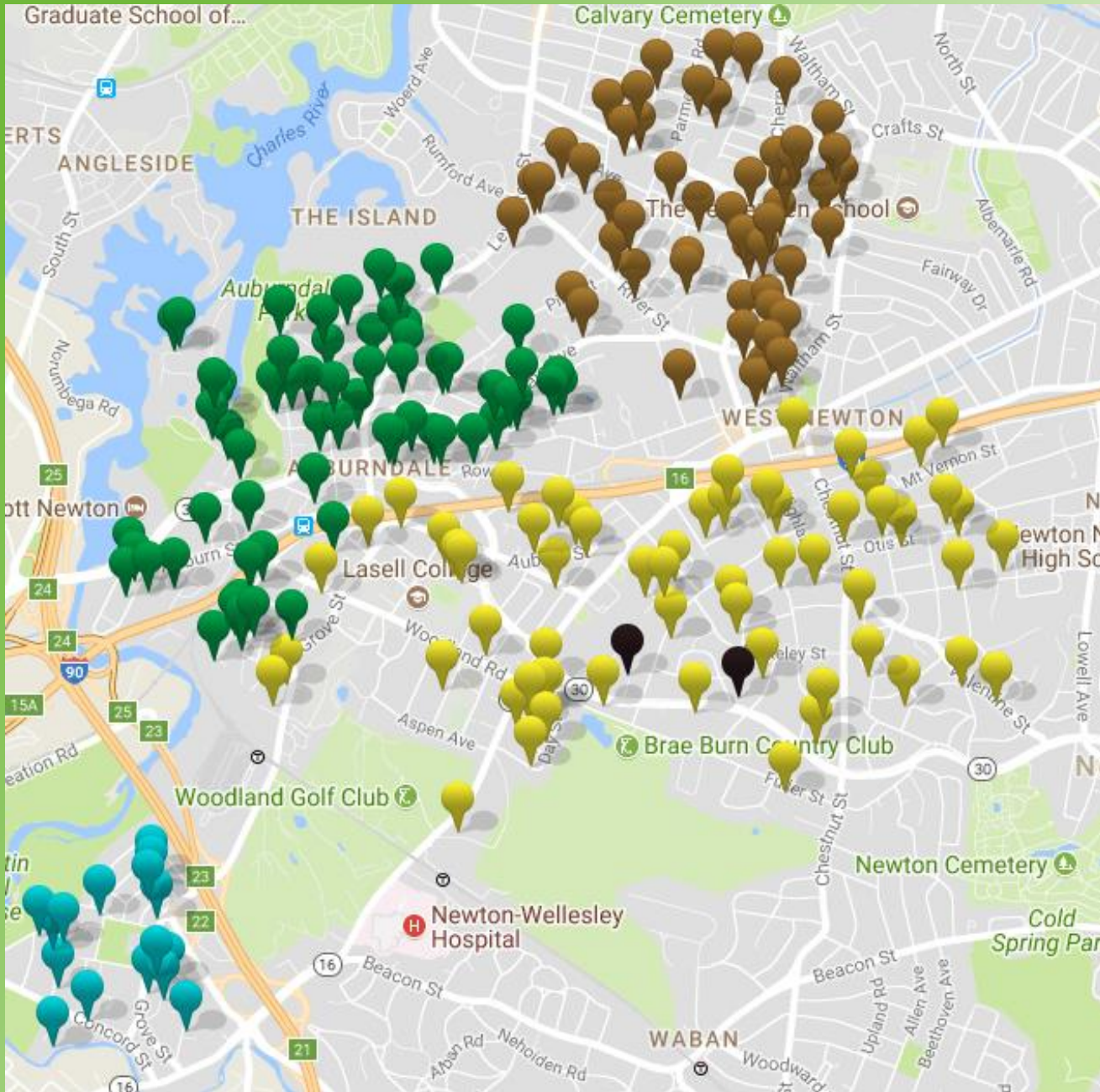
- Higher uses
 - Water and nutrients for soil amendment
 - Production of methane in anaerobic digestion
- Offset greenhouse gas emissions
- 26.6% of the waste stream by weight (MassDEP, 2014)
 - With liquids, up to 40%
 - For Newton this equates to 3,550-7100 tons
 - Disposal cost at \$68/ton = \$241,400 to \$482,800



