



Public Facilities Committee Report

City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Present: Councilors Lear (Chair), Kalis, Laredo, Danberg, Crossley, Gentile, and Kelley

Absent: Councilor Norton

City Staff: Deputy Commissioner of Public Works Shawna Sullivan, Associate City Engineer John Daghlian

For more information regarding this meeting, a video recording can be found at the following link:
[Public Facilities Committee March 8, 2023 \(newtv.org\)](https://www.newtv.org/Public-Facilities-Committee-March-8-2023)

#49-23 Eversource petition for Grant of Location in Centre St

EVERSOURCE ENERGY petitioning for a grant of location to install one (1) hip guy and anchor and remove one (1) tree guy from pole 73/78 on the westerly side, at #912 Centre St. (Ward 7)

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

Note: Chair Leary introduced this item with the pretense that she would entertain a motion of no action necessary. She further explained that this petition was withdrawn by Eversource and there were no plans to move this project forward at this time.

Councilors asked the following questions:

Q: The homeowner of an abutting property to this site has called to report municipal vehicles on front of her property taking photos. Is the DPW aware of this?

A: Deputy Commissioner of Public Works Sullivan was not aware of this. She added that it could have been the Parks and Recreation Department taking photos of the existing tree guy.

Councilor Laredo motioned for a vote of no action necessary, which passed unanimously.

#78-23 Request for a grant of location in California St @ Bridge St intersection

NATIONAL GRID petition for a grant of location to relocate an existing regulator station located at the intersection of California St. and Bridge St. along with a traffic box and three vent poles. (Ward 1) as follows:

- Installation of a below grade vault within the public right of way at California St and Bridge St
- Installation of one (1) traffic box and three (3) vent poles

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

Note: National Grid Customer Service Representative Mary Mulroney presented this item. She explained that a new regulator station will improve system reliability and bring the regulator station up to current regulatory and safety standards. She noted that the traffic box will be grey in color and the vent poles will be green in color.

Councilors asked the following questions:

Q: How long will this project take and how will the anticipated disruption be mitigated?

A: Ms. Mulroney explained that while this project would take multiple weeks to complete, disruption would be kept to a minimum. She added that there will be a pre-construction meeting with the DPW, Fire, and Police Departments to create a traffic management plan. She also noted that the site would not pose a safety risk when work is completed for the day. Ms. Mulroney added that National Grid will work with the abutting business owners to ensure minimal disruption to their business.

Q: Has the Grocery Garrison, an abutting business that will likely lose parking spots while this work is ongoing, been notified of this project?

A: Committee Clerk Tom Skehill confirmed that all abutting properties had received notice.

Q: How long does this equipment typically last before it needs to be repaired or replaced?

A: Ms. Mulroney explained that this regulator station is being replaced in order to comply with new regulations. She added that National Grid expects this equipment to last many years.

Chair Leary opened the public hearing. With no questions or comments from the public, she closed the public hearing.

Councilor Crossley motioned to approve the item, which passed unanimously.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#87-23

Authorization for MWRA grant/loan program

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend three million two hundred fifty five thousand dollars (\$3,255,000) in grant funding and authorization to borrow one million eighty five thousand dollars (\$1,085,000) in an interest free loan from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Sewer Infiltration/Inflow Local Financial Assistance Program Phase 14,

25% loan/75% grant program for a total of four million three hundred and forty thousand dollars (\$4,340,000) for the design and construction of Sewer CIP Project 9.

Finance Approved 8-0

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

Note: Deputy Commissioner of Public Works Shawna Sullivan presented this item. She was pleased to inform the Committee that the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) is reinstating the 25%loan/75% Grant program, which will fund this project. She explained that this funding will be used for the Area 9, which is the Oak Hill Park, Wells Ave, and Nahanton St area. Deputy Commissioner Sullivan added that this area will require extra work because there are multiple sewer mains that need to be replaced.

Councilors asked the following questions:

Q: Could the Committee receive an update regarding the City's progress on the reduction of water intrusion and where current Sewer CIP projects stand?

A: Deputy Commissioner Sullivan stated that the project for Area 7 is under construction right now. She added that the City has finished one portion of the design for Area 9 and in the process of finishing the second phase of the project.

Q: Can we expect that by the end of this project in 2025 there will be a tangible improvement in the water quality in this area?

A: Deputy Commissioner Sullivan confirmed that improved water quality is a major goal in this project.

Councilors made the following comments:

It was widely agreed that this project was overdue and very welcomed.

It was noted that a working group meeting for the water, sewer, and stormwater projects should be scheduled and will be discussed offline.

Councilor Danberg motioned to approve the item, which passed unanimously.

#79-23 Reappointment of Meryl Kessler to the Sustainable Materials Management Commission

HER HONOR THE MAYOR reappointing Meryl Kessler, 147 Prince St, West Newton 02465 to the Sustainable Materials Management Commission for a term of office to expire March 15, 2026. (60 days: 4/30/2023)

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

Note: With no questions or concerns from the committee, Councilor Kelley motioned to approve the item which passed unanimously.

#80-23 Reappointment of Carl Valente to the Sustainable Materials Management Commission

HER HONOR THE MAYOR reappointing Carl Valente, 84 Sumner St, Newton 02459 to the Sustainable Materials Management Commission for a term of office to expire March 15, 2026. (60 days: 4/30/2023)

Action: Public Facilities Approved 7-0

Note: With no questions or concerns from the committee, Councilor Danberg motioned to approve the item which passed unanimously.

The Committee adjourned at 7:20 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Alison Leary, Chair