



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

April 4, 2012

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Sean T. O'Donovan	Chair	Present	
Robert C. Trane	Vice Chair	Absent	
John M Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
Omar Boukili	Administrative Assistant	Present	
Stan Koty	DPW Commissioner	Present	
Bill Zamparelli	NSTAR	Present	
Stan Usovicz	Verizon	Present	

**189988 - That the Commissioner of Public Works Appear Before the Subcommittee on Public Utilities and Public Works to Report on the Progress of the Magoun Sqaure Reconstruction Project and to Discuss Its Completion.:**

Mr. Koty reported that the he spoke to state officials about this project and that it would be completed in the early spring.

**RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**190133 - That the Public Utilities and Public Works Committee discuss the damage done to the roof of 140 Willow Avenue by the utility companies working there.:**

**RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**190372 - That the Commissioner of Public Works appear before this Board's Committee on Public Utilities and Public Works regarding the lack of handicap ramps at the intersection of Highland Road and Kidder Avenue.:**

Mr. Koty stated that ADA ramps are normally funded through OSPCD, however, due to a lack of funds in that department, the DPW will allocate funds to accomplish the task. The committee will be apprised of when the work can be performed.

**RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**191056 - That the Commissioner of Public Works contact the appropriate utilities to address the overloaded and low hanging wires at Somerville Avenue at Kent Street, Somerville Avenue at Linden Street, and along Tyler Street.:**

Mr. Usovicz will investigate this situation and report to the committee.

**RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**191365 - That the ADA Compliance Officer conduct an assessment of ADA accessibility at the corner of Somerville Avenue and Kent Street and provide the findings to the Ward 2 Alderman.:**

Mr. Koty stated that NSTAR is non-compliant in this matter. Mr. Zamparelli informed the members that NSTAR's ADA coordinators have inspected the site and determined that it would be too expensive to relocate the utility pole, however, Mr. Zamparelli will confer with Mr. Masci (of NSTAR) about the possibility of straightening the pole. Additionally, NSTAR will ask the owner to move the mailbox in an effort to resolve this matter.

**RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**191815 - That the Director of SPCD place several additional seating options at Albion Park, especially near the water source, as the present seating is insufficient.:**

Chairman O'Donovan reported that OSPCD informed him that the DPW could install additional benches if they have them available. Mr. Koty said that the DPW would install 2 additional benches when the department receives them.

**RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**192242 - That this Board requests that the Administration coordinate efforts with NStar to inventory the non-operating lights in West Somerville and make them operational as quickly as possible.:**

Mr. Koty provided the committee with a list of inoperable lamps throughout the city and said that the city is negotiating to purchase the lights from NSTAR, adding that a purchase would not be made until all repairs have been completed. Mr. Zamparelli informed the members that some of the outages are long-standing due to underground wiring issues.

**RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**192279 - That this Board requests that NStar and National Grid create a policy to notify the Mayor's Office, Communications Dept., Constituent Services Dept. and all affected Aldermen of scheduled outages, ensuring that a repeat of the November 16 incident, where only residents were notified, is not repeated.:**

Mr. Zamparelli told the members that the notification system is automated out of Boston and that he has no control of it at the present time. Chairman O'Donovan requested that Mr. Zamparelli confer with Mark Reed (from NSTAR) and with NSTAR's IT Department for additional information and a solution to the problem.

**RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**192487 - That the Commissioner of Public Works advise the appropriate utility company to repair/replace the streetlamps at the locations listed within.:**

**RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**

**192593 - That this Board's Committee on Public Utilities and Works investigate the repeated power outages around 470 Medford Street and take the necessary steps to ensure that NStar resolves this problem.:**

Mr. Zamparelli reported that two transformers failed due to a fire.

**RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**

**192597 - That the Commissioner of Public Works update the Public Works and Utilities Committee with the status of double poles and street lamps not working.:**

Mr. Zamparelli reported that 13 of the 41 remaining double poles would be removed by April 13th. Alderman Connolly recommended that the committee monitor the actions of utility companies with regard to double poles in the city.

Alderman Connolly's motion *that the Commissioner of Public Works provide, at each meeting of the Committee on Public Utilities and Public Works, an update of the number of double poles in the city and their status,* was approved.

Alderman Connolly's motion *that the Director of Communications appear at the next scheduled meeting of the Committee on Public Utilities and Public Works,* was approved.

**RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**192598 - That the Director of Communications appear at the next meeting of the Public Works and Utilities Committee with an update and cost of the cable, internet and telephone providers in Somerville.:**

**RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**192641 - That this Board requests that the Administration provide a timeline for repairs to the West Branch Library and that the Commissioner of Public Works provide an update on repairs to interior walls that are peeling.:**

Mr. Koty reported that the sheriff's office would provide manpower to paint and make some improvements at the library and that the city is awaiting a bid for the roof repairs. Alderman Connolly requested that the Board of Aldermen be apprised of the plans for the East and West branch libraries during the FY-13 budget process.

**RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**192642 - That this Board requests that the Administration analyze improvements needed at the East Branch Library and provide this Board with a schedule for completion.:**

**RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**192644 - That the Commissioner of Public Works and the City Engineer inspect catch basins and roadway depressions on Adrian Street and take action to restore structural integrity and address problems of overflow.:**

**RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**192645 - That the Commissioner of Public Works repave Adrian Street as part of the Spring 2012 paving program, and provide the Committee on Public Utilities and Works with the streets to be repaved in 2012.:**

Mr. Koty reported that the city is conducting a street pavement management study.

**RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**

**192768 - NStar Electric updating this Board on providing the DPW access to NStar's double pole tracking system.:**

**RESULT:      WORK COMPLETED**