



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
Committee Meeting

Thursday - December 7, 2017, 6:30 PM
Committee Room – 2nd Floor – City Hall

AGENDA

(Posted online: 12/5/17 at 2:48 PM)

- 1. Approval of the October 24, 2017 Minutes**
- 2. 195521: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of SPCD (ISD) implement a plan to address trash and code violations each May and September, when student moves have the greatest impact on the City.
- 3. 195528: Discuss** (Sullivan, Bastardi, Heuston, Lafuente, White Jr., O'Keefe) – That this Board's Committee on Public Utilities and Works explore Boston's Code Ordinance CBC 9-1.3, which requires private rental units to be registered on an annual basis and inspections to be conducted for non-exempt units on a 5-year cycle.
- 4. 196186: Discuss** (Niedergang, Rossetti, Ballantyne) – That the Commissioner of Public Works report to this Board whether it is possible to have the Public Schools open when there is a declared snow emergency, and, if it is possible, to also report the plan for teacher and staff parking, since school parking lots are used then for resident parking.
- 5. 196302: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Commissioner of Public Works report to this Board on the performance of the contractor who maintains the street lights, the terms of the contract and deliverables, and the process to ensure that street lights are maintained and operable.
- 6. 196378: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – That the Director of SPCD and/or the Commissioner of Public Works notify property owners along lower Broadway of the five year moratorium on renovations to private sewer systems and encourage them to make appropriate plans.
- 7. 196983: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – That the Administration dedicate certain public buildings

for community use.

8. **197238: Discuss** (White Jr., Lafuente, Sullivan) – That the City Engineer review drainage on Shore Drive, especially with storm water runoff during heavy rains, particularly at the corner of Shore Drive and Putnam Street, as well as the impact of development at Assembly Square on the sewer outflow line.
9. **197277: Discuss** (McWatters) – That the Commissioner of Public Works notify the appropriate utility companies to remove the double pole on Cambria Street.
10. **197428: Discuss** (Connolly, Lafuente) – That the Commissioner of Public Works repair the depression in the roadway in the east bound lane on Broadway just past its intersection with School Street.
11. **197489: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works report to this Board about how utilities inform residents about work on their streets, utility poles or power lines.
12. **197625: Discuss** (White Jr.) – That NStar Electric report to this Board on its preparations to insure sufficient power for the redevelopment of Union Square.
13. **197724: Discuss** (Niedergang, Heuston, McWatters) – That the Director of SPCD and the Commissioner of Public Works report to this Board on the development, staffing and cost of a program to maintain street trees and keep tree wells clean and weed-free, and/or a program to assist and inspire residents to do so.
14. **197756: Discuss** (Gewirtz) – That the Administration report to this Board on its plan to implement the Tree Advisory Committee that is required by Ordinance 12-100, the Tree Preservation Ordinance.
15. **198088: Discuss** (Rossetti, Connolly, Sullivan, White Jr.) – That the Commissioner of Public Works investigate and report back on installing solar powered kiosks in our parks and playgrounds to communicate youth and family activities in our city.
16. **198386: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works update the Ward 5 Alderman on repairs to prevent pedestrians from tripping in the crosswalks at Linden Avenue on the south side of Summer Street, Aberdeen Road by Highland Avenue, and Hall Street by Cherry Street.
17. **198444: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Director of SPCD (ISD) report to this Board on the process for issuing citations during snowstorms to private plowing and shoveling contractors who are plowing snow into the street or onto neighbors' sidewalks.

18. **199295: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of SPCD discuss capitalizing on street repaving to bury utilities, beautify the city, and reduce the threat of power outages due to rain/snow/ice storms.
19. **199547: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of SPCD work with Eversource to remove the unsafe telephone poles secured to rotting trees on Woods Street at North Street, and on Barton Street at Broadway.
20. **199869: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Administration inform the Clark Street neighbors about the TV pipe testing which should have been performed in 2014.
21. **199955: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Director of SPCD (Transportation) consider installing a bollard at the top of the stairs at the Community Path Extension by Lowell Street, to prevent people from accidentally tumbling down the stairs.
22. **199956: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works determine if the lighting at the Community Path Extension ramp and stairs by the Lowell Street bridge is sufficient, and if not, install more.
23. **200223: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – That the Commissioner of Public Works create clearly defined lines along Walnut Street, by Pearl Street and Broadway, to eliminate two lane traffic problems.
24. **200440: Discuss** (Connolly, Sullivan, Rossetti, White Jr.) – That the Director of Constituent Services appear before this Board’s Committee on Public Utilities and Works with a written report on streetlamp repairs citywide.
25. **200637: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of SPCD provide all Ward Aldermen with the 2016 street paving plan for all Wards.
26. **200645: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works explain to this Board how to find out when a particular street is scheduled to be re-paved.
27. **200680: Discuss** (White Jr., Lafuente) – That the Commissioner of Public Works appear before the Committee on Public Utilities and Works to address the assistance the City can provide for a city tree root that is growing into the basement of the home at 25 Meacham Street.
28. **200773: Discuss** (Davis) – That the Commissioner of Public Works describe to this Board, the rationale for treating multi-unit residences the same as single family residences for purposes of volume-based escalation of water rates.

