

CITY OF NEWTON  
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2001

Present: Ald. Schnipper (Chair), Antonellis, Salvucci, McGrath, Yates, Mansfield, and M. Lipof

Absent: Ald. Gerst

City Officials Present: Mayor Cohen, John Daglian (Engineering Department), Michael Kruse (Director of Planning & Development) and Sandy Pooler (Chief Budget Officer)

# 49-01      BOSTON EDISON requesting grants of location to install 345'± of conduit in BRAELAND AVENUE northeasterly turning northerly onto HERRICK ROAD @ pole 141/3, 50'± of conduit in BRAELAND AVENUE westerly turning northerly onto HERRICK ROAD @ pole 141/3A and 70'± of conduit in HERRICK ROAD northwesterly @ Union Street from manhole #3688 to Manhole #5924.

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 7-0**

**NOTE:**      Maureen Carroll of Boston Edison presented the item to the Committee. This is new conduit, which is for the future use of businesses and residences in the area. The work will be done in conjunction with the replacement of the MBTA bridge replacement. The public hearing was opened and no one spoke for or against the petition. Ald. McGrath moved approval of the item, which passed unanimously.

# 50-01      BOSTON EDISON requesting a grants of location to install 898'± of conduit at Dedham Street southwesterly turning southerly onto UPLAND AVENUE and install three manholes (MH27223, MH27224, MH2725) in UPLAND AVENUE.

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 7-0**

**NOTE:**      Maureen Carroll of Boston Edison presented the item to the Committee. The conduit is needed to upgrade the existing system. There are frequent power outages in the area and the new system would solve the problem.

# 47-01      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the *Report and Recommendation of the Needham Street Advisory Committee* for Board review and approval.

**ACTION:**      **HELD 5-2 (Schnipper & M. Lipof Opposed)**

**NOTE:**      Mayor Cohen and Bill Steffens, the consultant from McMahon Associates presented the item on behalf of the Needham Street Advisory Committee. There were some questions as to why the item is before the Board of Aldermen. The Mayor felt that it was important for the Board of Aldermen to review the plan. The Mayor would like the support of Board on the project. Ald. McGrath felt that it should involve the Board.

A conceptual plan was presented based on the consultant's study of Needham Street. The plan is to create four lanes at both ends of the street and three lanes in the center. Currently, the third lane or center lane is dysfunctional because it is not clearly marked and not continual. When the street is reconstructed, the third lane will be clearly demarcated and continuous. There are several pedestrian improvements including signals at appropriate intersections, better signage, crosswalks, sidewalks, and islands. The bridge on Needham Street will also be reconstructed to add an additional lane to the bridge. These improvements should allow for the next twenty years of growth.

The Town of Needham has been involved with the plan. There is a bottleneck at Second Avenue due to people wishing to take a left off Needham Street. This cuts Needham Street down to one lane. A small left hand holding lane will be placed at that intersection to free up the second lane, which will allow traffic to flow freely.

There was some discussion regarding aligning Oak and Christina Streets. This can only be done if a private agreement with the abutting property owner is reached, as it would require the use of private land. The Mayor has been meeting with property owners along Needham Street in order to reduce the number of curb cuts along the street. Business owners would need to agree to share the curb cuts and parking to lessen curb cuts.

The Mayor also mentioned creating roads at the rear of properties located along Needham Street, which would be an alternative way to reach some of the Needham Street businesses. The Mayor has begun preliminary discussions with some of the businesses and the MBTA regarding using a portion of their property for the roads. This will not be part of the submission to the Massachusetts Highway Department.

The Committee held the item because they were not comfortable approving the plan with the rear alternative roads shown as if they are part of the plan, which is to be submitted to Massachusetts Highway Department. However, the Committee created a resolution to proceed to 25% plan completion, which was approved unanimously.

#47-01(2) **PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE** offering a resolution to His Honor the Mayor to proceed to the 25% plan completion (schematic) for the Needham Street reconstruction project and to refine details and obtain private agreements and necessary permits.

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 7-0**

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS & SERVICES**

#259-00 **BOARD OF ALDERMEN** requesting report from the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation on the status of renovations and construction at Crystal Lake's Levingston Cove, Newton Centre.

**ACTION:**      **PROG & SERV VOTED NO ACTION NECESSARY 4-0 ON 02/07/01**  
**NAN 7-0**

**NOTE:**      The renovations at Levingston Cove have been completed to the City and neighborhood's satisfaction. Therefore, the above item was voted no action necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Sydra Schnipper, Chair