

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes of the Meeting

September 16, 2019

1. Vice-President Logan called the meeting to Order at 8:00 pm.
2. Vice-President Logan requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – President Brasco, Councillors Darcy, Harris, LaCava, R. LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, McMenimen, Nabulime, Romard, Stanley, Vidal and Logan were present. Councillors Fowler and D. LeBlanc were absent.
3. A motion by Councillor Stanley to approve the minutes of the COW meeting held on August 5, 2019 was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of August 5, 2019 were approved.
4. A request was received from the Conservation Commission to extend the City's Riverwalk. Councillor Harris moved to hear from Conservation Committee member, Gerry Dufromont. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Mr. Dufromont explained the benefits of the improvements that would be made to the Riverwalk by the Cooper Street project developer and it would be of no expense to the City. Mr. Dufromont stated his disagreement with the opinion in the letter that was received from the Law Department. Councillor Vidal asked questions about the specific improvements and related costs. Councillor Romard directed his questions to the map of the area of proposed construction and asked if this was considered a gift to the City. Councillor Harris asked questions about the concerns stated in the Law Department's letter concerning ownership of the land and the need of additional information from the City Engineer and City Clerk. Councillor R. LeBlanc asked how we can get answers from the Law Department and asked Mr. Dufromont if he was aware of what Attorney Azadi is doing. Councillor Nabulime raised concerns over the lack of information and could not vote in favor of the request. Councillor Darcy asked if the City Clerk had been able to respond to the concern of the Law Department. Assistant City Clerk Vizard stated they had not been able to find the information. Councillor R. LeBlanc moved to request Attorney Azadi to attend the next COW meeting of October 7 and address the concerns stated in her letter. On the motion, President Brasco suggested that Attorney Azadi send her responses to the Council before its next meeting of September 23. The motion, as amended, was approved on a roll call vote of 12 in favor (Brasco, Darcy, Harris, LaCava, R. LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, McMenimen, Nabulime, Romard, Stanley and Vidal), 2 absent (Fowler & D. Leblanc) and Logan presiding. Councillor Darcy moved to table the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the matter was tabled.

5. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of Thomas Creonte to the Waltham Biosafety Committee. Councillor McMenimen moved to hear from Mr. Creonte. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor McMenimen asked Mr. Creonte about the role of the Biosafety Committee and his experience and background to serve. Vice-President Logan explained the purpose and need for the ordinance for Bio-tech companies. Councillor McMenimen moved to confirm the appointment. On the motion, Councillor Mackin asked questions about the number of permits granted for each company and if the ordinance that was approved in 1996 should be updated. Councillor Romard asked questions about the Committee, including how often they meet and if Councillors could get a copy of the docket for the Biosafety Committee meetings. The original motion of Councillor McMenimen to confirm the appointment of Thomas Creonte to the Waltham Biosafety Committee was adopted on a voice vote.
6. Councillor R. LeBlanc rose to speak about the upcoming City parade on September 22 and provided some general and updated information.
7. Councillor McMenimen rose to remind voters of the preliminary election on Tuesday, September 17. Councillor McMenimen stated there is preliminary election for Mayor, Ward 1, Ward 2 and Ward 9 Councillors.
8. A motion by President Brasco to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote, and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 8:35pm.

Paul G. Centofanti – Clerk to the Committee of the Whole