

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2008

Present: Ald. Schnipper (Chairman), Lennon, Salvucci, Yates, Mansfield and Lappin

Absent: Ald. Albright and Gentile

City staff: Clint Schuckel (Traffic Engineer, Department of Public Works), Shawna Sullivan (Committee Clerk)

#297-08 NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY petitioning for a grant of location to relocate Pole #223/5 on the westerly side of IRVING STREET ± 129' north of Commonwealth Avenue (Ward 7). [07-21-08 @ 11:02 AM]

ACTION: **HELD 5-0 (Lennon not voting)**

NOTE: Maureen Carroll, NStar Representative, joined the Committee to discuss the petition for a grant of location to relocate a pole on Irving Street. Ms. Carroll explained that NStar would like to withdraw the petition as the customer who requested the relocation is no longer interested due to the cost of the relocation. She provided the Committee with a letter requesting the withdrawal, which is attached. Ald. Salvucci asked why the customer wanted the pole moved in the first place. Ms. Carroll explained that it was due to the customer's belief in Feng Shui, which holds that blocking a doorway is bad luck. Ald. Lappin moved no action necessary, which carried unanimously. However, the item was reconsidered after Joyce, Ren, 47 Irving Street, Newton Centre, joined the Committee, and stated that she made the request of NStar to relocate the pole. NStar originally quoted a price of \$500 for the relocation. The next time she spoke with NStar's Customer Service Department, she was given a price of over \$4,000. She is not willing to pay that much to have the pole relocated. The Committee requested a cost breakdown from Maureen Carroll, which she will provide. The Committee held the item until the cost breakdown is available. Ms. Ren will be notified when the item will be discussed again.

#298-08 NATIONAL GRID petitioning for a grant of location to install and maintain 250' ± of 6" gas main in SYCAMORE ROAD from the existing 6" gas main in Redwood Road @ Sycamore Road easterly to House Nos. 22 and 27 (Ward 8). [07-24-08 @ 12:03 PM]

ACTION: **HELD 6-0**

NOTE: Harold Cooper, National Grid Permit Representative, was present for the discussion of the petition for the extension of a gas main in Sycamore Road. The extension will provide gas service to newly constructed houses at 22 and 27 Sycamore Road. The public hearing was opened and Nomee Altschul, 39 Sycamore Road, Newton Centre spoke on the petition. Dr. Altschul is a surgeon at the Faulkner Hospital and needs access to the street from her driveway. Her access to and from her driveway was blocked during the construction of the two houses, which created many problems for her. She asked that National Grid look at putting

the gas main on the other side of the street. Mr. Cooper agreed to ask the National Grid engineers to look at that possibility. The Committee held the item in order for National Grid to look at the option of putting the gas main on the other side of the street.

#81-08 CLERK of the BOARD of ALDERMEN requesting that the Board of Aldermen *re-vote* the petition of EUGENE WONG, 63 Bencliffe Circle, Auburndale, for laying out, grading and acceptance of BENCLIFFE CIRCLE as a public way from Chaske Avenue approved by the Board on April 7, 2008. A re-vote is necessary because the city did not record the taking order within the 30-days required in GL chapter 70, §3.

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-0**

NOTE: The Board originally voted this item on April 7, 2008. Unfortunately, all of the information necessary to record the order at the Registry of Deeds was unavailable within the required thirty days of action by the Board. Therefore, a revote of the item was required. Committee members inquired whether all of the necessary information had been obtained in order to record the item with the Registry of Deeds. All of the necessary documentation is available and the order will be registered within the required thirty days. The Committee recommended approval of the item unanimously.

REFERRED TO PROG& SERV, PUB.FACILITIES & FINANCE COMMITTEES

#143-08 ALD. LINSKY requesting a resolution to recognize and adopt the establishment by the Mayor of a cap to the Newton North High School project. [4-01-08 @ 5:30 PM]

PROG & SERV NO ACTION NECESSARY 7-0 ON 04/08/08

ACTION: **NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0**

NOTE: The Committee voted approval of the no action necessary motion, as the Mayor and Dimeo Construction, Construction Manager at-Risk, have negotiated a guaranteed maximum price.

ITEM REFERRED BY PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION:

#321-04(2) ALD. JOHNSON requesting a RESOLUTION to His Honor the Mayor requesting that he expeditiously as possible find funding to create traffic calming measures on Mill Street as requested by the Traffic Council.

ACTION: **HELD 6-0**

NOTE: The item was held without discussion at the request of Ald. Johnson. The item will be rescheduled for discussion on either October 15 or October 22, 2008.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#145-08(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$136,456.40 received as a payment from the Town of Wellesley pursuant to the Newton/Wellesley Inter-Municipal Agreement for the Cochituate Aqueduct for maintenance and repairs of the Cochituate Aqueduct Sewer. [08-26-08 @ 3:48 PM]

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0 (Yates not voting)

NOTE: Clint Schuckel, Traffic Engineer, explained that this is the second of three payments from the Town of Wellesley. The payments are for Wellesley's portion of the cost of the maintenance and repairs to the Cochituate Aqueduct Sewer as stipulated in the Newton/Wellesley Inter-Municipal Agreement, as explained in the backup documentation. The first payment was for \$29,738.57 and was accepted by the Board at the end of April 2008. The clerk provided the Committee with further information on the acceptance of the first payment, which the Committee reviewed. Ald. Salvucci moved approval of the item, which carried unanimously.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#318-08 **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting authorization to transfer funds within the Department of Public Works for the administration of the streetlights maintenance program as follows: [08-26-08 @ 3:47 PM]

From: 0140109-5431	\$24,500
Parts	
To: 0140109-513001	\$19,500
Overtime	
To: 0140109-515401	\$ 5,000
Police Details	

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0 (Yates not voting)

NOTE: Clint Schuckel, Traffic Engineer, presented the item to the Committee. He explained that the request is to transfer funds within the Public Works Department accounts for streetlight maintenance. There is no overall increase but the transfer will better reflect how the funds for streetlight maintenance will be used. It is the intent to decrease the Parts Account by \$24,500, as the need for funds for parts should be reduced because all of the streetlight fixtures were replaced in 2007. The transfer of \$19,500 for overtime expenses consists of \$19,000 for overtime, and \$5,000 for police details. The overtime consists of \$13,000 for emergency work, which is based on the actual expenses between 2006 and 2008 and \$6,500 for scheduled overtime to be used primarily for patrolling streets and verifying outage reports. The \$5,000 for police details would allow approximately 8 hours each month to replace bulbs on major roads and arteries.

Ald. Lappin if the transition of street light maintenance to the Public Works Department from the Fire Department is complete. Mr. Schuckel responded that it was effective on July 1, 2008 and it has been successful. Two of the Fire Department employees and the bucket truck have relocated to the Elliot Street Public Works Yard. The two employees are members of the Fire Union but are supervised by Mr. Schuckel. Mr. Schuckel stated that there is a 2% outage rate and the department is doing its best to eliminate the backlog of outages before daylight savings time. Committee members inquired whether any progress has been made with the dispute with NStar regarding who is responsible for outages between the manhole and streetlights. Mr. Schuckel stated that there has not been a resolution but the City is repairing as

many of those types of outages as possible and keeping track of the costs in hope of recouping the costs from NStar. Ald. Lappin moved approval, which carried unanimously.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#319-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR in accordance with the recommendation of the Traffic Council requesting authorization to appropriate and expend from Parking Meter Receipts one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to fund construction of up to five pedestrian-activated warning signals at (1) Crafts Street and Linwood Avenue, (2) Washington Street and Harvard Street, (3) Waverley Avenue and Franklin Street, (4) Waverley Avenue near Arlington Street, and (5) Centre Street near Pleasant Street. [08-26-08 @ 3:45 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 5-0 (Yates not voting)**

NOTE: Clint Schuckel, Traffic Engineer, presented the item to the Committee. He provided the Committee with some photos of pedestrian crossing signals in Wellesley, which are attached. The Traffic Council has discussed and approved a number of locations for pedestrian activated signals and this request will fund the signals. The pedestrian-activated warning signals have been shown to improve pedestrian safety at a much lower cost than full- automated traffic signals. The installation of the pedestrian warning signals would include significant signage warning drivers that they are approaching a crosswalk and if lights are flashing, a pedestrian is in the crosswalk.

