



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

CLERK OF COMMITTEES

February 25, 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	
Tony Lafuente	Ward Four Alderman	Present	
Maryann M. Heuston	Ward Two Alderman	Present	
Robert J. McWatters	Ward Three Alderman	Present	
John M. Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
Rebekah L. Gewirtz	Ward Six Alderman	Absent	
Dennis M. Sullivan	Alderman At Large	Present	

- 1. Public Hearing regarding Snow Removal Regulations** Chairman Rossetti provided some background on this item and spoke about the desire to hold businesses to a higher standard, the city's legal authority to hold the MBTA accountable for bus stops and the city's responsibilities under the ADA.

Several members of the public spoke on this matter and discussed their concerns.

The list of complaints included: snow on side streets not being cleared, snow at street corners reducing traffic visibility, parking problems and the emergency parking rules, sidewalks and driveways repeatedly being covered with snow by city/contracted plows, the impact of un-cleared sidewalks on the disabled, shoveling problems experienced by the elderly and some city-owned properties not having cleared sidewalks.

Several suggestions were made, including: pro-active plowing by the city, plowing closer to curbs, assistance from the city with finding individuals/contractors to assist residents with clearing snow, the ability to reserve parking spots by those who have cleared them, additional enforcement, fining owner occupied properties at a higher rate, alternating street parking every year and publishing a list of violators.

There was also disagreement among the speakers on the time frame for clearing sidewalks

and on whether imposing fines was necessary.

The record will remain open until 6:00 PM on March 5, 2015 to receive any additional written comments.

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

RESULT:	KEPT IN COMMITTEE
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198319: That this Board conduct a public hearing on the new snow removal regulations to solicit feedback and suggestions from the public.

RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
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