29. **200874: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of Capital Projects advise the Ward 7 Alderman of the start date and schedule for sewer/relining on Powderhouse Blvd.
30. **200882: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Supervisor of Inspectional Services report to this Board on the repair of the sidewalk that is collapsing on Vernon Street, and what precautions are being taken for public safety.
31. **201007: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of SPCD consider replacing the unused concrete bus shelter at Broadway and Cedar Street with a garden, small park or sitting area, and report back by 5/12/16.
32. **201010: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works replace the decorative lamppost that is missing from the stump at Old Magoun’s Saloon in Magoun Square. (2nd request)
33. **201012: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Director of SPCD install pigeon spikes underneath the Lowell Street bridge, above the Community Path Extension. (4th request)
34. **201144: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works repair the disintegrating sidewalk at the entrance to the parking lot on Central Street used by the Cambridge Health Alliance, or require them to fix it if it is their responsibility.
35. **201270: Discuss** (Davis) – That the Commissioner of Public Works inform this Board of the options to adjust new LED street lighting, and the process to request such adjustments.
36. **201303: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Director of Engineering and/or the Supervisor of Inspectional Services provide address numbers to the properties on Chestnut Street and notify the property owners to display them on their buildings to facilitate identifying them.
37. **201319: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works remove trash from the north side of the Cambridge Health Alliance parking lot off Central Street and behind Junction Park, and post NO DUMPING signs there.
38. **201423: Discuss** (Sullivan, McLaughlin, White Jr., Connolly, Rossetti) – That the Commissioner of Public Works address the leaning utility pole at the East Somerville Community School on Glen Street.
39. **201473: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works and/or the City Solicitor report to this Board on efforts to make the Albion Street sidewalk contractor repair the sidewalks or refund the City, and that the Commissioner of Public Works have the sidewalks repaired and report to this Board on when that will happen.

40. **201499: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works clean the Community Path between Cedar and Lowell Streets, and consider erecting a barrier to prevent erosion from the hill alongside the path.
41. **201504: Discuss** (Connolly, Davis) – That the Commissioner of Public Works consider installing an additional street lamp near 27, 31 and 33 Winslow Avenue.
42. **201586: Discuss** (White Jr., Lafuente, Sullivan) – That the Director of SPCD and the Commissioner of Public Works consider creating shade at Grimmons Park and designing future parks with appropriate shade as well.
43. **201618: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Director of Engineering explain to this Board how to find out when a particular street is scheduled to be re-paved, or provide the city’s street paving list. (3rd request)
44. **201712: Discuss** (Connolly, Davis) – That the Commissioner of Public Works repair the brick walkway between Holland Street and College Avenue in Davis Square Plaza.
45. **201713: Discuss** (Connolly, Davis) – That the Commissioner of Public Works inspect the damaged wall at 93 Pearson Road and take action to remedy the situation.
46. **201701: Discuss** (Sullivan, Lafuente, White Jr.) – That the Commissioner of Public Works replace the 3 raised sidewalk panels at 61 Dartmouth Street. (2nd request)
47. **201767: Discuss** (Lafuente, White Jr., Sullivan) – That the Superintendent of Inspectional Services direct Healey School staff to keep the grounds clean and properly dispose of trash, due to increased rodent activity around the school.
48. **201771: Discuss** (Lafuente, White Jr., Sullivan, Rossetti) – That the Commissioner of Public Works remove all brush from the Mystic River along Shore Drive.
49. **201778: Discuss** (Connolly, Sullivan, Rossetti, White Jr., Davis) – That the Commissioner of Public Works direct Eversource to immediately remove the heavy plant overgrowth at the transfer station at Willow Avenue and Whipple Street.
50. **201795: Discuss** (Niedergang, Heuston) – That the Commissioner of Public Works clean the Sacramento Street ramp that runs beneath the railroad tracks and confirm the regular maintenance schedule previously agreed to.
51. **201797: Discuss** (Niedergang, McWatters) – That the Director of Engineering add Porter Street, between Summer and Elm Streets, to the 5-year paving plan, and include the streets

off the west side of Porter Street, especially Carver Street.

52. **201826: Discuss** (Rossetti, Ballantyne, White Jr., Sullivan, Connolly) – That the Commissioner of Public Works replace the black hot topped sidewalk at 985-987 Broadway with concrete and explain why Eversource claims they are not allowed to use concrete when replacing an opened sidewalk.
53. **201906: Discuss** (McWatters, Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works direct the contractor who recently did work on Porter Street to repair and resurface the sink hole that is beginning to develop on Summer and Porter Streets.
54. **202029: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Director of SPCD, the Director of Capital Planning, and the City Engineer create a timeline from September 2016 to September 2019 for streetscape reconstruction projects in Ward 2 and post the timeline on the city’s website with continual updates as changes occur.
55. **202032: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the City Engineer and the Director of SPCD report back to the Ward 2 Alderman on repairing the sidewalk on the Dane Street bridge and the wooden slats on the Webster Avenue/Newton Street Bridge, and on communications with the responsible State agencies.
56. **202034: Discuss** (McWatters) – That the Director of SPCD add Avon Street to the paving list.
57. **202082: Discuss** (Heuston, Ballantyne, Rossetti) – That the Commissioner of Public Works, the Superintendent of Inspectional Services and the City Engineer report to this Board, the process for obtaining permission for a curb cut, including provisions made to ensure that the city’s ordinances are followed.
58. **202254: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Commissioner of Public Works provide a disposition for the replacement of a tree that was removed at 27 Dane Avenue, and explain why repeated requests for tree replacements through 311 have not been answered.
59. **202266: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – That the Commissioner of Public Works provide an explanation for recycled trash being collected by non-recycling trash companies.
60. **202305: Discuss** (Sullivan, McLaughlin) – That the Commissioner of Public Works remove the tree at 151 Pearl Street.
61. **202307: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Davis) – That the Commissioner of Public Works take the actions described within regarding the West Somerville Neighborhood School playground.

62. **202330: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the City Engineer install the curb cut at the Warwick Street elbow, by the Community Path Extension ramp, that was promised many years ago as part of the Maxwell’s Green development.
63. **202331: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the City Engineer install curb cuts and sidewalk ramps at the two curbs by Maxwell’s Green at the intersection of Clyde and Warwick Streets.
64. **202332: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the City Engineer repair the curb cut and sidewalk ramp at the intersection of Murdock and Clyde Streets.
65. **202333: Discuss** (Niedergang, Heuston) – That the City Engineer repair the concrete on the pedestrian and bicycle ramp under the railroad bridge on Sacramento Street between Somerville Avenue and Miller Street. (3rd request)
66. **202334: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Commissioner of Public Works address the ongoing graffiti on the Sacramento Street underpass and use a product to cover graffiti more permanently, and improve the lighting there as well.
67. **202724: Discuss** (Lafuente, White Jr., Sullivan) – That the Superintendent of Schools look into how trash is kept at the Healy School, to prevent rodent activity.
68. **202727: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works work with the Mayor, Representative Provost and Senator Jehlen to get the appropriate state agency to clean state-owned trash-filled land on the east and west sides of the Central Street Bridge.
69. **202731: Discuss** (McWatters) – That the Administration consider providing a sprinkler and irrigation system for Prospect Hill Park.
70. **202765: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the City Engineer and the Commissioner of Public Works implement an accessible pedestrian walkway on Poplar Street, surrounding ARTFARM, in anticipation of its future development.
71. **202773: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Director of SPCD update this Board on the Beacon Street reconstruction project with a timeline and significant design changes.
72. **202774: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Director of SPCD request information from MA DOT about the jersey barriers and asphalt triangle at McGrath Highway, approaching the overpass, and request that the space be converted to permeable green space if there are no further changes planned for the intersection.
73. **202784: Discuss** (Niedergang, Davis) – That the Administration develop a policy for

temporary crosswalk painting or other measures to protect pedestrians when road work or other conditions prevent the immediate re-striping of road markings.

