

Committee of the Whole
Minutes of the Meeting
December 18, 2023

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, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, Katz, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, President McMenimen, O'Brien, Paz, Stanley, Vidal, and Vice President McLaughlin were all present in-person.
3. President McMenimen moved to approve the minutes of the COW meeting held on December 4, 2023. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the December 4, 2023 meeting were approved.
4. A request was received from the Mayor to designate the non-CPA area (12.49 acres) on the attached map for future cemetery use, subject to the City Council passing the appropriate zoning to allow said use and for burials permitted under current Massachusetts State law. President McMenimen recused herself from the discussion and vote due to the proximity of her residence to the property. The Mayor gave an overview of the decision and reasons for the selection of this portion of the property. Councillor Stanley asked the about the number of burials that could be provided and if the cemetery policies would be the same as the other Waltham cemeteries. Councillor Dunn asked if the proposed 12.49 acreage is sufficient considering a prior study proposed 40 acres. Councillor LaFauci asked about other locations such as the former Gaebler property. Councillor LaFauci moved to approve the Mayor's request to designate the non-CPA area (12.49 acres) on the attached map for future cemetery use, subject to the City Council passing the appropriate zoning to allow said use and for burials permitted under current Massachusetts State law. On the motion Councillor Bradley-MacArthur asked questions about a columbarium placed on the site. Councillor Paz asked question about the buildings on the site and if they have any historical significance. Councillor Darcy stated his support for a cemetery but questioned the location due to the unsuitable topography, impact to the residents and other environmental matters. The Mayor addressed each of Councillor Darcy's concerns. The original motion of Councillor LaFauci was approved on a roll call vote of 11 in favor (Councillors Bradley-MacArthur, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, Katz, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, President McMenimen, O'Brien, Stanley & Vidal), 2 opposed (Darcy & Paz), 1 recused (McMenimen) and McLaughlin presiding.
5. A request was received from the Mayor to name the area to the left as you enter from Trapelo Road, including the former Shriver and Cerc buildings, sledding hill, and open space to the eastern property line, including both parking lots as "The Eunice Kennedy Shriver Memorial Grounds". President McMenimen recused herself from the discussion and vote due to the proximity of her residence to the property. The Mayor explained the area was already named by the State and her request was to continue it. Several Councillors voiced support. Councillor Durkee moved to approve the Mayor's request. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 13 in favor (Councillors Bradley-MacArthur, Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, Katz,

LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, President McMenimen, O'Brien, Paz, Stanley & Vidal), none opposed, 1 recused (McMenimen) and McLaughlin presiding.

6. A request was received from the Mayor to concur with the filing of a Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) 40B application to permit two housing units at the former Cardinal Cottage. Several Councillors voiced support. Councillor LaCava moved to approve the Mayor's request. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
7. A resolution was submitted by Councillor O'Brien to honor COA Director Marybeth Duffy on her retirement. Councillor O'Brien moved approval of the resolution. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
8. A motion by Councillor LaCava McMenimen to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote, and the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

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