



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

May 7, 2014

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Robert J. McWatters	Chair	Present	
Tony Lafuente	Vice Chair	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Alderman At Large	Present	

Others present: Ald. Ballantyne, Ald. Sullivan, Ald. Niedergang, Goran Smiljic, Ellen Collins, Michael Glavin, Steve McEachern, Stan Koty, Stan Usovicz (Verizon), William Zamparelli (NSTAR), Earl Lawson (Comcast), Peter Nagle and Heather Shampine (National Grid)

Approval of the Minutes of December 12, 2013

RESULT: TABLED

195746 - That the Commissioner of Public Works provide the Committee on Public Utilities and Works with a year end report on the performance of the street light repair vendor, including the number of lights repaired vs. replaced.:

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

195791 - That the Commissioner of Public Works request information from NSTAR on power outages over the last 2 years in the area of Hunting and South Streets and provide that information to the Ward 2 Alderman.:

This item was dealt with at the last committee meeting.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

195834 - That the Commissioner of Public Works contact NStar about power outages in the Hunting Street area over the last year and report back to this Board.:

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

195844 - That the Commissioner of Public Works send a communication to NSTAR requesting an updated list of double poles in the city.:

The committee discussed the constant complaints about double poles, with some members pointing out instances where double poles have been in place for years. A suggestion was made that the utility companies meet with the DPW next week to develop a plan to remedy the situation.

RESULT:**WORK COMPLETED**

195994 - That the Director of SPCD (ISD) consider revising its scheduling system for inspections so that it is more predictable for home owners.:

RESULT:**KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

196004 - That the Clerk of Committees request the Commissioner of Public Works to provide to the Committee on Public Utilities and Works ASAP a response to #195844, seeking an updated list of double poles from NStar.:

RESULT:**WORK COMPLETED**

196186 - 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.:

Alderman Niedergang explained the reason for the request and Alderman McWatters suggested that the Administration, the DPW and the School Department formulate a policy on the matter.

RESULT:**KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

196211 - That the Director of SPCD (ISD) investigate the reason for water being pumped out of the basement at 26 Woodbine Street and take steps to stop the leakage and report the results to the Ward 5 Alderman. (2nd request-see #196152):

RESULT:**WORK COMPLETED**

196302 - 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.:

RESULT:**KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

196348 - DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted 2/27/14.:

RESULT:**WORK COMPLETED**

196376 - That the Commissioner of Public Works explain how the city deals with handicap parking spots on the even sides of streets during snow emergencies.:

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

196378 - 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.:

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

196428 - DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted 3/13/14.:

RESULT:

WORK COMPLETED

196445 - That the Commissioner of Public Works, in conjunction with the State Delegation, request that the MA Dept. Of Transportation remove all equipment and inventory from, and clean and improve the entire area under, I-93, between Temple Street and McGrath Highway.:

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

196450 - That the Commissioner of Public Works contact the appropriate utility to ascertain why the double pole at 42 Columbus Avenue hasn't been removed during the past 3 years.:

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

196608 - That the Commissioner of Public Works notify the appropriate utility regarding the double pole on Perkins Street.:

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

196613 - DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted March 27, 2014.:

RESULT:

WORK COMPLETED

196618 - That the Director of SPCD inspect the newspaper boxes throughout Union Square, especially in front of the Post Office, and remove any that do not have a valid city sticker or are in disrepair.:

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

196621 - That the Commissioner of Public Works contact the appropriate utility and cable vendors to address the low hanging wires on Allen Street.:

Mr. Zamparelli explained how utilities on poles are set up.

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

196624 - That the Director of Traffic and Parking place new pedestrian crossing signs at crosswalks located at Perry Park, Calvin and Beacon Streets, Newton Street and other pedestrian crossing locations in Ward 2.:

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

196768 - That the Commissioner of Public Works direct all parties involved in the construction work along lower Broadway to provide better communication with neighbors in the construction areas.:

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

196769 - That this Board's Committee on Public Utilities and Works take the lead in securing additional lighting under the Gilman Street bridge.:

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

196770 - That the Commissioner of Public Works contact the appropriate utility company regarding the removal of double poles on Perkins Street, Glen Street, Cutter Street, Kennison Avenue and Garfield Street.:

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

196785 - That the Commissioner of Public Works explain the policy regarding the height of utility wires suspended from poles, and the protocols in place to ensure adherence to the policy.:

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

196806 - DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted 4/10/14.:

RESULT:

WORK COMPLETED