

Committee on General Government
Meeting Minutes, September 21, 2022

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Committee members: Councillor Sharif Zeid (Ward 1), Councillor Heather Shand (Ward 3, Chair), Councillor Bruce Vogel (At-large, via Zoom)

Additional Councillors: Councillor Christine Wallace (Ward 4), Councillor Jim McCauley (Ward 5 – Zoom) Councillor Mark Wright (At –large, via Zoom)

Attendees: Director Andy Port (via Zoom), Ilene Grady, Chris Heath, Jane Snow

Agenda

- COMM00417_05_31_2022 Ltr. Jane Snow re: Coffin St. 2
- COMM00410_05_31_2022 Ltr. Lawrence Cavalieri Coffin St. Ext
- COMM00402_04_11_2022 12 Cushing Ave Paper St. Inquiry
- APPT00340_09_12_2022 Jennifer Groskin Human Rights Comm. 10/1/2025

Meeting started with Councillors Shand and Vogel present at 6:07, Councillor Zeid joined at 6:18.

COMM 417 and COMM 410 re: Coffin Street Ext.

Prior meeting reviewed the paper streets policy the chair worked with the administration and staff, initiating a policy for the city to use when inquiries from residents regarding paper streets are made. COMM 417 and COMM410 regarding the Coffin Street Ext, were investigated by the Tax Assessor whose search resulted in determining the paper street was a private paper street. The property was also being surveyed by the owners and the expectation was the survey would corroborate the assessors research.

Councillor Wallace stated Mr Cavalieri was satisfied with the research.

Committee voted 3-0 to receive and file.

COMM402, Cushing Ave Paper St. Inquiry

Discussion with Mr. Heath and Ms. Grady in addition to Councillor Wallace was regarding the ask for the city to conduct a title search.

Director Port discusses the efforts the staff went through to determine any city ownership. Councillor Zeid spoke to how every paper street is a different topic and no one is the same as another.

Mr. Chris Heath (12 Cushing Ave) and Ilene Grady (10 Cushing Ave) questioned was there an options for the city to provide official documentation stating the results of the inquiry and document it so the city would be unable to change its position.

Councillor Shand took the action to ask the administration if this could be included in the paper street policy discussion with KP Law.

Public Comment:

Jane Snow, 9 Coffin Street – When the title examiner was hired by the city to do the search on Coffin Street, she was told she wasn't allowed to pay for it because she could have influenced the title examiners decision.

Committee voted 3-0 to receive and file

APPT 340 – Jennifer Groskin, Human Rights Commission

Ms. Groskin spoke of her time on the commission and what her experiences as a teacher in the Newburyport schools brings to the organization.

Public Comment

Jane Snow, 9 Coffin Street – Go for it.

Committee thanks Ms. Groskin for her willingness to serve on the HRC.

Committee voted 3-0 to recommend approval of her appointment to the full council.

Committee adjourned.