

Waban Area Council

Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2014, 7:30pm

Members in Attendance: Barbara Bower, Andreae Downs, Rena Getz, Sallee Lipshutz, Maureen Reilly-Meagher, Christopher Pitts, Kathy Winters (members are referred to by their initials).

Aldermen in Attendance: John Rice, Brian Yates, Deb Crossley

Other City Officials: Steve Siegel, Newton School Committee

Other Attendees: Michelle Skerry (Waban Health Center), Isabelle Albeck, Judi Burten, Leena Peck, Helen Goldberg, Gretchen Friend, Patrick Maher, Marilyn Broyles, Beverly Bernson, Judy Kohn, Carole Grossman, Janet Reider, Pete Reider, Nancy Greenwald.

1. **Minutes of May 8, 2014** meeting approved by unanimous vote.
2. **Burning Issues from Community.**
 - a. Sidewalk in front of 1538 Beacon St. has been closed for some time. Ald. Rice and AD will follow up on this.
 - b. Discussion of poor condition of paving on Quinobequin Rd. and of speeding on the road.
3. **Add-A-Lane update.** DOT presentation will be posted on website. Stoplights will be introduced along Rt. 9 during first phase of construction. Completion of entire project is slated for January 2019. Bill Paille is scheduled to attend our next meeting.
4. **Angier Construction Team Meeting.** Summary of Angier meeting held at 7pm. Tree cutting along T tracks is nearly complete. Abatement process will occur on June 30. Mid-August demolition will begin.
5. **Zervas Update.** Steve Siegel reported that the feasibility process is under way. City is formally seeking to acquire the three properties along Beacon St. Ald. Rice summarized discussions happening at the Zervas Building Committee meetings. Steve Siegel said two issues appear to be resolved as far as the design: new Zervas will be 24-classroom school, and two or three of the properties along Beacon St. will be acquired. Other than that, all issues are still in play. Discussion of traffic issues and safety problems with a drop-off loop. Ald. Rice and Steve Siegel urged people to voice concerns about any aspects of the project with the Zervas Building Committee quickly. Steve Siegel explained that the decision to expand Zervas relates back to the City's Long Range Facilities Plan completed in 2007. That plan concluded that each school building renovated in the future would result create a capacity in the

mid to upper 400s. It is a 20-year plan designed to expand capacity throughout the system.

6. **WLC.** Voting will move to WLC. Parking lot will be paved over the summer and handicap ramp will be put in.
7. **St. Philip Neri.** No news to report.
8. **Ald. Yates** reported that the City budget has been adopted by the Board of Alderman and signed by the Mayor.
9. **Waban Health Center.** Michelle Skerry of Waban Health Center introduced herself to the community. WHC is under new ownership and they look forward to being part of the community.
10. **Zoning Relief Panel.** Video of May 1 zoning presentation will be on NewTV. It is available for viewing on website. CP will email Newtonville Area Council and let them know they can link to the website. **KW will email Candace Havens and ask if they will provide a link.**
11. **Newton Consolidated Plan.** Information on the plan is posted on our website. There is a survey residents can fill out regarding priorities for the consolidated plan. The survey is linked on our website.
12. **Friends of the Quinobequin.** Rep. Balser informed MRM that there is a \$250K insertion into a bond bill for improvements to a path from Rt .9 to Washington St. along the parkway. MRM provided an update on request to Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation for matching funds for improvements to the path.
13. **Silent Auction Update.** Raised \$2800 through the silent auction. Diane Khalaj, owner of Walnut Market in Newton Highlands, did a lot of work on the auction. MRM noted that SL single-handedly pulled the auction together.
14. **E-Mail Systems.** Motion to use Mailchimp as our email system. **5 of 6 members present voted in favor, MRM abstained.**
15. **WAC Catchment Area.** **RG, AD, and KW will work on issue of expanding/defining catchment area.**
16. **Community Outreach.** CP suggested that if we have something that is of urgent need the WIS could email its list of 3000 plus and offered to be the point person with WIS for that.
17. **Financial Management of WAC Funds.** RG suggested we obtain our own tax ID number and open a bank account. **Motion carried by unanimous**

vote of members present to obtain WAC tax ID number and open a bank account.

- 18. Buy a brick fundraiser for the WLC.** WLC is building a patio and raising funds by selling bricks. 8x8 brick costs \$100, big brick is \$200. **Unanimous vote to buy a large brick.** Will decide later what to inscribe on the brick.
- 19. Ald. Deb Crossley** discussed the City budget and zoning reform. General discussion of issues relating to zoning and planning in Newton.
- 20. Waban Future Planning Project.** Discussion of CP's work on Vision of Waban Project and how to proceed within or outside of WAC. There was disagreement over how CP can proceed with his work on this project and how WAC work in general can be accomplished in between meetings. SL felt the Waban Future Planning Project should proceed as a committee with her participation as ex officio member. MRM asked that CP copy the entire council on all correspondence regarding any meetings on the project. Other councilors disagreed with both approaches. All councilors expressed a desire to devote a future WAC meeting solely to functionality. No decision was made as to whether to use our next regularly scheduled meeting on July 10 for that purpose or to schedule a second special meeting between now and July 10.
- 21. Adjourn, 10:33pm**

**Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Winters**