Organics Collection Pilot Overview

- Four month pilot for 200 households
- Ran from March 12 – June 28
- Two components:
 - Educational campaign to reduce food waste
 - Curbside collection for unavoidable organics
- Collection vessel: 5 gallon bucket with lid
- Data gathered capture to be used to apply for funding to expand pilot efforts





Organics Pilot Area

Auburndale/West Newton area chosen based on fall 2017 interest survey



Organics Collection Pilot Overview

- All participants had Monday trash/recycling collection
- Split organics collection into 2 groups
 - Monday organics – 116 participants
 - Thursday organics – 84 participants
 - Purpose is to study the impact on participation
 - Result: no impact on participation



BOOTSTRAP COMPOST

- Boston-based year-round collector and processor of curbside organics
- Residential, office, and restaurant service
- Material is processed at and used at local farms (Saugus & Winchester)
- A portion of compost is donated to school and community garden projects
- Pilot participants will have option to receive a 6lb compost share at pilot's end



Eliminate the “Ick Factor”

- One receptacle
- Secure lid for indoor or outdoor use
- Bucket is swapped out each week
 - No container maintenance for residents



Too Good To Waste Campaign

- Food waste reduction
- Guidebook for residents
 - Shopping
 - Storage
 - Preparation



Goal was NOT to fill the bucket!



Collection Results

- Buckets averaged 12lbs per week
- Total diverted food waste was ~20.4 tons
- Offset of 34,560 pounds of GHGs (EPA WARM)



Pilot Costs

Operations

Collection = \$10,200

Kitchen scrap buckets = \$720

Education/Outreach

Participant guidebooks & folders = 600

Total = \$11,520

Funding source: MassDEP Recycling Dividends Grant Funds

Pilot Savings on Trash Tonnage

20.4 tons collected × \$68 per ton = \$1,300



Engagement with Participants

- Orientation sessions
 - Education folder
- Pre-pilot survey – 97% completion rate
- Midpoint survey – 90% completion rate
- Post-pilot survey – 81% completion rate



Pre-Pilot Survey

- Pre-pilot survey – continued
 - 87% said food waste diversion should be prioritized
 - 87% stated that they take deliberate steps to reduce food waste, yet 95% said their household has room to improve food waste reduction
 - Concern for where to store the collection container (108) outweighed concern of pests (113)



Midpoint Survey

- Collection bucket storage
 - 48% placed it in the kitchen
 - 23% said “other” (closet, mudroom, basement)
 - 15% said porch
- 87% said the 5gal bucket worked for them with weekly pickup



Post-Pilot Survey

- 51% said they consistently made an effort to reduce food waste
- 70% reported a decrease in avoidable food waste (food that went bad or was never used)
- 9 hh encountered pest issues – fruit flies, raccoons, squirrels
- 86% put meat/seafood into their buckets
 - 38% said they did not freeze or refrigerate it
- 66% said that every other week would be adequate with a 10gal container
- 93% agreed or strongly agreed that this is a necessary service for the City to provide
- 93% would recommend the program to other Newton residents



What now?

- Grant funding for organics collection operations no longer awarded from DEP
- City-vetted, preferred vendor(s) system to be developed to encourage subscription service?
- Investigating drop off options for Rumford
- Continue monitoring other cost centers and economics of larger program



Questions?



International Trade Impacts

- China import ban on scrap plastic and scrap paper filed in June 2017; effective January 1, 2018
- Impacting local governments nationwide and all stakeholders in all developed nations
- Increase in costs for Newton for contamination over 10% - extra charges based on 5% of tonnage collected
 - Residue fees = \$65,611; avg \$6,562/month
- Long term cost increases are possible
 - Event likely qualifies as Force Majeure of contract
- WM seeking increased cap on processing fee



Newton's Recycling Costs

- Contract caps per ton fee at \$30
- WM states cost per ton is ~\$70
- City is in negotiation regarding raising the cap to avoid risk of Force Majeure
- Separate issue from residue fee and contamination rate
- Waiting on info from WM regarding what other cities are paying and who else they are renegotiating with



Addressing Contamination

- Early year push (Jan – April)
- Improving curbside compliance efforts
- Joining DEP Recycle Smart program
- Recycling IQ Program
 - Education
 - Curbside feedback



Recycling IQ Background

- 10 cities and towns have implemented
- 25 have been awarded grant funding to move forward
- Proven method to reduce curbside contamination
- Education alone has been proven ineffective