The Committee reviewed the locations of the signals. Ald. Mansfield felt that Centre and Pelham Streets might be a more appropriate location for the warning light than Centre and Pleasant Streets. Mr. Schuckel will revisit the site and the signal will be placed at whichever location gets more foot traffic. Several Committee members were concerned that the warning lights were yellow, which might cause confusion for drivers. Mr. Schuckel explained that the State has not approved the use of red lights in these types of signals but he believes there has been some discussion of using red. If the State approves the red, it will be a simple conversion. Mr. Schuckel also pointed out that studies have shown that the yellow lights are effective in improving pedestrian safety. Ald. Schnipper suggested picture signs as well as written signs for drivers who do not read English. Ald. Salvucci moved approval, which carried unanimously.

#208-08 ALD. GENTILE, SALVUCCI AND SCHNIPPER requesting a discussion on establishing a permanent Building Committee in the City of Newton. [05-16-08 @ 11:47 AM]

ACTION: **HELD 5-0 (Yates not voting)**

NOTE: Both this item and the item below were held and will be discussed at the next Public Facilities Committee meeting. Ald. Schnipper has spoken with the Associate City Solicitor, Ouida Young, regarding both items. Ms Young wondered if the intent of the establishment of the Building Committee was to address the Massachusetts School Building Authority's new requirement that applicants for a school building committee to monitor and advise during school construction projects. If this is the case, the Committee may want to consider if the Design Review Committee could cover that need.

Ald. Schnipper thought that the item was for all city building projects, not just school buildings. She pointed out that one of the things that she would like to see with amendments to the 5-58 ordinance is the ability of the Board to have input throughout city building projects. Ald. Schnipper asked that the Committee think about the composition of a building committee before the next meeting. A representative of the Law Department will also be at the next meeting to address any questions regarding forming the building committee and amending the 5-58 ordinance.

#253-07 ALD. LINSKY ALBRIGHT, JOHNSON, HARNEY, SANGIOLO, SALVUCCI, MANSFIELD, BURG, SCHNIPPER requesting (1) a review as to how provisions of applicable ordinances, specifically 5-58, were implemented during the course of the Newton North project, and (2) consider proposed revisions of 5-58 including, but not limited to:

- (a) timely provision of documentation by the public building department to the Board of Aldermen and Design Review Committee;
- (b) establishment of liaison committees to facilitate communications and input from neighborhoods affected by projects subject to this ordinance;
- (c) approval of final design plans by the Board of Aldermen of projects subject to this ordinance;
- (d) oversight during the construction phase of projects subject to this ordinance by appropriate Board committee(s) both in respect to approval of change orders as well as design changes; and
- (e) generation of a required record detailing the entire construction process by the public building department to guide present and future oversight of projects subject to this ordinance. [08-07-07 @ 3:12 PM]

ACTION: **HELD 5-0 (Yates not voting)**

NOTE: See the above note.

#385-07 ALD. SCHNIPPER AND GENTILE updating the Public Facilities Committee on the progress of the Newton North High School Project. [11-21-07 @ 10:23 AM]

ACTION: **HELD 5-0 (Yates not voting)**

NOTE: The Board of Aldermen in a Committee of the Whole received an update from the Mayor and design team on the progress of the Newton North High School Project on September 2, 2008. There was no further discussion by the Committee and the item was held.

Respectfully submitted,

Sydra Schnipper, Chairman



200 Calvary Street
Waltham, Massachusetts 02453

08 JUL 21 AM 11:02
CITY CLERK
NEWTON, MA. 02159

February 28, 2008

Board of Aldermen
City Hall
Newton, MA 02159

RE: **Irving Street**
Newton, MA
W.O. # 1615742

Dear Board of Aldermen:

The enclosed petition and plan is being presented by the NSTAR Electric Company and Verizon New England, Inc., for the purpose of obtaining a Grant to relocate (1) pole 223/5, Irving Street, Newton.

This work is necessary to provide overhead electric service to #49 Irving Street.

