



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
Committee Meeting

Tuesday - October 20, 2015, 6:00 PM
Committee Room – 2nd Floor – City Hall

AGENDA

1. **Approval of the September 18, 2014 Minutes**
2. **195746: Discuss** (Connolly) – 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.
3. **195994: Discuss** (O'Keefe) – That the Director of SPCD (ISD) consider revising its scheduling system for inspections so that it is more predictable for home owners.
4. **196186: Discuss** (Niedergang, Rossetti, Ballantyne) – 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.
5. **196302: Discuss** (Heuston) – 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.
6. **196378: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – 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.
7. **196445: Discuss** (Lafuente, White Jr., Sullivan) – 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.

8. **196608: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – That the Commissioner of Public Works notify the appropriate utility regarding the double pole on Perkins Street.
9. **196621: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Commissioner of Public Works contact the appropriate utility and cable vendors to address the low hanging wires on Allen Street.
10. **196624: Discuss** (Heuston) – 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.
11. **196768: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – 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.
12. **196770: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – 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.
13. **196785: Discuss** (Rossetti) – 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.
14. **196888: Discuss** (Gewirtz) – That the Director of SPCD publicize the Davis Square Streetscapes construction timeline.
15. **196913: Discuss** (Sullivan, Lafuente, McLaughlin, White Jr., Rossetti, Connolly) – That the Commissioner of Public Works clean the banks of the Mystic River along Assembly Row and ensure that a regular cleaning schedule is put in place.
16. **196946: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – That the Commissioner of Public Works ensure that there are enough trash receptacles along the Assembly Square waterway, adding additional barrels where needed.
17. **196958: Discuss** DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted April 24, 2014.

18. **196970: Discuss** (Gewirtz) – That the Commissioner of Public Works contact the appropriate utility companies to remove the double pole at the corner of Willow and Kidder Avenues.
19. **196983: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – That the Administration dedicate certain public buildings for community use.
20. **197063: Discuss** DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted 5/8/14.
21. **197065: Discuss** Traffic and Parking Interim Director submitting responses to various Board Orders.
22. **197233: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Commissioner of Public Works direct Verizon to remove unused utility boxes from the side lawn of the West Somerville Neighborhood School, and from the north side of the grounds of the Powderhouse Community School.
23. **197238: Discuss** (White Jr., Lafuente, Sullivan) – That the City Engineer review drainage on Shore Drive, especially with storm water runoff during heavy rains, particularly at the corner of Shore Drive and Putnam Street, as well as the impact of development at Assembly Square on the sewer outflow line.
24. **197266: Discuss** (Gewirtz) – That the Commissioner of Public Works add Meacham Road and Cottage Avenue to this year’s street paving list.
25. **197277: Discuss** (McWatters) – That the Commissioner of Public Works notify the appropriate utility companies to remove the double pole on Cambria Street.
26. **197314: Discuss** DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted 5/22/14.
27. **197354: Discuss** DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted 6/26/14.
28. **197355: Discuss** DPW Commissioner responding to supplemental Board Orders submitted 6/12/14.
29. **197387: Discuss** (Connolly, Rossetti, Sullivan, White Jr., Gewirtz) – That the Director of SPCD (ISD) direct the utility maintaining the transfer station on Willow Avenue and

Whipple Street to cut back the overgrown weeds.

30. **197395: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Administration add Hall Street, Cherry Street, and Josephine Avenue between Kidder and Morrison Avenues to the street repaving list and report to the Ward 5 Alderman when they are likely to be repaved.
31. **197423: Discuss** DPW Commissioner responding to #197238 re: Shore Drive drainage.
32. **197428: Discuss** (Connolly, Lafuente) – That the Commissioner of Public Works repair the depression in the roadway in the east bound lane on Broadway just past its intersection with School Street.
33. **197429: Discuss** (Connolly, McLaughlin) – That the Commissioner of Public Works repair the depression in the roadway on Mt. Pleasant Street, just after its intersection with Broadway.
34. **197465: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – That the Commissioner of Public Works notify the appropriate utility company to realign the utility pole in front of 47 Oliver Street.
35. **197472: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Commissioner of Public Works contact NStar about removing the double pole at 72 Curtis Street. (2nd request.)
36. **197482: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Commissioner of Public Works confer with SPCD on the proper maintenance of Quincy Park, and clear the Park of overgrowth.
37. **197489: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works report to this Board about how utilities inform residents about work on their streets, utility poles or power lines.
38. **197495: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works provide the Ward 5 Alderman with the timeline for repaving Linden Avenue and Porter Street.
39. **197502: Discuss** (McWatters) – That the Commissioner of Public Works direct the appropriate utility company to remove the leaning double pole at 33 Columbus Avenue immediately.
40. **197625: Discuss** (White Jr.) – That NStar Electric report to this Board on its preparations to insure sufficient power for the redevelopment of Union Square.

41. **197643: Discuss** (Lafuente, White Jr., McLaughlin) – That the Commissioner of Public Works request that the state clean the space under I-93 in the Ten Hills area and in Ward One, and remove all vehicles and stored items.
42. **197650: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works replace the bulbs in the three street lights in Junction Park nearest to Woodbine Street and Centre Street that have been out for many months. (3rd Request)
43. **197651: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works replace the bulb in the street light on Woodbine Street that is second closest to Junction Park. (3rd Request)
44. **197659: Discuss** (Connolly, McLaughlin, Rossetti, Sullivan, White Jr.) – That the Commissioner of Public Works contact Mass Highway to request that they cut back the overgrowth on the right-hand side of the Broadway - Somerville exit ramp off of Route 93.
45. **197662: Discuss** (McWatters) – That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Chief Fire Engineer order the appropriate utility companies to remove the double pole at 33 Columbus Avenue as it is creating a public safety issue.
46. **197684: Discuss** DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted 8/28/14.
47. **197694: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Commissioner of Public Works assess the adequacy of street lighting along Chester, Fitchburg and Poplar Streets, install additional lighting where needed and repair street lights which are not working on those streets.
48. **197722: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works notify immediate abutters in advance when a tree of a certain minimum size is cut down near their residence.
49. **197723: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works inform this Board of any public process that must be followed to cut down a tree of significant size.
50. **197724: Discuss** (Niedergang, Heuston, McWatters) – That the Director of SPCD and the Commissioner of Public Works report to this Board on the development, staffing and cost of a program to maintain street trees and keep tree wells clean and weed-free, and/or a program to assist and inspire residents to do so.
51. **197737: Discuss** NStar Electric responding to #197625 re: planning for the redevelopment

of Union Square.

52. **197773: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – That the Commissioner of Public Works devise a strategy to address instances of low hanging utility/cable wires throughout Somerville.
53. **197793: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works ensure that the street, sidewalk, handicapped ramp and catch basin work at Berwick and Hinckley Streets is completed before winter.
54. **197834: Discuss** Chief Fire Engineer responding to #197662 re: removing double pole at 33 Columbus Avenue.
55. **197836: Discuss** DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted 9/11/14.
56. **197858: Discuss** DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted 9/23/14.
57. **197873: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – That the Director of SPCD and the DPW Commissioner update this Board on the lower Broadway construction, including e a timeline for completion, updates on any problems and explanations of tree selections and trash barrel distributions.
58. **197883: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works direct the developers of 143 and 181 Cedar Street to repair the sidewalks in front of their properties.
59. **197892: Discuss** (McWatters) – That the Commissioner of Public Works replace the sidewalk panel in front of 7 Belmont Place. (Second request)
60. **197905: Discuss** DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted 10/9/14.
61. **197917: Discuss** (Lafuente, Heuston, McLaughlin) – That the Commissioner of Public Works direct all utility companies to clean up their lines throughout the city.
62. **197972: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works complete all work before the winter in the Magoun Square neighborhood on the street, sidewalk, handicapped ramp and catch basin at Berwick and Hinckley Streets and also at Fennell and Hinckley

Streets.

63. **197984: Discuss** (McWatters) – That the Commissioner of Public Works replace the broken and upraised sidewalk panels on Warren Avenue from Properzi Manner to Citizens Bank.
64. **198025: Discuss** DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted 10/23/14.
65. **198092: Discuss** (Lafuente) – That the Commissioner of Public Works appear before this Board with a list of sidewalks that will be redone with new ADA accessibility under the \$2,700,000 bonding recently approved.
66. **198109: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Commissioner of Public Works notify the appropriate utility company to remove the double pole in front of 46 Elmwood Street.
67. **198110: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Commissioner of Public Works re-install the street light that was removed 4 years ago at 72 Curtis Street.
68. **198156: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Commissioner of Public Works attach an explanatory tag to bicycles that are suspected of being abandoned to provide due notice to owners of impending removal.
69. **198195: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – That the Commissioner of Public Works communicate with state snow removal agencies to ensure that state properties, such as Foss Park and Sullivan Square, are having snow removed in an expedient manner.
70. **198213: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Commissioner of Public Works remove the rotting 10 foot high tree base that is being used to anchor a telephone pole in front of 11 Barton Street.
71. **198215: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Commissioner of Public Works advise the Ward 7 Alderman on eliminating water pooling at 128 Powderhouse Blvd., caused by the new raised intersection at Powderhouse Blvd. and Packard Ave.
72. **198256: Discuss** DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted 11/13/14.
73. **198280: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works schedule another yard waste pickup this month, and report to this Board whether yard waste pickups can be

extended through December in the future.

74. **198315: Discuss** (Connolly, Gewirtz) – That the Commissioner of Public Works repair the street lamps at the locations described within.
75. **198316: Discuss** (Connolly, Gewirtz) – That the Commissioner of Public Works arrange for the ash trees on Chapel Street, and citywide, if necessary, be treated to prevent the infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer.
76. **198351: Discuss** (McWatters) – That the Commissioner of Public Works replace the street light at Harvard and Monmouth Streets.
77. **198352: Discuss** (Lafuente) – That the Commissioner of Public Works repair the street lamp in front of 58 Dartmouth Street. (2nd Request)
78. **198381: Discuss** (Connolly, Rossetti, Sullivan, White Jr., McWatters) – That the Commissioner of Public Works note the lack of repairs to the city's streetlamps, as previously noted at this Board's last meeting, and attend the next meeting of the this Board's Public Utilities and Works Committee with the streetlamp maintenance vendor.
79. **198386: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works update the Ward 5 Alderman on repairs to prevent pedestrians from tripping in the crosswalks at Linden Avenue on the south side of Summer Street, Aberdeen Road by Highland Avenue, and Hall Street by Cherry Street.
80. **198420: Discuss** DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted 1/8/15.
81. **198421: Discuss** DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted 11/25/14.
82. **198442: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works look into the deployment of plow arm extensions, which can be lowered to clear driveways that have had snow plowed into them, and report to this Board about their potential use here.
83. **198444: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Director of SPCD (ISD) report to this Board on the process for issuing citations during snowstorms to private plowing and shoveling contractors who are plowing snow into the street or onto neighbors' sidewalks.
84. **198575: Discuss** (McWatters) – That the Commissioner of Public Works contact the

appropriate utility company regarding low hanging wires at the corner of Columbus and Bonner Avenues.

85. **198602: Discuss** DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted 2/12/15.
86. **198729: Discuss** (McWatters, Connolly, Sullivan, Rossetti, White Jr.) – That the Commissioner of Public Works repair the sidewalk on Warren Avenue from Properzi Manor to Citizen’s Bank.
87. **198778: Discuss** DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted 3/12/15.
88. **198944: Discuss** (Lafuente) – That the Commissioner of Public Works clean the stairs and surrounding area from Mystic Housing to the Healey School.
89. **199129: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works or the City Solicitor report to this Board on making the Albion Street sidewalk contractor repair the sidewalks there or refund the city, and that the Commissioner repair those sidewalks.
90. **199245: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Commissioner of Public Works provide this Board with the street paving plan for the upcoming season.
91. **199289: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Commissioner of Public Works provide the Ward 2 Alderman with an explanation regarding a patched section of roadway on Hammond Street, which was recently paved.
92. **199295: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of SPCD discuss capitalizing on street repaving to bury utilities, beautify the city, and reduce the threat of power outages due to rain/snow/ice storms.
93. **199353: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Commissioner of Public Works clean the Sacramento Street pedestrian underpass, set a regular cleaning schedule, and communicate that schedule to the Ward 2 Alderman.
94. **199359: Discuss** DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted 4/9/15.
95. **199360: Discuss** DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted

4/23/15.

- 96. 199361: Discuss** DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted 5/14/15.
- 97. 199369: Discuss** (Gewirtz) – That the Commissioner of Public Works immediately assess the stability of the listing utility pole at 6 Windsor Road and act expeditiously to remediate the double pole.
- 98. 199499: Discuss** (Gewirtz, Connolly) – That the Administration begin charging rent, or additional charges, to the owner of 240 Elm Street for every day his scaffolding remains on the public way.
- 99. 199516: Discuss** (Heuston, and the Entire Board) – That the Director of SPCD report to this Board monthly on the Beacon Street reconstruction project.
- 100.199547: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of SPCD work with Eversource to remove the unsafe telephone poles secured to rotting trees on Woods Street at North Street, and on Barton Street at Broadway.
- 101.199564: Discuss** DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted 5/28/15.
- 102.199699: Discuss** (White Jr., Gewirtz, Sullivan, Connolly, Rossetti) – That the Commissioner of Public Works examine 88 Pearson Road for connection to the city sewer system, including replacement of any pipes, and provide appropriate assistance to the homeowner.
- 103.199843: Discuss** (McWatters, Connolly, Sullivan, Rossetti, White Jr.) – That the Commissioner of Public Works remove the cement curbs and the bench in Kelley Park that were put in the skate board area without authorization from the city. (Photos attached)
- 104.199856: Discuss** (Heuston, Rossetti) – That the Director of SPCD (Transportation and Infrastructure) update this Board on the Beacon Street reconstruction project and work with the Ward 2 Alderman on a Community meeting to update the public.
- 105.199860: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Commissioner of Public Works inform this Board of the plan for fall plantings and flowers for Union Square and Somerville Avenue.

- 106.199862: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Commissioner of Public Works maintain and make needed repairs to all of the tree wells and traffic islands along Somerville Avenue.
- 107.199867: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Commissioner of Public Works inform this Board how the city addresses the increase in trash during late August and early September due to the influx of students.
- 108.199869: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Administration inform the Clark Street neighbors about the TV pipe testing which should have been performed in 2014.
- 109.199872: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – That the Commissioner of Public Works modify the sidewalk at 69 Pearl Street to make it ADA accessible.
- 110.199877: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – That the Commissioner of Public Works ensure that the sidewalk at 43 Cross Street is ADA compliant.
- 111.199950: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Director of SPCD (Transportation) update the Ward 5 Alderman on the planned reconstruction of Cedar Street between Broadway and Highland Avenue.
- 112.199953: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works cut the curbs and install sidewalk ramps at the intersection of Clyde and Warwick Streets, by Maxwell's Green.
- 113.199955: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Director of SPCD (Transportation) consider installing a bollard at the top of the stairs at the Community Path Extension by Lowell Street, to prevent people from accidentally tumbling down the stairs.
- 114.199956: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works determine if the lighting at the Community Path Extension ramp and stairs by the Lowell Street bridge is sufficient, and if not, install more.
- 115.199960: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – That the Commissioner of Public Works install new benches in the park area of Bryant Manor.
- 116.199961: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – That the Commissioner of Public Works dispose of the trash in barrels on Cross Street East, by the Stop and Shop.
- 117.200034: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works replace the three

(of six) bollards that have come unglued on the Lowell Street bridge sidewalk at the end of the Community Path Extension ramp.

118.200035: Discuss (Niedergang) – That the Commissioner of Public Works cut the curb at the Warwick Street elbow by the Community Path Extension ramp (as promised as part of the Maxwell’s Green development), and provide the public a chance to comment on the proposed design.

119.200036: Discuss (Niedergang, Gewirtz) – That the Commissioner of Public Works report to this Board on plans to repave the Community Path between Cedar Street and Willow Avenue, and fix the damaged section near Willow Avenue.

120.200049: Discuss (Ballantyne) – That the Commissioner of Public Works report on the safety of the tilting telephone pole at Clarendon and Weston Avenues.

121.200051: Discuss (Ballantyne) – That Commissioner of Public Works repair the broken utility light at 1036 Broadway.

122.200087: Discuss DPW Commissioner responding to various Board Orders submitted 9/10/15.