

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2001

Present: Ald. Schnipper (Chair), Gerst, Antonellis, Salvucci, Yates, and Mansfield

Absent: M. Lipof

Also Present: Ald. Sangiolo, Lipsitt, Coletti, Bryson, Samuelson, R. Lipof and Merrill

City Officials Present: Mayor Cohen, Robert Rooney (Commissioner of Public Works), Jay Fink (Director of Utilities), Linda Plaut (Cultural Affairs), Michael Rourke (Chief Administrative Officer), Sandy Pooler (Chief Budget Officer), Fran Towle (Commissioner of Parks and Recreation), Robert DeRubeis (Deputy Commissioner of Parks and Recreation) and Nicholas Parnell (Commissioner of Public Buildings)

#264-01 ALD. YATES requesting a report from the Commissioner of Public Works on the condition of the storm and sewer drainage system in the Glen Avenue area.

ACTION: HELD 6-0

NOTE: Bob Rooney, Commissioner of Public Works and Jay Fink, Utilities Director, were present for the discussion of the item. Mr. Fink gave an overview of the drainage and sewer system around the Glen Avenue area. There are a number of lines, which run down Glen Avenue. A sewer line that runs adjacent to the MBTA tracks then through Glen Avenue to Beacon Street. Rehabilitation and relining of the sewer line and manholes occurred this past year. The Utilities Division recently televised the drain line and it is clean with no major debris. There have been no major problems with that drain system. A brook comes out of the park located in the area and enters a culvert in Glen Avenue, which runs to City Hall. During periods of heavy rain when the brook reaches a high point, it causes the drains to reach capacity before the street can drain. There is nowhere to pump the additional water. During rainstorms, the manholes that traverse through the park are under water. In order to keep the water out of the sewer system plastic inserts are on order to place in the manholes.

Mr. Fink has spoken with the residents of Glen Avenue. Several residents stated that flooding occurs at the low point on the MBTA tracks and indicated that they have seen sewer problems in Glen Avenue. There is a large building at the top of Glen Avenue that water is pumped out of directly into the street. Mr. Fink explained that he has not witnessed the water being pumped from the building but will investigate. Ald. Mansfield stated that the building at the top of the street is under special permit and should have drainage plans, which the petitioner is required to follow. One of the residents of Glen Avenue has a low point in her

yard, which causes the basement to flood during rainstorms. Mr. Fink suggested removing the toilet and set tub or put in a check valve. Unfortunately, during the March storm the drains and sewer were at capacity in that area, this caused flooding.

Mr. Fink stated that once the plastic inserts are placed in the manholes and a manhole, which is below grade, is raised the City will monitor the area for further problems. The inserts will minimize water entering the sewer line giving it a larger capacity. Unfortunately, Glen Avenue is a low-lying area, which is subject to localized flooding during major storms.

The City needs to do a comprehensive survey of the drainage system at two levels. The first is an overall inspection and secondly an analysis of the hydraulic aspects. The Department of Public Works is trying to secure grants to provide funding. Ald. Yates moved hold on the item and asked that an update of the Glen Avenue area and the City's drainage system be provided this term. The Committee voted unanimously to hold the item.

#265-01 ALD. YATES requesting a report from the Commissioner of Public Works on the capacity of city storm drains and sanitary sewer to accommodate heavy rainfalls without letting sewage or storm drainage damage private homes in the Quinebequin Road area.

ACTION: HELD 6-0

NOTE: Ald. Yates explained that he filed this docket item in response to a number of phone calls that he has received regarding sewage problems in the Quinebequin Road area. Several residents reported sewage in their basements this past year and would like to know what is being done to prevent this from happening.

The Commissioner of Public Works stated that the Lyons Field/Quinebequin area is of great concern because there is such a large amount of sewerage running through that system. Mr. Fink explained that during storms the flow increases which activates the pumping station on Eliot Street forcing the sewage to Quinebequin Road station and then to the aqueduct. When the aqueduct reaches capacity an overflow structure takes over and forces the flow back into the trunk line along the Charles River. There is also a bypass structure in front of the Quinebequin station such that if the station cannot take additional flow it will then bypass the station and continue down the trunk line through Lyons Field. Lyons Field is the low point of the system, which is why it is the first place a problem occurs. The City has made a lot of improvement in the area. It has been relined and a large amount of water has been taken out of the sewer. A significant amount of material has been removed from those pipes creating additional capacity in those lines. There is another project planned to further alleviate the problem. There is a pipe, which crosses under the Charles River twice, that could be lined to reduce additional flow. The City is trying to secure funding to start

this project. During the March storm water was pumped at the Quinebequin Station and discharged into the Charles River.

