



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

March 21, 2012

REPORT OF THE LAND USE COMMITTEE
Meeting in Joint Session with the
LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
William A. White Jr.	Chair	Present	
Tony Lafuente	Vice Chair	Present	
Sean T. O'Donovan	Ward Five Alderman	Absent	
Rebekah L. Gewirtz	Ward Six Alderman	Present	
Bruce M. Desmond	Alderman At Large	Present	
Thomas F. Taylor	Ward Three Alderman	Present	
John M Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
Maryann M. Heuston	Ward Two Alderman	Present	
George Proakis	Director of Planning	Present	
Lori Massa	OSPCD	Present	
Robert King	City Engineer	Present	

192255 - Requesting an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to establish minimum pervious area requirements on lots in certain zoning districts.:

Mr. Proakis provided some background information and discussed how this item was processed through the Planning and Engineering Departments. He spoke about driveway construction, the need to adjust the fee structure and contractor registration and bonding. Mr. King explained the differences between 1-3 family properties and commercial properties. The committee discussed how property owners could repave existing driveways and whether this ordinance might create a hardship for property owners. Curb cuts on corner lots were also discussed as well as the possibility of grandfathering properties that already have impervious surfaces. Mr. Proakis pointed out that the proposed rules would not trigger if a property owner was not making a change to the surface. Alderman Gewirtz favors a special permit process to deal with this subject.

Alderman White's motion to accept the amendment, deleting the mention of compacted gravel as a pervious surface, was approved

Alderman White's motion to approve the proposed changes, subject to the approval of the proposed ordinance, was approved.

Alderman White's motion to approve Part A on page 12 of the handout, was approved.

Alderman Connolly's motion that the bonding fee for contractors be set at \$2,500, or an amount to be determined, was approved.

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

192609 - Planning Board conveying its recommendation on a proposal to amend the Zoning Ordinance to add a definition of pervious area and amend the table of dimensional requirements and footnotes to require a minimum pervious area on lots in certain zoning districts.:

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE