



***Have a great Labor Day weekend! See you next week!***

## **NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS – SEPTEMBER 2, 2016**

### **NEWS & NOTES**

**Annual Council Cookout** – *All Council members are invited to attend.* Wendy, Jenna and I would like to invite you and your families to our home for a cookout on **Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00p.m.** If you haven't already, please RSVP to me by Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> so we can get a good headcount. If you could bring an appetizer or dessert that would be great. We will have everything else. Yes, Emily, there will be a vegetarian option! West Street Tavern will be our caterer again.

***Primary Day***  
***Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>***  
***Polls open from 7:00a.m. to 8:00p.m.***  
***Please Vote!***

- **Modulars at Brown and Newton South** – *Please review the summary emailed out on Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup> by Chair Crossley.* Additionally, all of the questions received (including questions from the Committee of the Whole) were compiled by Chair Crossley and Committee Clerk Nadia Khan and answered by appropriate city personnel. The Q & A document is in your packet this week. If there are questions not answered here, please let Chair Crossley know immediately. The item will be taken up in Public Facilities this week and questions can be posed in committee as well.
- **Joint Finance and Public Facilities Committee** – The committees will be meeting jointly to discuss the last six items. Finance will begin the meeting at **6:45p.m.** on the following two items. *Finance Only:* #265-16 Request for \$240,850 to fund bond sales and #269-16 Transfer \$800,000 to fund the recently negotiated Patrolman's Association contract. *Finance and Public Facilities:* #276-16 \$100,000 transfer for cleanup of 70 Crescent Street site; #279-16 \$125,000 for additional funding for Aquinas Window Project; #274-16 \$250,000 to purchase a new Gradall truck; #277-16 \$530,000 for traffic signal upgrades at Washington and Harvard Streets; #278-16 \$200,000 for design of a section of Laundry Brook culvert by the Cabot School and; #280-16 \$165,000 for additional funding for the Elliot Street Bridge Project.

- **Joint Finance and Programs and Services Committee** – The committees will be meeting jointly to discuss the following item at approximately **7:30p.m.**: #271-16 *\$100,000 to fund implementation of early voting procedures.*
- **Full Council Meeting** – On **Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>**, *at the end of first call*, we will be joined by members of the School Committee and the Cabot School Building Committee to get an update on the Cabot School project. There is a funding agreement submission due to the MSBA on **Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>** and we are meeting to be briefed ahead of this submission. We are not meeting earlier that evening as there are joint meetings scheduled between a number of committees.
- **Public Facilities Committee** – The committee meeting will be meeting on **Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m.** in Room 204. The committee will be discussing the following items: #282-16 *5-58 Site plan approval for the relocation of modular classrooms at Newton South High School and Brown Middle School*; #249-16 *Cellco petition for Grant of Location for wireless communication equipment at two locations: Dudley Road and Hay Road*; #281-16 *Cellco petition for Grant of Location for wireless communication equipment Sargent Street*; #304-16 *Verizon petition for grant of location at Greenwood Street*; #303-16 *Request to approve traffic calming islands for Concord Street*; #273-16 *\$216,000 to purchase a new street sweeper and*; #275-16 *\$4 million MWRA loan to implement lead service line replacement project.*
- **Public Safety and Transportation Committee** – The committee meeting will be meeting on **Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at \*7:00p.m.\*** in Room 205. The committee will be discussing the following items: #302-16 *Discussion with MassDOT regarding new toll structure on the Mass Pike in Newton* (NOTE: We've been alerted that Transportation Secretary Stephanie Pollack will be will be joining the committee for the discussion); #307-16 *Request to bond \$650,000 to purchase a new fire pumper truck*; #197-15(2) *Pilotless Aircraft Operation*; #187-16 *Discussion on steps taken to train the Police Department on downing drones and*; #272-16 *\$700,000 for replacement of the dispatch consoles at the Police Dispatch Center.*
- **Programs and Services Committee** – The committee meeting will be meeting on **Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at \*7:00p.m.\*** in Room 211. The committee will be discussing the following items: #294-16 *Mayor's appointment of Ajaya Soltau as a member of the Youth Commission*; #295-16 *Mayor's appointment of Heather Krasner as a member of the Youth Commission*; #296-16 *Mayor's appointment of Ashley Rodriguez as a member of the Youth Commission*; #297-16 *Mayor's appointment of Luther Evans as a member of the Youth Commission*; #298-16 *Mayor's appointment of Daniel Babitsky as a member of the Youth Commission*; #299-16 *Mayor's appointment of Rebecca Arango as a member of the Youth Commission*; #292-16 *Mayor's appointment of Elizabeth Dugan to the Newton Council on Aging*; #293-16 *Mayor's re-appointment of Carol Ann Shea to the Newton Council on Aging*; #31-15 *Proposing an ordinance to limit leaf blower use*; #31-15(2) *Amend Noise Ordinance restrictions for yard maintenance equipment and*; #31-15(4) *Amend Chapter 20 Section 51 Civil Fine for Littering to Include Yard Waste.* The Committee will not be taking a vote on these Leaf Blower items.

