



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

OPEN SPACE, ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE  
Committee Meeting

Monday - February 10, 2020, 6:00 PM  
Committee Room – 2nd Floor – City Hall

**AGENDA**

(Posted online: 2/4/20 at 7:15 AM)

**1. Approval of the December 4, 2019 Minutes**

**Ordinances - Native Species and Plantings**

2. **203365: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Davis) – That the City Solicitor draft an ordinance requiring native tree and plantings for all open space, to meet the goals of sustainability and biodiversity.
3. **205683: Discuss** Tori Antonino submitting comments re: #203365, calling for a native planting ordinance.
4. **206495: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Scott, Davis) – That the City Solicitor consider the attached language in the drafting of a Native Tree and Plantings Ordinance, as ordered by #203365.
5. **207999: Discuss** 3 residents submitting comments re: #206495, the proposed native plant ordinance.
6. **208567: Discuss** Elizabeth Lundgren submitting comments re: #206495, the proposed native plant ordinance.
7. **203881: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Administration draft a Dark Sky ordinance addressing applicability, color temperature standards, prescriptive or performance standards, DPW oversight, and exemptions.
8. **207480: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the City Solicitor review the legal standing of each site identified in Sec. 12-131 of the proposed Public Space Conservation Ordinance to identify if

there are any terms by which each site was acquired, or is held, that would prevent it from being dedicated to the public.

9. **207884: Recommend** (Ballantyne, Davis, Mbah) – That the City Solicitor draft an ordinance to ban the use of plastic flatware.

### **Open Space and Parks**

10. **205437: Discuss** (Hirsch) – That the Director of Parks and Open Space update this Board on all current parks projects.
11. **205709: Discuss** (Scott, McLaughlin, Ballantyne) – That the Administration immediately pursue creation of a public fields and recreation area in the Inner Belt District pursuant to the Fields Master Plan.
12. **205710: Discuss** (Scott) – That the Administration update this Board on the toxicity and availability of Conway Park's fields and playground, with a timeline for re-opening, in light of the significant impact on parents, children and child-care businesses in the city.
13. **205711: Discuss** (Scott, Ewen-Campen, Mbah) – That the Administration present a Heat Island Impact Analysis on the proposed replacement of Conway Park's grass fields with artificial turf.
14. **207167: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of SPCD share biannual CIP progress reports for all new open space and parks projects.
15. **207173: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Clingan, Hirsch, Mbah, Rossetti, Ballantyne) – That the Administration provide to this Board by its January 10, 2019 meeting a response to the attached petition of Foss Park stakeholders, which requests a schematic community design process and a plan for financing and managing the facility.
16. **208232: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of Parks and Recreation and the Commissioner of Public Works explore starting a monthly volunteer trash pickup day for the Dilboy DCR and Alewife Brook areas.
17. **209139: Discuss** Sasha Chanoff submitting comments re: re-turfing Dilboy Field.
18. **209270: Discuss** Parks and Recreation Director responding to #209152 re: Lincoln Park athletic field use, warranty, and quality control.
19. **209358: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the City Solicitor draft an ordinance requiring the City to replace green space for those public spaces already dedicated to the public.

20. **209441: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of SPCD include the entirety of West Somerville Neighborhood School open space for renovation planning as discussed at a December 2018 community meeting.
21. **209444: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Scott) – That the Director of SPCD and the Director of Finance advise this Council, in writing, why, with an appropriation of \$9.3 million, the grass field at Lincoln Park was incorrectly installed the first time.
22. **209544: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of Parks and Recreation discuss the impacts, updates and usage of Founders Rink being used for indoor soccer.
23. **209605: Discuss** (Clingan) – That the Director of SPCD provide this Council with the most recent updates on any plans for Foss Park.
24. **209607: Discuss** (Clingan) – That the Director of SPCD provide this Council with a report on the history of Conway Park and what contaminant testing had been completed prior to its establishment as a public park.

### **Brownfields**

25. **204968: Discuss** (Mbah) – That the Director of SPCD provide this Board with a list of all city owned parcels, indicating any brownfields, and any plans to remediate those sites and use them for housing.

### **Education and Outreach**

26. **206698: Discuss** (Hirsch, and the Entire Board) – That the Director of SPCD establish an advisory service to help residents learn how to reduce storm water runoff, cool their yards and homes naturally, plant and preserve trees, reduce invasive species, and waive dumpster parking permit fees for households undertaking de-paving efforts.
27. **206745: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Somerville Climate Coalition provide this Board with updates on their attempts to address climate change.
28. **208042: Discuss** (Ewen-Campen, Clingan) – That the Director of Sustainability and Environment inform this Council about New York City's "Climate Mobilization Act," which includes dramatic emission reductions for tall buildings, and explain which aspects could be adapted here.
29. **208808: Discuss** (Mbah) – That the Administration update this Council on the Climate Preparedness Week Resolution (#208611) that was submitted in July.

30. **209614: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change discuss its 2020 plan with this Council’s Committee on Open Space, Energy and Environment.
31. **209624: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Committee on Open Space, Environment and Energy provide feedback on the SomerVision 2040's chapters on 1) Public Space & Natural Environment and 2) Climate & Sustainability with respect to metrics, key tasks, and other strategies as noted within.

### Health

32. **201857: Discuss** (Ballantyne, McWatters, Niedergang, Davis) – That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Sustainability and Environment inform the Special Committee on Open Space, Environment and Energy which elements of the AMA's 2016 guidelines on LED lighting could be or have been used to minimize potential harmful effects.
33. **204434: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Davis, Niedergang) – That the Administration provide this Board’s Special Committee on Open Space, Environment and Energy with an analysis of the attached communication regarding LED street lights.
34. **209612: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of Parks and Recreation work with the Superintendent of Schools to develop a policy for "utilizing artificial turf in the heat" similar to the policy used by Burlington, MA.
35. **209613: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of Sustainability and Environment, the Director of SPCD, The Director of Communications, and the Commissioner of Public Works develop a plan for a "Resiliency Hub" when extreme weather events occur.

### Procurement

36. **204869: Discuss** (Hirsch) – That Director of Sustainability and Environment include the School Department’s Finance Director in discussions of #204436, to examine procurement criteria for cafeteria food and drink vendors given the amount of waste created by food packaging.
37. **208614: Discuss** (Hirsch) – That the Administration inform this City Council whether the new High School, and eventually other municipal buildings, will have dishwashing capacity, to reduce or eliminate reliance on single-use flatware and dishes.
38. **209366: Discuss** (Hirsch) – That the Director of Sustainability and the Environment work with the School District to provide any plans for shifting to compostable flatware.

### Recycling

39. **204436: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Davis, Niedergang) – That the Director of Sustainability and Environment arrange a meeting with this Board's Special Committee on Open Space, Environment and Energy, members of the School Committee, the Superintendent of Schools, the Administration, and the Commissioner of Public Works, to plan recycling efforts in the Public Schools.

#### **Composting**

40. **202992: Discuss** (Davis) – That the Director of Sustainability and Environment and the City Solicitor advise this Board on the feasibility requiring certain commercial and multi-family buildings to require composting as a part of regular waste disposal.
41. **208590: Discuss** (Davis, Mbah) – That the Administration revisit the proposal to institute citywide curbside composting.

#### **Housing**

42. **207372: Discuss** (Mbah, McLaughlin) – That the Director of Sustainability and Environment create a rental licensing program.

#### **Mobility**

43. **207373: Discuss** (Mbah) – That the Director of Sustainability and Environment develop an electric vehicle charging infrastructure program.
44. **207375: Discuss** (Mbah) – That the Director of Sustainability and Environment and the Director of SPCD improve and expand bicycle infrastructure around the city and report to this Board, quarterly, on progress made.

#### **Environment - Impacts on Roadway**

45. **209364: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Rossetti) – That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Sustainability and Environment discuss the safety uses and environmental impacts of the street salt used on the city's streets.
46. **209443: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Rossetti) – That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Health and Human Services discuss the city's road salting policy and residents' concerns about environmental impacts, health impacts and the expense of "over-salting."
47. **209546: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of SPCD discuss what can be done to mitigate the flooding of Alewife Brook Parkway and Mystic Valley Parkway.

#### **Urban Forestry and Gardens**

48. **207376: Discuss** (Mbah) – That the Director of Sustainability and Environment and the

Director of SPCD formalize and implement a modern urban forestry management plan, including best practices and a resilient species list.

49. **208920: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of SPCD develop a plan to plant a native species pollinator garden along the Community Path.

### Policies

50. **208805: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Davis, Niedergang, Rossetti, McLaughlin, Hirsch, Mbah, White Jr.) – Affirming the federal Green New Deal resolution by establishing goals, identifying actions necessary to meet these goals, and calling for the federal government to enact policies to advance a Green New Deal.

### Other

51. **205665: Discuss** (Mbah) – That the Administration collaborate with MIT to build a robust biking infrastructure.
52. **205666: Discuss** (Mbah) – That the Administration investigate partnering with MIT to provide advice on renewable energy sources.
53. **206201: Discuss** (Hirsch) – That the Director of SomerStat share an update on implementing a work order system for asset management, CRM requests, preventive maintenance, and related functions, for departments like Public Works, Engineering, and Urban Forestry.
54. **207031: Discuss** (Hirsch, Ballantyne, Ewen-Campen, Niedergang, and the Entire Board) – That the Chief of Police and the Chief Fire Engineer discuss the routing process and geo-locating capacity for 911 calls, especially calls from cell phones.