Several residents spoke on the problems in the Quinebequin area. Valerie Forte, 120 Quinebequin Road questioned why the City could not put an underground tank in Lyons Field to store the sewage until it can be pumped.

Dr. Grabel, 386 Quinebequin Road, wanted to know if it was legal to pump water into the Charles River. Mr. Fink explained that the City did notify the Department of Environmental Protection.

Marjorie Evans Barron, Edgewater Road, stated that there have been no floods in her home until the 100-year storm. She assumed that the City had changed something or construction was taking place in the neighborhood.

Mr. Jerome Murphy, St. Mary's Street, has had sewage in the basement five times since 1997 and would like to know to what extent will the work done since March do to resolve the problem.

The Committee discussed the drainage and sewer problems in the City. It is the Committee's feeling that the City needs to investigate solutions for not only the Quinebequin and Glen Avenue areas but throughout the City. The City's drainage system should be able to handle large quantities of water during large storms, as they seem to be occurring more frequently. It was decided to notify the Mayor that the Committee feels that this is a priority for the Capital Improvement Plan and will advocate for funds to solve the problems.

It was decided to hold the item in order to allow Mr. Fink and the City Engineer to investigate solutions to the problems in the Quinebequin area. Mr. Fink felt that he would be able to provide further information before the end of the year. Ald. Yates moved hold on the item and the Committee voted unanimously to hold the item.

#367-00 ALD. R. LIPOF requesting discussion on the clean up and repair of South Meadow Brook.

ACTION: HELD 6-0

NOTE: This item was discussed at a Public Facilities meeting in February but has held for further information. Jay Fink updated the Committee on the South Meadow Brook. In February, Mr. Ajar, who first brought the problem to the attention of Ald. Rick Lipof, brought up the possibility of using machines to clean out the culvert. Unfortunately, Mr. Ajar has lost the data he had collected on the various solutions to the problems at South Meadow Brook. Mr. Fink explained that the use of machines to clean culverts is very expensive. However, if the City can come up with creative ways to dispose of the debris removed from the culvert the costs can be cut substantially. There needs to be an overall plan on how to deal

with problems such as culverts and a review of the pipes to determine if they are sufficient to handle the flow. The City is applying for a grant to start studying the drainage system for this type of plan.

Ald. Lipsitt asked when the 100-year storm standard is revised as we have had several 100-year storms in the past few years. Ald. Lipsitt also suggested that the drainage standards for the City and private construction be revised as that may have an impact on the drainage system within the City. The Committee agreed that this was something that should be examined.

Ald. Rick Lipof suggested holding the item for a plan on what is to be done to correct the problems at South Meadow Brook. The Committee held the item for further discussion.

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

#276-01 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$110,000 be appropriated from Overlay Surplus and that the sum of \$95,000 be appropriated from the Capital Stabilization Fund in order to fund the following capital projects:

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>COST</u>
a) Conservation Commission	Marty Sender Path	\$ 5,000
b) Parks & Recreation	Tree Planting	\$ 50,000
c) Parks & Recreation	Field Renov/Water Control	\$ 25,000
d) Parks & Recreation	Turf Control	\$ 50,000
e) Public Works	Sidewalk Betterments	\$ 50,000
f) Veterans/Licensing	Veterans Graves	\$ 25,000
TOTAL		\$205,000

ACTION: APPROVED 4-0-1 (Mansfield Abstaining; Gerst Not Voting)

NOTE: Commissioner Rooney presented this item. The number of requests to the City for sidewalk betterments and what the City is capable of providing are very different. The additional \$50,000 for sidewalk betterments will help decrease the number of betterments waiting to be done.

Ald. Salvucci moved approval of the item. Ald. Mansfield had concerns that the 50% of the cost that the City pays may be better spent elsewhere such as resolving the drainage issue. It is to the City's advantage if the betterments are done because the sidewalks are then repaired. The item was approved unanimously.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES THE MAYOR

#233 -01 HIS HONOR requesting authorization to expend \$400,000 from various gifts for the purpose of funding design and construction of the Balsamo Millennium Park adjacent to City Hall.