Your prompt attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions please call Maureen Carroll at (617) 369-6421.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janette M. Sandberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Janette M. Sandberg
Rights & Permits Supervisor

JMS /amw
Attachments

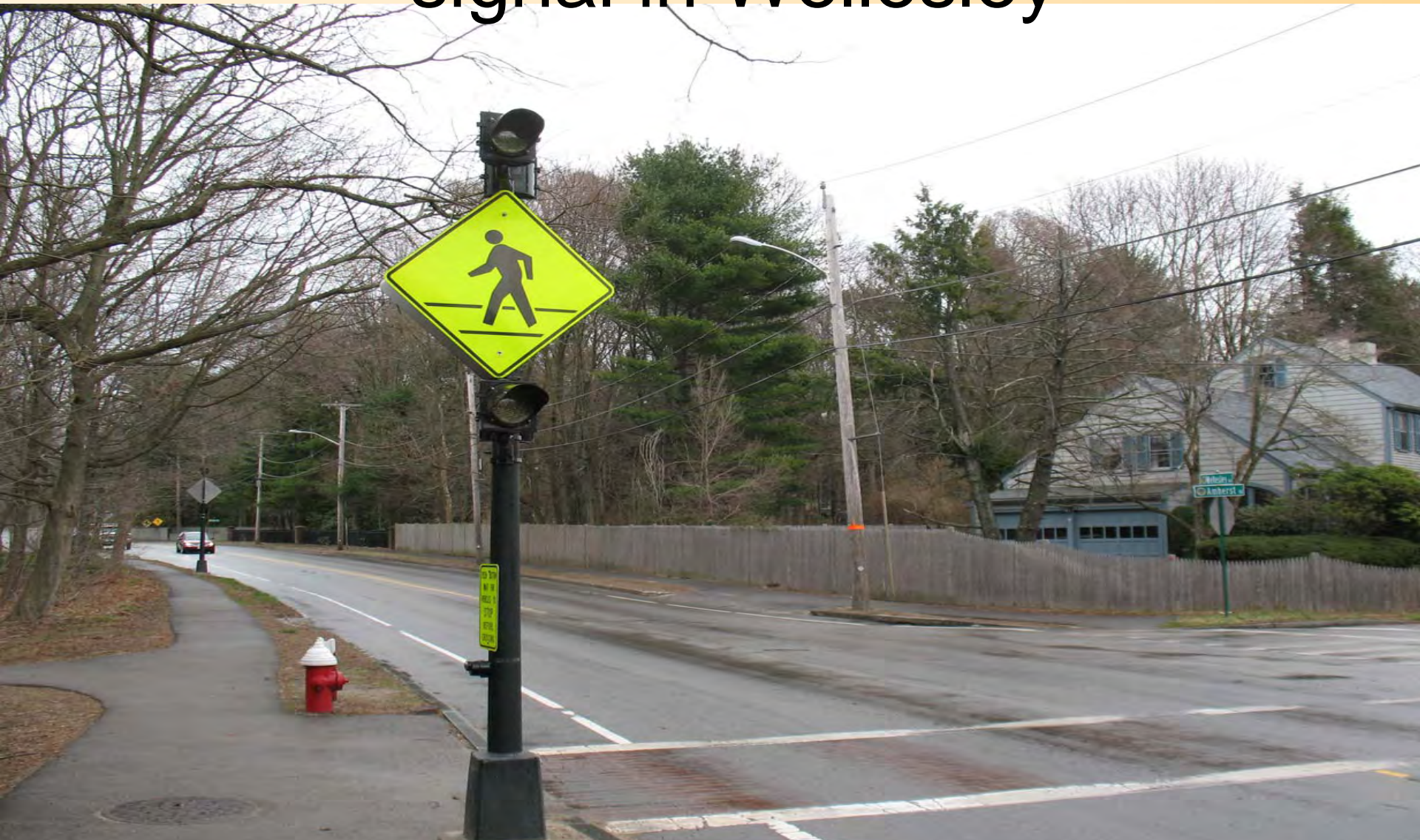
Rt.135 at Amherst Ped. crossing signal in Wellesley



Rt.135 at Amherst Ped. crossing signal in Wellesley



Rt.135 at Amherst Ped. crossing signal in Wellesley



Rt.135 at Amherst Ped. crossing signal in Wellesley

