



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS CLERK OF COMMITTEES

March 19, 2015

REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Mary Jo Rossetti	Chair	Present	
Mark Niedergang	Vice Chair	Present	
Katjana Ballantyne	Ward Seven Alderman	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One Alderman	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Alderman At Large	Present	
Maryann M. Heuston	Ward Two Alderman	Present	
Robert J. McWatters	Ward Three Alderman	Absent	
Tony Lafuente	Ward Four Alderman	Present	
Rebekah L. Gewirtz	Ward Six Alderman	Absent	
John M. Connolly	Alderman At Large	Absent	
Dennis M. Sullivan	Alderman At Large	Present	

Others present: David Shapiro - Law, Matt Buckley - Law, Nicholas Salerno - Elections, Maria Perrotti - Elections, Oliver Sellers-Garcia - Sustainability & Environment, Omar Boukili - Mayor's Office, Clint Richman - Sierra Club

1. Approval of the February 19, 2015 Minutes

RESULT:	ACCEPTED
----------------	-----------------

2. Approval of the February 25, 2015 Minutes

RESULT:	ACCEPTED
----------------	-----------------

198634: Requesting approval of the attached 2015 local election calendar.

Alderman White's motion to not hold the preliminary election on September 22, 2015, was approved.

Mr. Salerno spoke about the election calendar, suggesting alternative dates, explaining why some dates would not be advisable due to timing and cost. One option is to hold the preliminary election on Thursday, September 17th, however, this would require that a Home Rule Petition be

passed by the legislature. There were discussions of how dates might be affected by the school calendar and Labor Day. Alderman Niedergang stated that September 1st is Yom Kippur and that an election should not be held on that day.

Members also discussed when nomination papers should be made available. Alderman White requested that a copy of the state law mandates be provided and that the committee send a communication to the School Committee regarding the proposed dates.

Chairman Rossetti will schedule another committee meeting for September 26th and would like to hear about the discussions with the State House leadership on this matter.

RESULT:	KEPT IN COMMITTEE
----------------	--------------------------

198251: Assistant City Solicitor submitting a proposed Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance.

Members discussed the proposed ordinance and heard from Mr. Richman, who spoke about Brookline's ordinances, bag thickness and a loophole regarding bag thickness. The Sierra Club prefers thicker bags (more than 2.5 mm) but pointed out that although thinner bags pose an immediate danger, the thicker bags are more dangerous in the long run. Alderman Niedergang expressed his desire for a more stringent ordinance and does not want to exclude compostable and marine degradable bags. Aldermen Ballantyne and Lafuente favor a total plastic ban and Alderman Heuston suggested banning plastic bags at small establishments, also. Alderman White suggested that a public hearing be held on the item.

Chairman Rossetti's motion that a communication be sent to the Somerville Chamber of Commerce, Union Square Main Streets and East Somerville Main Streets to make them aware of this proposed ordinance, was approved.

RESULT:	KEPT IN COMMITTEE
----------------	--------------------------

198630: Clint Richmond submitting comments re: the plastic bag ban.

RESULT:	KEPT IN COMMITTEE
----------------	--------------------------

198318: That this Board discuss an amendment to the Snow Ordinance as it relates to the time frame for clearing sidewalks following a storm.

Mr. Shapiro discussed changes to the ordinance, the fine structure for certain property types and defining certain terms in the ordinance. Members discussed the importance of clearing snow from large vs. small commercial properties. Chairman Rossetti would like to know how many of the fines issued after the last storm were to absentee landlords and Alderman White requested that the Law Department research the ability of the city to fine absentee landlords differently.

Chairman Rossetti's motion *that the six hour timeline be changed to twenty four hours* was defeated on a Roll Call vote of 1 in favor, 7 against and 3 absent.

RESULT:	KEPT IN COMMITTEE
----------------	--------------------------

198462: Linda Siraco submitting comments re: the snow removal ordinance.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
----------------	-----------------------

198463: Kate Wheeler and David Guss submitting comments re: the snow removal ordinance.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
----------------	-----------------------

198464: Rob Cheyne submitting comments re: the snow removal ordinance.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
----------------	-----------------------

198465: Karen Molloy submitting comments re: the snow removal ordinance.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
----------------	-----------------------

198466: Jennifer Grande submitting comments re: the snow removal ordinance.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
----------------	-----------------------

198467: Mark Gallagher submitting comments re: the snow removal ordinance.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
----------------	-----------------------

198468: MaJa Kietzke submitting comments re: the snow removal ordinance.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
----------------	-----------------------

198535: Kirsten Wesselhoeft submitting comments re: the snow removal ordinance.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
----------------	-----------------------

198536: Erica Voolich submitting comments re: the snow removal ordinance.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
----------------	-----------------------

198537: Kevin Oliver submitting comments re: the snow removal ordinance.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
----------------	-----------------------

198538: Fred Berman and Lori Segall submitting comments re: the snow removal ordinance.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
----------------	-----------------------

198539: John Bunzick submitting comments re: the snow removal ordinance.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
----------------	-----------------------

198540: Rob Cheyne submitting comments re: the snow removal ordinance.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
----------------	-----------------------

198555: Joe Lynch submitting comments re: the snow removal ordinance.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
----------------	-----------------------

198556: Elizabeth Levy submitting comments re: the snow removal ordinance.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
----------------	-----------------------

198557: Allison Stieber submitting comments re: the snow removal ordinance.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
----------------	-----------------------

198612: Mary Mangan submitting comments re: the snow removal ordinance.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
----------------	-----------------------

198613: Brendan Kearney submitting comments re: the snow removal ordinance.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
----------------	-----------------------

198614: Leonard Tower submitting comments re: the snow removal ordinance.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
----------------	-----------------------

197785: Proposing an Anti-Nepotism Ordinance.

Members discussed this item and offered their opinions regarding:

- the co-habitation language,

- children of city officials not being able to participate in some city programs,
- exempting youth workers,
- age and salary exemptions,
- monetary limits,
- excluding individuals due to relationships,
- preventing children of elected officials from being employed by the city,
- including in-laws and first cousins in the proposal and
- impact on Civil Service exam employees.

Alderman McLaughlin stated that the existence of the Confirmation of Appointments Committee negates the need for this proposed ordinance. It was pointed out that not all city positions require approval by the Confirmation of Appointments Committee.

RESULT:	KEPT IN COMMITTEE
----------------	--------------------------