



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS CLERK OF COMMITTEES

October 27, 2020

REPORT OF THE RODENT ISSUES SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Ben Ewen-Campen	Chair	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Vice Chair	Present	
Mary Jo Rossetti	City Councilor at Large	Present	

The meeting was held via GoToWebinar and was called to order by Chair Ewen-Campen at 5:31pm and adjourned at 5:52pm.

Others present: Nick Antanavica - ISD; Doug Kress - HHS; Georgianna Silveira - HHS

APPROVAL of the Minutes of September 23, 2020

RESULT:

ACCEPTED

209802 - That the Director of Inspectional Services and the Director of Health and Human Services report on progress regarding planned internal rodent control meetings and regular joint departmental meetings.:

The Chair noted that in the previous meeting, there was an introduction to the City's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system, a component of which is a regular departmental meeting. Ms. Silveria provided an update from that meeting which took place on October 22. The City is looking to expand its rat ice policy (dry ice that can be placed inside rodent boroughs as a means of lethal pest control). There was also discussion of flow patterns to clarify the data pipeline between the pest control company and the City. Further, messaging to residents to advertise rodent prevention was reviewed. The expansion of the residential baiting program to non-owner occupied properties is under review by the Law Department.

Councilor Rossetti asked about the new pest control contract awarded, and the company is called B&B Pest Control, who just began last Thursday. Ms. Silveira clarified that the program will continue at one time per week. There is a backlog of requests, so they will be working twice per week at the outset (Tuesdays and Thursdays), in conjunction with the Inspectional Services Department. The Health Inspector will be responsible for any direct communication with residents, creating the schedules, following up etc. Mr. Antanavica confirmed that the inspectors will continue to be in touch with residents, based on the contractor's assessment and information.

Councilor Rossetti also verified that the additional day of work is not at an additional cost, it was included in the contract, and will be continued through the life of the contract.

Chair Ewen-Campen asked for more information about the follow-up and Mr. Antanavica shared that the process is still being developed in conjunction with the vendor, but will include a paper report that the inspectors can use to provide guidance to the homeowners. The Chair also asked about trash and recycling bin repairs and the status of the requests for new bins. Ms. Silveira was not certain but will research the data and share a report with the Committee. Chair Ewen-Campen also asked about the status of sharing geographic information and Ms. Silveira will be meeting with the inspector tomorrow to review clusters and areas of concern, and develop strategies to address targeted issues.

RESULT:**KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

209803 - That the Director of Inspectional Services and the Director of Health and Human Services report on how the new sign-off administrative procedure for demolitions is progressing.:

Mr. Kress reminded that this stemmed from complaints of rodent activity in and around construction projects, and the need for a review of pest management plans to hold these projects accountable. Ms. Silveira added that before any building can be demolished, pest management must be documented through invoices from pest control companies to demonstrate what was done and when, and a plan for future abatement in advance of construction activity. The system seems to be working.

RESULT:**WORK COMPLETED. [UNANIMOUS]****AYES:**

Ben Ewen-Campen, Matthew McLaughlin, Mary Jo Rossetti