



## Public Safety & Transportation Committee Report

### City of Newton In City Council

**Wednesday, September 21, 2016**

Present: Councilors Ciccone (Chair), Blazar, Fuller, Yates, Lipof and Cote

Absent: Councilors Harney and Norton

Also Present: Councilors Crossley (Chair), Lennon, Danberg, Lappin, Laredo, Albright, Gentile and Brousal-Glaser

Also Present: Councilors Baker, Leary, Auchincloss and Sangiolo

City Staff: James McGonagle, Commissioner of Public Works; James Freas, Associate Director Planning & Development; Rachel Blatt, Urban Designer; Barney Heath, Director of Planning & Development; Nicole Freedman, Director of Transportation and Lou Taverna, City Engineer

Others Present: Jason Schrieber, Nelson Nygaard

**Chair's Note:** Presentations and commentary on the Planning Department's Transportation Strategy Newton in Motion Presentation and the Department of Public Works Draft Roadways Rehabilitation Plan based in part on the Street Scan Data.

**NOTE:** The Public Safety & Transportation Committee discussed this item jointly with the Public Facilities Committee. Please refer to the Public Facilities report for a detailed account of this discussion including the PowerPoint presented.

#### **Referred to Public Safety, Public Facilities and Finance Committees**

**#324-16**      **Request for \$75,000 for design services for two intersection improvement projects**  
**HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting authorization to appropriate seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) from Free Cash for the purpose of funding design engineering services for the Dedham at Nahanton and Dedham at Brookline Streets Intersection Improvement Project. [09/12/16 @ 3:48 PM]

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 6-0**

**NOTE:** The Public Safety & Transportation Committee discussed this item jointly with the Public Facilities Committee. Please refer to the Public Facilities report for a detailed account of this discussion.

Councilor Lipof made the motion to approve this appropriation. Committee members agreed 6-0.

**Referred to Public Safety, Public Facilities and Finance Committees**

**#325-16**      **Request for \$250,000 for design services for the West Newton Square rehab project**  
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) from Free Cash for the purpose of funding design engineering services for the West Newton Square Rehabilitation Project. [09/12/16 @ 3:48 PM]

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 4-0-1, Councilors Ciccone abstaining, Lipof not voting**

**NOTE:**      The Public Safety & Transportation Committee discussed this item jointly with the Public Facilities Committee. Please refer to the Public Facilities report for a detailed account of this discussion.

Councilor Cote made the motion to approve this appropriation. Committee members agreed 4-0, Councilor Ciccone abstaining and Councilor Lipof not voting.

**Referred to Public Safety & Transportation and Public Facilities Committees**

**#208-16**      **Update on fire prevention at the compost operation at Rumford Avenue Landfill**  
COUNCILOR LEARY, requesting the Executive Office, the Fire Department, and the Department of Public Works provide an update on fire safety issues at the compost operation at the Rumford Avenue Landfill including details about who is currently managing the site for fires. [05/31/16 @ 4:52 PM]

**ACTION:**      **NO ACTION NECESSARY 5-0, Councilor Lipof not voting**

**NOTE:**      Chair Ciccone stated that Councilor Leary provided the Committee Clerk with an email supporting a vote of no action necessary because she was provided with a memo from Waneta Trabert, Recycling /Environmental Manager addressing her concerns. The memo was attached to the agenda and is attached to this report.

Without discussion, Chair Ciccone made the motion for no action necessary. Committee members agreed 5-0, Councilor Lipof not voting.

At approximately 9:10p.m., Councilor Yates made a motion to adjourn. Committee members agreed 5-0, Councilor Lipof not voting.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chair**

City of Newton

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton Centre, MA 02459-1449Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

DATE: September 2, 2016

TO: Newton City Council

FROM: Waneta Trabert, Recycling/Environmental Manager

SUBJECT: Update on the Rumford Avenue yard waste operation and solar panel installation

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The management of residential yard waste at the Newton Resource Recovery Center (located at 115 Rumford Avenue) has been in constant fluctuation in 2016 due to the operational changes dictated by the pending installation of a solar farm on the closed landfill portion of the site. The solar farm installation is expected to be completed by January 8, 2017. Site preparation by the contractor for the solar farm began on August 22, 2016.

In a July 11, 2016 site meeting between the City and Ameresco (the solar installation contractor), management of yard waste accumulated on the site prior to Spring 2016, along with other excess materials accumulated at the site (e.g., street sweepings, compost tailings), were deemed to be Ameresco's responsibility. This means that the materials will be incorporated into the site preparation or need to be hauled away and properly disposed of by Ameresco.

Yard waste that has been accumulated at the NRRC since Spring 2016, which the City is responsible for managing, has been mechanically ground and piled on a daily basis, typically into manageable windrows. The City has contracted with Hidden Acres in Medway to haul ground up yard waste to their site to be commercially composted. During a six week period from approximately June 15 to July 28, hauling of yard waste was paused in order to close the fiscal year and renew the contract with Hidden Acres. During this period, due to the limited operating area, the ground yard waste was accumulated into one large pile.

Between July 28 and August 30, there were 5,250 cubic yards of yard waste hauled to Hidden Acres. This removal of material was primarily from the large pile that had accumulated during the pause on hauling. Prior to the remainder of the large pile being separated into windrows there were two rain events that led to a high levels of bacterial degradation activity, which produced enough heat to cause combustion.

Two fires were reported in the remainder of the large yard waste pile – one occurred on August 19, the other on August 25. Since that time, the remainder of the large pile has been completely separated into windrows, allowing the material to cool. The material will be hauled out on a regular basis to prevent fires and the use of compost thermometers for temperature monitoring has been added to the management practices.

Between now and January 8, the operational area for the City's yard waste will shift. Once the new operating area is prepared by Ameresco, all new incoming material will be ground and hauled out on a regular basis. With rapid turnover of yard waste material the need to turn windrows will be reduced or eliminated. Monitoring with compost thermometers will continue at all times that there is yard waste stored on site.

Please contact Shane Mark, DPW Director of Operations, with any further questions or concerns.