ACTION: HELD 5-0 (Gerst Not Voting)

NOTE:

Mayor Cohen presented the item to the Committee. This item is for approval of the acceptance of a gift of up to \$400,000. He gave an overview of the project. The idea began in 1997 with the formation Newton 2000. The city received a donation of \$250,000 from Mr. Salvatore Balsamo to help build Millennium Park. The City implemented a program to sell engraved bricks, which will be used to fund some of the project. The bricks will be used for pathways in the park. There has been a great response to this; over 12,000 bricks have been sold.

The project will improve the side of city hall and create a bridge between the library and city hall. This park is unique because it has community support because citizens have been able to contribute to the park. The park has grown beyond what it was originally planned to be. The Mayor feels that the city should contribute to the park by donating labor.

Mr. Parnell gave the scope of the project. The site is located on the south side of city hall. Chang, Syllagardos and Simpson Architects came up with the design for the park and the Design Review Committee has reviewed the project.

Mr. Chang presented the architectural plans to the committee. At this point, the project is one-third of the way through the design process. The project will widen the path and elongate it through the park. The project will give greater access to the disabled. The landscaping will also screen the parking lot and dumpster located in the lot.

Rusty Thompson, Chair of the Newton 2000 Millennium Park Committee, spoke on the project. She is very excited about the project and is thrilled that the community has embraced the project. She explained that the Millennium Park Committee came up with the site, as the best possible place for the park. The Mayor commended Ms. Thompson dedication to this project.

Mr. Pooler explained the financing for the project. To date, a number of pledges and contributions are being held by Newton 2000. There is approximately \$375,000 including the \$11,000 left over from the original \$25,000 for creation of the design. Mr. Pooler reviewed the funding sheet, which was included in the Aldermanic packet. It is hoped that more bricks will be sold to finance the maintenance of the park.

Ald. Merrill would like to know what is planned for the Veterans' Circle, as the sidewalks there are deplorable. There are no plans as of yet but will be looked at. He also if there were any restrictions on the land around Memorial Hall. The Mayor will ask the Law Department to investigate this. Rusty Thompson stated that she did look into this and found that the land is not restricted.

Ald. Coletti would like to see a statement showing that funds are there. He would also like to know why the site is being named for an individual. The Mayor explained that the Parks and Recreation Commission voted approval of the name.

The Mayor, the Parks and Recreation Commission and several citizens support the naming.

Ald. Salvucci questioned why the maintenance and labor for maintenance is not included in the funding sheet. The hope was to be able to present the funds for the park and the endowments to maintain it. Unfortunately, this not the case but similar projects in other communities have been investigated and it was found that there is a burst of interest after completion. The hope is more bricks will be sold and enough funds will be raised to maintain the park. Ald. Salvucci pointed out that there is no guarantee that more bricks will be sold. He also wanted to know how the donated labor force would be used as the city already lacks the manpower to complete all the necessary work. He would like cost estimates for the maintenance to be provided.

Ald. Samuelson very much likes the idea. However, she does feel the City needs to provide good pedestrian access to the park in the form of crosswalks and safety measures between city hall and the library.

Many Aldermen had issues with reducing the size of the parking lot. It was felt that it would worsen the existing problems and will create snow removal costs. Ald. Coletti wanted to know how large deliveries would be received, as the plan does not seem to provide for trucks. Several Aldermen agreed with that observation.

The committee decided that there were too many unresolved issues with the project to vote it. It was also felt that it would benefit the Aldermen to have public input. It was decided that a public meeting should be held on October 3, 2001. The item was held by the committee.

#182-00 ALD. YATES requesting an amendment to the Chapter 26 of the Revised Ordinances of Newton, 1995 prohibiting city rights of way from being used by telecommunications providers, which have more than 1,000 unused telephone numbers or which do not file a binding agreement to obtain no more than 1,000 numbers at one in the future.

ACTION: NAN 5-0 (Gerst Not Voting)

NOTE: Ald. Yates no longer wishes to pursue this item, therefore, it was voted no action necessary.

#352-99 MARY JAYNE DRINKWATER, 18 Village Gate Road, Canton requesting a common sewer to be constructed in RIVERVIEW AVENUE from the existing end manhole 240' easterly to 247 Riverview Avenue, Auburndale.

HELD 11-04-99

ACTION: NAN 5-0 (Gerst Not Voting)

NOTE: There has been not interest in constructing the sewer since 1999, therefore, the item was voted no action necessary.

#349-99 BELL ATLANTIC & BOSTON EDISON requesting grant of location for new pole #566/8-1 on the northerly side of ROBINHOOD STREET 85+ feet in an easterly direction from Commonwealth Avenue.

