



## **Programs & Services Committee Report**

### **City of Newton** **In City Council**

**Wednesday, January 20, 2016**

Present: Councilors Rice (Chair), Leary (Vice Chair), Auchincloss, Hess-Mahan, Kalis, Schwartz and Baker

Absent: Councilor Sangiolo

Also Present: Councilors Lapin and Lipof

City Staff: Karyn Dean (Committee Clerk)

**#23-16 Mayor's re-appointment of Sheila Mondshein to Human Rights Commission**

SHEILA MONDSHEIN, 31 Green Park, Newton, re-appointed as a member of the HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION for a term to expire January 1, 2017 (60 days 3/19/16) [12/31/15 @ 2:11 PM]

**Action: Programs & Services Approved 7-0**

**Note:** The Committee unanimously voted to approve Ms. Mondshein's re-appointment without discussion.

**#24-16 Mayor's re-appointment of Jane Brown to Human Rights Commission**

JANE BROWN, 104 Atwood Avenue, Newtonville, re-appointed as a member of the HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION for a term to expire January 1, 2018 (60 days 3/19/16) [12/31/15 @ 2:11 PM]

**Action: Programs & Services Approved 7-0**

**Note:** The Committee unanimously voted to approve Ms. Brown's re-appointment without discussion.

**#25-16 Mayor's re-appointment of Dianne Chilingierian to Human Rights Commission**

DIANNE CHILINGERIAN, 89 Montrose Street, Newton, re-appointed as a member of the HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION for a term to expire January 1, 2018 (60 days 3/19/16) [12/31/15 @ 2:11 PM]

**Action: Programs & Services Approved 7-0**

**Note:** The Committee unanimously voted to approve Ms. Chilingierian's re-appointment without discussion.

**#10-16      Polling location change from Memorial Spaulding School to Temple Beth Avodah**  
NEWTON ELECTION COMMISSION requesting the Newton City Council approve a change of polling location for Ward 8, Precinct 2 from the Memorial Spaulding School to Temple Beth Avodah at 45 Puddingstone Lane, Newton beginning with the September 2016 State Primary Election. [12/17/15 @ 5:21 PM]

**Action:      Programs & Services Held 7-0**

**Note:** David Olson, City Clerk, was unable to attend the meeting; therefore, Councilor Rice suggested holding the item until he was available to explain why this move was being proposed.

Councilor Kalis noted that he spoke to the Director of Temple Beth Avodah and she was very enthusiastic about this change and has met with the City Clerk several times to work out the details.

Councilor Lappin thought it might be better to keep the polling station in the school, unless there was an overall plan to take all polling locations out of schools due to security concerns, or there was an accessibility issue in a particular school. However, if a polling location was to be changed, she felt there needed to be a clear and strong communication effort made to voters so they understood the change and where they should go to vote. Considering this proposed change is not scheduled until the September election, there would be time to alert voters. Councilor Lappin suggested provided information at the Memorial Spaulding at the March election.

Councilor Schwartz was concerned with changing polling locations. He felt it should be done as seldom as possible and with good reason and good planning. While general concerns about safety are valid, he didn't feel there should be an overreaction to events in other places.

Councilor Leary noted that when the polling location in Ward 1 was changed it worked really well even though it happened in a shorter time frame. The Election Commission has a history of doing a very good job with these changes.

School Committee Member from Ward 8, Margie Ross-Decter explained that David Olson has an informative presentation on what went into choosing this location over the school. There was no specific security issue in this school over any other, but because there was another location nearby with better parking, it seemed like a logical choice. She was not sure it was a clear cut case of "needing" to move the location. She said that personally she felt that it was nice that the children in school had the opportunity to witness the civic process of an election and was one of the few occasions that people get to be in and see the schools and be reminded of what government does for them. In a sense, it connects the community. The principals will say it's disruptive, of course, but they have tolerated it. She personally she did not feel strongly about moving the location.