- **9-11 Memorial Commemoration** – *All Council members are invited to attend.* The Newton 9-11 Memorial Committee & City of Newton cordially invite you to our Annual 9-11 Commemoration **Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:00p.m. to 6:30p.m.** at the Newton 9-11 Memorial (on the front lawn of the Fire Department Headquarters), 1164 Centre Street.

*An Invitation from MassDOT*

- **Kendrick Street Bridge Opening** – *All Councilors are invited to attend.* Please save the date of **Friday, September 16th at 8:00a.m.** to join MassDOT Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack and Highway Administrator Thomas Tinlin for an event to mark the recent opening of the new Kendrick Street Bridge and connecting ramps to I-95 (Route 128) in Needham. The opening of the ramps marks a milestone in the larger Needham/Wellesley Route 128 Add-a-Lane Bridge V contract. This project will improve safety along I-95 (Route 128) from just south of Kendrick Street to just north of the I-95/Route 9 interchange and includes the replacement of several bridges, the creation of new collector/distributor roads, and the reconfiguration of the interchange at Route 9. The event will take place on the garage roof top at the offices of PTC located at 140 Kendrick Street in Needham. Ample free parking is available on site. Please RSVP or forward any questions to [Donny.Dailey2@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:Donny.Dailey2@dot.state.ma.us).

*An Invitation from Jayne Colino and Marian Knapp*

- **AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities Certificate/Designation** – On **Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** at the Newton Free Library, the City of Newton will be presented with a Certificate that designates us as a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities, which is an affiliate of the World Health Organization Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Program. Newton's Executive Office, with contributions from the Department of Senior Services and the Council on Aging, submitted a formal application to WHO/AARP in February 2016, and we were accepted! We are calling our endeavor PLAAN – Planning for an All Age-friendly Livable Newton. AARP Massachusetts Director, Mike Festa, will present the WHO/AARP certificate to the City. Massachusetts State Secretary of Elder Affairs, Alice Bonner, City Council President, Scott Lennon, and City Council Vice President, Cheryl Lappin, will be on hand to say a few words. After the Presentation Ceremony, there will be a discussion about what being an Age-friendly/Livable community entails, what the process will look like and how you can engage in making Newton even more livable and age-friendly. There will be a Library display on Age-friendliness/Livability, and materials about PLAAN's broad scope will be available.

*An Invitation from Councilor Norton*

- **Massachusetts Clean Energy Conference** – *FREE for municipal representatives.* The UMass Clean Energy Extension is hosting the 3rd Annual Massachusetts Clean Energy Conference: Helping Communities with Renewables and Efficiency on **Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> 8:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.** at the Beechwood Hotel in Worcester, MA. The conference is designed for municipal officials, community volunteers, facilities managers and staff, energy and sustainability committee members, students, business owners – and everyone interested in clean energy and sustainability. Session topics will include:

- Clean energy and resiliency in urban planning

- Energy storage and renewables
- Pellet heating in schools
- Massachusetts renewable thermal incentives
- Innovative building technologies
- And many others

More information - including registration and a full conference agenda - is available at <http://masscleanenergyconference.com/>. Registration is free for municipal officials/staff and \$10 - \$30 for others. Sponsorship opportunities available. Contact [gcstrong@umass.edu](mailto:gcstrong@umass.edu) for more information

*An Invitation from Historic Newton*

- **Renovation Celebration** – Please join Historic Newton for a celebration at the Jackson Homestead and Museum of the fire safety, accessibility and archives renovation project. The celebration will take place on **Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:00p.m. to 6:00p.m.** at the Homestead. Light refreshments will be served.
- **Capital and Communication Discussion with the School Committee and Department** – Please mark your calendars for **Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**. We will be having a meeting with the School Committee and Department to discuss short and long term capital priorities in the schools. VP Lappin and I have also asked that communication be added as an agenda item. More details to follow.

