



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

CLERK OF COMMITTEES

March 23, 2011

REPORT OF THE LAND USE COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
William A. White Jr.	Chair	Present	
Thomas F. Taylor	Vice Chair	Present	
Sean T. O'Donovan	Ward Five Alderman	Present	
Bruce M. Desmond	Alderman At Large	Present	
Omar Boukili	Administrative Assistant	Present	
Elizabeth Maroney	Planning Board	Present	
Michael Capuano	Planning Board	Present	
Dana LeWinter	Planning Board	Present	
Joe Favaloro	Planning Board	Present	
George Proakis	OSPCD	Present	
Mark Neidergang	School Committee	Present	

190780 - Requesting an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to establish minimum pervious area requirements on lots in certain zoning districts.:

Mr. Proakis discussed the purpose of this proposal noting that excess runoff of water overburdens the sewer systems, causes water to enter basements, creates heat islands and is aesthetically unappealing. Different types of pervious materials were discussed for use in driveways and Mr. Proakis believes that there should be more discussion about regulating the paving of driveways. OSPCD has developed a comprehensive ordinance to address the areas of permitting, registration, limiting run off and curb cuts. As proposed, the City Engineer will establish regulations and the Inspectional Services Department will issue permits. A registration system would be established and contractors would be required to post bonds to perform work. No impervious area may be constructed if it would increase the amount of stormwater runoff. Mr. Favaloro stated that this proposal is creating an unnecessary bureaucracy that may overburden the city's inspectors and engineer. Mr. Capuano inquired why commercial properties were not included in the proposal.

The Public Hearing was opened and residents expressed the following:

- Concerns about global warming,
- Instituting a curb cut moratorium,
- Controlling what individuals do to their own property,

- Discontinuing the use of asphalt in the city and offering a financial incentive to those who use materials other than asphalt,
- a suggestion that the city dig up its school yards, as was done in Los Angeles.

The Public Hearing was closed and Chairman White left the record open until the close of business on April 1, 2011 to receive written comments.

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE
