

***City Council Committee Reports for 2020***

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**DATE:** Nov 12, 2020      **RECORDER:** McCauley-Chair (*Jane Snow contributor*)

**COMMITTEE:** Public Safety

<b>Councillors Attending</b>		<b>Others Attending</b>	<b>Address</b>
Barry N. Connell		<b><i>Rebekah Elmore</i></b>	
Joseph H. Devlin		<b><i>Mike Melander</i></b>	
Afroz Khan		<b><i>Caitlin Blais</i></b>	
Byron J. Lane	<b><i>X</i></b>	<b><i>Jane Snow</i></b>	
James J. McCauley	<b><i>X</i></b>	<b><i>Francesca Gilkey</i></b>	
Heather L. Shand		<b><i>Stephen Kerns</i></b>	
Charles F. Tontar		<b><i>Jim McCarthy</i></b>	
Bruce L. Vogel		<b><i>G Vining</i></b>	
Christine E. Wallace	<b><i>X</i></b>		
Sharif I. Zeid			
Jared J. Eigerman	<b><i>x</i></b>		

***AGENDA ITEMS***

***ACTION TAKEN***

Approval of Prior Minutes	<b><i>Did not submit</i></b>
Old Business	
Update on Speeding Discussion	
Update on Comm 275 10-26-20 Safety at Rt 1 + Rail Trail	
Update on Comm 269 10-13-20 Snow & Ice Plan	
New Business	
Comm276 10-26-20 Extending Hanukah Decorations	
Discussion about creating a “snow shoveling” program (public and/or private)	
Walk In Items: Optical Bus visit	

Walk IN: Optical Bus: Proposal to bring the Optical Bus to Newburyport for eye exams.

Link to offer: <https://vimeo.com/477636831>

Ops Mgr Alex Stayer present. His Ask was for an area to bring an RV to provide mobile eye exams. Would pay for spot. Asked about availability of public restrooms for staff. Otherwise they are self-contained.

Cncllr Wallace: Q: is this PS or should it be licensing? (ans. PS covers streets + any type of event, but due to Covid, the Health Dept has final say. And Parking Clerk would need to advise on reserving a spot in Pay Lots – ie NRA-East).

Committee...we'll give our tentative recommendation, from a PS perspective only, to Clerk and ask if this should go to Licensing as well.

Update on Comm 275...safety at Rotary + Rail Trail.

Jim McCarthy submitted written comments (attached)

Update Safety concerns of Rte. 1 Rotary and Rail Trail: **Chair** had a good conversations last time and received a communication from Jim McCarthy, who is present at tonight's meeting. I wasn't going to open up discussion again, but rather discuss our recommendations. BTW, Jim McCarthy submitted written feedback which was to move things out with curbing verses stripping. Chair put picture of proposal on screen for all to see. Cllr Wallace – is it still 2 lanes plus curbing? Chair – Yes. **Cllr. Wallace-** can you refresh me on any new information that has come out? Chair – Document from Jim McCarthy and written input from Jon-Eric with the departments review and comments. Our intent should be to make a recommendation to council saying we discussed this, collected comments, and would submit them for review for discussions going forward. Additionally, would like the Planning Department have meeting with abutters within the next 30 days.

**Cllr Lane-** Is there a meeting with MassDot on the breadth and scope of this project? I don't feel this is a good place for people to be crossing. We are going to be having new apartments there and this will increase use of Rail Trail and would be concerning to have students using it. Chair- we could ask for a preliminary public meeting in 60 -90 days so we can discuss safety concerns. Cllr Lane would like that as I can't seem to get my head around what they are trying to do.

**Cllr Wallace** -I agree and feel we should back up our Engineer. **This is a process issue.** No one has really seen or been aware of this – it is not just a simple paving issue any more. Would recommend council or city ask for a public hearing as it is critical. Chair- what is timeline for meeting? Feel businesses would be surprised to feel 5 ft curb in front of their businesses. City should meet with them as that could impact their business. Cllr Wallace- feel full council should hear this discussion. Chair- agree this is a process issue – public awareness – approval. Maybe we should include our recommendations, along with John Eric & Jim's letter.

**Geordie Vining-** did have communication meeting coordinator and they will be having a public information meeting. Date has not been set, yet. Hopefully sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Chair- is there sample agenda as to format of meeting? Geordie – No the ones I have been too they make a presentation and then allow public input and discuss comments. Chair- where do you think we should interject input for this meeting. Geordie- we already have been talking with them. They have a lengthy process

and won't address our concerns such as sight line process for months. My feeling is that we can raise those concerns again at meeting. Cllr Wallace- Glad the planning of meeting in process. Chair- we will send our recommendations and packet to council. We will request meeting with Planning Bd. and abutters so they are aware prior to this meeting. Then we can see what council recommends from their. Will include packet information in these minutes Group voted in favor of.

Jim McCarthy- I wrote the email because I thought meeting from MaDot will only be informational. Felt we would only have one ask so tried to do what would be best so suggested curbing. Knowing how MaDot works would also ask that the speed (40mph) lowered. We are expecting a lot of new building there. Ask that be part of your proposal.

**Actions to CC:**

- Read out of the issue (safety concerns, collected inputs, shared inputs with MA DOT)

- Recommend a Public Meeting to share progress to date (in progress – owners:

MADOT+ G Vining)

- Ask that we have the Clerk instruct the Planning Office to have a meeting with those businesses (ie Pomidori, DD) that would be impacted within next 3 weeks and to report back to Public Safety who in turn will report back to Council).

**Comm 276** Offer to Extend Hanukah Decorations up thru first of year. Cllr Wallace and Lane fine with that. Chair will let Mr. Mathews know that board approve this and bring before CC for approval.

**Speeding Discussion:** Chair- we will embark on asking council to address this in a three prong approach - Awareness, Education and Enforcement. Police have been more visible and issue warnings, and addressed some of the confusing signage.

**Cllr Wallace:** also discussed some long-term issue- long term neighborhood calming. When we construct a roadway, we need to keep these things in mind. Would you like to recommend some medium and long term recommendations?

**Cllr Lane-** agree this is on point to what we have been discussing.

Public Comment: **Stephen Kerns 79 Mosley Ave** – update there have been 4 -25 mph signs have been added and they helped greatly. My question is why couldn't we have permanent signs that flash when people go above speed limit instead of ones that are rotated thru city. Chair – feedback from Police is that over time permanent signs tend to blend in and become less effective, so they move them around.

**Caitlin Blais – Lucy Way** - You mentioned awareness, education and enforcement. Can you tell me about enforcement? When will signage also go up on Lucy Dr.? Chair- where there is problem we have asked Marshal to increase patrols and visibility. We will make that part of our recommendation to council – money for more signage.

Chair- I suggest we leave this in committee as we have some more of a write up to do on medium and longer -range goals.

**Update on Snow and Ice from DPS:**

**Cllr Wallace:** Cllr Khan and I want to look into ordinance revisions to address the issues of enforcing these when they are not done. Idea is not going to go out and ticket everyone, but hoping for some simple ordinance revisions to address these. DPD will host Snow and Ice Plan meeting on Nov 3rd. Cllr Wallace would like to listen to what they say and add to it during public comment so we can hear what they can do. Maybe

would should invite someone from DPS next meeting. Chair- knew Cllr Wallace & Khan working on Ordinance so thought it might need to be included. Cllr Wallace- may pass Snow and Ice and continue to work on Ordinance. Will follow up with DPS.

**Program for Shoveling out Seniors in community:**

People in community that can't shovel and yet face a fine if they don't shovel. Chair- is Cllr Khan and Cllr Wallace doing Snow Angels.

**Cllr Wallace-** evidently there are things we are not being able to help residents with. There are folks in need beyond Snow Angels.

**Cllr Lane-** yes something that need attention. Chair feedback I got was that sometimes folks don't show up. Snow Angels doesn't work for a lot of folks. Private vendors will plow but don't want to shovel front steps. Need to look beyond Snow Angels and Council on Aging. Would like to leave this in committee.

**Cllr Wallace** would like to leave this in also. Also feel there are 2 different levels.

**Cllr Lane-** maybe since some people are home they could help.

**Cllr Eigerman-** emphasizing helping with city sidewalks not personal driveways. Driveways are extra credit not a city side

**Public Comment:** Jane Snow- please reach out to those who can't shovel all the city sidewalk in front of their homes that are no longer able to shovel or have the financial ability to hire someone to do it.