## **REMINDERS**

- **Upper Falls Greenway Ribbon Cutting** – *All Councilors are invited to attend.* There will be a ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of the Upper Falls Greenway on **Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm.** Please mark your calendars and the Mayor's Office will follow up with logistics.

*An Invitation from Mayor Warren*

- **Community Event / BBQ, Badges, and Ball** – *All Councilors are invited to attend* – Chief MacDonald and I will be co-hosting an event this fall for the Newton community and police. This is a great opportunity for engagement. There will be food, music, a basketball tournament, and games. All are welcome and encouraged to join. The event will be **Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m.** at Newton Centre Playground. For additional information, please go to [http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/health/bbq\\_badges\\_n\\_ball.asp](http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/health/bbq_badges_n_ball.asp) or contact Stephanie Foner from my office at [sfoner@newtonma.gov](mailto:sfoner@newtonma.gov). Rain location is NNHS.

## **WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

**Water / Sewer / Stormwater (WSS) Working Group** – *Submitted by Councilors Deb Crossley & Ruthanne Fuller* – The WSS Working Group includes CFO Maureen Lemieux, Commissioner Jim McGonagle, City Engineer Lou Taverna, Director of Public Utilities Ted Jerdee, and Councilors Crossley and Fuller. Also attending by relevant topic are Environmental Engineer Maria Rose, Conservation Commission staff Jennifer Steele, Robert Pishkin and Rob Symanski from DPU Accounting.

This WSS update spans the months since October of 2015. I think you'll see this department is doing very good work on a wide range of projects and programs. The update will be printed for inclusion in your Labor Day weekend packets and in addition we expect a more detailed memo from Dept. of Public Utilities Director Ted Jerdee on the elements of the program to remove lead from the water system.

Since the last update October 2015, the WSS working group met frequently during winter 2016 on revising the SW rate structure. Since May however, WSS met twice (1) to discuss the process ahead that will develop a more detailed plan to meet the new EPA MS4 (water quality) regulations, and (2) August 24 to update the many aspects of the ongoing WSS plans, including the very recently developed plan to eliminate lead contamination from public and private water delivery systems. Overall, WSS work is on schedule, but coordinating underground work (and street work in general) is continually challenged by insufficient police details and sometimes coordination with identifying and repairing leaky gas infrastructure.

### **STORMWATER**

#### **SIIP: Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement Program**

**Stormwater Fees:** The 20 year, \$42 million plan adopted in 2015 was funded partially with an increase to \$75/year for residential property beginning FY16, and by adding tiered rates based on impervious surface for non-residential properties beginning FY17. The first major project, which is to rehabilitate the Dedham Street culvert and replace and enlarge main drains near Countryside School, will be complete soon and ahead of schedule.

Field inspection of the culvert on the Zervas site revealed it is in good condition; major culverts on the Cabot site, require replacement of 320LF of 5'x10' box culvert, as anticipated. Engineering is underway and work will be coordinated with the rebuilding of the Cabot School.

In FY15, the Board accepted a **\$620,000 grant** covering 75% of the cost to repair/replace the **Hammond Brook culvert** upstream of Glen Ave., and approved \$155,000 for the city portion. The calculated need to replace the 24" drain with a 60" drain proved physically impossible, so Weston & Sampson re-engineered to repair/reline the existing 24" pipe and provide a second 24" pipe to meet the capacity deficit. Planned April 2016 construction is delayed until FEMA approves the design.

Director of Utilities Ted Jerdee prepared a more detailed revised SIIP for the next five years that will be incorporated into the draft 2017 CIP this coming October. Councilors asked again for a financial plan showing more clearly work that can be bonded over the 20 years, so that we may assess how much work we can do each year given various financing scenarios.