ACTION: NAN 5-0 (Gerst Not Voting)

NOTE: Boston Edison is not interested is not interest in receiving a grant of location for the pole. The item was voted no action necessary.

99-99 RCN requesting grant of location to install conduit in WELLS AVENUE beginning at Pole #1365/0 Nahanton Street, place 2-4" PVC and 2-4way teleduct conduits southeasterly 475' to new manhole #1. From manhole #1, place 2-4" and 2-4way teleduct conduits 460' to new manhole #2. From manhole #2, place 2-4" PVC conduits both northeasterly 25' (POINT B), and southwesterly 15', (POINT A) to private property lines on both sides of Wells Ave. Also from manhole #2, place 2-4" PVC and 2-4way teleduct conduits southeasterly 270' to new manhole #3. From manhole #3, place 2-4" PVC and 2-4way teleduct conduits southeasterly 275' to new manhole #4. From manhole #4, place 2-4" PVC conduits northeasterly 30', (POINT C), to private property. Also from manhole #4, place 2-4" PVC and 2-4way teleduct conduits southeasterly 100' to new manhole #5. From manhole #5, place 2-4" PVC conduits, both northeasterly 30', (POINT E), and southwesterly 15', (POINT D), to private property on both sides of Wells Avenue. Also from manhole #5, place 2-4" and 2-4 way teleduct conduits southeasterly 490' to new manhole #6 From manhole #6, place 2-4" PVC conduits southeasterly 15', (POINT F), to private property. Also from manhole #6, place 2-4" PVC and 2-4way teleduct conduits southeasterly 100' to new manhole #7. From manhole #7, place 2-4" PVC conduits, both northeasterly 20', (POINT H), and southwesterly 15', (POINT G), to private property lines on both sides of Wells Avenue. Also from manhole #7, place 2-4" PVC and 2-4way teleducts southeasterly 250' to new manhole #8. From manhole #8, place 2-4" PVC conduits southwesterly 15', (POINT I), to private property. Also from manhole #8, place 2-4" and 2-4way teleduct conduits southeasterly 260' to new manhole #9. From manhole #9, place 2-4" PVC conduits northeasterly 25', (POINT J), to private property. Also from manhole #9, place 2-4" PVC and 2-4way teleduct conduits southeasterly 260' to new manhole #10. From manhole #10, place 2-4" PVC easterly 15', (POINT K), to private property. Also from manhole #10, place 2-4" PVC and 2-4way teleduct conduits northerly 220' to new manhole #11. From manhole #11, place 2-4" PVC conduits both easterly 15' (POINT 'L'), and westerly 40', (POINT 'M'), to private property. Also from manhole #11, place 2-4" PVC and 2-4way teleduct conduits northwesterly 270' to new manhole #12. From manhole #12, place 2-4" PVC conduits both easterly 17', (POINT 'U'), and westerly 30', (POINT 'V'), to private property. Also from manhole #12, place 2-4" PVC and 2-4way teleduct conduits northerly 410' to new manhole #13. From manhole #13, place 2-4" PVC conduits, both easterly 17', (POINT Q), and westerly 30', (POINT R), to private property. Also from manhole #14, place 2-4" PVC conduits northerly 268' to new manhole #15. From new manhole #15, place 2-4" PVC conduits easterly, (POINT 'P'), to private property. Also from manhole #15, place 2-4" PVC and 2-4way teleduct conduits 265' northerly to new manhole

#16. From manhole #16, place 2-4" PVC conduits both easterly 15', (POINT 'N'), and westerly 30' +/-, (POINT 'O'), to private property. Also from manhole #16, place 2-4" PVC and 2-4way teleduct conduits 375' northwesterly than westerly to new manhole #17. From manhole #17, place 2-4" PVC and 2-4way teleduct conduits westerly 420' to manhole #3 Wells Avenue.

Total Conduit Distance =5,764'

ACTION: NAN 5-0 (Gerst Not Voting)

NOTE: RCN has showed no interest in pursuing this project, therefore the item was voted no action necessary.

#390-98 BOSTON EDISON requesting grant of location to install two (2) hip guys and anchors, one on pole 312/14 (NONANTUM STREET) and one on pole 9/22 (Waverley Ave.@ Nonantum Street.)

ACTION: NAN 5-0 (Gerst Not Voting)

NOTE: Boston Edison is not interested is not interest in receiving a grant of location for the hip guys and anchors. The item was voted no action necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Sydra Schnipper, Chair