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January 30, 2018

Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at DPW Headquarters, 301 Broad Street, at 5:00 PM.

Committee Members Present: Councillors Joel Kaddy (chair), Paul Beauchemin, Dave Clark, Marissa Fleming, Sam Squailia

Committee Members Absent: (none)

Others Present: DPW Commissioner Lenny Laakso
DPW Superintendent Gary Withington

Action taken as follows:

Petition 231-17 Darlene M. Grossnickle to petition for an additional street light for safety concerns as detailed in the enclosed petition, to be placed at #364 Pearl Hill Road.

Discussion: Councillor Kaddy noted that at the previous meeting on November 28, 2017, it was stated that the requested location does not meet the city's criteria for street lights. Commissioner Laakso stated that there are street lights just uphill and just downhill of the property, and that DPW records show no evidence of a street light in the past at that location. Councillor Kaddy added that the homeowner has the option to purchase security lighting, and security was the reason for the request. The Committee voted, 5-0, to give the petition, LEAVE TO WITHDRAW.

Petition 243-17: Councillor Paul Beauchemin, on behalf of Norman Beauvais, to request a sidewalk in front of Dunkin Donuts located on Electric Avenue.

Discussion: As requested at the November 28 meeting, Commissioner Laakso stated that he spoke with Mr. Joseph Cadette who owns the Dunkin Donuts in question. Mr. Cadette said that he planted trees instead of constructing a sidewalk because the Planning Board required trees. He believes that the trees beautify the area, and he has no plans to make any site changes. Pedestrians can walk around the trees by going through his parking lot. Councillor Beauchemin requested that the petition be held, as he will find out if the mayor might talk to Mr. Cadette personally. The Committee voted, 5-0, to HOLD the petition.

Petition 288-17: Councillor Jody Joseph and Moran Square Realty to repair sidewalk on Summer Street and Lunenburg Street in front of Moran Square Realty.

Discussion: Commissioner Laakso stated that the petition had been held at the November 28 meeting, because it is possible that the sidewalk will be replaced if a MassWorks grant application is submitted for Moran Square by the city and approved by the state. He stated that the City has not yet decided if they will apply for MassWorks, as it depends in part on plans for a potential housing development in the area. The Committee requested that DPW patch the sidewalk in the meantime. The Committee voted, 5-0, to GRANT the petition.

Petition 300-17: Councillor Marcus DiNatale, Councillor Paul Beauchemin and Lisa Hebert to install a berm at 47 Elmwood Avenue.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington stated that he and the Engineering Division visited the site and determined that a berm is not necessary. Councillor Beauchemin disagreed and said that a berm is required on the right side of the street, heading towards Reingold Ave, from the wooded area to the Reingold intersection. Commissioner Laakso noted that DPW had the paving contractor go back and install additional berm on that side of the street. The Committee voted, 5-0, to HOLD the petition so that DPW can define the limits of the berm relative to #47 Elmwood.

Petition 301-17: Councillor Marcus DiNatale and Lori Stone to install a berm at 139 Rollstone Road.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington stated the berm is needed to prevent runoff from entering the property at 139 Rollstone Road and estimated that it would cost about \$950. The Committee voted, 5-0, to GRANT the petition.

Petition 305-17: Unitil, to relocate electric pole #27 (40 ft. west) across Rollstone Road, to get pole out of bad curve in road.

Discussion: Councillor Kaddy noted that Unitil said that the pole is in a hazardous location and has been hit many times by motor vehicles. The Committee voted, 5-0, to GRANT the petition.

Petition 014-18: Councillor Paul Beauchemin to install more lighting at the roundabout located on Electric Ave and Rollstone Road for safety purposes.

Discussion: Councillors Kaddy and Beauchemin agreed that the roundabout is dark, and more lighting would help those who are unfamiliar with the area. Commissioner Laakso said that there is an existing fixture that can be upgraded to higher wattage for \$500, and a wood pole and new fixture could be added on the opposite corner for \$2,000 if the upgrade alone does not provide sufficient lighting. The Committee voted, 5-0, to GRANT the petition.

Petition 015-18: Councillor Amy Green to find remedy by installing a berm or curb at the residence of 23-25 Hobson Street to stop further damage done by water.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington said that a berm would help to prevent debris from entering 23-25 Hobson Street when the nearby brook overflows. This happened last fall, and DPW hauled away two dump truck loads of sand that washed into the property. The Committee voted, 5-0, to GRANT the petition.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lenny K. Laakso, DPW Commissioner
Clerk of Committee

Distribution:

Mayor Stephen L. DiNatale
City Clerk, City Councillors
Gary Bevilacqua, Assistant City Engineer
Gary Withington, Superintendent of Streets
File 2.3A