74. **202873: Discuss** (McWatters) – That the Commissioner of Public Works replace the sidewalk panels on Highland Avenue, from the Veteran's Honor Roll to Putnam Avenue.
75. **202934: Discuss** (McWatters) – That the Director of SPCD consider placing Pitman Street on the 2017 street resurfacing list.
76. **203270: Discuss** (McWatters, Rossetti, Connolly, Sullivan, White Jr.) – That the Administration inform this Board of an action plan for the parking lot at the Cummings School, as parked vehicles obstruct the basketball court.
77. **203282: Discuss** (Heuston, McWatters) – That the Commissioner of Public Works repair the Union Square businesses sign behind the SCAT building and install a "Welcome to Union Square" sign there as well.
78. **203361: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Administration, the City Solicitor and the Superintendent of Water and Sewer respond to a letter dated November 16, 2016 disputing St. James's Episcopal Church's water and sewer bills.
79. **203370: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Commissioner of Public Works replace the burnt out light bulbs in the decorative street lights in Teele Square.
80. **203450: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the City Engineer inspect the intersection of Ware Street and Russell Road, and Russell Road from #s 7 to 35, for the potential of more sink holes.
81. **203496: Discuss** (McWatters, Rossetti, Connolly, Sullivan, White Jr.) – That the Director of Engineering determine why the repaving job on Pitman Street between Belmont and Spring Streets is in its present condition, and why sink holes are now causing issues on the street.
82. **203507: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Ballantyne) – That the Commissioner of Public Works provide shaded areas for public pools including Foss Park and Dilboy.
83. **203491: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Administration facilitate the replacement of the wooden slats that provide the pedestrian foundation on the Webster Avenue Bridge.
84. **203510: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Director of Engineering install the four curb cuts near Maxwell's Green that the city has committed to installing, and notify the Ward 5 Alderman of the timeline for their installation.

85. **203514: Discuss** (Connolly, Sullivan, Rossetti, White Jr., Davis) – That the Commissioner of Public Works remove the overgrowth from the rock outcrop behind the field house at Powderhouse Park, extending to the pedestrian walkway.
86. **203724: Discuss** (McWatters, Rossetti, White Jr., Connolly, Sullivan) – That the Director of SPCD consider placing a bump-out at the corner of Lowell and Summer Streets.
87. **203803: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Director of SPCD coordinate with the Director of Traffic and Parking on all parking restrictions related to park and other construction projects, to ensure ample notice of parking restrictions to neighbors.
88. **203797: Discuss** (Niedergang, Davis) – That the Director of Water and Sewers repair the storm drain/catch basin that is sinking below the street surface on the south side of Kidder Avenue, by the Brown School near Willow Avenue.
89. **203794: Discuss** (McWatters) – That the Director of Water and Sewers repair the depression around the sewer at the corner of Porter and Summer Streets.
90. **203862: Discuss** (Connolly, Rossetti, Sullivan, White Jr., Niedergang, Davis) – That the Commissioner of Public Works and Arborist implement an inspection and maintenance schedule to prevent the accumulation of trash, invasive plants, trees and weeds along the entire Community Path.
91. **203833: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Commissioner of Public Works direct the appropriate utility to remove the suspended double pole at 4 Howard Street.
92. **203835: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of SPCD prioritize Cameron Avenue for repaving.
93. **203867: Discuss** (Niedergang, Ballantyne) – That the Mayor’s Office, working with the Director of Engineering, report to this Board on improving Eversource's communications with, and responsiveness to, this city's residents, concerning gas meter replacement, street construction and utility work.
94. **203872: Discuss** (Sullivan, Connolly, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin) – That the Building Department not issue any demolition permits until a rodent elimination program has been completed by the applicant, and provide an explanation to this Board whenever a permit is issued without a completed program.
95. **203873: Discuss** (Sullivan, Connolly, Rossetti, White Jr., McLaughlin) – That the Director of SPCD repave Otis Street.