**Second (outdoor) Meters: 2226** properties have irrigation meters installed as of August 10, 2016. Applicants are now required to pay for the transponder upon registration.

## **WATER SYSTEM**

**Lead Removal Program:** As you know, testing for lead contamination in drinking water was greatly expanded this summer, and monies made available by the Commonwealth will cover some of the needed repairs. Remediation at the Burr School is complete, which included abandoning the old service (the inaccessible beneath the building was cast iron with lead joints, though the old portion in the street was new) and installing a complete new copper service. In addition, the city requested and is offered about \$4 million in no interest MWRA loans to assist in replacing private lead water services. The Department hired interns to help research all Newton properties to cull how many may have lead service lines, and issued 636 letters to those property owners. To date the DPU has received 530 returns and 350 signed right of entry forms. Tata & Howard are preparing bid specifications for replacement of all of these lines. The item to accept the grant will be before the Council on Sept. 6. Although property owners own their water service from their foundation to the property line, the City has normally assumed 100% of the cost to replace lead service lines in the public right of way. Funds from the MWRA no interest loans may be made available to private property owners. Once the estimated cost of the project is complete, the Council will determine the cost to the property owner for the replacement of the portion of the water line on their property.

**Unaccounted water (UAW):** Tata and Howard Engineering has performed a draft water audit in accordance with AWWA Standards for 2015 consumption. DPU estimates total annual unaccounted water (UAW) at 25.2%. This number comprises both APPARENT LOSSES (meter inaccuracy, data handling errors, unauthorized consumption) at 7.5%, and REAL LOSSES (water leaks, including surfacing leaks, non-surfacing leaks and background leakage, at 17.7%.

**Audit:** The one remaining item is to test the **Manet Road Reservoir:** This September, Underwater Solutions' is diving within the Reservoir to inspect and test for leaks. As you may recall, due to the complexities of shutting down the reservoir during the peak usage months, the larger test, isolating and testing the Reservoir for leaks was delayed from November 2015 to fall 2016. Cidrone Trucking won the bid, (as well as the bid to replace the water main in Austin Street.)

**Water System Long Range Assessment:** Tata & Howard worked with our DPU to develop a more detailed strategic investment plan to rehabilitate the system (now that work is completed to meet fire flow requirements), partially based upon the 2015 study and "hydraulic analysis" by CDM Engineers. We understand, for example, that pipes manufactured post WWII contribute more significantly to water leakage and so DPU prioritizes leak testing for these pipes. Director Jerdee says this work has given the department a clearer path to prioritize work and they evaluate progress monthly.

**Leak detection:** Citywide leak testing (and subsequent repairs) was increased to twice per year, beginning last spring (next testing is this October).

**Water System Projects Update by Ward:** Main replacements are now complete on both Linwood and Nevada Streets. Main replacements are ongoing on Cherry, Oakland, Church and Maple Terrace (which also required a new gas main).

## **SEWER SYSTEM**

### **Sewer Infiltration & Inflow (I&I) Removal by Project Area (PA):**

**PA #1 & 2 construction** is complete; **PA #3 & 4 construction** is ongoing, through February 2017. Added to this work was the new sewer main in Austin Street and sewer repairs to East Quinobequin Road pre-paving. PA#5 engineering is 50% complete and PA #6 investigation is 64% complete.

### **Inflow Removal Program** (illegal rainwater drainage connections to the sewer system)

The 7.1.2016 report from environmental engineer Maria Rose, shows 422 identified inflow source connections removed at 486 property locations (**87% compliance**).

### **Sewer Fats Oil and Grease (FOG) Removal:**

Several commercial areas where restaurants are contributing excessive amounts of Fats/Oils/Grease (FOG) have caused chronic blockages in the sewer collection system. This is expensive. Areas tested (by Brown & Caldwell) include Chestnut Hill Upper & Lower Mall, Florence Street, and Nonantum. Where contributors identified have been notified. The health department has been notified to include observing proper FOG maintenance procedures in annual inspections. The DPU wants an annual inspection contract to cover 20% of the system each year over five years.

DPW met with the Health Department and ISD about inspection protocols and are developing a program to monitor these areas and enforce the code; we are anxious to have a program in place to reduce the repeated costs to the city of chronic blockages.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Carr' or similar, with a stylized, cursive script.