

Committee of the Whole
Minutes of the Meeting
October 17, 2022

1. Vice-President McLaughlin called the meeting to Order at 8:00pm in the City Council Chamber.
2. Vice-President McLaughlin requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The COW Clerk called the roll – Councillors Bradley-MacArthur, Darcy, Durkee, Harris, Katz, LaCava, LaFauci, President McMenimen, O'Brien, Paz, Stanley, Vidal, and Vice-President McLaughlin were all present in-person. Councillors Dunn and LeBlanc were absent.
3. President McMenimen moved to approve the minutes of the COW meeting held on October 3, 2022. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the October 3, 2022 meeting were approved.
4. A request was received from the Conservation Commission (ConCom) concerning a Development Prospectus and Fuel Storage License – ConCom Staff Review Policy. A motion to hear from the Conservation Commission Chairman Phil Moser was adopted on a voice vote. Mr. Moser gave an explanation of the draft policy and its impact on the ConCom review procedures. President McMenimen and Councillor Harris stated their concerns and that zoning changes are the sole purvey of the City Council. Councillor Harris moved to request the Law Department review and opine on the proposed policy. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Harris moved to place the matter on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
5. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of Lenore Karaian as the Republican member of the Board of Registrar of Voters. Councillor LaCava moved to hear from Ms. Karaian. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Upon questions from Councillor LaCava, Ms. Karaian gave a brief explanation of her reasons for wanting to serve. Councillor Paz asked several questions of the candidate about the integrity of elections locally and at a national level. President McMenimen objected to the nature and relevance of the questions. Councillor LaCava moved to confirm the appointment of Ms. Karaian. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
6. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of Brian Bower as the Acting Chief Building Inspector until the City Ordinance for the Building Inspection Department is passed. Councillor Stanley moved to hear from Mr. Bower. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Stanley spoke favorably of Mr. Bower's background, qualifications, and experience. Mr. Bower read a statement expressing his interest and qualifications for the position. Councillor Bradley-MacArthur asked Mr. Bower about his ability to work with other departments. President McMenimen, Councillors LaCava, O'Brien, Harris, Darcy and Katz all spoke in support of Mr. Bower. Councillor Stanley moved to confirm the appointment of Mr. Bower. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

7. Councillor Harris moved to take the matter of Good Energy (3/8/2021) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Harris moved to hear from the Mayor for an update to the recent electrical power surge in Waltham that impacted many residents. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. The Mayor read a prepared statement giving a detailed timeline of the situation and the response of Eversource and the involvement of several City Departments. Councillor Paz asked about the ability to prevent a future episode. The Mayor stated it was an equipment failure. Councillor Harris thanked the Mayor for the update and moved to place the matter back on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
8. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of Charles Egirous to the Historical Commission. Councillor LaFauci moved to hear from Mr. Egirous. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Upon questions from Councillor LaFauci, Mr. Egirous explained his background and reasons for wanting to serve. Councillor LaFauci moved to confirm the appointment of Mr. Egirous. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
9. A resolution was submitted Councillor Darcy concerning the creation of an Ad-Hoc Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee. Councillor Darcy read a statement and spoke about the need for bike lanes and the purpose of the ad-hoc committee. Councillors Katz and Bradley-MacArthur spoke in favor of bike lanes, but expressed concern about the authority of an ad-hoc committee. Councillor Harris spoke about alternatives to accomplish the measure and stated it should be handled by the Master Plan Committee. A motion to send the resolution to the Master Plan Committee was adopted on a voice vote with Councillor Vidal audibly voting no.
10. A request was received from Councillor Katz to attend a meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and to speak on behalf of the City Council. Councillor Katz explained his reasons for wanting to attend. President McMenimen gave advice on the manner in which Councillor Katz should conduct himself as the representative of the City Council. Councillor Harris moved to approve the request of Councillor Katz. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
11. A motion by President McMenimen to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 9:40pm.

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