Councilor Lipof agreed with Ms. Ross-Decter that it was a great opportunity for the children to learn and the community to connect with the schools. He personally really likes going back into the

schools where he spent so much time as a child and a parent. Generally, the polling location in the school is very close to the entrance and doesn't cause much disruption.

Councilor Rice explained that he worked for four years on moving voting from the Zervas School to the Waban Library. Logistically it was very complicated and wasn't working well in the school. The PTO and the Waban Library Association stated that they wanted the voters in the library building. The Waban Library paid for a ramp to be installed and the City paved the parking lot and it turned into a much better situation overall.

He reiterated that it would be best to wait to hear from David Olson on the proposed change.

Councilor Baker moved to hold this item and the Committee voted unanimously.

**#332-15      Resolution to the Governor regarding the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant**

CITY CLERK reporting that the November 3, 2015 Non-binding Ballot Question asking that a resolution be sent by the City of Newton to Governor Charles Baker asking him to instruct the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to revoke the operating license of the 42-year-old Pilgrim Nuclear Station, 38 miles from Newton in Plymouth, MA, because the safety of the public cannot be assured, was approved by the voters of Newton, 6,168 in favor and 2,819 opposed. [11/18/15 @ 11:03 AM]

**Action:      Programs & Services Approved as amended 7-0**

**Note:** Karyn Dean, Committee Clerk, explained that this item is intended to report the results of the non-binding ballot question that the Board of Aldermen approved for the November 3, 2015 ballot. In the election, residents voted in favor of a Resolution to be sent by the City Council asking that the Governor instruct the NRC to revoke the operating license of the Pilgrim Nuclear Station. The Committee and Council must now decide if they would like to send the resolution to the Governor and report the election results as well.

Guntram Mueller and Susan Mirsky, who sponsored the original request for the ballot question, addressed the Committee. They offered a handout, attached, which lists the reasons the Pilgrim station is so dangerous and sources of that information. They also provided the Election Commission Certificate of Results on the non-binding ballot question. They would like to make one change in the Resolution as the plant has been downgraded in its safety rating and is now one of the 3 least safe (out of 100) plants in the country, instead of one of the 5 least safe. This downgrade was related to 7 recent high-speed emergency shutdowns. Even though the plant could not determine why the shutdowns occurred, it was continually restarted which seemed very dangerous. Also, on January 27, 2015, a huge snowstorm hit the east coast and the switch yard which connects the grid to the power plant went down. That power is necessary to run the cooling systems. Emergency back-up generators for cooling did start up but other back-up generators did not start for 30 hours. Also the safety valves were not able to be operated.

It was recently announced that the plant will be shut down by June 1, 2019 but Mr. Mueller and Ms. Mirsky believe it is too dangerous to wait that long and would like it shut down immediately. The Governor has written to the NRC saying that the 7 emergency shutdowns were of concern to him especially as their causes were unknown. Mr. Mueller reported that all the communities on the Cape have taken similar non-binding votes and they have all voted to shut the plant down as soon as possible.

#### Committee Comment/Questions

It was asked if the plant could be just shut down in a short period of time. Mr. Mueller said decommissioning takes more time but the plant could be shut down right away.

A Committee member asked what the impact of an imminent shutdown would be on the electric supply to Massachusetts. Mr. Mueller explained that if closed, its 2% contribution to the ISO New England electrical generation capacity would be hardly missed according to an ISO New England projection of 12%-20% reserve capacity over the next 20 years. There are also other sources of fuel and natural gas could be used as well. The Governor is going after hydro from Quebec, which should not take long to initiate. Establishing wind and solar power generation will take longer.

A Committee member noted that the residents voted in favor of this question 3:1 and that should certainly be communicated to the Governor. Newton is within 50 miles of this plant and it is something to be concerned about.