Project Timeline

- Letter to focus areas – 9/26
- Curbside inspections – 10/1-12/10
- Roll out education campaign – week of 10/8
- City-wide mailing #1 arrive week of 10/8
- City-wide mailing #2 arrive week of 11/5
- Report to DEP due 12/31



Info Letter to Focus Areas

- 3 focus areas – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
- Letter will cast a wider net than curbside inspections
- Same info went out in Mayor Fuller's newsletter and to City Councilors



Curbside Inspections 10/1-12/10

- Week of 10/1 – warnings only (will pick up)
 - Monday: 315hh – 34% received warnings
 - Tuesday: 480hh – 26% received warnings
- Week of 10/8 – begin DEP protocol
 - Tag carts with 3 or more contaminant items
 - Leave cart behind, service following week if issue is resolved
- No tagging week of Thanksgiving



Tags

WARNING ONLY

Material in your green cart was not prepared properly for collection due to the following reason(s):

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| No Plastic Bags or Wrap
(return to retail) | No Food or Liquid
(empty all containers) | No Tanglers, Cords,
Hoses, Chains or
Electronics |
| Do Not Bag Recyclables
(no garbage) | No Clothing or Linens
(drop-off only) | No Big Items
(wood, plastic,
furniture or metal) |

Please correct all issues to ensure there are no disruptions in your service on your next collection day.

Expect a letter in the mail with more details.

Thank you for your commitment to a more sustainable Newton

Newton Department of Public Works
Sustainable Materials Management Division



Please leave these items out of your recycling cart!



Do not Bag Recyclables (no garbage)



No Plastic Bags or Plastic Wrap (return to retail)



No Food or Liquid (empty all containers)



No Clothing or Linens (drop-off only)



No Tanglers, Cords, Hoses, Chains or Electronics



No Big Items (wood, plastic, furniture, or metal)

CORRECT THIS AND WE WILL COLLECT NEXT TIME.

NOTES

SampleUrl.org

Questions about your curbside recycling service?

(123) 456-7890

NO PLASTIC BAGS!

DO NOT BAG
Recyclables



Collecting recyclables in a bag?
Empty the contents into the cart.

Return plastic bags to retailers.

SampleUrl.org

Thank you for recycling. Funded in part by MassDEP. 100% recycled paper.

THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING

IT'S ALL YOU RECYCLE

SampleUrl.org

Thank you for recycling. Funded in part by MassDEP.

RECYCLE RIGHT

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| CANS
Aluminum and Steel Cans | CARTONS
Food and Beverage | GLASS
Bottles and Jars |
|
empty and rinse |
empty and replace cap |
empty and rinse |
| PAPER
Mall, Boxes and Cardboard - empty and flatten | | |
| | | |
| PLASTIC CONTAINERS
Kitchen, Laundry and Bath | | |
| | |
empty and replace cap |

Data Collection & Customer Service

- Paper spreadsheet to track data at the curb
- Photos to document Oops tags issued
- Communication with Customer Service
- Follow up letters sent with Newton education info



Education Campaign

- 2 city-wide mailings
- Banners on fences in parks and at schools
- Sandwich board signs at major intersections and high traffic pedestrian areas
- Social media – paid ads
- Newsletters – Civic groups, PTOs, City Depts
- Newton Tab
- NewTV



Mailings



Recycle Smart

Metal



Food and Beverage Cans
empty and rinse

Plastic



Bottles, Jars, Jugs and Tubs
empty and replace cap

Glass



Bottles and Jars
empty and rinse

Paper & Cardboard



Mixed Paper, Newspaper, Magazines, Boxes
empty and flatten

NO!



Do Not Bag Recyclables
No Garbage



No Plastic Bags or Plastic Wrap
(return to retail)



No Food or Liquid
(empty all containers)



No Clothing or Linens
(use donation programs)



No Tanglers
(no hoses, wires, chains or electronics)

(617)796-1000

Newton DPW

www.newtonma.gov/recycling

RecycleSmartMA.org

An initiative of MassDEP

NO PLASTIC BAGS IN THE RECYCLING CART



DO NOT BAG

Recyclables

Collecting recyclables in a bag? Empty the contents into the cart.

Return plastic bags to retailers.

Newton DPW

(617) 796-1000

www.newtonma.gov/recycling

Thank you for recycling. Funded in part by MassDEP. Min. 30% recycled paper.