- 96. 203947: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of Engineering inspect the 41 Elmwood Street area for continual water and sewage flooding when severe rain storms occur.
- 97. 203964: Recommend** (Rossetti, McWatters, Niedergang, Ballantyne) – That all future Eversource requests be tabled by this Board until a signed commitment for better communication by Eversource is enacted.
- 98. 203970: Discuss** (McWatters) – That the Commissioner of Public Works inform this Board of the city's new policies for utility companies to remove double poles and address low hanging wires.
- 99. 203983: Discuss** (Niedergang, Rossetti) – That the Mayor report to this Board by August 31, 2017 on ways to improve the poor communications from Eversource to residents around gas meter replacement, street construction, and other utility work. (2nd request)
- 100.204219: Discuss** (Heuston, Rossetti, McWatters) – That the Administration submit a funding proposal for a Priority Streets contract to address sidewalk panels that need replacement.
- 101.204220: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Water Director clean all of the catch basins on Somerville Avenue.
- 102.204240: Discuss** (Davis, Niedergang) – That the Administration update this Board on a process to notify utilities in advance when streets will be opened, so gas leaks can be addressed, including the date and location of notifications that have been provided in the past year.
- 103.204263: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – That the Commissioner of Public Works request that the appropriate utility company address the low hanging wires on Mt. Vernon and Washington Streets.
- 104.204354: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Commissioner of Public Works replace the removed tree stump at 6 Barton Street with a tree.
- 105.204361: Discuss** (Heuston, Connolly, and the Entire Board) – That MA DOT, Newport Construction and all other parties with knowledge of the cutting down of trees on Beacon Street on October 6, without any public notice, appear before this Board at its next regular meeting to respond to concerns about the surprise tree removal.
- 106.204363: Discuss** (Heuston, and the Entire Board) – The Administration assign or hire city staff to oversee the daily operations of contractor and utility company activity for the

Beacon Street reconstruction project, and adopt a policy of such oversight for every state funded street reconstruction project going forward.

107.204365: Discuss (Heuston) – That the Director of SPCD estimate for this Board the cost to move overhead wires underground on Beacon Street from Washington to Hampshire Streets, identify potential funding sources, and discuss the feasibility and impact of such an endeavor on the current Beacon Street project.

108.204362: Discuss (Heuston, Sullivan) – That the Director of SPCD work with Mass DOT to cease all work on the Beacon Street reconstruction project until a full report on the removal of trees from the street is received and presented to this Board and until city staff is assigned day to day responsibility for oversight.

109.204366: Discuss (Heuston) – That the Director of Parks and Recreation instruct the contractor for the Lincoln Park reconstruction to put up tarps or mesh shields to protect residents of Fremont and Parker Streets from dirt blowing into their houses during construction.

110.204367: Discuss (Heuston) – That the Director of Parks and Recreation report back to this Board whether chain link fencing was represented in the original plans for Lincoln Park.

111.204368: Discuss (Heuston) – That the Director of Parks and Recreation report back to this Board on whether the intensity of the excavation at Lincoln Park was factored into construction plans, and what steps will be taken to evaluate its impact on properties abutting the park.

112.204370: Discuss (Heuston) – That the Director of Water and Sewer inform this Board whether it is protocol to notify residents of excessive water usage on their property, the means by which that is done, and the recourse residents have if they were not notified.

113.204371: Discuss (Heuston) – That the Director of Water and Sewer explain to this Board any customer service offered to residents who question their water bills.

114.204528: Discuss (Davis) – Requesting the Administration to compile contact information for all utilities, for reporting such issues as low hanging wires and gas leaks, and make it easily accessible on the city's website.

115.204546: Discuss (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works post “NO DUMPING” signs, with the amount of the fine, on the north edge of the Cambridge Health Alliance parking lot on Central Street. (2nd request)

116.204549: Discuss (Niedergang) – That the City Engineer, the Commissioner of Public

Works, and the Water Director repair the pavement on Carver Street.

117.204551: Discuss (Niedergang, Ballantyne) – That the Director of Capital Projects or the Director of Communications share with this Board the plan for keeping community members informed on a regular basis about the High School building project.

118.204552: Discuss (Niedergang) – That the Director of Capital Projects or the Director of SPCD update this Board about the transportation management and parking plans for both the construction and the post-construction phases of the new High School.

119.204446: Discuss City Engineer responding to #203947 re: recurring flooding on Elmwood Street.

120.204506: Discuss DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted 10/12/17.

121.204583: Discuss Director of Water and Sewer responding to #204370 re: residential notifications for excessive water use.

122.204584: Discuss Director of Water and Sewer responding to #204371 re: customer service for questioned water bills.

123.204665: Discuss DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted 11/9/17.