The Committee voted unanimously to send the Resolution with Mr. Mueller's amendment, adding the results of the election and the support of the City Council, to Governor Baker. (See attached)

#### Referred to Programs & Services and Public Facilities Committees

##### **#140-15 Request for updates on the purchase of the Aquinas Site**

PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEES requesting that the School Department and/or the Executive Department provide updates on the progress of the potential purchase of the Aquinas site as well as short and long term plans for uses and operations at the site. [05/20/15 @ 8:53 PM]

**Action: Programs & Services No Action Necessary 7-0**

**Note:** This item is now outdated as the purchase of the Aquinas site has been completed. An updated item has been docketed to allow for progress reports on the ongoing renovations. The Committee unanimously voted No Action Necessary on this item.

#### Discussion of leaf blower item scheduling:

Councilor Rice would like to take up the leaf blower items at both the February 3<sup>rd</sup> and February 17<sup>th</sup> meetings. Councilor Leary will be working on a summary of the discussions and proposed amendments that have been made thus far in time for the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting in order to come up with a draft ordinance in February. The goal is to have a special meeting of Programs & Services following the full Council meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> in hopes that any Council members who have

interest or questions relative to the items will attend, hear the summary, review the draft ordinance and provide input. Councilor Rice would like to avoid lengthy discussion on the floor of the Council and would prefer to do the work in Committee. Programs & Services will then meet again on March 9<sup>th</sup> with a final draft which will take into account comments from that March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**John B. Rice, Chair**

**Attachments:** Safety Concerns List  
Election Results Certification  
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station Draft Resolution

Why is Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth, MA, so especially dangerous and unneeded?

1. Pilgrim's design was terrible from the get-go: Back in 1972, Steven Hanauer, an Atomic Energy Commission safety official, recommended that this design, the GE Mark 1 Boiling Water Reactor, "be discontinued because it presented unacceptable safety risks." (1)
2. Pilgrim is now old and fragile and unsafe: It is 3 years beyond the 40 years it was designed for, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) rated it as one of the 5 least safe in the country, out of 100, because of the frequency of its emergency shutdowns. (2)
3. Pilgrim is vulnerable to attack: A Pentagon-commissioned report rated it as one of the 8 most vulnerable to catastrophic terror attack because its cooling water intake from the ocean is unprotected. (3)
4. Pilgrim emits radiation daily: This could cause the observed elevated thyroid cancer rates; in Plymouth County, home of Pilgrim, the rate is 22% above MA avg., highest in the state, while even in Suffolk County, containing Boston, the rate is 16% above MA avg. (4)
5. Pilgrim's spent fuel pool is an unreinforced high-level nuclear waste dump: A loss of cooling for any reason would generate a fire that would, according to a Mass. Attorney General's report, result in an estimated 24,000 eventual cancers, and a devastating \$582 billion in losses. By the way, Pilgrim would pay for almost none of the damages, and homeowners insurance does not cover any of this. (5)
6. Evacuation from a major Pilgrim nuclear emergency is impossible: In Fukushima, the NRC repeatedly advised a 50-mile radius evacuation for Americans. In a major emergency, the Sagamore and Bourne bridges will be shut to allow the evacuation of Plymouth down Rte.3 and West on Rte.6, cutting off all escape from the Cape (10-30 miles from Pilgrim). (6)

Even Boston is not safe in a 60 mph winter storm that knocks out the main electrical feed to Pilgrim, as happened in Jan. 2015. If alternative sources of cooling fail, a major emergency would result, and if the wind blows toward Boston, the radioactive plume would arrive in 35 minutes. Imagine evacuating Boston in a storm in 35 minutes!

7. Pilgrim is not even needed: It supplies only 2% of capacity to the regional ISO New England electrical pool, while the pool has a reserve capacity of 12% to 20% projected over the next 10 years. (7)

Sources:

1. [nytimes.com/2011/03/16/world/asia/16contain.html?\\_r=0](http://nytimes.com/2011/03/16/world/asia/16contain.html?_r=0)
2. Google nuclear regulatory commission, into the search box type [nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2015/15-013.pdf](http://nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2015/15-013.pdf), click, and scroll down to get this.
3. [prnewswire.com/news-releases/study-us-nuclear-reactors-vulnerable-to-terrorist-attack-219792561.html](http://prnewswire.com/news-releases/study-us-nuclear-reactors-vulnerable-to-terrorist-attack-219792561.html)
4. [statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/incidencerates](http://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/incidencerates)
5. Google nuclear regulatory commission, into the search box type [pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1112/ML111220356.pdf](http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1112/ML111220356.pdf), click, and scroll down to Dr. Beyea's report. (See p.18 and 19.)
6. [japan.usembassy.gov/e/acs/tacs-20110331-travel-warning.html](http://japan.usembassy.gov/e/acs/tacs-20110331-travel-warning.html)
7. [iso-ne.com/static-assets/documents/2015/05/2015\\_celt\\_report.pdf](http://iso-ne.com/static-assets/documents/2015/05/2015_celt_report.pdf) (See p. 1.1.1)



## Election Commission

#332-15

John P. McDermott - Chair, Marjorie Ann Butler, Nancy M. Levine, Jan Huffman  
David A. Olson - City Clerk

City of Newton



### City of Newton Election Commission Certificate of Results

Be it known that at the City of Newton Municipal Election held on November 3, 2015, the following Non-Binding Local Ballot Question was presented to the Voters of Newton:

"Shall a resolution be sent by the City of Newton to Governor Charles Baker asking him to instruct the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to revoke the operating license of the 42-year old Pilgrim Nuclear Station, 38 miles from Newton in Plymouth, MA, because the safety of the public cannot be assured?"

The non-binding ballot question was Approved by the voters of Newton by a vote of:

6,168 Yes

2,189 No

Said election having been certified by the Newton Election Commission.



Attest

This 18<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Olson", is written over a horizontal line.

David A. Olson, City Clerk

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

January XX, 2016

RESOLUTION

CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE CLOSURE OF THE PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER STATION IN  
PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

BE IT RESOLVED:

WHEREAS, already in 1972, an Atomic Energy Commission safety official recommended that the GE Mark 1 BWR design of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth, MA, 38 miles from Newton, “be discontinued because it presents unacceptable safety risks; and

WHEREAS, the 42-year-old Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station is now old and decrepit, past its design life, and has been downgraded by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to be one of the 3 least safe in the country out of 100, because of its frequent emergency shutdowns, and because Pilgrim has failed to fix some of the critical problems the NRC told it to fix; and

WHEREAS, a Pentagon-commissioned analysis has concluded that it is one of the 8 most vulnerable to catastrophic terror attack because of its unprotected ocean cooling water intake; and

WHEREAS, a Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office report concluded that a loss of cooling, for any reason, of the triply overloaded spent fuel pool would ignite a fire that could spread a highly radioactive plume hundreds of miles downwind and cause an estimated 24,000 eventual cancers and a devastating \$582 billion in damages, while people forced to abandon their homes would receive from Pilgrim only a tiny sliver of the actual value of their homes and nothing at all from their homeowners insurance; and

WHEREAS, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission recommended for Americans in Japan a 50-mile radius evacuation zone around the Fukushima nuclear disaster, a zone which, around Pilgrim would include all of Cape Cod and the greater Boston area, including Newton, neither of which could be evacuated in time in a sudden major nuclear emergency; and

WHEREAS, if Pilgrim is closed, its 2% contribution to the ISO New England electrical generation capacity would be hardly missed according to an ISO New England projection of 12%-20% reserve capacity over the next 20 years; and



WHEREAS, the following non-binding local ballot question was presented to the voters of Newton at the City of Newton Municipal Election held on November 3, 2015:

“Shall a resolution be sent by the City of Newton to Governor Charles Baker asking him to instruct the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to revoke the operating license of the 42-year-old Pilgrim Nuclear Station, 38 miles from Newton in Plymouth, MA, because the safety of the public cannot be assured?” and;

WHEREAS, the voters of the City of Newton approved the non-binding local ballot question by a vote of 6,168 in favor and 2,189 opposed;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NEWTON CITY COUNCIL requests that Governor Charles Baker take all steps necessary to instruct the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to revoke the operating license of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station immediately.