Banners & Sandwich Boards

50" x 52"

**NO PLASTIC BAGS
IN THE RECYCLING CART**



**DO NOT
BAG
Recyclables**

Collecting recyclables in a bag?
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Return plastic bags to retailers.

Town and Department
(123) 456-7890
SampleUrl.org

Thank you for recycling.  Funded in part by MassDEP.

72" x 30"



NO PLASTIC BAGS IN THE RECYCLING CART

**DO NOT BAG
Recyclables**

Collecting recyclables in a bag? Empty the contents into the cart.
Return plastic bags to retailers.

Town and Department
(124) 456-7890

SampleURL.org

Thank you for recycling.  Funded in part by MassDEP.

36" x 24"

**DO NOT
BAG
Recyclables**



**NO PLASTIC BAGS IN
THE RECYCLING CART**

Thank you for recycling.  Funded in part by MassDEP.

Town and Department **(123) 456-7890**



Sustainable Materials Management Update

- Yard waste collection runs through Dec 14
- Household hazardous waste reuse diversion
- Swap Shop grand opening on Sept 15
- Slow progress being made with NPS
- High level discussions regarding next waste contract

- New FTE starting soon: Conni Melia



Looking Ahead

- Communicate waste and recycling goals to public
- Grow social media presence
- Discuss stakeholder priorities with SWC
 - Establish long-term goals and strategy plan



Areas for Improvement

- Education and outreach
- Resident accountability
- Commercial sector
- Emphasis on source reduction
- Sustainability & climate change tie-ins
- Performance measures
- Goal and long term planning development
- Improving operational and administrative efficiency



Contact Me

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Director of Sustainable Materials Management

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www.newtonma.gov/recycling

Recycle Right Newton app





MOTHERS OUT FRONT

MOBILIZING FOR A LIVABLE CLIMATE

To: Newton Public Facilities Committee, October 3, 2018
Fr: Ellie Goldberg, on behalf of Newton Mothers Out Front
Re: **Newton Gas Pipeline Infrastructure Hazards**



We are speaking as mothers and community members who all want a healthy, safe, sustainable community that provides a livable climate for our children. We know that we are all threatened by the public health and economic damage caused by climate change.

We also know that methane leaks that we smell when we walk our children to school or when we walk our dogs around the block contribute to poor air quality and illness, especially for infants and other vulnerable family members.

And, especially since the tragedy in the Merrimack Valley, we know that we are all vulnerable. We are living with a highly explosive gas. It could happen here. We also know that there are serious questions about the utility companies' commitment to safety and quality control as well as the adequacy of DPU oversight — and that NGrid has lobbied and sued to stop stronger policies.¹

As Newton learned from the years of deferred maintenance of its schools, neglecting to maintain the quality of our infrastructure can cost us much more when we can no longer avoid the responsibility. So now Newton needs to do everything it can to protect us from the cost and danger of our unacceptable leaky gas pipelines.



We need to act with an abundance of caution. After we saw those vivid images of flames and destruction, many of us share the feeling of trauma, dread and insecurity of Merrimack Valley residents going back into their homes and neighborhoods. With many others in Massachusetts communities,

¹ **DPU: National Grid shows 'persistent disregard' for pipeline safety regulations. Sep 28, 2018**
<https://www.wcyb.com/article/dpu-national-grid-shows-persistent-disregard-for-pipeline-safety-regulations/23515608>

we share a heightened sense of urgency to reduce the risks posed by gas in our community.

Transparency Therefore, Mothers Out Front Newton supports the goal of publicly sharing plans from National Grid and Newton's Public Works department so that all residents have the most up-to-date report of the condition of our infrastructure and can track how resources for gas pipeline maintenance and replacement are used.

Publicly sharing the status of the infrastructure, such as the age, type, condition, and history of each pipeline, would allow Newton officials and residents to understand and influence critical decisions about infrastructure maintenance, especially in their own neighborhoods.

Also, we believe that sharing up-to-date information about the location and history of each leak and the priorities for repair/replacement would inform us about the true cost of lost gas as well as the degree of risk to our families.

Protective Safety Standards We also believe that our safety depends on the skills and knowledge of experienced gas pipeline crews. So, while human error is always a risk, we urge the city of Newton to uphold high safety standards and build trust by allowing only highly qualified crews to work on our pipelines.

Furthermore, we all would be safer if we sped up our transition to renewable energy sources and took every opportunity to adopt cost-saving, clean and efficient energy technologies.

